



His Excellency Brigadier-General Sir WILLIAM HENRY MANNING Governor.
President of the Jamaica Agricultural Society

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.

JUNE, 1913.

No. 6.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

The usual monthly meeting of the Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society was held at the office of the Society, No. 11 North Parade, Kingston, on Thursday the 15th of May, 1913, at 11.40 a.m. Present:—Sir Wm. Henry Manning, K.C.M.G., C.B., presiding ; Sir John Pringle, K.C.M.G. ; The Hons. Director of Agriculture, D. Campbell, R. P. Simmonds, S. S. Stedman ; Messrs. Robt. Craig, A. W. Douet, A. C. L. Martin, E. W. Muirhead, Conrad Watson and the Secretary, John Barclay.

Apologies for absence were submitted from the Hons. Geo. McGrath and H. T. Ronaldson.

The Minutes of the preceding meeting having been printed and circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

The following matters arising out of the Minutes were considered :—

(a) *Report of Special Committee S. Manchester & S. St. Elizabeth.*

The Secretary said that a meeting of the Special Committee had been held that morning at 9 a.m. at which the remarks of the Committee on the draft report which had been circulated were submitted. He now submitted the Report as approved by the Committee—

As the Report was a long one and required more consideration than could be gained from a reading of it, the Secretary was instructed to have it printed and a copy sent to each member of the Board.

(b) *Toronto Exhibition.*

Mr. Muirhead moved the motion, notice of which he had given at the previous meeting as follows :—Mr. Campbell seconded.

“That this Society learns with regret that the necessity arose for the Legislative Council to strike out the amount for the grant for the Toronto Exhibition, but trusts that the Council will reconsider the matter and yet be able to give a sum of money to enable Jamaica to be represented.”

Speaking on his motion Mr. Muirhead said that he could not help feeling that to have a break in the representation of the colony at the Toronto Exhibition this year would not be conducive to the best interests of Jamaica. It would not be taken well in Canada for

Jamaica not to be represented, and the colony would probably lose about £50 of fittings they had in the Exhibition buildings.

The Secretary said that as Secretary of the Permanent Exhibitions Committee, he had been instructed to write to His Excellency the Governor to say that the Committee would try to make a good representation at Toronto Exhibition on a reduced grant of £200, instead of £300. They would not however wish that sum be able to send a personal representative of the colony there. To this he had received the following reply :—

No. 4117 8th May, 1913.

"I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 24th ultimo in which you urge on behalf of the Permanent Exhibitions Committee the desirability of Jamaica being represented at the Exhibition to be held in the current year at Toronto and ask that the question of making a grant of £200 for this purpose may be submitted to the Legislative Council.

(2) I am to say in reply that His Excellency has given this question His careful consideration, but regrets that the financial conditions existing will not permit of an expenditure on this account being proposed this year."

(Sgd.) ROBT. JOHNSTONE,

Assistant Colonial Secretary.

The Secretary further said that on the previous day he had been interviewed by two gentlemen who were prominent exhibitors at the Exhibition last year, and who were very anxious that Jamaica should not go unrepresented this year, and were willing to subscribe towards a fund, for the colony to be represented; failing a grant from the Government. One of these gentlemen was a member of the Tourist Association, and he had stated that the Association would try to get up enough private subscriptions so that the Association at any rate could be represented.

The Secretary said he had replied that he was willing to give all the help he could in getting up and preparing the exhibits, if it was decided that some of our products should also be exhibited but his feeling was that if the colony could not make a first class representation, it was better that it should not be represented at all. The exhibits would have to leave in July and it was already getting too late to be able to get together exhibits that would be a credit to us.

The Governor said that in deciding the matter originally the Government took the view of the Select Committee who had decided that this item could be struck out this year. There was however a meeting of the Council to be held shortly, when if the members of this Select Committee should make a very strong recommendation to the Council that it be re-instated, this would carry some weight. The whole question however was one of ways and means.

After further discussion the Board decided to adopt the motion, and the Secretary was instructed to forward it to the Colonial Secretary.

(c) *Neglected Juveniles.*

The motion, notice of which had been given by the Rev. W. T. Graham, was not dealt with as that gentleman was not present at the meeting.

(d) Prizes in School Gardens.

The Secretary submitted the opinions of the Staple and Minor Products Committee *re* scheme for prizes in School Gardens.

After some discussion on the question as to whether the total weight of the cotton reaped should be taken into account, the scheme and rules were passed. (These are published on another page.)

(e) Authorized Persons.

The Secretary submitted letter from the Inspector General forwarding copies of the Rules covering the appointment of "Authorized Persons." The Secretary said he had forwarded these for Mr. McGrath's perusal, as he had brought up the subject at the last meeting of the Board as to whether the "Authorized Persons" were properly instructed in their duties.

Mr. McGrath had written as follows :—

"The Authorized Persons' appear to be only informed in a casual way on the delivery of their appointments to them that "any instructions required by them in respect to their duties or regarding their pay, will be afforded them on application." This is not sufficient.

Mr. Campbell pointed out that it was a grievance that the "Authorized Persons" were often only paid for the day they gave evidence as witnesses and not for the time lost in making an arrest, or taking the man before the Justice of the Peace or handing him over to the regular police.

Sir John Pringle said the original idea was that the "Authorized Persons" should have as little to do with the regular police as possible. The idea was that they should be more communal. The Branch Societies would select persons in whom they had confidence and who would aid the detection and arrest of praedial thieves. The communities would thus be protected and at the same time the actual work of the police would be lessened. But these men were gradually developing into what might be termed another arm of the police, and this was certainly not the original idea.

The Governor after looking at the Rules said that these provided that the "Authorized Person" shall be paid for each day on which he effects an arrest or actually attempts to effect an arrest. The best thing to do would be to write the Colonial Secretary and point out to him that what the "Authorized Persons" were entitled to under the Rules should be paid them. The Secretary was instructed accordingly.

(f) Cotton.

Letter from Mr. Eric C. Anderson was submitted as follows :—

Dear Sir,

Mr. Conrad Watson's remarks on the cotton cultivations in Vere, at the last meeting of the Board of Management, were, to say the least of it misleading, and why he should have gone out of his way to make them, I don't know.

I attach a copy of a letter from Mr. Charles W. Wolstenholme through whose hands practically all the Sea Island Cotton sold in Great Britain passes dated 28th March last, this letter speaks for itself. He first of all says that my cotton is quite as well prepared as West Indian from any of the other Islands, and while I am not prepared to say what causes "failure in strength", probably dry weather, may be poor soil conditions, I don't think "extra length and

fineness" are features of Hybrid cotton. Seventy per cent. of the cotton here referred to is small settlers' cotton.

I have always recognized the necessity for seed selection, and have always taken the same precautions as Mr. Watson has, to obtain the best seed available. I have perhaps gone even a little further than he says he has, in that I have employed special pickers, paying them a slightly higher rate than the others to gather my cotton only from the best trees in the best piece of cotton. As far back as 1909 I wrote the B.C.G.A. asking them to get for me a couple of bags of seed from a reliable source, but unfortunately a hitch occurred and I never got the seed. When I knew Mr. Watson was importing seed from Barbadoes, I asked him to get a couple of bags for me, but this he said was unnecessary, as when his were planted he would let me have seed from the first bearing, but again unfortunately he told me that these seeds met with bad luck, and he had only sufficient for himself; so the seeds he claimed to have offered me last year were really seeds that I had been trying to get from him for some years, and by the way, the 14 bags were only six.

The real trouble has lain in the difficulty of estimating the quantity of seed that will be required without knowing the acreage, and again the weather conditions are often such that the same acreage has frequently to be replanted three times. This makes it hard for a private individual to distribute seeds free to plant and replant several hundred acres, as I understand the seed left over from one year are not suitable for shipping next; so the tendency is to run short and the supply will then be made up from the poorest of cotton purchased at the very end of the crop that has come in too late for shipment, while this is very undesirable yet it is probably better than telling an uneducated peasant who wants seed to supply a cultivation that has been already planted perhaps twice, but which has grown irregularly on account of drought that there is no more seed, as he will then start to provide his own seed, and for this same reason it is absolutely necessary, seed be provided free. Then again without the supervision I speak of there is a great waste of seed as frequently a man will apply for seed to plant an acre and when he gets it only plants $\frac{1}{3}$ of an acre.

For five years the small settlers in the Portland District of Vere have been growing Cotton, and in each successive year the area under cotton has been doubled. For three years I bought all this cotton and sold it at the same rate, if not a slightly higher rate than Mr. Watson got for his Yarmouth cotton. So evidently it is of no lower commercial value. For the past two years Mr. Watson has been inducing these settlers to sell their cotton to him, paying last year as high as $3\frac{1}{2}$ pence per lb. for seed cotton, which surely is a good price for good Sea Island Cotton; evidently up to the present these settlers have found no trouble in disposing of their mixture of Hybrid cotton.

For these years I have been doing what little I could to encourage these settlers, visiting their cultivations, giving them advice, explaining to them how to treat the Caterpillar pest, providing them with Paris Green and Dusting Bags, (in many instances free) with the very satisfactory result I think, that according to the *Gleaner's* correspondent there will be 1,000 acres of cotton in Vere this Fall. I have often invited Mr. Watson to accompany me on a visit to their cultivations, but this he was never able to do. It was not till last month that I succeeded in getting Mr. Barclay to arrange a trip, and get Mr. Watson to accompany us, my object being to show them the conditions, and that the people deserved encouragement, and my letter which was read at the previous meeting of the Board suggested the lines this should take. Cotton is not now only being planted in the Portland District, but practically in every other district of Lower Clarendon, and some of the districts of Mid Clarendon, the proper supervision of which would take up the whole of a capable man's time, say from July to the end of April.

Mr. Watson makes rather a point of my having in November 1911 offered through the AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S JOURNAL to distribute Sea Island and Caravonica seeds, and as this was not advisable should he not as the "Cotton Expert" on the Board of Management have taken some steps to prevent the Agricultural Society in encouraging this, which they did by printing the offer.

It has been practically demonstrated now however, that with a little supervision, cotton can be grown to pay by small settlers.

I may also add that two of the largest Estates are now trying cotton as a rotation crop with canes, and have fields planted.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
ERIC G. ANDERSON.

Memorandum from the Secretary was then submitted as follows:—

Mr. Watson's memorandum read at the last meeting has given rise to some wrong impressions, one of which is that the Agricultural organizations have done nothing at all to help on Cotton growing here.

Mr. Watson's memo takes up the tale from the time he came here in 1907. He says that no experimental plots were established until 1909. But as a matter of fact Experimental Plots had been grown in 1903-1904-1905 & 1906. In 1907 Sir Alfred Jones and Sir Daniel Morris visited one of these grown by Mr. Desporte who was so unwilling to try cotton, that I personally engaged the ploughman; Mr. Briscoe the Instructor overlooked the planting; Mr. Desporte providing the land. I mention this because the crop grown was a remarkable one, and it was its appearance that I rather think resulted in Mr. Watson's coming here. Sir Daniel Morris was very much impressed by it. A great deal was done between 1904 and 1907, although not by this Society, but by the Board of Agriculture in whose care this particular industry was, previous to the formation of the Department of Agriculture under the present Director.

What the Society did however, was to give its Secretary, who was a believer in cotton growing for the dry districts a free hand. The Society had its representatives on the Board of Agriculture, of which I acted as Secretary also.

The Agricultural Journal commenced to talk of cotton growing in 1902. It had 9 articles and paragraphs on the subject in 1903, 16 in 1904, 23 in 1905, 25 in 1906, 26 in 1907, 27 in 1908, 13 in 1909, 9 in 1910, 8 in 1911, 17 in 1912.

The Board of Agriculture received grants from the British Cotton Growers Association, five hand gins and a steam gin. They carried out experiments in every parish in the Island, except Portland and Hanover. They gave prizes of £5, for the best acre of cotton, grown up to a total of £50 offered, and awarded medals for large cultivations, gave free grants of seed and in 1904, 4,240 lbs. of Sea Island seed was distributed.

A local entomologist was engaged to enquire into the various cotton pests.

I find in the minutes of the Board of Agriculture June 1904 that a report from Mr. Cradwick was submitted, on his inspection of the cotton crops in the Pedro Plain. He found them satisfactory so far as the cultivation was concerned, but they had got to find a ready market or else the growers would be discouraged.

I held then that there was little use in our encouraging small experiments if the people did not know what to do with their crop when they grew it. I advised that I should be empowered to buy all the small quantities of cotton at a steady price of 3d. per lb., and the Board of Agriculture could take the risk of some little loss, but that the probability was that there would be a little profit, as has been found since.

In July 1904 I find minuted a report of a cotton conference held in Kingston. It recommended that the Board should do all in its power to bring strongly to the notice of the Government the advisability of pushing this industry with all the resources at their disposal and especially to foster cotton growing in the Plains of St. Elizabeth where little that can be exported is at present grown.

In October 1904, I find also minuted the following results of the experimental growing of Egyptian and Sea Island cotton, showing the following comparisons:—

Egyptian cotton gave 538 lbs. of lint and 1082 lbs. of seed, almost exactly $\frac{1}{2}$ lint and $\frac{1}{2}$ seed. Also Egyptian cotton in the Pedro Plains gave as follows:— 263 lbs. seed and 158 lbs. lint and 7 lbs. loss in ginning. 512 lbs. of Sea Island cotton grown at Shortwood, St. Andrew, gave 378 lbs. seed and 130 lbs. lint,—4 lbs. loss in the ginning. Egyptian cotton gave over one-third lint and Sea Island a little more than one quarter.

There was also this comparison noted in favour of Egyptian cotton. It is a larger cropper and gives a larger percentage of lint. In wet weather it can stand the rain much better, whereas Sea Island cotton rapidly becomes sodden and after ginning traces of the Stainer Bug are not so plain with Egyptian. There is very little discolouration and very little has to be picked out to avoid spoiling the sample. In wet weather the lint more fully protects the seed and thereby delays premature germination. The great point in favour of Sea Island cotton is that it fetches a higher price in the foreign markets.—Sea Island about 1/1½ with Egyptian about 7/3d per lb. These results are also printed in the AGRI-

CULTURAL JOURNAL for 1904 page 472. There was also a Cotton Conference held on Tuesday the 24th of November 1904 at which Messrs Olivier and Sandcliffe of the British Cotton Growers Association, attended.

Samples of cotton grown in all parts of the Island were submitted to these gentlemen to be tested. Curiously the best sample was grown in St. Mary on one of Sir John Pringle's properties.

Later this Society sent Mr. J. R. Williams to represent them and he also represented the Government at the Cotton Conference held in Manchester, England, in August 1908 and his report is published in the AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL for January 1909.

It is there recommended:—

"It seems to me that it is time that we came to closer quarters in cotton growing than we have so far done.

"For the larger planter it would be out of place to offer suggestions and advice, but for the small settler our Agricultural Society had responsibilities, and we should consider if anything can be done to add cotton to our staple industries.

"There are large districts which are said to be suitable to cotton growing and unsuitable to other crops which at present engross our attention."

Unfortunately through the total failure of Mr. Sharpe's large venture in Cotton growing with English capital, and, after the formation of the Department of Agriculture, the Director of Agriculture's strong report against cotton as a crop for Jamaica, apparently influenced by Mr. Sharpe's experience, interest in cotton growing received a great set back.

This Society had no money at its disposal to forward cotton growing except by very small grants and the Government has never spent any money in pushing cotton, except indirectly through the grants made to the Board of Agriculture and the Agricultural Society.

As regards the use of Selected Seed, all our seed distributed was imported through Sir Daniel Morris, from Barbados and St. Vincent.

In 1905 an extract from the Bulletin of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, entitled "Selected Seed" was published in the Jamaica Gazette, appeared also in the AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL, and continual paragraphs have appeared in the AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL on the same subject.

I still think that if I had been empowered to buy the cotton from all the various experiments at a steady price of 8d. per lb. in the seed, the industry amongst the small settlers would have been established to-day, whether very large cultivations had been established or not. I have reported to the Board later of successful experiments in this direction, from the cotton bought by me from small settlers in parts remote from a ginney at that price, paying freight to the ginney, yielding 4d. per lb. profit to the Society, with the price for clean cotton at 1/3 per lb. in Manchester, England.

During the years from 1903 to 1908 I have visited every large cultivation and the majority of the smaller experiments where cotton was being grown under varying conditions and I have been steadfast in my faith that cotton can be profitably grown by small settlers in all dry districts, but they must have faith that there will be a market ready when they grow it.

Neither Mr. Watson's 90 acres nor Mr. Anderson's 35 acres of cotton have influenced the small growers to take up the industry, but simply the fact that Mr. Anderson finding that he could grow cotton profitably, set himself to get small settlers to grow it in order that he might buy it and they having a market at their door and cash down, readily responded.

And this is just what I have pointed out, as this Board may remember, since 1904, viz: provide a ready and steady market and cotton will be grown. The settlers in the Pedro Plains grew it in 1904 and did not know what to do with it when they grew it.

JNO. BARCLAY, Secretary.

—:—

The Secretary submitted the Judge's report in full on the samples of cotton sent in for the Competition in Cotton Growing in School Gardens. (This is published on another page of this issue.)

(g) Wide Wheel Tyres.

The following letter from the C. S. O. was submitted.

No. 4114 7th May, 1913.

"I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 486 dated the 19th ult., relating to the rule issued by the Collector General to Collectors of Taxes regulating the refund of part of the tax on wheels which have wide tyres, and, in reply, to point out for the information of your Society, that the directions given are in accordance with the terms of the resolution of the Legislative Council of the 25th October, 1912.

2. I am to add that the Collector General sees nothing in the instructions issued that would prevent a user from claiming his year's rebate on one amount at one time."

(Sgd.) P. C. CORK,
Colonial Secretary.

It was pointed out that there was no apparent cause why the owners of vehicles with wide tyres should wait until the end of the year to get a rebate of their taxes. The simplest and best method would be that in issuing the tax receipt, the width of the tyres and the number of the vehicle should be written in, and the rebate given, so that the tax collector and the police would be in a position to check the width of the wheels in the vehicles in use at any time.

It was agreed to forward this suggestion to the Colonial Secretary.

(h) Entomologist.

The following letter from the C. S. O. was submitted:—

No. 4114 8th May, 1913.

"I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 19th ultimo, asking that your Society's recommendation as to the appointment of an Entomologist and Ornithologist for this colony should be again laid before His Excellency, and to inform you that the matter is receiving His Excellency's consideration."

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

(a) Horses—(Importation & Transit.)

5227

No. S. S. Circ. of 28th April, 1913.

22, 2, 13.

"With reference to the letter from this Office Nos. 14187/S.S. Circ./6, 11, 12, dated the 30th November last, I am directed by the Governor to transmit herewith for the information of your Society a copy of an Order which has been made by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries further postponing until the 1st July next the Operation of Chapter 1 of the "Horses (Importation and Transit) Order, 1913."

(Sgd.) P. C. CORK,
Colonial Secretary.

(8808)

—: o :—

ORDER OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES
(DATED 4TH MARCH, 1913.)

The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, by virtue and in exercise of the powers vested in them under the Diseases of Animals Act 1894 to 1911, and of every other power enabling them in this behalf, do order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows:—

1. The date on which Chapter 1 (Importation) of the Horses (Importation and Transit) Order of 1912 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Order) shall come into operation is hereby further altered to the first day of July, nineteen hundred and thirteen.

2. The provisions of paragraph (ix) (Food and Water) of Article 18 of the principal Order shall not, until the first day of July, nineteen hundred and thirteen, apply to a vessel on which horses, asses or mules are carried to any port in Great Britain or from any such port to any port in the British Islands.

3. The first day of July, nineteen hundred and thirteen, shall be substituted for the first day of January, nineteen hundred and thirteen, in the Schedule to the principal Order (Orders Revoked.)

In witness whereof the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries have hereunto set their Official Seal this fourth day of March, nineteen hundred and thirteen.

SYDNEY OLIVIER,
Secretary.

(b) *Veterinary Surgeons.*

No. 5690-4699 of 7th May, 1913.

"I am directed by the Governor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 20th March last, forwarding a letter signed by various veterinary surgeons, asking that a Veterinary Board be established for the examination and licensing of duly qualified veterinary surgeons, and to inform you that the matter is receiving attention.

"I am to say that if the veterinarians will present a detailed statement of the restrictions and standards that they consider should be adopted, and also what proposals they would recommend for financing the Board and its proceedings. His Excellency will be glad to consider their suggestions."

Authorised Persons.

Letter from the Inspector General was submitted forwarding Return of the arrests made by the "Authorized Persons" under the Prædial Larceny Law for the quarter ending 31st March, 1913. (This is published on another page.)

The Secretary submitted application from Mr. Lionel G. Hawthorn of Guilsbro Estate, Latium P.O., St. James, for the appointment of James Russell, Ranger on the Estate, as an "Authorized Person," and giving particulars concerning the man.

The Secretary was instructed to forward this nomination to the Inspector General.

Resolutions from Branches.

The following resolutions from Branches were submitted:—

(a) *Resolution from the Spaldings Branch:—*

Resolved:—"That the attention of the Government be drawn to the fact that great loss is sustained by the police detaining until the day of trial, the whole bulk of perishable articles stolen by prædial thieves. The Society would respectfully ask the Government to instruct the police to detain only such portions of the stolen articles as will enable the prosecutor to prove his case, and that the balance be given back to the owner. It is to the certain knowledge of the Society that a large quantity of yams was recently stolen in this district, and was kept by the police until the day of trial at which time nearly all became useless. The Society feels that no individuals should suffer loss in this manner. It was resolved also that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Colonial Secretary, to the Parent Society and to all the Branch Societies for their consideration."

It was pointed out that if this was done in the case of a prosecutor failing to get a conviction, the person charged could proceed against the police for the recovery of the produce.

(b) *Resolution from the Spanish Town Branch:—*

Resolved:—"That in the opinion of the Spanish Town branch of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, the old rule should be reverted to in the matter of the irrigation water supply; that is to say, the yard should be the minimum instead of

five as at present under the new rule, this being the necessity to small settlers, who have from one to ten acres of land, and cannot really afford to take the supply which at present demands a five yards minimum limit; and respectfully urge on the Parent Society to so bring the matter before the Irrigation Commissioner, so that the peasant proprietor may have equal privileges with his more opulent brothers."

The Secretary was instructed to forward this to the Superintendent of the Rio Cobre Irrigation Canal for his attention.

Applications for Affiliation.

The following applications for affiliation were again submitted after being before the Instructors Committee:—

- (a) Blackhill (Portland)
- (b) Moore Town (Portland)
- (c) Crofts Hill (Clarendon)
- (d) Mount James (St. Andrew)
- (e) Albion Mountain (St. Mary)
- (f) Baxters Mountain (St. Mary).

Mr. Craig said the Instructors Committee had not been able to go fully into the matter of the necessity for all these Branches, yet, and he would move that they be referred back for investigation.

The Secretary said he would ask that Moore Town Branch at any rate be affiliated. There had been an old Society there, the district was remote and was not near any other Branch Society; the members of that Society could not possibly attend the meetings of any other Branch. Moore Town was accordingly affiliated, and the other applications were referred back to the Instructors Committee.

Half Yearly General Meeting.

It was agreed to hold the next Half Yearly General Meeting on the third Thursday of July, 1913, to commence at 11.40 a.m., while the meeting of the Board of Management would be held on the preceding day, Wednesday, at 3.15 p.m.

Instructors.

The usual monthly Reports and Itineraries of the Instructors submitted, and directed to be circulated to the Instructors Committee.

New Members.

The following new members were elected:—

- T. H. Sharp (Jnr.) Amity Hall, Alley P.O.
- Fred L. Sampson, Germania, Linea Vieja, Costa Rica.
- Marcial Alpizar, San Jose, Costa Rica.
- Dr. Angus McDonald, Health Dept., Kingston.
- Gerald S. Lewis, Milk River.

The meeting adjourned until Thursday, 19th June, 1913, at 11.40 a.m.

THE CULTIVATION AND CURING OF COFFEE.

COFFEA ARABICA.

(By H. Q. Levy.)

I have to express my regret to my readers for not having furnished the continuing portions of this article since February, but the transition period, from the time I left your Department up to the present moment, has been so full of initiative work in planting bananas that I have found it impossible ere this to write the concluding chapters of the series. Under the circumstances I crave your forgiveness and trust that the lapse of three months, will not tend to diminish the manifest interest evinced in the previous articles.

H. Q. L.

LONG TOP TREES.—(Pruning).

Even to the casual observer it must be apparent that there are many, in fact the majority of long top fields throughout the Island could be made to produce very much larger crops than at present, and that, simply by the exercise of a little more intelligence and labour, in the thinning out, pruning and after cultivation of this stamp of tree.

I have already written on the thinning out and after cultivation and it now devolves on me to show how pruning should be done, so as to secure the best results from the tree.

Where pruning is attempted at all, it usually takes the form of the owner sharpening his cutlass a little more than ordinarily, proceeding to his field and promiscuously hacking off limbs from the trees, regardless of the utility of the operation, or without any fixed object in view; sufficient that, at its completion, the ground is strewn with debris, he is quite satisfied that he has done his duty to his field for the year.

— This is quite a wrong practice, for a long top tree requires almost as much care and attention bestowed on it as the short top, although it entails less labour, for it is not necessary to prune so often, for the branches need not be spaced quite so accurately. But the present system is a most reprehensible one, and should be discontinued at once.

First many of the branches and suckers now destroyed, should be retained and those which ought in the first instance to be removed, are left on the trees to sap its vitality. Then the cuts instead of being made with a sharp saw, are done with a cutlass and are invariably made too far from the adjoining branches, leaving a part which in time decays, and forms a seat for disease and the entry of ants. The cut should be made as close as possible and be immediately covered over with some protective compound, such as thick white lead paint or tar and grease. A little grease about the size of an egg, melted in a quart of tar, makes probably the best and most lasting composition. Only Gas tar should be used, Pine tar (Stockholm) never, as it will injure the tree, neither should tar alone be employed for this purpose, as it soon dries, whereas if mixed with grease in the proportion I mention, it keeps soft and the covering is complete until the wound heals over.

The object of pruning is threefold, to remove surplus and useless branches, let in light and air, which is essential to the proper development of all parts of the tree, and to encourage the growth of new healthy wood, which in the course of time will form the bearing surface of the tree.

Some years ago I practiced a system which answered admirably, and I would recommend it to all progressive planters. I allowed three suckers to grow from each root, (the nearer the ground the better) I retained the three until after gathering the *first heavy* crop. Then I cut away one (for preference the largest) and within 6 inches of its junction with the main stem, then I allowed the stump to send up one sprout, which in time gave me new bearing wood, and took the place of the portion cut away. Each succeeding two years I treated one of the others in the same way, until I came round to the original one, which by this time being 6 years old, would have served its purpose and could be again cut down, this time three inches above the old cut, and so the same routine would be continued indefinitely. With this system you always have two stems in bearing, and the third developing new wood to take the place of the one to be next cut down. To be successful with this method of pruning, the trees must not be planted closer than 8 feet, if nearer than that the suckers will come up weak and in some instances the stump will fail to sprout at all. In resuscitating old "whippy" fields this is an easy system to follow, as you can allow three suckers to grow from the cut back stump.

Now take the ordinary long top tree as seen in any average field, it rarely contains one or even two stems; more often than not it will be found to have 3, 4 and sometimes as many as 5; probably three of these are good, and form the foundation of branches which give a certain amount of berries, but the others beyond bearing here and there a few scattered berries, are of no use whatsoever, in fact they simply serve as robbers and may be likened to a man who has five sons, of whom three are workers, but the other two do nothing, and therefore form a drag on the whole family. Such gormandizers should be removed when they first make their appearance. In like manner your main limbs must be carefully gone over, especially during the spring of each year i.e. from about February to May, to see that the young gormandizers which spring from the base of most of the primaries are correctly spaced. More than two on each main stem should not be retained and these two must never be allowed to grow too near to each other, if you make a judicious selection, and your tree and soil be in good condition, these suckers will develop into bold spring growths, and in time give large crops, but if all are left regardless of spacing and number, the result will be innumerable "whippy" stems, which only feed on the sap of the tree, but fail to give a commensurate return in berries.

The pruning of Long Top differs considerably from that of topped trees, for whereas it is fatal with the latter to allow gormandizers to develop, in the case of the former you encourage their growth so as to obtain your new wood, of course only retaining a strictly limited number on each tree. Some trees are shy at sending out strong gormandizers; if this be the case a good plan to adopt, is to weight or tie down the extremities of the main stems,

either by driving a stake in the ground adjacent to them and affixing them to it, or by fastening a heavy stone by a cord or length of rope, the exact amount of curvature may be regulated by the length of cord used. If they be treated in this way it will not be long before suckers are produced, after making your selection and before the new growths have fully developed, let up the main stem, and prune off *immediately* above the highest sucker.

Secondaries and *Tertiaries* are also used in the building up of the Long Top tree, and these should be spaced and pruned in the same way as advised in the previous article on Topped trees, the first pruning may be a bit heavy, but after that, the labour entailed in keeping them in check, will be nothing as compared with the handling of Topped coffee in Short Top.

Try to train your trees with an open centre so as to retain the lower *Primaries*. A crowded top which keeps out light and air from the main stems, means the gradual dying back of the lower branches.

If a Long Top field be allowed to get out of hand, it takes an immense amount of labour to bring it back into correct shape again, and a great sacrifice of valuable bearing wood, but if it is correctly handled from the first, and a little attention bestowed on it now and then, the amount of labour necessary for its upkeep, will be found to be exceedingly small in comparison with the returns obtained.

May I once again put it up to the Coffee Planter to show a little more consideration for his fields? Where the land and climate are suitable, there is no other economic tree which will give such good results for so little care and attention. If fairly treated and only sufficient acreage planted that he can conveniently manage, there is no other crop as suitable to the average small cultivator or from which he can make as large profits as the humble and very much neglected coffee tree.

(To be continued.)

-----o:-----

It has been calculated that every steer sold off a property carries away as much phosphoric acid as is contained in two wagon loads of hay, as much lime as is contained in one wagon load of hay, and as much potash as is contained in one barrow load of hay.

RIPENING HONEY.—Honey as it comes from the flowers contains a very large percentage of water—as much, it is stated, as 45 per cent. The heat of the hive—of which there has been no lack lately—converts much of this water into vapour, and it is driven out of the hives by the fanners. That this is so can be seen by the water running down the floorboard any cool morning after a good day's gathering of nectar. By the process of evaporation the quantity of water is reduced to about 20 per cent., when the bees seal it over for future use.

When honey is extracted it should always be exposed to heat in a hot room for several hours before it is bottled. Then assuming that it was sealed over before extracting, such honey will keep almost indefinitely in first class condition in a dry, warm room. Usually our ordinary temperature here in Jamaica is sufficient to enable us to bottle or jar right away.

THE CULT OF THE COCONUT.

ARTICLE IX.

In this article it is proposed to give a few hints on the best methods to be adopted in the treatment of "*Cocos nucifera*" after a destructive hurricane has swept across the country. That such hints are needed has been abundantly proved to the writer by his visit in January to the hurricane stricken coconut districts of Hanover. The suggestions contained herein are so simple and so commonplace that it is a matter of some surprise that they are not acted upon or thought of by most planters who have suffered loss of coconuts by hurricane; the fact however remains that the majority do not do much to help the trees under consideration.

When however, it is remembered that even under the best of conditions it must be at least eight years before a new Coconut can be grown and brought into bearing, it does certainly seem worth while to take a little trouble to put those trees not actually blown down or broken off in a condition to make at least a strong effort at recovery. The mistake made by most planters after such a visitation is to delay so long any measures for relief of injured trees as to render practically hopeless the ultimate recovery of the tree. This delay is fatal and one of the first things to be clearly realised is that in order to save the highest possible percentage of trees it would be absolutely necessary to start operations on a rapid scale within a day or two of the damage being done. As was said in one of the earlier articles of this series, the growth of the coconut is by a continual pushing up of the central heart of the crown and the point at which the life bud ends and merges into the soft portion of the trunk is the point of danger to the life of the tree. It is however possible to cut back a tree of good growth and vitality to within a foot or so of this point and not kill the tree. This is a matter of some importance in the knowledge of the tree as many planters are quite aware of this fact and believe any cutting of the heart of a coconut tree must kill it. This is not so, and an excellent bearing crown will again develop even though the tree may be very deeply cut back. With the knowledge of these two important points therefore, namely the necessity for immediate action and the possibilities in the way of pruning back the coconut's heart, it is practical to now consider the effects of the hurricane on the trees themselves. The action of the wind in such a cyclone as that in November 1912 on the "*Cocos nucifera*" seems to be not always the same. In some cases there is a violent circular motion imparted to the crown and even the whole stem, so that the tough fibrous trunks of 50 year old trees are to be seen twisted and riven as a blade of grass might be rolled spirally between the fingers. In the case of trees treated thus there is but little hope of recovery as the whole cell-tissues of the tree have been burst and crushed, and decay is practically certain to set in. In the great number of cases however, it is plain the trees have either been blown straight over, the heads broken right off, or the crown bent over and snapped. In the latter case a great deal can be done to set matters right by an active and intelligent planter. There is however among quite a lot of cultivators an idea that there is no need to help the injured trees and that the coconut will recover if it is to, or else die no matter what is done.

When however it is remembered that in a hurricane stricken coconut area, there is a sudden large accumulation of rotting coconut matter, enormous areas of exposed and broken surfaces, and thousands of dying trees, lying open to the attacks of beetles, weevils and grubs, and when it is remembered that the dread Bud rot disease is fairly closely fined down to spreading by being carried on the legs and bodies of these pests from tree to tree, it will be readily realised that the need for precaution is very necessary if future disaster is to be avoided. It is certainly an indisputable fact that since 1903 and the hurricane that struck Portland and St. Thomas coconut groves so heavily, there has been a very large increase of diseases of one sort and another among the trees which were almost immune before. So it is to be recognised that the result of a hurricane on coconut trees is to produce the correct conditions for the quick spread of every sort of pest and disease attached to the coconut industry. Coming to the point of the needful precautions and treatments therefore, it will be best to consider the methods of dealing with trees of different ages. First there are the young seedlings at about a year to two years old. It will be found that nearly all these are perfectly safe and unhurt. A careful survey should however be made of these and any that have toppled over should be properly set back upright and firmed down. Notice should also be taken of any attacks made by the heart boring beetle (*Rhynchoihorus Ferrugineus*) as it has been observed that owing apparently to his natural food being wiped out by the hurricane he attacks the young coconuts very freely. If trees are found attacked at this age a good soaking with Bordeaux Mixture is generally effective. When however, the young trees have reached an age of from 2 to 4 years and are blown flat, it is not advisable to set them upright again. The reason for this is evident. In being blown down all the fibrous roots of at least one half the tree have been snapped, those not broken have been bent over upon themselves by the way the tree is lying down; moreover even if the quickest action is taken, in a large grove the trees must be lying for a few days; and naturally the tree will be making an effort towards recovery, tightening up the tissues of the bent roots and striking out fresh supplies of food.

The result of putting these up therefore is bound to mean the breaking of more roots. Moreover the trees at that age are heavy and it is practically impossible to set them up and tie them so securely that they will not rock in the breeze, gradually loosening the roots left and should a drought set in, the loss of trees so treated would be large. It is far better to very slightly raise the stem say a foot or so off the ground putting plenty of earth under it and round the uncovered portion of the root, then carefully prune off all the under hanging limbs leaving the heart free to turn upwards and grow once more into a straight tree; this it will do very rapidly and entirely satisfactorily. In the case of any trees leaning over at a considerable angle it is always advisable to lighten the trees by under-pruning the heart of the surplus of weight. Then again there are the trees of this age and older which have resisted the storm and stood up but have been badly battered in the heart or crown. Among these are found those that have had the heart clean wiped out. These should be cut down and burnt at once, and it may be wise to say right here that all dying or dead trees should be immediately cut up and burnt

as far as is possible, all decaying coconut matter is a danger to those trees recovering, a thorough sanitation and clearing up of the coconut walks is a very necessary and wise precaution. In the case of the trees whose hearts have been badly twisted, or bent right over in many cases entirely shutting down the opening through which the heart growth rises these are in need of immediate attention in cutting off the heart down to a point just below the injury or bend. The heart may then be soaked in a qrt. or so of either Bardeaux mixture or a Lime and Iron Sulphate mixture. The necessity for this being done immediately was quite plain from observations in January in Hanover. The effect of the shutting down of the heart growth, and sudden stopping of the circulation of the sap is to set up an immediate fermentation at the injured part which rapidly eats down into the life bud and kills the trees, so it is to be emphatically understood that this should be the first matter attended to in a stricken grove namely the very early freeing of all hearts by pruning and cutting back below the injured point.

It has been found that beetles attack many of these young sprout growths hence the necessity for some application that will prevent it. Trees of a just bearing stage attacked by this beetle may be flamed with fire to destroy the lava and Cocoons. It is certainly advisable to cut down all those very old trees that are badly injured and do away with them as there is no hope of their ever bearing profitably again and they are certainly a danger to younger trees. Any diseased trees wherever found should be immediately burnt so as to avoid the spread of disease in an epidemic form. It, of course goes without saying that all possible efforts should be made to push the vitality and growth of the trees left by good cultivation and practical manuring. In the case of slightly twisted tree trunks and any injury to that portion of the coconut, a good dressing of tar should be immediately applied. It will be well to remember to save sufficient coconuts of those fallen for setting out to grow in order that immediate replanting may be carried out; neglect of this often leads to long delay in replanting.

What is recommended therefore is briefly :

- (1) Immediate attention.
- (2) Careful and systematic examination of every tree.
- (3) Treatment as the case calls for.
- (4) Early destruction by fire of all decaying matter.
- (5) Good cultivation to push growth.
- (6) Replanting early.
- (7) Insurance of all bearing coconuts in future.

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

March 1913.

—: o :—

IS YOUR SOIL SOUR?—To determine whether a soil needs lime : Buy at a drug store enough blue litmus paper to test a large field. Cut the paper into narrow strips and make tests in different parts of the field by pressing the moist soil into close contact with the paper. If the paper turns red in a few minutes, a sour soil is indicated and lime should be applied. The degree of acidity will be shown by the extent to which the blue paper turns to red.

THE JOURNAL OF THE
THE CULT OF THE COCONUT.

ARTICLE X.

The following brief summary of some points neglected as a rule brings to a conclusion the above series of articles on the Cult of the Coconut.

The suggestions indicated are those that seem to the writer most often to be passed over or considered unimportant by the average planter especially the smaller cultivator.

DON'T therefore

- (1) Consider anything good enough for *Cocos Nucifera*.
- (2) Be satisfied with any sort of nut for seed purposes picked up haphazard in the fields.
- (3) Plant too close, 30-40 ft. is right, or plant too deep especially on clay.
- (4) Dig a hole and stick the seedling in and expect it to grow rapidly.
- (5) Plant on heavy clay soils or high marls or at high altitudes, best avoid these.
- (6) Feed stock through young coconuts : this is folly.
- (7) Allow anyone to chop young limbs off, or make steps in the trunks of young trees, this spells disease.
- (8) Be slow to note signs of disease and apply the remedy; a stitch in time saves nine.
- (9) Pick immature nuts for market.
- (10) Be afraid of new ideas ; or reject theory as impractical till it has been tried.

DO—

- (1) Remember *Cocos Nucifera* responds astonishingly to care and cultivation.
- (2) Give close attention to the most careful and scientific selection of seeds and put in a proper nursery.
- (3) Give the seedling a good large hole and a thoroughly soft bed to start in.
- (4) Carefully view the soils and situation before planting ; repenting at leisure is not profitable.
- (5) Follow up year by year with systematic cultivation.
- (6) Have a system of regularly cleaning and antisepticising the trees' crown's.
- (7) Cultivate an observing eye when going round the walks.
- (8) Be cognizant of all the common diseases of the coconut palm.
- (9) Remember the duty to one's neighbours in the case of Bud-rot.
- (10) Insure all bearing trees.

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

SISAL HEMP.

PLANTING, MANUFACTURING & GENERAL MANAGEMENT.

By D. J. Stoddart.

In writing this paper on Sisal Hemp planting, bringing it prominently before the public, I do so with the object of promoting, if possible, the interest of the Island of Jamaica by advising its cultivation here.

I shall endeavour to put before my readers the planting, manufacturing and everything else in my experience connected with Sisal Hemp in as few words possible and yet in as plain a manner as I may be able to do, so as to make it fully comprehensible. When I first landed on the shores of that great Hemp Country—Yucatan—one of the States of Mexico and saw the immense trade in Sisal Hemp, the fibre finding already sale in the markets of the world, principally in the United States of America, thereby putting a large amount of money into circulation it attracted my notice very much and consequently claimed my attention, and I became engaged in the cultivation and manufacturing of it there.

⊗ Too much cannot be said of this valuable plant which is the great and only source of wealth on that Peninsula.

The importance of this fibre may be realized when it is known as the sole production of Yucatan and the only article of export which totals up according to latest reports over one hundred thousand tons annually, and at the price of £25 to £28 per ton in London and 5½ to 6 cents a pound in New York amounts to about £2,500,000 sterling.

The journal *American Industries* recognized as the official organ of American Manufacturers had an article in its issue of April 1910, (Export Edition) written by L. H. deL'Espee under the title *The United States as a market for foreign products*.

In speaking of the demand it says, "*The same can be said of all classes of fibre, the American consumption of which is yearly increasing. A market that takes annually six millions five hundred thousand dollars worth of Jute from India, nine million dollars worth of Manilla Hemp from the Phillipines, and thirteen millions seven hundred thousand dollars worth of Sisal from Mexico is worth trying for and in fact there is no instance of a good sample lot of new fibre being brought to New York and failing to sell readily at a good price. Not the slightest risk will be involved in the attempt of introducing any new class of fibre as this probably one of the classes of raw materials for which the requirements of our industries are bound to grow most rapidly and in the most tremendous proportions.*"

The increasing demand for Sisal Hemp was very evident to me by the number of new plantations which were constantly opened up during my time in Yucatan. There is no doubt that there are soils in Jamaica highly adapted to its cultivation and the climate in part is almost identical with that of Yucatan where Hemp is grown. What makes me sanguine about its suitability here, is the successful growth of young plants I brought to this Island, the suckers of which are now to be seen growing beautifully and sending out shoots, and the result of the tests I have made here in the extraction of the

fibre from the leaves, and the yield and the report of the New York fibre dealers on the sample I submitted them, as will be explained further on in this paper.

My practical experience in Yucatan in connection with Sisal Hemp having been in the working management of it, enables me to write fully on the matter. The market for this fibre is already well established and it meets with a prompt sale.

It does not therefore need any introduction. I can earnestly recommend the planting of it as a sure and safe investment, there being nothing that can properly be called *risk* in its cultivation.

I hope the details which I give will prove of interest to the public who I have no doubt will agree with me that the establishment of an industry of this sort in the Island of Jamaica taking up lands that are considered almost useless and in localities where dry weather is experienced nearly every year, will prove very beneficial as it must mean a substantial increase in our exports.

CHAPTER 1.—DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT.

The Sisal Hemp plant of Yucatan, *Agave Itzli*, or "Henequen" as it is called there, would at first appearance resemble our "Keratto" (or Koratloe) but upon close observation will be found widely different, being of a distinct style of growth, the leaves not growing so near each other of a light green and exceedingly thick. For this reason they give so much fibre which for strength is hard to be excelled.

The leaves of the plant grow with prickles or thorns on the edges, they are slightly gutter formed, are very thick where they are joined to the tree, and taper off to a point which is hard and sharp. Growing first upright, shutting up together, the leaves gradually spread open and finally bend down around the tree.

The vitality of this plant which is almost incredible proves itself beyond a doubt, in so much that if rooted up it will remain alive for weeks without being replanted. There is positively no failure in it as with a very small rainfall it grows and flourishes.

It is "semper virent" in every sense of the word and in my estimation has few equals in its drought resisting and life lasting quality. During my time in Yucatan a very severe drought was experienced one year that cattle were lost, yet the Sisal plants were not in the least affected, retaining its greenness and giving the usual return. I had the opportunity when I was there of seeing the country invaded by locusts which ate up almost every green thing, grass and leaves, etc., and leaving little or no feed for stock, while the Sisal fields were untouched, not a leaf disturbed. It withstands heavy winds.

When the fields have arrived to "cutting state" and the work once begun there is no "Out of Crop" but a constant work all the year round. The plant according to old planters there has been known to last as long as 25 years in "cutting state" depending on the soil and treatment, this may however be regarded as exceptional, about 14 years is the ordinary calculation:—No ploughing nor manuring is required, no animal of any kind there eats it.

It takes 3 years to reach "cutting state." At this stage and onwards the more the leaves are cut off the better it thrives and the greater number of leaves it produces, while if it were to be neglected and left *uncut* would in a short time—growing until it finds no other

vent—send up a pole or stalk from the centre, the appearance of which determines its existence although young, and it dies not long after—singularly strange, but really true, so that the greatest caution is to be observed as soon as it reaches this stage.

By the time the plant is about 12 months old, it will if planted in the proper manner, begin to send out around its roots young shoots or suckers, and at "cutting state" there will be a good number of them.

If no more plants are required for extending the plantation these suckers must still be cut away and destroyed, if allowed to remain they will be prejudicial to the mother plant. To replenish a field it would only be necessary, when, after a number of years, the mother plant shows signs of fading to set out young suckers—between, and 3 years after a new field of matured plants will be up without any suspension of work or loss of time. This is undoubtedly the practise carried on in Yucatan and a very good one too.

CHAPTER 2.—THE DIFFERENT SPECIES OF HEMP PLANTS.

There are in Yucatan 7 classes of hemp plants with Indian names which they retain to the present day. It may not be out of place and uninteresting to give a description of them. The following are their names :—Sacqui, Chelem, Yaxqui, Chuchumqui, Babqui, Quitamqui and Cajun.

Sacqui takes the first place. This name according to the dialect of the Maya Indians signifies white not from the whiteness of the fibre, but because the greenness of the plant is lighter than any other. This class of Hemp plant is the one that has had attention in its propagation on account of all its good qualities, and of which the plantations there consist, forming the article of export in the raw as well as manufactured state.

It gives all that is desired, viz : whiteness, strength, length and yield. The 2nd, Chelem partly wild is found in abundance in the woods and is to a certain extent productive considered fair in quality its fibre being white and strong. The Yaxqui takes the 3rd place, this produces short leaves, the filament of which is fine and strong, but gives a small quantity. The 4th class Chuchumqui is much like the Sacqui with the difference that its leaves are harder and thicker, and its fibre coarser and less flexible which makes it unacceptable. No. 5 Babqui is poor in yield although of good quality. In the 6th place comes Quitamqui with short thin leaves which produce very little fibre. The 7th and last is Cajun, this has long leaves very delicate of palid colour giving a small quantity of Hemp.

To return to our object : The first named Sacqui about which this paper treats is the one that claims our attention, it is the plant we require, possessing both quantity and quality and all otherwise that makes it acceptable for cultivation. The application of the word "Sisal" to this hemp, by which it is known and called is derived from a Port of Yucatan of that name whence it used formerly to be shipped, but which has been abandoned for the other port of Progreso where the entire shipping is carried on.

CHAPTER 3.—THE SORT OF LAND AND THE PREPARATION OF IT.

For the cultivation of this plant due regard should be paid to the selection of the land as well as the locality. Gravelly, stony, and rocky lands are suitable also any other dry soil.

Swampy land would not do as it keeps unabsorbed a large amount of water. There is no objection whatever to poor lands or those worked for many years and thrown out of cultivation. Plenty of our lands in the plains and known as Savannahs which are considered useless for cultivation will grow Sisal successfully. A large portion of the Southside of the Island which suffers so much from dry weather would do well for Sisal Hemp.

I am of opinion that a good deal of our Government lands may produce this fibre. It would be necessary in selecting land to see that it will admit of the easy and cheap carriage of the leaves from the field to the works.

The preparation of the land.—Proceed to fence, cut down and clean (no thought need be taken about ploughing and manuring these not coming in the way at all) taking care to have all trees cut as closely to the earth as possible, leaving very short stumps, giving room to the play the leaves of the plant ought to have.

All this should be done and the field made ready for the reception of suckers say between the months of September and April, taking advantage of showery seasons for a good start. The land for Sisal cultivation must be entirely free from shade as it requires very much the aid of the sun to forward its growth, and give the necessary result. It would not thrive if shaded. It should therefore be understood that sunshine is an indispensable condition for its successful production. It may be planted any month of the year but it is better to do so during fall and spring, as getting a fair start it will not be retarded in its growth and will give an earlier return.

(To be continued) Next Article deals with "The Young Plants and Planting."

—:o:—

ON LOAN BANKS.

By H. L. Mossman, (Agricultural Instructor.)

The establishment of these Institutions has become so intimately associated with Agricultural Development that I may be pardoned for selecting this subject in preference to any other at this present juncture, especially in regard to the rôle they are called upon to play as the distributing Agents of the Government for Loans granted under Law 36 of 1912.

In the early part of the year a good deal of misapprehension existed as to the rules made by the Agricultural Loan Societies Board, governing the granting of loans to persons whose cultivations were damaged either by drought or hurricane during last year, and even yet there are pessimists who look forward eagerly to the time when they may be able to say "I told you so," but like the poor these are always with us, and it is only by persistent efforts and careful management of the Banks, that the small agriculturists will be able to fully realize the almost infinite possibilities that lie before them, so soon as they become shareholders in a Bank.

In dealing with the Banks as distributing Agents, it must be borne in mind that loans can only be granted under fixed conditions and for a specific purpose, and although the greatest care has been taken in explaining the difference between Loans under Law 6 of 1912 and Law 36 of the same year, applicants are yet to be found, who because they offer security worth £100—and cannot be granted a loan of £5—as they are unable to satisfy the Bank authorities that they suffered any loss during last year, think themselves badly treated. But the future of every Planter, whose needs have been met, or who has been helped by these special loans, depends largely on himself. I look upon the disaster of November last as a blessing in disguise. But for an earthquake there would never have been a remodelled Kingston, and but for the hurricane there would have been no Loan Banks (at least for some years); quite true the Christiana Bank has been doing excellent work, but there were no others doing any real work until recently, and those responsible for the running of the newly formed Banks should endeavour to instil in the minds of their shareholders and others, the real value these Banks will be to Agriculturists, when they begin operations on their own account.

The usurer with his shilling a week in the pound, the produce speculators with a loan at high Interest and specious promises of good prices, and others who take advantage of the “inarticulate mass”—these will find little business to do, as soon as the cultivator realizes that the only assets required by him to obtain help are honesty of purpose, integrity, and punctuality, and of course proper security; and when he has obtained a loan for any useful purpose he has the happy feeling that he is obligated to no individual, but to an Institution; that he can exercise freedom of choice in the sale of his produce, and best of all that the rate of Interest payable by him is so small, as to be hardly appreciable. In the Parish of St. Catherine only one Bank has been formed, and the business it has done and is still doing has fully justified its establishment.

With banana fields stricken, with the cocoa crop less than one-fourth, unless help had been forthcoming, it would have taken at least 3 or 4 years for the restoration of these cultivations, but by the help of these loans fields have been resuscitated, while thanks to unusually fine showers during March and April, everything promises well.

These Banks have I hope come to stay, and their success depends not only on the support they receive from shareholders and borrowers but on their proper management. Committees must realize that their presence at regular meetings is indispensable, and it is the example set by these officers of the Bank that carries weight, all the work should not be left to the Chairman and Secretary, and the want of a quorum may prevent a borrower from obtaining a loan at a time when it is very much needed.

Let each one do his share, and Bank as well as Planter will prosper.

H. L. MOSSMAN,

Agricultural Instructor
for St. Catherine.

HOW TO GROW SEA ISLAND COTTON IN JAMAICA.

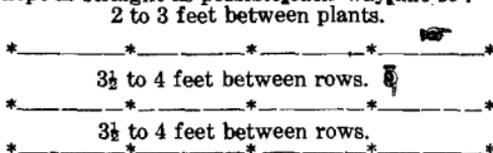
1. While cotton will grow everywhere in Jamaica, from the sea-side to over 3,000 feet in the hills, and wild cotton is common, the particular variety of cotton which has been grown since 1904 when cotton growing was taken up here, again because it is a native of the West Indies, produces the best quality when grown near the sea, and cannot be grown where the cheaper qualities of cotton can be grown, while it fetches the highest price in the markets, is Sea Island Cotton. The common cotton growing wild here is either Kidney Cotton or Upland Cotton, and neither are of any use for our purpose, and any plants of these kinds growing near where we are going to cultivate Sea Island Cotton should be cut down in case they cross and spoil our seed for planting. There are other varieties of cotton grown commonly for the manufacture of cotton goods and for which there is a much larger demand than for Sea Island Cotton which goes to make only the finest qualities of goods. The most commonly grown is Upland Cotton, called a short staple cotton. Sea Island Cotton is a long staple cotton; its fibre is long, and fine and silky. There is another variety of cotton also long staple but coarser than Sea Island which grows more vigorously, and gives a larger yield, and that is Egyptian Cotton. It may be that this variety may yet be grown here instead of Sea Island Cotton because of its stronger growth and large yield although it fetches a less price. However, meantime we are growing the Sea Island variety fairly successfully and it is this variety we shall deal with here.

2. The Sea Island Cotton is best grown in the lowlands, for although it will grow well in the hills, and inland, there is more expense to get it marketed from there, and other things will grow in the hills better. And it usually gives better quality when grown near the sea. The idea is to grow cotton where the people cannot grow bananas, coffee, and cocoa, and have little choice through deficient rainfall what they can grow to ship abroad and bring money into the Island, and it is just in such places that Sea Island Cotton grows well. Guinea grass, cassava and sweet potatoes &c. we only sell to each other, but we want something extra to sell abroad in such districts. Light soil and a dry climate suit Sea Island Cotton best, and so we have plenty of districts to plant in.

The prices for the cotton grown here since the year 1907 have been very satisfactory.

3. The land should be forked, or ploughed roughly, not later than the beginning of July, for planting in August, and left to weather for a time. Then it should be gone over again and made fine as possible before planting. If a plough is used, shallow drills should then be made, four feet apart, and three to four seeds planted together, every two to three feet. If the hoe is used, holes should be made in the forked land exactly as if planting corn two to three feet apart, three and a half to four feet between rows, and

three or four seeds dropped in, covered not deeper than an inch, and the soil pressed down with the blade of the hoe. The lines should be kept as straight as possible, each way, like so :



The seeds can be roughly tested before planting by flinging them in a pan of water, letting them stand an hour, and taking out all those that float, as bad.

In ordinary seasons rain falls in the lowlands about the 12th of August, and showers usually continue through August. The land should be all ready by the end of the first week of August, and when rain falls after the 15th, planting should begin and may continue up to the 15th of September. But if rain falls, the nearer the 15th of August planting is done the better. If no rain falls until October, which would be exceptional, of course planting would require to wait until then.

4. The young plants will appear—just like young peas—in three or four days, if the soil is moist, or rain falls, and if all of them grow, all but one, the strongest should be cut off close to the earth with scissors. But if any plants fail or grow weak elsewhere, two may be taken out gently, not by pulling but by raising up the earth, preferably with a trowel until they come out easily. Then the earth should be pressed down firmly around the plant left. Those taken out should immediately have their roots dipped in a mixture of earth and water, like mud, to preserve the roots from drying, and be planted, where needed at once. They should not be exposed to the sun, and after planting a leaf or branch with leaves should be stuck in, leaning over them to shade them. Unless this care is exercised it is better to plant fresh seeds where supplies have to be made.

5. Where planted so wide as four feet between the rows, and all the land having been forked or ploughed as is recommended, and if rain falls well, a crop of Cowpeas or Kidney beans or Black Eye peas can be taken off between the rows, but the land must be kept clean weeded round the cotton plants.

6. We insist that it is best to fork or plough the land through to aerate it, and make it easy for the young roots to spread. The more the roots are able to spread through the soil, the more food-stuff they will be able to absorb, the quicker they will grow, and the better they will bear.

But when men are late in making up their minds to start, and have to get ready in a hurry, the wire grass or other grass can be hoed off, and when dried, drawn into rows, leaving a two feet space between rows. These rows can be forked right through or if the man is in a big hurry (which, of course, he should not be) holes may be forked two feet apart, and planted three seeds to a hole. These will grow well, and the rest of the soil can be broken up between the plants at leisure. If dry weather comes along, the dried grass between

the rows can be drawn close to the plants as a mulch and for manure. Two weedings are generally enough.

7. In November and December the plants will flower, and in January picking will begin. When the bolls open and the cotton looks fluffy and loose, it is ready for picking. Women and girls do the picking of cotton best as their fingers are more supple and slender than men's. One practical lesson is better than a written description of picking. The cotton must be taken out with the first three fingers, clean and in one bit, and not torn out in several attempts. The pickers wear aprons to drop the cotton in, and when the aprons are full, they empty the cotton in large baskets placed in the row, which again, when full, are taken to store and the contents weighed. The pickers are paid by the weight picked.

8. Cotton should only be picked when dried, and so picking does not begin until the dew is off. If it happens to get wet, after picking, it is spread out to dry in the sun for a couple of hours and is all right again. It is taken by carts to the ginnery for the cotton to be separated from the seed. The seed here generally weighs from 70 to 75 per cent. of the total weight, leaving a little over a quarter of the weight of cotton generally, 28 per cent. Egyptian Cotton gives a larger percentage of lint to seed than Sea Island Cotton and this ought to be taken into account. It requires machinery for the oil to be taken from the seed, and as we have none here—more is the pity—it requires to be exported. The oil is used for cooking as "sweet oil" and for making soap. The meal after the oil is taken away is used for feeding cows, and for manure. If we had proper machinery here—and there might be if there was plenty of cotton seed to keep mills going—we could supply our own sweet oil, make our own soap, feed our dairy cows, and find cheap manure for the land.

So that a cotton industry would mean much more to Jamaica than only exporting cotton:—

1. It would utilize very dry lands where other crops fail at present, producing almost nothing, so that they could give a gross return of from £8 to £10 an acre, and a net profit of £5 to £7 per acre.

2. It would employ women and girls in the light work of picking; just the class who find it hard to get work suitable for them—

3. It would enable us to own oil mills, and soap works here, and so employ more labour; would save us importing oil and soap, cotton seed meal for cattle feed, and fertilizer for enriching our fields.

—:o:—

WOODLAND AND RAINFALL.—The question of deforesting is not one which affects the *total* rainfall of a place so much as the *average* rainfall, and again not so much that as what becomes of the rain that does fall. Where hills are not wooded the rain runs off the soil quickly, and ten times the rainfall will not keep the ground moist as when it sucks it in. Belts of forests on the hills and slopes not only attract rain clouds, but they break the force of heavy rains from the land, so that the soil is not washed, but is able to absorb the moisture and pass it off gradually.

GUINEA CORN.

There is at present a shortage of ground provisions in the island which has caused much privation among the peasantry particularly. I have no doubt however that if *hardy* crops were more generally grown, a good deal of hardship would be averted.

I wrote sometime ago about the "Cassava" as being one of those hardy and useful crops, and now I wish to say a few words about Guinea Corn. It is unquestionably a very useful crop and especially so as it will thrive in quite a variety of climates. The yield is said to be very large and the meal from the seeds is considered even more nutritious than wheat flour.

I tried some of the Kaffir variety (reddish seeds) in the school garden here and the results have been what might be considered satisfactory. A plot measuring 18 ft. by 15 ft. was planted out in July last with three seeds per hole at distance of 3 ft. by 3 ft.

The first crop was harvested at the end of November and a second crop at the beginning of March this year. The two crops yielded together 9 quarts of seeds, which is something like 45 bushels per acre. I made meal from some of the seeds by grinding them in an ordinary coffee mill and passing the ground stuff through a fine sieve. This meal made delicious porridge. I also made some into dumplings after mixing with wheat flour, and I consider them quite as good as those made from the ordinary corn meal mixed with wheat. Two weeks ago I cut down the old stalks, and fed rabbits, and they have begun to spring up again. I shall let you know the result of this third crop.

We can't grow Maize (Indian Corn) all over Jamaica, but there is no reason why Millet or Guinea corn should not be so grown.

W. F. JONES.

Woburn Lawn,
Hagley Gap P.O.

—:o:—

A FRIENDLY TREE.—In visiting a holding in an interior district of St. Thomas the other day, after inspecting all that there was to be seen, I was conducted to the house. Alongside of the small low dwelling I noticed a somewhat peculiar shrub, in appearance rather like a dragon blood though not the red leaved nor the green variety.

On my directing attention to it, the owner informed me that it was a most useful tree, as it always warned him when an "enemy" entered his holding. How? I asked. "Why sir," he said, "the tree always quivers and rattles its leaves; that's how it tells." I was thankful we had a calm day.

Is this an old superstition?

L. A. WATES,
Agricultural Instructor.

LOAN BANKS.

The Secretary of the Loan Societies Board writes as follows :—
 "I send you as promised a list of the Banks to which loans have been granted, shewing the number of loans, total amount granted and the average per loan. The average on the whole works out at £18 16s. 9d. which I think is very satisfactory, as if the few larger loans are deducted, the average in the case of each bank would be considerably reduced."

C. J. HAY.

LOANS GRANTED TO AGRICULTURAL LOAN BANKS.

Name of Bank.	No. of loans.	Amount granted.			Average per loan.			
		£	s	d	£	s	d	
Alexandria	51	679	0	0	13	6	3	
Bethel Town	108	2,939	0	0	27	4	3	
Central Portland St. Mgt's Bay	74	1,028	0	0	13	17	10	
Chapelton	132	1,792	10	0	13	11	7	
Frankfield	49	884	0	0	18	0	10	
Linstead	249	3,967	0	0	15	18	8	
Metcalfe (Annotto Bay)	129	2,918	0	0	22	12	5	
Port Maria	200	4,756	0	0	23	15	7	
Porus	51	535	10	0	10	10	0	
Richmond	259	5,000	0	0	19	6	1	
St. James	80	2,175	0	0	27	3	9	
Southern St. Mary	113	1,410	0	0	12	9	7	
Spaldings	61	573	0	0	9	7	10	
Ulster Spring	27	780	0	0	28	17	9	
Western St. Mary	263	4,979	10	0	18	18	8	
	1,846	34,416	10	0	275	1	1	
					—	18	6	9

LOAN BANKS—We have not written much about Loan Banks recently in the JOURNAL because we are believers in having patience and persistence.

If everything in connection with Loan Banks was not just as we should like to have had it, that was no reason why we should think that Loan Banks must end in failure. Our policy is to work for what is required not criticise.

Of course the delay of the money at the beginning of the year was very annoying, because it was certain that £5 or £10, loaned to a small settler a month or two after the storm of November, would not only have had a practical, but moral effect, worth ten times that to the country.

Every month's delay meant loss. However, the Banks that have been started under the "Special Loans Law" have got through their business satisfactorily before the end of March, and the above list shows the names of the Banks, the amounts granted to each and the average per loan.

We hope that all those who receive loans, fully appreciate their responsibilities.

We hope that members of Committees will take the trouble to keep advising those who have had loans to work hard on their holdings so that they may be in a position to meet their responsibilities when due.

The successful outcome of this scheme to help cultivators to make good the losses caused by the storm and drought, and at the same time to establish strong Loan Banks on which they can fall back when any further trouble of nature occurs, will depend largely on the Committees of the Loan Banks. If the members of Committees will keep up their interest, attend meetings and go through the business carefully, each taking a personal interest in the business, the whole scheme for the establishment of Loan Banks will turn out successfully. And Loan Banks will be a great help in the future, especially to small settlers.

-----:o:-----

Instead of being shipped to Great Britain in cases containing 400 fruits, the famous "Seville," or bitter orange, of southern Europe, is now used largely in preparing a concentrated pulp which is shipped in 5-kilo tins to British ports to be used in making the justly famous "Scotch orange marmalade."

GOVERNMENT BUILDING WHITEWASH.—Slake one-half bushel fresh lime with boiling water, covering it to keep in the steam. Strain liquid through a fine sieve and add seven pounds of fine salt, previously dissolved in warm water. Three pounds of ground rice, boiled to a thin paste and stirred in boiling hot; one-half pound bolted gilders' whiting; one pound of white glue, which first soak in cold water until swollen up, then melt over a fire, avoiding burning it. Add five gallons of hot water to the mixture, stir it well, and let it stand a few days covered up. When ready to use the wash, make it boiling hot, which can be done by having a portable furnace. A pint of this mixture will cover nearly a square yard. It is very white and durable for outside work.

COMMENTS.*Half-Yearly General Meeting.*

By rule 16 of the Societies Constitution the Half Yearly General Meetings are held in January and July.

The next Half Yearly Meeting will fall on the third Thursday of July, the 17th of that month.

All Branch Societies can send one representative.

We do hope a great deal of interest will be taken in this meeting. Branches should send up before hand a note of the subject they wish brought forward.

Prize Holdings Competition.

It should be remembered that this competition takes place this year in the Parishes of St. Catherin , Trelawny, Portland and St. Thomas. The time of judging will be fixed later. After the experience of late years we shall have to keep clear of November for judging.

Small settlers in the above parishes should note the special prizes offered in addition to the ordinary prizes. Particulars of the competition are printed among the advertisements in this JOURNAL.

Branches.

Branch Societies should note that their application fees, 5/- are due now. Those branches with over 50 members pay also a penny per member over that number, but this amount should not be paid now; an account will be sent towards the end of the financial year.

According to Rule also a copy of the financial statement of each Branch should be sent the General Secretary through the local Instructor. It is desirable that the Instructor and the General Secretary should know how the accounts of each Branch stand.

Instructors.

It is proposed to transfer Mr. Briscoe, who has been Instructor for St. Andrew since 1904 to a new district to be formed in the West and with its headquarters at Montpelier.

Mr. Briscoe will be in charge of the cocoa nursery at Montpelier, issue plants, see that they are judiciously allocated and co-operate with the other Instructors in the West end, Mr. Harrison and Mr. Somerville, in seeing that the Cocoa is properly planted and taken care of.

There has been great development in Banana growing in the West End. On a visit made recently we were surprised at the extent which bananas were being planted in St. James.

There are lands of great fertility in Central and Southern St. James and there are regular seasons; it is only the coastal districts of Northern St. James that are dry. But in St. Mary very little cocoa is grown. And it is a matter of Island economy to make sure, to a considerable extent at least, that cocoa be grown through the bananas; to depend absolutely on bananas is not wise. At the present time in St. Mary and St. Catherine, when practically no Bananas are being shipped, it is a matter for congratulation that there has been a very good cocoa crop, and that the price is high.

The object of the Cocoa nursery at Montpelier is to facilitate small settlers and large planters to get plants fresh and well grown.

There is also much development in banana growing, in Hanover and Westmoreland. But in these parishes Cocoa has always been grown; some of the finest trees were grown there; we speak in the past tense because in the November storm the trees were either badly damaged, knocked down or blown out of the ground. In these two parishes there has been only one Instructor and he a junior. Mr. Briscoe is a trained and experienced nurseryman and a gardener and has had good experience in the caring of cocoa. His district will include part of Westmoreland, part of Hanover, part of St. James, and the western part of St. Elizabeth where the conditions approximate those of Westmoreland. The new district will include the following branches: Cambridge and Montpelier in St. James, Lamb's River and Bethel Town in Westmoreland, Miles Town in Hanover, Ginger Hill in St. Elizabeth and the districts of Newmarket and Springfield where there were formerly Branch Societies which have become defunct. Mr. Hanson who was appointed, an Assistant Instructor a year ago under Mr. Cradwick, for training, will be promoted to a 2nd class Instructor to take over the districts of St. Andrew and Western St. Thomas. We know that both Mr. Briscoe's and Mr. Hanson's districts will be sorry to lose them, but the principle is, the greatest good to the greatest number. Not all of our Instructors are transferable, some of them were engaged for districts on special terms because they had their homes in the district. The two Instructors named are transferable.

Mr. Briscoe also took some of the Branches in St. Mary, Scott's Hall, Castleton and the new branch at Chesterfield, because when he took up the work he lived near Castleton. These branches now go back into St. Mary under Mr. Cradwick.

These alterations take effect on the first of August.

Seeds Available.

We have now plenty of the following seeds on hand:—

First Class Seed Corn, White Guinea Corn and several varieties of Brown and Red Guinea Corn (imported), Broom Corn, Cowpeas, Black Eye Peas (imported & native), Congo Peas, Red Kidney Beans (imported), Bengal Beans, Black Castor Oil Beans, Sunflower Seeds, St. Vincent Yams.

Flies.

The fly season is now on. It is disgusting to see crowds of flies on the food that is to be eaten, and kitchens in houses are too often near unsanitary places which flies haunt. Country places are far more sanitary than houses in this respect.

It will probably be found on investigation that the attacks of dysentery so common among children here between July and October have the same cause as the summer diarrhoea common in summers in England. Infection from house flies on the milk and other food intended for children, is one cause, if not the only cause.

— We have written much on the use of Formalin to kill flies, and yet many readers have not troubled to use it. We arranged with our advertisers E. D. Kinkead & Co., to send it out in small bottles. One teaspoonful of Formalin in a saucerful of sugary water, or

milk and water will kill thousands of flies if there are plenty about. They do not die in the water, but usually drop dead as they fly away, and can be seen on the table and the floor. This is the easiest and simplest fly killer. Give flies no quarter, keep at them.

Rats.

Another pest we should give no quarter to is rats. We shall soon have another supply of E.X.O. which most of those who have used it have found more than usually effective in the line of rat poisons.

One prominent land owner and planter who is also attorney of many estates, writes—"Will be obliged for more Rat Exterminator, 10 tins. Overseer praises it highly and it has cleaned our houses."

A small settler writes—"I can with confidence write you to send me 2 boxes more of Rat Exterminator. The two boxes I got have done a world of good. I cannot express my many thanks to you. If there are any other remedies for other pests kindly let me know of them."

Castor Oil Seed.

Good crops are being reaped but we think these would have been better if the planting had taken place last March and April. Most of the seeds have been late planted, and the growth is not so vigorous during the cool months. It must be remembered that the first bearing is a light one, and the crop must not be judged from that; it is the crop picked within the year from planting that must be taken to be fair.

Tobacco.

We have small supplies of imported Havana, and an imported long leaf pipe tobacco, Virginian, the latter for improving the common native tobacco. Small packets 3d.

By the time this appears we shall have, we hope, good supplies of the seed of common native to hand in stock. There has been large demand for this, but the season for fresh seed has only now come.

Nurseries should be prepared for in July. Choose a good spot, spread bush over the place, burn it, then turn over the soil and let it lie for a time. Then refine, smooth it carefully, firm the surface down with a board, mix the seed through a mixture of woodashes and fine earth, sprinkle this over the bed, rake the bed and water if the weather is dry. There will be an article in the July Journal on this subject.

We have common native Tobacco seed, Imported Virginia and Havana (native and imported) also a little Sumatra.

Guinea Corn.

We have plenty of the native white Guinea Corn in stock. It can be planted any time there is rain up to the end of August. Planted now it can be cut for forage in August and will grow up and head in January.

We have five other imported varieties all of which have done well here. These also can be planted in August, and like our

country corn they take five months to mature. One variety grows large round reddish grains which are very good for making flour, and this makes good cakes and porridge. Every one in dry districts should try Guinea Corn.

Forestry.

The following is from the "Hawaiian Forester and Agriculturist":—

From the report of the Superintendent of Forestry in this number, it will be seen that the reforestation of these islands is advancing in great strides. The manner in which the sugar planters are taking up tree-planting is particularly gratifying, their large resources enabling them to set an example of striking dimensions to smaller landholders. It is safe to say that the tree-planting in Hawaii during the past and the present decade will have created millions of dollars' worth of assets, while the preservation of old forests and conservation of water, in the many forest reserves established, are of inestimable value.

In Jamaica we have so far been unable to arouse interest in the terrible effects—terrible is not an exaggerated word in this connection—of the deforesting of the mountain ridges, nor in the wisdom of each owner of a property large or small in planting some trees. Even firewood is becoming scarce in some districts and there is no attempt made to provide supplies.

Every rocky place in the Island should be covered with trees or at least have clump of trees over it.

Mulching.

Grass and bush are all too plentiful, and mulching material is available in June for applying in case July is dry as it generally is. We know a good many will forget about dry weather, because the spring seasons have been so fine and many are saying that we are in for some years of rainy weather now. We believe so, but it is not wise to neglect mulching because it is believed and hoped that there will be good seasons now. There will still be dry spells, though not prolonged we hope, and sharp dry weather for a month can cause more loss than the cost of a mulch. And always remember that the mulch is also manure.

Pests

That should get no quarter because they are so filthy, are house flies, cockroaches, rats and John Crows. Do not allow ticks to infest your cows and horses or let lice infest your goats. Use Paranaph for Ticks, Fleas and Lice.

A College for Tropical Agriculture.

The following appeared in the *West India Committee Circular*:—

Colonel Arnold has had considerable experience in the development of tropical territory, and what has struck him forcibly has been the "lamentable lack of a solid aggregation of scientific knowledge" of tropical agricultural conditions, which can be drawn upon without costly experiments having to be initiated by tropical planters. Colonel Arnold states that nothing has struck him so forcibly as the divergence of opinion, and even of practice, among the technical experts who constitute the official colonial scientific staffs. Each expert, he goes on to

say, has his own opinion, based on his own personal experience, which may be correct as far as his experience goes, but which is in no way correlated to any general consensus of opinion such as would be the outcome of a properly constituted University organisation. This inadequacy of reliable scientific theory for practical purposes greatly hampers the individual planter. He has, says Colonel Arnold, in the place of practical advice, to spend much time upon experiments, which could be avoided were he in a position to apply the knowledge which an Agricultural Tropical University would supply. In this way the object of such an institution would be not only to teach practical agricultural workers, but also to collect and collate scientific results, and thus afford data to which both experts and students could refer. As regards the West Indies the various Agricultural Departments do, to a certain extent, compare results through the medium of the Agricultural Conferences which are held from time to time. This, however, is hardly to be compared with what an established body, such as would be provided by a University organisation, would do. Here the work done by the various scientific bodies throughout the world of tropical agriculture would be weighed and sifted by independent minds, and reliable conclusions arrived at for the benefit of agriculturists. Not only, therefore, would the advantages of a University of Tropical Agriculture be felt in the training of future agriculturists, but also in the opportunity which it would afford for the collection of practical knowledge and its utilisation by existing planters. It would not only furnish a training for youth, but would also be a means of supplying the farmer with the latest practice proved to be of value in agriculture, and thus save him time, expense and trouble, and we may also add, disappointment.

There is a Pamphlet now before us entitled "The Case for a College of Tropical Agriculture," being the report of the Committee appointed by the Board of Agriculture, Ceylon.

The contention is that such a College is necessary and that its location for the East Indies ought to be Ceylon.

Trinidad is confident the site for the Western hemisphere ought to be there.

—:o:—

AUTHORIZED PERSONS.

RULES FOR THE PAYMENT OF "AUTHORIZED PERSONS" FOR ATTENDING COURT AS WITNESSES AND FOR PERFORMING ACTUAL DUTIES.

1. Every "Authorized Person," appointed under the Prædial Larceny Law, Law 4 of 1909, shall be paid for attending Court, as a witness, according to the Rule set out in Schedule A of Law 9 of 1899, as amended by Law 4 of 1902; but in no case shall he be paid less than 2/ per diem, and mileage, at the rate of 3d. per mile, one way only.

2. Every such person shall be paid, at the rate of 2/ per diem (and not more, and without mileage) for each day on which:

- (a) he effects an arrest, or actually attempts to effect an arrest;
- (b) he attends at a Police Station, or before a Magistrate, on duty, in connection with a case under the said Law;
- (c) does such other service in connection with his duties under the Law, as has occupied him a substantial part of the day, or otherwise entitles him to payment, in the opinion of the officer authorised to pay him.

3. All payments shall be made by the Clerk of the Courts at the Court House, where the case is tried, or at the Courts' Office, if the case does not come to trial.

The above Rules were approved of by His Excellency the Governor on August 22nd, 1910, in C.S.O. letter No. 1004 of that date.

AUTHORITY SENT TO EACH AUTHORIZED PERSON ON HIS APPOINTMENT.

To.....

You are hereby authorized, under Section 2 of Law 4 of 1909, to arrest any "Suspected" person or persons in possession of any articles of Agricultural Produce, mentioned in Schedule A of the said Law, or any other articles of Agri-

cultural Produce hereafter added to such Schedule by order of the Governor in Privy Council published in the Jamaica Gazette, and deal with such person or persons as provided for in Section 1, of the said Law.

.....
Inspector-General of Police.

.....day of.....19.....

COPY OF MEMORANDUM BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, AS TO THE POWERS OF AUTHORIZED PERSONS.

"Authorized Persons" under the Prædial Larceny Law 1909, (Law 4 of 1909) may arrest, without a warrant, any person who has been, or is, in possession, of any of the articles of agricultural produce mentioned in the Schedule to this Memorandum, if they have reasonable cause to suspect that such article has been stolen, or has been received with the knowledge that it was stolen or dishonestly come by. The Authorized Person making the arrest should forthwith take the person arrested, with the article, or articles of agricultural produce, before a Justice of the Peace or Clerk of the Courts and the Justice or Clerk will deal with the arrested person.

Schedule A of Law 4 of 1909.

Logwood	Grape Fruit
Fustic	Forbidden Fruit
Cedar	Shaddocks
Mahogany	Lemons
Satin Wood	Limes
Mahoe	Apples
Lignum Vitæ	Grapes
Ebony	Pine Apple
Bitterwood Spars	Bananas
Lancewood	Plantains
Pimento Sticks	Breadfruit
Orange Sticks	Yams of any kind, and heads of Yams
Canes	Cocoas and heads of Cocoas
Cocoa or Chocolate	Potatoes and Sweet Potatoes
Kola	Cassava
Nutmegs	Peas, Beans
Ginger	Indian Corn or Maize
Arrowroot	Guinea Corn
Pimento	Garden Vegetables
Tobacco	Plants or suckers of any of the above
Annatto	Sarsaparilla
Cocanuts	Coffee
Oranges	* Broadleaf
Guinea Grass	

*Added by the Governor in Privy Council.

Each "Authorized Person" is informed by the Police on his appointment that any information or instructions required by them, in respect to their duties or regarding their pay will be afforded them on application by them to the Inspector of Police or the Sub-Officer at any Police Station in the Parish.

—:—

Farmers in Kent have declared war on crows, as it is thought they may spread foot-and-mouth disease. "The source of the disease has not been ascertained," is the stereotype official answer. The mystery of the outbreaks and the cause of the disease does not reflect much credit on the resources of science.

**THE JOURNAL OF THE
COTTON GROWING.**

AWARDS.

In the Cotton Growing Competition in School Gardens.
Two Prizes in each Parish—20/ & 10/

1—ST. ANDREW.

4 Competitors.

Shortwood School	Miss F. E. Henry	1st
Woburn Lawn School	W. F. Jones	2nd
Providence	T. M. Harrison	3rd
St. Francis	„	4th

2—ST. CATHERINE.

4 Competitors.

Guanaboa Vale School	E. J. Hendricks	1st
Bartons	E. M. Watts	2nd
Kitson Town	S. A. Banton	3rd
Old Works	C. McCalla	4th

3—CLARENDON.

6 Competitors.

Alley School	Arnold L. Neita	1st	
May Pen School (Church of England)	M. G. Beckford	2nd	}
Race Course School	N. S. McDonald	3rd	
May Pen Sch. (Wesleyan)	C. L. A. Rennalls	4th	} Equal
Gravel Hill School	T. E. Lawrence	5th	
Portland Vere School	E. T. Thompson	6th	

4. SOUTH MANCHESTER & SOUTHERN ST. ELIZABETH.

6 Competitors.

Ballards Valley School	J. T. Meek	1st	
Mountain Side	J. C. Wright	2nd	}
Top Hill	C. A. Harriott	3rd	
Grove Town	B. A. Ford	4th	} Equal
Pratville	W. S. Jones	5th	
Barbary Hall	J. H. Petrie	6th	

5. TRELAWNY & ST. JAMES.

6 Competitors.

Waldensia School	N. A. Livingstone	1st
Stewart Town	Josiah Johnson	2nd
Duan Vale	L. M. Welsh	3rd

Three withdrawn through the storm.

Note :—A 3rd prize recommended.

**JUDGE'S REPORT ON THE SAMPLES OF COTTON GROWN IN THIS
COMPETITION.**

All cotton sent from the School Gardens is well prepared and of good and fair quality except Nos. 14, 9, 11 & 6. Remarks are made only for comparison and the numbers follow as far as possible in order of merit.

No. 1. Portland (Vere) School, Clarendon, E. F. Thompson—bright, clean, very strong.

- No. 2. Gravel Hill School, Clarendon, T. E. Lawrence—bright, clean, long, but weak.
- No. 3. Providence School, St. Andrew, T. M. Harrison—bright, clean, not so long, weak.
- No. 4. Stewart Town School, Trelawny, Josiah Johnson } Practically
 No. 5. Shortwood School, St. Andrew, Miss F. E. Henry } alike, bright,
 No. 6. Ballard's Valley Sch., St. Elizabeth, J. T. Meek } fairly long,
 No. 7. Kitson Town Sch., St. Catherine, S. A. Banton } weak.
- No. 8. Race Course School, Clarendon, N. S. McDonald—bright, clean, rather wasty.
- No. 9. Alley School, Clarendon, Arnold L. Neita—fairly strong, irregular.
- No. 10. Woburn Lawn School, St. Andrew, W. F. Jones—dull, weak, short.
- No. 11. Barbary Hall School, St. Elizabeth, J. H. Petrie—dull, weak, short.
- No. 12. May Pen, (Church of England) Clarendon, N. G. Beckford—very irregular.
- No. 13. Mico Students' Garden—very irregular.
- No. 14. Nun's Pen—Stained.
- No. 15. Guanaboa Vale School, St. Catherine, E. J. Hendricks—Stained, leafy.
- No. 16. Waldensia School, Trelawny, N. G. Livingstone—Stained, leafy and badly treated.

(Signed) C. WATSON.

-----:o:-----

SCHOOL GARDENS.

The Board of Management of the Jamaica Agricultural Society offers prizes to Teachers having School Gardens in the following districts :—

1. Prizes for the best plot of Sea Island Cotton confined to the following districts ;—

Southern St. Elizabeth—			
3 prizes of 20s., 15s., 10s.	..		£2 5 0
Southern Manchester—			
2 prizes of 20s., 10s.	..		1 10 0
Southern Clarendon—			
3 prizes of 20s., 15s., 10s.	..		2 5 0
			<hr/>
			£6 0 0

2. Prizes of 20s. and 10s. for the best plot of two varieties of Guinea Corn, red and white, confined to the following districts :—

(a) Southern Manchester	..	£1 10 0
(b) Southern St. Elizabeth	..	1 10 0
(c) Southern Clarendon	..	1 10 0
		<hr/>
		£4 0 0

3. Prizes of 10s. each for the best plot of corn (Maize) suitable for seed corn. The districts and prizes for this competition will be distributed as follows:—(1) Kingston, Port Royal, St. Andrew and Eastern St. Thomas; (2) Western St. Thomas and Eastern Portland; (3) Western Portland and St. Mary; (4) St. Ann, Upper; (5) St. Ann, Lower; (6) Trelawny, Upper; (7) Trelawny, Lower; (8) St. James; (9) Hanover; (10) Westmoreland, Eastern; (11) Westmoreland, Western; (12) St. Elizabeth, Northern; (13) St. Elizabeth, Southern; (14) Manchester, Northern; (15) Manchester, Southern; (16) Clarendon; (17) St. Catherine.

17 prizes of 10s. each, in all	..	£8 10 0
Total	..	£18 10 0

RULES.

1. The above crops should be planted during the months of August and September, (preferably between the 15th of August and the 15th of September) if the seasons permit; if too dry in these months, then not later than the 15th of October, the earlier the better.

3. The plots should be one-fourth of a square chain in extent.

3. Entries must be made by the 15th of Aug. to the Secretary, Jamaica Agricultural Society, who will furnish seeds free.

4. Judging will take place in January or February, or as soon after as is possible, according to the seasons that may occur.

5. The Agricultural Instructor for the district will be the judge. He may pay visits as he has opportunities during the period of growth, and will form his judgment from the general conditions under which the crop is grown, and not entirely by the total crop.

NOTE. The kind of seed used, the exact measurement of the plot, the date of the planting, the distance between the plants, the rainfall during the period of growth of the crop, and the crop finally reaped should be carefully recorded in the School Garden record.

APPROVED—	J. R. WILLIAMS	JNO. BARCLAY,
	Director of Education.	Secretary.

(We shall be glad to receive entries from School Teachers as soon as possible. Owing to the May Journal being so late this is not printed until June, and so we must extend the period of taking entries to the 15th of August.—SEC. JA. AG. SOC.)

POULTRY NOTES.

Every year from September, when hens are in the moult, till January, to which time it takes the majority of hens to begin to lay again, eggs are scarce and dear. And around Christmas there is a heavy demand, and as much as 2d. each is charged for good-sized eggs, and commonly 1½d. each for bits of eggs hardly to be seen above the edge of an ordinary egg-cup. Early hatched pullets, January to March, ought to begin laying by September to October, but few people begin to hatch early enough, because the hens do not begin to lay early enough, and the chickens are not well enough fed, or judiciously enough fed to bring them on to lay by September. And if pullets do not begin to lay before October, the likelihood is they will hold over until the middle of January. Eggs are plentiful from January to July. Those who are careful to provide against emergencies, should in June, July and August, before the hens stop laying, begin collecting eggs and preserve them for use, when eggs are hardly to be got. The process is easy. A good many here have taken it up since we have been writing about it yearly. We again give full particulars —:

The best process of preserving eggs is with the solution of silicate of soda commonly known as waterglass. The silicate of soda can be obtained at our advertisers E. D. Kinhead. To make waterglass proceed as follows—and care should be taken to follow directions exactly :

Boil fresh water and allow to cool in a covered vessel until it is only lukewarm. Measure out the quantity of water needed and pour into receptacle to be used which is best to be an earthenware jar but a kerosene tin will pass, and to it add the silicate of soda in the proportion of one part soda to ten parts of water. Stir until it is mixed thoroughly. Cold water that has been boiled may be used but in its lukewarm stage it mixes more readily and thoroughly, I think with the sodium silicate. Pains must be taken to mix thoroughly.

The amount of waterglass required to cover the eggs when they fill the receptacle must be guessed at the first time, or else determined by filling the receptacle with eggs and pouring plain water on them by measure. The process sometimes followed of filling the receptacle with accumulated eggs and pouring the waterglass over them until covered is not the best way. No eggs that have become over a week old should be used for preserving. It is best to make the fluid and then put the eggs in daily as they are laid, being careful not to put in any that have become soiled or cracked. They should not be washed, however ; use only clean ones. A good way to test for cracks is to tap two eggs together lightly, holding each by the thumb and forefinger only—not half smothered in the hand. If uncracked they will give a true ring, but if one is cracked it will give a thick or dead sound. A full two inches of waterglass should be over the topmost layer of eggs. Strictly fresh eggs thus treated will keep in good condition for table use for six or eight months, and for culinary purposes only for a longer period. Of course, the receptacle should be closely covered to prevent evaporation of the water from the solution. When left uncovered the evaporation gradually turns the waterglass milky, and finally reduces it to the

consistency of a white paste, from which it is both difficult and disagreeable to remove the eggs; while if this paste does not cover or coat the eggs, their preservation is not insured.

A stone jar is the best vessel to use, being easily cleaned and capable of tight covering. A five-gallon size holds about one hundred and seventy-five eggs—and I believe it is generally recognized as the best size. Although a family may be large, and so consume many more eggs, a number of jars of this size is preferable to one large one for the reason that by dating the small jars as they are packed, the first packed eggs can be first used, while if one large jar be used the last packed eggs are first used—unless the eggs be relaid when use is begun. When several jars are used it is better to mix the waterglass in each jar separately.

Waterglass is to be recommended over "liming" for preserving on a small scale, as it is more easily prepared and does not roughen the shell. There is no special virtue in either the lime or the silicate of soda; the object of each is simply by sterilizing the water to destroy all life therein, so that the fluid keeps sweet, which would not be the case if there were any kind of germs in it. Repeated tests have demonstrated that when waterglass is carefully made and correctly used eggs can be kept for an entire year without losing any of those qualities needful for culinary purposes or without developing a distasteful flavour.

There is one drawback to the waterglass method the shells get thinner and when the preserved egg is placed in boiling or quite hot water frequently the shell bursts. This may be overcome by piercing the shell at one end with a strong needle before placing the egg in water.

THE LIME METHOD.—"A cheap and useful solution for preserving eggs can be made in the following manner: Take a fixed measure, such as an ordinary drinking glass, and to twenty measures of water mix four measures of well-slaked lime, thoroughly stirring the whole two or three times a day for a week and on the fourth day adding one measure of salt. At the end of the week allow the lime to settle, and then the clear liquid will be ready for use; but care must be taken to see that no sediment is included with it. The eggs should be placed in jars and be well covered with the lime solution. Stand the jars in the position previously advised, and add more solution as often as found necessary to make good, loss by evaporation.

In cases where a large number of fowls are kept and a considerable quantity of eggs are collected each day, they should be stored in a cool, dry place out of the sun's rays, and for providing accommodation for them in as little space as possible, an egg rack is useful. The eggs are better placed on this broad end downward.

ALCOHOL AS A MOTIVE POWER—The high price of petrol has again brought forward the question of the use of alcohol for motor and general power work. The heat value of petrol is nearly double that of methylated spirit, being 20,923 British thermal units as against 11,160. In properly constructed engines this difference practically disappears, and, a test with the two fuels, giving a consumption of 11.9 oz. of petrol and 13.1 oz. of alcohol respectively per horse-power. Taking into consideration the low price of alcohol as compared with that of petrol, the results are very much in favour of alcohol.

The only oil used on current machines as a lubricant is

STOCK NOTES.

WOUNDS.—For wounds on horse stock made by barbed wire or in any other way, first clean well with a little hot water and a piece of cotton or a sponge, and then apply the white lotion mentioned before in this JOURNAL, two to three times a day. Do not use an oily dressing on wounds at first if the animal is to be attended to regularly.

This white lotion is also a fine dressing for the hoofs of animals, and in this long dry weather, and on our hard, dusty, limestone roads, the hoofs of horses should have some treatment to help keep them soft. An oily dressing often makes a dirty dressing when used on animals that are working, but it can be used when animals are to be turned out. It is a mistake trying to heal wounds quickly on the outside; wounds should heal from the inside. Often a wound is closed over on the outside and is still suppurating in the inside. Keep dressing the wound with white lotion. We give the recipe again.—One ounce of Acetate of lead (sometimes called Sugar of lead) and one ounce Sulphate of zinc, powdered. Put the powder in an ordinary quart bottle, fill it up to the neck with soft water and shake.

There are also many proprietary lotions which are good but for working animals under observation when the dressing can be applied frequently the white lotion is best.

PREVENTING COLLAR GALLS.—Collar galls can be easily prevented by resting the horses on a long journey, and while they are being rested lift the collars and allow the shoulders to dry off before starting again. During prolonged driving take a pailful of water and bathe the shoulders clean, thoroughly drying them afterwards. There is no cure for sore shoulders so good as a careful preventative. Be sure that the collars are properly fitted, then keep the surfaces that come against the shoulder clean.

It is little trouble each night when the horses come in to bathe the shoulders in cold water. A little salt added to the water is beneficial. This removes all sweat and scurf and toughens the shoulders. The "White Lotion" we so often recommend for hoofs, etc., sponged on the shoulders is one of the best preventatives.

KIND TREATMENT OF COWS.—An interesting experiment was once performed at the Kansas Agricultural College to determine the relative results of kind and unkind treatment upon cows. Three cows were treated kindly, and were found to give an average of 36 lb. of milk, with 4.3 per cent. of butter fat. Later, these same cows were frightened by jumping at them, howling at them and striking them while they were eating. It was found at milking that they produced only 23 lb. of milk, containing 3.4 per cent. of butter fat. Three other cows tested gave 31 lb. of milk containing 4.2 per cent. of butter fat under kind treatment. They were driven into a field and the dogs were allowed to bark at them and chase them. As a result they averaged only 23 lb. of milk with 3.6 per cent. of butter fat. It should not be necessary to point the moral.

CATTLE TICKS.—All stock should receive salt, and be accustomed to go to one place to lick it. This is not only for the sake of the salt, but also because it is a very tedious and expensive process to

administer medicine to a large number of cattle or sheep if each one has to be caught up and drenched. If however, beasts are accustomed to lick salt, medicines can be given through the medium of salt. A "V" shaped trough, not quite meeting at the apex, with a lick board beneath is a good idea for giving salt.

For strongyli or worms, 20 lbs. of coarse salt with 1 per cent. powdered sulphate of iron added is beneficial. Sulphur, 5 per cent. can also be added, and if 10 per cent. Bonemeal is also added the mixture is very beneficial. As the mixture is licked off the board the supplies in the "V" shaped trough automatically drop and replenish supplies. We have had the above mixture without the Bonemeal, kneaded into a brick with stiff yellow clay, and the cattle licked this readily.

DAIRY CALVES.—Many of the hand raised calves are half-starved some through the use of unsuitable foods not calculated to make good growth, through not getting enough food of any kind or through wrong ways of feeding.

A cow meant for a milker has to make its growth and lay in a stock of vitality sufficient afterwards to enable it to milk and form a calf at the same time

Dairy heifers to become good milkers require three or four times the food of beef stock, that should be kept in mind when estimating what stock pastures will carry. The dairy stock do not recover from set-backs as beef stock can do, stinted of food or water, a month or two of plenty enables beef stock to recover, but the effects on dairy stock are often permanent.

Certainly it takes good feeding and care until the next calving to get them to recover their milk yield.

BLACK-LEG IN CATTLE.—I was asked late on the afternoon of February 17th, to look at a calf attacked with Black-leg and to recommend some treatment.

The attack ran a rapid course and in about three hours, after the fine young animal died.

Cattle rearing is becoming an appreciable branch of industry in West Portland and this fatal and rapidly infectious disease when once it makes its appearance must give every stock-raiser concern. In this case the owner saw a calf's leg in one of his pastures a few days before brought presumably by a dog from some neighbouring pen.

The sudden change from poor condition as the result of the recent protracted drought, to fatness, favours this dreaded Black-leg disease.

In every case where the disease has made its appearance isolation is absolutely necessary, and burning when death ensues.

To prevent the spread or outbreak of this disease vaccinate the healthy calves. Parke, Davis & Co., at Detroit, Michigan, claim for their Blacklegoids unrivalled results during the last fourteen years. Blacklegoids are little pellets the size of the head of a pin. In vaccinating the Blacklegoid is placed under the animal's hide by an injector, a simple, quick, and easy operation. This cure was advertised in the JOURNAL for July, 1911.

Dr. J. C. Robert of the Mississippi Agricultural Experiment Station is the writer of a valuable bulletin on the Black-leg disease.

This bulletin will be sent free to anyone who will write to Parke, Davis & Co., Detroit, Michigan, and ask for a copy.

The rapid and abundant growth of young grass may give rise to other forms of ailment among Cattle and the following as a cleansing drench for cows, copied from the February JOURNAL of 1910 ought to prove valuable :—

Cream of Tartar 2ozs. Powdered Aniseed 2 ozs. Powdered Gentian 1 oz. Powdered Ginger 1oz. Sulphur 2 ozs. Epsom Salts 8 ozs

If fever is present add sulphate of Quinine, 3 drachms.

A. P. HANSON,
Asst. Instructor,
West Portland.

PIGS.—I killed on Thursday the big pig I had here and which on account of the rain the day you were here you could not see, and the following are some points of interest,—it certainly was the largest I have ever seen in Jamaica and not far behind anywhere else. Weight live 572 lbs., four quarters 454 lbs. head 40 lbs., measurement from root of tail to snout 6 ft. 1½ inches, and was just two years old a cross between the Poland, China and Berkshire.

EASTON W. MUIRHEAD,

Mandeville.

PIGS—When pigs begin to die off and hog cholera is suspected the carcasses of those which have died from any disease should be immediately burned or buried deeply and covered with quicklime.

Separate the sick from the well hogs and keep them apart. As the germs of hog cholera gain access to the system only through the digestive tract, the line of prevention is well marked. All feed and drinking troughs should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. If the troughs are of metal, holding them over a blaze will be effective. Streams that do not rise on the place should be suspected as a possible carrier of infection, and for this reason water from wells should be given. Feed sparingly of the most nourishing food. Clean out the stomach and bowels with a half of a pint bottle of common castor oil to which a dessert spoonful of Jeyes is added. This is strong dose for big hogs.

SHEEP.—About three years ago in passing through a property I noticed sheep affected by foot-rot. I advised the manager to place a shallow trough at the entrance to the sheep pen through which all the sheep would have to walk night and morning in entering and leaving the pen, making it long enough so that the sheep could not jump over it, and in this trough he was to place a Bordeaux mixture.

He informed me that he did this and although the sheep gave a little trouble at first, as they objected to walk through the mixture, he forced them to do so, until they got over their fright. The foot-rot soon began to improve until it finally disappeared altogether.

He has discontinued the Bordeaux mixture, but the trough is still kept full of ordinary white lime. There has since been no recurrence of foot-rot.

RABBITS.—As a table breed, the Belgian Hare is second to none, and upon the whole is probably the best of any for us in Jamaica. It breeds freely, and the young can be grown up to table size—5½ lbs. live weight—and plumpness more quickly than can the young of any other rabbit breed. When breeding Belgians for table it is not necessary to stock with expensive show animals, but pureness of blood should be insisted upon if the merits of the breed are to be taken advantage of. When a good table strain has been established, it is quite easy to rear stock animals up to 10 lbs. in weight without the sacrifice of any desirable table qualities. For table the Belgian thrives well in hutches if so housed.

It is necessary to house Belgians in roomy hutches, otherwise growth will be checked. Belgian does are good mothers, and only require proper treating and liberal feeding to rear their young satisfactorily.

GUINEA PIGS.—These are favourite little animals in some parts and often kept with rabbits as their squeeling noise keeps away rats. They are, however, allowed to inbreed too much although the necessity of fresh blood is now being understood a little. We met a boy in the country not long ago with a Guinea Pig in his hand which he was taking to exchange with one from a boy in another district.

A fine lot of Guinea Pigs has been imported by a breeder and those who are interested should try to procure entirely fresh blood.

—:o:—

BRANCH NOTES.

Moravia. (Clarendon) The annual meeting was held on Thursday, May 1st, in the Moravia school-room. There were present, Messrs. W. Z. Getfield, President, L. R. Flemming, and George McNamee, vice-presidents, and R. A. Blake, Secretary and Treasurer. There were not many members present at the commencement of the meeting and so the president thought of deferring the annual meeting as there was not a quorum, but members came in one by one until there was a good representative gathering. Mr. Robinson moved a resolution, that the annual meeting be kept. This was seconded and unanimously carried. After reading correspondence from the Secretary of the Parent Society and the Hon. H. T. Ronaldson, the Secretary and Treasurer gave his report of the year's work. The report is very encouraging and shows Success. The Society now has over £1 to its credit. The retiring president gave his address in his usual eloquent style. He encouraged the members to live up to their calling as agriculturists so that each succeeding year may find them better off. A hearty vote of thanks was given the president for his encouraging address. Officers for the ensuing year are as follows:—Messrs. W. Z. Getfield, President, L. R. Flemming and George McNamee, vice-presidents and R. A. Blake, Secretary and Treasurer. The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

Annual Report.—The Moravia Branch was formed at a meeting held in the Moravia school-room on the 17th April, 1912. At this meeting Mr. W. Z. Getfield presided and there were 24 gentlemen present. Mr. S. A. Schieffer in a very warm and stirring address showed the necessity of an Agricultural Society and spoke on banana cultivation. Messrs. Getfield and Robinson endorsed the opinion of Mr. Schieffer and urged those present to form a Society. Twenty of those present were enrolled as members, also the following were elected to serve as officers:—Messrs. W. Z. Getfield, President, L. R. Flemming and G. T. McNamee, vice-presidents, R. A. Blake, Secretary and Treasurer. Meetings were then fixed to be held monthly. This was adhered to up to the 22nd of August, when it was thought necessary to have a change. Bi-monthly meetings have been held since. In the year under review the attendances were fairly good throughout. Members showed their great willingness to learn, eight meet-

ings have been held, four of these were monthly meetings, one special meeting, and three bi-monthly meetings. The membership increased from 20, on the 17th April, 1912, to 46, in December, 1912.

A copy of the Sub-Officers Guide was purchased for the use of the Society and kept by the President, also a half bushel of cowpeas and some vegetable seeds.

At the July meeting a Managing Committee was elected, consisting of the following gentlemen, Messrs. Hezekiah Richards, G. A. Robinson, Morell Bent, George S. Forbes, L. R. Reid, George Taylor, James Taylor, John Maitland, Jno. T. T. Wright, and the four officers of the Society. At this meeting Mr. G. A. Robinson and the officers of the Society were appointed to draft the Rules of Management. These rules were submitted at the August meeting and adopted. The Society was affiliated to the Parent Society on the 25th of July.

At the October meeting the question of J. P. for North-West Clarendon was discussed. A resolution was then passed and ordered to be sent to the Custos of the parish asking him to nominate and recommend for the Governor's sanction one or both of the following men for the post.—W. Hyde McCaulay, Esq., shop-keeper and Dr. F. C. H. Powell, Medical Practitioner of the Spalding section. There being no Custos of Clarendon the resolution was sent to Hon. H. T. Ronaldson the Representative of the parish. Mr. Ronaldson replied that he had written to the Colonial Secretary requesting him to bring to the notice of the Governor the inconvenience to the residents in North-West Clarendon in securing the services of a J. P. and he hoped it will not be long before a Magistrate will be appointed for the districts. The Spalding branch was asked to support the resolution. The Secretary of that branch replied that through some delay they were unable to send an early reply to the request anyhow they quite agree with the resolution, and will do all they can to support it. On account of the great devastating effects of the hurricane of November a special meeting was summoned in December. At this meeting four resolutions were drawn up, passed, and sent to the Parochial Board. The resolutions were as follows :—

- (1) Asking for assistance from the Board in erecting the houses of the poor which were destroyed by the hurricane.
- (2) That the Board render help to the locality in providing work for the people by improving and widening the Christians-Alston road.
- (3) That a competent local way warden be appointed for the said road.
- (4) That the Board be asked to give relief work by putting through the Silent Hill road.

To these resolutions the Board replied that they had them under consideration all except the Silent Hill road, on which they were unable to start any work because there was not sufficient money in hand. It is gratifying that the requests have been granted so far and there is some improvement to the roads since.

During the course of the year Mr. Schleifer was present at 5 meetings out of the 8 that have been held. To him is due our gratitude for the useful addresses given us, and we trust he may long be spared to continue the good work he has been doing. There is still room for improvement and it is hoped that the membership will grow and the influence of the branch will spread into every part of the district. I close this report, by wishing the members of the branch a very bright and prosperous year and express the hope that the instructions given during the course of the year by our able Instructor have not fallen on fallow ground, but that every one may use them to their best advantage.

R. ALEXANDER BLAKE, (Secretary and Treasurer.)

Stewart Town (Trelawny).—The regular monthly meeting was held on Thursday evening May 1. The meeting was opened with prayer offered by the Secretary.

The following members were present : Messrs. John Stockhausen, (President) E. Arnett, (Agricultural Instructor), 9 members and Josiah Johnson, (Secretary). The visitors were, Messrs. Arthur W. P. Gray and Herbert Grant.

The minutes of the last monthly meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary presented an account for £3 14s. from the Secretary of the Parent Society for the printing of the Prize List, Circulars, &c. for the Agricultural Show which was to have been held in April last. The Treasurer was authorized to draw the amount from the Show Fund deposited in the Government Savings Bank to settle the account.

Mr. Stockhausen presented the Bill for the Corn sheller and grindstone which is as follows:—Corn sheller £2 5s., Grindstone £1 1s., expenses 8/3. Total £3 14s. 8d.

It was moved by Mr. Ben. Arnett, seconded by Mr. Stockhausen that a small Committee be appointed to frame Rules for the use of the Corn sheller and the grindstone

The President emphasized the importance of the display of small stock as was done on April 3. He would propose that the holding of these shows of small stock be held oftener than 12 months. He would also urge the members to begin to make preparations for, and talk up our Agricultural Show for April 1914. The Show had been arranged for April this year, but owing to the recent disastrous hurricane it had to be postponed.

Mr. Arnett then gave an interesting and profitable lecture on our *Small Stock*. He was glad the President had taken up the question of small stock—an industry hitherto much neglected. Mr. Arnett pointed out the various types of goats that were profitable to be reared. In the matter of the rearing of small stock, Mr. Arnett said we have got to specialize.

It was arranged that the next display of small stock—solely for the purpose of educating the people as to the kind of animals to rear, and not for prizes—take place on the afternoon of July 3.

The President in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Arnett for his instructive lecture, impressed on the members the necessity for careful seed selection. The vote of thanks to the Instructor was heartily carried.

Mr. Arnett and his brother also displayed a splendid collection of vegetables grown by them: it consisted of turnips, tomatoes, kol-rabi, lettuce, cho-choes, Irish potatoes, and cabbages.

Messrs. A. W. Gray and Herbert Grant joined and qualified themselves by paying their annual subscription of 1s. each. They were heartily welcomed as members of the Branch. The following members have paid their subscriptions for 1913-1914, viz:—Messrs. John Stockhausen, Josiah Johnson, W. N. Dougal, Joseph Hall, Lewis Grant, Utten Todd, Rev. J. P. Hall, and Miss Townsend.

The items on the agenda being disposed of, the meeting adjourned.

JOSIAH JOHNSON, Secretary.

Cambridge (St. James).—The ordinary monthly meeting took place on Thursday, 1st May. Twenty-five members were present, including the Rev. J. A. McIntosh, President, Mr. R. M. Arnold, Secretary, and Mr. W. Chambers, Treasurer. There were also present Messrs Jno. Barclay, Secretary of the Parent Society and E. Harrison and R. C. Somerville, Agricultural Instructors. This Mr. Barclay's first visit to the Branch was highly appreciated and a very hearty welcome was accorded him. Mr. Barclay said his visit was only accidental as he was on a travelling tour, but he was pleased to be present, and willing to help in any way he could. During the course of the meeting he did render much help especially in matters connected with the late Agricultural Show; and most of the business of the evening was in that connection. Mr. Barclay informed the Society that he still had St. Vincent yams for sale at 11/ per cwt. Mr. Harrison was down for a lecture on the Prize Holding Competition but there was no time for it. He, however, promised to give it on the first convenient occasion notwithstanding the fact that owing to the recent hurricane the Competition would be in St. James this year. He wants members to start preparing for it early. A letter was read from Mr. J. H. Dodd, acting Director of the Railway, refusing permission to use the Railway Waiting Room to hold our meetings in. Every one thought this regrettable as Agriculture is such an indispensable adjunct to the business of the Railway Department. It was decided to approach him again on the subject. A letter was read from Messrs S. Hart & Son stating that they had sent a hill side plow to the Society in exchange for the former one they gave which was adapted for the plains. They also sent a cultivator presented by Messrs Doubleday and Jacobs. The Secretary was instructed to tender to these parties the sincere thanks of the Society for these gifts.

It was decided to hold an outdoor entertainment in connection with the Branch, on June 3rd to assist in settling some outstanding demands. A committee was appointed to decide on the nature of it and to arrange for its details.

The subject of "Authorized Persons" came up for discussion. It was decided that none should be appointed as they were not required.

Re having our minutes published in the JOURNAL Mr. Barclay explained that the space for Branch Notes being in great demand, and very limited, it was necessary for these notes to reach the office early in each month. It was pointed out to Mr. Barclay that the matter of postage comes hard on the Society. Letters from him came free, but all to him must be postage paid. He said he

regretted that although after much agitation the Government had given their concession in the former case they would not do so in the latter. The next ordinary meeting was fixed for Thursday, 5th June. The meeting closed with the National Anthem.—R. M. ARNOLD, Secretary,

Upper Metcalf, (St. Mary).—Our Agricultural Instructor, Mr. Cradwick, visited Lucky Hill on Thursday, 1st May and demonstrated at New Hastings' cultivation on cocoa pruning and spraying. In the afternoon of the same day the meeting was held in the Brinmead Schoolroom.

The President was unavoidably absent. There were present 11 members and the Secretary. Rev. Hastings was asked to take the Chair. After the usual preliminaries most of the time was allotted to the Instructor who in a stirring address, spoke first on the necessity of making the power of the Agricultural Societies felt. He said that if it is to be a Local Parliament it should wake people to their privileges and opportunities. The Secretary and Rev. Mr. Hastings spoke corroborating what the Instructor said and promised to use their influence in that direction.

For the better working of the Society it was suggested that Mrs. Hastings be asked to act as Assistant Secretary in order that Lucky Hill may take a greater share of interest in the Society. The Chairman promised to convey to her the request. Mr. Jno. Simmonds was also asked to act in a similar capacity for Mr. McBean; he consented.

Mr. Cradwick then gave a very instructive lecture on cocoa disease. After describing the disease he intimated that members should not only be anxious to seek a remedy for the disease but should endeavour to use preventive means. To this end he made mention of the Spring Pump and explained that to produce the desired effect all should know when and how often the pump should be used. He further gave the composition of the mixture to be used and offered to take up one or two cultivations in the district if the owners would supply labour and pay for materials used. Mrs. S. Bell took advantage of the offer.

Members were reminded of the £20 offered as prizes for the best cocoa cultivations of Small Settlers in St. Mary. Messrs. Jno. Simmond, David McCoy and Benjamin Bonner gave in their names as competitors.

The meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

W. T. EDWARDS, Secretary.

Beckford Kraal, (Clarendon).—The annual general meeting was held on Thursday, 1st May, 1913 in the Mt. Liberty Schoolroom. There were 17 members present besides Mr. Schleifer, the Instructor for the Parish and four visitors. After the reading of the minutes by the Secretary they were confirmed the President gave his retiring address, expressing the pleasure he had in taking part in all meetings and undertakings of the Society. The Secretary and Treasurer then gave his report, showing how many times meetings were held for the past year, and the keen interest taken generally by the members. Among other things a grind stone with fittings was secured for the use of the members which has been of great use in sharpening their tools. The Instructor moved a vote of thanks to the retiring officers and asked Mr. W. A. Thomas to occupy the chair during the election of officers for the current year, which resulted as follows:—Mr. Luther M. Williams, President, Messrs. Albert Sweeney and Charles Douglas, Vice-President and R. A. Thomas Treasurer and Secretary. In addition to the above officers, Messrs. Frederick Gordon, Christopher McKenzie, Nunes Williams and Mrs. Jane Gordon to form the Executive Committee. W. A. Thomas vacating the chair at this point, the newly elected President occupied it, and gave a short address, thanking the members for the honours they have conferred on him, by appointing him to the post, and promised to do all he can for the advancement of Agricultural knowledge in the district. A general discussion on several Agricultural topics followed. Mr. Sweeney asked how it is that raw sugar is sometimes very clear yet when it is mixed with water to make a beverage it becomes very dark. Many theories were advanced such as insanitary methods of manufacture, lack of sufficient lime in the soil, the presence of logwood in the soil, etc., nothing definite was arrived at. The Instructor then gave a most interesting lecture on the value of deep trenching in banana cultivation. He also spoke of the immense value of the cocoa nursery at Danks to the small settlers of Upper Clarendon. The meeting was then brought to a close.—ROWLAND A. THOMAS, Secretary.

Frankfield (Clarendon).—The Annual Meeting of the Frankfield Branch was held on the 2nd May, 1913. Present: Mr. U. T. McKay, in the chair, and about 12 members. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. A letter was read from Mr. S. A. Brown, the Secretary, resigning his position. His resignation was accepted. A helpful discussion took place as to how best to improve the usefulness of the Society and to benefit the members. Mr. J. Scott Edwards suggested that if the notes appeared more regularly in the JOURNAL, members would be more interested. Mr. E. A. Lewin wanted the Instructor to give more frequent visits to the members' fields. It was agreed on the suggestion of the President that members who wanted the Instructor should inform the Secretary who would acquaint the Instructor that he might fix the dates of his visits. It was agreed that the Treasurer should give a quarterly report that members might know how the funds of the Society stand. A long, sharp and profitable discussion took place on the suggestion of the President that there should be quarterly competition open to members of the Branch, for which small prizes should be given. Messrs J. T. Edwards & J. E. McKenzie contended strongly that the prizes should be given for the best kept holdings, and not for any single product. The majority of the members were against this however, and it was eventually decided that the first competition should come off on the 14th of August next, and that 3 prizes be given for the 6 best ears of corn suitable for seed, the prizes being 2/6, 1/6, and 6d. respectively, also 1st and 2nd prizes valued 1/ and 6d. respectively for the best bundle of scallions and six tomatoes—

The next competitions will come off in November, February and May, and will be for the best three quarts of cured cocos, best 3 heads cabbages, best bunch of plantains, best half-dozen garden eggs and peppers, and the best kept holding respectively.

The wives, mothers, daughters and sisters of the members to join in the competition for the vegetables. The election of officers for the year ending March 31st, 1914, resulted as follows: President, U. T. McKay, Esq., Vice-Presidents, Messrs. R. S. Grant, J. Scott Edwards and J. T. Edwards; Mr. G. W. Downie, Agricultural Secretary and Treasurer *pro tem*, Rev. W. M. Parchment who was present agreed on being asked to give a talk on agricultural life in Canada at the next meeting which will be held on the 13th of June next.—GEO. W. DOWNIE, Secretary.

Gibraltar (St. Ann).—The monthly meeting was held on the 2nd May. There were 10 members present. The visitors were Mrs. A. A. Morrison, Miss L. E. White and Mrs. Pichard. E. Arnett, Esq., Agricultural Instructor was also present. Mr. R. S. Barnett, President, presided. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Correspondence was read. Regret was expressed at the letter from the Parochial Board which stated that the largely signed petition re Someton road, which was sent from this Society, by the Secretary had not been received at the Board's Office. It was afterwards agreed that another should be drawn up. Another letter from the Parochial Board dated 21st January was also dealt with. In that correspondence the Board had promised to look after a street in Gibraltar as soon as the allotments were made in March; but up to this time nothing has been done. The street in question is simply a disgrace to the district and community, and certainly a reflection on the Board. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Board again about it. The object of the yearly subscriptions and how the money could be usefully appropriated were carefully explained by the Instructor. He mentioned many improvements in certain districts by means of these subscriptions—the improvement of goats being one of them. The subject of a tank for the district was taken up. The Secretary stated that he had approached the Hon. J. H. Allwood on the matter, and he had promised to be interested in it. The time for holding the meeting was changed from the 1st Thursday to the 1st Friday in each month, so as to avoid a clash with the Stewart Town Branch, as it is the Instructor's wish to be present at both meetings. It was arranged that he would attend the meeting every two months.

Several important Journal matters were taken up and the Instructor entered heartily into them. The use of Paranaph was explained by him, and strongly recommended for use. The members suggested and it was agreed that the Hon. H. H. Cousins, Director of Agriculture be written to asking if he would supply a drum of it to the Society as an experiment. The yearly meeting was fixed for the 1st Friday in June, and the meeting terminated with the National Anthem.—

J. B. MORRISON, Secretary.

Richmond, (St. Mary).—The regular monthly meeting was held at the usual place on Friday the 2nd May, at 6 p.m., 1913. Nineteen members were present, besides the Instructor, President and a few visitors. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Arising out of the minutes the Instructor addressed the meeting on the cultivation of Irish Potatoes. Vice President W. R. Thomas brought to the meeting some Irish potatoes that he had planted in the month of November, but on account of the weather and other causes, they were of a very poor variety. The potatoes were worm eaten, after the Instructor had examined them he began his lecture. First, he spoke about the preparation of the land for the planting of the potatoes. The members were pleased to get the information given and we hope to have a good planting this year. The President next addressed the meeting on the planting of corn. From his own experience he said that three grains of corn are quite sufficient for one hole. Some years ago, he lived in Westmoreland, and he had a field planted with corn. After the corn began to grow, he found out that the corn planters had put in one hole some twelve grains of corn. He had them taken out, leaving three stalks to grow. The people laughed at him, but when the reaping came on, he got double the amount. Corn he said, ought to be planted with a hoe, and not with a digging bill. The distance of planting must not be less than 2 feet. The Instructor made a comment on what the President said. He said that once he was on a tour in America, driving in the train for three days, nothing could be seen save corn fields. Talking with one of the farmers, he was informed that the planting was done by a machine. The distance was 2 feet 8 inches, the yield was 120 bushels per acre. Monday the 21st, the Instructor demonstrated at Mr. Davis' cultivation. After the demonstration came the spraying. He had an instrument for spraying. This instrument holds a gallon of a mixture of lime and blue stone, and with a tube attached, the whole tree is sprayed from top to bottom; thirty-four trees were sprayed in one hour. The cocoa competition comes off at Richmond on Tuesday, 20th May. Ten competitors have entered this grand enterprise, and all are working hard in the hope of obtaining a prize. At the close of the meeting, Mr. T. Clarke and Mrs. V. Findlay, became members. After a very enjoyable evening, the meeting came to a close at 7.30, with the singing of the National Anthem.—CHAS. GREGG, Secretary.

Giddy Hall (St. Elizabeth).—The monthly meeting was held in the school-room on Friday 2nd May. The attendance was very poor despite the efforts made by the Secretary to get a full meeting. In consequence much business was not done. The President, Rev. John Maxwell opened the meeting with prayer and after the usual preliminaries were gone through he informed the meeting that he had seen and spoken to Dr. Crooks about the road through Whitehall and Green Valley to Mocha and he, (Dr. Crooks) had very kindly agreed to remove the gate from where it now is to the point where the road crosses. The meeting was very pleased with this information and expressed its gratitude to Dr. Crooks. A resolution was moved by Mr. Shakespeare seconded by Mr. Walcott and unanimously carried, asking the Parochial Board to start work on this road as early as possible in order to provide employment for the residents who are experiencing great hardships to obtain food as an outcome of the storms of November last. It was pointed out that in some instances families have had to go to bed without any dinner.

At the March meeting the President was authorised to find out, when he visited the Hope Farm, whether a good boar could be obtained for use in the district. He reported that the boar he saw was not the type suitable for the people around. The Secretary was instructed to communicate with Mr. Barclay to find out if a good Swiss Ram can be obtained. After other matters of minor importance were dealt with the meeting rose, the President having pronounced the Benediction.—C. HENDRICKS POWELL, Secretary.

Windward (Hanover)—The Yearly Meeting was held in the Bethel School Room, on Friday, May 2nd. In the absence of the President, Mr. L. A. Smythe one of the Vice-Presidents was called to the Chair.

Minutes of last Meeting were read and confirmed after which the Meeting went on to the election of Officers for the year.

A vote of thanks to be conveyed to the Officers for their service during the past year was then given and E. E. Melville, Esq. of Great Valley was unanimously elected President for the year. He was proposed by the Instructor and seconded by Mr. D. A. Miller. Captain Kerrie and Mr. L. A. Smythe were next elected Vice-Presidents.

Mr. A. Shaw Samuells was re-elected Secretary and Treasurer and Mr. P. H. Davis, Assistant and reporting Secretary.

Next came the Instructor's Address and in his usual clear and forceful way brought before the Meeting the good derived from the hurricane and urged members to co-operate. He explained how Time, Knowledge and Health and strength, represent a man's capital in this world.

Mr. D. S. Morris exhibited from seeds that have been distributed to the members a turnip of a fairly good size and weighing over 3 lbs.

One new member Mr. Albert Edward was received,

The following Resolution was then moved by Mr. A. Shaw Samuells and seconded by Mr. Mowatt.

In view of the serious condition of affairs existing in this district, be it resolved that the Secretary be instructed to bring the matter to the notice of the Government through the Chairman of the Parochial Board. Being far away from Lucea and from the officers of the Central Relief Committee our case is likely to be overlooked and we therefore take the opportunity of pointing out the appalling situation here.

There are hundreds of people starving in this district, and unless prompt assistance be given many will die.

There are no estates or large pens that employ labour to any appreciable extent, and able-bodied men and women willing to work are idle through no fault of their own. The Catch Crops planted after the hurricane have not yet come in and we respectfully and humbly ask that the opportunity be taken to impress upon the Government the necessity to open relief work so as to relieve the situation.

1. We suggest that the roads be improved so as to afford easier transit of our Agricultural products and at the same time will aid in circulating money.
2. That some of the high hills be regraded.
3. That the long standing grievance of a bad water supply be looked into at Hopewell.
4. And that more relief be given to the infirm and the aged.

We invite investigation for we are sure of the correctness of what we have said. Relief must be given speedily or the consequences of all this distress will be disastrous.

The Instructor informed the Meeting that 400 Cocoa Seedlings from Mt. Pelier Nursery will be conveyed to Montego Bay on Tuesday evening the 6th inst. and that the Secretary was to have them taken away on Wednesday morning.

Over 30 Members attended the Meeting. The Meeting came to a close after the singing of the National Anthem. — A. SHAW SAMUELLS, Secretary.

Mocho and Brixton Hill, (Clarendon).—A meeting was held in the Mocho Schoolroom on Friday, 2nd May, 1913. Present, J. Aug. Rhoden, Esq., President, presiding, the Secretary and eleven other members. The meeting having been called to order, was opened with prayer. Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. Arising out of last minutes the question of "Authorized Persons" came up which caused a very lengthy discussion. These persons were written to by the Secretary by the request of the Society asking them to come forward and give some account of their work as to what they had been doing for some time past. They were asked to attend at two previous meetings, but never attended, thus showing carelessness and lack of interest in the matter. Only Messrs. Barnes and Thomas responded to the call. The President said in this way he would have to report the matter to the Inspector General. Mr. Turner asked to have their names struck off the list at once. Mr. Barnes said that credit was due the district for not having any trouble, and further not having heard of any stealing going on these persons may not have anything to do. Mr. David Allison said some stealing was going on but there was no one to prevent it thus showing that the matter is being neglected. Mr. Barnes is doing his best, but was in need of help. He was always in place to give his report. He said in a case of suspicion he could tackle it in a different manner to the police. Mr. Turner insisted that these Authorized Persons are doing nothing and must be struck off at once, and secure the services of persons interested in the matter. Mr. Barnes again said that these men did do something, but that they will not report. The President said an amount of stealing is going on and showed instances where this is true. Mr. Barnes asked that these persons be written to again by the Secretary to attend at next meeting, this was agreed. The President suggested that the Secretary write the General Secretary to furnish this branch with a copy of the rules relating to the duties of "Authorized Persons." Correspondence—Letters

relating to water supply were read by the President, one from the Hon. Member for the Parish, another from the "Parochial Board." The President made mention of the earnestness of the Rev. Mr. Baker who is doing his very best to help the district in the matter. Mr. Barnes thought that there is a right way to bring about the desired end in this water supply, but refused to show that way. The matter was dropped awaiting Mr. Ronaldson's reply. After this the Secretary was authorized to draw from the funds the Society's Affiliation Fee for the year and forward some to the General Secretary. Mr. Lloyd gave notice of motion as to the getting of a grind stone for the branch. President mentioned that the Instructor will visit the district on the 14th, 15th and 16th inst., and those who require his services will make ready to meet him. Meeting adjourned till first Friday in June, the 6th. Subscription paid in 1/-S. AUG. FRANCIS, Secretary.

Red Hills (Clarendon).—A meeting was held in the Red Hills Schoolroom on Monday May 5th 1913.

It being our last meeting for the year, ending March 1913; we had much business to put through. The meeting commenced at half-past four and lasted till half-past eight. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

The first business of the meeting was the reading of the Secretary's and the Treasurer's reports for the year ending March 1913, which was done in a business-like manner. The President moved a vote of thanks to these officers for the way in which they have done their duty. Supported by the Instructor Mr. S. A. Schliefer, showing that the strength of a society depends on its officers. The next business was the election of new officers. All the officers were re-elected and two Vice-Presidents, Mr. David Howell and Mr. George Fearon. Six men were added to our Managing Committee, Messrs. Charles Roach, John Lovlace, James Johnson, Robert A. Taylor, Edward McLean and William Fearon. Three new members were elected, Messrs. Abram Lopez, James Williams, and Arthur Beckford. The Instructor addressed the meeting in a plain and practical style about the nursery that is proposed to be formed at Danks and impressed on members strongly that they are to go on preparing their lands to receive cocoa and other plants by September; he also showed that in order to carry out his plans it will be necessary to have our meetings bi-monthly. When he will be able to spend two or three days with us. This was unanimously carried. Reports of "Authorized Persons" were given, "result good order throughout."

Subscriptions were received. The Secretary called the roll. 31 members present and 8 visitors. Meeting came to a close by singing the National Anthem. A. E. MILLS, Secretary.

Porus (Manchester).—The monthly meeting was held in the Church schoolroom on Monday 5th 1913, at 6 p.m.. The roll was called and members present S. A. Hendricks, Esq. (J.P., M.P.B.) President, Rev. and Hon. W. B. Esson, M.L.C., V.P., J. T. Palache, Esq., Instructor, A. S. Rose, Secretary, C. Rowland, Assistant Secretary, and seven members. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. The Instructor asked if there were thirty members in good standing as he was directed by the Secretary of the Parent Society to make inquiry and report same to him for if a Branch Society does not have 30 paid up members such a Branch could not be affiliated. He asked that the Secretary send him a list of the paid up members by the 31st inst. It was moved and agreed to that Messrs Rose and Munroe withdraw the money of the Society from the Government Savings Bank and hand same to the Treasurer to be lodged in the Bank of Nova Scotia. Mr. W. A. Morgan suggested that we have a Show this year as was advertised in the prize list which was unanimously agreed to and that it should come off about the usual time (November) a day to be fixed later. A Show Committee was appointed as follows with power to add to their number, S. A. Hendricks, Esq., President, Rev. W. B. Esson, Treasurer, A. S. Rose, Esq., Secretary for the Show, Messrs. W. A. Morgan, R. S. Munroe, H. J. Bailey, Geo. Elliston, G. T. Powell, Jas. Marshal, John Buller, Claudius Gordon, A. A. Robertson, S. A. West, W. E. Robertson, Edward Thomas and J. T. Palache. It was moved by Rev. W. B. Esson and agreed to that the Instructor give his lecture chiefly on the citrus industry. The Instructor in doing so commented on the careless way in which the people treated their citrus trees. He also commented on the beautiful showers we had in April, and the blossoming of the trees which had not been seen for a long time, and that the trees not being cultivated we get uneven fruit, and if we should fork around the trees in November and let in air by cutting away useless limbs we would get an early crop, and he hope to see some clean trees when he comes back. It was agreed that members meet him at Mr. Hendricks property (Munroe Pound) to have a demonstration on Citrus Trees when he will inform the Secretary of the date to notify the members. The President stated that he planted 900 new orange plants during the rainy season, and the growers must handle their fruit carefully as the

American market want the fruit fresh. The Instructor said the school gardens are going to revolutionise the agriculture of Jamaica and that there should be Industrial Schools in the parish for the children, to train them and prevent their becoming criminals. This brought the meeting for the evening to a close when a vote of thanks was moved by the President, seconded by Mr. W. A. Morgan and carried.—C. ROWLAND, Assistant Secretary.

Whitehouse, (Westmoreland)—The meeting for the transaction of business was held on Tuesday May 6, 1913, at 5 p.m. Mr. Joseph Wedderburn (V.P.) presided. Mr. R. C. Somerville, Instructor, was present, 20 members and several visitors and children. Mr. Robert Drummond paid his subscription and was elected a member. 2. The Secretary read the minutes, and submitted correspondence. 3. Business done (a) It was agreed to have the specimen Rules, prescribed by Mr. Barclay, printed (if the cost is not too great) and supplied to members at cost price (b) Messrs. Stanford Clarke and David Pertin were elected as authorised persons under the Prædial Larceny Law. (c) The Secretary was instructed to write the Parochial Board *re* the Foot-bridge at Friendship. (d) Instructor Somerville lectured on the Objects and Benefits of an Agricultural Society, pointing out how much good is gained by co-operation, competition and intelligent use of our opportunities. e). It was decided to have a discussion at next meeting:—“The keeping of goats or pigs—which is more profitable?” Messrs. McLeod and Clark for pigs and J. Jamieson for goats. 4. Meeting closed with National Anthem.—M. HEWITT, Secretary.

Southfield (St. Elizabeth).—A meeting was held on May 6th, 1913, E. A. Hewitt, Esq. presided. The report of the Committee appointed to draft rules for the usage of the Society's grindstone was presented and after some slight modifications was adopted. The Instructor addressed the meeting, explaining the Law governing the duties of authorised persons. Mr. F. J. Hewitt, an authorized person, submitted his claim for the arrest of one boy. The meeting recommended his pay to be 8/3. The meeting requested all authorised persons to give reports of the work they have done, and that they should be active members of the Branch. Members in arrears were urged to pay up before the end of the month. Matters relative to the formation of a Loan Bank will be discussed at the next meeting. Mr. Hodgson presented a fine billy goat of good blood for service at 1/ per ewe. The Instructor advised the members to avail themselves of the privilege. The meeting adjourned.—J. J. MILLER, Secretary.

Above Rocks, (St. Catherine).—On the 6th of May, 1913, the annual meeting was held. Mr. Briscoe, the President, Treasurer, and several members were present. The minutes were read and confirmed. The President tendered an oral report regarding the proposed Model Plot. Mr. Briscoe encouraged the members to do their best if the Plot is to be a success. He advised that the members be divided in hatches for work in the garden that being the method that proved itself a success in the working of a similar plot at Bath. The President then reported the work of the year. Among other things, he pointed out that our movements for a D.M.O. telephonic connections and a 1st class Parochial Road to pass through Golden River, are marks that the Society has been at work. He assured the members that these movements are likely to be successful. The Secretary then summed up the work of the year showing that since the resuscitation of the Branch we had eight meetings all of which were well attended starting with a membership of 30 and increasing to 96. Loans through the kind assistance of the President from the Linstead Loan Bank were obtained for some of those who suffered from the November hurricane of last year. The Treasurer gave a very satisfactory report of the finances of the Society. The Officers were all re-elected for the current year. It was proposed that money be spent for the purchase of tools. Moving on the Instructor's suggestion the following members were appointed to work on Thursday 15th inst. from 8 a.m. Messrs. Robert Creary, E. Galloway, G. Smith, Walters and H. Dawkins. The meeting was then brought to a close.—FRED. DENNIE, Secretary.

Morant Bay, (St. Thomas).—A regular meeting was held at the Court House, Morant Bay, on Wednesday, 7th May, 1913. There were present Messrs. W. O. Reid (in the Chair) five members and the Secretary and A. H. Hoare, Agricultural Instructor. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Secretary read a letter from the Secretary of the Parent Society asking for four shillings extra Affiliation Fee at a 1d. per member above the number of 50. A Resolution was moved by Mr. W. O. Reid, seconded by W. G. Packer, which was

put to the meeting and carried; the last of the resolution is as follows:—"Resolved that this Branch Society at Morant Bay do request the Secretary of the Parent Society to bring to the notice of that Society the fact that a charge of 1d. per head of membership exceeding 50 has the effect of placing a penalty on the progress of the Society, and that the Parent Society be asked to take steps to amend the rules providing this penalty by repeating this Clause in the Rules; and that a copy of this resolution be sent to each Branch Society in the Parish." The Secretary was instructed to forward the amount of four shillings to the Secretary of the Parent Society with a copy of the resolution. The discussion on Loan Banks, Lecture by Mr. Hoare, Agricultural Instructor on the growing and Curing of Cocoa and Election of Officers for the year were all deferred till next meeting. Two members paid their subscriptions and the meeting closed.—
S. I. BLACK, Secretary.

Lamb's River, (Westmoreland).—The usual monthly meeting was held on Friday, 9th May, 1913. There were 21 members present. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The President told the meeting that Mr. Somerville has had to attend the annual General meeting of the Darliston Branch to-day, and so it is not likely that he will be here. The Secretary read letter from Mr. Barclay in reply to the correspondence on Mr. Hoare's removal from this end as Agricultural Instructor. The following was moved by Mr. Malcolm, and seconded by Mr. Warburton that this Branch withdraw the motion of taking a Paid-up Share in the Bethel Town People's Loan Bank (Ltd.). This was adopted. Secretary read letter from the Spaldings Branch, calling attention to a resolution passed by that branch re the great loss sustained, by the Police detaining, until the day of trial, the whole bulk of perishable articles stolen by prædial thieves, and requesting the Government to instruct the Police to detain only such portions of the stolen articles as will enable the prosecutor to prove the case; the balance to be given back to the owners. The meeting was in sympathy with the resolution, and recommended that it be forwarded to the Parent Society, to be transferred to the Government for its consideration. Letter from the Westmoreland Parochial Board was read, advising that a "pay station" be granted for Seaford Town while "Relief Work" is being carried on on the roads in this part of the parish. Secretary reported the death of the Society's Indian Game hen, on the 14th April. Death caused from sickness as described in March JOURNAL, p. 147: "Fowl Ticks." Rev. A. W. Ross read correspondence with H. E. the Governor. He offered to act as distributor of Relief Tickets, both for food-stuffs and medical aid, also with Mr. C. C. Anderson re the prevailing destitution in this neighbourhood. Mr. Anderson replied that he did not think the people are in such straightened conditions, as stated. The following resolution was adopted: "That in view of the great distress prevailing, caused by the recent hurricane, there is a great dearth of food-stuff, which will not be relieved for several months to come, when the new crops come in. That the Government be respectfully urged to start the work on the roads promised by His Excellency the Governor, and that the people be paid for work done on these roads weekly." It was decided that a market be opened at Lamb's River, and the Parochial Board be asked to give instructions in connection with it. The Treasurer's report for 1912 was given and adopted. The Rev. A. W. Ross, and the Agricultural Instructor were appointed Auditors of the Society for 1913. Mr. A. Anglin, Cambridge P.O. was elected a member of the Society. Next meeting to be held on Friday, 11th July, when it is hoped that the debate on Yam vs. Banana will be carried out.

U. L. BROWN, Secretary.

Darliston, (Westmoreland).—The sixth annual meeting was held in the Enfield School-room on Friday, 9th May, 1913. There were present: J. W. Mennell, Esq., President, C. J. Stewart, Esq., vice-President, R. C. Somerville, Esq., Agricultural Instructor, and nineteen members and the Secretary. The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. After the confirmation of the minutes, the following persons were proposed, and enlisted as new members of the Branch: Philip James, Esq., Rev. C. R. S. Pike, B.A.; Messrs. William Anglin, Nathaniel Lawrence, Jacob Williams, W. Groves, Charles Williams, Jas. Harvey, W. Smalling, C. H. Cooke, Fred. Lumley, William May and Joseph Stewart. Reports of yearly meetings.—During the year ended 31st March, 1913, six meetings were held in connection with the Branch, five of which were general meetings and one special. Membership for the year—46. Of these only 34 have paid up their dues. The remaining 12 (four have left the island) will be struck off the Roll immediately after the yearly meeting. Subscriptions

received during the year £1 14s. Affiliation fee 5s. For pig and carrying of same from Montpelier including correspondence, stationery, etc., £1 11s. 6d. Balance to the credit of the Society now in hand £3 11s 6½d. The officers served during the year are: J. W. Mennell, Esq., President, Rev. J. Carnegie and C. J. Stewart, Esq., vice-Presidents, R. W. Smith, Esq., Treasurer and J. H. Hedley, Esq., Secretary. During the year some very interesting subjects were discussed and very helpful hints were given especially on the "Corn" and "Coffee" by the Instructor, Mr. Somerville. Mr. Arnett has paid a visit to this Branch on the 24th January, last and spoke in encouraging terms to a large crowd of the distressed hurricane sufferers that came out to meet him. The first lot of seeds sent by the government through John Barclay, Esq., Secretary of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, and the second through Mr. E. Arnett (then Supervisor of Instructors) were given to the following gentlemen for distribution in their respective districts:—A. B. Henry, Esq., Caledonia; H. C. Goodin, Esq., Windsor Forest; J. Leslie, Esq., Hopewell; Rev. J. Carnegie, Beaufort; A. Willis, Esq., Darliston; C. J. Stewart, Esq., Cairn Curran; J. W. Mennell, Esq., Chilton; J. O. Crooks, Esq., Lennox Bywoods; Henry McKenzie, Esq., Ramble; J. S. Cooper, Esq., New Road; J. H. Hedley, Esq., Enfield. The amount of seeds and peas sold is 19/6 (nineteen shillings and sixpence). Out of which amount 8/- paid for carting seeds sent through John Barclay, Esq. for Relief Purposes, etc., leaving a balance of 11/6 in hand. This amount will be forwarded to the General Secretary in rendering the account. The seeds sent through Mr. Arnett from Montpelier for Relief Purposes, I was instructed by the President and Mr. Arnett to pay for carting same from Montpelier out of the Society's Fund, and I have done so by paying the 8/- charged. The receipts for carting Relief Seeds will also be sent to the General Secretary. The young boar pig purchased from the Hope Stock Farm by the Branch came safely to hand on Wednesday, 9th April, 1913, I delivered it in sound condition to Mr. W. Smalling's bearer. The pig weighs 40 lbs. I have also received a Pedigree Certificate for the animal. It was born on the 13th January, 1913."

Election of Officers.—Before the officers retired it was moved by Mr. Somerville, seconded by Mr. S. J. Philip and carried "That the President before vacating his seat should give a retiring address." This the President willingly did; and his remarks were received with loud applause. This address was followed by a short instructive and encouraging address from Mr. C. J. Stewart before he retired. After a vote of thanks had been given to each speaker in each case, and to the officers in general, for their services given to the Society during the past year, the members present elected the following to serve during the year 1913—31st March, 1914.—J. W. Mennell, Esq., President; C. J. Stewart, Esq.; Revs. J. Carnegie, and C. R. S. Pike, B.A., Vice-Presidents; R. W. Smith, Esq., Treasurer, and J. H. Hedley, Esq., Secretary.

As arising out of the minutes the following resolution was moved by Mr. Somerville, seconded by Mr. S. J. Philip and passed: "In view of the scarcity of food be it resolved that a sum of Twenty Shillings be given to Mr. Smalling out of the Society's Fund to assist in feeding the pig." The following resolution was also moved by Mr. Somerville, seconded by J. W. Mennell, Esq. and carried: "Resolved that after the second Friday in July, the Meetings of this Branch will be held on the second Friday of each month and the meeting place be Enfield." The Instructor then addressed the meeting at some length; and in closing he told the members that he had brought up from the Montpelier Nursery 200 cocoa plants, and will be willing to give to each member present 10, after the meeting adjourned. The following resolution was moved by the President, seconded by the Instructor and carried:—"That a list of the members who receive cocoa plants be kept by the Secretary and at the close of six months each member must give an account of the plants.

After the usual vote of thanks given to the Instructor, etc. the meeting adjourned to 11th July next, at 9 a.m. at the Enfield School-room.

J. H. HEDLEY, Secretary.

Dallas and Constitution Hill (St. Andrew).—The Meeting was called to order 1.30 p.m. on 9th May, 1913, with prayer led by Mr. McRae. Nine members were present including the President, J. L. Nickridge, Esq., in the chair. Minutes were read and confirmed. Arising from minutes it was found that time for beginning meetings was 1.00 p.m. instead of noon. Two new members were added to the list. Subscriptions received for the day were seven shillings and sixpence. Five shillings was received from other sources, which would be sent in as affiliation fee for this year. The President said that Mr. Briscoe, the Instructor for St. Andrew, would be transferred from us in August. Much regret was expressed.

In view of this, the following resolution was passed: "That the parent society be asked to reconsider its decision in removing Mr. Briscoe from the parish as it is felt that (this parish being an important one) it will be difficult to fill his place." We found out with seasonable rain, we could cultivate at any time of the year in these districts. The higher parts are very suitable for growing vegetables. The Instructor noticed much faulty cultivation. Potato slips and cane cuttings were not well planted, and he recommended the getting up of a new variety of canes suited to our district. Pure white canes will stand drought. The President advised that potato slips and other kinds of plants be got from Hope. He took names of those who wanted certain plants from Hope. Mr. Little sent a letter which was much appreciated in which he urged two very important points, but these had been previously dealt with. Mr. Nickridge showed how to make a bamboo fence. Take fairly ripe bamboo cuttings, trim off branches carefully, cut holes between the nodes, place the cutting flatly on level and slopingly on hills; fill the holes with water, then cover completely with soil. Mr. Young, one of the authorised persons reported a case of stealing on 24th ult. The prisoner was released as there was lack of proper evidence. Mr. McIntosh enquired why after yams died down and if removed from the hill and replanted even immediately after, they do not bear as well as if they were allowed to remain. Mr. Forbes offered an explanation, that as the rootlets of yams were alive, and by pulling the yam the roots are disturbed, the yams undergo a shock and will then have to start life afresh, hence they cannot do as well in the time as a yam which was undisturbed. The President reviewed the question of having a local show by February or March next. All thought that was the best reason. He advised the planting of East Indian mangoes, because in a few years hence East Indian mangoes will take the market, and our mangoes will have less sale. These East Indian mangoes are the more desirable because of the absence of strings. A vote of appreciation of the visit of Mr. Briscoe was unanimously passed. Meeting adjourned at 4.30 p.m.

C. A. LITTLE, Secretary.

Smithville (Clarendon).—The regular monthly meeting was held on the 9th May, 1913. Among those present were Messrs. W. A. Bryan, President; W. S. Reid, Vice-President; F. McLymont, V.P. There were two visitors, Messrs. Wm. Dawkins and James Gale who afterwards became members. The minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed after which the President, Mr. W. A. Bryan, of whom the Society ought to be proud, addressed the meeting at length. Among other things he said "that the aim of each member this year should be to make the Society one of the best if not the best in the island; that there should be a decided difference between the cultivations of the members and those who are not members; that no member of this Society should as long as this Society lasts, complain about "hard times" for nature responds very readily to the intelligent efforts of man, and the Agricultural Society is the training school wherein men are trained to forget poverty and strive to obtain wealth." "The Agricultural Shilling" he said "which each member is required to pay is the "most valuable shilling," for with it you obtain twelve JOURNALS full of very valuable information not to speak of the other benefits and privileges." Other business in connection with the Society was transacted. The President then read and discussed portions from Stock Notes in the March JOURNAL, after which the National Anthem was sung and the meeting terminated.

J. A. EDWARDS, Secretary.

Nain (St. Elizabeth).—A meeting was held on the 9th May, 1913, the following report for the year just closed was submitted to the meeting and adopted. This Branch began the year with a membership of 39, this was supplemented in the month of October by 23 more which brought up the total membership to 61 to the end of the year.

2. *Work done during the year.* Meetings have been regularly kept every month and many of the members have attended. Under the patronage of the Branch the class for basket and hat-making out of wire grass straw has been completed. Through this industry several young people of both sexes have been taught basket and hat making throughout the various districts.

3. *Authorised persons.* This Branch has caused twelve persons to be appointed as authorised persons privileged to deal with suspected pradal thieves. These have been doing good work either in arresting or in causing those guilty of stealing to stand in dread. The authorised persons are expected here to-day to give an account of their work during the past year.

4. *Resolutions.* Various resolutions have from time to time been passed and forwarded to His Excellency the Governor, His Honour the Custos, and to the

Parochial Board of the Parish soliciting Public Tanks, in these drought areas, Relief Work on Road and the opening of New Roads as a source of relief work for the distressed people. A resolution was sent to the Parochial Board asking for a public tank in the Nain District, and some money to repair and enlarge an old Pond at Myersville, the result of this resolution was that the pond at Myersville is being turned into a tank, not yet completed, and a second public tank is built at Lititz. A parochial or bridle road was asked for by this Branch to branch off from the "Three Thatch Tree Road" to pass through the district of Fryfield on through East Downs and to join the Main Road in Manchester which goes up Watson's Hill to Mandeville, etc. Also a resolution sent to the Parochial Board asking for a road from Port Sea through Warminster on to Myersville. This road work was to give relief to the districts, and the roads would enable our people to move more conveniently with such products as were marketable. Replies have been sent to the Branch and read at its meeting from time to time showing reasons why some of these works could not be undertaken but holding out hopeful anticipations for the near future.

A very important resolution was sent to the Custos asking him to recommend to His Excellency the Governor a person to be appointed as a Justice of the Peace for these various districts; although the Custos was reluctant at first to comply with the request he stated that there were five J.P.'s and that they were fortunate in having so many still, he was informed that the five named by him were all on one side and too far off to be available to the people on this side. This determination of the Branch has resulted in the appointment of the Rev. A. L. Bodfish of Lititz as a Justice of the Peace for this side.

5. *Pig and Goat Improvement.* Having a strong desire to improve the breed of pigs and goats among our people, this Branch secured a pure blooded type of boar which has been in service sometime now here. Sufficient money was raised by subscription to purchase two pure type of billies, one died shortly after being purchased, the other is now in active use.

6. *The Horse Show.* This Branch formulated plans to open a Horse and Domestic Animals' Show at Southfield in conjunction with Top Hill and the Pedro Plains' Branches, owing to the severe drought which prevailed almost throughout the whole year the arrangements were postponed for a more favourable occasion.

7. *Penny Bank.* The Penny Bank opened under the auspices of this Branch in 1910 and conducted under the guidance of the President, Vice-President and Secretary is now almost at a standstill with respect to deposits, brought about by the late long drought and the recent storm of November. The number of depositors with Penny Bank Pass Books amounted to 72, and the total amount deposited up to March 1913 was £52 16s. 4d. Of this amount, £28 was lodged in the Bank of Nova Scotia (Mandeville Branch) to the credit of the Trustees £18 was withdrawn leaving a balance of £10 to the credit of the Trustees on Penny Bank Account. The remainder £24 16s. 4d. has been entirely withdrawn by the depositors and now at this date there is no money on Penny Bank Account in the hands of the Treasurer to meet any demands of withdrawals that may be called for except the amount reported above remaining in the Bank of Nova Scotia. It may be mentioned here for the information of late members of this Branch, that no money can be withdrawn from the Bank of Nova Scotia on Penny Bank Account without the joint signatures of the Trustees of the Penny Bank. I must also state that some of the amounts withdrawn have been lodged in the same Bank (Nova Scotia) to the credit of individual depositors at their own requests and Pass Books containing their accounts with the Bank are in their own hands. The Treasurer states that the Penny Bank established here in connection with this Branch has been of very great assistance to the depositors during the great financial difficulties through which these drought and storm stricken districts have passed and are passing now.

8. Towards the end of the year the Branch attempted to form a Tobacco Company and desired to be incorporated with the Jamaica Tobacco Company in Kingston; correspondence took place with the Kingston Co., but the attempt was crushed or at any rate, received a 'set-back' owing to the storm which destroyed almost all of our people's nursery plots or seedbeds. This matter is still in abeyance.

9. *Loan Bank.* There was a strong desire to form a Loan Bank in this Branch in conjunction with the Top Hill, Pedro Plains and the Bull Savannab Branches. This attempt fell through, whether the attempt will be renewed is still to be considered.

10. *The Instructor's Work.* Not the least matter to be reported on is the Instructor's work. The Instructor has been very energetic and has exhibited more than Herculean strength in being present at every meeting from its forma-

tion up the present. He has delivered lectures, and given instruction and addresses from time to time on various subjects too numerous to mention here. A few subjects on which lectures, instruction and information have been given are, The Coconut Industry, Potatoe and Yam Growing, Cotton Plant and Corn Cultivation, Cassava and Tobacco Cultivation, Castor Oil Bean Industry, Goat and Pig Rearing, The Management of Fields and Plants, Water Tanks and their Catchments; besides his visits to homesteads and fields for instruction and demonstrations.

11. *Cotton Industry.* Cotton seeds have been supplied this Branch for trials in cotton growing, these were planted, but owing to the drought which followed close on planting, the attempt to grow cotton failed entirely.

12. Various seeds have been supplied by the Parent Society, such as seed corn, beans and peas, guinea corn seeds, pumpkin seeds and money to purchase potatoe slips for planting.

Visit of the Travelling Supervisor. We have been favoured with a visit this year from Mr. Arnett, the Travelling Supervisor; he came just when the drought and water famine were severest. He sympathised greatly with us and encouraged all those he met under their trying condition.

14. The last matter to be reported on is the financial condition of the Branch. On account of the irregularity of payments of fees by some of the members, a few names had to be dropped off the list of membership—this irregular payment has caused the Treasurer much inconvenience in keeping his accounts. The amount of money brought forward from 1911 to 1912 was 14s. 11d. Of this amount 5/- was sent up to the Parent Society as fee from this Branch for the year 1912, 9s. 9d. for local expenses, leaving a balance of 6s. 2d. in the Treasurer's hand, amount paid in later by 23 members 23/- making a total of £1 8s. 2d. in the Treasurer's hands up to date.—J. B. HARRISON, Secretary.

St. David's (St. Thomas).—A meeting was held in the Church of England schoolroom on 10th May. There were present the Chairman, senior and junior Vice-Presidents and twelve other members. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed Messrs T. N. Lewin and G. McLean were accepted members and paid in their subscription. The Chairman informed the meeting that Mr. Barclay had written to ask whether casava sticks could be had in the district and in what quantity. The matter was considered. It was decided that some amount could be supplied. And that he be written to for size and length of the bundle. The Chairman next informed the meeting that Mr. Briscoe is to be removed from this parish for a western one and another to take his place. That he had received a letter from a friend asking that a petition be drawn up on Mr. Briscoe's behalf that they may keep him on in the Parish. The matter was considered. Much was said by way of appreciation of his good work in the parish. The Vice-President moved that a petition be drawn to this effect. Mr. C. Barrant seconded and it was unanimously carried. Rising out of the minutes was the Show in view. After a short discussion, the Chairman suggested that the leading men in and out of the district and those that may be convenient to reach be written to and invited to join the present Committee to consider the matter. That the Old Show Committee be called up and the accounts audited. Agreed. The Vice-President spoke in agreement with the Chairman that the time for the Show be not too early but rather to wait to know who will be the Instructor to undertake the work. The Chairman in summing up said we needed renewed efforts and to work on broader lines in the carrying out of the proposed show. The Secretary reported that the Jippi Jappa plants have come. It was agreed that members who have water on their places should receive these plants from the Secretary. Following on the Agenda was the subject of Loan Banks. It was agreed that a special meeting be held to consider the matter. This meeting should take place on the fourth Saturday of the month and at 3 o'clock p.m. The President gave an instructive address on the cultivation of coconuts. Mr. Ambersly showed the necessity for authorised persons in the district. After a brief discussion, the following persons were selected, T. Dawkins, R. Sullivan, E. Ambersly, A. Bogle and T. N. Lewin. The Rev. A. Edwards who stepped in during the latter part of the meeting received a warm and hearty welcome. He replied with thanks, joined and paid in his subscription. Meeting adjourned until second Saturday in June.—O. M. SKINNER, Secretary.

Comfort Hall, (Manchester).—The meeting was held on the 12th May, 1913, at noon. There were present 8 members, the Secretary, and J. T. Palache, Esq., the Instructor for the district. In the absence of the President and Vice-President it was moved and unanimously agreed to that Mr. Munroe should act as

Chairman. This gave the meeting a start. After the opening remarks Mr. Palache was warmly welcomed among his old friends and the hope expressed that his health may continue to enable his usefulness to extend over some years to come. He thanked the members for such kind expressions and endorsed the feelings of the meeting that in the near future a good deal of their hopes may be realized. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The resolution *re* Sub-Officer's Guide to be purchased from the funds of the Society was tabled, as Mr. Henry, the mover, was absent. Reports were received from Messrs. Thos. Williams and David Blake on their work as "Authorized Persons." The cases got up by Williams were successful. The members expressed the hope that these Authorized Persons will be more vigilant as prædial larceny was greatly on the increase. The Instructor addressed the members on Citrus Fruits Sweet Potatoes and Beans. He did not follow his accustomed way of a set address, but was rather practical and humorous. He expressed the hope that citrus fruits may reach the American markets free of duty, and thus give an impetus to the trade. He forcibly appealed to members to give their plants more care. Spare hours could be utilized in removing parasites, dead limbs and the clustered branches. He desires to see better fruits in size and flavour, and if the planters or growers would do their part in assisting Dame nature this would be realized and the Manchester oranges which were so much thought of in days past will again come to the front and hold their own. In speaking on the cultivation of sweet potatoes he said the Island Chemist has recently analysed the tubers of some potatoes and found them to contain materials of a highly nourishing quality and that a person can live on potatoes for a longer time with less meat than he could on yams or cocoes. Potatoes saved the situation this year he claimed and it is worth while to give some attention to so profitable and helpful a cultivation. He suggested planting out experimental plots and securing local experience as some plants that do well in some districts prove a failure in others. Along with the cultivation of potatoes there should be the cultivation of beans. He claimed that the finest dish of soup is that in which a sweet potato is boiled. Economy and Industry are the factors for a returning prosperity and it is no good crying over the past. Action is needed and the dreaded bad times have their blessings in disguise. Many questions were satisfactorily answered. The usual vote of thanks was given and the Instructor left for Balaclava. The next business on the agenda was the revision of the roll of members. Owing to the very heavy showers of rains for some days past some members from the back districts could not possibly attend. It was thought advisable to send them circulars reminding them to pay their subscriptions by the end of the present month so that a full list may be sent to the General Secretary in June next. Mr. D. S. Williams moved and Mr. S. Hibbert seconded that the Society put on its records the deep loss sustained by the death of Mr. John Lalor who was one of the foundation members of the Branch and whose unabating interest ceased only at his death. The Secretary was asked to send a letter of sympathy to the sorrowing family. The meeting received with much appreciation the timely help by way of relief, His Excellency gave the Parish Board. The sum of £25 has been allotted to the Cane Wood Road. Though small it is a help in due time. The seeds sent from the Relief Fund are said to be doing well in some cases. Members were asked to report at next meeting what yield they get from the beans and black eye peas. The Irish Potatoes were reported on as showing promising growth and all the members intend giving this crop a fair trial for the full planting. The next meeting will be on the 14th July next when Mr. Williams will read a paper on matters of importance. The meeting was declared adjourned till that date.—P. A. MUNROE, Secretary.

Tryall Hill, (St. Mary.)—The regular monthly meeting was held 13th May, 1913. Present 24 members and a large number of visitors, among whom were Mr. Wates, Travelling Instructor, Mr. A. F. G. Ellis, Esq., J. P. and the older scholars of the school. The meeting being called to order, by the Chairman (Mr. D. McNichol) minutes were read and confirmed, after which it was moved by Mr. H. Dyce, seconded by Mr. F. Walters that Mr. Wm. Strachan be elected member of the Society, agreed. Dues from the following members were received: A. F. G. Ellis, Esq., O. H. Keeling, Esq., Messrs. R. A. Grant, H. Dyce, George Eस्पते, Daniel Davis, E. A. Hird, Thos. Lewis, John A. Grant and William Strachan. Matters arising out of the minutes were next dealt with. (Pencarr Bridge). The Secretary was asked to read the accounts of what had been done to the promotion of the Bridge Question. This being done Mr. A. F. G. Ellis of Fort George expressed his pleasure at being at the meeting, and explained that he came in the interest of Mr. O. H. Keeling, who had the matter in hand. Mr.

Keeling being ill. Moved by the Society seconded by Mr. Daniel Davis, that Mr. A. F. G. Ellis, J. P., who is deeply interested in these bridges take the necessary steps to its procedure, thus approaching by way of a petition. The Parochial Board, Custos of the Parish of St. Mary, Hon. R. P. Simmonds, who the Society feels to be deeply interested in matters of importance brought to his notice by an Agricultural Society. Unanimously agreed to. The Annotto River Road was left over as none of the promoters were present. Treasurer being absent no report. Correspondences from the Spalding Branch, A. F. G. Ellis, Esq, the Travelling Instructor, and the Jamaica Agricultural Society were read. The resolution re Perishable articles stolen detained by the police until trial—thus causing great loss was discussed. The Society did not see its way to support the resolution. Mr. Wates J. P. and Travelling Instructor being called upon by the Instructor explained that the article in possession of the thief was considered his, thus no portion, could be returned to the owner until it was proven that the goods were stolen and were the property of the alleged person, also that some compensation should be made to the owner of the goods so destroyed. It was moved by Mr. A. F. G. Ellis, J. P., that the perishable articles received by the police should be sold and the money obtained be handed over to the rightful owner after the case has been proven. Seconded by Mr. J. W. Hird—*agreed*. Instructor lectured on Loan Banks, pointing out that Founders of Banks were not responsible for the working of the Banks but that any dissatisfaction felt with regard to them would be dealt with at the annual general meeting of the Branch Agricultural Society. He explained that interest on shares would be dependent on the success of the Bank. The money of the Loan Bank proper to be lent at an interest ranging from 8-10% not more. The Society was advised to get certain explanations from the Loan Board of Annotto Bay in regard to the interest charged 7½% instead of 6%. Mr. Wates gave a stirring address on Coco, and showed the necessary steps taken to prevent the spread of diseases among plants. Mr. Rehd. Grant moved that the motor car be enlarged to the size of that of the "Train" and that the government be approached on this matter by the Parent Society. The Chairman, Mr. D. McNichol moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Wates, Travelling Instructor, J. P., for his interesting address, also Mr. A. F. G. Ellis, J. P., for his visit and help. Both gentlemen replied suitably. The Secretary in supporting pointed out to the Society the interest Mr. Ellis had taken heretofore in the establishment of a School Garden and Agricultural Society in the District. Business for next meeting Instructors address on market for Agricultural Products. The regular meeting being over the Chairman moved its adjournment for the 2nd Tuesday in June. National Anthem.—A. A. CONSTABLE, Secretary.

Bunker's Hill, (Trelawny).—The Annual meeting was held on the 14th May, 1913. The Agenda was a very interesting one. There was a social function in connection with the Society which came off successfully after the transaction of business. The meeting was opened as usual with prayer. In the absence of the President, the Vice President took the Chair. There were present 56 members besides the Instructor (Mr. Harrison) and an audience of about 250. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. The Chairman asked if there were any persons to be proposed as new members. The Secretary proposed twenty names. These were all elected as members and were welcomed by the Chairman and Instructor. Arising from the minutes, particulars were asked about the proposed Post Office for the district. The Instructor said he had had interviews with the leading men around and they promised their hearty support and asked to have the matter pushed. The next item on the agenda was the report of Authorised Persons. As these reports were not always asked for the Instructor pointed it out as the duty of the authorised persons to present a quarterly report of their work. The Secretary read a letter from the Superintendent of Main Roads for Trelawny in which he states that he will try to have the road at Covey Bridge raised, so that it may be of more use to the general public in rainy seasons. Arising from correspondence and to satisfy the request of Messrs. Robertson and Grant of Good Hope, the Society elected Mr. A. G. Philipps for nomination as an authorised person for that district and instructed the Secretary to send on his name to the Parent Society. As a matter to be dealt with at next meeting the Secretary gave notice for the appointment of some one to fill the position of Authorised Person instead of Mr. Louis Jarrett who is now a District Constable. The Instructor asked that great attention be given to the yearly report while the Secretary read it. This he did while there was perfect silence and attention. The Chairman then touched on the different things referred to in the report and thanked the Secretary. Mr. Harrison then spoke and welcomed all those who were present as visitors. He mentioned the benefits of the Society with a view

to enlisting some of them as members. He congratulated the Secretary for his live interest and good report. He also paid high tribute to the President who was absent on account of press of business, and asked that the Society's appreciation be shown by giving him, though absent, three cheers. All present responded heartily. Appreciation of the work of the other officers was shown. The Chairman spoke of the Instructor's interest and work. Four more men expressed a desire to join and were admitted making a total of twenty-three new members and a total membership of 61. Officers to serve for the ensuing year were elected. Election resulted as follows: J. R. T. Main, Esq., President; Messrs. Wright, Vassall and Lowe, Vice-Presidents; Mr. S. J. Wright, Treasurer; Mr. W. R. Robotham, Secretary, and Miss K. Walters, Asst. Secretary. A very interesting meeting ended and the social function proceeded with.—W. ROBOTHAM, Secretary.

Enfield, (St. Mary).—The regular monthly meeting was held in the School-room on the 14th May, 1913. There were present the following: Rev. W. S. Taylor, Chairman; W. S. Cradwick, Agricultural Instructor; Mr. L. A. Wates, Agricultural Instructor from St. Thomas in the East, the Treasurer, Secretary, Vice-Presidents Beckford and Sheriff, and over 40 other members. The President after making a few preliminary remarks, introduced Mr. L. A. Wates to the meeting, and asked Mr. Cradwick to take the chair as usual. Mr. Cradwick said he regretted he could not do so under the new regulations.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, and after a slight discussion on the point referring to the election of officers, they were confirmed. After this several members paid in their subscriptions. The only correspondence to be read was the reply from the branch to the Parochial Board acknowledging the receipt of a letter which was sent from the Board. As things are gradually reviving in the district it was thought necessary to revive the idea of holding the show which had previously been proposed to be held in connection with the branch. Mr. Cradwick spoke on the subject at length encouraging the members to co-operate and make the show a success in spite of all hardships. The Chairman asked for the opinion of the members on the subject. Mr. T. R. Beckford spoke and promised to support the show in every possible way. Mr. J. H. Walters who was the first in introducing the subject, said he is still interested in the matter and will give it all the support he can. Mr. H. D. Sheriff and others spoke encouragingly. The Instructor told the members to keep this fact in mind, that the necessary preparations for the show should be made as far as possible without calling on the financial resources of the branch.

At this stage Mr. Wates was called upon to address the meeting. After thanking the meeting for their hearty greeting he encouraged the members to support the show as much as possible. He showed the necessity of exhibiting in large quantities the articles grown locally. Mr. Wates said that small shows are always more enjoyable than large ones. He strongly impressed upon the minds of the people the advisability of exhibiting local produce in large quantities. Re the cocoa cultivations in the competition, he said, there seemed to be a misapprehension in the minds of the competitors. Several of the fields visited contained trees that were in a poor condition and needed improvement. He said that there are many persons who are still doubtful about the presence of a cocoa disease, or the need of pruning the trees and keeping them in good order. He cited an instance of a man who was able to make from £50 to £60 per annum from his cultivation which before only yielded 5 or 6 pounds being attacked by disease. There are cultivation in the district, he said, that could not be beaten if proper attention is given, and he hopes that at a future visit he might be able to recommend some for prizes.

The Chairman asked Mr. Cradwick if he could give some hints on corn growing, as this subject was occupying his mind for some time now. The Instructor promised to do so but he asked that the matter be deferred until some papers which he expects from an American gentleman with whom he had a talk on the same subject came to hand. The Secretary was instructed to write and ask the Secretary of the Parent Society for some plants of St. Vincent Yams. Mr. G. Perry moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Wates for the very interesting address which he gave the meeting on cocoa cultivation, this was seconded by Mr. G. W. Fox, and supported by Mr. T. R. Beckford and others. Mr. R. D. Sibbils also moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Cradwick and seconded by Mr. H. D. Sheriff. After the roll call, the meeting was brought to a close with prayer.

J. Z. JOHNSON, Secretary.

Brown's Hall (St. Catherine).—The annual meeting was held in the school-room here on the evening of the 14th May. This was also the date for the holding of the regular monthly meeting. The attendance was very good. After dealing with matters arising out of the minutes of last meeting the appointment of officers for the ensuing year, was made. The same officers for last year were re-elected, and the following were elected members of the managing committee—Messrs. M. Shaw, J. Oliver, F. Golding, Jas. Roberts, Cornelius Thomas, C. Graham, Wm. Wallace. All promised to co-operate for the progress of the Society. The Treasurer gave a full report of the financial standing of the Society. Certain communications from the Parent Society re the payment of fees, and the printing of JOURNALS were explained by the Instructor. The following resolution was adopted: That having regard to the unwholesome effect it would have on the welfare of the Agricultural Society, to allow persons who join at any time during the year to pay fees proportionately, this Society does not deem it advisable to adopt that plan at present. There was some discussion re the lending of tools, and the use of the grindstone. The Secretary gave satisfactory explanations on these points. Mr. Felix Golding an "Authorised Person" reported certain cases which he had dealt with and asked for information on certain points to the attention of the proper authorities. Reference was also briefly made by questions and suitable answers to a resolution which was passed at last meeting re the establishment of a Post Office at Brown's Hall. Mr. Mossman, the Instructor, in a full and interesting address gave the meeting valuable information and useful hints. He explained the working and purpose of the Prize Holding Scheme. He also encouraged members to join the Loan Bank so as to be able to get assistance in times of need for carrying on their cultivations, etc. A vote of thanks was heartily accorded Mr. Mossman for his timely and helpful address. A few minor matters were dealt with and the meeting came to a close.—E. A. TOMLINSON, Secretary.

Swift River (Portland).—The regular monthly meeting was held at Mt. Olivet on Wednesday 14th May at 5 p.m. The regular hour was four but members turned up late. There were present: Mr. A. P. Hanson, Agricultural Instructor; Mr. T. O. Duhany, President in the Chair, and other officers besides visitors making the number up to thirty. The meeting was called to order, Minutes read and confirmed. Roll called, members were asked to pay in their subscriptions while they bear their names called. President spoke on the number of JOURNALS as per correspondence, then pointed out those who are really entitled to it. It was agreed that we only order 47 JOURNALS until others have paid in their dues.

Instructor's Talk:—This was on growing and curing of tobacco. This being a crop grown largely in this district. He was listened to with great attention and questions having arisen on many points which were explained by the Instructor. He also said he had learnt some new ideas in the growth of tobacco in this locality. He encouraged the planters to try the Sumatra and to order seeds and state the acreage intended for planting. The beds need a sunny situation. These should be cleared, burnt, forked, and heaped the same as preparing for vegetable seeds. Then shaded to protect the plants from heavy rain. As soon then as the young plants can be distinguished weeding should be done carefully. He recommended the use of slaked lime to be sprinkled over the beds to prevent damp and also to prevent grubs from destroying the young plants. Planting slips at 15 inches apart in the row and 3 feet apart between rows to allow space for moulding. The land should be burnt and cleared and forked, and thoroughly mixed with the ash and rubbish. He also showed how necessary it is to water the field before planting and to pour some water in each hole when the soil is dry. The evening is best for planting except during a rainy day. The plants when grown, and having 10 to 15 leaves should be topped then the suckering begins every 14 days till all the leaves are ripe and have a dull colour. The ratoons to be left are the two suckers nearest the roots. The cutting to be done in the evening and taken up next morning when the dew is off. Avoid drying over the smoke and when dried the leaves be tied in small heads in three classes and put up for pressing, viz., filling, binders and wrappers. A vote of thanks was then moved by the President for the Instructor, seconded by Mr. E. N. Bailey. Crown Land discussion deferred for the next meeting to be held on 11th June. The National Anthem was sung which brought the meeting to a close.—D. M. PARKER, Secretary.

Edois Valley (St. Andrew).—The annual meeting was held Thursday, 15th May, 1913, midday in the Church schoolroom. There were present 25 members and 5 visitors. The travelling Instructor, J. Briscoe, also was present. Meeting called to order by the Chairman Rev. A. Cole. Prayer said, minutes of last

meeting were read and confirmed. Correspondence also was read. *Agenda*: 1st, Secretary's report; 2nd, Election of Officers; 3rd, the Society's Finances; 4th, Prize Holding Competition for St. Thomas along with the Western Parishes, 1st, the Secretary summed up his report briefly, said, he felt it a pleasure to report on this Branch of which he is proud to be the Secretary through his continual re-election ever since its organization 1904 and 1905. This Branch at its yearly meeting, April 27th 1912, enrolled 42 members, a month ago two went away to Costa Rica, 1 resigned and 1 died, leaving 38 in good standing. From 1911 and 1912 we have passed through hard and trying times of drought and depression this little Branch has held its own. The Chairman said he was very glad to know this Branch is beginning to realize what it is to be a good working Branch, and to insist on the members aiming at independence by paying subscriptions as early as possible and let 3 months' grace be a dead letter to this Branch; he also gave many valuable hints. The Society was satisfied with the work done by the officers and they were re-elected, viz: Rev. A. Cole, Chairman; Mr. D. Harding, 1st Vice-Chairman; Richard Barnett, 2nd Vice-Chairman; R. A. Jones, Secretary; Mrs. Diana Burke, Treasurer. 3rd, Mr. Briscoe addressed the meeting agreeing with the Chairman's view in a clear speech told his hearers that special prizes are offered this year for best kept Holding, field and stock, also the house is taken into account, sanitation, etc. 4th, the Instructor looked over the Society's books. Thirteen members paid in subscriptions, 1 new member joined and paid 1/ in April's meeting. Twenty-one members paid up for 1913. The Secretary read and presented an address to the Instructor to which he replied in suitable terms. Meeting adjourned, benediction pronounced by Chairman.

R. A. JONES, Secretary.

Upper St. John, (St. Catherine).—The monthly meeting was held on the 18th May, 1913. There were present, Rev. L. M. Beverley, Mr. Mossman the Instructor nineteen members and the acting Secretary. After opening the meeting in the usual way. The minutes of the April meeting were read and confirmed. A letter from the Spalding Branch re The keeping of perishable articles by the police was read and on the motion of the Instructor it was resolved to reply stating that this Branch is in sympathy with the resolution and is willing to support any further move that may be made in the matter. Also that a letter supporting the resolution be sent to the Parent Society. As arising out of the minutes of the last meeting the appointment of officers was next considered. Mr. J. A. Green requested that the rules of the Society be read over before making any election. This was done. Rev. L. M. Beverley was re-elected chairman, Mr. J. H. Nelson vice-chairman, Mr. J. H. Green second vice-chairman, Mr. J. H. Blackwood, Secretary and Mr. J. J. Smellie, Treasurer. Mr. J. H. Nelson moved for the appointment of an Executive Committee. After some discussion the motion was unanimously approved and the following were nominated:—Mr. Alfred Brown, Mr. J. W. Whitley, Mr. Rhoden, Mr. Patterson Mr. Cole, Mr. D. Brown, Mr. T. Douce, Mr. J. Harrison, Mr. Muirhead and Mr. J. H. Nelson. The accounts of the Society for the Financial year ending 31st May 1913, was also presented as follows:—

Total receipts including a balance of 16s. 2d. from 1911,	£2 11 2
Total expenditure	2 0 5
Credit balance	10 9

At this stage eleven members paid in their subscriptions for the current Financial Year. Mr. Nelson also asked for a review of the year's work; but owing to the changes of secretary during the year, it was not possible to meet the request. Everything arising out of the minutes having been dispensed with. The Instructor read letters he had received from the Parent Society with regard to payment of subscriptions, the printing of new Journals and the present undesirable practice of allowing Journals to remain in the Post Offices unclaimed. He strongly advised members not to lend their Journals to non-members of the Society. He next turned the attention of the meeting to Agriculture, dealing first with school gardens, he made it known that he is authorized to visit them and to assist the teachers in giving practical lessons on the subject. Secondly, he informed the meeting that the Prize Holding Competition for St. Catherine comes off in September and advised members whose fees have been returned to renew their applications. The outlook seems very encouraging as four prizes in all have been offered—one of £1 for the best kept cocoa; another of £1 for the best kept coffee and the third of £1 for the best kept banana plantation. There is also a ten shillings prize for the best kept house in each class. The Instructor elaborated on the importance of this last named prize, showing how tidy home arrangements affect child nature and how they tend to make the

parents feel brighter and happier. Mr. J. A. Green moved, seconded by the Instructor that the useful services of the deceased, Robt. Downie to this Branch Society be placed on record and that the sympathy of the society be conveyed to the bereaved family. The President explained that since Messrs. Grant and Watson two of the trustees of the Penny Bank have left, it has not been possible to draw money from the Nova Scotia Bank and on his suggestion Messrs. J. H. Green and J. Harrison are appointed trustees of the Bank to take the places of Messrs. Grant and Watson. The Secretary was directed to notify the Nova Scotia Bank.

On a report brought by Mr. D. Brown against Jas. Fearon an Authorised Person, as to his going beyond his duty, it was decided to write to Fearon requesting him to be present at next meeting to explain his conduct. G. A. Scully another Authorised Person having left the island it was decided to ask the Inspector-General of Police, through the Parent Society, to remove his name from the list of Authorised Persons. Mr. Brown asked about the resolution sent to the Commissioner about Road No. 18, and was informed that only an acknowledgement had been received. Mr. Smellie asked a few questions about cocoa pruning. The Instructor advised him not to touch the trees now as they have blossoms on. Mr. Nelson suggested the preparation of a programme for each meeting. The idea was endorsed by all and he is down to read a paper on any subject of interest to the Branch which he may select. At this stage the meeting adjourned.—J. H. BLACKWOOD, Secretary.

Prospect, (Clarendon).—The usual monthly meeting was held on Wednesday the 28th May, 1913. There were present Messrs. S. Schleifer, Instructor, Henry Thomas, President, the Secretary, 6 members and 3 visitors. After prayer was offered by the President, the minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed. Discussion arising from the minutes: Mr. Cuthbert said we should have a conference with the neighbouring branches, say once a month, and visit certain fields to get instruction. The Instructor said that the matter will soon be arranged. Report from Authorized Persons:—Mr. Cuthbert said that stealing is still going on in the district. Mr. Rose spoke about the advantage taken by persons who own small stock since the 'Gun License' has been raised. It was therefore moved and seconded that the Governor be asked to reduce this license, so that cultivators be enabled to protect their fields against trespassing of small stock. Mr. Schleifer said that a cocoa-nursery is being established and that it will be ready for the Society about September. He also gave an able address on cocoa-growing and the best way to prepare the beans for market. A vote of thanks was moved by the President and seconded by Mr. Cuthbert. It was regretted by all present, that such an enjoyable meeting was so poorly attended. One of the visitors—Mr. Wakeling was asked by the President to close the meeting with prayer.

AUGUSTUS PHILLIPS, Secretary.

Trinityville, (St. Andrew).—The monthly meeting was held at the usual place in May when there were present Messrs. J. Briscoe, Travelling Instructor, W. A. K. Carr, J. A. Bogle, H. E. Wisdom, H. McPharlane, J. T. Edman Secretary and a visitor. Mr. Briscoe was voted to the chair in absence of the President and vice-Presidents. The Secretary presented minutes of the December and January meetings (the former he was censured for at the last meeting) they were read and confirmed. The Prize Holdings Competition which was abandoned was again brought up and discussed at length. The Secretary read Mr. Barclay's foot note as published in the Journal of February last. The Chairman explained his position in connection with the matter, he being Instructor for the district. Mr. Edman said he could not see eye to eye with Mr. Barclay in his writing when he had written such a circular letter to each of the competitors. The Chairman said that as the matter had been so decided he would advise the Society to drop it, Mr. Carr was also of this opinion. Messrs. Bogle and Wisdom also spoke. It was ultimately decided on motion of Mr. Edman that a copy of the letter be published along with the Branch notes with reference to the already published resolutions protesting against the abandoning of the Prize Prize Holdings Competition. (See letter below.) Read letter from H. W. Edwards, Esq., re Banana Figs. Mr. Briscoe spoke on the subject. It was decided to thank the gentleman for his letter and say that this Branch will be pleased to see him. After the reading of a letter from Mr. Briscoe, the President A. Heame entered and Mr. Briscoe vacated the chair. Read letter covering resolutions from the Morant Bay Branch with reference to the dismissal of Mr. H. C. Thomas, assistant Agricultural Instructor, the Secretary stated that he was no more in the employ of the Department this Branch could take no

THE JOURNAL OF THE

action. The Secretary laid on the table the correspondence in connection with the Light Railway between Frinityville and Morant Bay, as asked for by Mr. Bogle at the last meeting. This being the annual meeting but the attendance of members being small the election of officers could not be carried through, it was decided that this be done at next meeting. The annual report was read and adopted. The report stated that there was £26 10s. in the Government Savings Bank. The President in giving his first annual address said that the Secretary having covered so much ground in this report, he could hardly add to it. From the splendid seasons we are having he said, we are hopeful of better times, he expressed regret over the unfortunate circumstances in the western parishes recently, which prevented us from getting such assistance as we should have got. He expressed his sympathy with the steps taken in abandoning the P. H. Competition. Mr. Briscoe advised regular reading of the Journal, attend meetings regularly co-operate in everything to the benefit of the Society and still keep up the competition. He said he had been instrumental in having a special prize added to the competition for the best kept bouse. Mr. Carr moved seconded by Mr. Bogle that a certain sum be loaned to members at a certain percentage. Mr. Edman said he was against it, further notice should have been given and moved that it be dealt with at next meeting. The President was doubtful if the Society could lend its money. Mr. Carr spoke strongly on the motion but it was finally decided to discuss it at the next meeting. The meeting then adjourned.

J. E. EDMAN, Hon. Secretary.

PRIZE HOLDINGS COMPETITION.

December 20, 1912.

"Owing to the great loss of crops in the west end—the loss being even greater than at first estimated—it is unfortunately necessary that Mr. Arnett, the Travelling Supervisor of Instructors, who is the Judge in the Prize Holdings Competition, should spend the next three months there. Owing also to the great loss of coconuts on the Coast of Hanover and Westmoreland, it is necessary to transfer an instructor who is particularly well informed in coconut cultivation: Mr. Wates has therefore been asked to spend the month of January in the west end particularly to assist those who are or were coconut growers. Under these circumstances, the Board of Management, have resolved to abandon the Prize Holdings Competition in all the parishes, including St. Thomas. I trust you will excuse any inconvenience caused to you under the unfortunate circumstances. I now refund you your entry money. Kindly sign enclosed receipt and return same early."

(Sgd.) JNO. BARCLAY, Secretary.

Bunker's Hill (Trelawny).—Third annual report for the year ending March 31st, 1913. It will be remembered that the Society previous to the beginning of the past financial year had been almost defunct but was resuscitated again in May last year. Officers to serve through the year were: J. R. T. Main, Esq., President; Messrs. S. J. Wright and Wm. Lowe, Vice-Presidents; Mr. S. J. Wright, Treasurer, and Mr. W. Robotham, Secretary. The Society started with 23 members and ended the year with 36. The meetings of the Society were regularly held throughout the year, only two meetings falling through owing to the inclemency of the weather. There were altogether 11 regular meetings and one special meeting. The average attendance at these meetings is 18. Judging from the membership and average attendance it is unpleasant to say that we have not all realised the importance of individuality for the success of the meetings of the Society. It shows either a profound lack of interest in matters agricultural or indifference in attending the meetings of the Society. The Instructor for the district as usual paid regular visits, gave lectures and valuable hints on matters agricultural and helped in the discussion of other business. To increase the finances of the Society it was proposed to have a garden party which came off on the first of August. This was partly a failure and added very little to the funds. The Society sought to extend its benefits to the districts at large and established a Penny Saving's Bank under the management of Messrs. Main, Wright and Robotham as Trustees, the former as general manager and the latter as Secretary. I am proud to state that this is much appreciated by the mass and is carrying out its object in developing saving qualities. It was started in July and to the 31st of March Deposits amounted to £50 8s. 7d., Withdrawals £11 18s. 1d., Balance £38 12s. 6d. It was proposed to hold an Agricultural Show between the Bunker's Hill, Deside, Waldensia and Duanvale branches and steps had been taken to have the matter pushed but the recent catastrophe intervened and the proposal had to be abandoned. The year has been characterised as one of great difficulty for the

peasantry. Just when their hopes were near realization, then came the dreadful and forgotten catastrophe in consequence of which vegetation was totally devastated. The November hurricane and flood had brought to the peasantry great difficulties and discouragements. The yam and banana crops were almost annihilated and had it not been for provisions otherwise obtained by getting work on the neighbouring plantations the condition of the peasantry would be nothing else but lamentable. The Instructor nevertheless had the people's interest at heart. At his request a special meeting was called, at which he encouraged the distressed people and planned for them how to keep away starvation which many considered inevitable. Thanks to the Parent Society and the Instructor for the interest they exhibit in the branches by supplying seeds which by their early returns, help to redeem the peasantry from starvation. Just here the benefits of the Society were extended to all alike whether members or not. There were few competitors for the Corn Growing Competition but the matter fell through as it was thought by the Parent Society that owing to unevenness in the seasons at different places competition would not be keen enough. In regard to Authorised Persons there had been no report in connection with prædial larceny. Here we must either congratulate our people for having reached such a stage of honesty or denounce our Authorised persons for not being alive to the duties. On the whole the Society had a very trying year but its difficulties are convincing features of the need and usefulness of the Society. I must express the need for individuality and that spirit of continuance among our members, also a free exchange of ideas. I close by wishing the Society a bright and prosperous year and hope that it may make steady and satisfactory advancement in membership and useful work.

W. R. ROBOTHAM, Secretary.

—:0:—

HOUSEHOLD NOTES.

The most important function of the home is the provision of food. Before a meal can be cooked it must be planned.

The woman who is to provide wisely the food for a household must understand:—

- (1) The Elements of Diet.
- (2) Food Properties and Values.
- (3) The Combination of Food Values.
- (4) The Preparation (cooking) of Food Stuffs.

How many women plan a meal with the right proportion of protein, fat and carbohydrates.

Upon these three elements men depend for energy and body-building material.

Very different food is required for a man doing manual labor and one with a sedentary position.

The third task is that of home making. It is the word of the woman presiding over the home that is law. It is she who creates the home atmosphere which should provide inspiring hopes which shall send the members of the family into the world to do effective work.

The fourth great thing is the responsibility of moulding and training a little human life.

Suppose the men bought the food stuff, tried to run the house or train a child without a woman's hand? Imagine the mess!

No, the job is a woman's job, a full big job. And as the woman of the present works it out—or fails—so there will be a better or sorrier condition for us to face in the next generation.

Exchange.

BROOM CORN.—We have imported a fresh supply of Broom Corn seed, and hope that the growing of this will be taken up especially in those parts requiring a drought-resisting crop and needing a new industry.

The making of Brooms could be made a good industry in Southern St. Elizabeth, and Southern Manchester.

CORN:—No better seasons favourable to the growth of corn could be imagined than those we have had, and this crop is one that a very large number of people throughout the country will be extremely thankful for. Many people will be living on their cornfield to a large extent. In spite of the poor seed that had to be planted in many cases, the rest that the soil got through the drought together with the regular rains, has caused phenomenal growth. In St. Elizabeth the people are already having "roast" corn. Sweet potatoes are coming in and by the month of July they will be very plentiful. Young cassava will be fit to be used in August, although it would really not be used in ordinary seasons until November. Peas and Beans are becoming very plentiful, and are at normal prices in Kingston.

PIGS.—A rumour was current in St. Mary that the Government had issued orders to destroy all pigs, and this had gained wide circulation among the people. This is a very foolish idea. One Branch remarks that the rumour was probably disseminated by butchers for the purpose of getting pigs to buy at a cheap rate. We know nothing about that, but we know how easy it is to get the most ridiculous rumours set afloat. Fortunately this is unfounded and the report was contradicted at our Branch meetings so that the idea has now got exploded.

Instead, this Society is trying to extend and improve the breeding of pigs. We offered premiums to Branch Societies who would purchase pure bred Boars.

BRANCH SOCIETIES.—In spite of the hard times and the scarcity of every crop, it is pleasing to note how well the membership of Branch Societies has been sustained. Some Branches have already sent in their lists, but a good many are still due. Some Branches, especially those in connection with which Loan Banks have been established, have largely increased their membership.

THE CARE OF BOOTS.—To make heavy boots soft, well soak them with warm water before a fire, seeing first that there is no dirt on them. When the water has soaked right through the leather, work it about in the hands to make it as soft as possible. Then give the boots a coat of neatsfoot oil, or failing that, Castor Oil, put them in the sun and keep turning them round so that the oil may dry in all over. As the water dries out the oil dries in, and as it gets absorbed more oil should be applied. If the boots are very bad, let them lie by a day or two, and then repeat the above process with both water and oil, working the leather well with the hand. To waterproof them, after the oil has well dried in give them either a coat of mutton fat, or of neatsfoot oil and beeswax melted together, which, when cold, should be just a little firmer than ordinary dubbin.