

SUGAR IN DECLINE

Comment of Sir Charles Bruce on the Industry.

PRODUCT OF BRITISH GUIANA

Objections to Granting Subsidy to Producers.

Application for Relief Made to Imperial Government—Will Meet With Objections.

The comments which Sir Charles Bruce makes on the decline of the sugar industry in the Windward Islands in the reports just issued by the Colonial Office are interesting inasmuch as he declares that they apply equally to its decline in the other West Indian colonies. Sir Charles Bruce believes that the main cause of this decline is the system of subsidies adopted by foreign Governments, which guarantee the producers a margin of profit even when the price is below the cost of production. What ever the reason, the decline during the last fifteen years is very striking. In St. Vincent, for instance, the value of the export in 1880 was £153,600; in 1885 it was £121,581. In view of these figures, it is satisfactory to learn that Professor Harrison, who has reported on the agricultural prospects of the islands, holds out great hopes of renewed prosperity from scientific treatment of the soil and improved machinery. A story which Charles Bruce tells in his report on St. Lucia shows how much headway may be made even against the worst of agricultural depression. The mortgages in possession of the estates of the Central Sugar Factory Company gave notice of withdrawal from the property. As the Company itself was entirely without funds, it seemed certain that the estate would revert to its natural condition of jungle, and that a large body of laborers would be thrown out of work. A local syndicate then came forward and took over the estates for a year. "I understand," says Sir Charles Bruce, "that the estates have been worked with such superior energy, skill and economy as to realize an immediate profit, and to justify the belief that the cultivation of the property will be permanently maintained and extended, with profit to the undertakers and every advantage to the colony."

We have received from Mr. J. C. McCowan, the acting secretary of the Planters' Association of British Guiana, a statement of the case respecting the "threatened ruin of the colony and its sugar industry, through the operation of foreign bounties on sugar," and of the remedies recommended in accordance with the resolutions adopted at a meeting in Georgetown on October 8, referred to in a communication from Reuter's agent in Georgetown published in our columns yesterday. The circular now before us is dated Georgetown, October 12. The case of the planters is presented as follows: "(1) The only agricultural industry of the colony is sugar, and the capital invested in the plantations and machinery thereon amounts at the present time to £7,000,000. (2) The most approved methods of agriculture and manufacture are in use. (3) We can produce sugar as cheaply as any other cane-sugar producing country in the world, and more cheaply than unsubsidized beet. (4) Owing to foreign bounties, we have struggled for years past against unfair competition, and the recent increase in these bounties threatens our industry with absolute extinction. The exports of 1885 amounted to 116,636 tons of sugar, valued at £2,496,423, or £21 per ton, whereas, last year (1895), when the exports were 94,659 tons, the value of the sugar had fallen to £2,096,705, or £22 per ton. (5) The further effect of the recently increased bounties on the Continent has been to stimulate production to an extent that has glutted the British markets, whilst Continental home consumption (that is, in the beet-growing countries) has decreased, owing to the much increased taxation of the article. (6) The avowed object of the bounties is to stamp out the cane-sugar industry, as was plainly stated during a recent meeting of the (German) Reichstag. (There are over 100,000 East Indian immigrants in the colony, who have been introduced for the sugar industry at enormous expense, nearly all of whom are entitled to a return passage to India at the expense of the colony, but if the sugar industry be crushed out, the cost of their return will fall on the Imperial Government.) In order to save British Guiana from 'absolute ruin' in consequence of the unfortunate position of affairs described above, we are informed by the same circular that the Georgetown Planters' Association has applied to the Imperial Government for relief, and has suggested that one of the following three measures should be adopted: (a) The immediate payment from the Imperial Treasury of a sum per ton of sugar exported from the colony equal to the bounty on export sugar given by Germany so as to place the industry in the colony on an equal footing and in as favorable a position as that of foreign countries now exporting beet sugar to Great Britain. (b) The arrangement of a conference of the European countries giving export bounties on beet sugar, with a view of settling a joint agreement for the immediate abolition of such bounties. This matter of relief to be of any assistance to British Guiana must be very promptly carried out. (c) The imposition of a countervailing duty on all foreign sugar imported into Great Britain equal

to the bounty given at the port of export.

Now it may readily be believed that the sugar planters of British Guiana are not in a very prosperous condition; the peremptory character of the impracticable suggestions put forward in the circular quoted above in itself suggests that their industry is suffering severely. It may be easily understood that a fall of prices, such as that indicated in the statement of the case has seriously embarrassed the industry. But it can scarcely be credited that such a fall of prices in an industry which can produce sugar from cane "more cheaply" than unsubsidized beet-sugar can be produced is due to the European sugar bounties. According to their own admission, the planters have an advantage over the beet-sugar producers which at least partly counterbalances the bounties; and if the fall in value of their exports of sugar during the last twelve or thirteen years, from £2,606,423 to £2,096,705, is not due, except probably to a small extent, to the Continental bounties, it is quite clear that a countervailing bounty or duty would not restore the old prosperity to the sugar industry of British Guiana. Cane sugar is grown in the United States, and it is protected, except as regards Hawaiian sugar, by a very heavy duty; but in spite of this duty, German beet-sugar is being imported into the United States in quantities which are increasing by leaps and bounds, the total for the first eight months of this year, as we pointed out the other day, being estimated at nearly 600,000,000 lbs., as against only about 185,000,000 lbs. for the corresponding period in 1894 and about 167,000,000 lbs. for the first eight months last year. What reason is there, then, to suppose that a subsidy to the British Guiana planters, or a countervailing bounty would be effective in closing the British market to beet-sugar, or enhancing the selling price of Guiana sugar? For the rest, the remedies suggested are quite out of question. The Guiana planters are not the only persons who have had to face an enormous fall of prices. British agriculturists have suffered in the same way, and how can they be expected to give, with the rest of the people of the mother country, a gratuity to the colonial sugar-planters? It would be just as reasonable to ask the planters to contribute to the support of English wheat-growers. And where are such subsidies to stop? For the same reasons, a countervailing duty is equally out of the question; if such a duty were imposed in the interest of colonial sugar planters, retaliatory duties in the assumed interests of other colonial, and also in the interests of home industries could not be refused. For in most cases—that of American cotton goods, for instance—protective duties operate as bounties on exports. As for the arrangement of a European Conference for the general abolition of bounties, there could be no objection to it, if it were likely to be effective. But can anybody suppose that a proposal for such a conference from the British Government, would be effective? Sooner or later the bounty giving countries may be awakened to a perception of the foolishness of their system, and arrange such a conference amongst themselves; but on what common ground could we claim to discuss the matter with them? —Manchester Guardian.

IS REACHING OUT

Development of British Columbia Mines.

Canadian Pacific R. R. Extending Lines—New Steamer Connection.

George C. Courtney, passenger and traffic agent of the great Canadian Pacific Railway system, came down on the Warrimoo yesterday, and is a guest at the Hawaiian. Mr. Courtney intended making a trip to Sydney on the Warrimoo, but grew tired of the journey when he reached the dock at Honolulu. Like all British Columbians, Mr. Courtney is an enthusiast on the subject of mines and mining in the Northwest. Incidentally, he thinks the C. P. R. is the greatest transcontinental line on earth, and backs his opinion on the fact that an "Empress Special" has made the run from Vancouver to New York in 84 hours.

"The Pacific cable will be built," he said last night in answer to a question "but whether or not it will stop here is another matter. There seems to be a hitch in respect to a landing on Hawaii, and it looks very much as though the Honolulu people will not be on the main line. Rather unfortunate inasmuch as nothing has been done for them regarding an American cable. I cannot see why the United States would object to having a British cable land here, now that there has been a new treaty arrangement between the two Governments. The British Pacific cable is all right and bound to go through, but it may take some time to complete details." Replying to a question regarding Victoria, which place, by the way, is almost an American city in many respects, Mr. Courtney said: "You would be astonished at the rate we are going ahead; Vancouver the same. The development of the mines in Spokane and Rossland has had a very stimulating effect upon the country. Local as well as foreign capital has been invested in mining property and mining machinery, and before long we will reap the benefits. Spokane, I believe, is a perfect Golconda in its silver deposits; Rossland district is full of gold deposits, and the two districts will, I firmly believe, produce more ore than Australia, the United States and South Africa combined. "The discoveries in the Northwest have done much toward increasing the traffic of the Pacific division of our

road, and has caused us to increase our mileage in the direction of the mines. We have four lines of road, connecting with steamers, running to the diggings. We have a line of transports on the lakes which enables us to deliver freight at the mines without transhipping. There has been a tremendous rush of people into that country, and the entire province will be benefited."

"About your steamer lines, Mr. Courtney, has the trade increased on them in proportion with the increase on your roads?"

"Decidedly, yes! You remember, our line was the first north of San Francisco; now there are four, and the increase is entirely through the changed trade relations between North America and the Orient and Australia. The first steamers we put on our line to China and Japan answered the purpose for awhile, but the trade outgrew them, and the company built the famous steamers which form the Empress line. The trade by that line is entirely satisfactory. The Canadian-Australian line, which connects with the C. P. R., and enables us to bill from England direct to the Colonies, is also doing a fine business. The Warrimoo had all the freight she could carry this trip—about 300 tons of it destined for Suva, and when this is discharged the space will be immediately filled with fruit for the Colonies."

"At the present rate the two steamers cannot do the business offered, and for that reason the Aorangi will be added to the fleet, and as rapidly as it becomes necessary other steamers will be purchased or built. On the Atlantic side we have two lines connecting with our road: The Allen and the Dominion, but it will be a very short time when there will be a line of C. P. R. steamers running across, so that we will practically own the line from Liverpool to the Orient."

Mr. Courtney will remain in Honolulu until the Miowera arrives and then return home.

BIG CARGO COMING.

Portland Flated Over Her Trade With Honolulu.

The Oregon-Asiatic steamship Chittagong got away for Honolulu and the Orient yesterday morning with a full cargo of Oregon produce, the principal item on the manifest, as usual, being flour. The steamer goes by way of Victoria.

There are more of the products of the Northwest sent to the Orient by the Portland line than by all of the other lines running out of Northwestern ports, the other lines being obliged to subsidize almost exclusively on Eastern freight, in which there is very little money. The Chittagong's cargo included the largest shipment of grain and mill-stuffs that has yet been made to Honolulu. It included 1,625 barrels of flour, valued at \$7,250; 85 tons of bran, \$1,112; 38 tons of shorts, \$532; 12 tons of rolled barley, \$349; 1,200 bushels of carley, \$676; 133 bushels of wheat, \$170; 5 tons middlings, \$125; 1,000 bushels of oats, \$290; also 25 cases of beer, 44 bundles of paper, and a few boxes of apples.—Oregonian (Portland).

MOTT ON EVANGELIZATION.

Urges Concerted Movement in Spreading the Gospel.

Despite the threatening weather of last evening, Mr. John R. Mott had quite a large audience at the Christian Church to listen to his lecture on the evangelization. The speaker said to evangelize was not to Christianize. It was merely to bring to people the knowledge of Jesus Christ as a personal savior. Half of the world had never heard of Christ.

Evangelization of the world, the speaker submitted, was possible. Christ had commanded His disciples to preach the Gospel to every creature; and Christ never commanded impossibility. Evangelization was necessary. "What must be done, should be done; what must be done, can be done." An English officer had stated that the British Army and Navy could carry the Bible to every creature in 18 months.

Evangelization is more possible today than ever before. The Bible was now printed in seven-eighths of the languages of the world. The press, steam applications and electricity were agents to make the work comparatively easy. It was possible. All needed was a concerted movement of Christians to that end.

Lodges and Juries.

MR. EDITOR.—Only erroneous impressions can be drawn from the reports in the Advertiser and other papers regarding lodge membership and trial by jury. The conclusions thus reached are calculated to impair the strength and dignity of the judiciary system, and, further, to reflect upon a noble order. The society in question could not, for a single instant, under any possible circumstances, indulge, condone or countenance any degree of law-breaking.

In the judgment of the writer, who has witnessed many similar cases, the original mistake in this trial was in the form alone of the question placed by the attorney for the Republic. Then was laid the basis for all the miscellaneous comment that has been read and heard. Counsel for defense made an address that seemed largely for effect. Afterwards the learned gentlemen cooled off and came down to business. Respectfully,

PITHIAN SPECTATOR.

Says There is Gold.

MR. EDITOR.—In your issue of February 11th, there appears an article on "Gold in Hawaii," in which you scout the idea of there being any gold here. I can assure you that you are wrong. I know for a positive fact that on the Island of Kauai, a specimen of quartz was dug out by a Chinaman working

under my immediate supervision. This Chinaman was an old California miner, and he insisted that the rock contained gold. I forwarded a piece of it to Honolulu, to the owner of the land, who had it assayed, and it went \$1.75 to the ton. To be sure, this is not a paying yield, but it shows that gold does exist here. For reasons unnecessary to mention the matter was kept secret.

On the Island of Maui I know of an old stone wall from which I have picked many specimens of crystallized quartz, which are very beautiful indeed. Crystallized quartz and gold are never separated very widely.

KAMAAINA.  
Honolulu, February 17, 1897.

A few months ago, Mr. Byron Every, of Woodstock, Mich., was badly afflicted with rheumatism. His right leg was swollen the full length, causing him great suffering. He was advised to try Chamberlain's Pain Balm. The first bottle of it helped him considerably and the second bottle effected a cure. The 25 and 50 cent sizes are for sale by all druggists and dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., Agents for the Hawaiian Islands.

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SALE OF Valuable Real Estate

In pursuance of an order of the Circuit Court of the First Circuit, Republic of Hawaii, the undersigned will sell at public auction, at the Auction Rooms of W. S. Luce, Honolulu,

On Saturday, Feb. 20, AT 12 O'CLOCK NOON.

All of the following described real estate situate in Kalaupapana, Kailihi, Kona, Oahu, comprising 2 Lots as follows:

1. L. C. A. 1214 Kana, Lot 1. Beginning at a marked rock in the stone wall at the North-west corner of L. C. A. 1237 Kaiaie Lot 2 at a point from which the Kahauiki Irig. Sta. is N 3 49 E true 50 feet, and running S 25 deg. 0 min. E true 132 feet along L. C. A. 1237 Kaiaie Lot 2, S 51 deg 0 min. W true 33 feet along the same, S 44 deg. 0 min. E true 75.2 feet along the same, S 32 deg. 0 min. W true 33 feet along L. C. A. 1218 Kahinalua, Lot 2, N 37 deg. 0 min. W true 226.5 feet along L. C. A. 2375 Kaimi, N 60 deg. 20 min. E true 82.5 feet along Gov't Land to initial point and including an area of 258-1000 of an acre.

2. Part of L. C. A. 1214 Kana, Lot 2 Beginning at a marked stone at the North corner of Grant 3271 R. Regis Lot 17 at a point from which the Hauiki Irig. Sta. is N 7 deg. 26 min. E true 685 feet and running, S 57 deg. 10 min. W true 61 feet along Grant 3271 R. Regis, Lot 17, S 49 deg. 30 min. E true 123 feet along the same, S 49 deg. 30 min. W true 106.5 feet along L. C. A. 1251 Kinopu, Lot 1, S 38 deg. 50 min. E true 120.1 feet along the same, S 53 deg. 10 min W true 98 feet along Grant 3286 Mahoe, N 37 deg. 49 min. W true 31.7 feet along L. C. A. 2596 Paloo no Mahue, S 61 deg. 19-min W true 79.2 feet along the same, N 37 deg. 49 min. true 118.1 feet along the same and L. C. A. 1235 Hoenui, Lot 5, N 55 deg. 59 min. E true 83.4 feet along L. C. A. 1235 Hoenui, Lot 5, N 25 deg. 49 min W true 37.8 feet along L. C. A. 1235 Hoenui, Lot 5, N 58 deg. 0 min. E true 54.4 feet along L. C. A. 1233 Hoenui, Lot 5, N 43 deg 30 min. W true 64 feet along L. C. A. 1233 Hoenui, Lot 5, N 27 deg. 30 min. E true 32.5 feet along L. C. A. 1233 Hoenui, Lot 5, N 47 deg. 49 min. W true 126.7 feet along L. C. A. 1233 Hoenui, Lot 5, N 23 deg. 19 min. W true 154.5 feet along Government Land, N 52 deg. 30 min E true 90 feet along that portion of this Lot sold to Pakalen, N 23 deg 19 min. W true 84 feet along the same, N 52 deg. 20 min. E true 73 feet along old stone wall by Government Land, S 25 deg. 0 min. E true 270 feet along Government Land, S 52 deg. 30 min. W true 25.3 feet along L. C. A. 2375 Kauai, S 43 deg. 20 min. E true 114 feet along the same to initial point and including an area of 272-1000 acres making the total area of the two lots 2 23,100 acres.

Terms: Cash. United States Gold Coin. Conveyance at expense of purchaser. J. S. EMERSON, Commissioner.

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