

F I R S T
R E P O R T

FROM THE
SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

SUGAR AND COFFEE PLANTING;

TOGETHER WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

AND APPENDIX.

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
24 February 1848.*

Veneris, 4^o die Februarii, 1848.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to inquire into the Present Condition and Prospects of the Interests connected with, and dependent on, SUGAR and COFFEE PLANTING in Her Majesty's East and West Indian Possessions and the Mauritius, and to consider whether any and what Measures can be adopted by Parliament for their Relief.

Lunæ, 7^o die Februarii, 1848.

Committee nominated :

Lord George Bentinck,
Mr. Labouchere.
Mr. Goulburn.
Mr. Milner Gibson,
Mr. Cardwell.
Sir Thomas Birch.
Mr. Henry Hope.
Mr. Charles Villiers.

Mr. Philip Miles.
Mr. James Wilson.
Lord George Manners.
Mr. Ewart.
Sir John Pakington.
Mr. James Matheson.
Sir Edward Buxton.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the said Committee.

Martis, 15^o die Februarii, 1848.

Ordered, THAT Mr. Ewart be discharged from further attendance on the Committee, and that Mr. Moffatt to be added thereto.

Jovis, 24^o die Februarii, 1848.

Ordered, THAT the Committee have power to Report the Minutes of Evidence taken before them, from time to time, to The House.

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F I R S T R E P O R T.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into the present Condition and Prospects connected with and dependent on SUGAR and COFFEE PLANTING in Her Majesty's East and West Indian Possessions and the Mauritius, and to consider whether any and what Measures can be adopted by Parliament for their Relief, and who were empowered to Report the MINUTES of EVIDENCE taken before them, from time to time, to The House ;

HAVE made a Progress in the Matter referred to them, which they beg leave to Report to The House.

24 *February* 1848.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Sabbati, 12^o die Februarii, 1848.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord George Bentinck.
Sir Thomas Birch.
Sir Edward Buxton.
Mr. Cardwell.
Mr. Goulburn.

Mr. Henry Hope.
Mr. Labouchère.
Mr. Matheson.
Sir John Pakington.
Mr. Wilson.

* LORD GEORGE BENTINCK, IN THE CHAIR.

The Right Honourable Lord Viscount *Palmerston*, a Member of The House,
Examined.

1. *Chairman.*] WILL your Lordship have the goodness to give to the Committee a *précis* of the state of our treaties with foreign powers with reference to the suppression of the slave trade, together with as much information as you can afford them respecting the state of the slave trade, as to the number of slavers that have been captured, and the number of negroes that have been liberated; also the obligations that we are either temporarily or permanently under to foreign countries to maintain blockade ships; and further, as far as it has come within your knowledge, the state of the slave trade in Cuba and Porto Rico and the Brazils, and the number also of the different free populations on the coast of Africa?—I had better state first how we stand with respect to treaties. There are three kinds of treaties which this country has entered into with foreign powers for the purpose of suppressing the slave trade. The first class gives to each party a mutual right of search of the merchant vessels of the other party, within certain geographical limits, and a right of detention of such merchant vessels as may be found either with slaves on board or equipped for the slave trade; and these treaties define what circumstances in a vessel shall constitute *prima facie* an equipment for the slave trade. Those treaties constitute also Mixed Courts, composed of commissioners of each nation, those courts being posted within the territories of each of the parties at such places as are likely to be most convenient for the adjudication of captured vessels. Such are the treaties that we have with Spain, with the Netherlands, with Portugal, and some other countries. The second class of treaties are treaties by which a mutual right of search is in like manner granted within specified geographical limits, together with the right of detention under similar circumstances. But by that second class of treaties a captured vessel, instead of being tried before a Mixed Court of Commission, composed of judges of the two nations, is handed over to the tribunals of the country under whose flag she has been captured. Under this class come the first treaties we had with France, and such other treaties we have with Tuscany, with Sardinia, with Austria, with Russia, and with Prussia. Then there is a third class of treaties, consisting of two, namely, the treaty we now have with France and the treaty we now have with the United States, under which treaties no mutual right of search is granted, but each party engages to maintain a certain force upon the coast of Africa for the purpose of watching its own merchant flag, and preventing any vessels under that flag being employed in the

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prosecution of the slave trade. The first and second classes of treaties do not impose upon either of the contracting parties any specific obligation to maintain any given force, or indeed any force at all, upon the coast of Africa; they are treaties giving powers and not involving any specific obligation of that kind. The treaty with France and the treaty with America do contain a specific obligation; and it is evident that that was a necessary result of that kind of treaty, because where a foreign power grants to England a right of search and a power of seizure, the English Government is the best judge what amount of force is necessary to carry that examination and seizure into operation; but where no power is granted to Great Britain over the flag of another country, then it becomes necessary that that other country should itself exercise a proper police over its own merchant flag; and we could not have asked another country to take upon itself that obligation unless at least for form's sake a corresponding obligation had been undertaken by Great Britain. The treaty with France, concluded in May 1845, suspends for a certain time the previous treaties of 1831 and 1833. The treaties of 1831 and 1833 gave a mutual right of search; they did not constitute Mixed Commissions, but provided that ships captured under those treaties should be sent to be tried by the tribunals of the country under whose flag they were taken. That mutual right of search was by the treaty of 1845 suspended for a certain number of years, and there was substituted for it an engagement, which is contained in Article 1st, that each party shall maintain a certain force. Article 1st of the treaty says, that "in order that the flags of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and of His Majesty the King of the French may not, contrary to the law of nations, and the laws in force in the two countries, be usurped to cover the slave trade, and in order to provide for the more effectual suppression of that traffic, the King of the French engages to station on the west coast of Africa, from Cape Verd to 16° 30' of south latitude, a naval force of at least 26 cruisers, consisting of sailing and steam-vessels; and the Queen of Great Britain engages to station on the same part of the west coast of Africa a naval force of not less than 26 cruisers." This treaty is not permanent; the 7th Article says, that a declaration is to be made immediately after the squadrons shall be on the coast, and the 10th Article says, that three months after the declaration mentioned in Article 7, the present convention shall come into execution. "The duration of it is fixed at ten years," (that would be 1855). "The previous conventions shall be suspended," (that is, the conventions of 1831 and 1833). "In the course of the fifth year," (that is, in the course of the year 1850) "the high contracting parties will concert together anew, and will decide according to circumstances, whether it is fitting either to put again in force the whole or part of the said conventions," (that is, the conventions of 1831 and 1833), "or to modify or to abrogate the whole or part of the present convention. At the end of the tenth year," (that is, in 1855), "unless the previous conventions shall have been put again in force, they shall be considered as definitively abrogated. And the high contracting parties further engage to continue to concert together for ensuring the suppression of the slave trade by all the means which may appear to them most useful and most efficacious until the time when this traffic shall be completely abolished." The object of this convention was to suspend the right of search, but to give to the two parties at the end of five, and at the end of ten years an opportunity of reconsidering whether that right of search should be re-established or not. That is the convention with France. The engagement with the United States is contained in the treaty of Washington, in October 1842. That treaty says, in Article 8, that the two parties "mutually stipulate that each shall prepare, equip, and maintain in service, on the coast of Africa, a sufficient and adequate squadron, or naval force of vessels, of suitable numbers and descriptions, to carry in all not less than 80 guns, to enforce, separately and respectively, the laws, rights, and obligations of each of the two countries for the suppression of the slave trade, the said squadrons to be independent of each other, but the two governments stipulating, nevertheless, to give such orders to the officers commanding their respective forces as shall enable them most effectually to act in concert and co-operation, upon mutual consultation, as exigencies may arise, for the attainment of the true object of this Article." Then Article 11 says, that "the 8th Article of this treaty shall be in force for five years from the date of the exchange of the ratifications" (that was, I fancy, in October or
November

November at the end of 1845), "and afterwards, until one or the other party shall signify a wish to terminate it." Therefore the agreement with America about the slave trade is that each party shall keep a sufficient force on the coast of Africa to prevent merchant vessels under its flag from carrying on the slave trade, that force not being less than a force of 80 guns. That engagement is absolute until 1847, and continues from 1847 onward, until one or other of the two parties intimate a wish to put an end to it. With regard to the powers with which we have treaties, we have now treaties of some sort or other with almost every naval power, except Hanover and Greece, in Europe, and one or two of the smaller States in South America. We are concluding a treaty with Belgium, which I should say is settled, for a mutual right of search. The Greek government has intimated its willingness to conclude a treaty also. England concluded in 1841 a treaty with France, Austria, Prussia, and Russia for the suppression of the slave trade, to which those parties agreed to invite all other naval powers which had not contracted treaties to accede. That treaty was not ratified by France, as the Committee will probably recollect, but it was ratified by Austria, Russia, and Prussia. It is in virtue of that treaty that we are inviting the accession of Belgium, Greece, and Hanover. The great advantage of getting all states that have flags to enter into such an engagement is, that the slave traders, when they are driven from the shelter of one flag may not take refuge under the fraudulent assumption of another flag, although, in point of fact, the country to which that flag belongs has no direct participation whatever in the slave trade. And that is now happening on the coast of Africa, where there are a great number of vessels slave trading under the flag of Sardinia, although I believe there is no Sardinian that is at all concerned in the traffic. It was always said that your naval police never will be effectual until you have engaged all powers that have a flag in the stipulations. I have always thought that quite true. It is for that purpose that we have laboured to engage states in the treaty, although those states were not at all likely themselves to take any share in the traffic. Before we got the right of search with France, there was a great deal of traffic carried on under the French flag; that traffic was put an end to in 1831 and 1833 by the treaties with France, which gave us power to examine and detain French slave traders, and also by the laws, which were then passed in France, prohibiting the traffic. Our treaties at that time with Spain and with Portugal were incomplete, for they gave us no effectual power of search, and no power of detention south of the Line; and they gave no power of detention in case of vessels only equipped for the slave trade. Therefore the whole traffic south of the Line was open to them. And even north of the Line you could not detain a ship unless she had actually got her cargo on board, although you knew she was waiting for that cargo. In 1835 we concluded a treaty with Spain which gave us a right of detention in case of equipment solely, though no slaves were on board, and which extended the right of search and detention within all geographical limits where it was likely that the slave trade should be carried on. That treaty was pretty effectual for a time in checking the slave trade under the Spanish flag; but still the Portuguese flag enjoyed a total impunity south of the Line, and exemption from detention north of the Line, except when slaves were on board. In 1839, after ineffectually endeavouring to obtain a treaty and concessions from Portugal, an Act was passed, giving by law all necessary powers to British cruisers, and the result was, that in 1842 the Portuguese government concluded a treaty almost precisely similar to that which had been concluded with Spain, giving sufficient and complete powers within the requisite geographical limits. Then there remained Brazil. The treaty with Brazil was argued by the Brazilian government to be temporary, in as far as regarded the mutual right of search, and the appointment of Mixed Commissions, but they did not contend that the Article by which the Brazilian Government agreed that Brazilian subjects engaged in the slave trade should be treated and dealt with as pirates, was a temporary Article; and in virtue of that stipulation, and to give it effect, an Act was passed, which The House agreed to, I think, in 1844, giving to British cruisers all the powers necessary for carrying that Article into effect. The result has been, that a great number of Brazilian vessels have been captured, and another form of slave trade which had sprung up lately, has also been much checked. The Act gave power to

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deal with vessels sailing without any flag. For the slave traders, in order to avoid being brought before Mixed Commissions, under treaties which made them liable under certain flags to those tribunals, and to avoid being sent to tribunals of the different countries, if they were found under other flags, have lately adopted the plan of sailing without flags and without papers. So that when a vessel is taken, you cannot send her to any Mixed Commission, because she belongs to no nation; and you cannot send her to any national tribunal for the same reason. The law passed in 1844 enables you to send such vessels to the Admiralty courts as vessels having no nationality. Now the effect of the last treaty with France of course is, that the British cruisers on the coast of Africa cannot meddle with any vessel sailing with French papers. The mere hoisting a flag at the mast-head does not exempt a vessel from being boarded, because it proves nothing. It is the possession of papers proving nationality which alone can give the privilege of nationality. But when a boat from one of our cruisers boarding a ship under French colours finds that she is French property, and is entitled to the privilege of a French vessel, even if we found slaves on board we could do nothing but go away. Therefore the whole police of the coast of Africa, as far as regards the prevention of the slave trade under the French flag, must be exercised exclusively by French cruisers. It is but fair to say that I believe they have very effectually exercised that police. There is no reason to suppose that any slave trade is carried on under the French flag, but the French cruisers have little else to do, for the French objecting upon political grounds, and from feelings of national pride, to allowing their vessels to be searched by those of any other country, of course cannot themselves obtain any right of search from other countries, and the only classes of vessels which they can meddle with are vessels under their own flag, or vessels having no flag. But they have, I believe, done all that their power enabled them to do. There has been a very good understanding, and very cordial co-operation, between the cruisers of the two nations employed upon that service. The Portuguese also have now some cruisers, and in a part of their colonies the governors have co-operated very honestly for the suppression of the trade. I am afraid that on the Eastern coast of Africa, in the Portuguese settlements, the same feeling has not entirely been manifested, and there is a good deal of the slave trade carried on from the Portuguese possessions on the eastern coast of Africa to Brazil. In spite of the engagement of the United States, and the presence of their squadron, United States' vessels are very much employed in assisting the slave trade; they go out to the coast of Africa as American vessels, and they carry with them articles of equipment things which can in a very short time be so arranged as to fit the vessels for receiving slaves. As long as they continue to wear the garb of American nationality our cruisers cannot meddle with them, but they have a number of Spanish, Portuguese, or Brazilian passengers on board, and when they get upon the coast, if they find that a cargo of slaves is ready in the barracoons, in a very few hours they embark the slaves, having prepared the vessel for the purpose. Then the American papers are put away; the American master and crew become passengers, and the Spanish, Portuguese, or Brazilian passengers assume the character of master and crew, and the Portuguese, or Brazilian, or the Spanish flag is hoisted, and away they go, taking their chance of making the run and escaping being intercepted. The motive for this is, that on the outward passage they escape molestation altogether, unless they fall in with an American cruiser, and even in that case, till they have slaves on board, the American cruiser cannot by the American law detain them; he may search them, but he cannot detain them; and then when they have on board the slaves which would enable the American cruiser to detain them, and which would subject them to be treated as pirates by the American law, they escape the liability to that severe punishment which attaches to the crew, and they then, if met and captured by a British vessel under the Spanish, Portuguese, or Brazilian colours, are only liable to have the vessel confiscated and the slaves set free, but the crew are not subject to any punishment. I should say that we have repeatedly suggested to the American government that they should pass some law which should enable their cruisers to deal with vessels equipped for the slave trade, as well as with vessels having slaves on board, but they have always said that their law virtually does that, and that the equipment might be pleaded in evidence as a proof of the vessel being engaged in the slave trade. The Americans have sent

a few

a few vessels to their tribunals for trial, and in one or two cases they have even allowed our cruisers to hand over to them vessels under suspicious circumstances; but I do not think that there has been any condemnation in those cases. I have lately requested the French government to agree to a mutual interchange of returns of captured vessels, but as yet we have not made that exchange; but the French have taken some vessels.

2. They have taken very few, have they not?—They could not take many. The Americans have no power except over their own flag; they have no treaty to enable them to search any other flag, and the French have power over their own flag and vessels having no flag.

3. In fact, the abolition service is performed by British ships almost exclusively, is it not?—I should say nearly so, except in proportion as the number of vessels having no flag continues to increase.

4. What, in your opinion, would be the effect of establishing cruisers near the coast of Cuba and Brazil, instead of on the African coast?—I think that is absolutely necessary; I know that a different doctrine was held some years ago. It was thought that the best method was to concentrate the whole force upon the place where the slave trade took its rise, and to leave Cuba and Brazil without any cruisers. I think experience has shown that you require a police on both sides of the Atlantic. I believe that a comparatively small force round Cuba and on the coast of Brazil would be sufficient, and the Admiralty are taking measures to place cruisers on both those stations. One reason why the coast of Brazil has been without cruisers for some time past is, that the whole naval force on that station was concentrated in the River Plate, in consequence of the operations that were going on by the French and British squadrons. I hope that that matter may be considered now on the eve of being satisfactorily arranged, and then there will be available cruisers enough to keep watch upon the points (and they are not many) on the coast of Brazil where slaves can be landed.

5. Have you any idea what force would be necessary effectually to blockade the coast of Brazil?—I should say, speaking very vaguely, without having consulted the Admiralty, six or eight vessels would be very effectual. There has not been for some time any material importation of slaves into the northern ports of Brazil; into some of them none at all; the chief importation has been at Rio and ports to the south of Rio. The Cuba slave trade, as far as our information goes, and it comes to us in different shapes, has for the last two years almost entirely ceased. This is a memorandum which is made out in that department of my office which is charged with slave-trade affairs. I asked "What may be considered as the number of slaves imported into Cuba in 1846 and 1847?" and the answer is, "In 1846, certainly under two thousand. The Commissioners were unable to ascertain that more than two cargoes had been actually landed. In 1847 one cargo of 240 was landed near Trinidad de Cuba. These statements are strongly corroborated by the fact that no slave vessel engaged in the slave trade was captured by the African squadron either in 1846 or 1847." There are two tests of the amount of the slave trade locally; the one is information which the consuls and the Commissioners are able to obtain from time to time of the landing of slaves in Cuba, and the other test is the sailing and arrival of vessels to and from the coast of Africa, and from both of those tests I think we are entitled to infer that for the last two years the Cuba slave trade has been next to nothing. That has arisen chiefly from stricter orders being sent by the government of Madrid to the governor-general of Cuba. I have not the least doubt that if the governor of Cuba chose to exert the powers vested in him by law, he might render it perfectly impossible for any slaves to be landed in the island. There are many circumstances which led the Spanish government to give those orders; first, the pressing urgency of the British Government, and next, I believe, some alarm felt in Cuba itself of what might arise from the greater influx of raw negroes, and also a jealousy on the part of the owners of existing estates of the multiplication, and thereby the competition of new estates. There was an insurrection in Cuba about three years ago, which excited a good deal of alarm and uneasiness. I cannot make so good a report as to Brazil, though even in Brazil the number of slaves is much less than it had been in former times. As far as we can judge from different reports, the number imported into Brazil in 1846 may be calculated at something about 50,000 or more; I should say perhaps 60,000. We have

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not of course yet got returns to the end of 1847, but Lord Howden writes word on the 12th of November that he thinks that about 50,000 might have been landed in the course of the year 1847, and the reports we have had from the coast of Africa show that Brazilian slave traders are multiplying very much, and we have taken a good many.

6. Can you state how many?—This is a return that I have had made out of the number of vessels that we have taken from 1837 to 1847. The total number of vessels condemned, with slaves on board, in those years was 176, and the total number condemned for equipment, having no slaves on board, was 389, making altogether 555. On board those slavers were 48,569 slaves, of whom 43,668 were ultimately liberated, and the number of slaves which upon the comparison of tonnage might have been carried away in the 389 vessels that were captured without slaves on board, is here estimated at 196,125.

[His Lordship delivered in the Return, which is as follows:]

RETURN of SLAVE VESSELS Condemned by the Courts of Mixed Commission, and by the Courts of Vice-Admiralty, from 1837 to 1847 inclusive.

(The Returns from the Mixed Courts are in Large Type, those from the Vice-Admiralty Courts in Small Type.)

Y E A R.	Number of Slavers Condemned with Slaves.	Number of Slavers Condemned for Equipment.	Total Number of Slavers Condemned.	Number of Slaves Captured.	Number of Slaves Emancipated.	Number of Slaves which Vessels condemned for Equipment would have been capable of carrying.
1837	24 none.	5	29	7,237	6,513	1,917
1838	19 none.	12	31	6,444	5,850	5,767
1839	26 none.	43	69	5,566	5,237	20,590
1840	4 17	26 22	30 39	1,016 2,600	994 2,643	10,231 14,721
1841	5 19	20 27	25 46	1,186 4,780	1,157 3,449	7,080 13,011
1842	1 14	9 28	10 42	450 3,500	440 3,051	4,938 12,210
1843	2 7	11 23	13 30	830 1,967	808 1,683	4,700 9,069
1844	9 4	22 13	31 17	2,548 2,034	2,351 1,776	12,056 6,837
1845	4 6	25 17	29 23	1,234 2,285	1,189 1,994	7,935 12,368
1846	none. 5	— 61	— 66	— 2,788	— 2,472	— 35,839
1847	none. * 10	— 25	— 35	— 2,839	— 2,152	— 14,992
TOTAL	176	389	555	48,569	43,668	196,125

* Returns from Sierra Leone and St. Helena up to Sept. 30. Returns from the other places not received.

The Committee would probably like to know the total number of slaves emancipated from 1819. The number of slaves emancipated from 1819 to 1837, at Sierra Leone, was 69,000. There were actually registered in Sierra Leone 56,935, and land at Fernando Po about 600; sent to the West Indies about 3,000, and emancipated by the Vice-Admiralty Courts about 5,000, making a total of 65,535, and there died between emancipation and registration 3,465, making 69,000.

7. Can

7. Can you state to the Committee how many negroes there are in any British possessions, at liberty to be imported to the West Indies?—None have been sent to the West Indies, except a few who were landed at Fernando Po, which is not a British possession; they are at Sierra Leone, and the Foreign Office has no means of knowing how many there are now at Sierra Leone; the Colonial Office would probably be able to give that information.

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8. Are you able to speak to the facilities that offer on the coast of Africa for the emigration of negroes from the Kroo and Fish nations?—I have inquired whether there are any documents in the Foreign Office that show the number of those two nations, but I find there are none. I should think, from general information, that there would be a great disposition on their part to go to the West Indies, if they were quite certain that their return would be equally free, and that they would get good wages while there; indeed, I believe there has been already some emigration; but that is a matter which the Colonial Office would be better able to speak to.

9. The Foreign Office does not happen to have become acquainted with the numbers?—No; I inquired about that, and I was told that there were no papers which showed the number of the Fish and Kroo nations. The report given me is this, "Captain Denman, in his evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons, represents the Kroomen and Fishmen as occupying towns within the same part of the coast, but the Fishmen extend both further north and further south, and are by far the most numerous race. The precise limits of the parts of the coast inhabited by these tribes is not known, neither is the number of the population."

10. Do you know whether it is as much as 60,000 or 70,000?—I have no information upon the subject.

11. Can you state with what degree of good faith the different governments, and the officers of the governments of Brazil and Spain, in Cuba and Porto Rico, have carried out the treaties and engagements with this country, both as regards the conniving, or otherwise, at the importation of slaves, and especially as regards the treatment of the emancipados in Cuba?—I will first take the Spanish branch; I do not believe that there has ever been much slave trading in Porto Rico. Cuba has been a great seat of the slave trade till within the last two years. The laws of Spain positively prohibit the introduction of any new negroes as slaves into Cuba; but the laws of Spain on the one hand, and the treaty with Great Britain on the other, were utterly and entirely disregarded by the local authorities of Cuba, and the slave trade was not only connived at, but protected, as far as it could be done, without openly giving to the British officers there, the consul, and the commissioners, facts which could not be denied. There was always a certain degree of concealment in the landing of cargoes, in order that the governor might be enabled, when the case was stated to him, to say, as he invariably did, that he had made inquiries, and found that there was no ground whatever for the information which our people had received. A duty was also paid to the government for every African landed, so that it became a source of revenue to the local government; besides which, almost all the officers of the government, from the highest to the lowest, derived some profit from the transactions in the way of bribes and fees. It seems, by accounts which we have had for the last two years, that the Spanish government has put an end to this practice, and I hope will continue to do so. The present governor was complained of, when first he went; but the Spanish minister here always said, "When strict orders are given him, he will obey them;" and it seems that that obedience has of late been practically enforced. Therefore in reference to the importation of new negroes, it does not appear that for the last two years there has been much to complain of in Cuba. The situation of the emancipados is still very bad. I have found it exceedingly difficult to ascertain at all what number of emancipados still remain. There cannot be more than a few thousands, but one calculation makes it about 12,000; another calculation not much above 1,200. By treaty these slaves, who were the cargoes of captured vessels, and who were emancipated by the decree of the Mixed Court of Commission, ought to have been employed for a certain number of years in some way with a view to teach them mechanical trades, and instruct them in religion, and properly to fit them for earning their livelihood as ordinary members of society; that was the engagement of the treaty; but the practice has been to treat them as slaves, with this only difference, that they have not

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been so well kept as slaves, because the slave belongs to some owner who has an interest, to a certain extent, in not destroying his animal; but the emancipado belongs to nobody, he is let out by the government from one person to another for periods of five years. The person to whom the man is let pays down a sum at once for his labour during the time, and therefore they are like hack horses, in whose maintenance nobody has any interest. They are let out in gangs to work; some are employed as lamplighters, and some as scavengers, and some are let out to landowners, to be employed upon their estates, and in these different ways, the lease of them never being for more than five years, is renewed from time to time, so much money being paid upon each occasion for renewal. We have made constant representations to the Spanish government against this practice, and urged that the emancipados should all be set free. We have urged that, as the only method of securing their freedom, they should be sent to one of our West Indian Islands where slavery does not exist. The Spanish government has yielded in principle, but not much in practice. Every month the governor of Cuba sends to our consul-general a number of emancipados, varying from a dozen to 20, to whom he says liberty has been given, and who are to be conveyed to Jamaica, or any other of our islands. The number I forget exactly, but it is a few hundreds that have been so sent, and they constantly contend that these are the only emancipados who have acquired sufficient instruction, moral, religious, and mechanical, to fit them for being independent agents.

12. Do you remember the correspondence with the consul-general at the end of 1846, the result of which was, that the governor-general refused to correspond further in the matter?—We have not heard anything lately of the company to which the Queen Mother was supposed to belong; but I have represented more than once to the Spanish government, that we have been informed, that the wife of the governor-general was interested in the letting out of these emancipados, but the assertion was very indignantly denied by the Spanish minister here, and we have had no report through the Spanish government of the result of their inquiry in Cuba. O'Donnell is recalled, and another governor is going out, who is said to be a very honourable man, and likely to do his duty.

13. Do you believe the common story, that General O'Donnell is in the habit of receiving, as his own perquisite, five doubloons for each slave, and that so much was received for each emancipado let out?—I am in possession of no more detailed information on these matters than is contained in the papers that were laid before Parliament. I have no doubt that money was paid for the importation of new negroes, and I have no doubt that money was received for the hire of the emancipados; to whom the money went, or how it was applied, I can have no knowledge.

14. Mr. Wilson.] Did I understand your Lordship to say that government levied a duty upon the importing of slaves?—I call it a duty, because it was a fixed sum paid by the importer to government.

15. Notwithstanding it was illegal?—Notwithstanding it was illegal.

16. Sir E. Buxton.] It was a sort of bonus?—You may call it a bribe or a bonus, but it was a consideration for the government abstaining from preventing the importation.

17. Mr. Wilson.] It went to the revenue of the island?—Part would have gone to the revenue of the island and part to private individuals. I believe there was a fixed sum paid to government for each negro imported, and that besides that bribes were given to the whole of the officers of customs and police, in order to induce them to wink at what was doing. The illegality stands on more than one ground; there is a treaty, which binds the Spanish Crown to prevent the importation of negroes; and there is a law of Ferdinand the 7th, by which it is illegal to import slaves into any Spanish colony, and by which, moreover, any slave imported in violation of that law, is *ipso facto* entitled to his freedom; so that, in truth, if the thing was minutely investigated, I doubt whether one might not say that at least two-thirds of the negroes in Cuba are, by the Spanish law, freemen; it is only those who were born in the country who would ever be liable to servitude.

18. We have no means of knowing the proportion born to those who have been imported?—No.

19. Chairman.]

19. *Chairman.*] In 1823 Mr. Canning, upon the occasion of some just complaint of this country had against the slavers or pirates of Cuba, threatened to take possession of Cuba, did he not?—I am not aware; I have no knowledge one way or the other upon that.

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20. With respect to the destruction of barracoons on the coast of Africa, at a former period Captain Denman destroyed the barracoons; since that it has been decided to be illegal, has it not?—Captain Denman destroyed the barracoons under circumstances which led the Government, of which I was then a member, to approve entirely of what he had done; but those circumstances have led to legal proceedings; the trial is coming off on Monday, and I am to be a witness on that occasion. But part of the arrangements between the English and French Governments, with a view to the suppression of the slave trade, and part of the treaty is, that treaties should be made by the two powers with the chiefs on the African coast, binding those chiefs to prevent the slave trade from going on within their limits, and several treaties have been made in pursuance of that engagement. By those treaties the chiefs engage to expel any European who should be guilty of the slave trade; and if they are unable to do it, under certain circumstances the English and French forces will be allowed to land and do it for them. I think when we have made a chain of such treaties all along the slave-trading part of Africa, that will more than anything else tend to prevent the traffic.

21. To advert again to the matter of the emancipados, and to your observation, that if the truth could be got at, a very large proportion of the slaves of Cuba would be entitled to their freedom under the Spanish law made in pursuance of treaties. Under the law of nations should we not have a right to insist upon their fulfilment of the spirit of those treaties, by the complete enforcement of their law?—It might be a doubtful matter. I think it is a complicated case.

22. Has the Foreign Office turned its attention in any way to the possibility of obtaining by treaty free labourers from the Portuguese coast of Africa, which I believe extends 1,500 miles on the west coast and 1,000 on the east. Do you conceive that it would be possible, by entering into any treaty with Portugal, to come to an arrangement that there should be access on the part of the West Indian planters to the African shore, with a view to obtain *bonâ fide* free emigrants?—I should apprehend that there would be great danger of abuse from any attempt to obtain free labourers in a country where slavery exists; the chances would be, that such exportation of free labourers would very soon become nothing less than an exportation of slaves. With regard to both the Kroo and Fish nations, who are free, of course no such danger could exist; but I should fear that if the West Indian proprietor were to go to the Portuguese coast to get free labourers, he would in point of fact become a slave trader.

23. Might not that be provided for by Government regulations, and by the appointment of Government officers?—It would be very difficult.

24. *Mr. Wilson.*] Would the proprietor get them if he did not pay for them?—I doubt it.

25. *Chairman.*] To what extent are the people slaves on the Portuguese coast; there is no slave-dealing suffered there?—The Portuguese law allows the Portuguese to be owners of slaves on the African coast; I have lately proposed to all the governments who have establishments on the coast of Africa, to pass a law prohibiting for the future any of their subjects in Africa from purchasing or owning slaves, but I have not yet had an answer to that except from the French government.

26. *Sir E. Buxton.*] The export of sugar from Cuba has increased of late years?—It has; there were papers prepared for the motion of Mr. Hume, relating to the slave trade in Cuba and Brazil; they are ready to be laid before The House, and will be useful to the Committee. With regard to Cuba, they show what the increase of sugar has been. This is an extract from a despatch from the Commissioners of the Havanna, of 1st January 1847: they say, "In our former annual reports we have always submitted our views on the subject as connected with the productions of the island, showing how that in the years 1835, 1836, and 1837 the exports of sugar, though much higher than in former years, only averaged about 500,000 boxes or 100,000 tons per annum; they

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have since been constantly increasing, until in 1844 they reached the enormous amount of 847,000 boxes from this part and Matanzas, although the hurricane of 1844 affected the cane so much as to reduce the exports in the following year to less than 366,000 boxes." They attribute the increase of sugar very much to the transfer of labourers from coffee to sugar.

27. *Chairman.*] Which may also perhaps account for the slave trade not having increased?—Yes.

28. Has there not been some reason to suppose that those are not emancipados at all, but persons obnoxious to the government, who are sent away from the other country on that account?—No, I have no reason to suppose that; they are men, women, and children, and seem to be of a class of labourers who cannot excite any apprehension on the part of government.

29. Mr. Turnbull, in his evidence, stated something of that sort some years ago?—It is possible it may have been so in former times; but if I were to make a criticism upon the descriptions of persons sent, I should say that they are generally either persons past the power of useful work, or young children.

30. Sir *E. Buxton.*] Have you any account of the number of ships captured by the French squadron?—No; we have agreed upon an interchange of returns.

31. *Chairman.*] And you are not aware of the number captured by the Spanish or American squadron?—No.

32. But you believe them to be very few?—The Americans have captured very few, three or four only.

33. Mr. *Wilson.*] Have the Americans a squadron now upon the coast of Africa?—They have two vessels, a frigate and a smaller vessel; we have represented that to the American government, but they say it was an accidental circumstance, owing to some of the cruisers going home, and the reliefs not having arrived.

34. They are obliged, like us, to maintain 80 guns?—They cannot maintain less than 80 guns.

35. But that might be in one vessel?—Yes.

36. Sir *E. Buxton.*] The returns which you alluded to of the number of slaves in Cuba includes Porto Rico, does it not?—Yes; but we had never any reason to believe there was any material slave trade in Porto Rico.

37. *Chairman.*] Consul-general Crawford says in this letter, addressed to Lord Aberdeen on the 10th of June 1846, "The reselling of the emancipados, which has been going on for some time past under the direction and sanction of the captain-general, is the public topic of conversation here. The gas company has been provided by his Excellency with lamplighters to the number of 50 or more for five years, and the price is stated at five ounces for each. Her Majesty the Queen Mother is the principal shareholder of this company, represented here by Colonel Don Antonio Parejo, who is one of the directors. It is said that upwards of 5,000 of those unfortunate wretches have been resold at rates from five to nine ounces, by which upwards of 600,000 dollars has been made in the government-house, one-sixth of which was divided amongst the underlings, from the colonial secretary downwards; besides which, provision has been made for Mrs. O'Donnell (now Countess of Luceago), by transferring 400 emancipados to the Marquis de las Delicias, chief judge of the Mixed Court, and one of, if not, the greatest slaveholders in this island, for her account, so as that she may derive an income from their labour, under the marquis's management, of 4,000 dollars per month. I have not the smallest doubt as to the truth of the whole of these statements; the first, as to the lamplighters, I know to be true." This is signed by "Jos. T. Crawford, Consul-general in Cuba," and addressed to Lord Aberdeen. Is it your opinion that those abuses are now brought to an end?—I am afraid not. With regard to the emancipados still remaining in the country, with the exception of the few that from time to time are sent to the British consul-general for transmission to Jamaica, I should fear that they are still hired out for limited periods, and that when those limited periods are expired, they are hired out again on the payment of a sum of money.

38. Another letter, dated December the 2d, 1845, received in January, by Lord Aberdeen, from Consul-general Crawford, says, "I beg leave to lay before your Lordship copy of a correspondence which I have lately had with Captain-general.

general O'Donnell relative to two expeditions of negroes which were landed on this island. My letters were returned to me, and in the last note his Excellency informs me that all my communications having reference to such matters will be sent back under a simple cover. I have also the honour of enclosing herewith the copy of another letter which, immediately afterwards, I had occasion to address to the captain-general, but which he returned under a cover without any note whatever. Another expedition is said to be gone from this port to the coast. The trade seems to have taken a new impulse, and doubtless will be carried on vigorously, seeing that there is no difficulty in landing here if they escape capture on the African coast." Do you think that there is any reason to hope that this statement of Consul-general Crawford was not well founded, or that there has been any reform in the conduct of Captain-general O'Donnell since that time?—I think there must have been a change in General O'Donnell's conduct since that time if that is true, as we have reason to believe that very few slaves had been landed in the last two years, 1846 and 1847; that was in 1845.

39. I see that Consul Lindegren, in June 1846, speaking of certain slavers, says, "I am certain, from the information I obtained, that none of these slaves were landed on the island, but the whole of them were disposed of in the island of Cuba, and I ascertained the prices at which they had been sold." Can we safely trust to the reports made by the governor of Cuba, imbued with such a spirit as he appears to be, when he reports that the importation of slaves has been put an end to?—We can only go by information sent us from persons who alone are able to communicate anything to us; there is the consul-general on the one hand—

40. Is Consul-general Crawford there still?—Yes. And the Commissioners of the Mixed Court on the other; and they have means of getting information, and I should think they could not be very far from the truth.

41. Mr. *M. Gibson*.] What has been the result of the importation of free labourers into Cuba?—It does not appear to have been very successful. Here is a despatch from the Acting Commissioner of the Havana, dated 9th of October 1847; he says, "Respecting the Chinese labourers recently introduced from Amoy, under the contract which was made by this government and Mr. Zulueta of London, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that the conditions as to maintenance, clothing, &c. entered into with Mr. Tait, the Spanish consul at Amoy, have been faithfully performed. The coolies themselves, it appears, are a worthless set, with very few exceptions, lazy, and of bad habits and propensities; they have refused to work. Some instances of coercion (although prohibited) were had recourse to, and the result has been the murder of the overseers. In many instances the coolies have been returned to the Junta, and I can safely assure your Lordship that the importation of the 600 which have been brought from Amoy is a failure to all intents and purposes. The Junta de Fomento, nevertheless, has reported favourably of the measure in general, although this opinion is to be understood as applying to Asiatics of a better description. The Intendente has not encouraged the bringing of more labourers from Asia, whilst the Ayuntamiento of the city reports, that 10 Europeans, whether Germans, Biscarpros, or Scotch, are better to be imported as labourers than 100 Asiatics, and proposed to authorize a contract, at 125 dollars each, for European labourers to a Mr. Goicuria, with a grant of land whereon to try an experimental colony of white labourers only, and to permit him to bring in as many as 500 a year for 10 or 20 years, the whole to be under the inspection of the local government, and this it is understood will be carried into effect forthwith.

42. Mr. *Hope*.] On the east coast of Africa is there any portion of land in which the slave trade is not carried on, and from which free labourers might be expected?—Immediately north of our occupation, the Portuguese territory extends from, I think, Delagoa Bay up to where the territory of the Imaum of Muscat's comes in, and his territory goes up to Cape Delgado. Throughout the whole of the Portuguese territory the slave trade is actively carried on, and the Imaum of Muscat is a great slave trader, though we have been pressing him very hard of late, and have got a right of search and confiscation with regard to vessels having slaves in them. We have also obtained from the Portuguese a renewal of the permission which they had given, but which had been suspended, that our cruisers on the coast of Africa should be allowed to pursue

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and capture slavers within their territorial jurisdiction in any place where they have no fort or town of their own. That will enable us to pursue slavers into rivers, and creeks, and bays within the Portuguese territory, where otherwise, without specific permission, we should have no right to go. On the east coast of Africa the want of that permission had very much tended for the moment to increase and encourage the slave trade. The French have imported into Bourbon a good number of what are called free labourers, but we have reason to believe that they were bought.

43. *Chairman.*] Madagascar, I believe, is free; there is no slavery there?—It is difficult to say what the civil condition of the people of Madagascar is; it is an absolute tyranny; they do not, I believe, export their people, but the queen would have no hesitation in selling any number of her subjects.

Arthur Crooke, Esq., called in; and Examined.

*Arthur Crooke,
Esq.*

44. *Chairman.* YOU are a Merchant at Liverpool?—I am.

45. You have had transactions in most parts of the world?—My family have; my brothers have.

46. Since 1840 you have been personally engaged in sugar cultivation in the East Indies?—We have.

47. Can you give to this Committee a history of your transactions in sugar cultivation, and any details on the subject of sugar cultivation in the East Indies?—I think I can. I will take the sugar cultivation first. In the spring of 1840 our partner and brother in India, seeing that the cultivation in the West Indies was falling off, and having reason to suppose that the cultivation of sugar in Tirhoot could be successfully followed by Europeans, purchased a factory that had originally been an indigo factory; not in Tirhoot, but in Sarun, on the confines of Tirhoot.

48. Tirhoot is about 500 miles up the Ganges?—It is 330 miles in a straight line from Calcutta, but the road is very circuitous to it. By water navigation, owing to the tortuosity of the river, I should say a boat would have to go near 1,000 miles up to my factory.

49. Your produce has to be carried that distance by water?—It has. I have not got the statistics with me from the factory that I should like to have, and therefore all my evidence will be from memory. It is three years since I was on the factory. In the first year we cultivated 700 begahs of cane; a begah being nearly an acre. The cultivation was entirely a new one to Europeans, Tirhoot not having been a great sugar country, and we having everything to learn as to the cultivation and selection of soils and the proper time for planting; the manufacture was entirely new to the parties in the neighbourhood on any but the native principle, whilst we adopted the West Indian.

50. *Mr. Labouchere.*] Was it virgin soil that you broke up?—Not virgin soil.

51-2. What sort of cultivation had it been applied to before?—The general cultivation of the district; some of our land had been in indigo, but had been abandoned for many years as indigo land.

53. What was the quality of the soil?—Various qualities. The two descriptions of soil worthy of notice that we have there may be classed as boongah and phoolponky. The phoolponky soil exists on the banks of the Bogmutty River, two miles distant from the works. The boongah soil is situated directly round the works. A stream passes directly under the works, not navigable except during the rains. The Bogmutty, a very large river, is about two miles distant from the factory, and it, for 200 miles, as the river winds, but, perhaps, for 60 miles, straight, is also not navigable, except during the rains, save in flat-bottomed boats. The phoolponky soil is an alluvial soil, which has been thrown up by the Bogmutty River more recently than the formation of the boongah soil; indeed, I should say that the boongah soil was an original formation, whereas the other was merely the successive layers of the deposits of the Bogmutty River. The boongah soil is very difficult to work; a very dry soil; but having the reputation in the Benares district of being the best adapted to cane, we put the most of our cultivation in it, and avoided the other, which afterwards proved to be the best soil for cane.

54. *Mr.*

54. Mr. Wilson.] Had the cultivation of sugar previously to that period been carried on in the neighbourhood by the natives?—Not as an article of export for Calcutta, but for local consumption, principally to use with tobacco.

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55. When you commenced your cultivation, did you adopt the native cane, or did you import a new cane?—The first year we imported as much Otaheite cane from the Company's gardens as we could get; it was a favour to get any at all.

56. You know the company called the Tirhoot Company?—Perfectly.

57. Chairman.] Your cane fields are principally cultivated by cattle and the plough, and not so much by hand as in former times in the West Indies?—I cultivate almost entirely by the plough.

58. You have already stated that you introduced the Otaheite cane?—We planted a little Otaheite cane the first year that we established the cultivation.

59. You reckon that the produce of an acre of land is about six maunds of sugar?—I should say that six maunds of sugar is a full average per acre of native cane.

60. How much is a maund?—Eighty-two pounds. I may mention that when we first established this factory, we had great difficulty in getting the supply of such cane seed as we wanted; we had to send many miles for it, and owing to the want of a proper number of bullocks and other necessary arrangements in a factory newly established, we were rather late in getting our cane seed into the ground; consequently we had to take whatever cane we could get for seed in the neighbourhood. A great proportion of it was of very inferior quality, which we never cultivated afterwards; it is called the Negouree cane; it is not thicker than my little finger. There are three qualities of native cane in that district. There is the China, which is the best; and there is the Bogga cane, which is peculiar to the neighbourhood of Bogga, upon the Ghunduck, which is 46 miles from my factory. We found, upon experiment, that, of the native cane, the China was the best. It is a cane which was, no doubt, brought originally from China, whence its name, China. Besides, afterwards on introducing every variety of cane we could get from Calcutta, we found the China cane to be nearly like the China cane; the China cane was from the Company's gardens. The Otaheite cane did not succeed the first year.

61. That was in consequence of its not being planted at the right period?—I have little doubt that that was the reason. The next year we turned our attention more to the China cane than any other. The third year we attempted to grow as much Otaheite cane as we could. In the year 1844, for the manufacture of 1845, I had planted, as far as my recollection will carry me back, 120 acres of Otaheite cane; some of it succeeded, more especially that which was planted in the month of September 1844; some of it was so good that I sold it at from 300 to 350 rupees an acre, 30*l.* to 35*l.* an acre, for seed; but out of the 120 acres that I had, I should say that not above 60 were really good. Since that we have paid more attention than ever to the Otaheite cane. On the 12th of August last my manager, who had but just joined the factory, writes to me stating that he has been over the cultivation and measured it personally, and made it 230 acres or begahs of Otaheite cane; 44 acres of red cane, that is the red Bourbon cane; 233 acres of country cane, of what we call the first growth; and 116 acres of what we call koonties, the second year's growth.

62. For how many years do they bear ratooning?—We occasionally take the country cane for one year's ratooning; the Otaheite cane we have never found to succeed the second year in Tirhoot; the total cultivation this season was 623 acres; 230 Otaheite, 44 Red Bourbon, and 349 native; out of which, 22 acres of Otaheite cane are pronounced to have failed; five acres of the country cane had failed, and none of the koonties; leaving 597 acres for grinding, and for seed.

63. Tirhoot is ex-tropical?—It is.

64. And subject to great droughts?—Yes.

65. Much more so than the West Indies?—Much more.

66. And also to inundations?—Very subject to inundations.

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67. In the manufacture of sugar, did you first have recourse to cattle mills?
—We had.

68. Did you find that the cattle mills were not strong enough to grind the native cane?—We did.

69. The native cane is much harder than the Otabeite?—Very much harder.

70. Did you then send to England for the most improved steam machinery?
—We did.

71. Can you state what capital you laid out in machinery and in new buildings?—In April 1841 we sent out two sugar mills at the cost, in England, of 443 *l.* Besides that, we had made in Calcutta a set of sugar pans upon the West India principle.

72. Do you recollect the expense of those?—No, I cannot bear it in mind; but the cost of the machinery in Calcutta would be half more, perhaps double, than what we could get it for here in England. In June 1842 we sent out a set of sugar pans on the West India principle, invoiced at 630 *l.* In August we sent out a steam engine costing 1,350 *l.*, and also sundries appertaining to it, costing 93 *l.*: 2,716 *l.* has been the cost of the machinery sent out from England.

73. Is the cost of the transit from Calcutta to Tirhoot very large?—The cost of the transit from Calcutta to Tirhoot is very great, and the risk is enormous. We could not get this machinery insured. It occupied a vast number of native boats. The risk was considered so great at the insurance offices, that they would only insure it boat by boat; and if one boat had gone down, the whole cane crop of the year would have been useless, and we should only have recovered the value of the pieces lost, which we should have had to get renewed from England the next year. However, it all arrived safe, and was erected by an engineer who had been brought up at the foundry where the machinery was made.

74. Of course you had to construct buildings suitable to this machinery?—We had, buildings which had never been erected in the country before.

75. And a tall chimney?—One of my chimneys is 60 feet high; and few if any of the workmen had ever been so high in their lives before.

76. Mr. *Wilson.*] What was the chief cause of the risk in sending the machinery up the country?—The navigation is very dangerous indeed. The boats are built so very light. To show what risk there was: In getting out one heavy piece of machinery the mere pressure of one corner of it upon the bottom of the boat opened the whole bottom out; and if it had not been for our filling up the holes very quickly with mud, which was near at hand, the whole boat-load of machinery would have gone to the bottom.

77. *Chairman.*] How do the boats make their way against the stream?—They sail when they can; but at that season of the year they are mostly towed up by boatmen walking on the banks of the river.

78. The sugar which you manufactured was of a very fine-kind?—It is very good muscovado, on the spot; what we would call, as it was in the curing boxes, fine brown muscovado sugar.

79. With regard to the various expenses of the cultivation, upon what terms do you hold the land?—We rent it from the native zemindars; the leases of our factory comprise nine years; we rent it for nine years, paying an annual rent, instalments monthly.

80. What is the rent?—I have not got a statement of it with me.

81. Mr. *Goulburn.*] Is it so much an acre?—No; we pay so much a village.

82. Sir *E. Buxton.*] Can you at all state what the rent is?—I have not got a statement with me; I know what we credit ourselves for the land we cultivate.

83. What do you calculate the value of your sugar land at?—I should say that on our factory we put a rental on the land that we have in cultivation of 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 rupees an acre; we debit ourselves with the highest rent of any land in the villages in which we have cane. We have 597 acres in cultivation, according to the latest accounts; but the accounts of that factory are never sent home; they are always sent to Calcutta.

84. Mr. *Goulburn.*] Is the whole of the land which you estimate at 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 rupees an acre, cultivated in canes?—That is what we cultivate ourselves; the average rent of the villages would be nothing near that. We have some land that

that we cannot get eight annas, that is 1 s., an acre for; but in those villages we are debiting ourselves at 3 ½ rupees; at four rupees for the best land.

85. Sir T. Birch.] How many acres have you on the whole?—I dare say we have under our charge 5,000 or 6,000 acres of land.

86. Taken upon the terms you have mentioned?—Yes.

87. Chairman.] What is the rate of wages you pay?—We pay a labourer, a man that works with a hoe, an able-bodied labourer, 5 pice a day; 100 pice are a rupee; 20 men for 2 s.; about 1 ½ d. a day per man.

88. You are only obliged to employ the men at the periods when you require them, not the whole year through?—Not the whole year through.

89. Can you say what portion of the year it is that you employ them?—I could find employment for many more natives than I can command in my own villages, for every month but July, August, and part of September, when it is usually impossible to cultivate the land in consequence of the continued rains; I never found I could get too many men.

90. Are they coolies?—Yes.

91. How do you estimate the work that those coolies do, as compared with Africans?—I have never been in the West Indies, nor have I seen Africans working under a tropical sun; but West India planters, who have been in Tirhoot, engaged in the manufacture of sugar, have estimated the work of six coolies, as we have them in Tirhoot, as equal to one negro, at the present time, in the West Indies.

92. Equal to one free negro?—Yes.

93. Is it that they are ignorant, or that they are weak?—They are both weak, and working for small pay, they will do as little work as they possibly can. The only way that we have of checking their work is by having a great number of native servants to superintend them in the field, who every morning send lists of the number of people at work in certain spots where we are planting or weeding, or whatever we are doing; and in the evening they bring the measurement of the quantity of work they have done, whether it is weeding or hoeing, or whatever it may be; but for this we should get, indeed, small work from them.

94. Do you employ the men and pay the men by task-work at all?—I never did on my factory; it is done in some parts of Tirhoot, where labour is very abundant.

95. Is it successful there?—I believe they do consider it successful.

96. Mr. Goulburn.] What number of those superintendents do you employ over a certain number of the coolies?—If we can get what we call one mate to 20 men, we pay him extra price, and he does no work, but merely superintends them, and he again is superintended by a lollah, a factory servant.

97. Sir T. Birch.] How many coolies do you require for the cultivation of 600 acres?—I should mention that we do not cultivate all this land ourselves.

98. Mr. Hope.] When you engage with those workmen, do you contract with one of them for the services of the whole, or do you contract with each individual labourer?—Each individual labourer is paid by the lollah, the factory servant; we are very particular in seeing that they get their pice.

99. Chairman.] Are you subject to any land taxes?—The zemindar has the land subject to a tax.

100. That is paid out of the rent you pay to him?—The zemindar has to pay it out of the rent we pay him.

101. Do you know what the land tax is?—I can only call to mind one village that we have, where we pay to the zemindar 3,300 or 3,400 rupees a year; the land tax upon that, I have always heard, was 800 rupees; that is 800 rupees upon 3,400.

102. Mr. Wilson.] The zemindar pays 800 rupees, and you pay him 3,300 or 3,400?—Yes.

103. Sir T. Birch.] Your transaction is entirely with the zemindar?—Yes.

104. Chairman.] As regards the manufacture of rum are there any duties or restrictions of any kind?—There are a great many restrictions in India upon the manufacture of rum. In the first place, we are bound to build the rum factory under government regulations, walled in in a particular manner, with a house for the government excise officer to live in. We are also bound to put up stills capable of producing 300 gallons of proof spirit per diem. We are also obliged to deposit 500 l. of Company's paper in the hands of the

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government in Calcutta as a security for good behaviour. We are also bound to pay the government servant who superintends our works, and whose pay is usually as high or higher than the pay of our highest servants in the factory. We are also under very great restrictions with respect to passes.

105. By "passes" do you mean for the conveyance of the rum to Calcutta? —Yes: perhaps I can best explain this subject by reading a letter which I have from a person who had charge of a rum factory of ours in India. It says, "The regulations are that no distillery shall be erected to work on the European principle that is not capable of producing 300 gallons, spirits equal to London proof, per diem; but they do not compel you to make that quantity daily; you may make as much or as little as you please. At Rejouteah there were three stills, one 1,000 gallons, one 800, and one 500. When I was there the contents of the two former, which came out considerably under proof, were redistilled in the small one, which yielded spirit from 30 to about 45 or 47 over proof: the produce depended so much on the quality of the material, that it is quite impossible to say how much one maund of molasses would yield, but I think the cost of the rum when manufactured was not to come to more than three or four annas per gallon. The pay of the darogah" (that is the government servant) "was 15 rupees a month, one of them at least, for they were changed, and I am not sure the last gentleman whom you saw did not receive more; however, 15 rupees is within the mark. I do not consider the regulation regarding the quantity of spirits the distillery is obliged to be capable of manufacturing daily any objection to Europeans in India; it merely prevents the erection of a lot of little stills all over the country; even the niggers are not allowed to have their butties or stills nearer than five coss from each other. As to the darogah or excise officer, who is obliged to be maintained on the premises, I have heard many people grumbling at him; as they say, if government place him there as their servant, they ought to pay him; it is disgusting enough to see him there, without having to fork out, as you know." This gentleman, whom I recollect well, when I went up to this rum factory, was dressed in fine red and yellow clothes, kept his ponies, &c. at the factory, set all the servants at defiance, and gave an endless amount of trouble, at the same time being a perfect eyesore there. "The delay in procuring passes before you can make a chulan is awful, especially when the distillery is situated at a long distance from the station where the collector of the district resides, as was the case at Rejouteah. In the first place, when you have a quantity of rum ready to dispatch, say 6,000 gallons, you have to write to your agent in Calcutta to enter into a bond for that quantity to be dispatched to Calcutta within a certain time. On receiving intelligence that such bond has been entered into, you send an invoice of all the casks, numbers, marks, gauge, and strength over proof, to the collector of the district" (this man resided 80 miles off), "who returns a perwana to the darogah to allow such and such casks, containing so much rum, to be taken out of the godown, and shipped to Calcutta. This, altogether, consumes a great deal of time; say 10 or 12 days before you receive an answer from Calcutta, and 8 or 10 more for that from Chupra; your boats meanwhile lying idle at the ghaut; for owing to the difficulty and uncertainty of procuring these, you cannot apply for a bond to make a dispatch, before they are ready at the ghaut to receive it. The difficulty of securing casks, so as not to suffer loss by leakage, is very great, owing principally to climate, for should they be exposed to the heat of the sun it is impossible to prevent their warping, let them be ever so well filled and coopered; the heat also causes the rum to evaporate; the stronger the spirit the more evaporation takes place; and you cannot avoid some exposure in colouring, filling the casks, and shipping them; the common native boats in which the casks are sent down are barely capable of carrying them; they require the greatest care in loading, and can take very few in proportion to their tonnage."

106. The effect of those restrictions and other difficulties is, that rum is not a manufacture that can be carried on to any profit?—I think not; that is fully proved in India.

107. What do you reckon, one year with another, is the cost of making a hundredweight of sugar at Tirhoot?—My own calculation, not going upon making it hundredweight by hundredweight, but at what on an average, say of five years of such seasons as I have seen in Tirhoot, cultivating 700 acres of land,

land, paying your manager, your factory servants, your rent, your cattle expenses, keeping up your cattle, paying your manufacturing expenses, and boat hire and insurance to Calcutta, for 700 acres of land, would be certainly not less than 4*l.* 10*s.* to 5*l.* an acre. It would be about 30,000 rupees for 700 acres.

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108. We understood you to state that your produce is four hundredweight per acre; that is, six maunds?—I have not said that the produce of my factory is six maunds; I stated that, as my opinion of the general produce of the native sugar cane in India; that is sugar of a superior description.

109. What do you reckon the average produce of your cane fields, cultivated upon the West India practice, which you follow?—We make a different description of sugar from what the natives make; the natives in the valley of the Ganges make a sugar called Benares sugar; we make muscovado.

110. Sir *T. Birch.*] What quantity of sugar do you get by your outlay of 3,000*l.* upon 700 acres?—It depends upon the management and upon the seasons we have. We have been exceedingly unlucky in Tirhoot ever since Europeans invested any money there.

111. What has been your average produce?—I have made very little.

112. Notwithstanding this large outgoing, you have made very little sugar?—Very little.

113. How much?—On an average I have not made more than 2,200 maunds in a year. But the average cultivation has been 600 acres, not 700.

114. How many hundredweight?—It will be about 84 or 85 tons; as far as I can state from memory, I should say that as the average of what we have made since we first began to work; but our cultivation has varied very much; some years we have had 700 acres, and we have not had machinery to work it off; in other years we have had droughts and other disadvantages.

115. Mr. *Goulburn.*] Cannot you give an estimate of the average produce per acre according to your mode of cultivation?—I have no statement of the factory produce or the cost per acre, or the price per ton in England; those are all in Calcutta.

116. *Chairman.*] At what price have you sold your sugar upon the average at Calcutta?—We have no note of any that we have sold in Calcutta, but only in England. The highest price that I ever got for any sugar from that factory was in January 1847; that was 50*s.*, or 36*s.* in bond.

117. That is, including the duty?—Including the duty.

118. Sir *T. Birch.*] Where was that sold?—In Liverpool.

119. Including freight and charges?—Yes.

120. *Chairman.*] You have invested about 30,000*l.*, have you not, in the cultivation and manufacture of sugar in India?—We have lost 30,000*l.* by the sugar and rum manufacture and cultivation in India, since 1840.

121. In the first years you lost from not thoroughly understanding the seasons of the year; have you since lost money from successive droughts?—We have had three factories in India. We had one in the neighbourhood of Calcutta, about three miles from Calcutta, for the manufacture of sugar combined with rum, using the molasses for the manufacture of the rum; that we gave up in 1841. We had another on the same principle at Bogga, on the Ghunduck, for the manufacture of sugar and rum combined. That we gave up also in 1841. We had another on the banks of the Bogmutty, for the cultivation of sugar cane and the manufacture of sugar alone.

122. Sir *T. Birch.*] Is that the one of which you have been speaking?—Yes.

123. *Chairman.*] That is the one on which you produced about 84 tons of sugar per annum?—Yes.

124. Producing 84 tons per annum, do you lose money by it?—Yes.

125. Up to what period?—We have always lost money. Taking the expenses of the factory year by year, we have always lost money.

126. Then the truth is, that, even at the high price of sugar, it cannot be grown long, according to your principles of cultivation, in Tirhoot?—When I say that it has not paid us, I ought to state that we have every year since we established this factory been building and rebuilding, taking down one set of machinery and putting up another, so that the concern has not had fair play. It is only this last year that we have got everything straight, so that it can be seen whether the place can make sugar to pay or not.

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127. You commenced with cattle-mills; you pulled down the cattle-mills, and then set up steam-engines and open pans instead?—Yes.

128. What capital had you laid out up to the year 1846?—Up to the 30th of April 1846, the amount at the debit on the Jummoah factory, on the Bogmutty, was 13,480 *l.*; you may call it 14,000 *l.*

129. Did that include all your outlay for capital?—It included all our outlay up to that period.

130. What was the price of sugar in 1846?—The highest Gazette price of East India sugar was in May 1846, 37 *s.* 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.*

131. What was the amount of your crop in 1846?—That I cannot tell. I sold nearly 1,000 *l.* value of Otaheite cane for seed to my neighbours; and I think the factory, if I had not charged alterations in the buildings and matters of that kind, in the season ending 1844–45, would have paid its way; that is, if the factory had not had to bear the expenses of fresh outlay for works.

132. Mr. Hope.] With respect to this outlay for works, do you include that in the expenses of cultivation, which you have given at the rate of 5 *l.* an acre?—No, supposing that would have ceased, and that all would be perfect as far as the works go.

133. The 5 *l.* an acre being merely for the cultivation of the soil?—The cultivation of the soil and the losses on the villages, manufacture, and carriage to Calcutta.

134. But having nothing to do with the alteration of machinery?—Nothing to do with the alteration of machinery.

135. Chairman.] What price of sugar would your factory and your cane fields have paid you for all this outlay, one year with another?—If I could get on an average of years 10 rupees a maund for my best sugar, I should consider that it could be grown to advantage in Tirhoot.

136. How many shillings a hundredweight is that?—At 10 rupees a maund, with 5 *l.* freight and charges in Calcutta and in England, 51 *s.* 9 *d.* a hundredweight, and including commissions.

137. That is with the duty?—Yes.

138. What would it be without the duty?—Thirty-seven shillings and ninepence.

139. That sugar pays 14 *s.* duty?—Yes.

140. Do you mean to say that you cannot cultivate sugar under 27 *s.* 9 *d.*?—I do not think it can be done under that.

141. Not upon West India principles?—Not upon West Indian principles, unless the Otaheite cane succeeds.

142. At what price can you export it, one year with another, from Calcutta?—It entirely depends upon the crop and the seasons.

143. Taking 37 *s.* 9 *d.*, what do you allow for freight?—£. 5 for freight. I take the exchange at 2 *s.* I may mention, with respect to the experiments I made as to the yield of native cane, that from the finest acre of native cane that I ever saw in my life, and which could not be finer, I got 15 maunds, that is little more than half a ton; but that was after boiling the molasses twice, consequently a proportion of it was very inferior sugar.

144. What did you ever get from the Otaheite cane?—I never measured an acre of Otaheite cane, but I have seen an acre of Otaheite cane measured, and I have seen it crushed and manufactured, and as far as my recollection goes the produce was 60 maunds, that is two tons; that was the finest acre of Otaheite cane I ever saw in India.

145. Mr. Wilson.] Was that twice boiled, or only once?—Only once boiled. I think that was four years ago.

146. Chairman.] Do you conceive that a great deal is to be done by irrigation and manuring?—No doubt; we always irrigate when we can; but unless our land is on the banks of a river or near to a large tank or piece of water, we have not means of irrigation; we never neglect irrigation if we can effect it.

147. Are there not great facilities for irrigation on the large rivers?—On most factories there are, not on mine.

148. You have stated that 37 *s.* 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* is the lowest price at which you can afford to export sugar; at what price do the natives sell their sugar?—The natives sell a different quality of sugar. With the exception of an inferior quality called khaur, the bulk of the export from Calcutta to this country is the white sugar, the Benares sugar.

149. Do

149. Do the natives cultivate small patches of sugar cane and produce it themselves, or how is the cultivation of sugar by the natives carried on?—They cultivate in small patches; I should say that a native cultivator of five acres was a large proprietor.

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150. How do they cultivate it; have they cattle ploughs?—They have their own native ploughs, which are very inferior to what we use.

151. In point of fact, whether the cultivation is small or great, the native cultivator ploughs his land?—He does; he also occasionally, if it is necessary, hoes it; it depends upon what he is breaking it up for, what kind of crop it has had in it before; but the native sugar-cane land is usually prepared with the plough.

152. Do the natives combine to plough each other's land, or are those small cultivators, holding but five acres of land, able to keep bullocks and ploughs for the purpose?—They do combine in the general way; I should say almost invariably they combine to plough one another's land.

153. Mr. Hope.] How do the natives manufacture their sugar; do they combine for that purpose?—They do.

154. Are they separate trades, that of the manufacturer and of the grower?—Yes, they are quite separate trades. The grower boils his juice in a very rude manner into articles that we call rob, or shukhah, which is an improved quality of rob, and he again sells it to a man who boils it and makes sugar fit for exportation.

155-6. Sir T. Birch.] Is it done by Englishmen?—Not by Englishmen; we had an establishment for the reboiling of this rob, but it did not succeed.

157. Chairman.] To what sort of extent do those boilers of sugar carry it on?—To a large extent; I should think some of them would reboil as much as 400 or 500 maunds in a season.

158. Then if the price of sugar is very low, it is sold for consumption amongst the natives?—If the price of sugar falls to eight or nine rupees for good fine Bengal, or even ten rupees, the natives come in as purchasers to a much larger extent, for local consumption, than they do when it is higher. If they grow a large quantity of sugar in the native districts, more than is required for the native wants, they are forced to take a low price, and then the native speculator sends it to Calcutta.

159. What is the cost of sending it to Calcutta?—We have a large agency at Azimghur for the purchase of native sugar. The native establishment, when idle there, costs 20 l. a month, and when busy 40 l. a month. We have two Europeans upon the spot. According to the calculation I have here, 100 maunds of sugar purchased in the native districts, is as nearly as possible 73 $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. The freight by the native boats used to be from 28 to 30 rupees, but owing to the immense number of boats that have been destroyed upon the Ganges of late years, by gales of wind and other causes, that we cannot state, 35 and 36 rupees, or even 40 and 42 rupees per 100 maunds, is not an unusual price of freight to Calcutta. Taking the average of 36 rupees per 100 maunds, the freight to Calcutta per ton would be 19 s. 7 d., with two and a half, and last season even four per cent. insurance. We have also to pay the churrundar; he is the servant of the insurance office. We pay his wages on the way down; that is 12 annas a ton. The damage is very great in those native boats on the way to Calcutta. There is also considerable robbery goes on, which we cannot check. Those boats are sometimes two months or three months on their way down from the sugar districts to Calcutta. When the rivers are low, it takes them two and a half months to come down, and during all that time the cargo is at the mercy of pilferage and of any gale of wind that may spring up. The boats are loaded to near the water's edge. A considerable portion of the sugar is always deteriorated in quality, and between that and robbery we consider ourselves within the mark when we say that we lose five per cent. (by robbery and deterioration) in bringing it down from the sugar district; that with insurance would be 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Taking the sugar at 10 rupees per maund, it would cost 270 rupees on the spot. Then 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. for insurance, deterioration in quality and robbery, would be 20 rupees 8 annas per ton. Then the churrundar's wages, proportion per ton, is 12 annas, that is 1 s. 6 d.; that makes for the freight, insurance, and allowance for damage and robbery, 3 l. 2 s. 1 d. before it reaches Calcutta; 2 l. 2 s. 6 d. is the insurance, damage, and robbery and churrundar's wages, and then there

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is the freight itself, 19 s. 7 d., making 3 l. 2 s. 1 d. for freight and expenses, and loss on the way down. By steamer, the freight is one rupee a bag, or about eight annas a maund, or as nearly as possible 1 l. 7 s. 4 d. a ton. We take advantage of all the steam freight that we can, because we do not insure by the steam-boat. By the steam-boat we have no risk of robbery or damage; the sugar is landed in the same state by steam as we shipped it in. The advantage of the steamer is apparently 1 l. 14 s. 9 d. a ton. Then we run the risk of loss, which, however, has never occurred yet to us.

160. What do you estimate the reduction in the export of sugar by the natives would be, if the price of sugar at Calcutta fell below nine rupees a maund, taking the average of East India sugar?—Nine rupees would be a very high average for East India sugar, including khaur and low qualities.

161. At what price, in your opinion, would there be a great reduction in the export of sugar from Bengal, and what would be the amount of the reduction?—It has long been my opinion, after considerable experience and all the attention I could give to the subject, that the natives of India cannot afford to send sugar in quantity to this country year by year, unless they get from 10 to 11 rupees a maund in Calcutta for the finest. When I say the finest, I do not say the very highest, but for what we call good, fine sugars. The account that I had from my agent by the last mail, dated the 15th of December, states that he was unable, in consequence of the bad state of the sugar market, to go on purchasing. The price of fine sugar in Calcutta was at that time nine rupees per maund.

162. What is the proportion of fine and other sugar that is exported?—I should say that from India fully two-thirds of the sugar exported is fine sugar. Alluding to fine sugar, my agent writes, "Many zemindars are talking of giving up growing sugar-cane, as they say it does not pay at these low prices."

163. What prices are those?—Nine rupees in Calcutta, the highest price.

164. What is that in sterling money?—Nine rupees at 2 s. will give the native in Calcutta 24 s. 5 ½ d. a hundredweight. The native opinion in the growing districts is this: "They say it does not pay at these low prices, no doubt, but that, owing to high prices which have been ruling for the last ten years, much inferior land has been put into sugar cultivation which will now have to be thrown up, but it remains to be seen whether it will be sufficient to affect exports. I could say a good deal to you about this, and, I think, could prove to you that sugar at 30 to 32 will not pay the zemindars."

165. Where is that price of 32?—This is the way in which we buy it up the country, per bullock load, which it would take a great deal of time to explain. He goes on to say, "However, it is of no use bothering you now, so I will not say any more at present, except that if low prices still continue, and the exports to the west still continue to increase as they have done this year, you may be sure that exports from Calcutta will fall off." He is one of the greatest European buyers of sugar in India. He has been established since 1839. It is my opinion that if the price of Bengal sugar is to remain as low as it is now, Bengal, which has sent 60,000 tons of sugar to this country this year, will, in the course of another 18 months, not send 20,000. The difficulties which have happened to European refiners in Calcutta will very materially affect the export of sugar from Bengal. I find that in one month, from the 4th of August to the 8th of September 1846, according to a statement that I received from Calcutta, there were 24,660 bags of brown and of vacuum-pan sugar shipped, and 25,000 of Benares, that is, native white sugar, to London. The vacuum-pan and brown sugar, which is in small proportion to the white, was as 24,000 to 25,000.

166. Sir T. Birch.] Have any of the enterprises carried on by Englishmen answered in growing sugar in India?—They have not uniformly answered; but it is understood that one concern got on prosperously till last year, that is Haworth, Hardman & Company, of Calcutta.

167. How came they to prosper when others were unfortunate?—Mr. Haworth is a gentleman skilled in engineering, and one of the most enterprising men that I ever met with; he is a man who lives upon his works, and works like a slave. It all depends upon the price at which they can buy the raw material from the natives; they do not grow their cane.

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168. *Chairman.*] Have you made an estimate of the number of acres of land that would be thrown out of cultivation by a reduction in the export of sugar from Bengal to the amount of 40,000 tons a year?—It is a difficult matter to state it. I calculate that the 60,000 tons of sugar exported from Bengal to Great Britain will fall off to 20,000 tons if the duty is equalized, and if the West Indies and the Mauritius do not give it up. If the West Indies and the Mauritius should give up the cultivation of sugar, this market would have to be supplied from Cuba and Brazil, and from China, Manilla, and Java. Bengal will then send as much as ever she did. If the prices rise to their old mark, Bengal will again increase the cultivation.

169. By natives or by Europeans?—Europeans will, I think, go into the cultivation again in India.

170. Were Europeans increasing or stopping their cultivation when prices fell in 1846?—They were increasing very much in 1846; indeed I doubt whether in Tirhoot some concerns have ever worked at all yet; certainly not more than one year.

171. Supposing the production of 40,000 tons to be given up in India, what number of people do you estimate, according to your knowledge of the number of people employed in the cultivation of each acre of land, would be thereby thrown out of employment?—I calculate that on the average an acre of land in India gives 4 cwt. per acre. An acre of land in the West Indies will give 20 cwt. per acre; that is, 40,000 acres in the West Indies would give 40,000 tons; but it would take 200,000 acres in India to give 40,000 tons. Mr. Adams, a West India planter, who has been years in Tirhoot, and who is said to have been one of the most skilful sugar planters in Jamaica, has lately returned; and in conversation with him, he told me that he thought that six coolies at work in Tirhoot would not do more than the work of one negro, since the emancipation, in Jamaica, at the rate of one man per acre, constantly employed the whole year; that would be 200,000; at the rate of two men it would be 400,000; and at the rate of three men it would be 600,000 people employed. I take the workmen in India at half what Mr. Adam says, because, in the West Indies, the use of the plough is not general, whereas in India it is. I should say that from 400,000 to 600,000 natives would be constantly employed in the production of 40,000 tons of sugar.

172. Heads of families?—No; individuals.

173. Does that include women and children?—They would have to go in their proportion.

174. What is the proportion that the women and children would bear, compared to the men?—The children go into the field when they are very young; I speak of full-grown men; I should say that if you suppose the labour of two and a half in each family, it would be about the mark.

175. You state that the labour of from 400,000 to 600,000 full grown coolies would be required for the production of 40,000 tons of sugar. Then how many do you reckon to a family. In order to ascertain how many persons rely for their subsistence upon that cultivation, would you multiply that number by two and a half?—If you want to get at the families of, say, 400,000, there would probably be two and a half in each family, who would constitute a portion of the 400,000 people who work. There would be a less number of families than individuals.

176. *Mr. Matheson.*] Do the females work upon the sugar plantation?—They work occasionally, in very poor families especially. But in the case of a man cultivating, say five to ten acres of land, the females of that family do not work. It is only in the very poorest class where they are obliged to go out to earn their bare subsistence by work. Women do not work, for instance, in the manufacture of sugar.

177. *Chairman.*] There is no cane-hole digging in India?—I never saw the natives digging cane-holes.

178. You do everything by the plough?—Occasionally we trench 30 or 40 or 50 acres.

179. But generally speaking, the whole of your cultivation is carried on by the plough?—It is.

180. Speaking of rum, you were understood to say that the export of rum from the East Indies cannot be carried on to advantage in consequence of the excise regulations and the great loss in shipping rum on so long a voyage?—

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The incidental expenses are so great, and the risk of leakage and the breakage of casks.

181. Will you explain to the Committee what the expenses and risks, and different drawbacks are, which prevent the exportation of rum from the East Indies to Europe being an advantageous trade even at good prices?—The first disadvantage in the production of rum in India is, that you are obliged to erect buildings according to a certain fashion to suit the excise regulations. You have to erect a bigger set of stills than you would wish to do. Upon an estate combining the cultivation of sugar with the manufacture of rum, you would not want stills that would make 300 gallons a day. In the next place you have to deposit 500 *l.*, which would be much better employed in your trade than in lying in the Company's hands at four or five per cent. In the next place you have to pay the government excise officer, and in the next you have a great loss of time and annoyance in writing to Calcutta; you are sometimes 10 or 12 days before you can get an order to ship your rum, and when you have got the order you have to send to the collector, perhaps living 80 miles off, and he gives the excise officer liberty to ship such a quantity of rum. Then there is great expense for freight, and difficulty in getting boats to carry your casks of rum down at all. Then the knocking the casks about in a climate like India, as they do there, generally occasions their requiring re-coopering; sometimes two cooperings after their arrival in Calcutta, one when they are landed, and another when they are shipped again. There is a case which occurred to me in the spring of 1842. I personally superintended the shipment of a large quantity of rum from one of our factories in the interior. I had heard so much of the bad coopering on the factories that after the natives had coopered the casks as well as they could, my agent and myself set to work and re-coopered every cask ourselves after the natives had done their best. Those casks were shipped with the greatest care, but still they leaked; one cargo of them was twice wrecked on the way; we lost but one cask, which, being wrecked at night, some natives stole; they picked the bung out and stole all the rum during the darkness of the night in a storm; they are as bad as wreckers. When this cargo arrived in Calcutta, being shipped as such and such a number of casks, such and such a mark, so many gallons in each cask, one of the casks of 96 gallons being empty, the customs made us pay eight annas, that is 1 *s.* a gallon, on what we had lost by robbery during the storm, and though we petitioned and re-petitioned, we could not get any allowance.

182. Those restrictions are analogous to the restrictions of the excise in this country?—They are precisely similar, as I understand.

183. The restrictions of the excise with respect to the manufacture of rum in India are virtually the same as the restrictions upon the manufacture of spirits in England?—They are very much the same; I am not acquainted with the excise regulations here.

184. Mr. *Wilson.*] What is the amount of the excise duty upon rum per gallon?—Eight annas; 1 *s.* a gallon.

185. All these precautions are taken for the purpose of collecting 1 *s.* a gallon upon the rum?—Yes.

186. *Chairman.*] What should you say is the cost of those restrictions; what would you pay to be quit of the inconvenience of the restrictions?—The restrictions are so great, that I would not, under any circumstances, manufacture rum in India. I arrived in India in 1841, we had these large distilleries at work, and what with the annoyances of the casks, the difficulties in management under the excise regulations, the difficulty of getting freight home to England, and the loss by leakage upon the voyage, it would be unprofitable. The restrictions alone are tantamount to prohibiting the manufacture in the interior.

187. Supposing there were no excise restrictions, still you are understood to say that you would not attempt to manufacture and sell rum, on account of the expenses of the cooperage of casks (which must be sent out from England), and the difficulties of transport in India, and afterwards the risk and expense of transport from Calcutta to England?—If I were allowed to erect a still of any size that I pleased on our sugar factory in Tirhoot, rather than let our molasses flow, as they often do, into the river by hundreds and hundreds of maunds,

maunds, I would make rum of those molasses; I would make such rum as would compete with the West India rum at home here.

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188. On account of the excise restrictions existing upon the making of rum, do you now allow hundreds and thousands of gallons of molasses to flow into the river?—I have done so. I have seen a stream of molasses flowing into the river a foot wide, and never thought anything of it. The jackals have bored their way into the molasses vat, and in the morning I have seen the molasses running out, and have not cared anything about it; they are very fond of sugar. It is very difficult to make a place that will hold molasses. The only way that I found effectual was to build on a very firm foundation a mixture of the strongest potter's clay and chopped straw; to dig a space about the diameter of this room round, and make a very firm foundation by hammering this mass of clay and straw, and building walls very thick of the same material, putting a roof over it, and whenever the reservoir from the cooling boxes was filled, carrying it 12 or 14 yards to the molasses-house.

189. Supposing there were no excise restrictions upon rum, and you had got your rum at Calcutta, are the Committee to understand that you could export rum from Calcutta to Great Britain to advantage or not?—I would rather make rum, and take the chance of its being profitable, than I would let my molasses run to waste, if excise did not exist.

190. Are not the losses and the charges upon the export of rum from Calcutta so great, as compared with the charges upon the export of rum from the West Indies or from Brazil, that you could not send East Indian rum?—We should not be able to send it to the same advantage as from the West Indies, for many reasons. The first is, that in the West Indies, where vessels are expected to take sugar and molasses only, they have no general cargo, and they can stow the rum properly, where the casks will not get damaged on the way home. In the next place, the freight on rum from the West Indies is much less than from the East, and the insurance is lower. East India shipowners have a great objection to taking rum at all. In the case of some vessels that I lately chartered, two out of four stipulated in the charter-party that the vessels were to carry no rum.

191. What is the reason why shipowners so much object to carrying rum?—A vessel arriving in Calcutta for a general cargo has to take it as she can get it, and unless she can get the rum in on a certain day, so as to stow it in a particular part of the ship, it is very apt to leak, and damage the rest of the cargo. In the next place, unless the bill of lading be filled up, freight payable "casks full or empty," the shipowners run great risk, and require a high rate of freight. We have imported rum from Bengal that has lost on the way 44 per cent. in quantity, on which no freight was payable.

192. How came the rum to waste to that great extent?—I was not in England when it arrived here, but I believe it was in consequence of other cargo being stowed upon the casks; bad stowage, in fact.

193. Mr. Wilson.] What is the drawback upon rum on shipment from Calcutta?—They do not charge us the excise duty when we ship it; we ship it under bond; it is in the hands of the excise until the time that it is shipped.

194. Have you not a very good market for rum from India in the Australian colonies?—There used to be a large trade to the Australian colonies, but latterly it has fallen off.

195. What is the cause of its having fallen off?—That I cannot explain; they must get it from the Mauritius, and the West Indies supply rum largely to the Australian colonies.

196. The Australian colonies being only one-third of the distance from India, would it not be far preferable, instead of sending the East India rum here to compete with the West Indian rum in this market, to send it direct to the Australian colonies to compete with the West Indian rum there?—The best proof that it is not profitable is that the shipments have fallen off. In 1840-41 Calcutta exported to New Holland 46,405 gallons, the next year 7,036 gallons, the next year 3,877 gallons, the next year 2,510 gallons, the next year 3,173 gallons, then 9,794 gallons; in 1846-47, 40,672 gallons, being nearly as much as in 1841. There is also some exported to Pegu and to France. In 1845-46, 5,000 gallons went; in 1846-47, 7,000 gallons went.

197. It appears that the export to Australia last year has risen again?—It has.

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has. The greatest export of rum to this country was in 1840-41; prices were very high here.

198. Has there not been a considerable increase in the communication between India and the Australian colonies?—I should not think more vessels have come from Australia the last two or three years than used to do. There is a great trade in horses carried on now by the East India Company, for the mounting of their troops; that has sprung up in the last three years.

199. Mr. Goulburn.] Do not the vessels that carry copper ore from the Australian colonies come for part of their cargo to India?—No, I never heard that they did.

200. Mr. Wilson.] What proportion do the molasses bear to the sugar?—In India we get much more molasses than they do in the West Indies. I have not the means of stating the exact proportion.

201. When you do not make the molasses into rum, do you make them into sugar?—Yes, we reboil them. Our sugar, when it is in the curing-boxes in India, is at least 5s. a cwt. better in quality than when it lands in England. It is a great disadvantage that we labour under in consequence of the great distance that the sugar has to come, and the extreme heat of the holds of the vessels in which it comes; it causes the grain to deteriorate very much; what was fine crisp sugar, lands here quite soft.

202. Chairman.] Did you find that the Otaheite cane was injured by the white ant?—Very much at first. That is one of the great difficulties we labour under in Tirhoot. If I had known that I should have to give evidence upon this subject, I should have written out earlier for particulars.

203. But you were there three years yourself?—Yes.

204. What is the result of your own observation?—The white ant abounds in certain lands. If you have to select 600 or 700 acres of land, you must avoid land where the white ants abound. We also found that the method of cultivation of the soil pursued by the natives did not disturb those insects; that the more we cultivated the soil, the quicker the white ants vanished; and also, that near large plantations of trees the white ants abound. You must avoid their neighbourhood in planting canes.

205. Did you succeed in overcoming the white ant at last?—Only partially; we had to plant a great deal closer than we otherwise should, in order to guard against the ravages of the white ant.

206. Did you sufficiently succeed in destroying the white ant to make the cultivation of the Otaheite cane more advantageous than that of the native cane?—Not on the average.

207. So that at last you came to the conclusion that the native cane is the best for India?—The native cane is decidedly the only one upon which we can rely in Tirhoot.

208. Is that because the rind of the native cane is so hard that the ant cannot get into it, whilst the rind of the Otaheite cane is soft, and the ant can enter into it?—The white ant can get into anything if he wishes, but he likes the Otaheite cane better than he does the native. The native cane is planted much closer than the Otaheite cane; the natives plant their canes touching; a furrow of cane on the native principle is one complete line of cane cut into pieces about a foot long.

209. Mr. Goulburn.] Laid longitudinally in the furrows?—Yes.

210. Chairman.] What is the size of the native cane, as compared with the Otaheite cane?—A very fine China cane might be an inch in diameter. I should call a fine Otaheite cane as thick as my wrist.

211. You said that you have seen as much as two tons an acre of Otaheite cane grown. But taking the average of Otaheite cane that you have seen grown, what should you say was the average growth of Otaheite cane under European management?—Under European management, I should say that even with a good season, with irrigation and manuring, if the planter were to get from 12 to 15 maunds of sugar per acre, he would consider himself signally successful; 15 maunds is a little more than half a ton. I do not think that any European who has cultivated Otaheite cane generally in Tirhoot, has got 10 maunds an acre.

212. The instance which you mention of two tons an acre is quite an exception?—Quite so.

213. Will you describe the circumstances of that case?—It was an experiment made by the Tirhoot Association, at a factory called Bungong. They had

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had there a patch of 30 acres of Otaheite cane close to the factory, land which had been for a number of years past a pet indigo spot, a spot where indigo never failed, where year by year they had carted an enormous quantity of indigo stalks and burnt them, till the ground was manured as highly as ground could be. It was also situated where it could be irrigated, and was irrigated several times. This acre of cane was in a corner, and the best acre in the field.

214. Is Tirhoot in the Benares district?—No, it is in the district of Bahar. We are 172 miles straight from Benares.

215. The Committee may conclude that the Tirhoot district is not so congenial to the growth of sugar as to be able at all to compete with tropical climates?—Most certainly. If we were left with only the Mauritius, the West Indies, and ourselves, to supply sugar in this country, we could compete, but it would only be at a price.

216. If you were sure of a high price you could grow it, but you cannot grow sugar in this district to compete on even terms with the sugar of tropical districts; your produce is too small per acre?—Our produce is so small per acre, that it is only through the cheapness of our labour, and the cheapness of our land, that we are able to compete at all.

217. You told the Committee that you hired labour at the rate of five farthings a day per head, but that it required six of those labourers to compete with one free labourer in the West Indies?—That is the opinion of a planter from the West Indies; I have never seen the free labourers in the West Indies.

218. That is equivalent to about 7 ½ d. for a day's labour?—Yes.

219. Sir E. Buxton.] And then another man is required to keep those six men in order?—Yes, and a great many native servants also.

220. Chairman.] Can you give the Committee a statement of the progress of the exports of sugar from the East Indies to Great Britain, and of the amount of manufactures sent from this country to Bengal?—There is a statement of the exports of sugar, from the year before the duty on Bengal sugar was equalized with the Mauritius and West India sugar.

221. It was equalized in the year 1836?—Yes. The prices in 1840 gave a great stimulus to the cultivation by the natives.

222. Will you have the goodness to read that statement?—

[The Witness read the same, as follows:]

STATEMENT of the Quantity of SUGAR exported from Calcutta to Great Britain, &c., commencing 1835-36, ending 1846-47. Years calculated 1st May to 30th April.

YEARS.	To Great Britain.	To Great Britain and elsewhere.	To Great Britain.	REMARKS.
	<i>Bazaar Mds.</i>	<i>Bazaar Mds.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	
1835-36	195,587	868,760	7,184	In 1836 the duty on East and West India sugar was equalized.
1836-37	364,864	621,112	18,408	
1837-38	595,851	814,765	21,888	
1838-39	731,836	869,100	26,883	
1839-40	732,648	843,883	20,913	In 1839-40 it was ascertained that a partial failure of the West India crop was certain to result; the high prices of sugar in Great Britain in 1840 caused great extra cultivation in India, which has in a great measure accounted for the large export from Calcutta since.
1840-41	1,717,287	1,784,783	63,084	
1841-42	1,452,502	1,522,092	53,357	
1842-43	1,573,145	1,605,530	57,789	
1843-44	1,536,476	1,542,581	56,441	
1844-45	1,518,009	1,589,117	55,763	
1845-46	1,831,263	1,839,374	67,270	
1846-47	1,685,336	1,715,217	61,910	
Twelve years	-	-	<i>Tons</i> 511,885	The large quantity sent forward in 1845-46, and the known great yield of the crop of 1846-47, tends to prove that had the duties remained unaltered, it was probable that 100,000 tons might have been shipped to Great Britain in 1846-47.
Average of 12 years	-	-	" 42,657	
Average, first five years	-	-	" 19,254	
Average, last seven years	-	-	" 59,373	

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223. Is there any export of sugar from Bengal to the Continent of Europe ?
—Very little.

224. Mr. Goulburn.] It appears from that paper that the quantity of sugar exported from India depends upon the price that can be obtained in Great Britain?—Exactly so; the export of sugar from India depends a good deal upon whether British goods are forced upon the Calcutta market in a greater proportion than they can make returns to save from loss; if we send more goods from this country than India can take off with comfort to herself, she gets a higher price for her sugar, and sends more sugar forward than the trade will warrant at the price

225. Chairman.] Are you in a condition to state what the export of British produce and manufactures to the East Indies has been, so as to show whether they have or have not kept pace exactly with the increased export of sugar from Bengal?—I have got a statement of the merchandise. Taking it generally, from 1834-35, the year before the duties on all British plantations were equalized, Calcutta exported to Great Britain sugar to the amount of 15,796,315 rupees. It increased the first year of the equal duty from 15,000,000 to 20,000,000; 1836-37, 2,83,79,966 rupees; in 1837-38, 2,71,92,222 rupees; for 1838-39, I have no return. Then it goes up in 1839-40 to 4,09,66,062 rupees; 5,07,52,435 rupees in 1840-41, when sugar was not so high here, and our exports reached higher than they had ever before; they fell off in 1841-42 to 4,74,69,337 rupees; again in 1842-43 to 4,04,64,074 rupees. There was 1,000,000 less of imports into Calcutta than had been in the great sugar year; but in 1843-44, the exports to Great Britain reached five millions and a half, 5,59,68,281 rupees; in 1844-45, 5,37,09,295 rupees; in 1845-46, fell to 5,16,35,636 rupees; and in 1846-47, 4,45,94,950 rupees, showing, in my opinion, that at present, even taking as much sugar as we do now, and paying a good price for it, about four millions and a half, is as much as India can take off with comfort to herself and with profit to the merchant.

226. Will you hand in that paper?—

[The same was delivered in, and is as follows :]

TRADE BETWEEN CALCUTTA AND GREAT BRITAIN.

IMPORTS to Calcutta from Great Britain.

YEARS.	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Total.	Total.	Grand Total from all Parts.
	<i>Sa. Rs.</i>	<i>Sa. Rs.</i>	<i>Sa. Rs.</i>	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>
1834-35	1,47,57,967	77,000	1,48,34,967	1,68,23,954	2,98,49,559
1835-36	1,71,22,776	4,500	1,71,27,276	1,82,69,094	3,37,07,876
	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>			
1836-37	2,22,04,707	-	-	2,22,04,707	3,12,65,601
1837-38	2,05,28,327	66,500	-	2,05,94,827	4,06,99,504
1838-39	-	-	-	-	-
1839-40	2,59,62,488	33,11,253	-	2,92,73,741	5,06,59,181
1840-41	3,77,57,049	8,15,866	-	3,85,72,915	5,86,77,671
1841-42	3,30,69,120	-	-	3,30,69,120	5,42,96,722
1842-43	3,08,09,451	33,78,881	-	3,41,88,332	5,71,45,279
1843-44	3,49,50,727	9,55,985	-	3,59,06,712	6,47,66,562
1844-45	4,86,25,098	95,900	-	4,87,20,998	7,69,26,298
1845-46	4,15,42,296	86,454	-	4,16,78,750	6,29,11,297
1846-47	4,24,10,729	5,50,911	-	4,29,61,640	6,47,33,826

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YEARS.	Merchandise.	Treasure.	Total.	Total.	Grand Total to all Parts.
	Sa. Rs.	Sa. Rs.	Sa. Rs.	Co's. Rs.	Co's. Rs.
1834-35	1,47,56,784	52,262	1,48,09,046	1,57,96,315	4,51,30,524
1835-36	1,90,74,653	18,655	1,90,88,308	2,08,64,636	6,22,72,462
	Co's. Rs.	Co's. Rs.			
1836-37	2,83,76,366	3,600	- - -	2,82,79,966	6,76,77,409
1837-38	2,70,13,579	1,78,643	- - -	2,71,92,222	6,50,45,959
1838-39	-	-	-	-	-
1839-40	4,09,65,982	80	- - -	4,09,66,062	7,04,06,119
1840-41	5,07,52,434	- - -	- - -	5,07,52,434	8,36,93,298
1841-42	4,74,69,337	- - -	- - -	4,74,69,337	8,39,40,592
1842-43	4,04,88,074	26,000	- - -	4,04,64,074	7,65,21,165
1843-44	5,59,60,681	7,600	- - -	5,59,68,281	10,11,71,270
1844-45	5,36,86,791	22,504	- - -	5,37,09,295	10,33,17,912
1845-46	5,16,13,536	22,100	- - -	5,16,35,636	10,44,87,438
1846-47	4,45,94,950	- - -	- - -	4,45,94,950	9,78,85,142

227. Is the result of that statement that the importations of sugar from British India are paid for in British manufactures?—They are more than paid for.

228. And the exports of British manufactures to India are dependent upon the importations from India?—No doubt of it.

229. Mr. Wilson.] Not of sugar exclusively?—Not of sugar exclusively, but the sugar trade is becoming more important to India every day.

230. Chairman.] Will you state what portion of the importation from Bengal consists of sugar; is not the value of the sugar exported from India one-third of the whole exportations?—In 1846-47 Calcutta exported to Great Britain 4,459,422*l.* value of produce; there was no treasure shipped that year; in 1846-47 the value of sugar sent from Calcutta was 1,650,119*l.* out of 4,459,422*l.* Indigo ranked next, 1,176,168*l.*, silk 546,193*l.*, silk piece-goods 315,414*l.*, rice 175,751*l.*, saltpetre 164,982*l.*, hides and skins 134,737*l.*, rum 24,927*l.*, hemp jute 27,425*l.*, molasses 14,984*l.*, other articles 229,716*l.*

231. Mr. Wilson.] Is this the declared value?—The declared value in Calcutta; the real value at the time. They are not over-valued, because some of the articles pay duty.

232. So that sugar stood highest?—Yes, much the highest. I will hand in a statement of the imports into Calcutta in the years 1834-35 and 1846-47, and of the exports from Calcutta to Great Britain for the same years.

[The same was delivered in, and is as follows:]

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IMPORTS into Calcutta from Great Britain, 1834-35, and 1846-47.

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Description.	1834-1835.		1846-1847.		Increase.	Decrease.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		
		<i>Co's. Rs.</i>		<i>Co's. Rs.</i>	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>
Cotton piece goods <i>ps.</i>	12,31,649	44,64,794	62,38,662	2,01,72,704	1,57,07,010	—
Ditto - <i>doz.</i>	88,025					
Cotton yarn - <i>lbs.</i>	32,02,667	28,29,085	1,75,22,262	1,06,98,646	78,06,561	—
Woollens - - -	- - -	17,97,519	- - -	4,04,118	- - -	13,03,401
Silk and mixed goods -	- - -	1,84,848	- - -	4,49,574	2,64,731	—
Haberdashery and millinery - - -	- - -	2,33,860	- - -	9,15,183	6,81,323	—
Coals - - <i>mds.</i>	96,580	26,580	- - -	4,18,159	3,91,579	—
Salt - - -	- - -	- - -	3,52,835	3,52,835	3,52,835	—
Metals and metal manufactures - - -	- - -	29,71,754	- - -	42,44,260	12,72,506	—
Other articles - - -	- - -	31,70,385	- - -	36,65,250	14,94,865	—
	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>	1,57,41,820	- - -	4,24,10,729	2,79,72,310	13,03,401

Increase 1846-47, *Co's. Rs.* 2,66,66,909 or 169 %.

EXPORTS from Calcutta to Great Britain, 1834-35, and 1846-47.

Description.	1834-1835.		1846-1847.		Increase.	Decrease.
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.		
		<i>Co's. Rs.</i>		<i>Co's. Rs.</i>	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>	
Sugar - - <i>mds.</i>	1,54,590	13,19,952	16,85,336	1,65,01,198	1,51,81,246	—
Indigo - - "	52,763	56,28,107	73,747	1,17,61,688	61,33,581	—
Silk - - - "	5,345	10,19,971	13,664	54,61,932	44,41,961	—
Silk piece goods <i>ps.</i>	3,57,034	23,85,375	5,16,330	31,44,147	7,58,772	—
Rice - - - <i>mds.</i>	3,09,618	7,27,514	10,79,825	17,57,516	10,30,002	—
Saltpetre - - "	2,32,722	12,71,025	2,87,062	16,49,821	3,78,796	—
Hides and skins <i>No.</i>	6,86,258	5,75,304	13,18,576	13,47,376	7,72,072	—
Rum - - - <i>gals.</i>	20,397	21,757	6,64,152	2,49,276	2,27,519	—
Hemp, jute - <i>mds.</i>	45,254	1,08,772	2,41,418	2,74,257	1,65,485	—
Molasses - - "	306	554	1,21,231	1,40,846	1,49,292	—
Other articles - - -	- - -	22,06,427	- - -	22,97,164	90,737	—
	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>	1,52,64,758	- - -	4,45,94,221	2,93,29,463	—

Increase 1846-47, *Co's. Rs.*, 2,93,29,463, or 181 %.

233. Are not the revenues in India in part raised from import duties upon manufactures imported into that country?—In part, but a very small proportion. The duty on twist is 3½ per cent.; on manufactured goods, 5 per cent.; on metals, 5 per cent.; upon all foreign goods, double the duty on British; so that we are going to have Brazil sugar to compete with ours at the same duty, while British goods are now protected against foreign goods in India cent. per cent. We take your twist at 3½ per cent., and you charge us 14s. a cwt. upon an article of the value of 20s.

234. Mr. Matheson.] By "British goods" you mean goods in British bottoms?—Goods in British bottoms.

235. Mr. Wilson.] Must the goods be of British origin also?—I believe the goods must be of British origin also.

236. For example, German linens shipped out of bond in an English ship, what duty would they pay?—I cannot speak confidently as to that, but I never heard that they did not pay foreign duty. I can easily find that out.

237. Chairman.]

237. *Chairman.*] Would not the indirect effect of reducing the importation of British manufactures into India be to very much diminish the revenue of India?—The customs duties are a very small amount of the revenue of India.

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238. Would it not be about 5 per cent. upon a million and a half?—Twist being so large an article of import, and liable to a duty of only 3½ per cent., the loss in duty on one million and a half would not be 5 per cent.

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239. Of which a million and a half has been created by the export of sugar?—Yes.

240. Are you well informed upon the subject of freights from India?—Yes, I understand them pretty well.

241. What is the average freight for sugar from Calcutta to Great Britain?—I take it at 5 l.; I believe that is a freight at which a first-class British vessel can pay a profit to the owner.

242. This year freights have been as much as 10 l.?—Yes; the freights were at one time as low as 3 l. 5 s. to 3 l. 15 s., which must have been a very losing affair, for the port charges alone in Calcutta amount to 18 s. a ton.

243. Do you know what the freights from the West Indies, Cuba, and Brazil were, at the same time?—I have not any statement of that.

244. You do not know what the freights have been this year?—I have not any statement of them. I know that charters in the spring of 1847 were with difficulty made for Cuba at 4 l. to 4 l. 4 s. and five per cent. primage.

245. English vessels?—Yes.

246. You mean to say that you had a difficulty in getting 4 l. 4 s for freight to Cuba?—When the chartered vessels that I allude to arrived at Cuba, they could not get any freight at all.

247. Were they your own?—I had some interest in them.

248. At the same period 6 l. was offered for freights to St. Thomas's?—Six pounds, I believe, was the freight at St. Thomas's at the time that freights at the Havannah were 3 l. 10 s.; so many chartered ships had been sent to Cuba. In London alone, one house chartered from 80 to 90 vessels in the fall of 1846, and the spring of 1847.

249. There were more ships than there was sugar to bring?—There were more ships than sugar orders out.

250. *Mr. Wilson.*] That was caused by the speculation, in consequence of the change in the duty?—It was in consequence of the high price ruling here in December 1846, and January 1847, and in anticipation a great deal of the effect of the admission of sugar to breweries and distilleries.

251. *Chairman.*] If the Navigation Laws were to be abolished, the effect of which should be to reduce freights to the West Indies, would it have a similar effect upon Cuba and Brazil freights?—No doubt, unless the British gave up building more vessels.

252. *Mr. Wilson.*] Supposing the Navigation Laws were altered, and you had thereby a reduction in the freights to the British islands, why should that cause a reduction in the present rate of freight to Cuba?—

253. *Chairman.*] The question is this: whether, if there were to be a repeal of the Navigation Laws, and the effect of the repeal of the Navigation Laws were to reduce the price of freights from the British West Indies, that would not equally have the effect of reducing the price of freight from Cuba and the Brazils?—I should say that it would have the effect of equalizing freights from all parts.

254. *Sir E. Buxton.*] If the freights from Jamaica are thereby reduced 2 s. a hundredweight, do you suppose that the freights from Cuba would also be reduced 2 s. a hundredweight?—No.

255. Why not?—Because the foreign owners would have a right to send their ships where they pleased. They might go and bring freight from Cuba or from Jamaica, whichever suited them best. If a shipowner heard that there was a bad crop in Jamaica, and a great number of vessels had gone there, and that there was a good crop in Cuba, he would send his vessels to Cuba.

256. *Mr. Goulburn.*] You were understood to say that there were a great many British ships at Cuba which could not get freight there, except at a very low rate, while freight was ruling high at Jamaica. Why did not those vessels go to Jamaica?—Those vessels were chartered for an express voyage, and were obliged to go to the Havannah and Matanzas, and to return; after a certain

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number of lay-days had expired, they must either pay demurrage or return, full or empty.

257. *Chairman.*] Generally speaking, ships are chartered for a particular commerce?—They are chartered both ways. If a merchant has an idea that freights are to be very scarce, and he wants to get produce home from any port, and he thinks he can improve his speculation by chartering vessels, he charters.

258. *Mr. Goulburn.*] Does not he generally take the precaution of chartering in a case so uncertain as the sugar crop, so that if there is no freight in one spot he may obtain it in another?—When ships are very abundant and willing to charter, you may make those stipulations with the shipowner, but where merchants are wishing to charter and shipowners are not over anxious to charter, you must make the best bargain you can.

259. Was not your bargain to Cuba evidently a very bad bargain for the shipowner?—It made no difference to the shipowner; he was to receive four guineas.

260. But at the same time a much higher price would have been received by him if he had proceeded to Jamaica?—He would not have had the benefit; he would have received according to the charterparty.

261. *Mr. Wilson.*] At all events, the British shipowner in going to Cuba has to compete with the Spanish shipowner, and in going to St. Croix, with the Danish shipowner, because the national flags are entitled to bring their sugars to this country upon the same terms as British vessels?—Yes.

262. *Chairman.*] Is there not an extra duty charged upon all goods exported from Cuba in a foreign ship, as compared with a Spanish ship?—I should think there is.

263. *Mr. Wilson.*] Is it not the fact, that an English ship bringing a cargo of sugar from Cuba to this country, has no advantage over a Spanish ship bringing it from a Spanish colony, nor over a Danish ship bringing it from a Danish colony?—None whatever.

264. Therefore, in the event of a repeal of the Navigation Laws, if the freights were reduced from an English colony, it could have no effect upon the freights in Spanish ships from Spanish colonies at present, nor in Danish ships from Danish colonies at present?—None.

265. *Chairman.*] At present, under the Navigation Laws, no ship can bring sugar from Cuba to Great Britain, except Spanish ships and British ships?—No.

266. Are not two-thirds of the entire trade of Cuba carried on in foreign ships; and if the Navigation Laws were repealed, might not United States ships, Danish ships, Spanish ships, Prussian ships, ships of any country in the world, compete in bringing home sugar from Cuba?—Yes, they might, if the Navigation Laws were altered.

267. *Mr. Hope.*] Do not a very large quantity of Hamburgh ships come to Cowes, and wait for orders, whose cargoes would in that case be landed in England, and brought into the market here instead of being carried elsewhere?—Hamburgh vessels, under an alteration of the Navigation Laws, could do that which they cannot do now.

268. *Chairman.*] Is it not the fact that there is scarcely any sugar carried at all in Spanish ships?—They are not employed to any great extent.

269. Virtually it is not worth consideration?—Not the competition from Spanish vessels; the ships of the United States would be the great carriers; the Hamburgh and Bremen ships would be great carriers, and the Swedes would be great carriers.

270. There is no sugar at all scarcely carried in Brazilian ships?—Very little; their vessels are almost entirely engaged in the coasting trade and the slave trade.

271. Is not the result this, that a repeal of the Navigation Laws would affect the price of freights just as much in Cuba and Brazil as in Jamaica?—Freights would be equalized.

272. You mean that they would be equalized as between Jamaica and Cuba, and as between Jamaica and Brazil?—Freights might be high in Brazil and low in Cuba.

273. Under

273. Under any circumstances?—Under any circumstances. It is the supply of the shipping at the port, and the quantity of the produce which they have to ship, which causes the difference. If there is more sugar on hand in Cuba, and fewer vessels to bring it, freights will rise; if there is little produce on hand in Brazil, and many vessels, then freights fall.

274. Mr. Wilson.] Practically, at the present moment is the sugar of Cuba sent to Europe cheaper than the sugar of the British West Indies, seeing that it is resorted to by all the continental ships?—I should say that it was, but I cannot speak practically upon the subject.

275. As the present law contemplates a perfect equalization ultimately of the duty on British and foreign sugars, the price of British West India sugar and the price of Brazilian sugar will be the same in this country as on the continent of Europe?—I should say so, decidedly.

276. Without any differential duty, the price will be equalized?—Yes.

277. Under those circumstances, supposing the Navigation Laws to remain as they now are, the foreign West Indies having the opportunity of sending their sugar home to Europe to a common market by any ships they pleased, would be able to command freights at a lower rate than the British colonies, being confined to British vessels?—It is my opinion that the freight in British vessels would decline to a level with the foreigners, even without the alteration of the Navigation Laws.

278. Chairman.] Is it not a fact now that Great Britain has practically the monopoly of the carrying of the British sugar trade with Brazil and with Cuba?—She has a great proportion of it; I cannot say how much; she has at present the monopoly of the carrying trade of Brazilian and Cuba sugars to England, except such portion as may be brought in Spanish and Brazilian bottoms.

279. Which is next to none?—Comparatively none.

John Bagshaw, Esq., a Member of The House; Examined.

280. Chairman.] YOU have heard the evidence which has been given by Mr. Crooke?—I have heard with very great attention the evidence that has been given by Mr. Crooke, and I agree with a great deal of it. There are some little differences in facts, which I will take the liberty perhaps of correcting, as my information may be better than his, or possibly his may be better than mine, but I will give my own version of the thing. I should mention that up to the time of the passing of the Act of 1836, by which the duties on East and West India sugar were equalized, there was comparatively no sugar shipped to this country from India, except when a very fine season occurred in Calcutta, and the supply was beyond the demand and prices got down very low indeed; then it was, and then only, that shippers of sugars could with any advantage to themselves send them to this country, and pay the extra duty of 8s. per cwt. A statement, which I have in my hand, of the shipments of sugar from 1833 to the present period, will show this exactly. I may just mention that, unfortunately for this country, in all our calculations there is always a kind of break; for our year begins on the 1st of May, and ends on the 30th of April; therefore it is that you always find the years put in this way: 1833-34, and 1834-35, and 1835-36. The first item of export to England that I have is in 1833-34 which was only 1,554 tons, while the export to other parts of the world was no less than 7,220 tons; it then went on, and in proportion as an increase of sugar to this country took place, so you have a decrease to other parts of the world. These figures are taken not from any books here, but from the Calcutta Custom-house entries. The exports to other parts of the world had fallen off in 12 years from 7,220 tons to 252 tons. Up to that period Calcutta looked for its export of sugars to other countries rather than to this. With the permission of the Committee, I will put in this paper.

*John Bagshaw,
Esq. M. P.*

[The same was delivered in, and is as follows:]

John Bagshaw,
Esq. M.P.

EXPORTS of SUGAR from Calcutta.

12 February 1848.

	To England.	To France.	To America.	To China.	To Other Parts.
1st May to 30th April :	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
1833 to 1834 - - - -	1,554	140	16	- -	7,220
1834 to 1835 - - - -	2,435	76	2	- -	5,128
1835 to 1836 - - - -	7,523	129	256	3	6,096
1836 to 1837 - - - -	14,033	176	110	5	8,541
1837 to 1838 - - - -	22,956	38	2	- -	6,782
1838 to 1839 - - - -	27,403	- -	34	2	4,261
1839 to 1840 - - - -	28,401	- -	8	2	4,228
1840 to 1841 - - - -	66,030	- -	3	- -	2,666
1841 to 1842 - - - -	55,823	- -	- -	- -	2,075
1842 to 1843 - - - -	60,505	- -	- -	- -	1,206
1843 to 1844 - - - -	59,095	- -	- -	- -	231
1844 to 1845 - - - -	58,385	- -	- -	- -	812
1845 to 1846 - - - -	67,000	- -	- -	- -	252
1846 to 1847 - - - -	82,021	- -	- -	- -	1,145
1st May to 31st October 1847 -	35,601	- -	- -	- -	793

281. Mr. *Wilson.*] How do you account for so large an increase in the export to this country, and at the same time so great a diminution in the export to other parts?—It is easily to be accounted for. Prices were high in this country, which induced a large export from Calcutta, and lessened the export to other parts of the world. Of course everybody will look to the result of their shipments. The Committee will allow me to speak of Tirhoot, in North Behar, of which I had some acquaintance in the course of my business experience as a merchant resident in Calcutta. I may premise that I have very little interest in that country at this moment; I believe that a couple of thousand pounds in the Dacca Sugar Company is the only interest that I have, and therefore it is not of that consequence that it should bias me in my opinions, or in my facts, in any way whatever. At that time my late firm was agent to a very large indigo planter, the late Mr. A. Nowell. A few years ago it was considered expedient, taking it in an agricultural point of view, to have a rotation of crops, and sugar was thought of. It was proposed to cultivate it for a few years, and then to bring the land into indigo again; and I am sorry to say that my departed friend and his executors have suffered very greatly indeed by the experiment. I find, from some accounts that I have, that 25,000 *l.* was expended in machinery to go out to that country, and in buildings, which were just being prepared when this unfortunate extra quantity came in from Cuba and various parts of the world. The effect has been so serious that the whole of that 25,000 *l.* has been nearly lost. The cultivation will, I am afraid, be entirely given up in consequence. I believe I can appeal also to another very extensive work in that part of the country, namely that of the Tirhoot Company. I believe they have determined to give up the cultivation of sugar also. The unfortunate Dobah Company have also determined upon giving up their works. I understand from one of the managers that last year they went into it rather deeper than they should have done, and that upon 7,000 tons of sugar and 350,000 gallons of rum manufactured, their losses were above 50,000 *l.* The company have expressed their determination to abandon their works for the future; and, from the information which I have had from India, it appears certain that the great majority of manufactories by Europeans in India will cease working, in consequence of the reduced prices prevailing in this country. With reference to the zemindary that Mr. Crooke described as paying so large a sum in the shape of rent, I will just explain to the Committee that the heavy land tax which is paid by the natives of India to Government, out

of

of a revenue of 20 millions, exceeds 13 millions; and the natives of India, or the zemindars rather, would not be able to pay that most extravagant impost, amounting, as is believed, upon common land to nine-tenths of the rental, but from the fact that the zemindars are enabled by the letting of lands to indigo planters, and sugar planters, and growers of opium to obtain a much greater rent, and thus are enabled to make up for the deficiency that otherwise would accrue in the rentals to ryots of land of inferior descriptions. It follows, therefore, as a matter of course, that the zemindars would be greatly injured if the cultivation of sugar, that has been progressing so well since the year 1835, should now be lessened. A question was asked Mr. Crooke, as to the nature of the trade in rum between Calcutta and Australia. I may mention, from my own knowledge, that when rum is cheap, from an over-supply in this country, the export takes place from here; on the contrary, when it is high here and low in Bengal, it generally goes from the place of its manufacture; but at the same time the European inhabitants of Australia give a most decided preference to West India rum, and will pay double for what they will pay for East India.

282. *Mr. Wilson.*] East India rum is of inferior quality?—Yes, it is of inferior quality, but of greater strength. The next thing I should wish, with the permission of the Committee, is to put in some extracts from a letter, written by the East India and China Association, and addressed to Lord John Russell. In order to make it as short as possible, I have extracted portions, and I will not give the whole.

283. *Chairman.*] Will you read the extracts?—“When, in 1826, the Legislature conceded to British India an equalization of the duties on sugar with those of the British plantations, it was considered that a boon was thereby conferred upon India, as some compensation for the supercession of the native manufacturers, by an unequal system of taxation in favour of British goods; the boon then given was an equal participation in the protecting duties enjoyed by the West India colonies, say between 24 s. and 63 s., difference 39 s. per cwt., and upon the faith of its continuance a great extent of capital has been embarked in the manufacture of sugar; new processes and improvements adopted, and expensive machinery erected, but the law is changed before that capital is repaid or remunerative. In 1841, when the Government proposed a differential duty of 12 s. per cwt. between colonial and foreign sugars, Parliament refused to accede to the proposal, and the above stated prohibitory duty (63 s.) was continued. In 1844 the Legislature determined to abolish prohibitory duties, and to place the sugar duties on a different footing, but in so doing, still gave the colonist and Indian planter reason to believe that the principle of differential duty would be preserved, especially against slave-grown sugar. But in 1846, totally changing the system so vehemently insisted upon in 1845, the difference was still further reduced to a protection of 7 s. only, which altogether expires in 1851, when all foreign sugars, including slave-grown, are to be admitted on equal terms with colonial and India sugars. It is known that the sugar producers of British India cannot join in the very urgent demands of the West Indian and Mauritius planters for an increased supply of labour, that being in British India abundant; but British India is subject to peculiar disadvantages which require to be redressed before its produce ought to be placed in competition with that of other countries; amongst these we may briefly advert to the following—first, three millions sterling and upwards annually taken from the revenue of India, towards the payment of the home charges of the East India Company, without any return whatever; second, fortunes accumulated in India by the civil and military services, seldom, if ever, remaining in that country, annually increase the capital of Great Britain, from the resources of India; third, the well-known fact, that of the revenue raised in British India, the largest portion of it is from the land, by which its produce is necessarily burdened, this amounts to nearly thirteen and a half millions sterling; fourth, the difficulties which importers are subject to from the way in which the duties are levied at the custom-houses of Great Britain, no importer being certain as to what rate of duty his sugars will be charged with, though he has purchased them in the full expectation that 14 s. per cwt. would be taken.” These are some extracts which I beg to put in, as embodying the views of the East India body, which have been carefully considered, and which I think are very just.

John Bagshaw,
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12 February 1848.

284. You can speak to the truth of them as an East India merchant?— I can. The next document which I shall venture to put in is a very clever work; it is the annual circular of Messrs. Laing and Bruxner, colonial brokers; I have read it with the greatest possible care. It states the prices per cwt. of West India and East India and Mauritius sugar during the last year, and it goes on to give the price of sugar as contradistinguished from malt for distillation; it then goes on to state what the prices for East and West India and Mauritius sugar had been at various times of the year, with the deductions for duty, and the deductions for charges, leaving the net amount to the importer or owner of it. It then gives a few admirable remarks; and I am quite convinced, from having read it with the greatest possible care and attention, that it will be found to elucidate the subject of East India, West India, and Mauritius sugar, to the satisfaction of the Committee, and everybody who reads it.

[The Witness delivered in the same, which is as follows:]

SUGAR.

THIS article, forming as it does, at even the late depressed prices, one-sixth of the total imports of the United Kingdom, must at all times demand the serious attention of all engaged in the foreign commerce of the country. Its connexion during the past year with the causes which have produced the downfall of so many mercantile firms of the first standing and European reputation, renders the condition of the trade not merely one of intense interest, but of vital importance. There are appearances in the political horizon which can hardly be mistaken. Reiterated asseverations in all the organs of a powerful party, that the successive admission of foreign sugar, the produce of free labour, and then of slave labour, at moderate distinctive duties, had been one of the most prominent causes of the severe commercial crisis from which the country is now just emerging, would lead to the inference that upon this question the battle of party will be fought, or attempted to be fought, during the ensuing sitting of Parliament.

The following table is computed from business actually done in the first week of each month. A careful examination of it will show discrepancies which appear almost paradoxical. These discrepancies are, however, simple historical truths, and rightly considered, will not only lead to a correct judgment of the past, but serve as a guide and beacon for the future. We have intercalculated the date, 22 January, because on that day sugar reached its highest point. The Gazette averages are the prices in bond.

	WEST INDIA.			MAURITIUS.			EAST INDIA.			
	Bro.	Good.	Gazette.	Bro.	Fl. Gr.	Gazette.	Bro.	Wh.	Kh.	Gazette.
January -	45	53	34 2 ½	40	48	35 4	37	56	39	32 9 ½
22 January -	48	55	—	44	54	—	40	58	40	—
February -	47	54	37 -	44	52	37 6 ½	40	57	39	37 6 ½
March -	47	53	35 2 ½	42	50	34 6 ½	40	55	38	37 11 ½
April -	44	51	33 1 ½	42	49	32 7	39	54	38	35 4 ½
May -	42	50	30 4	38	47	26 8	38	52	36	31 6 ½
June -	39	46	28 9 ½	38	46	28 6 ½	38	52	35	29 3 ½
July -	37	45	25 2 ½	37	45	29 8	35	52	34	33 7 ½
August -	36	45	27 - ½	37	45	21 8	35	52	34	20 -
September -	36	45	26 10	34	45	24 8 ½	34	52	33	24 7
October -	35	44	24 7 ½	33	43	23 1 ½	34	52	31	29 11 ½
November -	34	42	22 9 ½	30	40	21 3 ½	31	49	30	23 6
December -	33	42	22 8 ½	29	40	22 2 ½	31	49	29	25 10 ½

The lowest kinds of sugar are purposely excluded from the above table, the importations of them having been in such quantities and under such circumstances as to lead to the inference that they were operations altogether beyond a regular course of business.

On the opening of the markets on the 5th January, a rapid rise in the price of corn, the transmission of orders to the United States, and to the north of Europe, for the purchase of cereal productions of every description, the avowed expectation in authoritative quarters that wheat would rise to a famine price; and the necessary results, the exportation of large

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SUGAR AND COFFEE PLANTING.

large quantities of bullion, and scarcity at home, did not prevent a most vigorous demand for sugar of every description; and the consequence was, that prices rose from day to day, until on the 22d of the same month prices saw their maximum. From that day until a month ago prices receded, and now remain steady at the extreme depression, with little prospect of either any sudden or extensive rise or fall.

*John Bagshaw,
Esq. M. P.*

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In examining the table, it will not fail to be observed, that strong brown sugars maintained in the early part of the year a disproportionally high price. This was no doubt owing to an expectation prevailing in many quarters that sugar would be allowed to be used in the manufacture of spirits and fermented liquors, and that the permission would be largely acted upon.

Upon these expectations, many speculative purchases of sugar were made, which had the double effect of seriously injuring not only the immediate speculators, but also, by unnaturally raising the prices of low strong sugar, of encouraging the importations of descriptions totally unfit for this market, to the ruin of many of the shippers and their connexions.

How far such speculations were justified, may be judged of by the following calculations, which were accessible to all who chose to look for the necessary information. One quarter malt will produce 18 gallons spirits; one quarter barley will produce 24 gallons spirits; one quarter oats will produce 18 gallons spirits. (In manufacturing spirits it is usual with distillers to use the three materials in the proportion of 18 quarters oats, 1 quarter malt, and 1 quarter barley.) One cwt. of brown West India sugar will produce 41 gallons of spirits. Taking the first column of the preceding table as a guide, we quote the following:

COST Price of SPIRITS distilled from SUGAR.

DATE.	Price of Sugar D. P.	Price in Bond.	Cost of Spirits.	DATE.	Price of Sugar D. P.	Price in Bond.	Cost of Spirits.
January - - -	45	31	2 10	July - - -	37	23	2 1
February - - -	47	33	3 -	August - - -	36	22	2 -
March - - -	47	33	3 -	September - - -	36	22	2 -
April - - -	44	30	2 9	October - - -	35	21	1 11
May - - -	42	28	2 6	November - - -	34	20	1 9
June - - -	39	25	2 3	December - - -	33	19	1 8

COST Price of SPIRITS distilled from Oats (18), Malt (1), and Barley (1).

DATE.	Price of Oats.	Price of Malt.	Price of Barley.	Spirits per Gallon.	DATE.	Price of Oats.	Price of Malt.	Price of Barley.	Spirits per Gallon.
January - - -	34	77	51	2 - $\frac{1}{2}$	July - - -	28	69	46	1 8 $\frac{1}{2}$
February - - -	40	74	51	2 4	August - - -	27	66	40	1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$
March - - -	37	73	50	2 2	September - - -	25	57	30	1 6
April - - -	35	69	49	2 - $\frac{3}{4}$	October - - -	26	57	28	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$
May - - -	36	73	50	2 - $\frac{1}{2}$	November - - -	29	51	27	1 7 $\frac{3}{4}$
June - - -	34	75	50	2 - $\frac{1}{2}$	December - - -	28	49	27	1 7

The results of the Two Calculations are as follows:

	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.
Sugar -	2 10	3 -	3 -	2 9	2 6	2 3	2 1	2 -	2 -	1 11	1 9	1 8
Grain -	2 - $\frac{1}{2}$	2 4	2 2	2 - $\frac{3}{4}$	2 - $\frac{1}{2}$	2 - $\frac{1}{2}$	1 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 6	1 6 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 7 $\frac{3}{4}$	1 7
	- 9 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 8	- 10	- 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 6	- 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 1 $\frac{1}{2}$	- 1

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Thus showing in every month of the year a balance in favour of distillation from grain. It must however be observed, that when a plant is purposely erected for the distillation of sugar, the expenses of working are much less than in the case of grain. The important bearing of the above tables on the sugar trade we shall allude to by and by. It is sufficient to observe at present, that at no time during the year was there a just ground for expecting any material consumption of sugar in the distillation of ardent spirits, putting aside the well-grounded objection on the part of rectifiers that an alteration in the flavour of the spirit might injure the consumption.

As regards the consumption of sugar as a substitute for malt, there is a still stronger objection on the last-named ground of alteration in flavour. The economical condition of the question rests upon equally determinate bases as spirits, 180 lbs. of brown West India sugar, clean and sound, being equal to one quarter of malt, used in the manufacture of porter.

DATE.	Sugar, per Cwt.	Cost of 180 lbs.	Cost of 1 qr. Malt.	DATE.	Sugar per Cwt.	Cost of 180 lbs.	Cost of 1 qr. Malt.
January - - -	45	72 9	77*	July - - -	37	59 8	60*
February - - -	47	75 6	74	August - - -	36	57 10	60*
March - - -	47	75 6	73	September - - -	36	57 10	57
April - - -	45	71 2	69	October - - -	35	56 8	57
May - - -	42	67 6	73*	November - - -	34	54 8	51
June - - -	39	62 8	75*	December - - -	38	60 8	49
						764 2	790
				Average - - -		63 8	63 10 68 8
				Average difference in favour of Sugar - - -			2 2

In examining this table we perceive that the use of sugar as a substitute for malt was only advantageous in an economical point of view during the non-malting season, the asterisks exactly marking the time, while the advantage itself was so trifling, that no inducement was held out to brewers, and in fact very little sugar was used in brewing except by way of experiment, and then only as a partial substitute for malt.

Thus we see that the expectation of an increased consumption of sugar by its use in distilleries and breweries was formed without sufficient data, and that mischief resulted in excessive importations of low sugar, fostered by an unnaturally high price.

The following table will show in a still clearer light the action of these operations; operations no doubt partially but not entirely founded on the above false data. In fact, the importation of any articles in which a great difference in quality prevails, and subject at the place of consumption to a heavy fixed duty, must generally prove a losing game. We call the duty payable on sugar fixed, *as the legal discriminations are at once impracticable and unjust.*

	WEST INDIA.			MAURITIUS.			EAST INDIA.			
	Bro.	Good.	Gazette.	Bro.	Grey.	Gazette.	Bro.	Whi.	Kha.	Gazette.
January - - -	45	53	34 2½	40	48	35 4	37	56	39	32 9½
Deduct duty - - -	14	14	- -	14	14	- -	14	14	14	- -
Freight, &c. - - -	31	39	34 2½	26	34	35 4	23	42	25	32 9½
	8	8	8 -	8	8	8 -	10	10	10	10 -
Result to shippers - - -	23	31	26 2½	18	26	27 4	13	32	15	22 9½
December - - -	33	42	22 8½	29	40	22 2½	31	49	29	25 10½
Deduct duty - - -	14	14	- -	14	14	- -	14	14	14	- -
Freight, &c. - - -	19	28	22 8½	15	26	23 2½	17	35	15	25 10½
	8	8	8 -	8	8	8 -	10	10	10	10 -
Result to shippers - - -	11	20	14 8½	7	18	14 2½	7	25	6	15 10½
Difference in result - - -	12	11	11 5½	11	8	13 1½	6	7	10	6 10½
Fall per cent. - - -	52	35	44	61	30	48	46	22	66	. 30

In January the middle quoted net price of West India sugar was 27 s., the Gazette average 26 s. 2 ½ d., difference 9 ½ d.: hence the quality actually sold on the average was below the medium price.

In December the middle quoted net price was 15 s. 6 d., the Gazette average 14 s. 8 ½ d., difference 9 ½ d. Hence the quality actually sold was, on the average, below the quoted price, and the difference in each case being the same, it follows that equal proportions of fine and low sugar had been brought to market in January and December.

In January the middle quoted net price of Mauritius sugar was 22 s., the Gazette average 27 s. 4 d., difference 5 s. 4 d. Hence the medium quality actually sold was above the medium quoted price.

In December the middle quoted net price was 12 s. 6 d., the Gazette average 14 s. 2 ½ d., difference 1 s. 8 ½ d. Hence the average quality actually sold was above the medium price. But the difference in the latter case being much less than in the former case, it follows that the average quality sold in December was much below that sold in January.

In January the middle quoted price of East India was 24 s. 6 d., the Gazette average 24 s. 9 ½ d., difference 3 ½ d. Hence the average quality actually sold was a little above the average quoted price.

In December the middle quoted price was 17 s., and the Gazette average 17 s. 10 ½ d., difference 10 ½ d. Hence the average quality actually sold was above the medium quoted price. But the difference in the latter case being greater, it follows that a better average quality of East India sugar was sold in December than in January.

Following this up to a practical result, we find that East India sugar having improved in quality, fell 28 per cent. in net result to the shipper.

That West India having neither improved nor fallen off in quality, fell 44 per cent. in net result to the shipper.

That Mauritius having fallen off in quality, fell 48 per cent. in net result to the shipper.

Taking all the brown and khaur, we find the medium depression in price to the shipper to be 53 per cent.; but taking good West India, fair grey Mauritius, and white Bengal, we find the average depression to be only 28 per cent.

The next thing which I wish to place on record is the amount of machinery which has been shipped from this country to British possessions in India, in each year from 1835 to 1846.

[The same was delivered in, and is as follows:]

STATEMENT of the declared Value of MACHINERY and MILLWORK exported from the United Kingdom to British Possessions in India, in each Year, from 1835 to 1846 inclusive.

	£.
1835 - - - - -	12,524
1836 - - - - -	7,550
1837 - - - - -	7,402
1838 - - - - -	29,869
1839 - - - - -	75,948
1840 - - - - -	66,057
1841 - - - - -	52,153
1842 - - - - -	48,394
1843 - - - - -	44,965
1844 - - - - -	62,080
1845 - - - - -	91,838
1846 - - - - -	116,756

285. Mr. Wilson.] Is there any means of showing for what purpose that machinery was used?—No; but I may be permitted perhaps to say that in Calcutta, as Mr. Crooke mentioned, we can now manufacture steam-engines, but not on so cheap a scale as they can in this country; and I am bold therefore in saying; not knowing what has been going on in Calcutta in the manufacture of steam-engines and apparatus for sugar on the spot, that an amount of half a million sterling has really been expended in machinery for the sole purpose of manufacturing sugar. That is my firm conviction, and I judge so from my own participation in the matter when I was in business as a merchant in Calcutta. I was one of the first who introduced the vacuum pan in that country, and it answered so remarkably well that I subsequently sent another, and my successors have now increased them to four or five: they are capable of producing about 10,000 to 12,000 tons of sugar. I may mention that one of the vacuum pans is the largest that ever was made; it acts remarkably well; and if circumstances had gone on in the smooth way that all friends to sugar planters could have wished, I should say, though the gentleman who gave

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evidence before seemed not to be of my opinion, that sugar equal to the best sugar sold in this country, could be produced at nine rupees per maund. In the invoices which I have seen from a sugar factory of which I am at this moment a small proprietor, the highest price put for that sugar, though the produce of the raw material makes it rather an extravagant price, is only nine rupees per maund. I may be allowed to say that in justice to the brother of the gentleman whom Mr. Crooke has mentioned, Mr. Haworth is the manager of this particular factory. Another paper which I should wish to put in is one of my own preparing, but I am quite sure of its correctness. I have taken the average price of East India sugar in London, in January 1847, at 37s. a cwt., or 37*l.* a ton; the duty was 14s. a cwt., and the freight, insurance, and charges in London equal to 10s. a cwt.

286. *Chairman.*] Do you mean in this particular year when freights were high?—I have taken one year with another, but I have taken the average of the year, because the sugar that arrived in London at the commencement of the year must have been shipped in the month of September, and freights were not so high then; I have taken the average at 6*l.* 10*s.*, and I calculate that 6*l.* 10*s.* freight and 3*l.* 10*s.* charges would make the total charges per ton for the year 1847.

287. *Mr. M. Gibson.*] What is the ordinary rate of freight and insurance?—£. 5; it is remarkable how it fluctuates; the rate of freight in Calcutta may be said to be governed entirely by the demand for rice in this country. If you have no demand for rice, the dead weight freights are low; but if on the contrary there is a demand for rice, freights rise.

288. *Mr. Wilson.*] If there were a continual demand for freights would not the quantity of shipping increase, so that freights would not continue to be more than 5*l.* a ton?—Exactly.

289. The other is an accidental demand?—Certainly. This paper shows that the proceeds upon a ton of brown sugar, on the 1st of January 1847, would be 13*s.* a cwt.

290. *Mr. M. Gibson.*] What quality of sugar is that?—I call it a low brown sugar.

291. *Chairman.*] Do you agree with the evidence of Mr. Crooke, that two-thirds of the sugar that comes from India is of rather a fine quality?—Last year, in consequence of a belief that sugar would be used in this country in distilleries, a large quantity of low quality sugar was imported from India; that did not however turn out to be the case, and therefore those sugars went down to a very low price as compared with the finer sorts; I take the net proceeds of brown sugar to be 13*s.* a cwt. In the price current of October 1847, the first quality of sugar is quoted at from 9 rupees to 9 rupees 8 annas per maund; and as a manufacturer of sugar I should say that 9 rupees was the proper price, that it ought not to be higher.

292. *Mr. Wilson.*] That is the best sugar?—Yes. And it would give a net proceed of 32*s.* per cwt. for white sugar sold in January 1847, and of 15*s.* for khaur, and I wish the Committee to mark the difference between the price in January and December: brown sugar sold in January for 37*s.* a cwt., and in December it sold for 31*s.* a cwt.; and in December, instead of giving 13*s.* a cwt., it gave only 7*s.* per cwt. to the importer, while white sugar, being more in demand, gave 21*s.* a cwt. to the importer, and khaur, which had been brought in large quantities in expectation of being used in distilleries, gave only 5*s.* a cwt.; the fall in price in that period was in brown sugar 46 per cent.; in white sugar I have also gone a little further, and shown what the loss to the importer was; taking the statement from the price current of Calcutta. I find that the importer lost in brown sugar 10*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.* per ton, whilst upon white he lost 6*l.* 16*s.* 8*d.* per ton, and upon khaur 7*l.* 1*s.* 4*d.*

[The Witness delivered in the same, which is as follows:]

EAST INDIA SUGAR.

John Bagshaw,
Esq. M. P.

12 February 1848.

	BROWN.			WHITE.			KHAUR.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Average price in London in December 1847	81	-	0	45	-	-	29	-	-
Duty	14	-	-	14	-	-	14	-	-
	£. 17	-	-	31	-	-	15	-	-
Freights, insurance, and charges in London	10	8	-	10	10	-	10	8	-
Net proceeds per ton	9	12	-	20	10	-	6	12	-
June 1847: Cost in Calcutta, per ton, at 7 rupees per Bazar maund, exchange at 2 s. per rupee	19	6	8 at 5 rupees.	27	6	8 at 10 rupees.	18	19	4
Loss to importer, per ton	£. 10	14	8	6	16	8	7	1	4

Exclusive of Calcutta charges, of commission, shipping, boat-hire, &c.

293. *Chairman.*] If the price had been kept up, how would the case have stood?—The Committee will believe me, when I say that this paper is as perfect a representation of the trade at the commencement and end of the year 1847, as can possibly be given, and it shows the difference.

[*The Witness delivered in the same, which is as follows:*]

EAST INDIA SUGAR.

	BROWN.			WHITE.			KHAUR.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Average price in London in January 1847, per ton	37	-	-	56	-	-	39	-	-
Duty	14	-	-	14	-	-	14	-	-
	28	-	-	42	-	-	25	-	-
Freight, insurance, and charges in London	10	-	-	10	-	-	10	-	-
	18	-	-	32	-	-	15	-	-
Average price in London in December 1847	31	-	-	45	-	-	29	-	-
Duty	14	-	-	14	-	-	14	-	-
	17	-	-	31	-	-	15	-	-
Freight, insurance, and charges in London	10	-	-	10	-	-	10	-	-
	7	-	-	21	-	-	5	-	-
Price in January 1847, exclusive of all charges as above	18	-	-	32	-	-	15	-	-
Price in December 1847, exclusive of all charges as above	7	-	-	21	-	-	5	-	-
Difference in result	6	-	-	11	-	-	10	-	-
Fall per cent.	£. 46	-	-	35	-	-	66	-	-

294. *Mr. Wilson.*] The January price was a high price consequent upon the speculation of there being a demand for those sugars for use in distilleries?—That was a speculation merely on low quality sugars.

295. There was a large advance upon the price of sugar in January 1847, in consequence

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consequence of the expectation of sugar being allowed to be used in breweries and distilleries?—Only with low sugar; a very inferior kind of sugar which cost five rupees in Calcutta when the best sold for ten.

296. On those very sugars the great loss has taken place?—Yes.

297. Mr. Hope.] Is that calculation taken on the average of the prices throughout the year?—No, it is taking the two extremes. The next paper I wish to put in is an account of the export of printed and plain cottons, coloured cottons, cotton twists, and woollens; and I wish the Committee to observe from this, that just as the trade in sugar fell off, so did the export from this country to India fall off in the same proportion; thus I find in the last quarter of 1845, the value of exports of plain cottons was 300,411 l., and in the last quarter of 1847 it was only 146,800 l. That is up to November the 30th. In consequence of the ships of the East India Company sailing before Christmas, it has been the custom of the trade to make up their exports to the 30th of November, instead of the 31st of December.

298. Mr. Wilson.] But that is for the three months ending at that time?—Yes; the export value of printed cottons was 22,647 l. in the quarter ending 30th November 1845, and it was only 6,536 l. in the quarter ending 30th November 1847.

299. Do you attribute that falling off to the falling off in the importation of sugar?—Yes, I attribute it to the stagnation of trade consequent upon it. It is an extraordinary fact, but from the very commencement of the sugar cultivation in India, piece goods, either Indian or piece goods in this country, have always gone in exactly an opposite direction to sugar. The manufactures of this country drove out from India the manufactures of India. Sugars succeeded to them, and sugar came one way and manufactured goods came the other. But if sugar could not come home with advantage, ergo manufactures could not go from this country with advantage.

[The Witness delivered in the Paper, which is as follows:]

ABSTRACT of the CARGOES of SHIPS cleared to Calcutta, from London, Liverpool, and the Clyde.

SHIPMENTS.	PLAIN COTTONS.		PRINTED COTTONS.		COLOURED COTTONS.		COTTON TWIST.		WOOLLENS.		
	Yards.	£. Sterlg.	Yards.	£. Sterlg.	Yards.	£. Sterlg.	Lbs.	£. Sterlg.	Pieces.	Bls.	£. Sterlg.
Quarters 1844-45:											
1st. 1 December 1844 to 28 February 1845	18,069,069	237,526	2,975,072	48,150	1,024,853	27,975	3,001,890	142,231	156	813	24,074
2d. 1 March 1845 to 31 May 1845 - -	24,257,560	335,202	2,461,800	28,376	1,246,910	37,315	2,834,465	141,383	35	299	12,491
3d. 1 June 1845 to 31 August 1845 -	28,028,772	302,371	1,601,841	25,460	1,802,909	46,004	2,600,180	134,468	166	204	15,048
4th. 1 September 1845 to 30 November 1845	21,430,953	300,411	2,675,040	22,674	1,845,413	47,199	2,271,624	117,371	283	250	14,619
TOTALS - - -	91,786,354	1,265,510	9,713,753	124,660	5,920,175	158,493	10,717,159	535,453	662	1,066	66,232
Quarters 1845-46:											
1st. 1 December 1845 to 28 February 1846	29,079,479	400,028	1,672,940	36,554	1,968,035	53,143	4,632,736	232,717	324	183	13,881
2d. 1 March 1846 to 31 May 1846 - -	38,380,848	460,939	2,252,067	32,096	2,462,676	63,039	5,300,756	204,805	448	378	22,011
3d. 1 June 1846 to 31 August 1846 -	23,513,155	367,484	754,642	22,005	1,599,055	44,509	2,500,989	120,342	-	271	11,740
4th. 1 September 1846 to 30 November 1846	21,172,885	263,131	614,105	15,326	979,930	24,769	3,459,448	150,184	-	315	14,375
TOTALS - - -	117,146,367	1,491,582	5,493,754	105,981	7,009,696	185,510	16,073,920	768,138	772	1,147	62,007
Quarters 1846-47:											
1st. 1 December 1846 to 28 February 1847	22,220,840	206,686	1,122,863	20,859	860,818	25,566	3,264,274	157,800	-	203	12,732
2d. 1 March 1847 to 31 May 1847 - -	30,694,630	392,638	18,777,122	40,436	1,606,309	43,925	5,222,268	240,485	-	323	17,241
3d. 1 June 1847 to 31 August 1847 -	21,018,555	267,437	827,421	16,889	1,480,324	39,932	1,685,779	80,829	-	312	16,056
4th. 1 September 1847 to 30 November 1847	11,800,999	146,303	320,782	6,536	825,064	21,714	1,024,048	47,125	-	80	6,925
TOTALS - - -	86,795,024	1,103,569	21,048,188	84,720	4,772,525	131,187	11,198,369	526,308	-	918	53,854

300. I find by the account which you gave in before, that in the six months ending 31st October 1847, the shipment of sugar had been 35,601 tons, which is as large a proportion as in the preceding year, and therefore it would be the exportations of last year that would govern the importations of last year?—Whatever the quantity might be, the net proceeds, according to my statement, amounted to nil.

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301. But the importations could not be ascertained then?—But the operations do not commence in India; they commence in this country; the sugar is brought home as a return for the operations commenced here.

302. Are you not of opinion that the state of the money market, and the difficulty of obtaining advances, had more effect upon the export of manufactured goods than any other circumstance during the last six months of the last year?—I am bound to say that it had a good deal to do with it; the trade of India cannot be carried on unless there is a good deal of credit participating, one-third capital and two-thirds credit. At the same time the low price of sugar, in consequence of the large importations, has crippled a certain description of persons, who have not been able to operate in the purchase or shipment, or making advances upon manufactured goods to India. I do not mean to attribute it entirely to one cause, but to a combination of causes; but it has been one element in that combination. I published a little pamphlet in 1844, which contains a good many things relative to the manufacture of sugar. I will, with the permission of the Committee, extract some parts of it.

303. *Chairman.*] You are going to show that the importation of manufactures from India has ceased, and that the importation of sugar has taken its place?—Yes; this is an extract from the "Friend of India," which I copied in my work. "In treating of the exports from this presidency, Bengal, our first duty is to shed a tear over the grave of the now defunct trade in cotton piece goods, once the great source of wealth to India, and the envy of Europe. In no one instance has the uncertainty of all human possessions and prosperity been so decidedly exhibited as in the value of our export trade of Indian-made cotton piece goods. In the years of 1816-17 the value of the cotton goods imported into India from England, the produce of our steam machinery, was Rs. 3,17,602; a little above 30,000*l.* sterling." I may mention that it was entirely for European use; every fresh fashionable article which came out in this country, ladies and persons of European habits in India took to the amount of 30,000*l.* in 1837, when I first went to India. "In the year 1842-43 the importation of cotton cloths and twist had advanced to nearly two crores of rupees, two millions sterling; but exactly in proportion as the British article has been making progress in this market, has the Indian manufacture been losing ground in the markets of Europe. It is instructive to trace its steady, unchecked progress down the inclined plane, as the following statement of the export will exhibit.

	£.
1816-17	1,659,438
1817-18	1,327,285
1818-19	1,152,738
1819-20	903,079
1820-21	854,076
1821-22	766,482
1822-23	800,943
1823-24	587,053
1824-25	601,755
1825-26	583,463
1826-27	394,844
1827-28	287,631
1828-29	222,316
1829-30	132,642

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	£.
1830-31 - - - - -	85,728
1831-32 - - - - -	84,988
1832-33 - - - - -	82,289
1833-34 - - - - -	wanting.
1834-35 - - - - -	wanting.
1835-36 - - - - -	87,946
1836-37 - - - - -	74,597
1837-38 - - - - -	69,625
1838-39 - - - - -	53,012
1839-40 - - - - -	55,462
1840-41 - - - - -	46,464
1841-42 - - - - -	17,629
1842-43 - - - - -	16,961

Then from this table it appears that in the years 1816-17, the manufactures of India not only clothed the whole of that vast population, but exported 1,659,438*l.* worth of goods; and that, be it remembered, is without at all taking into account the quantity that was exported of goods from the Coromandel Coast, which are considered of rather better quality. I have no doubt in my own mind that we should find that the extent of those was as great as of goods from Calcutta.

304. The East Indies have lost the exportation of 1,659,438*l.*, in addition to their home market, which is superseded by four millions of cotton goods which are now exported to India?—Yes.

305. Making altogether very nearly six millions of value that India has lost in the cotton manufacture?—In 1846 the exports to India amounted to 4,253,796*l.*, and last year they decreased to 2,474,930*l.*, so that in contradistinction to what I have said with regard to the manufacturers of cotton goods, during the whole of this period they were prohibited, which was notoriously the fact, by duties of an exorbitant height, from sending their goods to this country. The people of India might wear British manufactures, which were imported into India at a duty of 2½ per cent., but the manufacturers of India were entirely precluded from getting their goods into consumption here, by the prohibitory duty that was exacted. Then the "Friend of India" goes on to say, "We close this notice by a reference to the article of which the improved export has been the most decisive and manifest during the past eight years; we allude to that of sugar. In 1835-36 the quantity exported to England amounted in value to 16,89,958 rupees; in the last year it had increased to 1,48,35,773 rupees, that is nearly one million and a half sterling in value. There has been no instance of such growth in any article of commerce at any previous period. There has been no development of the resources of India to be compared with this sudden increase. Last year we supplied England with one-fourth the sugar she consumed; and there can be no doubt that India would in time be able to supply the whole of the home demand, if the prospects of the trade were not rendered so uncertain by the vacillation of the Ministry at home in regard to this staple article." Since this notice was written the extra import of sugar has been so great, that instead of being one-fourth, it now amounts to one-third.

306. Do you know what the capital invested in the Dobah Company was?—I am not certain; it produced 7,000 tons of sugar last year, and 350,000 galls. of rum.

307. Comparing the prices of 1846 and previous years with the prices of 1847, how much do you reckon they have lost a ton; to what extent do you reckon the price of sugar has been reduced by competition in this year as compared with previous years?—The difference in the price of brown sugar between January and December was 6*s.* per cwt.

308. How much was brown sugar?—The Dobah sugars are chiefly white.

309. What is their loss upon white sugars?—Seven shillings per cwt., I should say, at least.

310. That

310. That is 49,000 *l.*?—Yes; but they had been gainers for many years before; it was one of the most profitable concerns in India.

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311. If I understand you rightly, the Dobah Company have lost 50,000 *l.* this year; but if the price of sugar had not been reduced 7*l.* a ton, by the operation of the Act of 1846, they would have lost but 1,000 *l.*?—No; I am not sufficiently acquainted with their concerns to say what they would have lost or gained; I have not had access to their books; only a gentleman, who was formerly a member of this house, and who was also a very active member of that company, and a gentleman of the name of Blake, with whom I am associated, have told me these as facts.

312. How are the remittances to be made to England if the East Indies cease to export sugar?—In bullion; it will be the ruin of the country of course, because the exchanges will go down, and rupees must be sent home.

313. I believe, out of the revenues raised in India, for the payment of Government servants, and for the payment of the dividends upon East India stock, upwards of three millions a year are actually paid into England?—It is so.

314. And the whole of the revenue of India is about 22 millions?—About 20 millions.

315. After deducting about two millions for payments on account of various treaties in the East Indies, a very large portion of the balance is paid really to the servants or the troops of Great Britain serving in the East Indies?—There is no doubt of the fact; the East India Company are obliged by Act of Parliament to keep 25,000 British troops in the country.

316. And they are paid out of the taxes levied upon the people of India?—Entirely. Great Britain is very much beholden to India; she never contributed a sixpence to the creation of the immense debt which we have hanging over us, but she assists greatly in the payment of the interest of that debt; she not only provides an excellent outlet for our surplus population, the first men in the land having been civil servants in India, but a very large number, as is notorious, of officers of the civil service and of the Indian army, always going from this country, after serving there for some time, come home with large fortunes, and contribute very greatly to the wealth of the mother country.

317. Mr. *M. Gibson.*] You stated that a high price of sugar was necessary in order to keep up an extended export of sugar from the East Indies to this country?—I am not one of those who consider that high prices would be at all calculated to be a benefit to India. I have taken it therefore at nine rupees, which is about 22*s.*, for remarkably good sugars, and I believe we could produce them at that rate.

318. *Chairman.*] That is 22*s.* at Calcutta?—Yes; but if, on the contrary, we are to be interfered with by slave-grown sugars, and are to be sacrificed for it, there will be a monopoly unquestionably of slave-grown sugar in the market; there can be no doubt about it, excepting so far as we in India shall be able to compete against it, in which case prices must go very high.

319. Mr. *M. Gibson.*] Do you consider that there will be such a change and such a low price, arising from the increased supplies of sugar from foreign countries, as to diminish considerably the sugar production of India?—At the prices that have been paid for the last three or four years there cannot be a question but that the native ryot has been gaining a very good livelihood by the growing of sugar, such as would have encouraged him to have gone on, for supply and demand govern all markets.

320. Do the natives of India themselves consume any sugar?—A very large quantity.

321. Are their interests served by maintaining a high price of sugar?—Our prices have never been high; they unquestionably would not be benefited by high prices.

322. They are benefited by a low price of sugar?—Yes, as everybody must be benefited who has to pay for sugar; if the price is low the consumer is benefited, but if it continues low it checks cultivation, and then the price rises again.

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323. Would not permanent high prices in England draw large supplies from India, to the disadvantage of the natives in this country?—No, I do not think so at all, because it would not continue long.

324. Would the negro of India be able to get his sugar cheap if high prices were obtained for that sugar in this country?—It is very clear that for the moment the natives must suffer if the price gets high, but if in consequence of that the cultivation should be extended, and the supply should be increased thereby, the prices would naturally go down; the supply and demand govern all markets.

325. *Chairman.*] You mean to say that India, as a whole, would be largely a gainer by receiving a million and a half for their surplus produce of sugar, though the effect might be to raise the price of sugar there?—I want to show that it never could continue. It is very true that the native consumer would be injured for a season; but you may as well tell the tide that it shall not come beyond Westminster Bridge, as attempt to govern the prices in this country; supply and demand govern all markets.

326. The question is, whether the natives of India, being cultivators of sugar, would be more gainers or losers by a high price for their sugar being created by foreign demand?—But where there is one grower of sugar, I am obliged to concede that there are a thousand consumers, and they would not be benefited by that rise; but it is very clear that if you have low prices they cannot continue long, and it would be much better that they should have moderate prices than either high prices or low prices, if it were possible to regulate them, but everybody knows that it is quite impossible.

327. India is an exporting country of sugar?—It is.

328. Do you think that the United States of America, which is the great cotton-growing country of the world, would be benefited by losing the export trade of its surplus cotton, with a view to enable its own manufacturers to get cotton at a lower price?—No, but I think that is not a parallel case; for the manufacturers of cotton are the very few, but the consumers of sugar in India are the many.

329. *Mr. Wilson.*] It appears from this return that you had 82,000 tons exported from Calcutta in 1846 and 1847; the highest importation we had into this country from India is 75,000 tons, and that includes Madras as well as Calcutta, and all other ports of India. Can you give any explanation why the quantity from Calcutta is 82,000, whereas our quantity from the whole of India is 75,000 tons?—I apprehend there is this difference in making up the annual imports, one being from the 1st May to 30th April, and the other from 1st January to 31st December; it may arise from shipwreck, or from vessels homeward bound leaving part of their cargoes at the Cape of Good Hope or St. Helena.

330. As it has been stated that so much of the prosperity of India depends upon the exportation of sugar, and that in proportion to the extent of that exportation, the imports into India have increased; how do you account for the fact that only seven years ago the entire export from India was only 32,000 tons of sugar, while it is admitted on all hands that India was then prosperous and the trade good?—The reply I make to that is simply this; it was not till the year 1836 that information reached India of the equalization of the duties upon sugar from the East and West Indies, and it took a very considerable time to prepare and send out the machinery and other things connected with the improved manufacture of sugar, but when they did arrive out they were put into active operation; the result is shown in the shipment of after years.

331. But still India was prosperous in former times, when she did not ship this quantity of sugar?—The answer I make to that is, that at that time she was not prepared to ship sugar.

332. The return must have been made in other commodities?—Yes, in indigo and other commodities.

Lunæ, 14^o die Februarii, 1848.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord George Bentinck.
Sir Thomas Birch.
Sir Edward Buxton.
Mr. Cardwell.
Mr. Goulburn,

Mr. Hope.
Mr. Matheson.
Sir John Pakington.
Mr. Wilson.

LORD GEORGE BENTINCK, IN THE CHAIR.

Leonard Wray, Esq., called in; and Examined.

333. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you were 10 years a planter in Jamaica?—Very nearly 10 years.

334. You were afterwards for some years a planter in Bengal?—Yes, I was in Bengal for upwards of three years.

335. You have subsequently been a planter in the Province Wellesley, in the Straits of Malacca?—Yes; in the Province Wellesley particularly.

336. I believe you are prepared to give a very full account and history of sugar planting in the East Indies, and also of sugar planting in the Province Wellesley, where the cultivation is carried on by Chinamen?—I shall be most happy to afford the Committee information of the cultivation in the West Indies and East Indies, and the Straits of Malacca.

337. Will you be kind enough to proceed to give such a history?—Not having before me a series of questions, or knowing what questions the Committee might wish to put to me, I am at a loss to know how to shape my information; but such information as I have I shall be happy to give.

338. Will you confine yourself to the cultivation in the East Indies and the Province Wellesley, not referring to the West Indies, except so far as may be necessary with a view to compare the two?—I went out to the East Indies in the year 1841, and proceeded at once to the upper districts of the country, some 500 or 600 miles from Calcutta, to undertake the establishment of a sugar estate on a large grant. From that period until I was forced to leave that district from ill health, I was engaged in the cultivation of sugar, and during the whole of my residence in Bengal I was constantly connected with sugar, and was over the country in all the sugar districts, and had an opportunity of seeing everything connected with the native as well as the European system; of course the European system I practised myself, but the native system I had an opportunity of seeing in various districts; but in the districts especially of Allahabad, Benares, Jaunpore, Azimghur, Gazeepore, Burdwan, Patna and others, (and the mode of cultivation varies very little in those districts), the chief variation we may say arises from the difference in the weather; the hot winds are not prevalent in the lower part of Bengal, whereas they are in the upper part. From Bengal downward they are not prevalent, and the consequence is that the cultivation can be carried on there with less irrigation than in the upper province. Where the hot winds prevail it is necessary to irrigate to a large extent, and the expense of that at times is very great, notwithstanding the cheapness of labour in the East Indies. The cultivation of the cane in India may be considered almost entirely native, because the proportion of the European cultivation to native is so utterly insignificant that it will not bear a comparison. If we calculate the number of inhabitants of British India at 100 millions, which is very much under the number generally allowed, and if we suppose that each individual eats only one pound of sugar on an average during a month, that is an extremely small average, for every person who has been in India knows that the natives eat a large quantity

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of sugar. They do not use it as we do in tea and coffee, but in the form of sweetmeats, or what is termed "meetoye." The circumstance is very well known from the fact of Lord Ellenborough having treated the Sepoys to meetoye on one occasion. Sugar is, therefore, in very general consumption in India; a native working man will go into a confectioner's shop and eat sweetmeats in the same manner as a man here would take a biscuit or a bun to satisfy him, and the consequence of that is that they use a very large quantity of sugar; I will not say that it is altogether in the form of sugar, although it is made from the cane plant, consequently we may say that it is sugar, molasses, and other matters connected with the cane; but if we only allow the immense population which I have mentioned to consume one pound of sugar a month to each inhabitant of India, we should find that that would give an amount of 535,714 tons of sugar per annum; and this is altogether independent of the immense quantities which are exported from India proper to the different neighbouring states, which is a very large quantity indeed, and also entirely independent of the quantity that is shipped to England and other countries. In viewing this large quantity of sugar that I have just mentioned, it must be evident to the Committee that the cultivation must be very large indeed to give such a quantity of sugar, especially when we consider that the native cane is of a most inferior description; it is not like the superior descriptions cultivated in the West Indies, or like the descriptions cultivated in the Straits of Malacca, but the canes are mere whip canes, some of the size of your little finger; they are the most miserable things that can possibly be conceived in the form of canes; the consequence is that the average is small, as I will mention presently, and therefore the quantity of land required to be in cultivation, to yield the quantity of sugar that is produced, must be very immense. It employs a very large number of the population, because a native will sometimes cultivate a very small portion of land with cane, the twentieth part of an acre, or even the twentieth part of a begah, which is two-thirds of an acre, and what is termed a cottah; he will cultivate a cottah, or he will cultivate a cottah and a half; or if he has an extensive capital, and has the means of ploughing the land, he will cultivate a whole begah. Taking so many persons to cultivate even one acre of land, it shows what the number of persons must be, engaged in the cultivation to produce the large amount of sugar which is annually produced. The description of sugar manufactured by the natives is of various kinds; it may be classed as follows; rhab, which, when drained, furnishes what is termed khar; in this country khar is called coarse muscovado, but it can scarcely be called muscovado; it is in fact very different, for it is the sugar-cane juice boiled with the feculencies in a most dirty manner, as every refiner must know who has had to deal with it. The rhab is, we may say, the best description of sugar which is manufactured by the natives directly from the cane, that is, at one boiling. The other descriptions are dhoosa, bhalee, and goor. Those are the standard names of those different descriptions, although they have in different districts other names, such as jagree, and so on; but I think the Committee would better understand them, and in fact the country at large, under those names, because they are so well known throughout India, rhab, dhoosa, bhalee, and goor.

339. *Mr. Wilson.*] Are these different qualities of sugar from the same cane? —Yes; only they are boiled in a different way, and concentrated in a different manner. In some cases, a slight degree of care is shown more than in others.

340. They are not different qualities of the same process?—No. I have made a note in connexion with that subject; dhoosa, bhalee, and goor are often ranged under the general name of goor in the Calcutta market, but in the up-country markets dhoosa is considered the best, bhalee the second quality, and goor the third. Goor is usually considered to yield about 50 per cent. of fine fair sugar, when purified and reboiled in vacuo; bhalee may be taken at 60 per cent., under similar circumstances; and dhoosa certainly from 65 to 70 per cent.: I have indeed known dhoosa of very good quality to be equal to 75 per cent., but I must remark that that is rather rare. Rhab also is purchased by Europeans, and boiled in vacuo, but from the difficulty of sending it down to Calcutta, as it is in a very liquid state (molasses being mixed with it), not concentrated as the others are, it has to be sent down in leathern vessels which are made very commonly in the country, and are termed dubbars. In consequence of being obliged to be sent down in dubbars there is a great loss and a great waste, and

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at times a great deal of pilfering; the consequence is, that persons engaged in refining sugar very seldom send that down, but it generally comes down in the form of khar, that is, rhab drained of its molasses; rhab furnishes khar, as I have before mentioned, which is of a very varied character, as in any other case, according to the mode in which it is made, the cane from which it is produced, and even the soil, all these circumstances affect it in the same way as they affect the quality of sugar made in the West Indies. The price of khar varies from 4 to 6½ rupees per maund, or from 11s. to 17s. 10d. per cwt. in the Calcutta market; but the latter price is considered high, and it is required to be of good quality to fetch that sum. Previously to sending down khar from the upper country districts it is very often subjected to the treatment of whitening; this is performed by the use of a water weed, which is termed seewah, up the country; the watery particles of this weed percolate through the mass of sugar, and wash the crystals; the consequence is, that the khar is much whitened, the crystals are very small and weak, but at the same time as it gets rid of a large quantity of uncrystallizable matter, the price is of course raised, and when it reaches Calcutta it is usually sold from 6½ to 9 rupees per maund, that is, from 17s. 10d. to 24s. 9d. per cwt. This description of khar so whitened is often sent to England direct without undergoing any further process in India. From the coarser material, included under the three names which I have already given, that is, dhoosa, bhalee, and goor, the natives manufacture by refining and reboiling, a fair sparkling white sugar, which is generally known under the name of Benares and Burdwan sugar, which are the finest descriptions of native-made sugar. This manufacture forms an entirely separate branch of the sugar business. The natives purchase the raw material in the markets, or from the natives at their mills, and manufacture it in their kerkhannas, or native manufactories; but the persons who so refine it have nothing to do with the cultivation. Sugar thus refined by the natives is sold in Calcutta at from 10 to 12 rupees per maund, that is at from 27s. 6d. to 33s. per cwt. This sugar, until very lately, used to sell in the English market at from 65s. to 71s. the cwt.

341. Including the duty?—Including the duty.

342. *Chairman.*] Was that the higher rate of duty or the lower rate of duty?—The duty on refined sugar; the higher rate of duty.

343. *Mr. Wilson.*] Does it include the present rate of duty?—I left India in 1845, and I am speaking more particularly of what came within my own knowledge up to that time, though I have been in the Straits of Malacca since, and have had information constantly since that time; but when I speak of its coming home to England and selling for 71s. per cwt., I have always been under the impression that such sugar paid the higher rate of duty.

344. In 1845 there was a reduction made in the entire sugar duties of this country; the duty upon common sugar being reduced from 24s. to 14s., and the duty upon refined sugar being reduced from 28s. to 21s. As you speak of the long price, I suppose you mean the price prior to 1845?—I should imagine it to be so.

345. And consequently subject to the old rate of duty?—I am not prepared to answer that question correctly, because I hardly know how it is; but when I was in the East Indies, we always spoke of it as being sold at a certain price in England, and I always understood that this sugar sold for 71s. in the English market.

346. *Sir J. Pakington.*] At what period was it that the prices you are mentioning were obtained?—In 1845: I left Bengal in 1845.

347. *Sir E. N. Buxton.*] Can you tell us what the present price of sugar is?—I have not been in Bengal since 1845, and I am not prepared to speak positively upon that matter; but I think that there must have been a reduction to meet the changes that have taken place in England.

348. *Chairman.*] You speak of the long price?—I should suppose so. The native khar which I have before spoken of, is of the same class as muscovado sugar, but it is very inferior to what we are accustomed to term West India or East India muscovado, which is made in vacuo, for this sugar is boiled in so uncleanly a manner, that I should scarcely call it muscovado sugar; therefore, in speaking of East India muscovado sugar, I have referred to that sugar made by Europeans which is boiled in vacuo. There is a large quantity of this muscovado sugar manufactured by Europeans at several factories; for instance, at Dhobah, Cossipore, Seebpore, Albion, Ballicall, and other refineries; and this

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muscovado sugar made at those factories, and boiled in vacuo, is generally valued in the Calcutta market at from 19s. 3d. to 24s. 9d. a hundred weight.

349. Mr. Wilson.] You are still speaking of the same period?—I am; this is the fine description of muscovado sugar.

350. Then in fact that sells at the same price that improved khar sugar sells for; you stated that improved khar sugar sold at from 17s. 10d. to 24s. 9d.?—So high a price as 24s. 9d. is only given for that sugar when it is very much whitened; it is then used by refiners for the purpose of producing the most superior quality that they make in India, and they give a high price for it, because it is altogether, you may say, crystallizable matter; everything else has been washed from it, and that is the reason of its high value. The Committee will perceive from what I have stated in reference to the three several qualities of sugar, or raw material as it is very generally termed, bhalee, dhoosa, and goor, that it requires of goor two hundredweight to produce one hundredweight of fair muscovado sugar, such as I have now spoken of as selling from 19s. 3d. to 24s. 9d. I will take a wide range, and suppose that the difference between the weight of the maund up the country and the weight of the Calcutta maund is sufficient to pay for the freight downwards. I do not say that it is so always, because the maund differs very much in weight; in no two districts is it the same. If you go from one village to another, you see a difference in the maunds, and even in all their constituent parts. In Calcutta the maund represents a weight of 82 pounds, but up the country, for instance, in Gorruckpore, where the maund is the largest that I know, it contains 32 gundahs to the seer (the seer is reckoned at two pounds); whereas the Calcutta maund only contains 20 gundahs to the seer, so that in speaking of maunds it is very requisite to reduce them to hundredweights. As I mentioned 2 cwt. of goor produces 1 cwt. of muscovado, or 50 per cent. Bhalee yields much the same quantity, or 60 per cent. under similar circumstances; and good dhoosa, as I said before, from 65 to 70 per cent. In the case, therefore, of goor, which we will take as the standard on this occasion, the material requisite for producing 1 cwt. of muscovado sugar, (which material costs from 2½ to 3 rupees per maund up the country,) necessarily costs the European refiner from 13s. 9d. to 16s. 6d., that is, for sugar such as sells at from 19s. 3d. to 24s. 9d. Perhaps having stated these facts to the Committee I may be allowed to mention a few circumstances connected with the cultivation of the cane by the natives. I take the liberty of mentioning to the Committee that I am about to read from a work that I am now writing on the cultivation of sugar cane, and the manufacture of sugar in various parts of the world in which I have been, and I cannot I am sure give better evidence than what is contained in these pages, for it is the result of my experience, and it is such as will be subject to criticism of various parties in the countries in which I have been, and I could not therefore state a thing which I knew was not the case, and I have been as precise in this matter as it was possible to be.

351. Sir T. Birch.] All the information you propose to give will refer to periods antecedent to 1845; you left India at that time?—I left Bengal at that time, but I have only just left Singapore, and have come overland only a few months ago. There has been no alteration in the cultivation since 1845, for the natives are very tenacious of old customs. The native canes differ very much as cultivated in the upper provinces and in the lower provinces; those about Calcutta are of a much superior description to those cultivated in the upper districts, and the latter also differ very much from each other; and this difference, coupled with the variation of soil, mode of cultivation, and degree of attention bestowed upon it, produce likewise a very great variation in the quantity of sugar obtained per acre. Thus I have known the range to extend from eight maunds, that is 640 lbs., to 30 maunds, that is 2,400 lbs., of goor, (raw sugar in its roughest state,) per acre, and I believe 15 maunds of such goor to be considered at present a very satisfactory average; a man is extremely well satisfied when he gets 15 maunds, or 1,200 lbs. from an acre of land.

352. Mr. Wilson.] That would be equal to 600 lbs. of muscovado sugar?—Yes, to 600 lbs. of muscovado, reboiled by the Calcutta refiners. An acre produces at this rate about 4l. 10s. to the cultivator, which will be seen to give but a scanty return for the labour, time, and trouble bestowed on its cultivation and manufacture. The cultivation of the cane by the native is a very simple affair, yet it entails on him a considerable degree of trouble, as will be seen from the

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the following detail of the process, which I will state to the Committee, if allowed to do so. February, March, and April are the months during which the native usually plants his sugar-cane. The land is first prepared by ploughing, and what is termed hainghering; a haingher is an implement which harrows and crushes the clods at the same time, being merely a piece of timber drawn over the land, to which cattle are attached. The men stand upon it, and in that way it crushes the clods; and after it has passed over, the soil is perfectly pulverized and its surface very evenly smoothed over. It must not, however, be supposed that the instrument designated a plough, bears the slightest similitude to the English implement of that name. However, such as it is, the native manages to scratch his land with it to his entire satisfaction. I have said "scratch his land," because it does really only scratch the land; it never turns up the soil. In this manner the native gives the land what is termed a chass, that is, a ploughing, we will suppose from east to west; after he has done this he gives it another chass, that is, perhaps from north to south, and then from north-east to south-west, and *vice versa*. So that it gets in this manner four chasses, which is considered a very fair amount of working up for the land; but even those four chasses are not by any means equal to one ploughing by the English instrument; I suppose 20 of them would not be equal to an English ploughing, because it does not turn up the soil; but, however, it suits their purposes; they are obliged to be very simple in their ways, because they are so very poor. Sometimes the ploughs cannot enter the soil when it has lain some length of time out of cultivation, and the consequence is that they have recourse to the hoe, and they dig up the land. If the native be an industrious man, and time allows, he will turn up his land several times before he plants it, and he will treat it to a little manure in the shape of a few baskets of ashes, but it is very seldom that cowdung is used, in consequence of the scarcity of wood for fuel, as a substitute for which cowdung is universally used. Thus, in going into the native villages you will see the women and children (villagers) employed in every nook and corner mixing up cowdung and broken straw, and broken grass, and such matters, altogether, and making it into cakes perhaps of the size of this (book) leaf; those are placed in the sun and air to dry, and then are regularly stacked in the same manner as you see the Irish stacking their peat in Ireland. In every village you will see these stacks of cowdung ready for use as fuel. It stands to reason that the land cannot be manured with it, therefore the only manuring that the lands do get, is with the ashes which result from that or from any wood that they may burn, and now and then they have the cleaning of ponds, or anything of that kind, which they apply to their land. The land being prepared in this manner, the native then puts in his plough to open small trenches for the reception of the cane. To effect this more successfully he ties to the plough some bunches of grass or wood to act as mould boards; by means of which he manages to open a furrow sufficiently wide to suit his wishes; these furrows are ploughed quite close together without any regard to regularity, and women and children (generally) following the plough, drop the pieces of cane as they go along the furrow. The implement I before mentioned, the haingher, is then set to work as quickly as possible, before the sun can dry up the moisture, and in a few moments the field is perfectly level and smooth, so that you could not tell that such a thing as cane had been planted there. The month of February presents a very favourable opportunity to the natives for planting, because a shower of rain is generally expected about that time; but in March, April, May, and half of June, not a drop of rain can be expected, being what are termed the hot months, during which the hot west winds prevail; cane, therefore, planted during either of these months must be irrigated at the time of planting, and two or three times afterwards, until the middle of June, when the rain sets in. In Upper India the "hot winds" set in usually in March, or the early part of April, scorching up everything until the commencement of the rains. Hence all canes planted from January to June must be irrigated several times. April is an excellent month for planting, and is much liked by the natives, as it saves them the trouble of two irrigations and several hoeings. Cane planted in this month may pretty generally be estimated to cost as follows, per pukka beegah (one pukka beegah is about two-thirds of an English acre). Preparing and planting the land, 4 rupees, or 8s.; three irrigations at 1½ rupees, 4½ rupees, or 9s.; 12 hoeings, at 6 annas each, 4½ rupees, or 9s.

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The rent of the land I have stated at 4 rupees, or 8s. per annum. This expenditure, we will suppose, serves to bring the cane to maturity, which will be in the month of November or December following, a period of about eight months. Sometimes, however, the rental of the land is very much higher; for instance, I have known it from 5 to 10 rupees. I have stated 4 rupees, because it is generally 4 rupees. The native in cultivating his land never expends one farthing of actual coin, if he can possibly help it. The sums, therefore, that I have stated must be taken as the value of the labour that he bestows upon it, to which must be added certain little items which will be seen. If he be so poor as to have no oxen of his own, then he obtains the use of a pair of oxen for the different operations required, and pays their owner in grain or in return labour, or perhaps he allows the owner of the oxen a portion of the crop when it is manufactured. To assist him in hoeing, watering, and watching his field, he usually employs his wife and family; or if he is a solitary man, he associates himself with some neighbour, to whom, in requital, he probably allows a share in the produce; so that there will be, when his crop is manufactured, very little of the produce actually coming to him as his share, because he has to divide it among others who have assisted him; but if it gives him sufficient to keep him in partial employment, the poor creature is generally very well satisfied. The other portions of his time he manages to fill up by pursuing various avocations, the nature of which very much depends upon the particular caste to which he may belong. Thus you will see natives cultivating their fields one day, and the next day you may see the same people carrying a palauquin, or you may see them in a blacksmith's shop working as blacksmiths, or in a carpenter's shop working as carpenters, or you may see them at the river's side pursuing the occupation of fishing, by means of which they manage to make a few pence a week; and if it were not for this continual passing from one employment to another, they could not possibly pay their rent and live.

354. *Sir J. Pakington.*] How many acres are commonly cultivated by such classes of natives as you have been describing?—That varies very much; a man may have an acre, or half an acre, or he may have five acres, part of which he keeps for barley, another part for wheat, another part for the sugar-cane, and another part for gram, a kind of pea, which is cultivated up the country.

355. *Chairman.*] You said that the quantity of land occupied by some of the natives was as small as the twentieth part of an acre?—Yes; one-twentieth part of a beegah is cultivated by a native in sugar canes.

356. *Sir J. Pakington.*] It varies from that to five acres?—I have never seen a native cultivate of canes more than three or four acres for himself; that is very rare indeed.

357. *Mr. Wilson.*] What is about the average?—I think we may say the average is about half an acre.

358. That is for cane?—Yes; and that is a very large average.

359. Then, upon the calculation you gave of 15 maunds, or 1,200 lbs. of goor per acre, which is equal to 600 lbs. of muscovado, the average produce of each grower is about 300 lbs. of muscovado sugar?—Yes; but when I spoke of 1,200 lbs. per acre, I said that was an average with which they were extremely well satisfied. I did not say it was the average of the country. I should suppose 10 maunds to be much nearer the average of the country than 15. When I spoke of 15 as an average with which they were satisfied, I meant that it was rather over the general average. If the land averages that, the man will consider it very good.

360. If you reduce the average from 15 maunds to 10 maunds per acre, that reduces the average produce per acre to 800 lbs. of goor, or 400 lbs. of muscovado sugar?—Yes; and, on re-consideration, I think half an acre is too large an average for each grower; a quarter of an acre is much nearer the average of the whole country. I have already stated that a native very often cultivates a very small portion of land, even the twentieth part of a beegah; so that if we state the average of the cane holdings of India to be a quarter of an acre, it will be nearer the mark.

361. Shall we then take the average holdings at a quarter of an acre, and the average produce at 10 maunds per acre, or 800 lbs. of goor?—Yes, I think you may safely do that.

362. Therefore the average quantity of sugar produced by each cultivator would be 100 lbs. of muscovado sugar?—Yes. But taking the produce to be

15 maunds

15 maunds per acre, supposing a man obtains a fair satisfactory average from his field, he would obtain from it at the rate of 6 s. a maund, 4*l.* 10*s.* an acre; that is from the cultivation, manufacture, and everything else.

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363. According to the actual average which you have now given, of 10 maunds per acre, what would it be?—The average in that case, at from 2½ to 3 rupees per maund, would be 5*s.* 6*d.* per maund in the sale of the goor; then 10 maund, would produce 2*l.* 15*s.*

364. £. 4. 10. you gave us as the average of an acre, provided it produced 15 maunds; but if you reduced it to 10 maunds it would be 3*l.*, would it not?—This is an uncorrected proof sheet which I have been making use of, and I am taking here the highest rate which I suppose it to sell at, 6*s.*; but taking the difference between 2½ rupees and 3 rupees, that brings it to 5*s.* 6*d.* a maund, and we have therefore on 10 maunds 2*l.* 15*s.* from the field. The very inferior description of cane usually planted by the natives, together with their primitive and very dirty mode of manufacture, render the cultivation of the sugar-cane far from lucrative; and the chance of inducing them to adopt a better description of cane, is, I fear, almost hopeless. I have tried myself, in a great many instances, and a great many others have tried also. The natives will plant a patch here and there to oblige you, but anything beyond that, they will not do; they keep to their native cane with all its imperfections.

365. What is their motive for that?—Their forefathers did it before them.

366. If they try a patch of it, and that succeeds, why do they not adopt it generally?—No person can form any conception of the native prejudices unless he lives among them.

367. *Chairman.*] I believe you can speak the languages?—Yes, I speak the Hindostanee and Malay languages. If you have a man who rents land from you (what we call an assamee or ryot), and you wish to encourage the cultivation of a superior description of cane, and wish to introduce it among the natives, you go to him and talk to him in his house. You will say to him, “You have an inferior description of cane, I will supply you with some cane-cuttings of a better kind, and you shall plant them out, and I will give you a rupee or two to assist you; now like a good fellow, do try the thing.” The answer is, “If it is your pleasure I will plant it,” but as to planting it on his own account it is out of the question.

368. *Sir E. Burton.*] If the natives found it answer would they not plant it again?—I have never known it done. There was a remarkable case of Captain Tanner, who is a captain in the East India Company’s service on the invalid establishment; he purchased canes from Calcutta of a superior description, and he planted them in his garden until he had sufficient to plant out about half an acre. He then called a man whom he had known for many years, and said to him, “I wish to get this into cultivation among the natives; I wish to show them that it is a superior description of cane, and one that will pay them much better than the native cane; go to my garden, cut the canes in pieces, and plant them in your own land. I will be at all the expense consequent on the cultivation, and you shall reap all the benefit from it.” The man did so; he cultivated a patch of land with the cane. I saw it myself; and when the canes were cut, instead of extending the cultivation, as Captain Tanner had imagined he would have done, the man cut the canes in pieces, and took them to the bazaar, and sold them for eating; being superior canes all the natives ate them. He sold them so much per piece; and afterwards, when Captain Tanner, who was a great invalid, went to look at this patch of land, he saw it in a most wretched state. He said to the man, “How is it that you have not extended the cane?” The man said, “I did not think it would answer;” but it afterwards came to the knowledge of Captain Tanner that the man had sold the canes in the bazaar.

369. *Mr. Wilson.*] He did not make sugar of them?—No.

370. Have you known any instance in which the natives have manufactured sugar from superior canes, and obtained a larger produce?—No; they have never cultivated the superior cane in that part of India on their own account.

371. Have you found, in your experience, any objection to the Otaheitan cane, arising from the white ant?—I was proceeding to state that India has many enemies to the cane plant, which are unknown elsewhere, as white ants, jackalls, wild pigs, and in other districts wild elephants, and also hot winds, all of which are very serious obstacles to its culture; to which may be added an item of expense which is in some cases highly important, namely, the high rate charged

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for conveying produce from the upper districts by boat to Calcutta. Now the white ants we may reckon as the most formidable enemy to the cane in India.

372. To all kinds of cane?—The native cane does not suffer nearly so much from it, but the Otaheite is a very succulent cane, and very rich, and the white ants attack it very much; I have had as much as 25 acres of cane of that description entirely destroyed at one time. I do not think there were a dozen roots remaining, but then it was a severe season: the hot winds were exceedingly severe, and the white ants were excessively troublesome to all manner of cane. By the side of this I had a field of native cane, and it suffered to an equal extent; it was eaten up by the white ants, and burnt by the hot winds, so that I got nothing whatever from the two fields. A person who has not been in India cannot have the smallest idea what the white ants are; they are the most destructive creatures in the world.

373. Mr. Miles.] Has there been any remedy found for them?—No; the only remedy I know is petroleum or earth oil, as it is termed in India; the white ant has a very great antipathy to that, and will never come near any ground that is impregnated with it. If you take a quantity of earth and put it into a box, then mix some of this petroleum with it, so as to taint the earth with it, you will not see the white ants come near it; you may take wood and dip it in petroleum, or even in water that has been in contact with this oil, sop it in that water for some time, and put it in a white ant's nest, and you will never see the wood touched by white ants till the taint of the petroleum has entirely left the wood. From this circumstance I am induced to believe that the cane-top plants being dipped in petroleum, or in water which has been in contact with petroleum, would be safe from the attack of white ants; but immediately they throw out sprouts, and those begin to form canes which would not be tainted with the same effluvia, they would be attacked by the white ants, and you would find that they eat the cane in a very few days; you see the leaves look yellow, and when you take up the cane, you find that it is completely eaten away underneath by the white ants. I ascribe to the white ants greater injury than to anything else in India.

374. Are they general over all the sugar districts of India?—In all the sugar districts that I have visited they are very general.

375. Mr. Wilson.] Are they equally so in Madras?—I have reason to believe that they are, but I have never been in the Madras Presidency. There is a feature connected with the white ant which it is very important to mention, and that is, that the white ants do not infest lands which are subject to inundation; where the water rests on the land for many days the white ants would be completely swamped; and the consequence is that they always infest the higher lands, where, if an inundation does happen, it runs off in a day or two, but where water rests on land for any length of time they never go; and from this circumstance I have often recommended, and were I to return to India as a planter I would certainly adopt, the system of making small bunds on those lower lands, and there cultivate the cane.

376. Chairman.] Will you explain what a bund is?—A bund is a mud bank, made of common earth, we will suppose six feet high in this case, and six feet broad; a bund would cost 1,000 rupees a mile, so that the cost of enclosing a square mile would be 4,000 rupees; 640 acres you could enclose in this manner by a bund six feet high and six feet broad for about 4,000 rupees. There is a vast quantity of land in India which is yearly inundated, but in a peculiar manner, not as one would suppose by the water rushing over the land, but by its spreading gradually and imperceptibly; as the river rises the inundation increases until it has reached its height. Such lands as those are of the peculiar kind which I have suggested for bunding, because the water does not come with a rush so as to wash away these bunds, but comes gradually so as not to affect them in any way. There are in the country immense numbers of what we call mango topes; a tope is a grove; the natives are in the habit of planting groves of trees together, and they call them topes, and round these mango topes they often place bunds. One would suppose that being of mud, and subject to the heavy rains which prevail in India, they would be washed away, but such is not the case, they last for a great number of years; and from this fact, I believe that planters availing themselves of such lands, by the simple circumstance of bunding them, which would cost 4,000 rupees per square mile, or 640 acres, would be quite free from the depredations of the white ants.

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377. Mr. *Wilson*.] In what way would the bunding free the land from the white ants?—The lands which are subject to inundation are not invested by them; you could always let in water by sluices, which is not only useful in so far as it affects the white ants, but is also useful in its effect upon the soil.

378. Mr. *Miles*.] Then the intention is to keep the water in, not to keep the water out?—It is to keep it out; the mango topes are perfectly dry whilst the whole country around is inundated, and therefore the trees that are growing within these bunds are protected. Now, were the inundation to reach them, and to rest upon the land as long as it very often does, the trees would die.

379. Would not the white ant come into those places if there were no water there?—After a time they would, but then you could inundate them at any time.

380. Then there is no quantity of water kept in?—No, but you could inundate the whole of the estate if you wish, or only a portion of it: you might have lesser bunds dividing the estate into parts. Where a system of irrigation is properly carried out, you could inundate any field you like.

381. Sir *T. Birch*.] Are the ravages of the white ant confined to the lower part?—Yes, they are underground.

382. Mr. *Miles*.] You stated that the canes came to maturity in eight months?—Yes, if planted in April.

383. Must they have irrigation?—They must have irrigation; you cannot grow the cane without irrigation; and not only irrigation at one time, but irrigation several times repeated. If you plant in April, the custom usually is to give the land a watering in the first instance; the land is then moist and the cane can be planted, because unless there is moisture in the land the cane will not sprout. When it is irrigated it is then ploughed and the cane planted at once; it is all done as quickly as possible, before the moisture evaporates, then the cane sprouts from the moisture which has been given, and in a couple of weeks afterwards it receives another watering, which is necessary to keep it alive, and those waterings are kept up every two, three or four weeks, according to the state of the weather, until the commencement of the rains, when nothing more in the shape of irrigation is required.

384. *Chairman*.] Will you explain the mode of irrigation which is adopted?—With much pleasure. In this chapter I am dealing with the subject of irrigation; and after describing the manner in which it acts on the soil, which is rather more lengthy than it would be right to introduce here, I have gone on to speak of irrigation in those countries where it is particularly required, such as, for instance, India, Egypt, Arabia, Persia, and China; but irrigation as pursued in India I can more correctly speak to, as I have had more experience of that than of the system which is pursued in other countries. The only methods I shall speak of are three. The first is by means of an upright pole, placed in the ground, which has at the upper end, a prong, into which a cross pole works by means of a pin. This cross pole has attached to its one extremity a rope and bucket, and at the other a heavy weight, a man stands over the well, and draws the pole downwards by means of a rope, until the bucket reaches the water and becomes filled. He then allows it to slip up, guiding it with his hands until it reaches the surface, when he discharges it into its proper gutter.

385. Mr. *Miles*.] Are there water-courses cut in the fields?—Water-courses are made on the instant by the man attending; the land being soft and so much pulverized, he makes the gutters with his hand, or with a light wooden shovel.

386. Does not the water sink away?—A great loss arises, but it is their peculiar way of doing things. Here and there they make a deep hole about three feet broad, and the water comes along the channels into that, and from that point he ladles it out, and throws it over the land as far as he can. He turns round and waters a complete circle; and then he moves on to the next receptacle for the water, and waters that circle, and then proceeds to another, and in that way waters the whole field.

387. Are there a great many wells in the different fields?—There are a vast number of wells in India. The practice in India is very peculiar. A native, when he is ill, or when he wishes to propitiate the gods in any way, will make a vow to dig a well and to plant by that well a tope of mango trees, that passers by, in time to come, may not only drink of the waters of the well, but repose under

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under the shade of those trees, which is no small benefit, considering the country that we are speaking of; and they can also, in the season, eat the fruit of those trees; and he does this from a feeling of benevolence, or from having made a vow to that effect; in this manner an immense number of wells and topes of trees are scattered over the country, and a great number of them are thus made public.

388. Have they generally to go down to a great depth for water?—In India the average depth of wells is from 20 to 25 feet, but sometimes much less. Rivers are deeper than this in the very height of the dry season; they may average perhaps 35 feet from the banks, but that arises very often from the banks being rather higher than the surrounding land, so that if you have to raise water you have to raise it to the bank, which makes the lift much greater than it would otherwise be. They have also a great number of ponds in the country.

389. Are there many steam-engines for the purpose of raising the water?—Yes, there have been steam-engines sent out for the Tirhoot Association or Company, by Messrs. Woods & Company, who showed me the drawings of them the other day. There is another system of raising water by the natives, and a very primitive system too, that by baskets; they weave their baskets very close, so that they can contain water; they are about 2 feet in diameter, and are very slightly concave; these are fitted with four strings, two on each side, and two men stand at the side of the water and hold in each hand one of these strings; they then give a swinging motion to the basket, which skims the surface of the water, becomes filled, and by a clever jerk it is raised to the height they have fixed upon, generally 5 or 6 feet; then it is jerked up in the same way to another step or elevation. So that from ponds 18 feet deep it requires six men or three pairs of men to raise each basket full of water to the surface. But the method which is considered the best in India, that is, the one on the greatest scale, is that by means of bullocks with a moat. A moat is merely a kind of bucket to raise water; it is made of four or six ribs, over which is stretched a cow hide; it has also a wooden handle, to which is attached a rope. This moat generally contains about 12 gallons of water, and to raise the water there is fixed over the well a piece of wood, on which there is a small revolving wheel, a most primitive thing, and this has a groove, into which a rope drops, and the bucket being let down to the well the cattle are run down an inclined plane, thereby drawing the moat up to the surface of the land. I have calculated that in this manner with smart bullocks the moat is raised and discharged once in a minute, and that they travel $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles in a day, delivering about 7,200 gallons, which is considered sufficient to irrigate a third of a pukka beegah, which is two-thirds of an acre; and this costs per acre 5s. 4d., including the men and their bullocks. It is generally considered in Goruckpore and Gazeepore districts to be as follows:—Two pairs of bullocks, which are required for one moat, at 2 annas a pair, 4 annas, or 6d.; three men, about 7d.; and one boy, 1½d. That is about 14½d. for the labour of these three men and one boy, and two pairs of bullocks, in the day.

390. *Mr. Wilson.*] How much will they irrigate in a day?—A third of two thirds of an English acre, consequently it costs per acre 5s. 4d.

391. *Mr. Miles.*] Each irrigation in that way?—Yes.

392. *Mr. Goulburn.*] How often is it repeated?—It varies according to the month in which the cane is planted.

393. Is it irrigated for one day, or for many days in succession?—It only receives one irrigation at a time, and when the effects of that irrigation have passed off, and the land has become so dry as to be unable to support vegetation without a further irrigation, it is again watered.

394. The water does not stay upon the land as it does here?—No, it does not, it is speedily absorbed.

395. *Mr. Wilson.*] On an average how many irrigations does the land sustain?—I have already mentioned that it is impossible to fix the number unless you state the month in which the cane is planted. In April the irrigation may be once, at the time of planting; in May again, twice. If you plant the canes in February, you have then the whole of the hot season to irrigate through; if you plant in April, you save the irrigations of February and March, and up to the time of planting in April also; but if you plant in May, which is a very common month,

month, you have only to irrigate to the middle of June; so that it is altogether dependant upon the month you plant in.

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396. What is the usual month for planting?—They are obliged to consult their convenience; February, March, and April are the usual months.

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397. February is a usual month, because they have rain then?—Yes, they generally have a shower of rain. Their system of irrigation suits the natives very well; it suits their means and their particular prejudices, but after all is expensive, when you come to consider that they have to give several irrigations during the hot season; where you have a large cultivation, as in the case of an European, for instance, 5s. 4d. per acre would be very high; but they cannot lessen that amount, because it will be perceived, from the statement I have made, that the proprietor only pays 1s. 2½d. for the people and the bullocks; he cannot lessen that amount therefore, using that particular method of irrigation; but by using steam-power, or taking advantage of the wind, which blows very fiercely and powerfully indeed during that month, he can give his land an irrigation much more frequently than he could under any other circumstances, and also much more cheaply.

398. Are there any windmills in use?—There are not, that I am aware of. To illustrate this work of mine, I am having a plate executed representing one of the most economical kinds which can be erected. Of course, in India, everything should be upon the most simple plan possible, and I have made a calculation here of what a common two-horse power windmill should do. I have supposed that a common two-horse power windmill (which would be very small), drawing from wells of the average depth of the country, would throw, with a common pump of very moderate power, 120 gallons a minute. This is as much as 20 bullocks, 10 men, and 10 boys could together accomplish, with this additional advantage, that it need not be stopped in the middle of the day for two hours, which in the native forms of irrigation you are obliged to submit to. It would pump during those two hours 14,400 gallons extra; raising 120 gallons a minute, it is a mere matter of calculation what it would give out in a day of 12 hours: it would be 86,400 gallons in the day. This is only with a two-horse power windmill.

399. How much per acre would that come to?—I have calculated that if you allow upon an acre an inch to a foot, which is considered a very excellent fall of rain, that is to say, two quarts of water to each foot of land, that would be 43,560 feet to the acre. It would irrigate in that case, we would say, nearly four acres a day, and irrigate it most bountifully. It is considered a very excellent fall of rain which gives an inch to the foot.

400. Would that be a larger irrigation than the 5s. 4d. upon the old system would produce?—On an average I think it would.

401. How much would you reckon that to cost per acre?—The mere wear and tear of the windmill, and the distribution of the water through the fields.

402. You think that the 5s. 4d. may be all saved by the introduction of a windmill?—The only cost in this case would be the distribution of the water over the fields, and the wear and tear consequent upon the work.

403. Therefore a much better irrigation than that obtained by the present system may be accomplished by a windmill at a very trifling cost?—Only the first cost of the windmill, and the cost of distributing the water over the land. You must have men stationed at different parts to distribute it with wooden shovels. But where you irrigate by windmills, or by steam in the place of windmills, where necessary, I have recommended a small machine, invented by a Mr. Baddeley, which, as an irrigator, is the most complete thing I ever saw. I have seen a model of it, and have had a description of it given to me. In that case, you would irrigate much faster, and at much less expense than by the shovelling system of the natives. That shovelling system is of course a very primitive one.

404. *Chairman.*] What do you consider the cost of irrigating by steam as used in Tirhoot?—I am not aware of the cost they go to.

405. What the Committee wish to know is, taking into consideration the present mode of cultivating sugar by the natives, and the little prospect there is of any general improvement in their mode of cultivation, what price you conceive the natives of India can afford to sell their sugar at in Calcutta?—I do not think that they can afford to sell it at a lower price than they sell it at now.

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406. What price is that?—Mr. Bagshaw must have stated it to the Committee, I think. The complaints are very great as to the prices which are now ruling, and in consequence a great deal of land will be thrown out of cultivation; if it does not pay them, the natives will have to resort to other cultivation.

407. Will you state distinctly what you apprehend to be the lowest price at which sugar can be grown for exportation at Calcutta?—I consider that the native material called "goor," which is after all what we must deal with, cannot be produced under two rupees a maund of 80 lbs.

408. What would that be, applying your answer to muscovado sugar, and stating the result in sterling money and English weights?—It would be 5*s.* 6*d.* the cwt. for the raw material, or 11*s.* for two cwt., which would be sufficient to give one cwt. of the manufactured sugar in Calcutta, such as I have before spoken of.

409. In addition to the 11*s.* there would be the cost of converting it?—The cost of manufacture. Yes.

410. Mr. Goulburn.] That 11*s.* includes the cost of transport to Calcutta?—I have supposed it to do so, which is rather an extreme case.

411. Chairman.] Do you know what the cost of the manufacture of this "goor" into muscovado sugar at Calcutta is?—No.

412. That is the lowest price at which the lowest quality of muscovado can be produced, you think?—Yes.

413. Mr. Wilson.] That is two rupees per maund for the crude material?—Yes, laid down at Calcutta.

414. Chairman.] Will you now favour the Committee with any information in your power relative to Province Wellesley?—The cultivation of the sugar-cane in the Straits settlements is of very recent date; that is to say, it does not range further back than eight years at the very most, when the first estate was established. But though eight years appear rather a long time, it must be understood that there were only four estates established until within the last three years, since which the cultivation has proceeded at a very rapid rate in Province Wellesley. The Government altered the tenure of lands, and otherwise encouraged the settlement of Europeans in the province, and the success of those who had entered on the cultivation was such as to induce many parties to join them. The Company sell their land in the province at the rate of five East India Company's rupees, or about 10*s.* an acre. It is then freehold property; but the singularity of the thing is this, that there being three settlements, Penang, Malacca, and Singapore, all comparatively within a very narrow circle, all under the same Government, and all belonging to the East India Company, lands can be purchased in Province Wellesley and in Penang at the rates I have just specified, but in Malacca it is quite another thing; and also in Singapore it differs in the same manner. For instance, in Malacca the lands are either held at a low quit-rent or leased at one rupee, that is, 2*s.* an acre per annum. In relation to Malacca there has been a stir made by the sugar planters lately which has induced the Governor of Singapore, Colonel Butterworth, to take the matter up very warmly, and to apply to the Bengal Government for permission to encourage the settlement of sugar planters. He has received that permission, and in several instances land has been given to Europeans free for five years, and afterwards for 6*d.* per acre, as long as the British flag shall fly in that territory. Those are the terms which are now given to those who wish to embark in sugar operations in Malacca. Several persons have received lands in this manner from the Company, but whether they will be cultivated or not I cannot say. Cultivation of cane has not yet been entered upon in Malacca by Europeans, because things have assumed such a very threatening aspect in England, that men are afraid to embark their capital; otherwise there was one gentleman with his 40,000 dollars, who I know was going to the Mauritius to get two other friends of his, Frenchmen, with a like sum, to join him in establishing an estate of 1,000 acres, which he had procured from Government. I received a letter from the Governor of Singapore, by one of the recent mails, wherein he informs me that nothing has been done by this party, but he is yet in hopes that he will be induced to commence. From other advices which I have received, I expect, however, that he will not, because there is no knowing at what period the duties may be altered, or how we may be treated,

treated, consequently they are all afraid; and I rather think that cultivation in Malacca will be delayed for a time. I came home myself for the purpose of establishing, with other parties, a large company in Malacca. We obtained 5,000 acres in the same way from the Governor, and the land is still at our disposal till May, when the period of a twelvemonth will be out. In the present state of things it is impossible to get up a company, or to get private parties to embark in such a concern. In the same manner I believe all parties who have applied for land in Malacca will be deterred. In Singapore no fixed rate has yet been arranged in relation to the lands. There are two sugar estates in Singapore, one owned by the American consul, and the other by Dr. Montgomery, a Company's servant; but the lands are not fixed at any rental. You cannot purchase land in Singapore as you can in the province of Wellesley. Though those three settlements are within such a narrow range, they entirely differ in respect to the land tenures.

415. How is the land held then?—You merely have leave to occupy it, that is all. The Chinese go and squat themselves down wherever they please and take the land, and when called on to contribute a rent, or to pay anything for it, they say, "There is the land, take it," and they go somewhere else. In province Wellesley, the following are the estates now settled, the particulars of which perhaps the Committee may find it interesting to hear. They have all been settled very recently. The Jawee estate is the property of a French gentleman; it has a 14-horse power engine of very superior construction, an excellent mill, and everything of that kind. He went to a great expense in putting all that up. The estate has in canes about 400 acres of land, cultivated by the Chinese under the system of contract, which will be spoken of immediately. The land may be calculated to yield 25 cwt. of dry sugar per acre, and the crop now in hand will be 10,000 cwt., or 500 tons, for the total crop of the Jawee estate.

416. What do you mean by dry sugar?—Dry marketable sugar. I speak of dry, in contradistinction to undrained sugar. Val d'Or is another estate belonging to the same proprietor. That has a 14-horse power engine and mill also, and a most beautiful piece of machinery it is; it was made by one of the first houses in England, and cost a great deal of money. That estate has also 400 acres of cane land highly cultivated, the whole of which may average 25 cwt. per acre of dry sugar, or 500 tons as the crop. The Victoria is another estate, in the immediate neighbourhood of Val d'Or, owned by Steward & Co. and Mr. Wilson, with a 14-horse power engine and excellent machinery; that has about 400 acres in cultivation; it yields about 25 cwt. per acre. The present crop may be estimated at 500 tons. The Holland or Krean estate, which is on the Krean River, is another very fine property, with a 12-horse power engine, and expensive machine. It has in cultivation about 250 acres of canes, yielding on an average 25 cwt. of dry sugar per acre, or 312 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons as the crop.

417. Is that owned by a British subject?—That is owned by Mr. Rodyke; his father was a Dutchman, but he was born and bred in Penang, and holds a situation under Government. Caledonia is another estate, in which I believe Mr. Horsman is concerned, the Member of Parliament; I rather think he has an interest in the estate in connexion with Steward & Company; that has a 14-horse power engine; it has in cultivation of about 300 acres of canes, yielding about 25 cwt. per acre of dry sugar, and the present crop may be estimated at 375 tons. Tassee estate is another property, belonging to the Catholic Mission, under the Bishop of Atholia; this has an eight-horse power engine, and has 250 acres in cultivation, yielding about 20 cwt. an acre. The present crop may be estimated at 250 tons. Arrarendum, the property of Mr. Bacon, has an 8-horse power engine; 250 acres in cultivation, 20 cwt. of dry sugar per acre, and the present crop may be estimated at 250 tons. Battu Kawan, the property of Messrs. Brown & Company, has a 12-horse power engine, and has in cultivation about 300 acres of land, yielding on an average 25 cwt. of dry sugar; the present crop may be estimated at 375 tons. Golden Grove, the property of Messrs. Steward & Company, has a 14-horse power engine, recently sent out; it has 250 acres in cultivation, yielding upon an average 25 cwt. of dry sugar; the present crop may be estimated at 312 tons. Bukit Tamban, the property of Messrs. Steward & Company, also has a 14-horse power engine, about 300 acres in cultivation, yielding about 25 cwt. per acre, or 375 tons of dry sugar. Laboo Marium, the property of the Catholic Mission, has a cattle mill, about 100 acres in cultivation, yielding about a ton an acre; the present crop is estimated at about 100 tons. This estate, I must remark, was for sale when I came away;

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the owners, in failure of being able to sell it, thought of abandoning it. Otaheite estate is on the Island of Penang, belongs to Messrs. Brown & Company, and has a water-wheel; it has about 200 acres of land in cultivation, yielding about 20 cwts. of dry sugar an acre, or 200 tons of sugar as its present crop. The Chinese cultivation may be reckoned at about 800 tons more; that is, cultivation belonging entirely to the Chinese themselves: thus making the whole of the produce of Province Wellesley and the Island of Penang to comprise 4,850 tons of sugar. But it must be remembered that there are several other estates in the course of settlement which I have not named, and these settled estates are all extending their cultivation. They are new estates, and they are getting in their canes as fast as possible; but whether the present prices or the present rates will deter them, I am unable to say. In the Island of Singapore there are two estates; one named Kallandale, belonging to Dr. Montgomery, which has a water-wheel; it has in cultivation about 350 acres of land, at an average of about 20 cwts. of dry sugar per acre; 350 tons may be taken as the present crop. Balestier estate, the property of the American consul, has an 8-horse power engine; it has in cultivation about 200 acres; the present crop may be taken at about 150 tons. From all which we find, that there are in these two settlements in the Straits of Malacca engines amounting in power to 132 horses, making 5,350 tons of sugar at the present moment.

418. *Mr. Matheson.*] A part of that sugar is made by the Chinese, you say?—The only Chinese property is that which I have stated as producing 800 tons of sugar. The Chinese, however, have a number of stone mills, granite rollers, by means of which they express their canes, and they have boilers to boil the crop; but since the Europeans have settled around them in this manner, the greater proportion of the Chinese have sold their canes to the neighbouring estates, because their own modes of manufacture are so expensive; and I suppose in a very short time there will not be such a thing to be seen in the province as a Chinese mill.

419. Eight hundred tons, however, is still manufactured by the Chinese in their own way?—A portion of it; two-thirds, I should say, are now sold to Europeans; the land is their property, but they sell the canes. The lands whereon the sugar-cane is cultivated in Province Wellesley, lie low, and are until well drained, marshy and swampy. Hence the necessity of making drains and canals much in the same way as they do in Demerara, only they do not require so many banks to keep out the water. When a planter purchases a piece of land, he gets a plan from the Government official in the office, and then the Chinese begin to flock in, asking him to make contracts with them. He never has occasion to ask the Chinamen. There will be abundance of them always ready to come in and ask him to give them contracts, because they are always on the look-out for fresh estates. They know immediately when land is purchased, and they come to you at once and ask you to give them the land to cultivate. The terms of cultivation I have stated here in a contract, one similar to which I myself have made with them, and many others in the province, and it will give the Committee a very general idea of the nature of the contracts existing at this moment in the province. I must first, however, remark that the rate advanced by the contract men to their labourers was until lately four dollars a month in the province. That was caused by a French gentleman there, who was determined to give that price whether his neighbours liked it or not; the price is now reduced to three dollars a month, that is 30 days, the people working Sundays there.

420. *Sir J. Pakington.*] That is the contract rate of wages?—Yes. You make a contract with certain men, as the Committee will hear from this contract which I will read. The following contract will give a good general idea of most of the contracts at this moment existing in Province Wellesley: "We, Leong Appong and Lim Allowee, Chinese sugar-cane cultivators, do hereby agree and contract with Mr. James Smith of Hope Estate, Province Wellesley, as follows:—"that is an imaginary estate of course—"That we will take 50 orlongs of waste land"—an orlong is an acre and one-third—"on Hope Estate, when measured out for us, and will cut, clear, and burn all jungle now growing thereon"—that is not heavy tree or forest jungle. This is always regulated by the appearance of the jungle. We always regulate that at once. The Chinaman looks at it and says, That is too heavy; you must cut that for us; it is a thing which is understood

stood perfectly,—“digging up all grasses, roots, and stumps, and thoroughly burning the same. That we will dig the said land with the hoe (as is usual), and plant it out with canes, in rows, at regular distances of six feet asunder, supply the same when required, and, in short, mould, clean, bank, trash, and, in every respect, take care of the said canes until they arrive at maturity; then cut the same (when ordered), tie them up in convenient bundles, and lay them on the roadside, or put them into the canal boats for conveyance to the mill. That we will dig all drains and cross-drains required on our said 50 orlongs of land, throwing up the earth on one side (if so ordered) to form roads, and will keep these drains clean. That we will employ and forthwith place on the above work, 50 able-bodied Chinese labourers, keeping the full number constantly employed until the whole 50 orlongs of land are planted out in canes, and the plants have received their second banking”—banking signifies giving the cane plants a kind of bank to keep the earth firm about the roots, and to preserve them from falling over; in moist soils the heavy weight of the canes will sometimes carry them over—“when we shall be at liberty to discharge 25 men”—that is, when the canes have received their second banking, the contract men will be at liberty to discharge 25 men out of the 50—“keeping the remaining 25 still employed on the estate”—because then the heavy work is all over, and they keep only 25 men to deal with the 50 orlongs;—“that we will receive and obey all orders given to us by the proprietor of the property or his representative, in regard to the execution of this engagement. That to enable us to carry out our agreement, Mr. James Smith shall advance to us the sum of 250 dollars, with which we will purchase hoes and other necessary implements, build a good and substantial house for our labourers, and lay in a stock of provisions, furniture, cooking utensils, &c. &c. That Mr. Smith shall advance us monthly four dollars,”—the advance monthly is now only three dollars,—“for each man working 80 full days, to ascertain which the estate’s native assistant shall call over the names of all our men, both morning and afternoon.” To enable the contract man to keep 50 men constantly in the field, he perhaps will keep 55 or 60 men in his house. Some of them may be sick, some of them may not feel inclined to work, some may wish to go to town; but that is nothing to the proprietor; all he has to do is to look to the number working in his field. Consequently the contract man keeps his account, while the proprietor of the property keeps his, by means of an assistant, who goes out and calls their names over morning and evening. “That when the canes produced on our said land are manufactured, the new sugar in the cooler”—that is, the granulated sugar undrained—“shall be weighed in our presence, and for each picul”—that is 133 lbs.—“of such new sugar yielded by them, Mr. James Smith shall pay us one dollar and a quarter, after deducting the above-mentioned advances, together with all other advances that we may have received from him. That all the accounts shall be made up and finally adjusted within one month after our canes are manufactured.” At the end of this agreement the proprietor generally states, “I, James Smith, do approve of and agree to, the above contract, and hereby bind myself to carry out my part of the agreement and make the necessary advances, on the understanding that the above conditions are well and truly performed.” These parties then sign their names, and the contract is witnessed by proper persons, and there the matter rests. It is considered binding upon both parties.

421. Mr. Wilson.] A dollar and a quarter would be about 5s. ?—Yes; I have taken a dollar as 4s. in all the estimates which I am about to lay before the Committee; in the province the exchange is 4s. 4d. or 4s. 5d. per dollar.

422. Mr. Miles.] Is all the work of sugar cultivation always done by contract?—Always by contract.

423. Is there no day-labour in the colony?—Yes.

424. What is the number of hours that the labourers work, when engaged in day-labour?—They go out in the morning about six o’clock, or rather before six, and they work until 11 o’clock; at 11 o’clock, the horn blows, and the people all drop work, rest themselves, and have their breakfast, till one o’clock; at one o’clock the bell again rings or the horn blows, and they all go out to work, and continue till about half-past five.

425. What is the ordinary number of hours that they work in India, in any sugar-growing districts?—About the same time; they always allow them two hours in the middle of the day, to rest and eat, and bathe, and so on.

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426. Mr. Wilson.] You say they pay a dollar and a quarter for the damp sugar, as it is produced in the pan; what proportion does the damp sugar produced in the pan bear to dry sugar in its merchantable state?—That again is dependent on the machinery which you use in manufacturing the cane. If it be of a superior character, and you boil your sugar on the low temperature principle, such as by the vacuum pan, or what is termed Wetzal's pan, you have very little molasses in proportion; but, as I said before, it depends upon the nature of the manufacture. I have here a kind of estimate of a sugar estate in the Straits settlements, which I think will convey to the minds of the Committee a better idea of what sugar can be cultivated for in the Straits than a more lengthened detail would do. This does not apply to any particular estate; it is an estimate drawn out purposely for the consideration of the Committee. This is supposed to be an estate of 500 orlongs of land, 677 acres, purchased from Government at the rate of 5 rupees or 10s. an acre: that gives an amount of 333*l*. "Digging main drains on same, as is usual;" the main drains or canals are dug by the proprietor of the estate, whereas all the small drains of the estate are dug by the contract men. I have allowed a large sum for that in this case; I have allowed 300*l*. for the drainage of 300 acres. "Laying out and sanding roads throughout the estate, 300*l*." I do not speak of making roads, because the Chinese, wherever they dig canals, or the drain-diggers, wherever they dig drains, always throw the earth out in that manner that you can easily lay it out to any required breadth, and afterwards sand it, so as to form a road. "Cane-tops for planting out 300 acres, and supplying," that is, supplying the place of those that die, "150 laksas,"* that is, 250*l*. That is a very ample allowance. I have taken a wide range, because at times there is great difficulty in procuring tops; there being so many estates settling, there is considerable competition. "Dwelling-house for manager and assistants, with the necessary out-offices, 250*l*." That also is high. "Ten common native houses for labourers." With regard to that I would observe, it is common in the province for the contract labourers of whom I have spoken, to provide their own houses, or, if you provide them with houses, you deduct from their contract money the price that the houses have cost you; and a very fair way of averaging such houses is, to take a dollar a man, so that a house calculated to contain 50 men would cost you about 50 dollars. They are made with the common native materials, in the native manner, but they are very good and very serviceable. Those 10 houses I have calculated for at 100*l*.

*A laksa is 10,000.

427. In that case you would not put the cost of the 10 houses upon the capitalist, because that would be repaid by the contract men?—I have put this down as a cost to the estate, whereas in reality, in nine cases out of 10, the contract men find their own houses.

428. Are you to be understood that all the other charges are really what may be called capital in establishing the property?—Yes, the block.

429. Now you come to those 10 houses, which may be rather put down as a portion of the expenditure of the contract-men, inasmuch as they find their own houses or pay you for them?—I have taken what occurs in one case in 10. In one case in 10 we will suppose the proprietor of the estate finds the houses; in nine cases out of ten the contract men find their own houses. As, however, there is one case in ten where the proprietor does find the houses, I have stated that in the block. I have taken the worst case I could suggest, a case of the highest possible expenditure. "One cattle and cart-shed, 10*l*.; 30 good strong Madras long-horned cattle,"—it is a particular breed of cattle, which is very valuable, and which I take at 12 dollars each, that is 75*l*.; "10 good hard wood carts, as commonly used, 50*l*." That is a very superior description of cart. "Three large sized cargo boats, at 60 dollars each, 36*l*." Those are large boats for carrying the cargo from the estate and shipping it. "A 10-horse power high-pressure engine and superior sugar mill;" I have put down 1,000*l*. for that, which I think is ample. One was sent out the other day costing 1,200*l*., but though it was called a 14-horse power engine, it was in reality a 27-horse power engine, so that in reckoning for a 10-horse power engine I have reckoned for it at a very liberal rate; I have stated 1,000*l*., which is a very fair sum. Then we have "Two sets of four, making eight pans of sheet-iron, for evaporating the cane juice and four for clarifying, each holding 350 gallons, being provided with valves, cocks, &c., 350*l*. Two Wetzal's concentrators," or what is termed in this country, Gadesden's Patent, "with piping complete," to work which I have added

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added to the value of the engine-boiler the sum of 50*l.*, making under this head 200*l.*; 150*l.* for the two concentrators, and 50*l.* to be added to the value of the engine-boiler to supply the requisite steam. "A 1,000 gallons still and double retorts, 600*l.* Manufactory," that is, the buildings and erection of machinery, for which latter you would have to pay an engineer, 600*l.* "Private implements, say 20*l.*" By private implements, I mean those which are kept on the property for the use of the day labourers. It will be observed that the contract-men always find their own implements; 20*l.* is a very fair sum for that. "Curing cases, fermenting cisterns, and utensils of various kinds used in the manufactory, 100*l.*" I have also taken an extreme case in this instance against the proprietor. I have supposed that the whole of those 300 acres are of that description that the Chinese would refuse to take them, unless the jungle was cut for them; consequently I have allowed three dollars an acre for that item on the average, because a portion of that may be in jungle and a portion may not. That is 180*l.* which I have allowed.

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430. Is there much land to be got of the other kind, on which there is no jungle?—Yes; and very often men make a bad choice by taking those lands that are easy to clear, when sometimes those that are the most difficult are the best. I have also put 246*l.* for unforeseen expenses; that is, anything that might arise which could not be calculated upon, which brings the total to 5,000*l.* for the block of the estate. The following are the current expenses of the crop. I must premise that, by stating that the first crop is the chief and most difficult part of the matter, you have to do so many different things; in fact, it is the establishment of the estate; consequently the time of the first crop lasts a long time, and the cost is much more than that of the other crops. I have allowed 24 months from the time the land is purchased and the Chinese contractor settled with, to the period the crop is worked off, which I think will be seen to be ample. We have 300 acres of cane planted out and brought to maturity by the Chinese under the contracts usual in the Straits settlements. I have further allowed a dollar and a half per picul (on the same principle that I have before spoken of, viz. because there are some estates which give a dollar and a half, whereas they generally give only a dollar and a quarter per picul) of 133 ½ lbs. of granulated sugar in the cooler, averaging 25 piculs of sugar per acre of undrained sugar. This quantity would be regarded by the Chinese as so small, that unless the land yielded more than that, they would not be very willing to accept contracts upon it. However, I have taken the very lowest possible amounts, and have put down 25 piculs as the average, which would yield 16 piculs, or one ton of dry sugar to the acre. One ton of dry sugar to the acre is very little for virgin land; that is, 11,250 dollars, or 2,275*l.*, which would be the amount to be paid to the Chinese contractor, because they are paid for the quantity of sugar they make; they are paid by the picul; so that the quantity of sugar which they make regulates the sum they receive. "Manufacturing charges on 7,500 piculs of new sugar, or 300 tons of dry sugar, at 1*s.* a picul," which is high, "240*l.*" "Manufacturing charges on 20,000 gallons of rum, over proof, at 2*d.* a gallon, 166*l.*; 200 puncheons for rum, each 100 imperial gallons, at five dollars, 200*l.* Two Chinese carpenters during 12 months, at a salary of 10 dollars each," would be 20 dollars a month, that is 50*l.* for the crop. The Chinese carpenters are for various uses on the estate; you cannot do without them at all. "One blacksmith and his assistant, at 20 dollars," that is 50*l.* also. "Ten Kling Coolies." Kling Coolies are Coolies from the Malabar coast, who come over in great droves for employment. It is usual on all estates to keep a few Coolies who will obey all orders that may be given; they attend to the cattle, clean the roads, and do anything that may be wanted, in fact. Those Kling Coolies I have stated at their regular rate, three dollars a month, that is 75*l.* a year in all.

431. *Chairman.*] At whose expense are they imported?—They come themselves, and go back again when they please. "Visiting engineer's salary for 12 months." It is usual to pay an engineer to come on the estate every now and then, to look at the engine, and see if anything is the matter with it, and if there is, to repair it, and you allow him a fixed salary of about 50*l.* a year; so that one engineer may have a considerable number of estates under his superintendence. "Five regular watchmen on the estate for 12 months, 50*l.*; manager's salary for 24 months, at 250*l.* a year, 500*l.*" I have allowed, as will be seen here, a liberal sum for the salary, because I think it is very bad policy

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to give a low salary; I have therefore stated 250 £, which, in such a cheap country as that, is considered a good salary. "Assistant's salary for the same period, at 100 £," would be 200 £. "Chinese and other assistants, in all four persons during 15 months, 75 £; interest on 8,500 £ for 12 months." I must state the reason why I have put down that. This money is not required at once, it extends over a period of two years; the consequence is that in taking it on the whole, 8,500 £, for 12 months, I think it meets the case as nearly as possible; because, as I said before, you require money progressively from time to time during this period, so that the interest could not be running on for the money during the whole time. I have stated the interest at 10 per cent., or 850 £. Unforeseen expenses upon the current account of the year I have stated at 198 £, which is a large sum. The total outlay under this head is 5,000 £. So that with the block we should have an expenditure of 10,000 £.

432. Mr. Miles.] Has anything been put down for feeding the cattle?—No.

433. How do you keep them?—They are fed on the estate.

434. On what?—On grass; they are grazed. I have allowed for 667 acres of land, out of which only 300 are in cultivation.

435. In the jungle or in grass you turn your cattle out, do you?—There is abundance of pasturage. The return produce of these 300 acres of land I have reckoned at the low average of a ton of fair marketable sugar an acre, which would be 300 tons, and 20,000 gallons of rum. That would give 6,000 cwts. of fair muscovado sugar, selling on the spot at 13 s., as I have calculated, that is 3,900 £. Twenty thousand gallons of rum, 30 per cent. over proof, I have taken at 1 s. 6 d. per gallon, that is 1,500 £. The reason I have reckoned in this manner those two prices on the spot, is to avoid the risk of confusing them with the charges for freight and commission, and so on, so that I have reduced them to what they are worth in the country; that gives us a total of 5,400 £. We see by this that the first crop clears its expenses, and shows only a balance of 400 £. to go towards the block.

436. Mr. Wilson.] What is the quality of this sugar?—It is fair muscovado sugar.

437. The best of the Penang sugar which has come to Europe hitherto you are aware has been of a very inferior quality?—What is called Penang sugar includes a very great variety. In the first place it includes the Chinese sugar manufactured by themselves in the province; a great portion of that is very bad. Until very lately, there was a restriction on Penang sugar, at the same time that they were allowed to import sugar from other countries, so that all the sugar which came home under the name of Penang sugar, was not grown or manufactured in the province. But since the withdrawal of that higher duty Penang has not been allowed to import sugar. Consequently everything that has come home since that time has been Penang sugar; but of this a great portion, to the amount of 800 tons, as I have stated before, is of Chinese cultivation, and a large portion of it of Chinese manufacture also, which is very inferior. Again, the sugar cultivated on many of the estates, and which has been sent home, is sugar cultivated on lands which have been for a series of years inundated, or subject to inundation, swampy lands abounding in saline matter. The consequence is, that this sugar, though it is probably fair and beautiful when it is first made, after a time imbibes the moisture of the atmosphere to that degree, that it becomes of a very different quality. That is the result of cultivating new land such as that is, rich alluvial land, abounding in saline matter. As the cultivation proceeds, its quality must improve, because by drainage and by cropping those pernicious constituents in the soil are diminished, and, consequently, the sugar becomes of a higher character. I have known sugar cultivated in the province near rivers which are affected by the tides to be so salt that you could not eat it. Such sugar as that would, of course, attract moisture enormously, and I have seen such sugar which has been sent on board, and I have known the captain of the ship to come on shore, bringing samples in his hand, saying, "I am expected to carry such sugar as this to England; look at it, it is already deliquescent." That arises from the cane being grown upon this saltish land. But in a short time all this is got over, and the sugar, it is found, improves every year. Those estates which have now been going on for some years, are very much improved in that respect.

438. Is it not the fact that the Penang sugars, which have been imported into this country, even during the present year, have been of a very low and bad quality?—

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quality?—I cannot state the fact from my own knowledge or from anything I have heard here, because I have had very little to do with this matter in England; but I should say, if it be so, that it arises from the causes I have just stated; for it must be remembered that a number of these estates are still opening new lands every day. A great deal of the sugar that has come home this year has been the first crop taken from the new land.

439. The sugar which you put down at 13s. a cwt. on the spot is supposed to be sugar that has assumed its best condition after the period of cultivation?—That is the lowest price at which sugar would have sold when I left the Straits in May.

440. Are you aware that there is a great deal of this sugar which has been sold in this country as low as 8s. a cwt.?—That applies to the sugar that is purchased directly from the Chinese, I apprehend.

441. Is the sugar sold here at 8s. a cwt. only the bad sugar, which is cultivated only by the Chinese?—It must be so; I do not think it is possible to be any other.

442. Mr. Miles.] Do you know what the value of Penang sugar is at the present time?—I have seen invoices of sugars which have gone from the province, and have been sold in England, ranging from 35s. up to 48s.; and I know that Mr. Balestier's sugar, made on his estate in Singapore, brought as high a price as 51s. and 52s. including the duty.

443. Mr. Wilson.] When did this sugar sell for 2l. 11s. or 2l. 12s. a cwt.?—I left Singapore in May, and there were invoices which had just arrived in the country. That was before the present extreme depression took place. The sugar made in the province by Europeans, generally speaking, is of a very excellent quality, as muscovado viewed on the estate; but from the circumstance of its imbibing moisture from the atmosphere, it sometimes becomes deteriorated so that you would not recognize it as the same sugar after a time.

444. Mr. Miles.] Do they send Penang sugar home in hogsheads, or in boxes?—In boxes and bags, and in a kind of basket-work; cranjans they call them.

445. Sir T. Birch.] Principally in baskets, do not they?—I cannot say principally; it is sent in all ways; there are scarcely two estates which send it over in the same way.

446. Mr. Miles.] Does the muscovado sugar of Penang go through the same process of manufacture as the muscovado sugar does in the West Indies?—It is much superior.

447. Is the general character of the manufacture the same?—Yes; the general character of its manufacture. The machinery of the province is, generally speaking, of a better character than it is in Jamaica.

448. Mr. Wilson.] You have not applied the Java system of claying, have you, because that makes the sugar so dry as to exclude it from any injury by damp?—They do at times clay their sugars, or very generally they do what answers the same purpose, they put wet cloths upon them, the moisture from which percolating through the mass washes the crystals; but where the sugar has those saline constituents embodied in it, it will continue to imbibe moisture till the whole has become a perfectly soapy mass.

449. The Committee are to understand that the circumstance of Penang sugar coming so damp arises from the cane imbibing saline particles in the first instance, until the cultivation has proceeded so far as to get rid of that quality from the soil?—Precisely so.

450. So that all new estates are liable to it?—Yes, if of a marshy and saline character. I will now proceed in my estimate to the second crop.

451. May the second crop be taken as a fair average of all future crops?—It may; you cannot call the estate settled down at the second crop, but you can form a very fair idea from it. We will suppose the same 300 acres which had been cultivated the year previously; I will suppose those 300 acres to be yielding ratoons; in this case, from the causes I have just mentioned, the quality of the sugar would be better the second year than the first. The rate at which I have estimated the first produce is so very low, that I have taken that quantity as the rate which the second crop will yield, which is a ton per acre; this is paid for only at the rate of one dollar a picul, whereas the former crop is calculated at a dollar and half. In this case the Chinaman has not to dig drains; he has not the trouble of digging out the stumps and roots, and settling the land, but he

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has only to cultivate the cane, which is already planted, the fields being already laid out; so that the labour is much less, consequently, instead of a dollar and half a picul, he receives only a dollar. That brings the price to 1,500 *l.* for the 200 tons of sugar. The manufacturing charges I have taken at the same rate as the year before, 240 *l.*; also the manufacturing charges on 20,000 gallons of rum, 166 *l.*; 200 puncheons at the same rate of 5 dollars, 200 *l.*; two Chinese carpenters, for twelve months, at 10 dollars each, and so on. The current expenses of the second crop would be 3,426 *l.*, paying interest on 6,000 *l.* at 10 per cent; the return produce would be at the same rate as I before spoke of, 5,400 *l.*

452. *Chairman.*] What produce do you reckon on?—Exactly the same as the year before; that gives 1,974 *l.* as the nett proceeds of the estate, or the profit to go towards paying off the block.

453. *Sir T. Birch.*] There is no expense of planting in the second year?—No, they are all ratoons.

454. Every subsequent year there would be, would not there?—No, when once the land is properly established the cost of planting is nothing; a Chinaman would rather plant the land than continue ratooning. If you offered second ratoons to a Chinaman he would say, "No, I shall make no profit; I would rather plant." First ratoons answer very well; after that they will not do.

455. *Mr. Wilson.*] You get 1,974 *l.* the second year towards the payment of the block?—Yes.

456. Still reckoning the sugar at 13 *s.* a cwt.?—Yes.

457. *Chairman.*] What do you make out that it costs you the second year?—I have still taken the same amount; it costs 3,426 *l.*

458. *Mr. Wilson.*] If you reckon 20,000 gallons of rum, at 1 *s.* 6 *d.* the gallon, that gives you 1,500 *l.*?—Yes.

459. Deduct that from the cost, it leaves 1,926 *l.* as the cost of the sugar?—Yes.

460. For 300 tons?—Yes.

461. Which is 6 *l.* 10 *s.* per ton, or 6 *s.* 6 *d.* a cwt.?—Yes; but the rum cannot be taken at the extreme price of 1 *s.* 6 *d.* The rum costs little in manufacturing, in comparison with the sugar; it should be taken at somewhat less.

462. How would you divide the cost of the rum and of the sugar?—You may divide it by taking the rum at 1 *s.*

463. That would give you the sugar at 8 *s.*, would not it?—Yes.

464. What is your market for the rum?—Rum is valued in the Straits from 25 cents, which is about 1 *s.*, to half a dollar, or 2 *s.*

465. That is its market value; where is your place of consumption for rum?—You either ship your rum to England or sell it to the shipping; or you dispose of it to those who purchase it for the purpose of shipping it to Australia, or other places.

466. You have the same chances as regards your market for rum as you have for sugar?—You have the same chances, because persons who purchase sugar or rum must have the idea either of shipping it on their own account or supplying it to other parties.

467. Australia is the great market, is not it?—It was; I have some doubt as to the eligibility of that market now, in consequence of some accounts I have received from Mr. Balestier of the rum sales turning out very unsatisfactory.

468. Has that market fallen off because the rum is not so good as the West India rum?—It is not so good, certainly.

469. The Australians prefer the West India rum?—Yes; in the first place rum coming from the West Indies has a long voyage; it is older rum; and in the second place it is better manufactured. The estates in the province are mostly managed by persons who have not been brought up as planters, and the consequence is they do not know how to manufacture rum so well as the old and well-established planters in the West Indies. They therefore produce rum which is somewhat inferior in most cases, and in some cases very much inferior to West India.

470. Is there any of this rum which comes to the English market?—A great quantity.

471. Does it meet with a ready sale here?—I have seen invoices of rum which has sold at 2 *s.* 1 *d.*

472. What

472. What is the cost of sending it home?—It is according to the rate of freight; sometimes freights are very high, sometimes very moderate.

473. What is the average freight?—The average freight from the Straits may be 5*l.* a ton. They take four hogsheads to a ton, of about 64 gallons each; that is 256 gallons; it is about 5*l.* The master of a ship does not like to take rum when he can get any other dead weight.

474. *Chairman.*] £. 5 for rum is quite below the average freight, is it not?—He is obliged to take it when they ship sugars and other things. The merchant will only give him those on condition that he will take so much rum.

475. *Mr. Wilson.*] If you put down sugar at 8*l.* a ton, and rum at 1*s.* per gallon, you think that will be a fair proportion between the two articles?—I should think it would. The freight is about 30*s.* more when rum is taken by itself. When it goes in as a general item of the cargo it goes in at the same freight.

476. *Chairman.*] Is not 5*l.* a ton a very low average for freights from the Straits of Malacca?—No; from what I have seen myself I should say it is a very general average, for dead weight; I have known several ships taken up at that rate all round.

477. Freight would be 10*l.* probably this year?—They were 10*l.*

478. In this item of freight, have you included insurance, brokage, commission, and interest of money?—That is the reason I have put these various articles as valued in the country; I have valued them in the country to do away with that portion of the charges which I am not so well acquainted with.

479. The virgin soil of Province Wellesley is of a very rich alluvial kind, is not it?—Yes, it is of a rich kind, much impregnated with saline matter.

480. As nearly similar as may be to the soil in Demerara?—Something similar to the Demerara soil; more similar to the Demerara soil than to any other that could be suggested.

481. Province Wellesley has this advantage, has not it, that it is not embanked from the sea, and therefore does not lie below the level of the sea?—No; there are one or two estates lying close to the river, which have small banks to keep out the tidal waters, but they are exceptions.

482. As a general rule, there is no outlay for constructing, and no continual expenditure for maintaining sea embankments, as in Demerara, Berbice, and Essequibo?—No, nothing of the kind.

483. *Mr. Wilson.*] Have you been in Demerara?—No, I have not.

484. *Chairman.*] The climate of Province Wellesley, I believe, is very like the climate of Demerara?—Yes, somewhat similar; but the climate is very healthy indeed; it is a fine healthy climate.

485. And very hot?—Yes, at times; but there is generally a refreshing breeze.

486. Are there any earthquakes?—No.

487. Any hurricanes?—No; and no white ants or jackals.

488. Are there any rats?—There are a few, but they do not abound as they do in the West India islands.

489. Have you elephants?—There are elephants, but they very seldom do any damage.

490. Have you plenty of fuel?—Abundance; the most extraordinary quantity of fuel to be found in any part of the world perhaps; in fact, as a sugar country, I know of no part of the world to equal it.

491. *Sir E. Burton.*] A great deal of money has been laid out there of late years, has there not?—Yes. As respects sugar lands, Malacca is superior to Province Wellesley in every sense of the word. The climate is more seasonable; there is a greater variety and a greater choice of land; it is the most perfect sugar country I can conceive of; it has so many advantages.

492. *Chairman.*] You are not constrained to burn your manure for fuel, are you; but you can apply it all to the purposes of cultivation?—Every iota of it can be used as manure. The Malays are a peculiarly jungle-cutting people; they are peculiarly fitted for it, and they like it; it suits their habits; they will cut you any quantity, put it into their little boats, and bring it to the stoke-hole close to the engine, at the cheapest rates.

493. You are not oppressed with excise there?—No.

494. There is no land-tax?—No.

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495. The Government is maintained, and you are not charged anything for it?—No, nothing at present; they are talking of an assessment.

496. You are not called on to maintain any church establishment?—Nothing whatever of that kind.

497. You have not seven church establishments, as there were in Jamaica?—No; they have one at Penang, which I think answers all purposes.

498. Are you taxed for that church?—No; nor am I aware of any other person being taxed in the province.

499. Do they work Sundays and week-days all alike?—The Chinese cultivating under contract, have a right to work when they like.

500. And they do work on Sundays like other days?—Yes; the only estate where I can say they do not work on Sunday is Mr. Balestier's; he is in the habit of giving them half the day on Sundays: but that is a matter for the planter to decide on for himself; if he chooses to make them a present of the day he can do it, but they will not reverence the day because he gives it to them as a holiday. The Catholic Mission estates also allow half Sunday.

501. All those plantations you have spoken of are very close upon the seaboard, are not they?—Yes, very close.

502. You have scarcely any expense in the way of carriage to the ship?—The most moderate possible.

503. And no risk from damage, or waste, or pilfering?—I have never known anything of that kind; I had a case once brought before me of a man stealing some sugar, but that is the only case I ever knew.

504. You are at no expense in importing the Chinamen, or carrying them back to their native country?—No, they come of their own accord, and go back when they please.

505. And of course you have to maintain none but efficient labourers?—You have nothing to do with that; that is for your contract men.

506. You have no poor-rate, have you?—Nothing whatever of the kind.

507. No charge for worn-out and infirm labourers?—None.

508. No charge for medical attendance?—Nothing whatever of the kind.

509. With respect to these Chinamen, do they work hard?—In contract work it is a perfect sight to see them. Any one going on a plantation, not having seen the Chinese working previously, would be perfectly surprised to see them; it is like a piece of machinery. If you see a man working, either in his own ground or in contract work, it is incessant motion. The man does not appear to feel fatigue.

510. They do not care at all for the climate?—Not the least; they often work bareheaded the whole day; or if a man puts on a cap, it is as a mere fancy.

511. A Chinaman will stand up to his knees, or even up to his middle in the wet, and work all day under the hot sun, will he not?—From morning till night.

512. And his health does not appear to suffer?—Not the least.

513. You have had experience of coolies in the north-western parts of Bengal; how should you compare the labour of a Chinaman with the labour of a coolie?—I would never have a coolie near me if I could have a Chinaman, such a difference have I found in their work. I think if there is anything like a comparison to be drawn, you may say that one Chinaman will do the work of four coolies, or even five. I would rather have one Chinaman than any four coolies I ever knew, and I have had thousands and thousands of coolies working under me.

514. How would you compare a Chinaman with a negro slave such as existed in your time in Jamaica?—A negro could never work with a Chinaman; I had ten years' experience very nearly of negroes, and have worked with them, and know their character perfectly. They have not the smallest chance in comparison with Chinamen.

515. *Mr. Wilson.*] Do you now speak of free negroes?—Yes, or any others; I have had a great deal of experience of both, and I am convinced that no negro in the world can work with a Chinaman.

516. It is to be presumed that you only pick out the best Chinamen for the purpose of being engaged in contracts?—You leave that with your contract man. We will suppose two men entering into a contract with you, or it may be one man; you leave him to provide his own labourers; he goes and chooses his labourers,

labourers, and brings them to the estate; they are generally fine young men, civil and polite, and will do whatever you tell them; they are always very civil and good-natured.

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517. *Chairman.*] Do those Chinamen live very hard?—They are very great gormandizers; they will eat a vast amount of rice, or anything they can get; they are not nice in what they eat; they will live upon anything; they have no prejudices as to caste; they have no caste; in fact, therefore, they will eat everything.

518. You are not obliged to find any particular kind of food for them as you are for the coolies?—No, when you cannot give them rice they will eat anything else.

519. Will they eat dogs, or rats, or cats, or anything else?—Anything; in fact, it is very dangerous to allow a Chinaman to prowl about your house; he will take up your dogs or cats, and walk off with them; they have walked off with mine very often.

520. As they enter into contracts, do you feel that every Chinaman has the same interest as the master in the cultivation of the cane, and that it is not necessary to watch them so much as you would do common labourers?—You cannot watch them; the thing is out of the question; you have made a contract with them, and you feel at once that the responsibility is removed from your shoulders. You have thrown the responsibility on the contract-man, and every man in the contract is one of the parties interested in it; he feels himself interested in protecting your property from injury, and in at all times conducing to its improvement. Whenever you enter into a contract you feel you have but little further responsibility in the matter; you have only to see that they do not shirk their work, and that they perform their contract well. You feel you have engaged in your interests the body of men who are placed upon your land.

521. You have employed above 100 Chinamen?—Yes, upwards of 100.

522. How do those Chinamen come from China?—Sometimes they come in junks; junks come down at certain seasons of the year; they are such unwieldy vessels that they cannot sail as ours do at all times, they therefore come down in the monsoon. At times great numbers come. That is the opportunity the women take for coming. When the women come, they come in junks, because European vessels will not take women; for this reason, that it is a kind of speculative emigration. Men come, fine young fellows; they come on board and ask the captain to take them. The captain will ask them whether they have any money. "No," they say, "but when we get to Penang and enter into an engagement, we will arrange to pay you;" and so they do. When they arrive, you see them there on board the vessel; the vessel lies at anchor. The Chinese immediately go off. For instance, my contract-man would come and tell me he wanted men. I would say, "Go on board and choose so many men. Take care they are stout good fellows, who do not smoke opium, and so on." He would go on board and choose them. They come on shore, and then you say to them, "Well, how much are you indebted to the captain?" So much. The captain comes with them and receives his money, and away he goes. Then your contract-man is responsible to you for the money you advance, because you do not advance it to these men themselves, but to the contractor, and he is made responsible for the advance; the men go, and are distributed amongst the Congsees, so that you have no expense or risk whatever.

523. In short, generally speaking, these Chinamen are not possessed of a farthing probably when they leave China?—Not a farthing.

524. Nothing but the trowsers they stand in?—And those are of the most ragged description at times.

525. But they are brought to the Straits of Malacca on credit?—They come on speculation.

526. European captains, and the captains of native junks equally bring them on credit?—Yes, on the faith of getting the money when they come there (to the Straits).

527. Is it your opinion that there would be any difficulty in getting any number of those Chinamen from China to immigrate to the West India colonies?—You might have any number that you could possibly require.

528. What number of those Chinamen now annually immigrate to the Straits of Malacca?—About 25,000 a year. In connexion with that, I may remark

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that an immense number also emigrate to various parts of the Archipelago; but confining myself to the Straits of Malacca, the amount is about 25,000.

529. Have you given your attention to the question of the immigration of Chinamen from China to the British West Indies?—Very much indeed; and I have not only given my attention to it since I arrived in England but while I was in the Straits. I went to Colonel Butterworth on several occasions, and he supplied me with all the information he had, and all the documentary evidence in his possession; and from everything I have learned on the subject, and everything I am personally aware of, I should say any number might be sent to the West Indies that may be required.

530. Have you made any estimate as to the expense at which they might be taken there?—I should say the outside range of the cost would be 10*l*.

531. How do you arrive at that result?—I am sorry to say I have not the memorandum with me at present, but I will furnish the calculation to the Committee.

532. Are you prepared with any estimate of the number of American ships trading with China?—In the month of November last there were in the Chinese waters 22 American ships, with a tonnage of 9,653 tons. In the paper before me I see in the year ending 30 June 1846 there were 40 American tea ships, which left China for the United States. In the year ending 30 June 1847 there were 37 also left for the United States, which does not include the *Mary Ellen*, a 600-ton ship, which was lost in the China Seas. Independently of those which carry tea, there are others which touch at Canton, taking a variety of articles, and others which go from Singapore and Penang.

533. So that there is an average of about 45 ships a year?—That would be about a fair average, I think.

534. Of what tonnage?—I should take the tonnage to be about, on an average, 500 tons. Some of them are much larger; 700, 800, and some of them 1,000 tons.

535. As far as your inquiries have gone, what number of Chinamen, if there were no government restrictions, would those ships be able to carry, supposing them only to take three-fourths of their cargo?—From various inquiries I have made, I have found that a ship of 500 tons could carry to the West Indies 300 Chinese immigrants and 400 tons of cargo, together with water and stores. Perhaps I may be allowed to remark, that those are the very description of labourers, in my opinion, that are wanted in the West Indies. I say that, having had to do with a vast number of other kinds of labourers, such as negroes, Hindostanees, Malays, and others.

536. Do you know enough of navigation to be able to say how many days voyage it would be out of a ship's way to call at Jamaica or the Windward Islands, and leave such persons there?—It would not be more than two or three days' sail out of her way.

537. What would be the cost?—£.10 is the outside range, according to my estimate.

538. How much of that 10*l*. have you allowed for provisions, and how much for freight?—In relation to that I must remark, that rice, which is the peculiar food of these people, that is, the food mostly eaten by them, though they will eat anything else, is cheaper in that part of the world which they would have to come through, than anywhere else. If the ships were to come past the Straits of Sunda, calling at Sarabaya or Samarang, or passing through the Straits of Lombock, they could get rice of an excellent quality at from 50 to 55 dollars a picul of 133 lbs. The calculation I have made for them perhaps may appear to the Committee rather small, namely a pound of rice per day to a man, independent of other things; but a pound of raw rice when boiled is a very large quantity. I know that labouring Chinamen will eat 2 lbs. of rice per day with very great ease, and even more, and that is the regular allowance we calculate for them; but that is for men working laboriously.

539. What have you reckoned as the cost of the subsistence of those Chinamen during their voyage from China to the West Indies?—The following is an estimate of the cost of provisioning 300 Chinese emigrants from Amoy to the West Indies, allowing 150 days for the passage:

300 adults

300 adults, at 1 lb. of unboiled rice each per diem = 340 piculs. Good rice sells in China at 1 1/2 dollar per picul; therefore say	Spa. Dollars.	510
300 adults, at 1/2 lb. of good salt fish each per diem = 170 piculs, at 6-		1,020
7,500 lbs. of good wholesome biscuit, to be used in bad weather -		225
900 lbs. of common junk tea (black) for the passage		105
Oil for cooking, <i>id est</i> , edible oil, for the passage		150
Chillies (peppers) and various spices		60
Sugar to be eaten with their rice, 1/2 lb. each every two days=45 piculs		135
Allowance for bags and packages		130
Indulgences in cold and stormy weather, of tobacco, arrack, &c.		165
	Dollars - - -	2,500

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Note.—About 500*l.* sterling.

COST of Passage per Emigrant to the *West Indies*.

	£.	s.	d.
300 Chinese emigrants at 10 <i>l.</i> each	3,000	-	-
Deduct cost of provisioning	500	-	-
	£.	2,500	-
Deduct for each a suit of warm clothing, as before named, supplied to them by the agent		100	-
Total Net Freight	£.	2,400	-

Note.—If the ship finds the provisions, it must be on the scale before laid down herein, and be allowed for as 500*l.*; leaving 8*l.* per emigrant, 2,400*l.*, as the net freight of emigrants, independent of cargo.

The Committee will please to observe that 1 lb. of raw rice will, when boiled, swell out very much, and will then weigh about 2 1/2 lbs. to 3 lbs., which (together with the other allowances) is an ample daily ration for each person. This is particularly convincing when we consider that the supposed emigrants are persons long accustomed to severe toil, and very scanty food; men who are, in fact, half starved; men who are leaving their country because their utmost labour does not suffice to provide food enough to maintain life; men who are leaving bitter toil and hunger behind them to enjoy the idleness of a boardship life, and the very comfortable rations I have stated. Under these circumstances the fellows would consider themselves living in clover with such allowances, and would be abundantly satisfied.

The agent who ships them in China would have to provide each person with a pair of loose trousers and jacket-shirt, made of blue pennistone, which is a kind of close coarse baize; also a few mess pans, which are procurable in China very cheap. The ship conveying these people would have to provide good puncheons for containing water, which would sell very readily in the West Indies, at a good price, for estates' purposes.

It would also be necessary to use up a quantity of thick boards or planks in forming accommodation for the emigrants, but the cost of these would be fully covered by the price they would sell at in the colony in which the people were landed.

So that, in fact, the ship would be at no other expense than the mere provisioning of the emigrants, as I have stated.

With each cargo of emigrants, one, two, three, or more young Chinese would also be sent, to act as interpreters; these interpreters would be taken from Pinang, Singapore, Malacca, Hong Kong, &c. &c., and would be found very useful. There would require to be also some few well-disposed and respectable Chinamen established in the West India colonies, who have long resided in the Straits settlements, and who would initiate their raw countrymen, and smooth over all difficulties. Hope of profit, and remunerative employment, would induce these and the interpreters to go very readily.

540. Assuming the average tonnage of each ship to be 500 tons, and that there were 20,000 tons in the whole, that would admit of 12,000 Chinamen being brought every year?—That is if they brought 300 Chinamen each, and 400 tons of cargo. What is called a 500-ton ship will carry from 900 to 1,000 tons of cargo.

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541. Supposing them only to bring 150 each, that would admit of 6,000 Chinamen being brought every year by American ships?—Yes; they could take with a large cargo a great many of those men.

542. Your calculation, however, is not based upon the supposition that the Americans will take them all?—No; I imagine that English ships will take them also. A European ship would not be able to bring home tea; she could take to the West Indies nothing but rice; she would carry rice; taking 400 tons of rice at the Straits of Sunda (Sarabaya and Samarang), proceeding on her voyage with 300 of these men, she would do well. There is another method by which they could be brought. If it could be so arranged that we were allowed a landing-place at Fayal, at the Azores, or at Madeira, English home-ward-bound ships could run in there with these men on board; and then West India ships outward bound, passing the island, would drop their anchors and take them off, and carry them to the West Indies. It is in their track, both ways.

543. That would not be out of the course of an outward-bound West India-man?—It would not be out of the way of either of those vessels.

544. A letter by the overland mail would give such full notice of the time when one of those cargoes of Chinamen might be expected at Fayal, that there would be no difficulty in making the necessary arrangements for an outward-bound West Indiaman to take them on?—Not the smallest. It could be easily arranged.

545. In how many months might you receive the news in England that a cargo of these immigrants were on their way?—Suppose their voyage to occupy four or four-and-a-half months to Fayal, and the news by the overland mail came in two months, you would have the clear space of two months, or two-and-a-half months, for making the necessary arrangements.

546. It is your opinion that there would not be the least difficulty in getting Chinamen to contract in China to go out to the West Indies?—Not the smallest difficulty in the world; in fact they will beg you to allow them to go.

547. They would undertake to work out their passage-money for whoever would carry them out?—Yes, they would; decidedly so. In fact, ships arriving at Amoy and Shangae are immediately crowded with Chinamen, begging the captain to take them for a passage, wherever he may be going. They are anxious to get away; they are in such a miserable plight that they are glad to go.

548. Up to this time the restrictions imposed by the Colonial Office have made it utterly impossible for any Chinaman to be engaged in that way?—We are so restricted in the West Indies. Our slaves have been made free, and we are not allowed to import labourers to carry on our cultivation, so that our estates are ruined; our hands are tied, and we are not allowed to supply the requisite labour. If we were allowed by the Colonial Office to import labourers, we could do so, and that upon principles the most humane, in connexion with their passage, and so on; while at the same time their labour would serve to carry on the cultivation of the estates, and rescue the colonies from ruin.

549. The Committee understand that there is a complete bar at this moment to any emigration of Chinamen to the West Indies, through the regulations and restrictions of the Colonial Office?—Decidedly so.

550. The only possible mode of encouraging the emigration of Chinamen would be, that all restrictions should be taken off, and that merchant ships should be left entirely free, and private individuals be left entirely free to engage Chinamen, and to carry them to the West Indies in the best way they could?—Certainly; to take them from China, or any other country where they could get them, but especially from China.

551. Are you to be understood that there is no other spot on the globe, so far as you know, where sugar can be so cheaply grown as in the Straits of Malacca?—I do not know any other country where sugar can be grown to such advantage as in Malacca; but in reference to the Straits of Malacca, it is important to remember that we may take 2*l.* a ton against that produce as extra freight, beyond the freight from Cuba and Brazil for instance; because it is a greater distance we pay 2*l.* a ton more for our sugar from there than is paid from the West India Islands.

552. In addition to which there is double insurance for a five months' voyage, instead of two, and so on?—Yes.

553. Probably

553. Probably a larger commission?—Yes.

554. *Mr. Wilson.*] Does that apply to Java the same as the Straits of Malacca?—No; and there is another thing that does not apply to Java, which is, that the restrictions on our navigation are such that we sail our ships so much dearer. They can send home their sugar from Java much cheaper than we can.

555. Suppose you had no navigation laws, but that you had the same opportunity of getting cheap ships from the Straits of Malacca as they have, there would be no difference between your position and that of the Javanese now?—There is something in connexion with that which is very important, and that is, that although you may send sugar home much cheaper in foreign vessels under general circumstances, how are you to know that these foreign vessels are sound vessels? they are not vessels approved at Lloyd's; they are not vessels known to us as being of a certain standing; they may be any rattle-trap affairs sent out, and patched up so as just to keep the sea. One great protection to your shipments, in case of shipping in English ships, is, that you have the assurance that they are good ships, from knowing on what letter they are placed at Lloyd's, and that is a very great thing as affects the insurance of your produce. The insurance offices in the colonies would be very loth to insure your sugar home if they knew your ships were foreign ships; they would wish to know what Lloyd's would say to them.

556. *Chairman.*] It requires very strong ships to carry sugar, does not it?—It does, very strong.

557. Nothing but an oak or a teak-built ship will serve to carry sugar, will it?—It requires a good soundly-built ship to carry sugar, or any other heavy cargo; a heavy cargo is the same in all cases.

558. *Mr. Wilson.*] If you have this disadvantage in freight in an English ship which you complain of, you appear, on the other hand, to have the advantage in insurance?—You have the advantage in insurance; it would be doubtful, however, whether an insurance company would insure your shipments in foreign ships, unless they knew them. Everything can be reduced to rule, and I think this can. If a man is shipping his crop of sugar, he has that confidence in shipping it in an English ship which he would not have if he were shipping it in a foreign ship, because he does not know where that ship was built, of what material she is composed, or whether she is a staunch craft. The consequence is that he is in doubt till he hears from England whether she has arrived or not.

559. Those risks are all included in the insurance, are not they?—Yes, precisely so; and therefore I consider that colonial insurance offices would refuse a great many insurances on foreign ships.

560. At present ships coming from Java are insured; there is no difficulty in insuring them?—Those that come from Java are known to the Javanese merchants, or to the Batavian merchants, and the Batavian insurance companies; you cannot insure ships from Java, that is to say Dutch ships, in English insurance offices in the Straits.

561. But all the sugar that is shipped from Java now is shipped in European vessels, either Dutch or English?—Yes, but my argument is that you cannot insure foreign vessels in an English office in the colonies, unless well known.

562. You could in a Dutch office?—Under those circumstances you would have to get a branch establishment at your own ports; and then the question would arise whether those offices were good for anything.

563. *Chairman.*] Do you know what the freights from Java are?—I do not.

564. Do you know whether a Dutch ship from Java does bring sugar cheaper than a British ship?—I know that, because it is often the topic of conversation in Singapore, where a great many Dutch ships trade. The Straits' merchants have a great deal to do with Batavia, and I have often heard a discussion on the subject at merchants' tables.

565. Do you know at how much cheaper a rate sugar would be brought home in Dutch ships than in English ships?—I do not; I spoke of foreign ships generally; I have seen extremely fine American ships come out of the Straits, as fine ships as a man need to see, and those ships sail cheaper than English ships.

566. What do they offer to carry?—They could not offer to carry.

567. Not to England, but to other ports?—We do not ship to other ports.

568. Do they carry sugar to the Hanse Towns?—I do not know.

569. You are not aware whether foreign ships would bring sugar home cheaper

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cheaper for you than English ships?—I should say the matter rests altogether upon your knowing the ship; if you knew well the ship, and the merchant with whom you dealt knew the ship, he might possibly effect an insurance of the produce, otherwise your sugars could not be insured.

570. Are you aware whether foreign ships would bring sugar home for you more cheaply than English ships?—Foreign ships will bring sugar home more cheaply, certainly; but we are seldom so secure as in British ships.

571. How do you know that?—Because it is the opinion expressed by every merchant of every kind whom I have heard speak on the subject.

572. You never had any experience on the subject?—No, we are not allowed to ship sugar in foreign bottoms.

573. You do not know whether they bring home sugar at 2*s.* 6*d.* a ton or 1*l.* a ton?—No.

574. Did you ever hear of foreign ships carrying sugar from Java to Holland cheaper than British ships will carry sugar from the Straits of Malacca to England?—I never heard a comparison drawn.

575. *Mr. Wilson.*] You have stated that in Singapore it is considered by merchants resident there that they labour under great disadvantage in consequence of the higher freight caused by the restriction which exists?—The opinion usually expressed in the Straits is, that the ships of other nations are sailed at much less cost than those of England; but at the same time there are always the doubts expressed which I have mentioned, as to whether you would be secure in shipping in a great many of those foreign ships. I should hesitate very much as to shipping sugar in any other than a British ship.

576. Are you aware of a petition that has recently been sent home from the Chamber of Commerce in Singapore, against the Navigation Laws of this country, complaining of those very evils which we are now discussing?—I believe such a petition has been sent home. I think I have read such a thing; but at the same time, in common with other persons, I have my own opinion upon the subject.

577. *Chairman.*] If the repeal of the Navigation Laws did cheapen freight, you probably think it would reduce the freight on sugar from the Province Wellesley to twice the extent that it would reduce the freight from the West India islands, and would thus give an advantage to the East over the West?—I should suppose that it would reduce it in the same ratio, but it is only under certain circumstances.

578. If the repeal of the Navigation Laws benefited the West Indies 1*s.* a hundredweight, it would benefit you 2*s.* a hundredweight?—I do not doubt but that it would benefit the Straits' planter in the same ratio it did the West Indian.

579. What is the sailing distance from the Straits of Malacca to England?—I believe it is roughly calculated at from 12,000 to 15,000 miles. May I be allowed to mention to the Committee that there is something which should be added to a former answer of mine. In saying that it would cheapen sugar, it is only in particular cases, as it only gives you the option of taking a foreign ship if you like, whereas I think in two cases out of three you would prefer an English ship.

580. *Sir E. Buxton.*] Is there a large mortality among the Chinese who are working on the estates in the Straits?—No; they are the most healthy fellows in the world.

581. In case they are taken ill, what do they do?—They go to their own native doctor; they do not like European practice.

582. Do they pay for it themselves?—Yes.

583. The wages come to about 6*d.* a day?—Yes.

584. What proportion of women do you suppose there are with those men?—The women are never brought in European vessels. In the Straits settlements there are a large number of Chinese women, several hundreds. You will see numbers of Chinese women in the Straits, who must have come from China in some vessels; they come in junks. But the number of Chinese women to the number of Chinese men is very disproportionate, because they (the males) come on this speculative kind of emigration. They come to look for work, and on credit.

585. How many men do you suppose there are to one woman?—I cannot say that; it is a very large number indeed under those circumstances.

586. What

586. What is the moral state of those men?—I do not believe that they are so bad as the Bengalese by any means; they are, whilst living on the property, the most quiet and most orderly people you can have.

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587. Do you suppose that not having more women among them has given rise to those crimes which it is said the great number of men, in proportion to the women, going to the Mauritius, has given rise to?—If those things do exist you never know of them. I can safely say, myself, that I never knew anything of the kind. The Chinamen when they come will very often intermarry with the Malay women, and the other women of the country.

588. What is the length of time they usually remain at the Straits?—Sometimes they remain there all their lives; sometimes they remain five, ten, twenty, or thirty years, as the case may be.

589. Do you mean to say that any large number of men remain there all that time without their women?—Yes; they get some Chinese women perhaps, or they get Malay women, or those that have proceeded from the mixture of Malay and Chinese, and they settle down in that way.

590. What is the length of voyage to the West Indies from China?—From four months to four months and a half on the average, by the Straits of Sunda.

591. With respect to those Chinese that come, what part of China do they come from?—From different parts; Amoy, Shanghae, and Canton; we call them Fokein Chinese, Chinchu, and Macao. These three do not speak the same language; they cannot understand each other, and are always obliged to speak the Malay language.

592. Are they fond of drinking if they can get at the rum?—As a body they are a very sober set of men; comparing them with others, such as our own peasantry, for example, or the peasantry of any other country, they are a very sober set of men.

593. Are you aware that the Chinese have gone to Trinidad in former times?—I am aware that the Straits were once completely swept of all the vagabonds that could be collected; they packed off every lawless ragamuffin they could get hold of, and sent him away. Most of them were notorious characters.

594. They went from the Straits, and not from China then?—Not direct from China; some few were taken up in the Straits as they arrived from China.

595. Are you aware that there has been an importation of them into Cuba?—I am aware of it.

596. Was that from the Straits, do you know?—That was from China direct; from Amoy I think. In connexion with that, I should wish to remark on what was stated on Saturday by Lord Palmerston, viz. that evidence has been given that on being "coerced," they had murdered their overseers. Now, the word "coerced" was not explained; it is a very comprehensive term, and I suppose we must take it in the sense in which it is used in Cuba. The coercion of Cuba would be very different to the coercion of England or of a British colony. I suppose the coercion of Cuba signifies a good round flogging; I suppose they must have been well flogged, and perhaps put in the stocks and treated the same as slaves. There is great difficulty in estimating the advantages of such an emigration as that; you are sending men who are born free, and have been accustomed to free institutions all their lives, to a slave country. If they are a little wrong-headed or in any way obstinate, they are immediately "coerced;" that is to say, they are flogged or treated like slaves, and the consequence is they will rebel and perhaps retaliate, so that lives may be lost, and murder may be attributed to them. I think that is a very unfair mode of estimating the advantages of such an emigration.

597. You think the reasons against their importation into Cuba would not exist in Jamaica?—I think the West India planters have been taught since the abolition of slavery that forbearance is necessary towards their labourers; that is to say, if they did not know it before. They are obliged to act with the greatest indulgence and forbearance towards their labourers; and the same indulgence and forbearance exercised towards Chinamen would induce them to work as well in the West Indies as they do in the Straits. In the Straits we never have to complain of the Chinese labourers in any way.

598. Does any slavery exist in the Straits?—None whatever.

599. For how long do the Chinamen remain at work with you?—You agree with the contract man; you have nothing to do with that.

Leonard Wray,
Esq.

14 February 1848.

600. Do you know how long they remain?—Sometimes they remain for years in one congsee.

601. Is the contract from year to year?—It is for one crop or two crops, as the case may be.

602. It is for at least a year?—Always for a crop; it may be for two or even three crops, extending over a period of two, three, or four years.

603. Mr. *Wilson.*] You told the Committee, that as soon as it was known in the Straits that a new estate was to be cultivated, the owner of that estate had applications made to him immediately, in great numbers, by the labourers, or those who employ labourers, for the purpose of entering into contracts with him?—That is the case.

604. You have always a large supply of Chinamen as labourers in that country?—A very large supply.

605. What is your opinion as to those Chinamen being equally tractable and equally disposed to work if they were in the West Indies, where there are three masters to one man, as they are in a country where there are three men to one master? In the West Indies you are aware there is no competition for labour, in consequence of the small number of labourers. In the Straits there is great competition, in consequence of the large number of labourers in proportion to the number of employers. Have you any means of judging whether, if the Chinamen were removed to the West Indies, under those circumstances they would manifest the same assiduity and good character which you describe them as exhibiting in the east?—The persons I have described as flocking round a planter when he is setting an estate in motion, are Chinamen who are desirous of entering into contracts with him, that is, of becoming the heads of the congsees or companies which are formed. They are not the mere labourers themselves. They may be labouring men, but they come forward and ask you to form contracts with them. If you do so, they go at once and procure labourers. In all cases I have seen, if you have a good contractor you are sure to have good workmen.

606. You are speaking of a country where there is an abundant supply of labourers. You might have equally good contractors in Demerara, for instance, with a very insufficient supply of labourers, and where, therefore, the control to be exercised over them would be much less?—The case would be ruled entirely by the manner in which they go there: for instance, if the Chinamen were to find their way there on their own account, as they do in the Straits, and when they arrive in the country find themselves free to form any bargains they might like, those men would make their agreements and would be ruled by them; but afterwards, if they had another contract offered to them at a higher price, they would go to that; they are ruled by self-interest, just the same as Englishmen, but perhaps to a greater degree. At the same time, if they went as Government immigrants, or were taken there by private individuals, at a specified sum a month, they would work out their contracts, I think, as faithfully as any other class of men I am acquainted with. After that they would become free of all obligation; they might then form contracts wherever they pleased; and it naturally follows that they would go to that contractor who would give them the highest rate of wages.

607. Therefore all the advantages that are derived by cheap labour in the Straits' settlements, in consequence of the large number of labourers, would be lost in Demerara in consequence of the small number?—Not so; the present difficulties which stand in the way of cultivation would be lessened by every cargo of Chinamen that came there. The addition of every Chinaman would serve to lessen the difficulty as far as his labour extended. The consequence would be that as the immigration proceeded, so the difficulties would be lessened. But there is another feature to remark on in that; which is, that it is not alone the labour of the man, but it is the manner in which he applies his labour. He takes a contract, and working under the contract, he throws the whole of his strength and energy into his work.

608. The question is, would such a person be likely to take a contract where he had not the same control over the men who were to perform the contract?—The Chinese character is averse to day labour; they do not like day labour; they like contract work. A Chinaman always looks forward to profit; you never find a Chinaman who would prefer day labour to contract work.

609. Therefore he will always work hard if he can get plenty of money for it?—Yes; give him contract work, and he will always work hard.

Mercurii, 16^o die Februarii, 1848.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord George Bentinck.
Sir Thomas Birch.
Sir Edward Buxton.
Mr. Milner Gibson.
Mr. Hope.
Mr. Labouchere.

Lord George Manners.
Mr. Matheson.
Mr. Miles.
Mr. Moffatt.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Wilson.

LORD GEORGE BENTINCK, IN THE CHAIR.

Colonel *William Henry Sykes*, called in ; and Examined.

610. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you are a Director of the East India Company?
—I am.

Col. W. H. Sykes.

611. And you are fully acquainted with all the statistics of India?—I wish I could say I was fully acquainted with all the statistics of India; the Court of Directors are collecting statistics, and I hope in time we shall be able to perfect a necessary measure; considerable progress has been made.

16 February 1848.

612. Can you inform the Committee what the revenue of the East India Company is?—I had occasion to draw up a paper, showing the progress of the revenue of the East India Company in different decennial periods; it is for the years 1809-10, 1819-20, 1829-30, and 1839-40. I wished to ascertain the progress of the revenues and charges of India for these 40 years; the whole is placed under the different heads of land, sayer, and abkarry of the lower and upper provinces of Bengal; the customs of the lower and upper provinces; the salt, deducting cost; the opium, stamps, and post-office; the revenue of Prince of Wales Island and the ceded territory in the Nerbuddah, and tributes and subsidies, deducting the allowances and assignments payable out of the lower and upper provinces; and there is a final balance struck. The same thing is done for the other presidencies.

613. Will you state what in the last period the gross amount of revenue appears to be?—I have the net revenue for each presidency; it has varied in Bengal and Agra, from 7,151,037 *l.* in the year 1809-10, to 8,962,848 *l.* in 1839-40; in Madras, from 3,620,657 *l.* to 3,433,220 *l.*; and in Bombay, from 466,716 *l.* to 1,346,292 *l.* The total net revenue, therefore, in the last period, was 13,742,360 *l.*; and the gross revenue, 15,338,737 *l.* Each decennial period has its revenues and receipts in separate columns; the charges of collection under each head; the net receipts, and the rate per cent. of collection, and that for each decennial period. Then against the receipts are contrasted the charges; civil and political charges, including contingencies, and judicial charges of the lower provinces and the north-western provinces; the provincial police of the lower provinces and the north-western provinces; the mint; the marine; the military; buildings and fortifications, and charge of Prince of Wales's Island, and interest on debt. The other presidencies combine the same elements. For India at large the total charges, including interest on debt, in 1809-10, were 98.561 per cent. of the whole revenue; in 1819-20, they were 99.366 per cent.; in 1829-30, 92.142 per cent.; and in 1839-40, 94.608 per cent.; and under each head of receipt and disbursement the per-centages are also given.

[*The Witness delivered in the following Paper:*]

Col. W. H. Sykes.

16 February 1848.

The estimated gross revenue of India, for 1847 and 1848, is,

Bengal	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Rs. 11,09,88,277
Agra	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,99,07,000
Madras	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,18,03,720
Bombay	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,54,68,230
TOTAL								- - - 25,81,67,227

The charges are estimated at, Rs. 24,03,50,462.

614. Can you state what portion of the revenue of India is raised from the land taxes?—For a part of India I can. I have a paper here, which I drew up when I was statistical reporter in the Deccan, and I think it will apply to much of India. It relates to four collectorates of the Deccan; Poonah, Ahmudnuggur, Dharwar, and Khandesh. The land revenue in Poonah was 76·12 per cent.; in Ahmudnuggur it was 89·275 per cent.; in Dharwar it was 80·335 per cent.; and in Khandesh it was 83·76 per cent. The average of the land revenue of the four collectorates was 82·3 per cent. The customs and excise made up the rest.

615. Will you state the sum total?—You may say, that of the revenue of all India, seven to eight-tenths are derived from the land, including the produce from opium.

616. Do you include the excise duties?—No; those are entirely distinct.

617. A return has been moved for by Mr. Hume, which comes down to the year 1846; and from that it appears, that out of 20,849,339 *l.*, 12,549,861 *l.* is the amount of the land revenue in India; leaving a little above eight millions as the revenue from other sources?—I will give the revenue for the whole of the Agra government. This is an account (*showing it*) of the year 1846–47; the gross collections of land revenue in that year consisted of 40,477,661 rupees; turning that into pounds, it is above four millions of money. The stamp collections in the gross are 116,974 *l.*, and abkarry 143,006 *l.*; and those put together amount to 259,980 *l.*: add to this the customs; and still the land revenue preponderates in a greater ratio than in the Deccan collectorates.

618. The result is that the East India Company relies very much upon its land revenues to maintain its government?—Very much so.

619. How is the land tax assessed?—There have been various attempts made at different periods to determine the quality of land; some individuals have gone the length of distinguishing four, five, and six, or more qualities of land; they have failed in that; but I think generally it is determined that the land should be assessed upon three or four qualities, and that has been carried out of late by accurate surveys that have been made. The assessment in the north-western provinces has been done upon that footing.

620. Are those the sugar-growing provinces?—Yes; the whole has been measured and reduced to statute acres, and the quantity of land under cultivation ascertained. The maximum average rate in any district in the Agra government is 5 *s.* 6 *d.* per acre; that is in the Futtehpore district of the Allahabad division; and a rate of 4 *s.* per acre, or above that sum, only obtains in 14 of the 32 districts of the north-western provinces.

621. I apprehend that the land for sugar cultivation is a higher class of land?—Yes, it will be a better class of land, and will be assessed at a higher rate.

622. At the maximum rate?—Very likely, but not necessarily so; it depends upon the facility of irrigation. The minimum average rate is a decimal more than 1 *s.* 3 *d.* per acre, and that is in the Hurreannah district, and in this district there are 705,379 acres of land under cultivation at this assessment, and 921,346 acres of land culturable but not cultivated, and with only 145,008 acres of barren land. In the Agra territory there are 10,528,658 acres of good land not cultivated. The average land tax per acre in the different divisions varies from 2 *s.* 8 *d.* $\frac{1}{8}$ ths per acre in the Delhi division, to 4 *s.* 6 *d.* $\frac{6}{16}$ ths in the Agra division. The average land tax per acre, for the whole of the land under cultivation in the north-western provinces, in the year 1846–47, was 3 *s.* 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* per acre;

acre; and this tax is upon lands that produce those remunerative returns, sugar, indigo, cotton, condiments, &c., which Mr. Allen, a civil servant who was employed in the revenue survey, says, are sometimes worth 200 rupees per acre.

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623. Can you give us the number of acres under sugar cultivation?—I cannot give that, but I can give the proportion of the principal crops in a pergunnah as a type of the whole, as ascertained by Messrs. Muir & Allen in the Calpee and Humeerpoor pergunnahs in 1842. The per-centage of the principal crops of the Monsoon harvest is as follows: Of the grain called jowara, 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ ths per cent.; bajra, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; cotton, 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ ths per cent.; sugar cane, $\frac{1}{4}$ th per cent.; and a pulse called phaseolus moong, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; total of the Monsoon harvest, 48 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Of the Spring harvest, wheat is 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; gram, 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; the morinda citrifolia (which is a dye), 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; the koosom, carthamus tinctoria (which is another dye), 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; total, 51 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.; the two harvests together making up 100. As illustrative of the land tax, it may be desirable to mention what the average tax upon land in the western provinces of India was in 1825. In the Poonah collectorate it was 2s. per acre; in the Ahmudnuggur collectorate, not quite 2s. 6d. per acre; in the Dharwar collectorate, not quite 1s. 6d. per acre; and in Khandesh, not quite 3s. 2d. per acre. This was in the year 1825, but it has been subsequently reduced. As far as the East India Company is concerned, it is a matter of very grave importance to them to obtain their remittances from India at the least possible cost. The East India Company are compelled to bring home from the revenue of India annually 3,300,000*l.* at the least, and extending even to 3,700,000*l.*, for the payment of dividends upon East India stock, retired pensions, military stores, and other charges. Now that can only be transferred from India to England through the medium of the products of the country; it is therefore of very great importance to the Company that that money should be transmitted at the least possible cost and with the greatest facility; anything therefore that impedes the development of the resources of the country, anything that impedes the consumption of the products of India, or enhances their value, and consequently impedes their consumption, is detrimental; and therefore it is, that export duties, which are levied upon the products of India, and which enhance the price to the consumer elsewhere, are objectionable. I am happy to say that the Court of Directors have directed the abolition of export duties. Cotton is free, sugar is free, and the other export duties, as soon as the state of the finances will permit, will also be abolished; the entreport duties are also abolished: but then again there are enhancements upon the products by the cost of transit from India to England; if the merchant in sending home his goods has to pay 5*l.* or 6*l.* or 7*l.* or 9*l.* a ton, he is compelled to add that price to the selling price upon them, and I presume the consumption will generally be diminished in proportion to the high rate at which the article is charged to the consumer. There is no doubt that the cost of the transit of the products of India to England is a very serious impediment; it does decidedly interfere with the facile transit of those three millions and a half from India to England. Of course we feel that, and we feel also that if the products of India could be brought home cheaper, we should have less difficulty in getting this money, which must be transferred from India to England. At one time I doubted whether India could bear this tribute, and I had drawn up a complete view of the whole commerce of India for a series of years, to satisfy my mind on the subject. I had this drawn up under the heads of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay. It can only be by the excess of exports over imports that India can bear this tribute. I find that in the year 1834-5 the total imports were 7,654,485 *l.*, total exports 9,674,728 *l.*, leaving an excess of exports 2,020,243 *l.*; and I find that in 1841-2 the total imports were 11,473,113 *l.*, and the total exports were 16,020,857 *l.*, and the excess of exports therefore was 4,547,744 *l.*, showing the extra stimulus that had been given to the products of India, and proving that India could bear the tribute if she continued in the same state in which she was in the years 1841-2. And a curious fact came out in that investigation. It appeared that, amongst the imports, there was an amount of bullion imported into India, without any account of its ever going out again, of nearly a million and three quarters sterling per annum.

624. Will you inform the Committee whether the land tax is commuted, or whether it is liable to be raised or diminished according to the value of the land?—

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land?—Of late years it has been the object of the Court to induce cultivators to accept assessments for a period of 30 years at a fixed rate, and that to a certain extent is progressing; but it was an unusual thing, and there has been considerable hesitation on the part of the cultivators. I believe that in time it will have the confidence of the cultivators, and will take place all over India; and there is no doubt that wherever it does take place, it is to the advantage of the cultivators.

625. Mr. *Labouchere*.] The offer is always made to them?—Yes. When you speak of India, India is an enormous country, under different governments, and under different persons, who have to administer the functions of government, and who have not always exactly the same views; it is carried out more in some presidencies than in others. In the Bengal and Agra territories it is carried out.

626. Mr. *Wilson*.] Is the land tax chiefly commuted in the Bengal and Agra district?—I think so.

627. And the sugar is cultivated at fixed rents?—Yes.

628. *Chairman*.] At about 4*s.* or 5*s.* an acre?—Four shillings or 5*s.* an acre is the average maximum.

629. Do you think that the East India Company would be secure of continuing to derive their revenues from land now under sugar cultivation, for the next 30 years, if by any reduction in the price of sugar, sugar cultivation should be abandoned?—The sugar cultivation is only one element; I cannot answer that question. I can give the amount of sugar that was sent from Bengal to the United Kingdom, between the years 1834–35, and 1841–42. In 1834–35, the quantity of sugar sent from Calcutta was bazaar maunds 154,564, of the value of 123,497*l.*; I am converting the rupee for convenience into 2*s.*; that is the amount of exports to the United Kingdom only. In 1841–42, the export of sugar to the United Kingdom was 1,490,467 bazaar maunds, of the value of 1,328,784*l.*, showing an enormous increase; that is to say, the increase had been 812 per cent. in value, and 712 per cent. in amount.

630. I believe the last intelligence from Calcutta gives an increase of between 1,600,000*l.* and 1,700,000*l.*?—I am afraid that the export in the last year or two will be under anomalous circumstances, and the only value of facts of this kind is dependent on the time over which they run. A single year may have a most anomalous contrast with the preceding year and the year following it, and you can only rely upon those statistical data that result from averages of years.

631. Mr. *Labouchere*.] There is a large home market in India for sugar, is there not?—Yes, for goor; but I would guard the Committee against a fallacy with reference to the supposed consumption of sugar in India. The natives, whose wages average 6*s.* a month, including clothing, food, and lodging, cannot lay out very much money upon comparatively so expensive an article as sugar is even in India. No doubt they are very fond of sugar and eat great quantities of sweetmeats, but still there is a limitation to their narrow means. As far as India is concerned in the production of sugar, or in the production of anything else that the tropics can produce, I do not see that there is any country in the world that can compete with it. Where you have only to pay 6*s.* a month for your labour, which is abundant, and where you have to pay only 4*s.* or 5*s.* an acre for land which is fertile and abundant, it is absurd to say that India cannot compete with any country in the world; I say that India desires no aid or assistance, that she only desires that all impediments to the export of her products should be removed.

632. *Chairman*.] Up to the year 1835 you state that the total exports of sugar to Great Britain had not exceeded 123,497*l.*; the markets of Europe were open to India at that time, were they not?—Certainly.

633. How then do you account for the small amount of export in 1834–35?—I suppose more attention has been paid to the cultivation of sugar in India since that time.

634. Do not you apprehend that the difficulty was, that the price of sugar in this country was not sufficient to induce the natives to export sugar, or to make it profitable to the merchant at Calcutta to export it?—I do not think that the natives export it now; I presume the export trade is entirely in the hands of Europeans.

635. Do not you think that the British merchants would have discovered that

that it was profitable to export sugar in the year 1834-35, if they could have purchased sugar from the natives at such a price as to enable them to do it?— Yes; but there was at that time an impediment to the introduction of sugar into this country, by differential duties.

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636. There was a duty of 8s. per cwt. ?—I do not remember what the amount of the duty was; but on its removal the proportions of the increase in value and in quantity ran *pari passu*. Sugar increased in quantity 712 per cent., and in value 812 per cent.; after all, it is only a difference of one-eighth.

637. The export of sugar from India depends upon the price, does it not?— The cheaper it is imported into this country, the more will be consumed.

638. The question is, not what quantity will be consumed here, but what quantity will be exported from India; and the result of your evidence I apprehend to be this, that the amount of the exports depends upon the price at Calcutta?—No exporter will carry away from India, or any other country whatever, any article upon which he supposes he will sustain a loss.

639. May it not be presumed from the statement that you have made, that till prices rose at Calcutta the exporter could not export sugar at a profit?— The increased export I presume was occasioned by the unusual stimulus applied to the production of sugar.

640. That is in consequence of the high price of sugar?—I do not know whether it is in consequence of the high price or not; it is in consequence of the increased demand, and that may arise from the price having diminished, and the demand having thereby increased.

641. You do not mean to say that the natives of India, out of a kind feeling to the consumers in England, would increase their cultivation of sugar, but they want to be rewarded by obtaining a high price for the sugar that they cultivate?—As far as the natives are concerned, I think they are in much the same state as they were; the parties applying the stimulus to sugar cultivation being chiefly Europeans. I have here the cost of the production of sugar in the Deccan, which came under my own eye; it was in the year 1825; it gives every detail of expense.

642. Were you a sugar planter?—No; I was statistical reporter to the Bombay government; and in the course of my inquiries into the resources of the Deccan, with a view to report to the government, it was my duty to ascertain what the products of the country were, how they were raised, and what the means of the people were. On the 25th of March 1825, I encamped in the neighbourhood of a sugar field which was growing. I ascertained that that sugar field had been sold by the cultivator to another party who was cutting it down, and I ascertained from the party who had sold it what it had cost him to cultivate that field, which comprised a beegah, or 3,600 square yards of good black land; he gave me every article of expenditure, and which is included in this paper. This land had the enormous burden of 40 rupees, or 4 l., of land tax and other dues upon it, and yet the profit upon that to the individual was 46 rupees 12 annas. This was a *bond fide* transaction; the cultivator was unaided by his own family; he hired everything; the cattle were paid for, and therefore he cultivated most expensively; nevertheless he made a profit upon this outlay of 51 per cent.

643. Sir T. Birch.] Where was that?—At Chakun, about 18 miles north of Poonah.

644. Mr. Miles.] What price did he get?—He got 140 rupees for the field as it stood, and the individual who bought it expected it would produce considerably more than it did produce, and he made a bad bargain; carrying on the process, the individual who bought the sugar-cane field, of course had to get his mill to crush it. Now the mill used in the Deccan is very efficient; it consists of an endless screw, or of two wooden screws put against each other, moved by bullocks; and the expenses of that appear in the paper.

[The Witness delivered in the Paper, which is as follows:]

EXPENSES and Return on the Cultivation of One Beegah (3,600 square yards) of Awul Kalwut, or best Black Garden Land, with SUGAR CANE, in the Year 1824-25, at Chakun, Poona Collectorate, the Cultivator being an Oopuree or mere Renter of the Land.

EXPENSES.	—	RECEIPTS.	—
	Rs. an. p.		Rs. an. p.
Government and other dues on one beegah of garden land	40 0 0	By cash for one beegah of standing sugar cane, from Rawjee Kherker	140 0 0
Ploughing 3 times with 8 bullocks=24 bullocks, at 2 annas (1½d.)	3 0 0		
6 men attending ditto - ditto, at 2 annas (1½d.) each	0 12 0		
Harrowing 3 times, 3 harrows daily, 2 bullocks each, in all 18 bullocks, at 2 annas (1½d.) each	2 4 0		
9 men to ditto - ditto, at 2 annas each	1 2 0		
25 carts of manure, at half a rupee per cart	12 8 0		
10,000 puhreis or cuttings of sugar cane, at 1½ rupee per 1,000	15 0 0		
Flooding the field for planting, 4 bullocks 1 day, 2 annas each	0 8 0		
1 man attending bullocks drawing water	0 2 0		
Planting sugar cane, 6 men 4 days, each 1½ anna	2 4 0		
4 times weeded, and earth loosened at the roots of canes, 10 men daily at 1½ annas each	3 12 0		
Watering the field 4 times a month, for 8 months, 2 bullocks each time, 2 annas each bullock	8 0 0		
32 men attending bullocks drawing water, at 2 annas each man	4 0 0		
To balance Profit upon One Beegah (3,600 square yards) of Sugar Cane	46 12 0		
<i>Rupees</i>	140 0 0	<i>Rupees</i>	140 0 0

This was a *bond fide* transaction within my own knowledge. The cultivator, unaided by his own family or cattle, paid for everything, and therefore cultivated most expensively; nevertheless he made a profit of rs. 46. 12 annas, upon his outlay of rs. 93. 4 annas, or 51 per cent.

Supposing that Nuneekur Koonbee, the cultivator of the above-noticed field of sugar cane, had not sold it standing, but had made his own gool or raw sugar, his expenses would have been—

EXPENSES.	—	RECEIPTS.	—
	Rs. an. p.		Rs. an. p.
To expenses, as above	93 4 0	By 7 pullahs of gool, of 120 seers each pullah, or 840 seers, at 6 seers per rupee	140 0 0
Daily expenses:—			
Hire of churrak or sugar mill daily, <i>Rs. an. d.</i>			
Ditto, great iron boiler	0 4 or 6		
Ditto, great iron boiler	0 8 or 12		
Wages of goleen or sugar maker	0 4 or 6		
Ditto of jaleea or fire feeder	0 2 or 3		
Ditto of kawheea, feeder of sugar mill with cane	0 2 or 3		
Ditto of cheepara or receiver of crushed cane	0 2 or 3		
Ditto of 2 katree or drivers of mill bullocks	0 4 or 6		
Ditto of peerooleea or man who cuts cane into lengths	0 2 or 3		
Ditto of 14 women who cut the canes in the field and bring them to the mill, 3 pice each, daily, and 1 sugar cane	0 11 or 16½		
Hire of 8 bullocks, daily, at 2 annas each	1 0 or 24		
Total Daily Expense	<i>Rs.</i> 3 7 or 82½		
7 days sugar making, at rs. 3. 7 daily	24 1 0		
To Balance Profit	22 11 0		
<i>Rupees</i>	140 0 0	<i>Rupees</i>	140 0 0

The profit on the cultivator making his own sugar, instead of selling the cane field, was only rs. 22. 11 annas; but this was on the supposition that the yield was only 7 pullahs, whereas he might have 10 pullahs, which would give him a profit of rs. 72. 6 annas.

Chakun, 25 March 1825.

W. H. Sykes.
645. Chairman.]

645. *Chairman.*] Was this sugar or goor?—Goor; the party who bought the field supposed that he would get 840 lbs. of goor. Col. W. H. Sykes.

646. Sir *T. Birch.*] The country where this took place is not a sugar exporting country?—No. 16 February 1848.

647. On the contrary, they import large quantities of sugar?—Not for internal consumption. Bombay is under the interdict, because it receives sugar from the eastward, for the purpose of sending it on to the westward, to the Persian Gulf, and to Scinde, and the Red Sea; and that is the reason why Bombay does not come within the same category as Madras and Bengal with reference to sending sugar to this country.

648. Mr. *Moffatt.*] Are you aware whether they use imported sugar in Surat, or whether they grow sugar themselves?—I should think they do not import it.

649. Sir *T. Birch.*] From the result of your statistical inquiries, do you think that, if Bombay were not prohibited from exporting its sugar to this country, it could export it?—I do; I believe contracts have been entered into with individuals who have grown sugar for the supply of the commissariat, and for rum also.

650. Mr. *Moffatt.*] Are you aware what proportion of the cultivatable land of India is under sugar cultivation?—I have not the most remote idea.

651. You are not aware what proportion, or whether eight-tenths of the revenue of India is derived from the sugar cultivation?—Not at all; if you were to take the proportion of the principal crops in the pergunnah mentioned as a type, it would be one-seventh of one-hundredth part; a minute fraction only.

652. Is the tax to which you have alluded, of so many rupees an acre, assessable upon the cultivated and uncultivated land, or only upon the land under cultivation?—Only upon land under cultivation; it is very much lower if you take both together.

653. The maximum range is equivalent to 5 s. 6 d. an English acre?—Yes; the average maximum.

654. And it goes as low as 15 d.?—Yes.

655. That is in districts where sugar is cultivated?—In districts where sugar could be cultivated.

656. *Chairman.*] Can you inform the Committee whether there is any excise duty in India upon rum, and what is the amount of it?—I do not know; there is an abkarry duty upon all spirits, and of course rum must be included in the spirits that are sold.

657. Mr. *Wilson.*] Have you been much on the east coast of India?—Not at all.

658. Not in the Madras Presidency?—No, in western and north-western India.

659. *Chairman.*] Can you state to the Committee how the East India Company would make its remittances to this country if it were to lose the export of sugar, which is to the extent of 1,600,000 l. or 1,700,000 l. a year?—I suppose there would be very serious difficulty attending it, but nevertheless, before this amount of sugar was raised, the Court contrived to get its money home. That was in the time of the former charter, when the Company were merchants, and they used to get it home through the medium of tea.

660. That mode of sending home remittances has very much diminished?—There are no direct remittances through tea now.

661. They send opium to China, do they not?—The Company does not send opium to China. It is done in this way: three millions and a half are to be transferred to England; it cannot be done in bullion, because bullion does not grow, therefore it must be through the medium of Commerce. The Company is disabled by the Act of Parliament from being traders, they therefore offer to the public in Europe bills upon their several treasuries in India for money paid into the treasury here, that is one mode. It depends, of course, upon the wants of the individual merchants, with respect to their demands in India, whether they will pay money here to receive it in India, or not. The other mode is this: that the Company make advances in India upon goods sent to England, called hypothecations, either upon sugar or cotton, or condiments, or oil seeds, which are becoming articles of very considerable importance, and they take a lien upon the whole of this merchandize for advances made by the treasuries in India. Generally in England there has not been any difficulty. The bills that have been given have been paid without the

Col. *W. H. Sykes*. Court's experiencing any difficulty or impediment, and there has been rarely an occasion for seizing the merchandize, or selling it. Last year there was some difficulty, but not to any extent; and those are the two modes in which the money is got home; it comes also indirectly through China.

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662. I hold in my hand a return made to Parliament, which states that the East India Company remitted to this country upon hypothecated goods and produce in the year 1846-47, 1,268,656*l.*; sugar probably was part of that?—Sugar would be a part of it, but not necessarily so, because there are a great many other valuable products in India sent to this country.

663. Does rice, exported to the Mauritius, form a part of the produce that is so hypothecated?—No, because the merchandize that is hypothecated must come here.

664. Does not rice go to the Mauritius to feed the sugar cultivators of the Mauritius, and does not the sugar so grown by means of Indian rice, come home to England?—That must be a private transaction, I presume; if anything of the kind has been done, that is, if money has been advanced upon rice hypothecated to the Mauritius, and subsequently hypothecated sugar has come to this country, I am not aware of that.

665. *Mr. Wilson.*] It is not done by the East India Company?—No.

666. *Chairman.*] But indirectly it is part of the means of remitting the money to England?—I do not see how it can be by hypothecation where there is a break in the chain. If an individual obtains money from the government in Calcutta, it must be upon goods destined to a certain point; now that point I have always understood to be England, and not any intermediate stage. We have no agents at the Mauritius to renew the hypothecations from the Mauritius to England. Possibly the produce of the sugar may buy bills on Calcutta, and their produce may buy rice for Mauritius, as opium buys tea and tea buys bills on Calcutta.

667. Do you know what the average export of rice from India to the Mauritius is?—I can state what it was in 1835, and in 1842. It appears here under the name of "grain," but I presume that it must mean rice. In 1834-35 the export of grain to the Mauritius was 766,449 bazaar maunds, of the value of 111,209*l.*, converting the rupees into pounds. In 1841-42 it had risen to 1,312,232 bazaar maunds, and to the value of 176,905*l.*

668. *Mr. Wilson.*] Are you aware of any arrangement that has been made recently by the Court of Directors here for the purpose of damming the water so as to give an opportunity of irrigating the Delta of Gadavery?—No, it has not been before me.

669. It has been before the Court, because instructions have gone out with reference to it?—Throughout the whole of the Madras territory, the bunds and dams are very abundant. There have been 40,000*l.* appropriated to damming water near Masulipatam lately.

670. You are not aware of the capability of that particular part of India for growing sugar?—Not of that particular part, but you can grow sugar in any fertile soil capable of being irrigated.

671. *Sir E. Buxton.*] Are you aware that a large sum of money has been lately ordered from India by the East India Company, in bullion?—Yes; I think 50 lacs have been ordered from India in bullion.

672. Can you state to the Committee why bullion is coming now?—It is from the difficulty of getting remittances home in any other way.

673. Are there not goods to bring?—I do not know whether there are goods to bring or not; but merchants have not asked for money enough in India, and have not put money enough into the treasury here; so that as a temporary measure it was thought requisite to order home bullion.

674. Have you heard that merchants are doing the same thing?—I have heard within the last 10 or 12 days, that some individuals are doing the same thing; the remittance gives a fraction more than 1*s.* 9*d.* per rupee, inclusive of all charges, but it is a bad system.

675. Are you able to state the amount of bullion that the East India Company are likely to bring home?—No; I presume the East India Company will have recourse to that measure as little as possible.

676. *Sir T. Birch.*] The monetary crisis in this country, which renders the realization of goods very difficult, has been the cause of that?—It has.

Laurence Hardman, Esq., called in ; and Examined.

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677. *Mr. Wilson.*] YOU have been for many years engaged in the India trade, and particularly in the sugar manufacture?—We have been about six years interested in the manufacture of sugar in India; but I and my partner together have been interested in the East India trade for 20 years.

678. Will you describe to the Committee what is the title of the firm in India?—William Haworth, Hardman & Co.

679. In what part of India are your works?—At Cossipore, about four miles to the northward of Calcutta.

680. You are manufacturers of sugar from the crude material?—Yes.

681. *Mr. Labouchere.*] Is your house a London house, with agents in India?—It is an Indian house, with a branch house in Liverpool.

682. In what part of India is that house established?—In Calcutta.

683. *Mr. Wilson.*] Will you describe to the Committee the nature of the business which you carry on at your manufactory in India, state the places from which you purchase the material, the manufacture which it undergoes, and what you then do with it?—It is only five years since the absolute manufacturing by us in India commenced; we commenced our manufacture on the 26th of December 1842. It is not perhaps an easy matter to describe to you exactly the nature of our manufacture; we purchase the raw material, say goor, khaur, and other descriptions of sugar, but which may be all comprised under the general name of raw sugars, both in Calcutta itself, and at out-stations in the sugar-growing districts of India.

684. Have you agents in those out-stations for your own purchases?—We have both agents and establishments which purchase for us; our names are not known in connexion with those establishments; but the establishments are conducted entirely by our own servants.

685. *Mr. Labouchere.*] Do you at all cultivate the sugar-cane on your own account?—Not at all.

686. *Mr. Wilson.*] What is the cost of the raw material of this crude sugar which you purchase?—It is very difficult to answer that question, for this simple reason; we provide ourselves with every quality of sugar that we can obtain, not caring so much for the quality as for the comparative cheapness. The different qualities of sugar that we use cost us sometimes not more than 1 rupee 8 annas, or 1 rupee 12 annas per maund; that is, from 4s. 1d. to 4s. 9d. per cwt., and we also use sugar, for which we give as high a price as 9 rupees per maund, or 24s. 6d. per cwt.

687. That is for the crude material?—Yes.

688. What do you suppose is about the average cost of the raw material that you purchase?—It is impossible to answer that question.

689. Is the crude material that you manufacture your sugar from entirely from cane, or from date?—From both descriptions.

690. Then your sugar is manufactured as much from date as it is from cane?—Not so much; but the increase in date is going on much more rapidly than the increase in cane sugar.

691. The date plant from which the sugar is manufactured is not a cultivated plant, it is of indigenous growth?—It requires very little attention; it is very generally produced from seed; it is cultivated in nurseries or gardens, and afterwards planted out; it is cultivated to a certain extent from offshoots.

692. It is cultivated for the purpose of producing sugar?—Yes.

693. *Mr. Labouchere.*] Is it cultivated in orchards or in rows?—Lately it has been cultivated in rows, but I do not know this of my own knowledge, not having seen it; but I have had particular accounts from others.

694. *Mr. Wilson.*] You have been to India?—Yes.

695. But your attention was confined to your own manufacture?—Our manufactory was not established when I was out in India; our attention, when I was in India, was almost exclusively directed to the manufacture of wheat flour for sizeing purposes, and to rice milling.

696. The information you give the Committee with regard to sugar is derived from the correspondence of your own house?—It is.

697. Your partner, Mr. Haworth, has taken a very active part in this manufactory?—A very active one.

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698. Yours is the largest European sugar manufactory in India, is it not?—No; it would very probably have been so in the course of a couple of years from this time, had not circumstances occurred to stop our progress.

699. Your machinery is of the best kind?—Decidedly, the best that can be obtained.

700. Then in the manufacture of your sugar in India, you believe that you have all the advantages which capital and machinery could afford you?—We have had, and beyond that we have had other advantages in the ability of our manager, such as no other party has.

701. Can you inform the Committee the distances from which the raw material has to be brought to your manufactory?—I cannot; I could show you the places upon the map, but I do not know the distances.

702. You bring it from great distances?—We do; from Azimghur and from Benares, and in fact from the whole Delta of the Ganges. I may say a very considerable portion we bring from the Jessore districts, which are nearer to Calcutta.

703. Do you know the extreme distance from which the raw material is brought?—Azimghur is the farthest distance we have brought our sugar from.

704. That is 600 or 700 miles?—Yes, I believe it is; but our chief supplies have been brought a much less distance than that.

705. Have you any idea what addition to the cost the expense of carriage makes to the raw material?—It is very various, but I should say that it was from six to eight annas per maund; that is, from 11 *d.* to 16 *d.* a cwt. in addition to the first cost.

706. Is the carriage chiefly by the Ganges?—Yes.

707. Is there a great risk attending it?—Yes.

708. And great damage?—Very great.

709. What do you pay for insurance?—I cannot answer that question distinctly; but I believe we rarely insure, on account of the high rates of premium that have been exacted.

710. You run your own risks?—Yes, and we have been fortunate in that respect; we have had very few losses.

711. Have you made any calculation of your losses?—No, I have not.

712. *Sir E. Buxton.*] Is the risk included in the 11 *d.* or 16 *d.* per cwt.?—No, it is not.

713. *Mr. Wilson.*] What proportion of your manufactured sugar do you obtain from the crude sugar?—That is a large question, which would require a very careful answer. If I were speaking even with practical men, I should not be able to answer that without first establishing certain data to go upon; unless we have some data to go upon, we are in a maze.

714. You say you purchase this crude material in Calcutta, as much as upon the spot where it is produced?—We purchase in Calcutta, but not so much as where it is produced.

715. Can you give us the cost in Calcutta?—The same answer will apply to this as to a previous question, for we use articles varying as much in price as 600 or 700 per cent.

716. Do you know the article goor?—Yes, and it varies in quality exceedingly, and in appearance.

717. Is there any general quality of goor that you can take for the purpose of an example, to show us what the produce of that goor would be?—No, there is not. I can come nearer to the point by referring to samples than by any other way. That is a very superior khaur.—(*The Witness produced the same.*)

718. Did you not say, the other day, that the raw material to manufacture cost you four rupees per maund?—That material cost 3 rupees 12 annas per maund, or 10 *s.* 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ *d.* per cwt.

719. Is that a sugar that you refine in your manufactory?—It is.

720. You now speak of the price at the manufactory?—Yes.

721. What proportion of your ordinary sugar would that produce in your manufactory when it was refined?—I cannot answer that question, because we make two or three qualities. We cannot make the whole of our sugar of one particular quality. In refining sugar we must necessarily produce more than one quality.

722. *Mr.*

722. Mr. Miles.] You produce three qualities?—Yes, always as many as three; sometimes more.

723. Mr. Wilson.] From a hundred-weight of this, how much sugar would you get of the qualities that you make for Europe?—Probably 60 per cent. of the higher qualities at the first boiling, and as much as 10 per cent. beyond that would be obtained by other boilings.

724. Mr. Miles.] Can you state what proportion of good, bad, and indifferent qualities would be obtained?—No; it depends upon so many contingencies. The slightest accident in the working will cause a very great difference in the quality.

725. Mr. Wilson.] In manufacturing this raw material, you produce a certain quantity of molasses; what do you do with those molasses?—A proportion of that molasses we reboil and make sugar of; from the better sort we make an inferior description of sugar.

726. Do you include that in the 60 per cent., or is that additional?—That is additional.

727. The remainder you make into rum?—No; we sell it to the natives, who use it for food, and we ship considerable quantities to this country.

728. You do not distil it at all?—No.

729. Is there any reason why you do not distil it?—Yes, a very good reason; we devote our attention exclusively to the manufacture of sugar; were we to divide our attention by applying ourselves partly to the manufacture of rum or the culture of the cane, or the date plant, we should not be able to conduct our manufactory as economically as we now do.

730. But you sell your molasses to those who do distil it?—Some portion of it, but I think not a large portion.

731. Can you state the price of molasses?—It has varied from eight annas to two rupees a maund, or from 1 s. 4 d. to 5 s. 5 d. per hundred-weight.

732. What is the general number of qualities of sugar that you make?—At present we are making four qualities.

733. What do you call them?—A, B, C, D.

734. When you import these different qualities of sugar into this country are they subject to the same rate of duty?—No, they are not.

735. What different rates of duty are they subject to?—They are subjected to different rates at the caprice of the Custom-house officers, in a great measure.

736. Have you any samples that will show the different qualities?—I have, and I wish to show the Committee the effect of the different duties upon the different descriptions of sugar produced in India. This, according to the nomenclature of the Customs officers, is other refined; this is white clayed sugar; and this is sugar not equal to white clayed.—(*The Witness produced the three samples.*)

737. What do you call this lowest quality; what is the name in the market for that sugar?—Fine yellow sugar, but it is known generally as Cossipore sugar.

738. What duty would this sugar be subject to?—That has paid 14 s. duty.

739. What would you call the next quality?—That particular sample has been called by the Customs "white clayed," and has paid 16 s. 4 d. duty.

740. What do you call this?—That has been called by the Customs "other refined," and has paid 18 s. 8 d. duty.

741. Will you state what is the market price of the yellow sugar?—I will state the price in the latter end of September, when these sugars were sold; they were all sold on the same day; this yellow sugar was sold at 51 s. per cwt. duty paid.

742. Netting, without the duty, how much?—Thirty seven shillings.

743. What was the price of the white clayed sugar?—Fifty three shillings and sixpence.

744. Taking the duty off, what would it be?—Thirty seven shillings and twopence.

745. What was the price of the other sugar, called "other refined"?—It sold at 56 s., without the duty it was 37 s. 4 d.; but if you take the commission, and discount we give upon them, instead of there being the difference which there appears to be in the net price to the producer between the fine and the third quality of 4 d., there will be a difference of a little less than 2 d. actually. The classification of duties is such that for that low sugar we obtain

L. Hardman, Esq. as high a price within 2 *d.* per cwt. as we obtain for the finest description of sugar.

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746. That is because you pay a larger brokerage upon the superior description of sugar?—We pay the same per centage upon the price.

747. As an importer of the three qualities of sugar, after paying all the costs in connexion with the importation, irrespective of the duty, you receive only 2 *d.* per cwt. more for the finest than for the lowest?—Exactly.

748. In your manufactory in India, are these three qualities of sugar made from the same raw material?—They are.

749. Does the finest merely undergo a further process of refining?—No further process of refining, simply a further process of draining.

750. But it is a higher manufacture?—Simply a syrup of sugar, and water is placed upon it, which percolates through the mass of sugar and carries away the colouring material.

751. Then in fact you can manufacture this white sugar at very little additional cost to the yellow sugar?—Certainly.

752. Then what deters you from making the whole of your sugar into the finer quality?—The classification of duties, and the uncertainty that we are always in of the duties that we shall have to pay.

753. And therefore the classification of duties, in fact, operates practically as an impediment to the improvement of your manufacture?—It has operated to our absolute ruin.

754. Have you felt great inconvenience attached to the importation of these sugars, from the uncertainty of the opinion of the Customs officers, when they arrive here?—One that language cannot describe.

755. Will you state any particular cases in which you have been subjected to material inconvenience and delay in consequence of disputes with the Custom-house officers?—They are numberless.

756. Does it occur upon every importation?—Almost every one.

757. If a difference of opinion arises between you and the Custom-house officer, as regards the classification of sugar, what means have you of determining the amount of duty that the sugar ought to pay?—We refer it to the higher officers of Customs, and from them we have referred to different authorities; we have referred to the Treasury, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and to others.

758. And that causes great delay?—Very great delay and loss.

759. Have you ever suffered any severe losses in selling your sugars in consequence of the delay, by a falling market?—Very great losses.

760. With regard to the classification of duties, should you say, as a manufacturer, that it has proved a serious impediment to the progress of the trade in India?—Decidedly it has.

761. Have you thought of any remedy for that?—Certainly I have.

762. Can you suggest to the Committee any alteration in the law which would remedy this defect?—I can only suggest what I have suggested to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in person, which is, that SUGAR SHOULD BE SUGAR.

763. That is, that you should have a uniform duty upon all sugar?—Yes.

764. Supposing we had an uniform duty upon all sugars, what would be the effect of that law upon the quantities imported?—It would naturally tend to the production of a very improved quality of sugar.

765. Would it not give to the British manufacturer in British colonies an advantage in contrast with the Java manufacturer, which he has not at present?—Certainly not; the Java producer has the same means of producing his sugar as the colonial producer has.

766. Supposing we had a uniform duty upon all sugars, should you propose that that uniform duty should extend to refined sugar?—Yes.

767. That it should apply to all sugars?—Yes.

768. *Mr. Labouchere.*] You mean that the coarsest muscovado sugar should pay precisely the same duty as the finest refined sugar?—Distinctly so.

769. *Mr. Wilson.*] Supposing that were the case, is it your opinion that it would cause the coarsest muscovado sugars to be refined in the colonies to a higher state than they are now?—No; you could not refine them much higher than they are now.

770. Would

770. Would the coarsest muscovado come home in a finer state from the colonies, if the same duty were charged upon all sugars?—Undoubtedly. L. Hardman, Esq

771. Are you of opinion that it would lead extensively to the refining of sugar in the colonies, if there was a uniform duty?—I am not prepared to answer that question. 16 February 1848

772. Supposing we had a uniform duty of 14 s. a cwt., the practical operation of that would be, if we were to allow all to come in at that duty, a reduction of the sugar duties as regards the revenue?—That is not a question that I can answer; I am a practical man, not a theorist.

773. What proportion of refined sugar will a hundred-weight of muscovado sugar make?—I must first know what muscovado means.

774. The ordinary quality of muscovado that is refined here; what is the allowance made by the Custom-house?—I do not know what is meant by muscovado sugar unless I have a sample of it before me; no practical man can tell me what is meant by the term muscovado sugar.

775. If a refiner takes a quantity of sugar into his refinery, what quantity of refined sugar is considered equivalent to that sugar which he so takes in?—It depends upon the quality.

776. Is there not a fixed quantity by law?—No; from the sugar which I hold in my hand, which is raw sugar, very probably 80 per cent. of fine sugar would be obtained; and this is East India sugar.

777. Of course, if you are allowed to import refined sugar at the same duty as common muscovado sugar, the English refiner would labour under a great disadvantage in his manufacture as compared with you in India, he having to pay the same duty upon his crude material?—I cannot admit that.

778. But if the British refiner pays 14 s. a cwt. upon muscovado raw sugar, which yields only 80 per cent. of refined sugar, surely he pays 14 s. upon 80 lbs., where you pay 14 s. upon 112 lbs.?—But he brings his sugar into the market in a better state. You must take the matter as a whole.

779. But would he not pay in the first instance actually a higher duty?—He would pay a higher duty, certainly, upon a hundred-weight of sugar that went into consumption, but then he would have compensation for it.

780. Will you state what the compensation would be?—That I cannot state off hand; it would be difficult to answer it.

781. Mr. Labouchere.] Of what nature would the compensation be?—The refiner in this country selects his sugars from the sugars produced in all parts of the world; he has a greater variety of sugars to select from at all times than any one colonial refiner can possibly have. He can choose those sugars which are most applicable for the preparation of such sugars as at the moment there is most demand for, and which he is requiring to sell; he prepares his sugars for a particular market, for the market of the moment, and he sells them as soon as they are produced. But again, he sells a very great proportion of sugars that he refines in a damp, moist state, containing a very great quantity of water; this water he sells of course at the same price as he sells the saccharine salt.

782. Mr. Wilson.] Does he sell the crushed at the same price as he sells refined sugar at?—Very nearly; and he is enabled to make the sugar more pleasing to the eye, for which he has a better demand than for any sugars produced in the colonies, which must alter in their appearance from the time of shipment to the time of arrival here; they are not so desirable in appearance. If you took clear syrup and moistened sugar with it, you would much improve the appearance.

783. Your opinion is that refined sugar would be deteriorated on its passage from the colonies to the English market?—In the market it would be deteriorated.

784. The price of it would be deteriorated?—Yes.

785. Are you aware that at present there are certain sugar refineries in bond in this country?—Yes.

786. Supposing the whole of the sugar refiners in this country were allowed to manufacture their sugar in bond, and to export it or import it, paying a common duty, do you think that that would remedy the inconvenience from which you now suffer?—It would be giving a very great boon to the home refiner.

787. In what respect would it be giving them a boon?—Because he has advantages

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advantages over the colonial producer, such as I before alluded to. He can always prepare his sugars for the immediate market, and bring them into consumption in a better state than any colonial producer can possibly do. It would not be fair upon the colonial producer to allow the home refiner to refine his sugars in this country, paying upon the English refined sugar the same duties as are paid by the colonial producer upon import.

788. If the colonial producer had the choice of sending his sugar to this market in any stage that appeared best for him, he would have the advantage, would he not, of the refiner's demand?—No, certainly he would not.

789. But supposing that those three qualities of sugar, or any qualities of sugar that you bring now that are subject to those classification duties, were sold in bond to the refiner, he would give a relative price for each quality?—A refiner would not buy any of those sugars.

790. Those are too valuable for grocery purposes for the refiner to take?—No persons who have been connected with the business of sugar makers in the colonies would ever send sugar here for the purpose of its being re-refined in this country.

791. You ship it in the state in which it is fit for the consumer?—Certainly.

792. Supposing you were to refine your sugars in bond in this country, and did not give the home refiner the same advantage as the foreign refiner would have, have you considered what the consequences, as regards his competition with the Continent, would be; if we had a common duty upon all sugars, you would have the same duty upon the refined sugar from India as they would have from Holland?—I cannot imagine how that would be.

793. It is the fact now; there is the same duty upon sugar produced in Belgium, and refined there, as there is upon sugar refined in the tropics?—But there are not the same duties upon sugar refined in Belgium as upon sugar refined in England.

794. Precisely the same: there is at present a differential duty against foreign sugar, but the descending scale in 1851, to which we must look forward, brings them to an equality, and therefore we must consider the state of the law to be, that there is no protection?—But there is protection at the present time.

795. But assuming that 1851 had arrived, and that the equalization had taken place, the sugars refined in Belgium, of Belgian growth, and in Holland, of Dutch manufacture under the treaty, would come under the same duty as sugar from India or refined sugar here, how would the British refiner be situated in competition with them?—The British refiner would be in a much better situation than the colonial, but he would not be in so good a situation as the continental refiner.

796. *Mr. Labouchere.*] The effect of your proposition would be to place the same amount of duty upon the lowest qualities of sugar that the poorer classes in this country consume, as upon the higher qualities of sugar?—That would be the immediate effect, but not the ultimate one I think.

797. Why not the ultimate effect?—Because if you allowed the importation of good sugars, at the same duties as the low sugars, you would advance the consumption of the better qualities of sugar very considerably. At present, in consequence of the effect of the classification of duties, the price of the higher qualities of sugar is entirely dependent upon the English refiner; but I have shown the Committee that we can produce those finer descriptions of sugar at a very small difference of cost, as compared with the lower qualities, and a taste would very quickly spring up for the better descriptions of sugar, in preference to the lower sort in this country, and the consumption would greatly increase upon the better descriptions; it would not altogether go out upon the low qualities, because some parties have a preference for the low qualities at all times.

798. *Mr. Wilson.*] The effect would be, that the great bulk of the sugars would come in better qualities?—Yes, they would under favourable circumstances.

799. By an arrangement of this kind, the particular complaint that you make with regard to the classification of those particular duties would be entirely got rid of. Supposing you were allowed as a manufacturer to introduce all those qualities of sugar at the same rate of duty, the practical complaint that you make against the law would be got rid of?—It would.

800. As far as you are concerned as a manufacturer, the equalization of the duty upon all sugars would get rid of the evil under which you labour in that respect?—It would.

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801. Mr. *Labouchere*.] You are aware that in the year 1851, as the law now stands, there will be no protection given to the sugar produced in India, or the sugar produced in foreign countries?—Certainly.

802. Do you conceive that your trade will be seriously interfered with by that absence of protection?—Very seriously indeed.

803. What do you conceive its effect will be?—The effect will be to prevent the cultivation of all land for sugar, by Europeans in India.

804. Mr. *Wilson*.] There is a very small portion of land at present that is cultivated with the cane?—Yes; I believe it is small, but it is gradually increasing, and rapidly increasing.

805. In any particular district?—Chiefly in Jessore and Tirhoot.

806. Are you aware whether the Tirhoot grown sugar has answered hitherto?—I do not suppose it has; I do not think that there has been time for cultivation under European management to develope itself.

807. Mr. *Labouchere*.] Have you taken measures to contract your establishment, in the prospect of the equalization of the duties in 1851?—Government have contracted us; we cannot be contracted any further; we shall not be able to continue our manufactory in consequence of the classification of duties; that would prevent us from carrying on the business; the late changes have been such, as I said before, as absolutely to ruin us.

808. Supposing the operation of the classification of duties was removed, do you conceive that the assimilation of all duties would be fatal to the successful conduct of your business in India?—Not of our particular business; I believe it would put a stop to cultivation by Europeans in India.

809. Sir *T. Birch*.] You are not engaged in the growth of canes, are you?—No; but I have the means of knowing that that would be the case.

810. Will you tell the Committee your reasons for saying so?—It takes a long time to alter the habits and customs of any people, but that is particularly the case with a people, such as the people of India, in whom there has been scarcely any change for thousands of years; you cannot prevail upon a native of India to change his habits, or to change his modes of going about any description of work at once; time is a necessary ingredient in it. It was only in the year 1836 that the Legislature placed East India sugars upon the same terms as those of other British possessions; and it was only in 1837 that the East India Company, by the repeal of the transit duties, still further increased the facilities of making sugar in India; it was only then that Europeans had an opportunity of commencing the manufacture there. Had they had the same land, the same climate, and the same cane to proceed with in the West Indies as they have in the East, up to the present time, European planters could not have successfully competed with any other sugar-producing country. Having had to contend with the customs of the natives of India themselves, it is totally impossible that they can compete upon the same terms. If we take the sugars which are produced by the natives themselves in their crude state, badly cultivated, and badly prepared, we may make sugars to compete with sugars from any part of the world. But in what sort of condition do we leave the natives of India; are we improving their condition? certainly not; but we are leaving them in a worse condition than that of the most cruelly used slave of Cuba or the Brazils.

811. What do you mean by "leaving them in a worse state than the most cruelly used slave of Cuba and Brazils"?—I refer to their state of degradation, both moral and physical.

812. Mr. *Wilson*.] In your opinion, native-grown sugar is cheaper than European-grown sugar?—Up to the present time it is so, and it will necessarily be so for some time to come. Eventually, I believe, the European grower would produce his sugar cheaper than the native.

813. Sir *T. Birch*.] You believe the price of sugar grown by the native would be so low that he could hardly subsist?—Certainly; he has a mere subsistence now.

814. Mr. *Labouchere*.] Do you see any reason why European cultivation of sugar in the East Indies should not successfully compete with that of Java or

L. Hardman, Esq. any other country in the same hemisphere?—Eventually it may do so, but not at the present time.

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816. Do the difficulties which you have stated to arise in consequence of the present mode of classifying sugars adopted by the Custom-house in this country embarrass the importation of Java sugars as much as the importation of Indian sugars?—I am not prepared to say. I should scarcely think that they did; but I do not speak with much knowledge of that.

817. *Mr. Miles.*] When do you state that you set up your machinery?—On the 26th of December 1842 we commenced our first boiling.

818. And you have been going on ever since?—Yes.

819. The classification of the duties was established in 1844, was not it?—“From the 10th of November 1844 to the 5th of July 1845, the following are declared to be the duties on the importation of sugar.”

820. You state that the classification duties are ruining you; why have you been going on manufacturing your sugar ever since that period, when those duties were in operation then?—The classification duties did not come into operation till the 24th of April 1845.

821. You have had now two years with this matter before your mind, why have you gone on manufacturing?—I am glad I have been asked that question, inasmuch as it gives me an opportunity of entering into the subject better than I could have done in any other way, by relating the circumstances which have occurred to us. The Act came into operation the 24th of April 1845. Immediately it came into operation I obtained samples of sugars of our own manufacture, which had been admitted by the different customs' officers of London, Liverpool, and Newcastle-upon-Tyne, at the several duties of 18*s.* 8*d.*, 16*s.* 4*d.*, and 14*s.* Determined to do all we possibly could to meet the law, we sent out those samples to our manager in India, with a request that he would keep his manufacture distinctly under those several qualities. Before the samples arrived in India, the customs officers appointed to carry out the provisions of the Act changed their appreciation of the sugars that were placed before them, and sugars which, up to the passing of the Act, had always been considered as raw sugars, and had been admitted as such, and which for two or three months afterwards were admitted at 14*s.* duty, began to be charged 16*s.* 4*d.* duty, and month by month they changed their appreciation of those sugars.

822. *Mr. Moffatt.*] Do you mean that they changed the standard?—Yes, they changed the standard in their own mind, I presume. There is, in fact, no standard. It is a matter of opinion. We sent distinct instructions to our managers to bring the sugars under those qualities. That was not an easy task for our friend who was managing on the other side; for in order to carry on our manufacture in a proper and economical manner, we have to prepare for that manufacture a year beforehand. We had sent up our servants into the interior to purchase sugar for manufacture, and having the very best machinery which could be obtained, we were purposing to make the very best description of sugar that the machinery could produce. The raw material which we had obtained was not of that description which we should have purchased had we known we should only have been permitted to bring sugars in of a certain lower quality. Our recommendations to our friends were, however, strictly attended to, and the sugars were sent forward lower in quality than the samples which had been admitted at the respective duties of 14*s.* and 16*s.* 4*d.*, but when those sugars arrived, they were very often charged the higher duties of 16*s.* 4*d.* and 18*s.* 8*d.* It mattered not however much we expostulated with the Government on the subject, we obtained no redress. We were told that the customs officers were the parties appointed to carry out the provisions of the Act, and that they only were the parties who were responsible. We know it is not a pleasant thing to have to fight against the servants of the Government. Our attempts to comply with the regulations of the Government were productive to us, in the first six months of our trial, of a loss of about 6,000*l.*, as nearly as we could ascertain.

823. *Mr. Wilson.*] Your attempts to comply, you say?—Yes.

824. Do you refer to your mode of manufacture in India?—Yes, from the lower quality of sugar absolutely costing us a higher price than the finer qualities

qualities of sugar had previously done, our preparations having been made to produce a fine quality of sugar, and not a low one. L. Hardman, Esq.

825. Mr. Miles.] If the case be as you represent, do you intend to go on with the manufacture of sugar in the East Indies?—I do not suppose we can go on at all; I do not think it is possible. 16 February 1848.

826. Supposing the Government were to remove these classification duties, and that all protection were to be taken away, looking to your power of competition with foreign sugar, do you anticipate that you could successfully carry on your manufacture in India?—I do not think we ourselves could now, because we have not the capital.

827. Do you think it is possible for any one to manufacture sugar to advantage there?—I think you will not have it done at present. I do not think any parties could successfully compete at the present time.

828. When you found this out about the alteration in the standard or in the Custom-house appreciation of sugars, why did you go on making any of this fine sugar at all?—We had made our preparation for it the year beforehand.

829. That was in 1845; this is the year 1848; you had plenty of time to write out to India to stop the preparation of your sugar?—I did not state that we were doing badly in making our sugar after that. We were making a very considerable profit.

830. You went to a great expense to make refined sugar, and you only got the advantage in this market of 2*d.*; why did not you keep all your sugar at the lower quality, so as to have only to pay the lower duty?—We could not suspect that the Government would act so cruelly and so absurdly as to preserve those classification duties; we could not think it possible that any men could be so inhumane, knowing how oppressive their operation was.

831. You know the common brown West India sugar?—I know it well.

832. Do you know what quantity of saccharine matter that usually contains?—No.

833. You can judge, probably?—I cannot judge with certainty what quantity a certain description of sugar may contain, for no man can tell the quantity of saccharine matter in any article.

834. Cannot you arrive at some approximation to the quantity?—Yes, we may.

835. Is there a great difference in the quantity of saccharine matter contained in a hundredweight of common brown muscovado sugar and a hundredweight of the refined sugar, a sample of which you have put upon this table?—Of course, this sample of sugar is nearly all pure saccharine salt.

836. Do you think that the one sugar, containing very little saccharine matter in proportion to the other, it should come in at the same duty as that which is nearly all saccharine?—I do. Another thing I will beg to state as to what we were compelled, or thought ourselves compelled to do, in order to meet the requirements of the Government. Having made a very considerable quantity of finest quality of sugars, and finding that by importing them in that state we should be fined 4*s.* 8*d.* per cwt. for so doing, and should not get more than 2*s.* per cwt. above what we should have obtained for a lower article, had we been producing it, we took the plan of spoiling our sugars by mixing them with coloured syrups, and yet when those discoloured sugars arrived here a great portion of them were absolutely charged with refined sugar duties.

837. You stated just now that you had suffered great loss by letting sugars remain some time before they were sold, while applications were made to the authorities in England in consequence of a fall in the market; has the reverse of that never taken place?—It has never taken place, simply for this reason, that the markets have been constantly falling.

838. You stated that the crushed lump sold at nearly the same price as the refined goods?—Yes.

839. What is the price of crushed lump now, as compared with refined goods?—I rather think the price of standard loaves is 55*s.*

840. Does not that make a considerable difference to the crushed lump?—Not any great difference; that is (*referring to a sample on the table*) crushed lump in reality; the present value of that is 53*s.* 6*d.* I beg to place before the Committee a specimen of some sugar that was spoiled in India, simply by having molasses or syrup mixed along with it; we made that with the

L. Hardman, Esq. intention of being admitted here at 14*s.* duty, but on its arrival we were charged 16*s.* 4 *d.* duty; I believe that is lower in colour than the standard with which it was compared. (*The Witness exhibited the sugar to the Committee.*)

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841. Is it lower in saccharine matter?—I cannot tell.

842. Do you think it is?—I think it is probable that the standard is superior in saccharine matter.

843. *Mr. Labouchere.*] When you use the word "spoiled," you mean simply deteriorated in colour, but not in point of saccharine matter?—Certainly, if I put water and impurity with the sugar, I must deteriorate it in saccharine matter. I am quite prepared to say that that is distinctly lower than the standard with which it had been compared, and yet the customs' officers put the higher duty upon it, notwithstanding the remonstrances that I made upon it.

844. *Mr. Wilson.*] The Act of Parliament states three things whereby the classification shall be determined; the first is colour, the second granulation, and the third saccharine matter. As a practical manufacturer, and as a merchant dealing in sugars, is there, to your knowledge, any possible mode of discovering either one or the other of those, excepting, perhaps, by the eye, the colour?—There is no such mode, and even the test by the eye is deceptive, for I have taken sugar, in the presence of an honourable Member of this Committee, before a surveyor in this port, and the surveyor has not been able to tell me which was the whiter in colour and which was the darker, and sometimes he has stated one, and sometimes the other, in accordance with the shade in which I have held them in my hand.

845. *Mr. Moffatt.*] And yet there is a differential duty charged upon this sample?—Yes.

846. *Mr. Wilson.*] Then you really might have a different duty charged upon the same sugar on a dull day or a bright day?—Not only so, but they will charge a higher duty upon a lower quality than upon a higher quality of sugar, part of the same parcel; they will charge the high duty sometimes upon the lower colour, and the low duty upon the higher colour.

847. Have you ever known different duties charged upon the same identical parcel of sugar, at different times?—I will show that that is the case. Here is a sample of 322 bags of sugar, ex "Tudor," from Calcutta (*producing the same*); it is part of 660 bags. That was detained for 16*s.* 4 *d.*, on the 13th of July 1846; it is worse in colour than the rest of the parcel, which was admitted at 14 *s.*

848. Were those two sugars presented to the Custom-house officers at the same time, or at different times?—At the same moment.

849. To the same Custom-house officers?—To the same Custom-house officers. The two samples now in the hand of the honourable Member were presented at the same time to the same officer; they have been also presented to one of the highest members of Her Majesty's Government. I was told by that individual, high in Her Majesty's Government, that he was not a judge of sugars, and he would give no opinion upon the subject.

850. It is so evident, that the low-duty sugar is the lighter colour here, that one is ready to suppose that the Custom-house officer had some other reason for charging a higher duty; did he pretend that the granulation was better, or that the saccharine matter was greater?—He gave no reason.

851. Do you remember that when this classification of sugars was fixed, there was a standard agreed on and fixed by the Government, a sample standard?—I do.

852. Was that adhered to?—No; I know a good deal about that standard.

853. Will you inform the Committee what you know about it?—That standard consisted of 15 bags of Java sugar. I was told by one of the surveyors of the Customs that with respect to that standard sample of Java sugar, if you took a portion from each of the 15 different bags, you might get 15 different qualities; and that from the same bag you might get two or three. I am quite prepared to say that the whole of that sample is in such a state of impurity, that, according to the state of the atmosphere, it will present upon the scale of the saccharometer by which it is tested a difference of five per cent. at different times.

854. *Mr. Miles.*] Do you think it is impossible to arrive at a certain quality of sugar, which may be a much surer test than the one you have mentioned?

—Distinctly.

—Distinctly impossible; you can have no standard but that “sugar shall be sugar.” *L. Hardman, Esq.*

855. Do you mean to say that your own sugar, for instance, would vary so much, as that 15 bags should have four or five sorts in each bag?—It would not vary so much as that, but it would vary. These sugars are taken from the same bulk when they are shipped, and the Committee see how differently they arrive here; though if you test them by the saccharometer, I do not think you will find any variation.

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856. *Mr. Wilson.*] Do you suppose this difference in the colour arises from any accident in the course of the passage?—Possibly one of them may have got a little more heated than another in the ship's hold; any sugar that becomes strongly heated would be discoloured. There might be a greater degree of ventilation over the bag which is lighter in colour than over the other.

857. Then, in fact, these two sugars when shipped from Calcutta were identically the same?—Identically.

858. But on arriving here the whiter sugar was charged the low duty, and the darker sugar the high duty?—Yes.

859. And that by the same Custom-house officer at the same time?—Yes.

860. *Mr. Miles.*] How do you know that these were of the same quality when they were shipped from Calcutta?—Because we never make a shipment of sugar without the whole shipment of that portion of it which is sent forward under the same mark being placed upon the floor together, shovelled together, and mixed together so that it may be equal in quality throughout, and great care is taken that it is throughout, from one end to the other, of the same quality.

861. *Mr. Wilson.*] That is what you call bulking it?—Yes.

862. *Mr. Miles.*] How long is it after it has come from the pans, or whatever your process is?—Sometimes it may be 15, 20, or 30 days, or it may be more than that.

863. After it has undergone the last drying process?—We have no process of drying but the natural drying by the heat of the climate; we have no stoves.

864. From the manufactory it is packed, I suppose, in bulk?—Yes.

865. And taken down in those bags to the wharf?—Yes.

866. Does it usually lie there at all at the vessel's side?—No.

867. Is it put directly from the manufactory into the ship's hold?—Yes. Our works are four miles from Calcutta, but for all the practical purposes of shipping, are as well situated as if we were at Calcutta itself, for we can ship in one tide. If we send a boat off from our works, it arrives in Calcutta in one tide.

868. The sugars go by boat?—They do.

869. Are they covered over?—They are in covered boats.

870. *Mr. Wilson.*] If they received damage on the water, that would be shown by their being damp?—Distinctly so.

871. *Mr. Hope.*] You stated that the prices of these sugars were 51s., 53s. 6d., and 56s.?—Yes.

872. Are you able to state the cost price at Calcutta of those different classes of sugar?—It is impossible to state the exact cost of each particular quality of sugar, the several qualities being all produced from the same raw material.

873. You stated that you could not give the cost of the goor, but cannot you tell what the several sugars cost you before you shipped them?—That is impossible, from the nature of the manufacture.

874. Can you inform the Committee what the cost of shipment was, taking the freight, and insurance, and charges?—I cannot tell that distinctly of those parcels, because there is no mark of the ship upon them.

875. Can you tell the Committee what was the market price of these sugars at Calcutta?—The mere value of the sugar, independently of anything else, is 35s. 5d. per cwt.

876. That is for Class A.?—Yes. We could have sold it at 35s. 5d. at the time it was shipped. For Class B. we could have obtained 31s. 4d. per cwt., for C. 24s. 6d. per cwt. Those prices we could readily have obtained at the time of shipment.

877. So that the net produce of those qualities of sugar, paying you your profit and paying the freight, was 24s. 6d. for Class C., which fetched 37s. in Liverpool?—Yes; the freight was something about 8l. or 9l.

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878. B., which fetched 37 s. in Liverpool, would have brought 31 s. 4 d. in Calcutta?—Yes.

879. A. brought 37 s. 4 d. in Liverpool, and would have brought 35 s. at Calcutta?—Yes, without the package.

880. When those three qualities of sugar arrive at Liverpool, what is done with them; you say that sugar is not refined in this country?—No; it is taken into consumption immediately.

881. You stated, in answer to a former question, that this sugar contained a greater degree of saccharine matter than muscovado sugar?—No doubt of it.

882. Is not the result of that that a duty of 14 s. paid on muscovado is a much higher duty than a duty of 14 s. paid upon your sugar?—Not practically.

883. When muscovado sugar comes here, it is not taken into immediate consumption, is it?—A great proportion is.

884. A large proportion is refined, is not it?—Some proportion is refined.

885. Your sugar is not refined?—No.

886. Is not the result, that upon sugar that is not refined 14 s. is a far higher duty than it is upon sugar which is actually refined already, and may be taken into consumption immediately?—It is a higher duty *ad valorem*.

887. In proportion to the cost?—Certainly.

888. Under those circumstances West Indian sugar has been in a worse position hitherto, as regards the duty, than East Indian sugar?—I can say distinctly that it has not been so. We have never been able to carry out *ad valorem* duties in this kingdom.

889. You have stated that the withdrawal of protection will stop the European manufacture of sugar in India?—The European cultivation, I stated, would entirely cease.

890. To what degree would that diminish the export of sugar from India?—I can form no calculation as to that. It is a matter which cannot be reduced to a calculation, but there is no doubt whatever that the falling off in the export must be very great indeed.

891. You are not able to form any conjecture as to the proportion?—No; nor do I think any one can; it is not a thing that can be reduced to calculation.

892. Sir T. Birch.] One of those parcels of sugar sold for 51 s. you say, the duty being 14 s.?—Yes.

893. One parcel sold for 56 s., the duty being 18 s. 8 d.?—Yes.

894. Therefore the difference was rather more than the difference of duty?—The difference between those parcels was only 2 d.

895. There is an intermediate process, of course, between those two samples?—Simply that of syruling, which I have spoken of.

896. Is there any loss of weight and bulk?—There is a loss of weight and bulk, but that may be principally recovered again by the sugar being reboiled.

897. What is expelled from that, may still therefore be turned to account?—Yes; we should not have expended that amount of capital, for the purpose of producing the finest class of sugars, had we been only intending to produce those lower ones which can be made by a different process.

898. Mr. Moffatt.] Are you aware what proportion of the sugar exported from the East Indies to this country is cultivated by Europeans; is it a large or a small proportion?—I should think that up to the present time, the amount cannot have exceeded 20,000 tons per annum, which is cultivated by Europeans; I should not think it had even reached to that extent.

899. The present export from India being how much?—Last year it was 62,000 tons.

900. You think about one-third of that was cultivated by Europeans?—I think so.

901. Are you aware whether there has been any material difference in the price of the crude article, from which you make your sugar, within the last few years?—Very material indeed.

902. Will you state the extreme variation?—That is a very difficult question to answer.

903. What has been the lowest price within your recollection, and what the highest price?—I think, in the article of goor, I have known fluctuations to the extent of above 200 per cent.

904. Has

904. Has that article maintained a higher price in the last year or two than when your experience on the subject first commenced?—A considerably higher price.

905. The rate of labour remains pretty much as it was?—Pretty much the same.

906. Is the rate of labour as low in India as in any other part of the world, as far as your experience goes?—I should think generally it was; the labour we make use of is not particularly low.

907. The labour employed in producing the raw material is low?—It is low.

908. Do you see any reason to doubt that India, with its cheap produce, and its low rates of labour, is able to compete with other sugar-producing countries?—Yes; I think there are very great reasons to doubt it.

909. Your impression is that it cannot so compete?—I think it will not do so; I think sugar can be produced in India by the natives as low as it can in any part of the world, but they will be continued in a state of very great degradation; I have always stated that that is my opinion.

910. Mr. Miles.] What sort of sugar do you mean?—Any sugar; I will say that such sugar as that of which I have exhibited samples can be produced; but it can only be done by Europeans refining the raw material which has been produced by the natives.

911. Sir T. Birch.] By carrying on the trade in that way, you think it may be carried on beneficially?—I think it may be rendered beneficial to the manufacturer, but certainly not to the native producer.

912. Chairman.] Do you think that if the price of the goor should fall below what it is now at Calcutta, the native producers would continue to produce sugar for the sake of selling it to Europeans?—Not to so large an extent, certainly.

913. Do you think the European refiner could first purchase his sugar and then refine it, and sell it to a profit, at a less price than the present price at Calcutta?—At the price at which the raw material could be bought at the date of our last advices from India, which was considerably lower than we have paid for the same description of raw material during the earlier portions of the same year, and indeed for a long time past, and with the freights at an average of 5*l.*, I have no doubt that sugar could be refined in India to yield a profit at the present prices of this country; but that price of the raw material, according to late advices, was causing a loss of money to the parties who were selling it to the refiners.

914. You do not conceive it to be possible that the price of the raw material can continue at Calcutta as low as it is now?—Should it continue so low as it is now, a very much less quantity will be brought to market, because the charges of transit, and the profits which must take place between the price which it costs the absolute producer and the exporter, fall so much more heavily upon a low price than upon a higher price.

915. Do you believe that the native is now producing sugar at that low price at which it is actually selling at Calcutta?—The native who produces the sugar never obtains a profit unless he is working for an European. He has never anything else than a bare subsistence.

916. Do you think that the European employer of the native Indian is now selling his sugar to the refiner at a profit?—The European employer of the native Indian is not selling his sugar to the refiner. The European employer of the native, if he makes sugar, is sending that sugar to England on his own account. A very small amount of that sugar is being sold in the Calcutta market.

917. Is the European refiner now selling his sugar at Calcutta at a loss?—The European refiner is a different man from what I understand your Lordship to be alluding to. I understand your Lordship's last question to refer to the employer of the natives engaged in the cultivation of the sugar; but he is not the refiner. The refining business is not conducted by the parties who cultivate the crop.

918. The European employer of the natives sells his sugar to the refiner in Calcutta, does he?—No; the European employer of the natives ships his sugar generally on his own account.

919. Is he buying his sugar now at such a price that he can sell it at a profit?—He is not buying his sugar; he is employing the natives as labourers.

920. You are talking of the planter?—Yes.

921. Do you think he is growing his sugar to a profit?—Certainly not.

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922. It is your opinion, then, that he cannot continue to grow his sugar at the present prices?—I am quite certain he cannot.

923. With respect to the sugar which is purchased from the natives, will the natives, do you think, continue to cultivate their sugar if they get no better price for it than the European merchant can afford to give them now in Calcutta?—Certainly it will not be cultivated to the same extent. For some time past the middle men, between the cultivators and the producers, have been obtaining large profits. They have been the only means of communication between the exporter and the producer; but they will no longer continue in that occupation.

924. You say you have been ruined; has that ruin been created by the fall in the price of sugar?—Distinctly so.

925. What number of tons of sugar have you imported?—I cannot distinctly state that; but our production has been about 2,750 tons per annum, as near as I can ascertain.

926. What extent of fall has there been in the price of that sugar?—I should think 13 *l.* per ton.

927. Has the fall been so great upon the average upon those 2,750 tons?—Not very far from it.

928. *Sir T. Birch.*] Between what periods are you speaking?—Between this time last year and the present time.

929. Between February 1847 and February 1848, you think there has been a fall of 13 *l.* per ton?—There has been a difference to the importer to that extent. I should not say that there has been a fall to that amount in the price of sugar, but that the same sugar which this time last year would have been worth 61 *s.* to 63 *s.* is now worth 53 *s.* 6 *d.*

930. *Chairman.*] All your sugar has not been sold at the present price; you sold probably a considerable portion in the spring of the year, did not you?—Of course we were selling considerable quantities of sugar in the spring of the year, and we were making profits then.

931. The price of sugar has been very much reduced by the competition of foreign sugar, has it not?—It has; while on the other hand the price has been very much enhanced to us by the increase in the freight.

932. Those are two separate considerations. Upon the average of the entire sale of your sugar, amounting to 2,750 tons, in the year 1847, as compared with the year 1846, what have you lost by the reduction in the price; how much a hundredweight, or how much a ton, have you sold your sugar for less than you did last year?—I think I may say from 9 *l.* to 10 *l.* a ton difference.

933. By the fall of the price have you lost 27,000 *l.*?—Very probably.

934. For what sum has your house suspended its payments?—I am not precisely aware of the amount of our liabilities.

935. Does it exceed 27,000 *l.*?—Very considerably.

936. If you had not lost 27,000 *l.* upon sugar, should you have been able to go on?—Certainly we should.

937. And to a profit?—If we had had no losses we should have been going on at a profit.

938. If you had not lost this 27,000 *l.* on sugar?—That is the loss arising from the reduction in the price. We have lost more than that upon the sugar.

939. If your profits upon sugar had been 27,000 *l.* more, or your loss 27,000 *l.* less, than it has been, should you have suspended payment?—Certainly not.

940. Then it is the fall in the price of sugar which has ruined you?—It is the fall in the price of sugar which has ruined us, and the effect of the classification duties. That of itself has been sufficient, because we have been suffering from the effect of this, not simply as it has arisen from the difference in the price and the higher amount of duty, but we have been attempting to meet the law, and our operations have thereby been very much altered. We have been obliged to make the low sugar at a greater cost than the finest sugar would have cost us.

941. That would be, at the most, 4 *s.* 8 *d.* a hundredweight?—Very much more than that.

942. The whole duty is but 4 *s.* 8 *d.*?—But the whole difference to us has been more than that. The manufacture of the low sugars has cost us absolutely more than that of the fine ones would have done.

943. Was

943. Was a certain sample of sugar agreed on in the year 1845, and sent out to India as the standard of sugar?—No. L. Hardman, Esq.

944. There was no standard sent out?—No; the Custom-house officers would never allow us to take the smallest sample of the standard sugar, but we did obtain samples of sugar which the Custom-house officers admitted at the several duties. 16 February 1848.

945. And you sent them out to India?—Yes.

946. At the end of the year 1845, did not samples come home from the East Indies upon which the Customs charged the higher duty; that higher duty, upon a reference to Government, being remitted?—Sometimes it was remitted, and sometimes it was not remitted.

947. The question refers to the end of the year 1845?—More generally the appreciation of the Custom-house officers was confirmed.

948. Is it not the fact, that East India sugars of this doubtful description were admitted towards the end of 1845, after a reference to the Treasury, at the lower duty?—Sometimes they were admitted, and sometimes they were not admitted.

949. In 1846 and 1847 they were none of them admitted at the lower duty, were they?—We have repeatedly had fine sugars admitted at the lower duty, while the low ones have been charged with the higher duty.

950. Does it come within your knowledge that a large cargo of the same sample being sent to Liverpool and to London, was charged in Liverpool 18s. 8d., and in London 14s.?—No, it was rather the reverse. In London it was charged 18s. 8d., and in Liverpool 14s.; but there have been instances both ways. I had a parcel of sugars arrived in Liverpool in December 1845, which were entered by me as subject to the 14s. duty, but which were detained by the Custom-house officers for 18s. 8d. Upon inspecting the sugars I found they were finer in colour, and I believe stronger in saccharine, than the standard sample allowed by Government, and I made application to have them admitted at 16s. 4d. I requested that a large sample of it might be sent up to London to be submitted to the Board of Customs here. That was done, and the prayer of my petition was granted. Part of the same parcel arrived a few weeks after in London. Upon being entered for the 16s. 4d. duty in London, it was detained by the Customs for 18s. 8d. I made application to have it released, but I did not succeed. Several memorials were forwarded to Government upon the occasion, but on none of them did I succeed. After a lapse of a month or two, 10 bags which remained in Liverpool of the parcel which the Customs in London had decided upon to admit at 16s. 4d., were stopped for 18s. 8d. They did not attempt to charge it upon the other which had paid duty, but the 10 bags remaining in bond, duty unpaid, were charged 18s. 8d. An instance occurred with a parcel of sugar which arrived by the "Alfred" in this port, I think in July of last year; they were entered by our broker at 14s. duty. On hearing that he had entered them at that duty, I wrote to him to say that he should have entered them at 16s. 4d. They were detained by the Customs for 18s. 8d. Upon petitioning they were released at 16s. 4d. On going to pay the duty they were charged 18s. 8d. Again a second petition was presented; they were again released for 16s. 4d.; and again, upon applying for them they were detained, and not allowed to be taken out without the payment of 18s. 8d. A third time we petitioned, but it was of no use, and we paid the 18s. 8d. after all.

951. What price can you get now for this sample of sugar which you have produced?—Forty-nine shillings and sixpence or fifty shillings.

952. Would that price, deducting the duty of 14s. and the average rate of freight and charges, leave you a remunerative profit?—Not upon the actual cost of the material from which it was made, but, on the contrary, a very considerable loss; but at the price at which the raw material might have been purchased at the date of our late advices, it would leave us a profit; but then that raw material was not selling at a price which was remunerative to the producer of it.

953. Sir T. Birch.] Do you think the price of the raw material now is so low as to discourage the cultivation of it among the natives?—Distinctly.

954. Mr. M. Gibson.] Have you at all considered what in your opinion would be such an adequate amount of protection as would enable this European cultivation to be carried on?—No, I have not.

Henry Morris Kemshead, Esq., called in; and Examined.

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955. *Chairman.*] ARE you Chairman of the Dhobah East India Sugar Company?—I am.

956. When did you embark in that concern?—In 1836 or 1837.

957. As soon as the East Indian duties were equalized with the colonial duties?—Yes, precisely.

958. Are the shares of that company 100 *l.* shares?—They are.

959. Is the whole of the 100 *l.* paid up?—At the outset of our proceedings we paid up 50 *l.* per share; we required no further call till very recently, when we called up the remaining 50 *l.*, and in a great measure that has been paid, except by those who have been ruined by the great fall in the price, and who did not contemplate so heavy a call.

960. What was the entire capital of the company?—The entire capital was 120,000 *l.*, 60,000 *l.* having been paid up at the commencement; it was increased afterwards by an increase of shares to nearly 200,000 *l.* There are 1,800 shares, which would be 180,000 *l.*, and 1,800 quarter shares, and the whole amount is called up, so that the capital is rather more than 200,000 *l.*

961. When did the company commence paying a dividend?—I think in 1838 or 1839.

962. What dividend was then paid?—In the early part of the time we paid very considerable dividends. In 1838 or 1839, I think we cleared about 13 *l.* per ton between the price of the purchase and the net proceeds.

963. Do you know what was the price of sugar at that time?—The average price of our own sugar in 1840, exclusive of duty, was 38 *s.* per cwt., for which we paid about 25 *s.* in Calcutta; all the charges having to be deducted from the 38 *s.*, except the duty.

964. Had you any commission to pay?—No; we saved the commission by giving attention to it ourselves.

965. Brokerage?—Yes; brokerage we pay.

966. Do you know what the freight and the charges you had to pay amounted to per ton, at that period?—We estimate upon the general average about 7 *s.* to 7 *s.* 6 *d.* per cwt., exclusive of the merchant's commission, which is not charged; our own commission is about 7 *s.* 6 *d.* I should say, upon the average of years, with the exception of the present year.

967. The average freight is about 5 *l.* a ton?—It is.

968. What dividend was the company able to pay in 1840?—Very nearly 20 *l.* per share; about 18 *l.* per share.

969. At that time only 50 *l.* was paid up?—Only 50 *l.*

970. How long did that prosperous state of things continue?—We continued realizing a profit varying in the intermediate time; in one instance there being no profit at all.

971. In what year did you make no profit?—In the year 1841 we made no profit; the cost was as near as possible the amount of the net proceeds.

972. Was that because the price of sugar was low in London?—It acted both ways; the price of the raw material was high in India, and the price of sugar was low in London.

973. Do you remember whether there were great crops in other parts of the world, and comparatively bad crops in India, which occasioned the price to be comparatively high in India that year?—I do not recollect the cause which created the fall in 1841; but I think the large profit in 1840 arose from the price being very high, indeed nearly three times what it is at the present moment.

974. Have you a list of prices during the successive years since the company was established?—No, I have only my own average; our own prices for each year.

975. Are you able to furnish the Committee with the average prices at which you sold in each year?—In 1840, the price, less the duty and all charges, was 38 *s.*; in 1841, we obtained 32 *s.* 8 *d.*

976. And that year you made no profit?—No; in 1842 the price was 31 *s.* 6 *d.*; then we made a profit.

977. What profit did you make that year?—We made a profit that year of about 18 *l.* a share.

978. How

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978. How was it that you made so large a profit when you obtained so low a price for your sugar, the fact being that in 1840, when you obtained a higher price, you realized no profit?—The price in Calcutta was so different.

979. Do you purchase from the natives?—We purchase from the natives.

980. And you were able in 1841 to purchase at a very low price?—Comparatively so.

981. How do you account for that very low price?—I can only account for it from the competition probably not being so great; our agents, perhaps, might have gone better to work and made better arrangements.

982. In 1843, what was the result?—In 1843 the sale price was 31*s.* 8*d.*; we then made a profit.

983. What profit did you make in that year?—We made a profit equal to 14*l.* or 15*l.* per share. Probably I am wrong in giving so large a return for 1840, because in 1840 the quantity we sold was much smaller, and although the profit was larger, it would not have given so much per share; but in 1842 and 1843 the profit of each year was as nearly as possible alike, which gave something like 35,000*l.* to be divided over 1,800 shares.

984. What happened in 1844?—In 1844 the price got down very low, and our average was only 25*s.* 8*d.*, when we made a loss.

985. Do you know what the loss was?—No, I do not know the amount of our loss, but I should think 4,000*l.* or 5,000*l.* In 1845 the amount of the cost price was precisely that of the purchase price, so that there was no profit and no loss.

986. What was the price in 1845?—Thirty shillings. I should state that I am merely confining myself to the profit upon sugar; I am not taking in the whole concern; we are large importers of rum, therefore there might be a profit or a loss upon the rum, of which I have taken no note; this is not to be taken as our exact position. When I am stating these figures, the whole profit of the concern might be more or less, according to what the rum fetched. In 1846 we began to feel the competition with the slave-grown sugar.

987. That was only in the last half year, was it?—The last half of the year.

988. Can you distinguish between the former and the latter half of that year?—I cannot in 1846, but I have it in 1847, when the effect of the slave-grown sugar told completely. In 1846, the selling price was 29*s.*, and the cost price was 37*s.*, leaving a loss of 8*s.*, occasioning a total loss to the company of between 40,000*l.* and 50,000*l.* In 1847, the cost price was 28*s.*; the selling price for the half year, which is the only time for which I can take it, was 17*s.*

989. What has your loss been?—The loss in the present instance is about 10*l.* a ton.

990. Your produce is how much?—Seven thousand tons; we estimate the loss at 70,000*l.* I will give the prices with the charges. In 1840, the price was 45*s.*; in 1841, 39*s.* 4*d.*; in 1842, 38*s.* 10*d.*; in 1843, 38*s.* 8*d.*; in 1844, 32*s.* 8*d.*; in 1845, 36*s.* 10*d.*; in 1846, 36*s.*; in 1847, 26*s.* 3*d.* That was the net sale price, less the duty. In our case the charges only amount to about 7*s.* 6*d.*; but with mercantile houses it would be at least 1*s.* more.

991. Mr. *Villiers.*] The mercantile charges would not be more than 1*s.*, you think?—It depends upon what mercantile house has the transaction; but I should estimate them at about 1*s.*

992. *Chairman.*] Has the company given up their operations?—We have suspended them for a time, finding the enormous loss, and the impossibility of competing with slave-grown sugar. We have suffered quite enough in the losses which we have already sustained, which have more than swept away all the profits of previous years.

993. Do you mean that the company ran 70,000*l.* in debt in 1847, or that they lost by their sugar 70,000*l.*?—Upon the transactions of the year we shall lose 70,000*l.*

994. If that price had been maintained at what it was last year or the year before, the company would neither have made a profit nor suffered a loss?—I think that would have been our position; if we had stopped working two years ago, we should have been gainers; but the two last years have completely taken away all those profits.

995. If you had stopped working at the end of 1845, you would have been gainers of 84,000*l.*?—About that.

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996. You say that in the year 1846, you lost between 40,000 *l.* and 50,000 *l.*, and that in the year 1847 you lost 70,000 *l.*?—Yes.

997. That would be 110,000 *l.*, which would have to be balanced against the 84,000 *l.*, which you had made in the six previous years?—The difference between those two sums would be the loss upon our capital, independent of the loss which we may have in our plant, upon which we have expended from 100,000 *l.* to 140,000 *l.* What value that might be, if we were going to sell, it is impossible for any one to say. If we were to get the whole of that amount back again, our loss would be about 30,000 *l.* upon the profit and loss account, and the difference between the sum which we have embarked in machinery, 200,000 *l.*, and the amount of capital paid up.

998. Under the present prospects of the sugar market, what do you think your plant would fetch in the Calcutta market?—It is impossible for me to give any idea.

999. You have three factories, have you not?—Yes; probably the best in India.

1000. What is the arrangement which the company has made for the next year?—We had intended entirely to stand still, leaving the factories alone, but one of the proprietors, a Mr. Blake, who was the original founder of the company, having resided many years in India, offered to go out, under the present state of things, to look into the whole matter; and he said, if we would permit him he would take the risk of paying us a small rent for two of the factories, upon the chance, under the present aspect of affairs, of finding the price of the raw material probably very low, and that he might be induced to manufacture when he got out there. We have consented to that, as part recompense for the trouble and labour which he is taking in going out and investigating the whole affair.

1001. Is the rent 2,000 *l.* a year he is to pay?—£. 1,600 a year he is to pay us for the use of those two factories.

1002. Therefore taking that at 10 years' purchase, which I believe is the purchase you reckon for property of that description, your property, which cost you 130,000 *l.*, you value practically at 16,000 *l.*?—That is only two out of the three factories. We have another factory which will stand still; that is, the Dhobah factory itself will stand still. That may be estimated at about as much more.

1003. You think you will be able to let it at the same price?—I think we ought to let it for the same price as the other two; whether we are getting a fair rent for those two it is impossible for me to say.

1004. You would be glad to let that Dhobah factory at the same price if a bidder were to offer?—Undoubtedly.

1005. According to that estimate, the value of property which cost you 130,000 *l.*, is now reduced to 32,000 *l.*?—I think we should not hesitate to take 40,000 *l.* for the whole of our works. It is not possible for me to say; of course I am speaking individually. Then in addition to our works, we have a colliery, which we also work to a very considerable extent. The profit hitherto has not been large. I think, including that, we should not hesitate to take between 40,000 *l.* and 50,000 *l.* for the whole of our works in India.

1006. Is that colliery quite independent of the sugar concern?—We keep it entirely independent; it belongs to the company in the same way the other property does, but we keep an entirely separate account.

1007. You do not maintain it to feed your steam-engines with?—We supplied our own engines with coal from it, charging those engines at the same price as we should have purchased coal for from other parties.

1008. Is all your machinery of the best description?—We have gone to the expense that it should be so, and we have every reason to believe it is the best in India.

1009. You are the largest sugar manufacturers in India, are not you?—In the world, I should suppose; I am not aware of any concern equal to it, as one concern.

1010. Sir John Gladstone is concerned in a sugar manufactory adjoining to yours, is not he?—Sir John Gladstone established a factory some two or three years after we commenced. He thought that considerable profit was to be made out of sugar manufacturing in India, but I have very great doubt whether he ever did make any profit out of it; three years ago he wrote to me to ask me

me if we would buy his works. Foreseeing probably, and having a longer view than we had, that slave-grown sugar was likely to come in, he was anxious to get out of it; we were not then anxious to extend our works, and I declined to entertain the proposition, though I believe he would have sold his works at a very considerable loss, as compared with the cost he had been put to to establish them.

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1011. Sir John Gladstone very much reduced the extent of his business in the years 1846 and 1847, did not he?—I should say he has sold everything he had in the West Indies long ago; he has been doing so for years; and I believe he has nearly given up everything in the West Indies. Whether he has sold the works in India I am not prepared to say, but I believe he is not working.

1012. In the end of 1845 your company had an extent of business to pretty nearly 200,000 *l.*, had not it?—Fully that.

1013. And the sugar crop for which you were then providing would not come into consumption till the year 1847?—Commencing to purchase at the end of 1845 the sugar so purchased at the latter part of 1845, commencing in November and December, and running on to the year 1846, would be made in 1846, and would begin to arrive in England in the latter part of 1846, and run nearly through 1847. The whole crop of 1846 would not have arrived in London till probably August 1847. Up to this time, of what we made in 1847 we have not received one-half, or barely one-half; the whole is not even shipped yet.

1014. When you sent out those orders in the autumn of 1845, it was not possible for you to foresee, or even to contemplate the change which afterwards took place in the duties?—So far from it, we were induced, with others, from a belief that it was impossible that slave-grown sugar could be admitted here after the feeling which had been expressed by the country at large upon the subject, to embark these large sums in factories in India. Not supposing for a moment that slave-grown sugar could by possibility come in here, we went on to give our instructions as we had done for years before. When it began to be talked of, we certainly could not have looked for so small a differential duty at all events, and we went on even to a late period of 1846 to buy material.

1015. What were the circumstances which induced you in 1841 to confide in the stability of the policy of that day?—Our confidence was in the extreme feeling which had been expressed by the public at large some few years previously, and the decisions of Parliament confirming it up to a late period. We could not have supposed for a moment slave-grown sugar could have come into competition with us.

1016. Had you any reason to imagine that even if there should be a change in the Government, there would be any withdrawal of the protection you had enjoyed?—We felt satisfied with Sir Robert Peel, whom we had looked to as being the great stay upon this matter, having expressed himself so adversely to the admission of slave-grown sugar, at least as far as my recollection goes. I do not speak too strongly in saying that he had so expressed himself; at all events we were sufficiently confident that he was opposed to the encouragement of slavery, and consequently to the admission of slave-grown sugar. Relying more upon him, probably, than the Members generally of the House of Commons, we felt satisfied that we were quite safe; I think up to the very division that carried this question against us, Sir Robert Peel was opposed to it himself, though he felt the necessity for yielding, and we were so satisfied that he could not go with the Government upon that question, that even up to the very day we were taken off our guard, and could not anticipate it for a moment.

1017. As it required 18 months' notice, it was not possible for you to withdraw from your engagements?—Quite impossible. The Committee will see that the company having embarked a very large capital, even supposing we did see reason to entertain a doubt as to what was coming, we could not stop works of that magnitude all at once, because large expenses would be involved in doing so, as a matter of course, and all our property must be damaged; the very fact of our present suspension is destruction to our property.

1018. Is it your opinion that any great exportation of sugar will be carried on from Calcutta at the present prices?—Of what is in India at the present moment a considerable quantity will come here, they will not know what to do with it; but that the same quantity will be made again unless a great change

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takes place, it is absurd to suppose; I do not believe there will be a single factory carrying on the process of manufacture which will bring sugar home in the state in which it has been brought by the Dhobah Company; as heretofore sugar may come of that very bad character which obtains little value here, but that will be only if the price rises; for I apprehend at the present price in London the natives will not make it, they will rather confine their manufacture to the consumption of India.

1019. It will take 12 months or 18 months before the present arrangements can be arrested in India for the cultivation and manufacture of sugar?—I should think there is very little going on at the present moment. I should think the native is not doing much at the present moment.

1020. The entire crop of 1847 will come home, you think, notwithstanding the price?—No, I should say not; because they would rather sell it, and consume it in the country, than allow it to come at a very low price.

1021. What is the lowest price at which you conceive it would be exported from Calcutta to England?—It is almost impossible for me to answer that question, we not being sugar growers; but I think the native is not likely, if it is left to him alone, to allow it to be shipped under something like 15*l.* or 16*l.* a ton.

1022. What quality of sugar is that?—That would be a very inferior quality as compared to that which the Dhobah Company, and other companies, have been in the habit of shipping; so inferior that taking the per-centage of the raw material, and converting it into a better class of sugar, the cost is about double what the raw material fetches.

1023. Are the Committee to understand that it would require nearly 2 cwt. of this description of sugar to make 1 cwt. of the sugar you used to export?—It would take 2½ cwt. of the coarse sugar the native makes to make 1 cwt. of our lower quality of sugar.

1024. Is the sugar you speak of at 15*l.* or 16*l.* a ton, the goor?—No, they would make it into khaur to send it here; but the khaur itself in 1845 cost us, when converted into our lower quality of sugar, 28*s.* a cwt.

1025. At what price would this sugar, which you speak of as selling at 15*l.* or 16*l.* a ton by the natives in Calcutta, sell for in London at this time?—Not so much as 15*l.* or 16*l.* It would sell for about 33*s.* or 35*s.*, from which the duty and all the charges are to be deducted.

1026. Then, in fact, it is utterly impossible, at the present prices, that any great amount of sugar should be exported by the natives for the English market?—I have stated distinctly that it is not likely, except as they have it there, and cannot help themselves.

1027. That is only the sugar which is already grown?—I have already stated that our own average for the last six months, for sugars of a very different quality to what they would ship, has been 17*s.*, therefore, I presume, about 10*s.* would be quite the outside that that sugar would fetch at the present moment; a great deal has been sold at less than the cost price in London.

1028. Are you also concerned in the West Indies?—I am, unfortunately.

1029. And in Santa Cruz?—And in Santa Cruz.

1030. Finding the East India trade in sugar is destroyed by the change of duties, you have invested some of your capital in Santa Cruz?—Yes.

1031. You are endeavouring to take your capital out of the British West Indies, and to invest it at Santa Cruz?—I was the chief importer from Santa Cruz. I have more interest in that island than any other mercantile house; but I should be very sorry, looking to the uncertainty with which matters are conducted now, to embark any money, even in Santa Cruz. I only at the present moment receive consignments, avoiding advances, but it is impossible, from the experience I have had of the admission of slave-grown sugar, that I can divest myself of the apprehension (I call it apprehension, being interested in some degree in a slave island), that slave-grown sugar may not be prohibited again; therefore I could not allow myself to advance money, even in a slave country.

1032. That is because your confidence in the security of any commercial policy has been destroyed?—Totally destroyed; and I think I speak the feelings of no inconsiderable number of merchants.

1033. At present you have found your commerce with Santa Cruz profitable, then?—

then?—I avoid advances; it is no speculation, it is simply a commission transaction.

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1034. You can buy sugar in Santa Cruz, and sell it again, even at the present prices, at a good profit?—Santa Cruz is different to any other island in the West Indies; it makes the finest sugar that comes to London, which therefore will command a price which no other sugar can command; and there may be less risk in purchasing there than elsewhere in consequence; but I should be very sorry to be a purchaser of sugar, even in Santa Cruz, in the present state of things.

1035. The planter and the manufacturer of sugar in Santa Cruz can afford, the one to grow the sugar and the other to manufacture it to a profit, at a price that will enable you to buy it of them and sell it again to a profit?—No question about it; that is to say, it gives them a large profit in consignment. But Santa Cruz stands very differently from the other slave colonies, because Santa Cruz, like the British islands, has not been permitted to receive a slave for some 30 years or more. Santa Cruz is exactly like our British islands were, limited to the number of slaves that has been there for 30 or 40 years, and also the labour is comparatively very easy in Santa Cruz as compared with the Brazils and Cuba; the slave does not work an excessive number of hours, and he gets his Saturday entirely to himself; the Sunday also. They have two entire days free from labour. The Danish laws are exceedingly easy with the slaves; they take especial care of them.

1036. Still it is slave cultivation?—It is.

1037. Can you inform the Committee what the rate of freights throughout the year has been from Santa Cruz?—During the last year, which was the only year that sugar has been imported from Santa Cruz, the rate of freight averaged from 3*s.* 9*d.*, at which it commenced, up to 5*s.* 3*d.*

1038. That is five guineas a ton from Santa Cruz?—Yes; I chartered a British ship myself at five guineas to come from Santa Cruz. It was the only British ship that loaded in Santa Cruz; the rest were all Danes.

1039. What freight did you pay in the Danish ships?—The rate of freight got up in the same proportion; there was a demand for shipping, and the Danes took the same advantage that the British did. We should much prefer, however, giving a Danish ship 5*s.* to giving a British ship 5*s.*, because we get the goods home in much better order in a Danish ship than in a British ship.

1040. They are about the best ships to be met with, are they not?—They are, and the best sailed.

1041. And the quickest?—Judging from the experience I had last year, I should say the quickest; at least two or three ships I sent out made quicker voyages than any other ship I know of.

1042. Is it the fact that you freighted a Danish ship out from London, and that she was back again with her cargo in 60 days?—Between 60 and 70 days. That was the case with two or three ships. One ship in particular went out from London; I loaded her here; she discharged her cargo in Santa Cruz, took in a full cargo there, and was back again in London under 70 days.

1043. The freight of that ship was 3*l.* 6*s.*, was not it?—I forget exactly the rate at which she came home. The lowest rate was 3*s.* 9*d.* a cwt., but it got up to 4*s.* 6*d.*, or about 4*l.* 10*s.* a ton.

1044. As far as the price of freights went, there was no difference between British ships and Danish at any period?—Not a bit.

1045. When freights rise very high for British ships at New York, at Demerara, or in India, the freights for Danish ships rise in the same proportion?—Precisely so.

1046. Is not it the fact that one of those Danish ships made three voyages in one year?—Three of them made three voyages each before the 1st of August; that is, they made their last voyage from the island before the 1st of August. The 1st of August is the period known to underwriters when they make a difference in the rate of their insurance; therefore it is an advantage to a ship to get away before the 1st of August, and there is a great press to do it; and those ships which were consigned to me all made their voyages so as to sail before the 1st day of August, and three or four of them made three voyages in the year, sailing before the 1st of August on the last voyage.

1047. You are well acquainted with the freights from Demerara, are you not?—I am.

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1048. What has been the rate of freight from Demerara?—The rate of freight has been for a very considerable time ranging from 2*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.*, or 2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.*; it did get up for a very short period, during the scarcity of shipping, to 4*l.* I am not aware of any rate above 4*l.*; at least I received none.

1049. You are not aware of any rate of sugar freight from Demerara above 4*l.*?—No; there may have been an instance or two, but I received none.

1050. The general ruling of freights for sugar is lower from Demerara than it is from Santa Cruz?—It is lower from Demerara than any colony I know of. I have had bills of lading from Demerara at 1*s.*; that of course was an unusual circumstance; but 2*s.* has been a common amount.

1051. It has happened, has not it, that freights have come home from Calcutta at 14*s.* a ton?—Not to my knowledge; the case I am alluding to was a Calcutta ship going with Coolies to Demerara, and there she was very glad to get sugar at a very low rate of freight.

1052. Freights from Jamaica always rule considerably higher, do not they?—I know of no freight under 4*s.* from Jamaica; the usual freight being 5*s.*

1053. That arises, does not it, from the circumstance that there is a great deal of what is called droggerage?—Yes.

1054. That is at the charge of the ship?—It is at the charge of the ship.

1055. There is no droggerage at Demerara?—No, the vessels are loaded in the river; there is a considerable droggerage in Demerara, but the ship has nothing to do with that, because each estate has its own schooner, which brings its sugar to George Town, and the sailors put it on board; so that there is a charge in Demerara for the cost of the schooner, which is not applicable to Jamaica; the Jamaica proprietor takes his sugar only to the wharf, and the ship takes it from the wharf.

1056. Demerara is a Dutch colony; there are no roads, and the sugar is carried about in canals?—Yes, in canals; it is not possible for a cart to work except in particular seasons.

1057. Thus it is that the planter in Demerara carries his produce himself to the ship?—He has a canal from his works to the sea, and then the sugars are taken from that point into the shipping schooner at the bar, and the schooner goes down or up, as the case may be, to George Town with the sugar, carrying 20 hogsheads.

1058. In Jamaica, the whole of this droggerage is performed by the ship?—Yes, the proprietor simply carries it to the wharf.

1059. Is there not a difference of 15*s.* per ton sometimes, between the freight on the north and the south side of Jamaica, on account of the difference of droggerage?—With certain ships; they do not profess to make a difference, but from the east end of Jamaica they will frequently bring sugar at 4*s.*, while at the north we hardly ever know it under 5*s.*; and also on the south, from Kingston and that neighbourhood, they will bring it at 4*s.* very often, when they will not take it under 5*s.* from the north.

1060. Is that partly on account of the greater cost of droggerage?—Yes.

1061. And partly from the long demurrage?—It is particularly from there being a greater number of vessels in these localities; for instance, at Kingston most vessels call, and the captain, if he discharged his cargo there, would prefer to take in sugar at 4*s.* or 4*s.* 6*d.* at Kingston, than to go to the north and get 5*s.*

1062. That is because the greater part of the import trade to Jamaica is discharged at Kingston, while the export trade is more equally divided?—Yes, the droggerage would not be anything like so heavy.

1063. Is not the demurrage in Jamaica generally much longer than in Santa Cruz and Cuba?—I should be very sorry to charter a ship to Jamaica unless I got 90 days demurrage, whereas in other places I should be content to take 60 days.

1064. Your ship went to Santa Cruz and was back again in 66 days, and in Jamaica you would require 90 days, you say?—Yes, I should be very scrupulous in taking it even at 90 days.

1065. Does not that account for the high nominal freights at Jamaica?—Partially it does.

1066. Do you know anything of freights from Cuba?—Freights from Cuba run from 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.*; the expenses at Cuba are not heavy.

1067. There

1067. There is little or no droggerage there?—There is little or no droggerage there.

1068. And little or no delay?—Very little delay; if the party who has the charter is prepared with his cargo, there need be no delay.

1069. The ship loads right up at the wharf?—Yes.

1070. That accounts for the difference?—Yes, it does.

1071. Mr. *Labouchere*.] You have stated that at equal rates of freight you would prefer a Danish to an English ship for carrying sugar; what is the reason for that?—Because the Danes do not screw the sugar in the same way that the English do. Between a cargo coming home to the West India Dock in a Danish ship and one coming home in a British ship, there would be all the difference in the world; we receive the sugar in a much better state.

1072. Do you mean that the Danes take better care of the cargo than the generality of English masters do?—Yes, in stowing it.

1073. Mr. *Villiers*.] Your company was established exclusively for making sugar in the East Indies?—Yes.

1074. When you spoke of your dividend, you had no reference to anything but sugar?—Sugar and rum.

1075. Were you to be understood as saying that there was a loss upon the rum as well as upon the sugar?—I should say no loss ever could arise upon the rum, because we take it at a certain price in India, and it always brings its price here. I should say, upon the average, there has always been a small profit; but the rum would be a very small matter compared with the sugar.

1076. Has it fluctuated during the different years you have spoken of?—No question about it; it has fluctuated according to the price, and as the price has fluctuated here. I have known the price of East India rum at 4 s. and 4 s. 6 d. a gallon; at the present moment it is not worth more than 1 s. 8 d.

1077. You have not lost anything upon the rum?—No; our whole losses have been upon the sugar.

1078. You embarked in this business when the duties were first equalized upon East and West India sugar?—About that time.

1079. Are the Committee to understand you that you did so upon the faith that no foreign sugar would be admitted to compete with you?—We did so entirely influenced by what had taken place in this country two or three years before, and the great manifestation of feeling which was exhibited by the people of this country against slavery in the West Indies, where it was of a very mitigated character as compared with places where the slave trade was carried on. We could not for a moment suppose, under those circumstances, that we should come into competition with slave-grown sugar.

1080. The question had regard to foreign sugar, not exclusively slave-labour sugar; did you contemplate that foreign free-grown sugar would be always excluded hereafter?—We were not so confident upon that point as we were upon the other; but we did not embark it upon the calculation that even free-labour sugar would so soon come into competition with our own.

1081. Do you recollect the discussion that took place in this country upon the subject of equalizing East and West India sugar?—Yes; I have not refreshed my memory upon the subject; I have only a general recollection of what took place. I do not remember the discussions in Parliament, certainly, for I have never referred to them since.

1082. Do you remember that the leading advocates on the subject always stated that they had no exclusive objects in urging the introduction of East India sugar, but that they were perfectly ready for free trade?—Yes, I do remember that; not for free trade as regards slave-grown sugar.

1083. But they were prepared for competition with other countries?—It might be so; but certainly the parties connected with the Dhobah Company never said so.

1084. You embarked in this concern upon the duties being equalized, and you remember that the advocates of equalization always urged the introduction of East India sugar upon principles of free competition with foreign countries?—I do not recollect that.

1085. When you established your factories in India, did other companies establish factories at the same time?—I really cannot answer that question precisely; I know that after we established our concern, other companies, and as I have stated, even Sir John Gladstone, and Murrays of Liverpool, established

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blished factories; that was after we had done so; but I do not recollect how long it was precisely after we established our factory.

1086. Your largest dividend was in 1840, was not it?—Of that I will not be sure; it would depend upon the quantity we then made; we were not making the quantity in 1840 that we were subsequently. I think the largest dividend was in 1843. I corrected my statement with regard to the year 1840, by saying that I had omitted to remark that we were not making the quantity of sugar at that time that we were subsequently.

1087. Your dividend was larger shortly after you were established than it has been since?—The largest dividend, I should say, was in 1842 or 1843.

1088. Can you give the Committee any idea of the amount of capital which has been invested in making sugar in India since your factory was established?—No.

1089. You have no doubt that several parties have embarked in the business?—No; but we have never troubled ourselves to learn who were establishing factories; unless it came to us casually, we did not give ourselves any concern about it.

1090. Have you any doubt that the quantity of sugar exported from India has been a good deal increased since you first started?—I have no doubt that it has been considerably increased; we know that several factories have been established, and of course the quantity must have been increased; we have increased ourselves, by three times, what we made when we began.

1091. The quantity increasing, the price would naturally fall?—I should doubt that; I do not think the quantity from India has so greatly increased as to make the price fall; a considerable increase has taken place in India, but then our manufacture is a re-manufacture from that which would probably have come here in a very different state.

1092. Is it the fact that the price has fallen?—There is no question about that.

1093. Do you know anything about the other factories you have spoken of?—Not the least.

1094. You are not aware whether they have lost as largely as you have?—Not the least.

1095. So that it is possible they may not have lost at all?—For anything I know; I can only judge from what we ourselves have done.

1096. You have ascribed the losses of your own company entirely to the introduction of slave sugar, have you not?—I have no doubt about it.

1097. You believe the immediate loss which you have sustained has been occasioned by the fall in the price, and you ascribe that fall in the price to the introduction of slave sugar?—Precisely.

1098. And as far as you have been understood, you do not expect any sugar to be manufactured at all in India till there has been some change with respect to the introduction of slave sugar?—In the way of re-manufacture; I do not mean to say there will not be sugar made in India, but not by manufactories such as that in which I am interested; I do not think any parties are likely to re-manufacture sugar until some change takes place, or until the native chooses to make the raw material at a very low rate. I can only answer the question by saying that I believe our concern has entirely failed, that Sir John Gladstone I am quite sure is not doing anything, and that Murrays have also failed; I do not know what others there are. We have not suspended our payments, but we have suspended our operations. When I speak of Sir John Gladstone, I can only say that I do not suppose it likely that he would go on.

1099. The Committee understand you, that in the course of 1845 and 1846 your losses amounted to 40,000 *l.*?—Upon the crop of 1846 our loss was upwards of 40,000 *l.*

1100. Had slave sugar been introduced into this country at that time?—It had begun to be introduced; the law was changed in July 1846; the admission of slave-grown sugar commenced in 1846.

1101. And your loss was in the latter part of 1846?—That I cannot answer; I know that in the year we made a very heavy loss; our sugars made in 1846 were chiefly sold in 1847.

1102. When were the sugars made that were sold in 1846?—In 1845.

1103. The question refers to the loss you spoke of, amounting to 40,000 *l.*; was

was that loss on the sale of the crop of 1845?—No, on the sale of the crop of 1846.

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1104. Was it in consequence of being brought into competition with slave-grown sugar?—We can suppose it to be from nothing else.

1105. Is it the fact that the crop of 1845 was brought into competition with slave-grown sugar?—No doubt a portion of it was, because it would not be sold until the slave-grown sugar came in; how much remained to be sold after that sugar came in I do not recollect.

1106. You cannot tell the Committee positively whether the loss of 40,000*l.* was owing to the competition of slave-grown sugar or not?—Not wholly; there is no doubt a considerable portion of the loss of the year which the question alludes to arose from the high price we paid in India.

1107. That loss was not owing to competition in this market with slave-grown sugar?—Not altogether; it was from the fear, because the Committee must be aware that every surmise, and every talk of the introduction of slave-grown sugar, takes effect in the market probably two or three months before the law comes into operation, because the very breath of anything that is mooted in Parliament by any influential parties, immediately has the effect in our market of paralysing trade, and therefore, though the article does not come in competition, the market is paralysed. That has been the case with sugar for several years.

1108. Are the Committee to understand that the price of sugar was depressed in 1846, three months before the Act came into operation?—I think it is very probable, though I cannot charge my memory with the particular fact.

1109. Do you know what the prices of sugar were in 1846?—I have stated what the price was in 1846.

1110. Was there a great fall in 1846?—The fall in the price of our sugar was not very considerable in 1846, but the loss which happened in 1846 arose greatly from the excessive price paid in India.

1111. You stated also a loss of 70,000 *l.* in the following year?—We are now selling that which will create a loss of 70,000 *l.*; the sale of the crop of 1847, which is now arriving, will leave a loss of 70,000 *l.*

1112. Is that also to be ascribed partly to the high price in India?—No, certainly not; the difference between the price in India of the crop 1846 and the crop 1847, as far as our concern is interested, was 8 *l.* or 9 *l.* a ton.

1113. You ascribe it chiefly to the fall in the price here?—Undoubtedly.

1114. Have you considered what are the causes of the fall in the price here?—An over supply, I apprehend.

1115. You mean to say that there is more sugar than there is demand for it?—Precisely.

1116. Have you considered whether that is owing to the great increase of the quantity supplied, or whether there has been any cause for the diminished consumption?—The consumption has not diminished from previous years, and is very much beyond what was the ordinary consumption three or four years back.

1117. The consumption has actually fallen off, has it not?—Not to a very large extent, as compared with the period of the greatest demand, but the supply has been very much greater.

1118. You are aware of causes existing during the last year that might have caused a diminished consumption, are you not?—I do not know to what the question alludes.

1119. Are you aware of the very high cost of food during the year 1847?—Yes.

1120. Would not that affect the consumption of sugar?—It did not affect the consumption of sugar to the extent that might have been calculated on. Even in Ireland, during the greatest pressure and want of food, there was a greater consumption of sugar than was ever known.

1121. *Mr. Labouchere.*] Was it not the case in Ireland, that there was more money expended by the great body of the people than was usual in former years?—I only state the fact, that the consumption of sugar was greater in Ireland during the pressure than was ever known before.

1122. *Mr. Villiers.*] Are you to be understood that you are afraid of the competition of sugar which shall come in from foreign countries, where slavery does not exist?—I do not know that; we should not be able to make sugar in

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India upon the same terms as free labour would make it anywhere. I am not quite prepared to answer that question, because I am not a grower of sugar.

1123. Your apprehension in respect of the manufactories in India is founded upon the cheapness of slave-grown sugar?—Undoubtedly it is.

1124. You are aware of the change which took place in 1844, as to our admitting the sugar of Java?—Yes, that was the first intimation we had that we were not likely to do so well afterwards as we had done before; and although we were not likely to make those losses which we have lately made, we were not likely to make those large profits which we had done before.

1125. You made large profits in that year?—We did.

1126. Are you aware that free-labour sugar and slave-labour sugar command the same price in the markets of Europe?—I presume that is according to the quality. The two articles will fetch the same price if the quality is the same. People are very careless, apparently, whether it is slave-grown sugar or free-grown sugar; in fact, it has been generally stated that the first cargo of slave-grown sugar was imported by a Quaker. If that is the fact, it shows at once that there is very little consideration as to whether it is slave-grown or free-grown sugar.

1127. Does not that show that the cost of production must be the same?—I do not quite understand the question.

1128. Slave-labour sugar and free-labour sugar sell for the same price in the markets of Europe; does not that look as if the cost of production of both were the same?—I should think not. One may be sold to a loss, and the other may be sold to a profit.

1129. Do you mean that people are in the habit on the Continent of selling at a loss?—We are obliged to do it here.

1130. Not as a business?—If you cannot get your cost price you must sell at a loss.

1131. People do not embark in business for the purpose of selling at a loss—Certainly not.

1132. Are the Committee to understand that it is by accident that the price of free-labour sugar and of slave-labour sugar is the same in foreign markets?—I do not see that it is accident, because the free-labour sugar and the slave-labour sugar in the same market would bring the same price, if they were of the same quality.

1133. Why so, if slave labour is so much cheaper than free labour?—Because the market price would regulate both.

1134. Would not the sugar raised by slave labour exclude the free-labour sugar, if slave labour were so much cheaper?—Not while the free-labour sugar comes. It will, I believe, exclude it ultimately. If parties cannot make sugar by free labour upon the same terms that the slaveowner can, of course free-labour sugar will not be sent here. That is exactly why we have in Dhobah suspended our operations.

1135. The question assumes, that free-labour sugar and slave-labour sugar are sold on the same terms at the same market; it does not suppose that free-labour sugar will continue to come to market if it is to be sold at a loss, but it supposes that both are sold at the same price at a profit; the prices being the same, must not the cost of production be the same if they both continue to be brought into the same market?—No. Free-labour sugar may continue to come till the producer finds he cannot go on any longer.

1136. I am putting to you the question of sugar produced by free labour and slave labour, and continuing to come into the same market at the same price, must not the cost of production be the same?—I should say not; the slaveholder may be making double the profit that the other is. We have seen that while free-grown sugar has fallen in our market slave-grown sugar has risen.

1137. Mr. Wilson.] You are quite aware that during the last few years a large increase has taken place in the production of sugar in Cuba and Brazil?—I do not know it from my own knowledge.

1138. Do not you know it from your knowledge of the market here?—I have no doubt of the fact that there has been a great increase in the cultivation of sugar.

1139. Are you not aware that during the same period a large increase of cultivation has taken place in the island of Java?—I am not aware of the quantity

quantity made in Java. I have never had anything to do with Java; I think it very probable.

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1140. You are not aware that the cultivation of sugar in the island of Java has increased more than in any other country in the world during the last 20 years?—No, I do not know it of my own knowledge; it is a point I have not directed my attention to.

1141. You do know that the cultivation of sugar continues in Java and continues in Cuba?—Yes.

1142. And you do know that on the continent of Europe, while these two cultivations have continued to increase, they have been sold in the market relatively at the same price, according to the quality?—I presume so.

1143. If the two cultivations continue to increase at the same time, it is evident they must each pay the producer?—That is not quite so evident; we know that parties will go on producing very often at a loss. I myself have been losing some years, and yet I have gone on to produce, and am going on to produce (I do not know how I may go on in the West Indies) at a decided loss, and that for years.

1144. Do you think under those circumstances there being a loss, your production will increase in quantity?—It is very probable, for this reason; one would endeavour to make a larger quantity in the hope that the larger quantity would ease down the cost.

1145. Have you ever understood that the Dutch sugar growers in the Dutch colonies have been successful?—I have heard that they have been.

1146. That they have been extraordinarily successful?—I know nothing of the circumstances.

1147. Is not it generally understood in the sugar market that the Dutch sugar growers in the Dutch colonies have been very successful cultivators?—I believe so.

1148. You also understand that the Cuba and Brazil people have been successful?—How much difference is there between the Java labourer and the slave in those colonies? It has generally been understood that the labourers in Java but very little remove, in point of pressure, from the slave labourer in Cuba and the Brazils; that would enable the Java producer to produce good sugar upon the same terms as the slave-owner in Cuba.

1149. Java has been able to compete with Brazil and Cuba up to this period?—I think I answer that question by saying, that the people are worked in Java to the same extent, or nearly so, as the slave is worked in Cuba; that answers the question why the Java cultivation has increased.

1150. Is it the fact that it has increased?—I can only answer generally that it has; I believe the sugars of those two countries do come in competition with each other; what is the effect upon the free-grown sugar is more than I can tell.

1151. If they both go on increasing, while they come into competition in the same market, the fair presumption is that the cultivation answers equally in both places?—It is probable; but I can only answer that by what I have stated just now as to the West Indies. If a man has embarked in a concern; if, for example, he has a large sugar plantation in Java, and a large sum of money embarked in it, he will go on to prosecute the cultivation, just as I do in the West Indies, at a loss, because I have not courage to abandon the concern at once in which I have so much money embarked.

1152. Are you aware that during the last ten years sugar cultivation on the continent of Europe has increased very largely?—I dare say it has.

1153. Do you know what the cultivation of beet-root sugar in France is now?—No, I have seen no document to bring me to a knowledge of that fact; I know it is very considerable, but I know they worked at a great loss not long ago.

1154. You stated that what your company felt most, and which chiefly caused your losses during the last year, was the introduction of slave-labour sugar?—Yes.

1155. Did not a considerable portion of the loss arise from the unusual freights you had to pay during the last year?—No doubt a portion of it did.

1156. What were the freights last year?—I take the average of the freights for the last year at between 7 *l.* and 8 *l.*

1157. What is it usually?—About 5 *l.*

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1158. They were about 3*l.* higher than usual then?—Between 2*l.* and 3*l.* higher.

1159. Suppose slave-grown sugar to be excluded altogether, are you aware of the quantity of foreign sugar which has been taken into consumption in this country during the last year?—No.

1160. You do not know that it is about 50,000 tons?—I do not know.

1161. Supposing the quantity of foreign sugar taken into consumption this last year to be 50,000 tons, and that Java produces 70,000 tons, and the neighbouring countries, Manilla and Siam, 30,000 more, making 100,000 together; do you conceive, were we to admit free-labour sugar in preference to slave-labour sugar, while we only require 50,000 tons to make up our consumption, we could give a higher price for free-labour sugar than for slave-labour sugar. If we had 100,000 tons of sugar coming in as free sugar, while we only required 50,000 tons to make up our entire consumption of foreign sugar, we should have a supply of 100,000 tons, while the demand was only for 50,000?—Yes.

1162. In that case the other 50,000 tons must go to the Continent?—Yes.

1163. Coming in competition with the slave-labour sugar of Cuba and Brazil?—Yes.

1164. Do you believe that a higher price could be maintained for the 50,000 tons which came to this country, than for the 50,000 tons which would be taken to Holland or the Continent?—We can only judge from what has taken place in previous years. We have found it to be so.

1165. What years do you allude to?—Up to within the last two or three years.

1166. Since the Sugar Bill of 1844?—Yes.

1167. Are you not aware that in 1845 there was a destruction of crop in Cuba, which reduced the crop from 300,000 tons to 100,000 tons?—Yes.

1168. That caused a scarcity of foreign sugar on the continent of Europe?—Yes.

1169. And that led to a large exportation of sugars from this country?—Yes.

1170. Therefore by the loss of the crop in Cuba the bonded price of sugar was higher on the Continent during 1845 than it was in this country?—Yes.

1171. Consequently that year was an exception; but now that you have 300,000 tons of sugar grown in Cuba, that exception no longer continues?—That is so.

1172. Are you aware that the Dutch government ordered a number of their ships from Java to call at Cowes for a market this last spring?—I am not aware from any knowledge I have of it myself. It is a very common thing for Dutch ships to call at Cowes for orders for a market.

1173. From Java?—From anywhere.

1174. If the bonded price of sugar in London were higher in London than in Rotterdam, the order of the Dutch government would be for them to come up to London?—Yes.

1175. In that case the price of sugar would always be kept down in London to the same level as it was in Rotterdam?—Yes.

1176. If in Rotterdam this identical sugar brought the same price as sugar of the same quality from Cuba and Brazil, does not it follow that the price in London of this sugar would be the same as the price of Brazil in Rotterdam?—Upon the face of it it has that appearance.

1177. Therefore that must establish an equality of price between the two places?—Yes, it would appear so.

1178. What advantage would you anticipate supposing we were to exclude slave-labour sugar, admitting free-labour sugar?—We should gain the very chance which has been already stated of a failure in the crop taking place. You get the chance of the failure of a crop in Cuba, and of course of the failure of a crop anywhere else.

1179. Suppose you have an equalization of duties, you have always the advantage of the failing of a crop in Cuba?—Still we conceive we are running a much greater risk by the introduction of this sugar from those two great countries than we were when that sugar was prohibited.

1180. Mr. *Labouchere*.] Does the advantage you refer to consist in the chance of the failure of the crop in any particular season at Cuba or the Brazils?—

Brazils?—No; I think Cuba and the Brazils supply more in proportion to their means of increased cultivation than elsewhere.

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1181. As long as the foreign countries which have been considered by Parliament in the light of free-labour countries export more sugar than we are able to consume in this country, what difference can it make to you whether or not there is upon the statute book a distinction between slave-grown sugar and free-labour grown sugar?—It certainly would have the appearance that it could not do so, but experience has shown us that it does do so, and if Cuba and Brazil sugar were put out of this market to-morrow, you would see the practical effect follow immediately, that the price would rise.

1182. How could it rise materially?—That question is very easily answered, because we have the proof directly before us; immediately before the discussion in Parliament took place within the last fortnight a general feeling prevailed that something would be done, either in the way of a large protecting duty to the West Indians, or a great reduction in the duty, and consequently the price got up, but immediately it was found that that was not likely to be the case the price fell again.

1183. Do not you think it was the expectation of a higher protecting duty or a more prolonged protecting duty applied to sugar the produce of the British colonies, against sugar produced by foreign countries, without drawing a distinction between free-labour and slave-labour sugar, that was the cause of that rise, rather than any expectation that a distinction would be drawn between foreign slave-labour and foreign free-labour sugar?—I do not think so.

1184. Can you point out to the Committee any practical way in which the exclusion of foreign slave-labour sugar would have the effect of raising the price of sugar here while we continued to admit foreign free-labour sugar, there being confessedly more foreign free-labour sugar exported than can be consumed in this country?—I can only state the facts. The question answers itself. The moment it was expected that a great difference of duty or a prolongation of time would be granted, the price rose; no doubt it rose from that expectation, because the moment that was put at rest the price got down.

1185. Sir T. Birch.] Supposing we have in this country more slave-grown and more free-grown sugar than we want, what is to become of the surplus?—Of course the moment we have over production, the price will be regulated by it.

1186. Supposing the case of there being in this country a quantity of free-labour sugar, and also sugar of our own colonies, which is more than we want, must not the surplus be exported to the Continent?—Clearly.

1187. Would not it meet their slave-grown sugar and be sold at the same price?—Of course it must be sold at the same price.

1188. Mr. Villiers.] Did you state that you were connected with a slave colony yourself?—I am receiving consignments from a slave colony, not where the slave trade is carried on.

1189. Do you find the invoice price of the sugar you receive from that colony to be much lower than from other colonies?—We have nothing to do with the invoice price; we receive on consignment; the proprietor ships his own sugar. We do not buy; he ships to us for sale.

1190. What is the price of that sugar; is it very much lower than the price of the sugar which comes from our colonies?—It is consigned here without reference to the price in the island where it is made. It is consigned here to a merchant to obtain the highest price which can be got for it.

1191. Do you know exactly what the cost price of that sugar is in consequence of its being produced by slaves?—If the question refers to a comparison between that and the sugar from any British island, I can state at once that the cost is not by any means so great.

1192. Are you aware that the Danish government have declared that the slaves shall be emancipated in their colonies?—I am.

1193. Are you aware of the regulations they have made with a view to that emancipation?—They have made none that I am aware of.

1194. Are you aware of an order that the slaves shall have one day in the week?—That has been long since given.

1195. With a view to their emancipation?—When that was given, it was not done with a view to their emancipation, because the question of emancipation is only now under discussion with the Danish government.

1196. That deprives the producer of one-sixth of the labour of the slave?—That has been done some time.

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1197. *Mr. M. Gibson.*] Has not the exporting merchant at Santa Cruz an advantage over the exporting merchant at Jamaica, in sending sugar to the United Kingdom, inasmuch as he can choose whether he will employ a Danish ship or a British ship in the one case, whereas he is confined to a British ship in the other?—I do not think that makes any considerable difference. If it were open to Jamaica to export in any ship, it might make some little difference, but to what extent it is impossible for me to say. The cost of putting sugar on board ship is so considerable in Jamaica, that I do not think the rate of freight can be greatly reduced from what it is at present, whether in a British ship or a foreign ship.

1198. Do not you think that the exclusion of foreign ships from conveying cargoes to the United Kingdom raises the rate of freights?—I cannot say that it has not some effect; to what extent would be very doubtful, or how far foreign ships would come in competition with British ships in Jamaica.

1199. As a matter of fact, when you export from Santa Cruz to England, you have two ships to choose from, whereas you are confined to one when you export from Jamaica?—Yes.

1200. *Mr. Miles.*] Suppose a foreign ship to be allowed to go to Jamaica, would the foreign ship consent to pay droggerage at a reduced rate?—It is impossible for me to answer a question of that kind; the foreign ship must submit, if she is prepared to take a lower freight, to pay droggerage. If a foreign ship can work at a lower cost than a British ship, of course by so much lower as she can work than the British ship she would be ready to enter into a charter to take sugars from Jamaica. If it costs a British ship, in a voyage to Jamaica and back 1,500 *l.*, and it costs a Danish ship 1,000 *l.*, there would be that difference.

1201. *Mr. Moffatt.*] You are not growers, but manufacturers of sugar?—We are manufacturers.

1202. As manufacturers, of course the cost of the raw material greatly influences the cost of your manufacture of the article?—No doubt of it.

1203. Will you be good enough to state what was the average cost of the raw material in the years for which you have stated your profits and losses?—I have not the cost of the raw material; I have only the cost to us when manufactured.

1204. Can you state per hundredweight what was the cost of the raw material in the respective years of which you have spoken?—No; I am not prepared to answer that question.

1205. You are not able to give the Committee any information as to the cost of the crude sugar from which you manufactured?—No.

1206. Have there been any material variations in the price of the raw material?—The question involves two points; if I were simply to leave out our own charge for manufacture, I might be able to give some information; but the question also involves another consideration: one hundredweight of raw material would make so small a quantity of manufactured sugar, that it would probably double the price of the raw material, independently of our expense of manufacture. We estimate the raw material as averaging something like (it has been as low as 25 per cent.) from 45 to 50 per cent. the low quality; the better qualities of sugar have been something like 60 per cent.

1207. Can you state what has been the variation in the price of the goor sugar which you have bought, from which you have manufactured your sugar in the several years touching which you have given evidence?—No, I cannot for successive years.

1208. Has there been any material alteration in the cost price of your raw material?—I think not within the last five or six years, not any particular variation. The cost in 1845, I think, was as near what it has been during 1847 as can be.

1209. There has been but little variation from the time of your first commencing?—I cannot go back quite so far. I think since 1840 and 1841 there has been no great deal of variation.

1210. There has been no great variation in the price of the crude sugar from which you have manufactured your sugar?—I think not.

1211. Can you tell the Committee what was the cost price of sugar in India in the year 1835?—No, that was before I had anything to do with it.

1212. Are you cognizant of what it was in 1839?—I can state what our average cost was in 1839.

1213. That

1213. That would include all charges; but can you tell what was the cost price of the crude material in 1839?—No.

1214. What are the salaries you pay in India?—They vary from the lowest clerk up to the highest. I think the head person has about 700 *l.* a year: the salaries drop down to about 100 *l.*; they range from 100 *l.* to 700 *l.* a year: 50 rupees a month we pay for the lower assistants, and five or six hundred for others.

1215. Are you aware what was the average price of Bengal sugar for 20 years prior to your going to India?—No; I have no memoranda of anything connected with India till after our commencing operations.

1216. You had no experience of the prices which were ruling in India previously to 1839, and your belief is that subsequently to 1839 the prices of crude sugar have not materially altered?—Not a great deal.

1217. You stated in your evidence that the great depreciation and great loss you suffered in 1847 was by reason of the introduction of slave-grown sugar?—That is our impression.

1218. Are you cognizant of the quantities of slave-grown sugar imported in 1846?—No; I believe it is stated in the published documents.

1219. Are you aware whether it was a large or a small quantity that was imported in 1846?—I should say the quantity of slave-grown sugar imported in 1846 would not be very large, because the Cuba and Brazil sugar could only come in British ships, and there were not a great many British ships trading there at that time, but in 1847 it has been very large.

1220. Assuming that there was not more than 5,000 tons of foreign slave-grown sugar imported in 1846, would you think that that was sufficient cause to account for the enormous loss of 70,000 *l.*?—I did not say we suffered that loss in 1846; we suffered that loss in 1847. I stated, in answer to a former question, that the loss of 1846 did not arise so much from the competition of slave sugar as it did from our having paid an excessive price in India. The average price which we paid in India for that crop was higher than at any previous period, and higher than it ought to have been, from some cause or other connected with our agents, which we were not very well satisfied with.

1221. Mr. *Villiers.*] Can you state the cause of that excessive price in India?—We have not been able to discover why we paid so large a price, but we believe it arose greatly from the raw material not being equal to what it ought to have been, looking to the price which we paid.

1222. Mr. *Miles.*] There was, last year, a great increase in the cost price in India, was not there?—In 1846 there was, and to that I attribute greatly the loss of the 40,000 *l.*; but not that from which we are now suffering, the 70,000 *l.*

1223. That loss is not yet realized, you say?—No, it is not.

1224. Mr. *Hope.*] Your loss arises from two causes; namely, the increase of price in India in 1846, and the decrease of price in England in 1847?—The loss upon the crop of 1846, which is sold chiefly in 1847, I attribute greatly to our having paid, from some cause or other, more for the raw material than we ought to have done. It was of an inferior quality, our agents having paid a higher price for it. No doubt some fall taking place in the market, assisted to swell that loss. The crop of 1847, which is now arriving and being sold, and a considerable portion of which has been sold, does not partake of the same difficulty. We had bought to the best possible advantage; therefore the whole loss is attributable to the fall in the market here, except the difference of the rate of freight. Therefore we attribute a loss of 70,000 *l.*, which we estimate we shall suffer; first to the excess of freight, which probably upon our large quantity might make a difference of 15,000 *l.* or 16,000 *l.*, and the remainder to the great fall in the price.

1225. Your estimate is founded on the supposition that the price ruling at the present moment will continue to rule?—Yes.

1226. In the event of a further fall of price, your loss will be greater?—To the extent of the fall, so much greater will be our loss. If the price rise, we shall come out with less loss.

1227. That which is now 6 *s.*, may fall to 5 *s.* in July; have you taken that into account?—We expect to realize the greater proportion before July.

1228. Mr. *Miles.*] You include all charges and costs to the company in your loss?—Yes; which are exceedingly small.

H. M. Kemshead,
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1229. Mr. Villiers.] You have suspended operations at present, have you not?—Yes; we have let a part of our works temporarily; for a few months.

1230. Do you expect that there will be much less sugar exported from the East Indies for the year 1849?—I should say so.

1231. That will affect the price here, and raise it?—Of course I can only give an individual opinion; I cannot help thinking the price must rise considerably, because I do not think it can come from the West Indies, and in the East I believe all the factories will cease, and therefore what comes will be of the same character that used to come years ago.

1232. Chairman.] You were asked whether the price of the production in Cuba and the slave-growing colonies must not be the same as the price in the Dutch and free-labour colonies, otherwise how was it that both sugars could be sold at the same price in the British market. Is not the answer to that, that one man may perhaps sell at a very good profit, another at a less profit, and a third at a great loss?—No doubt about it.

1233. Is not it the fact that slave-grown sugar rose five per cent. in price in January 1847, as compared with January 1846, while British colonial sugar fell 28 per cent.?—I am not prepared to state as to the difference of price, but speaking off hand, I should have no hesitation in saying that that is my belief; I have not examined so minutely as to give the correct amount, but I can speak with positive certainty as to the rise in slave-grown sugar, and undoubtedly a very great fall in British plantation.

1234. Is it not a fact that the price of slave-grown sugar in bond in 1845 was lower in London than the price of free-grown foreign sugar?—I should say decidedly so.

1235. Mr. Miles.] Are you aware what quantity of free-labour foreign sugar there is in the country at this time?—No, I am not.

1236. Chairman.] You said that you were led by the pledges and votes of Members of Parliament to believe that slave-grown sugar would continue to be excluded, or that at all events you would not be subjected to this competition. You were asked whether you had attended to the opinions expressed by the leading advocates of free trade. Did not the commercial interests of this country look to the Government of the day, rather than to other leaders, however much distinguished they might be at that time, and more so afterwards?—We are quite aware in the commercial world, as everybody else must be, that there must be parties holding various opinions upon the subject of free trade or otherwise; but we had looked of late years to Sir Robert Peel as the mainstay upon subjects of this kind. The sugar question having been a very curious one, and having displaced one or two Governments, we had always felt satisfied that he would not be a party to the admission of slave-grown sugar, not upon free-trade principles; but the fact of its being connected with slavery satisfied us he would not be a party to it; and I believe I speak generally the feelings of a vast body of merchants in expressing the confidence they felt, that if Sir Robert Peel did not consent to it, the question was not likely to be carried. Therefore we had yielded ourselves to a feeling of tolerable certainty upon the matter; and I think we were justified in it, because if I recollect rightly, when Sir Robert Peel gave his vote, he expressed himself to the effect that he voted against his own conscience upon the subject, but that it was a matter of necessity; that the Government would have to go out if he did not; I am correct, I think, in that. Therefore we have some ground for entertaining those views.

1237. Supposing the other party came into power, what was the worst that you expected at that time?—Lord John Russell, in the discussions of the previous year, took a limit, if I recollect right, of about 12 s.

1238. Mr. Villiers.] You are not acquainted with any documents that were put forth by the East India body, or those who represented East India interests, before the equalization of East and West India duties, stating that they were perfectly ready to engage in competition with foreign countries producing sugar by free labour?—I dare say it might be so, but I cannot answer from my own knowledge; I did not take any part in the discussions of those days.

Jovis, 17^o die Februarii, 1848.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord George Bentinck.	Mr. Matheson.
Sir Thomas Birch.	Mr. Philip Miles.
Sir Edward Buxton.	Mr. Moffatt.
Mr. Hope.	Mr. Villiers.
Lord George Manners.	

LORD GEORGE BENTINCK, IN THE CHAIR.

Henry St. George Tucker, Esq., called in ; and Examined.

1239. *Chairman.*] YOU are Chairman of the East India Company?—I am at present.

Henry St. George Tucker, Esq.

1240. Are you able to state to the Committee the annual amounts for the last few years of remittances from India to England, on account of the Government, and as far as you are able to estimate on private account?—I cannot undertake to say exactly the amount on private account, but our remittances in the two modes which we have had occasion to resort to, one by drawing upon India, and the other by remitting from India, on bills purchased on hypothecation, we estimate at about 3,700,000*l.* It is an increasing quantity, I am sorry to say, because our home charge is perpetually increasing. When I say our home charge, I mean our charge and disbursements, because there is a difference between charge and disbursement: charge is gone for ever; disbursement is probably only an advance. For instance, the purchase of military stores and other articles of export to India, which afterwards go into the Indian charge; but the total amount of disbursements, including charge for which a remittance is required from India (or what we consider the political debt or tribute), amounts at present to about 3,700,000 *l.*

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1241. As far as you can estimate, or rather guess, what should you imagine would be the annual remittances from the savings and profits of individuals?—I estimate the private tribute at about 500,000 *l.* With the permission of the Committee, I will deliver in a rough sketch of the Remittance Account between India and the mother country.

[*The same was delivered in, and is as follows:*]

DECLARED VALUE in *India* of the following Articles Imported from *India* into *England*, from *Bengal* and *Bombay* for 1844-45, and from *Madras* for 1843-44.

ARTICLE.	BENGAL, 1844-45.	MADRAS, 1843-44.	BOMBAY, 1844-45.
	<i>Co.'s Rs.</i>	<i>Co.'s Rs.</i>	<i>Co.'s Rs.</i>
Indigo - - - - -	1,78,64,896	28,78,623	19,481
Sugar - - - - -	1,44,94,076	3,14,122	26,102
Silk - - - - -	86,95,182	4,813	70,498
Saltpetre - - - - -	20,70,702	84,408	737
Cotton - - - - -	13,350	2,14,376	55,60,770
Miscellaneous - - - - -	99,78,538	10,11,779	62,82,792
Total - - <i>Co.'s Rs.</i>	5,26,16,744	45,08,121	1,19,60,380

N.B.—The imports into the Continent and America I cannot ascertain.

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Imports from India into England, say - - - - -		Rs.	6,90,00,000
In Tea from China, paid for in Opium chiefly - - - - -			3,10,00,000
Estimated exports from India to England and China - - - - -	Rs.		10,00,00,000
	or £.		10,000,000
Imports into India from the United Kingdom and Europe - - - - -	Rs. 6,62,00,000		
Political tribute - - - - -	3,70,00,000		
Private fortunes remitted one year with another, say - - - - -	50,00,000		
	10,80,00,000	or £.	10,800,000
Excess of Debt incurred by India - - - - -	£.		800,000

1242. It appears that from Bengal there are drawn by consignments of sugars, according to this Return, about 1,450,000 *l.*?—I believe the statement to be correct.

1243. And from Madras about 31,000 *l.*, and from Bombay about 2,600 *l.*?—Bombay has not the privilege of importing sugar into this country at the lower rate of duty. I believe Bengal does not import sugar, and it comes under the provisions of the law which admit favourably sugars produced in our own territory, which, I hope, will always be considered as British territory.

1244. If any circumstances were to arise to annihilate, or very much to diminish, this export of sugar, how would India in that case be enabled to make up this deficiency, which appears to amount to a million and a half a year?—India can only pay the tribute, the political and private debt, by means of her commerce. India must first pay for what she receives, for the exports from this and other countries, chiefly from Great Britain, for there is little import now either from America or the continent of Europe. I have a statement of the Indian imports, showing the amount in value of the imports, exclusive of treasure, into India from Europe, America, and China, for the year 1843–44. The China account it will be as well to consider separately; China is one of the great channels of our remittance to this country. This account I will deliver in.

[The same was delivered in, and is as follows:]

AMOUNT in Value of IMPORTS (exclusive of Treasure) into India, from Europe, America, and China, for the Year 1843–44.*

IMPORTED FROM	EUROPE.	NORTH AMERICA.	CHINA.
	<i>Bengal.</i>		
	<i>Co.'s Rs.</i>	<i>Co.'s Rs.</i>	<i>Co.'s Rs.</i>
United Kingdom - - - - -	3,55,01,075	7,67,033	8,15,255
France - - - - -	19,09,267	—	—
Portugal - - - - -	1,15,108	—	—
Dortdrecht - - - - -	15,818	—	—
Total into Bengal - - <i>Co.'s Rs.</i>	3,75,41,268	7,67,033	8,15,255
<i>Madras.</i>			
United Kingdom - - - - -	38,31,557	56,997	1,42,705
France - - - - -	1,73,702	—	—
Portugal - - - - -	609	—	—
Total into Madras - - <i>Co.'s Rs.</i>	40,05,868	56,997	1,42,705

* The above Account is for the year 1843–44, that being the latest year for which Accounts from all the Presidencies have been received.

IMPORTED FROM	EUROPE.	NORTH AMERICA.	CHINA.
	Bombay.		
	Co.'s Rs.	Co.'s Rs.	Co.'s Rs.
United Kingdom - - - -	2,41,40,858	9,483	54,31,887
France - - - - -	2,41,422	—	—
Hamburgh - - - - -	2,90,508	—	—
Austria - - - - -	41,222	—	—
Total into Bombay - Co.'s Rs.	2,47,14,010	9,483	54,31,887
TOTAL: Bengal, Madras, and } Bombay - - - - - }	6,62,61,146	8,33,513	63,89,847

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1245. You said that China was one of the great channels of remittance to this country; will you explain how that takes place?—We export in opium and cotton to China about three millions annually; it is a varying quantity, for the opium sells at different prices in different years; last year the remittance for opium was very large; the price was high; the quantity was large, and I think it amounted to about 3,000,000*l.* We receive from China very little indeed, not, I think, much exceeding 100,000*l.*; so that China owes us, and eventually Great Britain, nearly 3,000,000*l.* That is one great resource for paying our tribute to this country; bills are purchased from us here, and sent to China, where they are negotiated for the purchase of tea (the bills are drawn upon Calcutta). The holders of tea probably purchase their opium by the same bills, and remit the bills to Calcutta, so that it discharges the two accounts between the countries; virtually the opium purchases tea.

1246. That pays the tribute of India to England?—It was one transaction with us when we had the trade in our own hands. We purchased the tea. Now it has passed into other hands, the British merchant takes a bill from us upon Calcutta; with that bill he purchases tea, and the proprietor of the tea (that is China) purchases opium; China sells tea; China purchases opium, and the bill is remitted to Calcutta in payment.

1247. Is the export of rice or grain, as it is usually called, from India to the Mauritius, another indirect means of remittance to England, through Mauritius?—We shall get a small remittance just now through this channel, because we have been ordered to send 30,000 bags of rice to the Mauritius, and the Government must pay us by bills upon the Treasury of this country; so far it gives us, to the extent of the value of the rice, a remittance to this country.

1248. Under ordinary circumstances, does it not, through the means of Mauritius sugar, and by the export of Indian rice to the Mauritius, give a means of payment by India?—Unquestionably; the sugar grower at the Mauritius is a purchaser of rice; he pays for it in sugar to be sent to this country, upon which he draws.

1249. Has not the annual export of rice to the Mauritius got up now to about 200,000*l.* a year?—Fifteen lacs of rupees is what we estimate to send; that is about 150,000*l.*

1250. Has it not increased this last year?—It depends upon the demand under particular circumstances; but what we estimate to send this year amounts to 15 lacs of rupees, 150,000*l.*

1251. What would be the position of India if those means of remittance through the Mauritius and direct to England, by means of Bengal and Madras grown sugars, were to be annihilated or very much diminished?—It would strike off a million and a half at least, I should think. You must either strike a million and a half off our tribute, or find some other means of remittance, which I am afraid it would be extremely difficult to find. Indigo is our first article, and next to that sugar, that is, if you except opium, which operates indirectly; opium just now produces, perhaps, as much as indigo.

1252. Indigo appears to have been in the proportion of 1,700,000*l.* to 1,400,000*l.* of sugar?—It is a larger item than sugar. I have heretofore looked to indigo as the first article.

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1253. And sugar next?—Sugar is a more promising article than indigo, because the production of sugar increases with the increasing cultivation in this country; indigo is limited to a certain quantity. We can produce more indigo than we can sell with advantage, and there was an attempt made in Bengal some years ago to limit the production.

1254. In former times India paid her tribute, in a great measure, through her cotton manufactures?—Yes; we had an export of about 3,000,000 *l.* of cotton manufactures, and you have reversed the case; now, India imports largely.

1255. So that, on the item of cottons, India is worse off than she was by six millions sterling a year?—Not so much, perhaps, as six millions, because the imports of cottons, even with the former exports, cannot, I think, have amounted to that sum; but whatever the amount may be, India is so far a loser.

1256. Is not the export of British cotton manufactures to India, including twist, about 3,000,000 *l.*?—I believe it is.

1257. India looks forward to be compensated for this great loss by turning its attention to the cultivation of sugar?—That is one of the principal articles, and one of the most promising, because we have territory and population sufficient to produce sugar to almost any given extent, if there be only a demand at remunerating prices.

1258. Sugar has never been exported from Bengal at a very low price?—I have seen no document to show that the price in Calcutta has fallen below eight rupees a maund.

1259. Have you not given your attention specially to sugar for nearly 40 years?—Yes; but I do not mean to say that I have given it specially to that object. It was one of the subjects that attracted my attention, just as cotton has attracted my attention as a subject interesting to India. But I, as a very young man, took an interest in this particular question, as well as in cotton.

1260. In Sir Thomas Munro's time, did you not remonstrate against his endeavours to increase the revenues of India by levying an enhanced land-tax upon sugar lands?—I must not appropriate the merit of such opposition to myself individually; but in the Court of Directors I advocated principles quite adverse to those of Sir Thomas Munro. This little work contains that advocacy (*producing a pamphlet*). For the last 22 years I have been a member of the Court of Directors, but previously to that I wrote this little work, in which I endeavoured to controvert the principles of Sir Thomas Munro.

1261. Sir Thomas Munro persisted in his policy, and he raised the taxes upon those lands devoted to the cultivation of sugar?—Sir Thomas Munro's plan was to obtain as much revenue from the country as possible; and he assessed different articles of produce according to his idea of their probable value. He raised the assessment upon articles which were expected to be very productive. Whether he succeeded, or failed in that, I will not undertake to say; because a reduction of the produce may have taken place from other causes; but certainly, in consequence of this assessment upon sugar, I think a very great check and discouragement was given to the cultivation of the article in the Madras territory.

1262. Did not a great portion of the sugar lands which were in cultivation before the enhanced assessment was levied, in fact, go out of the cultivation of sugar?—Yes, I think so. They probably resorted to some other article paying a lighter tax.

1263. And at a later period that enhanced levy upon sugar lands was repealed?—The orders of the Court of Directors now are to assess those lands which are not under permanent settlement, or under leases for a long term of years, at their estimated value, without reference to the article to be produced. The occupiers choose their own cultivation.

1264. Have the lands returned in consequence to sugar cultivation?—That I cannot say as to Madras; but we have very extensive sugar cultivation in Bengal; Madras does not export much at present, I believe.

1265. Bengal, so long as it was subject to a disadvantage of 8 *s.* per hundred-weight in the differential duty between East India and colonial sugar, was not able to export any large quantities of sugar?—The statements will show that there has been a progressive increase, and that increase now would go on most rapidly. In a district which was under one of my sons, the district of Azimghur, the produce in sugar alone amounted to 20 lacs of rupees, or 200,000 *l.*

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The district of Goruckpore has increased its revenue, I believe, about one-half, not altogether from the production of sugar, but that is one of the articles which has afforded the means of raising our revenue.

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1266. Is it not the fact that the export of sugar from Calcutta, up to the year 1836, did not exceed from 5,000 to 7,000 tons of sugar a year?—In 1836-37 the exportation from Bengal to the United Kingdom was I believe 13,600 tons.

1267. And the great increase which has taken place since has arisen entirely from the circumstance that India has been relieved from a disadvantage of 8 s. per hundredweight in price?—I will not say entirely, because freights have been much lower.

1268. Have they since 1836?—Yes; I think since 1836 they have been lower than they were at a more remote period; the interest of money has also been lower. I mean to say that I cannot attribute it solely and exclusively to the equalization of the duty, but that has been a vast encouragement to it.

1269. The export of sugar took a great start from the moment that its position was improved to the amount of 8 s. a hundredweight?—Yes; there is no doubt that that was a great encouragement to the production and exportation of sugar. I have an account of the quantity of sugar which goes back to 1833, and a statement showing the prices of sugar at Calcutta from January 1845 to July 1846.

[The same were delivered in, and are as follows:]

QUANTITIES of SUGAR Imported into the United Kingdom from the East India Company's Territories, from 1833 to 1846.

			Cwt.				Cwt.
1833	-	-	111,731	1840	-	-	482,822
1834	-	-	76,613	1841	-	-	1,239,737
1835	-	-	100,856	1842	-	-	940,452
1836	-	-	152,165	1843	-	-	1,102,176
1837	-	-	296,657	1844	-	-	1,101,261
1838	-	-	428,854	1845	-	-	1,337,462
1839	-	-	518,487	1846	-	-	1,425,114

Bazaar Maund, 82 lbs.

Extract, Calcutta Exchange Price Current.

		PRICES IN RUPEES.			PRICES IN RUPEES.
2	January - 1845	11 6 a' 11 12	2	July - - 1846	10 4 a' 10 9
6	February - -	11 12 " 12 4	6	August - -	10 8 " 10 13
6	March - -	11 12 " 12 8	3	September - -	10 12 " 11 4
3	April - -	11 4 " 11 10	1	October - -	10 8 " 10 14
8	May - -	11 10 " 12 12	5	November - -	10 2 " 10 8
5	June - -	12 - " 12 10	3	December - -	9 14 " 10 8
3	July - -	12 - " 12 8	7	January - 1847	10 - " 10 9
7	August - -	12 2 " 12 10	4	February - -	9 14 " 10 4
4	September - -	12 4 " 12 10	4	March - -	9 12 " 10 4
2	October - -	12 8 " 13 -	1	April - -	10 - " 10 8
6	November - -	12 12 " 13 4	6	May - -	- - -
4	December - -	13 6 " 13 12	3	June - -	9 10 " 9 14
1	January - 1846	13 - " 13 6	1	July - -	9 6 " 9 12
6	February - -	12 14 " 13 6	5	August - -	8 14 " 9 5
5	March - -	- - -	2	September - -	8 10 " 9 -
3	April - -	- - -	7	October - -	8 13 " 9 8
7	May - -	- - -	4	November - -	9 2 " 9 10
4	June - -	11 - " 11 6	2	December - -	9 - " 9 8

		£.	s.	d.	per cwt.
At	9 rupees per maund	-	-	1 3 6	per cwt.
"	10 ditto - ditto	-	-	1 6 1 1/2	"
"	11 ditto - ditto	-	-	1 9 2 1/2	"
"	12 ditto - ditto	-	-	1 11 4 1/2	"

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1270. It appears that up to the year 1835 there was only 4,500 tons exported to Great Britain, it having been, in 1834, 3,800 tons, and in 1833, 5,500 tons; and from 1836, when the sugar was put into a better position with respect to the duty, it made a great spring, and had in 1846 risen up to 70,000 tons?—Yes, the reduction of the duty unquestionably gave a great impetus to it.

1271. Did not Mr. Colebrooke make a speculation that sugar could be produced at so low a price that it might be sold in Calcutta at six rupees the maund?—He calculated that the gour or inspissated juice of the cane would cost on the spot only 5 *s.* a hundredweight; but there are a vast number of charges upon it before it could reach Calcutta, the port of export; it passes through various hands, it has a long journey by land, and also a tedious and long navigation by water. Agency, European in particular, is very expensive in India, and I do not recollect ever to have known sugar in Calcutta below eight rupees a maund; it has varied from eight to twelve rupees; I think those are the usual prices. Mr. Colebrooke in this work estimates the Calcutta price at six sicca rupees. A sicca rupee is 6 $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. better than the present rupee, the Company's rupee, so that six sicca rupees may be considered to have represented 15 *s.*

1272. Was that gour?—No; that was the muscovado sugar, brought down in bags to Calcutta.

1273. A low quality of muscovado?—Of course there are different qualities, bearing different prices; he no doubt took a sort of average, taking the Benares sugar, which undergoes some little process, not of actual refining, but still of separating from it the impurities of the molasses; it is a dry sugar packed in bags, not in bogsheads like the West India sugar.

1274. According to that estimate it may be presumed that that sugar could not be exported from India at a lower price in London than 25 *s.* a hundredweight?—I should think not.

1275. Mr. *Moffatt.*] In what year was that estimate made?—The work was written in 1794; it was not published till 10 years afterwards. It is Mr. Colebrooke's work on the Husbandry of India.

1276. *Chairman.*] You have given in here the Calcutta prices of sugar from January 1845 to July the 2d, 1846; the lowest price is from eight rupees ten annas to nine rupees per maund?—Yes, the factory maund of 76 pounds; the bazaar maund is of 82 sicca weight the seer.

1277. The lowest price here being something less than nine rupees, that is 18 *s.*, that is equivalent to 24 *s.* a hundredweight for sugar in Calcutta. It may therefore be presumed, that it would be totally impossible for the export of sugar to be continued from Calcutta at the present prices?—I will not undertake to answer for the future, but for the past I can say that I do not recollect to have known sugar to be under those rates, eight rupees ten annas, or 18 *s.* But the subsequent charges may vary; they depend upon the rate of freight, upon the insurance, interest of money, and other charges, and agency, so that I could not undertake to say what is the minimum cost in this country which would yield a remunerating price, because some of the items which enter into the cost are fluctuating.

1278. But as that price is above the price of the London market now, of course it is clear that the exportation could not be continued?—We have evidence enough, I am sorry to say, that the sugar imported from India in this last year has not yielded remunerating prices; our bills have been protested; we took bills at a valuation of three-fourths of the Calcutta selling price, and those bills have in many instances, I am sorry to say, been protested, so that I am afraid it may not yield even three-fourths of the value assigned to it in Calcutta.

1279. And of course unless the sugar yields in England the price assigned to it in Calcutta, it cannot continue to be exported?—I am afraid not; of course no trade can long continue unless it yields remunerating prices.

1280. The trade in sugar may be continued, and probably will be continued for the next six or twelve months to come, though at a very great loss, for this reason, that the sugar has been provided and it must be sent, whether at a loss or at a profit?—That is one reason for our advancing upon hypothecation, that it requires two capitals, one for the article sent to this country for sale, and the other for carrying on the purchases in the ensuing year. Of course those who have been speculating upon the prices which took place not long ago would have

have carried on their transactions; some of them have established factories which they cannot abandon at once, and it is to be hoped that the present state of things is not to continue; we trust that the sugar will obtain remunerating prices; but unless it do so at an early period, of course the cultivation would be materially reduced.

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1281. What hope do you see of sugar obtaining a better price than it does now under the present laws?—It would be presumptuous in me to engage in a question which has been so much agitated in this country; I wish to see our sugar and every other article of domestic industry protected, and when I say “domestic industry” I include India and our colonies as integral parts of the British Empire.

1282. As far as your experience goes, do you know any example in the history of India of sugar having been exported to England when the prices in England were as low as they are now?—I cannot undertake to answer that question, because I have not traced the trade-book for a long series of years; the best answer to that question will be the statements which show how far there was an importation at different periods.

1283. But the great importation from India has arisen out of high prices for sugar in England?—Out of remunerating prices.

1284. The result of your best consideration of the subject is, that at present prices, that exportation must very much fall off, if it be not altogether annihilated?—Merchants cannot go on importing sugar or any other article for a continuance at a loss; I believe the importations of this last year will have been made at a loss.

1285. Is the revenue of India equal to its expenditure?—We have had, for a great number of years, a large deficit, in consequence of our having been engaged in expensive wars; but the nobleman who has lately been at the head of our Government in India has made large military reductions, and I hope that in the next year, 1848–49, our revenue and expenditure will be equalized. We have at different periods raised a large surplus in India beyond the home charge; after paying all our charges in India and providing for the home charge, we have obtained a surplus revenue; for many years past there has been a deficit, in consequence of the different wars in which we have been engaged, but we must look to a surplus, and we do look to a surplus.

1286. *Mr. Moffatt.*] With regard to the importation of Bengal sugar, were not the East India Company originally the importers of that article themselves to this country?—We did not import much sugar; it was taken as dead weight to a certain extent, but it was not one of the articles to which the East India Company looked particularly for a remittance.

1287. It appears by the official returns that there was imported 13,000 or 14,000 tons annually?—Sugar and saltpetre constituted the dead weight of our ships; but it (sugar) was not an important article of import with the East India Company.

1288. Can you state what were the prices which the Company obtained for the Benares sugar in this country?—Without reference to documents I could not undertake to say, but it was not looked to as a main article of remittance. Our cargoes were light goods in general, but we required a certain quantity of dead weight, and sugar and saltpetre were brought as dead weight; the rate of freight was very high, particularly during the war. In this work of *Mr. Colebrooke's* it is estimated at 15*l.* and 22*l.* per ton; now it is only 5*l.* or 6*l.*

1289. You have stated a calculation of *Mr. Colebrooke's* in 1794; have you any more recent calculation with regard to the cost at which sugar can be exported from India?—I have no doubt that we can, by reference to our records, obtain more recent information; but I could not undertake to say just now what the cost of sugar is in any particular district; it may vary very much in different districts, and no doubt does.

1290. Have you any practical knowledge of the cultivation or manufacture of sugar in India?—I have never been a cultivator or manufacturer; I have only been a looker on.

1291. Are you aware what the price of crude sugar was prior to 1840?—No, I cannot undertake to say.

1292. You are not aware of any material fluctuations between one time and the other?—No

1293. You stated that there was a large portion of the lands in the presidency

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gency of Madras which were formerly under cultivation of sugar, but that in consequence of some internal regulations they were thrown out of the cultivation of sugar?—That I have reason to believe, but they may have been thrown out of sugar cultivation from other causes; other more productive articles, or other articles which the cultivators may have preferred, may have been substituted; but my belief is that it was the high rate of assessment which checked and reduced the cultivation of sugar.

1294. At the period to which you allude, did the presidency of Madras export sugar?—I believe not.

1295. You were asked whether, when India relinquished its home manufacture of cotton and took the cottons of this country, it did not look forward to be compensated for the loss of its cotton manufactures by the cultivation of sugar; was not the great influencing cause of their buying the cottons of this country that they obtained a cheaper or a better article than they could manufacture for themselves?—Not a better, but a cheaper article. Machinery has superseded manual labour.

1296. An article with which the natives were better satisfied; they got what they deemed better value for their money?—I am not of the natives' opinion. Of course a man purchases an article, because he believes it to be the cheapest; but the fabrics of this country are not so durable, and therefore not so valuable. We are often induced to try a cheap article in the expectation that it may last as long as a better article.

1297. You have stated that the importations of sugar this year leave a loss. What large article of import from India in the present year does not leave a loss?—I believe indigo will not generally leave a loss. We had only two days ago an application to have indigo, which has been pledged to us upon hypothecation, released upon the party paying the amount of the original bill with all expenses. The house was in difficulties, and the bill was sent back dishonoured; but the indigo sold for more than our bill, and they were then anxious to obtain possession of the article and to pay our bill.

1298. Did you hypothecate to the full value of the indigo?—No; about three-fourths.

1299. Consequently there was a margin of 25 per cent.?—Yes.

1300. It may be presumed that the parties were pledged to the payment of the bill?—They had suspended payment, and we sent back the bill. It was not, I believe, accepted, owing to their being in difficulties.

1301. Mr. Miles.] With respect to the increase in the production of sugar in the East Indies; the sugar from the sugar-cane is called goor?—Yes; that is the inspissated juice.

1302. Has the increase taken place in the goor, or the sugar made from the cane, or in the sugar made from the date tree?—I cannot undertake to say whether the goor may not have increased even beyond the exportation, because there is a great consumption of goor in the country, and that may have increased even out of proportion to the export of sugar. There may have been an increase in the consumption of the article upon the spot. I only know that in some districts, particularly in Azimghur, the increase has been very great, so much so that the article of sugar alone is sufficient to pay our revenue.

1303. Mr. Matheson.] You have stated that sugar constitutes so very large a portion of the exports from India to this country, and thereby affords a facility for remitting so large a portion of the East India Company's revenue, that the Company would be put to difficulty in effecting their remittances if the exportation of sugar met with any serious check?—We are already encountering difficulties in effecting our remittances. I can give a statement of the bills negotiated for a considerable period. We used to estimate that we could draw to the extent of 3,000,000*l*. In the last few months the amount of bills has been quite trifling, so much so that we have been obliged to resort to a remittance in bullion, which I consider the *pis aller* of remittance.

1304. How were you able to effect your remittances from India before the very large exportation of sugar to this country, which commenced in 1836?—We had not so large a payment to make in this country, and we had the cotton manufactures as the channel of our remittance. But you have reversed the case upon us; you send your own manufactures to India instead of taking ours.

1305. Did not the discontinuance of the Indian cotton manufactures coming to this country take place many years before 1836?—Yes, it took place before 1836.

1306. How

1306. How much have your annual requirements of money from India increased since 1836?—It is an increasing quantity every year. I cannot state from memory what may have been the difference between the amount required in 1836 and the amount required in 1847; but there has been a considerable increase. During the war we had a large amount of military stores to purchase, and there has been a transfer of debt from India to this country. The interest on a portion of the five per cent. remittable loan has been transferred for payment here.

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1307. The object of the question is to ascertain this, as now sugar facilitates the Company's remittances to this country to the extent of about a million and a half, how were you able to effect that remittance before the exportation of sugar increased so largely in 1836?—I stated in general terms that our requirement here has increased; at a former period we had cotton fabrics as a means of remittance; that source of remittance is done away with altogether, and the silk I believe produced more than it does now.

1308. Had not the exportation of cotton goods from Calcutta diminished or almost ceased long before 1836?—It had.

1309. So that the increased exportation of sugar cannot well be considered as a counterpoise to the cessation of the exportation of cotton goods, which cessation took place long before?—If you confine it to 1836, of course that is not the case, but the sugar has been *pro tanto* a substitute for other articles which have diminished. I could give to the Committee a statement from a much earlier period if it were wished.

1310. Can you give any idea of the amount of cotton goods exported from India in the flourishing times of that trade?—I should say that the export of cotton manufactures from the different presidencies of India before the great change took place in consequence of the introduction of machinery into this country, would have amounted to about 3,000,000 *l.* I am speaking without having accurate information before me. The Company's investment was very large; there was a large exportation of cotton goods from the coast of Coromandel as well as from Bengal.

1311. At what period are you speaking?—I am going back to a considerable time before the importation of English cotton manufactures, while the Company had the investment; in fact, our trade ceased in 1833–34, but our exportation of cotton piece goods, or calicoes, ceased at a still earlier period.

1312. Sir *T. Birch.*] Are you speaking of cotton goods or of raw cotton?—I am speaking of cotton piece goods; when I say 3,000,000 *l.*, I should include not merely cotton piece goods, but silk and silk piece goods; but I will give the Committee an exact statement, if desired.

1313. Mr. *Moffatt.*] About what year did the cotton manufacturers of this country begin to interfere materially with those of India?—I cannot state the precise year; it was not all done *per saltum*, it was a gradual operation.

1314. Was it not before 1820?—Perhaps about that time, or earlier.

1315. Lord *G. Manners.*] In answer to a question by Mr. Moffatt, you said that it was your belief that indigo this year would not cause loss to the importers?—I hope not.

1316. Are the Committee to understand that that is the only article of importation from India which you believe will not cause loss to the importers?—I cannot undertake to say that, in the present deranged state of this market; I wish I could state that there was no other.

1317. *Chairman.*] You were asked whether the natives were not better satisfied with British manufactured cottons than with their own; were not there in one year 500,000 of the natives of India thrown out of employment and reduced to starvation by the inundation of Manchester goods?—I will not say that they were reduced to starvation, because the people of India live upon very little; but I believe in the province of Dacca, which was the great seat of our fine manufactures, (those beautiful fabrics which were imported so largely into this country), 500,000 weavers and manufacturers were thrown out of employment, and were obliged to have recourse to the cultivation of the land generally.

1318. Mr. *Hops.*] Did this take place in one single year?—I cannot answer for its being done in one year, but in a very short space of time 500,000 manufacturers were stated to have given up their looms, and to have resorted to other means of employment, to the cultivation of the land.

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1319. Sir T. Birch.] Is much sugar consumed by the natives themselves?
—Yes.

1320. Has the price risen much in India since the importation to this country?—The price, if you take Mr. Colebrooke as a standard, has increased, no doubt, because he estimates the price in Calcutta at six rupees, or 15 s., but in the interior of the country I do not believe that there has been any very large increase.

1321. *Chairman.*] You were asked from what period the import of British cotton goods into India had made a great start. Have you any reason to doubt the following statement, which has been received from Calcutta by the last mail: that in the year 1834-35, the importations of British cotton piece goods into Calcutta were 446,479 l. in value, and of cotton yarn 289,208 l., making a sum total of 735,687 l. sterling; and that those had increased in 1846-47 respectively to 2,017,270 l. and 1,069,864 l., making a total of 3,087,134 l., showing an increase upon cotton goods between 1834-35, when a new impulse was given to the sugar trade, of 2,351,447 l.; have you any doubt that that is a correct statement?—I will not answer for the accuracy of that statement; I have given in a statement in which the total imports are mentioned; I have no doubt that cotton piece goods constituted the chief article; but in the Indian imports, woollens, and metals, and wines, and various articles are included.

1322. Though it may be true that the exports of cottons from India to England did not afford the means of remitting in 1834-35, on the other hand, does not this enormously increased importation of Manchester goods cause a drain upon India to the amount of that increase?—Unquestionably; and I would submit to those gentlemen who export to India that they have a direct interest in enabling India to pay them for their exports from this country.

1323. And sugar offers one of those means?—One of the means of paying for their cotton goods.

1324. You were asked whether there were any other articles than indigo upon which there had been a fall in price. Perhaps silk and silk piece goods may be one; but have not silk and silk piece goods also had to meet new competition within the same time from the French silk manufactures?—I cannot say that I am aware of the fact. There is an importation of silk from China, and we have imported silk from India. It was one branch of the Company's investment. But I could not undertake to say how far the trade has been affected by foreign competition.

1325. The Committee have had evidence that the restrictions of the excise in India upon rum are so inconvenient that the rum manufacture cannot be carried on to any advantage, and that the sum total raised by the excise in India is only 20,000 l.?—We know very little about rum in India; we have other stimulants, opium and bang, which is the juice of the hemp, and other articles, upon which we levy a tax; not a tax which I particularly admire; but rum scarcely enters into the consumption of the people of India.

1326. It has been represented to the Committee that there are such restrictions upon the distilleries of rum, and the various processes in the making of rum, that rum could not in India be made at a profit?—That I cannot speak to.

1327. If that be so, the revenue being only 29,000 l. from the excise altogether, as shown by this Return before the Committee, probably the East India Company would not object, if it were properly represented, to remove such restrictions upon the manufacture of rum?—I do not know that there is any special tax upon rum. We have what is called the abkarry, a tax upon spirituous liquors and drugs; but I do not know that there is any special tax applied to rum which can have interfered with the manufacture of that article. But in fact I am not able to give any information with respect to rum. The sum of 22,000 l., as shown in the Return, is, I believe, a local tax collected in the town of Calcutta. Rum is only manufactured at the European sugar factories; but I cannot state the amount of duty which may be levied, or the restrictions imposed on the manufacture.

Mr. Francis William Prideaux, Examined.

Mr.
F. W. Prideaux.

1328. *Chairman.*] DO you hold an office in the East India House?—I am an Assistant to the Examiner of India Correspondence.

1329. You have heard the evidence of the Chairman of the East India Company; can you add anything to that with respect to the interest which India has

has in sugar cultivation, and the exportation of sugar to Great Britain?—I am not aware that I can add to it.

1330. Will you state what the direct effect upon the revenue of India would be if the exportation of sugar to this country were annihilated or very much diminished?—About three-fifths of the revenue of India are derived from the land assessment, and in all those parts of India where the assessment may be increased by the increase of cultivation, of course the increase of sugar cultivation must add to the revenue. In the presidency of Bengal the revenue is fixed in permanency. In the North-western Provinces the land revenue is fixed for 30 years. Under the Madras presidency it is subject to annual settlement, and there an increase in the cultivation adds to the revenue; and throughout a great portion of the presidency of Bombay it is the same.

1331. Do you know what the land tax upon land of that quality which bears sugar is in the different presidencies?—It varies so materially that it is impossible to give any answer. I see in a statement furnished by the Government of Madras a few years ago it is stated that the land tax upon land usually cultivated with sugar varies from 21s. to 48s. an acre; that is, in fact, the rent paid to the Government in those parts. In the northern part of the Madras presidency, where sugar cultivation is now rapidly increasing, and where the land is under the permanent settlement, and therefore the rent is all paid to the landowner (the zemindar), I am informed that at 6s. an acre any quantity of land fit for sugar cultivation can be had.

1332. Can you give the Committee any idea what amount of sugar is produced upon an acre of those lands?—I have no means of giving that information. What I know is derived only from the records of the East India Company, and they are very deficient with regard to that. A great deal of information probably will be afforded in consequence of a correspondence which took place at the close of 1846, between the Chamber of Commerce at Calcutta and the Government of India, requiring that information. It shows also the feeling of the Calcutta merchants.

1333. Will you have the goodness to read it?—

[The same was read, as follows:]

From *W. Limond*, Esq., Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, to *G. A. Bushby*, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department; dated the 17th September 1846.

Sir,

I am instructed by the Chamber of Commerce to solicit that you will be pleased to represent to Government that, in consequence of the position at home of the sugar trade, the impending legislative measures for the abolition of the prohibitory system, for the progressive reduction of duty on foreign produce, and an equalization of the duties at no remote date, the attention of the whole mercantile community is now turned to the subject here.

2d. The capabilities of India for the growth of the cane are regarded as being in a manner unlimited; but now that colonial protection in the home market is to be withdrawn, India must seek, by improved cultivation and manufacture, to provide its supplies for abroad at very reduced prices.

3d. To guide all who may desire to apply capital to this important staple, it is of essential moment for them to know the present extent of cultivation and of produce, with the internal consumption. The Chamber has already endeavoured, but unsuccessfully, to obtain some correct scale for computing this. It is only to be reached through the means of the functionaries in the interior. As the desideratum is obviously of great public interest and service, the Chamber of Commerce have to beg that Government will be pleased to issue a circular to the collectors throughout Bengal and the North-west Provinces, requesting them in their respective districts, as far as their position and access to information will permit, to estimate and report the probable quantity of land cultivated for sugar, the probable quantity of sugar and goor produced, and the probable quantity of both of these consumed in the district; a reasonable approximation is all that can be looked for.

I am further directed, with every deference, to submit to the Honourable the Deputy Governor that, as no foreign sugar is imported in this presidency, its exports are necessarily the *bona fide* produce of the British possessions here. Such being the case, the production of certificates of origin is, it is submitted, quite unnecessary, and may, with advantage to the public, be dispensed with. Obtaining such documents is troublesome, and it is felt as vexatious being obliged to comply with unnecessary forms and regulations; an additional inconvenience results from its causing an extra delay in getting away shipping documents to England, frequently of two days, as the master of the ship signs in the bill of lading to the receipt of the sugar certificate.

I have, &c.

(signed) *W. Limond*,

Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

Bengal Chamber of Commerce, }
17 September 1846. }

Mr.
F. W. Prideaux.

From G. A. Bushby, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to W. Limond, Esq., Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce; dated the 26th September 1846.

17 February 1848.

Sir,

IN reply to your letter of the 17th instant, conveying the request of the Chamber of Commerce that reports may be called for from the collectors throughout Bengal and the North-west Provinces, showing the probable quantity of land cultivated for sugar in their respective districts, the probable quantity of sugar and goor produced, and the probable quantity of both of these consumed in each district, I am directed by the Honourable the President in Council to suggest that the Chamber will have the goodness to furnish a form of return for exhibiting the information which they wish to obtain.

Fort William, }
26 September 1846. }

I have, &c.
(signed) G. A. Bushby,
Secretary to the Government of India.

From W. Limond, Esq., Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, to G. A. Bushby, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Fort William; dated the 13th October 1846.

Sir,

IN compliance with the desire conveyed in your letter of 26th ultimo, I am directed by the Chamber of Commerce to submit the enclosed form of return, for affording the information sought as to the quantities of sugar produced and consumed in India.

For the better understanding of the form there are a few explanatory remarks attached to it.

The columns for date produce will be applicable to but few districts, as that cultivation, it is believed, has as yet extended little beyond the districts of Jessore and Furreedpore. The produce, however, from date, notwithstanding the limited range of the cultivation, enters largely into the composition of the sugars which are refined in Bengal for exportation.

Bengal Chamber of Commerce, }
13 October 1846. }

I have, &c.
(signed) W. Limond,
Secretary to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

DISTRICT OF _____

Estimated Cultivation of Cane in Begahs, of Feet square each.	Estimated Produce from Cane in Maunds of Goor, of lbs. each.	Estimated Number of Date Trees.	Estimated Produce from Date, in Maunds of Goor, of lbs. each.	Estimated Consumption of the District, whether in Sugar, Khar, Goor, or the Raw Cane itself; the whole being reduced into their equivalents in Goor, in Maunds of lbs. each. Computed at an Average of per head during the Year, on the assumed or ascertained Population.
<i>Maunds.</i>	<i>Maunds.</i>	<i>Trees.</i>	<i>Maunds.</i>	<i>Maunds.</i>

The object sought by the returns is to ascertain the quantity of sugar produced, and the quantity consumed in India. The form sent is to show the best way of furnishing the information.

As the produce is exhibited in different conditions, it is desirable to adopt one into which all the others may be converted. In the above form goor has been taken, being the denomination of the sugar after the first boiling of the juice expressed, and the equivalents in goor of all the other qualities may be easily ascertained by inquiry.

More than an approximation to the actual consumption is not expected. At the close of the heading of the last column is suggested what appears to be the readiest mode of attaining that.

From G. A. Bushby, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal; dated the 17th October 1846.

Sir,

I AM directed to request that you will have the goodness, under the orders of the Honourable the Deputy Governor of Bengal, to furnish, for the information of the President in Council, a return prepared according to the accompanying form, showing the probable quantity of land cultivated for sugar in the districts under the Bengal presidency, the probable

probable quantity of sugar and goor produced, and the probable quantity of both of these consumed in each district.

Fort William, }
17 October 1846. }

I have, &c.
(signed) G. A. Bushby,
Secretary to the Government of India.

Mr.
F. W. Prideaux.
17 February 1848.

Letters to the same effect were also transmitted to the Lieutenant-governor of the North-Western Provinces, and to the Governments of Madras and Bombay.

Mr. Prideaux.—That information has been called for, but it has not yet been received, but when obtained it will probably be complete.

1334. You have no data to go upon, and you are not able to form any estimate of the average quantity of sugar produced per acre in India?—I believe invariably the practice hitherto of all those who have manufactured sugar in India for exportation to this market has been, not to grow cane, but to purchase the goor or jaggery, and refine it. The only information I have been able to obtain as to the price of sugar applies to the presidency of Madras. At Madras they have only recently commenced the sugar cultivation upon any extended scale, and it appears likely to supersede Bengal. I am informed that in the Northern Circars, where the rents are about 6*s.* an acre, the present price of jaggery, as they call it there, is about 11 rupees a candy of 500 lbs.; three candies of jaggery, refined according to the native method, give one candy of refined sugar; and the result of that would be a price of 14*s.* 8*d.* a hundredweight.

1335. Fourteen shillings and eightpence for refined sugar?—I mean refined brown sugar; so far refined that I believe it would not be admitted at muscovado duty; but, of course, at the same price it might be made less refined.

1336. Is that at the sea-board at Madras, or up the country?—At the sea-board of the Madras Presidency. Ships from Bengal call at the sea-ports there, and bring it direct to this country.

1337. Does that price include the cost of manufacturing the sugar?—Yes; it is the price at which the sugar is delivered. I have been told by a gentleman in the Company's service, who has recently returned from that part of the country, who took considerable interest in the subject, and collected all the information he could about the sugar cultivation, that to his knowledge sugar has been shipped by Madras merchants who had establishments there, at 16*l.* a ton, not including the profits to be derived from the rum which they made; and he was informed that that very nearly covered the expense of the sugar.

1338. £.16. a ton would be equivalent to about 26*l.* a ton here. Do not you reckon about 10*l.* a ton for freight, charges, commission, brokerage, and insurance, from Madras to England?—Probably; but I am not aware of the expenses. Here is a memorandum on sugar cultivation in that district, by Captain Cotton, the civil engineer of the division. It forms one of a series of papers which was lately moved for about works of irrigation; but as this memorandum relates particularly to sugar cultivation, perhaps the Committee would like it to be put in.

1339. When was it drawn up?—The 1st of June 1844.

1340. Will you read it?—

[The same was read, as follows:]

MEMORANDUM on SUGAR CULTIVATION in *Rajahmundry*, by Captain A. Cotton,
Civil Engineer, First Division.

THE circumstances of these districts* are at present peculiarly difficult in respect of their commercial prosperity; they have within the last few years lost their former important cloth trade, which formerly brought in an annual income of 10 lacs from England and other countries, and nothing has been substituted for it. A small tract of country, without any considerable product, which is suited for exportation to other parts of the world, must necessarily continue in an inactive and impoverished state, and if the revenue is received in bullion the value of money must necessarily rise, and the taxes consequently press more and more heavily upon the people. It seems evident that a district which pays annually 25 lacs in bullion as revenue, if deprived of an income of 10 lacs a year from foreign countries, which it had been accustomed to receive, must feel the effects of it most severely, and annually become less and less capable of paying its taxes: not only must the value of money rise (or what is the same thing, the price of its remaining products diminish), so that the amount of assessment (if continued the same) must annually bear a larger proportion to the produce of the district, but also from the diminution of capital, and the want of sti-

* The Northern Circars of the Madras Presidency. Commercial state of this division; loss of the cloth trade. Scarcity of bullion.

Fall of prices attributable to it.

Mr.
F. W. Pridans.
17 February 1847.

The sugar trade promises to supply the place of that of cloth.

Comparative cost of labour, &c. here, with that of the West Indies.

Cost of sugar at present.

Successful manufacture of sugar on the European plan.

Country generally capable of producing sugar.

Connexion of the sugar cultivation with the irrigation.

Supposed cause of the low price of rice.

Low price attributable to the scarcity of specie.

Proof that the depressed state of the districts is not owing to over-produce.

mulus, the energies of the people must be greatly depressed. An export trade to other and richer countries has the most powerful tendency in every way to keep a population in a state of activity and industry. The effects of the failure of the export trade are already severely felt in these districts, and it must inevitably continue to decline if some substitute for the cloth trade is not discovered. Happily the sugar cultivation is calculated not only to fill this void, but it offers the fairest prospect of much more than compensating for the former trade. I have lately obtained what information I could on this subject, especially from Mr. Mackenzie, who has both cultivated the cane and has also had a vacuum pan for manufacturing the sugar in very successful operation for some time. I have not had time yet to obtain the materials for anything approaching to a complete report, yet the main points are so plain, they appear to be so intimately connected with the whole subject of the irrigation of the district, that I think it but sufficient to send to the Board the information I have obtained without delay. When it is considered that the price of food, and consequently the price of labour, building, &c. is here only about one-thirtieth of what it is in the West Indies, it appears surprising that when it was known that the sugar-cane would grow here, the extensive cultivation and manufacture of sugar did not immediately follow, for if it answered to supply the English market from the West Indies, there would seem to be no possible room for doubt that it would answer here, even in the face of a much heavier duty, and so far as I can now learn there seems to be no doubt that it would have been a sufficiently profitable produce even before the duties were equalized; but now there is everything in favour of sugar produced here. Mr. Mackenzie's late superintendent, who had been long in the West Indies, in his account of the expenses incurred in labour, building, &c. there, quite agreed with the common information obtained respecting them, so that the capital required for establishing works here would not exceed one-tenth of that required there, so far as the local expenditure is concerned; the machinery must of course be obtained from England in both cases. The small cost of cultivation and manufacture by the natives is shown in the prices at which it is now sold, viz. 2½ rupees a maund of 25 pounds, or about 2d. a pound of loaf sugar, not much inferior in colour to the finest made in England; this is made from the unproductive country cane, and grown and manufactured in the slovenly and wasteful manner, and on the small scale in which all such operations are carried on in India. There cannot be a doubt that, with the superior skill, knowledge, and capital of Europeans, the sugar could be produced at much lower prices than the natives can make it. For instance, one vacuum pan of a small size, at Bimlipatam, can produce five tons of sugar a day, so that all the jaggery at present produced in the district cannot keep it employed, and the result of the manufacture, up to this time, has been highly satisfactory, so that there is now a prospect of an extensive sale of it. I take the liberty of forwarding a specimen of native manufactured sugar, sold at two rupees a maund, though the Board will probably have had specimens already before them.

As to the extent of country capable of bearing this valuable product, I have reason to believe that it may be considered almost unlimited. Mr. Mackenzie informed me that he had grown excellent canes round his works, where, from its being so close to the coast, the land was comparatively very bad, and that he did not think there was an acre of ground in the whole neighbourhood where it would not grow luxuriantly. In the neighbourhood of Ankapilly, where it had been introduced by the late intelligent zemindar, Suria Pracassa Row, I saw the Mauritius cane growing in the greatest luxuriance; and so far as I can hear, it has thriven wherever it has been tried.

The extension of the sugar cultivation affects the subject of the irrigation of the district essentially in two respects:

1. If the culture of an article of foreign consumption is extensively introduced, a portion of the land and population will be taken off from the cultivation of rice, and the improvement of the irrigation of the remaining lands may of course be more freely undertaken, as there will be the same population to be supplied from a smaller extent of land; while at the same time, from the improved circumstances of the people, there will be a larger consumption of rice than at present. It will also tend to encourage the improvement of irrigation by raising the price of rice. It has been openly argued by some, that the superabundance of the produce of rice, by lowering its price, has been the main cause of the depressed state of many districts, and this opinion is, I believe, still held by many. This is so fatal a mistake, that so far as it prevails, it must be a complete barrier to improvement in the state of the eastern parts of the presidency. There are two ways in which diminution of price may be produced, viz. either by an increased produce of the article purchased, or by a diminished supply of the bullion with which it is purchased. Now, which of these two causes it has arisen from makes the whole difference. It is quite evident, that while the revenue is collected in bullion, if a country is without the means of obtaining a constant supply from abroad, the quantity must rapidly diminish, and its value increase; or in other words, price must fall, and the diminution of the produce would be a poor remedy for this state of things; it would only deprive the people of a part of their food, but in no degree improve the revenue, though it would certainly raise the price of grain. The only effectual remedy is, to find an article of produce which can be exported to foreign countries from whence bullion can be obtained. That the depressed state of the districts is not owing to an over-production of rice is indisputably shown by the fact that the only district on this side of the peninsula which has regularly improved in revenue, and in everything which can be taken as a criterion of prosperity (viz. Tanjore), is the only one that has invariably produced more food than it could consume. I have been led to make these remarks, because I have so often, in speaking of the extension of irrigation, been met by this objection, that there was already too much food grown, as shown by the fall

of prices. In my opinion it is absolutely impossible to improve the productive powers of the soil too much; for the only consequence of raising the necessary food by the fewer people will be, to leave a larger proportion of the population disposable for the production of comforts and luxuries. That the cause of the depressed state of these districts, arising from the large quantity of rice that must be sold in order to obtain the amount of money required to pay the taxes, is owing, not to over-production of grain, but to the failure of the supply of bullion, is most obvious. It is to be observed, that while the districts were under their zemindars, they were in a manner independent of foreign trade; the bullion that was received in taxes was all spent within the countries, and there was therefore no necessary diminution of it. Now, after paying the civil and military charges, the remainder of the bullion collected is constantly sent away from the district; and unless produce is sent out to exchange for it, it cannot possibly find its way back again,

Effects of increased productiveness.

No drain of specie while under the Native Governments.

2dly. The cultivation of sugar affects the irrigation essentially, inasmuch as the same extent of land will require certainly one-fourth of the quantity of water that paddy does, so that every acre of paddy land converted into land for the cultivation of sugar will tend to relieve the other Nunjah lands; and also the water flowing down the rivers in the months of April and May, which is at present made no use of whatever, will be most valuable when applied to the sugar cane.

Less water required for sugar than for rice.

The value of this cultivation may be shown in another way besides those mentioned; viz., the produce of an acre is estimated to be worth about 150 rupees, while that of an acre of paddy is only 12 rupees. So small an extent of cultivation as 10,000 acres would produce an export trade of 15 lacs a year, taken at its cost of production; and as the small pan at Bimlipatam is capable of manufacturing 1,500 tons a year, or about three lacs of rupees in value, a single sugar work containing four large pans would be sufficient for the manufacture of the above quantity. The general introduction of this new source of wealth is therefore calculated to make these districts the richest as they are now the poorest in the presidency; the revenue at present paid would then be scarcely felt by the people.

Comparative value of produce of sugar and rice.

Quantity manufactured at Bimlipatam.

I trust the Board will excuse my thus attempting to bring this subject before them distinctly, with reference to the irrigation in question. I have been as it were compelled to it, from finding that the whole plan of my proceeding in the management of it must be fundamentally affected by the prospects of the foreign trade of the district; with a rapidly increasing produce of an article of foreign consumption, a much more bold system of improvement should be followed than would be advisable if the district was likely to remain in its present state.

Great encouragement to improved irrigation.

The specimen of sugar I now send is of native manufacture, and cost two rupees a maund, or 18 l. a ton. Mr. Mackenzie judges that it would sell for, from 80 l. to 85 l. a ton in the English market; this, however, would not be admitted, as it would be considered as refined sugar, upon which a very heavy duty would be levied. But if such sugar as this can be produced for 18 l. a ton, it is evident that an inferior kind can be manufactured at this rate. The finest sugar that would be admitted as unrefined would be worth in England about 70 l. a ton; and supposing it cost here as much as the present sample, the cost of bringing it into the English market would be as follows:

Specimen of sugar.

Profit upon sugar exported.

	£.
Cost in the district	18
Freight and charges	9
Duty	24

TOTAL	£. 51

Value in England	£. 70
Difference	£. 19

The charge for freight, &c. was given me by Mr. Mackenzie. Thus it appears that at the present actual cost by the wasteful and expensive process used by the natives, there would be a profit of 19 l. a ton. But there seems every reason to believe that with a proper cane mill and the vacuum pan, it could be manufactured at a much lower price than this, certainly as low as 12 l. a ton, which would leave a profit of 27 l. a ton.

Cost of sugar in the West India.

It is evident that sugar could not keep up to its present price, if it could be grown at anything like this rate in the West Indies; from the state of those islands at present, the price now obtained cannot afford more than a moderate profit; so that we may confidently conclude that, including interest of capital and everything, such sugar as is sold in England at 70 l. cannot, on an average, cost less than 35 l. a ton for its manufacture in the West Indies. Hence we arrive at this result, that while the West Indies are the richest of the colonies, solely because they can grow sugar at 35 l. a ton, these districts, which are probably the poorest at present, do actually produce it at less than 18 l. a ton, and in all probability could produce it at 12 l.; which is a most singular state of things, and can only be accounted for in this way, that the former protecting difference of duty of 8 l. a ton prevented mercantile men from properly investigating the matter; and thus the advantageous circumstances of these districts were never rightly understood, till the equalization of the duty caused the subject to be attended to. I should further observe, that not only have these districts the advantage over the West Indies, but we may safely conclude that no country in the world could contend with them, when labour costs little more than 1 d. a day; so that even if the Brazilian sugar, for instance, were admitted upon an equal duty, it could not injure them.

Extraordinary neglect of the sugar culture in this division.

Advantages of these districts; superior to all other countries.

Superiority of these districts to Bengal.

Another point should be mentioned as of great importance: in Bengal, generally, the cane will not grow a second year, but it must be planted anew annually. Mr. Mackenzie has now a fourth year's growth from the same plant, and it is the strongest of the four. The West Indian superintendent considered the cane equal to the average of Guiana, and it is growing on the poorest land in the neighbourhood, being very near the sea, a small patch planted round the sugar works.

Statement of bullion withdrawn from this division lately.

I have not yet been able to obtain the statements of revenue, &c. which I wished to have added to this report, to show the extent of the demand for bullion which has been made upon them of late years, compared with that of the period while the cloth trade was flourishing; but I do not like to detain this diary any longer, especially as the board have the means at hand of ascertaining the state of the trade, &c. from their records, if they should consider it necessary. I give however a statement of the revenue &c. of Rajahmundry for 10 years, which so far as it goes will show how enormously the supply of bullion in the division must have diminished:

Amount of collections paid into the treasury in specie in 10 years, from 1832 to 1842	- - - - -	208 Lacs.
Value of exports, exclusive of salt, during the same period, by land and sea	- - - - - 54	
Deduct ditto of imports	- - - - - 19	
		35
Paid out of the treasury on account of civil and military charges	-	53
		120
Value of salt exported, by estimation	- - - - -	10
		110 Lacs of Rupees.

110 lacs withdrawn in 10 years.

The value of the salt is not entered in the statements I have, but I am informed it is about a lac of rupees a year. It appears from this, that supposing the whole of the difference between the value of exports and imports had found its way back to the district in bullion, there would remain a diminution of the amount of specie in the district to the extent of 110 lacs in the last 10 years. It is quite certain that no more can return than is brought back by means of produce exported. There is no occasion whatever to look further than this for a cause for the fall of prices (or rather for the increase in the value of bullion), for in such a state of the case as respects the supply of bullion, even if the produce of rice in the district had greatly diminished (which it probably has) its price must fall, and this effect is not felt only in the district in which the cloth trade existed, but in other districts also that have been in any way connected with them; for instance, while, in consequence of the influx of specie and the employment of a large population in the cloth manufacture, the price of rice was comparatively high, the district could afford to buy from Tanjore, but that district has of late years been deprived of this outlet for its produce.

Effect of the loss of the cloth trade.

I trust that this statement will be sufficient to show, 1st, that a fall in price is not in the slightest degree a proof of over-production of rice; 2d, that while the revenue is received in specie, it is absolutely impossible to prevent its falling off annually, unless some article of export can be found equal to the amount of specie withdrawn from the district by Government; 3d, that while the cloth trade seems irretrievably lost, the sugar manufacture holds out the fairest prospect of being more than an equivalent for it; and 4th, that with such a prospect the irrigation both for paddy and for sugar may be improved to any extent without the least fear of any evil consequences.

Results of this examination of the foreign trade.

(signed) A. Cotton, Captain,
Civil Engineer, 1st Division.

Zillah Vizagapatam, Camp at Vizagapatam,
1 June 1844.

Mr. *Prideaux*.—I should mention that the report which I have read was attached to a report by Captain Cotton, in which he recommended the Government to sanction an expenditure of nearly 50,000 *l.* to throw a dam across the Godavery river, so as to bring the whole country under artificial irrigation.

1341. Is that actually done?—It is now in progress; it was sanctioned by the Court of Directors.

1342. Is Captain Cotton an officer in the army?—He is an engineer officer in charge of the general executive works of the district.

1343. He states that the price of sugar in England was 80 *l.* a ton; at what period was that?—That was at the beginning of 1844. Refined sugar, duty paid here. He derives his information apparently upon matters not within his own cognizance from a manager of sugar works who had been a planter in the West Indies.

1344. Do you know whether there is anybody in London connected with Mr. Mackenzie's house?—No.

1345. Do

1345. Do you know any one in London immediately connected with the cultivation of sugar in Madras who can give the Committee any further information upon this subject?—The gentleman from whom I have derived all the information I have obtained, with the exception of these reports, is in London; Mr. Rohde of the Madras civil service; he is at home on furlough now. Mr. Rohde was kind enough to give me some information in a memorandum which possibly might answer the purpose of the Committee. All his information applies to those districts commonly called the Northern Circars.

1346. Will you have the goodness to read his memorandum?

[*The same was read as follows:*]

February 1848.

My first acquaintance with East India grown sugar was at Ganjam, in 1833–35; there it is chiefly grown on the banks of small rivers, and the plantations are watered by picottes from the rivers, water being procurable from these, even when the beds are dry, by sinking small wells in the sand. Sugar-cane requires “sweet water,” that is, water free from salts. The beds of these rivers are not at any great depth below the banks, which facilitates the system of watering adopted. The best sugar used to be manufactured at Aska, a large village about 25 miles from the sea and adjoining the Goomsoor zemindary. The canes here appear finer than in other parts, but the quality of the sugar was attributed to skill in manufacture; a kind of loaf, nearly white, which, falling to pieces or crushed, gave a moist sugar of good colour and quality, sold for about two rupees the Madras maund of 25 lbs., or 17 s. the cwt. retail; sugar-candy was also prepared of excellent quality, and sold from Rs. 3. 8 a. to Rs. 4. In 1842 I took some of the sugar to the Cape, and requested a friend accustomed to import sugar to obtain for me a valuation of a sample; he did so, and after inquiry stated its value at 32 s. the cwt. After my return, in 1843, I found that a Mr. Fletcher had been established by Messrs. Binny as manager of their sugar works, then set up at Aska, but I do not believe he introduced any change in the manufacture, but continued to purchase jaggery and manufacture by the common native mode. I believe he purchased, on his own account, all the fine sugar native manufactured, for remittance to his family, but it did not exceed 12 tons a year, nor was he able to procure more. I have reason to believe that the proprietors of this concern found it unprofitable under Mr. Fletcher’s management, and in 1844 a Dr. Duncan, who had a plantation in the Mauritius, succeeded to the management, and died last year. Both the above were wanting in local experience, perhaps in other particulars. Mr. Bell, of Binny’s house, went up to take charge of the establishment, and from my last account I believe they are beginning in earnest on the European system, still, however, I believe, dependent for the crude material on the supply of jaggery in the market.

I know not what they have turned out, or what its selling price in the European market. I should add, that excepting for a short period when agents for another house (at Bimlipatam) were purchasing, and that under restrictions, to avoid competition, these works were not interfered with in their supply of jaggery, and this being more moist than in other parts, renders it less fit for exportation.

Proceeding south, the next European sugar work is at Bimlipatam, upwards of 150 miles distant from Aska, though the whole country abounds with favourable spots for cane-growing, and cane is grown in all the hill zemindaries. Here Mr. John M’Kenzie established works on the most modern European principle, still dependent on a supply of jaggery from the market (I may here mention that seven rupees for Palmyra jaggery and 11 rupees for cane jaggery the candy, was the usual price last year); this obliged them to procure supplies from the Rajahmundry and Ganjam, as well as from the Vizagapatam districts. From want of experience in and attention to minutiae I do not believe this work paid.

The Arbuthnots’ house subsequently became part, if not principal owners, and I have seen most satisfactory accounts of the working of this establishment, and from the extension of their works and cultivation I have no doubt the proprietors are satisfied as to the probable results. In September I heard that they were working out the last of the jaggery, and had already made 2,000 tons of sugar; they have also become renters from Government of what was the Palconda estate, about 40 miles inland, at a rent of 1,20,000 rupees, with the view to extend the cultivation of cane under advances from themselves, a speculation which from my last accounts promises well. I have good reason to believe that sugar has been put on board at 16 l. a ton from these works, and that the rum will cover a great part of that.

This very nearly corresponds with my Ganjam data, where the native family who manufacture the white sugar deliver one of sugar for three of jaggery delivered to them; for taking the ton at 4 ½ candies, at 12 rupees the candy, 13 ½ candies of jaggery (which would even by the native mode yield one ton of sugar besides remunerating the maker for his trouble), would cost 16 l. 4 s.; and I have no doubt the European mode gives sufficient advantages to allow of sundry charges being included in that amount, besides giving the molasses, wasted in the native system, to be worked into rum; and it is hardly necessary to say that in the very refined state in which these sugars are prepared the quantity of molasses is considerable.

But should a manufacturer, instead of trusting to the natives for his jaggery, grow his own canes, there is good reason to suppose he might make his own jaggery at less than the

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rate now paid; for it is notorious that it is the most profitable crop grown, but one requiring capital, and the present prices are full 25 per cent. higher than they were seven years ago. But not only would the sugar planter have this advantage, but by manufacturing at once from the cane juice he would not be obliged to temper his sugar so highly with lime, nor would the grain of the sugar be destroyed; the loss of substance too would be less, and there would be no waste in transit as at present. How the Bengal manufacturers, paying four rupees the Bengal maund, or double the prices I have named above, make sugar pay I know not.

Besides the above works, the Arbutnots are establishing two near Rajahmundry, one more expressly for planting, and manufacturing from the cane juice; the other for manufacturing from purchased jaggery. A considerable quantity of sugar has been manufactured for native consumption in the neighbourhood of Peddapoor, in the Rajahmundry district; generally it was of inferior quality; the molasses in a great deal was not extracted, but boiled down with the sugar. Formerly a Mr. Ranau established sugar works in the Pettapoor estate, but failed. I am not aware of any other works established on the European principle to the north of Madras, nor do I believe that much cane is grown elsewhere. There are, or were, works near Cuddalore, but I do not think they prospered.

There seems to be no limit to the extension of sugar cultivation in the northern circars; river water is generally preferred, but a good deal is watered from wells in situations where sweet water is procurable. For rents of land I refer to Major Cotton's report.

1347. Have you any other statements about sugar to give to the Committee? —I have statements, but probably the Committee have them from other sources. I have a statement of the quantity and value of sugar exported from the three presidencies to all parts of the world, distinguishing the yearly exports to the United Kingdom from 1836-37 to 1845-46, which is the latest date to which we have returns. I have also a similar return with respect to coffee. (*The same was delivered in*).

Vide Appendix.

1348. It appears from this statement that the entire export of sugar from Madras to Great Britain, up to 1836-37, had not exceeded 23 tons; and it has since grown, in the year 1845, to 5,731 tons?—Yes.

1349. It would seem that so long as there was a differential duty of 8s., Madras could not afford to export sugar?—I do not exactly draw that conclusion. I think it arose from a want of knowledge and want of enterprise, and probably that capital was devoted to other purposes; but knowing nothing of the prices of sugar in this country, I am not competent to speak to that. But as far as I know, judging from the information given by those gentlemen who have had local experience; looking also at the price of sugar in the last year; and considering that the price which they gave is 25 per cent. more than it would have been seven years ago, I should think that even with a differential duty those districts could have competed well. In that memorandum this gentleman, who only speaks from his own Madras experience, says that he cannot understand how, with the prices in Bengal, the export to this country could pay.

1350. He means that the prices in those districts of Madras in September last, were 50 per cent. below what they were in Bengal?—Yes; according to the information which he gets.

1351. But it appears that Madras was exporting sugar to other parts of the world. In 1836-37 it exported 197 tons in the whole, but only 23 tons to the United Kingdom; was not that because it could not bear to compete with West India sugar at a difference of 8s. duty?—I can merely give the fact. The Committee will observe that Bombay, which still has a differential duty against it, exports to this country, though not a large quantity.

1352. What is the differential duty now on Bombay sugar?—I believe it is 3s. 6d.

1353. It appears that Bombay, in 1836-37, exported 4,455 tons to all places, but was only able to export 160 tons to the United Kingdom; but under the reduced duty it exports to the United Kingdom 2,124 tons, and 6,564 tons to other places?—The differential duty is reduced, but there is still a differential duty against Bombay.

1354. Is not the result of that that Bombay is not able to export to this country under the differential duty?—A large quantity of the sugar consumed in Bombay is imported sugar. Bombay does not produce enough for its consumption.

1355. Does the importation of sugar from Bombay include sugar previously imported into Bombay?—It may include it. Bombay exports to this country under

under an export duty of three per cent. On sugar from Bengal and Madras, sent in British ships, there is no export duty.

1356. Are you able to give the Committee any information in addition to that which has been given by Mr. Tucker upon the subject of remittances to England?—No; it does not fall within my department.

1357. What is your department?—The revenue department of the correspondence.

1358. You are not able to give the Committee any exact information as to the proportion of revenue derived from lands under sugar cultivation?—It is impossible to state that, because no specific information has been given as to the quantity of land under sugar cultivation.

1359. When do you expect to get that information?—A circular was issued at the close of 1846; it would take some time to get it from the whole of India.

1360. You do not expect to have it within a few weeks?—I should think not.

1361. Can you state what proportion of the gross revenues of India are paid over to England?—Three millions and a half to four millions; it never has exceeded four millions.

1362. What do you imagine to be the amount of the payment to British born subjects, servants of the Company in India?—I have no means of saying that.

1363. You can give no estimate of the proportion of the 22,000,000 *l.* raised in India which is paid back to natives in India, and the amount that is paid to British born subjects?—I cannot; but the Committee might possibly be supplied with the information.

1364. You can supply the Committee with a return of the proportions paid to English and to native subjects in India?—If the Committee would frame a requisition and send it up it would be complied with as far as practicable.

1365. Have you any other statement to lay before the Committee?—I have a statement with reference to the trade between India and the Mauritius. This is a statement of the gross trade of the three presidencies with the Mauritius for the last five years, showing the value of the imports and the value of the exports. The balance of that would be of course what the Mauritius owes to India.

[The same was delivered in, and is as follows:]

GROSS TRADE of the Three Presidencies with the Mauritius for the last Five Years, of which the Returns are complete.

YEARS.	Total Value of Imports.	Grain Exported.	Provisions Exported.	Sundries Exported.	Total Value of Exports.
	<i>Rupees.</i>	<i>Rupees.</i>	<i>Rupees.</i>	<i>Rupees.</i>	<i>Rupees.</i>
1840-41 -	1,84,395	20,77,436	76,081	3,88,101	25,41,618
1841-42 -	1,64,950	18,35,139	95,355	4,37,838	23,68,332
1843-43 -	5,86,409	13,53,322	1,20,632	3,21,478	17,95,432
1 May to 31 } July 1843 }	89,766	- - -	- - -	2,732	2,732
1843-44 -	3,29,303	22,66,690	1,86,307	3,58,388	28,11,385
1844-45 -	2,23,122	19,13,343	1,34,187	3,62,308	24,09,838

1366. The total value of the exports appears to have been 254,161 *l.* in 1840-41; to have increased to 281,138 *l.* in 1843-44; and to have decreased to 240,983 *l.* in 1844-45. Do you conceive that a portion of the means of India to pay her general remittances to this country consists of her exports to the Mauritius, which are converted afterwards into sugar, and thus come home?—I should imagine there can be no doubt, that ultimately the balance finds of that to this country.

1367. Your opinion would be that if the exportation of grain and provisions to the Mauritius were to be destroyed by the destruction of the sugar cultivation

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tion of the country, it would be a great injury to India?—It would be an injury to that extent; to that extent it would cease to have a market for its produce.

1368. Can you give the Committee any information about the manufacture of rum in India?—Speaking from general information, I have no doubt that the evidence of Mr. Crooke is perfectly correct with respect to the excise restrictions upon rum.

1369. It appears that there is an excise duty at Calcutta. Can you give any information with respect to that?—There is a special duty levied, under the authority of the magistrates there. The regular duties on rum would be included in the "Sayer, Abkarry, Moturpha, &c.," and that amounts to 940,000*l.*; but I cannot say what proportion the duty on rum forms of that.

1370. Can you form any estimate what the amount of the duty on rum would be?—The duty on rum prepared for exportation, I imagine, would be very small. The duty on spirits generally would be considerable. I suppose it would be impossible to favour rum particularly, without giving a great chance of loss of revenue upon other spirits, what are called country spirits. The 29,000 *l.* is the mere local consumption duty in Calcutta.

1371. You do not imagine that any alteration can be made in the excise duties upon the manufacture of rum in India without jeopardizing the whole revenue of which you now speak, amounting to nearly a million sterling?—It would jeopardize that portion of it which arises from the manufacture of spirits for consumption in the whole country. The actual duty levied upon rum appears to be a mere trifle. The complaint appears to be not against the amount of the duty, but against the restrictions to which they are subjected.

1372. Mr. *Moffatt.*] In one of the important documents which you have placed on the table it is alleged that "the capabilities of India for the growth of the cane are regarded as being in a manner unlimited; but now that colonial protection in the home market is to be withdrawn, India must seek, by improved cultivation and manufacture, to provide its supplies for abroad at very reduced prices." This statement is signed by the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. Can you inform the Committee whether the Chamber of Commerce at Calcutta is composed of merchants in Calcutta?—I imagine it is; but I have no information upon that.

1373. It is composed of a body of gentlemen likely to have practical experience upon this point?—I have no doubt of it.

1374. You have also quoted a document of Captain Cotton, containing some useful information, in an official communication to the East India Company?—To the Board of Revenue, and sent to the India House.

1375. And the recommendations which followed upon that information were adopted by the East India Company, with regard to public works?—Yes; they authorized an expenditure of 48,000*l.*

1376. Can you state in what year Madras ceased to be an importing country of sugar?—In 1841–42, I think.

1377. Mr. *Miles.*] What is the actual fact with respect to the sugar cultivation now going on at Madras; are parties sending out machinery, and intending to go on with it?—They have sent out machinery.

1378. It was stated by a gentleman from Calcutta, that every manufacturer and refiner of sugar was ruined, and that they all intended to abandon their works; is anything of the same sort happening in Madras?—Not that I am aware of. The memorandum which I have put in is from a gentleman who writes from his personal knowledge and from his correspondence, and goes down to September last. I know of nothing more recent than that.

1379. You have no information from any other parties except that gentleman?—No.

1380. You stated that they could produce sugar at the sea-board at 16*l.* a ton; you do not know what the charges would amount to to bring it to this country?—No.

1381. Do you think it would be done at 10*l.* a ton?—I have no means of forming an opinion; I have no mercantile experience whatever.

James Cosmo Melvill, Esq., called in; and Examined.

1382. *Chairman.*] WILL you have the goodness to give to the Committee any information you may possess upon the subject of the interest which the East Indies have in the exportation of sugar and coffee?—I can only speak generally with respect to the financial proceedings of the East India Company. I know nothing practically with regard to the cultivation of sugar or of coffee. I may state generally that every article of commerce which is produced in India and is brought to Europe is important to the remittance operations of the East India Company. *J. C. Melvill, Esq.*
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1383. Can you state to what extent sugar is exported from India to this country?—Sugar has been an increasing article of export.

1384. But you do not know the details?—I am not prepared with the details. Returns can be produced to the Committee of the quantities. The quantity of sugar brought from India increased materially upon the equalization of the duty with West India sugar. It afterwards increased more rapidly with the falling off of the supply from the West Indies, and it now amounts to as much as 70,000 or 80,000 tons a year. It is an increasing quantity.

1385. And there was every prospect of a very large increase, was there not?—That was the general expectation.

1386. Do you expect that that large increase, and that progressively increasing exportation, will continue under the present prices of sugar?—Not at the present prices, I imagine. I believe that the sugar which is brought from India and sold at the present prices is sold at a loss.

1387. Do you expect that if the prices should continue what they are now in England, the future exportation of sugar from the East Indies must cease?—I think it would diminish.

1388. Do you know at all at what price it is generally considered that a large exportation of sugar takes place from the East Indies?—No, I do not.

1389. Do you apprehend that there would be considerable difficulties on the part of the East India Company in making its remittances to England, if an exportation in value to so large an amount as that of sugar, which is very nearly 2,000,000 *l.* sterling a year, were to cease, or to be diminished to a very great extent?—The falling off in the supply of sugar would undoubtedly increase the difficulty of effecting our remittances. At the same time, I am not prepared to say that it would occasion very serious permanent embarrassment to the Company, when I recollect that during the whole period of the present charter, and at a time, too, when India had to struggle with a differential duty upon sugar in favour of the West Indies, we still effected our remittances at advantageous rates; and, taking the whole period, have effected them at an exchange exceeding the par exchange considerably.

1390. At that time was not tea a monopoly of the East India Company?—No. I speak of the period of the present charter, since 1834, when the monopoly was abolished, and the whole of the Company's commercial privileges placed in abeyance.

1391. Was not that the year following the year in which the differential duties on sugar were removed?—I think it was considerably later than that. It was in 1837.

1392. When was the last year that your remittances in tea took place?—In 1833, a year before the expiration of the charter we ceased to bring tea.

1393. *Mr. Villiers.*] You are not acquainted with the circumstances under which the canes are grown, or the sugar is manufactured?—I am not.

1394. You could not state whether any economy could be introduced in that?—I have no information upon that subject.

1395. *Mr. Moffatt.*] Your opinion that the exportation of sugar will not be increased if the price does not rise, rests upon mere general information?—Yes.

1396. Have you any information with regard to the cultivation of sugar in Madras?—I have not.

1397. *Sir E. F. Buxton.*] Upon the question of coolie emigration to the Mauritius, the Government here sent out instructions to your Government in
0.32. India

J. C. Melvill, Esq.
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1398. Are you of opinion that that emigration was beneficial or not beneficial to the coolies who went out?—I have no means of judging. It does not fall properly within my department.

1399. *Mr. Villiers.*] Are the coolies employed in the cultivation of sugar in India?—They are in some districts.

1400. Does it answer?—Certainly; the hill coolies are most efficient labourers; so I have understood.

1401. *Mr. Miles.*] What was the principal objection on the part of the Court of Directors to the coolie emigration?—The Court was desirous to guard against the coolies being entrapped into engagements, and not being well used. I think the chief anxiety on the part of the East India Company has been to secure good treatment to the coolies.

1402. *Sir E. F. Buxton.*] You cannot give the Committee any information as to the treatment which they have received?—No; I cannot.

1403. *Lord G. Manners.*] In one of the documents which has been put in it is stated that the facilities for producing sugar in the presidency of Madras can scarcely be overrated; what do you consider would be the effect of a greatly increased production of sugar in the presidency of Madras upon the revenue of the Company?—I have no doubt it would be beneficial to the revenue.

Senor Jose Stephen Cliffe, M. D., called in; and Examined.

Senor J. S. Cliffe,
M. D.

1404. *Chairman.*] YOU were born in the United States?—Yes.

1405. And you are now a Brazilian citizen?—Yes.

1406. Are you a staff surgeon in the Brazilian navy?—I was; I am not now.

1407. You hold extensive mines in Brazil?—I do.

1408. You cultivate the sugar-cane, but are not a sugar planter?—No; merely for the people to eat, or for food for animals, or to make a little sugar when it is wanted.

1409. You only grow sugar-cane to feed your cattle and your pigs?—Yes; or to make a little sugar or rum when it is wanted for the house.

1410. You employ a great many slaves?—I employ altogether slaves.

1411. How many?—Rather more than 100; not 200.

1412. You know a good deal of the slave trade?—I have seen a good deal of it.

1413. Can you give an estimate of the number of slaves that have been imported into Brazil in the year 1847?—Yes, according to our belief, but it may not be quite correct, because those who bring the slaves always try to diminish the number, so as to make the price rise if possible, while those who want to buy slaves always report that a great number have arrived; but we suppose that about 72,000 were landed last year, but of that number probably 65,000 only live to be sold.

1414. Should you consider that when Lord Howden, the British minister in Brazil, reports to his Government that, as far as he could ascertain, about 50,000 had been imported previously to the 12th November, the probability is, that he has calculated the number that were entered for sale, not the number that were landed alive?—Between the 14th of November, when I came down to the coast, and the 8th of December, when I left it, to my knowledge 4,010 were invoiced for landing in one little port alone on the sea coast.

1415. Do a very large number die after landing and before sale?—A great many; especially now, from the extreme ill-treatment, and from the putrid gases they have in the holds of small vessels, where they are jammed up as they lie, and by suddenly relaxing the person, and suddenly carrying them on shore.

shore, many of them die. Some of them drink a great deal of water if they can get it, and they mostly die within three or four hours. Water is an exceedingly scarce article in the present run of slavers.

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1416. What is the largest mortality you ever knew occur?—I knew a case in which only 10 escaped out of 160; that was a vessel that belonged to a friend of mine.

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1417. He was your agent?—Yes.

1418. You know that to be a fact?—I do; and some Englishmen know it to be a fact, but they will not give evidence about it. But that is an extraordinary case, which is perhaps unparalleled. They were taken in water in the evening; the next morning they were to take on board 50 or 60 men; a British cruiser was seen in the offing; they immediately went to sea with what they had got. It was said, both by the captain and the owner of those slaves, that there was only water sufficient for a drink once in three days; consequently, upon their arrival, when he went in the evening to look at them he saw only those 10, and he said, "They look so miserable that I am ashamed to have anything to do with them; if anybody will give me 300 milreas," which would be about 37%, "I will sell them." A young man who was present, without seeing them, bought them. Whether they lived or not I do not know. One, perhaps, might have an iron constitution and live; but I would not vouch for that fact.

1419. Do you ascribe all those horrors to the British-African blockade fleet?—People that are in the habit of reading do not ascribe it to that; we ascribe it to a popular outbreak of feeling, which carried the Government away to act in a manner that they would not otherwise have done: but those that do not read the newspapers consider that it is an act of Her Majesty's Government, wishing to crush our advance to prosperity.

1420. You in Brazil do not consider yourselves responsible for the cruelties that take place on the passage?—Not a bit of it; that we charge altogether to this side of the water; that we lay to the thorough-bred white men that began slavery.

1421. The fact is this, that a great portion of the cruelties and deaths arising in the course of the slave trade are caused by the want of water?—Perhaps more from that than from anything else, because in the tropics very little food will sustain the system; when the system is in a state of torpidity, and when the air is exceedingly foul, the functions of life become very considerably diminished; absorption takes place of any portion of fat they have, and they can resist the want of food for some time; but the want of water is a thing not to be resisted in the tropics.

1422. And the stint of water arises from the activity of the British cruisers, who would seize any vessel if she were loaded with a certain number of water casks?—Yes; if you have only empty water casks I am told they will seize; I do not know personally, because since the trade has been in the state in which it is, I have not been upon the coast. If they find any number of sacks of rice or barrels that can contain water, or if they find that there is a greater quantity of water on board than a small crew would require for a 20 or a 30 days' run, they immediately send the vessel to Sierra Leone or to St. Helena.

1423. It is in order to evade the activity of the British cruisers that your people, who are engaged in the slave trade, are obliged to stint the slaves in water?—Of course.

1424. And that they are also obliged to crowd them into such small spaces?—It arises probably from that; I do not know whom to blame for that, whether it is the captains, or the agents, or the owners, or whom, but certainly they do bring an immense number in a very small space; I have known 350 brought in a 90 tons schooner.

1425. Will you describe how they are packed?—It has been described to me (I have never seen it done) that they are laid upon their sides parallel to each other. They are generally boys from 10 to 12 years of age; they are put upon their side, and if they do not lie parallel upon their side a plank is put upon them, and a sailor will get upon it and jam them down, so as to make them fit compact. I have never seen that done, but I have heard slaves speak of it; and I have heard captains state it, who I know would have no object in

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stating it if it were not true. One lies with his arm so as to fit into the next one; he may pull his arm out if he can.

1426. They are not shackled together?—Not the little ones.

1427. Are the men?—If they bring in a large quantity of stout fellows from the north of the Line, the Coromanti nation, what are termed Kroomen, they would have to fetter them and the Minjo and Felutah men.

1428. Are those men chained or shackled?—They used to be. None come from there now except cargoes that are taken surreptitiously from Sierra Leone; I had a boy myself who was liberated twice by the British Government and always caught again.

1429. Are those slaves upon their passage never cleaned out?—I fancy not, because if you clean them out, where would you put them? You dare not bring many of them upon the deck, because, seeing the water, many of them would be tempted to jump overboard and even to drink salt water; consequently, all that you have to do is to crowd all sail and get out of the way of the cruisers, and look as quiet and as nasty as you can. Sometimes when they see a vessel they do not like, they lower their flag two or three times to wish them "good bye," but that is not often done; I only know one upon the coast who has done that; he has lowered his flag two or three times to say "good bye," knowing that they could not catch him, though I dare say they tried their best, but when I left the coast he was not caught.

1430. What do you reckon to be the average voyage from the coast of Africa to Brazil?—At the present time you are obliged to go in such a zig-zag manner that what ought to be 20 days is sometimes 90 days.

1431. And it is when the voyage is so long that the slaves die?—Yes. They get a drink of water once a day. In a state of inactivity you may exist upon that for 20 days, perhaps, as I know from my own experience, but not much longer than 20 days, because the system fails rapidly after that. It is too horrible to describe the effect of the want of water; no person can have an idea of it without feeling it.

1432. From what part of the coast of Africa is the general importation?—I would beg leave to decline saying that, because the moment that is known your cruisers will be twice as energetic upon that one point, and it will do mischief to some one. I have got to live in the country. Human life is not valued very highly in Brazil. Any person making himself troublesome upon the slave trade would be immediately shot.

1433. Mr. Hope.] Not by the Government?—Not by the Government. Some better-informed members of the Government, who have been educated in Europe, are under an impression that it would be better to put a stop to it; but those are very few. The fact is, in one word, we have nothing in the tropics that we can cultivate with free labour; we can neither mine nor do anything with free labour. When a man can live by working two or three hours a day, why should he give his labour under a burning sun?

1434. You prefer importing boys and girls because they pack closer?—Yes; they are much less in stowage, much less in volume.

1435. At what height apart are the different decks?—That is left arbitrarily with the captain. Some of the American vessels are about seven to eight feet between the decks; some are only 72 inches between the beams. They have generally three tiers, one on the ground and two above.

1436. Do you mean that in the height of 72 inches, that is to say six feet, there are three tiers of slaves?—Generally; the lower ones have a kind of mats made of banana stalks.

1437. You have frequently seen this with your own eyes?—Yes; anybody may see it in Brazil, but in Rio you would not see it now, because very few are now landed in Rio.

1438. You stated that you conceived that in the last year 100,000 negroes had left the coast of Africa, and that 72,000 would be landed, and that there might not be more than 65,000 that survived?—It is not very easy to enter into a calculation of that kind, but that is the calculation made by those who are engaged in the trade. Upon my asking two or three of the parties most largely interested in the trade, that is what they have stated; but I do not see that there is any possibility of arriving at an absolute certainty, because many of them are taken by British cruisers and carried into Sierra Leone. Those cruisers, if they have any surplus supplies, will put them on board the slaver, but

but if they have no surplus supplies, they will let them go without taking care to send a small allowance of provisions for the officers and men.

1439. You know nothing of that personally?—No.

1440. The slavers are very subject, on leaving the coast of Africa, to be caught in a calm?—Yes; on the line of coast, eight or ten leagues in breadth, between the part where the land breeze and the sea breeze sets in, at certain seasons of the year there is a calm; you might get on the outside of that; and sometimes it is not more than three or four leagues in breadth, and then you get out with a staggering breeze, and another vessel within that distance is in a calm for perhaps eight or ten days.

1441. There the suffering of the negro commences?—Yes.

1442. You stated that one slaver brought 1,800 slaves?—One thousand seven hundred and fifty; she ran direct on the coast, but not at the usual place.

1443. She landed 1,750?—I am not sure whether it was 1,750 that were landed, or whether she left with 1,750. I am aware of the circumstance of the vessel being run on shore at the mouth of a fresh-water river.

1444. Do you know how many voyages that vessel made?—I know how many she is said to have made; she is said to have made three, and she was ready to go when I left last year, and a very fine craft she is.

1445. That is not the Antelope?—No, she was in Rio; she had not started when I left.

1446. What is the length of her voyage?—She will run over in 10 or 15 days.

1447. She would lose no slaves on the voyage?—A steamer would be less likely to lose the slaves than any other vessel. She depends upon her speed. I have heard that she says she will run down a small cruiser, but that I do not know.

1448. How large is she?—Six hundred tons.

1449. What is the size of the Antelope?—Six hundred tons.

1450. She was built in Liverpool?—Yes; she was first intended to run there as a packet ship, but there is not commerce enough for a packet, and as the slave trade pays so well, I have no doubt that if they can raise money sufficient she will be sold.

1451. You saw the Antelope?—Yes; I have learnt that the Antelope is gone to the Cape of Good Hope.

1452. When a slaver makes a quick and fortunate voyage, what proportion of the slaves that are landed are in a condition to stand upright?—I have known 560 landed with a loss of six or seven, which is about the same loss that has occurred with those that were landed from an Irish emigrant ship, or perhaps less, because they would be better treated; there would be plenty of provisions on board, the object of the parties being to feed them well, so as to have them in good condition when they arrived.

1453. Of what time are you speaking?—The olden time, before 1830.

1454. Before 1830 the proportion of loss was smaller than at present?—Yes; the only instances to the contrary were in those cases when the small-pox got on board by bad management; but most of the vessels carried a surgeon, and they managed in this way: he was paid a certain per-centage upon the amount of slaves, and a certain per-centage was deducted for those who died, and therefore he kept a good look-out. At present you carry no surgeon on board the slave vessels; for a good surgeon would not go, and an inferior one it would be of no use to carry.

1455. What is the condition of the slaves when they are landed now?—There are some with more iron constitutions than others; but to see them they look horrible. The bones of the knee stand out and look like large knobs; the calf of the leg has disappeared; it looks more like the leg of a monkey than anything else, and you can count all the bones. The abdomen is very much bloated, and there is an imbecility in the eye; in fact nature is reduced to the lowest point.

1456. Mr. Miles.] Have you seen them standing against a wall?—Yes; but you feed them and put them in warm baths, and by doing that they get round after a little time.

1457. Chairman.] Are they usually covered with sores?—Yes, when they are jammed together; and there is a species of itch that breaks out upon them.

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in blotches as large as the top of this inkstand. I would mention one thing, and from that you may draw your inference as regards the state of the vessels in which they come: a great many persons will not be at the trouble of cleaning out the vessels, but after landing the negroes they cut them adrift.

1458. Mr. Miles.] That is because the dirt in those vessels is so excessive?—Yes. A very fine vessel was at anchor at Rio when I came away. I think she was Austrian built; I judged so from the way in which she was rigged; but she had Frenchmen on board. She was cast adrift.

1459. Chairman.] She was a slaver which worked with French money?—I cannot say. I should say not; because the French are not men, in our part of the world, that bring much capital.

1460. Do the Brazilians universally engage in these speculations?—As far as they have the means.

1461. If a slaver goes out, there are a multitude of partners in the enterprise?—Most generally it is considered safe to divide into six or four shares; and there are some associations.

1462. You gave me a history of the progress of the slave trade; will you repeat that to this Committee: you stated that when this country first adopted the policy of increasing the blockade service, the Brazilian slave traders were very much alarmed?—We were at that time, because it was supposed that whatever England attempted to do she was able to carry out; but we had not the impudence to suppose that she would not carry it on most efficiently, and therefore the slave trade died away for a time.

1463. About what year was that?—1831 and 1832.

1464. What had been the price of slaves before that?—In 1825 they were worth 200 milreas each. In 1830 I think, but I am not certain; it was the year in which the first treaty with Brazil was made; I bought half a cargo, the last that came in, at 780 milreas each.

1465. What number was that?—I had 80, and a friend of mine had another 80; but they were paid for on sight, which is not usual with slaves, and that made it 50 milreas less.

1466. Is there credit given generally?—Yes; when slaves are abundant credit is given of from six to twelve months, to enable the purchasers of those slaves to make a return. If an industrious man, he will buy them, and give bills at 12 months, and 18 months, and two years, and he will pay those bills by their labour in that time.

1467. You reckon that a slave pays for his first cost in two years?—Yes, if his master is an industrious man; and if the master is industrious, then the slave soon becomes so; whatever the master is, the slave is part and parcel of him. If the master is a moral man, the slave looks as sanctimonious as can be; and if the master is an immoral man, then they are all alike.

1468. I think you said that the Brazilians were very moral?—No, I could not have said so; but I think they are as moral as the generality of people in the tropics.

1469. But they observe the Sunday?—In all Catholic countries they observe the Sunday and saints' days.

1470. And their slaves have the benefit of their saints' days?—Yes; I was the first that broke through the observance of saints' days, and after that the English companies did the same. In 1830 or 1831, when the slave trade ceased, there were very few slaves to be had at any price. A few vessels started up mostly owned by very poor people, who purchased old vessels; so that if they lost them, the loss would be small. They became successful, and many who began as poor people are now the most wealthy men that we have in South America. In fact the present class of slave holders or slave bringers are the aristocracy, who have risen up between 1830 and the present time.

1471. The slave-traders constitute the aristocracy?—The aristocracy as regards wealth.

1472. In what year did the slave trade become as flourishing as ever?—From about 1833 slaves began to get down in price to 600 and 500 milreas, till 1836, when they got down as low as 400.

1473. That would be 32*l.*?—Yes, and in 1837 I bought some myself in the interior at 330 milreas; they were landed at that time at a place called Santos.

1474. Mr. Villiers.] In what year was that?—That would range between the years 1834, 1835, 1836, 1837, and 1838. After that your cruisers began to make

make them rise again in price. They got up till in 1844 they were as high as 800 milreas, and only sold for cash; they were from 800 to 900. In 1844 and 1845 there was no credit; they counted the money out and received it at once.

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1475. *Chairman.*] The slave trade was at a low pitch at that time?—It was at that time, but we then discovered that the British cruisers were not so effectual as we had supposed them to be; and then Great Britain made a change by taking the cruisers off the coast of Brazil, and sending them to the coast of Africa.

1476. What happened then?—From our understanding the nature of the coast better than the British cruisers did, and from our vessels being better adapted for going up the rivers, the slave trade was carried on much more extensively

1477. Then, in fact, the blockade of the coast of Brazil was far more effectual in the suppression of the slave trade than the blockade of the coast of Africa?—I do not think that you could possibly carry into effect that which you were extremely desirous of doing, for the slave trade will continue to flourish as long as we have any money to pay for slaves.

1478. Do not you conceive that if there was a very close blockade of Brazil we should be able to suppress the slave trade?—If you subsidized the whole of the European navies, you might blockade the whole coast of Brazil; it is of such an extent that without that you could not do it.

1479. What number of ships would it require?—More ships than you have in England; you have 600 or 700 on the present list, but those would hardly be enough to blockade the coast of Brazil from slavers.

1480. You have proceeded in your history down to 1844?—Slaves were from 850 to 900 milreas each. Since that time they have been gradually getting lower; when I left Rio 400 milreas was considered a fair price.

1481. That is because the supply is quite adequate to the demand?—It is coming up to that, but I expect that by the month of May now coming they will be sold for about 300 milreas each; but that is mere supposition on my part, from hearing others say so.

1482. You have been only two years on the coast?—I was on the coast in the Government service, and the other time I had better not say anything about.

1483. Can you state anything of the price at which you purchased slaves?—In olden time the price on some parts of the coast was two slaves for a musket, and in other parts two muskets for one slave, according to the quality of the guns, or according to the quality of the slaves. But when I speak of muskets, I do not speak of the Tower muskets, but of percussion guns; very dangerous weapons to those who use them. I made inquiry of a person who imports them into Brazil, and he tells me that they cost him 10*s.* 6*d.*, after allowing him a large profit.

1484. You told me that the fathers would steal their children; and also the mothers?—No, I never saw a father do it; but mothers I have seen offer to sell their children for a brass button such as you have on your coat. I might have bought a couple of them; the women would have sold them for a button or a bottle of grog. In one case a mother wanted to sell me two children for a handkerchief; she said she had nothing for them to eat, and she liked the looks of my face, and would rather I had them than anybody here.

1485. Were those her own children?—There is not the slightest doubt of it, because the children cried. I did not want them; I had not the means of carrying them away.

1486. How young were they?—One was five or six, and the other perhaps seven; fit for work.

1487. What is the youngest age at which you import negroes?—They never brought them so young at any time previously, as far as I am aware, as they do at the present time, because the stowage was not so valuable before. It is only now that stowage is valuable.

1488. That is on account of the British Government?—Yes, on account of the cruisers.

1489. How young do they bring them now?—The smaller they are, the better you can carry them.

1490. What is the youngest you ever knew?—I once bought a little chap.

Senor J. S. Cliff, just like a dolly; he could not, from his teeth, have been more than six, perhaps not so much; he was too small to work: I gave 850 milreas for him.

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1491. In what year was that?—In 1844.

1492. How came you to give that high price?—Because I wanted 15 at the time; I could not do without them.

1493. You are engaged in mines?—At present I am engaged in mines.

1494. The working in mines is much more severe than in sugar plantations, is it not?—I should fancy that that would altogether depend on the owner. In sugar plantations they are working hard, but they get a good deal more food of various kinds, and vegetable food; but in mines they are generally in the midst of sterile barren lands, but then they get a great deal more money; with what they earn and with what they steal they get a good deal of money. Some boys that I have could earn from 60*l.* to 100*l.*, and they can go on festival days and spend a good deal more money than I could afford to do.

1495. Slavery is not so severe in Brazil as it was in the West Indies?—No, slavery is not so severe as it was in the West Indies. In the part where I resided there was that patriarchal and good feeling towards their slaves, very different from the feeling that there was when an estate was leased out to an attorney to make all he could of it; I should fancy, from what I have seen of the West Indies, that slavery was rather better under those circumstances. In Brazil, where the owner does not reside on his estate, it is much the same as it was in the West Indies.

1496. At what time do the slaves on the sugar plantations go to work?—As soon as day-break; every body gets up at day-break, for we have no twilight there.

1497. The day is never shorter than 11 hours, and never longer than 13?—No.

1498. What time do you give for breakfast?—In some cases half an hour for breakfast, and an hour for dinner. In the mines I have we allow an hour and a half for breakfast, which is at 10 o'clock, and we give them no space for dinner, but as soon as the sun is low in the horizon we call them off.

1499. Do you require a strong light to enable you to discover the diamonds?—No; if we could work them in the dark we should be gainers by it. If you treat slaves well the working of mines will be very lucrative, but if you treat them badly you will have no diamonds at all; because all the diamonds must go through their hands, and they will keep them back unless you keep them well.

1500. You allow them to have certain advantages?—They take that themselves; we allow them two days to go and search anywhere round, and all the large diamonds have been found by the slaves when they have been searching for themselves.

1501. The washings are in the bed of the river?—Yes.

1502. You do not get diamonds in the mines; the mines are gold mines?—You can scarcely make the distinction. The first process is to put a dam across the river and cut a canal above the dam, and turn off the water which is in the bed of the river; you clear the alluvial sand; then you come to the diluvial sand, and you find the diamonds and gold.

1503. When you speak of mines, you do not mean mines under ground?—In many cases they are taken out from under ground, from under rocks where the streams have formed a channel; but they are not like the mines of Cornwall and Cumberland.

1504. Your mines are gold mines?—They have been; it is only last year that I have turned my attention to diamonds, from the impossibility of getting a supply of slaves sufficient to enable me to carry on the undertaking which I was desirous of carrying on.

1505. What is the difficulty you have, if slaves are so cheap?—I want 500 slaves more than I have, and that would require a large capital.

1506. It is a want of capital?—Yes; if I had capital I could send word, and they would be bought to-morrow.

1507. The slavery generally in Brazil you consider to be far from being of a cruel description?—That it would be difficult to say. Among the poor people there are some that are cruel, but I should say that those are the fewest in number; people regard their slaves as you regard your horses; you never treat them cruelly for the sake of treating them cruelly, but you treat them well, and the more care you take of them and the more comfortable you make them

them the more valuable they are; if you treat them well and take care of them, they are not so licentious or such thieves. Senor J. S. Cliffe,
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1508. Are they driven by a driver with a whip?—Mostly the driver goes with a little whip, which has a lash of a couple of inches in length; mostly he walks in the rear, but my man goes a-head and the slaves follow him; he stands up with a stick, and he leans over it, and to that he has a whip very much like that which your postillions have, but in place of the thong being round, it is a piece of raw hide, quite flat. But the flogging is very light till you get to some very bad slave, and then you must punish them. 17 February 1848.

1509. But you said that the slaves appeared to be very happy, and were frequently singing at their work?—Yes, as long as they dance and sing you may be sure that they are quite happy and satisfied; if on Saturday afternoon they ask to be allowed to dance and to get out their African drum, you may be satisfied that everything is correct.

1510. The bad slaves that you spoke of are from the northern part?—Yes; those from the immediate neighbourhood of Sierra Leone, I fancy, have given the English Government a great deal of trouble; they are a hardy warlike set of men.

1511. That is not far from the Kroo coast?—No.

1512. You get no slaves from the Kroo coast?—That is too sweeping a clause; a boy that I have was shipped from Sierra Leone, according to his own account, but not, of course, with the cognizance of the British Government; they are brought outside in a canoe, and put into a slaver and brought over. A man who had been a driver in the West Indies speculated upon that, but I fancy the business of sending them in that way is broken up at the present time; it used to be called grinding them over again. If I understand it rightly, when you capture a slave vessel you send it to Sierra Leone to be adjudicated, and the slaves are turned adrift. A man who had been a driver in the West Indies along with a white man, speculated upon getting 20 or more of those men drunk, and then got them into a canoe and put them on board a slave vessel; he had an understanding with the captain. But I believe that has ceased.

1513. Mr. Villiers.] Did he make any agreement with the people to induce them to go willingly?—I cannot say; this boy said he came willingly, for this reason, he could get nothing to eat; he was lying about at Sierra Leone.

1514. Chairman.] Is he in London with you?—No; I brought one here, and I have had trouble enough; bringing one to England is quite enough trouble in a man's lifetime; and I made him free; but I thought they would have sold me for a slave in Liverpool, in consequence of the trouble they gave me.

1515. Your great object is to induce the British Government to legalize the slave trade?—I ought not to have impudence enough to suggest anything like that, but I think if it were legalized, if your object is to lessen cruelty, it would be lessened in that way. You are very fierce for exploring Africa, and have been for 40 years; and if you want to get a trade in gold mines by the means I have suggested, you may get it by sending the slaves back after they have been eight or ten years in Brazil, before they have forgotten their African habits; they would then form valuable communities. They are especially attached to working in gold mines; they would break away bars at the mouths of rivers, and by breaking away those bars, the country would become more healthy: it is unhealthy at the present time from the great accumulation of vegetable matter. I know from what people have said at various times, and from the gold that I have seen that has come from there, that it is most abundant, so much so, that I often thought that if it were requisite, I would go myself; now I would not go, for I am too old.

1516. You are not a sugar planter?—No. I was inclined to buy, for a son I have, a sugar plantation. Since you have crushed the West India Islands, sugar plantations in Brazil have risen up to a large extent; because if a man has a shilling a day to pay, he cannot compete with men who pay nothing; and the government of Brazil are now making very extensive establishments on the river M———, between Bahia and J———; they have offered land to anybody who will go and take it; they offered some to me.

1517. To what extent has the cultivation of sugar in Brazil been increased?—I am told by those who are conversant with it, that it is rapidly increasing.

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creasing, and no doubt from the means they have of disposing of their sugar, it will increase much more because slaves are getting cheaper.

1518. The sugar is grown so cheaply, that you fed your cattle and your pigs upon the sugar?—I did. I am not a regular sugar planter. I live in a part where there are barren lands; the diamonds are found upon the ridges where the land is bad; but I planted sugar in the valley for those purposes.

1519. And you could grow sugar cheap enough to permit you to feed your cattle and pigs upon it?—We could grow it to any extent. Within 10 leagues of the part where I lived, there is an extent of 60 leagues, and 10 or 12 in breadth; that is the finest land I ever saw in my life, and there is abundance of timber, from 20 to 25 feet in diameter, such timber as I hardly ever saw in any part of the world. In this wood district the cane becomes ripe in 10 or 12 months.

1520. Sir E. Buxton.] You think that the slave trade has increased in the last few years?—Yes, of course it has, or we should have paid 800 milreas for slaves instead of 400.

1521. What is the reason for that increase?—A greater number of vessels being sent to the coast of Africa.

1522. But what has induced the merchants of Brazil to import a larger number of slaves than they formerly imported?—Because one cargo of slaves is worth 10 cargoes of dry goods.

1523. Is it not the fact, that the increase in the import of slaves has been occasioned by the increased cultivation of sugar?—I rather think that the increase of sugar planting at the present time arises from the circumstance of the slaves becoming cheaper; if they were at 800 milreas each, they would not have carried the sugar cultivation on, because then they could not have bought slaves on credit.

1524. Are you aware of the change of duties which took place two years ago in this country?—Yes, I am aware of it.

1525. Can you give the Committee any information upon the point, whether that change of duties has increased the cultivation of sugar in the Brazils?—I should say decidedly it has.

1526. To a large extent?—I can only speak to the immediate neighbourhood of the part in which I lived, and of this new tract of ground which is being brought into cultivation by the order of the government. I know that many miners have deserted the mountains in the interior, and at present are planting sugar because coffee will pay no longer, at least it gives no large profit.

1527. Can you state whether there are at present any extensive preparations for a further increase in the cultivation of sugar in the Brazils?—Yes, I think up to the present time it has been rapidly increasing, but to what extent I have no means of knowing, for it is not my branch of business.

1528. Are there at present any penal laws against the slave trade in the Brazils?—Yes; I have known one or two persons who have been prosecuted for buying slaves: one Englishman bought a slave, not knowing that it was a new slave, and he got into great trouble; he was chief commissioner of one of the companies: the company got off by paying treble the value of the slave.

1529. You mention that the price of slaves on the coast of Africa was about one or two muskets?—It would be very difficult to state what the price at the present time is, because as much as 50 Spanish dollars have been given for a slave. When a vessel comes down upon the coast, if the coast is clear and you can get slaves on board at once, you would be willing to give 50 dollars. The agents for selling them of course make the best bargain they can.

1530. Can you state the average price on the coast?—No; at the present time I fancy it is only a favourable opportunity of shipping them that makes the value greater.

1531. Except for the interference of our cruisers, in your opinion the price would be very low indeed?—Yes, you might call it three or four pounds; that is, in goods adapted for the African trade.

1532. You said that the labour was not very severe on sugar plantations; do you mean that it is not severe during the crop time?—Of course, at that particular time it is.

1533. How many hours a day do they work?—They very seldom work after daylight. The Brazilian is naturally an indolent man; therefore they will not work as they did in the West Indies. I have known them work there nearly the whole of the night, but the Brazilian will not do that.

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1534. How long does the crop time last?—That would depend upon the amount of sugar to be made. I cannot answer that.

1535. Can you state what the average profit of the successful voyage of a slaver is?—I would decline to answer that question; but 600 per cent. is not unusual, and 1,000 per cent. has been made; but I cannot enter into any detail of the cost of outfit, and so on; I would decline that.

1536. Where does the capital chiefly come from?—I should decline to answer that question.

1537. Have you any knowledge what the mortality of slaves employed on a sugar estate is?—No, I cannot say; but from what I have seen of them I should say of those who were treated well in Brazil, it was much less than it was in the West Indies; but I speak in reference to the slaves that came in olden times; not lately, since your cruisers have been on the coast; because, as regards those, the system suffers from the shock of coming over, and many of them die, so much so, that there are now no second retailers of slaves as there used to be, because they die so frequently in the first two or three months. I have known 30 leave the coast and go 20 miles up into the interior, and 15 have died; and I have known 160 landed, and 84 of those have died before they got into the interior.

1538. Mr. Miles.] What was the cause of that?—They were in such a dilapidated condition nature was completely overcome by the passage.

1539. Sir E. Buxton.] Do you consider that the African slave trade is at present a very profitable trade?—I should say, from what I know of commerce generally, that there is nothing so profitable under the sun at the present time as that trade is.

1540. Do you think that if our cruisers were withdrawn, and that trade were thrown entirely open, it would continue to be so profitable?—No; it is profitable at the present time from not knowing from one time to another what movement may be made; if the trade was once legalized, I have no doubt that the cost of slaves on the coast of Africa would be very much less; for the expense of bringing them would be very light, and they would not be worth more than 20 *l.*, or so much.

1541. If the trade were thrown open, the number of slaves carried across would be materially increased?—It takes, on my reckoning, on perhaps imperfect data, 100,000 now to bring 60,000. If they were brought with a loss of three per cent. only, the bringing a smaller number would be sufficient; if you brought 70,000 it would give 68,000; consequently there would be 30,000, or plus the present number in the proportion they are now brought: from there being that number remaining they would become much cheaper; that which makes them dear now is that the consumption of life is so great.

1542. What do you consider to be the annual number that Brazil would take?—I can form no estimate of that, because the government is trying to stimulate people to industry; they are creating colonies, and so on.

1543. Do you suppose, that if the price of slaves was reduced from the price which it has been on the average for the last 20 years, to 20 *l.*, the number of slaves imported would increase?—Yes, if we can dispose of an article cheap, we produce more.

1544. It would be limited by the quantity that you could sell?—Yes.

1545. What proportion do the women or girls that come across bear to the men?—At present it is 4 in 100; in the last paper I saw, that was about the number.

1546. You said that the price of the slaves at the present time in Brazil was 400 milreas, or 50 *l.*?—Yes; and I said that in May coming, from the extensive preparations now carried on; I expected that it would be 300 milreas, and perhaps something less.

1547. You told us the value of slaves in 1830. Has not the value of the milrea altered since that?—It is fluctuating every day; the exchange varies from 22 to 40.

1548. So that it is not a very accurate measure?—No; when I left it was 28; it is now, I think, 29.

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1549. Are the slaves that are imported into Brazil sold openly in the market?—Not exactly; we have not markets for slaves as you have here for different articles; they have been abolished in Rio; but if you go to the neighbourhood of Rio the slaves are sold openly.

1550. Mr. Miles.] Are there barracoons in the same way as there are in Cuba?—Yes, you may term them barracoons.

1551. Sir E. Buxton.] There are several English companies in Brazil; have those English companies in Brazil as many slaves now as they had 10 years ago?—I fancy not, for this reason, they can barely keep up the sugar cultivation; for the smaller amount they make, they have about the same proportion.

1552. Do they find it difficult to buy slaves?—They are prohibited from buying them.

1553. Do they not buy them?—One English company buys them; but the others do not.

1554. How many slaves do the English companies employ?—The Morrobello Company employ 800 or 900, and a fine set of slaves they are; and the Gengo Soco about 640.

1555. The English companies do employ slaves?—At the present time they have them; there is one company that buys them.

1556. Mr. Villiers.] If their slaves die, how do they get labourers?—They have to employ free labour.

1557. Do we understand you to say that no English company buys a slave in Brazil?—At the present time there is not one.

1558. Since what time has that been the case?—Since the law was passed; the consul sent me a ticket with Victoria upon it and such a year.

1559. What law is that to which you refer?—A law that English subjects purchasing slaves shall lose British citizenship; I think it was in the 2d & 3d Victoria that that law was passed.

1560. You alluded to the period when some of our cruisers were withdrawn from the coast of Brazil; do you remember in what year that was?—I think in 1843 and 1844; the British cruisers were getting extremely offensive on the coast of Brazil.

1561. Whenever the cruisers were withdrawn, did not the slave trade increase?—The trade began to increase from 1843 to the present time, not from the withdrawal of your cruisers, but from the system in which the slave trade is carried on.

1562. The facility became greater after 1843?—No; I do not think the facilities are greater. If you have the intention to stop the bringing of slaves from the coast, blockading Africa is the most likely means; the cause of a greater number of slaves being brought now is the greater number of vessels which are employed in it.

1563. But I understood you to say that a great increase has taken place in the slave trade between 1843 and the present time?—I have no statistical means of knowing that but from the falling price.

1564. The price was very high before 1843?—The price in 1843 and 1844 was the highest it ever reached, and they managed it so badly that it was considered that one in three, or one in five, would pay; but at that time they had very superior vessels.

1565. It was the high price of slaves that led to the number of slaves being increased?—Yes.

1566. And they fell from 800 to 400 milreas?—Yes; that was the lowest they could be brought for.

1567. This fall in the price of slaves led to extended sugar cultivation?—Yes; because when the price was 400 milreas you would get six months' credit, but when it was 800 milreas you would not have 12 hours' credit.

1568. The risk to parties engaged in the trade arises from our cruisers, and not from any penalties imposed by the government?—No; I am aware of only one slaver being taken by a Brazilian vessel, and that was commanded by an Englishman, and the consequence was that he was dismissed from the service.

1569. The Brazilian government wink at the thing altogether?—They wink at it, because it is not in the power of the government to do what they wish.

1570. Do not you believe that every person in any office of importance in Brazil has an interest in this trade?—The only legitimate way of making a fortune

fortune in Brazil is in this trade; commerce is subject to such immense competition that profits are very small.

1571. What do you think would be the chance of escaping, if a man engaged in the slave trade were tried for piracy?—He would have a good dinner.

1572. You have very little doubt that a very lenient view would be taken of his case?—In the first place, it would not be brought to trial; and if it were, he would not be convicted.

1573. Public opinion is in favour of the slave trade?—Yes; there are many honourable men who have made their fortunes; but all those who wish to make their fortunes, or are in circumstances to require it, would enter into the slave trade, as far as their means admitted of it.

1574. It is not thought dishonourable to be connected with the trade?—No.

1575. You have told the Committee that there has been a greater crowding of the slaves in consequence of the vigilance of the British cruisers; did you refer to the period before the cruisers were on the station?—No: when you were blockading the coast of Brazil, as far as I am aware from hearsay, I do not think that they were crowded so much as they have been since you have been on the coast of Africa.

1576. Do you know anything of the trade before 1830?—Yes, I do.

1577. Are you prepared to state that there was more humanity at that time observed in the ships engaged in this business?—Yes, most assuredly; because after the war most young men entered into that trade, and the mortality was only three or four per cent.

1578. Must it not always be an object to stow the slaves as closely as you can?—Yes; but when you have more than you can stow comfortably, you must expect to lose a good many. When there is an abundance of slaves, the persons buying them would overhaul them, and even bring a surgeon to examine them; but in the present falling price men are so glad to buy them that they even buy some who died within a day or two. I sent a man to buy slaves for me, and several of them died within eight days.

1579. Since what time have steamers been engaged in the trade?—Off and on, for some years.

1580. Do you suppose that this trade will go on if slaves pay well?—It will go on till it will be limited by the consumption, or by the necessary requirement of slaves.

1581. I understand you to say that the slaves have fallen this year in price, but you think the demand for slaves has increased?—Undoubtedly: if 4,000 come on Monday, by Saturday night all those who are able to stand or walk about you can sell.

1582. Do you conceive that the increased cultivation of sugar has increased the demand for slaves?—I think so, because nine-tenths of the slaves that come go on to the sugar plantations. Coffee is no longer profitable, and the coffee growers do not buy any.

1583. In consequence of coffee not being profitable, sugar is more cultivated?—Yes.

1584. Do you know anything of the Kroo coast?—I have been on the coast: my information would not be worth having.

1585. Do you conceive that there are a great number of those people who would be willing to emigrate?—There might be, but I should not like to have anything to do with them.

1586. Sir E. Buxton.] They are a bold set of men?—Yes; they would either poison you or cut your throats in a short time.

1587. Mr. Villiers.] Those people of whom you speak do not inhabit the Kroo coast?—No; they come from the interior, they are a mountaineer set.

1588. What would tempt them to go the West Indies?—I do not think anything would tempt them to go.

1589. Do you think that any one could make a contract with them to go?—There are some men that can lead off in going amongst such men, but I should not like to go.

1590. Do you conceive that if they could get employment in the West Indies they would go voluntarily?—They would not: you might get lame, blind, and worthless that were living on the coast of Africa, but fine active men, fit for work, you would not get.

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1591. Mr. *Miles*.] But do you know that they have gone?—No; I should think not any good men fit for work.

1592. Sir *E. Buxton*.] Are we to understand you that at the present the cultivation of sugar in Brazil has increased, and is increasing very largely?—Yes, it is said so; and I know from my own personal knowledge that it is rapidly increasing in some parts of Brazil.

1593. You mentioned about the stowage of slaves; do you suppose that the fear of our cruisers catching them causes them to stow their slaves more closely?—Yes. If by any possible means you can bring 700 where reasonably you would stow only 400; if you escape by selling your slaves, so will you make a larger profit upon the 700 than upon the 400. The orders to the captain are to this effect: "Go and get a cargo of slaves: treat the men well; and when you bring the cargo I will tell you what I will give you when you come. Bring as many as you can."

1594. Mr. *Miles*.] Does the captain get so much for each slave?—He gets a present.

1595. Does the value of the slaves depend upon the part of the coast from which they come?—It does not now.

1596. Some were more valuable formerly?—Yes, from the east of the Cape of Good Hope, for agricultural purposes, the M ——— blacks are very valuable.

1597. Upon what does their chief value depend?—They are an active race of men, and become attached to you: you have them as nurses for your children, and household servants.

1598. Sir *E. Buxton*.] Do a large number come from the east coast?—Not many, but they do come.

1599. Do you suppose that throwing open the slave trade would induce persons to import a larger number of women?—No, I do not think that it would, unless there were some active legislative interference; for the fact is that in a black establishment one woman gives you as much trouble as five men. They have about five times the amount of vice that the men have.

1600. Do you suppose that if the slave trade were thrown open, the number of women would be filled up?—I am afraid not. Among my neighbours at the present time there is a great feeling of a wish to buy women, and they are acting upon that feeling as much as possible; so that if it were possible to stop any more importation of Africans, they should be able to breed slaves.

1601. Mr. *Villiers*.] They do not depend upon the breeding of slaves, but upon a constant supply from Africa?—Just so; but they want to provide for time coming.

1602. Sir *E. Buxton*.] Can you state upon any sugar estate what is the proportion of women to men?—It would be a matter of opinion; but I think 10 or 12 per cent.

1603. Mr. *Miles*.] How many are there upon your own estate?—I am sorry to say that the proportion is less than that, but I have taken measures to remedy it. I have taken creole children.

1604. Have you ever been at Cuba?—Yes; I have been very little there; I was in the 'Columbian service.

1605. How long ago was that?—During the Columbian war.

1606. Mr. *Moffatt*.] Are you of opinion that any system of cruising, either on the west coast of Africa or on the coast of Brazil, would put down the slave trade?—No; for 18 years you have been trying, and you have not done it yet.

1607. Mr. *Villiers*.] You stated that you purchased children from the mother of those children, for a mere trifle; do you mean to mention that as descriptive of the state of the people; that they care nothing for their children, and that they are ready to part with them?—Yes; I mention it as showing the low state of morality and moral feeling; but I have sometimes seen the people very affectionate to their children among the creoles. I should consider that those on the sea coast, who are brought much more in contact with the seamen, become more abandoned than those in the interior.

1608. Then this is not the character of the people generally?—No, I should say not, because it is repugnant to the feelings of nature that they should sell their children.

1609. Mr.

1609. Mr. Miles.] Would you say that there were more women than men in Africa generally?—I should say the women are more abundant than the men.

1610. Sir E. Burton.] The greater number of the slaves come from a great distance up the country?—From the head of the river ———; a great many come from the mountains of Congo, and from ———.

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The Hon. Captain Denman, R. N., called in; and Examined.

1611. Sir E. Burton.] THE subject upon which we propose to examine you is, the possibility of obtaining a supply of free labour from the coast of Africa: you are, I think, well acquainted with the coast of Africa?—Yes; I have been acquainted with it for several years.

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1612. How long were you upon the coast?—I have been upwards of three years upon the coast, at three different periods. The first time I went in a Brazilian slave ship, in 1834, and I have since at different times been stationed there in command of cruisers.

1613. Can you state from what part of the coast of Africa a supply of free negroes might be obtained?—Some from the British colony of Sierra Leone, and a limited number from the Kroo coast.

1614. What is the extent of the Kroo coast?—The Kroo coast is very limited in extent. I am not prepared to say what its extent in miles is; I should suppose it is not above a few miles in extent. The Kroomen are mixed with a people called Fishmen, who are very similar, and originally they were the same, but they are not the same now. The supply of Kroomen would be very limited.

1615. You cannot tell what number might be obtained from the Kroo coast?—A great number are employed on the coast, and a great number are also employed at Sierra Leone and at the Gambia; in fact it is an essential part of the proceedings of every English ship arriving there to obtain a number of Kroomen, and from what I see I should think they might get a supply of emigrants to the amount of 1,000 or 1,200 per annum; but that is a number that would be quite insignificant in the West Indies, except that I believe it is found that new races brought in, stimulate those already there to work better.

1616. May any number of Fishmen be obtained?—I think not; the Fishmen are entirely boatmen; they live upon the water, and are indisposed to agricultural labour.

1617. Do you suppose that the Kroomen are a free people?—I have no doubt they are.

1618. How are their services obtained?—By making a bargain with the headman of a certain number, 10 or perhaps 20 men.

1619. Do those headmen receive the wages?—The headman receives the wages; it is a sort of apprenticeship. I do not know whether he gives back a portion to the others or not, but he receives it all.

1620. You do not know whether he gives back any portion to the others?—I have no doubt that he does give them a portion.

1621. Are there any other parts of the coast of Africa from which free labourers might be obtained?—None others that I know of.

1622. How do you suppose that we could obtain any number of free labourers?—Only by purchasing them, and entering into the slave trade.

1623. Taking that portion of the coast of Africa which belongs to the Portuguese, do you suppose that we could obtain free negroes from there?—It is perfectly impossible, in my opinion: there is no negro who has any other notion of going to the West Indies except as a slave, exposed to all the horrors of the passage across, and followed up by all the miseries of field labour there; and I think it would be perfectly impossible to instil into their minds a confidence that this would be an exception to the general rule to which their relatives and fellow-countrymen have been always exposed whenever embarked.

1624. If West India ships were to go to Africa to purchase labourers, would they be liable to seizure?—Yes, if the equipment with regard to water is more than sufficient for the vessel's crew. Merchant vessels going to the coast know this liability to seizure, and therefore the vessels usually employed are very cautious to take such a quantity of water only as they absolutely require. To receive on board any number of Africans it is quite evident that they must have a quantity of water considerably beyond the necessities of the crew, and under the treaties a vessel so equipped would be subject to seizure; that is, under

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British treaties with European powers, and which are reciprocal in their operation.

1625. If we could obtain a number of negroes who were able to work, do you think that they would be willing to work in the West Indies?—They would be willing to work when introduced in small numbers into a population accustomed to labour; but if you brought such a number as to make a material addition to the population, I believe that they would squat and be what they are in their own country, for they are not accustomed to labour in that severe and continuous manner which is required in the West Indies.

1626. Are you acquainted with the country of the Kroomen?—Yes; I was stationed there.

1627. Did you ever know a case in which women were exported with them?—Never.

1628. They stay by themselves?—Yes, and the Kroomen always return home; they are never known to stay from their country beyond a certain time.

1629. Do you think that they would be induced to emigrate to the West Indies unless an engagement were made with them that they should return to their own country?—I think not; I think they would not go unless they were certain of there being the means for their return.

1630. Mr. Villiers.] To what part have they gone?—There is a vessel now stationed which is constantly making the passage from the Kroo coast to the West Indies, but I am afraid she has carried over very few; they are a suspicious people, and will only trust a man when they know him thoroughly. If the Growler had been commanded by an officer who was known to these people and was popular amongst them, I have not a doubt that they would have gone in considerable numbers; but it was commanded by a person who (though he may have been very competent in other respects) did not know the people, and the consequence was that he carried no guarantee to their minds that what he said was true, and I believe the experiment has wholly failed.

1631. Do you believe that the fate of their countrymen in the West Indies is known to the natives of other parts of Africa?—I cannot say that is the case, but it is a very common thing for liberated Africans to return to their own country; and another thing which would deter them is, that they see the treatment of the slaves in the barracoons, where they are chained and treated with great cruelty.

1632. Mr. Miles.] The Growler took some Kroomen the other day, did she not?—I believe they were liberated Africans, and not Kroomen.

1633. Was the Growler on the Kroo coast?—I do not know her course of proceeding, but I know that she was sent out for Kroomen; that was the object in view. But the Kroomen will come up to Sierra Leone in their own canoes; and whenever there is a demand for their labour, they are ready enough to go.

1634. Sir E. Buxton.] Are you acquainted with the religion of the Kroomen?—It is a paganism; I am not aware of its peculiar character.

1635. Do you know whether they would be likely to become Christians, if they were with Christian people?—Wherever they go, they are totally independent of the people amongst whom they are. They live together; so strongly is the line of demarcation drawn, that even Fishmen and Kroomen do not amalgamate in any way. If you get Kroomen and Fishmen together in your ships constant quarrels occur, and I do not believe that there is an instance known of a Krooman being converted to Christianity.

1636. Do you think that Kroomen, to any great extent, would be likely to be permanently settled in the West Indies?—I believe their numbers are too insignificant to make that a question of any great importance; but I do not believe that they would permanently settle in the West Indies.

1637. And the Fishmen would not be induced to emigrate to the West Indies?—I think not. I am by no means confident upon that point. They perhaps might be willing to go, but I doubt their adaptation and inclination to field labour. Their habits, as regards readiness to emigrate, are precisely similar to those of the Kroomen.

1638. Is there slavery among the Fishmen?—There is the same custom among them as among the Kroomen; they are subject to headmen, who are over small numbers.

1639. Are you aware whether any slaves have ever been shipped from the Kroo coast?—

coast?—Never. There is one fact, which I have ascertained from the best authority, upon the part of the coast which was near my station, and which I have known since 1835, where the slave trade was completely at an end, between the Kroo coast and Cape Palmas, a part of what is called the Fish coast, they are now, for the first time for 20 years, making preparations on a large scale for carrying on the slave trade. That is a part where, to my own knowledge, the slave trade has not existed for 15 or 16 years.

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1640. Can you give any reason for this breaking out of the slave trade in that place?—I attribute it to the fact of proper principles not having been continued to be acted upon by the squadron on the coast, together with the effect of the law of 1846.

1641. What plan would you have adopted on the coast?—The only plan is to block up the points of exportation unremittingly: I mean a blockade in the limited sense of carrying into effect one's authority and of preventing the approach of slave vessels to the points from which slaves are exported. While you maintain such a blockade there may be 50 vessels in the offing waiting for slaves, but so long as you persevere in blocking up the points of export no harm is done; if on the contrary you go off in chase, though you may catch two or three, others will slip by you and carry off slaves. As long as the principle is not adopted of blocking up the points of embarkation, in my opinion we are doing nothing effectual to the suppression of the slave trade.

1642. Do not you think that if cruisers were managed according to your plan in all respects, you could very much diminish the slave trade?—We could put an end to it entirely, and it must be followed up by the destruction of the barracoons by treaty with the native chiefs. This blockade stops the slave trade, and the other eradicates it. If you have a treaty with the native chiefs saying that the slave trade shall not be resumed, and that if it is resumed Great Britain shall be entitled to put it down, you have the means of entirely destroying it.

1643. Do you think that may be done?—I have no question of it. I had 1,000 miles of coast under my charge, and in two places I entirely stopped the slave trade. In one place they exported previously 12,000 slaves a year; they exported only 500 during 10 months while I blockaded it. We captured 23 slave vessels, and the parties were entirely thrown upon their backs; they did not know what to do; and then I was enabled to go in, under treaty with the native chiefs, and destroy the barracoons, and for two years not a single slave was exported from that port. At the present moment there has been some relaxation of the principle of blocking up the points of export, and the slave trade has to some extent sprung up again; but it is perfectly insignificant as compared with what it was formerly. And at another point upon the coast, Young Cestos, I kept a vessel at anchor for a long time. If you have a vessel for nine months blocking up a place, and then from a want of proper arrangements she is obliged to go away to get provisions or water, in those three months during which she is absent, the slave trade will be carried on with an activity which will much more than make up for the losses caused by your vigilance for nine months, and all your exertions are thereby thrown away at that place. I kept the vessel at anchor, and at last the slave trader gave up all his slaves to the captain of the cruiser and abandoned the slave factory.

1644. You think that by a change of system we not only need not despair of very much diminishing the slave trade on the coast of Africa, but that we might effectually put it down?—I am satisfied that we might, by acting upon these principles; they are the same principles which were stated by me in a memorandum to Lord Aberdeen in the year 1844, and which were adopted by Her Majesty's Government.

1645. Have you a copy of that memorandum?—This is it.

[*The Witness delivered in the same, which is as follows:*]

MEMORANDUM on the Suppression of the SLAVE TRADE.

To effect the suppression of the slave trade, it is indispensable that a consistent and uniform course of proceeding should be followed, and it is only by a well-considered system, complete in its arrangements, and carried into execution with judgment and perseverance, that this great undertaking can be accomplished. Uniform system necessary to success.

Every effort should be directed to prevent the embarkation of slaves; after slaves are embarked the motives for the prosecution of the traffic continue unchecked, for the African slave merchant is indifferent as to the fate of the negroes for whom he has got his

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price, and when a vessel has once got clear of the land, the chances must ever be greatly in favour of the success of the voyage; but even if five such vessels out of six were captured, the enormous profits of the successful vessel would more than cover the losses incurred by slave dealers by the capture of the other five. All desultory efforts therefore against such a traffic must be of necessity ineffectual, especially as the guilty parties, in the great majority of instances, are subject to no punishment beyond the forfeiture of the property embarked.

Even, however, supposing for a moment that these reasons did not show the inutility of the employment of a force on the west shore of the Atlantic for the suppression of the slave trade, the impossibility of examining more than a very small proportion of the vast number of vessels met with in those quarters, the great inconvenience to foreign trade which nevertheless would be caused by the number of vessels searched, to say nothing of the invidious character of such a system of surveillance on the coasts of civilized states, would alone be sufficient ground for preferring Africa as the scene of operations.

But the absolute inefficacy of the desultory cruising of a few ships on coasts like those of Brazil or Cuba, several thousand miles in extent, on every point of which the slave dealer is regarded as a benefactor, and where the authorities vie with the inhabitants in aiding and abetting his crimes, is sufficiently obvious.

On the African coast the case is very different; the haunts of the slave trade are well known; and the limits of the range of coast available for the removal of slaves from each slave depôt for the purpose of being embarked in security, are generally clearly defined by the neighbourhood of hostile tribes, European settlements, or natural obstacles.

Squadrons off Cuba and Brazil totally ineffective for the suppression of the slave trade.

All the force employed in suppressing the slave trade should be stationed on the coast of Africa.

The force used in suppressing the slave trade stated in Parliamentary Returns to amount to 58 vessels.

Force required to suppress the slave trade on the Western coast of Africa.

For these reasons the squadrons on the coast of Brazil and Cuba can never be of essential service in suppressing the slave trade, even though they were increased tenfold.

Every vessel employed in the suppression of the slave trade should be stationed on the coast of Africa, and the very idea of assailing the traffic on the western shores of the Atlantic ought to be at once abandoned.

For this object a single cruiser on the coast of Africa would be of more service than the whole of the West India and Brazilian squadrons, and yet near one half of the force nominally employed in putting down the slave trade is at present stationed in these quarters.

The following observations apply to the slave trade carried on from the western coast of Africa; and the measures recommended, if fully carried into operation, would, it is confidently believed, in a very short time, reduce the traffic to an amount comparatively insignificant, and effect its complete suppression at no remote period.

The force employed on this service should consist of not less than six small steam vessels, and 24 sail of the fastest sailing cruisers, rendered more efficient for the climate by increased sails, and furnished with boats adapted for the service.

With regard to expense, it may be remarked, that no expenditure can be so extravagant as that which, for the want of a trifling increase, promises to last for ever without fulfilling its object, when, by an additional effort, the object may be obtained, and the expense, after a comparatively short interval, rendered no longer necessary. But there is strong reason to believe that the force employed in this service, now scattered over the world, would be more than sufficient, if concentrated in the only quarter where its services can be effectual; and unless all feeble and desultory efforts in remote quarters, futile attempts which can only aggravate the horrors of the traffic without materially diminishing its amount, are abandoned, and it is resolved to grapple with the slave trade on the coasts of Africa, the attempt at suppression had better be at once and for ever given up.

The following are the objects to which the efforts of the squadron on the coast of Africa should be directed:

First. To keep the slave depôts unremittingly secured from the access or escape of slave vessels.

Secondly. The negotiation of treaties with the native chiefs for the abolition of the slave trade.

Thirdly. The breaking of slave factories, whether by virtue of treaty or under other circumstances rendering their destruction justifiable.

These may be termed the direct means by which the slave trade may be put down; other means, which may be described as indirect, will be hereafter referred to.

Division of the coast.

Before, however, entering more into detail with respect to these proceedings, it may be useful to observe that the west coast of Africa is so greatly extended, the inhabitants of such different characters and institutions, and even the climate in different parts so various, that it is highly important that on every district of the coast, 500 or 600 miles in extent, there should be a divisional senior officer, readily to be referred to on all occasions, and who should be authorized to act as opportunity offered and circumstances might warrant in opening negotiations, in carrying into effect treaties already concluded, and in suppressing the slave trade by such other means as might present themselves in accordance with the general principles laid down by Her Majesty's Government.

It should be the constant duty of these officers to regulate the movements, and arrange for the supplies of the section of the squadron committed to their charge respectively, by the senior officer in command, to whom they would be immediately responsible for the due execution of the service intrusted to them.

The senior officer in command on the west coast of Africa should be in a steam vessel, or permitted to use those under his orders for the purpose of enabling him to move rapidly from point to point, and thus to exercise a practical control and superintendence over the execution of the service, in all quarters within the limits of his command.

Depôts

Depôts of provisions and coals should be established at Cape Coast or Accra, and at Fernando Po, or at one of the islands in the Bight of Biafra; as the success of the measures proposed altogether depends on the power of sustaining the system of prevention unremittingly, the convenience of obtaining supplies is obviously of great importance.

The parts of the coast from whence the slave trade is prosecuted are well known, and the force proposed would be sufficient to occupy at the same time all those from whence the traffic is carried on to any considerable extent.

It is not sufficient to stop up the mouth of a river, or to watch a particular port; the whole coast must be occupied whenever slaves can be moved from the depôt to meet the slave ship and evade the cruisers; the limits of such districts, as has been already stated, may generally be clearly ascertained.

The system to be pursued is that of blockade, close, vigilant, and unremitting; but this, of course, can only be applied to vessels which Her Majesty's ships possess special power to intercept by virtue of treaty or otherwise.

On the other hand, it may be assumed in practice, that all vessels actually carrying slaves for traffic, or equipped for that purpose, may be intercepted by Her Majesty's ships, as whatever the ostensible character of such vessels, no instance has been known for several years of one not proving really to belong to Spain, Portugal, or Brazil, the only nations to whose territories cargoes of slaves can be directed, and all parties to treaties which every one of Her Majesty's ships on the coast of Africa is authorized to carry into effect.

With the pressure of this system the activity and energies of the slave trader increase, and so perfect are the arrangements in parts where it has been already partially adopted, that a single hour from the arrival of the slave vessel suffices to embark a cargo of slaves, and to commence the return voyage.

But where the system has hitherto been pursued there has been no organized plan of furnishing Her Majesty's ships with supplies, and after three months effectual service the cruiser was always compelled to abandon her station for supplies of wood, water and provisions, generally involving an absence of at least three weeks. During even a single day of that period the slave dealers might possibly ship as many slaves as would cover the losses of a whole year. They, moreover, could always pretty accurately calculate the periods at which supplies would be required.

It requires close observation, assisted by local experience, to perform these duties effectively and to baffle the various shifts which the slave dealers resort to. An intimate knowledge of the winds and currents, which differ greatly in different parts, as well as the creeks, rivers, &c., is indispensable, and it is therefore very desirable that cruisers should not be removed to distant parts without urgent necessity, especially as during passages their services are entirely thrown away.

The capture of slave vessels is entirely secondary to the great object of preventing the embarkation of slaves; cruisers should therefore never leave open a slave port, even for an hour, for the purpose of chasing vessels. Not only in such cases have many cargoes been embarked by other slave vessels arriving during the absence of the cruiser, but not unfrequently the very vessel chased has doubled her pursuer in the night, and, returning to the depôt, carried off her slaves in security.

The steamers should be employed in keeping the squadron supplied with provisions, or in relieving the cruisers for the purpose; so that the several stations may be unremittingly maintained.

It may be said that the slave trade will only be driven elsewhere; but the fact is that its course cannot be changed without great expense and discouragement; and long before anything like a compensating trade could be established elsewhere the first would be altogether put down, and the cruisers disposable to crush the new attempt in the bud.

There will be cases in which vessels destined ultimately to carry slaves will arrive at the slave depôt without equipment, subjecting them to capture; and it may in some instances, especially in rivers, not be possible to seize them between the period of their receiving their equipments on board and embarking their cargoes of slaves. In any event, however, the capture of such vessels may be reduced to a certainty, on their attempt to escape with slaves. In the Bonny River, once the most successful haunt of slave trade, experience has shown that the zealous efforts of active and vigilant officers must annihilate the traffic, even under such circumstances.

This system, wherever vigorously carried out, would be undoubtedly sufficient to put an end to the slave trade, though, perhaps, not to eradicate it; but this result might be greatly accelerated, and completely effected by obtaining the co-operation of the native chiefs.

Many opportunities will probably occur during the operations recommended, of convincing the native chiefs of the desire of Great Britain for their welfare and improvement; and no occasion should be lost of conciliating them, and obtaining their confidence.

Should the character of the place be such as to make it desirable to enter into negotiations, it should be signified to the chiefs at the commencement of the operations that they can never more carry on the slave trade; that on concluding a treaty containing certain conditions for the abolition of that traffic, the Queen of England will grant them a valuable present. This notification may be left to work upon them while the lesson of the impossibility of prosecuting that traffic is in operation.

It will be generally found that a very few months will render the native chiefs eager to negotiate. In some cases the motives may be doubtful; the utility however of treaties must be unquestionable, provided they contain a clause to the effect that Her Majesty's forces

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Watching slave depôts.

Already adopted by me on the coast between Cape Verde and Cape Palmas.

On my station, I provided against this evil by timely reliefs and supplies; the result was signal success at Gallinas and New Cestos.

Negotiations with the natives.

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shall be empowered to put down slave trade by force, if it be resumed contrary to their stipulations.

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In all cases the presents should be delivered at the time the treaty is signed. Immediately afterwards it will be necessary to claim the liberation of the slaves held for exportation, and the destruction of all the buildings and implements exclusively used or adapted for use as implements of slave trade, demands that must, if necessary, be enforced. With respect to the other stipulations, a reasonable time must be given for their fulfilment.

Destruction of
slave factories.

After the conclusion of a treaty one cruiser must be left to watch over the conduct of the chiefs, and to report all the circumstances that may occur to the divisional senior officer.

Great discretion will be required in carrying the treaties into effect; and it will be proper to abstain from excessive rigour in enforcing any stipulations that may have been disregarded short of the establishment of, or continuance in slave trade, in regard to which the powers of the treaty should be carried out to their full extent, taking the utmost care to inflict not the slightest injury to the legitimate trade, if any should exist.

It seems also that where slave dealers have been guilty of any insult or injury to the British flag, Her Majesty's forces will be justified in rooting them out through the medium of the sovereign authorities of the country in which they are located, and who must of course be responsible for such outrages committed in their territories.

The common practice of making slaves of the people of Sierra Leone, affords frequent opportunities of this description; in such cases it is the bounden duty of all British authorities to rescue them, and to enforce the abolition of the slave trade, of which they have been victims, as the only effectual means of preventing the recurrence of such an outrage, and of obtaining adequate satisfaction for the monstrous wrong committed against Great Britain.

Indirect measures.

These measures, however effectual at the time in putting down slave trade, would be nevertheless of little avail were it not for those influences which operate by civilizing the people of Africa to which we must trust for the ultimate extirpation of the traffic, and which already afford essential aid to the more direct efforts. The first advance in civilization commences with the decrease of the slave trade; as invariably springing up to supply its place, begins the cultivation of the soil, and the slow but certain growth of industrious habits. Hand in hand with legitimate commerce, which commences only with the export of produce, come the labours of the missionary; and, lastly, we may look to the Africans of Sierra Leone, emancipated by us from bondage, as likely to afford most important assistance.

These people, liberated by Her Majesty's ships from slave vessels, amount to near 40,000, and they are generally imbued with a deep sense of the inestimable benefits they have received from Great Britain. One very remarkable feature is the strong desire and hope they universally entertain of returning to their native land; and by them might be disseminated intelligence and information; and in the communication with the interior which may be opened by their means, the effects of the confidence they would inspire in the purity and beneficence of the views of Great Britain, it would be probably difficult to over-estimate.

It is impossible to conceive anything more calculated to make a deep and enduring impression in softening and elevating the minds and habits of a barbarous people than the testimony which every liberated African must convey to his fellow-countrymen.

For the several objects of extending legitimate commerce, of opening opportunities to the missionary, and of affording protection and assistance to the liberated Africans returning to their own countries, it would be of the greatest service to establish a few posts at different parts of the coast, which might be supported at a trifling expense without a single white person being required, and placed under the superintendence and control of the senior officer or the governor of the nearest colony.

The points most favourable for such establishments between the Gambia and the Congo appeared to be Bulama, an island of very great commercial importance, to which settlers from the Gambia and Sierra Leone would resort in great numbers, Cape Mount, Dix's Cove, Whydah, or Badagry, and one of the Amboises if possible, Fernando Po, or one of the larger islands in the Bight of Biafra should be obtained, which would however require a larger establishment.

But the measures which may indirectly assist the suppression of the slave trade involve so many considerations that it would be out of place to enter into the subject more at large. Every step warranted by the law of nations that tends to contrast the safe and certain advantages of lawful commerce with the precarious existence and destructive consequences of slave trade cannot fail to produce beneficial consequences. On the other hand, even while adopting strong measures for the suppression of the latter, the operations must be conducted with humanity, and every means taken of convincing the natives of the entire justice of the proceedings, and that the motives by which Great Britain is actuated in her efforts to suppress the slave trade are the improvement, welfare, and happiness of the people of Africa.*

1646. The

* The following letter was afterwards received from Captain Denman in relation to the above memorandum:

My Lord,

United Service Club, 22 February.

The memorandum which fell into your Lordship's hands, when I was examined before the Sugar Committee, was not brought down by me with the intention of being produced in the course of my evidence.

I had been asked for it in a totally different quarter, where I intended to call and leave it after I left the Committee.

As,

1646. The last witness stated that he had known the case of a mother who wished to sell her children; from your knowledge of the people do you imagine that that is their character?—I was four months on board a slaver full of slaves. In the horrible state of misery in which they were, all natural feeling seemed to be gone. I have seen the mother apparently glad when her child was released from suffering, and show no emotion when its body was thrown overboard; but I am satisfied that the affection of Africans generally, for their relations, is quite as strong as it is with ourselves; I mean between mothers and children, and between brothers and sisters by the same mother. I believe that their affections are as warm as they are with ourselves; and it is a curious fact that, of four liberated Africans who are now in this country as witnesses in a trial which has just occurred, three, on being landed at Sierra Leone, found among the liberated Africans relations whom they never expected to see again, who had been carried away many years before in slave ships; and the affection that they showed was quite equal to that which white people would have felt under similar circumstances.

1647. With regard to Sierra Leone, do you imagine that a large number of the people there might be induced to go to the West Indies?—I think not; they are too well off. From the Gallinas I brought up 900 slaves, and out of those there are two in this country. These Africans have been taught English; they have got little habitations at Sierra Leone; they have been taught a trade; they earn, one states, 1s. a day as masons, the other 26s. a month, and that without severe labour. You cannot suppose that they would be willing to go over to the West Indies, with the competence and happiness that they already enjoy.

1648. Are you aware of the number that there are in Sierra Leone?—From 30,000 to 40,000 liberated Africans; that number may comprehend the descendants of liberated Africans, but I think you will find under that name at least 30,000.

1649. Could you recommend any remedy, by providing labour, or in any other way, for the present very depressed state of our West India colonies?—The remedy I would recommend would be the abolition of the slave trade.

1650. Do you consider that practicable?—I think it perfectly practicable; and when we are told that steamers are being built such as we cannot overtake, we may build steamers also, and fit them up equally well; and what would a slave steamer do if she came to a point of embarkation and found a man of war there? The number of points of embarkation are limited.

1651. But if you blockaded one river or one point of embarkation, would not they carry their slaves to another point of embarkation which you had not blockaded?—The distance which slaves can be carried is always limited in extent, either by hostile tribes or by other causes. I believe you may always by vigilance and activity prevent, at every point where slave depôts exist, the embarkation of slaves from them; and it is a long operation to change a slave depôt: it is no longer the case of a man running leisurely down the coast, and picking up two or three slaves here, and two or three there, but they must now be collected together and ready to go out the moment a vessel arrives, or she is seized.

1652. If we were to blockade for a year or two one part of the coast, as the slaves come from great distances up the country, would they not carry them to another part of the coast?—Yes; but we should have ample time to see what was going on, and meet them at that new point.

1653. You do not think that, any measures they might take would prevent your carrying it out?—No; and I contemplate a blockade followed up with the destruction of the barracoons, under the slave treaties.

1654. Mr.

As, however, it has been printed by the Committee, it is necessary that I should point out to your Lordship a material point in which it differs from that which was laid before Lord Aberdeen, and which was the foundation of the system which has been called that of blockade.

In the memorandum to Lord Aberdeen, the force I recommended as adequate was 24 sail, inclusive of six steamers, which on more mature consideration I was of opinion would be sufficient to carry into effect the plan I proposed. Your Lordship will observe, the copy in the hands of the Committee states, "six steamers and 24 sailing vessels." In other respects the memorandum, though not an exact copy, to the best of my belief, is substantially the same as that adopted by Her Majesty's late Government.

The Honourable Lord George Bentinck.

O.32.

I have, &c.
(signed) Jos. Denman.

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1654. Mr. *Villiers*.] Would you place perfect reliance on the native chiefs not being interested in the slave trade, and observing their treaties?—I should have no confidence in the native chiefs, but I should trust to my own vigilance in detecting the slave trade, and putting it down by force the moment the treaties gave me the power to do so.

1655. Do you find a readiness on the part of the chiefs to enter into those treaties?—Yes, after the slave trade has been stopped by a long course of prevention.

1656. Do they not derive a profit from the slave trade?—Yes; it is a profit to the chiefs, but attended with very great misery to the inhabitants.

1657. What is the inducement to the chiefs to make such a treaty?—If the blockade is carried on (I mean a blockade in a limited sense), not all commerce being prevented, but only the slave trade stopped, then the chief despairs, and he consents, perhaps under the idea that you will go away and think no more about it; I think, under these circumstances, you will always find the chiefs ready to enter into those treaties.

1658. The stopping of the slave trade is an injury to them, and you propose that they should enter into treaties to stop that slave trade, though the stopping of it is an injury to them?—I do not think you will induce the chief to enter into treaty till he despairs of carrying it on, but then there is another means that Government should make use of: wherever Great Britain has anything to complain of, she should demand as a compensation, or as the remedy for that, the abolition of the slave trade, and insist upon a treaty to this effect; I believe that will be perfectly just, because in almost every case which I have known, the cause of disputes which have arisen has been the slave trade. Though a temporary loss, I believe the suppression of the slave trade would be the greatest possible benefit eventually to all classes in Africa.

1659. Have those people any idea of any other commerce than that of selling their own subjects?—They do not sell their own subjects; they make war with their next neighbours, and then the prisoners of war they sell; and they arrange that by saying to one another, "I will make war upon you, and then you shall sell my people, and I will sell yours."

1660. Is there anything like civilization on any part of the coast?—Yes.

1661. Do they carry on any trade?—Yes; the Gallinas is the only place where the slave trade existed, absolutely without any alloy of legitimate trade; in every other part where slave trade is carried on, more or less legal trade exists also; and it is an interesting fact, that whenever they co-exist, just in the same proportion as the slave trade is checked, legitimate trade springs up in its place.

1662. You have had some experience enabling you to speak to that?—Yes; the principal slave trading on the coast was at the River Bonny, and now there is none, and a great trade in palm oil has sprung up in that place.

1663. You have a treaty with the chief of Gallinas?—Yes; but it was a most inveterate place for the carrying on of the slave trade.

1664. Was the treaty observed?—The treaty was observed as far as regarded this point, that they should give up their negroes to me, and abolish the factories; but they did not agree to abolish the slave trade.

1665. Mr. *Miles*.] Do you think the present force on the coast of Africa is sufficient for the purpose you have mentioned?—Ample.

1666. You would not require any additional vessels?—No.

1667. How many steamers are there?—I think there are eight.

1668. And you do not want any additional ones?—No. I think you might have the same force with a much smaller expense. The steamers are too large, and their speed is not enough.

1669. Part of your plan would be that the steamers should be stationary at the mouths of rivers for eight or nine months?—For ever, while slave trade continued; that is, that there should always be a vessel at every point of embarkation; vessels so stationed would of course be relieved from time to time by others.

1670. Would not that system be very destructive to the health of Europeans?—I think not.

1671. What experience have you had of that?—I was stationed for 10 months off the Gallinas, and I did not lose a single man till I went into the other

other rivers; it is up the rivers and just off the coast that it is unhealthy; at the distance of a mile or so from the coast, the air becomes purified.

1672. Is that plan adopted now off the coast of Africa?—Yes; it is continued, as recommended by Lord Aberdeen; but I know from information received from the coast, that under the idea that it is more healthy, they have moved the vessels to a distance from the coast.

1673. In what way do you account for the present increase of the slave trade?—I think the present increase of the slave trade is to be attributed partly to this cause and partly to the equalization of the sugar duties by the Act of 1846, which created an immense stimulus to the slave trade, and unless it is repealed the effect must be to ruin our colonies in the West Indies.

1674. You stated that the present squadron is perfectly sufficient; would it not be possible, if the slave trader came to a point where your vessel was lying, to march the slaves to some point 20 miles along the coast, and if a steamer came into the offing to ship them off at night?—It would be very difficult to act against a steamer, except with a steamer; but if a vessel takes 1,700 slaves, they must have a large establishment on shore, and there we should have our steamer stationed.

1675. But a steamer coming down upon you in the morning might see exactly what the position of your steamer was, and might, upon some signal or information received from the land, move to another part of the coast, 10 miles off; so that in the course of the night slaves might be embarked and your steamer have no information of it?—We know the quarters from whence slaves would be embarked, and 10 miles is a very little distance; you can steam it in an hour, and you can command a much greater distance by a telescope.

1676. Have you any communication with the shore when you are stationed at those points?—It varies at different points; at some points you can get information, and at others you cannot.

1677. You state that the Kroomen, or Fishmen, would not be likely to go to the West Indies, simply from the fact of their not knowing anything connected with the West Indies, and imagining that they would be continued in slavery?—I was speaking of the natives of other parts of Africa; I made an exception of the Kroomen and the Fish Coast; I said that I doubted whether you could get a number of Fishmen; but I think it would not be from any want of confidence that they would refuse to go, because they do go all round the coast, thousands of miles from their own home, upon the confidence that they will be brought back.

1678. You think that the prejudices of the people would be removed by some of them being taken to the West Indies, and returning with a large sum of money; do you think that would have any effect upon their brethren?—I believe that no natives of Africa, except Kroomen or Fishmen, could go except by the assent of the native chief, who has a power over all his subjects as domestic slaves; the man's wives and children are his slaves, and it could only be done by purchasing them from the native chiefs; and then slaves would be brought from the heart of Africa to supply this demand, just in the same way as they are now brought to supply the slave trade.

1679. You say that at Sierra Leone they would be as well off as in the West Indies?—I should think they would be a great deal better off.

1680. How then do you account for the Governor of Sierra Leone reporting that there were some 2,000 or 3,000 lying about in idleness, and praying that no more liberated Africans might be sent to Sierra Leone?—I have no doubt, that measuring by our own standard of comfort, if we went to many of those liberated African villages we should see a good deal to disapprove of; but comparing the condition of the liberated Africans at Sierra Leone with that of negroes in their native land, I believe that we shall find it to be superior, both as regards comfort and the means of subsistence, and having no master over them, while as regards the security of life and liberty there can of course be no comparison.

1681. You know that several liberated Africans have been to the West Indies, and have returned with large sums of money; do not you think that that would be a great inducement for the liberated Africans to change their place of residence from Sierra Leone to the West Indies, if they found they could get higher wages and be more independent than they are at Sierra Leone?—I do not think that they can be more independent than they are at Sierra Leone;

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I think that the liberated Africans are exceedingly attached to Sierra Leone, and they are very grateful to this country for what it has done for them, and you would have difficulty in inducing any large number of them to go to the West Indies.

1682. You do not think the scheme would answer of sending Africans from Sierra Leone; they would not stay in the West Indies?—Some would stay, I think; it would be worth while to have a system of emigration, as far as they were disposed to go.

1683. Can you give any hope to the West Indians of any great emigration from the heart of Africa?—I think it is hopeless, unless we carry on the slave trade; if we abolished the slave trade the slave population of Cuba and Brazil will be soon governed by the number of women comprised in their present negro population, while our colonies will be prepared to go on with a natural increase of population, and be every year better off than they were before.

1684. You think that is the only hope for the West Indians?—The only hope, in my opinion, is the restoration of the differential duties until the abolition of the slave trade is effected; then, I believe, the consequence of the abolition of the slave trade will be that those West India islands will be in a greater state of prosperity, comparatively with other sugar-growing places, than they ever were.

1685. Do you think any amount of emigrants would come from the east coast of Africa?—No.

1686. It would be too far to bring them?—The expense would be enormous.

1687. Mr. *Moffatt*.] You have stated your opinion that the slave trade may be easily annihilated?—I will not say easily annihilated, but it may be easily put down for the present, and certainly annihilated in the long run.

1688. For 18 years England has been doing its best to annihilate it, and what has been the result?—I can hardly agree in the proposition that England has been doing its best, because up to the year 1835 the slave treaties were such as to render it utterly impossible to do anything; it was just like almost inclosing wild animals in a net, but leaving an aperture large enough for them to escape through.

1689. But in the year 1842 we had treaties of a more effectual character?—Yes.

1690. What has been the result; an increase or decrease in the slave trade, since the year 1842?—Subsequently to 1835 the slave trade has greatly diminished, and that was the state of things till the year 1846.

1691. Can you state what was the increase in the year 1846?—I cannot; but the measures in the year 1846 caused an increase.

1692. Then the treaties must be very inefficient, if a mere alteration in our fiscal arrangements causes an increase in the slave trade?—I do not think it follows; it may arise from other causes; for instance, the alteration in the system of cruising, in moving the vessels to a distance from the coast, has had some effect.

1693. Sir *E. Buxton*.] Those measures were effectual till the increased export of sugar from Brazil to this country made them ineffectual?—I do not say ineffectual; for a number of slave vessels have been captured.

1694. Mr. *Moffatt*.] Are you aware whether there has been an increase in the slave trade at Cuba?—I am not.

1695. The increase has been in the slave trade of Brazil?—I believe so.

1696. You believe there has been an increase, but you have no positive data?—No: the effect of destroying the slave factories in 1840 at the Gallinas was to produce general despair among the slave dealers, and there was a diminution of the slave trade for a considerable time, and I believe to a very great amount; but in the year 1844 Lord Aberdeen's letter appeared to condemn my proceeding as illegal, although his Lordship declared in the House of Lords that his observations were not intended to apply to my case at all. The consequence of that letter was, that in the Gallinas, at Cabenda, and elsewhere, the slave factories were set on foot again and the whole thing began with renewed activity, and the slave dealers spread a report that there was a new Government coming in that was going to allow the slave trade in England. This no doubt had its effect in stimulating the efforts of the slave traders.

1697. Then the increase may be attributed to that, as much as to any alteration in the sugar duties?—Yes; those measures of destroying the slave factories

tories are, in my opinion, the great thing necessary for the abolition of the slave trade.

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1698. *Chairman.*] You stated that you thought by concluding treaties with the African chiefs the slave trade might be abolished; do you think that there would be any great reliance to be placed upon treaties contracted with such parties?—I think none in the world, but I would use those treaties for their ultimate good and for the good of Africa; I would have treaties to this effect, that, if the slave trade should be resumed within their territories, Great Britain should have the right of going there and putting it down by force.

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1699. Do not you think that the shorter way would be to go to Brazil and make a treaty there?—It seems to me that the objection to that is that it would be raising questions between us and civilized States, which would lead, or might lead, to war, and great difficulties might arise.

1700. But not as regards Brazil; Brazil is independent?—It is an independent power; but I believe if you had the most perfect treaty with Brazil possible, and even if the government of Brazil were most cordially disposed to put an end to the slave trade, so long as the people could get slaves from Africa, the Government would be wholly powerless even to check it, for the feeling of the people is entirely in favour of it; they look upon every one who resists the slave trade as their enemy, and upon every one who carries it on as their friend.

1701. You heard the last gentleman give his evidence; do you concur with him in thinking that no blockade of the coast of Brazil would stop the slave trade?—I think that there are various circumstances that point to the coast of Africa as the proper place for such proceedings; the principal reason is this: the commerce of Brazil is exceedingly great. For one slave ship, you would have to search 100 other vessels, Americans, French, and vessels of all nations; I think the inconvenience to commerce would be so great that we should constantly have complaints from other nations; besides, from the great number of vessels to be searched, suppression would be impracticable.

1702. I believe we have a treaty with Brazil, by which they are under an obligation to put down the slave trade?—We had; but that has been superseded by our own act; we have taken it into our own hands, as Brazil has so broken her engagements.

1703. You do not think that we could force Brazil, by threatening a blockade of Rio Janeiro, to put down the slave trade altogether?—I think, whatever the government of Brazil promised to do, would not be performed afterwards, because they could not enforce their compact; for it is not only at the capital that slaves could be introduced, but at every spot along the coast; they may be landed everywhere, for a slave ship is received as a friendly visitor.

1704. The coast of Brazil is about 2,500 miles in extent?—Yes, I think it is.

1705. What number of ships would it require to blockade the coast of Brazil?—No number would suffice for this object of putting down the slave trade. There is another reason for blockading the coast of Africa, rather than the coast of Brazil, which is, that every point on the coast of Brazil is open to vessels to land their slaves; but on the coast of Africa we know their depôts, and we have to watch only those depôts, the places where they have all their arrangements made for bringing the slaves down and shipping them off.

1706. When were you last upon the coast of Africa?—I left it in the year 1841.

1707. Are you aware that for the last two years, at the very utmost, the British blockade service has only caught about one slave vessel in 25 that have left the coast of Africa?—I am not aware of that fact, and utterly disbelieve the assertion; but I believe a proper system would prevent any such results; I mean blocking up the places of export.

1708. It appears from this return, that for the last two years, indeed for the last three years, the British cruisers have never on an average been able to liberate so many as 3,000 slaves; whilst it is quite clear that 60,000 a year, at the lowest estimate, have arrived in Brazil, and there is good ground for supposing that 100,000 left the coast of Africa in 1847; consequently, if 100,000 left the coast of Africa last year, the British cruisers have caught and liberated but 1 in 30, or 1 in 32?—I cannot possibly believe that those returns are correct. My conviction distinctly is that the object of those engaged in

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the slave trade at the present moment is to follow up the cry in this country, that the slave trade is greatly on the increase, notwithstanding the efforts of our cruisers, and we know that they can influence those returns by parties abroad depending upon them for information. My opinion is, that they exaggerate most grossly the number of slaves imported into Brazil. I know that Lord Clarendon stated that there were 16,000 in the year 1842 imported into Brazil.

1709. Do you place any faith in Lord Howden's report?—Lord Howden must depend upon the same parties ultimately for his information. I believe they are exaggerating their success for the purposes I have mentioned.

1710. Does not the present low price of slaves, and the great stimulus given to the employment of slaves, satisfy you that the supply must be more than equal to the demand?—The price has decreased during the last year. I have not the least doubt that the price has fallen, but I believe the supply still to fall very far short indeed of the demand.

1711. Do you know the number of cruisers engaged upon the coast of Africa?—Twenty-six sail.

1712. Supposing the Returns that are before the Committee to be correct, do you imagine that any alteration in the arrangements, such as you suggest, would make a difference in the way of facilitating captures, to the extent of 25 or 30 fold?—Supposing the present amount to be 60,000, I have not the least doubt that a different arrangement might cut it down to 20,000 or 30,000, and reduce it in a short time to nothing. And another thing I would beg leave to say is, that if the squadron were removed I have not the slightest doubt that the importation, instead of being 60,000, or whatever it may be, would be much more than doubled in a very few years.

1713. At any time, if the blockade service were to be discontinued for three months, you conceive that the slave trade would be restored to full vigour?—Yes; that there would be a very enormous increase in its present amount, whatever that amount may be.

1714. Your view is that the blockade service must be kept up for ever?—No, I think not; I think under the treaties I propose, in a short time it would become, in point of fact, extinct; and that when once it is reduced to that low ebb we shall have no difficulty in inducing the civilized world to characterize it by its true name of piracy, and to treat it as piracy.

1715. Are there not very thick fogs upon the coast of Africa?—Upon some parts, where the Harmattan winds prevail, there is frequently a thick haze rather than fog.

1716. Do not those fogs very much facilitate the proceedings of the slavers?—I take for granted they would do so upon any particular district where such a change suited their purposes.

1717. Over what number of miles of the coast of Africa do those fogs prevail?—I am not prepared to say, but over a large proportion of the coast.

1718. Three or four thousand miles, perhaps?—I doubt whether it is so much as that.

1719. The extent of the coast is upwards of 5,000 miles, is not it?—The two coasts must be upwards of 4,000 miles.

1720. How many ships do you think would be necessary where such thick weather as that prevails, in order to blockade 4,000 or 5,000 miles of coast?—I think the fog does not give such exclusive advantage to the slavers. The slaver must appear off and make her communications. Where the fog prevails she must go to the very point itself, and say "I am come here for my slaves;" she cannot make signals.

1721. She may send boats ashore, may not she?—There would be great difficulty in doing so. I never myself knew a vessel escape in consequence of the Harmattan winds.

1722. You would see nothing of them, and therefore could not know it?—I had very good information, especially after the destruction of the place I have spoken of. I found that in 10 months only two vessels had escaped.

1723. How should you know anything of those that had escaped?—I could be positively certain of the fact from the information of the slaves I carried up to Sierra Leone, and others. I admit it adds to the difficulties, but that is an extra reason for our going on shore, as I propose.

1724. You

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1724. You are for doing the whole work on shore?—No; my idea is, that the force should be afloat as it is at present; that after treaties were entered into it should be landed to destroy slave factories if the treaty were broken, and then that it should reimbark. I would not have the men left on shore by any means, but I would have the place visited and observed, so that if the slave trade sprang up again we should land and carry off the slaves and destroy all belonging to it; I believe that is the mode by which the slave trade may be put an end to.

1725. Your proposal only admits of one ship of war for every 200 miles?—But I believe that that is more than there are slave factories.

1726. Do you believe, supposing the price of slaves to be kept up, that they will not easily make new stations?—I believe we shall be able to make it a losing concern whatever arrangements they may make.

1727. At present the evidence has been that it is the most winning concern that exists in the world, in the way of commerce?—I believe there can be no question upon that subject when a voyage succeeds.

1728. What is the nature of a barracoon?—A barracoon is merely a receptacle for slaves.

1729. Built of wood?—Built of wood and thatched over.

1730. At little or no cost, therefore?—At little or no cost.

1731. A barracoon which cost 200*l.* may contain 2,000 slaves, probably?—I dare say it would.

1732. When they are making such very large profits out of their slave cargoes, do you think they would not very readily put up new barracoons and new places for the trade?—But they must have also storehouses, and they must have all their stores for buying slaves collected in them. I would include everything in the destruction I contemplate; I would include all the goods in the storehouses; and under the treaties I would compel the native chiefs to drive the slave dealers out of the country.

1733. Do not you think it would be necessary to have an army ready to occupy Africa, to secure all those objects?—No, I think we could secure a knowledge of the resumption of the slave trade at places where it had been abolished by treaty perfectly well, and our present force stationed at different places would be amply sufficient to carry into effect the measures I contemplate. I know that at the Gallinas I had only 100 men, and there was no difficulty in doing what I did.

1734. What length of coast did you blockade?—About 40 miles, I think; I could make almost sure of that with my own ship, by the use of my boats.

1735. You did that with only 100 men?—I had only 100 men on shore when I destroyed the Gallinas slave trade.

1736. How many had you under your command?—In my own ship 135.

1737. Including the men you had on shore?—Including those men; and those were on shore only for the purpose of forming a treaty with the chiefs upon provocation received, and taking care that the provisions of the treaty made with me were fulfilled. They were on shore for a week, and there was no necessity to go there at all for two years afterwards; for no slave trade took place there for two years and more, and even since then it has been very trifling indeed.

1738. At that rate, what you propose would require very nearly 12,000 or 15,000 men?—If they were all to be employed at the same time; but I do not contemplate that. I will give the Committee an instance of the manner in which I would proceed. After I destroyed the Gallinas, it was by the merest accident that I did not become senior officer in command of the station. I was second in command; a new senior officer came out, and was obliged to go home again immediately on account of his health. He sent to me everywhere to relieve him, but my ship was sickly and I was at a distant place; instead of giving up the command to me as he intended, the other senior officer, who had not left the coast at this time, had the command given back into his hands. Had I succeeded to the command, I should have gone along the whole coast of Africa, after the Gallinas, and followed out the same principles everywhere, which I could have done in my single ship with 160 men on board. I could have destroyed every slave factory on the coast in the space of three months. In that case I believe a blow would have been struck that the slave dealers could not have recovered from.

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1739. By factory, do you mean a barracoon?—No; I mean the slave factories, with all the goods employed in the commerce; everything which could be proved to be a part of the commerce of the slave trade.

1740. Do not you think that if these African slave dealers once knew that they were liable to the British cruisers coming and seizing their goods and their factories, they would not take care to stow them away a little in shore, or where you could not easily find them?—The slave trade had become so difficult under the vigilance that prevailed when I was out there, that it was with the utmost difficulty they could carry it on in any shape whatever; and if the effect was to drive them 10 miles into the interior it would be perfectly satisfactory, because with that additional difficulty the trade could not continue. They must be on the beach ready to take advantage of the very moment they may be left without a cruiser, to ship their slaves.

1741. Is there any difficulty in embarking slaves on the beach?—Very great in most parts; there is a very heavy surf, and almost all the rivers have bars which are dangerous.

1742. There are an immense number of rivers, are not there?—There are a great number.

1743. Quite deep enough to let boats go up them?—Yes.

1744. Do you think there would be any difficulty, especially if steamers were had recourse to, for steamers to run down the coast, first calling at one place and then at another, picking up 50 or 100 slaves at various places?—She would be quite sure to meet a cruiser.

1745. When she did so, it would be an even chance whether she would be taken or not, would it not?—It would be the same case between two steamers as between two sailing vessels; and we manage to take them now.

1746. You do not reckon that a man-of-war steamer, built strong enough to carry guns, is a match for a light sailing steamer?—No; but I think that if the country is determined to persevere in this great cause, they must provide proper steamers for the purpose.

1747. Steamers not calculated to carry guns?—They should carry guns, but at the same time not carry guns so heavy as would be required for other purposes; such vessels would be very useful in other ways and for other service as well. Supposing the trade to be suppressed, the money would not be thrown away.

1748. What hope is there, when you have suppressed the slave trade, that it will not rise up again as soon as you have abandoned the blockade?—I think the blockade, as I mentioned before, will be followed out and carried to an effectual result by the negotiation of those treaties, under which we shall obtain the power of landing and destroying the slave trade, if it is resumed. I think that when the slave trade is practically put an end to, we shall have no difficulty in getting it to be recognized as the law of nations that the slave trade is piracy.

1749. Do you think Brazil will ever acknowledge it as piracy?—I perfectly agree that Brazil will not; but if the great majority of the great nations whose interest it is rapidly becoming to do so, should adopt that view, they would not stop for the want of the adhesion of Brazil.

1750. Is it the interest of the United States to do so?—I think it is. They have not imported slaves from Africa for many years. It is piracy by their law, and it is a law which undoubtedly will be carried into effect upon any of their citizens who violate it.

1751. Are not a great portion of the ships engaged in the slave trade supposed to be American-built vessels?—They are American-built, undoubtedly; but they do not carry on the slave trade as American ships. I myself captured an American vessel to all intents and purposes, as she appeared, but she really was a Spaniard.

1752. Sir E. Buxton.] Was she so by her papers?—She was an American by papers, American by her crew, American by her build; but I produced evidence which showed that she was Spanish property, and she was condemned.

1753. Chairman.] As yet, though America is bound by treaty to maintain ships of war carrying 80 guns for the destruction of the slave trade, is it not the fact that she has made no capture, or, at any rate, not more than two or three?—She has done hardly anything; the fact is that she has hardly anything

thing to do; for there is no United States slave trade, and she has no power to interfere with any other.

1754. Not with Brazil?—I never heard that she had any treaty with Brazil.

1755. If she were desirous, might not she take the same course we have, and pass an Act of her Legislature?—I think in their case it would be a violation of all principle; we had a treaty which Brazil did not choose to fulfil, and therefore we were justified in taking the law into our own hands.

1756. You admit there would be no possibility of abolishing the slave trade by a blockade of the coast of Brazil?—I think it would be impossible to produce any good result by blockading the coast of Brazil; on the contrary, great evils would ensue if the attempt were made even to the cause of the suppression of the slave trade, in my opinion.

1757. With respect to the difficulty of embarking slaves on the coast of Africa, is there always a surf upon the African coast, or is it only when the wind sets on shore?—There is generally a surf. I do not mean to say that slaves cannot be shipped in a short time; I have known them to be shipped in two hours.

1758. What is the largest cargo you ever knew shipped in two hours?—Four hundred slaves.

1759. You have known 400 slaves shipped in two hours?—Yes.

1760. From the beach?—From the mouth of a river.

1761. Can you tell off hand how many rivers there are that would admit of boats going into them, upon those portions of the coast?—No.

1762. Are there 200 or 300?—I should think so, but I should observe that the rivers are by no means the favourite resort of the slavers; they prefer the open coast a great deal; when they are once in the river you have only to watch the mouth of the river and then catch them coming out, or you may catch them with your boats when they are equipped: one plan they adopt is to come out from Cuba or Brazil ready equipped and sail directly to a particular slave depôt on the coast of Africa; as they approach it they put the slaves' provisions in the copper and boil them, then they receive their cargo of slaves, and are off in a few hours if they do not meet a cruiser. Another plan is to send out empty vessels, under the Sardinian flag generally, and they have the means of equipping them in a very short time at the depôts, which renders it still more necessary that the squadron should not be removed to a distance, but should block up and watch those depôts, so that the moment vessels made themselves liable to capture, they might be seized; there must be a very large body of people and stores and so on at such depôts, which are not very easily removed; they would have to move their water-casks along the beach, and their water and the various stores, the slave-deck, and provisions, and so on, and it would be a very long operation.

1763. Are not the staves of the water-casks sent out all ready to be knocked up together on board ship if necessary?—Yes, but that would take some time, and directly the casks are put together she is proved to be a slaver and seized if a man-of-war is in the neighbourhood; and 3,000 or 4,000 miles of the coast may be always completely known to a squadron of 26 vessels, as regards any considerable depôts for the slave trade.

1764. Sir *E. Buxton*.] With respect to the importation of free labourers from the coast of Africa, do you imagine that there might be this danger in case they could be imported, that the Brazilians and the Spaniards might be induced professedly to bring in free labourers, but in reality to bring in slaves?—I have no doubt it would have the very worst effect as respects other nations.

1765. Provided we could buy negroes and set them free, do you imagine that that would be a very injurious process?—I believe it would perpetuate all the horrors of the African slave trade, as regards Africa herself, and also with respect to Brazil and Cuba.

1766. Do you imagine that the horrors of the internal African slave trade are very great?—I conceive it to be the worst part of it, as respects human suffering; it keeps an enormous continent in a state of eternal misery and suffering.

1767. What is the verdict upon the trial of *Buron versus Denman*, which has just taken place?—The verdict was, that the proceedings at Gallinas were justified by the command of the Queen, and also that the treaty with the native chiefs

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chiefs fully justified the proceedings; but the verdict upon the treaty with the chiefs was not taken, because a bill of exceptions was tendered by the plaintiffs against the pleadings, upon technical points; and as the verdict upon the first plea was a perfect answer to the actions, it was not thought necessary to incur the certainty of further law proceedings by taking one upon the other.

Sabbati, 19^o die Februarii, 1848.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord George Bentinck.
Sir Thomas Birch.
Sir Edward Buxton.
Mr. Milner Gibson.
Mr. Hope.
Mr. Labouchere.

Lord John Manners.
Mr. Matheson.
Mr. Miles.
Mr. Moffatt.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Wilson.

LORD GEORGE BENTINCK, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. William Scott, called in; and Examined.

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1768. *Chairman.*] YOU are interested, though not in a large way, in a sugar concern at Madras?—My firm is interested to the extent of one-eighth of a very small concern, which is situated at Ganjam, under the Madras Presidency.

1769. How long have you been so engaged?—I think about three or four years we have had it established. When I say "we," we have actually taken no part in it. It has been established by Binney & Company, whose agents we had, till our late misfortunes, been, and in consequence, when they took it up, as the consignments were to come to us, we said we would take an eighth share with them; to that extent only have we any interest.

1770. Do you know what the extent of Messrs. Binney's concern was; what was the whole capital of the company?—The whole capital of the company did not amount to 16,000 *l.*; that is, for the plant altogether; from 16,000 *l.* to 18,000 *l.*, and they have only a quarter in it themselves.

1771. Was that concern carried on according to the most approved European system?—It has been in the course of being so since. We have been sending out machinery of every description, steam engines, and vacuum pans, and so forth.

1772. Are you able to say whether or not that concern was carried on to a profit three years ago?—No, we had not the means of judging, and even now I have not the means of judging whether or not it will turn out profitably. So far as it has already gone, we are rather disposed to abandon it. It is involving more expense than we think should be incurred in so small a concern.

1773. Are you or not governed by the present price of sugar in so deciding?—Not on any account, as far as I am able to judge. The article itself can be produced very cheaply in the district.

1774. Do you mean at Madras itself?—It is 700 miles from Madras, in the Ganjam district.

1775. Are you acquainted with the price at which it is produced in the Ganjam district?—No, I have never been able to elicit that yet, precisely.

1776. What means of transit are there between the Ganjam district and the sea board?—The very worst in the world; we have no river that can carry down any quantity of goods, and the sugar itself must be conveyed by what they call bandies, the carts of the country, or on bullocks, a distance of about 30 miles.

1777. Is the greater part carried on the backs of bullocks?—A great portion is; at least it was so in former times. There has been such a change in India since

since that upon these matters, that I cannot speak with any confidence as to how it is effected now.

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1778. What are the means of conveyance after you get over that 30 miles?—We are either dependent upon the native craft, called dhonies, in the country, or we are obliged to charter a ship from England, to go direct to that part of Ganjam, or the neighbourhood.

1779. Ganjam is on the sea, is it?—Yes; Ganjam, and a small village called Monsor Cottah, are the places we ship from.

1780. Then the raw sugar, or goor, is carried from the port of which you have just spoken, to Madras?—Yes; to be reshipped in English vessels.

1781. Is it refined there?—No; we can do that upon the spot now.

1782. You are not able to state whether Binney & Company have exported their sugars to a profit for the last year?—Certainly I should think not; but probably, though it is a mere matter of opinion, that arises from the great expense in transit; in the first place, in getting it down from Ganjam to Madras before it is shipped, and then the expense of freight home, which at present is very high.

1783. Exclusive of the expense of the freight home, have you any reason to think that the sugar could be brought to Madras at a price to repay the European exporter?—I think that is problematical, from the port I now mention. I cannot give information as to any nearer ports; for instance, there is a great deal of sugar cultivated on the banks of the Godavery, and about midway between Ganjam and Madras. They have greater facilities of getting it to Madras than we have further north; but as for the mere producing of the article, my opinion is that it can be produced as cheap at the port I mention, and in fact all along the northern district, as to compete with any sugar in the world; I speak of the mere production and the making of sugar upon the spot.

1784. Do you understand that the whole company with which Binney & Co. are connected, have abandoned their concern?—No; I think it is only a few of the members who hold shares here who are desirous of abandoning it; they are rather sanguine themselves.

1785. You have been at the Madras Presidency yourself, have not you?—About 22 years.

1786. Do you know anything of the taxes there?—No, I cannot say that I can give any information on that point; in fact, there was very little sugar made at Madras in my time. The little that was made was consumed by the natives. The consumption of sugar throughout India is enormous.

1787. Could not they have exported sugar to a profit?—No, I think not. I do not think it was cultivated so that they could spare any to export.

1788. What was the quantity of sugar exported by Messrs. Binney & Co.?—There has been hardly any. I do not suppose we have had 1,000 tons, or anything like it, as yet. The thing is quite in its infancy.

1789. Would not an export of 1,000 tons of sugar offer an ample profit upon an outlay of 16,000 *l.*?—What we wish to attain is what it absolutely costs us; but that we have not been able to ascertain, in consequence of their statement not embracing every part of the expense which is incurred in the production; for instance, the rent of the property there, the outlay upon buildings, and the interest upon that outlay; the outlay upon machinery, and the interest upon that. All that must come within the cost of the article.

1790. Does not the 16,000 *l.* include the outlay upon the buildings as well as machinery?—Not altogether; there is a great deal more than that. Altogether I should not calculate the cost of the plant at less than 20,000 *l.*; I have not looked into the particulars of it.

1791. If upon 1,000 tons of sugar you could clear a profit of 2 *l.* a ton, that would return you 10 per cent. upon your capital?—It would so. We have an interest upon the outlay of 20,000 *l.*; then we have to purchase the goor before it is converted into sugar.

1792. What is the capital invested in the concern?—Our own share of it is short of 6,000 *l.*

1793. And that is only one-eighth?—We have about 6,000 *l.* in the concern, in our share of the plant and the produce in course of transit; so that there is 48,000 *l.* laid out just now in the plant and in the produce. A great portion

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of that produce is now arriving, but I cannot discriminate to what extent it has yet to be shipped.

1794. If you could clear 5 l. a ton upon this produce of 1,000 tons, it would give you 10 per cent. profit upon your capital?—That is of course a matter of computation.

1795. You would be perfectly satisfied with that?—Perfectly.

1796. You would not be disposed to abandon your estate if it yielded you a profit of 10 per cent.?—Certainly not.

1797. Would you abandon the estate if it produced you five per cent.?—I should be disposed to endeavour to look out, because people engaged in my pursuits can generally make more of their money than five per cent.; at least, it must be supposed that a prudent and cautious merchant might do so.

1798. At all events, it may be presumed that this concern does not pay 10 per cent.?—Certainly not as yet; but I cannot say that we have proved that, certainly.

1799. On what terms have you offered to relinquish your share in the concern?—For whatever it will fetch.

1800. Would you rather be free of the concern altogether?—Yes; I should say as a matter of principle with us, that we would rather be quit of it than have it, because we are not concerned in any speculations whatever in sugar, coffee, or anything else. We were induced to take this, as it was partly owned by our friends; my brother had an eighth share, and some others of my friends had eighths in it; it was therefore a kind of small joint-stock company which we were induced to join, but it is not a thing that we wish to have anything to do with.

1801. You do not know what the gross receipts of the company have been?—No; it is a thing which is merely in its infancy.

1802. Are you aware whether those who are engaged in the sugar concerns in Madras generally are supposed to be making a good profit at this time?—I have not the means of knowing; I do not know who else has any sugar plantations.

Mr. Nathaniel Alexander, called in; and Examined.

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1803. YOU are an East India Merchant?—Yes.

1804. You have been engaged in the sugar business in Bengal for some time, have you not?—As a merchant, for a good many years.

1805. For how many years?—I have been connected with India for 30 years; I was in the country for 23 years.

1806. Can you inform the Committee whether, previously to 1846, the sugar trade was a profitable trade for India?—It was so, but not latterly. I have on hand two parcels of sugar which were valued on the 19th of January last. The present value, with reference to the costs and charges, leaves a loss on the first quality by one ship, the "Thetis," of 32½ per cent.; on the second quality, 34½ per cent.; and on the third quality, 43 per cent. By the other ship, the "Glenorchy," the loss on the first quality is 32 per cent.; on the second quality, 48½ per cent.; and on the third quality, 33½ per cent. These, however, were shipped at a very high rate of freight, and therefore it would not be fair to take it so. The first shipment was made at a freight of 8 l. 12 s. 6 d. per ton; the second shipment was at a freight of 8 l. 15 s., which is much more than the usual freight; the usual freight is about five guineas. Taking five guineas to be the freight, which it will again return to, because the freight was in fact raised owing to the quantity of rice shipped last year, the loss on that sugar on the 19th of January last would have been 21½ per cent. on the first quality, by the "Thetis;" 21½ per cent. on the second quality; and 27 per cent. on the third quality. On the other shipment, by the "Glenorchy," it would be 21 per cent. on the first quality; 33½ per cent. on the second, and 20 per cent. on the third; that is, provided the freight had been at the usual rate: it happened to be high, and therefore it is unfair to take that high rate as the average rate. This would preclude the merchant from using sugar as a means of remittance, unless the price abroad fell so as to make up the difference.

1807. How much must the price fall to make up the difference?—Taking this first quality of sugar, it cost me in Calcutta nine rupees and two annas per bazar maund;

maund; with freights at five guineas, I should just have been able to square myself, by being enabled to purchase it at seven rupees and 10 annas.

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1808. At the usual freights and the present prices you must buy sugar at 15s. 3d. a bazar maund of 80 lb. in Calcutta to be able to square yourself in the London market, without a profit?—As regards this first quality sugar which now I have in hand, it would require me to have done that in order to be saved from loss, and the second and third qualities in proportion.

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1809. What is the lowest price you ever did buy sugar of that quality for in Calcutta?—I should think about ninepence lower than that would be almost the lowest price. When the high duty was in force, the sugar was cheaper, but since the equalization of the duty, the first quality of sugar like mine is very seldom seen under what I got it for, because the circumstances of freights being high always influences the price of sugar very much; a very high rate of freight would indicate that sugar was at as low a point as it ever is when there is a demand for it.

1810. Are you to be understood that you hardly ever bought sugar cheaper than you bought this parcel for?—Yes, at nine rupees and two annas for the best Benares sugar. The value of sugar in Calcutta varies. If freights are cheap, the merchant can give more for it; this was bought at a time of peculiarly high freights, therefore sugar would be depressed in proportion.

1811. You consider that at the price you name, this sugar was cheaply bought?—For that quality of sugar; that quality of sugar I consider to be cheap at nine rupees and two annas, according to the rate which sugar has borne in Calcutta for a number of years. The reason I think it cheap is, because the rate of freight has been so uncommonly high.

1812. Then any losses which may have been incurred upon East Indian sugar, exported from Calcutta this year, have not arisen from the high price at which the sugar was purchased?—It is the high price now, with reference to the price that sugar has fallen to in England. Last year my limit for this first description of sugar was 46s., the last limit I sent out was 38s., that is, that the sugar which was to cost me 46s., laid down last year, I expect this year to be laid down for me at 38s., or I will not buy it.

1813. There is no ground of complaint, you think, against the present price of the article in Calcutta, as compared with the ordinary prices in Calcutta?—No, the fall has taken place here; I did not consider that it was cheap, because the rise in the freight added to the price of it, therefore I did not think it was cheap; but, in fact, there was no other means of making remittances. It was the one which promised the least chance of loss, and that is what we look at in making remittances.

1814. At the ordinary rate of five guineas a ton, in order to square yourselves as merchants in the London market, you must be able to purchase sugar for the future at the price of 15s. 3d. in Calcutta, instead of 24s. 6d., which you paid last year?—It must be 20½ per cent. cheaper for the best quality, 21 per cent. for the second, and 27 per cent. for the third. I must get that in some shape or other to square me.

1815. That includes freight and charges, does not it?—No, you are obliged to pay them. The loss is upon the first cost of the sugar. You must pay the freight and charges, therefore the whole loss falls upon the first cost.

1816. Are you now speaking of the 20½ per cent. upon the long price, exclusive of the duties, or upon the price of the sugar at Calcutta?—The price of the sugar at Calcutta. I must get it 20½ per cent. cheaper in Calcutta than I have got it, and that must be made up by the freight or by a rise of price here, or some other means, otherwise I am precluded from bringing home sugar at those rates.

1817. You must be able, in fact, to buy sugar 5s. a cwt. cheaper than you do?—The first quality.

1818. But that would be 5s. a cwt. cheaper than you have ever known it sold in Calcutta, since the year 1836?—My opinion is, that it will not be sold at that rate; there is such a large internal demand arising in the west of India, that I do not think the merchant will get it at that rate; therefore I think we shall be precluded from using sugar as a means of remittance, to a great extent.

✓ 1819. You think the exportation of sugar from India, unless the prices rise above what they are now, will cease altogether?—Or be very much diminished.

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It is with reference to that particular point that I have made some memoranda which I think, if the Committee will allow me to read portions of, will put them in possession of my views of our means of remittance as merchants, and what we shall be obliged to resort to if we carry on the trade. I wish first of all to call the attention of the Committee to the trade of India generally since the charter was renewed in 1813, in order that the Committee should be aware of the value of India as a trading country connected with England. On the 26th of January 1813, there was a general meeting of the Court of East India proprietors. It was then discussed whether or not India was likely to take a larger quantity of English productions and manufactures than it had usually done, and the general resolution that was come to, was, "That no large and sudden addition can be made to the amount of British exports to India and China." When the renewal of the East India Company's charter was under discussion, Parliament received evidence to a like effect from some of the most distinguished servants of the East India Company. Sir John Malcolm and Sir Thomas Munro, Mr. Grant, and a number of the first men stated opinions to the same effect.

✓ 1820. Mr. Matheson.] Warren Hastings was another who did so, was he not? — Yes. In 1814 the export of cotton cloth from England to India amounted to 817,000 yards; and then the export of cotton yarn, which is called commonly twist, had not commenced at all. In 1836, or 32 years afterwards, the export of cotton cloth to the single port of Calcutta was 132,016,761 yards; it has increased from 817,000 yards for the whole of India to 132,016,761, besides which there were 15,344,370 lbs. weight of cotton yarn sent out, which is manufactured into cloth by the native weavers in Bengal; and this would make about 160,000,000 more yards of cloth; so that there has been that amount of increase in the consumption of Bengal in 32 years, of cotton, and cotton yarn. In 1813 the value of the entire exports from England to India was about 900,000 *l.* The export of cotton goods and yarn to the port of Calcutta for the last three years is as follows: In 1845 the value was 2,000,000 *l.*; in 1846 it was 2,500,000 *l.*; and in 1847, 1,800,000 *l.* This is independent altogether of Bombay and Madras, the trade of Bombay having increased equally with that of Calcutta. In a table of external commerce of Bengal, prepared at the suggestion of Lord Ellenborough from the Calcutta Custom-house, which is published by authority in India, the result was as follows: In the year 1842-43 the value of imports into Calcutta was 5,720,000 *l.*, the value of exports was 7,660,000 *l.* In 1843-44 the value of imports was 6,480,000 *l.*, the value of exports was 10,120,000 *l.* I may say generally, that up to 1847 the imports were about 6,000,000 *l.*, and the exports about 9,500,000 *l.* The difference is the tribute which the Company receive from the country, which amounts this year to about 4,000,000 *l.* The next statement which I wish to present to the Committee is, with regard to the import and export of treasure, because I consider that we shall be driven to look to silver as a considerable means of remittance. The import of bullion, the account being taken from the same source, was in 1843, 1,655,000 *l.*; in 1844, 1,901,000 *l.*; in 1845, 1,601,000 *l.*; in 1846, 1,010,000 *l.*; in 1847, 1,217,000 *l.* The export from Calcutta was merely the quantity of bullion sent from the Mint to the other presidencies. I wish to call the attention of the Committee to this statement as to bullion, for the currency of India, with a trifling exception, is silver; there is a small issue of the Bank of Bengal notes, which circulate in the immediate neighbourhood of Calcutta, but, generally speaking, the circulation in India is the silver rupee coined in the Company's mint. It is absolutely necessary that the Indian Government should have a sum not under 5,000,000 *l.* sterling, of silver rupees, in the several treasuries of their presidencies, to enable them to pay their troops and all other disbursements. I need scarcely point out that in the eyes of the sepoy, the regular monthly pay of the East India Company, compared with the irregularity of the pay of the native princes, is one of his greatest inducements for preferring to serve England instead of a native prince. I apprehend that, on investigation, the Committee will find that the import of silver bullion into Calcutta is about to diminish; China formerly supplied it largely in return for opium; she received it from the Americans, who now, instead of silver, bring cotton goods into China. Last year, further, the Chinese government have legalized the production of opium in their own territory, which will greatly diminish the call for opium from

from India, and reduce its price very much, so that I consider that the import of silver from that source is one which is very fast diminishing, and of a very doubtful character; and one which I do not think the Government of India, or this Government, can count upon to any very great extent. While this diminished supply of silver to India is to be apprehended, there is a constant large withdrawal of the silver rupee from circulation in the country, owing to the habit of hoarding, so common in all eastern countries, from the insecurity that the natives are under, under the native governments. This custom is diminishing in the British territories, but still the silver circulation finds its way into the bordering native states, and there disappears. I wish to draw the attention of the Committee to this fact, in making these remarks upon bullion, that they should be alive to the paramount political importance of a constant supply of silver to India, and that in passing a law by which the export of sugar from Bengal will be largely curtailed, the Legislature must calculate on silver being used as a means of remittance for returns to England instead of sugar, unless the trade be diminished to the value of the sugar no longer shipped. [I may here remark, incidentally, that a very great change is about to take place in our colonial trade. Hitherto the plantations for indigo, sugar, &c. have been owned and carried on by British merchants, and the supply of money to produce such articles with, and which it was absolutely necessary to remit periodically, was usually made in manufactures, and the produce came back to the merchant in England. Under our new commercial policy, such colonial property is becoming valueless, and men who have invested their capital in it are every day sinking, leaving those to carry on the colonial trade who have no object but to turn their money to a profit, and who will at once stop operations if they see a likelihood of loss; we must therefore look forward generally to a smaller trade with our colonies, carried on unequally as to extent, and to a relaxation of that intimate connexion between the colonies and the mother country which may lead eventually to separation.] To return to the trade with Bengal: I have before me a list of the principal articles of export for the year 1845-46, from Calcutta, with their values; indigo, sugar, rice, and so on, and the entire quantity of those principal articles will amount to about 5,000,000 *l.* sterling, and these are the items most important to the English trade; sugar will amount, for that year, to about 67,000 tons, at a value of 1,800,000 *l.*, which would provide trade for between 180 and 200 vessels. There were that year went directly from England to Calcutta, and which were therefore vessels which required to be loaded from Calcutta, 267 vessels, with a tonnage of 136,575 tons; of those vessels about 200 had their dead weight from sugar alone. With respect also to another great article, which is raw silk, the introduction of China silk on a very increased scale has so entirely reduced the price of Bengal raw silk in England, that I consider it is almost thrown out as a means of remittance; it was this year 782,000 *l.*, so that that and the sugar together form a full half of the value of the articles which we have for carrying on our trade, as a means of remittance. Bengal, as a sugar-producing country, is not like the West Indies, where, when the sugar is made, there is no local demand for it, and it must be shipped to England; in Bengal there is not only a foreign demand, but the internal consumption of the country is so great that the export of sugar by sea is but a small part of the annual production of the country, and if such export were to cease altogether, it would make little difference in the price of the article, independent of the fact that a large trade in sugar has arisen between Bengal and the nations to the north and west, which is fast increasing, and which will give India an outlet for her sugar, so that India will not lose much by a cessation of sugar shipments to England. I have here an account of the duties paid for the last three years upon sugar which passed the north west frontiers: the duty is, upon fine sugar, 8 annas per maund; there are 27½ maunds of sugar in a ton, therefore that would be about 26 *s.* 6 *d.* a ton; the duty on inferior descriptions of sugar is three annas a maund. The amount of duties levied for the year ending the 30th of April 1844 was 5,74,954 rupees, for the year ending 30th April 1845 it was 5,24,556 rupees, and for the last year 6,58,362 rupees. A great deal of this is fine sugar; it is sugar that is to go over the mountains into Tartary and into Russia, and the carriage being so great an expense, they generally take the finest qualities; probably the amount may by this time have increased to 70,000 tons exported to the north-west of India, which is quite a new means of export for their sugar, and which with

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1821. This duty is not raised upon the sugar that traverses the country to be exported to England?—That is the duty upon sugar that passes our north-western frontier. It goes into Tartary, and finds its way into Russia and Persia; and now the Punjaub is settled, the merchants come down and take it away, to trade with it in other countries. It is a new source of trade to India, and we are also getting a very large export trade for British manufactures in the same way.

1822. Is a similar transit duty levied upon sugar from the interior, coming to Calcutta?—No, they have done away with the transit duties. That is export duty upon sugar going beyond our territories.

1823. There is no such export duty at Calcutta, is there?—There is on some articles, but I think sugar is free; I have referred to that return only to show that if there is a cessation of the demand for sugar, to come home by British merchants, still there are native markets, which will prevent the price falling to such an amount as that we can afford to bring it here. A great number of the sugar factories, which have been set up by European merchants; the sugar of which would entirely have come to England under any circumstances, are now closing. The Dhobah concern, for instance. Mr. Blake went out two or three months ago to bring that to a close. They do not make sugar from the cane, but they buy the raw sugar and refine it.

✓1824. Can you inform the Committee how many firms there are engaged in the sugar trade at Calcutta, and how many are closing?—No, I cannot tell that; there are several large manufactories in the immediate neighbourhood of Calcutta, and they make, some of them, very large quantities, 2,000 or 3,000 tons of sugar each. I know another large concern, that some friends of mine were connected with; this year they calculate upon getting home 80,000 l. worth of sugar; that was a concern carried on by a firm of the name of Bagshaw & Company, a few miles from Calcutta. It is a house connected with the house of Fletcher & Alexander here, and I know they have sent out orders to reduce it as much as possible. We, as merchants, who have nothing to do with the production of these commodities, but who look to them as the means of remittance, are driven to the point of refusing to take goods from parties, and to advance money upon them, unless they will permit us to bring back the returns in silver, if we choose to do so. For some time that has been what I have done.

1825. For how long?—Since the late change has taken place.

1826. Since the fall in the price of sugar?—Within the last two months I have commenced that mode of making my arrangements; formerly for a commission you agreed to return the manufacturer his money, at the rate of exchange of the day at which you could buy bills, because you looked to having the produce, and to bring it home, so as to save yourself; but that is now so doubtful, that if any man comes to me to make him an advance, and take his goods to send them out there for sale, I will not do it unless I am permitted to bring returns back in silver, if I think it advisable.

1827. *Mr. Labouchere.*] It is not only sugar, but indigo, and other articles of export, which have fallen in price very much since the period you refer to; is not it?—The sale of indigo, in October last, took place at a time that there was a tremendous pressure in the market, and it fell a great deal. I sold a parcel of indigo, a few days ago, at 1 s. 1 d. higher than it was sold for at the October sale.

1828. Is that at a loss?—I have rather lost than otherwise. The general advance on indigo is not so much as that; the general advance for Bengal indigo is about 8 d. on 3 s. 6 d.

1829. Has the indigo of India returned a fair profit of late?—As regards the indigo that was bought in Calcutta in January and February last, there has been a heavy loss upon all that has been sold; but a great deal of that came into the July and October sales, when all articles were depressed; but the price is getting up again. Indigo at the next sale will recover its position probably, or nearly so.

1830. Will not the manufacture of indigo be greatly lessened in consequence of the great number of factories connected with houses in Calcutta, which will not be continued?—Yes, it must be so, partly owing to that, because there is
a large

a large stock on hand ; but there is another reason, namely, that the price was lower than the cost of production, and no article can remain long in that condition.

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1831. *Chairman.*] Was there an unusual production of indigo last year?—No, there was not ; in fact the crop was rather a short one, and it sold rather higher than usual in Calcutta ; there was a notion that it would rise here in proportion.

1832. Are you to be understood that part of the loss upon indigo arose from the unusually high price at which indigo was purchased at Calcutta?—No ; it arose from the unusual price to which it was depressed here in the state of things existing when it was sold in October last.

1833. At the present prices would indigo pay?—People selling now generally would not get their money back again at an exchange.

1834. At what loss would it sell?—It is impossible to say that, because each parcel of indigo bears relatively a different value ; at the present moment there is a scarcity of fine indigo, and it is relatively of a great deal higher value than the lower qualities.

1835. Would there be a loss upon the indigo of the higher qualities?—On the Indigo I sold a few days ago, I should think there was a loss. I think it may be said that the merchant's commission, buying on one side, and selling it here, I lost.

1836. How much is that?—Two and a half per cent. on each side ; perhaps there might be a loss of from five to seven per cent. upon it.

1837. The loss upon sugar, you said, varied from 30 per cent.?—Yes, the loss upon sugar, as it stands upon those two parcels at the high freight, is 32 per cent., 34 per cent., and 43 per cent.

1838. There is the difference, then, between 5 and 34 per cent.?—Yes.

1839. You spoke of great losses upon the inferior descriptions of indigo?—They have not proportionably risen so much.

1840. Taking the present price, what would the loss be upon inferior qualities of indigo?—If there is a loss of five per cent. upon the fine, there is a loss of 15 per cent. upon the very low qualities. I cannot speak exactly, but I suppose that is about the average. In every lot of indigo there is some indifferent in quality, so that it is very difficult to make an average of the whole ; they make an average at the sales, and that probably would be 8 *d*.

1841. You said that you expected an advance in indigo?—I think the next sale there will be.

1842. Do you expect any advance in sugar?—I do not think there will be.

✓1843. Will you proceed with your statement?—As my connexion is solely with Bengal, I have restricted my observations to the Calcutta trade ; but the Committee can easily gain information regarding the trade of the other Presidencies. I have shown how wonderfully the trade of Bengal has increased during the last 32 years, but great as this increase has been for all India (probably from one million to 12 millions), it is no index of the increase which may take place hereafter. The Committee will remember that during the last 30 years the Indian Government have been constantly contending with hostile nations on all sides, who out of fear and jealousy combined, have hitherto closed their countries to all intercourse with British India, and have checked as far as possible all trade ; so that the increase of our trade with India up to the present time has arisen very much from the improved condition of our own Indian subjects. A great and most important change is now taking place, which it behoves England to promote to the utmost. The late successes in the Punjaub, and the influence of the British Indian Government, which is now fast extending over Central Asia, is opening markets both for the products of India and for English manufactures, which will soon cause an export from Bengal to a very great extent ; so that India, in addition to her own consumption, will be soon a great entrepôt for British manufactures, to supply new markets hitherto scantily supplied by Russia. Drawing a line from the Persian Gulf through the Caspian Sea to the North Pole, I consider all east of that line is coming within our influence ; independent of our sea trade with the coast of China, I expect we shall soon see an inland trade opened with Cashgar, through Sylet and Bootan, and thus the North of China and Chinese Tartary will afford us new markets. Then looking to Aden, if that important place be turned to good account, what a vast field will open in Arabia and Abyssinia,

Mr. N. Alexander. and through it with Central Africa. The southern part of Arabia will become the greatest cotton growing country in the world one day or other; I think it is particularly well adapted for it; it is a fine soil, and between there and Bombay enough cotton might be grown to supply England, independently of America, if it be necessary. In fact, I see no limit to the power which England possesses in the East for extending her trade, provided she only fosters it. All we require of course is the means of getting returns in some shape or other. Without that we have nothing to fall back upon but silver, and it is an impossibility that the trade should be carried on in that way, because it would destroy the Indian Government. I look upon it, that, instead of having 100,000,000 of poor Indians to supply, which we have been doing, they are now becoming annually wealthier, and in addition we have countries now opening to us with probably 400,000,000 of population. I do not see that there is any reason whatever to doubt that the trade will go on increasing in proportion provided that the English merchant has the means of making his returns, but if he has not those means, of course it must be checked. I may mention, that the large importations of China silk have lowered the price of Bengal raw silk to a point which will put a stop to production; so that out of our limited quantity of Indian produce as returns, we must now consider both sugar and raw silk as almost excluded from this market. The Court of Directors of the East India Company, anticipating a difficulty in realizing their tribute through the usual commercial channels, have already ordered a shipment of 500,000 *l.* of silver. The tribute is 4,000,000 *l.*, and that must come home before the trade is provided for, and the destruction of the silk and sugar trades must force a reduction in the amount of the general trade of the country.

1844. Is there another indirect means of remittance to England through the rice that goes to the Mauritius?—Yes; that is a trifle. The year before last the value of the rice that went to the Mauritius was 158,000 *l.*

1845. Is not it increasing annually?—It will decrease now; the sugar cultivation in the Mauritius will decrease very much. The rice was to feed the population that was drawn there to make the sugar; but as the population decreases, the demand for rice will decrease with the population. The sugar cultivation will very much diminish, and that land will be used in raising food for the people there, which Bengal supplied when sugar was grown. But even if it were 200,000 *l.*, the two articles which we have principally looked to have been sugar and silk. We have latterly been able to make some remittances through the means of shipments made from China; bills have come to Calcutta, and have been bought there on account of British merchants. Those are indirect means to a small extent.

1846. Is not another source of remittance likely to be dried up, by the destruction of the sugar cultivation of the Mauritius?—No doubt it would diminish considerably; but that is a small item in the large figures I have been dealing with.

1847. The result of your best consideration is, that the effect of the reduced price in sugar will annihilate to a certain extent the sugar-exporting trade of India; and that when that is done very disastrous consequences will ensue to India, from the difficulty under which she will be placed in making remittances to England?—I am sure the Court of Directors would not have ordered 500,000 *l.* in bullion to be taken out of their treasury but at the last extremity; they find the utter impossibility of getting their tribute home. It is a very desperate means of doing it, and one which they will not be able to continue to resort to.

1848. Mr. Labouchere.] You have stated that if the exportation of sugar ceased from India, it would make little difference in the price of sugar in that country?—I do not consider it will make a very great difference in the price of sugar, for the reason I have given; the local consumption of sugar is very great, so that the quantity shipped under any circumstances is but a small portion of all that is produced; and there is a new mode of getting rid of their sugar over our north-western frontier, as I have mentioned already, and that is just the same description of sugar that we most require; the fine Benares kind of sugar. Between these two sources, the local and this new demand, I look upon it the native will not submit to sell his sugar at such a reduction as will enable us to make a remittance of it here at the prices which are likely now to rule.

1849. You

1849. You stated also that the condition of the native population of India, and their means of consumption, were rapidly improving:—Within our own provinces no doubt they are gradually improving. I think, under our rule, there is no doubt whatever they will do so; and I think that will be seen by looking at the condition of the population of any native state as compared with those under our Government; the consumption of our manufactures show that of itself.

1850. You say that the price of sugar in India does not depend materially upon the export of sugar from India; if that be so, how could it materially affect the cultivation of sugar in India, whether there be or not any great quantity exported?—I have not said it will affect the cultivation of sugar. The sugar we require is a particularly fine sugar. The common sugar is taken and refined to a certain extent by another process, and is made peculiarly for our market. It is now only a small quantity of the whole quantity of sugar raised which is of a quality to suit us; and as a new market is arising for that, I do not think the cultivation will decrease; I think it is gradually increasing as the native power of consuming it, and the population increasing; I do not anticipate any failure in the cultivation of sugar from it whatever. The Committee is aware that the mode in which these things are cultivated in India is, that the native who cultivates is obliged to obtain advances; he goes to Benares or Patna, and obtains his advances from a man of wealth there; and this man regulates his advances by the different modes he has of selling the sugar; and if he does not find an extra demand for this particular kind of sugar, he will not make advances for it; therefore the stock being made, goes into the general consumption of the country.

1851. If the price of sugar should be materially raised in India, is it the case that it becomes too high for the general consumers in that country?—I am not aware of that.

1852. Is the local consumption considerably checked in India by a material rise of the price there?—It is so difficult to know what takes place among the native population, that I can hardly answer that.

1853. Would it not be likely to be so from the nature of the population?—I am not aware myself, in my experience, of any reduction taking place from that cause; I presume as to the common sugar which the natives use among themselves, there is not much difference in the price.

1854. What price do you think sugar should be at to command a considerable permanent export from India?—That must depend upon the price here; I do not think of that fine Benares sugar, we could draw any considerable amount out of India if we paid less than 16s. a maund for it in Calcutta.

1855. Is it your opinion, that without a protective duty in this country in favour of sugar the produce of India against sugar the produce of foreign countries, it would be impossible for any considerable quantity of sugar to be imported from India into this country?—At the present time I think so, taking things as they now are; I think the effect will be, that we shall be obliged to ship a smaller quantity of goods out of this country for fear of not having the means of making returns.

1856. What amount of protection do you think is necessary in order to secure the continued importation of sugar from India into this country?—That would be a very difficult thing to say; but the manufacturer is protected now in his dealings in India to the extent of five per cent. There is a duty levied there of five per cent. on English manufactures; and if I go to Ham-
burgh, or any foreign port, and buy goods, I am obliged to pay 10 per cent.; therefore there is five per cent. of protective duty to English manufacturers, which is going to be taken from us when all duties are assimilated. As far as I can see at the present moment, we require to square us exactly what I have stated.

1857. Your opinion is, that if the trade in sugar between all the world and this country is left free, and conducted upon equal terms, it will be impossible for India to send sugar to this country?—At present it is so assuredly. What India may do hereafter, with improved machinery and improved modes of cultivation, I cannot tell, but now our sugar is made almost entirely by the natives, and as far as my experience has gone, I know, or at least have heard,

Mr. N. Alexander. that sugar can be made a great deal cheaper than the native makes it; but that is a matter on which I cannot give an opinion.

19 February 1848. 1858. Does your belief of the impossibility at present of India sending us sugar on equal terms with Java, for example, or any other foreign country, depend upon the fact you have stated, of there being a considerable home market for sugar in India, which keeps up the price; or does it depend upon any natural disadvantages which the people of India labour under, with respect to soil or climate, or anything of that kind?—The supply depends on the price in the home market.

1859. You do not think that there are any natural disadvantages which India labours under, which would prevent her from competing, in an open trade with this country, against any other country in the world?—Provided we can obtain a price here, which will enable us to give 16 s. a maund for that fine Benares sugar in Calcutta.

1860. The question referred to the terms of competition with other producers of sugar. Of course no country can permanently produce sugar at a loss; but do you think, independently of the fact of there being a considerable home market at the present moment in India, which keeps up the price of sugar, India can in the long run produce sugar as cheaply as any other country?—I do not know as to slave countries; I think she can compete with any other free-labour country. I would not be afraid of competing with free-labour countries.

1861. You would not be afraid of Java, for example?—I would not.

1862. Do you think, supposing protection were given to India in order to foster the sugar trade there with this country, that protection would be advantageous unless it could be secured to India for some length of time?—If the question be put in that general way, I am satisfied it would be much better not to have protection of any sort or kind as a general principle. If you were going to begin trade *de novo* in India, I would rather see it begun without any protection of any sort or kind; but we have gone on now to such an extent in our system of protection, that I think to take it away will destroy us all. The merchant will not be able to bear the removal of it.

1863. Will you direct your attention to the question that has been put to you; do you think it would be an advantage to India, even under her present circumstances, to give her protection unless those who were engaged in the cultivation of sugar in India and the sugar trade had some reasonable security that the protection would last for a considerable time. Do you think a state of uncertainty would not be very unfortunate for the producers and the importers of sugar into this country?—I think a state of uncertainty is worse than anything else to the merchant. All I wish to say about that is what I have said, that such is the peculiar position of India, that you are driving us now back upon silver; and if our trade is to be carried on to the extent to which it has been, that will be a political evil which the Government will suffer so much from that I do not know how or where it would end.

1864. Do you attach great importance to the extension of the cultivation of cotton in India?—I do; I think the cultivation of cotton may be very greatly extended. I am not myself much conversant with the question, but there are men, some of whom I know, who have a very strong opinion of the increase that may be made in the cotton trade; and I believe there is a Committee appointed now which will investigate that subject.

1865. Do you believe that if the natural communications of India could be improved, there would be probably a great extension of the cotton trade?—There can be no doubt of that.

√ 1866. You have stated that you conceive British India as formed to be the great entrepôt for British manufactures, and the means of supplying the whole of Southern Asia with them?—I think so.

√ 1867. If a great extension of that trade were to take place, would not it be the case that in the natural course of trade, and as a necessary consequence of such a trade, remittances would come to this country through the channel of India?—Yes, that was the reason why I made the remarks regarding silver. If the trade can be carried on by silver, it will; but if not, I do not see how you are to carry on an extended trade when you are reducing your power of bringing the products of India home every year. The China silk has nearly cut off our Bengal silk, and now if we are to reduce our import of sugar, you are cutting off our means of bringing back the products of the country, and throwing the trade only on silver. If we can make great profits in the
outward

outward trade, we may go on ; if not, we must stop altogether ; we have always the Company's tribute staring us in the face, and we know that that must come without any reference to the profit or loss to the merchant.

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✓1868. Do you think it would be a safe thing to found a great commerce of this kind upon so artificial a system as that of a forced exportation of sugar from the East Indies by means of protection?—I speak of the consequence that must ensue, at present, till we find something that is to take the place of it. All that will happen will be, that our trade must diminish ; we must leave the market in the hands of the Company to bring home their tribute, and must leave off making advances for British manufactures till we discover something to take the place of sugar. At present that is our great stand-by ; we cannot afford to go on losing money ; we have already lost plenty of money ; we are not fairly dealt with either, because the Legislature are protecting the manufacturers, while they are throwing us upon free trade.

1869. Are you of opinion that it would be impossible, without some considerable protection for India, to send sugar to this country?—At present I do not see any other means, nor do I see how trade is to be carried on, unless we can discover some general mode of remittance which does not now exist. If cotton were to rise, and India were to supply England with the whole of her cotton, that would take the place of sugar.

1870. Unless the price of sugar were considerably raised above its natural level to the English consumer, the export trade from India in your opinion could not continue?—At the present rates importation will not increase ; it will be diminished. I do not say it will be given up ; but, instead of being an annually increasing trade, it must be a decreasing trade till we can discover some other means of supplying sugar than we have hitherto had.

1871. You have stated that you are not afraid of the competition of Java?—No.

1872. Nor of other foreign countries which have been generally called free-labour countries?—I am not afraid of them. There has been this year a very large quantity of free-labour sugar ; but I think a great deal of that has been forced forward at prices which it will not be brought forward at again. I think the West Indies will not produce so much sugar again, nor do I think the Mauritius will. Therefore I do not think the increase of free-labour sugar will be anything to be apprehended.

1873. The only sugar you are afraid of is sugar the produce of Brazil, Cuba, and Porto Rico?—Provided it can be made at the rates which they say it can be made at.

1874. Are you aware of the quantity of sugar exported from Java and other foreign countries, which is generally considered as being cultivated by free labour, to the markets of the world?—There was a statement last week in the "Economist," which I took out, and which I have here. It states that the free-labour sugar of the world last year was, from the West Indies 145,000 tons, the Mauritius 65,000, the East Indies 70,000, Java 75,000, Manilla 30,000, and Europe 100,000 ; making, in the whole, 485,000 tons.

1875. Are you aware whether that Java and other free-labour foreign countries export annually considerably more sugar than the whole quantity of foreign-grown sugar consumed in this country?—Yes ; they have this year done so ; but that includes the beet-root sugar of France, I believe.

1876. If that is the case, of course the surplus of this foreign free-labour sugar goes to compete with foreign slave-labour sugar, the produce of Cuba and Brazil, in the general markets of the world?—Yes ; but looking to the future we shall not have another year such a surplus from free-labour sugar countries as we had last. I look upon it, that instead of 145,000 tons from the West Indies, you cannot calculate on more than 75,000 tons ; that from the Mauritius, the 65,000 tons will be reduced to 30,000 tons ; from the East Indies you cannot count on more than 40,000 tons ; from Java, coming to compete with us here (because a large quantity of Java sugar goes to Holland), you cannot count on more than half of it, or 35,000 tons, and half of Manilla, 15,000 tons, which would leave the amount of free-labour sugar, which, under ordinary circumstances, might be calculated on as coming to England, about 200,000 tons.

1877. Do you expect the produce of free-labour foreign countries to fall so low as that, in the event of there being a discriminating duty, which admitted

Mr. N. Alexander. that sugar into this country, but which excluded the foreign slave-labour sugar; we should take the entire produce exported from those free-labour countries, with the exception of what was consumed in Holland, and that none would be exported to the Continent?—It must depend entirely upon the price at which they can make their sugar; I cannot answer for that; but I answer as a merchant, that out of this list of sugars which I have given in, of 480,000 tons, as far as my general commercial knowledge goes, the produce of the West Indies must be reduced nearly one-half. The Mauritius, I am satisfied, will be the same. The export from the East Indies will be reduced to 40,000 tons; therefore, putting those things together, and allowing that half of the Manilla, and half the Java, will come here, in round numbers, I should say there would be about as much free-labour sugar applicable to the consumption of England as England requires.

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1878. Unless such a state of things as was described in the last question were to exist, would it be of any consequence to you whether you were protected against all foreign sugar, whether the produce of slave labour or free labour, or whether a distinction were drawn in favour of free-labour foreign sugar against slave-labour foreign sugar?—I said before, I should not be the least afraid of free-labour sugar if it were admitted on equal terms here, if all slave-labour sugar were excluded.

1879. That is not an answer to my question.—I always understood that the only reason for admitting slave sugar was, that there was an absolute deficiency for the supply of England of free-labour sugar. I am satisfied that that deficiency does not exist. I am sure we have such an immense supply of sugar in India, that if the manufacture were to increase, and there were an increased quantity of returns required, when it got to a certain point, a very little increase in that demand would draw an increased quantity of sugar from India. I think we have got sugar applicable to the supply of England, though it does not come to England. I mean that there would be no want of sugar altogether if slave sugar were not imported.

1880. As far as regards the protection to be given to the East Indies, does not it turn altogether upon the question, whether there is or is not a surplus of free-labour foreign sugar to be carried to the general markets of the world after this country has taken what there is to be sent here?—Of course, if it were admitted freely here, it would depend upon that.

1881. By "freely" you mean upon equal terms?—Yes. With respect to sugar, I make it a mere matter of profit and loss to myself. If I can bring in sugar here profitably, I do so; but from my knowledge of India, my opinion is, that sugar has now fallen to a point that must materially interfere with my using it as a means of remittance, and then I say I have nothing left but to fall back upon silver. If I can make such large profits as will enable me to stand the loss of bringing silver home to sell, I will go on with the trade, if not, I will pull in, and reduce to that extent. You have now before you the prospect of an enormous increase, an increase which there is no limit to, in my opinion, in the India trade. It has increased, even with all the difficulties of war against us; but now that we have peace, the whole of Asia will be open to us, and the trade for the next 30 years will be double, or quadruple what it has been for the last 30. What I want especially to place before the Committee is, what is required in trying this free-trade experiment upon the merchant when you are not trying it upon the manufacturer.

1882. *Mr. Wilson.*] What protection has the manufacturer at present in India?—The manufacturer in India has a protection which has been increased within the last two or three years; a few years ago the English manufacturer for his goods paid 3½ per cent., and the foreign manufacturer 15; within the last few years they have increased the duties on English goods to 5 per cent., and the duties on foreign manufactures to 10.

1883. The English manufacturer at present has an advantage of 5 per cent. in the Indian market?—Yes.

1884. What do you call the present value of sugar exported from India?—I do not think, as merchants, we shall be able to draw that peculiar kind of sugar we want unless we can give 16s. a maund for it in India.

1885. What protection have you upon sugar now?—It is decreasing every year.

1886. What

1886. What is the smallest protection you ever had?—There is the difference between 14 s. and 20 s. Mr. N. Alexander.

1887. What per centage is that upon 16 s., the prime cost of the sugar?—19 February 1848.
Rather more than one-third.

1888. You have at present a protection of about 35 per cent.?—But I have a loss upon sugar to the same amount.

1889. You have a protection of about 35 per cent., and the English manufacturer has a protection of 5 per cent.?—As things are at present, we have a larger protection on sugar than the English manufacturer has; but you are going to take that altogether away from us, leaving the protection to the manufacturer.

1890. That is in 1851, when it will be equalized; there is reason to believe that before that time other duties will be equalized also?—But you do not get over the fact that India has markets for sugar independently of England, and that below a certain price she will not permit her sugar to leave India to come here; unless we can get it at a certain price we cannot bring it, and then either we must reduce our trade or fall back on silver.

1891. What do you receive in return from the north-western provinces?—Silver partly; and that silver will be what we shall fall back upon, provided we can make a sufficient profit upon the trade out, as to bear the loss of silver coming back; if we cannot do that, then we shall have to diminish the trade in proportion as our means of remittance are cut off.

1892. Do you receive nothing but silver?—There is a good deal of salt also comes in, and Cashmere shawls; salt is a very large item that comes over the frontier from the northern provinces; I cannot enumerate all the particulars.

1893. Are you aware that the importation of sugar has nearly doubled from India within the last six years?—In 1836 it was about 7,000 tons; we had the duties assimilated, and it has got up as high as 70,000 tons since that.

1894. In what way were the remittances made six or seven years ago?—We had raw silk to the extent of nearly a million, of which we have been almost entirely deprived by the China silk; that has been a terrible loss to us; then sugar took its place for a time, and filled up the gap; now if sugar is taken from us, that will reduce our means and throw us back upon silver.

1895. Suppose the price of sugar to fall here, would not the first effect of that be a fall in the price of sugar in India?—That is what I apprehend will not be the case. The amount of consumption is so great internally, and a new trade since the Punjaub has been settled has arisen, so that the producer there will be able to keep it up to a price at which we are not able to buy it. We are now in a very different position to what we ever were before. We used to be surrounded by hostile tribes, and they would not allow the merchants to come in; but now that is settled, and we are a sort of centre to the whole of Asia; and every year we are increasing a trade, which, after some time, I think, will be a perfectly enormous one, if we can go on drawing from India returns. For instance, we have opened resources into Tartary and Persia; I suppose already the amount of sugar alone sent over the frontier is 70,000 tons; that has arisen within a very short time; it finds its way to Persia and Tartary. After a while, I have no doubt there will be a way open into China, where you will have a large demand for British goods going into all those territories. If we can continue our means of bringing back the value without loss, we shall be able to go on increasing our supplies.

1896. You think, even if India had no English market for sugar, it would not be a serious injury to India herself?—It is always injurious to a country to be excluded from a market; but it would be nothing in the East to what it would be in the West, where if they had not the English market the sugar must rot. It would be less injurious to India than any sugar-growing country in the world that I know of.

1897. If they got the same price for the sugar, whether we took it or not, what injury would it be?—As trade increased and population increased, the cultivation of sugar would be extended, and that would give the means to the inhabitants of buying our products, and exchanging a large quantity of Indian products for English manufactures. It is of great importance to British manufacturers and British merchants.

1898. Do you think if individuals were deprived of the English market it would prevent a further extension of the cultivation of sugar?—I think, looking

Mr. N. Alexander. to the new market which is arising, and to the increase in the consumption of India, as our territories are increasing in wealth, the Hindoos using sugar to a very great extent, the cultivation will not decrease, certainly; but it will rather go on increasing, but not at the rate it would if the English importation were also drawn from India.

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1899. Would you think it wise as regards the interests of the East Indies that we should encourage the cultivation of sugar by a protective duty which could not be permanently maintained?—My view is, that now the only person that you should think of is the English manufacturer. Looking to the interests of the Indian cultivators, and to the quantity which is raised and consumed in India, the quantity we take is so small that I do not think as a national question, it would make much difference to the Indian cultivator. The only effect would be this, that India would be called on to provide for the smaller quantity of British manufactures consumed. They probably would not consume so much, and we should not send so much. It would be a check to the gradual increase of the consumption of foreign goods, which the natives can easily do without.

1900. Have you any good reason for believing that the supply of free-labour sugar will fall off as you have stated?—I have, myself, no doubt whatever.

1901. Are you aware that the cultivation of Java sugar has increased very greatly during the last 20 years?—Very much so; and it will go on increasing, I have no doubt; and so I think will others. I think Java will not suffer so much, but the Mauritius will fall off very much.

1902. You think the Java cultivation will increase?—Yes; but I do not think the increase will be such as will come to so large a figure as would be the case in India.

1903. Are you aware what the increase in Java has been?—No; I suppose it is to be got at, because I imagine all these things are done by the government.

1904. Do you know what is the present production of Java?—I do not know.

1905. You are not aware what it was 20 years ago?—No; but I should think it was very small. Our own export in the years 1835–36 was only to the extent of 6,000 or 7,000 tons.

1906. What is our consumption of foreign sugar in this country?—I am aware that last year there was an increase of about 25,000 tons of foreign sugar consumed, against a decrease of about 5,000 tons of our own colonial sugar. There has been a decrease compared with the previous year of about 5,000 tons consumed of colonial sugar, and an increase of about 25,000 tons of foreign sugar.

1907. Do you think that the consumption in this country last year exceeded 50,000 tons?—I am not aware at the present moment.

1908. Supposing the entire consumption of foreign sugar in this country to be 50,000 tons, and the production of Java, Manilla, and Siam to be 100,000 tons, and we admit that 100,000 tons at the same duty as our own colonial sugar, can you see any advantage in excluding slave-labour sugar?—What I say is on the principle that in our own colonies, particularly the West Indies and the Mauritius, there will be a very great falling off in future, and that that falling off will not be added to by any increase in Java or any other place, to such an extent as will bring in so large a quantity of free-labour sugar as would very much influence the prices; that is, that we should still be left in India with our power of bringing home sugar without loss. I think in Bengal we can compete with any foreign free-labour sugar.

1909. Can you compete with Java?—I cannot say that from actual knowledge; but it is my opinion generally that we are on equal terms with any other country.

1910. Are you aware that Java has competed with Brazil and Cuba during the period during which you describe the large increase of production to have taken place?—Java sugar is a much more saleable sugar for general purposes than East India sugar, because it is a richer sugar.

1911. Take quality for quality, take two sugars of an equal quality and of equal value?—If you take two sugars of equal quality, the sugar you bought in Java would be cheaper than in Bengal.

1912. Are you aware that Java, during the period in which this large increase of production has taken place, has competed without any protection with

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with Cuba and Brazil?—I am not aware of that. I cannot say whether it is so or not, because I do not know the fact. The question is, has Java sugar been in the market to a sufficient extent to make it a real object of competition, because a small quantity of sugar from some particular cause may bear a good price.

1913. Seventy-five thousand tons of sugar came from Java, 75,000 tons also came from the Brazils; both those countries have increased at the same time largely in their production, have not they?—Yes.

1914. Then it follows that Java has competed successfully with Brazil?—I do not think that follows; because you have 65,000 tons of sugar sent home from the Mauritius; but I am quite sure that 35,000 of that has been made at a most tremendous loss. The increase in the cultivation of Java sugar, which has been carried on by the Dutch, may have been carried on at a loss. I do not know whether it has or not.

1915. Do you suppose that for 20 years they would carry on business at a loss?—The cultivation in the Mauritius I know has been carried on at a loss. Sugar may be bought for one year in very large quantities and sold at an immense loss, and that may check the cultivation. The sugar from the Mauritius has got up to 65,000 tons; that is made at an immense loss, and the calculation is that it will go down to 30,000 tons. If the 75,000 tons of sugar has been forced forward from Java at higher prices than it is now selling for, next year there may be only 50,000 tons from Java. I cannot tell that, of course; but I believe that indigo in Java has been carried on at a loss, and that the production is now diminished in consequence.

1916. *Chairman.*] Do you know that the sugar of Java is produced under a guarantee from the Dutch government of 14*l.* a ton in the island?—I know that the production of sugar and indigo is under the influence of government, and I know that the Dutch government are now reducing indigo, finding that it does not pay; and they may do the same with sugar unless I know what the price of production is. You see this year a quantity of sugar poured in from every country in the world, but that may not be the case next year.

1917. *Mr. Wilson.*] You say you know that the sugar in Java is cultivated under the guarantee of the government?—I know that sugar and indigo are so. I believe that the King of Holland has a direct interest in the cultivation, but whether or not he finds it answer I cannot say. I understand he does not find indigo answer, and there is an order gone out to reduce it. I do not know whether sugar answers or not; if it answers, they will increase; if it does not, they will reduce.

1918. They have increased, have not they?—Up to this point they have, as they have in the Mauritius.

1919. Is not that to your mind a satisfactory proof if they have gone on increasing for 20 years, that the cultivation has answered?—It is not; it is not a satisfactory proof to me that the Mauritius has increased from a few thousand tons, which was its production when we took the island, to 65,000 tons now; because I know that the people who forced that increase forward have been ruined from it.

1920. Are you aware that one-third of the sugar made in Java is cultivated by private individuals?—No, I only know as a general fact that the government interferes in indigo, and I believe in sugar.

1921. You are aware that in Holland there is no protective duty upon sugar at all?—I believe there is not.

1922. *Mr. M. Gibson.*] Do you recommend the total exclusion of slave-labour sugar from the British market?—I do.

1923. A prohibition in fact?—Yes.

1924. You would limit the importation of sugar to free-labour sugar?—I understand the reason why slave-labour sugar was introduced was solely because there was not sufficient free-labour sugar in the world to supply the English market; but I think there is incontestible proof that there is enough to supply the English market. Therefore that cuts down the only ground upon which slave-labour sugar was said to be admissible.

1925. Would you extend your exclusion of slave-labour sugar to the produce of those countries which do not import slaves, but merely possess slaves, and use them for growing sugar?—I would exclude the sugar of every country which can fairly be included among what are called slave-trade countries in

Mr. N. Alexander. the English sense of that phrase ; that is, countries where the slave is made to cultivate sugar under the whip.

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1926. Would you extend that principle to other produce which is raised by slaves ?—There is tobacco, which is a large slave produce ; I would extend it to that, because we could supply it from India.

1927. Would you extend the principle to other produce which is grown by slaves under similar circumstances to sugar ?—If you give me no time to consider it, I must answer that I would not apply it to sugar alone, but I would exclude everything grown by slaves.

1928. Would you exclude slave-labour coffee entirely from the markets of the United Kingdom ?—I would exclude everything raised by slave labour that we can get by free labour, as a general principle. I consider we have in our own power an ample supply of coffee, without going to slave labour for it.

1929. Then you would exclude slave-labour coffee entirely ?—If I am asked as to the exclusion or non-exclusion, I say, exclude.

1930. Do you consider that the exclusion of slave-grown coffee from the markets of the United Kingdom, would be beneficial to the population of this country ?—I look at the question as a question of national profit and loss.

1931. Do you consider that it would be beneficial to the planters' interests to exclude all slave coffee ?—I think that it stands to reason that it would. If our own colonies can furnish the quantity required on such terms as not to raise the price beyond a reasonable amount to the consumer, if they are hindered from making losses by other coffee not coming in, it is the better for them ; on the other hand, they are enabled by that means to take a larger quantity of products from England, and we are enabled to carry on with our colonies a larger trade. My own impression is, that our colonial trade has many advantages over the foreign trade, which the Legislature should always take into consideration in these questions ; one is, that the market is open to us whether there is peace or war, there is not that interruption of trade which takes place with foreign nations ; the other is, that the merchants on both sides being Englishmen, the balance of trade is always flowing into England, and the entire charges on both sides come into credit to England ; whereas with foreign nations, but half the charge does so, the foreigner getting the other half the charge. I think that as a national question is a very large one, and I think it is one of the means by which England has acquired such immense wealth, by the entire profit and charges coming in from the colonies. The East Indies alone, between the tribute, the profits on trade, and accumulations of Englishmen in the country, pours annually into England upwards of 5,000,000 *l.*

1932. *Sir E. Buxton.*] You have stated that the import of sugar is likely to decrease very much ?—That is my supposition.

1933. It is your opinion that during next year the importation of sugar from India will be decreased from 70,000 to 40,000 tons ?—In this statement which I have produced, of the quantity of free-labour sugar, it is put down that instead of India sending home 70,000 tons at the low figure at which sugar will range for the next year, owing to the immense quantity of sugar that has been produced all over the world, India is not likely to send more than 40,000 tons, provided all slave sugars to be admitted.

1934. Do you think that the import of other articles is likely also to be diminished ?—No ; the articles from India that will be decreased will be sugar and silk, two articles which together are in value one-half the annual export of the country ; other articles I do not think will be decreased ; they ought to be rather increased, because the merchants will struggle for a time, and the effect ought to be rather to increase them ; there will certainly be no decrease.

1935. It does not arise from the state of trade generally, but the state of the sugar trade ?—It merely arises from the fact that we cannot bring our returns back so as to secure ourselves from loss.

1936. *Mr. Matheson.*] With respect to the very low price of sugar within the last few months, and the inferences you have drawn from it, do you think those are fair inferences for ordinary seasons, considering that the depreciation of this year is so very extraordinary, and is caused by the monetary pressure ?—No doubt that has something to do with it.

1937. There is scarcely any colonial article of any importance which has not been imported for the last few months at a very heavy loss, is there ?—From India, I should say, the pressure in the money market between May and December, occasioned a very heavy loss upon everything, but on indigo the price

price is already recovering; that loss I spoke of upon indigo was caused by the pressure of the times. The loss on sugar arises from the fact that we see an enormous quantity coming in to compete with us at prices that we cannot stand; and that is what makes me apprehend, that unless we can get silver, we must reduce our trade considerably. We cannot go on for ever bringing in articles at a loss; in fact it has had already the very serious result of bringing down a great many houses.

1938. Mr. Miles.] With respect to shipping, did not you state that there were 267 ships at Calcutta, of which 200 probably carried sugar?—The quantity of shipping that came from London and different English ports direct to Calcutta during this year, was the number which I gave; therefore they were ships that looked alone to Calcutta for the means of getting freight in return; they were not ships that, hearing of high freights, went from one place to another. The sugar shipped in the year I stated was sufficient to give dead weight to 200 of them.

1939. Before this sugar trade sprang up, was there anything instead of it supplied as dead weight to those ships?—Before the sugar trade sprang up, saltpetre and rice were our principal articles of dead weight; sugar has increased our power of loading ships to an amount which is very large.

1940. Has the freight of ships homeward increased or decreased since the sugar trade commenced?—I think it keeps pretty regular; the tonnage of the ships has kept up with the increase of the means of loading them; I think the average for sugar has been about five guineas a ton.

1941. What has been the operation in respect to the outward trade from this country; has the freight increased or diminished?—The outward trade from this country is a very small matter; ships from London go out in ballast; they have no freight at all, or something very trifling.

1942. What was the case before the sugar trade sprang up?—Pretty much the same; the only ships that carried freights (and those were at very low rates) were Glasgow and Liverpool ships, which would take out piece goods. London ships sometimes took out a little iron, or things of that kind; perhaps the freight of a large ship is not above 400 l. or 500 l.

1943. Then the freight outwards was much the same before the sugar trade sprang up as at present?—Perhaps it was a little higher, but not much; for as ships have increased, the quantity of piece goods has increased also. I do not think there is much difference in that respect.

1944. In the exportation of sugar to the north-west provinces, you stated that there was a classification of duty, if I may so call it?—The duty on the finer quality was eight annas, and on the lower description it was three annas; but from the peculiar nature of the trade, it is almost all fine sugar.

1945. Have they any great difficulty in ascertaining or keeping up this classification of duty?—The sugar passes through the government custom-houses.

1946. Are there complaints about any inequality in charging the high or the low duty?—No, the thing is apparent upon the face of it; they are different articles altogether.

1947. They are perfectly distinct?—Yes, the one is in a different state of manufacture altogether from the other.

1948. You have also stated that the shipments of sugar to this country will very much diminish?—I expect so. We cannot go on as we now are.

1949. Supposing this market were to fall by the amount of protection which will be withdrawn when all the duties are equalized, do you expect any sugar would come at all?—All I can say is, that I sent out by the last mail limits for sugar within which if I can buy it, it will just save me from loss; but for those limits I do not think any large quantity will leave India, because I think the natives will have other means of disposing of their sugar without submitting to the price I am willing to give.

✓ 1950. Do you happen to know the total quantity of sugar prepared by the sugar factories in Bengal?—I have not the least idea, but it is all included in the 67,000 tons; when they were in full work, they may have got up to 20,000 tons among them.

1951. Do you know anything about the sugar cultivation in Madras?—No.

1952. You never send orders to Madras?—No.

1953. Mr. Villiers.] You do not know anything of the circumstances under which sugar is produced in Madras?—No; my trade is particularly with Bengal. I only know anything of Madras from hearsay.

Mr. N. Alexander. 1954. Do you know anything about the manufacture of sugar in India?—
 I have seen it manufactured; I have never myself actually manufactured it as
 a manufacturer, but I have seen it manufactured. I have been in those large
 houses where I have seen the natives manufacturing it.

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1955. Do you know anything of the circumstances under which the cane is grown in India by the natives, as to the difficulties they may have in producing it?—The general way in which the native produces his sugar is this: There are men of great wealth in some of the large towns who make advances through parties who go through the district, which they are in the habit of doing, to the cultivators. Each biggah, which is a certain quantity of ground, is measured off, and a certain sum is advanced to enable the native to cultivate it; then the sugar goes to this man, and he arranges with the cultivators, and pays them back, after taking his own per-centage, the difference.

1956. Do you know now whether there are any difficulties in the way of producing sugar and manufacturing it, which can be removed?—The great difficulty just at present is the want of money; the Europeans are so terribly cut up now, that all European manufactories are being shut up for want of the means of going on.

1957. You cannot tell the Committee whether any economy could be introduced into the manufacture or production of sugar?—Since I have left India some of the European indigo planters have had out machinery, and have joined the sugar cultivation to their indigo cultivation, and that is the cheapest way in which it can be produced in India, because the people who cultivate the indigo are enabled to make sugar when their services are not required for the indigo; consequently that is the cheapest means of making it. I have seen returns from a factory where there is the best European machinery, and where I believe the sugar is made as cheaply as possible, and they are certainly very low, so low that I doubt whether it can be generally done at that. I have seen returns as low as from 9 s. to 10 s. a cwt. for making the sugar at the factory in Tirhoot; but my own impression is that that could not be continued, because it must have been a very favourable season; the cane must have yielded a large quantity of saccharine juice, and that depends a great deal upon the state of the rainy season. I should say, speaking merely from what I have seen, that 12 s. a cwt. would be the lowest, on an average, at which they could produce the kind of brown sugar that comes home.

1958. That is the advantage that you have had of late years by this machinery?—Yes.

1959. You are not prepared to say that those parties may not have other advantages in a short time, by means of other machinery which may be introduced, or other arrangements which may be made for the cheaper production of sugar?—I believe at present they have the best machinery, vacuum pans, and everything of that kind that has been yet discovered. If there are other means discovered, they will make it cheaper, but that will be common to everywhere else. I do not think at present there is any chance of labour being cheaper in India than it is now; and at the present time, I believe they have the best machinery that can be got.

1960. Do you know anything of the difference of soil in India?—In some parts we cannot grow sugar at all.

1961. Do you think the sugar cultivation has been extended as far as it can be in India?—No; it might be extended much further, I have no doubt.

1962. Do you believe that India could supply England with all the sugar she wants?—I believe she could supply all Europe with what Europe wants.

1963. You are not afraid, you say, of the competition of any countries where the cultivation is by free labour?—No.

1964. However cheaply they may produce that sugar, you would not be afraid of their competition?—No.

1965. Do you state that upon a comparison of the cost of producing sugar in free-labour and slave-labour countries?—No; the only comparison I am aware of is this, I have seen a calculation of the cost of producing it at Manilla. I am not aware what the cost is at Java.

1966. Do you know anything about Java?—I was never there.

1967. Do you know anything about the cost of producing sugar there?—I do not.

1968. Do you know anything about the West Indies?—Nothing.

1969. You

1969. You do not know what would be the effect of the introduction of free labour in the quantities that may be wanted, into some of our West Indian colonies?—I suppose it would benefit them very much.

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✓ 1970. Do you know anything of the cost of bringing sugar from any of those free-labour countries?—No, I cannot say that I do; that must depend so much upon the supply of tonnage there that it must vary every year. I remember some time ago making a comparison, from which I think that the cost of bringing sugar from Java can differ very little from what it does from Calcutta; it may be 10*s.* a ton perhaps cheaper, but there cannot be a great deal of difference, because there is only the Bay of Bengal between the two places, 1,200 or 1,500 miles; and I should think Manilla was about the same.

✓ 1971. Have you taken into consideration what convenience there would be, if the Navigation Laws were repealed, with respect to bringing sugar home from those countries?—I do not know whether the repeal of the Navigation Laws would have much effect to the east of the Cape of Good Hope. I think the description of vessels used in shipping sugar from those countries would not share in the benefit at all. I doubt very much whether there would be much change east of the Cape.

✓ 1972. Perhaps you have never considered the subject?—I have never thought of it. The effect, apparently, of the repeal of the Navigation Laws, would be to bring vessels for short voyages into competition, rather than very long ones. Our vessels are large vessels, well found, and of a different description to the vessels that go short voyages. I can only, however, give the Committee an off-hand opinion upon the subject.

1973. Have you given the subject of manufacturing sugar, whether from cane or other plants, much consideration?—I have, when I was in India.

1974. Have you considered the question of the production of sugar from other materials than the sugar cane?—There is a great deal of sugar extracted from the date tree. A great deal is made annually, and comes to England, which is not from the sugar cane at all.

1975. You would not be afraid of the competition of that kind of sugar coming into the market with East Indian sugar?—It is coming in as part of the East Indian sugar. What I mean to say on the subject of competition is, that we have got labour so cheap in India, that I think we can compete with any other free-labour country.

1976. Your apprehension on the ground of slave labour is, that so much sugar will be produced, and produced so cheaply, as to prevent free-labour sugar from coming into the market to advantage?—If the statements as to the price at which slave-labour sugar can be made are true, which I suppose they are.

1977. You have yourself no knowledge about the cost of producing sugar with slave labour?—None whatever.

1978. Mr. *Moffatt*.] What is the length of your experience in Calcutta?—I have been connected with India for 30 years.

1979. What is the lowest price which you have known for Benares sugar within that time?—I think about seven rupees, exclusive of the duty.

1980. That is the export price?—Yes; I am not aware of fine sugar being lower than that.

1981. That price is for fine Benares sugar?—Yes.

1982. What would be the lowest range of price for the inferior qualities?—Until of late years the inferior qualities were not sought after at all; I have always dealt in fine sugar myself.

1983. The price for the inferior was considerably lower, of course?—Yes.

1984. Four to five rupees possibly?—Yes; perhaps for five rupees, before the duties were assimilated, you might have got a very fair quality of sugar.

1985. You say you think there will be a large decrease of the cultivation of sugar in the Mauritius; have you any practical experience as to the Mauritius?—I was never in the Mauritius, but I lived in a place which supplied it with food for a great many years, and therefore became acquainted to a certain extent with the necessity of importing both labour and food as the cultivation increased; and that no doubt added very much to the value of the extra quantity of sugar, which I think now will decrease because it will not pay.

✓ 1986. Having acquired a practical acquaintance with the cultivation of sugar from your long residence in India, can you inform the Committee what is the

Mr. N. Alexander. interest paid on advances to the cultivators of sugar?—About 40 per cent. per annum.

19 February 1848. 1987. Do you know what the amount of the land tax is?—It varies in different parts of the country; in some parts it is under a perpetual settlement; a certain sum is paid in perpetuity; you do not know what the native ryot pays. In some parts of the country the native ryot is the real possessor of the soil; in other places they take it for years. Sometimes they take land manured for sugar, which is done at the expense of the owner of the land, and in that case they pay extra for it.

1988. Can you give the Committee an approximation to the English value per acre?—Not off-hand. I should think that good sugar land would probably be worth 15 s. to 20 s. an acre; I cannot however give that as information of which I am not certain.

1989. Are there any transit dues exacted on produce in the province of Bengal?—They have been taken off.

1990. Are there any taxes that are paid on agricultural implements?—No; there are no taxes, except the land revenue.

1991. You have laid great stress in your evidence upon the cultivation of sugar as a means of remittance to this country; the Committee understand you to state that we have a very increasing trade now with the districts over the north-western frontier, into which there is now exported to the extent of 70,000 tons of sugar, giving to the Indian Government a revenue 65,000 l., and also that promises to become a great outlet for English manufactures?—I expect so.

1982*. Your fear is, that unless we continue the exportation of sugar to this country, the means of return for those manufactures will be greatly diminished?—Instead of sending an increased quantity of manufactures to meet that demand, we must decrease the quantity exported to India now.

1983*. Is not it the case that the East India Company remit to this country a sum equal to four millions as tribute?—Yes.

1984*. Are you not aware that there are also considerable sums of money required to be remitted for mercantile purposes from this country to India and China?—The only money required to be remitted to India from this country would be money which the owners of factories, either for sugar or indigo, would require to remit to India to provide for the cultivation there; the money that goes to China goes to India in the shape of drafts on the Government there, and is generally invested in opium, or some other produce, and sent round.

1985*. That is, bills drawn here on the Government there?—Yes.

1986*. What amount of money is paid into the treasury at Leadenhall-street, and remitted in that form to India?—It depends upon several circumstances, so that it is impossible to say, more than that now it has almost entirely fallen off; during the last three or four years the sum has got up to 2,500,000 l. in one year, but the reason of that being so great was, that two or three years ago merchants had the means of raising money from bills and other sources, at a very low rate of interest; they were in the habit of borrowing money by long bills, and sending it out to trade with, calculating that they would be able to renew their bills till their produce came back with a profit; but that has now ceased altogether, and so far from the Company being able to sell bills, I know that within a very short time as much as 30,000 l. of Company's bills drawn here, have gone out and been accepted in Calcutta, and have come back to this country to be sold in this market because they could make no use of them there; they had in fact no means of making so good a remittance as sending the bill back. At this moment we have promissory notes of the Bank of Bengal, payable three days after sight, to which the Government of India are parties, selling at a halfpenny under the rate at which the Government draw, so that the Court of Directors are excluded from raising money in that way; they must look altogether to another source, and so satisfied are they of that difficulty that they have ordered 500,000 l. to be sent home in silver.

1987*. You have referred the great falling off in the payments into the treasury in Leadenhall-street to the monetary difficulties of this country?—Yes, and to the cessation of that kind of speculation which the very low price of money led to two years ago.

1988*. Assuming that the monetary difficulties of this country will be overcome,

come, that channel will still be open as a means of remittance to India, will not it?—As long as the Company chooses to sell bills.

Mr. N. Alexander.

1989*. Do not that afford the Company a great facility for getting home their four millions of tribute?—Yes; but a merchant must have means of bringing his money back profitably, or he will not take the bills; I have referred to an instance of 30,000*l.* of the Company's bills which were sent to India, and which have come back to be resold in this market, because they can do nothing with them there.

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1990*. Your impression is, that in the paralyzed state of Indian commerce there are very few exports going on to India at the present moment?—Very few indeed.

✓1991*. The state of things at the present moment therefore forms no fair ground for arriving at an accurate conclusion what will be the experience of a course of years?—Certainly not.

✓1992. When trade was prosperous, as large an amount as 2½ millions was paid into the treasury in Leadenhall-street?—I cannot state that trade was prosperous; it was a period when, from the state of the money market, there was so much facility in raising money.

✓1993. And probably it was the great influx of money that poured into India which over-stimulated the commercial operations in Bengal, and hence we have the collapse that usually follows upon a commercial stimulation of that kind?—The parties who carry on the great concerns in Bengal, and those who have traded in bills, are two distinct parties; they have been two distinct operations.

✓1994. When this large sum of money was remitted to India, it was the most advantageous way of sending remittances to India, was not it?—Much the best.

✓1995. You say that at the present moment there is very little money paid into the treasury in Leadenhall-street?—It cannot but be so.

✓1996. If the East India Company were to lower the price of their bills, would not a larger sum find its way there?—I do not think, so far as we have gone yet, the credit of the East Indian merchants has improved a bit; and further than that, those who have credit will on no consideration, seeing the result of the late Bank action, in the present state of things, risk the raising money from bills to trade on.

1997. Lord *J. Manners.*] Were you to be understood to say that you lately sent out instructions to India to purchase sugar, if it could be purchased at a limited price?—Yes; every now and then the merchants who trade with India, at least I do myself, give what I consider a fair and reasonable value for all the products that my friends are likely to send me remittances on, so that they may not give more for an article than is likely to yield a remuneration here.

1998. What is the price you have so fixed?—The last price I sent out was 38*s.* for good Benares sugar, against 46*s.*, eight months ago.

1999. Mr. *Miles.*] Was that landed in England?—Yes.

2000. *Chairman.*] You have been asked if the great influx of British capital into India has not stimulated to an excessive production, and hence the present collapse; was not that great influx of British capital into India stimulated by the confidence that those speculators placed in the good faith of the British Parliament?—I suppose it was, to a great extent; however, that had nothing to do with the stimulation of the production of sugar; it was different capital that carried the thing on. This was English banking capital, borrowed to send round, but not capital engaged generally in the commerce of India; it was drawn at a time when any man could get money at 2 or 3 per cent.

✓2001. The British capital invested in the sugar cultivation was stimulated to that investment by a confidence in the stability of the commercial policy of Great Britain?—Of course that portion of it.

✓2002. You were asked whether the local consumption of sugar was not commonly checked by high prices. Is not the danger in India much greater of the local consumption being checked by low prices?—There is no doubt it will be checked by low prices; but I am not aware myself, as I have said before, that the quantity of sugar which is bought by British merchants in Calcutta has influenced the consumption of the country, so as to reduce the cultivation at present.

2003. You were asked whether India could not cultivate sugar as cheaply as it could be cultivated in Java. Supposing the natives of the East Indies were

Mr. N. Alexander. guaranteed 14 l. a ton for their sugar, and were lent money by the Government at the rate of five per cent., as the sugar cultivators in Java are, instead of having to borrow it at 30 or 40 per cent., and that England paid a tribute to India of 4,000,000, instead of demanding a tribute from India of 4,000,000, would not the natives of India be in a better condition to compete upon terms of equality with the cultivators of Java?—There can be no doubt of that.

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2004. A suggestion was put to you in this shape, that you would not be afraid to compete with free labour, however cheaply that free labour might be able to produce sugar; is not that because you practically know that free-labour sugar is not produced at the same price that slave-labour sugar is?—I believe not.

2005. You were challenged as to whether you had any knowledge of the cost of producing slave-grown sugar, to which you answered, no; have not you however a very perfect knowledge of the price at which slave-grown sugar is sold in the London market?—My impression is, that it is sold at a price at which we cannot bring in our sugars.

2006. Do you happen to know the average price of slave-grown sugar in bond in London, or at Cowes, for the last few years?—I do not; I have had the statement made to me, but I do not like speaking from recollection. It has passed from my mind, not being in trade; I have seen statements, but I do not remember them.

2007. Do not you know that Havannah sugars have been sold in bond at 17 s. a cwt.?—Yes.

2008. You were asked whether freights from Java were not 10 s. per ton cheaper than from Calcutta?—I said that I thought that would be about the difference, on account of knowing the locality of the two places; I do not know it as a fact.

2009. Are not freights fully 10 s. a ton cheaper from Bombay and Madras than from Calcutta, ordinarily?—They ought to be from Bombay, because they have not the Bay of Bengal to pass over, which, particularly in the upper part of it, is a difficult and lengthened part of the voyage. If they are going against the monsoon, that adds three weeks to the voyage over the time to Madras or to Bombay.

2010. Are the Java ships subject to that inconvenience?—No. From Java they have not the Bay of Bengal, and therefore freights ought to be less.

2011. Are there not also heavy port charges at Calcutta?—Very heavy. There is a river of about 100 miles to go up; there is pilotage for that, and various charges.

2012. There is no pilotage in Java, is there?—Not in Batavia; that is an open roadstead.

2013. Is not that where the sugar comes from principally?—I should think the sugars come from different parts.

2014. You are not aware of any great length of river navigation, or any heavy pilotage dues that are charged upon Java ships?—No.

2015. Mr. M. Gibson.] Can you name to the Committee what you would deem a fair remunerative price for average East India sugar?—It is impossible to give that answer without the rates of exchange, and various matters, being fixed. We have, for instance, been paying 8 l. 12 s. 6 d. for freight, when the usual freight is 5 l.

2016. What do you consider, in ordinary times, with ordinary freights, and ordinary charges and expenses, to be a remunerative price for sugar?—I do not think we can draw any large quantity of sugar from India under an average price of 16 s. a hundredweight, paid in Calcutta, and then you must add the freight, whatever it is, and the other charges.

Mr. Archibald Francis Arbuthnot, called in; and Examined.

Mr.
A. F. Arbuthnot.

2017. Chairman.] YOU are acquainted with the sugar trade of Madras, are you not?—I left Madras in the beginning of 1844; at that time the sugar trade at Madras had scarcely commenced, therefore I have had no personal interest in, and have no personal knowledge of the sugar trade of Madras, except by correspondence with my late partners there. I left business in 1844, and since that I have been in frequent correspondence with them. My knowledge is acquired in that way.

2018. The

2018. The sugar trade of Madras was entered upon with great spirit, was not it, at that time?—It was.

2019. And rapidly increased?—It has increased with very unusual rapidity.

2020. To what extent had it increased in 1847 above what it was in 1843?—I can state the imports of Madras sugar into the United Kingdom :

In the year ending 31 Dec. 1843, the imports were 2,841 bags, or 177 tons.			
Ditto - - - ditto - 1844 - - ditto -	34,432	„	2,152 „
Ditto - - - ditto - 1845 - - ditto -	84,821	„	5,301 „
Ditto - - - ditto - 1846 - - ditto -	134,974	„	8,435 „
Ditto - - - ditto - 1847 - - ditto -	137,159	„	8,572 „

2021. Do you understand that in the early part of that trade it was carried on to a very good profit?—It was; the rapid increase of it I consider to be a proof of that fact.

2022. What do you hear from your correspondents now is the state of the sugar trade at Madras?—One of great alarm and apprehension. I have no doubt in my own mind, from information I have received, that it is now carried on at a very considerable loss. It was so during last year.

2023. Do you apprehend that the cultivation of sugar at Madras for English export will be discontinued if the present prices remain?—I am not prepared to say that that export will be discontinued entirely; at the same time, I think there will be a great falling off in the export. Perhaps I should explain to your Lordship that sugar exported from Madras is of two kinds, one made from palmyra jaggery, a species of date tree from which sugar is manufactured by the natives, which is of a very inferior quality, a dark brown sugar, and which sells at a low price, in proportion, in this country. The other is made from the sugar cane.

2024. Date-tree sugar is very inferior in quality, is it?—The date-tree sugar from Madras; it is rather the palmyra tree, which is a species of date tree; that is a very inferior sugar, of which a large quantity has come, and the price of it has fallen so low here, that I consider the export of it must be very much reduced, or entirely stopped. Another description comes made from the sugar-cane, which is produced in the Vizigapatam district; this is made by the European process, with the most approved machinery, the vacuum pan, and so on, and is of a very superior quality. A large sum of money has been invested in those buildings and machinery, and I think the parties interested in them will before abandoning so much property submit to a year or two of loss, and therefore I am not prepared to say that the export of that sugar will be discontinued at present.

2025. You imagine that if the prices do not improve, it will probably be abandoned in the course of two or three years?—I consider that is extremely probable.

2026. Have you any notion of the amount of capital that has been invested in the sugar cultivation at Madras?—I should say about 200,000*l.*

2027. So that if the cultivation of sugar is abandoned, all that 200,000*l.* will be for ever sunk?—Entirely so.

2028. Mr. Prideaux informed the Committee that the East India Company had advanced either 40,000*l.* or 50,000*l.* for the irrigation of the sugar-cane fields in the neighbourhood of Madras; had that taken place before you left?—It had not; I think he must have referred to the works at the River Godaveri, which is about 300 or 400 miles from Madras, but in the Madras Presidency. The object of those works I believe is to irrigate the country by means of the Godaveri.

2029. That outlay would be also wasted, as far as the sugar cultivation goes?—It would. It may be applied to other purposes.

2030. Mr. Moffatt.] Are the sugar plantations near the Godaveri?—There are some in progress of being made on the banks of the Godaveri.

2031. Have you any practical experience in regard to the making of sugar at Madras?—I mentioned to the Committee that the article had not been one of export or manufacture at all at the time of my quitting India.

2032. Then your impression as to the falling off of that produce is merely theoretical, having reference to the fact that if the price is low it will not pay the producer?—Yes; I happen to know the price which certain parties who are interested in sugar works pay for the raw material.

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2033. Will you state that to the Committee?—Ten annas a Madras maund of 25 lbs. This jaggery, the article which is purchased from the natives at that rate, is afterwards manufactured into sugar; the calculation is, that one-third of the jaggery is made into sugar; consequently the price of jaggery upon the sugar is three times that, which comes to about 12 s. a hundredweight.

2034. That is into the sugar made by the vacuum process?—Yes, fine sugar. Then in order to arrive at the cost of the sugar, you have to add to that the expense of the process of manufacture, the superintendence, the interest upon the block, the buildings and machinery, the depreciation of such property, and all the other contingent charges of carrying on sugar manufacture, which I should be inclined to estimate at about 8 s. I do not think sugar of that quality can be made there under 18 s. to 20 s. a cwt.

2035. Do you mean clayed sugar?—No, sugar admissible at the lowest rate of duty.

2036. Have you any data from which you draw this conclusion as to the expenses of manufacture?—I have an estimate here of the expenditure. It is not taken from any accounts at all, but it is an estimate made of the probable cost before the works were erected.

2037. Have you any practical experience of its correctness?—Nothing of the working, but I know from my correspondents that in substance it is tolerably correct.

2038. That estimate has been confirmed by experience, has it?—Not exactly it all its items, but I should say it comes out pretty nearly accurate.

2039. Will you read that estimate?—I should say that this concern was commenced in 1844; the Committee are aware that under the law at that period free-labour sugar was then admitted at a differential duty of 10 s., and slave-labour sugar practically excluded.

[The Witness read the Estimate, as follows:]

Estimated Expenditure at the Chittwalsah Sugar Works, when Two Sets of Machinery are at Work, in 1846.

Salary of engineer and assistant - - - - -	Rs.	5,100
Ditto of a sugar boiler and ditto - - - - -		3,500
Ditto of a superintendent - - - - -		5,000
Ditto of native establishment and coolies - - - - -		12,000
Ditto of firewood - - - - -		4,000
Lamp and cocoa-nut oil, grease, &c. - - - - -		5,300
Cost of 748,000 maunds of jaggery, calculated upon the bases of working off at the rate of 2,400 maunds per diem, at 10 annas per maund - - -		468,000
Interest on block, estimated to cost—		
	Rs. 200,000 at 5%	10,000
	10% for wear and tear,	20,000
		30,000
Interest on jaggery purchased, say for 6 months, at 5% per annum, 2½% on C. Rs. 468,000 - - - - -		11,700
Contingencies, say 1% on block - - - - -		2,000
Gunny bags and shipping charges, 6 annas per bag, on 37,353 bags - - -		14,000
	Rs.	560,600

2040. Have the charges in any essential point increased or decreased above or below that estimate?—The cost of the block has increased, I think; but I think upon the whole this may be considered as about the entire cost.

2041. That makes the cost of the sugar 20 s. per cwt.?—Yes.

2042. Is that the cost at the sea-board?—On board ship.

2043. The charges in importing that sugar, the freight and the various charges, are equivalent to how much per ton?—The freight, and the sale charges in this country, exclusive of the duty, I should say are about 8 s. to 9 s. per cwt. This year the freight is 8 l., but that is very much above the average freight; I should say the fair average rate of charges is from 8 s. to 9 s.

2044. The result of your evidence is, that the finest sugar you can make, costs you in this country 28 s. 6 d. per cwt., delivered here?—Yes.

2045. What should you say as to the lower sugars?—I have no knowledge of the price of those.

2046. Mr. M. Gibson.] What price could be obtained for sugar of the best description,

description, which is admissible at the low rate of duty, duty paid?—At present from 44 s. to 46 s.

2047. Deducting 14 s. from 45 s., you have 31 s.?—Yes.

2048. Deduct 8 s. from that, what you have left then?—Twenty-three shillings.

2049. Therefore the net price you get for the sugar is 3 s. more than it costs you to make it?—If that estimate be correct that would be the case.

2050. At the present depreciated price, you get 3 s. more than is sufficient to pay for the sugar to the native, and to cover your cost of its manufacture, including the interest on the capital invested in the buildings and in the block?—From 2 s. to 3 s. I think may be the amount.

2051. Do you complain of that as an inadequate profit?—If that profit were certain, or were to be depended on, I think the parties interested in those works would be satisfied; but looking to the very uncertain character of such property, the machinery, and buildings, the necessity of finding skilled labourers and European overseers, the liability to accidents, the large amount of capital locked up, which may by possibility become wholly lost if the article becomes below a remunerating price; looking to all those circumstances, my own opinion is, that that margin of profit is insufficient.

2052. In that 8 s. per cwt. which you allow for the manufacture of the sugar, after it is bought of the native, have not you included all those costs, and all those contingencies which you state must be guarded against?—No; I do not think that the estimate does include them.

2053. Do you consider that the present price of sugar is a fair test at all of what the price of sugar would be under ordinary circumstances; do not you consider that the price of sugar is depreciated by those causes which have depreciated the price of all other produce, and all other property?—I do not; at least very little; it has to a certain extent, but only to a small degree suffered from the same causes which have produced a depreciation in other articles. The present low price may be accounted for by the large stock and the large supplies expected to arrive in this year.

2054. If you could be sure even of the present low price lasting, you would be satisfied with the trade you say?—I am scarcely prepared to say that; my own opinion is that I should not engage in such a speculation myself.

2055. How much more than the whole sum is sufficient to pay for the cost of production, including a fair profit on the capital invested in the plant, would you be satisfied with; would 5 s. satisfy you?—Yes, it would.

2056. Then with a rise of 2 s. per cwt. in the market, the trade would go on?—Yes.

2057. Mr. Miles.] Do you call 3 s. a very remunerative profit?—No, I do not consider it is for the trade in sugar, with all the contingencies attending it; looking to the large outlay of capital, which outlay may, through a further depreciation of the article become entirely lost, and through the accidents to which the sugar trade is liable, I do not consider that it is sufficient. I am then asked whether I should consider that 5 s. would be a sufficient margin; I say I think it would.

2058. Would it be usual in such circumstances to carry a large sum to a reserved fund in case of accident?—Yes.

2059. That 3 s. per cwt. would not enable you to do that, would it?—No, I do not think it would.

2060. Supposing the price of sugar were to fall in this country by the amount of protection which may be taken off when the duties are equalized, would you continue to carry on your business at all?—I think that with the large amount of capital at stake, parties interested in sugar would go on for a year or two in hopes of some improvement; but if it were still a losing trade, they would finally abandon it.

2061. It has been stated by another witness, that Madras can manufacture sugar at a cheaper rate than any other presidency; do you hold that to be the case?—I can only state the result of my own knowledge.

2062. You say you could not manufacture under 20 s.?—Fine sugar from the sugar cane, you cannot, according to the information I possess.

2063. Do you think any improvement, in either the manufacture or the cultivation, would enable you to reduce the cost of manufacturing your sugar to 16 s. a cwt.?—I cannot see that any improvement which can take place would

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produce that result; this sugar is produced by machinery, sent from this country, of the most recent and improved kind; I am not aware that the process admits of any reduction in point of cost.

2064. You do not know of any fresh sugar works being started in Madras, do you?—No, I am not aware of any.

2065. Do you know of any being abandoned, or about to be abandoned?—I have been informed by parties interested in sugar works, that they intend to abandon them.

2066. Do you know of more than one such instance?—No.

2067. You actually know of one sugar concern which is about to be abandoned in Madras, do you?—The parties have intimated to me that they desire to abandon it.

2068. Do you know whether orders have been sent out for that purpose?—No.

2069. Supposing railways be established throughout India, what reduction would that cause upon the cost of sugar from the interior to the sea-board?—This sugar which I spoke of is made close to the sea, or upon a river, therefore I do not apprehend that would make any difference.

2070. No railway would affect the price of it at all?—No, nor would it be possible to have a railway in that part of the country, because the internal traffic is not sufficient to maintain one.

2071. You can hope for no reduction in the cost of transit?—None whatever. I can see no prospect of any reduction.

2072. Therefore any reduction that can take place must be effected in the manufacture itself?—Yes, if there is any room for reduction there.

2073. You say there is no room for any reduction in the cost of the production by the native cultivators?—I cannot speak to that point; the native cultivator sells his jaggery to the manager of the sugar works at a certain price; he has never sold it for a less price. I know every endeavour was made to obtain it from him at the cheapest price that they could, but they never could establish any reduction.

2074. Mr. Villiers.] You are understood to say that you know nothing of any estate being abandoned, but that somebody has intimated his intention of doing so?—The extent of sugar production at Madras is at present very limited; it commenced in the year 1844, and there have not been many works erected since then; it is a long process to establish such works. In the year 1846 the alteration of the law checked the desire which parties had to proceed with such works, and therefore there are not above two or three, I believe, in that part of the country I am acquainted with, now going on. One of those, I have been informed by a party interested in it, it is his wish to abandon.

2075. Did he state the reason why he wished to abandon it?—Because it was not profitable.

2076. Will not the same reasons apply to the other works as to his?—I have no means of knowing at what cost he makes his sugar.

2077. But you have not heard of any intention as to the other works being abandoned?—Not at present.

2078. There is something peculiar with respect to this one of which the abandonment is contemplated?—I have no acquaintance with the cost of the sugar, nor his reasons for abandoning it, except the circumstance that he finds it does not pay; it would require to go into the accounts minutely, and to compare the items one with another, to find out how it may be that one person may manufacture a little cheaper than another.

2079. When were these works established?—They were commenced about 1842 or 1843.

2080. Before the more recent ones you have mentioned?—Yes.

2081. Were you in Madras after the change of the law?—No, I was not.

2082. You do not know what effect it produced there?—No, except by means of correspondence; I know by that means that there was great apprehension expressed in consequence of it.

2083. You said you knew nothing of the other presidencies?—Nothing.

2084. You have not considered what the effect of railways would be in other parts of India?—No.

2085. Mr. Hope.] You stated that at the present price of sugar the expense of

of making it and bringing it to England might leave you a margin of 3 s. ?
—Yes.

2086. Do you anticipate the reduction of duty of 1 s. 6 d. next July will lower the price 1 s. 6 d. ?—That is very much a matter of opinion ; I think naturally it will ; that we shall have a larger importation of foreign slave sugar, and that if it remunerates them at present, the duty being diminished there will be a larger supply ; that there will be more remuneration and more inducement to extend the cultivation ; we shall therefore have more of it, and that will send the price down.

2087. In that case, admitting that you lose this 1 s. 6 d. on the price of sugar in July, that will very much diminish the margin, as you call it ?—Yes, certainly.

2088. And next year the margin will be still further diminished ?—Yes. The profit of 3 s. does not include the time bestowed by the parties engaged in this work. They have to travel a great deal to get fresh managers and overseers when they die, which happens frequently in that climate. And if their machinery goes wrong, they have to send to this country to get it repaired. Those items are not included in the estimate I gave in, which makes it necessary that any work of that kind should have a much larger margin of profit than what is usual in England, in which these drawbacks do not exist.

2089. Your machinery being new, have you made any allowance for the increased wear and tear if it continues to be used, so as to become a little less perfect ?—The allowance which is estimated for wear and tear is 10 per cent. I cannot say whether that is sufficient or not. I beg to explain to the Committee that this statement was merely an estimate which I happened to have in my possession, in which, for instance, the interest is put down at five per cent., which is a rate much under what you ought to allow, in making up a statement of that kind, with a view to funds being borrowed, for instance. You never could do that at five per cent. in India ; money there is always worth 10 per cent. ; from the short notice I received to attend this Committee, I had no time to remodel this statement, which I certainly should have done, had I prepared it with that view.

2090. Sir T. Birch.] What would be a fair rate of interest in India ?—I think 10 per cent.

2091. Sir E. Buxton.] What is the amount of land-tax on the sugar lands ?—I do not know ; it varies ; there are two kinds of settlements, one the zemindary settlement, and the other the ryotwar settlement. In the one it is fixed, in the other it varies every year. I am not able to give evidence upon those points.

2092. Do the ryots have advances made to them, do you know ?—I believe they do, but I am not quite certain. I do not know what arrangements the parties who are interested in these sugar works make with the ryots, from whom they purchase the jaggery. The probability is, they have to advance money to them. Such is the usual custom in India.

2093. Chairman.] You were asked whether your opinion as to the abandonment of sugar cultivation was not entirely theoretical ; is not your opinion founded upon information of the most practical character, derived from the severe losses you know to have been incurred by the Madras sugar manufacturers at the recent prices ?—That is the fact.

2094. Would you, as a merchant, advance any large sum of money upon any sugar speculation founded upon the view that the speculators would have no larger profit than 3 s. per cwt. on sugar ?—Most certainly not. I should be very sorry to advance money upon such insufficient security.

2095. Do you think any merchant in London could be found to advance money to a speculator upon such security ?—I am sure none such would be found.

2096. You were asked whether upon the price of 45 s. there would not be a clear profit of 3 s., that is, 6 l. 13 s. 8 d. per cent. ; would any prudent merchant, or any prudent manufacturer in England, invest his capital in Madras upon the speculation of getting 6 l. 13 s. 8 d. per cent. ?—Certainly not.

2097. You stated that the cost of manufacturing sugar was 20 s. a cwt. ?—Yes, including the rate of interest at 5 l. per cent., which is too low.

2098. All this work is to be done by steam engines, in which, if any serious breakage takes place, it must be repaired in England ?—Yes.

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2099. So that 12 months would elapse in the case of any serious breakage of the machinery before it could be replaced?—Yes; the way to overcome that is to have a double set of things, at a great expense, which is not stated in that estimate; I consider it in fact an imperfect estimate; if I had had more time to prepare myself I should have framed it differently.

2100. That estimate is framed on the calculation that there is to be but a single set of machinery?—Yes.

2101. Which machinery is liable to breakage and to the loss of a whole twelvemonth's working while it is sent home to be repaired?—Just so.

2102. If such an accident as that were to occur, the loss through the stopping of all your works for a whole year would be enormous?—Certainly.

2103. Is any such stoppage as that taken into consideration in this estimate?—No; that is an omission in the estimate.

2104. If such a stoppage as that had to be provided against, the only mode of providing against it would be to double the machinery sent out?—To have double sets of all the articles most liable to breakage.

2105. And that would add enormously to the cost of the production of sugar?—Very materially.

2106. The block you put at 20,000 *l.*?—Yes; but the actual fact is that it has cost 30,000 *l.*

2107. Then in fact this is only an estimate of what was to be done, which is not borne out by the facts?—I have stated that already; I said that this was but an estimate, but that it was a tolerably accurate approximation to the truth; but there are omissions in it of various kinds, which certainly do add materially to the cost of such an undertaking; for instance, such as your Lordship has suggested, a double set of machinery.

2108. Is it not the fact that you got your summons between 11 and 12 o'clock, to appear here at 12 o'clock?—Yes.

2109. Therefore you had no time to make an accurate detailed estimate?—No.

2110. In this there is no item allowed, is there, for the wages of any of those engineers and superintendents, or for the interest of money while the block was being sent out from England?—That is not included, I think. Very possibly the 30,000 *l.* which the concern has cost may have been partly made up of that.

2111. Lord *G. Manners.*] Are you to be understood to say, that upon the block 30,000 *l.* has been expended, whereas in the estimate 20,000 *l.* only has been allowed for it?—Yes.

2112. The whole of that 30,000 *l.* has been employed in the production of a certain quantity of sugar?—In buildings and machinery, with the view of being used for the production of sugar.

2113. Shall you be able to give the Committee the actual results of all this speculation into which you have entered, in the estimate produced by you?—Yes; I should divide the total amount of outlay by the quantity of tons, and arrive at the cost per ton.

2114. And also what the jaggery actually cost, and what the sugar actually sold for here, with all the charges?—Yes, I should do so. This sugar sold at various prices. When I took 45 *s.* as the average, I gave it as nearly as I could, on one portion sold at 44 *s.*, another at 43 *s.*, and another at 46 *s.*

2115. Mr. *M. Gibson.*] Was that an estimate you had made with reference to this Committee, or was it an estimate which you actually had in your possession, and which was made up for practical purposes?—It was an estimate which I had in my possession, framed when these works were in contemplation, and not prepared with a view to this Committee. I had no time to prepare any for that purpose.

2116. Sir *T. Birch.*] Are you to be understood that the works have only produced about 1,500 tons at present?—Yes. The information which I have received from abroad is, that the machinery is not yet in full work.

2117. What have you put down for charges?—Eight shillings a cwt. in this estimate, upon the supposition that the works would produce 2,700 tons. The engineer and assistants, and so on, receive the same salary whether they make 2,700 tons or 1,500 tons; so that if you put these expenses upon 1,500 tons, instead of 2,700, it adds very much to the cost of the sugar.

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2118. *Chairman.*] YOU left the Mauritius in September last, did you not?— I arrived in Europe in September.

2119. You were inspector of police, were not you?—Inspector of distilleries.

2120. How long were you in the Mauritius?—Ten years.

2121. You were in the Queen's army; were you not?—I had the honour to serve in Her Majesty's service.

2122. You are very well acquainted with the population in the Mauritius?—I am.

2123. Can you inform the Committee what is the state of morality of the coolie population in the island?—There is no morality at all among them.

2124. In what direction does their immorality tend?—To the paucity of Indian women, and the dislike the negro women entertain for the Indian, they commit the most revolting crimes upon each other, and upon quadrupeds in the camps, and even on the high roads.

2125. Are they also much addicted to intoxication?—Very much indeed. Some of them have imbibed those habits in their own country. They have spirits at will when they arrive at the Mauritius.

2126. Are they subject to a great many diseases?—Very many. After they arrive in the Mauritius they are attacked with scorbutic diseases, which may be expected after a sea voyage. Their system is so very poor that dysenteries, tumours upon the knees, fever, and small-pox break out among them.

2127. Are they attacked with those diseases only when they first land, or after they are employed upon the different plantations?—Many of them on their first arrival are sick coming ashore, and many more get unwell during their residence on the island.

2128. How are they treated when they become sick on the island?—I have taken the trouble to visit many of the hospitals, and they would be treated very well, but unfortunately there are no laws to confine them to hospital regulations and hospital usages; therefore when they get sick, it is considered rather too much an infringement on the liberty of the subject if one of them be confined in the hospital; he goes abroad, eats and drinks what he pleases, and communicates the disease to his comrades.

2129. Is it your opinion that if there was a regulation empowering the employers of those coolies, when they fell sick, to send them to hospitals and confine them there till they recovered, as is the case in the British army, it would tend very greatly to the health of the coolies themselves?—That is my firm conviction. I have frequently been called in by planters, and they have pointed out to me bottles of rum and gin in the hospitals. The planters had not the power of preventing an improper person coming into the hospital, who brought them those things; consequently it is a long time before the labourers recover.

2130. There have been about 93,000 coolies imported into the island, have not there?—From 90,000 to 93,000.

2131. Can you state what number of those still remain in the colony?—I am aware that 20,000 of that number were vagabonds when I left the colony, and 1,000 more are no better, keeping retail shops, which serve as depôts for stolen goods; in those shops are also kept women, who go out as decoys, and seduce the labourers from the estates.

2132. Prostitutes you mean?—Yes.

2133. Do you mean that they seduce the coolies working upon the estates to come to those shops, in order that those who keep them may plunder them in one way or other of all they possess?—That is my meaning. Many of the coolies deserted before their terms were fulfilled. After the government of the Mauritius had incurred a great expense in getting them from India, they desert their employers, and betake themselves to theft; amassing sums of money which enable them to return home before their terms are expired. The island lost in 1844, 885 men, 50 women, and one child; in 1845, 1,750 men, 117 women, and 29 children; in 1846, 1,910 men, 136 women, and 57 children; and in 1847, up to the date of my departure

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from the Mauritius, that is to say the 27th of April last inclusive, 750 men, 64 women, and 12 children.

2134. You mean that the colony lost those people after having paid the expenses of their importation, and without having been paid by their full service for five years in the island?—Yes; the total number is 5,295 persons; that is not including the 20,000 vagabonds.

2135. They paid their own passage home, did not they?—Yes.

2136. Having earned money enough, they were permitted to go back to India, without repaying either the government or those who went to the cost of bringing them there?—Yes; they were enabled to pay their own passage. Two of my own servants left me, having robbed me, one of 18 l. and the other of 8 l. or 10 l.

2137. The 20,000 vagabonds, as far as the interests of the island are concerned, or the interests of the importers of coolies, stand exactly in the same position as those who have left?—In the same position.

2138. What is the rate of importation of those people?—It was originally 7 l.; I believe it is now 6 l., which is quite enough.

2139. Those 20,000 vagabonds, that have been imported at a cost of 120,000 l., are just as much a loss to the island and the planters, as if they had returned to India?—They are a loss and an incumbrance.

2140. Is the island obliged to maintain them?—No.

2141. How, then, are they an incumbrance?—Because they steal fowls and vegetables, and other things, if they can lay their hands upon them. They are very expert artists.

2142. What are the disadvantages that the planters are under in the cultivation of their estates, and in the employment of these coolies?—The laws for governing servants are inefficient; the laws do not allow a planter to engage a coolie for a longer term than one year; that is quite insufficient. I do not see why a coolie should not be engaged for five or seven years; soldiers and sailors are engaged for a longer time, and I cannot see why coolies should be considered more than they are; the coolies are the lowest class of persons in their own country.

2143. The employment in which they are engaged is very superior to what they have left, is not it?—Very superior indeed. They are engaged for 12 months, and it takes the planter six months before he can make them sensible of their duty.

2144. In point of fact, the coolies do not understand sugar cultivation?—Not before they have been six months employed, then the planter has only six months left. Before the termination of the 12 months, say for three weeks, the labourers are deserting, in order to look for employment elsewhere; when their 12 months are finished they leave their employer, and engage with some other planter; they leave him in the middle of his crop, destitute of the means of getting it in, consequently he is a loser.

2145. It is impossible to estimate the loss to a planter if his people are seduced from him in the middle of his crop time?—Quite so.

2146. You would suggest that such industrial laws should be passed as to secure to the planter a longer period of service?—I should.

2147. And more especially to secure him from having his servants seduced from him during crop time?—Yes. There is another nuisance that the planter has to complain of, and that is the English and Indian crimps.

2148. Will you give the Committee all the information upon this subject which your residence in the island has furnished you with?—The Indian labourers may be rated at 90,000; of this number 20,000 are confirmed vagabonds. The principal features in the character of those people are a love of change, capriciousness, and an inclination to indulge in the most reprehensible excesses. Owing in a great measure to the distaste that the negress entertains towards them, and the paucity of Indian women, scenes of the most harrowing and revolting nature are being daily perpetrated, in the camps and in the cane-fields, on each other and on quadrupeds: no care whatever is taken of the education of these men. To the 20,000 vagabonds may be added 1,000 more who keep retail shops, which serve as depôts for stolen goods. These men originally came from India, at the expense of the colony, for the express purpose of cultivating the soil. The damage they do is incalculable; for they keep gambling-houses, and entertain female decoys, who seduce the men from the

the camps on pay-days. Much may be said for and against the high rates of wages that the planter is obliged to pay, or sometimes promises to pay, to his men. This originated in jealousy and competition, which the English crimp and the sirdar have turned to their advantage—for a crimp, I have known some of these persons to make 5*l.* per day at this traffic,—or a sirdar will take the band to the higher bidder, having so much per head, and will induce it to desert in a month afterwards in order to sell it again. The wages average from 14*s.* to 20*s.* per month, with rations, which are sufficient. The term of service extends only to one year: thus a planter, after having trained a band that is useless for the first six months from ignorance and scorbutic humours resulting from a sea voyage, must part with them very often in the middle of his crop, and commence training a-fresh. Moral Macadamizers must be aware that roads cannot be made before the bush is cut down, drains effected, and the soil turned up to ensure a favourable reception for the metal; and by the same rule that civilization cannot be forced instanter on persons just emerging from a state of barbarism, but must be the result of time, education, and fair but firm treatment. For it unfortunately so happens that the eastern people cannot duly appreciate disinterestedness: accustomed from their birth to falsehood and finesse, it becomes identified with their nature. However plausible the tale, however good the intentions, and however demure and attentive the coolie may be, the moment he quits your verandah he unhesitatingly votes you false, on the assumption that Sahib must have some interest of his own to advance, or he would not have spent so much time in talking. Soldiers and sailors serve a certain number of years; but the lowest caste of Indian who frequent Mauritius, must only serve one year. Soldiers and sailors if sick are confined within hospital limits; but the coolie if sick must not be confined; this would be an infringement on the liberty of the subject; he goes abroad, drinks as much spirits as he thinks proper, eats whatever suits his fancy, and conveys the infection to his comrades. Thus far the master may complain of the inefficiency of the law, which subjects him to loss and to the caprice of his servant: but, on the other hand, the servant has many charges to lay at the door of the master. The monthly payments are not regular; I have known estates that were in arrears for six months; the two-thirds of them are furnished with unlicensed shops, kept by the planters' wives, who sell on credit at a clear profit of 30 per cent.

2149-52. When you speak of the planters' wives, are they the original French subjects of the Mauritius?—They are creoles.

2153. Mr. *Moffatt*.] Will you proceed with any statement that you may have to make respecting the coolies, and the remedies you would suggest for the evils which exist in the island?—The poverty of the Mauritius in a great measure, and its bankruptcy, to a certain extent, may be traced to the following causes: first, the bad faith of the French planter to the English agent or money-lender; second, the high rates of interest demanded by the latter of the former; third, the limited knowledge which the present Governor has of the actual state of the island; fourth, the corruption of many of its magistrates and public officers (the mother country would confer a blessing on this island by sending out commissioners of inquiry to investigate and report upon the conduct and capabilities of the persons under notice); fifth, the corruption and utter worthlessness of its police and inferior custom-house servants; sixth, the retail sale of rum to the labouring classes; seventh, the inefficiency of the law, which does not secure to the master the attention and lengthened services of the servant, and to the servant specie instead of spirit and merchandize payment from the masters. The bad faith of the French planters to English agents is as much a constitutional defect as it is the result of education. The planter *A.* has an old estate to sell; when I say old, I would be understood to mean an estate has been uninterruptedly planted with cane for 15 or 20 years. In that island, as is the case in England and France, there is no assortment of crops, so that the exudations or juices ejected by one may contribute to the strength and nouriture of the other. *B.* purchases the estate on credit at double its value, payable at 10 years, and subject to a running interest of 10 per cent.; this man, who is not *bond fide* the owner of 100*l.*, starts as a grand proprietor, and procures money from an English house at 15 per cent., on condition that his sugars will be sent in as they are made; after he has borrowed a considerable

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sum he in seven cases out of ten becomes bankrupt, and transfers the estate to his wife, or son, who in turn applies to another agent for more money; and so on. To this system of speculation, and to the unwise rivalry which at all times exists between the agents may, in a great measure, be attributed the late downfall of the mercantile houses connected with Mauritius. The limited knowledge which Governor Sir William Gomm has of the actual state of his government, can be traced to his seclusion at his country-house, Redit, to his non-attendance at the Council Board, caused no doubt by the opposition he meets with from the inofficial members, and to the offensive attacks which are being daily made on his principles and foresight by the press of the colony, and the inhabitants generally. The conduct of the French magistrates, with a few exceptions, is corrupt, and it affords me infinite concern to be obliged to bear testimony to a similar fault on the part of some of the English ones;—others are as upright and as honourable men as exist. Many heads of departments, and other public functionaries are so mixed up by marriage and commerce with those persons over whom they have been placed, that they do not discharge their duties zealously nor conscientiously. This is a grave assertion, but I beg to observe I have submitted charges of a like nature and aspect in last September to the consideration of the Right honourable Earl Grey, Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies. The police are composed of runaway seamen from merchant vessels, old slaves, and discharged soldiers, who, after 14 years' service, obtained their liberation, actuated very often by a desire to indulge in the habits of intemperance which are incompatible with, and which never could be tolerated by military law. The amount paid to this body is 30,000 *l.* per annum; it ought to be under the command of a retired military officer, and ought to be as near as possible in such an island as Mauritius on a military basis. The present commissioner, with 1,100 *l.* per annum, could not "form four deep." The conduct of the inferior custom-house officers is so publicly known, that I deem an exposure unnecessary. The confusion and desertion among the labourers may be put down to the indiscriminate use of ardent spirits. Of all the vices that ever afflicted the colony, this is the most, subversive of its happiness, and the most destructive of its welfare. Article No. 2 of Ordinance No. 25, of 1845, holds forth an inducement to excess. It goes on to say, "it shall be lawful for every person holding a licence as above provided, for the sale by retail of spirituous and fermented liquors in the several rural districts, to sell and retail, by bottles, rum, the produce of the colony, in any quantity not exceeding 12 bottles, nor less than one, reputed quart bottles." During the six months that this law was in force, nothing could exceed the drunkenness of the lower orders.

2154. Is that law one of the old laws of the Code Napoleon?—No, it is an English law. It is repealed by another law, which I will cite presently. The shopkeepers realized a clear profit of 10 *l.* on every 49 gallons, of 21 degrees of force. Every person, therefore, who could purchase 12 bottles did so, and retailed them afresh at 14 or 15 degrees by the single glass. The sirdars on the estates kept shops of this sort. I have known 70 persons to be absent from work on Monday mornings, on an estate where 300 were employed. The Ordinance No. 3 of 1846 enforces as follows: "A compte du 1^{er} Avril prochain la vente au detail dans les quartiers ruraux du rhum et des liqueurs douces n'aura lieu que par verres seulement et dans des cantines patentes à cet effet." This law repealed the other; it denied the shopkeeper the faculty of selling by the bottle or dozen bottles, but it authorized the establishment of canteens all over the island, where rum could be had by the single glass. The troops have canteens of their own, and to this truly unwholesome law may be traced 10 per cent of the deaths that yearly occur among them.

2155. Do you know how long they remain away?—When the Indian gets drunk he is not generally sober for three or four days, and then he is not fit for work for three or four days more.

2156. You mean to say that when those 70 men who were away from their work on Monday morning, were useless for a week?—Yes, and the owner of the estate had to lose some of his time in coming forward and bringing complaints against them to the stipendiary magistrate.

2157. When he does come forward and make his complaint to the stipendiary magistrate, does he get redress?—In some cases he does. There is a feeling

feeling which pervades many stipendiary magistrates in the Mauritius, that the Indian must be supported at all hazards.

2158. Why is that?—I am not aware.

2159. The result is, however, that the planters in the Mauritius cannot get redress?—In some instances they do not.

2160. Do you apprehend that the stipendiary magistrates receive encouragement from home in that course?—I am not prepared to say.

2161. How are the stipendiary magistrates appointed in the Mauritius?—In many instances they are appointed temporarily, pending the sanction of the Home Government, which is usually afforded.

2162. Are they usually planters or persons of station?—They are not supposed to be planters; still I have known some of them to plant canes and vegetables also; the persons who were convicted by them for desertion were made to plant vegetables in their gardens for sale, instead of breaking stones on the public roads.

2163. Is it the general feeling that if the stipendiary magistrates were abolished, and the Code Napoleon restored, the island would be better governed?—That is the general opinion of the French, but it is not the opinion which Englishmen entertain. I should be sorry to see the stipendiary magistrates abolished, but I should be very glad to see many of them replaced by more active and intelligent men. All the planters are more or less connected with the commissaires civiles, or the French magistrates. The French magistrates have nothing to do with the coolies. If the stipendiary magistrates were abolished, the coolies would fall into the hands of the civil commissaires; certes they would have no justice from them, for they are all relatives and friends of the planters.

2164. What system do you propose in order to force the coolies to fulfil their contracts, and do their work?—I should think they ought to be obliged to serve five years, but it is very questionable whether the coolies will ever settle down and become a resident peasantry, nor will the Chinese. I have weighed the matter very minutely, and have come to this conclusion, that the Mauritius ought to procure labourers from Madagascar. The natives of this island would become stationary and useful.

2165. Can you suggest any mode by which the coolies could be improved in their conduct?—First and foremost, there ought to be more women introduced. This was a lamentable oversight, but of course it was purely accidental.

2166. You think that if there were more women introduced they would be more settled?—I am led to entertain that belief; at least, harrowing excesses would be less frequent.

2167. Is it your opinion, that if their contracts were for a longer period, they would also become more attached to the soil?—I believe so. I remember a friend of mine in the Mauritius, whose estate is called St. Martin; he contracted with his men on a new principle; he gave to each man a part in the estate, and he was to be paid when the sugars were sold; consequently the man had an interest in the estate, and if he did not work he would get nothing, of course; but he worked very well. My friend often declared to me that he had no desertions nor any complaints to make against the band, and that every person on the estate took an interest in the improvement of the estate, though only engaged for one year. I should state that those were men from Bombay.

2168. Is it your opinion that wages are too high?—Decidedly.

2169. Too high for the advantage of the planter and the labourer too?—Yes, for both.

2170. That is to say, as far as forcing the latter to industry goes?—If it be desired to make those coolies industrious, they ought not to receive such high wages; they do not receive them in India; they are far better off in every respect than the peasantry of my own unfortunate country, Ireland.

2171. What are the wages?—Fourteen shillings to 20 s. a month, and their rations besides.

2172. They are allowed to live free upon the estate?—Quite free; they can plant vegetables if they think proper, and have plenty of ground for that use.

2173. And they pay nothing for their huts?—No, and they can rear pigs and poultry.

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2174. Which are reared, are they not, to a great extent?—Yes.

2175. There are scarcely any cattle on the island, except those that are purchased?—There are a few, which are employed as draft oxen.

2176. Have they any fixed hours of labour?—The bell is always rang at five in the morning, and the muster-roll called by the overseers. The men are portioned off to their day's work, which is called task-work. I have met able-bodied men returning at 12 o'clock, after having finished their day's work; therefore they have the remainder of the day to themselves, which they pass away by beating their drums and singing songs; the employers impose very slight tasks upon them.

2177. How many cane holes would form a task?—I cannot say; the tasks are not heavy.

2178. They are a very weak class of men, are they not?—The natives of Bengal are. An able-bodied man would do as much work as three of them in a day.

2179. Are not the Bengalese as four to one of the Bombay people, and as two to one of the people from Madras?—Yes.

2180. A Madrasee is worth two Bombay men?—I believe so.

2181. And a Bombayee is worth three or four, if not five, Bengalese?—No, two to two-and-a-half.

2182. They are quite a superior caste, are not they?—Quite so; the great fault in the Madrasees is that they are very litigious.

2183. What are the people from Bombay?—They are more tractable than the Madrasees.

2184. Are they more moral?—No; they are all on a par in this respect.

2185. Do they come with those bad principles and bad propensities, do you imagine, or do they learn them when they come into the island?—I believe they bring them all with them; the habit of indulging in liquor and spirits is a stronger incentive.

2186. As far as their beastly propensities go, is that the case?—Yes; but they learn all those habits in their own countries.

2187. With respect to the Chinese; how many Chinese are there in the island?—Seven hundred and forty-two. It must be remembered that there is a great difference between the Chinese and Joaneses. The Joaneses are descended from the Arabs and Malays; they inhabit Comoro, a group of islands in the immediate vicinity of the northern coast of Madagascar; the Chinese are another race altogether. They are as distinct from one another as the white man is from the African, except in colour. The number of Chinese introduced has been 783; 722 are shopkeepers and mechanics; they are very industrious, and will not cultivate the soil after their engagements terminate.

2188. The Chinese perform their contracts very well, do they not?—Yes, very faithfully indeed.

2189. But their ingenuity enables them, as soon as their contract is over, at once to devote themselves to other more profitable pursuits?—Yes.

2190. Are the Chinese supposed to be rich?—They are all more or less rich.

2191. Negresses have no objection to cohabit with the Chinese, have they?—No.

2192. They rather look up to them as a superior race, do they not?—Yes, the Chinese bring no wives with them; the laws of China prohibit the Chinese taking women out of the country, lest they should settle down in the country of their adoption with the capital which their habits of parsimony are sure to acquire.

2193. Were you ever in China?—No, but I have had some Chinese servants, and they said so.

2194. The Chinese are very efficient labourers, are not they?—Yes; very strong and active men.

2195. They are fit for labour as soon as they arrive?—Yes.

2196. They are great thieves, are not they?—They are, indeed, the most expert I ever met.

2197. Did not the Chinese undermine the bank?—Yes, and I believe stole 30,000 l. out of it.

2198. They executed a subterraneous passage?—They did, which must have taken them at least six weeks to perform.

2199. Undiscovered?—

2199. Undiscovered?—Yes, until after the abstraction of the money.

2200. As mechanics, they are as skilled as any mechanics in England, are they not?—Yes, they are; I have known some of them who were field labourers, who afterwards became mechanics, they would not disgrace second-rate mechanics in London. They made some excellent furniture for myself.

2201. The expense, you said, of importing these coolies was from 6*l.* to 7*l.* a head; if they were permitted to be imported in the rice ships, might not they be imported at very much less cost?—I am not prepared to say.

2202. Are there not some restrictions in the way of getting the coolies from Bombay?—There were some restrictions formerly, but I believe those restrictions have been taken off.

2203. How do you account for there being so few Bombay coolies, and such a great majority of Bengalese?—The natives of Bombay are a superior class; each is generally a sikh in his own country, at least he calls himself so; he is quite a superior man in strength and in feeling; he considers a native Bengal immeasurably below him; therefore he will not live with him; even in the camps they must be kept apart; they will not work under a sirdar from Bengal; they must have a sirdar from their own country; they do not emigrate in such large numbers as the natives of Bengal.

2204. What is the length of voyage from Calcutta?—Four or five weeks.

2205. And less from Bombay?—That depends upon the state of the weather, and upon the monsoons.

2206. With respect to the original black population there were 61,000 emancipated, were not there?—Yes.

2207. Compensation was paid for that number?—Yes.

2208. How many of those are now living?—I find a deficiency on the total number of 6,800 since the emancipation.

2209. That is including their children?—That is my meaning.

2210. Of the population emancipated in 1834 how many do you believe are now living?—About 35,000.

2211. Do you reckon that 26,000 have died off?—Yes, from small-pox and various diseases.

2212. Drunkenness, and so on?—Yes, and neglect.

2213. What proportion of that 35,000 that remain are vagabonds?—About 16,000. When I say vagabonds, they pursue a double calling; they are fishermen by day and vagabonds by night. They also combine theft with those qualifications.

2214. They do not fish a great deal, do they?—Not very much; they go to sea one or two days, and they get as much fish as will support them the remainder part of the week. This, with what they can steal, and the rearing of poultry, enable them to live in idleness.

2215. You account for their having died off in this extraordinary way from immorality, and drunkenness, and small-pox?—Yes.

2216. And great neglect?—Yes, and great neglect.

2217. What was the proportion of men and women?—According to the return that I have here, from the year 1815 to 1836, 31 vessels of various sizes were condemned in the Vice-Admiralty Court of the Mauritius, having on board 3,047 slaves; of this number 2,544 were men, and 503 women; that is one to five and a half.

2218. What was the proportion of women to men at the time of the emancipation?—There were 61,000 liberated; incapable of procreation, from age and infirmity, 16,000; disparity of sex on total number, 12,200.

2219. Which were the more numerous, the men or the women?—The men, of course.

2220. You said that the population has decreased about 6,000?—Or thereabouts.

2221. Twenty-six thousand have died, and the population has decreased 6,000?—Yes, 6,800.

2222. So that you reckon about 19,200 have been born and bred since that?—I do.

2223. Of the whole population, how many are now employed upon the sugar estates?—I have subdivided them as follows: small farmers, 5,000; fishermen, and living by theft, 16,000; ordinary seamen, 2,000; carters and overseers of

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estates, 3,000; mechanics, 4,000; police, 184; servants, porters, and higglers, 4,816; total, 35,000.

2224. What do you consider those 5,000 small farmers to be?—They plant vegetables for the bazaar, and manioc.

2225. Not canes?—Not much

2226. Do not they grow canes?—Some of them may grow an acre or a couple of acres, which they sell to shopkeepers, who again retail them by the pennyworth.

2227. Do you mean that out of the whole of the old population of the Mauritius, but 3,000 are employed upon the regular sugar plantations?—That is my conviction.

2228. What do you make out the entire population of the island to be?—I am not prepared to say.

2229. How many coolies did you say there were remaining?—Ninety-one thousand altogether have been introduced.

2230. There are about 60,000 remaining?—Yes; there are 722 Chinese, 35,000 blacks, 9,000 Englishmen and well-affected creoles, (when I say well-affected, I mean well-affected towards the interests of the British Government); 23,000 French and French creoles. The other persons may be computed at 5,000 of different nations.

2231. How many of the 60,000 coolies are now employed upon the estates; you said there were 20,000 vagabonds; are they to be deducted from the 60,000?—No; I deduct them from the 90,000.

2232. Do you believe, after deducting those 20,000 and the 5,000 that have gone home to India, the remainder are all employed upon the sugar estates?—Twenty thousand, and the 1,000 who keep shops, and 5,000 who are gone home to India; that is 26,000.

2233. How many have died?—A great number have died; I have not the means of saying now with any degree of accuracy.

2234. Probably 15,000 or 20,000?—I am not sure; it is not less than 15,000.

2235. The whole island of the Mauritius is about the size of the Isle of Wight, is not it?—Yes, about the size of the Isle of Wight.

2236. You do not imagine that there could possibly be any very great difficulty in enacting such industrial laws as would prevent squatting and vagabondage?—None whatever; but it would be necessary to have an efficient police.

2237. What is the extent of the present police?—I am not prepared to say in round numbers, but they are very inefficient.

2238. Are there 200 police?—I think about 300. In the 30,000 *l.* a year is included the pay of the clerks of the police, the different French magistrates, and the officers of police.

2239. If the police of the Mauritius were conducted upon the footing of the London police or the rural police in this country, under an efficient police officer, with what number of police, and at what expense, do you think that vagabondage could be put down?—I am positive that crime would cease to a great extent if we had an efficient police; and I am sure that the police of the Mauritius could be conducted with a saving of 10,000 *l.* by getting efficient police officers out from England.

2240. You would propose a law by which vagabondage should be made a crime, and that every person who could not show that he had some proper mode of gaining a livelihood should be punished?—I would, and a salutary one it would be.

2241. How far is Madagascar from the Mauritius?—About 300 miles.

2242. The population of Madagascar is about 5,000,000, is not it?—It is so computed.

2243. Half the population is descended directly from Africans, and the other half from a mixture of Arabs, Malays, and French pirates?—Yes.

2244.* There have been hordes of pirates, in old times, settled upon the island?—Yes; it was a favourite resort with them.

2245. The whole population is a superior race?—What I have seen of them are so.

2246. A manly

2246. A manly and high-spirited race?—Particularly so; especially the Hovahs and the Sakalavas; the latter are very brave.

2247. One portion of the island is under the dominion of the Hovahs?—It is.

2248. Are they under the dominion of the Queen of Madagascar?—They are.

2249. Are the women a fine race of women?—Passable enough, but not classical beauties.

2250. You believe them to be an industrious race of people?—Very much so.

2251. They would be willing, you think, to come over to the Mauritius as free labourers?—I am positive of it.

2252. You have intimated that you would undertake to say that you could obtain any number of men and women, and take them to the Mauritius for 2 *l.* a head?—£. 2, or 2 *l.* 10 *s.*

2253. Would it be necessary in order to do that, to make a treaty with the Queen?—No, the Queen is so incensed against us, owing to French intrigue, that she would not allow us one. It is the Sakalavas, on the south-west of Madagascar, I mean.

2254. Are they at war with her?—They are always at war with the Hovahs, and if disciplined, would be more than a match for them. The Sakalavas dislike the French and are friendly towards us. Previous to my quitting Mauritius I have been invited by three of the most influential of the South Sakalavas chiefs to discipline and render effective their troops. Private reasons made me decline the offer.

2255. You could get Sakalavas without the consent of the Queen?—The Sakalavas are not subjects of Queen Ranavalamanjaka.

2256. The Sakalavas you could get in any number to go over?—Yes, and they would be too happy to emigrate; you might get 40,000 men for 8 *s.* a month; one Sakalava would work as much as two Indians in a day. In their own country they, the Sakalavas, are paid only 1 *s.* a month, and that is in a piece of blue cloth, which they wrap round their loins. A proportionate number of women would accompany them at little cost.

2257. It is one of the great misfortunes of the Mauritius that we are not on good terms with the Queen of Madagascar?—It is, because the Mauritius is solely dependent upon Madagascar and the Cape for sustenance.

2258. There are no bounds to the trade that might be carried on?—No.

2259. Madagascar could furnish the food and the cattle which the Mauritius require, and also the labour?—Yes, easily.

2260. The French island of Bourbon lies between the Mauritius and Madagascar?—It does.

2261. How far is the Isle of Bourbon from the Mauritius?—Ninety miles. I have frequently seen the mountains of Bourbon when the sun was descending from my house in the Mauritius, owing to the clearness of the sky.

2262. Is there not a great deal of dissatisfaction among the French planters in the Mauritius, feeling their own ruined state under the British rule, and knowing that their neighbours in Bourbon are making great fortunes?—Yes, a great feeling of discontent and disaffection, which will show itself in the event of a rupture with France. I am not apprehensive of the result; nor do I condemn French courage.

2263. Bourbon is a slave island, is not it?—Yes.

2264. Notwithstanding its being a slave island, they have a protection of 11 *s.* a hundredweight against all sugar not from the French colonies?—I believe so.

2265-69. Supposing it to be imported in French bottoms, and double that protection if it is imported under a foreign flag?—Yes.

2270. Mr. *M. Gibson.*] Is there any importation of produce from France into the Mauritius?—Wine.

2271. In what ships is that wine brought?—Generally in English bottoms.

2272. Do you know why?—I am not aware, unless it be that the duty is higher on produce brought in French bottoms than it is in English; consequently the merchants in Bordeaux charter English vessels to take out wine to the Mauritius.

2273. Do you consider that it is a disadvantage to the inhabitants of that island to prevent French ships from bringing French produce?—I think all produce ought to be brought in English bottoms.

2274. Would it be an advantage to the growers of sugar in the Mauritius to have the power of sending their sugar away to France in French ships, in exchange

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exchange for other produce brought into the Mauritius?—The island is so small, and the planters are so needy, that I fancy they do not require the exchange of merchandise; they require money, and this can be only procured from England.

2275. Is not it a disadvantage to the growers of sugar in the Mauritius to be deprived of such customers as might come from France with wine, and who would be glad to take back sugar in exchange?—I do not consider it a disadvantage at all.

2276. They do not want any more customers than they now have, you think?—No.

2277. Have the Mauritius planters been extending their cultivation of late years very considerably?—They have.

2278. Have they continued to do that at a considerable loss?—That is my opinion.

2279. You think they have been considerably extending their transactions at a constant loss?—I have said so.

2280. Were they losing during the existence of the prohibitory duties on foreign sugar being imported into the markets of the United Kingdom?—The affairs of the island have been in a very bad state for the last five years; it has been in a state of bankruptcy.

2281. They have always been losing money, have they?—Yes.

2282. They have had capital in former times, have not they?—They have had capital, but not much, for they are all more or less indebted to the London houses.

2283. Have they had labour?—Yes, they have had labour in the time of the slaves.

2284. Have they had protection?—Yes, they had protection in the time of the slaves.

2285. And still they have been losing money?—Yes, at least since the emancipation.

2286. Why do you suppose that restoring protection to them, they having had already capital, labour, and protection, will put them in a better position than they were before?—The money now in circulation in the Mauritius is not sufficient for its wants, and never was; nor am I aware that they have the coveted requisites which you are pleased to name.

2287. Is it your opinion that the withdrawal of protection would be injurious to the Mauritius planter?—I think so.

2288. For how long a period would you recommend contracts to be entered into?—I cannot say; that would depend on circumstances.

2289. Are you of opinion that it would be beneficial to the growers there to have it in their power to make contracts for a longer period than they now do?—That is my opinion, upon mature reflection.

2290. Have you ever heard, with regard to this vagabondism you have mentioned, what it originated in?—In the indiscriminate use of ardent spirits by labourers, their love of change, and love of idling.

2291. How long has the vagabondism existed to the extent to which it now exists?—Ever since the introduction of coolies there has been more or less of vagabondism.

2292. When did the importation of slaves into the Mauritius cease?—I am not prepared to say, but I believe it ceased immediately after the island came into the possession of the British Government.

2293. How long after the law which abolished the slave trade was passed did the importation of slaves into the Mauritius continue?—I cannot say.

2294. Is the rate of freight heavy?—The freights vary. In the vessel that I came home in the freight was 3 l. 16 s.; it varies from 3 l. 10 s. to 5 l.

2295. Have you ever known a difficulty in exporting produce from the Mauritius from the want of ships?—Not to England.

2296. Do you believe that the exclusion of foreign ships from exporting produce from the Mauritius to England raises the rate of freights?—No, I do not.

2297. Do you believe that the English shipowner would get as high freights if he were not protected as he does now?—That I cannot say; perhaps he would not.

2298. Sir

2298. Sir *E. Buxton*.] You mentioned that these coolies are exceedingly immoral?—Very much so.

2299. Is that a matter of notoriety in the island?—Yes, it is publicly known.

2300. Have you ever had cases of the nature you have mentioned brought before you?—At every sessions and assizes in Port Louis there are cases of that kind brought before the judges.

2301. And it is a frequent occurrence in the island?—It is.

2302. Are those crimes among the coolies thought much of there, among the upper classes?—They are spoken of, but nothing further.

2303. They are not thought to be very horrible?—No; generally speaking, the French are very immoral themselves; I believe there is not a more immoral island under the British Crown than the Mauritius.

2304. Have you ever been in India?—No.

2305. You do not know the condition of the coolies before they left their own country?—Not except by hearsay, and by correspondence, and the opinions given to me by my relatives who have served in India as officers.

2306. You said there were 20,000 vagabonds in the island?—Yes.

2307. What makes you think that is the number?—That is my opinion.

2308. On what is your opinion founded?—From general reports which reached me from different magistrates in the Mauritius, before I left.

2309. Had they counted them?—I have seen myself, in one morning, 150 vagabonds taken by the police out of the bazaar.

2310. Has there been a census ever taken?—That is impossible in the Mauritius. The coolie or the Indian sleeping here to-night, may sleep ten miles off to-morrow night; the attempt has been made, but it has been a failure, as far as I know.

2311. There is nothing which is so much exaggerated as the numbers of people, unless they are actually counted; when you say there are 20,000 vagabonds, have they been actually counted?—Some estimate them at 30,000. I have had my information from many magistrates, who have always computed them at 20,000.

2312. You say these men ought to be employed for five or seven years?—Yes.

2313. Are they much given to change as it is?—They are too much, unfortunately.

2314. And they often wish to go home again before their time is out?—Yes, provided they have the means.

2315. If they thoroughly understood, before they came, that they were to be bound to work for five or seven years, do you suppose they would come?—I am sure they would.

2316. And repent of it afterwards?—No; provided they received fair treatment and were made to serve five years, if this distinct impression was made upon their minds, I believe they would settle down on the estates; because it must be remembered when they leave India they cannot be worse off than they are, consequently they have nothing to lose, and have everything to gain.

2317. Your idea is that they would come from India on those terms?—I am sure they would come, as they cannot be worse off than they are; the change would benefit them. Any gentleman who has been eastward of the Cape of Good Hope will confirm my statement.

2318. Are they generally well treated at present?—Yes, in some instances, but not in every case; they are not paid regularly on some of the estates.

2319. Do not you suppose that if a planter knew that he had his servant for seven years, and were relieved from the fear of losing him at the end of the year, he would be more inclined to ill-treat him than he is now?—I do not think the planter would ill-treat his servant; it is his interest to treat him well; he forms the integral part of his wealth.

2320. You say he does ill-treat him now, sometimes?—As far as not paying him regularly, and giving him spirit and merchandise payment, instead of specie.

2321. Is not that one very general cause of their frequently leaving?—In many instances it is.

2322. The number of slaves at the time of the emancipation was 61,000?—Yes.

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2323. Of which there were 12,000 more men than women?—Yes.
2324. The number is now 6,000 less than it was then?—6,800.
2325. Considering that there were 12,000 women less than men, do you consider that that is a surprising reduction in the population, considering also that they have had the great scourge of small-pox?—Some of the negresses have families by three or four different persons; were it not for this the reduction would be greater.
2326. From the great disparity of sexes, do you consider there has been an undue falling off in the population?—There has been a great falling off; when the liberated slaves got sick they had no person to care for them, therefore they died.
2327. Have you ever been in Madagascar?—I have been in the south-west part of it for a short time.
2328. The people there have 1s. a month as wages, you say?—Yes, or thereabouts.
2329. Do they work hard for it?—Very hard.
2330. What do they cultivate?—Rice; they also rear cattle and poultry.
2331. Does slavery exist in Madagascar?—It does.
2332. Are there many slaves in Madagascar?—A great many. The Queen's troops make incursions into the country to bring off slaves. They are in the habit, if they be repulsed by one tribe, of falling on a weaker one. If they come back to the capital without making slaves, every one of them is put to death.
2333. Can you mention any improvement which might be made in the moral state of the people?—There is a lack of religious instruction in the Mauritius altogether. It will take a long time to make it English and to eradicate French revolutionary principles, which predominate.
2334. Do the coolies generally leave their wives in India?—They do.
2335. The women they have are not their wives?—Not in one case out of 20.
2336. What kind of women are they?—Very improper women.
2337. The prostitutes of the streets in Calcutta?—Yes.
2338. Do they ever remit part of their wages home?—Sometimes they do, but not very often.
2339. You do not know how their families are maintained during their absence?—No. From what I have heard of India, it does not take much to support persons there.
2340. Has the mortality among the coolies been great?—Very great, owing to their not being restricted to hospital regimen and hospital regulations.
2341. Are you aware whether a considerable amount of public treasure, which ought to be applied to public works, has not been used by government for the purpose of immigration into the Mauritius?—I have every reason to suppose it has been applied to immigration.
2342. Money that should have been applied to public works?—Yes; the roads of the Mauritius are in a very bad state; in a few years 700,000 *l.* was expended in immigration.
2343. There was a fund for public works, 300,000 *l.* of which has been so expended?—That is my belief.
2344. How is the treasury now?—I believe it is rather in a low state; all fines and penalties are turned over to the immigration fund, after deducting expenses.
2345. Do you know how much?—My fines last year amounted to 210 *l.*, levied on 26 collusive persons who defrauded the government.
2346. Do you know what the amount of fines inflicted in the year is?—I am not prepared to say. Some of the officers in my department did not inflict a fine of 1s. during the year, although they had ample opportunities.
2347. You say these men frequently return to their own country before the five years are expired?—I do.
2348. What is the freight they pay?—They get back for 7 *l.* or 8 *l.*, sometimes less; they take their own rice with them; vessels returning to India having no freight, are very glad to take them for a mere trifle.
2349. Lord *G. Manners.*] You say one great difficulty under which the
 planters

planters labour, is that of keeping their men on from year to year?—It is the greatest they have to contend with.

2350. With a view to meet that objection, was not there a considerable stamp duty imposed upon the transfer of labourers from one master to another?—I believe that is a recent law, which has been made since my departure from the island.

2351. That was done with a view to meet that objection?—Yes; I know it was in contemplation to enact laws for the better governing the Coolies, but I am not aware of their nature; this I know, that no laws will ever work well in the Mauritius, so long as it has some of its present public officers; others, I am happy to record, are the most honourable men alive; the police and the corrupt public officers are so mixed up by commerce and marriage with the natives, that they cannot do their duty, nor will they allow others to do theirs. I know this from experience.

2352. *Chairman.* The Vice-President of the Board of Trade asked you if it would not be a great advantage to the planters in the Mauritius if they might import French wines in French ships; you are not aware, are you, that there is any prohibition upon that?—I believe the duty is higher.

2353. Under what law?—I cannot say. I believe goods imported in French bottoms bear a greater duty than if they were brought in English ones. All the merchants of Bordeaux send their wine out to the Mauritius in English bottoms; the French have nothing to complain of. Half the French merchandise is smuggled into the island without paying any duty. The custom-house servants desert the vessels at eight o'clock every night, and return by five next morning. The goods are landed behind Forts George and William. Coffee, tobacco, and silk to a large amount, are smuggled from the Isle of Bourbon. The Customs lose one-third of its revenues by those means.

2354. The Vice-President of the Board of Trade also asked you whether it was not a great hardship that the Mauritius planters could not export sugar in French bottoms; is there any law in the Mauritius to prevent their doing so?—I am not aware that there is; the reason they cannot do so is, because there are but four French planters in the island, who are solvent; the remainder are so heavily indebted to the English houses, that they must give them their sugars in part payment of the monies they have received.

2355. You are asked whether the Mauritius planters had not been extending their cultivation at a loss, and whether they had not always been losing money. You are not personally acquainted with the concerns of the various planters, are you?—I am not acquainted with the books of the French planters, but I know they are going down; the planters I mean.

2356. On the other hand, were not the English planters going very much a-head till the last few years?—Yes, until they were obliged to compete with slave-grown produce. If cheap sugar be a desideratum, we ought to have kept our own slave colonies and our millions. The introduction of slave-grown produce has disarmed the English planter, and not only disarmed him, it has effectually secured his hands behind his back in the presence of his enemy. Some planters are theoretical and extravagant, others are practical and economical: I prefer the latter class. I know a practical planter of the Mauritius; he told me that he purchased an estate on credit; he worked very hard, and did not incur any unnecessary expenses; he did not keep half a dozen horses in his stable standing idle. He confined himself to one mule and a gig till he became a little richer, and then he got a horse, and so on; he liquidated all the debts of his estate, and it is now his own.

2357. In what time was that?—In a number of years; in the course of 18 or 20 years.

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Lunæ, 21^o die Februarii, 1848.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Sir Thomas Birch.
Mr. Matheson.
Mr. Miles.
Mr. Moffatt.

Mr. Hope.
Sir Edward Buxton.
Mr. Milner Gibson.

LORD GEORGE BENTINCK, IN THE CHAIR.

21 February 1848.

[*The Chairman delivered in the following Letters, which were read :*]

My Lord,

East India House, 17 February 1848.

I HAVE given directions for the preparation of a statement of cotton and silk piece goods exported from India in the olden time (*i. e.* before the inundation from this country); and I hope that it may satisfy the honourable Members of the Committee, who addressed questions to me on the subject. Rum is manufactured only at the European sugar factories; and the Excise alluded to is applicable only to those factories. We have an Excise on spirituous liquors and drugs (designated *Abkary*), and the tax is levied from the retail sale in shops, by means of a license. The Excise on rum is levied, I believe, in the way stated, from the European factories, and the article, I understand, goes far to reduce the cost of sugar, at least at Madras; but in Bengal one of the principal factories, I hear, has failed, owing to the expensive machinery employed, the expense of European agency, &c. I would emphatically impress upon the British manufacturers that they are directly and largely interested in promoting the production and exportation of sugar and other articles from India; for, if they will not take the produce of India in payment, India cannot purchase their manufactures. And what are Cuba and the Brazils as markets, compared with the magnificent territory of British India, containing many millions of consumers, who will, I trust in time, become opulent consumers, if their industry be fairly encouraged?

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. St. G. Tucker.*

Right Hon. Lord George Bentinck,
&c. &c. &c.

My Lord,

East India House, 19 February 1848.

I HAVE the pleasure to send your Lordship a rough statement, showing the decrease which took place in our cotton manufactures in India, consequent upon the introduction of British goods manufactured at a cheaper rate by machinery. Our officers have found some difficulty in preparing the statement for Madras and Bombay; but I was not far wrong in estimating the exportation of cotton and silk piece goods, before the revolution in the trade, at about 3,000,000 *l.* In fact, the exportation of cotton goods from Bengal alone in 1802-3, amounted to sicca rupees, 18,594,676, or at 2/6 the rupee, about 2,324,336 *l.* I resided for above 12 months in 1788 and 1789, in two of the principal manufacturing awrungs or districts (*Dacca* and *Hurriah*), and the manufacturers in those districts were then fully employed. Few would now be found, except as manufacturers of coarse cottons for domestic use. Those hands which formerly produced the beautiful fabric called 'shubnum' or 'dew' have disappeared.

I have, &c.

(signed) *H. St. G. Tucker.*

Right Hon. Lord George Bentinck,
&c. &c. &c.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SUGAR AND COFFEE PLANTING. 207

STATEMENT (referred to in preceding letter) of Cotton Piece Goods, Silk Piece Goods, and Raw Silk, exported from the Three Presidencies from 1816-17 to 1836-37. 21 February 1848.

	BENGAL.	MADRAS.	BOMBAY.	TOTAL.
	<i>Rupees.</i>	<i>Rupees.</i>	<i>Rupees.</i>	<i>Rupees.</i>
1816-17 { Cotton Piece Goods -	1,65,99,943	82,29,509	19,48,261	2,67,77,713
1816-17 { Silk - - - -	17,72,525	- - -	9,65,377	27,37,902
1816-17 { Silk Piece Goods -	- - -	3,111	- - -	3,111
1817-18 { Cotton Piece Goods -	1,32,34,725	79,73,136	19,38,514	2,31,46,375
1817-18 { Silk - - - -	19,57,262	- - -	8,55,203	28,12,465
1817-18 { Silk Piece Goods -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
1818-19 { Cotton Piece Goods -	1,32,82,789	71,44,346	20,55,432	2,24,82,567
1818-19 { Silk - - - -	57,46,361	- - -	1,61,472	59,07,833
1818-19 { Silk Piece Goods -	- - -	- - -	- - -	- - -
1819-20 { Cotton Piece Goods -	90,35,152	72,47,460	24,65,990	1,87,48,602
1819-20 { Silk - - - -	79,04,242	4,505	7,10,398	86,19,145
1819-20 { Silk Piece Goods -	26,30,919	27,622	- - -	26,58,541
1820-21 { Cotton Piece Goods -	85,32,656	64,06,247	31,81,726	1,81,20,629
1820-21 { Silk - - - -	82,50,879	- - -	4,30,745	86,81,624
1820-21 { Silk Piece Goods -	23,07,996	24,795	- - -	23,32,791
1821-22 { Cotton Piece Goods -	77,01,319	1,19,33,388	30,56,832	2,26,91,539
1821-22 { Silk - - - -	81,70,638	- - -	6,83,009	88,53,647
1821-22 { Silk Piece Goods -	33,28,218	19,621	- - -	33,47,839
1822-23 { Cotton Piece Goods -	79,99,521	65,37,152	31,05,402	1,76,42,075
1822-23 { Silk - - - -	81,64,933	- - -	7,93,810	89,58,743
1822-23 { Silk Piece Goods -	30,67,277	- - -	- - -	30,67,277
1823-24 { Cotton Piece Goods -	58,72,729	71,29,992	36,35,773	1,66,38,494
1823-24 { Silk - - - -	66,59,385	- - -	2,90,288	69,49,673
1823-24 { Silk Piece Goods -	23,79,827	- - -	- - -	23,79,827
1824-25 { Cotton Piece Goods -	42,25,719	31,20,164	29,79,429	1,03,25,312
1824-25 { Silk - - - -	75,46,762	- - -	2,31,103	77,77,865
1824-25 { Silk Piece Goods -	33,19,032	1,225	- - -	33,20,257
1825-26 { Cotton Piece Goods -	34,13,454	25,76,604	35,32,258	95,22,316
1825-26 { Silk - - - -	81,05,170	3,076	8,14,198	89,22,444
1825-26 { Silk Piece Goods -	35,81,049	3,630	- - -	35,84,679
1826-27 { Cotton Piece Goods -	28,51,213	61,85,663	37,40,301	1,27,77,177
1826-27 { Silk - - - -	81,70,605	- - -	3,24,957	84,95,562
1826-27 { Silk Piece Goods -	28,44,227	7,410	- - -	28,51,637
1827-28 { Cotton Piece Goods -	27,56,168	67,05,778	37,62,995	1,32,24,941
1827-28 { Silk - - - -	85,53,987	- - -	4,71,449	90,25,436
1827-28 { Silk Piece Goods -	25,18,906	10,267	- - -	25,29,173
1828-29 { Cotton Piece Goods -	21,36,044	70,59,366	34,91,473	1,26,86,883
1828-29 { Silk - - - -	95,61,172	- - -	8,84,614	1,04,45,786
1828-29 { Silk Piece Goods -	20,43,864	10,223	- - -	20,54,087
1829-30 { Cotton Piece Goods -	15,27,692	70,72,551	43,83,194	1,29,83,437
1829-30 { Silk - - - -	84,57,411	33,740	3,88,883	88,80,034
1829-30 { Silk Piece Goods -	25,95,158	13,706	- - -	26,08,864
1830-31 { Cotton Piece Goods -	11,18,806	55,69,362	42,10,635	1,08,98,803
1830-31 { Silk - - - -	76,22,588	2,031	5,55,222	81,79,836
1830-31 { Silk Piece Goods -	29,74,238	6,867	- - -	29,81,105
1831-32 { Cotton Piece Goods -	8,50,971	63,84,089	36,97,549	1,09,32,609
1831-32 { Silk - - - -	56,62,381	7,553	2,41,958	59,11,892
1831-32 { Silk Piece Goods -	33,57,969	3,449	- - -	33,61,418
1832-33 { Cotton Piece Goods -	8,45,579	62,04,422	34,75,082	1,05,25,083
1832-33 { Silk - - - -	55,01,230	- - -	2,07,928	57,09,158
1832-33 { Silk Piece Goods -	30,32,736	17,466	- - -	30,50,202
1833-34 { Cotton Piece Goods -	6,97,362	61,45,739	37,29,645	1,05,72,746
1833-34 { Silk - - - -	60,25,117	1,637	3,79,123	64,05,877
1833-34 { Silk Piece Goods -	32,86,864	14,712	- - -	33,01,576

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Cotton Piece Goods, &c., exported from the Three Presidencies—*continued.*

		BENGAL.	MADRAS.	BOMBAY.	TOTAL.
		<i>Rupees.</i>	<i>Rupees.</i>	<i>Rupees.</i>	<i>Rupees.</i>
1834-35	Cotton Piece Goods -	8,14,231	74,37,254	34,96,390	1,17,47,875
	Silk - - - - -	49,17,112	- - - - -	3,06,549	52,23,661
	Silk Piece Goods -	30,87,457	17,849	- - -	31,05,306
1835-36	Cotton Piece Goods -	7,71,301	67,67,958	44,15,083	1,19,54,342
	Silk - - - - -	47,92,188	- - - - -	9,92,493	57,84,681
	Silk Piece Goods -	35,09,907	7,746	- - -	35,17,653
1836-37	Cotton Piece Goods -	7,69,379	72,66,480	45,46,919	1,25,82,778
	Silk - - - - -	73,03,556	3,589	6,52,744	79,59,889
	Silk Piece Goods -	52,01,203	16,964	- - -	52,18,167

Note.—The Exports of Piece Goods from Madras and Bombay since 1813-14 appear to include Piece Goods of British manufacture, but to what extent cannot be ascertained, as the reports of external commerce of those Presidencies do not exhibit the particulars of the Imports re-exported.

The Raw Silk exported from Bombay appears to consist principally of Imports from China and from the Persian Gulf.

East India House,
Secretary's Office, Accounts Branch, }
19 February 1848.

Hugh Hunter, Esq., called in; and Examined.

H. Hunter, Esq.

2358. *Chairman.*] I BELIEVE you resided in the Mauritius from the year 1828 to the year 1845?—I did.

2359. And from the year 1840 to the year 1845 you were a member of the Legislative Council?—I was.

2360. You are a co-proprietor of estates in the Mauritius?—I am.

2361. And the crop on your estate for the year 1846 produced 4,500 tons of sugar?—It did.

2362. The whole of which was exported to Great Britain?—It was.

2363. You employed, I believe, 3,500 labourers?—About 3,000.

2364. And your estates are situated in the most fertile part of the island of Mauritius?—I consider them to be some of the very best estates in the island.

2365. I believe you made a calculation of the comparative cost of slave and Coolie labour in the colony of the Mauritius?—I did. May I be allowed to explain to your lordship that part of it relative to my being possessed of slaves at the period before the emancipation took place. I was proprietor of one estate before the emancipation took place; that is, before the change took place from slavery to apprenticeship. During the time they were in slavery or apprenticeship, the Africans were fed three days in a week from manioc, which is the cassada of the West Indies; we use it there for the preparation of land, for the renewing of the crops, in the same way as you use turnips in this country; it costs nothing in the cultivation of it, where children keep the land clean till such time as it is sufficiently high from the ground; and the nature of the stem is, that it throws out its branches horizontally, and by that means the leaves cover the earth in a certain degree, and it changes the leaf several times during the year, and those leaves falling down on the ground decay, and form manure; but besides that, the root itself keeps the land fresh and moist, and restores its strength very much indeed; I speak of land so manured as old land.

2366. *Mr. Miles.*] Was this under slavery?—Yes, we do not use it now; I will explain to the Committee the reason why the cost is so severe upon us of the importation of food. The men preferred this manioc, and we gave it to them three days a week; the cost of that I put down as nothing; and four days in the week we fed the men on rice, which we imported from Calcutta.

2367. At how much a ton?—The allowance for each man was about two bags and a fraction per head per annum; I have put it at two bags and a half to make it

it a round number, which came to 1*l.* 15*s.* for rice. The cost of salt fish was about 1*s.* 6*d.* a month; it was not so much, but I have put it down at that, making, 18*s.* per annum, which makes 2*l.* 13*s.* for food. The clothing, which was two shirts, two trousers, a hat and blanket, came to 14*s.* a year each man; and the medical attendance and medicine about a dollar, which is 4*s.*

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2368. Altogether it was 3*l.* 11*s.* per head for food and clothing, and medical attendance?—Yes.

2369. Have you any estimate of the present cost of free labourers on the same estate?—I have; on almost all the estates, they are nearly the same; taking the last average of the wages which I have received from the island are four dollars, or 16*s.* a month; there are some men at three dollars, and others at three and a half, and the sirdars or headmen, or overseers, receive, perhaps, five dollars (I am not speaking of the superior overseers, but of men in the same class, men who take care of the engines, and so on), the average, as nearly as possible, including those men, is seven dollars a month, or 28*s.* for food and clothing, and that makes 16*l.* 16*s.* a year.

2370. Then you make the cost of subsistence more per month for the Coolie, exclusive of his wages, than it was under slavery?—Very much more; it is as 16 guineas is to 3*l.* 11*s.*

2371. How does that come about; what do you feed them on?—The reason of that is this; we have been obliged to renew the labouring class entirely from India who do not eat the manioc; they will eat nothing but what they have been accustomed to in India, which has obliged us to import the whole of the food of the island from India; we cultivate the manioc to a certain extent still, for the reason I have given for renewing the land; we cultivate a few fields, 20 or 30 acres, for that purpose; some estates do not cultivate it, and it is a very small matter, and we are obliged to import the whole of the food of those men; the importation of rice during slavery was 15,000 bags a month, or 180,000 bags a year; it is now about 450,000 bags; in addition to the wages and food and clothing, and those matters, we pay a contract stamp, which is renewed every year; for every new man brought in, the contract is 1*l.* the first year, and in the second year it is 10*s.*; but I have taken no account of that.

2372. They only now continue one year under contract?—As soon as one year's contract has expired, they very seldom re-engage; a proportion of them do remain, but the greater portion change, and go into the town as shopkeepers, or settle as squatters in different directions; and that has been one of our great evils, the constant demand for fresh people. There are special taxes levied for defraying the cost of immigration, upon wines and different articles, that falls upon the consumer, and the proportion of that which falls upon each proprietor I put down at 1*l.*; medical attendance and medicine is 4*s.*, the same as it was during the slave times; it is precisely the same law that regulates that.

2373. That makes 19*l.* a year for each Coolie labourer?—Yes.

2374. Do you consider the soil of the Mauritius peculiarly favourable for the growth of the sugar cane?—Very much so indeed.

2375. It is of volcanic origin, which is considered particularly good for sugar cultivation?—It is of volcanic origin; therefore it is a friable kind of stone, which, in a certain degree, decomposes by the action of the sun and rain upon it; there is always a little decomposition going on, which is a means of renewing the soil; and it is for that reason that this volcanic soil is considered so good for the sugar cultivation.

2376. Are there not large stones or rocks there, sprinkled all through the island, like plums in a pudding?—They are much closer together than the plums I have seen in the puddings of the midshipmen's mess; that puts it entirely out of our power to do anything with agricultural implements; it has been tried, and it has completely failed; in fact, several fatal accidents occurred; when they were dragging the plough pretty quickly through the earth, they came in contact with large stones, that turned the plough, so that it struck the side of the man who was directing it, and one man died from that.

2377. It is quite impossible to use the plough?—Yes; inland, there are some fields in the island where the plough might be used, but very few, but they do use it sometimes; my impression is from practical experience that the cane would not last any time in that soil, because the peculiar property of the cane-root is that it shoots upwards, instead of going downwards, and therefore unless

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you go down a certain depth in the earth, in a very short time the roots become exposed, and you have to throw the land over them again or to re-plant; the holes are about 12 inches in depth, and we dig down till we get to sub-soil; but it is generally considered that the continuance of this rock or stones in the land is advantageous to the land by sheltering it to a certain degree from the sun, and keeping it cool and moist.

2378. In the same way that the flints of Hampshire and Wiltshire are considered to be advantageous to the soils of that country?—Precisely so; when we find one of these large pavés, which is the French term for them, and which is sometimes as large as this room, and is a solid stone, we dig round it, and we always find that the canes, close to the edge of the pavé, are better from that very circumstance, that does not shelter them from the sun, but the moisture is preserved.

2379. Therefore, if you were to grub up all those stones to enable you to use agricultural implements, you would impair the fertility of the soil?—So much so that an estate, of which I was joint proprietor, where the stones had been formerly heaped up, I set the people to demolish those heaps of stones, and spread them over the ground, and then underneath those stones we had a certain portion of new land.

2380. With rocky soil of the description of the Mauritius, the land is of course generally dry?—It is; rain filters through in a very rapid way, and that is a sign of the goodness of the land, because whenever soil is clayey, the proof of that is, that after a heavy rain you will find the water remains upon it, the holes get filled, and there the water remains, which is a very bad sign of the substratum underneath.

2381. Drainage would almost be a work of supererogation with such soil as you have in the Mauritius?—Yes, we want draining from Heaven, instead of draining off the land.

2382. In your own manufacture of sugar, you have the most improved machinery in great abundance?—We have the finest mills in our manufactories from Glasgow, London and Liverpool, mills running for 10 and 12, to 16 and 20 horse power; in several establishments the new plan of boiling in vacuo of Derone and Caille in France is used; I have now introduced it on my estates; no expense has been spared in that respect by the proprietors in the Mauritius. in their anxiety to do everything they can, not only to extract the most from the cane, but to improve the quality of the sugar by every means; I will come presently to show how far the proprietors have of their own enterprise, and at their own cost, paid an enormous sum of money for the introduction of labour, which is a proof that they have not been wanting in exertions to make the most of the island.

2383. Everything that enterprise and capital could do for the improvement of the island of the Mauritius has been done?—It has as far as possible, in fact as far as regards myself, it has involved everything that I possessed.

2384. The house in which you are embarked in the cultivation of the sugar cane in the Mauritius about the year 1825, did it not?—No; I did not go to the island till 1828, and after that it was several years before we had anything to do with the cultivation of sugar. I suppose it was about 1831 that we commenced.

2385. But the cultivation of the sugar cane had made great progress before the year 1828?—It had. In 1825 Mr. Huskisson passed a Bill in the House of Commons for putting the Mauritius on the same footing, as regards duties, as the West Indies; previously it had been on the same footing as the East Indies, which was, I think, 9 s. or 10 s. differential.

2386. Can you state the amount of exports of sugar from the island from 1832?—From 1832 to 1841, the exports of sugar from the island were about from 30,000 to 35,000 tons per annum.

2387. The return which I have, gives 4,680 tons as the amount of imports into Great Britain from the Mauritius in the year 1825?—That will not give you a correct account of the quantity produced in the island, because a certain proportion of the raw sugars was taken to the Cape of Good Hope and the South Australian colonies.

2388. I believe emancipation took place in 1834, and that the island of Mauritius received compensation for 64,000?—Sixty-four thousand one hundred slaves; I was a member of the committee of indemnity, as it was termed, and I assisted in making a distribution of the whole sum among the estates in the island.

2389. In that compensation, the island of Mauritius considered itself defrauded of part of the entire amount which was fairly due to it, namely, 2,000 slaves?— That is quite true, 64,100 was not the correct number on the books of the register of slaves; I will explain that; in consequence of the differences that arose, from one gentleman succeeding another, some of the slaves were omitted to be registered; the books were not made up in 1832, nor signed, nor sent to this country; the census was taken in 1832, but on comparing that with the printed papers which I had of the previous four years, I found upwards of 2,000 decrease, which was unaccounted for; I made the application of the general rule of the comparison of births to deaths, and I found in taking the population of former years, that there were 2,000 which ought to have been returned in 1834, which did not appear; the Registrar was called upon to give his books, and he said they were not complete, and he could not give them in, but he would state the number on the books, and he stated the number as 64,100. I brought this to the notice of the Procureur-general, Mr. Jeremie, and he applied to the Registrar, and found that my calculation and statement were correct; there were some 2,000 more on his books, but not having been regularly entered in 1832, they had the right of coming in in 1834, and showing some reasons for having been omitted in the census; they were still classed in the books as slaves, but the property of the proprietors was affected by that omission; the law allowed two censuses to go over before they became forfeited. The return had been made to England by the first trading ship of 64,100, but the Registrar of slaves, acknowledged that there were 2,000 more legally on his books, that had not been returned in 1832, and who would have been given in in 1834 had there been a census then; but we lost the indemnity for 2,000, which the proprietors would have had, if the law had ordered another census in 1834; but at the same time they do not make much complaint of that.

2390. *Sir Edward Buxton.*] Was any attempt made to recover that money?— An application was made, but it was too late; the apportionment had been made in England, before our application came home, among the 19 colonies; they had taken the first return from the committee of the island of 64,100, and apportioned that with the other colonies of the West Indies; and therefore the answer to the representation that we made was, that it was too late; that the apportionment had taken place among the 19 colonies, and it could not be altered.

2391. *Chairman.*] I believe the Government value for slaves in the Mauritius was 69*l.* 14*s.* or 70*l.* per head?—It was.

2392. The compensation upon the actual number of slaves in the island was 31*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* per head?—Yes; 40 per cent. of the value of the slaves; the general average, I think, was under 31*l.*

2393. Whilst the Act of 1833 gave seven years of apprenticeship, I believe three years of that apprenticeship were cut down in the Mauritius without any compensation at all?—Exactly; the precise number of years I cannot take upon myself to say; but the total abolition of apprenticeship took place in the month of March 1839; it is very easy to refer to what the Act stated as the time at which apprenticeship should cease, and to ascertain the difference between that and the time at which it actually ceased, and the advantage of that the planters were deprived of without receiving any compensation.

2394. I believe, notwithstanding all those drawbacks, trusting in the probity of Parliament, and the assertions of the leading members of both Houses of Parliament, the colony of the Mauritius made the most strenuous efforts to carry on the cultivation of sugar from 1837, and even earlier?—It did; it began in 1834. This is the report of a committee of council that was appointed in the Mauritius, to inquire into the labour and Indian immigration question, of which the chairman was Mr. Rawson, the Treasurer and Paymaster-general.

2395. *Mr. Miles.*] In what year was that?—It is dated "Port Louis, July 15th, 1845." Paragraph 46 of this report states, "Between 1834 to 1839, 25,468 individuals were introduced at the sole expense of the planters and merchants, and at a cost amounting to not less than 10*l.* each, or an aggregate of 254,680*l.*; to which must be added a further sum of 20,000*l.* to 30,000*l.* for the return passages of those whom the planters were engaged to send back." They were men who came under a term of engagement for five years, on condition that at the end of the five years, if they chose, they should have their return passage

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paid; those who applied for the return passage at the end of the five years were sent back, and those who did not claim it at the end of the five years, lost their claim to the passage back; that was the stipulation in the contract. The second immigration was under the one-year contract system, but this first was a private enterprise, at the private cost of the proprietors, and the expense amounted to 254,680*l.*; a proof that the colonies have not been wanting in their endeavours to keep the cultivation up.

2396. I believe the first cost of those Coolies was from 7*l.* to 10*l.* a head?—
Yes.

2397. That arose from the circumstance that the immigration was new; that no preparations had been made, and therefore there was greater cost than afterwards occurred in getting the Coolies together?—It arose from this; that we gave them six months' wages in Calcutta, before embarkation; but the cost of bringing the men with their provisions did not amount to 7*l.* in the first instance.

2398. The result of that experiment, as far as regards the cultivation of sugar plantations and the interest of the colony, was very successful?—It was most satisfactory, the men under the five years' engagement, were happy and comfortable in themselves, they became attached to their masters, and they made vast sums of money. With regard to those who returned to India at the end of the five years, I will show the average sum of money that they took back. In this clause, the Committee is comparing the present system of immigration with the former, which was under contracts for five years; the present is under one-year contracts. The Indians being by nature averse, and by habit unaccustomed, to steady labour, and being withal of a capricious and roving disposition, enter upon a yearly engagement, without any desire or intention of remaining in the same employment after the expiration of the term; hence they do not become attached either to the place or the employer; 30,000 Indians re-engaged before the stipendiary magistrates in 1844, of whom 20,000 must have changed their employment; they have, therefore, no inducement to raise stock, such as pigs, goats and poultry, or to keep gardens, which were sources of large profit and comfort to the Indians under the five years' engagement, but which to an unsettled and shifting population would only be a loss and incumbrance; "that is to say, if a man left his place of residence at the end of one year's engagement, he would be encumbered by taking away the live stock that he had obtained during that engagement." "It may be mentioned that the poultry of one man returning to India was bought by his master for 92 dollars; the sums amassed by old Indians were very large, 90 men leaving one proprietor to return to India, took with them 13,134 dollars, or 145 dollars each; 27 leaving another, took away 4,575 dollars, or 169 dollars each; many have left with sums varying from 200 to 500 dollars, and a chief sirdar on one estate took with him 1,500 dollars; those who are acquainted with the condition of these men in India, and the value of such sums in that country, will appreciate the importance of this statement." Three men who had been seven years with me on my estate, wished to return to India; they came to me with 2,240 dollars, which they were afraid to take back in specie, and they asked me for a hoondie, which is a bill of exchange, on my friends in India to pay them in Calcutta; that hoondie was given them; they had been seven years in my service; those were under five years' engagement.

2399. Notwithstanding those large profits upon the wages of their labour, I believe the planters prospered very much under that system?—During those five years we thrived very well indeed.

2400. During the whole course of those five years, the planters were making considerable profits?—They were in a very good condition; the estates changed hands and were rapidly liquidating.

2401. Was there any vagabondage?—Very little indeed; the report will show that the proportion of vagabondage and absenteeism under the old system was nothing as compared with what it is now; there are two or three names given to absentees from estates; there are some classed under the name of maroons, that is, those who absent themselves from estates altogether; and others are temporary absentees, such as for two or three or five days in the week; the report shows the numbers remaining in the colony from the first immigration under five years' contracts to be 11,000; that at the end of the five years, instances are known of nearly half the labourers re-engaging for another year on the
same

same estates; on others, 30 per cent. and 20 per cent. are assumed to have changed masters, or to have become hawkers, servants, &c.; accounting for the remaining 10,700 of the first immigration; the first immigration consisted of 25,000; a great number of those returned to India, and there remained 11,000, or 50 per cent.

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2402. At the end of that period all the estates were in a very good condition?—They were in a very good condition in 1839.

2403. And you had increased the exportation of sugar to Great Britain from 4,680 tons in 1825, to 30,360 tons in 1839?—I consider that in 1839 there were from 30,000 to 35,000 tons produced; 30,000 tons appears to have come to England, but from 2,000 to 3,000 tons always go to the Cape of Good Hope and South Australia.

2404. I believe, unhappily for the colonies of the Mauritius, this system that had been working so prosperously for the planters and the Coolies, was entirely reversed in 1839?—It was.

2405. An Order in Council came out suddenly, putting a stop to immigration, and that was unfortunately done contemporaneously with the cessation of apprenticeship?—Precisely; both took place together; I think the apprenticeship ceased by proclamation in the island in the middle of March 1839; I was on my return to England at the time, and when I arrived in England in May, I found that the immigration had also been stopped; so that we lost our apprentices, and the door was shut to our having any fresh immigrants.

2406. Wages, I believe, rose from 10*s.* a month to 40*s.* a month?—Wages rose gradually from 1839 to 1843, when the new men came; in 1841 and 1842, they were as high as from nine dollars and nine dollars-and-a-half to ten dollars, which is 36*s.*, 38*s.* and 40*s.*

2407. The natural consequence of which was that estates fell into a ruinous condition, and the export of the crop to England fell from 30,360 tons in 1839 to 23,770 tons in 1843?—The crop, I think, of 1842 and 1843 respectively was 50,000,000 of pounds, which is 25,000 tons, and 57,000,000 of pounds, which is 27,000 tons; but that will not be shown in the returns of the exportation, because always a certain proportion goes to the colonies, but with that proportion they exported in two years 26,000 tons each year, which is equal to 7,000 tons diminution; the loss to me, in those two years, was 1,500 tons.

2408. This is an official return of the exports to Great Britain; yours comprises the entire export to Great Britain, the Cape of Good Hope, and other places?—Yes; in 1839 it was from 67,000,000 to 70,000,000 of pounds.

2409. Notwithstanding all this the colony went on at the end of 1843, making great efforts, and advancing large sums for the cultivation, and for machinery, and other improvements?—We commenced a new immigration in 1843, but during the period from 1839 to 1843 we could not get sufficient labourers; the consequence was that estates fell rapidly into decline; that was the case with several estates which I had to do with; one estate in particular which had produced 600 tons of sugar in 1840, did not produce 300 tons in 1843 and 1844.

2410. In 1843, when immigration was permitted again, though the contracts were limited only to one year, you again embarked fresh capital, and made renewed efforts in the cultivation of sugar?—We did, to a large extent.

2411. What has been the result of those contracts for one year only?—They have worked remarkably badly.

2412. From that period, or rather from the earlier period of 1839, dates the enormous increase of vagabondage?—From 1843; perhaps you will allow me to explain, that we were buoyed up with hopes in 1843. Her Majesty's Order in Council, authorizing the removal of immigration, passed in 1842; it took effect in 1843, and as the Committee are well aware, in 1841 a resolution was carried against the then Government, expressive of the opinion of Parliament, that slave-grown sugar should never be admitted for consumption into this country in competition with our own free-labour sugar. A general election took place immediately after this, on which occasion a large majority was returned to Parliament, in favour of that resolution; I think there were 90 returned to the House in favour of that resolution of 1841, thus showing that the people of England were quite opposed to the consumption of slave-grown sugar in this country. We placed implicit reliance on these expressed opinions of the people of England, and also on the repeated declarations of the eminent statesmen in both Houses of Parliament, that the laws favouring the colonies would never be

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impaired, by allowing the competition of slave-grown sugar with our own. And onlooking at the evidence given by Mr. Deacon Hume before a Committee of this House in 1840—I think it is published in a blue book, in 1841—he, Mr. Deacon Hume, who is considered as the father of free trade, stated, “That so long as sugar was produced by slaves in foreign colonies, it was an article that could never be brought into the category of free trade;” those are his exact words. On the faith of those opinions expressed by the people of England, and by the Parliament of Great Britain, and lastly by Mr. Deacon Hume, we made the greatest exertions, by advancing fresh capital for machinery and the payment of wages, and we brought the crops from 25,000 tons to 65,000 tons in 1846; and just at the moment when we hoped to reap the benefit of our exertions, we were most unexpectedly met by the Bill of 1846, which dashed our hopes to the ground; for myself, I most distinctly say, that I never would have gone more deeply into the affairs of cultivation, if I could for one moment have supposed the possibility of this Act of 1846 being passed. This was no reckless or ill-founded speculation, it was based upon what we considered the most sacred guarantees and pledges of the British Parliament and the British people; I never would have put one sixpence into the land of the Mauritius; I did not require it at that time; but unquestionably, if I had, I would not have put one sixpence into the ground but for that pledge. I did not go into any reckless speculation, but I went on what I consider the most sacred pledges that could be given to an Englishman.

2413. You relied upon the sentiments expressed by the Parliament, and by the people of the entire country, at the general election of 1841?—Yes.

2414. And if the worst came to the worst, you expected that if the Whigs returned to office again, you would have 12*s.* differential duty?—I heard that there was an offer made to the West India body of 12*s.* as a fixed duty; but I confess that when I went into this, I relied upon the publicly declared sentiments of the most eminent and leading men in both Houses of Parliament, and that, too, confirmed by the general election; and I felt myself as safe in embarking my property in the sugar cultivation as though I had my property in the Bank in London; and I was the victim of putting reliance upon such calculations.

2415. You consider yourself a victim, not of any rash or ill-founded speculation, but entirely of the bad faith of Parliament and of the country?—Precisely.

2416. I believe of five great mercantile houses which have been connected with estates in the Mauritius, directly or indirectly, four have failed since the Sugar Bill of 1846 came into operation?—They have.

2417. And those four houses have advanced one million and a half sterling for the cultivation of sugar in the Mauritius?—According to the statements which are published, and accessible to every body, of the state of their affairs, they appear to have that amount vested in landed property in the Mauritius, trusting entirely, I suppose, to the same guarantees as I trusted to.

2418. Those investments have been made between the year of emancipation and the present time?—Yes, subsequently to the emancipation; what their failure took its origin from, I am not prepared to say; but I believe that Reid, Irving & Company's affairs had taken their extension since the emancipation; the others I do not know so much about.

2419. I believe, on the 30th of June 1846, when Sir Robert Peel's administration left power, the Gazette average price of Mauritius sugar was 35*s.* 10*d.*?—The price on the 30th of June 1846 was 35*s.* 10*d.*, and on the 7th of July of the same year, it was 31*s.*, a fall of 4*s.* 10*d.*

2420. That was owing to the advent of the free traders to power?—I suppose it was. The gentlemen of Mincing-lane are very well able to watch their own interests; and I suppose they saw there was reason to pay 4*s.* 10*d.* less than they had been paying; but whether it was owing to this particular cause or to that, I cannot say.

2421. Four shillings and ten-pence upon the import of 60,000 tons of sugar would be something like 290,000*l.*?—Yes, that was the depreciation then merely upon the expectation of something going to take place. The sellers of sugar cannot bolster up the price; it is the grocers and refiners who buy it, and they are people with their eyes open.

2422. I believe

2422. I believe the sugar consigned to those four houses which failed amounted to 28,000 tons?—About 28,000 tons. *H. Hunter, Esq.*

2423. The fall in the price having been 12*l.* a ton, that would make a difference of about 336,000*l.*?—Yes. 21 February 1848.

2424. That would be the amount of loss upon the produce consigned to them?—Precisely.

2425. In the balance sheet, it would show a difference of 336,000*l.*?—Yes.

2426. Can you state what the price of Mauritius sugar was in December 1846 and in December 1847?—On the 28th of December 1846, the price was 32*s.* 2½*d.*, and on 28th December 1847 it was 22*s.* 2*d.*

2427. Mr. *Moffatt.*] What is the price now?—The Gazette average price is about 23*s.*, barely so much.

2428. *Chairman.*] This sugar so consigned to these four mercantile houses is the growth of estates, which either belong to those merchants, or are hypothecated to them?—Certainly.

2429. Therefore the reduction to the amount of 336,000*l.* a year, at the ordinary calculation of 10 years' purchase, would be equivalent to a loss of 3,360,000*l.* of capital?—Certainly; and moreover, if that difference in price had not taken place, and the prospects were not so gloomy as they are at this moment, if we were not in fact in utter despair, those estates would have been valuable, and might have been sold for the benefit of themselves or others.

2430. But now they are perfectly unsaleable?—They are.

2431. Is it your opinion that with a differential duty of 10*s.* per cwt. the colony could produce sugar profitably to a large amount?—Yes.

2432. To what amount?—It depends upon the number of people; if we had really efficient labour, the amount would be very large; but I consider that the labour we have now, though the labourers are many in number, is not real efficient labour; sugar cultivation requires constant, continuous and assiduous labour, to make it at all answer; it is not like the cultivation of fields in this country, where, when you have ploughed the land and sown it, you can let it lie; but you have to go over the land to keep it clean, and when the crop has arrived to maturity, you must cut and grind it, and manipulate it as regularly on the same day that you cut it as it is possible.

2433. Have you made any calculation of the difference in the amount of work performed by the negroes at the time they were slaves, and the amount performed by the Coolies in the first, second and third years of their education, if I may so call it?—I have; and I would refer again to the paragraph 17 of this Report, which says: "It is clearly proved by the evidence taken before your Committee" (and there is a reference to that evidence in the margin), "and by the comparative statements of labour performed by different classes of labourers, that for the first few months after their arrival, a large portion of the Indians are exceedingly inefficient through sickness and weakness, and are able to perform but a small portion of an ordinary task; that, until they have passed a year in the colony, they are not capable of the more difficult and fatiguing duties of a plantation; and that they do not become effective labourers until they have been employed a couple of years or more at this kind of labour. This statement is perfectly consistent with the facts that the Indians are generally unaccustomed to hard and continuous labour of any kind in their own country, and that the greater part of the immigrants introduced by the merchants belong to the non-prædial classes. It is stated in evidence, that the daily task of a slave was usually in digging 100 holes; in cutting canes, two to three cart-loads, cut and cleared; and in cleaning 800 feet by four or five feet of ground: the ex-apprentices performed about one-fifth less, viz., 80 holes; two cart-loads, and 600 feet of cleaning. Indians, after their second year, will perform the same quantity of work; but during the first year their task does not usually exceed 30 or 40 holes, and one or one and a half cart-load of canes cut; the average loss, therefore, under this head, compared with slave-labour" (this is speaking of slave-labour under the mitigated form of slave-labour in our own colonies) "may be estimated at 50 per cent. for new Indians, and 20 per cent. for old Indians, or an average of 33 per cent.; reducing further the labour of the working hands among the Indian population to the complement of 17,034 efficient men."

2434. You divide the scale of the Coolie labour into three grades, the first year, the second year, and the third year?—Yes; I consider, speaking from my

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own practical knowledge of the working of a sugar plantation, that in the first year of apprenticeship they dug from 30 to 40 cane-holes a day; that in the second year the Coolie dug 60, and in the third year 80; the slaves before apprenticeship digging 100 cane-holes a day, and the ex-apprentices during apprenticeship 80 cane-holes; thus the Coolie performs in the first year six-tenths, and in the second year four-tenths less labour than the slave, and the apprentice two-tenths or one-fifth less.

2435. And it is not till the third year that the labour of the Coolie becomes equivalent to that of the ex-apprentice?—No; and his labour is always less than the labour of the slave under the British legislation produced to the planter.

2436. For those three years four-tenths less labour than the slave, the Coolie is paid 19*l.* a year, whereas the slave cost 3*l.* 11*s.* only for a larger amount of labour?—Exactly; there is 33 per cent. less labour, and the cost is in the proportion of 3*l.* 11*s.* to 19*l.*

2437. I believe the manufacture of sugar is generally performed on the estate separately?—It is.

2438. But are there not instances where small proprietors who have not capital enough to enable them to erect buildings send their canes to be, as it is called, passed by the adjoining mill?—Yes.

2439. Is that found to answer?—It is found to answer in a small way; if that is with reference to central manufactories, it is a different point; but a person who has a mill must judge of the power he is possessed of, and his mill being only able to grind a certain quantity of cane during the period of crop-time, he will not engage with his neighbour, unless he is sure of passing his own, and also passing that additional quantity; if he engages to pass a larger quantity for his neighbour he must increase his establishment by having more power, and he must enlarge his buildings so as to have boxes to cure the sugar in; in fact, he must enlarge his whole establishment.

2440. And is there not great danger of incipient fermentation, if there is any delay in grinding the cane?—Yes; the cane must be ground immediately, and the more readily it is passed to the mill after being cut the better is the result.

2441. Then, I presume the probability is, that if a planter had a large mill, he would take care to grind his own canes before he ground his neighbours' canes?—There would always be a conflict of interest between the parties, and if he engaged with several to grind their canes, every man would be calling out for his own cane to be ground before his neighbour's.

2442. If a mill-owner contracted to take canes in the raw state, it would be necessary for him to have a very large establishment of cattle and carts to bring the canes to the mill?—Certainly; those who pass canes for what they call *a/c et demi*, that is, half and half, the proprietor of the mill sends his cart and brings his cane, and he divides the produce between the proprietor of the land and the miller, as it is called; he takes the miller's share.

2443. If Lord Grey's theory was to be carried into practice of centralized mills upon a large scale in the same way as flour mills are constructed and used in this country, the miller would have to bring canes by cattle at considerable cost?—It must necessarily be so, because the estates in the Mauritius are very large; they run from 800 acres to 2,000 acres, and therefore, if you undertake to have central establishments for neighbouring lands, some of the canes must come from a very great distance.

2444. And the man who brought his canes from a distance could not possibly compete with the man whose canes were handy to the mill?—Certainly not.

2445. As we all know, the produce of flour and bran from wheat is, in weight, very nearly the same as the weight of the wheat itself?—That I cannot answer; I am not much of a miller.

2446. But I believe that in the case of canes, it requires from 10 to 15 tons of raw cane to produce one ton of sugar?—We calculate it in this way,—we consider that one cart holds a ton of canes or 2,000 lbs., and that it gives from 120 to 140 lbs. of sugar the cart-load. It is easy to calculate that it does require from 10 to 15 tons of raw cane to produce a ton of sugar.

2447. By Lord Grey's system of centralized mills, the cost of cartage prior to grinding would therefore be multiplied about fifteen-fold?—Yes.

2448. Is it possible that the manufacture of sugar could be carried on upon such a principle as that?—I do not think in the Mauritius it would answer, for the reason I have stated, that estates are so large; they put up mills quite sufficient

cient to manipulate the whole of the canes in proper time; but if they undertook to work and manipulate their neighbours' canes at a central mill, they must put up additional power, an additional boiling-house, and make an additional outlay of capital, which they are not able to do; they have not got it, and they could not do that under the existing prospects of the colony.

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2449. The grinding of cane can only proceed during the crop time?—Only then; so much so, that the cane must be ground in the proper season.

2450. How many months is the cane season?—They begin to get everything in order in the middle of July, and it ought to be finished, in a good season, by Christmas.

2451. So that it is exactly six months?—Yes; the rainy season commences in December, and the heavy rains in January; if you let your canes stand over, so that the canes are caught by the heavy rains in January, it is hardly worth while to cut them, for the moment the rain falls, the cane-juice loses its strength, fresh vegetation takes place, and the juice alters altogether in its qualities.

2452. If I understand you rightly, if Lord Grey's speculation was attempted to be carried out into practice, the mill-owner would have all his hands and all his cattle lying idle for something more than six months out of the twelve?—The additional labour he would have to engage or add to his establishment in the shape of workers of the mill would, as a matter of course, remain unproductive.

2453. But if I understand rightly, Lord Grey's proposition is, that there should be two distinct classes of tradesmen, the sugar planter and the sugar miller, just as there are the wheat grower and corn miller in this country?—Precisely; I so understand it; but in that case the whole system must be changed; a man who has now 1,000 acres is complete in his establishment; if the whole of the adjoining neighbours were to propose to pass the whole of their cane with him, I repeat again, he must increase the power of grinding, and that would require a very large outlay of capital.

2454. But Lord Grey's principle contemplates, as I understand, that the miller is not to be a planter too; I am, therefore, supposing the sugar-grinder to do nothing but grind sugar-cane?—In that case you would have to change the whole system; if we are to suppose two men, one of whom would be a miller, and would erect premises for the purpose, and the other of whom would be a proprietor, and do nothing but cultivate his land, that would change the whole system as it at present stands; whether it would be profitable or not is a matter to be tested by experience; I am not going to be presumptuous enough to say that it would not succeed, or that it would succeed, but, at any rate, it is a hazardous thing to do, to knock down an old establishment and set up a new establishment, which involves a certain outlay of capital upon a prospective gain.

2455. If I understand you rightly, now the sugar planter employs his hands and his cattle upon his estate during the crop season in supplying the mill with the sugar-cane; but in other seasons of the year, these same cattle and these same men can be turned to other accounts connected with the cultivation of sugar; but that would not apply to a man who was in no occupation but that of a miller; he would have no occupation for his mill-men, and no occupation for his cattle in the six months when there was no cane to be ground?—None; he would discharge the whole of his men, and, of course, his animals and carts would remain there doing nothing.

2456. What we call eating their heads off?—Precisely.

2457. Then I gather your opinion to be, that Lord Grey's theory, beautiful as it is, would be perfectly impracticable?—I do not mean to give a positive opinion upon it; but my own impression is, that it would not succeed, and I do not think it would be more economical.

2458. I believe the island of Mauritius has suffered very considerably from the loss of its commerce, by the interruption of amicable relations with the Queen of Madagascar?—Very materially indeed; and not only the island of Mauritius, but the mother country.

2459. The Mauritius derived her supplies of cattle, and a large portion of her supplies of rice and the orchilla weed from Madagascar?—Yes.

2460. The result of the interruption of amicable relations with the Queen of Madagascar

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Madagascar has been to double the price of cattle in the Mauritius?—Yes, fully to double it.

2461. And the price of beef has increased five-fold?—The price of beef in former years was from 5*d.* to 7½*d.* a lb. I think, if I mistake not, the contract price by Government for the supply of the troops was about 14 sous, or under 4*d.* a lb., or about 4*d.* In the bazaar, the choice pieces were sold at from 6*d.* to 7*d.* a lb. According to the last accounts I have from the island, the price paid in the bazaar is now 2*s.* 6*d.* a lb.

2462. The passage from Calcutta to the Mauritius is 45 days?—It is, upon the average, 45 days.

2463. From Madras it is 30 days?—It is.

2464. From Madagascar it is about four days?—Madagascar is 450 miles distant from the island of Mauritius; it is all in the south-east trade; going down it is from two and a half to three days; coming back, the average, I should say, was 10 days, beating up against the wind.

2465. We have before seen, that the cost of your slaves was 3*l.* 11*s.* a head per annum?—Yes.

2466. Have you any reason to suppose that the cost of slaves in Brazil and Cuba and Porto Rico is higher than 3*l.* 11*s.* per head?—No, certainly not.

2467. Have you every reason, on the contrary, to suppose that the slave-holders of Cuba, Brazil and Porto Rico subsist their slaves as cheaply as you subsisted your slaves?—There is no question of it; they raise their own food of Indian corn, or whatever they feed the slaves upon.

2468. Then the free traders expect you with Coolies, that cost you 10*l.* passage money, to compete with slave-holders, whilst they restrict your power of getting labourers from Bengal and Madras, one of which is 45 days' sail, and the other 30 days' sail; and when you could get any number of free labourers at 10 days' sail from you?—Yes.

2469. You do not consider that that, if it is free trade, is fair trade?—It is not free trade towards us; you have taken away from us what I consider the cheapest labour of the two, and which is proved to be the cheapest; and the effect of that is, that you refuse to receive from us that which you receive from Brazil or Cuba, produced from the cheapest labour; and I therefore say it is not free trade to British subjects.

2470. With the capital that you have invested now in the Mauritius, if you could have your old slaves back again, and the old system back again, should you be prepared to compete with Cuba, Porto Rico and Brazil?—I have not the slightest doubt that we could do so if we had real and efficient labour; I have no reason to suppose that the soil of Mauritius is less grateful than the soil of Brazil; but so long as the present system of sickly sympathy prevails, evincing so strong a leaning towards the labourers over the proprietors, we cannot compete with Brazil and Cuba; but if we had cheaper labour we could do it; I do not wish to have slaves, but only to obtain efficient labour, and to be upon the equal footing as they are.

2471. Is not the answer to the argument of the free traders this: that so long as Cuba, Brazil and Porto Rico have slaves, you cannot compete with them in the European markets on even terms?—Exactly, and we know perfectly well that the rise of those colonies has taken place from the period of the decline of ours.

2472. As long as you had the advantage of slave labour, I believe the British tropical colonies, one year with another, produced somewhere about 50,000 tons of sugar more than Great Britain could consume?—I have seen reports to that effect.

2473. And that surplus superseded the slave-grown sugar of Cuba, Porto Rico and Brazil, on equal terms in the European markets?—I should suppose so.

2474. In short, it was sold in the European markets?—Yes, it was exported from Great Britain.

2475. I believe the charge against the tropical colonists of Great Britain, in 1832 and 1833, made by Lord Stanley, was that you were too enterprising, and that you made too great efforts to promote the cultivation of your plantations, and were guilty of what was called over-production?—That very soon cures itself. The moment you come really and truly to supply more of the article than you want, the fair reasoning is, that you will not continue to produce more than is requisite.

2476. I believe for a considerable time you were restricted to Calcutta for your labourers,

labourers, and are not now permitted to go to Madras?—We are not at this moment; we are so far not permitted that, from a misapprehension of the instructions to the agent at the port of Madras, he will not allow even the men who volunteer to go from Madras to embark for the Mauritius, because he says that he has chartered ships for the West Indies; and men who volunteer to go to the Mauritius, and decline going to the West Indies, are prevented from going to the Mauritius by the agent at Madras, for the reason that he has these ships chartered for the West Indies only. A curious fact occurred a short time ago with regard to that point; there was a band of 70 men who presented themselves to the Madras agent ready for embarkation to the Mauritius; they were refused to be allowed to embark, and they found their way from Madras to Calcutta, at their own cost, either by land or by boat, and they went to the agent in Calcutta, and embarked at once for the Mauritius, and they arrived at the Mauritius; the refusal of the agent at Madras put those men to the expense of a journey, I suppose from 13 degrees north to 20 degrees north, or 700 miles distance, to find an opportunity of going to the Mauritius.

2477. Are you not put also to a great deal of unnecessary expense by being confined to certain ships appointed by Government?—Very much so.

2478. You are only permitted to import your immigrants in ships of a certain size, and fitted out in a particular way?—We are only allowed to charter such ships that have six feet between decks, which limits the number of ships available for our operations to a very small number; the consequence of which is, that the owners of those ships find that they have a monopoly, and they charge their own price; what we want is, that we should be allowed to send persons in vessels of 200 and 250 tons, which in my opinion would be more healthy for the immigrants, and there are a number of those smaller vessels which trade from Calcutta to the Mauritius with rice and grain; the more you crowd those men in a large ship, the more liable they are to have cholera and diseases incidental to India, and I think the restriction is not only more expensive, but more unsafe for the health and comfort of the people.

2479. Do not you apprehend that a ship of 100 tons would be as safe in those seas as a ship of 300 tons?—There is no question of it; if the ship was a sound and good vessel, I would as soon be in her as in a vessel of 300 tons.

2480. Is not this restriction to ships of large size burden perfectly ridiculous?—There is no question of it.

2481. Would not the rice ships bring the immigrants at half the expense if they were at liberty to do so?—I should say they would.

2482. Would Port Louis be an hour's sail out of the way of an India ship going to England?—A ship going to England at the proper season of the year, any time from the month of April to the month of December, would come to the Mauritius without going out of her way; she would lose a little time, but she might anchor outside, and land her men, and receive payment for them, and proceed on her voyage; there are many vessels sailing from Madras which have comparatively very light freight; they would have room for 100 or for 70 men; they would take in those men and bring them to Mauritius, and get 3*l.* or 4*l.* per head; they would make 350*l.* in the course of 24 hours, and sail again on their voyage.

2483. Is it possible to conceive any reason why there should be a greater restriction as regards the transport of Coolies from Madras or Calcutta to the Mauritius than there is upon the Scotch, English or Irish emigrants to the British Canadas?—I know of none.

2484. The voyage is generally shorter?—The voyage is shorter, with a much milder climate, and less liable to those boisterous storms that men going to Canada suffer so much from, when they are kept below in bad weather; they are almost certain to have fever.

2485. It rarely happens that there is any inconvenience in all the passengers remaining on deck in those tropical climates?—I should not wish to have them remain on deck; they ought to have a certain space below.

2486. But in ordinary weather the immigrants would be comfortable on deck; it rarely happens that they are obliged to be battened down under the hatches, as they are frequently on the voyage from Great Britain to Canada?—There is no question that the more they are on deck, in the open air, the better it is for them.

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2487. If you could have 40,000 free labourers imported from Madagascar, at an expense of 2*l.* or 2*l.* 10*s.* a head, as this Committee was informed that they could be imported at in any number from Madagascar, you would then be in a much better condition to go on with your cultivation and compete with slave-grown articles?—There is no question of it; the more you reduce the cost of wages, which is an important item of cost, the cheaper you can produce the sugar.

2488. In point of fact, the whole question is a question of the price of labour?—Six-twelfths of it; fully half goes in wages and provisions.

2489. I believe the estimate of the crop of the year terminating in 1847 was 65,000 tons?—We begin in July; the crop that has begun to arrive in England is the crop of 1847; we have not any return of that; the crop of 1846, which finishes in the end of 1846 or the beginning of 1847, what we term the crop of 1846 and 1847, was 65,000 tons.

2490. Did not Sir William Gomm make some estimate of the value of the crop?—He did; that is, the crop which I speak of which has arrived and been sold. Sir William Gomm writes from the Mauritius on the 6th of March 1847: “The balance of revenue over expenditure of 1845 was 16,816 *l.*; that of 1846 has increased to 50,598 *l.*” “The gross value of colonial exports within the year exceed that of its imports by no less a sum than 479,415 *l.* by the official returns; the former,” that is colonial exports, “amounted to 1,622,495 *l.*; the latter,” its imports, “to 1,143,080 *l.*, forming a striking contrast to the relative amount of these two valuations in the five years immediately preceding.” I should wish to explain a discrepancy which, unfortunately for the realization of his figures, Sir William Gomm has fallen into in the estimate; he estimates the value of the crop in the Mauritius at 26 *l.* per ton upon 65,000 tons; that crop has realized here about 16 *l.* or 17 *l.*; the deduction, therefore, will be somewhere about 600,000 *l.* or 700,000 *l.* from this beautiful report of his. He concludes that because the valuation there is 25 *l.* or 26 *l.* or 27 *l.* per ton, he may take it for granted that the colony must be in a very flourishing position, and that its exports exceed its imports by about 500,000 *l.* sterling; whereas the result will be about 500,000 *l.* the other way.

2491. Mr. Milner Gibson.] What is the date of that report?—The 6th of March 1847.

2492. Chairman.] With which loss you reckon the Bill of 1846 may be debited?—Precisely; there is no other reason in the world; there was no rash or improvident speculation on their part; they met the call of the country, and they exerted themselves to the utmost to produce sugar for the supply of the English market free of the taint of slavery, and they have been met by the Bill of 1846, which has dashed their hopes to the ground, not for this year alone, but it has thrown the colony back for years; it is a question whether it can ever recover; protection, were it even given now, would not replace the losses they have sustained, and instead of showing a revenue to the island, if this goes on, there will be none.

2493. Have you any accounts of the cost of cultivation and the profits derived from slave-grown sugar in Cuba?—I have not.

2494. Have you any such account from Havannah?—I have a Price Current from Havannah of the 8th of January 1848, which states, “The production has far exceeded that of any previous year, and the prices obtained by the planters have been so highly remunerative, that they are enabled to adopt every means for the further extension of their crops. The little sugar left for sale at the date of last report has been disposed of at lower prices, and our quotations now range as follows: Cucuruchos, 15*s.* 7*d.*; ordinary yellows, 16*s.* 2*d.* to 16*s.* 9*d.*; middling yellows, 17*s.* 4*d.* to 17*s.* 11*d.*; fine yellows, 18*s.* 6*d.* to 19*s.* 8*d.*; Florete yellows, 20*s.* 3*d.* to 21*s.* 5*d.*; ordinary whites, 20*s.* 10*d.* to 21*s.* 5*d.*; middling whites, 22*s.* 7*d.*; fine and Florete, 23*s.* 9*d.* That is the circular of Drake Brothers & Company, Havannah, which is the best and largest house in Havannah.

2495. Do you think that the repeal of the Navigation Laws would entirely set the Mauritius planters upon their legs again?—It would not be the slightest boon to us as Mauritius planters. I had the honour to form one of a deputation to the Prime Minister; the interview was asked for by the Mauritius Association with the Prime Minister; Lord Grey was present, and subsequently in the course of the audience the Chancellor of the Exchequer came in; several gentlemen

tlemen who formed the deputation addressed their Lordships, and I took the liberty of saying a few words in these terms: "I wish to say a few words in elucidation of Sir George Larpent's statement,"—Sir George Larpent had preceded me in addressing the Prime Minister,—“that the question of sugar cultivation does not come under the category of free trade; it is well known that the British planter works under the system of restrictive laws on labour imposed on him by the Government, and that in the colonies there are stipendiary magistrates whose duty it is to watch the proprietors and prevent any infringement of these laws; the planters cannot work their men more than nine hours per day; whilst on the other hand it is equally well known that the slave proprietor works his slaves without there being the slightest controlling power over him; it is only self-interest which operates on him in exacting work from his slaves; he works them as much as their physical powers will endure, stopping short only when he perceives there is a prospect of his slave sinking under his labour, and that he, the proprietor, would be obliged to purchase another slave. This labour is exacted under the power of the lash, and is, therefore, a continuous and regular system of labour so essential in sugar cultivation; it endures in certain seasons from 12 to 14 hours per day, and during crop time 16 or 18 hours per day, and that the slaves are worked on the Sundays the same as week-days. Now it must be clear to any unbiassed person that if the expenses of the keep of both classes of the labourers be equal (a position which I contest, the advantage being on the side of the slave proprietor), that the slave-holder who obtains, on an average, 14 hours of actual labour per day, must produce his sugar nearly 80 per cent. cheaper than the British planter working under the system of free labour and restricted hours, and can therefore undersell the latter in the British market. Another point on which I wish to remark, is the supposed boon which we are to receive in amelioration of our condition, by the abrogation of the Navigation Laws; thereby allowing British produce to be imported into the United Kingdom in foreign bottoms; now, I most distinctly assert, that to the Mauritius this proposed change will not be of the slightest advantage; I have been a shipper of sugar for 20 years from Mauritius to Great Britain, during which period it has only once occurred that I have paid 5*l.* per ton on British ships; two years I have paid the low rate of 25*s.*; several years 2*l.* 10*s.*, 3*l.* 10*s.* and 4*l.* 10*s.*, and I am certain that during the whole 20 years the average was not 3*l.* 10*s.*; now, I am aware that the rates of charter for foreign ships to proceed and bring a cargo of sugar from Brazil, Cuba and Porto Rico to Europe, runs from 2*l.* 10*s.* to 3*l.* per ton, and this voyage out and home occupies a period of about 110 days on the average; viz., 40 days out, 30 days in port, and 40 days home: if, therefore, I offered a charter to a foreign ship to proceed to Mauritius for a cargo of sugar, I could not expect that the owner would hire his ship to me at the same rate as he obtained for the first-mentioned ports; he would, on the contrary, say to me, that for the first voyage of 110 days, he obtained the average rate of 2*l.* 15*s.*, and therefore for a voyage to Mauritius which would occupy 230 days, viz., 100 days out, 30 lay days, and 100 days home, he could not let his vessel for less than the proportionate rate of 110 days to 230 days, or about 4*l.* 15*s.* to 5*l.* 10*s.* per ton; now, therefore, my Lord, I most decidedly repeat, that any change in the Navigation Laws will not confer the slightest relief or benefit to the Mauritius' planters in conveying their produce to Europe; whatever benefit such a change might bestow on other parties, to Mauritius it will confer none;” therefore, I protest against its being considered a boon to the Mauritius.

2496. The Committee now come to the grievances you are under as respects taxation; the island of the Mauritius has no other means of paying its taxation except by its produce of sugar, has it?—None whatever; there is no other produce raised in the island.

2497. The taxes amount to 300,000*l.* a year?—Including immigration; for the civil budget and the taxes brought upon it for military purposes, it amounts to 240,000*l.*

2498. That is 4*l.* a ton upon 60,000 tons?—Yes.

2499. Of which sum about 30,000*l.* is expended upon the police?—Perhaps a little more upon the police establishment, which may be said to be the most inefficient in any part of Her Majesty's dominions.

2500. The Committee have been told, that the island of the Mauritius is

H. Hunter, Esq. about the same size as the Isle of Wight, is not it about half as big again?—It is 60 miles long, and 30 miles at its extreme width.

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2502. How far are you from Bourbon?—I have seen Bourbon from the hills above Port Louis; look at our neighbouring colony of Bourbon, we find it enjoying a protection of at least 10s. per cwt. in the French markets, with an expenditure barely half of ours; their governor at 2,400*l.* per annum, whilst ours has 7,000*l.* per annum; all other officials on the same ratio; and I ask, is it fair and honest to us to throw open our home market to these *foreigners*, and cause us to compete with them in it, when there is such a difference in their taxation? It is not free trade, it is not fair play—an Englishman's boast when we had the protection in our own market; we did not call out against paying our officials beyond the rates paid in the foreign colonies, nor against the colonial allowance to Her Majesty's troops; but if free trade is to prevail, and this system of reduction is to be forced on us as planters, then our civil government officers and military officers must also suffer the consequence of such a change; they must be brought down to the level of foreigners as well as ourselves, and thereby much reduce our ancient feelings of nationality. It would be much better for me to have my estates now either in Cuba, Brazil or Bourbon than in Mauritius,—a sorry conclusion to be obliged to come to.

2503. You stated that Bourbon had a protective duty of 10s. a hundred weight; that is against all sugar imported under the French flag, is not it?—Not only do they protect their own western colonies against the foreigner, but they protect the Isle of Bourbon to the extent of 2s. against their own West India colonies; according to the distance of the colonies from the mother country, France gives some additional protection, which is equivalent to the supposed freight that would be charged in addition.

2504. It is to put them on an equality?—To put Bourbon on an equality with Guadaloupe and Martinique.

2505. Have you not great cause to complain of the enormous duty on the registration and transfer of land by mortgage and sale?—It is very heavy, it amounts to two per cent. for simple registration, and one per cent. for transfer, what is termed "inscription;" and the notarial charges are one per cent. more, which amounts to about four per cent. upon the declared value of the property; and if a certain period elapses before those forms are gone through, it is doubled; instead of being three per cent. it is six per cent.

2506. There is the expense of the garrison also?—That which falls upon the civil budget is the allowance to the officers of Her Majesty's troops, which is termed "colonial allowance;" it used to be 20,000*l.*; by the last return it is reduced to 16,000*l.* Another charge which falls upon the colony is 5,000*l.* a year, which is annually charged upon the civil budget for keeping up the fortifications and military posts. Another charge, which is exceedingly onerous and unjust, is the charge made upon the taxation of the Mauritius for keeping up the island of Seychel, amounting to 5,000*l.* Seychel is 1,000 miles distance from the Mauritius, and we derive no benefit from it; it was kept by the British Government at the cession of the island, for the purpose of preventing its falling into the hands of slavers or pirates; but why should the Mauritius civil budget be charged for the expense of that which may properly be termed a police station? You may just as well charge it to the government of Bombay. Those three items form a total of nearly 30,000*l.* a year.

2507. Are there not some sinecures also charged upon the island of Mauritius?—There are pensions.

2508. What are those pensions?—I forget exactly the amount; they are according to the service of the officers retiring, so much in proportion for the number of years they have served in the colony.

2509. In the appointment of those officers, the colony has no voice, has it?—They are all appointed by the Colonial Office.

2510. The whole of this enormous expenditure of 300,000*l.* a year is at the disposal of the Colonial Office, except the immigration tax of 1*l.* a ton?—Yes.

2511. Is not the cost of that largely enhanced by the unnecessary expense created by the Colonial Office restrictions on the importation of immigrants?—Yes; it is a most expensive machinery; it amounts, as nearly as possible, upon
6,000

6,000 men (which is the number it is limited to just now) to nearly a pound a man; the cost of the fixed establishment in Calcutta is about 2,500 *l.* a year; the cost of the fixed establishment in the Mauritius and the Protectorate Officer is about 2,500 *l.* a year; so that the charge of those fixed establishments is nearly 5,000 *l.* upon the introduction of 6,000 men.

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2512. Is not it the case that the expenditure upon the little island of Mauritius is about fourfold the entire expenditure of the British colonies in the United States, just before they threw off the dominion of the mother country?—I am not prepared to answer how that may be; I am certain there is no colony in the West Indies which pays such a taxation as we do per head.

2513. What is the population of the Mauritius?—From 150,000 to 160,000.

2514. What do you estimate the number of vagabonds to be in that island?—It has been estimated variously from 10,000 to 12,000.

2515. The Committee have been informed that they amount altogether to 36,000?—If you take the importation of Indians from first to last, it is, I think, by this return up to 1845, about 60,000 or 70,000 people; and I see by the return in 1845 there were about 35,000 of all classes at work, showing that there must be about 30,000 people who have not remained cultivating the soil gone into other occupation, or squatted; there is a part close to the town under the signal mountain, within gun-shot of the Government House, which is Government ground, and it is now studded with small cottages, which are a receptacle and harbour for all such people; they pay no ground-rent and no taxes whatever; nothing towards the support of the colony.

2516. Do you conceive that if there were rigorous vagrant laws and industrial laws enacted, those 12,000 vagabonds might be set to work?—I have not the slightest doubt of it.

2517. If such were the case, would not there be ample labour in the colony now for all the wants of the planters?—I think so; and I think so long as the present law which directs the relations between master and servant exists, the same bad results will be the consequence; the law to which I allude is the Order in Council of the 7th of September 1838; that law is administered by the stipendiary magistracy; it is a law by which there is no appeal given to the superior courts in the island; a man may bring a false complaint, he may desire to extort money under false pretences by the subornation of witnesses; provided the magistrate issues his warrant and judgment according to the form laid down in the schedule, no superior court, not even the Governor of the island, can touch the case; that law I consider to be one of the great evils existing, to the well working of the immigrant population in the island.

2518. Though there is a Legislative Council, practically the Government is despotic, is not it?—I will explain the nature of the Legislative Council; there are eight official members, including the Governor, who names seven unofficial members, making 15 in all; an unofficial member has not the power of the initiative; he cannot lay upon the table any proposal for the reduction of taxation till it has the previous consent of the Governor; consequently the Governor has it in its power to allow it to be debated or not; the Governor has the casting vote in the 15, making 16 votes, of which that gives nine to the Government, and seven to the popular party; it is not a popular party, in fact, because they are appointed by the Government; therefore cases may occur in which the unofficial members voting against a measure when the Governor's preponderating vote may be obliged to be thrown in to carry it; then the measure is technically said to be passed with the consent of the Legislative Council; the whole of the unofficial members voting against it, and the Governor's casting vote alone carried the question; yet in the form of the despatch, it is said "*to be with the consent and advice of the Legislative Council,*" that such and such a law has been passed; it is a mockery altogether; I would much rather see it wholly in the hands of an Executive if there is to be no extension or change.

2519. In point of fact, the colony does not hold the purse strings?—It has no control over them whatever, because though the votes may be given, yet they are overruled by the preponderating votes of the Government.

2520. Do the seven councillors named by the Government hold any official employment?—No.

2521. They receive no salaries?—No; on the contrary, before I came into office there was a fee of 25 *l.* charged for the *honour of being* a member of the Council.

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2522. What is the case as to the eight who are Government men?—They are all officials; I can enumerate them.

2523. Do you know what salaries they receive?—Nothing, as members of the Council.

2524. What salaries do they receive respectively in other ways?—The Governor has 7,000 *l.* a year; the commandant of the garrison is next in the list.

2525. Has he any salary beyond that of his military rank?—No; the officials have no salary as members of the Council.

2526. When they get salaries, they are paid out of the revenues of the island to those different officers, are they not?—I cannot exactly say; I think the chief secretary has 2,000 *l.* a year; I cannot tax my memory with the exact figures.

2527. Is it your opinion that, as far as the beneficial government of the colony is concerned, as far as regards the interests of the sugar planters, an expenditure of 50,000 *l.* would meet all the wants of the colony fully as well as they are met by the expenditure of 300,000 *l.* which is now levied?—I hardly think that it could be brought down to 50,000 *l.*

2528. What do you think it could be brought down to?—I think 100,000 *l.* a year could do every thing that was required, and that that might be raised in a very simple manner.

2529. *Sir Edward Buxton.*] Does that include immigration?—No; I consider 250,000 *l.* to be the civil budget.

2530. *Chairman.*] Do not you think that less than 100,000 *l.* would meet the requirements of the civil government of the Mauritius?—I should rather at once begin with that sum, and if it were found that it could be done for less; if the Legislative Council had the power of controlling it, it would do it.

2531. What do you say is the expense of the police?—From 30,000 *l.* to 33,000 *l.* a year.

2532. Have you ever formed any opinion of the diminution that might be made in that portion of the expenditure consistently with improved efficiency?—Certainly; I think that might be reduced to 10,000 *l.* a year if you had efficient men from this country, men accustomed to the police of the metropolis; 100 or 120 men of that description, who might be got here perhaps at 60 *l.* or 70 *l.* a year, would do more good than all the present police together. The police, at present, is more an office of correspondence than a detective force; that is the evil of the police establishment.

2533. What do you mean by an office of correspondence?—Giving licenses, and answering letters to parties in the country; I speak of the Port Louis police, the head of the establishment.

2534. Do you apprehend, if there were proper laws, there would be any difficulty in putting down vagrancy in the Mauritius?—None whatever; it arises from this,—the new people, as they come in, find that the old people have a sort of loose way of conducting themselves, and they follow a bad example.

2535. There are three regiments of infantry stationed at the Mauritius, are not there?—Yes.

2536. Is there any part of the inhabited portion of the island that has not a military depôt within seven miles?—I do not think it is more than seven miles.

2537. Do the Coolies and the negro population squat in the mountains?—On the verge of the mountains.

2538. If there were any resistance to the police, the police would be able to fall back upon the military, would they not?—Certainly; but I apprehend nothing of the kind will take place with that class of people.

2539. *Sir Edward Buxton.*] With respect to the Coolie immigration, you said you originally worked them for five years; what wages did you pay during that time?—Five rupees, or 10 *s.*

2540. What is the present rate?—The average is now 16 *s.* a month; the men willingly come down in the vessels for five rupees; I have seen them come from Madras at four, and from Pondicherry at three rupees; Calcutta has always been at five rupees.

2541. Did you find in those days there were any complaints as to low wages?—None whatever; on that subject the Committee cannot do better than take the statement

statement in this Report; the five years' contract worked so well, that the men would feel much more comfortable; "they have no object," the Report says, "in taking care of their dwellings," when they have but one year's engagement; "they even pull the thatch out of the roof, and the stakes out of the fences for fuel; they are ragged and slovenly in their dress, and uncleanly in their persons; formerly, when men were engaged for five years on an estate, they took pride in their camp; and in their personal appearance; on some estates they wore a peculiar dress, and had a particular badge by which they were known, and an emulation existed among them, particularly on their public festivals, to rival and outshine their neighbours. Thus the Indians under a yearly engagement amass less money, have less means, and less comforts; the distinction between them, and the men under a five years' engagement, is very marked; the latter are looked upon as the "aristocrats" upon an estate; the Creole women will form connexions with them readily, but much less frequently with the new men; they become attached to the estates and to their employers, re-engage with them freely, or serve without an engagement;" that is the report upon the working of the one year's engagement, and the five years' engagement.

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2542. What were the grounds, then, upon which the immigration into the Mauritius was discontinued in 1839?—It was in consequence of mal-practices in India; we were the victims of them, but not the originators; it was the custom that the men received six months' wages in advance in India; the people then abstracted from them their advance, and it gave rise to a great deal of crimping for the purpose of getting that advance, and then purloining it from them afterwards; all those abuses took place in India, under the eyes of the Government, but there was no complaint in the colony of those mal-practices.

2543. Do you suppose, if you were now to go to India, and offer the men an engagement for five years, you would get them?—I have not the smallest doubt of it.

2544. They would come willingly for five years?—Not only that, but they would pass the engagement with me in India; they would allow it to be registered in the Mauritius, and would serve their five years, and the benefits to their moral habits and their physical powers would be very great indeed.

2545. Do you imagine they would be contented during the whole of that time?—I firmly believe so.

2546. How does it happen, then, that they are very frequently in the habit of changing now?—They are under one years' contract.

2547. If they would be so contented with the five years' contract, how does it happen they are now so much in the habit of changing?—Their natural habit is to change, and they have very bad examples; but when they knew that they were to be five years upon any particular estate, there they would remain; they would feel themselves settled, and they would find the benefits of it.

2548. Though their natural habit is in favour of change, you think they would not object to a five years' engagement?—I think they would find the benefit of it; I have had men with me who came under a five years' contract, and who re-engaged afterwards for one, two and three years, under the one year's contract. There was a man who had been with me nine years; he came down in 1834, and left me in 1843, to return to India.

2549. Do you suppose, if you had five years' engagement now, you could compete with Cuba?—I should not be so presumptuous as to say we could compete with any country. I do not think any system will compete with that of the slaves; because, what foreigners consider in their country as freedom, our officials would consider as tyranny and oppression.

2550. You think you could not compete with Cuba under any system, except slavery?—I do not think even the five years' engagements is, in point of the work to be done by these men, to be compared with the slave under the lash.

2551. Under the one year engagements and the five years, have the wages been regularly paid?—Constantly.

2552. You have had no complaint from that source?—Nothing has arisen from that; there have been one or two instances where the wages have not been paid, but I speak generally; it is impossible to say, in any society or in any country but that there may be complaints of wages not being paid; but that forms no ground for any charge against the cultivators.

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2553. Then it is not true, what was stated by the last witness, that the reason of their frequent changes was their being irregularly paid?—If they are not regularly paid, the stipendiary magistrate has the power of going upon the estate and seizing any thing moveable for the payment of their wages; they are privileged in that respect of the payment of their wages over every other creditor; therefore, on leaving the estate, they would in the first place go to the stipendiary magistrate, and state that they had so much wages due. He would send to the proprietor; the proprietor would say, we will suppose, I cannot pay, then he would seize his mules and carts, and pay the wages to the men.

2554. How often are wages payable?—Monthly.

2555. In any one month may they complain?—Yes; and they obtain summary judgment, which no one can interfere with.

2556. You would like to have an appeal?—I should like to see the law abolished altogether, and that we should be under one law for every man, whatever his colour; I think that the law which binds me is good enough to bind any other man.

2557. How long have the planters being subjected to the stamp tax?—It is my Lord Grey's ordinance, I think, which went out from here about 18 months ago.

2558. Your present sufferings are not owing to that?—We pay 1*l.* on stamps.

2559. But that is very recent?—It is within the last 12 months; and I find from the report from the island, that though they are paying that 1*l.*, it does not repress, in the slightest degree, the system of vagabondism that there is amongst them. I have heard it stated, that men who quit the plantations and go into other occupations, are chargeable with 4*s.* a year; that has been exacted from them also, but that does not bring them back to their work in the fields.

2560. You have said there are yearly engagements; can the Coolie leave the colony after five years now?—He can leave it after one year.

2561. After one year's work?—Yes.

2562. But his passage is not paid?—It is not; that was one part of Lord Grey's ordinance.

2563. What will the Coolie have to pay for a passport if he leaves at once?—I think he has no charge for a passport; he merely has to pay his passage.

2564. Not under Lord Grey's ordinance?—I think not; I am not aware of the fact. If a man makes an engagement to come down on receiving his passage, he is bound to work on the plantations for five years. If he returns to India before the expiration of the five years, he is called on to pay back to the colony the proportion of that passage-money for which he has not worked. That is the spirit of Lord Grey's ordinance. I do not think there is any tax upon him for a passport.

2565. He has to pay something, has he not?—If he comes down to work for five years and receives a bounty, that is to say, is brought down free of expense to himself, and he does not remain to fulfil that obligation he has undertaken of giving to the colony five years of industrial labour, he is then called on to pay his proportion of the cost; if he returns to India at the end of two years, he is called on to pay back three-fifths of what it cost the colony to bring him, and in addition to that his passage is not paid.

2566. What do you consider to be the moral condition of the Coolies?—When I left the island, I considered the moral condition of the Coolies very good.

2567. What is the proportion of women to men among them?—They bring down now about 25 per cent.

2568. What is the proportion upon the existing population?—I have not seen the census.

2569. Is it equal?—No.

2570. Is it one in five?—I am sure I could not answer.

2571. It is very unequal, is not it?—It is not equal by any means.

2572. Their moral state you think is good?—I consider their moral state is good.

2573. It is not notorious in the island that there is horrible immorality among them?—I never heard of it as the habit of the Indians; we had at one time a number of Chinese brought from Singapore, and I heard it stated that they were given to these mal-practices, and I have very little doubt but they

they were, for in their own country they are very much addicted to them where there is a very large abundance of women; it is the vicious principle of the men; it is not the want of the sex apparently; it is the same thing in Arabia where I have been. H. Hunter, Esq.
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2574. The morality of the people you say is good?—Certainly, I should say it is.

2575. You were understood to say in the former part of your evidence that there was no country better fitted to grow sugar than the Mauritius?—I think so; if the Mauritius had the same labour, strictly speaking, as the labour possessed by others, I do think that the soil of the Mauritius is more ungrateful than the soil of other colonies under slave labour; I think, therefore, if the labourers in the Mauritius gave the same quantity of labour they do in Cuba, the same result would take place, and that we should raise sugar as cheaply as those countries do.

2576. Do you think, under slavery, without the import of slaves, you would have an equal footing with Cuba?—We could not have slavery without the importation of slaves.

2577. Supposing slavery had continued up to the present time without the slave trade?—We should not have produced so much as we do now.

2578. Could you have competed with Cuba?—I do not think so upon those estates that were cultivated; our slavery was a mitigated slavery as compared with theirs; after 1828, and indeed before that, great restrictions were imposed upon the planters respecting the number of hours' work; you took away from the master the power of punishment; but that is not the case in Cuba.

2579. At what rate do you suppose sugar could be raised under slavery in the Mauritius?—That involves so many questions, that really it is impossible to say; all I know is, that the slave would cost me about 3*l.* 10*s.* or 4*l.* a year; if he were working upon good land he would raise, of course, a greater quantity of sugar at a less cost than upon other land which is indifferent soil; so much depends upon the soil where the men are located; suppose you have 3,000 *lbs.* per acre upon one estate, and you get 5,000 *lbs.* upon another, the ratio of the return depends upon the richness of the soil.

2580. You have stated that the difference between slave labour and free labour is, that the one costs 3*l.* 11*s.* a head, and the other 19*l.* a head per annum?—Yes.

2581. In that calculation, is anything put down for the interest of capital?—Nothing.

2582. Do you think that is reasonable?—I think it is just in this way: we received compensation for about 40 per cent., and if you charge the interest upon what you receive you have a right to charge the interest the other way, upon what you do not receive; and it would tell against you in this way, you would have interest charged upon the compensation of 30*l.*, and you would have interest charged again upon the non-payment of that portion of your capital which has never been paid, and is never likely to be paid, the 40*l.*, so that the balance of interest would be against you.

2583. If you invested 10,000*l.* in slaves, can you reasonably say that in calculating the cost of their labour, the interest upon the capital laid out should not be included?—I take the whole return to me as the interest for my money; the balance of the account current at the end of the year went as interest.

2584. The question refers to that part of the capital which was laid out in slaves?—It was laid out in the purchase of the whole estate, slaves and all.

2585. If you had 100 slaves on an estate, how many of them worked, including women and children?—That varied very much; sometimes those that did not work were 20 per cent.; sometimes they were 25 per cent. upon the band.

2586. In calculating 3*l.* 11*s.* a head, do you make no allowance for those who did not work?—They were all fed and clothed.

2587. The expense was the same whether they were ill or well, therefore?—They must be fed and clothed, certainly.

2588. Do you not think it needful that some addition should be made to the expense of maintaining slavery for those who could not work?—It was a charge.

2589. Which would add greatly to the charge against slavery?—I have taken the whole cost, well or ill, at 3*l.* 11*s.*

2590. Each person?—Yes.

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2591. At present you pay a man if he is well?—Yes.
2592. You do not pay him if he is ill?—But you feed and clothe him; there are a certain number of days allowed; if a man is ill only two or three days, he is not mulcted.
2593. Are you bound to feed him if he is not well?—Yes, by contract.
2594. You are not bound to feed the children?—No, they are not engaged.
2595. Nor women?—If they engage.
2596. The 19*l.* a year is the expense of an effective labourer?—That is the expense of the labourer, provided he receives his full share of wages, and his provision and clothing.
2597. But nothing is deducted for those days during which he is not effective?—Not if he is away two or three days only; if he is absent any larger number of days, a deduction is made.
2598. In fact, in calculating the whole cost to an estate, your calculation of 3*l.* 11*s.* against 19*l.*, would not exhibit the difference between the two charges?—There might be a little less difference, but I cannot see that it would be very great.
2599. Has not there been in the Mauritius a general system of borrowing money upon the crops; have not the great houses that have failed lent large sums of money upon the crops?—Not on the crops so much as upon the working of the estate altogether.
2600. In many cases they have advanced the whole capital of the estate, have not they?—Yes; many estates have been taken over by those houses.
2601. Has not that tended to the cultivation of sugar to an immense degree?—There is no question but that the cultivation could not have been carried on without those advances, and that will be shown now, when the advances are stopped by a general decline of cultivation.
2602. Does not that system encourage people to go into that sort of business of growing sugar who would not otherwise do so?—I think not.
2603. Are there not many people engaged in growing sugar in the Mauritius who went into it with very little capital?—The principal number of the estates are held by people who held them previously; they had fallen into decay, but by means of those advances they have been able to bring them into a state of productiveness, but no houses of business have lent money to a needy man there for the purchase of an estate.
2604. Do you think the trade in the Mauritius has been too much forced?—Certainly not; I should speak of its being forced had they taken in fresh land, or opened forest land. The great increase of productiveness of the island has been from the better system of farming; I am certain for the last five years there has not been 500 acres of forest land taken into cultivation.
2605. You do not think the importation of Coolies has been overdone in the island?—It has been overdone in the island to our cost; that is to say, from the want of proper regulations in the island; there are plenty of men in the island, in my opinion, if they could be induced really to perform their duty.
2606. You have a vast number of Coolies in the island at present; what means would you take to prevent the vagabondage among them?—I should impose a strict vagrant law; but it is not for me to lay down rules and regulations for the purpose.
2607. What law would you propose which would be just towards those who are there?—I consider if you offer to the Indian the great boon of coming from a poor country to one where he is to receive good wages, he should be bound to perform his part of their contract as well as the colonist should be bound to perform his.
2608. Those people have been already admitted on the ground that they should work only for one year?—The restrictions imposed by Lord Grey's ordinance were meant by him for the purpose of restraining the excessive desire of change and quitting the cultivation; no man would import labourers or pay for those labourers being brought, unless he received a good return for it in the shape of labour.
2609. Since 1843, when these alterations took place, have the planters paid for the immigration themselves?—They paid a proportion.
2610. How much?—Three pounds perhaps upon the average.
2611. How much has the colony advanced?—Seven pounds in each case; the colony pays the whole now, since 1844 or 1845.

2612. Is the importation of Indians less expensive than it was?—It is much more so than it was at first in 1834. *H. Hunter, Esq.*

2613. As to the island of Madagascar from which you wish to get negroes, would you be inclined to import negroes from there, provided you are obliged to be upon equal terms with the sugar of Cuba?—That comes back to the question, whether I think we could compete on equal terms with Cuba; I do not think we could. *21 February 1848.*

2614. You think it would not be worth while?—I think the system of laws existing in Cuba is so clearly different from ours, that whatever labourer you give us, it will not do; the whole resolves itself into the quantity of labour yielded by a man to his proprietor at a certain cost; what those people would call free labour, we should consider under our laws as oppressive and arbitrary, so that no inference can be drawn from the two cases.

2615. You think nothing can be done for the colonies provided protection is entirely taken away, which would make our colonies able to compete with the slave colonies?—Decidedly I do.

2616. Have you ever been at Madagascar?—No.

2617. What makes you think you can find negroes there at 2*l.* a head?—I did not say 2*l.* a head; I know we had from 15 to 18 vessels formerly going backwards and forwards, which would bring them up as passengers perhaps, at 2*l.*, or it may be at even less.

2618. Is there slavery at Madagascar?—I do not know whether it is real slavery or not; they have to perform during the year a certain portion of work for the government; there are very large bodies of men who are perfectly free; the Hovah government, I dare say, have people who perform work for them without remuneration, but it is only a certain portion of the year; but there are two other tribes, Sakalavas and Bismalavas, who are free, and it would be a great blessing if those two tribes could be supported against the Hovahs; they are inclined to receive the blessings of civilization and religion, which the Hovah party, under the Queen of Madagascar, is not.

2619. *Mr. Milner Gibson.*] You stated that the cultivation of sugar had been profitable in the Mauritius of late years?—Up to within the last 12 months, as far as I am concerned, it has been.

2620. The cultivation of sugar in the Mauritius has been profitable up to the year 1846?—Generally; I could not take upon myself to say that; I have been myself satisfied with the prices that I obtained up to the Bill of 1846.

2621. Capitalists engaged in carrying on the culture in the Mauritius must have been up to 1846 accumulating large profits therefore?—Many estates changed hands; many men sold their estates and went to France.

2622. You say that up to 1846 the cultivation of sugar was profitable in the Mauritius; up to 1846 the capitalists had therefore been accumulating and making good profits?—The estates it must be remembered were brought down to a very low pitch in consequence of the stoppage of immigration and the loss of apprenticeship in 1839.

2623. How could the estates be brought to a low pitch if the culture of sugar had been profitable up to 1846?—Before the stoppage of immigration, for four years the estates had yielded profit.

2624. When did the culture of sugar begin to be unprofitable in the Mauritius?—There are many estates perfectly profitable; many estates have not been profitable.

2625. Do you mean that many estates are not unprofitable now?—Yes.

2626. How many estates do you suppose?—I do not know; it must be taken that those which are connected with the houses that have failed must have been unprofitable.

2627. Have all those that are not connected with houses that have failed been profitable?—No; the four years' stoppage of immigration, and the loss of apprenticeship so crippled us in the power of cultivation that the estates were reduced from a very flourishing condition to a mere trifling production; when a new immigration was permitted, and fresh people came there so as to cultivate the estates, fresh capital was required, and whatever means were in the power of the planters, or at their disposal, were used to bring up those estates; that has taken nearly four years to do; whatever money a man might have made in previous years, supposing the planter to have laid by money, he would in the four following years, that is 1843 up to 1846, have spent the whole of it; there would

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be no further accumulation of capital, but what he had accumulated would have gone to bring up his estate in point of productive power; the estates having thus been made valuable, they would have remained valuable, but the Bill of 1846 has stopped it, and then came the great failures which have been so disastrous.

2628. You stated that the failure of many great commercial houses was connected with the distress in the Mauritius, and you stated that those failures happened after the Bill of 1846, do you believe that the Bill of 1846, making a change in the Sugar Duties, was the cause of those failures?—It added one very great cause to it.

2629. You think those houses would have stood, if the Bill of 1846 had not passed?—From all I have heard, I believe they would; I have heard many gentlemen say that they certainly would.

2630. You gave an opinion as if the Committee were to draw that inference; you stated that after the Bill of 1846, came the failures of these commercial houses; do you mean the Committee to infer from that, that the Bill of 1846 was the cause of the failures of those commercial houses?—There is no question but that it was a very great cause; you must not take it exactly as they would appear upon paper; you must look to the loss of credit to all parties connected with the sugar cultivation anywhere, whether in the Mauritius, in India, or the West Indies. The loss of credit in Lombard-street must be taken into account to all connected with sugar; where a man could formerly get his 15,000*l.* or 20,000*l.* a day, his being connected with the sugar trade was enough to shake his credit with these houses in Lombard-street and other bankers.

2631. You complained of Sir William Gomm having made a calculation as to what would be the value of the crops of sugar?—I made no complaint; I laid upon the table the report which shows his calculation.

2632. Was Sir William Gomm's calculation founded upon the actual price of sugar, at the time he made it?—In the Mauritius.

2633. What other ground could you base a calculation on except the price at which the article was selling?—It was not selling; nine-tenths of it were being shipped to England; it was a fallacious datum he went on.

2634. Why fallacious?—He took it, as a matter of course, that sugar should sell in England for so much.

2635. Did not he give his reason for it?—None whatever.

2636. Did not he state the price of sugar being so and so in the Mauritius; therefore, he gave the information and the reasons upon which it rested?—He took for granted that sugar would realize those prices in England; and he, therefore, assumed a perfect fallacy, and but for the Bill of 1846 he would have proved right.

2637. Has not there been a depreciation on all produce as well as sugar?—Not equal to sugar.

2638. Do you happen to know what the value of a railway share in the London and North Western was about a twelvemonth ago?—No; I am speaking of colonial produce.

2639. Is not the depreciation of sugar a depreciation shared by all other articles?—No; I wish sugar had fallen as little as other produce.

2640. What are you prepared to say that you believe on the average to be the cost of production per hundred weight of sugar not equal to fine-clayed sugar?—I consider it to run from 18*l.* to 20*l.* a ton.

2641. What is the price, at the present moment, in the English market which you can obtain for such sugar?—It is selling now at from 33*s.* to 35*s.*

2642. Do you mean to say that you can buy a hundred weight of good average Mauritius sugar at 33*s.*?—You can buy it at 35*s.*

2643. You are speaking of duty-paid, are you?—Yes; I am speaking of the long price.

2644. What do you estimate the freight and insurance charges at?—Twenty-four shillings a hundred weight, or 24*l.* a ton.

2645. What is the price of a ton of sugar, duty-paid and every thing, as delivered to the purchaser?—Thirty-five pounds.

2646. What is the duty?—Fourteen pounds.

2647. What is the freight?—The freight is 5*l.* a ton just now.

2648. What are the charges?—Two-and-a-half per cent. commission, and the other charges come to 3*s.* 6*d.* or 4*s.* Port charges, dock charges and brokerage commission.

2649. What

2649. What is left you net?—Deduct 24*l.* from 35 *l.* leaves 11 *l.*, for that which cost me 18*l.* 10*s.* H. Hunter, Esq.

2650. In order for you to live, you consider that the price of sugar must be raised; how much a ton?—It is difficult for me to say how much; it depends upon a man's ideas of what he can live upon. 21 February 1848.

2651. Ten pounds a ton?—That is what we ask for.

2652. You get 11*l.* net, and you must have the sugar raised in price 10*l.* a ton, in order that your estate may be kept in cultivation?—I suppose so.

2653. You say that your estate is a very fertile estate?—Yes; I have several.

2654. Would 10*l.* a ton be sufficient to keep in cultivation estates that are less fertile than yours?—That I do not know; I do not speak of other people's estates.

2655. You spoke of your estate as a very fertile property; how much must the price of sugar be raised in order to keep in cultivation the less fertile estates of the island?—That I cannot tell; it entirely depends upon the soil.

2656. Therefore different estates would require different amounts of protection, would not they?—No; those estates that found it not beneficial to cultivate would not be kept in cultivation.

2657. The protection that would keep in cultivation one estate might not be enough to keep in cultivation another?—I think it might keep in cultivation the whole of the estates, perhaps; but one man having a rich soil would have a better return than another; I do not mean to say that I ask for different amounts of protection, of 7*s.* and 10*s.* and 15*s.*

2658. You say that 10*l.* a ton would be just sufficient to keep your estate in cultivation?—It would give a remuneration for the capital laid out.

2659. It would not be sufficient to keep an estate in cultivation which was less fertile than yours?—That estate would get less remuneration.

2660. Would it get an adequate remuneration?—That depends upon the purchase-money that they have paid for it.

2661. You recommend a 10*s.* differential duty per cwt.; is that to be applied to all foreign sugar, or only slave-labour sugar?—I ask for it for all sugar, upon the ground that we have not got those reductions which were promised on the passing of the Bill of 1846.

2662. You said you were an advocate for the maintenance of the Navigation Laws, did not you?—I did not say so; I said that the repeal of the Navigation Law would be no boon to the Mauritius; it may be to other parties for ought I know.

2663. Is it because you conceive that the Navigation Law does not make freights higher than they otherwise would be, that it would be no boon?—I do not expect that they would get them cheaper.

2664. Does the Navigation Law raise the rate of freights or not?—I do not know, I am sure.

2665. How can you say, if you do not know whether it raises the rate of freights, that you think its repeal will be no boon?—Because I have received freights at those prices which I think are but a fair remuneration to ships.

2666. You do not want the freights to be any lower; is that what you mean?—I am not anxious that they should be to the sacrifice of other people.

2667. You were understood to say, that the colonies should be put upon an equality; that where the colony was more distant, and the freights greater, something should be done in the way of protection?—I stated before that I do not ask for protection for myself at the expense of others; I said only that the French government kept that object in view.

2668. Did not you mean the Committee to infer that it would be a good example to follow?—The Committee may draw any inference they please; I merely pointed out a fact.

2669. Are you of opinion that you should have a small protecting duty against West India produce, in consequence of your greater distance from the United Kingdom than the West Indies?—No, I do not ask for anything of the kind; I ask for a protection of 10*s.* upon the whole.

2670. Has nothing been done lately for the Mauritius, in the way of assistance given by the home Government?—The Mauritius Government has received an order to advance money which is in the treasury, the surplus taxation unexpended; that money is to be employed by advancing 9*l.* a ton upon the sugar remaining unshipped for England, which is to be hypothecated to the Government, and comes

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home here with a bill of lading attached to it, and which is paid before the sugar can be sold and put into consumption.

2671. You do not consider this advance to be any boon, do you?—It is so far a boon that it will enable the sugar to come home; but I say that the Government has no risk at all attached to it; they are making use of money there that is lying dead, which they will return again to the island in a few months.

2672. Do you know a society called “The Mauritius Association?”—I am deputy-chairman of it.

2673. Were you a party to a letter that was written by the Mauritius Association to Lord Grey on the 22d of October 1847?—I have no doubt of it.

2674. I must call your attention to this paragraph in reference to that particular subject; speaking of this advance, and also of the attention which the Colonial Office had desired the Governor of the Mauritius to direct to the question of the reduction of charges and the registration of deeds, the Mauritius Association says, “at this particular moment the relief will prove most timely;” —There is no question that it will be a great degree of relief, but what I mean to state is that the money is all lying idle to the Government; they are merely making use of that money which they have no other purposes to apply it to; we are not ungrateful for what has been done by the Colonial Office; on the contrary, I think that that letter expresses fully and clearly that for what has been done we have returned thanks.

2675. It is but fair for you to admit before the Committee, that the interests of the Mauritius have not been so entirely neglected and overlooked as the first part of your evidence would have led them to suppose?—I stated, as the letter states, that we have received always the greatest attention at the Colonial Office, and that there has been an anxiety to reduce the burdens upon the colonists, but we find that it is impossible for them to do that which the case requires for immediate relief. I see, regarding the 1*l.* tax on the export of sugar, Lord Grey agrees with the Mauritius Association as to the obnoxious policy of that tax, but he writes to say that he has not power to give an order to the Governor of the Mauritius to abolish that tax, which bears exceedingly heavy upon us. It is not only the amount, but it is the collection of the money, which must be in British silver to pay into the treasury. Imagine, for a moment, in a small island, that 65,000 *l.* sterling in British money must be collected and paid into the treasury before a bit of sugar can leave the island; the consequence is that silver rises to five or six per cent.; I have seen it seven per cent. premium.

2676. For what purpose was the tax raised?—The tax has remained on the island ever since the capture; it was a tax imposed by the French government for the purpose of fitting out an armament during the war.

2677. What is it applied to now?—To the general revenue entirely.

2678. Why has not the Colonial Office the power to direct the removal of it?—I cannot say; such are the words used to us in the letter.

2679. You spoke of the expenditure; is it the fact that a good deal of the expenditure which takes place is caused by the Executive Government being required to do many things which ought rather to be left to private individuals?—I think a municipal reform, giving certain powers to a corporate body in the town, would relieve the Government from a vast deal of work which they have to perform at present. When Sir Lionel Smith came to the island, and a better Governor never came into a colony, he in the Council one day stated that he had been Governor and had been Commander-in-Chief, and that he had never seen such a mass and accumulation of business which he had to wade through as in the government of the Mauritius; that they did nothing for themselves; there was nothing in their power to do, and that every letter conveying an application for a person to hawk fish or cakes, or sell anything in the streets, involved the writing a letter to the Governor, which letter had to be read, to be docketed, and to be answered before the man could get his permission to hawk fish or cakes in the streets; the whole matter centralises in the Colonial-secretary's office; but if there were a municipal corporation to a certain extent permitted to raise duties upon certain articles, for the purpose of cleansing the streets, and keeping up the harbour, in fact, for all such purposes as is done in this country and in Scotland, it would relieve the Executive Government, and thereby reduce the taxes in general.

2680. With respect to the cost of living in the Mauritius, pretty nearly the whole

whole of the provisions are imported into the island, are not they?—The greater part are. H. Hunter, Esq.

2681. Has not that arisen from the whole labour and capital of the island having been directed to sugar cultivation?—No, certainly not. In the first place, the island will not produce rice in any quantity; in the next place, there appears to be something in the grasses which is not congenial to the life of cattle; you will very seldom see any cows raised to any extent; and in 1840 or 1841 we had a disease called the epizota, which swept nearly the whole island of every horned beast there. 21 February 1848.

2682. Do you mean that at no time they have grown anything else than sugar?—They did grow a certain quantity of wheat at one time; that was at the time of the French government, when they were blockaded by our forces; but that did not support the whole of the colony; they imported rice still.

2683. You gave some statements about having been misled by the declarations of eminent statesmen, and by a general election that was in favour of protection, which induced you to extend your cultivation and lay out your capital, and that it ended in a great loss; do not you think, seeing how very uncertain is the power of maintaining any system of protection, it would be unwise, as a matter of policy for the future, to encourage the laying out of capital under a protective system?—I do not think it would.

2684. Seeing that the maintenance of it has been very uncertain during past years, do not you think that it would be unwise to incur similar liability for the future?—We were told that we were never to come into competition with slave-grown sugar.

2685. And you find that you have been misled?—Then there is no faith to be placed in man; you are shaking public credit at that rate.

2686. Would not you recommend any person to be very cautious for the future how he invested capital, relying upon the principle of protection being maintained?—We ought to remember the old proverb, “put not your trust in princes,” certainly.

2687. You deliberately give your opinion that nothing but the restoration of protection can enable the sugar cultivators in the Mauritius to go on with their culture?—Decidedly.

2688. And the amount you have taken at 10 l. a ton?—Yes, a penny a pound, which is the more simple way of putting it.

2689. Mr. Miles.] You state that you have six estates?—Yes.

2690. What is your intention now; to go on with the cultivation or not?—Certainly not; I do not suppose any one will support me; my own capital is embarked in it, and I have not capital sufficient to work them.

2691. And you do not expect to get any capital to enable you to carry on the cultivation?—I do not, unless there is a change in the laws, which would affect the whole of the other estates in the Island, as well as mine, with very few exceptions.

2692. You say you make 4,500 tons of sugar?—About that; it depends upon the season.

2693. What number of acres have you in cultivation to make that?—The return of produce from the virgin cane is from a ton and a half to two tons, gradually declining as the ratoon gets old.

2694. What number of acres is that amount raised from?—I cannot say the number of acres; you may take it as an average, from a ton and half to two tons upon an estate.

2695. What is the highest return you ever had from any small number of acres?—I have heard it stated by a gentleman, that on a little bit of garden ground, he got as high as four tons an acre, but that was merely a quarter of an acre; he had an old garden which he put into canes, merely as a trial; it may be taken as an average at a ton and half.

2696. How long do the canes go on ratooning in the Mauritius?—In old lands they seldom give any thing beyond a third crop.

2697. You have to plant every fourth year?—Yes, it is proper in old land to turn it up and manure it.

2698. What return do you suppose you get from those canes, the last crop, the third ratoon?—Perhaps not above five cwt. per acre.

2699. How many labourers have you on your estates?—About 3,000 Indians.

2700. And they produce about 4,500 tons?—Yes.

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2701. You said there was no cultivation except with the hoe on those estates?
—None.
2702. Is the system pursued very much the same as in the West Indies?—
I have never seen the cultivation in the West Indies.
2703. Do you make any rum on those properties?—We have commenced to
make rum; and there is another grievance; we are beginning to find that it would
be better to convert the lower qualities of sugar into rum; but there is a tax of
300*l.* sterling put upon every still in the Mauritius. Imagine for a moment a
tax of 300*l.* put upon a cotton factory at Manchester.
2704. What do you do with your molasses?—We re-boil the molasses into
sugar, which is sold at the Cape and New South Wales. Molasses on the second
draining will not granulate again; and then, if we have no still, nor any body to
buy it, we throw it on the dung-heap.
2705. Is the quantity which is exported to Australia and the Cape the second
boiling?—It is what is termed syrup sugar.
2706. What value does that bear in the island?—The relative quantity to
white sugar runs from 15 to 20 per cent.
2707. As to the price, what is the difference?—I find, according to the last
returns, it was about 11*s.* to 12*s.* a hundred weight.
2708. Do you expect that it would be more profitable to make rum from those
molasses?—For the home market, decidedly; it has lost a certain portion of its
saccharine, by being made of the drainings; therefore refiners will not buy it.
2709. How many stills have you sent out to those estates?—I have not sent
any out; there have been two made in the island.
2710. Have they been erected on the properties?—Yes.
2711. Have you made any rum yet?—I expect rum home immediately, in
some of the first ships.
2712. You stated that you were in the habit of using the cassava root as a
rotation crop with canes; has that ever been continued since emancipation?—
Very little.
2713. Was it found to be a great benefit to the land?—Yes, very great.
2714. Have you ever tried it yourself since the emancipation?—We always
cultivate a certain quantity where we work with oxen.
2715. Have you endeavoured to put it under the cane process?—We do so
when we cut our third or fourth crop.
2716. What do you imagine is the actual cost of the production of a hundred
weight of sugar?—I have given it already at from 18*s.* to 21*s.* It varies very
much with the quantity of sugar produced on an estate; dividing the expenses
on an estate by the quantity produced, a small estate produces it at a larger cost
than a large one.
2717. Most estates average, you say, between 1,800 and 2,000 acres, what
amount of that is in cultivation?—Perhaps an estate would not have more than
450 acres in cane; the remainder would be in brushwood; then we use a little
pea, which in the West Indies is called the pigeon pea; it grows to a consi-
derable height; it keeps the land cool and moist, and renovates it.
2718. Do you feed cattle upon it?—It is of great advantage as fuel for steam-
engines.
2719. Do you dry it?—It is wood; it is as thick as my wrist.
2720. Do you turn your cattle out to feed?—The portion of the land which is
not under cultivation would be used as pasturage, and some of it covered over
with this; but when we have done our crop, where we work largely with horned
cattle, we send them away to different parts of the island for pasturage, paying
so much a month for keeping them.
2721. Do you ever fat any cattle for market?—No.
2722. Where do you get your meat?—We have sent as far as the Malabar
coast; we have sent to Algoa Bay, and to the Cape of Good Hope for it.
2723. There are no pastures, you say, fitted to raise fat cattle?—We have
never been successful in raising them.
2724. Do you work mules on your estate?—Principally mules.
2725. Have you any water-power there?—We have one or two old water-
wheels which are very weak; it is the most unequal power of all.
2726. Any windmills?—Yes; I think there is now only one.
2727. Then they are not successful?—They are not; I should consider a
windmill as the most uncertain of all things to be depended on.

2728. With

2728. With respect to machinery you use for sugar, is it the vacuum-pan system?—I have none on my estates. *H. Hunter, Esq.*

2729. How do you boil the sugar on your estates?—In open pans, the same as the West India process. 27 February 1848.

2730. Does any irrigation ever take place upon those lands?—No, we have not it in our power.

2731. You derive no advantage whatever from this island of the Seychels?—No.

2732. And you have to pay 5,000*l.* for maintaining it?—As near as possible.

2733. That is, to support what?—There is a commissioner—that is 1,200 *l.* a year; and there is a small establishment of different descriptions; I forget exactly the amount; it will be found in the budget.

2734. You do not receive any cattle, or any thing of that kind from them?—Nothing whatever.

2735. Mr. *Moffatt.*] You have stated that the present price of Mauritius sugar is 35 *l.* a ton; is that the result of experience of your own sales within the last four months?—The average has not been so much as 35 *l.*

2736. You are an extensive exporter of sugar from the Mauritius?—Yes.

2737. Does the average price of 35 *l.* a ton represent the average of your sale since October last?—I cannot say; I have sold small portions as high as 40 *s.*, the great bulk has been 39 *s.*, going down again to 26 *s.*; I have sugar now in the docks in London which was shipped as sugar from the Mauritius, it is now valued at 26 *s.*; I have sugar shipped as molasses in the Mauritius; in coming home, it has leaked out, and become so consistent in its nature, that it would not be passed as molasses, and they have wished to charge 14 *l.* duty upon it.

2738. The Committee infer from your last answer, that the price which you have realized upon the bulk of your sugar has been 39 *l.* a ton?—No, 35 *l.*; part has been sold at 35 *s.*, 38 *s.*, 36 *s.*, 37 *s.*, 35 *s.*, down to 26 *s.*, and I should think as near as possible the average may be about 35 *s.*

2739. That is your own importation of sugar?—I do not sell it myself; I have a house of business, in the City to whom it is consigned.

2740. You make that quotation as having reference to the prices since October last?—Yes.

2741. That gives you 21 *l.* a ton exclusive of duty?—Yes.

2742. Are you aware what has been the Gazette average price for Mauritius sugar during the last four months?—It is now about 23 *s.*; in December last it was 22 *s.*

2743. Being conversant with the Mauritius trade, you are of course aware that there has been lately a large quantity of very inferior sugar brought from the Mauritius?—There was the latter part of the last crop.

2744. That came into operation over the period of which we are speaking?—I am speaking of the average prices; I have now sugar at 26 *s.*

2745. The average price has been largely pulled down recently by a large import of very inferior sugar, has not it?—I do not think it has; that would exclude our low qualities of sugar, and take only the fine good sugar.

2746. Does your evidence exclude those low qualities of sugar, when you say that sugar has only been at 21 *l.* a ton?—No, I take the average of sugar at 35 *s.*

2747. Does that include this low quality of Mauritius sugar?—Very likely it does not include those low sugars; I think including them would bring it down lower.

2748. You mean to state that fair yellow Mauritius sugar, of an average quality, excluding those low parcels, has ruled at 21 *l.* a ton?—About 35 *l.* a ton the long price.

2749. You have stated the cost of production to be from 18 *l.* to 20 *l.* a ton; have you any statistics by which you can inform the Committee what the proportion of labour is in that calculation?—The labour I have stated before I consider enters into the calculation of expense about half, and perhaps a little more.

2750. Have you any copies of the accounts of your estates which would enable the Committee to draw their own conclusions?—No; my accounts are kept in the island.

2751. You stated in the course of your evidence, that subsequent to the admission of foreign slave-labour sugar, your prospects were so hopeful at the Mauritius, that you greatly stimulated the production of sugar?—In 1841, seeing those declarations, I felt perfectly certain.

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2752. In 1844 did not you state that a vast amount of capital was put into the Mauritius, and the production greatly stimulated?—In 1843.

2753. And that of course continued through 1844 and 1845 up to 1846?—It continued to such time as they got the estates into proper cultivation.

2754. By which you increased your export from 26,000 tons to 66,000 tons?—Yes.

2755. The greater proportion of that increase was under the knowledge that you would have to compete with foreign free labour sugar?—We always looked forward to the declaration of Sir Robert Peel's, that there would be always a certain protection against foreign free-labour sugar.

2756. In the early part of your examination you stated that the cost of a slave was 3*l.* 11*s.* per annum, and the cost of free labour 19*l.* per annum; in the cost of slave labour, did you estimate the interest of the money involved in the capital that that slave represented?—I have answered that question before.

2757. You gave no satisfactory answer to the question; what did you buy your slaves at per head?—They were bought by Government at 70*l.*

2758. Which you thought was a value quite low enough?—For which I got 28*l.*

2759. If you take the interest upon the capital which you said the slave was worth at the time, it is equivalent to how much per annum, taking the rate of interest in the Mauritius as 10 per cent.?—The rate of interest in the Mauritius is nine per cent. in the market.

2760. Taking the interest upon your slaves at nine per cent., supposing them to be worth 70*l.* a slave, that would give you 6*l.* 4*s.* as the cost of the labour of a slave?—I take the whole amount of the revenue derived from the land as the interest.

2761. This is one of the elements which you appear to have left out of your calculation?—I have left that out purposely.

2762. Have you made any calculation of the loss of life of the slaves?—No.

2763. Do the slaves never die?—But they are born also.

2764. Have you put down the cost of rearing slaves?—I can inform the Committee of the average mortality of the whole island; it was about two or three per cent. during the period that I speak of, in 1833.

2765. Was the mortality larger among the slaves than among other parties; have you any return of the mortality among the slaves?—I speak of the slaves.

2766. Have you made any estimate of the loss of labour which would accrue from slaves running away, or skulking, or sickness?—No.

2767. Those which are the most costly parts of the maintenance of a slave you have omitted from your calculation?—I do not consider it just to charge the interest upon slaves.

2768. *Sir Edward Burton.*] In comparing the cost of the two systems, is it not unfair not to introduce it?—Even admitting it, it would make the difference of 9*l.* to 19*l.*

2769. *Mr. Moffatt.*] It is clear the loss of life of the slaves, and the loss of labour from slaves occasionally being sick, and at other times running away from their master, must be included in the cost of slavery?—That would apply, on the other hand, to the Indian in his absence from work; it would apply even more to him than to the slave.

2770. That is taking the engagements for one year?—Take any period and it will be so.

2771. It will not be the case if you pay by task-work?—We are bound by our contract to pay them by the month.

2772. If the labourer falls sick, you do not re-engage him after the period at which he is at first engaged?—He is hired by the twelvemonth.

2773. Is that invariable?—Yes.

2774. Is that the law?—No; you have the power of engaging him for a shorter period if you please.

2775. *Sir Edward Burton.*] If nothing is said about it, do you engage them for a year or a month? what is the natural law of the country if no other engagement is made?—I believe his engagement will last for a month, supposing you say nothing about the time.

2776. *Mr. Moffatt.*] You stated that there had been a difference of price in the production of the Mauritius of 1,500,000*l.* consequent upon the alteration in 1846?—I think not; I took the report on the island by *Sir William Gomm*,
in

in which he quoted the value of the exports from the island as being 1,600,000*l.*, and stated that the value of the imports was 1,100,000 *l.*, leaving an excess of 500,000*l.* H. Hunter, Esq.

2777. Are you aware what the cost of maintaining protection to our colonies has been to the mother country?—No. 21 February 1848.

2778. You are not aware whether it has cost the mother country two or three millions per annum?—I know it costs a great deal to keep up the blockading squadron on the coast of Africa.

2779. The cost of protection as regards sugar do you know?—I cannot answer the question.

2780. Mr. Villiers.] You were understood to say that you had abandoned, or contemplated abandoning, the six estates you possess?—If I do not receive assistance they must be abandoned.

2781. When was it you determined to abandon your estates?—I have not made up my mind; it will depend upon circumstances.

2782. Supposing the law is not altered, and that you do not recover the protection which you state you have lost, have you contemplated that your six very fertile estates will be abandoned?—I think no one will advance the money that will be necessary to cultivate them.

2783. When was it you made this calculation as to what it would be profitable to do as to those estates; was it only subsequent to the change of the law in 1846?—It is within the last six months; I think it would be useless cultivating them.

2784. You did not consider it useless cultivating those estates before that time, subsequently to the law which admitted free-labour sugar?—Under the protection stated by Sir Robert Peel, certainly not.

2785. Were you satisfied with the change in the law which admitted foreign free-labour sugar?—There was a protective duty then.

2786. Were you satisfied with that change in the law?—That law excluded foreign slave-labour sugar, and admitted foreign free-labour sugar at 10*s.* differential duty.

2787. You were not alarmed at that change?—No.

2788. You could have continued the cultivation of your estates under that change?—Yes.

2789. Do you say that your estates are more fertile than other estates in the island?—They are very fertile.

2790. Are there estates less fertile?—A great many.

2791. Can you inform the Committee whether those estates were abandoned upon that change of the law in 1844?—None have been abandoned.

2792. Do you know any thing about the intentions of the proprietors of those estates?—Yes.

2793. Do those intentions correspond with your own?—Perfectly.

2794. Did the English houses that have failed possess any of those estates in the Mauritius?—I believe they did in property.

2795. Have they recently purchased those estates?—I do not know when their arrangements were made; certainly since 1843.

2796. In consequence of their failure those estates may be abandoned?—My opinion is that they will be.

2797. Do you know any thing of the particulars of the failures of those houses?—Nothing but what has appeared in the papers.

2798. Do you know any estates that are likely to be abandoned where the owners have not failed?—Yes.

2799. You have not abandoned yours?—I think I shall do so.

2800. What will be the consequence of your abandoning your estates; will any other person purchase them?—It is useless purchasing them if you have not the means of paying wages; there is the advantage of having unpaid labour like slave labour. You not only now require capital to purchase the estate, but you require a capital to pay the monthly wages. You require a larger capital to work with than in the case of slave labour.

2801. If these estates are abandoned, they will return to waste, you think?—They will.

2802. What is the nature of this accommodation that the Colonial Office has afforded to the planters?—It was supposed when the news arrived of the failures of these large houses, that there would be the greater proportion of the crop remaining on the island; and upon a request to the Government by the Mauritius Association, that they would assist us in bringing home our produce, to prevent

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its being sacrificed to parties coming from England speculating in prices, and expecting that people would sell at a mere nominal value, the Colonial Office stepped in, and authorized the government there to make us an advance of 9*l.* per ton from the money they had at their disposal in the Treasury. It was to be consigned here to houses of business, to be hypothecated to the Government, who would receive the money and send it back again.

2803. From what fund was this advance to come?—From the surplus then in the chest, which was supposed to be upwards of 100,000*l.*

2804. Was this in metal?—Entirely.

2805. There has been no bank established, nor any change in the system of banking since that time?—There are two banks; one bank is not working; there is another; but the Government do not receive their notes in payment of the duties; therefore the whole payment of taxes in the island has been made in specie.

2806. There has been no power conferred upon any bank of issuing paper, has there?—Government have authorized a new system, altering the accounts entirely of the island. The account formerly was kept in pounds, shillings and pence; they have ordered it to be kept in rupees, and they have sent out a gentleman for the purpose of establishing a bank; the nucleus of that is to be upon this transaction of the shipment of sugar home, the details of which I have not the actual means of giving to the Committee, but I have no doubt they can be given from the Colonial Office.

2807. Is the privilege conferred upon this bank of issuing paper?—This bank is to issue paper; it was intended to be in this way: they were to give to parties notes, instead of giving metal for the amount of the 9*l.* advanced upon the sugar; and it was hoped that these notes would remain in circulation, and from that to create eventually a Government Bank.

2808. It is expected in the Colonial Office that these notes will circulate?—Yes.

2809. Are they payable on demand?—Yes.

2810. Have Government guaranteed the bank?—It is a Government bank.

2811. It is a Government bank issuing paper?—Yes, payable on demand, therefore I fear they will not remain in circulation.

2812. As the bank has been recently established, the notes are to be convertible at sight into bullion?—On demand.

2813. May these notes be taken for any other purposes than the payment of this 9*l.* per ton upon the sugar; may they be taken for duties?—Yes, if I pledge 100 tons to the Government, I should receive 900*l.* in these notes; if I have a payment to make to the Treasury for taxes, I can pay these notes in.

2814. It is a new system of currency introduced into the island, and these notes are to pass current for all purposes, as far as Government is concerned?—Yes; and I hope they will remain in circulation; it will be the greatest blessing that can be.

2815. Does that give any facility to the planter to borrow money?—He has sugar there, and it prevents his selling it at an unusual sacrifice.

2816. As far as these ruined estates are concerned, they are to receive paper for the sugar at a certain rate; but may any other person, wishing to raise money upon his sugar, have a greater facility of doing so, in consequence of this paper currency?—Any person whatever, if he found that the price offered by private individuals was so low that he would rather take the advance of 9*l.* from the Government, and ship his sugar, and take his chance of getting 11*l.* or 12*l.* in England, could pledge that sugar, and take this advance from the Government.

2817. Any person offering his sugar to the Government at that rate, could have got the money?—Certainly.

2818. It was not confined to the properties of these fallen houses?—No.

2819. As far as this rate paid for the sugar went, it was an accommodation offered by the Government to all the planters?—Certainly; it was to prevent the necessity of parties who were all in a state of complete prostration, selling their sugar at a very ruinous rate.

2820. Does the Government undertake to go on offering 9*l.* in that way?—I cannot say.

2821. You have been one of the parties negotiating this transaction?—There has been nothing of that kind touched on.

2822. What is the limit of the period during which this accommodation is to continue?—We considered so long as there continued any of the sugar of this crop.

2823. Supposing

2823. Supposing Government were to continue this accommodation, would the estates you contemplate abandoning be kept in cultivation?—No; it is the time intervening between the end of one crop and the commencement of another, during which the pull is, when money is required to bring forward the crop; when I have the sugar made, the difficulties vanish; it is the money requisite to bring the crop forward that is wanted; we are supposed to have the whole of our sugar exported from the island by the month of March; but during the intervening months, from March to September, you have the payment of wages for labour and for provisions pressing upon you; if the Government choose to say, "we will advance you the money in the interim," the same as the Dutch government do in Java, that is a different thing.

2824. The capital that is obtained by these means, is not sufficient for the planter to carry on his cultivation?—No.

2825. Is sugar the only security which Government take for issuing this paper?—The advance is given upon the sugar which is shipped.

2826. Sugar hypothecated to the Government, is sufficient, in your opinion, for an advance of money in paper currency?—Yes.

2827. Must that sugar be shipped to England?—Yes.

2828. Do they receive any other security but sugar for the advance of this paper-money?—It is not competent to ask for it upon anything else; instead of giving out the metal in the chest, they give out that paper.

2829. No more paper is issued than the amount in the chest, which is equal to 100,000 *l.*?—I do not exactly understand it, so far as to give a detail of the whole transaction; it was first represented by us to the Government, the advantage that would occur to the island from getting an advance upon the sugar which was then fit to pledge; upon that the Government have founded their own intention of forming a bank.

2830. It has been an accommodation to the planters?—Certainly; they would rather take the chance of the market at home.

2831. With respect to freights; freight is one charge which you take into your calculation when you are counting the cost at which you can bring sugar into this country?—Yes.

2832. If the freights were lowered, you say that it would be no boon to the Mauritius?—It would be no boon to me, taking the average freights I have paid these last 20 years.

2833. If the freights could be reduced, it would be a boon to you?—No question; the less the cost you can bring sugar to the market the better; I do not go into that argument at all.

2834. A reduction in the freight would be an advantage to the planter in remitting sugar to this country, would it not?—No question of it.

2835. Whether that is brought about by a repeal of the Navigation Laws or anything else, a reduction of freight is a great advantage to you?—Yes; if it is a reduction of 10 *s.*, it will be an advantage of 6 *d.* a hundred-weight; if it is 1 *l.* a ton, it will be an advantage of 1 *s.* a hundred-weight. If you go into the market to charter a vessel to go to the Mauritius, you could not get one on the same rate to go there as to Porto Rico or Brazil.

2836. Were you to be understood that the addition to the price that is required to make your business profitable is as much as 10 *s.*?—A penny a pound is what we have asked for.

2837. If that could be brought about in any way, you think the Mauritius would flourish?—That is to say, if you secure 1 *d.* a pound more to us than we have now.

2838. You have no complaint, have you, about the want of labour?—Our complaint is not as to the number of labourers.

2839. Since emancipation, you have had Coolies there?—We had had Coolies, but we have not had a proper power over them, so as to make them useful and industrial men to us.

2840. You require some change in your Vagrant Law?—Decidedly, as it is of no use to go on importing new men, unless those that are in the island are forced justly to fulfil the contract which they took in hand.

2841. Do you mean to represent that any change of that sort depends upon the Government in the colony, or upon the Legislature here?—It depends upon the Government at home, it is a Crown colony.

2842. Do you know if any remonstrance has been made to the Colonial Office

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upon the subject of vagrancy and police?—There have been petitions sent home upon the subject from the colony.

2843. There is no interest in the local government at variance with that of the island on such a matter as that, is there?—There should not be between the government and the island upon the subject.

2844. Supposing sugar cultivation were abandoned, are you to be understood that nothing else will grow there?—Cattle will not live; rice may be cultivated in small quantities; the French Government attempted indigo, they attempted spices of different descriptions, and they attempted silk, but it has all gone out.

2845. If those changes which you recommend were made in the Vagrant Laws, do you consider that you would have labour enough to be upon the same footing as when you had slave labour?—As to numbers.

2846. As to advantage to the employer?—It depends entirely upon the wages, it depends upon the working of the men.

2847. *Chairman.*] You were asked about the Government loan; was that loan not granted to save the unhappy population of the Mauritius from the imminent danger under which they would otherwise have been, of being starved to death by free-trade in sugar?—The loan had nothing to do with bringing provisions; that was a separate question; we requested from the Mauritius Association, that the Bengal Government, in the event of their seeing the regular supplies of rice to the island not going down, should authorize a certain quantity to be sent to the island consigned to the Governor, or else advances made upon it to parties who chose to ship, the Government getting their payment, and making a transmission home for the payment of that rice in India; that was a separate matter altogether from the sugar loan.

2848. The Government are now, through India, feeding the population of the Mauritius, just exactly as they fed the people of Ireland during the famine, are they not?—Yes; in the event of private enterprize failing, Government step in.

2849. Is that the case now?—I have not heard of any instance of the kind.

2850. Unless this money had been advanced, the crop could not have been taken off?—The great risk was that a portion of it would not be taken off. The news of these failures arrived in the Mauritius towards the end of November or the beginning of December, when the crop was not finished.

2851. And this advance of 9 *l.* a ton was to enable the planters to take off the crop?—To finish their crop, and prevent the great sacrifice that must have occurred in the event of their selling it there.

2852. If they had not been able to take off their crop, it would have been because they could not have continued to pay their labourers?—Yes.

2853. The practical effect would have been, that if they had not been supplied with this loan to enable them to take off their crop, there would have been no wages for the labourers, and the labourers must have starved?—As long as there is sugar there, the stipendiary magistrates can step in and take it for the payment of wages.

2854. The sugar would have been still in the cane-field; therefore there would have been no sugar to seize?—They would then seize their mules or their carts; they have the privilege over the moveables of the estate.

2855. With respect to the interest upon the capital invested in slaves, you have been asked whether there was not six guineas interest, at the rate of nine per cent., which ought to be charged to the expense of slave labour, in addition to the amount which you gave in; of the 70 *l.* which you took into consideration, is not there 40 *l.* which is unpaid, and which is to remain for ever unpaid?—Yes.

2856. Therefore, nine per cent. upon 40 *l.* remains a permanent charge, which can never be wiped off, against the planter, let him have free labour or no labour at all?—No question of it; and, besides that, nine per cent. ought not to be charged, because I have money at five per cent.

2857. The slave was valued at 70 *l.*, but you were only paid 31 *l.*?—That is so.

2858. Consequently, if that charge is a fair charge to take into consideration, so far as the 40 *l.* goes, it still remains to be defrayed by the produce of the labourer?—Certainly.

2859. It is a charge for ever upon the estate?—It is.

2860. You said that the rate of interest upon mortgaged estates was nine per cent., but the rate of interest charged to British capitalists who invested their money from England was not nine per cent.?—The amount charged by the accounts current against me is five per cent.

Mercurii, 23^o die Februarii, 1848.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Lord George Bentinck.
Sir Edward Buxton.
Mr. Cardwell.
Mr. Milner Gibson.
Mr. Labouchere.

Mr. Matheson.
Mr. Miles.
Mr. Moffatt.
Mr. Villiers.
Mr. Wilson.

LORD GEORGE BENTINCK, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. Archibald Francis Arbuthnot, called in ; and further Examined.

2861. *Chairman.*] HAVE you any explanation you wish to offer to the Committee in reference to your former evidence?—Yes : I was desired to ascertain, and to state the actual cost of producing sugar, in reference to an estimate I gave in of the probable cost of making it. I have therefore referred to the letters and correspondence of the parties in India who have an interest in those works ; but, I am sorry to say, without having found any statement of the cost of the sugar. I am, therefore, unable to add anything upon that point to the evidence I gave, and the estimate which I presented. On another point I would wish, with the permission of the Committee, to give some further information.

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2862. You were also desired to ascertain what was the price which was realized for the sugar?—Yes : I stated upon that occasion that the average price which the sugar realized was about 45 s. per cwt. in London. A calculation was gone into to show that, deducting the duty and charges from that price of 45 s., there would remain a net price of 23 s., upon which it was observed correctly, with reference to those figures, there would be a profit of about 3 s. a cwt. upon the sugar. I have now referred to the actual account sales of the two last cargoes imported, and I find that the last cargo, which arrived in the beginning of January, was sold, curiously enough, exactly at the average price of 45 s., but in consequence of a considerable portion of it being of a very fine quality, the duty of 16 s. 4 d. was levied upon it instead of 14 s., the result of which is, that the charges, including this duty, came to 24 s. 9 d., leaving a net price of 20 s. 3 d. The cargo previous to that arrived in October, and was sold at the average price of 43 s. 8 d. The quality of that cargo appears to have been not quite so fine as that which sold at 45 s., for the duty levied upon it was only 14 s., but the duty and charges together came to 23 s. 8 d., leaving the net price of that cargo 20 s.

2863. Mr. M. Gibson.] In both those cases it appears that your whole cost of production was replaced ; there was no loss?—Precisely ; the cost of production was replaced with interest at five per cent.

2864. With ten per cent. for wear and tear?—Yes, and interest at five per cent. upon the capital expended, supposing that estimate was accurate ; the estimate was not prepared, as I think I explained, for the use of this Committee, but was an estimate prepared by the parties interested in the works upon which they entered into this speculation.

2865. In fact the estimate was a practical calculation which was made with a view to guide you in the operations you were going to undertake in India?—Not to guide me but to guide the parties, and it was liable to the uncertainties which attend all estimates ; I am afraid in this case the estimate was considerably under the mark ; in fact I know the cost has been considerably greater.

2866. In fact, as far as the price of sugar is concerned, if all things remain according to the estimate, the price will not leave you losers upon the transaction?—I consider the parties will be considerable losers ; the investment of money in Government securities in India would produce five per cent., not

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liable to any fluctuation or any accident, whereas the interest in this calculation is at the same rate of five per cent. ; but considering the uncertainty of such property, it ought to be at least ten per cent.

2867. Supposing that estimate upon which you have based your operations turns out in all particulars to be correct as to the quantity of produce, and so forth, as far as the present prices of sugar are concerned, you will have received at the close of the year five per cent. on the capital invested in your plant, and ten per cent. to allow for the wear and tear, and the whole cost of the sugar will have been replaced?—Yes.

2868. Mr. Miles.] Since you were here the other day have you made any inquiries as to what order has been sent out about the sugar factory at Madras?—Those sugar factories belong to parties at Madras.

2869. Have you found out what is going to be done with them?—No, I have no knowledge of it ; no one in this country is interested in those sugar works ; the proprietors are entirely in India, therefore no one here is competent to issue any orders.

2870. Have you no means of knowing whether it is the intention of the parties to continue the cultivation?—No.

2871. Mr. Moffatt.] Would not the cargo imported in January, and sold at 45 s., have left you a profit, but for the unfortunate operation of the classification duties?—If the duty had been at 14 s. instead of 16 s. 4 d. there would have been what you may call a profit ; the difference of duty to the proprietors.

2872. The high duty you have to pay in consequence of making a superior article in sugar?—Yes.

2873. Chairman.] In answer to the Vice-President of the Board of Trade you have stated, that upon the calculation given in the other day, even upon the reduced price of sugar, you would receive interest at five per cent. ?—Yes, upon the capital laid out.

2874. In addition to the 10 per cent. that was allowed for the wear and tear?—Yes.

2875. Was not the calculation which was made by the Vice-President of the Board of Trade the other day founded upon the product of 2,700 tons?—It was.

2876. And in answer to a question of one the Members of the Committee, you stated that the absolute product had not been 2,700 tons, but had been 1,500 tons?—Yes.

2877. Then the calculation of the Vice-President of the Board of Trade of what the return of interest was, being calculated upon the produce of 2,700 tons instead of 1,500 tons, is altogether fallacious?—It is, certainly ; so long as the works produce only that reduced quantity.

2878. And as yet they have only produced that quantity?—Yes.

2879. Mr. M. Gibson.] What is the time covered by the estimate?—The time covered by the estimate is passed considerably ; that is one of the inaccuracies to which all estimates are liable.

2880. You may produce at some future time the quantity which you estimate to produce?—We may, certainly. This calculation was partly founded upon an expected increased cultivation by the ryots of the raw material there. There may have been an over estimate in this respect, but it is to be hoped there will be an increase hereafter. It is one of the contingencies of estimates.

2881. Do you hope, in the long run, it will produce what that estimate supposes?—Yes, we do hope so ; there is no certainty of it.

2882. Mr. Cardwell.] You began your works with the expectation that they would produce 2,700 tons, and you now think it a reasonable expectation that in future years 2,700 tons may be produced from those works?—Yes, we hope that may be the case.

2883. Mr. Wilson.] The 2,700 tons and the 1,500 tons would not be produced from the same quantity of jaggery?—No.

2884. The cost of 1,500 tons would be proportionably reduced below the 2,700 tons, as far as regarded many of the items?—As far as regarded a few of the items. A great part of the expense of these works consisted in the skilled labour ; the expense of the superintendent of the sugar boilers, and engineer, and so forth, whose salaries are not contingent upon the quantity produced, but must be divided over the total quantity, whatever it may be.

2885. Whatever

2885. Whatever is made, you have certain fixed expenses?—Yes, exactly.

2886. And those become much less upon a large quantity than a small quantity?—Necessarily.

2887. These works have only been in operation two or three years?—Just so.

2888. Therefore you do not think yet they have had a fair chance of coming into full operation?—Such is the expectation of the parties entering into the speculation. They supposed the ryots would be induced to cultivate more sugar when there was a demand for it.

2889. Have you seen any calculation with respect to the cost of producing sugar in the Delta of the Godavery, which was published in this country, within the last two years, by a person of the name of Sullivan?—I have seen a statement prepared by Major Cotton, who sent it home to this country; but I do not think you can proceed at all upon it. Mr. Cotton is a very sanguine man, and one upon whose calculations I should consider it unsafe to proceed practically.

2890. Do you know the Delta of the Godavery?—I have not resided there.

2891. You had some works not far from it, had you not?—I am not myself interested in any; but the house in Madras in which I was a partner have projected certain works there; whether they will now go on with them or not may be doubtful; but they have in contemplation, or had rather in contemplation, the erection of works there.

2892. Are you aware of any arrangement the East India Company are making for the purpose of giving facilities to irrigate the whole of that Delta?—I understand the East India Company have gone to a great expense, with the view of forming an annicut to irrigate the country, and thereby render the property much more valuable.

2893. And that is with a view to the sugar cultivation?—Very much so.

2894. There is no great cultivation there but sugar, is there?—Grain for the people, but nothing in the way of export.

2895. Is the sugar cultivation there by the natives exclusively?—It is.

2896. Do you know what they sell the jaggery at there?—Ten annas a maund is the price in the estimate I gave in.

2897. It is the same there as at your factory?—I believe so.

Mr. Charles Dowding, called in; and Examined.

2898. Mr. M. Gibson.] YOU are Surveyor-general of Customs?—I am.

2899. With respect to the standard samples of sugar, have they been given to the trade generally?—They have to all the trade who have asked for them; they were never refused to any merchant who chose to ask for them; they were ostensibly required to be sent out to the makers of sugar, to desire them to make it nearly but not quite equal to the standard.

2900. How do you consider that the difficulties have arisen between the importers of sugar and the officers of the customs, in settling the rate of duty that should be paid upon particular sugars?—The officers of customs say the sugar equals the standard samples, and charge the second rate of duty; the merchant, on the other hand, contends, it is not equal to the standard.

2901. Having a standard, what do you think is the reason that there should still arise those questions as to what rate of duty any sugar is to be admitted at?—Naturally the merchant wishes to get his sugar in at as low a rate of duty as he can. I do not consider anything can be called a difficulty which you can overcome, and we have had very few instances, considering all things, where the trade has been dissatisfied. Delay seems to have been more a cause of dissatisfaction than the difference of the duty.

2902. The standard sample of sugar has been sent, has not it, to the different ports of the United Kingdom?—To every port; immediately the late Chancellor of the Exchequer decided upon the sample, it was sent to all the ports of the United Kingdom.

2903. It has been stated that what is called the plan of spoiling sugars has been had recourse to, by mixing syrup for the purpose of colouring them, in order to get the sugars admitted at a low rate of duty; can you give the Committee any information upon that point?—If the entire parcel were spoiled

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we should have considered it a lower quality of sugar, but if only a portion of it was spoiled, we should charge the duty upon that portion which was undamaged. The law makes no allowance for damage on sugar.

2904. Would the spoiling or colouring the sugar answer the purpose of getting the sugar, which was equal in quality in other respects, in at a lower duty?—Mr. Hardman has stated that he damaged some of his sugar on purpose to be brought in at a lower amount of duty. If the whole quantity had been damaged, we should not have known that it was discoloured only.

2905. Mr. *Wilson*.] Mr. Hardman stated that it was discoloured in India, before it was packed?—I did not understand him to state that. The part that we charged at a higher duty could not have been discoloured.

2906. Mr. *M. Gibson*.] A question was asked of Mr. Hardman as to the effect that might be produced by the difference between a dull and a clear day; that sugar would present a different appearance on a dull day and a bright day?—There cannot be a doubt that the difference of the day will make a difference in the appearance of the sugar if colour were the sole guiding principle.

2907. Colour is one of the elements upon which you calculate the quality?—It is the first distinguishing element.

2908. Has an opinion been expressed by the officers that the mode of collecting the duty is not satisfactory?—It has never been disguised that it has been an unsatisfactory mode; because it is not a question of fact, it is in a great degree a matter of opinion; but taking all these things into consideration, it is astonishing how very few differences have existed.

2909. There was a case which was cited by Mr. Hardman, in reference to some sugar that was brought by the "Alfred;" it was stated that that sugar was charged at different rates of duty in different places; and also that orders were given first of all that the sugar should be taken at 14*s.*, that then there was a counter order that it should be charged 16*s.* 4*d.*, and then that that was altered again; in fact, that there seemed to be a state of indecision for some time as to what the sugar should be charged?—I have the papers connected with the "Alfred," and the sample of sugar upon which the duty was charged.

2910. Will you state what were the circumstances of the case?—This was the application which was received by the officers: "We beg to state that we last month entered 660 bags sugar," and then there are the marks and numbers of the cargo, all "as not being equal in quality to white clayed, and which are now lying at No. 1 Warehouse, London Docks. The same have since been stopped by your Honours' officers, considering them to have been equal in quality to other refined sugar. We respectfully bring this matter to your Honours' notice, being of opinion that the (B) mark is not equal in quality to the rate of duty it is stopped for; the mark of (A) appears by the samples now in our possession to exceed the standard, and we therefore trust that your Honourable Board will have the second qualities again looked to, and further allow us to amend our warehousing entry for the first parcel." The officers' answer to that application is as follows: "The applicants entered to be warehoused on the 18th May ex 'Alfred,' from Calcutta, the sugars as stated by them, giving their description as 'not being equal in quality to white clayed,' which, upon examination, we found to be superior, and therefore placed the whole under detention. The 400 bags marked Cossipore (A) the applicants admit to be as we describe them, viz., 'equal to other refined,' but demur to our judgment of the quality of the 260 bags marked Cossipore (B); we therefore beg to forward a sample of the latter for your Honours' inspection, with our opinion that although not so good in quality as Cossipore (A), they come under the denomination also of 'other refined sugar.' The request to amend the entry upon the first mark according as we have described them, and upon the mark (B), according to the decision your Honours may be pleased to give, is for consideration." It was then referred to the Surveyors'-general. They reported: "We consider the sample representing 260 bags Cossipore (B) to be refined sugar, or sugar rendered by a process equal in quality thereto." The Board ordered the duty to be charged at 18*s.* 8*d.*; the parties then made an application in which they stated: "We petitioned you on the 9th instant regarding some sugars ex 'Alfred,' from Calcutta, marked Cossipore (B), 260 bags, which were stopped by one of your Honours' officers at the London Docks, as being equal in quality to refined. The first answer we received to our

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our application was to the effect that this parcel would be passed at the 16*s.* 4*d.* duty, and we therefore considered ourselves justified in offering these sugars for sale at this rate. On a subsequent application, however, we find that the goods are still under stop for the 18*s.* 8*d.* per cwt. duty, and feeling assured that this is too high a duty to demand on this parcel, we humbly beg that your Honourable Board will reconsider the matter." The officers' statement in answer to that is: "A reference to the application of Messrs. Sargent, Gordon & Co.'s, dated 9 June, enclosed, renders it almost unnecessary for us to state that no such answer was returned to them as that now stated, viz., 'The first answer we received to our application was to the effect, that this parcel would be passed at the 16*s.* 4*d.* duty;' but, on the contrary, when application was first made to us after the sugars were detained, we stated that 'they were under stop for being wrongly entered,' and our opinion was, that both qualities were equal to other refined sugar. We reported accordingly to your Honours, and the Surveyors-general, to whom the case was referred, supported our views; upon which your Honours were pleased to make an order on the 16th of June." The Board abided by their former order. The parties again applied, and they stated that they had been deceived, and the Board still abided by their former order; therefore the Board never ordered it to be released at 16*s.* 4*d.*, as stated by that gentleman in his evidence. He says he had a communication with one of the officers; but the officer denies ever having given him that information. He says they were ordered to be released at 16*s.* 4*d.*; no such order, as far as I can discover, was given. This (*producing a sample*) sample is the sugar to which these papers refer, and will fully justify the demand of 18*s.* 8*d.* upon it; there can be no doubt of that.

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2910*. Do you know anything about the case, which was stated, that out of the same parcel of sugar some was charged 18*s.* 8*d.* in London and a lower duty in Liverpool?—There was a sample came up to London, and the officer who saw it (I suppose it was a dull day) decided that it should be admitted at the lower duty; it fell, however, into my hands, and I directed that 18*s.* 8*d.* should be charged, and orders to that effect were immediately sent down to Liverpool.

2911. It is upon that ground that it is considered that the present mode is unsatisfactory, namely, that it rests too much upon mere opinion?—Yes.

2912. Mr. Miles.] You have stated that there have been very few instances in which the trade have been dissatisfied?—Very few, considering the number of cases which have been discussed.

2913. Has Mr. Hardman usually objected to the valuation of his sugars?—I do not know him.

2914. Are you aware that he has generally made objections to the qualities of his sugars being admitted at the different duties which have been charged?—I am not aware of that. It is extraordinary, I think, that we have had so little trouble.

2915. You stated that the Dutch government had furnished you with samples?—Yes. When the alteration took place Sir Robert Peel obtained samples from the Dutch government, and it was decided that those, which I believe were Nos. 18 and 19, should be adopted.

2916. Have they 18 or 19 different sorts of duties?—I do not know.

2917. Are you aware whether they have any difficulty in Holland in determining upon the qualities?—No.

2918. Do you know anything about the French standards?—No.

2919. Can you give the Committee any idea of a better method, or any improvement in the mode of taking those duties, than is now adopted?—Not as long as a classification duty exists, unless it were between clayed and unclayed sugars. Clayed sugar in former times paid a higher duty than muscovado.

2920. Was there much difficulty in distinguishing them?—No.

2921. There were no disputes?—No.

2922. What difference do you suppose there is between the clayed sugar and this higher standard, which is equal to white clayed?—Clayed sugars are of various qualities. Formerly no reference was made to the qualities of sugar, but simply to the fact of its being clayed or unclayed.

2923. If that distinction were kept up now, would East India sugar come in as clayed sugar?—Yes, much of it would.

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we should have considered it a lower quality of sugar, but if only a portion of it was spoiled, we should charge the duty upon that portion which was undamaged. The law makes no allowance for damage on sugar.

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2910. Will you state what were the circumstances of the case?—This was the application which was received by the officers: "We beg to state that we last month entered 660 bags sugar," and then there are the marks and numbers of the cargo, all "as not being equal in quality to white clayed, and which are now lying at No. 1 Warehouse, London Docks. The same have since been stopped by your Honours' officers, considering them to have been equal in quality to other refined sugar. We respectfully bring this matter to your Honours' notice, being of opinion that the (B) mark is not equal in quality to the rate of duty it is stopped for; the mark of (A) appears by the samples now in our possession to exceed the standard, and we therefore trust that your Honourable Board will have the second qualities again looked to, and further allow us to amend our warehousing entry for the first parcel." The officers' answer to that application is as follows: "The applicants entered to be warehoused on the 18th May ex 'Alfred,' from Calcutta, the sugars as stated by them, giving their description as 'not being equal in quality to white clayed,' which, upon examination, we found to be superior, and therefore placed the whole under detention. The 400 bags marked Cossipore (A) the applicants admit to be as we describe them, viz., 'equal to other refined,' but demur to our judgment of the quality of the 260 bags marked Cossipore (B); we therefore beg to forward a sample of the latter for your Honours' inspection, with our opinion that although not so good in quality as Cossipore (A), they come under the denomination also of 'other refined sugar.' The request to amend the entry upon the first mark according as we have described them, and upon the mark (B), according to the decision your Honours may be pleased to give, is for consideration." It was then referred to the Surveyors'-general. They reported: "We consider the sample representing 260 bags Cossipore (B) to be refined sugar, or sugar rendered by a process equal in quality thereto." The Board ordered the duty to be charged at 18*s.* 8*d.*; the parties then made an application in which they stated: "We petitioned you on the 9th instant regarding some sugars ex 'Alfred,' from Calcutta, marked Cossipore (B), 260 bags, which were stopped by one of your Honours' officers at the London Docks, as being equal in quality to refined. The first answer we received to
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our application was to the effect that this parcel would be passed at the 16*s.* 4*d.* duty, and we therefore considered ourselves justified in offering these sugars for sale at this rate. On a subsequent application, however, we find that the goods are still under stop for the 18*s.* 8*d.* per cwt. duty, and feeling assured that this is too high a duty to demand on this parcel, we humbly beg that your Honourable Board will reconsider the matter." The officers' statement in answer to that is: "A reference to the application of Messrs. Sargent, Gordon & Co.'s, dated 9 June, enclosed, renders it almost unnecessary for us to state that no such answer was returned to them as that now stated, viz., 'The first answer we received to our application was to the effect, that this parcel would be passed at the 16*s.* 4*d.* duty;' but, on the contrary, when application was first made to us after the sugars were detained, we stated that 'they were under stop for being wrongly entered,' and our opinion was, that both qualities were equal to other refined sugar. We reported accordingly to your Honours, and the Surveyors-general, to whom the case was referred, supported our views; upon which your Honours were pleased to make an order on the 16th of June." The Board abided by their former order. The parties again applied, and they stated that they had been deceived, and the Board still abided by their former order; therefore the Board never ordered it to be released at 16*s.* 4*d.*, as stated by that gentleman in his evidence. He says he had a communication with one of the officers; but the officer denies ever having given him that information. He says they were ordered to be released at 16*s.* 4*d.*; no such order, as far as I can discover, was given. This (*producing a sample*) sample is the sugar to which these papers refer, and will fully justify the demand of 18*s.* 8*d.* upon it; there can be no doubt of that.

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2910*. Do you know anything about the case, which was stated, that out of the same parcel of sugar some was charged 18*s.* 8*d.* in London and a lower duty in Liverpool?—There was a sample came up to London, and the officer who saw it (I suppose it was a dull day) decided that it should be admitted at the lower duty; it fell, however, into my hands, and I directed that 18*s.* 8*d.* should be charged, and orders to that effect were immediately sent down to Liverpool.

2911. It is upon that ground that it is considered that the present mode is unsatisfactory, namely, that it rests too much upon mere opinion?—Yes.

2912. Mr. Miles.] You have stated that there have been very few instances in which the trade have been dissatisfied?—Very few, considering the number of cases which have been discussed.

2913. Has Mr. Hardman usually objected to the valuation of his sugars?—I do not know him.

2914. Are you aware that he has generally made objections to the qualities of his sugars being admitted at the different duties which have been charged?—I am not aware of that. It is extraordinary, I think, that we have had so little trouble.

2915. You stated that the Dutch government had furnished you with samples?—Yes. When the alteration took place Sir Robert Peel obtained samples from the Dutch government, and it was decided that those, which I believe were Nos. 18 and 19, should be adopted.

2916. Have they 18 or 19 different sorts of duties?—I do not know.

2917. Are you aware whether they have any difficulty in Holland in determining upon the qualities?—No.

2918. Do you know anything about the French standards?—No.

2919. Can you give the Committee any idea of a better method, or any improvement in the mode of taking those duties, than is now adopted?—Not as long as a classification duty exists, unless it were between clayed and unclayed sugars. Clayed sugar in former times paid a higher duty than muscovado.

2920. Was there much difficulty in distinguishing them?—No.

2921. There were no disputes?—No.

2922. What difference do you suppose there is between the clayed sugar and this higher standard, which is equal to white clayed?—Clayed sugars are of various qualities. Formerly no reference was made to the qualities of sugar, but simply to the fact of its being clayed or unclayed.

2923. If that distinction were kept up now, would East India sugar come in as clayed sugar?—Yes, much of it would.

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2924. Would Demerara?—No, I do not apprehend it would. We do not call the vacuum pan sugar clayed sugar.

2925. What duty does that come in at now?—At 14*s.*, if it is at the lower quality, and 16*s.* 4*d.* if it is a higher quality.

2926. Has any come in at the highest duty?—I am not aware of any instance in which it has been charged 18*s.* 8*d.*

2927. Do you keep any accounts of the different sugars admitted from the different colonies at the different rates of duty?—The inspector of imports keeps that account.

2928. Could a return be made to the Committee of that?—Yes, if the Committee called for it.

2929. When sugar is brought in, does it depend upon the inferior Custom-house officers to say what the duty shall be?—No; the landing surveyors are the persons on the quays, and, if they have any doubt about it, it is referred to the superior officers.

2930. Does the instance given by Mr. Hardman refer to any particular officer?—No; it came up to our department. Mr. Weston decided that it was subject to the duty of 16*s.* 4*d.* I decided afterwards that it was 18*s.* 8*d.*

2931. When this question arose at Liverpool, what communication took place between the Custom-house there and here?—Samples were sent up to London from Liverpool. Orders were sent down to allow it to be delivered at 16*s.* 4*d.*; but when I saw it afterwards, I charged 18*s.* 8*d.* upon it. When I found that the same quality had been charged 16*s.* 4*d.*, the Board wrote to Liverpool to direct that all the sugar which had been ordered to be delivered at 16*s.* 4*d.*, and which was not delivered, should be charged at 18*s.* 8*d.*

2932. If that had been delivered, could you have claimed the higher duty?—No.

2933. Have you thought it necessary to alter your standard at Liverpool in consequence?—Not at all; the standard has never been altered. It was the standard which was fixed on in 1845.

2934. Have you had any complaints from Bristol, or any other sugar importing ports?—No, I cannot say that we have had any complaints at all scarcely. The parties against whom we decided were not satisfied with our decision, as would naturally be the case.

2935. You can give the Committee no plan by which this could be arranged?—None, so long as a discriminating duty is charged, dependent on different qualities of sugar of the same character and denomination.

2936. If you had 16 or 17 different qualities of sugar, as they have in Holland, could you carry the system on here?—We must carry it on. Whether we could carry it on to the satisfaction of the parties who paid the duty is another question.

2937. Do you think importers generally object to the plan now pursued?—I do not think they do.

2938. You think it gives general satisfaction to the whole trade?—As far as a classification of duties can give satisfaction.

2939. You think there is a vast difference in the saccharine matter of sugar from the West Indies and the East Indies?—Certainly; but the question of saccharine matter is a very difficult one.

2940. Have the Custom-house officers taken any pains to ascertain the difference?—Yes, we have taken some pains; but we have had by no means a satisfactory result from those pains. Dr. Ure has analyzed some portions of sugar, and Professor Brande and Dr. Cooper, but it is not at all satisfactory. It might be very well as an auxiliary to the opinion of the officer who has to decide the question, but it is not so satisfactory as we could wish.

2941. Mr. Wilson.] Are you aware what, according to the Act of Parliament, constitutes the difference in the quality of different sugars under this classification law?—I apprehend I am.

2942. How do you define them?—The elements of sugars are saccharine matter, grain, and colour; they constitute the term "quality."

2943. Therefore the Act prescribes that sugar of a certain saccharine matter, grain, or colour, should be charged a certain duty?—And colour.

2944. When you get a sample of sugar you have no satisfactory means of ascertaining the quantity of saccharine matter in it?—Certainly not.

4945. Therefore

2945. Therefore as far as regards the saccharine property of the sugar it is not a satisfactory test?—It is not. Mr. C. Dowding.

2946. As far as regards the grain you judge only by the eye?—We judge of it by the eye and by the feel. 23 February 1848.

2947. The saccharine matter you cannot judge of by the eye, can you?—You can pretty well tell what good sugar is from long experience.

2948. The grain and the colour you judge of by the eye?—Yes.

2949. Those are the only two satisfactory tests you possess?—The only two satisfactory ones certainly; we have put sugar into solution, and by ascertaining the specific gravity of the solution we have come to the conclusion that it contains more or less saccharine matter than our standard, but we have only had recourse to that as an auxiliary.

2950. What plan do you pursue, supposing a sugar appears to be a very fine colour, but of very bad granulation, what distinction do you make?—We charge it at the lower duty.

2951. Provided the grain is very bad?—There is a great deal of East India sugar which is very good in colour, but it is sandy and soft, and without any substance at all, upon that we charge the lower rate.

2952. Is the granulation regulated by the moisture of the sugar?—Not exactly the moisture; I can hardly explain how we come to the decision; it is by feeling it and looking at it.

2953. It is a sort of general impression that is obtained by inspecting the sugar?—Yes, from the experience we have had upon the subject.

2954. You have no distinct rule?—Certainly not, except by comparison with the standard.

2955. Therefore it is possible one officer might determine from his general impression differently from what another officer might determine?—I have just admitted that fact in the case alluded to.

2956. You also admit that with a different state of the atmosphere the same officer might come to a different conclusion at different times?—It would make a difference in the colour of the sugar.

2957. If colour be the criterion?—I do not admit that colour is the sole criterion.

2958. In a case where you have decided that the colour of the sugar entitles it to be classed at 16 s. 4 d. or 18 s. 8 d. duty upon a bright day, you might decide that it was of a lower class on a dull day?—Not as regards sugar at 18 s. 8 d.; there is very little doubt upon that. The doubts generally are upon the 16 s. 4 d. or 14 s. Of course the colour is the first element we look at; and if it is a good colour, we then subject it to other examinations.

2959. Practically speaking, there is very little sugar introduced at 18 s. 8 d. duty; the classification applies principally to the 16 s. 4 d.?—Chiefly.

2960. Therefore it is practically to the great bulk of the sugar that the objection now alluded to applies, that the colour may appear different on one day from another?—It may be so; but there has been a very small quantity compared to the quantity imported upon which the second rate of duty has been charged. I think the amount has been only 34,000 cwt., upon which the second rate of duty has been charged.

2961. You stated that there was not much inconvenience experienced from the operation of these classification duties?—No; the delay is chiefly the complaint made.

2962. There have not been many cases, you think?—Very few, compared with the number we might expect.

2963. Are you aware that there was a Parliamentary Paper printed last year, containing an account of the number of detentions, the periods of detention, and the rates of duty charged?—No; I am not.

2964. I have before me the Parliamentary Paper which was printed last year, containing the cases of detention from the 5th of January 1846 to the 5th of January 1847, and which appear to be no less than 102 cases?—I should say 102 cases is a very small per centage upon the number of importations.

2965. Notwithstanding the small proportion of sugar you have charged at the higher duty?—The question may have arisen, and we may have allowed it to come in at the lower duty.

2966. But still that detention has taken place in consequence of the attempt to charge the higher duty?—Certainly.

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2967. Do not you conceive that the delay is of as great consequence, or even greater, to the merchant than the difference of duty?—I think it is of the utmost importance.

2968. He may, in consequence of the delay, suffer materially by a fall in the price of his sugar?—Unquestionably.

2969. You are not aware of the variations in the price of sugar last year?—I am not.

2970. In the month of February 1846 the average price of sugar was 36*s.* 5*d.*, and in the month of March of the same year it was only 34*s.* 4*d.*; so that the merchant, whose sugar was detained during that period, would suffer not only the loss of interest and the inconvenience to his trade, but the amount of the fall in the price of sugar that took place in the interim?—Unquestionably he would.

2971. Mr. Miles.] The case might be the reverse, might not it?—It might be the reverse.

2972. And just as likely?—Yes.

2973. Mr. Wilson.] If the price of sugar is rising, the merchant has the privilege of keeping it?—Yes.

2974. But if the price of sugar is falling and he cannot get his sugar out of bond, he cannot sell it?—No.

2975. Did you say that there were 18 or 19 different qualities of sugar upon which duty was charged in Holland?—The sample selected and established was, I think, equal to sample 19 of those received from the Dutch government, when the classification duties were first established.

2976. Is it the case that there are so many classes of duties in Holland?—I do not know.

2977. Is that classification for the purpose of charging the duty?—So it was stated at the meeting at Sir Robert Peel's; some one stated at the meeting that it would be attended with difficulty; Sir Robert Peel stated that it was done in Holland.

2978. Mr. Cardwell.] Was not the statement this, that there were official purposes in Holland for which so many distinctions as those were drawn, and that these were the actual samples obtained from the Dutch government?—That might be the case.

2979. Mr. Wilson.] You do not give in evidence that this classification of sugars there is for the purpose of charging duty?—Certainly not.

2980. You do not know what the duty on sugar in Holland is?—No.

2981. You are not aware that the classification in Holland, to which allusion has been made, has really reference to a distinction of quality made by the government, for the purpose of distinguishing the different kinds of sugar?—I am not.

2982. Mr. Cardwell.] But you mean to state this, that for some purpose or other, the Dutch government make this classification?—Yes; there were a number of small samples produced on the occasion I refer to, and one was selected as being equal to No. 19 for our standard.

2983. Mr. Wilson.] The standard of sugar which is at present used is the best mode which you can arrive at, in the Custom-house, practically to charge those duties, and yet it is by no means a satisfactory one, nor one upon which you can perfectly rely?—Certainly not.

2983*. Have you ever thought of any means by which the inconvenience of those classification duties might be avoided?—No; except that the difference, if there is to be a difference in the duty, should be between the clayed and the unclayed, as it was formerly. Then almost all East Indian sugar would come in as clayed sugar.

2984. Would East Indian sugar be entitled to be charged as clayed sugar, being in so damp a state as it is?—That depends upon the state in which it does come.

2985. All East Indian sugar is damper than this sample, is it not?—That has been in the cupboard in my office since 1845. We have some in the Queen's Warehouse, which is in a much more damp state, from the place of its deposit.

2986. Do you still act upon this standard?—We do. That is the identical sugar that was selected by the Government; but we have larger samples, and not so dry as that.

2987. And

2987. And there is no other means you can suggest whereby a better test could be found than that which you now possess?—No; not so long as the duty depends upon the quality. The word “quality” has always been a very undefined one. The sugar refiners themselves do not know what “quality” means; they say sometimes it is colour, sometimes it is price, and sometimes it is grain.

2988. In fact it depends a good deal upon the purposes for which the buyer of the sugar wants it?—I suppose so.

2989. There must be a great deal of fancy in the thing to please a customer?—Yes.

2990. What would be your opinion, in order to avoid this classification duty, of the plan of charging a uniform duty upon all sugar, and that the sugar should be refined in bond, and admitted at that uniform duty?—That might answer if you compelled them to make the sugars all of one quality. But if they come out from the refiners in three qualities, there would still be a classification duty to be charged upon the three different qualities.

2991. You have single refined, and double refined sugar, have not you?—We have never had any double refined imported yet.

2992. Supposing there were only one duty upon sugar, without reference to its being single refined, or double refined, or anything else, with the privilege of refining in bond do you think you would get rid of all the difficulties which you at present experience in charging the duty?—Not more than by levying one rate of duty on importation, I think. I do not know that refining in bond would make much difference. If you take all the qualities of sugar into a refinery in London, you would not produce it all of one quality. If they make lump sugar there would be refined sugar, there would what is called “the bastards,” and there would be the treacle. You must have three qualities of duties for those.

2993. If all sugar were allowed to come in at the same rate of duty it would be a great act of injustice to the British refiner?—It would.

2994. Would not you get rid of that difficulty by refining in bond?—There is a great quantity of cane juice which has been brought in, in consequence of the want of labour in the colonies; there has been a talk of refining that in bond.

2995. Where has that been brought from?—From both the East and West Indies.

2996. Supposing there were a uniform duty charged upon sugar, and the sugar were allowed to be refined in bond, would not that get rid of all the difficulty about the duty to be charged, whether upon cane juice or any other produce of sugar which could come to this country?—That would get rid of the difficulties as to cane juice, which is more difficult to decide upon than the quality of sugar; no man can ascertain the amount of sugar contained in any quantity of cane juice.

2997. It would be a practical mode of simplifying the difficulty under which you labour now?—If the same rate of duty is to be charged upon all sugar that comes out of the refinery in England, it would be the same as charging the same duty upon all sugar coming out of the ship, as it appears to me.

2998. You do not mean to say that there would be the same varieties of sugar coming out of a refinery as there are coming into a port?—Not as sugar is refined now; but if all sugar were refined in this country there would necessarily be a variety of qualities to suit a variety of purposes.

2999. Are not you aware that large quantities now come in here to be refined?—If you confine your observation to what is called refined sugar; but what is to become of the raw sugar?

3000. It is to be refined?—Then there would be no raw sugar.

3001. If people want fine raw sugar for grocery purposes they may take it; but suppose parties were entitled to refine sugar in England, and introduce it at the same duty, there would be no sugar refined except in bond, in which case you would never be called on to judge as to a difference in quality except as to the two qualities of refined and unrefined sugar?—If there is only one rate of duty on sugar there could be no difficulty in assessing that duty.

3002. Can you see any practical hardship or inconvenience which would arise to any sugar producers or refiners from an arrangement of that kind?—I question very much whether a great many importers would subject their sugars to be refined in this country by English refiners.

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3003. Mr. *Moffatt*.] You stated that samples of the standards were never refused to merchants?—Yes.

3004. Is it your duty to be continually at the Custom-house?—I am not always there; as far as my experience goes, I am not aware of any instance in which they have been refused; I have given them myself to a great many persons; a great many merchants came to me when the sample was first fixed to get a sample of the sugar.

3004*. It has been stated in evidence that it was refused, and I remember going with Mr. Hardman myself to the Custom-house when a sample was refused?—Who refused you?

3005. The officer at the Custom-house, on the application of myself; I was told I must write to the chairman, and I obtained the sample through writing to the chairman?—If you had seen me it would not have been refused; I have constantly been applied to, and have never refused it to anybody.

3006. Are not you aware, that in almost every parcel of Java sugar, there is a slight variation in each bag of sugar?—Yes, there is; I do not know as to every bag.

3007. Which, of course, would create to that extent a fluctuation in the standard?—Yes, a fluctuation in its comparison with the standard.

3008. Is it the practice of the Customs in London to examine each bag of sugar to ascertain what rate is to be imposed?—No.

3009. How do they ascertain that in order to levy the duty?—The landing-surveyor sends us up an average sample of the whole; if there is some of it damaged, we do not take the sample from the damaged part.

3010. In the same pile of sugar there will be frequently a variation in the colour, will there not?—There ought not to be if the dock company pile it properly.

3011. You take your samples from the piling of the dock company?—Yes.

3012. Have you any idea what quantity of the sugar imported from the West Indies has paid the rate of duty of "white clayed"?—Last year there was only 4,604 cwt. from the East Indies, 16,842 cwt. from the West Indies, and 3,400 cwt. from the Mauritius.

3013. Reference has been made to the Dutch classifications; are you aware whether those classifications solely refer to the distinctions of the Netherlands Trading Company, or do they affect the rate of duty charged?—I know nothing more than that I saw the samples at Sir Robert Peel's.

3014. Are you aware that many of those cases where disputes have occurred between merchants and the customs have occupied from four to six or eight weeks before the final decision has been made?—I should have said not so much as that; I should have said it could not require so long a time to settle the question.

3015. Upon a parcel of sugar of superior quality coming from the East Indies, is there not now great delay in consequence of those classification duties?—I should say not.

3016. You think merchants know before they see their samples what rate to enter them at?—Yes; we very seldom have a question now.

3017. Mr. *Villiers*.] Do you believe it would be possible to mix together fine foreign sugar, which now commands the highest rate of duty, and colonial muscovado in such a manner that the officer would be unable to detect the presence of the former, and consequently the whole mixture would, to the injury of the revenue, be admitted at the lowest rate of duty charged on colonial sugar?—I should think it possible by mixing them, so that we could not find out which was foreign, and which British colonial; but I do not know where the two descriptions of sugar are to meet, so as to effect such an admixture.

3018. Have you any evidence of an attempt being made of that kind?—No. We had some sugar imported by Messrs. Alexander's house once, in which there were some lump and refined, some of a very inferior quality, and some liable to 16 s. 4 d. duty. A distinction could not be made, and the Board admitted it all at the intermediate duty, fining them £. 10 for the irregularity.

3019. Are there any frauds which you have detected in merchants trying to pass the finest sugar under an inferior quality?—I should be sorry to use the word "fraud." It is a case of difficulty, and as we do not know what duty is due until we see the sugar, it would be hard to accuse a merchant with an attempt at fraud, because he might enter his sugar under a wrong character and denomination.

3020. Could

3020. Could that mixture take place without its being done deliberately?— I hardly know where they could bring the two sugars together to mix them before importation.

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3021. You have no evidence at all of the attempt having been made?—No.

3022. Do you believe that the revenue would be defrauded by the importation of cane juice into this country?—Not if it were refined in bond, which it is supposed may be done. It is a very difficult question; we are as likely to charge the merchant more duty as less. Unless cane juice is reduced into sugar, no one can tell the quantity of sugar contained in any quantity of cane juice.

3023. Cane juice is now imported, is it?—Yes; a considerable quantity comes from the East Indies. They tell us it is in consequence of the expense of labour they do not perfect it abroad, and they bring it over here.

3024. When is the duty paid?—It is paid at the time of importation; we send a sample and get it analyzed to discover the quantity of sugar contained in it, and we charge a certain portion of the weight the sugar duty, and a certain portion of the weight the molasses duty.

3025. Is sugar refined in bond now?—For exportation.

3026. *Chairman.*] You said a large quantity of cane juice had been imported from the East Indies; did you mean the East Indies, or the Mauritius?—I think it is the East Indies. I do not know exactly as to a large quantity; we have not had a very large quantity of that importation from any part. There has been some jaggery imported, which is the raw material employed in the making of sugar.

Mr. James Blyth, called in; and Examined.

3027. *Chairman.*] YOU are a partner in the firm of H. D. and James Blyth & Greene?—Yes, I am.

Mr. J. Blyth.

3028. Extensive merchants and shipowners in the city of London?—Yes.

3029. You belong also to the firm of Blyth Brothers & Company, of Port Louis, in the Mauritius?—I do.

3030. Have you resided in the Mauritius?—I resided there for several years.

3031. From September 1830 to January 1839?—Yes.

3032. Were you a member of the Legislative Council while you were there?—During the last six years of my residence I was so.

3033. Your principal business at the Mauritius has been of a mercantile nature; importing British manufactured goods from Great Britain, and grain from India, and exporting sugar from the Mauritius to England?—It has.

3034. Can you give the Committee an account of the amount of the exports from Great Britain to the Mauritius, from the year 1840 to the year 1847?—The exports from Great Britain to the Mauritius of British and Irish produce and manufactures (I have left out in this statement colonial and foreign goods transhipped in this country) amounted in 1840 to 325,812 *l.*; in 1841 to 340,140; in 1842 to 244,922 *l.*; in 1843 to 258,014 *l.*; in 1844 to 285,650 *l.*; in 1845 to 345,059 *l.*; in 1846 to 310,231 *l.*; and in 1847 to 203,240 *l.* Those are taken from the official returns as late as 1846.

3035. The greater part of this trade was carried on through your hands, as merchants, was not it?—A large portion of this trade passed through the hands of my firm.

3036. And the proceeds have been returned in bills on other mercantile firms, but chiefly on those concerned in sugar plantations, and other produce of the colony of the Mauritius?—Yes, chiefly in produce, and the residue in bills on other houses connected with the commerce of the colony. I should state that, independently of those exports which are taken from official sources, there is an amount of from 25,000 *l.* to 30,000 *l.* per annum of foreign colonial merchandize, which does not figure in the colonial returns. We have a statement from the customs bills of entry, and the average we find to be at least 25,000 *l.* to 30,000 *l.*, the trade in articles not of British and Irish manufacture.

3037. In consequence of the passing of the Act of 1846, did you, as a Mauritius merchant, become very much alarmed, and determine to contract your business with that island?—I did.

3038. Feeling that the depreciated value of the produce of the Mauritius would no longer make your mercantile transactions with that island safe?—My partners and myself came to that conclusion and acted on it.

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3039. In your opinion it was not possible for the Mauritius to compete with slave holding countries?—Such was the joint opinion of myself and the other members of the firm.

3040. And the general result to the commerce of the Mauritius has been that the exports from Great Britain to the Mauritius were reduced from 345,059*l.* in 1845, and 310,231*l.* in 1846, to 203,240*l.* in 1847?—That was the case.

3041. Were you not resolved, on behalf of your house, to investigate personally the power of the Brazils to compete with the Mauritius in the cheap cultivation of sugar?—I was.

3042. The very morning after the Bill of 1846 passed you sailed for the Brazils?—I sailed sometime, I think, prior to the passing of the Bill; but I went to Madeira and remained there to obtain a knowledge of the passing of the Bill. I had previously satisfied myself that the Bill would pass. We considered in London there was no doubt of it, and my arrangements had been made previously, under the conviction that the measure would be carried. I think it right to say, that I did not actually go to the Brazils for that particular object: I had other objects in view, though that was, in fact, the cause which decided my going to Brazil.

3043. I understand you were going to sail for the Mediterranean for Mrs. Blyth's health; but when this occurred you changed your course and sought another warm climate in the Brazils, determined to inquire into the cultivation there?—Yes.

3044. Were you not the first to carry the news to Brazil of the passing of the Bill?—Yes; at least to the port I visited, Rio de Janeiro.

3045. Did your purchase any sugar at Rio de Janeiro?—I did.

3046. Do you know at what price?—I purchased it at such a price as, all the charges, the exchange, and so forth, being calculated, left the sugar laid down in London costing from 22*s.* to 22*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. It was just the commencement of the season, and there was only one cargo which I could procure.

3047. *Mr. M. Gibson.*] What was the quality of that sugar?—Fine yellow sugar.

3048. Above or below the average?—I should say above the average of Mauritius, certainly, by 2*s.* a cwt.

3049. What duty did it come in at?—At the low duty, as Brazilian sugar; it came in at a duty of 21*s.*

3050. *Chairman.*] At 7*s.* differential duty?—Yes.

3051. That was a profitable speculation, was it not?—It was.

3052. It was, you say, a class of sugar superior in value by 2*s.* a cwt. to Mauritius sugar?—To the average of Mauritius sugar; that, however, is rather a guess than an exact appreciation. I took samples of it to the Mauritius, and examined it with the sugar there, and we considered that its value was about 2*s.* above the average value of Mauritius produce.

3053. What was the advice you gave to your partners upon taking the sugar to the Mauritius?—We examined the samples with sugar the produce of the colony, with reference not so much to the actual competition to which we were then exposed, as looking to the future, when the differential duties, under the Act of 1846, would be altogether rescinded.

3054. From the best information you procured and the calculations you were able to make when you got to the Mauritius, at what price did you convince yourself that sugar could be exported at from the Mauritius to a profit?—I went into that question with those better acquainted with agriculture in the Mauritius than myself, for I have had very little to do with the cultivation of Mauritius sugar, though I have resided there so long; and I came to the conviction, that without a market price at Port Louis of about 5 dollars per cwt., to which would be added 2*s.* the export duty, and an average of 1*s.*, the difference in the exchange, which is generally 5 per cent. against this country, the cost in round numbers being 23*s.* per cwt. on board, the planters, as they were then circumstanced, paying a high price for labour and so on, could not cultivate advantageously.

3055. You satisfied yourself that the colony could not export sugar to a profit at a lower rate than 23*s.* sterling, free on board?—That was the datum

on

on which I formed my calculation ; of course one man will make his sugar a little cheaper than another, but that was the average result I came to, and I believe I was correct. Since I made this statement, I find that this calculation agrees with that of almost every other person who has gone into the question of the cost of production of sugar in the Mauritius.

3056. What do you find, upon a number of years, is the average amount of freight and other charges ?—About 8 s. a cwt.

3057. That would make 31 s. a cwt. in bond ?—Yes.

3058. That includes commission, brokerage, and insurance ?—Yes.

3059. Dock charges ?—Yes ; and a variety of small expenses.

3060. Does it include any warehouse expenses ?—There would be warehouse charges for two or three months. The Dock Companies charge a consolidated rate of 10s. a cwt. upon the sugar, and allow it to remain a certain period (I am not sure whether it is two or three months it is allowed to remain) without any further charge for rent. That is included in the estimate of 8s. a cwt.

3061. From the Mauritius you returned to Brazil, did not you ?—I did ; touching at the Cape and St. Helena.

3062. You purchased four cargoes of sugar on your return to Rio Janeiro ?—I purchased two cargoes at Bahia, and I also purchased two other cargoes at Pernambuco.

3063. Did you find that sugar had risen in price since you had been there before ?—I had not visited those particular ports before ; but I found the price higher in proportion at Bahia and Pernambuco, the passing of the Bill having affected those markets.

3064. The price of slave-grown sugar had been stimulated by the free access to the English market ?—It had.

3065. Mr. Miles.] Can you state the price of the sugar at Bahia ?—I have no memorandum of it, and I should not like to state it without being certain.

3066. Chairman.] You recollect, however, that it was a higher price than you gave before ?—Bahia and Pernambuco sugars are of a different description to Rio Janeiro sugar, and I can scarcely, without producing the qualities, state the precise advance that has occurred.

3067. Is there any difference of price between the freight from Brazil and the freight from the Mauritius ?—There is.

3068. What is the difference ?—From the comparative distance between Bahia and Pernambuco and England, and between the Mauritius and England, I take the minimum difference to be about 1 l. a ton, and the maximum to be 1 l. 10s. a ton.

3069. The Mauritius is about 12,000 miles distant ?—Twelve thousand or 13,000 miles by the ordinary route.

3070. The distance of Bahia is what ?—I should say about 6,000 or 7,000 miles.

3071. You then returned, did not you, to England ?—I did.

3072. Did you consult with your partners whether you should go on in the Mauritius trade ?—I did.

3073. Did you unanimously resolve that the Mauritius could not compete with Brazil under the Sugar Duties Bill of 1846 ?—We did.

3074. Did you resolve immediately to reduce your capital invested in the Mauritius trade ?—We did.

3075. Did you strenuously urge your correspondents to curtail their engagements, that they might avoid serious loss ?—We did, and also to curtail the credits which we had previously given to the colonists.

3076. What might be the amount of your credits and of your capital invested in the year 1845 ?—About 180,000 l. or 200,000 l., exclusive of shipping and other property.

3077. To what extent have you contracted them now ?—I should say we have contracted them to the extent of about one-third.

3078. Do you mean that they are one-third less in amount ?—Yes ; we did not consider it necessary, knowing the island would go on exporting sugar planted under the previous Bill, immediately to stop all our operations in the island, because we knew that the produce would be very large, that it would come forward, and that at all events for one or two years our business might be continued. We therefore merely commenced diminishing it with a view to further contraction hereafter.

3079. Mr. Miles.] The canes were already in the ground ?—Yes.

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3080. Mr. *Labouchere*.] Were you yourself engaged in the cultivation of sugar in the Mauritius?—I have an interest only in one estate, fortunately.

3081. *Chairman*.] Is that the reason that your house is one of the few houses which has stood connected with the Mauritius?—It has fortunately been able to stand, not having been much mixed up in the cultivation of the soil.

3082. Is there any other house besides yours that has stood?—Yes, there are several others.

3083. What houses?—The house of Messrs. Chalmers, Guthrie & Co., Messrs. Baker & Co., and there are many other houses, but they are chiefly those which have not been engaged in the culture of the soil or in advances to planters; those who have supplied the mercantile part of the business connected with the colony.

3084. Mr. *Labouchere*.] Did your house make any advances on the cultivation of the soil?—We did not till about two years since, when we made advances upon three estates, which we have now abandoned, three estates belonging to a very highly respectable gentleman in this country. We have, by the mail of the 7th of this month, written out to discontinue advances to those three estates. We have declined making further advances to them.

3085. *Chairman*.] You still hoped, did you not, at the end of last year, that Government would, at the meeting of Parliament, do something for the Mauritius?—We did.

3086. Parliament re-assembled on the 3d of February, and the same night the Government made its declaration of its policy with regard to the colonies?—Yes; I was in the House.

3087. In consequence of the declarations which Government made that night, what course did your house pursue with regard to the Mauritius?—We wrote by the overland mail, which left on the following Monday, the 7th of February. We withdrew our credits previously existing in Bengal, under which our correspondents sent rice and other grain on joint account with ourselves. We had also advanced money to native merchants to enable them to send down rice. Those credits we stopped by the outward mail, of the 7th of February.

3088. Do you hold three estates under trust?—My house act as trustees, jointly with another house, for three estates. The firm to which I allude has suspended payment, and the estates were consequently thrown upon our hands for supplies.

3089. Did you send out instructions to stop cultivation?—We have sent out instructions to discontinue advances to those three estates, but not being our own property, of course the cultivation may go on.

3090. Mr. *Miles*.] Are those the three estates to which you before adverted?—They are.

3091. *Chairman*.] Is one of those estates expected to yield 750 tons of sugar this year?—The estate to which your Lordship refers is an estate belonging partly to my firm and partly to Mr. Whiting of London; that is independent of the three estates I have spoken of.

3092. Would the effect of your having written out to your Bengal correspondents to discontinue the shipments of grain to the Mauritius, be to throw the subsistence of that portion of the people upon the Government?—That portion of the people who were fed by grain carried forward under credit of my house.

3093. For the cultivation of those sugar estates?—Yes, precisely.

3094. The effect will be, that so many of the inhabitants of the Mauritius as were sustained by the cultivation of sugar upon those three estates will be thrown out of subsistence?—The grain sent forward under the credit of my firm went not only to those three estates, but to the general use of the colony, and comprehended a considerable portion of the general supply to the colony.

3095. Have your supplies been compensated for by Government supplies, or supplies by the East India Company?—I understand an instruction has been sent from the Government of this country to the Bengal Government to supply a certain amount of rice and other grain in the event of merchants not shipping it, which is a very proper precaution.

3096. Is the probability that the greater part of the merchants will not ship rice from India to the Mauritius on their own account?—I understand a great diminution has already taken place in the exports from Bengal.

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3097. To that extent the Coolies of the Mauritius would be starved but for the interposition of Government?—Precisely so. Fortunately, previously to the disasters which have occurred in this country becoming known in India, very large supplies had gone down to the Mauritius, and those large supplies having anticipated the dearth which must hereafter occur, they will now be available. It was rather an unusual supply that went out previously to those events.

3098. You said before that there was an expectation of a full crop of sugar upon one of the estates?—Upon the estate in which I am myself interested our correspondents estimate the production of this year at 750 tons.

3099. Did your correspondents write to you a letter recommending you to send out a powerful sugar mill, in order that you might be enabled to manufacture the article?—I have that letter; I received it on the 15th of this month; it is dated Port Louis, Mauritius, 13th November 1847. It was received by us in London on the 15th of the present month; it commences by saying, "Although we approach the subject of any additional outlay on your already costly property of 'Bon Accueil' with considerable reluctance, we nevertheless think it necessary to submit to you the circumstances which induce us to agree with the manager of the estate in opinion that the machinery now employed on it is not only unequal to the perfect manipulation of the present crop, but that it will be altogether deficient in power for the additional work it will be required to perform, in order to secure that of the approaching season of 1848-49, under the extended cultivation which has been given to the property; as we have repeatedly informed you (and as your Mr. James Blyth has, indeed, had an opportunity of witnessing), our desire has been for some years past to place the estate in a position to yield its presumed maximum amount of produce, and up to this time our efforts have fortunately met with complete success. The crop on which we are now employed will, we have every reason to hope, reach 1,500,000 lbs.;" in round numbers, that is 750 tons; "but as we consider this to be below the real capabilities of the estate, and that an increase of perhaps 500,000 lbs. may be obtained, at little more expense than the cost of a more powerful mill, we have taken the opinion of an engineer on the subject, and herewith beg to hand you copy of the report made to us by him." The letter goes on to say, "The total outlay which will be occasioned by the alteration in question, is estimated at 6,000 dollars, reduced by so much as the old cane mill might sell for; the advantages would, we consider, much more than compensate this, out of the first crop to be made with the larger mill; and if we shall hereafter be fortunate enough to meet with a party disposed to treat for the purchase of the estate, the fact of the engine and mill having been found powerful enough to make so extensive a crop as we anticipate, might be no small point in the matter. Should you determine on incurring this outlay (and we cannot urge it too strongly), we would recommend an immediate application to our mutual friends, Messrs. John & A. Blyth, for the machinery, in accordance with the specification given by Mr. Henning." The remainder is merely detail as to how soon it should be sent.

3100. In consequence of that advice, have you consented to send out that mill?—We have declined doing so.

3101. Have you and your co-proprietors refused to incur any further liability?—We have.

3102. And have directed the estate to be sold at any price?—Not exactly so. We commenced our correspondence with reference to the sale of this property in November. I have here a copy of the letter which we wrote upon that occasion; it is dated the 24th of November 1847, and addressed to Messrs. Blyth, Brothers & Co., Port Louis: "Our present respects are written with reference to that unfortunate property 'Bon Accueil,' our co-proprietor and esteemed friend, Mr. Whiting, in common with ourselves, being resolved upon bringing to an end the serious losses sustained from time to time by this estate. Your letter, per 'Nith,' received this day, gives us the hope of a very large crop, and we are aware that before this can reach you a further considerable sum will have been expended in labour and the application of guano, of which we observe you have made a considerable purchase. It is of course far from our wish to lose the advantage of plantations already made and guano already applied, but we are so convinced of the impossibility of making sugar to compete on equal duties with slave-grown produce, that we wish you to sell, if a buyer can be

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found, any guano you may hold for account of the estate. Discontinue all new works of every description involving the outlay of a single dollar, our intention being to take off as they come to maturity the growing crops from time to time, and unless Government continue the protective duties (which we have no expectation will be the case), we shall at a future time fix a very low price upon the estate; and if not reaching the amount at public auction, we shall then request you to sell the land in lots to the coloured people and dispose of the plant, our wish being that present expenses should be confined to gathering in the sugars and preserving the property, pending future more detailed instructions."

3103. Those were your instructions of November last?—Yes, the 24th of November.

3104. What have been your instructions since you have heard the announcement of the Government?—The next instruction we gave was dated the 24th of December, which is an extract from a general letter of the overland mail of that day, in which, with reference to that property, we say: "We wish you to avoid any outlay that can be spared, and to advertise the property for sale by public auction on or about the 1st of May." That was in order to get in the present crop. "Meantime, please to obtain from Mr. Koenig all the documents establishing the title, and we will send you a special power from our J. B. to transfer it. Meanwhile, as we have already said, please to cut down the outlay to the lowest possible point."

3105. Is that your last communication?—No; the last communication we made is dated the 7th of January. On the 7th of January we wrote again, more in detail: "We have already communicated to you in a former letter the determination Mr. Whiting and ourselves have come to with respect to the estate Bon Accueil, in which we requested you to take off all the present crop, and avoid the outlay of every dollar not absolutely necessary. We also requested in our respects of the 24th ult. that you would advertise the property for public auction, fixing a period as near the 1st of May as possible, by which time the crop would be cleared off, and no serious expense incurred with reference to the ensuing season. We confirm these instructions, but would recommend your now fixing about the 1st of June; adding to the advertisement for public auction on a given day, 'unless previously disposed of by private contract.' The parties interested in this property have come to the determination of selling it, because they see that year after year they but increase the heavy losses already sustained. They do full justice to the exertions you have made and the trouble you have taken with it, and equally so to the perseverance and ability with which Mr. Lecourt has at length brought the crop to a quantity which, under favourable markets, would more than compensate for the outlay; but they are so thoroughly disgusted with the bad faith of the British Government in having tacitly fostered the anticipation of a continuance of protection from the glaringly unequal competition of the foreign slave owner, and subsequently exposed the British colonist to the full force of that competition without even affording him, with any degree of efficiency, the means of a regular and adequate supply of labour, which these adverse circumstances had rendered more than ever indispensably necessary; they are moreover convinced that with free trade, fettered as it is in your colony, they will only increase the heavy losses they have sustained, that they come to the conclusion that they must lose the greater part of the capital invested in the property in ordering its immediate sale. The estate may probably be purchased by Mr. Lecourt and his friends, or some other parties, who, by residing on it themselves, may find it an eligible purchase at the very moderate price we shall be content to take in order to be rid once for all of this hitherto serious burden. Our object being to close this account for ever and at once, the sale must be for cash before giving possession, that we may have no chance of further litigation; and to this end we have to beg you will obtain all the papers from Mr. Koenig, and see that nothing is wanting to complete the legal transfer of the property to the purchaser. We will cause a special power of attorney from our Mr. James Blyth to be prepared and sent to you for the transfer of the estate, which, for reasons known to you; was registered in his name. You will, in the conditions of the sale, have regard to the existing leases of land, and obtain full security for the fulfilment of the contracts the estate is under, that we may not have any risk of litigation on this or any other score, after closing the present accounts. We have given the subject of price all the consideration in our

our

our power, but find it extremely difficult to fix a minimum rate, which, while it would be low enough to ensure a sale, would also, at the same time, avoid involving further unnecessary loss to the proprietors. This difficulty is, however, greatly diminished by the conviction, that however low we may fix our minimum price, no exertions on your part will be wanting to obtain the utmost possible amount for the estate. To estimate the value of the property as an estate likely to be continued in cultivation, would involve the consideration of prospective legislation in this country, as affecting the duties on sugar, and the present uncertain state in which this question stands, determined as we are to incur no further loss, obliges us to consider what our position would be if the law remains as it is, and the estate should be abandoned. The property would therefore, if parcelled out, consist, first, of the growing crop capable of producing, we presume, 1,200,000 lbs. of sugar in 1848-49." We had not at this time received a report showing that it was likely to go up to two millions of pounds. I always contemplated a reduction from ceasing to hoe and to cultivate the land already under culture. "Secondly, the quantity which would be yielded in a second or third year from canes already planted. Thirdly, the land, if sold in small patches to the coloured people. Fourthly, the dwelling-house, which would probably be saleable as an auberge, and form the nucleus of a village. Fifthly, the other buildings, which would also probably find buyers for similar purposes. Sixthly, The steam-engine, batteries, pumps, and the utensils; and lastly, the mules and other cattle, carts and other moveable property. It is not our wish that you should attempt a sale thus in detail; because the large crop on the ground will assuredly enable you to find a purchaser of the whole on better terms than you could obtain by piecemeal, and without incurring the risk of finding purchasers for portions only, while our object is to get rid of the whole concern, and close the account at once, and if this is not accomplished our object is not effected. To be thus liberated we would accept a very small sum as purchase money, as you will see by our present low figure, for a sale by private contract, and a still further contingent reduction we shall make in time to reach you before 1st June; this, of course, guided by the prospects which may be presented meantime. We are quite aware that in the present probable position of the colony it will not be an easy matter to obtain a cash purchaser, unless at a very low price; but our experience and yours of the danger of not obtaining payment from purchasers on credit, from the contingencies of law and chicane; and our object being, as we have said, to close the accounts at once and for ever, will induce us to be content with a very moderate cash price, rather than have left open any liability whatever with respect to this property. We should have fixed an earlier period than the 1st of June for the public sale of the property, but that we think it probable some change in the existing law may be proposed on the reassembling of Parliament, and thus enable you to obtain a better price than can be expected under existing circumstances: no change can possibly occur for the worse; and, moreover, this delay will give you time to negotiate a sale by private contract, if possible. Between this and the 1st of June you will be apprized of the minimum price at which to let the property go; but if in the meantime you can find a cash purchaser by private contract, at the price of 50,000 dollars, you are at liberty to close for it, and we even leave you the discretionary power of reducing this amount somewhat if you think proper." That is the last communication, except that we have written out generally, that Government have decided to make no change in the existing law; and I am now to consult with our co-proprietors as to the minimum we shall fix; but I have seen them since, and we have determined to sell the property.

3106. At any price?—We have not yet fixed the minimum price, for I still hope that after the evidence which is being taken before this Committee, something may be done for the colonies; I feel rather more assured than I did; our idea was to authorize the sale of this property for 30,000 dollars, but seeing that its produce is coming up in so large a quantity as 1,000 tons, and seeing that it is so necessary that something must be done for the colonies, I feel rather disposed, if my co-proprietor, Mr. Whiting, should concur in it, to wait a little.

3107. The fall in prices has been 10*l.* or 12*l.* a ton, has not it?—I see by this published statement that it has fallen between January and December about 13*l.* a ton. The Gazette average in January 1847 for all descriptions of British plantation sugar is stated at 36*s.* 10½*d.* a cwt., and in December 1847

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the average is 23s. 0½d., leaving a difference of 13s. 9½d. Part of the high price of January 1847 is fairly attributable to some excitement which existed at the time on account of the introduction of sugar for brewing and distilling, the effect of which was greatly exaggerated.

3108. You do not think it would be fair to compute that the fall of 13l. a ton was altogether ascribable to the Bill of 1846?—I think not; I think this 13s. 9½d. difference, some of it, is no doubt attributable to the excitement which existed in January as to the probability of a large use of sugar in breweries and distilleries; and part of the difference which appears between January and December may be taken to arise from the commercial panic through which we have passed, the scarcity of money, and other causes.

3109. How much of that fall of 13l. and odd do you ascribe to the effect of the Bill?—It is almost impossible to come to anything more than an opinion upon the subject, but I should say in round numbers, if you take the difference at from 10l. to 12l. a ton, that is as near as it can be estimated; it is a matter of opinion of course.

3110. Upon your increased produce of 1,000 tons of sugar, 10l. a ton would make a difference of 10,000l. a year?—It would from this estate.

3111. You used to reckon about 10 years' purchase a fair estimate of the value of land in the colony, did not you?—We used; property is now very much depreciated.

3112. This property, in fact, has been depreciated in value 100,000l.?—We have never considered the fee simple of this property worth above 30,000l. If we were to send out orders now to sell it at 6,000l., the depreciation would be 24,000l.

3113. You were understood to say that the produce of the estate was 1,000 tons, and that the price of the sugar had been lowered 10l. a ton; that would be 10,000l.?—I think I have been too sanguine in my estimate of 1,000 tons; I consider this 1,000 tons to be more than an average. We could not expect anything like that upon the average of years; hurricanes, and droughts, and so forth, intervene. We may get a good year occasionally, but that would not be the average.

3114. You have been investing capital and improving those estates?—Yes; particularly the estate in question.

3115. And it is very much owing to those improvements that the produce has been increased?—It is quite so.

3116. They are permanent improvements, are not they?—Partly permanent, and merely apply to produce the increased crops.

3117. So long as that increased produce continued, the depreciation in the value of the sugar to the amount of 10l. a ton would make a difference to you of 10,000l. a year?—Precisely so. I should state, that if we had that 10,000l. more than we are likely to obtain under the existing prices, it would not be 10,000l. profit, because the sugar costs us more than we are now getting for it.

3118. You did not show to the Committee that you were actually losing upon the sugar; will you inform them what the state of last year's business was?—This estate is not a very good estate; I consider it as below the average of the Mauritius properties. The land is not so fertile, it is rather at a high elevation, and I consider the sugar produced in the last year or two has cost us about 25l. a ton, shipped at Port Louis; the average, as I have stated already, being about 23l. a ton; therefore this estate has been cultivated at a disadvantage, I consider, of about 2l. a ton, as compared with the average of other estates. Its distance from the shipping port is one of the difficulties.

3119. Mr. Miles.] What is the distance from the shipping port?—Sixteen or 17 miles.

3120. Chairman.] What has been the loss upon this estate?—The loss upon this estate last year, to the end of December, has been 3,149l.

3121. In one year?—Yes.

3122. That is upon an estate which is expected to produce how much?—This year 750 tons; the next crop our friends estimate will be carried up to 1,000 tons.

3123. Had not it been for the change of the duties, and the consequent fall of 10l. a ton, your estate, instead of being a losing estate of 3,149l., would have been a winning estate of about 4,300l.?—The crop after the present, not

not this present crop, but the one which is foreshadowed to us as likely to yield 1,000 tons.

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3124. What was the last crop?—Three hundred and ninety-four tons, the crop for which these accounts are made up. The 750 tons have not yet come forward.

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3125. The profit of the estate would have been 700 *l.* instead of a loss of 3,149 *l.*?—Yes, it would have been so.

3126. Have you an account of any other estate?—No, that is the only estate which I am interested in as owner. Jointly with another house, I have already stated, we made advances towards the cultivation of three other properties, which we have now discontinued.

3127. What estates are those?—They are the estates of Chanoot, Victoria, and Mount Eulalia.

3128. What have been the proceeds of those estates?—I am unable to give the details upon these; we have only acted as agents for the last two or three years.

3129. You know that the estates are abandoned?—We have declined making further advances for them.

3130. You are co-inspector with Mr. Baring and Mr. McClery of the affairs of Messrs. Reid, Irving & Co., are you not?—I am.

3131. Can you state what the result of that investigation has proved?—We find that Messrs. Reid, Irving & Co. possess of their own five estates in Mauritius; they are the fixed consignees of 18 others, besides which they receive sugar of other planters in return for specific advances made from time to time. Those are the estates which are not absolutely under their control, but 23 estates are altogether in their hands.

3132. What has been the amount of sugar received from those estates?—The crop in 1846 and 1847, with the addition of the last-named description of consignments, amounted in all to 8,800 tons. The cost of this crop was estimated by Messrs. Reid, Irving & Co.'s agents in the Mauritius, in October 1846, at about 22 *l.* a ton.

3133. That is free on board?—Yes, free on board; but owing to the unfavourable exchange prevailing that season, namely, six to 14 per cent. discount, and probably to other contingencies, the drafts amounted to 220,000 *l.*, or 25 *l.* a ton; the sugar netted in London 180,000 *l.*, or 20 *l.* 9 *s.* 1 *d.* per ton. At the last Gazette average the net price is 24 *s.* 10 *d.* per cwt., from which 8 *s.* being deducted for freight and charges, there would remain 16 *l.* 17 *s.* 6 *d.* per ton. The best Mauritius sugar (the new sugar, however, comes to the market at the present time,) and the estimate of the average quality of the year, comparing that quality with the quality actually received, would be only 15 *l.* per ton as the net proceeds of the sugar realized here. The 8,800 tons actually lost, notwithstanding the average Gazette price of 1847, was 28 *s.* 5 *d.*, 40,000 *l.*; but at the present average price this quantity would lose 88,000 *l.* The crop from the 23 estates, for 1847 and 1848, is estimated at 8,500 tons, besides contract sugars about 1,200 tons, making together 9,700 tons, which Messrs. Reid, Irving & Co. expected to have received from the crop of 1847-48. Messrs. Reid, Irving & Co.'s capital invested in those estates amounts to 3,600 *l.* in cash, bills running from the Mauritius and Calcutta for supplies to the amount of 185,000 *l.*; the capital of their correspondents, Messrs. Henry Adam & Co., also invested in this property, is 150,000 *l.*, and the estimate of mortgages or prior claims for 120,000 *l.*, making together 815,000 *l.* I should state that there being no three per cent. consols in the Mauritius, estates are not necessarily mortgaged for debt, but they are frequently mortgaged as an investment for money.

3134-35. The mortgage is a prior claim?—Yes; all the statements of cost which are made up by the house for my information are without interest added either for capital or disbursements; they are the actual cash outlay. I beg to hand in to the Committee the statements which I have made respecting the affairs of Messrs. Reid, Irving & Co., in the form in which they have given it to me.

[The Paper was delivered in, and is as follows:]

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Messrs. Reid, Irving & Co. have five estates of their own in Mauritius, and are part owners or fixed consignees of 18 others; besides which, they receive the sugar of other planters in return for specific advances made them from time to time.

Their fixed crop, 1846-47, was about 7,500 tons; but by the addition of the sugars of the last-named class, they received in all 8,800 tons.

	PER TON.		
	£.	s.	d.
The cost of this crop was estimated by their agents, in October 1846, at about	22	-	-
But owing to the unfavourable exchange prevailing that season, viz. 6 to 14 per cent. discount, and probably to other contingencies, drafts amounted to 220,000 <i>l.</i>	25	-	-
The sugar netted, in London, 180,000 <i>l.</i>	20	9	1
But at the last Gazette average the net price is 24 <i>s.</i> 10 <i>d.</i> per cwt., from which 8 <i>s.</i> for freight and charges	16	17	6
As, however, the best Mauritius sugar comes to market at this season, the same price on the average quality of the year would be only	15	-	-
Therefore the 8,800 tons actually did lose (notwithstanding that the average Gazette price of 1847 was 28 <i>s.</i> 5 <i>d.</i>)	£.		
And at the present average they would lose	40,000		
	88,000		

The crop from the 23 estates, for 1847-8, is estimated at 8,500 tons, besides contract sugars, about 1,200 tons.

Messrs. Reid, Irving & Co.'s capital invested in those estates, is

£.
 360,000 cash.
 185,000 bills running from Mauritius and Calcutta for supplies.
 150,000 capital of their correspondents, H. A. & Co.
 120,000 mortgages, or prior claims.

£. 815,000

All these statements of cost are without interest added either for capital or disbursements.

3136. The entire liability therefore of Messrs. Reid, Irving & Co. is 815,000*l.*?
 —The property invested in estates amounts to 815,000*l.*, upon the produce of 8,800 tons, which was the produce of the year 1847, and the expected crop of 1847-48, which is 9,700 tons, including contract sugars.

3137. The produce of the two years, amounting to 8,800 and 9,700 tons, would represent 88,000*l.* and 97,000*l.* at 10*l.* a ton?—It would.

3138. And that is the annual depreciation to which those estates have been subjected by the fall in the price of sugar?—Precisely so.

3139. Can you state to the Committee what are the assets to be set against this sum of money?—The Committee will observe that this 815,000*l.* is not all capital belonging to Messrs. Reid, Irving & Co.; only 540,000*l.* of this capital belonged to them. The 815,000*l.* belongs to three distinct parties: Messrs. Reid, Irving & Co., their agents in the Mauritius, and also the prior mortgagees.

3140. The assets to be set against these items is the value of the sugars consigned?—And of the properties themselves.

3141. Can you now state what is the value of the properties themselves?—It is very difficult to come to an approximate value of sugar estates at present. I can form no idea upon it. That question has been asked me, as inspector of the estate, over and over again, by creditors who are deeply interested; but I confess I can form no estimate of what these properties will eventually realize, if the Bill of 1846 is to continue the law.

3142. Supposing prices to continue where they now are, will these properties be worth anything in the market?—It must be observed that the prices now obtained are prices obtained under a slight protection; but by the operation of the Bill of 1846, the protecting duty vanishes in 1851, placing the produce of those estates upon a footing with the produce of Brazil and Cuba, and therefore materially affects the fee simple of properties now.

3143. Supposing you were sure of a better price, to the amount of 10*l.* a ton upon the sugar, then what would these properties be worth?—They would be worth a very large sum of money. That is a very large question. It would be difficult for me to answer off-hand what the produce of the properties would be.

3144. You have stated that the produce of the last year was 8,800 tons, which

which represents 88,000 *l.*, and that the expected produce of this year is 9,700 tons, which represents 97,000 *l.* Do you think if the position of these estates were improved to the average between those two sums, that is to say, to about 92,500 *l.* a year, the estates would not stand very well at that mark of 815,000 *l.*? —I should say they would. I should say they would be worth the capital invested, provided the produce of them gave 10 *l.* a ton more than it actually does.

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3145. And then this property, which is now a worthless property, would, in fact, be a property, if not of a high value, of at least a good value?—Yes, a large value. I have, perhaps, hastily given the opinion that it would be worth this 815,000 *l.* It is a large question. I ought to examine more into the capabilities of the property, its extent, and so forth, before hazarding an opinion upon so large an item, which I have not had an opportunity of investigating. No doubt the estates would be worth a very large sum under such a protection as would raise their produce 10 *l.* a ton in excess of the existing value.

3146. Do you imagine that if the value of sugar had kept up 10*l.* a ton, Messrs. Reid, Irving & Co. would have suspended payment?—I think not, from my knowledge of their affairs.

3147. Do you also know something of the affairs of Messrs. Barclay Brothers, and Messrs. Gower, Nephews & Co.?—I do. Those gentlemen are, with myself, members of the Mauritius Association, and they furnished me with a statement of their affairs, desirous, if I had an opportunity, that I should lay it before this Committee. Messrs. Gower, Nephews & Co. state, that they possess five sugar estates in the Mauritius, containing together 5,955 acres, of which 2,306 acres are cultivated. The produce is 4,110 tons. The loss Messrs. Gower estimate upon 4,110 tons, at 12 *l.* a ton, to be 49,320 *l.*, besides the loss sustained by not being able to cultivate the remaining portion of the estates for want of hands, and the necessity they were under of abandoning the following properties since May 1847; namely, Stanley, 960 acres; Belle Rive, 418 acres; Mon Repos, 450 acres; Roche Terre, 320 acres; owing Messrs. Gower & Co. 20,590 *l.* For the affairs connected with these estates the correspondents of Messrs. Gower & Co. drew upon them, and they accepted drafts, dated between the 9th of April 1846 and the 18th of May 1847, for 138,830 *l.* 11 *s.* 6 *d.*; and for remittances of specie, and provisions from India for estate purposes, 22,411 *l.* 4 *s.* 6 *d.* The amount provided during one season was 161,241 *l.* 16 *s.* Messrs. Gower & Co. have now actually invested in the above properties, and claims on others abandoned, cash 269,370 *l.* 16 *s.* 10 *d.*, and their acceptances due after the 11th of September 1847, when the house suspended payment, were 77,127 *l.* 8 *s.* 8 *d.*, making their investment at the Mauritius 346,498 *l.* 5 *s.* 6 *d.* The following is the statement, as furnished to me by Messrs. Gower & Co.:—

[The same was delivered in, and is as follows:]

Messrs. A. A. Gower, Nephews & Co. possess five sugar estates in Mauritius, namely,

	ACRES.	CULTIVATED ACRES.	
La Gaiete - - -	2,325	1,010	
Mon Tresor - - -	1,008	546	
Phoenix - - - -	1,000	325	
Beau Manquier - - -	1,024	425	
Acres - - - -	5,355	2,306 cultivated, producing	3,450 tons.
Phoenix Estate Mills, in addition to its own produce, of neighbours' canes at 1/2 for milling, &c. - - - -			200 "
Adjoining land hired on lease by us - - - -			350 "
And Beau Sejour, 600 acres, producing 360 tons sugar, our rent - - - -			110 "
		Total Tons - - - -	4,110 "

Tons 4,100, at the estimated average loss of 12 *l.* per ton - - - - £. 49,320

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Besides that sustained by not being able to cultivate the remaining portion of the estates for want of hands, and the necessity they were under of abandoning the following properties since May 1847, namely,

Stanley	-	-	-	-	960	acres
Belle Rive	-	-	-	-	418	"
Mon Repos	-	-	-	-	450	"
Roche Terre	-	-	-	-	320	"

owing to Messrs. Gower & Co. - £. 20,500

For the affairs connected with these estates, the correspondents of Messrs. Gower & Co. drew upon them, and they accepted drafts, dated between 9th April 1846 and 18th May 1847	-	-	-	-	-	£.	s.	d.
And for remission of specie and provisions from India, for estate purposes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Amount provided during one season	-	-	-	-	-	£.	-	-

Messrs. Gower & Co. have now actually invested in the above properties, and claims on others abandoned, cash	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
And their acceptances due after 11 Sept. 1847	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Invested in Mauritius	-	-	-	-	-	£.	-	-

Messrs. Barclay Brothers & Co. also wish me to state to the Committee their position with regard to the Mauritius, but they have not given the same details. They state that, in 1846, they received on consignment about 5,000 tons of sugar. Those sugars were sold before the Bill of 1846 was passed, and realized an average price of about 33*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, exclusive of duty. In the month of February 1846 the price was rather higher, say 34*l.* A cargo of fully as good quality was sold on the 8th instant at an average price of 23*l.* 10*s.*, and had circumstances been otherwise, and the house received its usual quantity this year, the total average would doubtless show a still greater difference than the above.

3148. There would be a difference to Messrs. Gower, Nephews & Co. of 49,320*l.* upon their crop of this year?—That is the estimate at 12*l.* a ton. I think that rather an exaggerated estimate, inasmuch as commercial causes have no doubt operated partially to reduce the price. I think 10*l.* a ton is as near as possible what it may be.

3149. That would give 40,000*l.*, and, at the same estimate of 10 years' purchase, would make a difference of 400,000*l.*?—Yes.

3150. That would put Messrs. Gower, Nephews & Co. in a solvent position, instead of their having to suspend payment?—Yes; I have taken a note of their liabilities, which were 400,000*l.*, but they have assets, independent of their Mauritius properties, of 112,000*l.*

3151. They would have been in a very good position, instead of being ruined, if this fall had not been created in the price of sugar?—Assuming the price of sugar had been maintained.

3152. What would have been the position of Messrs. Barclay Brothers & Co.?—Messrs. Barclay's liabilities are 389,000*l.*, and their assets 398,000*l.*, but I am unable to say how their claims on the Mauritius are valued as forming portions of those assets.

3153. Then they are in a position as it is to meet their liabilities?—Supposing their assets are all realized.

3154. You said that their amount of sugar was 5,000 tons?—Yes.

3155. The same fall of 10*l.* a ton represented 50,000*l.*?—Yes.

3156. Are Messrs. Barclay in the same position as Messrs. Reid, Irving & Co.; have they advanced money on estates?—They have; and they have become the proprietors of some estates upon which they have advanced probably the full extent of their value, and have had to take them over as property.

3157. An improved value of 10*l.* a ton upon their annual produce would represent 50,000*l.*?—Assuming the principle of capitalizing 50,000*l.* per annum for 10 years' purchase, it would make an amount of 500,000*l.*

3158. Is that an unfair principle?—I am not very well versed in such subjects; but I understand that to be a fair principle as affecting colonial property.

3159. Therefore

3159. Therefore Messrs. Barclay Brothers, instead of being barely able to meet their liabilities, would have been able to meet those liabilities, and have had a nest egg that was worth half a million sterling?—Not so much, I think; but they would have had a large surplus, supposing their property had still represented the sums which have been laid out upon them.

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3160. This difference has been brought about, as you and they believe, by the Act of 1846, admitting slave-grown sugar into competition with the sugar of the British colonies?—I put a little of the blame upon previous Acts of the Imperial Legislature. The Act of 1846, no doubt, consummated all this mischief; but I think the previous Act was an illiberal one with reference to the colonies in their existing state of costly labour, to compete against a cheaper labour.

3161. You are referring to the Act of Emancipation?—I am referring to the various Acts which had diminished the protection given to the British produce previously to the Act of 1846.

3162. Are you referring to Sir Robert Peel's Act admitting free-grown foreign sugar?—I think the British colonies ought to have had more protection and more labour.

3163. As far as Messrs. Barclay Brothers are concerned, it appears perfectly clear that they would have been very well to do in the world if this last blow had not been struck at them?—I think so.

3164. Is it your opinion that the Mauritius is very unfairly treated by having to compete against slave labour, while it is not permitted to obtain even free labourers where they are to be obtained cheapest?—That is my opinion.

3165. The Mauritius is about 490 miles from Madagascar, is it not?—It is about that.

3166. What number of days' sail is it?—From seven to ten days.

3167. You are not permitted to obtain free labourers from there?—We are not.

3168. Have you reason to believe that there would be an ample supply of free labourers in Madagascar?—From the great population of Madagascar, there is no doubt free labourers could be obtained by negotiation between our Government and the government of Madagascar.

3169. And they are of a class very far superior to the Bengalese?—I think a decidedly superior class for agricultural purposes; they are very powerful, athletic men.

3170. Are not impediments thrown in your way now in getting labourers from Bombay and Madras as compared with Calcutta?—We have not been permitted to import labourers from Bombay and Madras of late years. The permission has been granted to import them from Madras, but it has not been acted on for want of the proper machinery; for want of a Government agent at Madras. Bombay is still closed, as is the eastern coast of Africa.

3171. You are forbidden to obtain labourers from the east coast of Africa?—Yes.

3172. That is between 14 and 20 days' sail?—Yes.

3173. You are forbidden to get labourers from Madagascar, which is within seven or ten days' sail, and from the coast of Africa, within 14 or 20 days' sail, and are driven to obtain inferior labourers from Madras and Calcutta?—We have had none from Madras lately.

3174. Calcutta is 40 days' sail?—Yes.

3175. Madras 25 days' sail?—It is.

3176. Calcutta Coolies being the worst?—I have very little personal experience as to the relative value of these labourers, but a strong impression exists in favour of the Madras and Bombay people over the Calcutta people. Calcutta people have frequently proved to be the mere offscouring of that great city, and not a very reputable class of persons.

3177. Is the result of the best consideration which you can give to this subject, that the Mauritius cannot possibly compete with slave-grown sugar under the present protection, but that, under a 10s. protective duty, with the free immigration of labourers, it would be in a very prosperous condition?—Accompanied at the same time by a considerable diminution of the colonial expenses; the expenses of the colony are very large.

3178. Have you any statement of the expenses of the colony?—I have no

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official statement. A work has come out lately by Mr. Priddam, who, I believe, had access to the records of the Colonial Office, and I find that the expenditure has been very large. I think it right to state to the Committee that I differ in opinion with some of my colleagues of the Mauritius Association in considering it proper to diminish, to a very large extent, the establishment in the colony. I think, upon national grounds, it is very important that the colony should be kept up, however heavily it may press upon the producers of sugar, and however inadequate they may be to bear up against it. I consider the Mauritius in the light of the Gibraltar of the East, and I think upon national grounds it would be proper to keep up something like the establishment, not only military, but civil, which now exists.

3179. But object to that being kept up at the expense of the planter?—
Yes.

3180. You think it ought to be maintained by the Imperial Government?—
I think all that portion of the cost should be defrayed by this Government.

3181. The cost is from 295,000*l.* to 300,000*l.*, is it not?—In 1845, which is the last date of this return, the expenditure is shown to have been 280,011*l.* I believe a portion of that, though it is not stated in this return, consisted of the importation of labourers from India. In previous years the amount of that is stated, but in the year 1845 it is not stated.

3182. There is 1*l.* a ton export duty to meet the expenses of immigration, is there not?—There is; that has latterly, I believe, been applied to immigration, but it has usually formed part of the general revenues of the colony. I believe, under some local regulation, that 1*l.* a ton export duty has been applied to immigration purposes recently; but I am not sure.

3183. Are you in a condition to speak of the operation of the industrial laws of the land?—No, I am not very perfectly informed upon that subject.

3184. Mr. *Labouchere*.] You stated that the estate of Bon Accueil was not very favourably circumstanced for the cultivation of sugar, both from its distance from the port of export, and also the quality of the soil?—Yes.

3185. You also stated that, with a prospect of remunerating prices, which the system of protection held out to you, the cultivation had been greatly extended on that estate, and that it was in contemplation to extend it further?—It was.

3186. Do you believe the state of things which you describe, with regard to this estate, to have been a sample of what was going on generally in the colony of the Mauritius?—It was generally so; but I have stated that I consider that estate to be under a disadvantage, as compared to the average of other estates, by about 2*l.* a ton.

3187. Do not you believe it to have been the case, that in the expectation of remunerating prices being secured to you, under the system of protection within the colony of the Mauritius, cultivation was rapidly extending, and inferior soils being taken into cultivation?—No; I think no great deal of inferior soil has been taken into cultivation; we have rather sought superior soil; we have thrown out of cultivation inferior land, and have taken leases, to which the latter referred, of new forest land.

3188. You stated, with reference to the estate of Bon Accueil, that you were rapidly increasing your expenditure upon that estate, though it was not very favourably circumstanced with regard to the produce of sugar, on account of its distance from the coast, and the nature of the soil?—I did so; I estimated the disadvantage, as compared to the average of the island, including the better estates, to be about 2*l.* a ton.

3189. What amount of protection did you state to be in your opinion necessary to secure the profitable cultivation of the sugar cane in the Mauritius, upon the scale on which it has recently existed?—I estimated upon the spot, and from the best data I could obtain, that with a protection of 10*l.* a ton, accompanied at the same time by a considerable diminution of this 240,000*l.*, which I think the colonists could not even then sustain, and obtaining labour a little cheaper than they are now obtaining it, the island would continue prosperous.

3190. You have stated the island, and all those whose interests were connected with it, have suffered severely of late years from the frequent changes which have taken place in the sugar duties, and the uncertainties those changes have produced?—No doubt of it.

3191. You

3191. Do you think it would be a benefit to the Mauritius if the expectation were held out of a system of protection which Parliament was either unwilling or unable permanently to secure for them?—I think, unless the protection is held out, and granted, and secured for a considerable period, the colony will not sustain its cultivation, and therefore, following out the idea, it is certainly better at once to know if no protection is to be given, that those who yet have their property intact, may retire in time.

3192. You stated that though you did not believe you could yourself continue to cultivate this estate of Bon Accueil, from the distance, yet you conceived that a gentleman who had been employed as your agent there, being resident upon the spot, and an intelligent man, might by purchasing that estate, cultivate it in a manner to afford him a reasonable return?—Yes; but that is assuming that we first of all lose 24,000 *l.* out of the 30,000 *l.* which I consider the value of the property; he then comes in upon the capital of 6,000 *l.*, and I should assume that as the property of others will diminish very much in its culture, the few who would continue would thus be able to obtain labour more cheaply than we are now able to get it, keeping up the estates in full cultivation.

3193. Of course the injury you contemplate to those now interested in the cultivation of the Mauritius is much to be deplored, but do you believe that without protection it would be possible for any set of proprietors to continue the cultivation of sugar in the Mauritius for exportation?—I doubt very much whether it will after the island ceases to be protected at all; there are still some three or four years of partial protection in view. One of my partners who has given this subject more attention than myself, and upon whose judgment I have in part acted with reference to the estate, he having great experience in one of the colonies, which comprehends a period of four or five years of the latter part of slavery, the whole of the apprenticeship, and the period since, is so convinced that sugar made by the process of slavery is so much cheaper than we could make it by any money inducement we could hold out to the labourers, that it is in vain to attempt to compete with slave labour.

3194. You stated that you conceived the Mauritius required a permanent protection of 10*l.* a ton to enable it to compete with the slave-grown sugar of Cuba and Brazil?—If I made use of the expression permanent, which I do not remember doing, I should correct myself in saying that; I would desire it for a certain number of years, five or seven years, during which period I should hope the Government would aid in the introduction of a sufficient number of labourers to reduce wages, and thus put the colony on a footing to compete with the cheap labour of Brazil and Cuba.

3195. Do you believe, supposing this protection continued for a period of five or seven years, and after that they were exposed to the competition of foreign sugar, they could successfully compete with it, provided that in the interval every means were taken to afford you all fair facilities in obtaining labour, in reducing the expenses of the colony, and in any other way that could be devised?—As far as my judgment goes, that would be the result; looking five or seven years into futurity, I wish to guard my opinion by saying that it is not possible to predicate correctly what will occur, but such is my opinion. I think with a continued protection of five or seven years, the British colonies, with their greater capital than the slave colonies, would produce more sugar than Great Britain can consume.

3196. Do you attach great importance to the advantage which our colonies possess in having already access to the cheap capital of England over the foreign countries, such as Cuba and Brazil?—I do under protection, but the capital invested under the expectation of protection has now vanished. That is lost, and we must have fresh capital to go on with our cultivation; and that fresh capital will only go into the Mauritius and our other British colonies under the expectation of its being a remunerative culture.

3197. Are you inclined to think that protection is only requisite for the British colonies, at least for the colony of the Mauritius, in order to afford time to enable the arrangements which you have referred to to take place, but do you think it would be just and proper that those arrangements having taken place, they should be required to compete in a fair field with foreign sugar produced by any means?—Eventually, decidedly so, when they are placed in a condition to compete, by reduced expenditure and an ample supply of labour.

3198. Do you believe there is anything in the nature of slave labour as

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opposed to free labour which renders it impossible for the one to compete with the other?—I think slave labour is much cheaper, and it is exacted just at the moment it is required; free labour is not obtainable so readily. If the Committee will allow me, I will read an extract from a letter in confirmation of that statement; it is from the annual report of my house at the Mauritius, upon the estate to which I have referred: "We have suffered very much from the want of vagabond laws and the want of means of coercing the people or keeping them to the labour they have engaged to perform." This is dated Port Louis, 28 May 1847. "It is stated that between the 1st of May 1846 and the 12th of March 1847, 348 men, natives of Bengal and Madras, were engaged to work on the estate; 108 of these people have, during the same period, quitted the property without any assigned motives, and have never returned; 12,000 days' work have been lost by absenteeism of one day and more, and pretended sickness, the parties having often been found on the road to Port Louis, or in that direction, instead of being, as they should have been, if sick, in the hospital. Of the number of 242 people actually borne on the books of the estate, including all classes, the average number absent from work is 50."

3199. How do you reconcile the answer you have just given with the opinion you before expressed, that provided time were given for proper measures to be taken for the advantage of the British colonies in other respects, they could compete successfully with foreign sugar however produced?—I think we should very largely reduce the amount of wages by a different system of immigration; we should obtain cheap labourers from Madagascar and from the coast of Africa, and from nearer ports, instead of the most distant.

3200. You consider the question of production as merely one of time, and that time being given, you think it would be both just in principle and possible in practice for the British colonists to compete against foreign sugar however produced?—I think, in fact, the British colonies would produce as much and more sugar than Great Britain would consume, and therefore, without any legislative interference, we should be reduced to the average of foreign sugar. I believe the Returns show that we have imported into Great Britain last year nearly as much sugar as we have consumed.

3201. You stated that you considered that what had ruined the Mauritius, was the introduction of foreign slave-labour sugar; do you attach great importance to the difference between foreign slave-labour sugar and foreign free-labour sugar in that respect, or do you believe that the admission into the English markets of foreign free-labour sugar at the same rate of duty would have pretty much the same effect?—Yes, I believe so; I ask for protection against free-labour sugar till we have the means of obtaining free labour at the same cost as other free-labour sugar manufacturers.

3202. You desire protection against all foreign sugar, and you do not attach much importance to the distinction which is attempted to be drawn between foreign slave-labour and foreign free-labour sugar?—I do not; I conceive there are three classes of labour by which sugar is produced, the dearest is that which we have in the British colonies, consequent upon the insufficient supply of labour; the next costly is that of free-labour countries, where they may have, for aught I know, more or less difficulty in obtaining a sufficient supply of labour; the cheapest class of labour is that which is extorted from slaves when it is required, and as much of it as seems to be consistent with the interests of the slave-owner.

3203. During the last few years a great extension has been given to the cultivation of sugar in the Mauritius; a great many labourers have been imported from India, and a great deal of capital has been invested in promoting cultivation?—Such has been the case.

3204. Did not all that constitute a very artificial state of things which could hardly be kept up unless prices continued tolerably high?—I think it was by no means an artificial state of things; it was carried on under the guarantee of Acts of Parliament, and the declarations of gentlemen on both sides of the House, that the colonists should have protection against slave-labour sugar especially till they were in a condition to compete with its producers.

3205. Do you mean that Parliament ever guaranteed to the Mauritius, or to the colonies generally, the continuance of a particular rate of protective duty?—Certainly not; but those rates of duty did exist, and we hoped, judging

ing from the opinions that were expressed on both sides of the House, they would continue; I attended every debate upon sugar from the time I returned to this country in 1839 to my leaving it last year; and from opinions expressed in the House, and from the tenor of the Acts of Parliament, I considered we were likely to have protection as against slave-labour sugar certainly.

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3206. Supposing the proposition that was made to Parliament in the year 1841 had been adopted by Parliament, would not that have provided for the admission of foreign sugar, whether free-grown or slave-grown, into the markets of this country?—I forget the precise nature of that proposition.

3207. Do you think if that proposition had been carried the cultivation of the sugar in the Mauritius could have been successfully pursued with a 12*s.* protective duty?—I think so; my opinion now is, that 10*s.* with the other ameliorations I suggest would be sufficient.

3208. Mr. M. Gibson.] Are not provisions very dear in the Mauritius; rice, and grain, and cattle?—They are.

3209. Has not the cultivation of corn and other articles of provisions been neglected in the Mauritius?—The soil of the Mauritius and the climate are not adapted for the cultivation of grain; the slaves used to be fed in some measure by the manioc root.

3210. You spoke of the Mauritius as an important station, at which ships should call; if provisions are so dear and so scarce, what advantage is there in ships calling there for the purpose of being supplied?—Ships must have provisions at any cost.

3211. If the provisions are so scarce there, what advantage can result from it as a *dépôt*?—Ships touch there for other purposes than for provisions; they come in for repairs. The idea I have as to the importance of the Mauritius as a station, has reference to the probability of war. France attached enormous value to the Mauritius as a naval station. I believe it to be a well authenticated fact that at the Congress of Vienna, Prince Talleyrand made most strenuous efforts to retain Mauritius for France; this Government very reluctantly ceded Bourbon, both parties being aware of the importance of that position as a station.

3212. You spoke of 23*s.* a cwt. as being the lowest price on board ship at the Mauritius that would be remunerative?—Including the loss by the exchange, and the various expenses incurred in putting it on board.

3213. That price includes the interest on the capital which you consider the estates are worth, and the interest on all the money that has been expended in the machinery, and so forth, which may be on the estate, and the outlay of money which may be required to carry on cultivation for a certain time?—My statement was, that at a less price than five dollars per cwt. from the planter to the merchant, who then has to pay 2*s.* per cwt. export duty and shipping charges, and 1*s.* per cwt. exchange, making 23*s.* per cwt., the colony could not be properly cultivated.

3214. In this 23*s.* a cwt. you include interest upon what you consider the estate is worth?—In forming that opinion it was based upon these data, it was formed with the full knowledge of the Act of 1846. I find by referring to my private correspondence that I wrote to my correspondents in England from Mauritius, stating, that in my judgment the houses which were investing money in those estates had, by the operation of that Act, lost half the capital they had so invested, as the selling price of sugar must necessarily fall. Therefore that estimate of five dollars per cwt. included only the remaining one-half of the value of the estate.

3215. One-half of what the estate cost?—Yes.

3216. That has nothing to do with the actual current cost of carrying on the cultivation?—No.

3217. If the estate had been obtained for nothing there would have been no loss, and it would have been to be deducted altogether?—Yes.

3218. That is, supposing a person had had a present of the estate?—That would diminish the five dollars by the rate of interest upon the estate.

3219. So that a person having an estate for nothing could afford to carry on this sugar cultivation at something less?—Yes.

3220. How much less?—That is a calculation I have not entered into. I should say not above 1*s.* I viewed those properties at the time I speak of as properties greatly depreciated by the Act of Parliament.

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3221. Eight shillings you say includes the freight, and so on, to England, and all the charges?—Yes.

3222. Therefore a price of 31 *s.* here would enable things to go on?—Yes.

3223. What did you obtain for your last cargoes of sugar?—The last cargo of sugar of which I have an account of the sale is furnished by Messrs. Barclay Brothers & Co. That sale took place on the 8th instant, and yielded 23*l.* 10*s.* a ton; but this sugar being the first of the crop is usually a little better than the average of the whole, and I should say 1*l.* or 1*l.* 10*s.* a ton should be deducted from that as the average value of the Mauritius sugar; that would be about 22*l.* or 22*l.* 10*s.*

3224. What is the price of fair Mauritius sugar at this moment in the market, duty paid?—This is the price minus the duty, 23*l.* 10*s.* and 14*l.* will be 37*l.* 10*s.* per ton.

3225. £. 31. would pay you, you say?—Yes.

3226. And you now get how much?—Assuming this to be, as I believe it to be, 1*l.* a ton above the average sugar of the year, it will be 22*l.* a ton. The difference between 22*l.* 10*s.* per ton and 31*l.* will be that which I consider the sugar to be selling below what it has cost.

3227. You consider you are losing 8*l.* 10*s.* a ton?—Yes.

3228. This is a panic price, you say?—I consider the panic over. I applied the diminution on account of the panic to the average of last year.

3229. Is this estate which you have drawn your conclusion from a good estate?—This sugar which you are referring to came to Messrs. Barclay from different estates.

3230. Does not a good deal depend upon the fertility of the land itself as to the amount of protection that is requisite?—Its production will depend upon the fertility of the soil.

3231-32. In estimating that cost have you taken it as for good estates, or from a number of estates?—I took it from an average. I saw all the representatives of the other houses during my stay at the Mauritius; my object not being sugar cultivation, except upon this small estate, but with a view of ascertaining whether I could continue my commercial business with the colony, foreseeing that if the sugar planter could not carry on profitably his cultivation, the sooner I commenced reducing my connexion with the colony the better.

3233. You say that you are losing 8*l.* 10*s.* a ton; so that a protection of 8*l.* 10*s.* a ton would prevent your having any loss?—You must take into consideration the Mauritius, with other sugar colonies, is now in a prostrate state.

3234. You say 8*l.* 10*s.* a ton is the amount of the loss?—Yes.

3235. If prices had only fallen to that extent there would be no loss?—No.

3236. You say you want a protection of 10*l.* a ton?—Yes.

3237. You have got now a protection of 6*l.* a ton?—Yes.

3238. And yet you are losing 8*l.* 10*s.* a ton?—Yes.

3239. Then how would a protection of 10*l.* a ton set you right?—To continue the Mauritius in cultivation it would be necessary to establish a protection permanently for five or seven years, in order to induce capitalists again to invest their money; and with that protection I think the colony might continue its productiveness.

3240. The fact is, that the price has been lowered by the supply, as you have told us, of foreign sugar, which has taken place under the Bill of 1846. You say the effect of the Bill of 1846 has been to cause you this loss of 8*l.* 10*s.* a ton. The Bill of 1846 is now giving you a protection of 6*l.* a ton; if the protection of 6*l.* a ton still renders you liable to a loss of 8*l.* 10*s.* a ton, how is it that a protection of 10*l.* a ton would set you right?—I am not so able as some of the other witnesses who will be examined, to go into the details of the operation of the existing law as respects classification. My impression is, that a portion of this 6*l.* protection is illusory. I will show the Committee why I think so: The sugar which we have to compete with is generally of a better description; the foreign importer imports for consumption, as I have done myself, sugar just good enough to pass within the limit. The British importer is obliged to import all his sugar into this country, or he does not enjoy its protection. This point I had the honour to bring before the notice of the Prime Minister the other day, at an interview I had with him; and if the Committee will allow me, I will read some observations which I then made; they are from Mr. John Ronald of Glasgow, colonial merchant, who is also interested in sugar refining,

refining, and who understands the matter much better than I do. He states, "the foreign sugar now arriving and lately arrived is almost entirely clayed sugar of a quality which the importers get passed at the 20 s. duty. At first this was not the case, but having found out the secret, they, out of their enormous quantity, select the above-mentioned kind; the quantity of saccharine matter contained in the said sugar is so much greater than what is contained in the average of our sugars, that I am perfectly certain the British public are eating slave-made sugar at a less duty than British plantation. Observe that the whole of our sugar, good and bad, must come here, while foreigners select only to send here the above-mentioned kind, which they barely get passed at 20 s. In this way, both we and the public revenue have been dreadfully cheated. I have a certificate from a refiner in Greenock, wherein he states that from sugar now arriving from Cuba at 20 s. duty, 102 lbs. of refined sugar can be obtained per cwt., while from the average of our Trinidad sugar only 84 lbs. is obtained. I hope I have made this important matter clear to you. The secret lies here: out of their enormous quantity they select the kind I have mentioned, which they barely get passed at 20 s., while the whole of ours, good and bad, pays 14 s. In this way we have no protection at all; indeed I am certain that the saccharine matter contained in the Bengal sugar we lately sold for you paid 7 s. a cwt. more duty than the saccharine matter contained in the sugar now coming from Cuba pays." Therefore as we have to pay duty upon the good and bad sugar, the Act does not operate to give protection to the extent it appears to give.

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3241. The same reasoning would be applicable to the 10 l. protection, unless there was some alteration made in that respect?—Precisely.

3242. Therefore, all other things remaining the same, the argument is good, is it not, that 10 l. protection would not be sufficient to restore you, if with 6 l. protection you lose 8 l. 10 s. a ton?—I am assuming that if it is really intended to give the British produce a protection of 6 s. or 10 s., the Legislature will see that that is given; that they will so frame the Act of Parliament as to give it.

3243. Those other considerations are apart from the question of the protection. But your 10 s. would be in the same position as the 6 s. is now?—Unless improved legislation so frames the Act of Parliament as to meet this objection.

3244. You said certain parties would have been much better off if sugar had been worth 10 l. a ton more than it was. I presume they would be still better off if it had been worth more than 10 l. a ton?—Yes.

3245. Would not the effect of sugar being worth more than 10 l. a ton by the operation of protection, be to extend the cultivation in the Mauritius to inferior soils, and make it profitable to cultivate less fertile lands than are now cultivated?—I think, with a Gazette average of 31 s., there is little or no inducement to extend cultivation.

3246. Would not the owners of inferior soils have a right to complain that the protection was not so increased as to make their estates more valuable as well as others?—It would be impossible to expect this country to give such protection as should enable people to cultivate land which was not fit for it.

3247. Who is to decide what land is fit for cultivation; if I am the owner of an estate which, by a protection of 20 l. a ton, would become valuable, why have not I as good a right to demand that protection as another man to demand that his estate should be rendered valuable by a protection of 10 l. a ton?—I think the case becomes an extreme one; if a man ask you to give a protection that should enable him to make money by land that ought not to be cultivated, he asks that which is unreasonable.

3248. Where is the line to be drawn beyond which protection shall not be given to a man's estate?—That line must be drawn by yourself and the other Members of the Legislature.

3249. Is not it a very difficult thing?—It is difficult.

3250. You mentioned that the estate you instanced was cultivated at a disadvantage of 2 l. a ton in reference to other estates?—Not in reference to all other estates, but to the average mass of the properties. There are other properties which are nearer to the port of shipment; there are other properties better situated for getting supplies from the coast. I wish to guard myself from making any statement which may be considered exaggerated.

3251. In order to do justice to all proprietors their protection should increase

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as the estates increase in distance from the port of shipment?—I think it would be impossible for the Legislature to descend to such details; it would be unreasonable to expect it.

3252. Why unreasonable?—I do not know how you would frame an Act of Parliament to protect each man's estate according to its proximity to the port of shipment.

3253. Does not that create great difficulty in carrying out the principle of protection?—No; the man who has to cultivate an estate at this disadvantage must be contented with a smaller rent for his property.

3254. Why so, if it is in the power of the Legislature to give him the value of his property by a protection?—I can see no objection if Parliament were to interfere in such a way; but I think it would be a most unreasonable demand to be made; as interested in this property, I should never think of seeking for greater protection than the rest of the colony possessed.

3255. Every man would seek that amount of protection which would give his own particular estate a good value, would not he?—I should not make so unreasonable a demand.

3256. Are you connected also with the importation of produce and manufactures into the Mauritius?—I am.

3257. Is there any considerable portion of that produce and manufacture French?—Of late years it has considerably increased, but I have no data upon which to speak; the public papers of the Mauritius are not very complete upon that subject, but I dare say some of the returns to Parliament will give it correctly.

3258. The amount has increased considerably, you say, of late years?—Yes, under the various Acts passed for facilitating intercourse between our colonies and foreign possessions.

3259. Is the French produce exported from the bonded warehouses of this country?—No, it is chiefly imported from Havre, Bourdeaux, and Marseilles.

3260. In British vessels?—In both British and foreign vessels.

3261. Sir E. Buxton.] You mentioned an estate which you now are willing to sell at 50,000 dollars; how many acres is that?—The land consists of 730 acres, but it adjoins a forest, and we have thrown out of cultivation inferior land, and have leased either 100 or 150 acres of this virgin forest adjoining it.

3262. About 700 acres you have in cultivation?—On our property there are 730 acres.

3263. Part of that is out of cultivation?—Yes.

3264. In the whole how much have you in cultivation?—Three hundred acres were cut in the year 1847, but there are 108 acres of virgin cane preparing for the crop of 1848-49.

3265. What do you suppose would have been the value of that a year ago?—I should take it that that property a year ago would have been worth from 20,000 *l.* to 24,000 *l.*

3266. Last year you were extending cultivation largely?—We were.

3267. In spite of the Act of 1846?—Sugar cultivation goes over a considerable period; the cane is planted, and you sow 14, or 16, or 18 months before you reap; you cannot stop the cultivation immediately; when I saw this estate, guano had been applied to it. I consider it not a first-rate estate in point of land, as I have stated, but we obtained from the guano most extraordinary results.

3268. Since the Bill of 1846?—Previously to the Bill of 1846, our agents purchased a large quantity of guano, and we have written to them to sell that which has not been used. We had taken leases of this land, the rent payable in sugar; we were in fact obliged to go on till we came to the conclusion that we had better abandon the whole rather than go on to a still further loss.

3269. You say the price has fallen 13 *s.* a cwt.?—That was the greatest fall. At one period it was still lower, but the price rose in January. At one time the Gazette average was only 20 *s.*, while in December it was 23 *s.*

3270. Do you consider that that fall gives a fair view of the effect of the Bill of 1846?—I have already stated that in January 1847, the price was elevated by the expectation that breweries and distilleries would be large purchasers of sugar; and I attribute part of the fall to the fact of its having become known that sugar is not so much used for brewing and distilling as was expected.

Then

Then another part of the fall I attribute to the monetary difficulties of the country.

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3271. You conceive then, that the price of sugar will rather rise under present circumstances?—The price of sugar would rise under present circumstances, but for other causes now coming into operation; the extended culture in Porto Rico and Brazil, but particularly in Cuba, and also a very large crop expected in North America. Therefore the production of sugar is going on very largely.

3272. Can you form any estimate of what the produce of the Mauritius will be next year, how much you will fall off?—It is a very difficult matter to estimate. That there will be a falling off in this present year of 1848 I have no doubt; but it will not be very considerable, because the canes which will produce the sugar were planted before any of these events occurred. And, again, a part of the crop which will be produced next year will be from canes planted in the expectation of continued protection.

3273. Were the canes that will come next year, planted before the Bill of 1846 became known?—Part of them.

3274. Can you give the details of the amount of expenditure on the Bon Accueil estate, distinguishing what you paid for labour from other disbursements?—No, I cannot give that with any degree of accuracy. We have not made this solitary estate such a matter of business as to go into those details; but my partner, Mr. Greene, who will be examined, has all details as to cultivation.

3275. You say that a large quantity of cheap labour may be obtained from Madagascar; have you ever been there?—No.

3276. Do you know what parts of Madagascar it could be obtained from?—An experiment was made before I left the Mauritius to obtain labourers from Madagascar. Men were brought up, though in contravention of the laws of the island, with cargoes of cattle, and eight or ten would come in each ship. A very fine athletic race of men they were; but the local government, acting no doubt under orders from home, considered that it might be construed into a sort of slave trade, and discouraged the introduction of those people.

3277. Do you believe that free labourers could be obtained there?—I believe that they would be obtainable; but it must be the subject of negotiation between Great Britain and the Queen of Madagascar. But I understand, though I speak from no personal knowledge of my own, that there is a tribe called the Saccalavas, at the north end of the island, who are very well disposed to migrate to the Mauritius, and that they would be an equally good class of labourers to those we have from Tamatave.

3278. Do you know whether slavery exists in that part of the island?—I am not aware that slavery does exist.

3279. Do you know whether it exists in Madagascar at all?—No. My impression is, that it does not exist except in this sense, that the unfortunate natives appear to be slaves of the Government, and to be coerced and made to do Government work; but they are not slaves to each other. I believe there is no system of slavery such as existed with us.

3280. If they are obtained, do you imagine they will have to be bought from the Government?—My own feelings would revolt against the idea of purchasing men for any purpose.

3281. Do you think they could be got without?—I think they could, under treaty; the Mauritius used to pay an annual sum of 5,000*l.* as a present to the Queen, to permit our trade in bullocks; and I think under such a regulation the Queen of Madagascar would very likely open that island to the Mauritius, for the purposes of procuring labour; and I think that would be one of the readiest means of introducing a degree of civilization into that great island, possessed as it is of nearly 6,000,000 inhabitants, or at least 5,000,000. It would be a great advantage in that case, that Madagascar should be opened to the Mauritius.

3282. Whether they are free or not you have no personal knowledge?—I am not well informed; while a member of Legislative Council, at the Mauritius, I suggested to the Government that, with a view to relieve the colony from the diminished amount of labourers, the colonists should purchase two steam vessels of sufficient power to keep up a continual intercourse between the two islands; that those vessels should be kept up at the expense of the Government,

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and that they should, in fact, form a steam bridge, by which the natives of Madagascar should be allowed to come and to go whenever they pleased, free either way, and as they arrived and acquired a certain amount of civilization, and a certain amount of that which they would care more about, money, they might be allowed to return; and in that way, instead of the description of labourers which the island has had hitherto, we should have had a class consisting of the families of those natives; the young ones would have become settled in the island, and we should then have had, in a few years time, an indigenous population; whereas the present labourers, as soon as they have acquired a certain amount of money, return to their native country and to their families.

3283. At what price do you suppose labourers could be introduced from Madagascar?—Supposing the government of Madagascar to be willing, for a small annual tribute, in the shape of a present, or some other mode of satisfying the interests of Government, I should say the cost would be merely that of keeping up one or two steamers to bring the people to and fro; they would seek labour, I think, with us.

3284. You would have them come without engagement?—I should say it would be most desirable, seeing that they are a class of persons not at all likely to remain quite useless under some engagement in a new place, to subject them to an engagement for a certain period, such as might be considered sufficient to attach them to their new masters.

3285. If this course would be so proper and so favourable, why have the Government hitherto refused to allow labourers to be so brought in?—I have understood that the Government were afraid of its being considered a sort of covert slave trade, and that other nations might regard it with jealousy. It is impossible for me to say what were the motives which induced our Government to take that course, but such is my impression.

3286. Do you know any part of the east coast of Africa where free negroes could be obtained?—I believe throughout the length of the east coast of Africa labourers might be obtained; but the Colonial-office has some very valuable information collected by the late Mr. Sullivan, who went down at the expense of the colony for that purpose. I believe he showed clearly that labourers could be obtained as much to the advantage of the labourers as of the colony.

3287. Do you know whether the slave trade is carried on on the east coast of Africa?—I believe to a large extent; not so much of late as formerly, but still to a large extent. Our cruizers have done more in that neighbourhood than they have done on the other coast to check it.

3288. You have stated that the expense of the colony is very great; do you know how much the expense of importation has been?—I have not any extended details on that subject.

3289. Do you know how much they have expended altogether upon that head?—No; I heard it stated roundly to-day, but I have no data, that it had cost about 800,000 £.

3290. You stated that if you had protection and a greater quantity of free labour introduced, you would do?—With that amount of protection, a diminution of taxation, and that protection being assured for such a time as would be necessary to induce capitalists to embark their capital again, I think so; for those gentlemen who have been engaged in the culture of the soil are almost all ruined.

3291. Do you suppose if that were the case you would produce an increased quantity of sugar?—I think we should. I question whether at a protection of 10s. the quantity would much increase. I think the inducement to make sugar at a protection of 10s. would not induce the investment of so much capital as to increase the production otherwise than the natural increase by improved methods.

3292. Then you do not want, in fact, a very large additional importation of labourers?—Unfortunately the labourers we have now, as I have already stated, a great portion of them, are men anxious to go back to their families. It is the habit of the Indian Cooly to leave his family three or four years to seek labour elsewhere, that they do that in their own territories, and they seem to think nothing of coming down to the Mauritius. Those people are returning as their engagements expire, and I consider it a bad system of immigration

immigration; I think it is faulty in many respects. I think we should have encouraged the introduction of whole families, and thus have produced an indigenous class, who having been born or brought up on the soil, would have remained there. Mr. J. Bigth.
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3293. You think you would still want a very large importation if you carry on the sugar cultivation at all?—I think so.

3294. And that these men will not continue to work?—They will not. As they acquire a degree of competency (and a very small sum of money suffices for their few wants), they return to India immediately.

3295. Do you find they change their masters frequently?—Yes.

3296. Are you aware whether their wages are regularly paid?—I know that on our estate they have been paid exactly to the day; but that fails, as you have seen, to secure continuous labour. During the year ending last May our friends report, that of 348 persons engaged to work, 108 left for various reasons, some without assigning a cause, and sought other employment, though I know that the wages were regularly paid.

3297. Can you recommend any alteration of the law of vagabondage which would make them attend to their work better, and not be unjust to them?—My business with the colony has been chiefly to supply it with merchandize. I am not a good authority upon the details of the labour question. I believe, however, the law of vagabondage to be very imperfect.

3298. Mr. Miles.] You said you had put a great quantity of guano upon your estate; what has been the quantity you have purchased and put on it in a year?—We have purchased from 30 to 80 and 100 tons in one year.

3299. To put on how many acres?—Four hundred and eight acres; but some of that land, the virgin soil, it was not applied to.

3300. The total production of the estate was nearly two tons an acre?—The largest crop we have had has been the crop just advanced, 394 tons.

3301. Do you know how much that was an acre; was it 38 cwt. an acre?—About 27 cwt. an acre; some of the land is inferior, and other parts very good.

3302. Do you look upon it as producing that from the quantity of guano put on it?—A portion of it from the operation of guano; we found it produces most extraordinary results.

3303. Has it failed in any instance?—In no instance whatever.

3304. You stated that you wanted a larger amount of labourers introduced; can you tell the Committee what you think you could go on cultivating your estates at, as the price of labour for a man per day?—No, I have not gone into those details; I do not understand the labour question sufficiently to give evidence upon it.

3305. Can you tell the Committee whether the coolies already introduced will, the greatest part of them, go back to India or not?—I think they will assuredly; we have been obliged to keep up a continued stream of immigrants, at the rate of 5,000 or 6,000 a year, and even that has not been sufficient, consequent upon those whose engagements have ceased returning to India.

3306. You want to have a new class of labourers?—The same system would do, but I think it is a bad one; I think we should be allowed to obtain labourers from nearer places, and to obtain them cheaper; Calcutta, as the Committee are aware, is a very expensive port for ships; the ships that bring coolies are hired at a great expense consequently, whereas we might obtain labourers nearer and cheaper.

3307. You say there are three estates you have withdrawn advances from, and several others you have mentioned about to be abandoned; are you aware whether any other estates belonging to other parties are in progress of abandonment?—I have not made any inquiries of that sort.

3308. You pushed forward the cultivation of that estate, with a view of reducing the fixed charges?—Yes.

3309. Thinking, if you could make a larger crop, you would reduce the cost?—Yes; we found that the fixed charges would be about the same upon a large crop as a small one. We felt it was very desirable to increase the surface, especially as we had virgin forest in our rear, and we threw out of cultivation some of the used land and took this virgin land, and in that way we hoped to have gained more produce.

3310. If you are to cultivate successfully, you must use all your energy and enterprise?—Yes.

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3311. Is labour, generally speaking, by task in the Mauritius?—I cannot say; it is chiefly day-work, I believe.

3312. You stated you had bought some sugar at Bahia and Pernambuco?—Yes.

3313. Have you been in the habit of advancing on the crops there?—No, not at all; we have never had any connexion with the Brazil trade till last year. Seeing the Mauritius trade likely to fail us, we began to look about as to what should be our next move.

3314. You were actually there yourself?—I visited those places myself.

3315. Do you think it would be wise to give up the classification duties altogether?—I think the classification duties, as far as I understand them, but I speak with diffidence upon the subject, are not sufficiently in our favour as they now stand.

3316. You would still maintain the classification duties?—Yes. The only inconvenience is against the British importer assuming he is really intended to have the protection which the Act of Parliament affects to give him.

3317. You think a more efficient system of protection might be given him, even under the present laws, by a better system of classification?—Yes.

3318. Can you make any suggestion to the Committee upon that subject?—No; I am quite aware that it is a difficult matter to deal with. I think it would be desirable, if Parliament were to meditate such a change, that experienced persons should be called in, and those best acquainted with the subject be invited to draw out an effective scheme.

3319. If the classification duties were withdrawn, it would be an actual premium upon foreign sugar, would not it?—You would admit the foreign almost refined article upon the same duty as you would admit the British raw article, and as Mr. Ronald in his statement has shown, we already admit at the low duty Cuba sugar, which gives for 112 lbs. 102 lbs. of refined crystal, whereas the average of British sugar he states to give only 84 lbs.

3320. Mr. *Wilson*.] With respect to classification, are you aware that the classification principle applies to British sugar as well as foreign sugar?—It does.

3321. The disadvantage which arises at present from the classification not being sufficient, is as much in favour of the high qualities of British sugar as the high qualities of foreign sugar?—That would be the case if the British colonies had a sufficient amount of labour to enable them to refine and improve their sugar. But it will be observed that labour there is expensive and inefficient; and, therefore, up to the present point, as far as I can understand the matter, the British colonist has not the means of making those improvements.

3322. That does not apply to India?—It does not, certainly.

3323. Where almost the whole of the fine sugars are made?—A great deal of fine sugar is made there; but at the Mauritius they are already introducing vacuum pans, and other improvements, which would soon place them in a situation to make fine sugar.

3324. If I understand the observations you read from your Glasgow correspondent, they tell us that Cuba sugar of a particular colour possesses a higher quantity of saccharine matter than sugar of a corresponding colour from the British plantations?—I think it is not so much a question of colour as of quality; there is more crystal in the one than in the other.

3325. The quality of Cuba-sugar that would be admitted at a low duty contains a higher quantity of saccharine matter than the sugar that would be admitted at 14 *s.* as British plantation sugar?—On the average.

3326. The existing difficulty against refining sugar better in the British colonies is the want of labour?—It is.

3327. What is your opinion as to the effect, supposing we were to make a change in the law of this country, to allow sugar of all kinds to be refined in bond, and then introduced into consumption?—I think it would be a very desirable improvement.

3328. That would be tantamount to giving to the colonies a sufficient quantity of labour to refine sugar up to the point at which Java and Cuba do so?—That is assuming that all sugar which is imported passes through the refinery and then is taxed either in the proportion of 14 *s.* up to 20 *s.* under the existing law, or in any other proportions that may hereafter be established. I think that would be a very fair and proper system; but if you allow the Cuba planter and

and the Brazilian planter to introduce his fine sugar for immediate consumption without passing through the refinery, and being subjected to those charges, I should doubt the policy of it.

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3329. Supposing you had but one duty upon sugar that came in of all kinds, that is, whether it were double refined loaf sugar, or whatever it was, but that you should have the privilege of refining that sugar so coming into this country in bond, and should then pay upon the product of it; what would be your opinion of such a plan?—I think such a measure would be very desirable.

3330. You think it would be particularly advantageous to the British colonies?—I think it would be very advantageous to the British colonies, and would prevent that which we now see, the introduction of higher qualities of foreign sugar at a low duty, while British sugar is obliged to pay its maximum duty.

3331. Would not that be adequate to giving to the British colonies an immense addition to their present amount of labour and capital?—I think so.

3332. Therefore a change of that kind would go to a considerable extent in removing the difficulties under which the planter at present labours?—I think it would be very desirable.

3333. Have you had any experience with respect to the preparation of cane juice?—No.

3334. You have stated to the Committee the loss this last year upon the estate of yours of which you have been speaking. Did you ever get a profit by that estate?—That has not been a profitable estate, for this reason; we have been continually increasing the cultivation of this estate, and we certainly expected more from it than it has produced.

3335. How many years has that estate been in your hands?—Since 1836.

3336. Then you had 10 good years of that estate before the Bill of 1846 passed?—I took it up as an abandoned estate. It produced nothing when I took it.

3337. Still you had 10 years of protection before the Bill of 1846?—Yes; but I should state that we intended to have sold this estate until lately; we found it was necessary to make great efforts to get an increased crop.

3338. That estate perhaps was rather exceptional?—I think it was. I have stated that it is so.

3339. With respect to some of the numerous estates belonging to Messrs. Reid & Irving, Messrs. Gower & Nephews, and Messrs. Barclay, Brothers, the tendency of your evidence and of the Chairman's questions would have led the Committee to suppose that those estates had been profitable before the Bill of 1846, and that the great cause of the losses on those estates, and the ruin of those houses, was referable to the low price which has ruled the Bill of 1846. Do you happen to know in what condition those estates were prior to the Bill of 1846?—I have no data upon which to speak to that. These gentlemen have furnished me with their statement, as it at present stands, but I have very little knowledge of their concerns in detail.

3340. Have you reason to believe they were profitable estates prior to that time?—Upon an average I should say they were cultivated to a profit.

3341. Is not it the case that those estates which have been owned by Rede, Irvings, and the other houses, were originally estates upon which they had made advances to owners on mortgage, and that they had to take them into their own hands in satisfaction of their debts?—That is the case, most likely. I do not speak with absolute knowledge of the fact, but I take it that the five estates, which were their own, came into their hands under those circumstances.

3342. If they had had their will they would not have bought those estates?—Probably not.

3343. It was because they could not get their money from the parties they had made advances to that they were obliged to foreclose their mortgages and take the estates into their own hands?—I apprehend so.

3344. Is not that the strongest proof that those estates had not paid the cultivators in those days?—They might have been dissatisfied with the management of the planters in whose hands they were, and have thought it better to take them over to themselves.

3345. They would not have taken them over as long as the annual produce of the estates paid the annual outlay upon the estates?—I take that to be the case.

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3346. Whatever the reason was, whether it was mismanagement, or whatever it was, the fact is that that is evidence that the cultivation of sugar on those estates did not pay at the time to those parties?—I think you may fairly assume it was not a satisfactory account to them to continue, or they would not have taken over the estates as their property.

3347. The largest portion of the estates in the island belonged to those three eminent firms who have, unfortunately, been ruined, did not they?—No; I should say the larger part of the estates did not belong to these three eminent firms; Reid, Irving & Co. had but five as their own property.

3348. Messrs. Barclay, Brothers, had several others?—They had several; I do not know how many.

3349. It is quite apparent from that, that at all events a large number of estates in the Mauritius have not paid, even under more favourable circumstances?—Yes; the estates which have become the real property of those houses form a very small portion of the whole. I cannot tell without reference what is the number of the estates; it is something more than 300 I think. We find only five belonging to Reid, Irving & Co. and five to Messrs. Gower.

3350. Are you aware, from your knowledge of the island of the Mauritius, of any natural impediment that that island possesses against its competition with Java or Cuba or Brazil?—The question alludes to a difficulty we have, which is, no doubt, an impediment. The soil is very much covered in places with large rocks, and it is not so easily cultivated as land upon which you can use ploughs, harrows, and other implements.

3351. The cultivation becomes more expensive by the quantity of labour employed; you are obliged to use the hoe?—Yes; it is cultivated at a greater expense than land susceptible of tillage.

3352. You are not aware of any other impediment?—No; the climate is most favourable to the growth of the cane, and the soil is very good. I have seen cane patches which have produced cane for 10 or 12 years consecutively.

3353. The only other element in the cost of production is labour; in that respect you have stated the island to be very unfavourably circumstanced?—I have.

3354. Are you aware what quantity of sugar was produced in the island of Mauritius at the time of emancipation?—I have a return here, which is not official, but which is from a work published last year, which I have every reason to believe to be correct. The crop of 1832 amounted to 735,948 lbs., equal to nearly 37,000 tons.

3355. Have you any account of the number of labourers?—No, I have no account of that.

3356. It is your opinion that the chief impediment which there is in your way, in the Mauritius, is the absence of a sufficient quantity of labour?—And at a sufficiently cheap rate.

3357. You told the Committee, that at present you are prevented from bringing labour from any part of India, excepting Madras and Calcutta, and that from Madras the privilege is merely nominal?—The privilege exists, but it has not been acted on.

3358. It has not been acted on in consequence of the Government agent preferring to engage to send coolies to the West Indies rather than to the Mauritius?—So I understand.

3359. Are you aware whether he has any advantage in that?—No. I understand he is a man of high respectability, who would not give an unfair preference; but I have heard it stated that he found the coolies had a preference to go to the Mauritius, and that if he opened the door to their going there, he would fail to secure any for the West Indies.

3360. Generally it is the great object with men in such a position to find the place where the coolie has the most desire to go to?—That is the fair way to take it; but the Emigration Commissioners here having chartered ships for the purpose of carrying people to the West Indies, I suppose he felt himself bound to provide for those vessels, and left the Mauritius to shift for itself.

3361. You are a large shipowner and acquainted with the regulations for shipping the coolies; is there any restriction as to the class of ship in which you can import coolies?—There are restrictions as to the height between decks and a variety of other things, but I am not practically acquainted with those matters.

3362. Does

3362. Does that make a material difference in the cost of conveying those labourers?—I think the necessity imposed upon the Government of Bengal to send the people in ship loads, if I may use the term, does increase the cost of transporting them, and if they were allowed to go down in batches of 20 or 30 the transit would be made at a smaller charge.

3363. What is the cost per head now?—I am unable to say.

3364. Your opinion is that if the labourers were allowed to go as they themselves pleased to find their way, in your rice ships for instance, they would be carried at a great deal less expense?—I think so.

3365. Supposing there were no restriction as to the ship, do you think in practice that ships coming from India to England might bring down a number of emigrants and land them at the Mauritius?—I think not; the difficulty is that the cargoes of those ships would have to be insured with a clause in the policy admitting of deviation.

3366. To call at the Mauritius?—Yes.

3367. Do you know anything of the ships coming from China?—I am not in the China trade.

3368. Do you think from what you know of China shipping there would be any difficulty in China ships coming home from China to England landing 20 or 30 or 100 men, as the case might be, provided they had such a price as paid them, in the Mauritius, in their way homewards?—The difficulty would be that which I have referred to in the case of Bengal; the China cargoes being very valuable would be subjected to another insurance.

3369. You are afraid that the higher rate of insurance upon the cargo would be greater than the amount of any freight that could be obtained for the immigrants?—I will instance a case that occurred within the last month or two. One of our ships was laden at Calcutta for England with a general cargo. Our agents had a large sum in specie to send to my house in Mauritius, and they advised the shipment of this specie by our own ship, ordering her to touch at Port Louis to land it. The owners of the cargo hearing of this intended voyage, protested against the vessel touching at Mauritius, and they were obliged to take freight for our specie in another ship, at our loss, of course, and to send our own vessel home direct without touching at Mauritius.

3370. There would be great difficulty, in fact?—I think there would be.

3371. Excepting in ships coming direct to the Mauritius?—Coming direct with rice.

3372. Therefore the rice ships might do it?—They might do it economically.

3373. Supposing Government were to propose to give a protective duty upon sugar, such as you have mentioned, of 10s., what security would you feel that that protection would continue; supposing the Government were to say, we will guarantee you a protective duty of 10s. for seven years to come, would you feel a security in regulating your future transactions with reference to that protective duty?—I have always paid great deference to Acts of Parliament. I think if Parliament were now to come down and say, We have legislated imperfectly for these British colonies; we have taken away their labourers without allowing them the opportunity of obtaining others; we have enhanced by that means the cost of their production to such an extent that we find it proved on all sides that we cannot expect those colonists to compete with the people who steal their labour, and get it for little or nothing, dividing the profit with the slave-trader; we find it necessary therefore now to retrace some of those steps which we have hastily and inconsiderately taken, and we pledge the country to giving for seven years protection of 10s. per cwt.;—I think the British colonists, though they have not been well treated hitherto, would reinvest their capital and the trade of the colonies would revive.

3374. Supposing you to have guaranteed to you a protective duty of 10s. for seven years, not that you are to have 10s. difference in the price, because that must be a matter of accident, but that you shall have 10s. difference in the duty, have you considered the hazard to which you would be exposed, if the Legislature were to do that to-night?—I have considered the question in all its bearings; and assuming that Parliament did guarantee this protection of 10s. a cwt., and that that guarantee would be duly carried out, I think I should be inclined, for myself, to continue the cultivation of this estate of which I have been speaking, and I think others would do so too.

3375. You think, under these circumstances, the cultivation of the British colonies,

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colonies, at the present time, might not only continue to its present extent, but that the recent progressive improvement might be expected to go on?—I do.

3376. And, therefore, that a similar increase in the production of sugar to that which we have seen in the last two or three years might be expected in the next two or three years to come?—Not upon so great a scale. The cultivation, I think, would not be so much stimulated. The bitter experience which so many have endured would still operate as a warning for some time to come; confidence is a plant of but slow growth.

3377. If that measure were to be accompanied as it is now accompanied, and as you propose it should be, by an extended introduction of labour into the Mauritius and into the British West Indies, would not that have the effect of increasing the production of British free-labour sugar to an extent equal to what it has ever been?—It would, undoubtedly.

3378. What has been the importation of British plantation sugar during the last year?—I have no official data for it, but I have seen it stated that it amounts to about the same as our consumption.

3379. About 280,000 tons?—Something near that figure.

3380. Looking at the cultivation of the Mauritius, which has increased during the last few years 20,000 or 30,000 tons; looking at that of the West Indies, which has increased during the last year or two to the extent of 40,000 or 50,000 tons; looking at India, which has increased, and with a protective duty of 10*s.*, would continue to increase at the rate of 30,000 or 40,000 tons; and not confining ourselves to the British possessions, considering the increase of production which has taken place in Penang, and Singapore, and those parts of the world, would it be an unfair thing to suppose that in the course of two or three years, with increased capital and labour, we should be producing 350,000 or 400,000 tons of sugar? If further we look to what we are told of the capabilities of Trinidad, as they say capable of producing sugar for the whole of Europe; if we look to the capabilities of British Guiana, as they say capable of producing sugar for the whole of Europe; to the capabilities of the minor West India islands, and then to the capabilities of India, and to the capabilities of the Mauritius, with a protective duty of 10*s.* a cwt., and with plenty of labour thrown into all those markets, would it not be a very fair thing to suppose that in three or four years we should have a supply of British sugar to the extent of 400,000 tons?—I am not prepared to go to that extent; you have so far checked cultivation by the present state of things, aggravated, no doubt, by commercial causes, that I think for some years to come, as far as I can judge, our consumption is likely to keep pace with any increased production which we may have from all our possessions.

3381. You only look for a great increase of consumption to a diminished price; unless that price remains as it is now, you can only look for an increased consumption proportioned to the increase of population?—That will, no doubt, operate most materially upon the consumption; the position of the people in this country has not been favourable to consumption for the last few months.

3382. The consumption of last year has been larger than it was ever before, therefore we are not comparing it with an unfavourable period?—But for recent events, I apprehend that the consumption of last year would have been more considerable than it has been.

3383. Looking at the consumption of the future as compared with the consumption of the present, we should be comparing the future with the largest consumption we have ever had?—We hope under more liberal measures, as affects the manufacture of sugar in this country, the consumption may be increased in distilleries and breweries; though we have failed to obtain any considerable increase of consumption this year in breweries, I think that arises in a great measure from the prejudice which exists on the part of brewers, and again from ignorance as to the real value of the boon which has been given to them.

3384. As a merchant, and as a planter in the Mauritius, would it not be, in your estimation, a somewhat hazardous thing to increase your cultivation and to put fresh capital upon those estates in the Mauritius, seeing that you have now only a margin of 10,000 tons on which your protection could operate; if you had surplus of colonial sugar, if you produced more colonial sugar than we consume at home, you would have to resort to the continental market to dispose of it: if you resort to the continental market you must there be on an equality with Brazil and Cuba; therefore the price of British sugar would have to

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to be reduced to the same level as Brazilian and Cuban sugar; seeing you are now within so small a margin as 10,000 tons, with an increasing production in all those various countries into which you propose to pour an additional quantity of labour, would not you hesitate in extending your cultivation, or expending fresh capital upon those estates, with the uncertainty that would exist for the future?—That gives rise to an examination into what is the probable future supply from those British sources. From the best data I can obtain, we are likely to import from the West Indies in this present year 15,000 tons less than we did last year; I think we shall import into Great Britain from the Mauritius 10,000 tons less in 1848 than we did in 1847. Upon East India sugar I am not so well informed, but a friend of mine, largely interested in the sugar manufacture of India, estimates the falling off from British India at 20,000 tons.

3385. You are aware that this reduced estimate of production is stated to be the consequence of the Bill of 1846 now coming into operation, and the reduced price it has occasioned?—Precisely.

3386. I am supposing a state of things in which you are to be guaranteed a seven years' protection at 10s., so that all those causes would cease to operate?—Taking into consideration all those circumstances, I should not hesitate to go on cultivating the property I allude to.

3387. In the hope and the expectation that the difference in the price would be maintained, and that you would have abundance of labour, so as to get the quantity of sugar that you proposed?—I have already stated that the sugarcane is a plant which takes from 14 to 18 months to mature, and the produce of the plant again takes a considerable time to put into bags and bring to this market. The cane planted in the Mauritius three months hence upon an order sent out now, at least the sugar produced by that cane, would not be here for two years or upwards.

3388. In one of your former answers you said that if you had abundant labour in the Mauritius, referring also to the British colonies generally, they would soon produce much more sugar than England could possibly consume?—I think so. You are referring, however, to a very proximate period; I am looking to a more distant one. I am looking also to the casualties that have occurred as diminishing the production of some of the estates, and the delay that must take place in bringing them up again.

3389. You think, as a British merchant, that if the British colonies produced more than the British people consumed, a protective duty would be a dead letter?—It would repeal the Act of Parliament.

3390. A great many estates, you say, must go out of cultivation this year; does not that rather inspire you with more hope as to the profitableness of the estates that will remain in cultivation?—It would, if I did not see so large an increase of production going on in slave countries cultivated by cheap labour.

3391. The wages of the Mauritius this last year, in consequence of so large a crop, have been raised about a dollar per month, have not they?—When I was there this time last year, they were reducing the wages.

3392. Since then, they have raised them in consequence of the increased cultivation giving rise to competition?—I think the tendency has been towards diminishing the rate of wages.

3393. If there is a larger supply of unemployed labour consequent upon a number of those estates going out of cultivation, that will have a tendency still further to reduce the price of labour?—It will; but the Indian coolies returning in large numbers, their period of service being expired, will prevent the operation of the natural law to which the question adverts.

3394. You are aware that there would be a fresh importation to keep up the number?—I cannot understand that the Government have sanctioned the introduction of further coolies from India. I think Lord Grey stated to the Mauritius Association that he could not, under the depressed state of the colony, sanction such a further introduction of coolies.

3395. If you are understood rightly, practically speaking, the sort of recommendation you would make as to the Mauritius, would be, first, that all impediments should be removed to the supply of labour; that a better contract system should be permitted between the employed and the employers; that men should be held by law to their contracts, as they are held by law to contracts in this country; that vagrancy should be suppressed as vagrancy is suppressed here. As far as regards the position between the employed and the employer,

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those would be the great and essential necessities to the revival of the condition of the planters in the Mauritius?—Quite necessary.

3396. And that you should be allowed to go to neighbouring countries wherever free labour can be found, and procure that free labour as abundantly and cheaply as you can?—Yes, clearly so.

3397. Would you propose any test that you should only bring free labourers if you were allowed to go to the coast of Africa?—I would not allow any such introduction of labourers to be made otherwise than under regulations established by Government.

3398. You would not object to the regulation that every vessel that went for the purpose of bringing immigrants should carry an officer appointed by the Government on board, in order that he might be a witness either to the contract or to the circumstances under which emigrants were embarked?—Yes; and that that officer should be a surgeon.

3399. Appointed by the Government, and being a Government servant?—Yes; being a surgeon he would be able to judge of the fitness of people for the labour they would have to perform, and he would check any tendency to disease on board; though those voyages would be so short there would be no great need for medical attendance, I think the officer being a medical officer would combine both functions very advantageously.

3400. As a further check, you would see no disadvantage in Government appointing a proper officer in the island of the Mauritius to ascertain from the immigrants as they landed the circumstances under which they engaged, and the understanding on which they came to the colony?—A very proper check.

3401. Do you see, as far as your experience goes, that any possible inconvenience or disadvantage could arise to the labourers themselves under a system so tested and checked as is proposed?—On the contrary, I think those natives of Madagascar and of the east coast of Africa, emerging from a state of almost barbarism, would be greatly benefited; and I think that Government has been most unfortunate in its legislation in not providing by such means for repairing the loss which our colonies sustained when the labouring classes were liberated from slavery.

3402. Had such a provision been made when slavery was abandoned there never would have arisen that practical inconvenience from the want of labour that has arisen?—No, that was a great oversight.

3403. Have you stated what appears to you to be necessary to remove the difficulty as respects labour?—I think those measures would do all that is necessary. It would take some time to habituate those people to their altered state of life.

3404. Would not it be a great advantage to have a greater economy of labour in the colony, and that with that view the manufacture of sugar there should be confined to as early and simple a process as it could conveniently and profitably be brought home under?—I think so.

3405. In the Mauritius you do not suffer much loss by the drainage of the way home?—No, we dry the sugar.

3406. If you were allowed to bring home, not the cane juice, but the concrete after the first boiling, and to sell it to refiners in bond, that also would be a great means of economizing your existing amount of labour and your existing amount of capital, and of facilitating the manufacture of sugar in the colony by rendering it less necessary to have intricate machinery?—I think that would be the result. I am entirely favourable to such a measure.

3407. Are you aware that there has been agitated a plan of refining sugar in the colonies?—Yes, it has been tried at the Mauritius; but as I have stated in another part of my evidence, the difficulty is that labour is so costly, and moreover we have an insufficiency of it already for making the common raw sugar; and hence still greater difficulty in finding labour to refine it.

3408. It seems to be a question of labour and a question of intricate machinery, and a question of capital?—Yes; there is some very fine machinery now established at the Mauritius.

3409. That must be always kept up at a greater cost than in this country?—I think so; I think it is a mistake to attempt to refine sugar in the colony.

3410. You would be in favour of bringing home the produce in the earliest possible stage that would be economical in point of freight, and performing the more intricate manufacturing process in this country?—I should. Refiners in this

this country are men of great intelligence; they are here in the centre of civilization and manufactures, and they obtain the earliest and best information, and have the benefit of all the improvements that science can suggest; whereas if you expect that sort of improved manufacture to be carried on all over the world where sugar grows, you must send to those countries a very large amount of skilful labour, which can only be obtained at very considerable cost.

3411. You do not think it is consistent with the condition of a farmer to be an intricate manufacturer also?—No; but if that question should be considered as applicable to a view which I have seen propounded by Earl Grey, I think, in one of his speeches, that we ought in the Mauritius and in the West Indies to have one great central mill, and that the farmer should grow his cane and send his sugar to a miller, I think there are very many practical difficulties in the way.

3412. As far as regards the grinding?—Yes; the sugar-cane becomes susceptible of producing only an inferior sugar if it is not ground at once.

3413. If all your refining were in bond, and were allowed to take any material into the refineries in this country, and the whole were to be introduced into consumption at one uniform duty, it is your opinion that a great many of the inconveniences under which the colonies now labour would be done away with?—As far as it goes it would be an advantage to the colonies.

3414. You stated that 2,600 acres gave 2,400 tons of sugar; do you know how much the cost of cultivating that property would be?—Those properties belonged to Messrs. Gower & Co.; I have not obtained from those gentlemen any detail of the cost.

3415. What is the cost per acre within your own experience of the cultivation?—I have not gone into any calculations of that sort; I am by no means a sugar cultivator; I am only by accident possessing an interest in this property.

3416. You know nothing of the actual cost of production?—I only know that it has cost us 25 s. a cwt. when we have shipped it; I have not gone into the items of that cost.

3417. Are there any restrictions against the importation of labour from China into the Mauritius?—I am not aware that there are.

3418. Are not the Chinese by far the best labourers you can get?—I understand Chinese have been tried at the Mauritius with very indifferent results, so much so that they have been sent away after a short service. They were not considered a desirable race of people to have.

3419. A gentleman connected with the Mauritius said that they were by far the best labourers imported into the Mauritius; that is not confirmed by your experience?—My experience goes to this, that they were most unpopular among the planters; and if they are still permitted to be imported, I think the confirmation of my opinion may be found in the fact that the importation has been discontinued, notwithstanding the urgent want of labour.

3420. You complain of the public expenditure of the Island of Mauritius as pressing heavily upon the planters; does that complaint embrace the military expenditure?—I allude to the great expenditure being such as I think a mere sugar colony cannot keep up but on national grounds. I am not disposed to quarrel with the amount of military force kept there, or the amount of money expended in keeping up the public buildings.

3421. Are you aware that the entire cost of the military expenditure is defrayed from the pocket of the mother country?—I think you will find that is not the case.

3422. Are you aware that so large a sum as 100,000 l. is paid?—I am aware that a large sum is paid.

3423. What do you estimate the military expenditure of the Mauritius to be?—I think about 25,000 l. in excess of what is paid by this country. I think the Governor of the colony has 7,000 l. a year, which is not more than a governor ought to have; but I think it is too much for a governor of mere sugar makers. It is not too much for a governor of the Gibraltar of the East, but for a governor of mere sugar makers it is.

3424. Do you export any rum from your estate?—No.

3425. Is there much exported from the Mauritius?—It is an increasing trade, but it is fettered by bad excise laws, and by a large duty on stills.

3426. Can you give the Committee any idea of what are the evils in the excise laws which are complained of?—No; I am not practically acquainted with the subject.

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3427. You were asked in the early part of your examination whether you had withdrawn your credits from Bengal for the supply of provisions from the Mauritius; is that to any large extent?—It is to a considerable extent; we until lately placed credits with two eminent houses in Calcutta, and left them with the power to make shipments on joint account of our firm, whenever the supply of rice should be such as to show that such an operation could be carried on with profit.

3428. It is perfectly notorious, is not it, that prior to the year 1846 a large portion of the estates in the Mauritius were incumbered with mortgages?—A great part of the estates are more or less incumbered; I have stated, however, and I think it is necessary, for the information of the Committee, that it should be clearly understood that there being no three per cent. Consols, and no Exchequer bills to be had, money on family settlements, and money in trust, and so on, is frequently invested as a matter of investment on mortgage, just as we here put money into the three per cents.

3429. What rate of interest is it customary to charge upon those mortgages?—Six per cent. is the general interest, but I have no mortgage upon my estate, or upon the estates of other persons.

3430. Have not large sums been advanced on mortgage by houses in this country?—A large portion; a large portion is also advanced by the colonists themselves.

3431. Is it not part of the condition of the advance that the produce shall come consigned to those houses?—That is the case in some instances, but of late years a different principle has prevailed: advances are made in the Mauritius, and the planter has reserved to himself the right of paying either by sales of sugar in the colony or by shipping to the concern in Europe, if he consider it desirable to do so.

3432. Mr. *Moffatt*.] The Committee understand that your firm were more extensive buyers of sugar than manufacturers of sugar?—Yes; we have had very little to do with the growth.

3433. Are you aware what the charges usually are of importation upon those goods that come from mortgaged estates to this country?—The tariff of charges at the Mauritius was taken from the Indian rates; Bengal and Madras, I think the tariffs are the same.

3434. You have stated the price of provisions to be exceedingly high in the Mauritius?—The price of animal food is at present very dear; that chiefly arises out of the cessation of traffic with Madagascar; we had a quarrel with the Queen, and she has closed her ports to us.

3435. How is it as to cereal food?—Cereal food is imported from Bengal, the soil and climate together not being adapted to the growth of grain.

3436. You have stated vagabondage to be a great grievance in the Mauritius; are the planters themselves disposed not to hire labour that comes under the suspicion of vagabondage?—The planters have not had the option of making any choice; the deficiency of labour has been such that they have been glad to engage any man who would offer his services. Here, if we have bad servants we discharge them, but the Mauritius planter is not able to do so.

3437. The vagabondage has sprung out of the competition among the planters for labour?—And out of the deficient amount of labour for the purpose of cultivation.

3438. Are you aware that from 1834 to 1839 there was no restriction on the importation of labour into the Mauritius?—I think the period for which the Cooly immigration was permitted was three years.

3439. *Chairman*.] You reckon that the idleness and demoralization of the colony dates from the period of the short contracts?—I consider that a very pregnant cause of the demoralization.

3440. From 1834 to 1839 were prosperous years; those were years when you had long contracts?—Yes.

3441. You were asked a question with respect to the cheapness of capital in the British colonies; is not capital cheaper in Cuba now than it is in the Mauritius?—I am afraid you will find very little more capital sent to the Mauritius, unless some such measures as I have indicated be passed.

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- No. 3.—Papers delivered in by Colonel W. H. Sykes, 16 February 1848 :
- Statement of the Revenue derived from Land Sayer and Abkarry, Customs, Salt, Opium, Tobacco, Stamps and Postage, in the Upper and Lower Provinces of Bengal, at Madras, and Bombay, in the Years 1809/10, 1819/20, 1829/30, and 1839/40, showing the Charges of Collecting each Branch of the Revenue, and the Percentage on the separate Receipts; also distinguishing the Stipends and Allowances paid out of the Revenues, and the Amount of Net Revenue after those Stipends and Charges of Collection have been deducted from the Gross Revenue, showing likewise separately the several Heads of other Charges, and the Final Results of Surplus or Deficit in each Year, converted into Sterling, at 2 s. the Sicca Rupee - - - - - p. 288
 - A Comparative View of the Rate per Cent. at which the Indian Revenue was collected in the Years 1809/10, 1819/20, 1829/30, and 1839/40; showing also the Rate per Cent. which the other Charges bore to the Net Revenue in each of those Years, p. 291
- No. 4.—Papers delivered in by Mr. Prideaux, 17 February 1848 :
- Statement of the Quantity and Value of Sugar Exported from the Three Presidencies to all Parts of the World, distinguishing the Yearly Exports to the United Kingdom, from 1836-37 to the latest Returns - - - - - p. 292
 - Statement of the Trade of the Three Presidencies in Coffee, distinguishing the Yearly Exports to the United Kingdom, from the Year 1836-37 to the latest Returns received - - - - - p. 293
- No. 5.—Statement of the Import Duties levied on British Manufactures on their Admission into the Brazils, Cuba, Porto-Rico, and Java; and of Export Duties levied on Sugar and Coffee in each of those Countries - - - - - p. 294
- No. 6.—Papers delivered in by Henry St. George Tucker, Esq., 17 February 1848 :
- Net Import of Treasure into the Three Ports of Calcutta, Fort St. George, and Bombay in each Year, from 1836-37 to 1845-46 - - - - - p. 295
 - Statement showing the Results of the different Modes of Remittance from India and China, for the Supply of the Home Treasury, from the Year 1834-35 to the latest Period - - - - - p. 296
 - Bills on India.—Estimated Amount for British, American, and China Trade - p. 296
 - Advances on the Hypothecation of Goods since the Commencement of the System in 1829-30 to 1846-47; with the Rate per Cent. of Loss - - - - - p. 297
 - Amount of Advances on Hypothecation in the Years 1845-46 and 1846-47, specifying the different Descriptions of Goods, so far as the same can be distinguished - p. 297
 - Value of Sugar Hypothecated to the East India Company in the Year 1847-48, so far as Accounts have been received - - - - - p. 297
 - BENGAL.—Statement of Bills purchased from Merchants in 1837-38 to 1843-44, on the Hypothecation of Goods - - - - - pp. 298, 299
 - Statement of Bills purchased from Merchants in 1844-45 to 1846-47 on the Hypothecation of Goods - - - - - pp. 298, 299
 - MADRAS.—Statement of Bills purchased from Merchants in 1837-38 to 1843-44, on the Hypothecation of Goods - - - - - pp. 300, 301
 - Statement of Bills purchased from Merchants in 1844-45 to 1846-47, on the Hypothecation of Goods - - - - - pp. 300, 301
 - BOMBAY.—Statement of Bills purchased from Merchants in 1837-38 to 1843-44, on the Hypothecation of Goods - - - - - pp. 302, 303
 - Statement of Bills purchased from Merchants in 1844-45 to 1846-47, on the Hypothecation of Goods - - - - - pp. 302, 303
 - Mofussil Price of Sugar - - - - - p. 304
 - Statement showing the Net Imports and Net Exports of Treasure, by Sea, in each of the Presidencies of India, from 1836-37 to 1845-46 - - - - - p. 304
 - INDIA.—Memorandum of Bills drawn by the Honourable Court from 1837-38 to 1846-47 - - - - - p. 304
 - Extracts Act 9 & 10 Vict. c. 63 - - - - - p. 306, 307

APPENDIX.

Appendix, No. 1.

Appendix, No. 1.

Papers delivered
in by Arthur
Crooke, Esq.

PAPERS DELIVERED IN BY ARTHUR CROOKE, Esq. 12 February 1848.

COST per Cwt. of BENGAL SUGAR, at the Exchange of 2 s. per Company's Rupee.

Calcutta charges, with commission	-	-	1/4
Liverpool ditto - - ditto	-	-	4/2
Freight, 5 l. per ton	-	-	5/
Duty, 14 l. per ton	-	-	14/

Charges per Cwt. - - - 24/6

Rupees, per maund	-	-	5,	6,	7,	8,	9,	10
Cost per cwt., with charges	-	-	38/2,	40/10,	43/6,	46/3,	49/,	51/9
								14/
								37/9

The cost per cwt. increases 2 d. for every additional anna per maund.

	CALCUTTA.		BOMBAY.		MADRAS.	
	<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Ships.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
1842	-	165	112	67,853	32	16,494
1843	-	166	114	55,492	25	10,772
1844	-	231	157	80,135	38	16,473
1845	-	251	139	69,952	48	23,135
1846	-	218	131	67,838	42	19,125
1847	-	232	134	73,132	49	23,523

The above do not exactly correspond with the East India Association's figures, as Mr. J. H. O. will explain.

A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Exports from *Liverpool* to *Calcutta*, for the last Ten Years.

Years	Cotton Yarn.		Plain Cottons.			Coloured Cottons.		Woollens.			Beer	Glass.	Iron.	Bottles.	Tin Plates.	Copper.	Lead.	Painters Colours.	Spicery.
	<i>Packts.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Packts.</i>	<i>Yards.</i>	<i>Pieces.</i>	<i>Packts.</i>	<i>Yards.</i>	<i>Packts.</i>	<i>Pieces.</i>	<i>Yards.</i>	<i>Hhds.</i>	<i>Boxes.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Crates.</i>	<i>Boxes.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Keys.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
1838	10923	5073340	8620	14440742	-	1942	3772264	929	10674	43983	3339	3322	2560	-	-	994	142	50	-
1839	12982	5577337	14376	23737859	-	3427	5569016	1267	18803	35301	4163	1059	3896	2646	1810	1051	345	2189	-
1840	19071	10130819	19113	34408286	-	4291	7644607	2134	30572	52679	6263	2405	6828	3234	1632	1524	389	2076	-
1841	13741	6636836	19606	37710722	-	3468	6666887	1605	23195	18888	4483	1323	4971	4241	2049	1113	194	2214	-
1842	12919	6286962	25085	51769980	-	2781	5614647	997	14671	-	5134	1134	4828	1813	566	1394	207	767	-
1843	16368	9026844	35596	76519673	-	3065	4115442	1733	33880	-	4994	865	8710	1480	1660	2048	315	1396	414
1844	23459	11080220	39042	81517465	-	4113	6873868	2781	42568	-	4891	344	9405	2140	1881	1970	380	2242	783
1845	19890	10002583	37855	78793971	-	5392	9540185	858	12884	-	3936	1991	3269	594	1291	1067	113	1148	515
1846	29953	14792366	44370	94319711	12022	3413	6508937	692	12014	-	3828	1732	2925	1042	855	574	20	1845	343
1847	17427	8419758	29058	60800156	33896	3020	5123411	762	11064	-	4275	3164	2314	1084	2227	884	174	1984	306

A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the IMPORTS into *Liverpool* from *Calcutta*, for the last Ten Years.

Years.	Mo-lasses		Sugar.		Salt-petre.	Rice.	Oil Seeds.	Shel Lac.	Lac Dye.	In-digo.	Jute and Hemp.	Silk.		Ginger.	Saf-flower.	Hides.	Man-jeet.	Rum.	Cutch.	Tar-meric.	Ves-sels.
	Casks.	Casks.	Bags.	Bags.	Bags, &c.	Bags, &c.	Boxes.	Boxes.	Boxes.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bales.	Bags, &c.	Bales.	Bales.	Pans.	Hhds.	Bags, &c.	Bags, &c.	No.
1838	-	354	88094	29193	66752	25823	3355	2030	1196	10061	595	268	20081	604	1363	3663	-	564	-	-	48
1839	-	563	99189	57928	84516	45750	5627	1538	1040	14397	673	114	17192	526	2986	1323	146	488	5583	-	61
1840	-	1424	105632	27471	69940	32455	4026	1600	1347	8001	299	77	7263	495	2508	437	157	1255	9673	-	47
1841	364	2030	238433	39553	83274	28062	3518	823	1570	10831	375	37	4087	143	3527	1000	725	1286	4535	-	81
1842	50	673	130440	35004	103544	2799	1193	415	945	13407	357	18	1850	161	1170	-	974	353	3480	-	65
1843	-	882	238872	63360	99465	5085	1868	515	1110	30897	269	98	1029	808	4215	231	1509	1587	4632	13498	85
1844	56	443	222230	43114	136574	32355	2426	1835	2528	35027	432	63	417	463	2060	711	539	333	-	15233	93
1845	549	142	247980	157190	209322	31152	3789	1038	1549	42714	713	152	1562	999	1642	908	1598	822	119	14450	100
1846	3744	59	293564	67312	192124	34863	900	412	1068	33337	171	107	1650	429	1048	985	1056	1141	4958	3484	96
1847	1046	36	281465	34335	317737	16288	1363	384	1065	35454	492	5	3751	1017	2763	-	337	1474	8845	737	106

NUMBER of VESSELS and TONNAGE from *Liverpool* to the East for the last Ten Years.

Y E A R.	To Calcutta and Madras.		To Bombay.		To China.		To other Parts.		
	Vessels	Tonnage	Vessels	Tonnage	Vessels	Tonnage	Vessels	Tonnage	
1838	-	45	16,651	35	16,745	18	7,514	78	26,623
1839	-	46	16,675	36	17,662	13	4,830	76	26,168
1840	-	68	26,505	52	27,253	12	4,596	101	32,818
1841	-	76	29,594	67	57,332	24	10,062	108	45,169
1842	-	-	24,453	44	27,757	29	12,033	69	21,804
1843	-	73	28,525	52	26,611	36	15,002	90	25,524
1844	-	89	35,626	84	41,752	51	20,723	142	41,954
1845	-	117	54,111	47	22,094	60	23,432	110	35,600
1846	-	91	41,617	53	25,255	50	18,440	79	22,966
1847	-	105	50,745	44	22,605	42	15,139	65	22,437

EXPORT SUGAR, *Calcutta* to *Great Britain*.

	1846.	1847.
May - - -	116,972	97,635
June - - -	148,392	56,659
July - - -	201,404	216,556
August - - -	164,114	181,941
September - - -	134,282	155,120
October - - -	92,094	163,606
November - - -	167,030	194,021
Maunds - - -	1,024,288	1,065,538
Tons - - -	37,626	39,142
		37,626
Tons - - -		1,516

Increase, 7 mo. 1847.

Appendix, No. 1.

ACCOUNT SALES of 185 Bags BENGAL SUGAR, ex "Alexander Baring," at Calcutta, on
Account of Nicholas Crooke & Co., Liverpool.

	Bags.	Gross.			Tare and Draft.			Net.			£. s. d.			£. s. d.					
		Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.									
1847: 23 February	1	1	3	23	0	0	8	1	3	15	at 55/	-	-	-	5	3	7		
	55	108	0	12	4	1	19	103	2	21	" 52/	-	-	-	269	11	8		
	9	17	1	21	0	2	25	16	2	24	" 53/	-	-	-	44	5	10		
	3	5	3	9	0	1	3	5	2	6	" 50/6	-	-	-	14	-	5		
23 June -	24	47	0	10	1	2	24	45	1	14	" 49/	-	-	-	111	3	4		
	93	183	0	10	6	2	16	176	1	22	" 48/6	-	-	-	427	17	8		
	185	363	2	1	13	3	11	349	2	18				£	872	2	6		
Charges:																			
1846: 16 November	Dock dues on 351. 1. 7. at 6 d., 8 l. 15 s. 8 d.; sorting and lotting on 363. 2. 1. at 1 d., 30/4										10	6	-						
	Sale charges, 13/; entry, 2/6; extra rent, 4 l. 18 s. 5 d.; bill stamps, 25/										6	18	11						
	Duty on 351. 1. 7. at 14/ per cwt.										245	18	5						
1847: 16 January -	Freight on ditto, at 4 l. 10 s. per ton										79	-	11						
	Marine insurance, per policy										14	5	-						
	Fire insurance										2	2	10						
	Interest and Bank commission										4	-	2						
	Brokerage, 1 per cent.										8	14	5						
	Commission, &c. 4 per cent.										34	17	8						
														406	4	4			
Net Proceeds, due 12 July 1847											£.			465	18	2			

The charges, exclusive of duty, freight, or commission, are 2 s. 8 d. per cwt.

(E. E.)

Liverpool, 31 August 1847.

Weight of the above per Invoice.

	Bags.	Gross.			Tare.			Net.		
		Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	Cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Per Invoice - - - -	185	364	0	3	7	1	21	356	2	10
Per Sales Account - - -	185	363	2	1	13	3	11	349	2	18
Loss in Net Weight								6 3 20		
Loss in Gross Weight								0 2 2		
Increase of Tare in England								6 1 18		
								6 3 20		

BENGAL SUGAR:—Import, Delivery, and Stocks, London and Liverpool, 1846, 1847, to 31 December.

	IMPORT.		DELIVERIES.				TOTAL CONSUMPTION.		Decrease.
	1846.	1847.	Home Use.		Export.		1846.	1847.	
			1846.	1847.	1846.	1847.			
	<i>Packages.</i>	<i>Packages.</i>	<i>Packages.</i>	<i>Packages.</i>	<i>Packages.</i>	<i>Packages.</i>	<i>Packages.</i>	<i>Packages.</i>	<i>Packages.</i>
London - -	546,628	528,377	538,904	472,381	1,219	2,191	540,123	474,572	65,551
Liverpool - -	309,640	279,880	326,900	230,165	-	715	326,900	230,880	96,020
	856,268	808,257	865,804	702,546	1,219	2,906	867,023	705,452	161,571
Increase - -	-	-	-	-	-	1,687	-	-	-
Decrease - -	-	48,011	-	163,258	-	-	-	161,571	-

		Increase.	
1846.	1847.	1846.	1847.
<i>Packages.</i>	<i>Packages.</i>	<i>Packages.</i>	<i>Packages.</i>
London - -	100,688	154,493	53,805
Liverpool - -	96,000	145,000	49,000
	196,688	299,493	-
Packages - - -			102,805

Increase in Stock 1st Jan. 1848.

Appendix, No. 2.

A MONTHLY RETURN of the HOME CONSUMPTION of BRITISH and FOREIGN SUGAR, distinguishing British from Foreign, and giving the Aggregate of both, for the last Two Years; together with the Gazette Average Price of Sugar and of Wheat, in each Month, in contiguous columns.

Appendix, No. 2.

Monthly Return of Home Consumption of British and Foreign Sugar.

MONTHS.		Quantities Entered for Home Consumption.			Gazette Average Price of Sugar.		Average Price of Wheat.	
1846 and 1847.		British.	Foreign.	TOTAL.				
		<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
January	1846 - -	380,328	12,213	392,541	34	10 ½	55	6
—	1847 - -	450,873	138,485	589,358	36	10 ½	64	1
February	1846 - -	338,993	2,330	341,323	34	2	54	7
—	1847 - -	311,175	109,010	420,185	36	5 ½	72	1
March	1846 - -	418,168	371	418,539	33	5 ½	54	10
—	1847 - -	334,289	110,692	444,981	34	4	73	9 ½
April	1846 - -	463,735	946	464,681	36	2 ½	55	9
—	1847 - -	355,872	92,546	448,418	30	2 ½	75	6 ½
May	1846 - -	440,228	219	440,447	35	9 ½	55	9
—	1847 - -	449,267	119,947	569,214	31	-	80	1
June	1846 - -	366,992	1,114	368,106	36	9 ½	52	1
—	1847 - -	419,883	51,604	471,487	29	3 ½	92	10
July	1846 - -	338,121	4,141	342,262	37	2 ½	51	5
—	1847 - -	467,386	109,705	577,091	25	10	86	10 ½
August	1846 - -	449,878	137,338	587,216	33	4 ½	46	3
—	1847 - -	418,840	71,659	490,499	25	8 ½	73	10 ½
September	1846 - -	501,335	164,038	665,373	31	8	50	10
—	1847 - -	505,767	63,492	569,259	25	10	60	6 ½
October	1846 - -	345,476	101,366	446,842	34	6 ½	58	7
—	1847 - -	345,068	33,420	378,488	21	6	54	6 ½
November	1846 - -	326,303	92,911	419,214	33	10 ½	60	7
—	1847 - -	391,577	35,496	427,073	23	7 ½	53	3 ½
December	1846 - -	259,534	85,868	345,402	32	8 ½	66	3
—	1847 - -	365,243	39,486	404,729	23	-	52	3 ½
TOTAL	1846 - -	4,629,091	602,855	5,231,946	—		—	
—	1847 - -	4,815,240	975,542	5,790,782	—		—	

A. W. Fonblanque.

Appendix, No. 3.

(Laid before the Court by Colonel Sykes, 14 December 1842.)

STATEMENT of the REVENUE derived from Land Sayer and Abkarry, Customs, Salt, Opium, Tobacco, Stamps and Postage, in the Upper and Lower Provinces of Bengal, at Madras, and Bombay, in the Years 1809/10, 1819/20, 1829/30, and 1839/40, showing the Charges of Collecting each Branch of the Revenue, and the Per-centage on the separate Receipts; also distinguishing the Stipends and Allowances paid out of the Revenues, and the Amount of Net Revenue after those Stipends and Charges of Collection have been deducted from the Gross Revenue, showing likewise separately the several Heads of other Charges, and the Final Results of Surplus or Deficit in each Year, converted into Sterling, at 2 s. the Sicca Rupee.

BENGAL AND AGRA.																
1809/10.				1819/20.				1829/30.				1839/40.				
Revenues and Receipts.	Charges of Collection.	Net Receipts.	Rate p'cent. of Collection.	Revenues and Receipts.	Charges of Collection.	Net Receipts.	Rate p'cent. of Collection.	Revenues and Receipts.	Charges of Collection.	Net Receipts.	Rate p'cent. of Collection.	Revenues and Receipts.	Charges of Collection.	Net Receipts.	Rate p'cent. of Collection.	
£.	£.	£.		£.	£.	£.		£.	£.	£.		£.	£.	£.		
REVENUES:																
Land Sayer) Lower Provinces	2,972,484	207,888*	2,664,601	7.237	3,310,408	304,030	3,006,378	9.184	3,274,364	319,758	2,954,606	9.075	3,528,280	384,212	3,144,077	10.580
and Abkarry) North W. ditto	3,108,318	230,077	2,871,941	7.024	3,750,800	203,706	3,493,160	7.010	4,041,090	317,708	3,725,882	7.800	3,883,280	454,044	3,429,245	11.602
Customs { Lower Provinces	5,980,809	444,800	5,536,042	7.438	7,067,274	667,736	6,199,538	8.033	7,815,474	684,061	6,680,513	8.070	7,411,578	638,250	6,673,322	11.310
{ North W. ditto	211,565	22,603	188,002	10.712	347,455	50,137	297,318	14.420	311,707	56,611	255,096	17.831	374,200	41,545	332,655	11.102
	230,728	38,800	196,868	14.075	288,971	39,883	249,338	13.715	340,424	30,760	303,064	10.798	187,024	61,081	125,943	32.659
Salt (deducting cost) - -	442,203	56,523	385,770	12.770	680,420	80,770	546,650	14.105	652,131	93,371	558,760	14.318	561,280	102,626	458,004	18.285
Opium (ditto) - - - -	1,284,334	131,792	1,152,542	10.261	1,348,330	227,228	1,121,111	16.852	1,387,037	216,333	1,171,004	15.575	1,841,334	196,055	1,644,079	10.680
Stamps - - - - -	646,485	24,518	621,972	8.792	682,755	32,480	600,275	5.138	1,225,905	114,362	1,111,543	9.326	398,080	92,992	305,092	23.324
Post-office - - - -	52,080	8,287	44,743	15.547	125,072	56,173	69,799	44.592	276,618	54,092	222,526	19.554	309,324	27,552	281,972	8.901
	88,707	31,035	7,072	81.720	48,937	34,770	14,167	71.050	73,745	66,702	6,983	90.580	84,272	77,239	7,033	91.654
	£. 8,445,601	697,560	7,748,041	Average. 8.259	9,850,708	1,008,157	8,851,540	Average. 10.225	10,030,910	1,179,681	9,761,329	Average. 10.701	10,606,627	1,335,320	9,271,307	Average. 12.569
Revenues of Prince of Wales' Island			99,940				48,860				28,360				43,868	
Revenues of ceded Territory on the Nerbuddah							*177,183									
Tributes and Subsidies															212,809	
Allowances and Assignments payable out of the Revenues			7,817,981				9,077,680				9,957,850				9,527,984	
{ Lower Provinces	£. 164,335					£. 171,344				£. 120,790				£. 105,460		
{ North W. ditto	592,109					429,007				312,488				399,870		
			600,944				600,951				433,278				568,186	
Net Revenues	£.		7,131,037	PerCentages of other Charges to Net Revenue.	£.		8,470,638	PerCentages of other Charges to Net Revenue.	£.		9,524,578	PerCentages of other Charges to Net Revenue.	£.		8,962,848	PerCentages of other Charges to Net Revenue.
CHARGES:																
Civil and Political Charges, including Contingencies	£.		543,054	7.594			838,076	9.894			793,076	8.327			855,130	9.541
Judicial ditto { Lower Provinces	£. 322,047					£. 308,437				£. 375,312				£. 482,078		
{ North W. ditto	160,452					178,324				183,640				304,647		
			584,399	8.172			576,751	6.804			559,452	5.874			840,725	9.447
Provincial Police, ditto { Lower Provinces	£. 63,534					£. 69,735				£. 48,845				£. 80,153		
{ North W. ditto	85,012					94,346				94,346				128,475		
			148,546	2.077			164,081	1.936			143,191	1.503			208,628	2.328
Mint, ditto			22,349				2,869				20,550				20,550	
Marine, ditto			64,783	0.906			90,790	1.071			90,709	0.958			107,606	1.200
Military, ditto			2,072,788	41.571			3,822,909	45.009			3,498,462	36.731			4,115,150	45.918
Buildings and Fortifications			94,680	1.324			140,566	1.729			260,105	2.731			120,878	1.349
Charges of Prince of Wales' Island, &c.			170,337				172,709				132,066				55,205	
Deccan Prizes (included in Revenues of former years)											343,689					
Interest on Debt			1,383,881	19.252			1,551,045	18.296			1,534,851	16.115			1,252,873	13.978
TOTAL CHARGES, including Interest on Debt	£.		5,984,817	83.692			7,360,658	83.834			7,385,707	77.544			7,541,045	84.143
Surplus			1,166,220				1,115,980				2,138,871				1,421,203	
	£.		7,151,037				8,470,638				9,524,578				8,962,848	

* Net Receipts, the Charges not exhibited in the Indian Statement.

APPENDIX TO FIRST REPORT FROM THE

MADRAS.

0-32.

REVENUES and RECEIPTS.	1899/10.				1819/20.				1829/30.				1839/40.			
	Revenues and Receipts.	Charges of Collection.	Net Receipts.	Rate per cent. of Collection.	Revenues and Receipts.	Charges of Collection.	Net Receipts.	Rate per cent. of Collection.	Revenues and Receipts.	Charges of Collection.	Net Receipts.	Rate per cent. of Collection.	Revenues and Receipts.	Charges of Collection.	Net Receipts.	Rate per cent. of Collection.
Land Sayer Akkary and Motorpha Revenues } £.	3,024,755	169,215	3,455,540	4.608	3,400,844	323,321	3,077,523	9.507	3,189,528	275,515	2,514,008	11.773	3,337,840	410,884	2,926,956	12.300
Customs - - - - -	251,379	48,499	202,780	19.301	441,808	90,033	351,775	20.375	485,338	38,184	447,154	7.867	384,645	48,406	336,179	12.600
Salt - - - - -	228,572	41,516	187,056	18.103	298,289	60,730	237,559	20.301	342,137	23,019	319,118	6.903	349,259	32,157	317,102	9.207
Opium - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stamps - - - - -	8,214	2,491	5,723	30.326	42,590	2,023	40,567	6.803	43,438	8,875	34,563	20.431	45,809	4,738	40,024	10.444
Tobacco - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,024	3,344	47,280	6.005	57,504	5,744	51,760	9.989
Postage - - - - -	14,689	17,161	Excess Charge. 2,472	116.829	18,144	19,704	Excess Charge. 1,560	108.597	26,838	24,009	2,829	89.460	30,698	35,026	Excess Charge. 4,933	116.072
£.	4,127,509	278,882	3,848,627	Average. 6.756	4,201,735	406,717	3,795,018	Average. 11.921	4,137,898	473,546	3,664,352	Average. 11.444	4,205,303	537,615	3,667,688	Average. 12.705
Subsidies from Mysore, Travancore, and Cochin - -	-	-	390,750	-	-	-	320,728	-	-	-	322,357	-	-	-	325,600	-
Allowances and Assignments payable out of the Revenues	-	-	4,239,383	-	-	-	4,025,740	-	-	-	3,986,709	-	-	-	3,993,297	-
Net Revenues, after deducting Allowances and Assignments, and Charges of Collection - } £.	-	-	618,210	-	-	-	595,928	-	-	-	685,014	-	-	-	560,077	-
	-	-	3,020,657	-	-	-	3,429,818	-	-	-	3,401,695	-	-	-	3,433,320	-
	-	-	-	-	Net Deficit	-	327,537	-	-	-	44,315	-	-	-	45,327	-
	-	-	-	-		-	£. 3,757,355	-	-	-	£. 3,445,910	-	-	-	£. 3,478,547	-
				Per Centage of other Charges to Net Revenue.				Per Centage of other Charges to Net Revenue.				Per Centage of other Charges to Net Revenue.				Per Centage of other Charges to Net Revenue.
CHARGES:																
Charges of the Civil and Political Establishments, including Contingencies } £.	-	-	104,065	4.531	-	-	200,410	6.018	-	-	273,028	8.044	-	-	302,703	8.818
Judicial Charges - - - - -	-	-	216,068	5.981	-	-	217,506	7.216	-	-	231,769	6.813	-	-	249,055	7.280
Provincial Police - - - - -	-	-	71,987	1.988	-	-	90,466	2.812	-	-	63,052	1.853	-	-	62,392	1.817
Mint Charges (deducting Mint Duties) - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,693	-	-	-	16,833	-	-	-	1,104	-
Marine Charges - - - - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,499	16.0	-	-	11,078	0.320	-	-	2,813	0.082
Military Charges - - - - -	-	-	2,581,107	71.290	-	-	3,033,054	88.149	-	-	2,633,000	77.420	-	-	2,704,003	80.630
Buildings and Fortifications - - - - -	-	-	57,003	1.576	-	-	65,712	1.916	-	-	46,772	1.375	-	-	47,818	1.378
Interest on Debt - - - - -	-	-	372,416	10.286	-	-	91,419	2.665	-	-	169,183	4.973	-	-	47,179	1.374
TOTAL CHARGES, including Interest on Debt	£.	£.	3,403,306	93.656	£.	£.	3,757,355	100.550	£.	£.	3,445,910	101.299	£.	£.	3,478,547	101.320
Net Surplus at Madras - - - - -	-	-	157,261	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
£.	£.	£.	3,620,567	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SUGAR AND COFFEE PLANTING.

BOMBAY.

Revenues and Receipts.	1809/10.				1819/20.				1829/30.				1839/40.			
	Revenues and Receipts.	Charges of Collection.	Net Receipts.	Rate per Cent. of Collection.	Revenues and Receipts.	Charges of Collection.	Net Receipts.	Rate per Cent. of Collection.	Revenues and Receipts.	Charges of Collection.	Net Receipts.	Rate per Cent. of Collection.	Revenues and Receipts.	Charges of Collection.	Net Receipts.	Rate per Cent. of Collection.
Land, Sayer, and Abkarry	£. 444,585	£. 52,173	£. 392,412	11.735	£. 1,048,075	£. 192,485	£. 915,590	12.641	£. 1,513,357	£. 218,953	£. 1,294,404	14.468	£. 1,731,436	£. 273,537	£. 1,457,899	15.798
Customs	101,853	19,301	82,462	19.038	225,633	35,410	190,223	15.694	403,193	27,831	375,362	6.902	220,876	43,709	177,167	19.788
Salt	1,711	-	1,711	-	-	-	-	-	22,829	-	22,829	-	130,908	11,693	119,270	8.929
Opium	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18,451	7,481	10,970	40.546
Stamps	-	-	-	-	14,973	-	14,973	-	81,734	15,632	16,102	49.259	46,073	3,054	43,019	6.629
Post-office	5,189	4,283	906	82.540	5,295	3,875	1,420	73.182	10,893	14,741	Excess charge, 3,848	185.327	16,641	26,098	Excess charge, 9,457	156.829
	£. 553,338	75,847	477,491	Average. 13.707	1,293,976	171,770	1,122,206	Average. 13.276	1,982,006	277,157	1,704,849	Average. 13.985	2,104,440	365,572	1,798,868	Average. 16.880
Subsidy from the Cutch Government	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,507	-	-	-	18,588	-
Allowances and Assignments payable out of the Revenues in accordance with Treaties or other Engagements	-	-	477,491	-	-	-	1,122,206	-	-	-	1,729,356	-	-	-	1,817,456	-
Net Revenues, after deducting Allowances and Assignments, and Charges of Collection	-	-	10,775	-	-	-	11,872	-	-	-	455,624	-	-	-	471,164	-
Deficit	-	-	466,716	-	-	-	1,110,334	-	-	-	1,273,732	-	-	-	1,346,392	-
	-	-	1,161,785	-	-	-	706,319	-	-	-	1,002,010	-	-	-	637,926	-
	-	£.	1,628,501	-	-	£.	1,816,353	-	-	£.	2,275,742	-	-	£.	1,984,218	-
				Per Centage of other Charges to Net Revenue.				Per Centage of other Charges to Net Revenue.				Per Centage of other Charges to Net Revenue.				Per Centage of other Charges to Net Revenue.
CHARGES:																
Charges of the Civil and Political Establishments, including Contingencies			104,368	22.262			113,262	10.255			293,067	29.090			531,941	30.512
Judicial and Police Charges			47,850	10.259			83,421	7.513			229,659	18.030			230,338	17.102
Mint Charges (deducting Mint Duties)			97	-			1,610	-			774	-			20,224	-
Marine Charges (deducting Receipts)			113,372	24.291			67,616	6.087			141,322	11.095			121,366	9.014
Military Charges			1,062,827	227.724			1,512,003	136.175			1,501,080	117.849			1,052,145	78.151
Buildings and Fortifications			32,431	6.948			16,635	1.498			92,200	7.238			28,022	2.082
Interest on Debt			267,750	57.369			24,726	2.226			17,640	1.384			40,720	3.025
TOTAL CHARGES, including Interest on Debt		£.	1,628,501	348.928		£.	1,816,653	163.613		£.	2,275,742	178.667		£.	1,984,218	147.384

(Laid before the Court by Colonel Sykes, 14 December 1842.)

A COMPARATIVE VIEW of the RATE per CENT. at which the INDIAN REVENUE was collected in the Years 1809/10, 1819/20, 1829/30, and 1839/40; showing also the Rate per Cent. which the other Charges bore to the Net Revenue in each of those Years.

0-32.

	BENGAL.				MADRAS.				BOMBAY.				INDIA.				
	1809/10.	1819/20.	1829/30.	1839/40.	1809/10.	1819/20.	1829/30.	1839/40.	1809/10.	1819/20.	1829/30.	1839/40.	1809/10.	1819/20.	1829/30.	1839/40.	
Land Sayer and Abkarry	7-237	9-184	9-766	10-589	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Lower Provinces -	7-624	7-019	7-800	11-602	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	North Western do.	7-488	8-038	8-679	11-810	4-668	9-507	11-778	12-809	11-735	12-641	14-408	15-798	6-029	8-888	10-230	12-200
Customs -	10-712	14-429	17-881	11-102	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
	Lower Provinces -	14-675	13-715	10-798	22-659	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
North Western do.	12-779	14-105	14-318	18-285	19-201	20-375	7-867	12-600	19-038	15-694	6-902	19-788	15-641	16-505	10-345	16-696	
Salt	10-261	16-852	15-575	10-660	18-163	20-361	6-903	9-207	—	—	—	—	8-029	11-442	17-468	13-679	10-359
Opium	3-792	5-138	9-326	23-324	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tobacco	—	—	—	—	—	—	6-605	9-989	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stamps	15-547	44-592	19-554	8-901	30-826	6-863	20-431	10-444	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post Office	81-729	71-050	90-580	91-654	116-820	108-597	89-460	110-072	62-540	78-182	185-327	156-829	6-629	17-531	32-198	22-343	6-814
Average Charge of Collection	8-259	10-225	10-791	12-589	6-756	11-821	11-444	12-785	13-707	13-276	13-985	16,889	8-016	10-919	11-820	13-186	
Civil and Political Charges, including Contingencies	7-504	9-894	8-327	9-541	4-531	6-018	8-044	8-818	22-362	10-255	23-009	39-512	7-221	8-900	9-575	12-206	
Judicial ditto	8-172	6-804	5-874	9-447	5-984	7-216	6-813	7-280	10-252	7-513	18-630	17-102	7-525	6-880	7-107	9-565	
Provincial Police ditto	2-077	1-936	1-503	2-328	1-988	2-812	1-853	1-817	—	—	—	—	1-991	2-093	1-535	2-002	
Marine ditto	0-906	1-071	0-953	1-200	—	0-160	0-326	0-082	24-291	6-087	11-095	9-014	1-585	1-261	1-712	1-687	
Military ditto	41-571	45-009	36-731	45-918	71-290	68-449	77-420	80-536	227-724	136-175	117-549	78-151	58-877	64-200	63-754	57-721	
Buildings and Fortifications	1-324	1-729	2-781	1-849	1,576	1-916	1-375	1-378	6-948	1-498	7-288	2-082	1-639	1-758	2-810	1-428	
TOTAL Charges, exclusive of Interest on Debt	64-840	68-537	61-429	70-165	85-370	106-884	196-826	99-004	291-557	161-386	177-282	144-359	80-551	86-561	80-018	84-874	
Interest on Debt	19-852	18-298	16-115	13-978	10-286	2-666	4-973	1-374	57-371	2-226	1-384	3-025	18-010	12-805	12-124	9-756	
TOTAL CHARGES, including Interest on Debt	83-692	86-835	77-544	84-143	95-656	109-550	101-299	101-278	348-928	163-612	178-666	147-384	98-561	99-366	92-142	94-630	

NOTES ON A FEW OF THE HEADS OF CHARGE.

BENGAL AND AGRA :

Land.—The increase in the per centage for collecting the Land Revenue in 1839/40, as compared with 1829/30, is partly accounted for by the augmentation of revenue surveys, the excavation of canals, and for additional native officers and establishments employed in investigating and conducting resumption cases.

Customs.—The large comparative augmentation in the per centage on customs in Agra in 1839/40, does not result so much from an increase in the charges as from a reduction of receipts, occasioned by the abolition of the transit duties.

Opium.—Although the charge on opium was less in 1839/40 than in 1829/30, the per centage borne to the receipts is greater in consequence of the reduction in the price of the drug and diminished sale from our hostilities with the Chinese. The net receipt from opium in 1829/30 having yielded upwards of 1,100,000*l.*, whilst in 1839/40 it produced little beyond 300,000 *l.*

Stamps.—The apparent decrease in the per centage for collecting this duty is merely nominal, a portion of the charge being included in the Judicial branch in 1839/40.

Judicial.—The large increase in the charges of this branch of expenditure is almost wholly attributable to the additional means employed for improving and extending the administration of justice amongst the people.

MADRAS :

Land.—The increase in the per centage of charge in 1839/40 is occasioned principally by additional surveys. The small per centage remarkable in 1809/10 is the result of an accidental credit in that year of large sums for refunded charges on audit, combined with some miscellaneous revenue receipts, which are brought in reduction of the charges of that year.

Customs.—The increase in the per centage on the customs will be seen to accrue more from a diminution in the receipts than from an increase of charge, occasioned, it is presumed, by the abolition of transit duties.

Salt and Tobacco.—The variations in the per centage on these sources of revenue are evidently occasioned more by the different modes adopted for separating the cost of the articles from the charges upon them, than by a positive increase in the latter.

BOMBAY :

Land.—The per centage for collection is apparently $1\frac{1}{2}$ higher in 1839/40 than in 1829/30; but if service pensions and some extraordinary payments were excluded in both years, the actual charge in 1839/40 would be rather less than in 1829/30.

Customs.—The increase in the per centage for collection is accounted for by the diminution of receipts, owing to the abolition of the transit duties.

Salt.—This is a new source of revenue at Bombay, and may be regarded as partaking of the nature of a custom duty. The receipts and charges on account of the tax should therefore be considered in connexion with that duty, and hence would result an amelioration in the per centage on "customs" in 1839/40.

Civil Charges.—The large increase under this head in 1839/40 is occasioned by the writing off in that year of the accumulated balance standing to the debit of "Warden's Official Fund," amounting to about 200,000 *l.*

Marine.—The diminution in the per-centage charge of the Marine in 1839/40, as compared with 1829/30, appears to be owing to a smaller outlay at Bombay for building and purchase of vessels and timber in that year than was incurred for the same purposes in 1829/30.

INDIA :

Military.—The high per centage of military charge upon the revenues of India, in the year 1819/20, as compared with the rate in the preceding and succeeding decennial periods, is to be traced to the augmentation of the army a year or two previously, consequent upon the great Mahratta war about that time.

Interest.—The diminution of the per-centage charge for interest is the result of redemption of debt by means of the Company's commercial assets and reduction in the rate of interest, by substituting new loans for old ones, which bore higher interest.

The above explanations show that there is considerable difficulty in establishing exact comparisons in the heads of charge between the decennial periods, partly owing to novel or temporary charges, and partly owing to changes in the modes of keeping account; but the total charges nevertheless, both of collection and for carrying on the government of India, show an increase under the former heads from 8 per cent. on the gross revenue in 1809/10 to 13 per cent. in 1839/40, and under the latter heads from 80-561 per cent. in 1809/10 to 84-874 in 1839/40.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SUGAR AND COFFEE PLANTING.

Appendix, No. 4.

PAPERS delivered in by Mr. *Prideaux*, 17 February 1848.

STATEMENT of the Quantity and Value of SUGAR Exported from the Three Presidencies to all Parts of the World, distinguishing the Yearly Exports to the United Kingdom, from 1836-37 to the latest Returns.

YEARS.	BENGAL.		MADRAS.		BOMBAY.		TOTAL.	
	To all Places.	To United Kingdom.	To all Places.	To United Kingdom.	To all Places.	To United Kingdom.	To all Places.	To United Kingdom.
QUANTITY.								
	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>	<i>Tons.</i>
1836-37 -	22,441	13,600	197	23	4,455	160	27,093	13,783
1837-38 -	29,754	21,870	172	44	4,136	853	34,002	22,767
1838-39 -	31,100	26,137	142	13	3,861	1,682	35,103	27,882
1839-40 -	30,828	26,826	435	7	1,757	388	33,020	27,171
1840-41 -	67,422	64,856	604	37	5,363	3	73,360	64,896
1841-42 -	57,266	54,650	497	143	4,365	1	62,128	54,794
1842-43 -	61,710	60,627	444	251	4,352	6	66,506	60,784
1 May to 31 } July 1843 }	-	-	-	-	1,437	606	1,437	606
1843-44 -	57,337	57,117	1,759	1,692	5,055	84	64,151	58,893
1844-45 -	56,434	55,660	6,022	5,731	4,818	171	67,274	61,562
1845-46 -	66,139	65,851	no return.	no return.	8,688	2,124	incomplete.	incomplete.
VALUE.								
	<i>Rupees.</i>	<i>Rupees.</i>	<i>Rupees.</i>	<i>Rupees.</i>	<i>Rupees.</i>	<i>Rupees.</i>	<i>Rupees.</i>	<i>Rupees.</i>
1836-37 -	52,19,934	33,50,449	40,072	4,683	11,21,432	42,903	63,81,438	33,98,036
1837-38 -	67,28,479	52,15,416	39,971	10,307	17,92,113	1,93,681	85,60,563	54,19,404
1838-39 -	73,27,758	63,65,585	24,305	2,295	13,06,526	2,42,927	86,58,589	66,10,807
1839-40 -	73,33,019	65,59,570	74,696	1,179	12,69,056	53,274	86,76,771	66,14,023
1840-41 -	1,65,92,441	1,61,00,824	1,12,171	6,800	18,05,498	993	1,65,10,110	1,61,08,617
1841-42 -	1,37,85,615	1,32,07,843	94,925	27,299	16,68,606	235	1,55,49,145	1,32,35,377
1842-43 -	1,53,67,294	1,51,07,390	97,770	55,249	14,59,491	1,500	1,69,24,555	1,51,64,139
1 May to 31 } July 1843 }	-	-	-	-	3,55,707	1,39,305	3,55,707	1,39,305
1843-44 -	1,47,64,519	1,47,09,295	3,26,480	3,14,122	10,30,613	20,579	1,61,21,612	1,50,42,996
1844-45 -	1,46,91,956	1,44,94,076	10,58,436	10,07,020	10,58,545	26,102	1,68,08,937	1,55,27,198
1845-46 -	1,77,78,113	1,77,06,712	no return.	no return.	16,79,876	4,40,916	incomplete.	incomplete.

STATEMENT of the Trade of the Three Presidencies in COFFEE, distinguishing the Yearly Exports to the United Kingdom, from the Year 1836-37 to the latest Returns received.

0.32.

YEAR.	IMPORTS FROM ALL PLACES.				EXPORTS TO ALL PLACES.				EXPORTS TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.			
	Calcutta.	Madras.	Bombay.	TOTAL.	Calcutta.	Madras.	Bombay.	TOTAL.	Calcutta.	Madras.	Bombay.	TOTAL.
QUANTITY.												
	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>
1836-37	811,501	180,544	1,212,446	2,204,401	398,833	542,752	1,444,189	2,385,774	217,563	not stated	1,029,550	incomplete.
1837-38	464,257	80,192	850,484	1,394,933	746,331	845,072	1,076,238	2,167,641	155,436	"	914,408	"
1838-39	522,596	64,848	2,008,919	2,596,363	259,776	308,560	1,961,893	2,530,229	42,377	"	1,720,214	"
1839-40	1,211,246	54,656	1,006,757	2,272,659	920,778	645,356	1,076,840	2,642,974	238,052	"	667,047	"
1840-41	1,434,406	78,736	2,918,192	4,431,334	546,706	336,112	2,825,519	3,708,337	415,377	"	2,388,112	"
1841-42	1,118,182	47,152	2,522,572	3,687,906	1,030,795	225,792	2,709,787	3,966,374	152,805	"	2,414,890	"
1842-43	872,969	46,592	4,126,472	5,046,033	839,725	341,376	3,953,543	5,134,644	159,223	"	3,618,969	"
1 quarter, 1 May to 31 July 1843	-	-	653,282	653,282	-	-	224,682	224,682	-	-	156,482	"
1843-44	718,026	45,024	3,669,559	4,432,609	296,639	810,320	3,060,979	4,167,938	265,536	"	2,624,235	"
1844-45	1,504,481	41,104	4,538,995	6,084,530	234,514	784,896	5,244,789	6,264,199	217,974	"	4,641,759	"
1845-46	1,365,780	not received	2,688,954	incomplete	1,026,680	not received	3,787,449	incomplete	121,788	"	2,488,151	"
VALUE.												
	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>	<i>Rs.</i>
1836-37	1,77,673	55,514	2,40,999	4,74,150	83,849	1,39,078	3,46,742	5,69,669	45,438	95,692	2,62,184	4,03,314
1837-38	1,01,363	16,216	1,59,419	2,76,998	1,43,859	1,03,371	2,21,023	4,68,253	34,854	1,02,518	1,89,045	3,26,417
1838-39	1,02,082	11,650	3,86,462	5,00,194	50,363	81,298	3,64,679	4,96,340	7,696	79,801	3,14,491	4,01,088
1839-40	2,11,538	10,991	1,92,136	4,13,765	1,79,057	1,59,774	2,63,426	6,02,257	46,369	1,55,099	1,65,241	3,66,610
1840-41	4,10,859	18,272	5,93,782	10,22,913	1,60,075	70,793	8,60,072	10,99,940	1,23,662	43,840	7,62,362	9,29,864
1841-42	3,17,025	9,366	5,33,032	9,09,423	2,99,739	43,218	7,02,380	10,36,337	14,587	9,162	6,43,640	6,67,389
1842-43	2,21,306	8,893	9,70,723	12,01,012	2,19,883	66,321	9,18,060	12,04,264	46,494	20,255	8,61,791	9,28,540
1 quarter, 1 May to 31 July	-	-	1,36,575	1,36,575	-	-	43,553	43,553	-	-	28,333	28,333
1843-44	1,20,353	8,155	7,46,774	8,84,282	59,605	1,52,057	6,49,942	8,61,604	54,421	26,598	5,63,531	6,44,460
1844-45	2,74,403	5,504	9,69,710	12,49,617	55,211	1,19,539	10,04,795	11,79,545	52,427	37,107	9,24,569	10,14,193
1845-46	2,31,079	not received	5,12,681	incomplete	2,08,167	not received	7,60,629	incomplete	22,502	not received	5,61,291	incomplete.

P P C

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SUGAR AND COFFEE PLANTING.

Appendix, No. 5.

Appendix, No. 5. STATEMENT of the IMPORT DUTIES levied on British Manufactures on their Admission into the *Brazils, Cuba, Porto-Rico, and Java*; and of EXPORT DUTIES levied on Sugar and Coffee in each of those Countries.

Import and Export Duties.

BRAZIL		
<i>Import Duties.</i>		
On all articles of British manufacture, except the following	- - - - -	30 per cent.
On carpets, soap, mould and composition candles, porcelain, ink and sand stands, and any other article of crockery ware not included in the Tariff; chandeliers, wine glasses or glass mugs, glass bottles, and furniture	- - - - -	40 "
On steel, zinc, bar or sheet; lead, ditto; iron, bar, rod, plate, or tongues for foundries; tin, block or sheet; brass in plates, copper, tar, and sole leather	- - - - -	25 "
On net laces of cotton, silk, or twist (torcal), cambric handkerchiefs of cotton or linen	- - - - -	20 "
<i>Export Duties.</i>		
On sugar	- - - - -	10 "
On coffee	- - - - -	12 "
CUBA.		
<i>Import Duties.</i>		
On all cotton goods	- - - - -	26 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
On linen goods	- - - - -	32 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Except drills and Bielfelds	- - - - -	26 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
On silk goods	- - - - -	26 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
On woollen goods	- - - - -	32 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Except kerseymeres, flannel, flushing, and merinos	- - - - -	26 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
On bottles and tumblers	- - - - -	26 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
On iron, bar	- - - - -	32 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
On iron nails and files	- - - - -	26 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
On copper sheathing	- - - - -	32 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
On steam-engines and machinery for sugar estates	- - - - -	Free.
<p>The preceding rates are on goods introduced by foreign vessels from foreign ports. If by Spanish vessels from foreign ports, and by foreign vessels from Spanish ports, the rates of duty are: 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ instead of 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and 19 $\frac{1}{2}$ instead of 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. Upon all rates the "Balanza" of 1 per cent. is exacted in addition.</p>		
<i>Export Duties.</i>		
On sugar	- - - - -	1s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per cwt.
On coffee	- - - - -	2s. 5d. "

PORTO-RICO.		Appendix, No. 5. Import and Export Duties.
<i>Import Duties.</i>		
On foreign salt, in foreign vessels - - - - -	100 per cent.	
On woollens and furniture, in foreign vessels - - - - -	26 "	
Ditto - - - - - in Spanish vessels - - - - -	18 "	
On cod fish, iron goods, cottons, linens, silks, and mould and sperm candles, in foreign vessels - - - - -	20 "	
Ditto, in Spanish vessels - - - - -	14 "	
On steam-engines and machinery for sugar estates - - - - -	Free.	
<i>Export Duties.</i>		
On sugar and coffee - - - - -	5 "	
J A V A.		
<i>Import Duties.</i>		
On all articles in Dutch vessels - - - - -	12½ "	
Ditto - in foreign vessels - - - - -	25 "	
<i>Export Duties.</i>		
On sugar exported in a Dutch vessel - - - - -	5 s. 3 d. per cwt.	
Ditto - - in a foreign vessel - - - - -	10 s. 6 d. "	
On coffee exported in a foreign vessel to a foreign country - - - - -	1 l. 6 s. 3 d. "	
Ditto - - in a foreign vessel to a Dutch port, 5 s. 3 d. is returned.		
Ditto - - in a Dutch vessel to a Dutch port - - - - -	5 s. 3 d. "	
Statistical Department, Board of Trade, } 17 February 1848.		H. W. Fonblanque.

Appendix, No. 6.

PAPERS delivered in by *Henry St. George Tucker, Esq.*, 17 February 1848.

Appendix, No. 6.
Papers delivered
by H. St. George
Tucker, Esq.

NET IMPORT of TREASURE into the Three Ports of *Calcutta, Fort St. George, and Bombay,*
in each Year, from 1836/37 to 1845/46.

	<i>Company's Rupees.</i>
1836/37 - - - - -	1,76,27,628
1837/38 - - - - -	2,30,11,939
1838/39 - - - - -	2,67,39,397
1839/40 - - - - -	1,52,23,942
1840/41 - - - - -	1,45,45,427
1841/42 - - - - -	1,34,39,843
1842/43 - - - - -	3,22,74,950
1843/44 - - - - -	4,04,86,018
1844/45 - - - - -	2,64,56,316
1845/46 - - - { Bengal, 85,39,266 } { Bombay, 86,94,704 }	1,72,33,970*

* The books from Madras for this year have not yet been received.

STATEMENT showing the Results of the different Modes of REMITTANCE from India and China, for the Supply of the HOME TREASURY, from the Year 1834/35 to the latest Period.

	Silk Consigned from India.		Bills Remitted from India.		Bills Remitted from China.		Bills on India.		Total Amount of Remittances.	Average Total Outturn per Company's Rupee.	
	Net Sale Proceeds.	Produce, per Company's Rupee.	Amount.	Outturn, per Company's Rupee.	Amount.	Outturn, per Company's Rupee, deducting Agency Charges and Commission.	Amount.	Outturn, per Company's Rupee.		Including Silk.	Excluding Silk.
	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	s. d.
1834/35	513,637	2 10·077	222,369	2 0·375	511,486	2 0·203	732,803	1 10·782	1,980,295	2 1·558	1 11·408
1835/36	284,516	2 6·295	1,099,017	2 0·195	957,738	2 0·662	2,045,253	1 10·593	4,386,524	1 11·817	1 11·468
1836/37	56,292	2 1·791	1,052,573	2 0·863	968,236	2 0·849	2,042,232	1 10·987	4,119,333	1 11·903	1 11·875
1837/38	122,038	2 0·248	990,655	2 0·516	297,852	2 0·067	1,706,185	1 11·070	3,116,730	1 11·652	1 11·625
1838/39	66,394	2 2·569	624,716	2 1·868	394,396	2 1·272	2,346,591	1 11·658	3,432,097	2 0·455	2 0·410
1839/40	-	-	1,193,104	2 1 221	-	-	1,439,525	1 11·449	2,632,629	-	2 0·220
1840/41	-	-	708,200	2 0·468	-	-	1,174,450	1 11·507	1,882,650	-	1 11·858
1841/42	-	-	893,261	2 0·704	-	-	2,589,283	1 10·541	3,482,544	-	1 11·068
1842/43	-	-	509,473	2 0·173	-	-	1,197,438	1 11·554	1,706,911	-	1 11·736
1843/44	-	-	268,410	2 -	-	-	2,801,731	1 11·012	3,070,141	-	1 11·090
1844/45	-	-	278,838	1 10	-	-	2,616,951	1 9·632	2,795,789	-	1 9·668
1845/46	-	-	890,799	1 10·219	-	-	3,065,709	1 9·889	3,956,508	-	1 9·866
1846/47	-	-	980,548	2 -	-	-	3,097,041	1 10·677	4,077,589	-	1 10·981
Average Rate at which the Company have realized their Remittances 1834/35 to 1846/47, per Company's Rupee										1 11·390	1 11·048

Accounts Branch, }
16 February 1848. }

BILLS ON INDIA.—Estimated Amount for BRITISH, AMERICAN, and CHINA TRADE, &c.

	£.
The Amount received for Bills on India between the 1st May and the middle of November 1844, was	1,307,373
Estimated through the medium of British Trade	747,852
Foreign Trade	189,470
Private Remittances to India	65,942
For India Trade	1,003,264
For Mercantile operations in China, (British and American in about equal proportions)	304,109
	1,307,373

Accounts Branch, }
2 December 1844. }

Appendix, No. —
Papers delivered
by H. St. George
Tucker, Esq.

ADVANCES on the Hypothecation of Goods since the commencement of the System in 1829/30 to 1846/47; with the rate per cent. of Loss.

	INDIA.			CHINA.			TOTAL.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1829/30	188,245	8	10	-	-	-	188,245	8	10
1830/31	131,582	5	4	-	-	-	131,582	5	4
1831/32	122,551	1	6	-	-	-	122,551	1	6
1832/33	299,346	2	7	-	-	-	299,346	2	7
1833/34	258,925	18	8	-	-	-	258,925	18	8
1834/35	222,368	10	11	511,486	17	2	733,854	8	1
1835/36	1,099,016	11	7	957,738	15	2	2,056,755	6	9
1836/37	1,082,573	5	7	968,236	8	10	2,000,809	14	5
1837/38	990,655	7	9	297,851	11	11	1,288,506	19	8
1838/39	624,716	2	7	394,396	10	-	1,019,112	12	7
1839/40	1,198,104	1	10	-	-	-	1,198,104	1	10
1840/41	708,200	11	-	-	-	-	708,200	11	-
1841/42	893,261	9	11	-	-	-	893,261	9	11
1842/43	489,473	9	5	-	-	-	489,473	9	5
1843/44	258,410	2	-	-	-	-	258,410	2	-
1844/45	278,837	18	-	-	-	-	278,837	18	-
1845/46	890,798	17	-	-	-	-	890,798	17	-
1846/47	980,547	17	9	-	-	-	980,547	17	9
£.	10,662,615	2	3	3,129,709	3	1	13,792,324	5	4

Referred to India for adjustment with Consignors and Claims preferred in the Bankruptcy Court in this country in respect of Unliquidated Advances - - - - - £. 4,000 - -
Of which has been Recovered - - £. 1,067 - - } - - 1,300 - -
Estimated further to be Recovered 233 - - }

Probable Loss - - - - - £. 2,700 - - or 4 3/4 p' cent.

Accounts Branch, }
16 February 1848. }

AMOUNT of ADVANCES on Hypothecation in the Years 1845/46 and 1846/47, specifying the different descriptions of Goods, so far as the same can be distinguished; * viz. :

	1845/46.	1846/47.
	£.	£.
Sugar - - - - -	290,862	111,096
Indigo - - - - -	93,341	472,758
Silk and silk piece Goods - - - - -	313,766	164,294
Cotton - - - - -	130,574	180,010
Other Goods - - - - -	62,256	52,390
£.	890,799	980,548

* Many of the Bills of Lading, upon which Advances have been made, embrace various descriptions of Goods.

Accounts Branch, }
16 February 1848. }

VALUE of SUGAR Hypothecated to the EAST INDIA COMPANY in the Year 1847/48, so far as Accounts have been received.

From Bengal, per Bazaar Maund, Rs. 9. 1. 10. at 2s. per rupee - - -	£. s. d.
From Madras, per Madras Maund, Rs. 1. 10. 11. at 2s. per ditto - - -	- 18 2 3/4
	- 3 4 3/4
Amount for which Bills on account of Sugar hypothecated to the Company in the same period were drawn - - - - -	73,282 - -
Probable Amount of the above Bills to be realized here, so far as the same can at present be estimated - - - - -	68,000 - -

APPENDIX TO FIRST REPORT FROM THE

BENGAL

STATEMENT of Bills Purchased from Merchants

	1837/38.				1838/39.				1839/40.			
	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.
May	-	6,24,130	s. d.	To Buy, at 6 mths. sight and 12 months' date, per cwt., 2/0½ a' 2/2	92,326	8,52,244	s. d.	1/11½ a' 2/	103,742	9,55,624	s. d.	1/11½ a' 2/
June	-	7,32,214	-	2/2½	130,071	12,00,648	2 2	ditto	27,700	2,55,691	2 2	ditto
July	-	4,47,626 19,543	2 2	2/s½	140,801	12,99,700	2 2	ditto	55,381	5,11,211	2 2	ditto
August	-	47,747	2 2 and 2 1	2/1 a' 2/2½	75,593	6,97,789	2 2	ditto	24,398	2,25,210	2 2	ditto
September	-	37,051	2 1 and 2 -	2/1 a' 2/1½	14,172	1,30,819	2 2	ditto	19,010	1,75,480	2 2	ditto
October	-	32,442	2 -	1/11½ a' 2/	2,329	21,494	2 2	ditto	41,521	3,83,268	2 2	ditto
November	-	41,559	2 -	1/11½ a' 2/	12,091	1,06,997	2 2	ditto	5,203	48,579	2 2	ditto
December	-	229,511	2 -	1/11½ a' 2/	74,614	6,88,743	2 2	ditto	142,852	13,70,799	2 2 and 2 1	ditto
January	-	289,062	2 -	1/11½ a' 2/	15,638	1,44,349	2 2	ditto	211,372	20,29,171	2 1	ditto
February	-	49,590	2 -	1/11½ a' 2/	7,025	64,846	2 2	ditto	358,786	34,44,344	2 1	ditto
March	-	905	2 -	1/11½ a' 2/	1,823	16,824	2 2	ditto	109,561	10,51,783	2 1	ditto
April	-	936	2 -	1/11½ a' 2/	13,734	1,26,769	2 2	ditto	64,433	6,18,584	2 1	ditto
TOTAL	748,346	90,67,769	-	-	586,217	54,11,232	-	-	1,164,021	1,10,69,747	-	-

STATEMENT of Bills Purchased from Merchants in 1844/45 to 1846/47, on the Hypothecation of Goods.

	1844/45.				1845/46.				1846/47.			
	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.
May	-	-	-	1/11½ a' 1/11½	40,630	4,42,235	1/10	1/10½ a' 1/10½ at 10 months' date.	-	-	-	2/0½ a' 2/1 for first-rate bills at 10 months' date.
June	-	-	-	1/11½ a' 1/11½	97,371	10,62,231	1/10	1/11	-	-	-	2/2 for ditto.
July	-	-	-	1/11½ for 10 mths. date bills	159,362	17,38,499	1/10	1/11½ a' 1/11½	-	-	-	2/2½ a' 2/3 for bills at 10 months' date.
August	-	-	-	1/11 a' 1/11½	130,186	14,20,205	1/10	1/11 at 10 mths. date.	-	-	-	2/0½ a' 2/1 for ditto.
September	-	-	-	1/10½ a' 1/10½	135,438	14,68,959	1/10 and 1/10½	1/11	-	-	-	1/11 a' 1/11½ for ditto; 1/11½ for bills with documents.
October	-	-	-	1/10½ a' 1/10½	44,768	4,76,800	1/10 and 1/11	1/10½ a' 1/10½	-	-	-	1/10½ a' 1/11
November	-	-	-	1/10½ a' 1/10½	13,202	1,38,810	1/11	1/11 a' 1/11½ at 10 mths. date.	-	-	-	1/11 at 6 months' sight.

(continued)

BENGAL.

1837/38 to 1843/44, on the Hypothecation of Goods.

1840/41.				1841/42.				1842/43.				1843/44.			
£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange.	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange.	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange.	Rate as per Price Current.
1,736	64,658	s. d. 2 1	1/11½ a' 2/6 months' sight and 12 months' date.	163,295	16,32,956	s. d. 2 -	2/1½ at 10 mths. date.	13,384	1,23,540	s. d. 2 2	With security 2/2; uncovered bills 2/2½ a' 2/2½.	45,232	4,52,321	s. d. 2 -	Bills with security, 10 mths. date, 2/1 a' 2/1½; ditto, without security, at ditto, 2/1 a' 2/1½.
1,043	10,019	- -	ditto -	161,937	15,84,376	s. d. 2 -	2/1 a' 2/1½	8,904	36,040	s. d. 2 2	2/1½; uncovered bills 2/1½.	21,045	2,10,449	s. d. 2 -	2/1½; without documents.
875	6,474	- -	ditto -	97,248	9,36,892	s. d. 2 1	ditto -	- - -	- - -	- - -	2/1½ a' 2/1½	20,152	2,01,520	s. d. 2 -	2/a' 2/0½, with and without security.
1,756	45,653	- -	ditto -	14,742	1,41,525	s. d. 2 1	2/1 at 10 mths' date, and 2/0½ at 6 mths. date.	17,730	1,63,660	s. d. 2 2	2/1½ a' 2/2	6,548	65,477	s. d. 2 -	2/ for 10 mths. bills.
6,244	59,945	- -	ditto -	1,330	12,768	s. d. 2 1	2/a' 2/0½	2,106	19,440	s. d. 2 2	2/2 a' 2/2½	5,653	56,530	s. d. 2 -	1/11½
5,877	56,422	- -	2/1 with documents.	- - -	- - -	- - -	2/	- - -	- - -	- - -	2/1½	- - -	- - -	- - -	2/
96,352	9,24,979	- -	2/1 a' 2/1½ 6 months' sight and 10 months' date, with or without documents.	- - -	- - -	- - -	2/0½	- - -	- - -	- - -	2/1 a' 2/1½	7,430	74,298	s. d. 2 -	1/11½
7,960	76,088	s. d. 2 2 and 2 1	2/2 a' 2/2½, 10 and 12 months' date.	14,629	1,42,361	s. d. 2 1	2/1	6,159	49,520	s. d. 2 1	2/1½	33,218	3,32,179	s. d. 2 -	2/0½ a' 2/0½.
25,514	2,43,532	s. d. 2 2 and 2 1	2/1½ a' 2/2	180,145	17,29,392	s. d. 2 1	2/1½ a' 2/1½	25,483	2,53,585	s. d. 2 1 and 2 -	2/0½ a' 2/0½; without security 2/0½ a' 2/0½.	72,587	7,25,673	s. d. 2 -	2/0½ at 10 mths. date, with documents.
177,415	17,94,279	s. d. 2 1 and 2 -	2/1 a' 2/1½	52,631	4,92,709	s. d. 2 1 and 2 2	2/2	50,063	5,00,632	s. d. 2 -	2/0½ a' 10 mths. date, with security, and 2/0½ at 6 months' sight, with security.	13,670	1,36,706	s. d. 2 -	2/0½ with and without documents.
175,034	17,50,840	s. d. 2 -	2/a' 2/0½	24,234	2,24,020	s. d. 2 2	2/2	102,475	10,24,753	s. d. 2 -	10 mths. date, with documents, 2/0½ a' 2/0½; 6 months' sight, with ditto, 2/0½ a' 2/0½	- - -	- - -	- - -	1/11½
176,075	17,00,748	s. d. 2 -	2/0½ a' 2/0½	49,346	4,55,498	s. d. 2 2	2/2½ a' 2/2½	136,328	13,68,281	s. d. 2 -	10 mths. date, 2/1 a' 2/1½; 6 months' sight, 2/0½ a' 2/	- - -	- - -	- - -	1/10½ a' 1/1
683,680	67,03,136	- - -	- - -	759,887	75,53,097	- - -	- - -	357,132	35,39,457	- - -	- - -	225,535	22,55,353	- - -	-

Statement of Bills Purchased from Merchants in 1844/45 to 1846/47 on the Hypothecation of Goods—continued.

1844/45.				1845/46.				1846/47.			
£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.
- - -	- - -	- - -	1/10½ a' 1/10½	53,951	5,62,966	s. d. 1 11	1/11 a' 1/11½ at 10 mths. date.	- - -	- - -	s. d. - - -	2/a' 2/0½ at 1 months' date.
5,531	60,342	1/10	1/10½ a' 1/10½	12,341	1,28,776	1 11	2/1 a' 2/1½ for bills at 10 months' date, with and without documents.	46,316	4,63,159	2 -	2/0½ at ditto.
96,901	10,57,094	- - -	1/10½ a' 1/10½ for bills at 10 months' date.	- - -	- - -	- - -	2/0½ a' 2/1½ for bills at 10 months' date.	262,015	26,20,152	2 -	2/0½ for first-class papers, at 10 mths. date.
98,625	10,75,018	- - -	1/10½ a' 1/10½ at 10 months' date.	- - -	- - -	- - -	2/0½ a' 2/1 for ditto.	314,249	31,42,493	2 -	2/1 a' 2/1½ for bills at 10 mths. date.
46,281	5,04,876	- - -	1/10½ at 10 mths. date.	- - -	- - -	- - -	2/1½ for ditto.	101,555	10,15,554	2 -	2/0½ a' 2/0½ for class papers at months' date.
247,338	26,08,230	- - -	- - -	687,349	74,40,483	- - -	- - -	724,136	72,41,358	- - -	- - -

(signed) E. Deering

M A D R A S.

STATEMENT of Bills Purchased from Merchants

	1837/38.				1838/39.				1839/40.				
	£.	Company's Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Company's Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Company's Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	
May -	4,127	38,091	s. d. 2 2	-	-	-	ms. ms. ds. 2/1½ 2/1½ 2/1	-	-	-	-	ms. ms. ds. 2/1½ 2/1½ 2/1	
June -	1,364	12,593	2 2	-	1,971	18,191	2 2	- ditto -	-	-	-	2/ 1/11½ 1/11½	
July -	76	703	2 2	-	-	-	2/1 2/0½ 2/	-	-	-	-	- ditto -	
August -	1,660	15,581	{ 2 2 } { 2 1 }	-	211	1,950	2 2	2/1½ 2/1½ 2/1	2,502	23,097	2 2	- ditto -	
September -	511	5,113	2 -	Records not forthcoming.	1,102	10,171	2 2	2/2 2/1½ 2/1	-	-	-	- ditto -	
October -	392	3,920	2 -		197	1,820	2 2	2/1½ 2/1½ 2/1	-	-	-	- ditto -	
November -	-	-	-		-	-	-	2/2 2/1½ 2/1	-	-	-	-	- ditto -
December -	-	-	-		-	-	-	2/2 2/1½ 2/1	-	-	-	-	- ditto -
January -	270	3,696	2 -		-	-	-	2/1½ 2/1½ 2/1	-	-	-	-	1/11½ 1/11½ 1/11
February -	-	-	-		-	-	-	- ditto -	-	-	-	-	- ditto -
March -	2,775	27,750	Not specified.		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	- ditto -
April -	-	-	-	-	-	-	2/2 2/1½ 2/1	-	-	-	-	- ditto -	
TOTAL -	11,275	1,07,447	-	-	3,481	32,132	-	-	2,502	23,097	-	-	

STATEMENT of Bills Purchased from Merchants in 1844/45 to 1846/47 on the Hypothecation of Goods.

	1844/45.				1845/46.				1846/47.			
	£.	Company's Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Company's Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Company's Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.
May -	-	-	s. d. 1/10	ms. ms. ds. 1/9½ 1/9½	595	6,487	1 10	1/9½ 1/9½ 1/9½	-	-	-	1/11½ 1/11½ 1/11
June -	-	-	-	ditto	1,153	12,584	1 10	- ditto -	-	-	-	- ditto -
July -	-	-	-	ditto	1,216	13,282	1 10	- ditto -	-	-	-	1/11½ a' 2s. according to sight.
August -	-	-	-	ditto	8,763	95,594	1 10	- ditto -	-	-	-	- ditto -
September -	-	-	-	ditto	7,788	84,846	1 10 & 1 10½	- ditto -	-	-	-	1/11½ a' 1/11½ according to sight.
October -	-	-	-	ditto	4,238	45,207	1 10½	1/10 1/9½ 1/9½	-	-	-	1/10½ a' 1/11 according to sight.
November -	-	-	-	ditto	2,230	23,272	1 11	- ditto -	-	-	-	- ditto -

(continued)

MADRAS.

in 1837/38 to 1843/44, on the Hypothecation of Goods.

1840/41.				1841/42.				1842/43.				1843/44.												
£.	Com-pany's Rupees	Rate of Exchange.	Rate as per Price Current.			£.	Com-pany's Rupees.	Rate of Exchange.	Rate as per Price Current.			£.	Com-pany's Rupees	Rate of Exchange.	Rate as per Price Current.									
			ms. 6	ms. 3	ds. 30				s. d.	ms. 6	ms. 3				ds. 30	s. d.	ms. 6	ms. 3	ds. 30	ms. 6	ms. 3	ds. 30		
-	-	-	1/11½	1/11½	1/11	-	-	-	1/11	1/10½	1/10½	-	-	-	1/11½	1/11½	1/11	-	-	-	1/11½	1/11½	1/11	
-	-	-	-	ditto	-	-	-	-	-	ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ditto.
-	-	-	-	ditto	-	810	8,100	2	-	1/11½	1/11½	1/11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ditto.
-	-	-	-	ditto	-	2,545	24,430	2	1	-	ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ditto.
-	-	-	-	ditto	-	381	3,659	2	1	-	ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/11 1/10½ 1/10½
-	-	-	-	ditto	-	-	-	-	-	1/11½	1/11½	1/11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ditto.
-	-	-	-	ditto	-	3,269	30,607	2	1	-	ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1/10½ 1/10½ 1/10
-	-	-	-	ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ditto.
-	-	-	-	ditto	-	1,100	10,565	2	1	-	ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ditto.
-	-	-	-	ditto	-	2,562	24,598	2	1	-	ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ditto.
-	-	-	-	1/10½	1/10½	1/10	-	-	-	-	ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ditto.
-	-	-	-	ditto	-	-	-	-	-	-	ditto	-	1,657	16,574	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	ditto.
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	10,607	1,02,159	-	-	-	-	-	1,657	16,574	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Statement of Bills Purchased from Merchants in 1844/45 to 1846/47, on the Hypothecation of Goods—continued.

—	1844/45.				1845/46.				1846/47.			
	£.	Company's Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Company's Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as Per Price Current.	£.	Company's Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.
			s. d.	ms. 6 ms. 3 ds. 30			s. d.	ms. 6 ms. 3 ds. 30				ms. 6 ms. 3 ds. 30
December	-	-	-	1/10 1/9½ 1/9½	-	-	-	1/10 1/9½ 1/9½	2,938	29,382	2s. & 10 mths. after date.	1/10½ a' 1/11 according to sight.
January	-	-	-	ditto	4,332	45,206	2	1/10½ 1/10½ 1/10	10,098	1,00,985	2	ditto.
February	12,080	1,31,450	1 10	ditto	-	-	-	ditto	1,932	19,316	2	1/11 to 1/11½ according to sight.
March	4,481	48,690	1 10	ditto	-	-	-	1/11 1/10½ 1/10½	4,937	49,380	2	ditto.
April	849	9,257	1 10	ditto	-	-	-	ditto	1,402	14,016	2	ditto.
TOTAL	17,380	1,69,597	-	-	30,317	3,26,460	-	-	21,307	2,13,079	-	-

(signed) E. Dering.

B O M B A Y.

STATEMENT of Bills Purchased from Merchants

	1837/38.				1838/39.				1839/40.			
	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.
May - -	34,238	3,16,041	s. d. 2 2	-	18,855	1,88,557	s. d. 2 -	s. d. 2 0 ½	-	-	-	s. d. 2 1 ½
June - -	-	-	-	-	4,960	49,602	2 -	2 1	-	-	-	2 1 ½
July - -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 1	-	-	-	2 1 ½ at 6 mths. sight.
August -	2,492	23,316	{ 2 2 and 2 1 }	-	-	-	-	2 1 ½	897	8,275	-	2 1 ½
September -	608	5,918	{ 2 1 and 2 - }	-	-	-	-	2 0 ½	-	-	-	2 0 ½
October -	1,574	15,740	2 -	-	743	6,858	2 2	2 0	-	-	-	2 0 ½
November -	3,317	33,170	2 -	-	-	-	-	2 0 ½	-	-	-	2 0 ½
December -	2,348	23,480	2 -	-	-	-	-	2 0 ½	1,607	16,000	2 1	2 0 ½
January -	1,180	11,800	2 -	-	-	-	-	2 1 at 6 mths. sight.	7,077	67,943	-	2 1
February -	139	1,390	2 -	-	-	6,886	-	2 1 ½	3,800	30,482	-	2 1 ½
March -	8,154	81,540	2 -	-	-	-	-	2 1 ½	923	8,862	-	2 1 ½
April -	3,119	31,190	2 -	-	-	-	-	2 1 ½	1,022	9,815	-	2 1 ½
TOTAL	61,297	5,81,682	-	-	-	2,51,903	-	as per Receipts and Disbursements.	15,886	1,47,376	-	-

STATEMENT of Bills Purchased from Merchants in 1844/45 to 1846/47, on the Hypothecation of Goods.

	1844/45.				1845/46.				1846/47.			
	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.
May - -	-	-	-	1/10 ½ a' 1/10 ½ for 6 mths. sight bills, & 1/10 for 30 days' sight.	7,783	84,910	s. d. 1 10	1/10 ½ a' 1/10 ½	-	-	-	2/0 ½ a' 2/0 ½ at 6 months' sight, for bills well endorsed.
June - -	-	-	-	1/10 ½ a' 1/10 ½ at 6 mths. sight, & 1/10 at 30 days to run.	21,177	2,31,025	-	1/10 ½ a' 1/10 ½ at 6 months' sight.	-	-	-	1/11 ½ a' 1/11 ½ at 6 months' sight.
July - -	-	-	-	1/10 ½ a' 1/10 ½ at 6 months' sight.	13,038	1,42,228	-	1/10 ½ a' 1/10 ½ at 6 months' sight, & 1/10 at 30 days' sight.	-	-	-	2/0 ½ a' 2/0 ½ for local bills at 6 mths. sight, & 1/11 ½ for Government drafts at 30 days' sight.
August -	-	-	-	1/10 ½ at 6 months' sight, and 1/10 at 30 days' sight.	14,866	1,62,170	-	1/10 ½ a' 1/10 ½ at 6 months' sight.	-	-	-	2/ at 6 mths. sight.
September -	-	-	-	1/10 ½ at 6 ms. sight, and 1/9 ½ at sight.	31,594	3,44,658	-	1/10 ½ a' 1/10 ½ at 6 months' sight.	-	-	-	1/11 a' 1/11 ½
October -	-	-	-	1/10 at 6 months' sight, and 1/9 ½ for 30 days' sight bills.	17,026	1,84,157	1 10 and 1 10 ½	1/10 ½ a' 1/10 ½ at 6 months' sight.	10,200	1,02,005	2/	1/11 a' 1/11 ½

(continued)

B O M B A Y .

in 1837/38 to 1843/44, on the Hypothecation of Goods.

1840/41.				1841/42.				1842/43.				1843/44.			
£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.
		s. d.	s. d.			s. d.									
-	-	-	-	31,281	3,12,812	2 0	2/0½ for bills at 6 ms. sight.	6,326	58,396	2/2	2/2 at 6 months' sight, and 2/1 at 3 months' sight.	14,855	1,48,547	2/	2/0½ for drafts at 6 months' sight.
-	-	-	-	27,740	2,77,400	2 0	2 1	2,129	19,649	-	2/1½ at 6 months' sight, and 2/1 at 3 months' sight.	17,060	1,76,601	2/	2/ for bills at 6 months' sight, & 1/11½ for bills having 30 days to run.
-	-	-	-	50,492	5,04,920	2 0	2 1	none	-	-	2/0½ a' 2/1 at 6 months' sight, and 1/11½ for 30 days' bills.	-	-	-	1/11½ a' 1/11½ for good bills, at 6 months' sight, and 1/11½ for bills having 30 days to run.
-	-	-	-	12,005	1,19,476	2 0 and 2 1	2 0½	-	-	-	2/0½ a' 2/0½ for first class bills at 6 months' sight.	-	-	-	1/10½ for bills at 6 months' sight, and 1/10 for bills having 30 days to run.
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 0½	-	-	-	2/0½ a' 2/0½ for ditto.	-	-	-	1/10½ for 6 mths. sight.
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 0½	-	-	-	2/0½ a' 2/1 for bills at 6 months' sight.	-	-	-	1/10½ a' 1/10½ at 6 mths. sight.
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 0½	-	-	-	2/0½ a' 2/1 for first class bills at 6 months' sight, and 1/11½ for bills having 3 months to run.	-	-	-	1/10½ and 1/11 for 6 mths. bills.
-	-	-	-	-	62,311	-	2 0½	-	-	-	1/11½ for bills at 30 days' sight, and 2/0½ a' 2/0½ at 6 mths. sight.	-	-	-	Ditto, & 1/10½ a' 1/10½ for bills at 30 days' sight.
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 0½	12,085	1,29,847	-	2/0½ a' 2/0½ for 6 months' sight, & 1/11½ for bills at 30 days' sight.	-	-	-	1/11 a' 1/11½ at 6 mths. sight.
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 0½	30,847	3,08,473	2/	2/ a' 2/0½ at 6 months' sight, and 1/11½ at 30 days' sight.	-	-	-	1/11½ a' 1/11½
206	3,660	2	-	-	-	-	2 0½	20,788	2,67,826	2/	2/ a' 2/0½ at 6 months' sight.	-	-	-	1/11 a' 1/11½ at 6 months' sight.
10,083	1,60,330	2	-	-	-	-	2 0½	43,253	4,32,536	2/	2/ a' 2/0½ for bills at 6 months' sight.	-	-	-	- ditto.
16,399	1,63,990	-	-	-	12,76,919	-	as p' Receipts and Disbursements.	132,923	13,16,739	-	-	32,515	3,25,148	-	-

Statement of Bills Purchased from Merchants in 1844/45 to 1846/47 on the Hypothecation of Goods—continued.

	1844/45.				1845/46.				1846/47.			
	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.	£.	Rupees.	Rate of Exchange	Rate as per Price Current.
			s. d.				s. d.					
November	-	-	-	1/0½ a' 1/10 at 6 months' sight, and 1/9½ at 30 days' sight.	4,170	43,511	1 11	1/10½ at 6 months' sight, and 1/9½ a' 1/10 at sight.	33,663	3,36,622	2/	1/11½ a' 2/
December	-	-	-	1/0½ at 6 months' sight.	33,681	3,51,462	1 11	1/11½ a' 1/11½ at 6 months' sight.	39,129	3,91,292	2/	2/0½ at 6 months' sight.
January	-	-	-	1/10½ a' 1/10½ at 6 months' sight.	10,809	2,02,022	-	2/ at 6 mths. sight, & 1/11½ a' 1/11½ at 30 days' sight.	45,969	4,59,695	2/	2/0½ a' 2/0½ at 6 months' sight.
February	2,777	30,291	1 10	1/10½ a' 1/10½ at 6 months' sight.	-	-	-	1/11½ a' 2/ at 6 months' sight.	18,219	1,82,187	2/	2/ a' 2/0½ for good bills at 6 months' sight.
March	5,085	55,471	1 10	1/9½ a' 1/10, first class bills, at 6 months' sight.	-	-	-	1/11½ a' 1/11½ at 6 months' sight.	41,377	4,13,771	2/	2/0½ a' 2/0½ at 6 months' sight, and 2/0½ at 30 days' sight.
April	6,253	68,278	-	1/10 a' 1/10½ at 6 months' sight.	-	-	-	1/11½ a' 1/11½ at 6 months' sight.	36,378	3,63,783	2/	1/0½ to 2/0½ at 6 months' date.
Total	14,120	1,54,040	-	-	162,695	17,46,143	-	-	224,935	22,49,355	-	-

MOFUSSIL Price of SUGAR.

It was stated by a witness (Larpent) before the Commons' Committee, in 1840, that the price of good Benares sugar at the Mofussil marts had for 20 years been from 9 to 10 rupees per maund. Subsequently the witness stated that late in the year 1839 sugar was not to be had in the interior under 10, 11, or 12 rupees per maund.

ESTIMATE of COST in London of SUGAR exported from Calcutta at various Prices.

Exchange 2 s. 1 d. per Rupee, and Freight 5 l.

CALCUTTA PRICE.		LONDON PRICE.	
<i>Per Maund.</i>		<i>Per Cwt.</i>	
9 Rupees.		34 s.	} Exclusive of Duty.
10 Rupees.		37 s.	
11 Rupees.		40 s.	

In the above calculation it would appear that dock and other charges are included, amounting to about 3 s. 8 d. per cwt., which will nearly account for the discrepancy otherwise apparent between the particulars and the total cost in London. Sir G. Larpent states that 10 s. per cwt. would generally cover all charges, including freight and commission.

STATEMENT showing the NET IMPORTS and NET EXPORTS of TREASURE, by Sea, in each of the Presidencies of India, from 1836/37 to 1845/46.

YEARS.	BENGAL.		* MADRAS.		BOMBAY.		TOTAL.		
	Net Imports.	Net Exports.	Net Imports.	Net Exports.	Net Imports.	Net Exports.	Imports.	Exports.	Net Imports.
	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>
1836/37	45,12,110	-	33,422	-	1,31,76,800	-	1,77,22,332	-	1,77,22,332
1837/38	90,84,493	-	2,21,111	-	1,36,88,846	-	2,29,94,450	-	2,29,94,450
1838/39	1,05,62,714	-	3,98,969	-	1,56,68,454	-	2,66,30,137	-	2,66,30,137
1839/40	1,02,67,693	-	-	1,50,402	46,30,120	-	1,48,97,813	1,50,402	1,47,47,411
1840/41	77,26,017	-	-	2,11,540	66,83,196	-	1,44,09,213	2,11,540	1,41,97,673
1841/42	83,04,821	-	-	11,29,208	60,87,183	-	1,43,01,804	11,29,208	1,32,62,596
1842/43	1,57,57,776	-	5,40,958	-	1,59,76,216	-	3,22,74,950	-	3,22,74,950
1843/44	1,56,65,816	-	9,36,409	-	2,38,83,793	-	4,04,86,018	-	4,04,86,018
1844/45	1,18,48,217	-	12,35,079	-	1,33,73,020	-	2,64,50,316	-	2,64,50,316
1845/46	85,39,266	-	- - The returns for this year have not yet been received.			86,94,704	-	-	-

* Ports included with Fort St. George in this Return:—Rajahmundry, Southern Division of Arcot, Tanjore, Tinnevely, and Canara.

Note.—The above statement is founded on returns from all ports under each Presidency from which returns are furnished; but treasure merely transmitted from one port of India to another port, whether under British or foreign rule, is excluded.

Statistical Office, 27 October 1847.

INDIA.

MEMORANDUM of BILLS Drawn by the Honourable Court from 1837/38 to 1846/47.

	BENGAL.		MADRAS.		BOMBAY.		TOTAL.	
	£.	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>	£.	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>	£.	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>	£.	<i>Co's. Rs.</i>
1837/38	1,461,878	1,52,54,375	166,644	17,10,897	78,163	7,98,260	1,706,685	1,77,63,532
1838/39	2,199,435	2,23,51,626	123,580	12,18,616	23,577	2,35,127	2,346,592	2,38,05,369
1839/40	1,323,625	1,35,77,815	87,007	8,68,424	29,142	2,90,488	1,439,774	1,47,36,727
1840/41	1,066,087	1,08,98,944	47,334	4,77,231	62,329	6,27,915	1,175,750	1,20,04,090
1841/42	2,345,994	2,49,50,512	106,212	11,01,906	137,077	14,15,765	2,589,283	2,74,68,183
1842/43	1,063,911	1,08,74,912	79,905	7,89,822	53,623	5,85,998	1,197,439	1,22,00,732
1843/44	2,557,704	2,66,89,080	215,353	22,37,549	29,139	2,97,593	2,802,196	2,92,24,222
1844/45	2,147,957	2,38,27,924	342,772	38,13,083	26,472	2,85,773	2,517,201	2,79,26,780
1845/46	2,521,979	2,79,68,024	418,711	46,14,986	125,119	13,40,700	3,065,809	3,39,23,710
1846/47	2,603,673	2,75,59,116	422,153	44,83,248	71,215	7,35,039	3,097,041	3,27,77,403

Fort William,
Financial Department, 24 June 1847.]

Papers delivered in
by H. St. George
Tucker, Esq.

RECEIVED FOR BILLS ON INDIA.

	£.	s.	d.
7 January to 6 February - - - - -	211,479	16	7
7 February to 6 March - - - - -	444,369	2	3
7 March to 6 April - - - - -	190,084	4	-
7 April to 6 May - - - - -	186,621	1	10
7 May to 6 June - - - - -	122,951	1	4
7 June to 6 July - - - - -	108,922	18	10
7 July to 6 August - - - - -	299,955	9	5
7 August to 6 September - - - - -	754,845	5	5
6 September to 6 October - - - - -	245,054	8	5
7 October to 6 November* - - - - -	116,635	5	9
	£. 2,630,768	13 s.	10 d.
7 November to 5 December - - - - -	158,279	17	1
6 December to 6 January 1847 - - - - -	150,149	6	8
7 January to 23 January - - - - -	85,825	12	7
24 January to 30 January - - - - -		771	5
	86,596	18	-
	£. 3,025,794	15 s.	9 d.

ESTIMATE, HOME TREASURY, 1st December 1847 to 31st May 1848.

DECEMBER 1847.

Balance at Bank of England, 1st December - - - - -	£.			
December - - - - -	321,328			
Receipt for Bills on India - - - - -	50,000			
Hypothecations - - - - -	*116,000			
Bills on Her Majesty's Govern- ment and Miscellaneous - - - - -	50,000			
Loan repayable 7th - - - - -	100,000			
East India Railway Company - - - - -	†30,000			
Sale of Exchequer Bills, &c. - - - - -	175,000			
Interest - - - - -	5,000			
	£. 847,328			
Payments in December - - - - -			£. 820,328	
Estimated Balance 31st December			527,000	
			£. 847,328	

JANUARY 1848.

Balance - - - - -	£. 527,000			
Further sale of Exchequer Bills - - - - -	25,000			
Bills on India - - - - -	50,000			
Hypothecations - - - - -	*150,000			
Bills on Her Majesty's Govern- ment and Miscellaneous - - - - -	29,500			
On account Steam Navigation - - - - -	12,500			
Great Indian Peninsula Company	80,000			
	£. 824,000			
Payments - - - - -			£. 602,000	
Balance 31st January - - - - -			222,000	
			£. 824,000	

FEBRUARY 1848.

Balance - - - - -	£. 222,000			
Bills on India - - - - -	70,000			
Hypothecations - - - - -	*110,000			
Bills on Her Majesty's Govern- ment and Miscellaneous - - - - -	20,000			
	£. 422,000			
Payments - - - - -			£. 297,000	
Balance 28th February - - - - -			125,000	
			£. 422,000	

MARCH 1848.

Balance - - - - -	£. 125,000			
Bills on India - - - - -	80,000			
Hypothecations - - - - -	*150,000			
Bills on Her Majesty's Govern- ment and Miscellaneous - - - - -	20,000			
East India Railway Company - - - - -	†70,000			
	£. 445,000			
Payments - - - - -			£. 250,000	
Estimated Balance 31st March - - - - -			195,000	
			£. 445,000	

* Very doubtful.

† More than doubtful.

Appendix, No. 6.

Papers delivered in
by H. St. George
Tucker, Esq.

APRIL 1848.

Balance - - - - -	£. 195,000	Payments - - - - -	£. 281,000
Bills on India - - - - -	80,000		
Hypothecations - - - - -	*100,000	Estimated Balance 30th April	
Bills on Her Majesty's Govern- ment and Miscellaneous - - -	24,500	1838 - - - - -	131,000
On account Steam Navigation - -	12,500		
	<u>£. 412,000</u>		<u>£. 412,000</u>

MAY 1848.

Balance - - - - -	£. 131,000	Payments - - - - -	£. 314,000
Bills on India - - - - -	100,000		
Hypothecations - - - - -	*50,000		
Bills on Her Majesty's Govern- ment and Miscellaneous - - -	20,000		
	<u>£. 301,000</u>		
Balance against the Company 31st May 1848 - - - - -	13,000		
	<u>£. 314,000</u>		

JUNE 1848.

Balance against the Company - - - - - £. 13,000

	Balance in Favour.	Balance Against.
	£.	£.
1st December 1847 - - - - -	321,328	—
1st January 1838 - - - - -	527,000	—
1st February — - - - -	222,000	—
1st March — - - - -	125,000	—
1st April — - - - -	195,000	—
1st May — - - - -	131,000	—
1st June — - - - -	- - - - -	£. 13,000

* Very doubtful.

† More than doubtful.

EXTRACTS Act 9 & 10 Vict. c. 63.

ON Sugar or Molasses, the Growth and Produce of any British Possession in America, or of any British Possession within the limits of the East India Company's Charter, into which the Importation of Foreign Sugar is prohibited, and Imported from thence, the Duties following; (that is to say),

	£.	s.	d.
Candy, brown or white; double refined sugar, or sugar equal in quality to double refined, for every hundredweight - - - - -	-	-	1 1 -
Other refined sugar, or sugar rendered by any process equal in quality thereto, for every hundredweight - - - - -	-	-	18 6
White clayed sugar, or sugar rendered by any process equal in quality to white clayed, not being refined, for every hundredweight - - - - -	-	-	16 4
Brown sugar, being muscovado, or clayed, or any other sugar, not being equal in quality to white clayed, for every hundredweight - - - - -	-	-	14 -
Molasses, for every hundredweight - - - - -	-	-	5 3

And so in proportion for any greater or less quantity than a hundredweight.

And from and after the respective days next hereinafter mentioned,

Appendix, No. 6.

On Sugar and Molasses, the Growth and Produce of any British Possession within the limits of the East India Company's Charter :

Papers delivered in by H. St. George Tucker, Esq.

	From and after the Passing of this Act to 5 July 1847 inclusive.	From and after 5 July 1847 to 5 July 1848 inclusive.	From and after 5 July 1848 to 5 July 1849 inclusive.	From and after 5 July 1849 to 5 July 1850 inclusive.	From and after 5 July 1850 to 5 July 1851 inclusive.	From and after 5 July 1851.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Candy, brown or white; double refined sugar, or sugar equal in quality to double refined, for every cwt. - -	1 6 3	1 5 6	1 4 4	1 3 3	1 2 -	The same duties as on candy, sugar, and molasses, the produce of other British colonies.
Other refined sugar, or sugar rendered by any process equal in quality thereto, for every cwt. - -	1 3 4	1 2 8	1 1 8	1 - 8	- 10 8	
White clayed sugar, or sugar rendered by any process equal in quality to white clayed, not being refined, for every cwt. - -	1 - 5	- 19 10	- 18 11	- 18 1	- 17 2	
Brown sugar, being muscovado or clayed, or any other sugar not being equal in quality to white clayed, for every cwt. - -	- 17 6	- 17 -	- 16 3	- 15 6	- 14 9	
Molasses, for every cwt. - - -	- 6 6	- 6 4	- 6 1	- 5 9	- 5 6	

And so in proportion for any greater or less quantity than a hundredweight.

SCHEDULE (B.)

RATES of DUTY to be Charged upon Goods Exported by Sea from any Port or Place in the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal.

No.	ENUMERATION OF GOODS.	Exported on British Bottoms.	Exported on Foreign Bottoms.
1	Bullion and coin - - -	Free - - - -	Free.
2	Precious stones and pearls -	Ditto - - - -	Ditto.
3	Books printed in India - -	Ditto - - - -	Ditto.
4	Horses and living animals - -	Ditto - - - -	Ditto.
5	Opium purchased at Government sales in Calcutta.	Ditto - - - -	Ditto.
6	Cotton wool, exported to Europe, the United States of America, or any British possession in America.	Ditto - - - -	- - 8 annas per maund of 80 tolas to the seer.
7	Ditto, ditto, exported to places other than above.	- - 8 annas per maund of 80 tolas per seer.	- - 16 annas per maund of 80 tolas to the seer.
8	Sugar and rum, exported to the United Kingdom, or to any British possession.	Free - - - -	3 per cent.
8	Ditto, exported to any other place	3 per cent. - - - -	6 per cent.

Appendix, No. 6.
Papers delivered in
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Tucker, Esq.

No.	ENUMERATION OF GOODS.	Exported on British Bottoms.	Exported on Foreign Bottoms.
10	Grain and Pulse of all sorts -	- - 1 anna per bag, not exceeding 2 maunds of 80 tolas to the seer, or if exported otherwise than in bags, half an anna per maund.	- - 2 annas per bag, not exceeding 2 maunds of 80 tolas to the seer, or if exported otherwise than in bags, 1 anna per maund.
11	Indigo - - - - -	- - 8 rupees per maund of 80 tolas to the seer.	- - 6 rupees per maund of 80 tolas to the seer.
12	Lac dye and shell lac - -	4 per cent. - - -	8 per cent.
13	Silk, raw filature - - -	- - 3½ annas per seer of 80 tolas.	- - 7 annas per seer of 80 tolas.
14	Silk, Bengal wound - - -	- - 3 annas per seer of 80 tolas.	- - 6 annas per seer of 80 tolas.
15	Tobacco - - - - -	4 annas per maund -	8 annas per maund.
16	All country articles not enumerated or named above.	3 per cent. - - -	6 per cent.

Under recent orders from the Court, cotton wool is altogether exempted from export duty; also wheat, when exported to the United Kingdom.