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With the Author's Compliments

per favour of

*The Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce
and Manufactures*

NOTES UPON THE
ISLAND OF DOMINICA
(BRITISH WEST INDIES)

*Containing Information for Settlers, Investors,
Tourists, Naturalists, and Others*

WITH STATISTICS FROM THE OFFICIAL RETURNS
ALSO REGULATIONS REGARDING CROWN LANDS AND
IMPORT AND EXPORT DUTIES

BY

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ARCHÆOLOGY, AND REMAINS," ETC.

WITH 17 ILLUSTRATIONS AND A MAP

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NOTES UPON THE
ISLAND OF DOMINICA
(WEST INDIES)

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Photograph by

Bottom of the Boiling Fountain Crater, Dominica.

[Symington Grieeve.]

PREFACE

IN January of this year I had arranged to start upon an expedition to study the flora and fauna of the island of Dominica. Just before my departure, it was suggested by the Chairman and Honorary Secretary of the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures that I might obtain as much information as I could regarding the island as a field for British settlers, and also as to its suitability for the safe investment of British capital. As I knew very contradictory statements had been circulated as to the prospects and capabilities of Dominica, as well as upon the questions I had been asked to inquire about, I was encouraged to attempt to obtain the information desired. Having agreed to do what I could, the officials of the Chamber were able to enlist the powerful aid of the Colonial Office, which enabled me to have the assistance of the officials of the island in my investigations. This was of considerable advantage to me in carrying out my expedition and making my visit to the island more useful.

The Colonial Secretary, Lord Elgin, on receipt of a letter from the Honorary Secretary of the Chamber, at once wrote that he would issue instructions to the officials in Dominica to give me all the information I

required, and to afford me every facility to investigate as I desired.

I reached Roseau, the principal town in the island, upon the 9th of February, and a few hours after my arrival called upon the Acting Administrator, W. H. Porter, Esq., to whom I presented my credentials.

He was exceedingly kind, and promised me every assistance, and introduced me to several of his officials, who were also most obliging.

I told them what I desired to do, and how I intended to explore, as far as time permitted, the interior of the island, which is almost entirely without roads and covered with primeval forest. It was explained to me that what I intended to perform might prove a very arduous undertaking, and that it was doubtful if I could carry out my programme. However, having had some experience of similar expeditions, I had no doubt that, with the aid of carriers, who could use cutlasses (Machetes) to clear a way through the forest, what I proposed could be done. As things eventuated, I was able to carry out the journeys as I had proposed, and before I left the island I was told by those in authority that I had seen more of Dominica in the time at my disposal than anyone who had previously visited the island. However that may be, I can truly say we did our best to see all that was to be seen, and wasted no time.

Probably our efforts would not have been so successful had we not had the kind assistance and enjoyed the hospitality of those planters to whom the Acting Administrator most obligingly favoured us with introductions.

I desire in this connection to express my warm thanks to Geo. W. Penrice, Esq., Riversdale; J. H.

Bell, Esq., L'Eau Mattieu; — Musgrave, Esq., Hatton Garden; and Messrs Everington, Melville Hall.

On our voyage to Dominica I was fortunate in making the acquaintance of Frank H. Rowntree, Esq., of the great firm of Rowntree of York, who are the largest estate proprietors in the island; also of the scientific adviser of the firm, S. H. Davies, Esq. These gentlemen were upon a visit of inspection, and we got a very cordial invitation to visit the estates of the company at Blenheim and Picard. It was also arranged we were to join forces and attempt the ascent of Morne Diablotin, the highest mountain in the Lesser Antilles. Fortunately circumstances enabled us to succeed in making this ascent upon the second attempt, after spending two nights in the forest at an altitude of about 2000 feet. We were accompanied by J. C. Radcliffe, Esq., manager at Blonchard, and C. S. Kitching, Esq., manager at Blenheim, both estates of Messrs Rowntree. We had a delightful experience of the kindness of all these gentlemen, but to Frank H. Rowntree, Esq., I feel I cannot express sufficiently my obligations.

I also wish to thank the Rev. Father René Suaudeau, the parish priest of Wesley, for his kindness to us at the Carib Settlement, to which I refer in the following pages.

In conclusion, I desire to express my obligations to Walter B. Blaikie, Esq., and A. K. Wright, Esq., respectively chairman and honorary secretary of the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures, for their invaluable assistance in obtaining for me the aid of the Colonial Office in my expedition.

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I have to acknowledge my obligations to Frank H. Rowntree, Esq., and Samuel H. Davies, Esq., for kindly allowing me to use as illustrations some of the photographs taken by them.

M A P

THE map which appears in this publication is an improved drawing of a copy of that which is considered official, bringing it up to date as far as possible, but, unfortunately, it is quite unreliable in many of its details. This can hardly be wondered at, as it is constructed upon the Map of Byre, which was no doubt a wonderful work for its time, but was published as long ago as 1776. What is wanted is a proper cadastral survey up to date, to meet the requirements of the present day. Surely it is not too much to expect, after the experiences of the Boer War in Natal, that every part of British territory should be properly surveyed and mapped, so that in the unfortunate event of war our officers and men should at least be able to find their way about.

The roads have been put in from a sketch furnished to me by the Acting Administrator, W. H. Porter, Esq., and, I understand, prepared by the Colonial Engineer, Mr Miller; also the rough outlines of the lands recently taken up by settlers; so that these will give a pretty accurate idea of the available lines of transit for produce and the position of the new plantations.

NOTES UPON THE ISLAND OF DOMINICA

(BRITISH WEST INDIES)

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

AS Dominica is a comparatively small island, being only about twenty-nine or thirty miles in length and about sixteen miles in width at the broadest part, it must be difficult for the stranger to understand why it cannot be crossed and recrossed any day in the year. It will be for me to try and explain some of the difficulties, and before I have done I hope the reader will understand more clearly what Dominica requires if its fertile lands are to be opened to settlers, and its mountains and forests, with their stupendous and magnificent scenery, and wonderful Souffriere with its hot springs and boiling lake, are to be made accessible to the ordinary tourist.

To fully comprehend the present condition of the island it is necessary to give a brief consideration to its

HISTORY

Columbus, during his first voyage to the West Indies, heard from the inhabitants of Hispaniola (now the island ruled by the Republican Governments of

Haiti and San Domingo) of the Cannibal Islands, which he was led to understand lay south of his recent discoveries. When, therefore, he started upon his expedition from Cadiz, on 25th September 1493, he steered a more southerly course from the Canaries than he had done upon his former voyage. On Sunday, the 3rd November, as the day dawned, land was sighted on the starboard bow, which turned out to be a group of islands. The first of these he named La Deseada, the second Guadaloupe, the third Maria Galanta, after his own ship. Later in the same day he sighted a beautiful island with high mountains, at which he touched, and named in honour of the day La Dominica. Many years elapsed from the time of its discovery without anything being done by the Spaniards to occupy the island, but in 1520 a European governor was appointed. Little seems to have resulted in the way of settlement while the island remained in the hands of the Spanish, and it was not until its settlement by the French, nearly two hundred years afterwards, that any progress was made. Nominally it was a British possession in 1627, but little progress in the agricultural development of the island appears to have taken place until the arrival of French settlers, who came principally from Bordeaux, La Rochelle, and Nantes. The greatest difficulty arose from the settlers being quite unable to bring the Carib inhabitants into subjection. These natives, whose descendants still have a settlement upon the island and live upon a reserve set apart for them by the British Government, were much dreaded by the Europeans. These aborigines, who are now a mild-featured, law-abiding people, were in the early days cannibals, eating, it is said, only those who

fought against them, and whose warrior valour and strength they were supposed to incorporate in their own persons by devouring them. No doubt the natives were aided in their resistance to the encroachment of all Europeans by the rivalry that existed between the British and the French. By the year 1748 things had reached a desperate position, and were taken into consideration by the respective governments, and by the treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle it was agreed between the French and ourselves that Dominica should remain neutral, and that the French and British should retire from it. When in 1763, by the Ninth Article of Treaty of Paris, the British were given once more possession of Dominica, it was found that many French planters were settled in the island, and it was arranged they were to be secured in their estates under easy conditions.

Eight years afterwards the French became masters of the island, and its trade dwindled, and much loss and distress followed.

After Rodney's great naval victory over the French off Dominica on 12th April 1782, a new arrangement of territory had to be made, and in 1783 the island was once more restored to the British, which led to a revival of its commerce and agricultural industry, principally the growing of coffee. This was brought about not by any great influx of British settlers, but rather by a readjustment of the agricultural and mercantile arrangements of the island. The French planters remained as the principal agricultural producers, and the British were principally engaged in buying their produce for exportation.

That the trade was one of some magnitude is evident, for Atwood, in his *History of Dominica*,

published in 1791, mentions that the average annual crop of coffee at that time was from four to five million pounds.

But these were troublous times, and the Frenchmen were unwilling to remain subject to British rule. Constant intrigues were carried on, and with the rebellion of the Maroons, who lived in the forests of the interior and who had the support and aid of the Frenchmen, the position became critical for the British, and only ended when the Maroons were driven from the island and the French had to leave. These events, followed by the coffee blight and the liberation of the slaves, nearly ruined Dominica, the trade dwindling, even although sugar for a time to some extent took the place of coffee.

Now sugar cultivation has become restricted to a few estates, and the quantity produced is so small that it is hardly worth consideration. Perhaps a happy turn of the wheel of fortune may, to some extent, restore the sugar industry of this island. But it is difficult to see how its planters can compete with countries more favourably situated.

My reason for referring to these matters of history is to give any intending settlers an outline of what has taken place in the island in the past. Those Frenchmen and those Maroons, although no longer important factors in the making or marring its prosperity, still have left their traces and influence in the way that it is necessary to understand.

The former are seen in the areas of secondary forest one comes across in unexpected places when one is far from any of the present settlements. It is quite easy to distinguish between the primeval and secondary forest, for the trees of the latter are of a

much smaller growth, with fewer epiphytes and liana growing from them. There is the entire absence of those giants of the forest, venerable in appearance, covered with a world of vegetation, of orchids, filmy ferns, mosses or lichens. No, there can be no mistake about the difference; but much of this secondary forest is of no recent growth, and may date back a hundred years or more.

That the secondary forest now covers what was once cleared land there can be no doubt, and probably most of it marks places where French settlers or Maroons lived. The fact that these lands were abandoned does not therefore go to prove that the soil was poor and that man's efforts to make it productive were abortive; but rather that the soil was rich and that the Frenchman or Maroon in most instances was only driven from it by the dogs of war.

There have been instances of abandonment of land from other causes, but these are mostly of more recent date and still capable of investigation.

As to the effects of French influence, it is to be found in the language spoken by the black people, which is a curious patois largely composed of French words. This language has retarded the progress of the black population under British rule, as its entire use closed many doors of employment. This, however, is now being remedied, as the teaching of English is compulsory in all the public schools, and in a generation or so the French patois will be a thing of the past.

CHAPTER II

THE PRESENT STATE OF THE ISLAND

THE intending settler naturally desires to know as much as possible about the present state of the island, and it will be my effort to endeavour to explain the position of matters to enable him to calculate his prospects of success.

The island is about twenty-nine or thirty miles long from north to south, varying in breadth from sixteen miles at the broadest part, and gradually, but irregularly, tapering off towards each end.

The Crown lands occupy almost entirely the central portion of the island, and only touch the coast at one point, which is situated upon the leeward coast, namely, Grand Savannah.

The area of these lands is approximately 120,000 acres, which is almost entirely under dense forest.

The settled portion of the island, with the exception of the land taken up by settlers along the Imperial road, is all situated as a fringe round the island, and is probably of about the same area as the Crown lands. This settled area is, however, only cleared of forest to a very limited extent, and it will entail the expenditure of much capital before it is fully developed from an agricultural point of view.

The whole island is exceedingly mountainous, and the scenery grand in the extreme.

Dominica has an abundant rainfall and is well watered. In fact, the rainfall is too great in some parts for most agricultural enterprises, and if means can be devised so as to remove the forest on certain portions of the island by settlement or otherwise, and so reduce the rainfall, it would do much to improve the present condition, especially in the interior.

The roads, except in the immediate neighbourhood of Roseau and for a short distance along the windward coast, are of the poorest kind and quite unfit for driving. The main lines of communication throughout those parts of the island which are in any way accessible consist of bridle paths and tracks through the forest. The crying necessity for good roads is so evident that it is commented upon by visitors and much felt by the inhabitants. The map (see front page) which is incorporated in this report shows pretty clearly the roads and bridle paths that are in use. The Acting Administrator, in sending me the tracing for the map, and referring to the roads, says: "Of these, about eight miles of main coast road running north from Roseau, and about two miles each on the eastern and southern lines, are driving roads; all else are riding paths of varying degrees of gradient and condition. 'The Imperial road' (eighteen miles) is laid down on a driving gradient, but cannot at this moment be regarded as suitable for wheeled traffic."

The Imperial road above referred to was constructed with money granted by the Imperial Government; and leaving the coast near the foot of the Boery River, it ascends the mountain side by a zigzag track,

keeping the river some distance on the right. Crossing the Massacre River by an iron bridge, the road ascends the Massacre Valley, and at an elevation of about 1800 feet crosses the mountain ridge and descends to the Layou Flats. Through these flats, which have different names, the road proceeds, crossing one or two minor ridges, but gradually descending in a northerly direction to Bassinville, or more correctly Basin Will, named after a celebrated Maroon leader said to have been drowned in a deep pool in the river behind the Government Rest House.

The late Administrator, Mr H. Hesketh Bell, writes (page 9 in the Colonial Report, Dominica, No. 23, published 1903, price 2d., and which may be obtained through Messrs Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh): "Basinville is believed to be a corruption of 'Bassin Aureille,' a name once given to the locality by an individual who wished to designate a deep pool that exists near that spot."

As to which of the stories is the true one I am not in the position to say, but I was told the former of these by a local planter in touch with the natives. Also I know the black men spoke of Basin Will, and not Bassinville, and apparently Mr C. O. Naftel (Colonial Report No. 9, Dominica, published 1898, at 9½d.) knew this place only as Basin Will, as that is the name he gives to it throughout his pamphlet.

The road at this point turns abruptly in a westward direction, and has been constructed for a distance of about two miles, and is to be continued, I was told, as the finances of the island will permit, until it joins the road to Hillsborough on the leeward coast near the mouth of the Layou River.

The length of this bridle path, as far as yet con-

structed, is about eighteen miles, and is graded that at some future time it may become a serviceable road for wheeled traffic. The engineers who constructed the road have probably done all that could be done with the money at their disposal, and deserve credit for the many difficulties they have overcome. However, without proper bottoming, and metalling upon the surface, and sufficient culverts to carry off the superabundant water of the many streams that cross the track, and which are frequently in flood, the road is doomed to last only a few years, unless the authorities find means to put it into proper repair and maintain it in that condition.

To see the Imperial road makes one smile when you think of the great anticipations that have risen within your mind at its high-sounding title. It, however, is even now helping to serve its purpose in opening up the Crown lands of the interior. But the new settlers, in their own interests, cannot be expected to rest until they have a highway within reach of their plantations more approaching the title of "Imperial" and all that the word implies.

It was originally intended that this road should be carried northwards from Bassinville to Melville Hall on the windward coast of the island, near which there is a large population. I think, after careful inquiry, that it was most unfortunate that the late Administrator, H. Hesketh Bell, Esq., was able to prevail upon the Colonial Office authorities to sanction the stoppage of this section of the Imperial road, and resile from their previous decision, as it would, if constructed, be of great advantage in providing a direct route from Roseau to all parts of the north and north-east windward coasts. Such a road is a felt

want in the island, and would have opened up more rich Crown land than the road now being constructed from Bassinville to the leeward coast at the mouth of the Layou River. Besides, it would have been of far more use to the inhabitants in general, especially to the planters in the interior, as it would have brought within their reach the cheap labour of the windward coast. The road from Bassinville to Layou is never likely to be one of the highroads of Dominica, but it has its own value and use, and will open up valuable land at present inaccessible to settlers.

In the Colonial Report No. 23, Dominica, before-mentioned, the Administrator, H. Hesketh Bell, Esq., writes, page 8: "I am also causing rubber trees to be planted all along the Imperial road from the seventh mile to the sixteenth, and I believe that, after seven or eight years, the proceeds of these trees will more than provide for the maintenance of the whole road."

It would have been fortunate for Dominica, and would have solved the problem of how to obtain money to maintain roads in many tropical parts of His Majesty's dominions, had Mr Bell's expectations been realised. However, as far as I could judge, his well-intended endeavours to grow rubber have ended in failure. The young trees were planted in pits alongside the road, and but little or no attention seemed to have been paid to drainage. Most of the pits were full or partially full of water, and not even a vestige of a rubber tree was to be seen in many of them. In a few cases where, from chance or otherwise, the water had regularly drained from the pits, the rubber plants had survived and seemed to be growing moderately well, showing that the non-success

of the majority of the rubber trees was not owing to any fault of the climate, and probably in very few, if any, instances to any fault in the soil.

As to whether the optimistic views of Mr Bell regarding the possibilities of growing rubber along the sides of the Imperial road in Dominica, so as to provide sufficient means to maintain the road, are ever likely to be realised, I am not prepared to say; but his attempt, if it had been properly and carefully carried out, was at least a laudable one.

Considering the mountainous nature of the island, the deep ravines with their precipitous sides, and the dense forest, it must have been no easy matter to make surveys and construct roads of any kind in such a country. The surveying and engineering staff deserve every credit for what they have done, and the £15,000 of Imperial money that was placed at their disposal has been well and carefully spent. Had more money been available, no doubt more satisfactory results would have been attained.

It has been necessary to refer at some length to the Imperial road, as it is along its line that most of the new settlement has taken place, and it is in this district that the portion of the Crown lands that is at present in any sense reasonably accessible lies.

There are one or two roads that have long existed and that serve other parts of the island, such as the riding path from Roseau on the leeward coast to Rosalie upon the windward coast. There are two tracks across the southern end of the island, the first of these from the coast road near Everton across the mountains to Geneva and Grand Bay on the windward coast; the second road going from Souffriere Bay up the Souffriere Valley across the mountains to

Grand Bay. I have not been over either of these roads, so I am not in the position to make any comments upon them. As they are described by the Government engineer (who kindly sketched in the line of each road upon the map for me) as first-class roads, they are presumably fit for riding over.

At the northern end of the island there is a good riding path from Portsmouth to near Blenheim upon the windward coast, and which is much used.

What should be the most important highway upon Dominica is the road which goes round the island, keeping near to the coast the whole way. It is, however, in a very unsatisfactory state, except for one or two stretches which are rendered next to useless from being severed by rivers or disrepair from their continuations. For instance, this is the only road connecting the two towns upon the island, Roseau and Portsmouth; and even natives, who are not generally very particular as to the state of the roads they use, prefer to travel between these two places, which are only about twenty-four miles apart, either by sailing-boat or coasting steamers. Besides these roads, which for Dominica may be described as main roads, there are a number of subsidiary roads or paths leading to plantations, most of which are met with on the leeward side of the island.

The authorities seem anxious to help the settlers by constructing better means of communication were money forthcoming, and at present are doing what they can in that direction with a portion of the purchase price received for the Crown lands. The map accompanying this report shows clearly the roads and tracks of any importance throughout the island, but there are many native paths through



Photograph by

A Rest in a River-bed in the Forest, Dominica.

(William Gricee.

portions of the forest area, and numbers of these paths are only known to the natives themselves. When travelling along these paths, and even along some of those well known and in regular use, the natives have continually to be clearing the way of the rank vegetation with their cutlasses (Machetes), which most of the men carry. Many of these black men are expert woodmen, and to a stranger like myself it seemed marvellous how they cleared a road and kept their bearings without a compass in the virgin forest, and at many places through miles of dense undergrowth, generally reaching their goal as if by instinct. These black men, armed with their cutlasses, which they can wield with such skill, are a power to reckon with in the event of any trouble. At present all is law and order, and the police supervision is quite effective, but in considering the question it is well to keep in view certain possibilities.

Another lethal weapon which the natives use with damaging effect—fortunately almost always among themselves—is the ordinary razor. I asked some of my black men how they attacked with such a weapon, and they explained that if taken by surprise they used the razor holding it in their hand, but if they had time they always tied it on to the end of a stick.

CHAPTER III

NATIVE VILLAGES

THESE black men with their wives and families must be considered as an all-important factor in calculating the possibilities of Dominica. Without them the resources of the island cannot be developed, as they must do all the manual labour. The white population must carefully supervise and also provide the capital to a large extent to carry on the larger estates. But it must not be forgotten that by far the greater portion of the agricultural lands on the island are in native hands and entirely worked by these people.

Most of the holdings are small and do not require for their cultivation the whole time of their proprietors, who are generally willing to work to some extent for the white settlers, as in that way they earn ready money. The native thus augments his income and obtains the wherewith to buy for himself, his wife and children, clothes and articles of dress, of which he is very fond. Garments with outstanding colours are generally what are worn, and, as far as the young men are concerned, if means permit, suits of the latest fashion. A black man dressed in a khaki suit with brass buttons, and tan boots, with a yachting cap on his head, is a mighty swell in the eyes of his

friends, and a good deal of hardship and hard work will be undergone to obtain such a rig-out.

The headdresses of many of the women are gorgeous in colour, very effective, but too striking in appearance and arrangement to suit the European female mind.

These people love their homes and also their island, and if circumstances compel them to go abroad, or even seek employment in other districts of the island, they seem always to have the attraction of their home with its associations and friendships drawing them to it. Many go for a time to Venezuela or Colon, attracted by liberal pay; but when they have saved enough to enable them to rest from their labours even for a time, back they come, drawn as by a magnet to their homes.

The consideration of this trait in the native character points to the advantages that would arise by the placing of native villages in the neighbourhood of new settlements. It would provide a constant and cheap supply of labour, which is a necessity in connection with the operations of every planter if he is to conduct his business with success. The Government of Dominica have not lost sight of the need for starting new native villages where labour is required, for at Bassinville they have reserved sixty acres of rich land for a native settlement close to the Imperial road. For reasons best known to themselves and not very easily understood, the majority of the new white settlers seem to think they are better without a native village. To attract workers they have at present to pay unusually high wages and also provide house accommodation. Probably much of this feeling of opposition to a native village arises from the frequent

thefts by natives from the new plantations of vegetables such as the black men use. As far as I could ascertain, some of the planters near Bassinville seemed to think that, as long as the whole of the native population was under their control through being in their pay, their plantations were much safer from theft than if a considerable independent black population arose in their midst.

I can quite sympathise with this feeling, but my contention is, that the attitude of the new planters is mistaken, and much outlay might be saved if they had a resident native population in their midst, a population that in all probability would have a tendency to steadily increase.

CONTRACT SYSTEM

At present, contracts with natives, such as are being successfully made by white men living at places near the coast, for the clearing and cultivation of certain areas of their estates, cannot be carried on upon a fairly large scale by settlers along the line of the Imperial road near Bassinville, for want of resident native contractors. It may not always be of advantage to contract with natives for the clearing and planting of new ground; but where cultivation has become established, under careful European supervision native contractors may well be employed to keep defined areas of the estate clear of rank vegetation and do many other things connected with the manual work of the estate. The white man must always be there to supervise and see that the contract is properly carried out.

Planters who have tried this system of contract

told me they were quite satisfied with the results, which saved them a great deal of trouble in managing the workers. The fact is, that while the black man prefers to work for the white man, feeling sure that his wages will be promptly paid, still he will work for a black man who frequently is his more intelligent and richer neighbour. The truth seems to be that black men understand black men much better than does the white man.

In making contracts with natives many matters have to be taken into consideration, and it is necessary that the new settler should wait until he has had considerable experience before attempting to enter into such arrangements. However, if it is urgent that a contract should be made, the newcomer will be well advised to pay for the expert advice of one of the most experienced planters, which can easily be obtained.

COST OF LABOUR

The cost of labour varies so greatly in different parts of such a small island as Dominica, that it is most important from the settler's point of view that he should take up land where the labour is cheapest. In most places it is found that cheap labour is met with in remote places where employment is scarce. This, however, is not the case in Dominica, where the cheapest and also probably the best class of labour, as well as the most abundant supply, is found in the coast districts, especially near Marigot upon the windward side of the island. This condition of matters arises from the bulk of the native population residing near the coast, where all the towns and villages of any size exist. These native settlements are old, and most of

the black people cling to them from sentiment and affection, and will rather remain at these villages, under conditions that are known to them, than go out into the newly settled parts of Dominica, much less to the great world beyond their island home. It therefore happens that the labour market is over-supplied with workers at some of these places, and the remuneration obtainable is only moderate.

The rate of wages I found prevailing will illustrate this. On the windward coast, in the Marigot district, the daily wage for black workers was as follows:—*Women*, 6d.; *Lads*, from sixteen to nineteen years of age, about 7d.; *Men*, 9d. to 10d.

In the interior near Bassinville:—*Women*, 10d. to 11d.; *Men*, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d.; and there seemed to be no fixed wage for lads, who were difficult to obtain.

This question of wages is one of such vital importance to the new settler that he requires to look carefully into it, and with such a difference in the price of labour it means in most cases all the difference between loss and profit.

Why should the new planter take up land where labour is dear, when he can obtain Government land just as easily near where labour is cheap?

TRANSIT

There is also another matter that the new settler must carefully consider, even although at the time of his settlement it may not impress him as of supreme importance, and that is the matter of the cost of transit of materials and produce to and from the estate. To those located in the interior this question must ever bulk largely, as the situation of their

estates greatly handicaps their efforts in the way of profitable success. Where no roads capable of being used for vehicular traffic exist, all supplies must be conveyed from the seaboard to the plantations by native carriers, who generally travel with loads of from forty to sixty pounds' weight.

To transport these loads over rough roads and up steep mountain sides is hard work, for which the carrier demands fairly high pay. Then, when the new estates have reached the productive stage, there is the cost of the conveyance of all produce to the coast for shipment. The native again requires to be paid for this service; and as the work is arduous, who will grudge him or her their pay?

The settler upon, or near, the coast, if he is careful in choosing his land, may avoid all, or in any case nearly all, this expense which his less fortunate fellow-planter in the interior is saddled with.

Taking all these things into consideration, it appears that the settler near the coast has a much better chance of success than those who have to bear the isolation of living in the forests of the interior, and, working in a country deluged with a superabundance of rain, have to pay dear for labour and transport.

LOCATIONS NEAR THE COAST

The advantages of a location near the coast are, not only cheap labour and cheap transit, but in most cases a larger average production per acre. This may arise from various causes, but a higher temperature and a smaller rainfall, with, in many cases, better opportunities of manuring the soil, are important factors to bear in mind.

The temperature at the coast, which is rather too high for most Europeans to live in for long periods, can easily be largely avoided by building one's dwelling-house on one of the mountain sides which rise abruptly everywhere in Dominica short distances inland.

As white men almost invariably ride where there is a road—and at each plantation there must be roads of some kind—the difficulties and fatigue of going to and from the cultivated ground, and ascending or descending say a thousand feet, are not so great as might be expected.

TEMPERATURE

During the whole year the temperature seldom reaches 90° Fahr., and generally ranges from 70° to 80° near the sea-coast. At a station 2000 feet above sea-level we recorded one morning in February a temperature of 56° ; and another time, at an elevation of 4552 feet, at 1 p.m. on a dull day, it was so cold that our black men could not stand it, and shivered, and had to take shelter from the wind. Unfortunately we were without a thermometer, so could not record the temperature, which I judged was about 45° . From November to May the temperature, even at sea-level, is enjoyable in the mornings, and the nights are generally cool. From June to the end of October, although the temperature does not rise very high, it is often humid and oppressive.

Roseau is generally considered the hottest place in the island.



Photograph by

[Symington Grieve.

The Lesser Twin Fall upon the Roseau River, Roseau Valley, Dominica.

RAINFALL

The rainfall at most places near the coast is from 90 to 100 inches per annum, which may be contrasted with from 200 to 250 inches in the interior, and at high elevations among the mountains at even more. The rainfall statistics for 1905, compiled from the records at thirty-three stations, show a mean of 118'93 inches. The heaviest fall was at Corona with 232'11 inches, and the lowest at Macoucherie, 46'07 inches.

MANURE

The question of manure is an important one, and can be best attained where the cattle can be used upon the estate for draught purposes. There is so little open land upon the island that very few of the cattle have proper runs, and the number is therefore limited. The cattle are mostly kept in sheds, and the manure is carefully preserved. Where lime cultivation is carried on, the crushed pulp and the skins of the fruit are mixed with the manure. The cattle tread this mixture into a valuable compost in their sheds, and it is allowed to accumulate for several months before it is removed to the plantation and put upon the ground. From an agricultural point of view this method is most satisfactory, and yields splendid results. However, if sanitary considerations are to have any weight with the planter, or the community from which he obtains his labour, the results in all probability are more doubtful.

LOCATIONS IN THE INTERIOR

As I have already referred to some of the disadvantages that the planters in the interior suffer

from, it may be well to mention some of their advantages in case I should be misunderstood. They obtain Crown lands at bedrock price, namely, ten shillings per acre, to which falls to be added survey fees amounting to about two shillings per acre, if not less than 100 acres is purchased. They have a delightful climate as regards temperature, but with a rainfall that at present is too heavy, but which will probably decrease as the vast virgin forests are removed. The lands obtained from the Crown are pockety, but the soil is rich, and, where deep, will grow almost any tropical vegetation. Careful selection is required, and sheltered situations are likely to prove best, as the wind is often blowing very strong in these mountainous regions. These high winds make life enjoyable in a hot climate, but they also do damage to produce of many kinds, and have to be thought of by the selector.

Drainage is also a matter requiring careful attention in hollows or in valleys near the sides of rivers. I saw several times land, recently opened up, in a waterlogged condition during my journey in the interior, and I have the impression that better agricultural results would have been attained had the land been properly drained.

Dominica in the interior, with its magnificent mountain scenery and noble forests and temperate climate, is one of the most delightful and charming countries in the world. It is beautiful in the extreme, and I have heard of those who had travelled the world over in search of health, who only found it, and discovered that life was worth living, when they reached a haven on the Crown lands of Dominica.

The isolation at present is considerable, and a

settler who is no reader, or who cannot use his hands, or who has no hobbies, is likely to feel time, especially in the evenings, hang heavy. But to the naturalist, or the man who can admire and fill his soul with the thoughtful contemplation of God's greatest works, what regions can surpass what is met with everywhere in this "beautiful isle of the sea"?

It has to be kept in mind that, with more planters and a larger native population, good roads are bound to come, and better access obtained to the seaboard.

The distance from any part of the interior to the coast is not great, and means will be devised to convey produce to where it can be shipped, either by aerial ropeways or some other system, as soon as sufficient produce is grown to make such a means of transit pay. When I was at Bassinville I heard some such scheme was under consideration; and if it were possible to carry it out, there is no doubt it would prove of incalculable value to the district it served.

CHAPTER IV

COST OF BRINGING CROWN LANDS INTO CULTIVATION AND ERECTING HOUSES

I HAVE mentioned the cost of purchasing Crown lands as ten shillings per acre and the charge for surveying areas of not less than one hundred acres as about two shillings per acre. These, however, are only the initial outlays, as the land has to be cleared and buildings erected, and tools and appliances provided. These items require the expenditure of a large amount of money, which at first, upon a fairly large estate, may mean any sum from £20 to £40 per acre under cultivation. However, as the buildings, once they are built, are presumably of sufficient size to meet the requirements of the whole estate, no further expenditure except maintenance is necessary upon them. The virgin forest is cut down and the ground cleared for cultivation at a cost of from £8 to £15 per acre, so that as the cleared area increases, the average cost per cultivated acre decreases, and when the whole portion of the estate which is capable of being planted has been brought under cultivation the cost per acre will probably be from £20 to £25.

CAPITAL REQUIRED BY NEW SETTLER

Many of the new settlers make the mistake of taking up more land than they can properly develop with the capital at their disposal. In most cases it is possible under present circumstances to buy land adjoining their estates when they have proved the soil and situation and feel sure of success. The cultivations at present most popular in the island are limes, oranges, and cocoa, and with each of these the new settler has to wait a long time before they reach the profitable stage. When that comes, the return upon the capital invested is generally large, as it would need to be to compensate for this period of waiting.

With limes and oranges, which may be said to give an increasing crop from the fourth year and onwards, which always helps to meet expenses, the profitable stage is not usually reached until about the sixth or seventh year. With the cultivation of these crops there is continual expense going on as long as the plantation lasts. The trees require much care and attention, pruning, manuring, and clearing of weeds from the land.

With cocoa the yield begins about the fifth year, and in ordinary circumstances increases from year to year; but the crop is not large enough to meet expenses until about the ninth, tenth, or eleventh year, according to local conditions. All this time the cultivation requires a large amount of careful attention, but after the twelfth or thirteenth year the trees are so established that they require much less nurturing, and the expenses of the estate can be greatly diminished, as much less labour is needed.

Taking all these things into consideration, a settler with say £1500 or £2000 can only develop a small estate, which, when it at last becomes profitable, will not give him a sufficiently large income to enable him from his savings to rapidly take up more land to bring into cultivation. As he realises the difficulties of his position, if he is to make any great success before he is an old man, he is too often tempted to borrow capital, sometimes at a high rate of interest, upon the security of his estate, which is almost always a risky business, and often ends in his ruin.

To my mind, it is therefore desirable that new settlers should have at least £3000 to £5000 to enable them to develop sufficient land to make their business a success, and to tide over the long period of waiting connected with all new estates.

Every intending settler would do well to live upon the island for one year at least before taking up land, as he would become acquainted with the methods of cultivation, the areas of land best suited for his purposes, and generally the local conditions.

Sometimes an old estate in full bearing, or a partially developed one, comes into the market, which may be acquired for cash on favourable terms; or, if the agreement should be for longer terms of payment, at a slightly higher price.

BOARD WHILE LEARNING

I have indicated the advantages of living for a time upon the island before taking up land, so as to gain experience. The intending settler, if he is well educated, and is willing to make himself pleasant in

the household and comply with its regulations, will find no difficulty about accommodation, as a number of the planters will be glad of his society, and, besides boarding him, will give him the run of their estates and teach him all they know for about ten pounds per month.

CLASS OF NEW SETTLERS ON THE ISLAND

The island has been fortunate in the class of white men who have made a home on it. They are men of education and gentlemen who have in most cases been trained in the Old Country, at one or other of our public schools. Some are university men who have taken to agriculture instead of classics, and are thoroughly enthusiastic in their efforts to grow oranges, limes, cocoa, or sugar. In fact, all seemed to feel so certain of a great success from their labours, and in the future of Dominica, that one almost feared the presence of optimism.

As to whether their views are too sanguine, time will show; but, as far as I could judge, Dominica seems to be entering upon better times, and those who are busy developing the resources of the island, I trust, may largely participate in its success.

It says no little for these men that, although leading to a large extent isolated lives among black people, they do not forget that they are white men and have to try to set an example to those among whom they dwell. This is not quite such an easy task as those living in the Old Country may think, and it says a great deal for those settlers, with few white married ladies near them, and very little social life, that they have valued and maintained the pro-

prieties of educated civilised life so well. Most of the houses of bachelors I visited were kept inside and out in beautiful order. If there had been half a dozen white ladies in each of these houses they could hardly have kept them better: clean floors and polished floors, no dust, and a place for everything and everything in its place. Every house seemed to have some kind of library, and photographs of relatives and friends, along with nick-nacks of various kinds, were displayed, reminding of homely scenes in the far-off Mother Land.

The number of white people on Dominica is not large, but they are a kindly community, who will welcome the newcomer and soon make him feel that he has found new friends. I can testify that wherever I went I was received with the greatest possible kindness and hospitality.

CHAPTER V

COFFEE

THE soil and climate are of such a nature that almost any tropical produce can be grown.

ARABIAN COFFEE (*Coffea Arabica*) at one time was the successful crop, but the wars of over a century ago, and blight, and insect plagues, affected the production to such an extent that the cultivation has almost died out. Instead of being a great and important article of export, coffee has had to be imported into the island, and the Government statistics for the year 1904 show that there was an importation of 6344 lbs., valued at £121, while the export was only 408 lbs., valued at £10. For the year 1905 there was a slight improvement in the position for the island, and it is to be hoped that this improvement may continue in future years. The import for the year was 1212 lbs., valued at £23, and the export 3129 lbs., valued at £78.

Contrast this with the state of matters in the year 1792, when there were 291 coffee estates on Dominica. The exact production at that time is, as far as I have been able to ascertain, unknown, but was probably from four to five million pounds' weight. By 1823 the production had declined to 2,177,559 lbs., and

after the blight which came in 1829 the decrease became more rapid, and in 1833 the crop weighed only 1,612,528 lbs. Now production is so reduced that it cannot supply the island demand, and coffee has become an import.

This should not be so, and it is gratifying to note that during 1905 the tide of trade seems to have turned.

An effort has been made during recent years to revive the cultivation of Arabian coffee, but has been partially a failure. In 1898 and 1900 Mr Gordon Fowler purchased about 1200 acres of Crown lands, since known as the estate of Middleham. The estate is situated near the Imperial road, and rises from about 1900 to 4672 feet above sea-level, and comprises the three mountain peaks named Morne Trois Pitons. About 200 acres on the lower part of the estate was cleared, and coffee planted. In all, it is said, about £7000 was spent upon the plantation, which had to be abandoned some years ago. Probably the high price of labour, the heavy rainfall, the high winds, and the low price of coffee had much to do with this failure, which was most unfortunate for the island.

When I visited this estate in February and March 1906 I found that after three years of abandonment the cleared portion of the ground was covered with a dense growth of vegetation and rapidly returning to a forest state. Much of what had been the cleared land was waterlogged, either from not having been properly drained, or from drains having got choked, and the whole place was an object-lesson of how rapidly land in a tropical country reverts to a state of nature.

The experiment was no doubt entered into with a knowledge of what Mr C. O. Naftel had reported to

Government in Colonial Reports, Miscellaneous, No. 9, Dominica, pages 13 and 28. The coffee planted was Arabian, the variety recommended, and the selection of the ground was carefully gone about, as the estate of Middleham comprises the Trois Pitons, and this position was evidently, from what Mr Naftel writes, in his opinion one of the choicest positions in Dominica for the cultivation of Arabian coffee. One cannot help thinking that this estate should have turned out better than it has done, all things considered. Undoubtedly the low price of Arabian coffee has had much to do with its failure, but, to my mind, there must have been other reasons to cause the abandonment of the property.

The region in Dominica above 2000 feet is probably the part of the island where Arabian coffee is most likely to be cultivated as a commercial success. It grows at lower elevations, and it was, as far as one can judge, upon the lower slopes of the mountains that the cultivation of the coffee was carried on in the earlier times. That the cultivation of Arabian coffee at these lower elevations should turn out successful would be contrary to the experience of planters in Jamaica and Ceylon, but there may be adverse local conditions prevailing in Dominica, such as very high winds and an exceedingly heavy rainfall, which put comparison out of the question.

LIBERIAN COFFEE (*Coffea Liberica*) grows well upon almost all parts of Dominica from sea-level up to 1500 feet, and should prove a successful cultivation to anyone who would go in for it systematically. The low price this coffee generally fetches, however, serves to act as a deterrent to most planters. That

it is a crop well worth attention is evident from what Mr C. O. Naftel says at page 26 of the Report I have already referred to.

CULTIVATION OF COFFEE

This subject is so fully dealt with by Mr C. O. Naftel in his Report at page 28 that I need only refer the new settler to it for such information as he may require.

COCOA (*Theobroma cacao*)

This is a most important cultivation in Dominica, and one likely to greatly increase in the near future. The area of land which is being planted with one or other of the varieties of cocoa is continually increasing, and cocoa is likely soon to be a rapidly expanding export from the island. The quantity shipped in 1904 was 1,106,564 lbs., valued at £21,325, and in 1905 the quantity exported was 1,326,062 lbs., valued at £25,554, showing an increase in the quantity exported in 1904 of 219,498 lbs. in weight and of £4229 in value, and I anticipate continued increases in the export of cocoa for many years to come.

This may ultimately be a matter of great financial importance to the island, as there is an export duty of 1s. per 100 lbs. weight.

The climate of Dominica seems to suit admirably the cultivation of cocoa, which may be grown successfully in suitable situations at any elevation from sea-level up to about 1200 feet. Mr C. O. Naftel seems to think that 700 feet is about the limit, but, from what I have seen, I feel confident it can be



Photograph by]

[S. H. Davies, Esq.

Cocoa Trees growing among Rocks—an unusual situation.
Also three Cocoa-gatherers.

grown with success in selected positions up to, and perhaps beyond, 1200 feet.

During 1904 there was exported 1019 lbs. of chocolate, which had been manufactured on the island, of the value of £51, and in 1905 the amount exported was 1287 lbs., valued at £64.

LIMES (*Citrus limetta*)

Perhaps the most important cultivation on Dominica at present is that of growing limes.

It is to the late Dr Imray that the island is indebted for the introduction of this fruit, and it was not until the "seventies" that its cultivation began.

In 1904 and 1905 the export was as follows:—

	1904.		1905.	
	Barrels.	Valued at	Barrels.	Valued at
Fresh limes	8,162	£2,857	13,564	£4,747
Pickled limes	865	324	642	241
	Gallons.		Gallons.	
Lime juice (raw)	234,972	6,853	164,475	5,483
„ (concentrated)	83,727	17,792	124,625	26,483
Lime oil (essential)	...	...	3,578	1,431
„ (distilled)	2,261	848	...	...
„ (expressed)	543	312	645	516

The quality of the limes grown is unexcelled anywhere and perhaps equalled in no other part of the world, and acre for acre no other land has produced such phenomenal crops of limes as well-manured soil in Dominica. The lime is able to grow anywhere and at any elevation in the island up to 2500 feet,

but the heaviest crops have been obtained from the lower elevations. In these situations it has been found easier to carry out manuring operations, and the results have richly repaid the care and labour bestowed upon the land.

As far as my observation enabled me to judge, the limes growing at elevations over 1000 feet were larger and more juicy than those grown on the lower portions of the island. This may have been the result of the greater rainfall, but whether it is to the advantage of the fruit as a marketable article I cannot say. Possibly the fruit may not bear transit so well as the limes that are less juicy, and may be deficient in citric acid, which is the most valuable constituent in the lime fruit. This acid is largely used, I am told, as a mordant, in connection with the printing of cotton goods, and the United States is the principal market.

If there should ever be the discovery of any chemical method of producing citric acid or other chemical substance that could take its place, then the lime-growing industry of Dominica would suffer seriously. This is one of the reasons that the planters are so anxious to develop the trade in fresh limes, especially with Great Britain. Unfortunately, up to the present time the British public have been quite unappreciative, and consignments that have reached this country have either been sold for next to nothing or no market has been found for them.

Here we have an instance of the finest fruit of its kind in the world, grown upon a British island, a fruit whose fresh juice is delicious to the palate when made into drinks, either with plain water, or with a little sugar added, refused by the British public. It

is not a pleasing picture of the attitude of the Mother Country to her children across the sea.

These limes can be delivered in this country for about one shilling per hundred, and surely they might be sold with a very handsome profit by the retailer at one farthing each, or forty-eight for one shilling. Each lime will make at least one delightful refreshing drink, with valuable medicinal properties, and nothing is more suitable than a drink of diluted fresh lime juice to quench one's thirst upon a hot day.

As if to supply a want in the Old Country, the lime crop ripens, and can be shipped, from the middle of May until the beginning of September, and would arrive here at the period of the year when we have hot weather, and when fresh lime-juice drinks will be most wanted. However good *prepared* lime juice may be, it cannot, in the opinion of most persons, compare with the juice of a fresh lime for making refreshing drinks with a delicious flavour.

The people of the United States are quite appreciative of the fine quality and valuable properties of the limes of Dominica and other West Indian islands, and buy large quantities of them, and would doubtless take all that could be grown if it were not for the prohibitive tariff put upon the importation of limes to protect the fruit-growers in Florida and other Southern States.

ORANGES

Several varieties of this fruit are being grown with success, and the cultivation is likely to increase rapidly. There was exported in 1904 a total of 738,360 oranges, valued at £615. In 1905 the

export was 665,280, valued at £554, but the decrease is likely only to be temporary.

COCOA-NUT (*Cocos nucifera*)

Some of those trees may be found at almost any part of Dominica near the coast. The largest plantations, however, are met with on the northern part of the island, from which large quantities are shipped. In 1904 the number of these nuts exported was 217,050, valued at £452. In 1905 the export was 186,903, valued at £389.

BANANAS

This plant, of which there are several varieties, will grow freely and fruit at any elevation up to 2000 feet in Dominica, but as a commercial proposition the cultivation succeeds best at the lower elevations. The natives eat large quantities of them, and the black people speak of the fruit as figs, which is rather confusing to the stranger. As a crop, bananas have an exhausting effect upon the soil, and should not be planted between rows of young lime or cocoa trees, as ultimately the lime and cocoa trees will suffer.

Without direct and rapid communication with Great Britain, it is a question whether this crop will pay to grow upon a large scale, as it may be difficult to find a profitable market. A small export business in bananas is being carried on, but as yet it is of little importance. The number of bunches shipped in 1904 was 5050, of the value of £189. In 1905 the export was 5986 bunches, valued at £225.



Photograph by

The Joint Expedition of F. H. Rowntree and Symington Grieve, along with S. H. Davies, William Grieve,
J. C. Radcliffe, and C. S. Kitching, resting at the Bolan Brook on its way to make
its first attempt to ascend Morne Diablotin.

[F. H. Rowntree, Esq.]

MISCELLANEOUS FRUITS

Beyond what I have already referred to, the only fruits that appear upon the list of exports for 1904 are mangoes, valued at £218, and pine-apples, valued at £25. In 1905 the export value of mangoes is returned as £217, and of pine-apples at only £1. Some other tropical fruits grow upon the island, but have as yet only supplied local requirements and have not formed any large items of export.

SUGAR AND RUM

Sugar at one time was a most important article of exportation, and large quantities of rum were also distilled. In *Dominica, a Fertile Island*, by F. Sterns-Fadelle (p. 8), it is mentioned that the largest export of sugar in one year was probably about 6000 hogsheads.

The area of really suitable land for sugar cultivation is limited, and the low prices obtainable for the quality produced in Dominica have caused the export trade to dwindle.

In 1904 the amount of crystallised sugar exported was 129 tons, valued at £1342, and 31 gallons of rum, valued at £6.

In 1905 the export was 181 tons, valued at £1882, and of rum 16 gallons, valued at £2.

Judging from the extensive dilapidated works and buildings in connection with what were once sugar estates upon the island, a very large amount of capital must have been invested in these undertakings.

SPICES

Many kinds of plants, shrubs, and trees yielding spices grow on the island, but they only figure in the returns under the head of spices, valued at £12 in 1904 and £13 in 1905. The following exceptions, however, require special notice:—

GINGER.—55 barrels, valued at £17, were exported in 1904, and in 1905 there were shipped 31 barrels, valued at £10. As the wild variety of ginger is met with in most parts of the interior growing luxuriantly, there should be no difficulty in successfully cultivating the commercial variety upon a large scale, and thus add to the exports of the island.

NUTMEGS (*Myristica fragrans*) are being planted and grown with satisfactory results, so the trade in *mace* and *nutmegs* may ultimately become of some importance.

PIMENTO (*Pimenta (Eugenia) officinalis*), otherwise known as allspice or Jamaica pepper, is supposed by many to be confined to that island. This, however, is not the case, as it grows in Dominica and several other islands. Jamaica has hitherto had almost a monopoly of the commercial supply of this spice, the average annual quantity sent to Britain being about 4,000,000 lbs. In Jamaica the young shoots of the tree are made into walking-sticks. From 3000 to 4000 bundles of these, each containing from 500 to 800 sticks, are shipped annually.

BAY-TREE (*Pimenta (Myrcia) acris*).—It is from the leaves of this tree that bay oil is distilled, and also bay rum prepared, the principal market being the United States.

The tree is well known to the natives, who brought

me the leaves when I was travelling through the forest; their aroma is rather pleasant. I frequently came across the tree in my excursions, and I formed the opinion that it is fairly common throughout the island.

The market for bay leaves is not a very large one, and the value of the export trade in this article from Dominica fluctuates considerably, but seems to be declining.

The leaves are shipped in bales, and the number of these exported in 1904 was 246; in 1905 only 54. It is said that besides yielding oil the leaves are also used for tanning.

The export values have been as follows:—

1882	1885	1892	1896	1904	1905
£3090	£243	£1767	£1480	£1107	£243

VANILLA is being planted, and grows well, even at an elevation of about 1800 feet. There does not seem to be so much difficulty in getting a crop of pods as in curing these when obtained. It appears there is some secret possessed by the planters in the Seychelles, where the finest vanilla comes from, which enables them to prepare the pods in a way that preserves them to keep any length of time.

The growers in Martinique have a less satisfactory process, and this appears to be the one at present known in Dominica.

CLOVES (*Caryophyllus aromaticus*) grow well, but it is doubtful if those grown in Dominica can compete with those obtained in the East, where the cultivation is thoroughly established.

CINNAMON (*Cinnamomum Zeylanicum*).— The above remarks regarding cloves also apply to this spice.

CARDAMOMS (*Elettaria Cardamomum*) may prove a successful cultivation and grow well. Mr C. O. Naftel, in his Report before mentioned, at p. 28, goes fully into the cultivation of this plant, and describes the method of preparing the capsules for market. There should be plenty of scope for this cultivation in Dominica along the banks of streams, as rivulets or rivers are met with everywhere, and they say on the island there is one for every day in the year.

RUBBER

There are great possibilities in connection with the growing of these trees ; the planters are beginning to give some attention to their cultivation, and seedling trees of the best varieties can be obtained from the Botanic Garden at Roseau. Any person who proposes to settle upon the island as a planter will find it worth his while to call upon Mr Jones, the able curator, who has worked wonders with the waste land he had handed over to him to turn into a botanic garden. He has, with the aid of prison labour, turned a wilderness into perhaps the most beautiful garden in the West Indies for its size. Here may be seen what can be done by careful cultivation, and, as the garden is intended to encourage the cultivation of all plants of commercial value that are likely to increase the prosperity of Dominica, the new settler may rely upon getting every assistance in their power from the Garden authorities. The cultivation of rubber trees at the

Botanic Garden has demonstrated the fact that rubber of very fine quality is obtainable from more than one variety of these trees, and rubber that should fetch a high price in the market. The Castiloa tree, which originally came from Mexico, seems to be most in favour with the planters, but the Para rubber tree also grows well, and there are other varieties.

TOBACCO

This cultivation seems to be neglected, and probably the feeling exists among the planters that they do not know enough about the cultivation of the plant and the curing of the leaf to ensure success in competition with the growers in Cuba and Jamaica. There seems to be no doubt that tobacco grows well in many places in Dominica, and that there might be a profitable business done in it if experts were brought to the island to initiate and train the workers in the proper methods of cultivating and curing.

That the inhabitants of Dominica are not all non-smokers is evident from the following figures, and it seems strange with such a fine climate and productive soil they do not supply their own wants.

In 1904 and 1905 the importation of tobacco was as follows :—

	1904.		1905.	
	lbs.	Valued at	lbs.	Valued at
Cigars and cigarettes .	1,142	£315	1,242	£293
Leaf tobacco .	38,404	753	40,117	681
Manufactured tobacco .	907	128	896	128

TEA

There are splendid situations among the mountains for the cultivation of tea. The soil is suitable and the conditions ideal. What is wanting is the practical tea planter with capital, who will take the matter up and work upon a large scale. The principal difficulty will be the obtaining of labour cheap enough to compete with that of India and Ceylon. This matter would require very careful consideration. To compensate to some extent would be the lower cost of transit to the port of shipment and the lower freight to the markets. In fact, a small market might be found in Dominica, as the tea imported in 1904 amounted to 1938 lbs., valued at £107, and in 1905 to 2024 lbs., valued at £110.

TIMBER

Many kinds of valuable trees grow throughout the island, and reach a great size.

I have walked long distances through the virgin forest, where most of the old trees were over one hundred feet in height, and every now and again I met with either single trees or clumps of trees, veritable giants, that were much higher and towered upwards above the ordinary forest.

To see some of those immense trees clad with epiphytes and festooned with long rope- and cord-like liana reaching to the ground is a sight not easily forgotten. The timber of many of them would make beautiful veneers and be valuable in all kinds of cabinet-work, if means could be found to have their wood seasoned and cut up where it grows.



Photograph by]

Big Trees in the Forest on Morne Diablotin.

The name given by the natives to these trees is the French name *chataignier* or chestnut. It is a very different tree from *Castanea vulgaris*, the Spanish chestnut of Europe. As these trees are from 150 to 200 feet in height, we had no means of obtaining the leaves, flowers, or fruit for identification.

[F. H. Roombree, Esq.

Among the hardwood trees are Satinwood, Bully Tree, Combaril, and Mastic, but there are others of which I do not know the names.

At present trees cannot be removed to any great distance to the saw-mill which has been put in operation by the Government. When I saw it at work it was at the side of the Imperial road, not far from Highbury Rest-house, and the logs were being cut up when comparatively green. At planters' houses and plantation buildings I saw many of the boards, which had either come from the saw-mill or had been hand-sawn by natives out of the green logs, warped and twisted in a way which would not have occurred had the logs been seasoned.

Some of these woods have a beautiful grain, and, being hard, would take on a fine polish. It is unfortunate from the commercial standpoint that not one or two kinds, but many kinds, of timber grow in Dominica, and that no great number of any one kind of timber tree grow together. This must always prove a drawback, as anyone starting a saw-mill would only be able to contract to supply small quantities of different kinds of wood, and even then at uncertain intervals.

It is said that over sixty varieties of woods growing upon the island possess a high economic value.

The island has been indebted in many ways to Dr H. A. A. Nicholls, C.M.G., for what he has done for it. Among other things he made a valuable collection of native woods, which are now, I understand, exhibited in the Museum at Kew, so are accessible to anyone wishing to examine them.

There is a far larger quantity of wood imported than exported, as the following figures show :—

IMPORTS OF WOOD

	1904.		1905.	
	Feet.	Valued at	Feet.	Valued at
Lumber, Pitch Pine . . .	147,415	£1055	226,532	£1726
„ White Pine and Spruce . . .	312,755	1633	231,074	1152
„ Hardwood . . .	100	1	...	...
Shingles, Cedar and Pine .	20,000	10	17,500	7
„ Cypress and Wallaba . . .	422,600	425	147,100	147
	Bundles.		Bundles.	
„ Shooks . . .	90	81	101	27
Other wooden manufactures	...	169	...	232

EXPORTS

	1904.		1905.	
		Valued at		Valued at
Canoe Shells . . .	72	£72	34	£34
	Feet.		Feet.	
Hardwood . . .	14,343	119	8,019	67
	Cords.		Cords.	
Firewood . . .	287	144	636	318
Logwood . . .	...	...	3	5



Photograph by]

[F. H. Rowntree, Esq.

Bois Blanc in the Forest on Morne Diablotin.

The name is of French origin, but is used by the natives. From the immense height of these trees and the darkness of the forest we were unable to identify them.

CHAPTER VI

HORSES AND ASSES

THESE animals are mostly imported, and I was told many of them come from Martinique.

The horses are small in size, and generally 13 to 15 hands in height. They are a hardy breed, but few of them have good looks, and too many have saw-backs to make it pleasant to ride upon them on a long journey. There are a few exceptions in the island, but they are so few as to be remarked.

These animals are most useful in climbing the mountain paths that serve for roads, and are generally sure-footed and have much power of endurance. On very short supplies they can do a lot of work, and stand the heat well.

The ass is kept more by the black man than the white, and these animals are fairly numerous. They are so hardy, and require so little attention, that where there are roads they are most useful animals.

The export and import figures for these animals during the years 1904 and 1905 are as follows:—

EXPORTED				
1904.			1905.	
Horses, 2 . . .	valued at £16		Horse, 1 . . .	valued at £6
IMPORTED				
Asses, 25 . . .	valued at £45		Asses, 72 . . .	valued at £126
Horses, 17 . . .	„ 150		Horses, 30 . . .	„ 284

CATTLE AND SHEEP

The great difficulty to my mind in carrying on the cattle-raising business is the want of grass lands. In the forest area it is unlikely it would pay to make large clearings for cattle, and the only large open space of grass land I saw—and of it I only had a distant view—was upon the southern spur of Morne Diablotin.

In answer to inquiries, I was told by my men that this open country was in the occupation of black men, but I could not find out whether it was used as a cattle or sheep run, or for some other purpose.

They say that at one time Dominica had an export trade in sheep and cattle, but now the tide has turned the other way, and, to augment the home production, which is not sufficient for the wants of the people, there is a considerable import trade.

On a number of estates where very little open grass land is available, the cattle are kept in pens, and the manure used as I have explained at page 31. Cattle even in this state of confinement seem to thrive, and are largely used for draught purposes on estates wherever it is possible.

Sheep do not do so well near the sea-level, but at positions in the mountains, if there were clearings and grass, should succeed.

During 1904 and 1905 there does not seem from the official returns any import or export of sheep.

In 1904, of horned cattle there were imported 157 head, valued at £679. In 1905 there were imported of these animals 192 head, valued at £908.

SWINE

Many of these animals are found, both wild and domesticated, upon Dominica.

The wild pigs are met with in the forest, principally in the neighbourhood of Morne Diablotin, but are very shy, and when new clearings are made near their haunts they soon remove to some place more remote from human beings. The wild pigs are generally supposed to be the descendants of swine introduced in the early days shortly after the island was discovered. They have become quite wild, and may be considered as entirely belonging to the feral fauna of the island. They are hunted by both white and black men; but it is exceedingly difficult as a rule to get near them, and, when they are discovered, to shoot them in the dense undergrowth. The work is very hard and the sport hardly worth the fatigue and trouble.

Domesticated swine are common throughout the settled parts of the island, and are reared mostly by the squatters and small landholders among the black people, and should be a profitable class of stock. Their presence in the neighbourhood of dwellings does not improve the sanitary conditions.

Insects such as the Chigœ or Jigger (*Sarcopsylla penetrans*) are met with where pigs have a run, and if one of these creatures deposits its eggs underneath a toe nail, or even under the skin of one's foot, it does not add to the pleasure of life for the time being, and may have serious results if the swelling and injury are neglected.

The official returns do not show any import or export trade in swine.

POULTRY

Poultry do not figure among the exports of Dominica, and very few domestic fowls seem to be imported. They only figure in the returns for 1905 under imports of small stock, poultry, eggs, and turtle, which in the aggregate only amounted to the value of £77. Thus it is evident that the number of domestic fowls imported to improve the various strains must be very limited.

Poultry can be purchased at Roseau at from sixpence to eightpence per lb. live weight, and I more than once replenished the larder of my expedition by supplies obtained at this place. In other parts of the island I tried, but never was able to obtain any. Why this should be I do not know, unless it is that the natives have not sufficient open ground for forming runs and growing food for poultry on any but the smallest scale. From the toughness of one or two of the cocks we managed to acquire—for we never were able to buy hens—it was suggested that they had survived from the time of Noah, and that the Ark had rested on Morne Diablotin instead of Mount Ararat. In any case, from the development of muscle, it is certain the cocks had had plenty strenuous exercise in trying to obtain a living, and, after all their struggle for supplies, had about the minimum of flesh upon their bones.

The climate is suitable for breeding poultry, and food supplies can easily be grown, so it looks as if raising domestic fowls would pay, and such an enterprise could be started without much capital. The policy of selling by weight must be quite satisfactory from the vendor's point of view; but when the pur-

chaser discovers how much he has paid for in the weight of feathers, bones, and muscles, he is apt to rue the bargain.

HINTS TO SETTLERS

I think I have referred to the cultivation of the various vegetable products as well as to the rearing of those domestic animals and birds which are likely to be of commercial value.

The new settler must carefully inquire into the local conditions, and satisfy himself, and arrange his operations so as to meet such difficulties as he may naturally expect to arise. Some forms of cultivation, such as that of all kinds of citrus fruits, mean continuous expense as long as the plantation is carried on; while with cocoa a large curtailment of expense takes place under good management after the twelfth or thirteenth year.

Questions such as I have just stated require consideration before the new estate is opened out, as want of foresight in such matters means all the difference between success and failure.

I have not referred to Indian corn, oats, pease, beans, and rice, all of which are largely imported into the island. These products may prove profitable to grow; and as the importation of rice in 1904 was 153,287 lbs., valued at £664, and in 1905 was 139,283 lbs., valued at £620, there seems a ready market if there is any profit in the business.

I have no doubt many suitable positions for growing rice exist on Dominica, and with plenty of water for irrigation, and native labour at hand, the cultivation is worth consideration.

CHAPTER VII

THE FAUNA AND SPORT

THE animal life of the island is much more limited than one might suppose, and there are none of the larger quadrupeds that man has to fear. The only animals that offer any sport are the wild pig and the agouti, and they require more hunting than they are worth. The manicou or opossum is shot because it does damage in the orange groves, but it is not used for food. I was told there are a few imported deer at one place in the island that are private property, but I did not see them, so do not know to what variety they belong.

There are several varieties of bats in Dominica, and one of our most delightful excursions was to a cave near Blenheim, upon the windward coast. There are several caves near here, and, as the surf was too high for us to approach in a boat the cliffs in which is situated what was described to us as the most interesting one, we had to be content to keep to the shore and visit a more accessible cave. To reach it we had to clamber over the rocks fringing the sea, and at several dangerous points to run the gauntlet between the falling and rising of the waves. It was rather exciting work, requiring some nerve and a steady



Photograph by

Building an Ajoupa or Shelter in the Forest, in which we swung our hammocks and slept at night.

[F. H. Rowntree, Esq.]

head. At last we reached the cave, and got into it after crossing one or two rather awkward chasms, at the bottom of which there was a boiling sea.

Once inside we found thousands of bats (*Brachyphylla cavernarum*) clinging to the roof and walls, and, with our insect nets, were not long in capturing as many as we required.

They were of large size, with a stretch of wing of from thirteen to sixteen inches, and very vicious. After getting a few bites we got more careful, and were not long in transferring them from the net to a sack we had brought with us for the purpose.

This bat is rather rare, but is found in Cuba, St Vincent, and one or two other places, but had not been recorded from Dominica. Most of my specimens have been presented to the Royal Scottish Museum, and the authorities there have undertaken to supply the British Museum with specimens, as it is anxious to have them.

There is a close time for birds, of which there are many beautiful species, but few of much value for food except the Sisserou parrot (*Chrysotis augusta*), which is occasionally shot by the natives and offered for sale in Roseau market; but this handsome bird, which is only found on Dominica, is rapidly becoming extinct. If its sale for food were prohibited by law it is likely the wanton destruction of this very rare and interesting parrot would cease. Another parrot which is restricted in its distribution to Dominica is the Jacko (*Chrysotis Nichollsi*), but it is still fairly common.

The Diablotin bird (the capped petrel—*Æstrelata hesitata*) is recorded from Haiti, Martinique, and Guadeloupe. A specimen in the British Museum is

said to have come from Haiti, but this may have arisen from some confusion regarding Dominica (comprising the republics of Haiti and San Domingo) and the British island of Dominica (one of the Lesser Antilles); but it is also possible the origin of the specimen may be correctly given. It is a matter requiring careful investigation. As to Martinique and Guadeloupe, both are possible and even probable stations at which the capped petrel might breed.

However, it must be kept in mind that the Carib Indians on Dominica trade with both Martinique and Guadeloupe, and that these French islands would be the natural outlet for specimens obtained by the Carib Indians upon Dominica.

The bird is only represented by about a dozen known specimens, most of which are in public and private collections in Europe, and one or two in the United States.

It was known to visit Morne Diablotin on Dominica at the breeding season until twenty-five or thirty years ago, if native statements can be relied upon. One of the purposes of my visit to Dominica was to inquire about this very rare, if not extinct, species. I visited what were its haunts, but unfortunately could find no trace of it, but that was not an unexpected result considering the dense undergrowth, the nocturnal habits of the bird, and that probably the time of my visit was not the breeding season. However, I obtained a little information that may be of interest to ornithologists.

It is said that the mountain Morne Diablotin takes its name from this bird, which was known by the name of the Diablot.

In *The English in the West Indies* (p. 141), James

Anthony Froude, who probably was quoting Père Labat, describing the bird and its habits, says: "A great bird, black as charcoal, half raven, half parrot, which nests in holes in the ground as puffins do, spends all the day in them and flies down to the sea at night to fish for its food. There were once great numbers of these creatures, and it was a favourite amusement to hunt and drag them out of their hiding-places. Labat says that they were excellent eating. They are confined now in reduced numbers to the inaccessible crags about the peak which bears their name."

This is a description that probably refers to the end of the seventeenth century, when Père Labat lived and wrote about Dominica; but much has happened since then.

This account, however, throws an interesting light upon the habits and haunts of a bird probably either on the verge of extinction, or that has recently become extinct.

It is worth noting that Labat recorded over two hundred years ago facts regarding the habits of the petrels which have only been understood and accepted by many ornithologists within comparatively recent years.

There are a few partridges of, I understand, the ordinary West Indian variety, but I saw none, and I was told they were mostly confined to one or two localities.

From the foregoing it will be gleaned that there is not much attraction in Dominica for the sportsman with his gun.

Of snakes there are at least three kinds, one of which—the tetche—grows to a large size; and I was

told of specimens of from fourteen to twenty feet in length. But the usual size, of which I saw several, and killed one, was about six or seven feet. The other two varieties I saw were quite small, and none of the snakes on Dominica are believed to be poisonous.

Frogs are abundant, and the crapaud or mountain chicken (*Leptodactylus pentadactylus*), a large variety, is regularly sold in Roseau and is considered a great luxury. We had it frequently, and found it very good to eat.

Of insects there are more than enough, but we did not find that they made life quite unbearable, and I came across nothing that could in any way compete with the bloodthirsty midges and horse-flies of our own country. There are a few scorpions and a good many centipedes, both of which had better be avoided. The beetles are exceedingly interesting, and hunting for them in the trunks of fallen and rotting trees, which are hewn to pieces by your native followers with their cutlasses, is to the naturalist not the least enjoyable of occupations. You may come across such large forms as the Hercules beetle (*Dynastes Hercules*), which may measure from four to seven inches in length. This species is found in South America, but Dominica is the only island of the Lesser Antilles upon which it has been discovered.

There are several large beetles, but perhaps the most interesting is one from a half to three-quarters of an inch in length, which has brilliant luminous eyes and which appears at night. One of these beetles in a glass tube will emit enough light for a person to read a newspaper with. In some parts, especially in the northern part of the island near the

coast, they are very plentiful, and one wet night great numbers of them took refuge underneath the leaves of a tree where we were living and illuminated the whole tree, which was a beautiful sight. The name of this beetle is *Pyrophorus noctilucus*.

There are one or more varieties of small luminous beetles, and also myriads of fireflies, that make the humid forests and undergrowth at night an illuminated world of beauty. There are multitudes of other insects, some of them objectionable, but most of them nocturnal in their activity, at which time every twig of the forest seems full of life. After the heat of the day all nature seems to bestir itself, and as you swing in your hammock in the shelter of your ajoupa at your camp under the giant trees, you are kept awake, or sung to sleep, according to your mood, by the clanging sound of the blacksmith beetle—as if a smith were beating upon a real anvil—the croaking of the frogs, or the whistling noise of the cicadæ.

In sunshine, your eye is delighted with the brilliant colouring of the butterflies as they flutter in every open glade and clearing, and many rare moths may be found at dusk or dawn to rejoice the collector.

The rivers abound with fish of several varieties, but, as far as my investigations went, the angler was dependent upon the mountain mullet for sport. I caught none much over half a pound weight, and from want of large grasshoppers, which I found the most deadly bait, I never was able to fill my creel. The difficulty to get bait was considerable, owing to the very few clearings in the interior of the island, and it was only where grass or similar forms of vegetation grew that any grasshoppers were captured.

I had sometimes six or seven men searching the

vegetation for these creatures, and although they brought me numbers of small specimens which the mullet would not look at, the grasshoppers from one and a half to two inches in length were rather scarce. When we obtained these we could catch mullet—without them we had no sport.

The fish we caught were very pretty to look at, but only moderately good to eat, being rather bony, and a little like perch in flavour. We did not hear of any mountain mullet being caught over one and a half pounds' weight, and very few of these.

We were told that near the mouths of some of the larger rivers another edible fish is caught, which runs up to five or six pounds in weight, but as I did not see specimens I do not know what it is.

It was reported to us that there is very good fishing in the sea round Dominica, and large takes are captured. From what we heard there seemed to be several varieties, for which there is a regular market at Roseau.



Photograph by

Our Ajoupa in the Forest on Morne Diablotin.

[S. H. Davies, Esq.]

CHAPTER VIII

THE FLORA AND MOUNTAIN CLIMBING

To the botanist Dominica must ever be a land of interest and pleasure. The magnificent forests, with all their wealth of epiphytic vegetation, the great numbers of filmy ferns, mosses, and hepatics, all tell of a heavy rainfall and damp climate. The charm of visiting the regions unknown and the possibility of new discoveries must stimulate the student to overcome difficulties in the pursuit of science and add a new joy to his life.

The settler in Dominica has all this pleasure at his door, and within his reach; and if he is unable at his home to engage in the playing of football, cricket, and golf, he has much to compensate him for the deprivation of his games without going many yards from where his daily avocation is carried on.

To one accustomed to study the flora of a mountainous country, the zones of different forms of vegetation are very apparent in Dominica. Perhaps the most remarkable feature is the dense tangle of the dark dripping forests that cover the mountains at elevations of over 2800 feet. The sharp peaks and serrated saddles are exposed to the almost continual strong winds which cut back the vegetation, with a result somewhat similar to what

follows the use of a razor upon a growing hirsute surface. The twisted and gnarled branches become entangled and impenetrable until a road is cut through them with the cutlass; and often the climber of the mountains at these high elevations finds himself struggling to force a way to the goal he is attempting to reach by climbing for long distances through the middle branches, rarely touching mother earth, sliding and slipping, to the great risk of his limbs, upon the coating of filmy ferns, mosses, and hepatics that covers each stem. Going up these mountains is bad enough, but when one turns to come down it is worse, and even man begins to wish he could assume for the time being the powers of an ape. The descending journey has to be made by the same road by which the ascent was carried out, and the climber will be surprised at the large amount of cutting with the cutlass that is required as he returns the road by which he came. Looking down from among the branches of the trees gives one a very different view from what one had when going up, and the danger to your limbs—if not to your life—comes vividly home as you struggle for a secure foothold among the slippery branches and look down into the darkness of what seems an abyss.

Further down the mountains are found many tree ferns, and in one zone the most common of these is known by the name of *Fugere piquant*; its stem is covered with sharp spines, which wound your hand if seized hold of or tear your clothes if you come against them. We found this fern most troublesome to avoid. It grows on steep parts of the ground where little else succeeds, and when you come to these places you often find yourself upon a glissade of mud, with the prospect

of a broken neck unless you clutch at something, and if that something happens to be a *Fugere piquant*—which is very likely—it will be some time before you get rid of the traces upon your person of the experience.

The flora of the island has been only partially investigated, so it is not possible to form very definite conclusions upon some points, and the time at my disposal was so much taken up with other matters that I was unable to devote what would have been necessary for even the most cursory examination of its plant life. As far as I could judge, some form of vegetation such as the seaside grape (*Coccoloba uvifera*), or a closely allied form, appears at the seashore, and reappears at different points of elevation where suitable conditions of climate and soil exist, and where there is no competing vegetation sufficiently rank to kill it off. On the higher elevations and the summits of the mountains this, or an allied form, is a most conspicuous feature, and from its dense growth obstructs the climbing of the mountaineer.

Palms, tree ferns, laurels, and many evergreen shrubs and trees abound, forming a striking feature of the landscape. Interesting plants belonging to the leguminous family are found, and some of them have very pretty seeds, from which can be formed rosaries, necklaces, and ornaments.

The list of plants that are grown by the natives for food—were I able to attempt their enumeration—would be a long one; but what Charles Kingsley says in chapter xvi. of *At Last*, in referring to “a provision ground in Trinidad,” is so true of what one finds in Dominica, that I cannot do better than refer the reader to that charming book, which may be had at a low price from any bookseller.

CHAPTER IX

VOLCANIC ORIGIN OF DOMINICA. ITS GRAND SOUFFRIERE

THAT the island is of volcanic origin seems undoubted, and no one looking at the mountains from the sea, with their cone-like peaks and serrated ridges, will call this conclusion in question. In fact, the island seems to comprise, in Morne Diablotin and the central peak of the Trois Pitons, the highest points of a great mountain range that was at one time connected with the South American continent, and also with all the islands of the Lesser Antilles.

That the volcanic forces are still in operation may be seen in the wonderful Grand Souffriere, with its two active craters. These two craters exist in the Grand Souffriere Valley,¹ and may be included among the wonders of the world. The higher of the craters contains the boiling lake, and the lower one the spouting springs of boiling water.

It is said that until about thirty years ago these natural wonders were unknown, and I was told that Dr H. A. A. Nicholls, C.M.G., who still resides and

¹ The Grand Souffriere Valley must not be confused with the Souffriere Valley shown in the map near the south-west point of the island.



Photograph by

[Symington Grieve.

View of several of the Spouting Boiling Springs at the bottom of the Boiling
Fountain Crater, Grand Soufriere Valley, Dominica.

practises at Roseau, had much to do with the discovery.

About twenty-six years since a violent eruption took place on a Sunday, which deposited a large quantity of material from the volcano in and about Roseau, and wrapped the town in almost total darkness for the day. Fortunately there was no loss of life, as the situation of the Grand Souffriere is remote from human dwellings. Most of the material shot out of the volcano was carried by the wind to sea, where it did no damage.

On the 17th of February 1906, Dominica experienced the most violent earthquake which has been felt there for many years, and on the 1st of March—a fortnight after its occurrence—my son and I, accompanied by Matson Roffe, the French Creole guide, and one of my black men named Benjamin, visited the Grand Souffriere Valley and the two craters. The rest of my men declined to descend into the valley, as they were afraid, so had to be left behind.

As we were the first people to visit the region after the earthquake, we were quite prepared to find things lively, and we were not altogether disappointed in this respect, as the columns of boiling water from several of the springs at the bottom of the lower of the two craters rose to a height of from eight to ten feet, and steam was hissing out through the rocks, boulders, and gravel all around us, and we had to exercise some care to avoid scalding. The water flowing from the springs was at boiling-point, and was of the colour and thickness of stone-coloured paint. We were told that under ordinary conditions the water from the springs was quite pure. It was evident from the way the boulders and stones at the bottom of the

crater had been washed clean of deposits that there had been some unusual activity of very recent date—certainly within a month, as at that time the guide had made his previous visit, when the conditions were different and the volcanic action much less active.

At the upper crater the boiling lake was hidden by a dense cloud of steam, which was every now and then blown back by the wind, when we saw great masses of boiling water being thrown up four or five feet in the air, and the whole surface of the lake seemed to be surging from one end to the other. It was a wonderful sight to see in operation, this great safety valve of the world, and to think of the possibilities if only the power going to waste could be harnessed for some economic purpose.

The Grand Soufriere Valley for several miles is nearly bare of vegetation, except for a few plants which we only met with within its area, and stretches of low scrub and grass.

It never seems to have recovered from the effects of the eruption of twenty-six years ago, which must have been of a terribly violent nature. From what I saw I have formed the opinion that so violent was the eruptive power that large portions of the mountain sides were blown away and were sent upwards with tremendous force as if from a cannon's mouth. So great was the energy with which the material was ejected that it must have been carried upwards to an enormous height, as comparatively little descended upon the island, and with the violent wind must have been carried out to sea.

It was interesting to observe how little had been the injury to the virgin forest up to very near the edge of the Grand Soufriere Valley.



Photograph by]

In the Grand Soufriere Valley, Dominica.

[William Griee.

Had any considerable portion of what was blown out descended upon the forest, it certainly would have been destroyed.

Were this region opened up, and riding paths constructed to it, and suitable accommodation for tourists supplied, it would prove as attractive as the Yellowstone, or the Northern Island of New Zealand, and revolutionise the isolation of Dominica and make it one of the most frequently visited places by all tourists to the West Indies.

The whole of the Grand Souffriere region is situated in the Crown lands, and may be purchased to-day; and to an individual, syndicate, or company, with energy, capital, and well-laid plans, success seems assured.

The route to the Grand Souffriere is to ride from Roseau to Laudat—about seven miles, ascending from sea-level to about two thousand feet; thence walk to the boiling lake, which takes about other four hours. A good hotel might be built at Roseau and another at Laudat, and one or more rest-houses, with less elaborate accommodation, in the forest near the descent into the Grand Souffriere Valley, about three hours from Laudat.

Perhaps you say—what about the danger? My reply is, that while it is quite true that noxious gases sometimes accumulate close to the shores of the boiling lake, and that two gentlemen lost their lives there about two years ago through being asphyxiated, it was an accident through one of them being fool-hardy and going where he was told not to go to try and take a photograph. His friend, seeing him drop, rushed into the dangerous place to try to save his life, with the sad result that he was unable to save his friend, and lost his own.

We went within a few yards above the depression in which the accident happened, and it appears to be quite safe. The visitor standing upon the edge of the crater can look down upon the surface of the boiling water and see all that is to be seen.

The distance from the Grand Souffriere of Dominica across the ocean to Mount Pelée in Martinique cannot be much more than thirty miles, and yet, during the dreadful catastrophe of 8th May 1902, when San Pierre was so suddenly destroyed, there was no sign of any connection between Mount Pelée and the Dominican Grand Souffriere, while in St Vincent there was a very evident connection with the Souffriere there and Mount Pelée, as both were in violent eruption at the same time, and in each case with disastrous results.

My view is, that very few of these eruptions take place without some premonitory signs; but, with few visitors, any warning signs in the Dominican Grand Souffriere Valley might be unknown until an outburst took place.

Were this "wonder region" opened up to tourists, who would flock to see it and who would be conducted through it by trained guides from day to day, there is little doubt that ample warning would be given of any trouble.

There are other volcanic wonders to be seen in Dominica, such as a number of sulphur fumaroles at Wotten Waven, and two extinct craters now filled with cold water; also hot springs at various parts of the island, and all situated among some of the grandest scenery to be met with anywhere.

Near Laudat there is a hot sulphur spring, with water that may, or may not, have valuable curative



Photograph by

At the Bottom of the Boiling Fountain Crater, Dominica—a hot corner.

[Symington Grieve.]

properties ; but, in any case, its existence in any part of Continental Europe would be sufficient warrant to form a spa.

SCENERY OF DOMINICA AND EXCURSIONS FOR TOURISTS

Roseau, the capital of Dominica, is the best point in the island for tourists to make their headquarters. The scenery of the Roseau Valley is very beautiful, and the tourist will be amply repaid if he visits the twin waterfalls, which are grand in the extreme and little more than an hour's ride from the town. On the left-hand side of the road going up the valley, and a short distance before reaching the twin falls, is a smaller fall, also very high, and when in flood well worth stopping to have a look at. On the south side of the valley, up a tributary of the Roseau River, are the boiling mud fumaroles and hot sulphur springs.

The view from the hill behind Roseau and above the Botanic Garden, especially from near the house of the teacher of the Agricultural School, looking up the valley, is one that is likely to make an impression upon the visitor and not be easily forgotten. A visit to Laudat ; the cold-water lake in the extinct crater ; the Grand Souffriere Valley, to which I have referred elsewhere, with its boiling fountain crater and its boiling lake crater ; and other natural wonders of the district, will reward immensely those who can rough it and stand the fatigue. Another excursion would be to ride to Bassinville and back, and, if possible, stay a night in the Government Rest-house, which is a miserable place, but still a shelter. However, permission would require to be obtained from the Ad-

ministrator to occupy either this rest-house or the one at Highbury for the night. The latter is much superior to the former. The scenery is picturesque and impressive at some parts of the way, and the visitor will obtain a good idea of what virgin forest is like.

Those wishing to visit the Caribs will probably find the best route will be to take the steamer *Yare* to Marigot, upon the windward coast, and thence walk or ride about eleven miles. This is an excursion not easily arranged at present, as there is no place where tourists can get hotel accommodation near Marigot. Those who wish to visit Portsmouth, and the Old Fort on Prince Rupert Bluff, West Cabri, with its ruinous buildings and rusty cannon, and in dry weather its teeming population of snakes and lizards, should try and arrange to go to Prince Rupert Bay on the R.M.S.P. Co.'s steamer *Yare* on one of her trips down the leeward coast. Usually the steamer arrives early enough in the day for passengers to land and see the fort and return to sleep on board, the return to Roseau being made the next morning.

If anyone wishes to climb the higher mountains, such as the Trois Pitons, or Diablotin, it will be necessary to make special preparations, and take natives who know the route and understand the work. Mr Matson Roffe, Laudat, is a good guide for the Grand Souffriere, the Trois Pitons, and all that district. The visitor may think his charges high, but after some experience I did not think them unreasonable, considering the arduous nature of the work and that the employment is only occasional. The best advice I can give anyone is to make your bargain about each excursion before leaving Laudat. I feel sure you



Photograph by]

[Symington Grieve.

The Greater Twin Fall upon the Roseau River, Roseau Valley, Dominica.

will be delighted with what you will see, and also find Mr Roffe intelligent and most obliging.

The steamer *Yare* goes round the island every few days, and if the sea is calm it is a delightful excursion. The scenery all round the island, but especially upon the windward coast, is very fine.

I was unable to visit the south end of the island by land, but, judging from what I saw of it from the sea, it is well worth an excursion, which can easily be taken from Roseau.

EARTHQUAKES

These are not very frequent in Dominica, and seldom of much violence; earth tremors are often felt, but so slightly that they cause no alarm. During the first half of 1906 the conditions all over the world, but particularly in South, Central, and North America, and the West Indies, were peculiar as regards disturbances in the interior of the earth. There were evidences of this in some signs of activity at Mount Pelée, in the violent earthquake that troubled the northern part of South America and the West Indies on the 17th of February, and which was severely felt in Dominica, although it did almost no damage there. Then Mount Vesuvius was in violent eruption, and following that the earthquake and disaster at San Francisco and the neighbouring region. Disturbances from other parts have also been reported, showing how very troubled the earth's interior must have been, and may be still.

During all this time nothing serious occurred in the Grand Souffriere in Dominica, which may give confidence to any intending settler.

My son and I had a rather amusing experience of the earthquake that shook Dominica on 17th

February, which may be worth relating. We had emerged from the forest on our way from Bassinville to Hatton Garden, and, as no ponies can travel through the forest, our steeds had been sent back from Bassinville to Roseau, and we were on the tramp.

When we came to rivers our black men carried us across upon their backs, and we found this arrangement worked quite satisfactorily, although we once or twice narrowly escaped a ducking.

On the day in question we had pushed on with only two of our followers, and we happened to reach the Pagoua River a few moments before the earthquake occurred, and my son and I each got upon the back of a black man to be carried across the river. When we were about half-way over, the black man who was carrying me suddenly stopped and called out, "Oh, sah! Oh, sah! Don't shake, sah! Me fall, sah! Oh, be steady, sah!" As I knew I had been quite steady, and was quite unconscious of any cause for the man's excited ejaculations, I told the man that I was quite steady; and as he kept on repeating, "Oh no, sah! Oh no, sah!" I saw he doubted my statement, but I clung to him and told him to go on, and I got across without a wetting; but all the same I felt puzzled.

My son had a somewhat similar experience to my own, but neither of us knew that an earthquake had occurred.

When we reached some native huts we found the people outside and rather excited, but as they only spoke the native patois we did not know what they had said to our men. When we reached Hatton Garden I was asked what my experience had been with the earthquake, and when I told my questioners I had felt no earthquake, and therefore had had no experience

of it, it was evident there was some doubt as to my veracity.

It was only afterwards, when I heard the time that the earthquake took place, that I knew it must have occurred about the time we were crossing the river, and then I understood why my black carrier called out.

By a recent arrangement planters are now enabled to insure against damage by earthquakes, and I understand the premium is moderate.

CHAPTER X

HURRICANES

THE island seems to be situated very near the southern limit of the hurricane zone, and has escaped those disastrous storms to a great extent. The last very serious occurrence of the kind was in 1851, and there was also a less serious storm in 1883. The configuration of the island, with its many mountains, ridges, and deep valleys, seems to limit to a considerable extent the destructive power of these storms.

The settler can insure himself against loss by such events.

HEALTH CONDITIONS

These are generally good: such serious illness as yellow fever has been unknown for fifty years, and such infectious complaints as whooping-cough, chicken-pox, and measles are usually of a mild nature.

At and near Portsmouth, in the north of the island, where the land is swampy, there is malaria, but very little elsewhere. It is said that the climate is suitable for those suffering from pulmonary complaints, and also is good for the cure of nervous affections, and that

rheumatic patients are benefited. Some of the hot springs, it is believed, are beneficial to those suffering from skin diseases.

The European settler, however, will be wise to take a trip to a temperate climate every few years, although numbers of white people have spent all their lives in Dominica.

OUTFIT : CHILLS AND SUNSTROKE

The new settler will find that the garments he usually wears at home in warm weather are what he requires all the year round in Dominica. Care must be taken, as in all tropical countries, to avoid chills, and thin undershirts of woollen material should be worn next the skin. Most of the white men when at work wear either white linen or white or khaki drill coats, vests, and trousers, but often the coat is made like an ordinary sac coat, buttoning down the front, which makes it unnecessary to wear a vest. White or light-coloured flannel shirts are much worn, and light tweed or flannel suits. All garments that are to be worn at the plantation, or in the forest, should be of the toughest material, as one catches on shrubs and the branches of trees, which soon tear ordinary clothes to shreds.

If one wishes to be social and enter into educated West Indian circles, it is necessary to have a few white linen shirts and a black dress suit.

It is most important to take one or two light but strong waterproofs, as the rainfall is great and the showers come on very suddenly, but the rain is of such high temperature that one hardly realises what is taking place until soaked to the skin.

As most white men have to ride a great deal, it is of the greatest importance to take one or two pairs of pigskin puttees of the best quality. They are invaluable for protecting one's legs, either in the forest or when climbing mountains, and may save broken limbs. Boots should be strong and watertight, and one pair at least should be shooting boots, with tackets in the soles and heels.

Another thing that it is better to bring from the Old Country is a good pony saddle, which is likely to be in constant use. It is doubtful if it is worth while to bring a gun, unless for natural history purposes.

SUNSTROKE is so seldom experienced in the island that ordinary straw or felt hats with good broad brims are sufficient in most cases, but a pith sun-hat may be used with advantage.

WASHING

It is one of the blots upon the good name of Dominica that all laundry work should be so badly done. Sometimes your clothes come back from the laundress dirtier than when they go away, and most new garments are disgracefully destroyed—at least that was my experience.

I suspect there are no proper wash-houses, and that all garments, whether white or coloured, are merely rinsed out in the river, thumped against a stone to their ruin, and then laid out upon the gravel and mud to dry. As to starching, the less said the better, but I may remark that if the colour of one's linen was of no consequence, and it was requisite that your shirt fronts should be turned into something as hard as millboard, then the laundresses of Dominica might,

along with those of some other West Indian islands, obtain distinction.

Until a school of domestic economy is started in the island, and the black ladies who carry on the laundry work are taught better methods, the white settler had better arrange his wardrobe so as to have little or no starching, and either do the washing himself or see that it is properly done at his home. He will find collars made of some soft woollen material much more comfortable to wear than those made of linen. When in the wilds of Dominica he can set the fashion for himself without being neglectful of appearances, always being mindful to maintain the requirements of good European society.

HOUSEKEEPING

My own experience with my camp enabled me to discover that there were no great difficulties to overcome, as supplies of every ordinary kind can be obtained at Roseau.

Bread, which is in large demand among the black people as well as among the whites, is cheap and of good quality, and can be obtained at either Roseau, Portsmouth, or at several villages on the windward coast.

Beef costs from 6d. to 8d. per lb., mutton from 8d. to 10d. per lb., and pork from 6d. to 8d. per lb. Fowls, mostly bone and muscle, 6d. to 8d. per lb. Sea-fish—the supply is abundant and cheap at Roseau. Milk and eggs are good, and obtainable at a moderate price. English hams, tinned meats, and soups of all kinds are sold at one or two of the stores. Groceries cost a little more than in

Britain, but liquors are charged with a lower duty than in the Old Country, so cost the purchaser about the same price as at home.

EDUCATION

To those with families this is an important consideration. The educational facilities of a superior kind, as far as I could ascertain, are confined to Roseau, where I was told both boys and girls could obtain an excellent education. There are schools throughout the island wherever there is sufficient population, but, as far as I know, the teaching is of an elementary nature, but quite suitable for those for whom it is intended.

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AND HOSPITALS

There are five medical officers appointed by Government, who are stationed in different districts. At Roseau there is a general hospital, with, I was told, separate wards for Europeans; there is also a smaller hospital at Portsmouth, but I do not know if there are any special arrangements for Europeans. As this town is unhealthy for white people, it would certainly, in case of illness, be to one's advantage to go to Roseau hospital in preference.

RELIGION

The Roman Catholics are by far the strongest religious body in Dominica, and carry on with vigour and assiduity their important work. I made the acquaintance of their bishop and several of his clergy, and I can only write in the highest terms

of what I saw of their various undertakings, which seemed to be carried on with success. When at the Carib Settlement I had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of the Rev. Father René Suaudeau, the parish priest of Wesley, who was on his monthly visit to the Caribs. Seeing I was interested in the remnant of this interesting race, he entertained me, took me to see the King and Queen, got the pure Caribs to send some of their children to be photographed, and showed me such attention as I had no reason to expect. This young French priest is held in great respect by the Caribs, and to them he acts as friend, preceptor, and guide, but, owing to his modesty, apparently almost without knowing it himself.

At Roseau there is a girls' school, which is carried on by the nuns of the Convent of the Faithful Virgin.

The Anglican Episcopal Church comes next in importance, and naturally most of the white people attend its services. St George's Church at Roseau is large, and the attendance good. The choir is composed of both white and black boys, which I hope may be taken as a good symptom of the feeling existing between the two races. There are several congregations of this body upon the island.

The Wesleyans also have several congregations, and are said to have considerable influence in certain circles and to be enthusiastic in their good work.

AMUSEMENTS

Roseau, no doubt, has its quiet social functions, and it has its club, whose membership, I heard, was composed of most of the official society of Roseau and a

good many planters; but it is by no means a gay town, unless at carnival time, when for two days the native population is *en fête*. For games, it has a golf course of nine holes, and there is a lawn tennis and croquet club, and at the Botanic Garden a cricket field. Sea-bathing may be indulged in all the year round, and it is said to be safe, as far as sharks are concerned. The water a short distance from the shore is very deep. The surf is sometimes heavy, and one has to be careful when entering the water, or at landing, as he may be dashed against the big rolled stones that form the beach at many points, or tumbled over on the gravel and carried out by the wash of the waves. It struck me something might be done to improve the bathing facilities at comparatively little expense.

HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES

Roseau, which is the principal town on the island, having a population of about 6000 inhabitants, has only one small hotel, viz., "Ogilvie's"; but there are several boarding-houses, at which the rates are higher than at the hotel, and at which it is said the accommodation is better. We were quite comfortable at the hotel, and got every attention, and it seemed to command the patronage of most of the planters. The charge per day for board at the hotel was 8s. 6d., and at the boarding-houses from about 8s. 6d. to 20s.

Portsmouth has a population of about 2000, but is an undesirable place to live at. It is said to have no hotel or boarding-house accommodation for Europeans.

BANKS

Banking seems to be confined to Roseau, where there is a branch of the Colonial Bank, which conducts the usual business carried on by such institutions. There is also a Government Savings Bank.

STEAMER SERVICES

The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company supply the island with its most important service from Britain, *via* Southampton, Barbadoes, or Trinidad, thence to Roseau, *via* the Intercolonial steamer, or by steamer *Yare* from Barbadoes.

This steamer has Roseau as its headquarters, and plies regularly along the leeward coast, and once a week goes round the island. The fare from Southampton to Dominica is £25 single fare; the return fare is £40.

Scrutton's Line of Steamers from England call two or three times a month.

The Quebec Line from New York call twice a month.

The Pickford and Black Line to and from Halifax call regularly.

PONIES AND CARRIAGES

These may be hired from one or two contractors in Roseau. Carriages are of little use except in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, and a special bargain must be made about hiring them. Ponies are a necessity for most tourists, and may be hired for about 5s. to 6s. per day. Tourists will, however, be wise to have terms of hiring fixed before starting upon a ride or drive.

TELEPHONES

A most convenient system of telephones has been provided over a considerable part of the island, following the lines of the main roads. The service is gradually being extended as the demand arises, and, as the rate is moderate, most of the planters who have had the opportunity have availed themselves of it. The advantages of the service are very great, as planters living alone in the wilds can transact business in any of the towns or villages, or hold a conversation with friends at the other end of the island. Since its introduction the telephone has done much to improve the conditions of life in Dominica and remove the feeling of isolation, and make it more enjoyable. The annual subscription is £5 for each instrument (with 5s. additional for every mile beyond the first from an exchange), but if special wires have to be taken considerable distances from the trunk line there is an extra charge which can be easily ascertained. Hours: 6.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. week-days; 7 to 9 a.m. and 3 to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Traffic rates to non-subscribers, 6d. per message.



Photograph by

[Synington Grieco.

The King and Queen of the Carib Indians, taken in front of their house.

CHAPTER XI

THE CARIBS

THIS interesting people, it is to be hoped, may be saved from extinction. They have a Reserve upon the windward coast of Dominica, where there is a population of about five hundred persons having the privilege of settling in this portion of the island. However, of these only about one hundred are pure Caribs, the remainder having more or less negro blood in their veins. The pure Caribs are proud of their race, and think they come of the same stock as the white men ; but all the same they have formed such connections with the negroes that, unless they confine their marriages to their own race, they will ere long be non-existent as a pure and unmixed people and become more negroes than Caribs. I heard of a Carib woman who was proud to marry a Chinaman, and who, when someone blamed her for not marrying a Carib, replied, " I am marrying one of my own race." Possibly she meant by that nothing more than that she was going to marry a man with straight black hair like her own people. However that may be, the woman's answer was not very far wrong, as the Caribs have a close relationship to the Indians of North America, who are probably descended from a Mongolian race.

Polygamy exists to a certain extent among these people, but the Roman Catholic clergy use their powerful influence to discourage such unions, and, wherever it is possible, endeavour to make men who have formed such connections give up all their wives except the first one.

The Caribs have their King and Queen, both of whom are old and blind, and the Queen is so frail that she is much confined to bed. The Queen is a little woman and a negress, and has a son by her marriage with King Ogis, who is now a man apparently about forty to forty-five years of age. The Crown Prince is pleasant of speech and a well-built man, who was very kind and attentive to his parents during my visit. However, as he is not a pure Carib, it is thought doubtful if he will be permitted to succeed his father as king.

The Imperial authorities, with no doubt the laudable desire of promoting the peace of this portion of our King-Emperor's dominions, have conferred, it is said, upon poor King Ogis the miserable pension of ten shillings per month, and I did not hear of his being in receipt of other income. I hope my information about this pension is incorrect, as it does not look very generous treatment to a king who may have as long a pedigree as our own Royal House, even although his forebears have been cannibals; but it is said they only ate valiant warriors to increase their own courage, and that non-belligerents were safe.

Labat, who lived among these people at the end of the seventeenth century, mentions that human flesh was not their ordinary food. He says they "boucanned" or dried the limbs of the warriors they killed in battle,



Photograph by

[Symington Griene.

Pure Carib Indian Children, who attend the Roman Catholic School.

and at special feasts these portions of humanity were handed round and gnawed.

King Ogis is assisted to rule by his Prime Minister and an Advisory Council, in which the influence of the pure Caribs is predominant.

Many of the pure Carib men and women have rather nice features, and some of the children are pretty. The mixed race are well built, with pronounced negroid characteristics.

The whole community within the Reserve numbers about 500, and of these about 100 are pure Caribs. The number of children on the roll at school is about 100, and the daily attendance about 75. The education, at one time conducted in French, is now confined to English, and is of an elementary nature. It is of great advantage to the Caribs to learn English, as far as employment is concerned beyond the Reserve, and in another generation or so there is every reason to believe that the French patois now spoken will be a thing of the past. They have also a language of their own.

The Caribs are fond of hunting, and we met them at times at unexpected places in the forest, and always found them pleasant to get on with, although in doing certain kinds of work, such as building ajoupas, we sometimes could not employ them owing to their high charges.

They are splendid boatmen, and in their dugouts perform wonderful voyages along the windward coast and across the ocean to Martinique, Guadeloupe, or other islands. There is a regular demand for their dugouts, which are constructed out of a single tree, and are an article of export from Dominica, as the official returns show. In 1904 there were ex-

ported 72 canoe shells, valued at £72; in 1905 the number was 34, valued at £34. I was told that the usual price for a well-finished dugout was about £2. A considerable trade is carried on by the Caribs with the adjacent French islands, and from what is known it is suspected very little of it appears in the official returns, and that some of it is in contraband goods, especially rum.

The only other special industry carried on by the Caribs is the making of baskets, which are strong and light, and some have patterns worked into them with coloured cane. They are rather pretty, but in Roseau they are somewhat expensive. These baskets can be made of any dimensions, but the usual size sold in the island are large, and intended for carrying loads upon the head.

The only other Carib colony in the Antilles is in St Vincent, but it is small in numbers, and it is said to be doubtful if any of these people are of pure blood. The dreadful eruption of the Souffriere on 7th May 1902 had a most disastrous effect upon this Carib colony, and only a remnant of its inhabitants escaped.

OBEAH AND JUMBIES

Witchcraft and spirits seem to be very real things to most of the black people, and I have seen them manifest the greatest terror when it was suggested we should camp in certain places. Had I insisted on carrying out my proposals, I feel confident most of my men would have fled. To have to stay a night near a mud fumarole, or under a ceiba tree, would almost turn a Dominican black man's hair grey, and



A snapshot by

[Symington Gricee,

Wild Carib Indians of Pure Blood—Children, and a Young Girl and Woman.

The girl is having her hair combed, and judging from her countenance she seems to feel pain.

I am afraid I must confess that the knowledge of this fear was useful to me in dealing with my black carriers. After one or two object lessons, that I felt no fear in situations that frightened them, they were more willing to trust in me, and probably held me in some awe. Sometimes I had great fun out of their fears, and it was not difficult to cause them the greatest alarm by merely expressing a possible intention in conversation. To explain to them the folly of their fears was absolutely useless, so I gave it up, and when any man showed the "white feather" I found the most salutary course was to twit him with his cowardice in presence of his fellows. They then quite forgot their own weakness and laughed their fellow-black out of countenance.

Black men look at things so differently from white people that it is often difficult to grasp their line of thought, and they have to be treated like big children. We had many strange experiences, and found them well-meaning at heart, but not always with the strong resolution that was necessary to carry out their good intentions.

The superstitions of the black people lead them sometimes to commit crimes of which they would in other circumstances feel ashamed. Obeah is not a dead cult in Dominica, as some people think, but it is not practised in broad daylight, and its rites and orgies are held in secret.

As to jumbies, they seemed to be everywhere, and their supposed actions were never interpreted for good, but always for evil.

The black people have not yet got rid of the strange beliefs and superstitions of the land from which their progenitors were brought, and very little

would be required to make some of them relinquish their Christian faith, such as it is, and revert to the customs and beliefs of West Africa. The sad and retrograde condition of the republics of Haiti and San Domingo is an object lesson that serves to illustrate and confirm what has just been stated, and strongly directs attention to the position of many of the black men in civilisation.

BLACK MEN

There are black men and black men, just as there are white men and white men—some good and some bad, some trustworthy and others untrustworthy ; but after very close association in camp and on the march with my black followers in Dominica, I formed a high opinion of them in many ways. They were most obliging, and when they discovered that I was determined to carry out my programme they gave me all the assistance I required. I have mentioned some of their weaknesses, but these did not trouble me, and my general impressions of the black men are good. I found them most respectful and ready to do all I asked. They were cleanly in their habits, and, as far as my followers are concerned, if any man says they had a bad smell, he maligns them. One so often hears remarks about “the black man’s smell” ; but I am delighted to be able to say that, although particular about such matters, I had no cause for the slightest complaint.

The men were musical, and at night, after our dinner, when we lay resting in our hammocks, they gave us concerts and sang very well ; some of their part songs were particularly well executed. We

never knew what was to be the next item upon the programme, but many of the songs were associated with the music-halls, and most of them had a chorus in which all joined in. Everything came off the part of the black men, and we gave no directions as to how the singing was to be conducted. We wanted to learn all we could of how our men carried out such entertainments.

The strangest feature of all was that generally the second last item was the singing of the twenty-third psalm, or a doxology, which was followed by a song of a very different order. I do not know why this was done, unless they wished to propitiate both good and evil spirits before they went to sleep in the forest, but it appeared to be a black man's custom.

Altogether we had a pleasant experience of these people, and when the time came for parting it was with sincere and mutual regret that we said farewell.

As to the morals of the black people I intend to say little. I saw much and heard more of which I could not approve, and the subject is not a pleasant one to write about. These children of nature believe in nature's laws, and if natural desires arise the most of them do not see why they should not be gratified. If you were to call in question their view, they would probably inquire of you why the Creator had implanted within each of them such desires if they were for no purpose. Very few of them seem able to understand or fully appreciate the moral code observed in all well-regulated Christian communities, much less self-denial in such matters.

As the black people have a crude morality which seems to suit them in the conditions under which

they live, it will always be difficult to convince them in their inner conscience that there is a better way of living than their own.

After what happened in the days of slavery on some plantations in the West Indies, where departments similar to what one finds upon a stud farm existed for increasing the number and improving the physique of the negroes upon the estates, who can wonder that some black people look with doubt upon the moral teaching of present-day whites?

Unfortunately immorality is too frequent among the young; and as to marriage, it is more honoured in the breach than in the observance. There are potent reasons for this, which all the Christian teachers and preachers in the West Indies have yet been unable to overcome. Eloquence, argument, and devoted effort have been tried for a generation or two, but with only partial success. Sermons with the Gospel message of love may touch a tender chord within the heart and be listened to with rapt attention, or a sermon of the fire and brimstone order may create terror and inspire awe; but the stern realities of life will make most black women brush these all aside and think of how it will be possible to avoid a life of drudgery and yet have many of the advantages of married life without the knot being tied. Men may prefer this arrangement, but it is undoubtedly the women who are the most important factors in bringing it about. A woman knows that if she marries she loses her independence and must do all the hard work, and attend to the family, should she have children, and work the food garden which supplies the household and perhaps provides a surplus which must be taken

to market and sold, and fulfil many other home duties. Her position is no sinecure, and her life becomes one of drudgery and care. If she does not marry but lives with her lover, she may please herself whether or not she attends to any of these duties, and, being independent and free, is often better treated than if she were bound by the marriage tie to the man.

The drawback to this arrangement is, that when she gets old the man may get tired of her and take another woman. However, I was told that in most cases these irregular unions were continued to the end of life by the same couple, and they seemed affectionate and kind in their relations to each other. Even if a woman were thrown aside for another in her old age, there is for her little fear of want, far less starvation, as a very small patch of soil in Dominica would yield more food supplies than she could consume, and leave some for market, and all this with very little labour upon her part.

The infantile death-rate among the black people is said to be very high in Dominica, although official statistics are not available, and probably the social arrangements of the adult population have much to do with it.

I had once or twice evidence of strong affection by certain of my men for the women they called their wives, and devotion to them when they were ill.

I came to the conclusion that their social system was not altogether one for utter condemnation, and perhaps frees them to some extent from the evils connected with the dens of iniquity and vice so common in all the great cities of the world as well as many smaller communities. Great evils, however,

exist, but to remove them will not be easy, although every Christian church in the island is putting forth effort in that direction.

POPULATION

The population by the last census was 31,392. No distinction is drawn between the races in the return.



Photograph by

The Beach, Portsmouth, Dominica.

[S. H. Davies, Esq.]

CHAPTER XII

WHALE FISHERY

THERE is an important fishery carried on by American whalers in the ocean, within a few hundred miles of Dominica. Its only connection with the island is, that the whalers, to the number of between twenty-five and thirty, rendezvous at Prince Rupert Bay, off Portsmouth, every year in May and June, for the purpose of replenishing supplies and refitting. Special ships are sent to meet them and give them all that they require in the way of stores and outfit, and during the stay of this large fleet there are some busy scenes off Portsmouth. The cargoes of whale oil are delivered to the supply ships, and they convey it to the United States. However, by arrangement, the whale oil appears in the export returns of Dominica, and it is as well to give this explanation. In 1904 the number of gallons that thus appear in the returns was 63,474, of the value of £5290, and in 1905 the quantity was 34,708, valued at £3470.

The crews of these ships by all accounts are a wild lot of men—the flotsam and jetsam of the seafaring population of certain ports in the United States. The American Consul at Roseau has to visit the ships to hear any complaints against the officers or

men, if the crews either collectively or individually care to prefer them. Sometimes rather violent scenes take place, and apparently all that Bullen narrates in his *Cruise of the "Cachalot"* regarding American whalers is no more than the truth.

THE PROBLEM OF HOW BEST TO OPEN UP THE ISLAND

This is a question which must have received some consideration from succeeding administrators, but it struck me it had been gone about the wrong way. Had the Imperial grant been spent in making a good driving road in place of the present unsatisfactory and rather useless road round the island, it would have been of more service to the inhabitants than constructing a riding path to Bassinville, far in the interior, where there is only a small population. Besides, it would have served a far larger area of country, and short roads could have been branched off towards the hinterlands wherever required. Had what I suggest been done, my impression is that much more land would have been taken up, as the blocks near the coast are far more valuable than those in the interior, owing to their position causing less expense upon the transit of produce, while the cost of labour is less.

Perhaps those in authority had some good reason for spending the money as they have done, but the views I have presented are worthy of careful consideration as far as I can discern.

JUDICATURE

I know nothing about the arrangements for conducting the judicial business of the island, but I heard everywhere complaints about the law's delay, and

was told that owing to long leave of absence there were often not two judges on duty on the circuit at the same time. There seems to be some real grievance which requires to be looked into by the Colonial Office.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

The rules and regulations regarding the collection of duties, and especially the regulations regarding the supervision of the manufacture of rum, do not seem to be very satisfactory. The black policemen appear to do most of the work, and have no special training for such duties, however satisfactorily they may carry out their own special department in the colony. What would the Customs or Excise authorities in this country think of entrusting the supervision of the working of a distillery to a black policeman, probably among the youngest men in the service and earning about one shilling and sixpence a day? I think they would either shake their heads or look unbelieving, yet that is what is being done whenever a rum distillery is working in Dominica.

One gentleman who had a distillery told me he had to close it owing to the pilfering that went on whenever he was absent, and he could not always be there. Another gentleman, thoroughly acquainted with the system, told me he was afraid that twopence a day would make most young black policemen turn their backs now and again during the distilling, so as not to see what was going on. If he was above taking money, probably a glass or two of rum would cause obliviousness that would last longer than if he only turned his back, and cause loss to the distiller and bring profit to the smuggler.

I have reason to believe that if it were not for the high character of those planters engaged in the making of rum in the island, very grave abuses might arise. I was told that some years ago an expert was sent out from the Old Country by the authorities to investigate this subject, and that he reported strongly against the present system, but that his opinion had not been acted upon.

WEST INDIA COMMITTEE

The Secretary requests me to say that his Committee are at all times glad to give advice to intending settlers.

Communications should be addressed to:—

The Secretary,

The West India Committee,

15 Seething Lane, London, E.C.

APPENDIX

THE following subjects are of much importance to the settler, and, in answer to my inquiries, the Acting Administrator, W. H. Porter, Esq., on 9th April 1906 wrote me as below :—

“STATUTES REGARDING THE TAXATION OF LAND

“There is no land tax. Properties pay an export duty in lieu of this on produce actually exported ; also a small tribute towards the maintenance of roads, on a sliding scale, the maximum rate being at present £2 per annum. Export duties yield about £1900 a year.”

“STATUTES REGARDING THE ALIENATION OF LAND

“The alienation of private property is regulated by laws of the Leeward Islands Colony. I regret that there are no spare copies available. The law is based on the Australian Torrens Act.”

“PROBATE AND SUCCESSION DUTIES

“I am informed that ‘there is no succession duty chargeable on the estate of a British or foreign subject dying in the colony. There would only be probate duty on his personal estate in the colony.’ The following is the scale :—

On estates exceeding £25 and not exceeding £50	10s.
“ “ £50 “ “ £100	20s.
“ “ £100, per £100 or any portion of £100	20s.”

"INCOME TAX

"This is payable upon all incomes whencesoever derived of residents, and in case of non-residents upon their incomes derived from the island ; but with regard to the former class, the law is most liberally construed, and agricultural settlers pay little if any tax.

Rates :—

£50 and under	.	.	exempt.
£50 to £100.	.	.	2½ per cent.
Exceeding £100	.	.	3½ per cent."

REGULATIONS FOR GRANTS AND DISPOSITIONS
OF CROWN LANDS IN THE PRESIDENCY
OF DOMINICA.

1. All Crown lands are, for the purpose of sale under these regulations, divided into three classes :—

First Class.—Three Chains and Village Lands — to consist of such lands as are situated in the towns and villages and in those parts of the island known as the Three Chains.

Second Class.—Surveyed Lands — being the lands not included in the Three Chains and Village lands which have been surveyed on behalf of the Government and set out in lots for sale.

Third Class. — Unsurveyed Lands — being all Crown lands not comprised in the first and second classes.

2. Plans of the land comprised in the second class, showing the number of lots surveyed and the position of each lot, will be deposited at the office of the Superintendent of Crown Lands and be open to the public for inspection. Each lot will be designated by a number.

APPLICATIONS

3. All applications for the sale of Crown lands are to be made to the Superintendent of Crown Lands in the form contained in Schedule I. of these rules, a copy of which may

be furnished by the Superintendent of Crown Lands, if he thinks fit, to any person intending to make an application.

4. If the land for which application is made is part of the land comprised in the third class of Crown lands, the application will not be finally considered until a diagram made by a surveyor, exhibiting the situation, extent, and boundaries of the land applied for, together with a certificate that such diagram has been approved by the Surveyor-General, has been forwarded by the applicant to the Superintendent of Crown Lands.

5. No application for less than twenty acres of land in the third class—namely, unsurveyed land; and no application for land in the second class—namely, surveyed land, for less than ten acres, will be entertained unless the applicant shall state in his application that the amount of Crown land in the place where the land applied for is situated is in the whole less than that amount.

An application for surveyed lands must be for one or more entire lots, as laid out in the plan.

REPLY AND PROCEEDINGS ON APPLICATIONS

6. The Superintendent of Crown Lands will take no proceedings on any application if, in his opinion, the granting of the land applied for will cause deterioration of other Crown lands, or be otherwise prejudicial to, or interfere with, the rights and interests of the Crown, or interfere with the rights or interests of any person or persons, companies, corporations, fellowships, societies, or fraternities, or if the application be for less than twenty acres of unsurveyed land, in a place where there are twenty acres to be disposed of.

7. If an application shall be received for any land in Class 3—namely, unsurveyed land—and no diagram of the land or certificate from the Surveyor-General shall be forwarded with such application, the Superintendent of Crown Lands shall, unless it shall appear to him clear that such application is one which would not be granted by him, inform the applicant that no final consideration of his application can be made until a diagram and certificate, as specified by Rule 4, has been forwarded to him.

8. If, on or before the receipt of the diagram, it appears that the unsurveyed land applied for is bounded by the land of any proprietor or proprietors other than the Crown, the Superintendent of Crown Lands shall, if he thinks it necessary, at the expense of the applicant, give notice to such proprietor or proprietors, or any one or more of them, of the application for such lands.

9. When, after final consideration of any application, the Superintendent of Crown Lands shall be of opinion that he can properly, in accordance with these rules, make a grant of the land applied for, he shall notify to the applicant for the sale of the lands that the land will be sold.

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION AND SALE BY AUCTION IN CERTAIN CASES

10. Where, after application has been made for the purchase of Crown lands, the Superintendent of Crown Lands has given notice to the applicant that the land applied for will be sold, the said superintendent shall (except where such lands are sold by private contract without advertisement in the case provided for in these rules) insert in three consecutive issues of the *Official Gazette* an advertisement setting out the application received and giving notice that the lands will be sold by public auction at a time and place to be named in the advertisements, unless under the provisions contained in these rules it should previously be disposed of by private contract; and further giving notice that if anyone is desirous of bidding for the said lands, he must send notice to the said superintendent within one week after the publication of the last advertisement; because if no such notice shall be received, and there shall be no more than one application at the expiration of that time, the lands will be sold to the applicant by private contract. Each advertisement will state whether it is the first, second, or third advertisement, and the date fixed for any auction shall not be less than one month after the date of the last advertisement. The advertisement aforesaid shall also, at the expense of the applicant, be posted in some conspicuous place in the parish in which the land is situated, or inserted in some local newspaper if the Superintendent of Crown

Lands thinks fit: Provided always that in the case of surveyed land the expenses incurred under this rule shall not be paid by the applicant.

PURCHASER

11. Where application is made for the purchase of not more than two ten-acre lots of surveyed land, if no second application has been received prior to the time when the Superintendent of Crown Lands has notified to the applicant that the land will be sold, the applicant shall, on receipt of such notification, become the purchaser by private contract of the said lands without any advertisement being made.

12. Where, after due advertisement has been made under these rules, there shall, at the expiration of one week from the date of the last advertisement, be no second applicant, and no notice shall have been received of a desire to bid for such land, the applicant shall be the purchaser by private contract.

13. Except in the cases provided for in the two preceding rules, the land will be disposed of at public auction.

PRICE

14. The following are the prices of the different classes of Crown lands when sold by private contract, and the upset prices in cases of sale by auction:—

First Class.—Land on the Three Chains.—Six shillings and eightpence per chain.

Town and Village Lots.—One pound for a thousand superficial feet. (The above are exclusive of the expenses hereinafter set out.)

Second Class.—Surveyed Lots.—Ten shillings per acre, to include the cost of grant, and all other expenses except the diagram, which, if required, will be supplied by the Surveyor-General on payment of the cost of making it.

Third Class.—Unsurveyed Lots.—Ten shillings per acre, exclusive of the expenses hereinafter set out.

PAYMENT OF PRICE

15. All purchase money shall be paid to the Superintendent of Crown Lands.

16. If the land purchased does not exceed twenty acres, the purchase money must be paid within thirty days of the sale by private contract or auction as the case may be.

17. If the land purchased is more than twenty acres, the price shall be paid in annual instalments. The first instalment to be paid thirty days after the sale. Every subsequent instalment at the expiration of one year from the date when the instalment originally preceding it was payable.

The amount payable at each instalment shall be one-half of the amount due at the time when such instalment is paid, but shall in no case be less than a sum which bears the same proportion to the full price given that twenty acres bear to the number of acres bought (that is to say, the price of twenty acres), unless on the payment of the last instalment so large a sum shall not be due.

(A) For example:—If a person purchases 100 acres for £50, the following are the smallest instalments in which the prices may be paid.

- (1) On completion of purchase, £25, being half the price of the whole lot.
- (2) In the twelve months succeeding the date of the first payment £12, 10s., being half the amount still owing.
- (3) In the next twelve months, £10, being the price of 20 acres.
- (4) In the next twelve months, £2, 10s., being the balance of the purchase money.

18. The purchaser may, if he so elects, pay the whole or any part of the purchase money before it is due, subject to a discount at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

EXPENSES

19. On a purchase of lands included in the first and third class—namely, Three Chains and Village Lots and Unsurveyed Lands—there will be the following expenses:—

- (1) A fee of £1, 7s. will be charged for the grant stamp and registration.

- (2) If the purchaser shall be some one other than the original applicant, the purchaser shall pay to the Superintendent of Crown Lands, to be repaid by the said superintendent to the original applicant, the amount certified by the said superintendent to be a reasonable sum for the cost of the survey certificate and application.
- (3) Any fee due to the Surveyor-General for survey, if any made by him, or certificate approving of survey.

20.

PAYMENT OF EXPENSES

- (1) The fee for grant stamp and registration shall be paid before the grant is issued.
- (2) The cost of and attending the application if the land is bought by some one who is not the first applicant shall be paid at the same time as the purchase money, or if the purchase money is paid in instalments, with the first instalment.
- (3) The cost of any survey diagram or certificate made or given by the Surveyor-General shall be paid at the same time as the purchase money or the first instalment thereof.
- (4) All fees and costs must be paid to the Superintendent of Crown Lands.

COMPLETION OF PURCHASE AND ISSUE OF GRANT

21. On payment of the whole purchase money and expenses, the purchase will be completed and a grant issued in the forms contained in Schedule II.

22. Where the price is payable by instalments, the Superintendent of Crown Lands may issue a certificate to the purchaser setting forth the terms of the purchase, and stating that on the fulfilment of these terms a grant will issue.

RIGHT OF POSSESSION

23. The purchaser will be entitled to possession of the land bought on payment of the price and expenses, if any; or if the price is payable by instalments he will be entitled to enter into possession on payment of the first instalment and expenses, if any, and to continue in possession till he shall make default.

DEFAULT IN PAYMENT OF PURCHASE MONEY

24. If default is made in payment of the purchase money or any instalment thereof, or in the payment of any money due for expenses at the time or times prescribed by these rules for the payment of the same respectively, the superintendent may, if he think fit, resume possession of the land sold, and may resell the same, either by private contract or by public auction; and if he shall receive for such lands an amount in excess of the amount of purchase money and expenses, if any, unpaid, he shall pay the excess to the person in default; but if the amount realised at the sale is less than the amount owing, the person in default shall continue liable for the balance.

DIAGRAM OF UNSURVEYED LANDS AND CERTIFICATE APPROVING THE SAME

25. Any person desirous of making application for unsurveyed lands may employ any competent surveyor to make the diagram required by these rules.

If the Surveyor-General is employed to make the diagram, his fees shall be such amount as is allowed by the Superintendent of Crown Lands, not exceeding the following rates:—

- (1) If the land applied for does not exceed thirty acres, a sum not exceeding £5.
- (2) For every additional thirty acres a further sum of £5, and for all additional land less than thirty acres a further sum of 5s. per acre, not to exceed in the whole the sum of £5.

Provided that if there be exceptional difficulty in surveying any land applied for which makes the survey exceptionally expensive, a special fee may, by leave of the President, be charged if the applicant has notice given him before the survey is made and consents to pay the same.

- (3) The Surveyor-General shall be entitled to charge for his certificate approving a diagram at the same rate as he may charge for making a diagram.

Provided always that if the Surveyor-General shall make the diagram and charge for the same, he shall make no charge for his certificate of approval.

Any person may apply to the Superintendent of Crown Lands for a diagram or certificate of approval to be made by

the Surveyor-General, and after such application has been made the Superintendent of Crown Lands will direct the Surveyor General to make such diagram or prepare such certificate as is required.

FEES

26. No payment shall be demanded from any applicant or purchaser by any officer acting in the sale of Crown lands or by the Surveyor-General. But if any fee is due to any such officer or Surveyor-General he shall notify the same to the applicant or purchaser, and to the Superintendent of Crown Lands, and the money shall be paid to the Superintendent of Crown Lands, and the officer aforesaid shall be paid by the official directed to make such a payment. Provided always that in no case shall any such payment be demanded or made unless, in the opinion of the Superintendent of Crown Lands, it is reasonable and just.

SCHEDULE I

APPLICATION TO PURCHASE CROWN LAND IN DOMINICA

Name of applicant at full length.	Acres.	Description of land.	Amount of purchase money.		
			£	s.	d.

I _____ hereby apply to purchase the land described above.

_____ Signature or mark of applicant.

Date _____

To the Casual Receiver
of Crown Lands.

SCHEDULE II

R. A.

ROYAL GRANT FOR CROWN LANDS SOLD

DOMINICA.

Victoria by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the Colonies and Dependencies thereof, Queen, Defender of the Faith, &c., &c., &c.

Greeting :

KNOW YE that We do by these Presents for Us our Heirs and Successors in consideration of the sum of _____ to Us paid, grant unto _____ Heirs and Assigns all that parcel or lot of land situate in the _____

To have and to hold the said parcel or lot of land and all and singular the premises hereby granted with their appurtenances unto and to the use of the said _____ Heirs and Assigns for ever.

And We do hereby reserve to Us our Heirs and Successors all precious metals upon or under the said Lands, with full liberty at all times to search, dig for, and carry away such metals, and for that purpose to enter upon the said lands and any part thereof.

In testimony whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent and Our Great Seal appointed for our said Colony of the Leeward Islands to be affixed hereto.

Witness our trusty and well beloved.

SPECIAL RULES APPLICABLE TO LANDS HELD BY PERSONS ON
TERMS OF TEMPORARY OCCUPANCY, AND TO LANDS HELD
BY PERSONS WHO HAVE OCCUPIED THE SAME UNDER
LEASES FROM THE CROWN WHICH HAVE EXPIRED

27. Notwithstanding anything in the rules contained, no application for any land the subject of these special rules will be received before the 1st day of January 1888, except in accordance with the following rules from the persons by whom the said lands are held on terms of temporary occupancy, or from persons who have occupied the said lands under leases from the Crown which have expired and are holding the same.

28. The persons by whom the said lands are held may apply to the Superintendent of Crown Lands for a grant in fee simple of such lands.

29. Such application must be accompanied by the grant or lease under which the land is or has been held, or legal evidence of the contents thereof.

30. Such person shall also forward with his application any particulars which he may wish to advance as grounds for his obtaining the land at a reduced rate, as hereinafter provided for.

31. The Governor may grant the application of any such person as aforesaid, without advertisement and on the terms hereafter provided.

32. The price for the grant shall be five shillings per acre, or if cause be shown to the Governor's satisfaction that such price should be reduced, for such less sum as he shall think fit.

33. Payment of the price must be made to the Superintendent of Crown Lands before the grant is executed.

34. When the application is approved, diagrams of the land in question (should there be such), signed by the Surveyor-General, exhibiting the situation, extent, and boundaries of the land required, must be forwarded to the Superintendent of Crown Lands. Should there be no such diagram in existence, the land must be surveyed at the expense of the holders.

35. The rules for the sale of Crown lands shall, so far as they are applicable, be applied to the grant of lands made under these sections.

36. On and after the 1st day of January 1888, applications for grants of the lands the subject of these sections will be received from any persons desirous of obtaining the same, and will, if the Governor thinks fit, be dealt with under the rules for the grant and disposition of Crown lands.

SPECIAL RULES APPLICABLE TO PERSONS WHO HAVE SQUATTED ON CROWN LANDS WITHOUT ANY AUTHORITY

37. Every squatter who has settled on Crown land, without any grant or authority, who shall make application for a grant of the said land before the expiration of the year 1887, and before application has been received from any other person for the said land or any other part thereof, shall, on receipt of the application, be entitled to a sale of the said land by private contract, and a grant will be issued to him on payment of the price of ten shillings an acre and all expenses payable under the rules on a sale of unsurveyed land. All the rules in force with regard to unsurveyed

lands as to the time of payment, and all other matters, shall, so far as they are applicable, be applied to any such sale. Provided that nothing in this rule shall affect any right of the Government to proceed in ejectment or take such other proceedings against any squatter before such application is sent in; and if any such proceedings shall be commenced, the right given by this rule to any squatter shall, so far as concerns the squatter against whom the proceedings are taken, cease unless the Governor shall otherwise order.

Approved,
GORMANSTON, *Governor.*

15th December 1886.

DOMINICA

SCHEDULE OF IMPORT DUTIES LEVIABLE UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF ACTS NOS. 1 OF 1896 AND 10 OF 1903

Aerated and mineral waters . . .	per doz. reputed pts.	£0 0 6
Alcoholic liquors, viz. :		
Ale, beer, porter, stout, perry and cider	per doz. reputed qts.	0 2 0
Do. do. in casks	per gallon	0 0 9
Bitters of all kinds	per doz. reputed pts.	0 2 6
Cordials, liqueurs, and sweetened spirits	per gallon	0 5 0
Spirits, not sweetened, and not exceeding the strength of proof by Sikes hydrometer, and so in proportion for any greater strength, viz. :		
Brandy	„	0 5 0
Gin	„	0 4 2
Rum	„	0 4 2
Whisky	„	0 4 6
All other, except methylated spirits	„	0 4 2
Methylated spirits	„	0 2 6
Wine :		
Claret, in wood or other packages containing more than one quart, the declared value of which does not exceed £5 for 45 gallons	„	0 0 6
All other, including flavoured or medicated wine	per £100 value	25 0 0

Animals, viz. :		
Asses	each	£0 4 0
Cattle	"	0 8 0
Horses	"	2 0 0
Mules	"	1 0 0
Bricks and tiles	per 1000	0 6 3
Cement	per barrel	0 2 0
Coal, coke and patent fuel	per ton	0 5 0
Drugs, etc., viz. :		
Opium, bhong and gange	per lb.	0 10 0
Patent and proprietary medicines	per £100 value	20 0 0
Other drugs (vegetable or mineral), chemicals and medical and surgi- cal instruments and appliances not specially exempted	"	12 10 0
Grain, viz. :		
Corn	per bushel	0 0 6
Oats	"	0 0 6
Pease, beans, barley and calavances	"	0 0 6
Rice	per 100 lbs.	0 2 6
Guns and ammunition :		
Firearms of all kinds	per £100	25 0 0
Gunpowder and explosives	per lb.	0 0 6
Fireworks, percussion caps, car- tridges and cartridge cases	per £100	20 0 0
Lime for building	per barrel	0 0 6
Matches	per gross of 12 dozen ordinary boxes or packets	0 1 0
Oil-meal, oil-cake, linseed meal and cottonseed meal	per 100 lbs.	0 2 1
Perfumery and perfumed spirits, hair-oil, hair-washes, pomades, powders, scented or fancy soaps, and all similar toilet accessories	per £100	20 0 0
Packages (empty) for produce, includ- ing cocoa bags and sugar bags	"	5 0 0
Provisions :		
Arrowroot, sago, tapioca, and all similar starches, and all prepara- tions of the same	"	12 10 0
Beef, salted or in pickle	per 100 lbs.	0 4 2
Bread (pilot or navy), crackers, and soda biscuits	per barrel, not ex- ceeding 100 lbs.	0 3 0
Do. do.	per box, not exceed- ing 20 lbs.	0 0 9
Bread and biscuits (fancy), and cakes	per lb.	0 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Butter and butterine	per 100 lbs.	0 10 0
Cheese	"	0 8 4
Coffee, cocoa, and chocolate	"	0 10 5

Provisions—*continued*—

Chocolate, sweetened	per 100 lbs.	£0 2 1
Corn meal	per barrel	0 3 0
Fish, dried and smoked	per cwt.	0 2 6
Fish, pickled, viz. :		
Salmon	per barrel, not ex- ceeding 200 lbs.	0 8 4
Mackerel	" " " " " "	0 4 2
Herring and other	" " " " " "	0 3 0
Flour, of wheat or rye	per barrel	0 6 0
Fruits, fruit jams and fruit jellies :		
Canned, tinned or bottled	per lb.	0 0 2
Do. (if prepared with sugar)	" " " " " "	0 0 0½
Almonds, currants, citron and raisins	" " " " " "	0 0 2
Hams and bacon	per 100 lbs.	0 8 4
Lard and its compounds	" " " " " "	0 5 0
Maccaroni and vermicelli	" " " " " "	0 5 0
Margarine, oleomargarine and similar compounds	" " " " " "	0 10 0
Pork	" " " " " "	0 4 2
Sausages and tongues, not in tins	" " " " " "	0 10 0
Sugar, muscovado and melado	" " " " " "	0 1 8
All other	" " " " " "	0 2 1
Tea	per lb.	0 0 8
Vinegar	per gallon	0 0 3
Tallow and oils :		
Candles, tallow	per 100 lbs.	0 4 2
All other	" " " " " "	0 8 4
Oils: castor and cod-liver	per gallon	0 1 6
kerosene and rock-oil	per case of 8 im- perial gallons	0 2 6
Do. (in other packages)	per gallon	0 0 4
Olive and cottonseed (refined)	" " " " " "	0 1 0
All other, not being essential oils	" " " " " "	0 0 8
Soap, not being scented or fancy, and soap powders	per 100 lbs.	0 4 2
Tallow, coomb, axle or machine grease	" " " " " "	0 4 2
Turpentine	per gallon	0 0 6
Tobacco, viz. :		
Cigars, except those known as "Long Toms"	per lb.	0 5 0
Cigars, "Long Toms"	" " " " " "	0 1 6
Cigarettes	" " " " " "	0 2 6
Leaf, in outer packages containing less than 500 lbs.	" " " " " "	0 2 0
Leaf, in other packages	" " " " " "	0 0 9
Manufactured, including snuff	" " " " " "	0 2 6

Wood :

Hoops, coiled or straight	per 1200	£0 8 0
Do. truss	per set	0 2 0
Houses of wood, complete for erection, with the necessary fittings	per £100	10 0 0
Lumber : pitch pine	per 1000 feet of superficial measurement of one inch thick	0 12 6
Oak, beech, elm, mahogany, cedar, hickory and all hard woods	” ”	1 0 10
White pine, spruce and all soft woods	” ”	0 8 4
Shooks	per £100	5 0 0
Shingles : cedar and pine	per 1000	0 3 0
Cypress	”	0 5 0
Wallaba	”	0 4 2
Spars (in the rough, or finished).	per £100	12 10 0
Staves	per 1000	0 5 0
Wreck : flotsam and jetsam sold in the island	per £100	12 10 0
All articles or things not hereinbefore specified, and not included in Schedule II.	”	12 10 0

EXEMPTIONS

- Animals, alive, not enumerated in Schedule of Duties, sucking animals, poultry and turtle.
- Baggage of passengers containing apparel and articles of personal use, and all professional apparatus and workman's tools brought in by a passenger for his own use.
- Belting for machinery, of leather, canvas, or india-rubber.
- Books (printed or in manuscript), printed matter in all languages, and printed forms.
- Bottles, of glass or stoneware.
- Bridges of iron or wood, or both combined.
- Carts, waggons, trucks and barrows, not including vehicles of pleasure.
- Eggs.
- Fertilizers of all kinds, natural or artificial.
- Fish and oysters, fresh or on ice.
- Fishing rods, with their tackle.
- Fruits and vegetables, not dried or preserved.
- Furniture and household effects, the property of and imported by persons coming to reside in the island.
- Gold and silver coin and bullion.
- Ice.
- Leeches.
- Locomotives, rolling stock, rails, ties, and all materials and appliances for railways and tramways.

Maps and charts.

Music, printed or in manuscript.

Marble or alabaster, in the rough, or squared, worked or carved, for building purposes or monuments.

Packages or coverings in which goods are imported, if they are usual and proper for the purpose.

Personal effects of individuals belonging to the island dying abroad.

Photographic apparatus for the private use of the importer.

Pictures and engravings.

Ploughs and similar implements, and agricultural forks.

Public worship : musical instruments, lamps, bells, statues, ornaments, sacramental wine, and all other articles especially imported for use in the celebration of Divine Worship, or for the decoration, building or repairing of any church, chapel or cemetery, upon the certificate to that effect by the officiating minister.

Salt.

Specimens illustrative of natural history.

Steam boilers and steam pipes.

Surgical instruments imported by practitioners for their own use.

Machinery and apparatus for the reaping and manufacture of produce, and all parts and fittings thereof, including teaches and sugar pans.

Telegraphic, telephonic and electrical apparatus and appliances of all kinds for communication or illumination.

Trees, plants, vines, cuttings, bulbs, seeds and grains of all kinds for propagation or cultivation.

Tombstones and railings for graves, and mural tablets.

Vessels, boats, and lighters, with their masts, spars, apparel, tackle and furniture.

Water pipes of all classes, materials and dimensions.

Wire for fences, with the hooks, staples, nails and like appliances for fastening the same.

All articles and things imported for or supplied to the Governor or His Majesty's army or navy, and uniforms, accoutrements and appointments imported by the officers of His Majesty's army, navy or militia for their own use.

And if any article or thing upon which duty has been paid at the time of its importation be subsequently supplied for any of the above purposes, the amount of the duty so paid shall be repaid out of the treasury upon the warrant of the Governor.

All articles, goods, animals and things (except rum), being the growth, produce or manufacture of, or raised in any of the islands composing the colony of the Leeward Islands, if accompanied by a certificate of origin signed by the treasurer of the exporting presidency. All samples (not of saleable value) of manufactured goods, and all goods and articles intended for exhibition only and not for sale, which the treasurer in his discretion, and subject to any rules made by the Governor in that behalf, allows to be imported free of duty.

Instruments and appliances of all kinds (and parts thereof), furniture and stores for the equipment and maintenance of any observatory or laboratory established in this island for scientific purposes by or with the approval of the Government.

Bonâ fide official supplies sent for the use of any consular officer of a Government which the Governor in Council is satisfied accords to the British consular officers within its territory similar treatment. Provided always that such exemption shall not exempt such consular officer from Customs duties generally.

Machinery and apparatus (and parts and fittings thereof), tools, materials and stores imported by any contractor to the Government for use in the prosecution of any public work or undertaking contracted for by him, but only in cases where he has by the conditions of his contract been specially exempted from import duty and the Colonial engineer has certified in writing that such articles are necessary and proper for the work.

Machinery, fuel and such stores as the treasurer may in his discretion allow, imported for the equipment and maintenance of any vessel engaged in the coasting trade of the island which is propelled by mechanical power.

SCHEDULE OF EXPORT DUTIES

Animals :	
Horned cattle	per head £0 6 0
Bay leaves	per 100 lbs. 0 1 3
Canoe shells	each 0 1 0
Cocoa	per 100 lbs. 0 1 0
Coffee	„ 0 1 6
Essential oils	per gallon 0 1 0
Farine manioc	per bushel 0 0 3
Fruit—fresh :	
Bananas	per bunch 0 0 0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Limes	per barrel 0 0 1
„	per box, not ex- ceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ barrel 0 0 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oranges	per barrel 0 0 3
„	per box, not ex- ceeding $\frac{1}{2}$ barrel 0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Fruit—preserved :	
Limes (pickled)	per barrel 0 0 6
Tamarinds	„ 0 1 0
Fruit : jams and jellies	per 100 lbs. 0 4 2
Ginger	per barrel 0 0 6
Hides and skins :	
Cattle hides	each 0 0 3
All other skins	per dozen 0 0 3
Lime juice (concentrated)	per gallon 0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
„ (raw)	per 10 gallons 0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Starches	per 100 lbs. 0 1 0
Turtle shell	per lb. 0 0 6
Wood :	
Firewood	per cord 0 1 0
Logwood	„ 0 2 0

ABSTRACT OF THE TOTAL VALUE OF THE IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF THE PRESIDENCY OF DOMINICA FOR 1905

Countries.	Total imports therefrom.	Exports thereto.		
		Produce and manufactures of the colony.	British, Foreign and other Colonial produce and manufactures.	Total.
1. United Kingdom . . .	£40,461	£45,491	£3,366	£48,857
2. British Colonies, viz. :—				
British North America	£4,434	£4,193	£28	£4,221
Barbadoes	11,717	994	46	1,040
British Guiana	362	...	...	...
Trinidad	243	1	6	7
Jamaica	74	...	...	...
Windward Islands	472	16	45	61
Other British Possessions	4,096	285	764	1,049
	£21,398	£5,489	£889	£6,378
3. The Presidencies of the Leeward Islands (internal trade)	£4,356	£2,255	£131	£2,386
4. Foreign countries:—				
U.S. of America	£26,455	£16,472	£3,519	£19,991
French ports	1,911	320	23	343
Dutch „	328	19	5	24
Danish „	194	49	7	56
German „	94	...	...	...
Belgium „	161	...	...	...
	£29,143	£16,860	£3,554	£20,414
Total Values of imports and exports	£95,358	£70,095	£7,940	£78,035

LITERATURE ABOUT DOMINICA

THE writings of Père Labat, Atwood, and Imray, and of some other authors, are not easily accessible to most readers ; but the following books and pamphlets are obtainable, and will be found useful :—

- The Handbook of Tropical Agriculture.* By H. A. A. Nicholls, Esq., M.D., C.M.G.
- The Agricultural Capabilities of Dominica.* By C. O. Naftel. Colonial Reports, Miscellaneous, No. 9, Dominica. Price 9½d. Messrs Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C., or Messrs Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh.
- Dominica, a Fertile Island.* By F. Sterns-Fadelle. Price 1s. On sale at the Imperial Institute, London.
- Dominica : Roads and Land Settlement.* Colonial Reports, Miscellaneous, No. 23. Price 2d. Messrs Eyre & Spottiswoode, East Harding Street, Fleet Street, London, E.C., or Messrs Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh.
- Cultivation of Oranges in Dominica.* Price 4d. Pamphlet No. 37. To be had from Messrs Dulau & Co., 37 Soho Square, London, or The West Indian Committee, 15 Seething Lane, London, E.C.
- The West Indies.* General Information for Intending Settlers. Price 6d. To be had from the Emigrant Information Office, 31 Broadway, Westminster, London, S.W., or Oliver & Boyd, Edinburgh.
- The English in the West Indies.* By James Anthony Froude. Longmans, Green & Co., London, 1888.
- The Lesser Antilles.* By Owen T. Bulkeley. Price 2s. 6d. London : Sampson, Low & Co., Ltd.
- At Last.* By Charles Kingsley. London : Macmillan & Co. Ltd., 1905.

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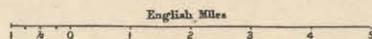
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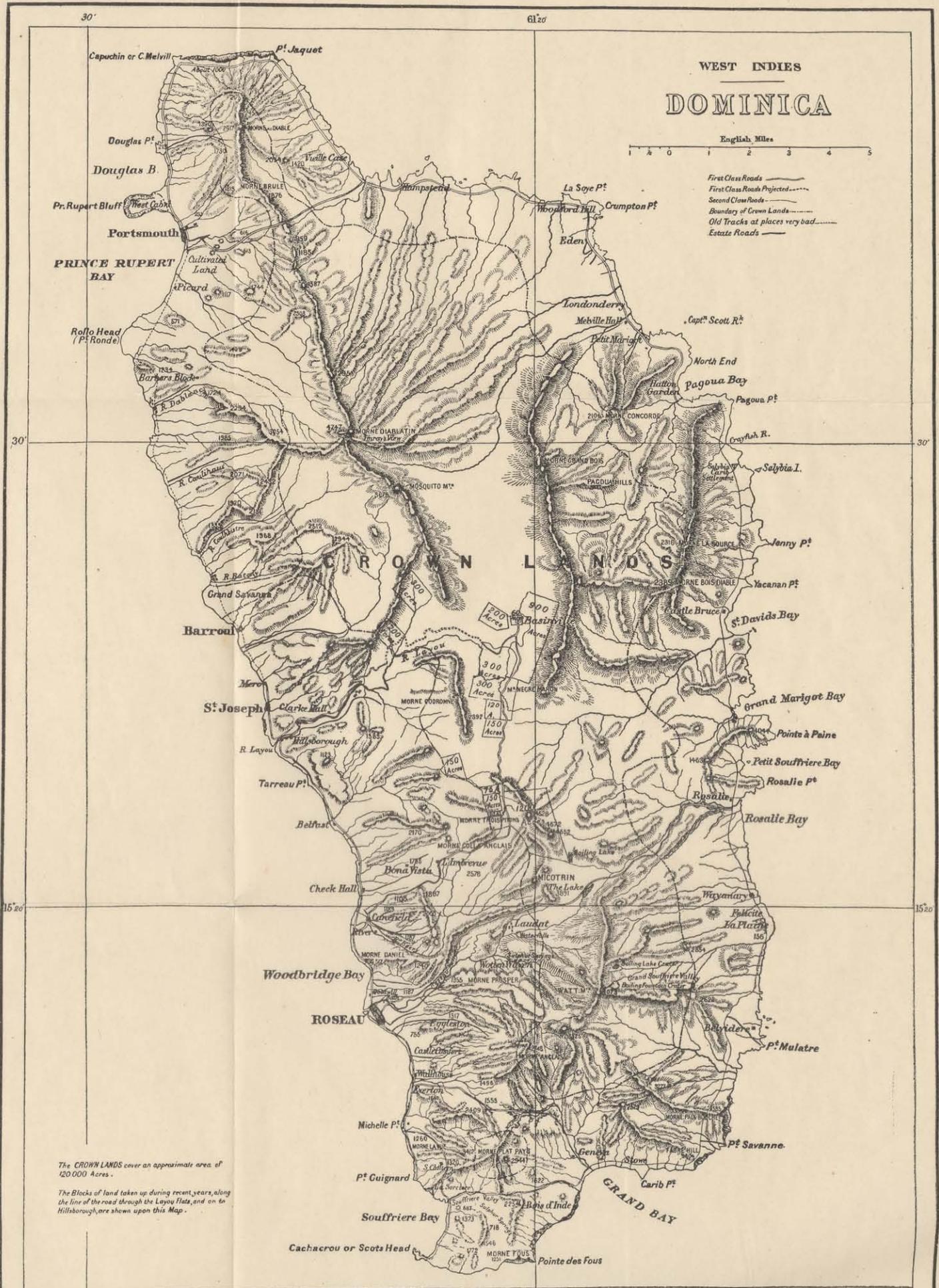
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WEST INDIES DOMINICA



- First Class Roads —————
- First Class Roads Projected - - - - -
- Second Class Roads ————
- Boundary of Crown Lands ————
- Old Tracks at places very bad - - - - -
- Estate Roads ————



The CROWN LANDS cover an approximate area of 120,000 Acres.

The Blocks of land taken up during recent years, along the line of the road through the Layou flats, and on the Hillsborough, are shown upon this Map.

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