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should not make terms with buyers of other countries and thus avoid the intermediaries who hold their produce at the sport of speculative opinion, according as some strong combination is formed to depress or advance prices without any corresponding benefit to the producer. Not long ago it became known that contracts were being made for the purchase of wheat from the farmers in the Northwest and for the shipment of the grain direct to Glasgow without contact with other wheat, thus giving the buyer the certainty of securing a specific and uniform grade of hard spring wheat without admixture of inferior or different grades. This is what the European buyers have been wanting. Hitherto they have been compelled to take such mixtures as were sent to them, and wheat which left its place of origin pure and of the first quality, could not be identified under the changes, and grading down to which it was subjected by admixture on its way to the foreign market. It may be thought that in advocating this line of direct trade we are adverse to the interests of American millers. We earnestly disclaim the thought, for we believe that milling in America has advanced to a point where it does not need fictitious advantages to sustain it or to secure a market for its product.

OUR TRADE AT ANTIGUA.

WE have heretofore referred to the activity of our consul at Antigua in his efforts for the enlargement of our trade relations with that island. This activity has received another illustration, and one which reflects as much credit upon the colonial council as it does upon the consul, and shows how anxious the British West Indies are for the closest business relations with the United States. We have always held that, especially among the common-sense and homogenous English speaking peoples, geography and convenience has more to do with controlling and directing commerce than the ties of colonial dependence. A glance at the map will show that the entire West India group of islands are placed in the very arms of the United States, and the time is not far distant when, commercially speaking, they will be as much American as our own States—when everything they raise will find a market in the United States, and everything they consume will be of American origin.

To bring about this natural and happy combination should appeal to the highest feeling of every American, as we have no doubt it does to the highest feelings of the sensible and thinking populations of the West Indies.

Referring to Consul Jackson, who has occasioned this enlargement, we find that he has opened an exhibition hall for American goods in connection with his consulate, and that the Colonial Council of Antigua, as a pledge of their good feeling and anxiety, for closer commercial relations with the United States, have passed an act admitting all goods intended for exhibition into the colony free of duty.

In reporting thereupon, Consul Jackson says:

I had some few years' experience in the tastes and wants of this community. I do not hesitate to say that there are many articles now manufactured in the United States, and many that can be manufactured, which may, with time and attention, be firmly established in this and neighboring markets, if we only put the goods before the people and keep them before the people. I trust this can be done through exhibition of samples and further advertisement of the same in some leading newspaper of this island, where articles of exhibition will be advertised in a column under the express care and supervision of this consulate. This paper, having a circulation in British ports from Jamaica to Demerara, will advertise largely.

The cost of such a column will be moderate, and will be cheerfully maintained by me in the event of manufacturers and others not consenting to divide the expenses of such advertisement.

A start will not be taken in this direction until a sufficient quantity of samples are on exhibition to warrant such an undertaking.

Having taken out the license under the provision of the act before mentioned, the exhibition-room is now open, and I undertake the full care of all samples forwarded for exhibition, subject to the following rules, viz.:

1. Goods will not be received as samples for exhibition before permission is granted to the shipper for space in the hall, and full directions for shipping given.
2. All freights and foreign charges on samples intended for exhibition must be prepaid, or such goods will not be received.
3. This office will not be held responsible to owners or authorized agents of owners in any case of loss, damage, or seizure of goods as samples.
4. More than one article of a particular kind on board will not be received for exhibition.

5. A charge for portage of samples—a small item in any case—will be paid from this consulate, and collection made from owners or their agents.

6. Samples of goods will be exhibited free of charge to owners for unpacking, displaying, distribution of catalogues and price-lists, rent, or any service of mine relating to the introduction of goods whatever.

7. The final disposition of samples will be subject to the order of the owner or authorized agent of owner of such goods.

8. All parties in correspondence with this office relating to exhibition of samples requiring a reply, must inclose the sum of eight cents in stamps to cover postage.

In conclusion, I beg to assure American parties interested in introducing their wares in this market that I will do all in my power to protect such goods if placed on exhibition, and to bring them to the immediate notice of all parties liable to import the same.

In commenting upon the labors of Consul Jackson, and the action of the legislative council, the *Antigua Observer* gives the following very interesting review of the growth of the trade between the colony and the United States:

A little more than two years ago, when writing in this journal on the remarkable expansion of our trade with the United States, we ventured to predict that circumstances then in operation would shortly effect a still further development of that trade, and that while the great bulk of our imports would continue to come from the States, more and more of our produce would find its way thither. The course of the present year and an examination of statistics in connection with our imports and exports show that we have been proceeding, not gradually, but by "leaps and bounds" in the direction of strengthening our commercial relations with the great republic, a fact which we are glad to find the United States Government has not been slow to recognize by advancing the consular position of this port to the same rank as that of the important colonies of Barbadoes and Martinique. The revolution in the direction of the commerce of the island has indeed progressed with rapid strides since the commencement of the decade ending with the last year. At that period most of the owners of our sugar plantations were heavily indebted to British capitalists, to whom they were in consequence compelled to consign their produce, whatever inducements other markets might offer. In 1872 the value of our shipments to the United States barely amounted in round numbers to \$11,295, while at the expiration of the last year's season we had sent to our American cousins sugar and molasses, the shipping value of which was officially declared to be \$743,717! In the three first years of the last ten we could only sell to the United States the aggregate value of \$40,703; in the last three years of the same period we were able to let them have from us \$1,977,817! The difference of these figures means that Antigua has by so much become emancipated from the domination of the mortgage and taken a fresh start on the road to prosperity. Our business transactions with America have indeed been eminently satisfactory, since having received on the spot much higher prices for our produce than it could have acted in the best-riden markets of the United Kingdom, we have with the change of customers been able to bid defiance to what must otherwise have proved a ruinous competition with bounty-fed sugar. At present nearly two-thirds of our principal staple product goes to the States, and as the demand for sugar there is largely increasing with the ever-flowing stream of emigration from other countries, in the nature of things the West Indies will always find eager customers in the people of the neighboring continent. Trade, at least between civilized countries, cannot prosperously be maintained without some considerable degree of reciprocity; and in return for the liberal custom accorded us by the United States during the last few years, we have purchased from them in increasing quantities such goods as they have had to sell us. Almost all of our imported food stuffs now come from the States, the single exception perhaps being fish, which mainly comes from the British provinces; and we are large consumers of building materials, the greater part of which is brought to us from the neighboring republic. This import trade has nearly doubled within the last decade, in proof of which we will give just a few of the more important articles imported in 1872 and 1881 respectively. In 1872, of bread and biscuits we took from the States 218,082 lbs.; in 1881 of the like articles we received from them 379,436 lbs. In the former year they sent us 110,000 lbs. of pork, against 720,800 lbs. in 1881; 4,629 lbs. of butter came in 1872; in 1881 we took no less than 33,836; of flour in 1872 we got 11,238 bbls., against 17,557 bbls. in 1881. Pitch pine and other "lumber" which came in the former year, amounted to 493,900 ft., against 609,754 ft. in 1871; and so we might be enumerating a long list of articles, the import of every one of which from the States has largely increased since they became regular purchasers of our produce. Articles produced in the States have not yet found a brisk market with us because they are practically unknown here. Cotton manufactures and agricultural implements, although having no doubt considerable merit, being among the number.

TREATIES WITH MEXICO.

IT is remarked by *L'Echo du Mexique*, a French paper published in the city of Mexico, that by the new commercial treaty negotiated between Mexico and Germany and now only awaiting ratification at the hands of the German Federal Council, any privileges extended to the United States under the provisions of the Grant-Romero reciprocity treaty, yet to be ratified by our Senate, would be equally enjoyed by Germany.

The Hamburg *Börsenhalle* takes up this interesting subject, and, of course, indorses the views expressed by the *Echo du Mexique* as to the Germans having secured the identical advantages. "But there is this difference," the *Börsenhalle* remarks, "that the United States are Mexico's next door neighbors and that their manufacturers will be fully able to compete with those of Germany and the