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No. 38

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United States Consulate at Antigua

December 4th, 1880

Hon. John Hay
Assistant Secretary of State,
Washington D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I again make application to the Department of State to use its influence with Congress to place this Consulate on a better footing than that which at present surrounds it.

The rapid increase of trade with the assurance that the growth will attain greater proportions would seem to justify the act.

The shipment of sugar to the United States alone, from this port for the ensuing year, will reach the respectable figure of 14,000,000 pounds, with a declared export value of \$700,000, which is an increase of fully one hundred per cent over the preceding year.

The exports from the United States to this port for the same period of time will exceed the sum of \$400,000, which is also a considerable increase over the preceding year.

The total exports from this port for the ensuing year

will amount to \$1,500,000 while the imports will amount to at least \$1,000,000.

The total exports of the British Leeward Islands of which Antigua is the capital - and residence of the Governor-in-General - comprising the islands of Antigua, Dominica, St. Christopher, Montserrat, Nevis, Anquilla and Tortola - or the Virgin Islands - amount annually to the sum of \$3,200,000 while their imports in the same period of time amount to the sum of \$2,365,000. This trade is rapidly turning to the United States.

In addition to the statement contained in despatches Nos. 21 and 22 I would state that there are twelve arrivals and departures of steamers at this port each month and that a second line is about to be established between New York and these islands.

The fees of this office are barely in excess of last year although such a noticeable increase in trade - owing to the carrying trade being monopolized by British vessels.

The strong but ineffectual effort made by the Department of State with Congress to establish a salaried Consulate at this port was most kindly appreciated by the incumbent, and strengthened his hands to promote trade between the two countries.

Trusting renewed efforts will be made with Congress

with the prospect of better success I have the honor
to remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Chester E. Jackson

U S Consul