

EXHIBITION HALL

For display of American Specialties

AT

U. S. CONSULATE,

ANTIGUA, B. W. I.

*Under the Special Sanction of the Department of State Washington,
and the Government of Antigua.*

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PRINTED AT “ANTIGUA TIMES” OFFICE.

ST. JOHN'S, B. W. I.

Opening of Exhibition Hall for display of American Manufactured Goods at Antigua, West Indies.

I BEG to inform American Manufacturers and Dealers that, with the consent and approbation of the Department of State at Washington and the Government of Antigua, I have established a Hall in connection with the Consulate here for the express purpose of exhibiting duty free, samples of such articles as may find a market if prominently brought before the public of this Island.

In order that an exhibition of samples might be attended with as little cost as possible to manufacturers and others, the Government here was requested to pass a Law to authorize the exhibition of samples duty free. The request was cheerfully complied with and I herewith append a copy of the Act. In connection with this also I enclose some extracts of newspapers published here showing the rapid increase made in trade between the United States and this Port, together with mention of the Consular Exhibition Room.

Having 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 only we *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 :

1st. 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.

2nd. All freights and foreign charges on samples must be prepaid or such goods will not be received.

3rd. 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.

4th. More than one article of a particular kind or brand will not be received for exhibition.

5th. A charge for portorage of samples—a small item in any case—will be paid from this Consulate and collection made from owners on their goods.

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

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

8th. All parties in correspondence with the office relating to the exhibition of samples requiring a reply must enclose a 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.

UNITED STATES CONSULATE,
Antigua, February 1st, 1883.

CHESTER E. JACKSON,
United States Consul.

[Copy of Report and Despatch to State Department, Washington.]

Samples Importation,



ANTIGUA.

No. 9 of 1882.

(L. S.)

1 ASSENT,

JOHN HAWLEY GLOVER.

An Act to authorize the importation free of articles intended for exhibition.

1. Goods for exhibition may be imported duty free.
2. Declaration of importer.
3. Goods to be kept in licensed exhibition halls.
4. Goods not taken to licensed hall or removed without permission to be forfeited.
5. Halls to be licensed. Bond to be taken.
6. Treasurer may enter hall and take account.
7. Goods not to be sold without permission.
8. Conviction of holder to forfeit license goods how to be dealt with.
9. Onus probandi on defendant.
10. Penalty clause.
11. Application of penalties.

WHEREAS it is expedient to encourage the importation of goods, wares, and merchandise into this Presidency.

BE it enacted by the Governor and Legislative Council of Antigua as follows:—

1. All samples of manufactured and other goods or of any other article whatsoever intended for exhibition only and not for sale may be imported into the Presidency free of duty, anything in the Tariff Act the contrary notwithstanding; Provided, that not more than one sample of any particular kind shall be imported by any one person free of duty under this section; Provided also, that no article identical with one already imported for exhibition shall be free of duty under this section.

2. At the time of the entry inwards of any such or other articles the importer shall make in writing upon his warrant the following declaration: "I A. B. do solemnly declare that the several articles specified in this warrant are intended for exhibition only and not for sale."

3. Such goods immediately on their importation shall be taken to and deposited in one of the licensed exhibition halls hereinafter created.

4. Any goods passed as goods for exhibition which shall not be at once taken to a licensed exhibition hall, or which shall be removed from such hall without the permission in writing of the Treasurer authorizing their removal shall be forfeited and may be seized as forfeited by any person authorized under the Tariff collection Act to make seizures.

5. It shall be lawful for the Treasurer by writing under his hand to license fit and proper places as licensed exhibition hall; Provided always that no such license shall issue until the occupier of such hall shall have entered into a bond with two sureties to be approved by the Governor in the sum of two hundred pounds for the due accounting for all articles deposited in such hall.

6. It shall be lawful for the Treasurer or any officer of the Treasury to enter at any time any licensed exhibition hall and to take account of the goods therein.

7. It shall not be lawful to sell any articles imported for exhibition except with the permission in writing of the Treasurer, and after payment of the duties which would have been paid on the importation of such articles had this Act not been passed; Provided always, that the permission of the Treasurer, except in the case of perishable goods, shall not be given until the expiration of three months after the importation.

8. Whenever the holder of any license granted under this Act shall be convicted of any offence against this Act or the Tariff collection Act, it shall be lawful for the Treasurer, with the approval of the Governor, to cancel such license, and to take possession of all articles contained in such exhibition hall, and remove them to the Government warehouse, and to detain them there until the duties which, but for the passing of this Act, would have been payable on their importation, be paid, together with the cost of securing them and conveying them to such warehouse, and the usual warehouse rent for such time as they may remain in such warehouse. And if such charges are not paid within three months, he may sell them by auction in the same manner as goods for which entry has not been made.

9. In all cases brought by the Treasurer against any person under this Act the onus probandi shall be on the defendant.

10. Any person who shall do anything by this Act forbidden, or shall omit to do anything by this Act required, or shall make any false declaration, or shall remove or permit the removal of any goods without permission, or shall molest, resist, or obstruct the Treasurer or any person acting under his authority, or shall be concerned in or a party to the commission of any such offence, shall on conviction thereof before any District Magistrate forfeit and pay such sum not exceeding One hundred pounds, as to such Magistrate shall seem fit, and in default of payment of any such fine shall be imprisoned for any term not exceeding six months.

11. All fines imposed and the proceeds of the sale of all goods seized under this Act shall be paid into the Public Treasury.

THOS. D. FOOTE,

President.

Passed the Legislative Council the 16th November 1882.

EDWARD BAYNES,

Clerk.

Dated at Antigua the Twentieth day of December, 1882, in the Forty-sixth year of Her Majesty's Reign.

Duly published at Antigua the 22nd December, 1882.

O. HUMPHRYS,

Provost Marshal.

(Extracts from "Antigua Times" and "Antigua Observer"
on American Trade.)

THE Legislative Council considered and passed an Act that will be of interest to our American Friends. It is "An Act to authorize the Importation Free of duty of articles intended for Exhibition" (as samples) the object is to bring before the Public notice articles that would never be known of otherwise, or if so, only by a meagre advertisement, and therefore could not demand that appreciation of the modern improvements so rapidly made in the States. The idea of such a Bill, originated with Chester Jackson, Esq., the U. S. Consul here, who has during the time he has been accredited to this Government been energetically introducing American implements of Agriculture, &c. Mr. Jackson has afforded a double benefit by promoting the introduction of the Bill. We have reason to believe that at the Consulate here a Hall will be set apart for the Exhibition of American novelties of Agricultural, Commercial, Household and General utility. American Patentees will do well to avail themselves of this means of introducing their Inventions.—*Times* Nov. 1, 1882.

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.

ADVANCE IN CONSULAR POSITION.

The close of the present year and an examination of statistics in connection with our imports and exports shew 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 have not been slow to recognize by advancing the Consular position of this port to the same rank as that of the important Colonies of Barbados and Martinique.

REVOLUTION IN TRADE.

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.

INCREASED EXPORTS.

In 1872 the value of our shipments to the United States barely amounted in round numbers to \$11,095, 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 mortgagee 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 netted in the beet-ridden 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.

SUGAR TRADE.

At present nearly 2-3rds 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 neighbouring continent.

RECIPROcity OF TRADE.

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 to 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 neighbouring Republic.

INCREASE OF IMPORTS.

This important 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 lbs. against 17,557 lbs. in 1881; Pitch Pine and other "Lumber" which came in the former year amounted to 403,900 against 609,754 ft. in 1881; and so we might go on enumerating a long list of articles the import of every one of which from the United States has largely increased since they became regular purchasers of our produce. Many 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. In order that such articles may prominently be brought before the notice of our public, Mr. CHESTER E. JACKSON, the energetic American Consul at this port, has, with characteristic patriotism, induced our government and legislature to pass an Act, sanctioning the importation of samples of goods free of duty, which will be exhibited at a proper hall to be provided by the Consul for that purpose. The importance of this step to the trade between the two countries can hardly be over-estimated, and we only hope that manufacturers and others in America will further the enterprise by freely sending specimens of their merchandise to the new Exhibition Hall.—*Observer*, Jan. 8, 1883.