JAMAICA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

No.4
June, 1952.

E D I T O R I A L

This issue of the Bulletin is devoted entirely to the publication of one article. All Members who attended the meeting at Hope, and heard Miss Ethel Marson, now our Vice-President, deliver her scholarly and comprehensive address on the history of the Department of Agriculture and its library, unanimously agreed that it should be circulated. The editor reading the script, and enjoying the task, realised the injustice of any attempt to condense the text.

As an administrative tail-piece we append those Amendments to the Constitution adopted at the last Annual General Meeting, with the suggestion that all Members amend their printed copy accordingly.

We offer our congratulations for recent examination successes to Miss C. Gadishaw of the U.C.W.I. Library and Miss A. McCourtie of St. James Parish Library who passed the Entrance examination and to Miss J. Lawson of the Library Service Headquarters who passed part of the Registration examination.

W.F.C.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND ITS LIBRARY.

by Miss Ethel Marson.

HOPE ESTATE

The Hope property, on which the headquarters of the Department is now situated, has an interesting history.

It was at one time one of the largest and most flourishing sugar estates in the island. The Hope Estate originally comprised 2,360 acres of land on the Liguanea Plain with a private road 50 feet wide and six miles in length leading to the Hope Wharf in Kingston Harbour. This road followed the present main road to Matilda's Corner, thence to the left down the Old Hope Road, through Swallowfield and Up Park Camp to Elletson Road, and so to the Harbour where the old wharf lands are now represented by the General Penitentiary, the Mental Hospital and the Yacht Club premises.

After the conquest of Jamaica, one of Venable's regiments was settled on the Liguanea Plain. This regiment was commanded by Colonel Archbould, who

with William Beeston and Major Richard Hope became possessed of the largest and best share of this valuable land. This Major Richard Hope of " The Liguanea Regiment" established the estate as an original patent and it has borne his name ever since. Major Hope was a member of the Assembly for St. Andrew from 1664-1670.

In April, 1676, there came to the Island a Mr. Elletson, recommended to the Governor, Lord Vaughan, as "a barrister-at-law, and of good esteem in his profession, who goes to better his fortune in a climate where he hopes there may be more causes, or at least fewer lawyers, than in England". This was Roger Elletson, who was member of the Assembly for St. George in 1686, and St. Thomas-in-the-Vale in 1687-88. He became Speaker in July 1688. In the following October he was called to the Council and in the year after, he became Chief Justice. In 1680, he married Anne Hope, daughter of Major Richard Hope, and thus acquired the Hope Estate on the death of her father.

Richard Hope Elletson, the eldest son of

Roger Elletson and his wife Anne, inherited the property on the death of his father. Richard left the property to his son, Roger Hope Elletson who was member for Port Royal from 1752-1756. He was called to the Council in 1757, and in 1766, on the departure of William Henry Lyttleton, became Lieutenant Governor. Thus Hope was, for upwards of two years, the home of the Governor of Jamaica.

One of the earliest crops cultivated at Hope, as elsewhere in Jamaica, especially by the river banks, was indigo. But indigo at Hope, as in other parts of the Island, soon gave place to sugar. At first, sugar was manufactured by the use of a cattle mill, but in 1752, a private law was passed to enable Thomas Hope Elletson to take up sufficient water out of the Hope River for turning mills for grinding sugar canes, and in 1757 the law was rendered more effective. The works were started soon afterwards, and Elletson by this means turned a small cattle-mill estate into one realizing a profit of about £30,000 per annum. The sugar lands extended from Papine Corner to Matilda's Corner. Parts of the old sugar works and the aqueduct

built in 1758 which carried water from the Hope River can still be seen at the east corner of the Gardens.

After the death of Roger Hope Elletson, Hope passed through the marriage of his widow, into the family of the Duke of Buckingham, and remained in the hands of this family from 1796 to 1914.

The fortunes of the Buckingham family were severely strained by their hospitality to the French Prince, to whom they had given royal asylum for some 20 years during the Napoleonic war. Further to this enormous drain on their resources a fall in sugar prices added to the family's embarrassment and by 1847 they were faced with bankruptcy and it became necessary to realize on their Jamaica Estates. Consequently, in 1850, 634 acres of the sugar lands and the water rights were sold to the Kingston and Liguanea Water Works Company. Governor Sir Peter Grant took over the Hope Water Works from the Company in 1871 and developed them. The surplus lands were assigned to Hope Gardens and the Jamaica College.

The remaining 1,600 acres of the Old Hope

Estate were leased to Mr. Louis Verley, owner of the adjoining Mona Estate. When this lease terminated at the close of 1909, the lands were leased by Government and the Farm School (now Jamaica School of Agriculture) and Hope Stock Farm were established in the following year. Government eventually purchased the lands from the Estate of the Duke of Buckingham in 1914. So much for the Hope lands.

HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT

For the beginning of the Department of Agriculture we must go back to the year 1774 when Sir Basil Keith became Governor and determined on the formation of two Government Botanic Gardens, one a "European Garden" and the other a "Tropical Garden". In December of that year, a Committee of the Legislature recommended that £700 be appropriated for the purchase of a piece of land suitable for a botanic garden and that £300 sterling would be provided for the annual salary of a Botanist. In 1775, a property named Endfield, near Gordon Town was purchased and in 1777 Dr. Thomas Clarke came out "at the particular

instance and request of Sir Basil Keith", as Island Botanist and to take charge of the Gardens.

Endfield, being a steep hillside, proved unsuitable and it was decided to sell the property and purchase land for a botanic garden at or near Bath. Consequently the Garden at Bath was founded in 1779 and placed under the care of Dr. Clarke.

A botanic garden possessing many rare and valuable plants had already been formed by a private individual, Mr. Hinton East, on his property near Gordon Town. On the death of the founder, the Garden became the property of his nephew, who very generously offered it to the Assembly of Jamaica at their own price, for the use of the public. It was purchased under the authority of an act of the Assembly, the preamble stating that the Garden in Bath was insufficient in extent and was besides, liable to be carried away by the river which had destroyed two-thirds of the town.

A catalogue of the plants in this garden at the time of Mr. East's death forms an appendix under the title "Hortus Eastensis" to Bryan Edwards'

History of the British West Indies Vol.I. From this list, we gather that as early as 1792 many valuable plants, numbering nearly 600, had already been introduced to the Island and were becoming thoroughly acclimatised.

It is a surprising fact that with the exception of pimento and a few others of comparatively little value, most of the staple products of the Island are derived from plants introduced from other parts of the world. For example, Coffee was introduced by Governor Sir Nicholas Lawes in 1728; the Mango, brought by Captain Marshall of Lord Rodney's Squadron in 1782, was first planted in Mr. East's Botanic Garden; the plentiful and free-growing logwood was introduced from Honduras, by Dr. Barham, a botanist, the author of "Hortus Americanis", in 1715; the ackee was obtained by Dr. Thomas Clarke from a West African slave ship in 1778; the Cinnamon came with the Mango in Captain Marshall's ship in 1782; Pinders were brought to Mr. East from South America; Ginger is a native of the East Indies, introduced to Jamaica by a Spaniard, Francisco de Mendoza. In

1793, Captain Bligh in H.M.S. Providence brought several hundred plants of the breadfruit and "other valuable plants" from Otaheite.

After the year 1807 the Colony underwent a period of difficulty and distress, due to the abolition of the slave trade and the wars with France and the United States of America. The Liguanea Garden was sold in 1870, and that at Bath was never afterwards adequately maintained.

In 1825, Dr. James MacFayden was appointed Island Botanist and although he did not retain his appointment for more than 3 years he subsequently wrote a Flora of Jamaica, the first volume of which was published in 1837; in 1850, a part of the second volume was printed, and this was all that was published.

Owing to frequent devastating inundations by the Sulphur River at Bath Gardens, and the desire for a more central locality which would facilitate the distribution of plants to all parts of the Island, land for a botanic garden was purchased in 1859 at Castleton in the parish of St. Mary, 19 miles from

Kingston, and the new garden was established in 1863. It was understood, however, that the Garden at Bath was to be maintained for supply of seeds to Castleton and plants for general distribution.

In 1860, Sir William Hooker sent out to Jamaica seed of the Cinchona plant, from the bark of which quinine is made, and which was at the time fetching a high price in the world market. Experiments were made in planting out Cinchona in different parts of the Blue Mountains and in 1868 (during the Governorship of Sir John Peter Grant) the Cinchona plantations were started.

Six hundred acres of virgin forest land on the southern slopes of the Blue Mountains, ranging from 4,000 to 6,000 ft., were assigned for this purpose, and the cultivation of Cinchona was successfully carried out for many years. It was finally abandoned in 1899, the cheaper cost of production in the East (India and Java) making its cultivation here unprofitable. The plantation lands came to be known as 'Cinchona' after the name of the plant.

In 1874, the Jamaica Government organised

at Cinchona, an experiment Station, which became the centre of botanical work in the Island. A Director's residence, other dwellings, offices, laboratories, greenhouses, servants' quarters and stables were erected. Gardens were laid out and planted with sub-tropical and temperate-zone plants. This establishment came to be known as the Hill Gardens.

Here was stationed during the prosperous days of cinchona culture the staff of the Department of Public Gardens and Plantations, which was established in 1879 to co-ordinate the work of the various gardens and plantations. Mr. Daniel Morris (afterward Sir Daniel Morris,K.C.M.G., and Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England) was the first Director. He was succeeded in 1886 by Mr.William Fawcett. Besides purely agricultural investigations on various crops such as cinchona, tea, coffee, oranges, fibre plants and "English" vegetables, important work on the botany of the Island was carried out by Messrs. William Fawcett and William Harris, of the staff, while Mr. Jenman, then Superintendent of Castleton Gardens, studied particularly the ferns and

fern allies. Hundreds of plants new to the Island, and to science, were found by these workers. Fawcett and Rendle's Flora of Jamaica was initiated at Cinchona, and the specimens collected by Mr. William Harris and others were sent from time to time to Kew as a basis for the work.

A record of Mr. Jenman's work on the Ferns of Jamaica is to be found in the Bulletins of the Jamaica Botanical Department for the years 1890-1898 under the title "Synoptical List, with description of the Ferns and Fern-Allies of Jamaica". A later work - "The Ferns and Fern-Allies of the British West Indies and Guiana" - was published posthumously in Trinidad in 1909.

In 1873, Sir John Peter Grant, then Governor, authorized the establishment of Hope Gardens on a portion of the lands acquired with the Water Works, the object being the formation of a pleasure garden and a small sugar cane farm for experimenting upon new varieties of canes. From this small beginning Hope has developed to the status it holds today. In 1898, the Department's Headquarters were transferred

from Cinchona to Hope. From this period the activities of the Department expanded continuously with a view to the economic development of the agriculture of the Island and its principal staple resources.

In 1900, an Island Chemist, Mr. H. H. Cousins, was appointed with a laboratory at Hope and was engaged in carrying out manurial and varietal experiments with cane and other staple crops, and in 1903 a Fermentation Chemist was appointed to assist in the study of the manufacture of rum.

In 1908, Mr. Fawcett retired from the post of Director of Public Gardens and Plantations and the Department was amalgamated with the Sugar Cane Experiment Station and Government Laboratory to form a Department of Agriculture under the Directorship of Mr. H. H. Cousins,M.A., the former Island Chemist, under whose dynamic personality rapid progress was made.

One of his first acts was the submission to Government of a scheme for the establishment of a Farm School at Hope and the leasing (with option to purchase) of the adjoining lands of the Hope property,

comprising some 1,600 acres, for the purpose of a Stock Farm to be worked in connection with the School. The scheme was adopted by the Legislature; The Farm School was opened in January 1910, and the Government Stock Farm was established.

A Veterinarian was appointed in 1910; in 1912 a Microbiologist (now Plant Pathologist) was added to the staff and in 1915 a Government Entomologist.

In 1931 an Agricultural Chemist was added, and in the following year a Geneticist was appointed to undertake Banana Breeding work and a Botany Division was established.

In 1943 reorganisation of the work of the Department took place and four territorial divisions - Western, Central, Northern and Southern were established each under a Senior Agricultural Officer, with headquarters at the four principal Agricultural Stations - namely, Orange River Agricultural Station near Highgate, Irwin Agricultural Station near Montego Bay, Grove Place Agricultural Station near Mandeville and Hope Agricultural Station.

Such briefly, is the organisation which the Library serves.

THE LIBRARY

The Departmental Library was begun by Mr. Daniel Morris soon after his appointment in 1879 as Director of the newly-formed Department of Public Gardens and Plantations. As was to be expected, the earliest accessions included the standard works of the famous botanists of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Among the publications of local interest acquired, were Sloane's Catalogue of Jamaica Plants (1696), Sloane's Natural History of Jamaica (1707-1729), Patrick Browne's Civil and Natural History of Jamaica (1756), Edward Long's History of Jamaica(1774), Bryan Edwards' History of the British West Indies(1794), Lunan's Hortus Jamaicensis (1814), MacFayden's Flora of Jamaica (already referred to) (1837), The Birds of Jamaica (1847) and A Naturalist's Sojourn in Jamaica (1851) both by Gosse, and Grisebach's Flora of the British West Indian Islands (1864).

Up to the year 1943 the library was located

in the Head Office Building but with the reorganisation of the Department, additional space was required in the Head Office for the increased administrative staff. It was then decided that the Library should be removed to the Leaf Spot Building which now provides the best available set-up for this section of the Department's activities.

The Library now contains over 6,000 volumes including bound periodicals and approximately 280 periodicals are received regularly either by subscription or on an exchange basis.

In addition to the Central Library at Hope, small divisional libraries are maintained in the offices of the territorial and technical officers and these contain a total of about 2,500 volumes.

The Department of Agriculture is provided annually with a grant for the purchase of books. At present the vote is £200.

On receipt,new bocks are checked, treated against insect attacks, classified and catalogued; and distributed to the Central Library and Divisional Libraries. If a bock is for a divisional library a

note of the library to which it is sent is made on the catalogue card.

The books for the Central Library are kept in bookcases, filed according to their classification. Since the building was not designed for a library and the staff is inadequate for proper supervision, it is still considered inadvisable to use open shelving.

The system of classification used is the Universal Decimal System - an expansion of Dewey. The chief advantage of the Universal Decimal Classification is the provision of the auxiliary tables and signs of association, which make close or detailed classification possible when required. Thus it is very suitable for a scientific reference library.

Quarterly lists of new books added to the library are sent to officers of the Department for their information.

A fairly large collection of periodicals forms an important section of the library's material. It must be borne in mind that in the case of scientific and technical libraries, periodicals are often of greater importance to the research worker than

books, because individual investigations and experiments and reports of new developments in science and industry are first published in this form, and it is usually not until some time later that the information is summarised for publication in book form.

Specialist journals are obtained for the use of Specialist Officers and are filed in the divisional libraries of the officers concerned.

For purposes of finding references to a particular subject or to a work done on a particular problem, a number of Bibliographies and Abstracting Journals are available.

There are also the Journals, Bulletins, Circulars and Leaflets issued by Agricultural Departments and Institutions in various countries, which provide information on the work and problems of agriculture in those countries, and which are usually obtained on an exchange basis.

The receipt of periodicals is recorded in a card index classified geographically, according to the source of publication. The periodicals are then gone through carefully and Articles which are considered

to be of particular interest and likely to be useful for reference, are marked for indexing. The method of indexing is to enter on a card the name, volume, year and pages of the periodical in which the article appeared. The appropriate classification number is written on the right top corner of the card and it is then filed in the proper numeral sequence. Thus all articles on a particular subject, in whatever periodical or number of a periodical they appeared, are brought together and the references are easily found when needed.

Periodicals and pamphlets are circulated to all technical and territorial officers. To each publication to be circulated is attached a slip on which is entered the name or title of the officer to whom it is being sent, and on which columns are provided for the initials of the officer and date of return, to be filled in by the officer before returning the publication. This he is asked to do within a fortnight. Needless to say, this request is honoured more often in the breach than in the observance, and it becomes necessary to send out recall slips, from

time to time. Every effort is made to ensure the recovery of publications circulated so that the files may be kept complete.

The more important periodicals are bound as the volumes are completed. A departmental bindery is maintained to undertake this work and for doing such rebinding or repairs to books as may become necessary.

In the Hope Library it has been found convenient to file periodicals in a room by themselves as a separate section of the library stock. They are arranged geographically on the shelves and an index is kept on cards which shows the title and source of the periodical and the year and volume from which the collection in the library begins. There is also a list of periodicals classified according to subject.

There still remains such material as pamphlets and leaflets to be dealt with. These are classified and filed in pamphlet cases, on the backs of which are written the appropriate classification numbers. The Library now has a collection of approximately 400 pamphlet cases. As new pamphlets are continually being added to the collection it is necessary

to go through the cases from time to time and discard any publication which may have become obsolete or been superseded by later editions.

Other forms of material collected in the Library are Maps, Newspaper cuttings and photographs.

There is a small collection of Maps of Jamaica which is filed in trays in a cabinet and catalogued. Newspaper cuttings of articles or letters dealing with agricultural matters are mounted on foolscap sheets and filed in box files. A subject index to the cuttings is kept on cards.

A collection is now being made of photographs of various phases of the Department's work.

The Library is used principally by the officers of the Department who may borrow such books and publications as they require. Publications are also occasionally made available for loan to other institutions. Loans are recorded simply by entering on a card the name of the borrower, the date of issue and the publication loaned. When the publication is returned the entry is cancelled and the date of return recorded on the card.

While publications are not loaned to the general public, anyone may consult publications in the Library during office hours and a Reading Room is provided for the convenience of such persons.

The question may arise in some minds - What is the necessity for a library such as has been described in connection with an Agricultural Department? The answer is that a well-equipped and properly organised library is an essential adjunct of, and a most valuable asset to, any scientific institution, and is of great benefit not only to the research worker but also to the farmer and the student of agriculture. The value of the Library in an agricultural department set-up has been very aptly stated as follows:-

> "A Library constitutes part of the tools
> "of trade of the investigator of agricul-
> "tural matters who with a well-equipped
> "collection at his service finds his work
> "greatly lightened through the possession
> "of data already published in connection
> "with similar problems in other countries.

"In many cases the country is saved
"months of salaried time and considerable
"experimental funds on investigation
"through the possession of its library,
"and the more up-to-date and complete
"that library is, the greater the efficiency
"of the Department and its value to the
"public."

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

7b. Corresponding membership: Foreign institutions and persons living outside Jamaica may be elected corresponding members. Corresponding members shall be entitled to receive the publications usually distributed to members, but may not vote or hold office.

17 (2nd paragraph): Twentyfive percent of the effective voting membership of the Association shall constitute a quorum for the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

22. (end of 1st paragraph): Corresponding institutional members shall pay an annual subscription of 5/-. Corresponding personal members shall pay an annual sub. of 3/6d.