JAMAICA - B. W. I.

Size of Island - 4,450-1/2 Square Miles - equal to 2,848,160 acres.

Population - 1927 estimate : 953,763 - Kingston. approximately 90.000 according to 1921 Census the population was devided into the following groups: Blacks 660.420, Colored (mixed elements)157.223, whites 14.476, East Indians 18.610, Chinese 3.696. not stated 3.693.

Government: The political constitution of Jamaica consists of a Governor (appointed by the Crown for six years, a Privy Council and a Legislative Council.

The Privy Council consists of the Senior Military officers, the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney General and eight other persons named by the Crown. This is a Consultative body.

The Legislative Council consists of the Governor as President, five ex-officio members, consisting of the Senior Military officer, the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney General, director of Public Works and Collector General, ten nominated members and fourteen elected members. To be eligible as a member of the Legislative Council, a candidate must have an annual income of ₤.150 ($750) arising from land owned by him and paying direct taxes or import duty to the amount of ₤.10 ($50.). The Governor presides over the Legislative Council and has an original and deciding vote. Ex-officio and nominated members cannot vote for resolutions and laws imposing new taxation or appropriating revenue in certain cases.

Voting Qualifications: Out of a population of 858,118 in 1921 there were 42,267 voters on the list. A male voter must be 21 years old, owner of property, or receiving a salary or wages of at least ₤. 50 ($250) per annum. He must pay taxes to the amount of 10 shillings ($2.50). Female voters must be 25 years old and pay taxes to the amount of ₤. 2 ($10) per year. No person is permitted to vote who has received relief from public or parochial funds.

Taxpayers - 1927-28 under ₤.1 ($5.00)   174,315
                    "   ₤. 2(10.00)   21,089
                    "   ₤.2 up   26,611
                          Total   222,015

Total properties on which taxes were paid in 1928 - 179,046

Education: Schools 1926-27, 672. Students on Books - 122,337
Average Attendance - 75,073
In 1921 - those who can read and write - 389,376