

Interview
O. 7. 77.
J. O.

James Paine.

Fam. Rec. 152

James Paine
and his family.

James Paine's family consists only of a few persons: him, his wife, their daughter of ab. 10 years old and perhaps some other children. I have not got information concerning all children ~~which~~ he had with his wife or has at his home now.

His arrival
to Warsop.

James Paine is a new-comer: he came to Warsop and settled down in Thomas Cockburn Patent ~~an~~ only recently, ab. two months ago. He bought a piece of land and a ~~hut~~ grass-hut without a floor ~~for~~ on it in vicinity of Egbert Saunthbhes, who is his nearest neighbour.

History of his
newly acquired
property.

Originally this land belonged to Cornellius Foster, who lives in a house at the path leading to the Parochial road to Mount Happy. ~~There were~~ The property consisted of ~~10~~ 10 acres and a groundhut. Cornellius Foster bought this land from the government paying one pound and odd in yearly installments. ~~His~~ His payments were delayed and the Government took from him the land. It was bought subsequently by a Gayle /ab. 3 years ago/. Two months ago Gayle sold this property to James Paine. Paine paid for it £.35 in cash and ~~he~~ ~~owns~~ he owns still £.7. ~~Gayle~~ Gayle maintained that the size of the property is really 11 ~~acres~~ acres. The price £.42 included some boards which Paine used to make a ~~hard~~ floor in the hut.

Way to Warsop:
his relatives
here.

~~He~~ Though he did not live in Warsop, Warsop was not a strange place to ~~him~~ He has here his sister-in-law, living in Warsop for many years. His sister-in-law is Mrs. Copeland, nee Wright. ~~She is his~~ She is his wife's sister. His wife's maiden name was Honey Wright. Her ~~sister~~ sister, Cecelia Wright, ~~came up here~~ "came up here looking work about 30 odd years ago." She met James Copeland and married him. He was coming from time to time to Warsop to visit his sister-in-law and last time /it was last year/ when he was on his visit tour to Warsop, he met in Troy Mr. Gayle, ~~from whom~~ from whom he learned about his property in Cockburn Patent and the conditions of sale. He decided to sell his land in St. Elizabeth, to buy new farm-land in Warsop and to settle down here.

Sale of his
family property
in St. Elizabeth.

His native place in St. Elizabeth is ~~name~~ name. He was ~~born~~ born there. "My father was MacLean James, but my mother was Paine. My father died when I was a baby. I took my mother's name." His father had also other children, but ~~with~~ with another woman. ~~He~~ His two half-brothers /by father only/ bear his father's name. They stay in St. Elizabeth. His removal ~~of~~ from St. Elizabeth ~~is~~ is a long story. It goes back to the first world war and

When his father ~~died~~ died, he left no will. ~~But~~ His wish was to leave his property to his son ~~with~~ ~~James~~ James Paine. There were other claimants to this property which consisted of 5 acres of land: his two half brothers, Joseph and George McLean. But his mother, who lived next house to his father's place, was in contrroll of ~~his~~ his late father's land.

"My father did not write any will, but he left land to ~~my~~ my mother. He wanted to give this land to me. He died home, but I dont think he was living at that time with my mother. She was living on next land, but she ruled the land until I come to be ~~xxxx~~ man. I took this land - this land my father left to me. I have no claims on other land. My brothers - they have claim on their father's and their mother's land. They live on it now."

His army service in 1st World War. War-pension and war-service loan.

In the 1st world war he volunteered for Army and took part in military operations in Africa and Mediteranean. He was wounded and got beside shell-shock. When he came back, he got a pension 28/.a week. His troubles started when he tried to improve his material position by taking the Gnt loan for buying land and building house. "When we came firts 1920 the Gnt was giving loans to people who were in the war: £.25 loan to build the house ~~xxxx~~ or buy the land." The loan was as a rule given to ex-service-men who ~~xxxxxxx~~ were not given any other Gnt ~~xxx~~ support and disabled soldiers, whor received a pension, were ~~xxxx~~ excluded from the loan. Teacher Lynch in Nane wanted to help him and he advised him to ~~ix~~ resign from his war-pension and to apply for the loan. He did it. He got £.12.10 as the first installment, and bought 1 and 1/2 acre of land and started to build the house. ~~thare~~ When the building was half-made, he got another half of the loan to make windows, door etc. When it came to pay the the loan bach he again applied ~~forxxxx~~ to get ~~xxx~~ some reduction ~~ex~~ as ~~xxxxxxxxxxx~~ a disabled ex-service-man. ~~He~~ Then it was found that he had no right to the loan. He was given back his war-pension, but ~~this~~ taken the land and the house by the Gnt. ~~xxxx~~ Besides for 18 years the war-pension was not paid to him. ~~but~~ It was stopped, ~~xxxxxxx~~ and sequestrated to pay his loan debt. ~~xxxxxx~~ He lost his land, his house newly built and his war-pension. He could not improve his position and the loan was wasted. "It is not a money that is circulating, this money is dead - it is just the house."

War-pension and war-service loan.

To get at least his war pension back, he ~~joined~~ joined Ex-servicemen Association. ~~xxxxxxx~~ He paid for a few months membership fees 12/. a month/ ~~xxxx~~ and after few months time a war pension 12/. ~~xxxxxx~~ monthly was afforded to him. Still he must have paid 2/. monthly as his membership fee. Then his war pension was raised ~~ka~~ litle by little ~~xxx~~ "until it went up to 22/.now"..

Conflict with his brothers.

~~xxxxx~~ Army service in the 1st World War not only ruined his health and ~~xxxxxxx~~ was responsible not only for his finacial ruin. It cost also his good relations with his brothers. When he was in the Army, he enrolled under the name of Paine and his army allowance was sent to his mother. "They were crossed with me because I was getting allowance for my mother as Paine. If that mother was their mother they would be glad. But she was only my mother."

Sale of the paternal property.

It was this conflict with his brother, as one could understand from what was said and from what passed over by James Paine, that led to the sale of the paternal property. "The land which I bought myself - 1 and 1/2 acre - the Gnt took it over." He was left only with the land which was claimed also by his brothers. He decided to sell this land and to acquire another property.

His paternal property consisted of 5 acres of land. There was a water-tank near the house. ~~The~~ And the land around the house was "fruited". "It have a tank, and it was fruited and have a ~~ka~~ hut. It was ordinary hut, thatch hut, but it was 4 apartment ~~ka~~ and it was neatly done - Spanish wall all around." He did not settle with his brothers the ~~makkar~~ matter of his property rights, but decided to sell ~~it~~ his paternal home. "I sold the land with the house for L.68. And I apid the man Brooks - I sold him a piece of land when I went into the War, ~~xx~~ but the land was not on sale /legally it was owned by Paine/ so I must pay him back L.26 and L.2 for taxes. L.40 balance was left. I came here with L.40. And this man, Gayle, says it is 42. He paid the man £.35 in cash and will pay the reaminder in instalments. "He sold some boards to me - had to buy some boards to have the house floored - it was the hut, no floor in it."

His new property.

His new property is onyl partly his - he did not get rid of his half-brothers claim to the land he owned in his native village. "This land which I purchased is my father claim, so the land I bought here is not mine, it is a family land. I must sell it when my family claim /their rights to the property/.

St. Elizabeth and Trelawny. Land prices in St. Elizabeth.

He sold his property ~~for~~ in St. Elizabeth for L.68 only, but considers it ~~as~~ a very good price. "If it was ~~not~~ not for these boys who go to America, you would ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ not get L.20 for it. Because the ~~ax~~ area is subject to drought and many of the young people stray. If you get a piece of land of value, it must be business spot. Then the price is up. But when it is bare cultivation and no business spot, you cant get a price. The place which I sold is ab.5 chains from the parochial road. It's no business spot."

Chief products of St. Elizabeth.

They cultivate in St. Elizabeth the same ground-provisions which are planted here, in Trelawny: cassava, ~~axet~~ sweet poatoes, some yams. Their bananas are different: honey ~~axa~~ dew bananas, of a small non-marketable variety. ~~ka~~ They cultivate it for their own home use. Their chief agricultural produce is tobacco. In olden times they planted a lot of tobacco selling it on the local markets. It was ordinary "twisted tobacco". A few years ago a campaing was started ~~by~~ to plant better tobacco which might be sold on international market or supplied to Machado factory. Agricultural instructors helped to distribute new variety of tobacco and farmesr went into tobacco plantations.

When tobacco was cropped it was send to Kingston to be tested and sold. Machado Factory refused to buy it. ~~The~~ It was discovered that tobacco delivered from St. Elizabeth was dumped: and could not pass the test. "Machado refused to buy - dont buy. It was handicapped: samples were dumped - it was rotten. Tobacco couldnt pass." It happened in King ston, when tobacco reached Kingston. There was "no sale on tobacco". Tobacco planters of St. Elizabeth were practically ruined. "Our chief product is tobacco. Any time you loose this tobacco crop, you loose everything." Now people ~~are~~ in the island scarcely buy their twisted tobacco, whereas their commercial tobacco was not accepted for sale.

Their tobacco plantations depend much upon their stock-breeding. To manure the fields they keep plenty of gheep, goats and cows. They keep them chiefly to get mulch for manuring.

To keep cattle and produce mulch they cultivate ~~grass~~ grass. They plant Guinea grass; if somebody does not ~~riah~~ plant grass himself, he pays 40 to 45/. for an acre of grass. But when drought comes, ~~everything~~ they loose practically everything. "Six weeks drought, everything is down."

Drought.

Food in St. Elizabeth.

They have in St. Elizabeth "the same kind of food." Bunny cakes /made of cassava/, sweet potatoes, cocoe, yam, green banana. They eat olenty of vegetables: cabbage, calalou, chowchow, tomatatoes /"salad"/. In the mountianous part they have everything which is found in Warsop. "But I come from the plains - the Savannah". In the Savannah things look somewhat different.

They have ~~market~~ fresh fish, almost absent in Warsop. The ~~market~~ usual sight in Savannah is "boys running to the beach to get fresh fish and carrying back fish on bicycles". The beach is very near to their villages and fresh fish is supplied frequently. Besides they have also fresh fish from Black River. "All kinds of fish. Lobster, cray fish etc." They have also a vegetable supplied from the river: river-criss /crest?/.

Non-agricultural occupations of young people.

Land cannot feed all of them and young people must look for other sources of living. They are handicraftsmen wnadering ~~far~~ from one place to another and selling their manufacture: thatch rope, sisal rope, twist tobacco, thatch hats, baskets etc. "females go about and they get eggs and fowls and carry them to Kingston" to earn something on the difference in local and city prices. "Young men - they spend more dyas and nights on the road than they spend at home or in the bed." Everybody is working "to get a living".

St. Elizabeth- healthy country. Irrigation wanted.

St. Elizabeth is a healthy country. There is plenty of rivers in their parish, but still people and cultivations suffer of drought. "They dont go to the process to pipe ed. Work in fac- the water and get cultivations watered to help the people." "They need help: some factory that young people could work." So far there is only one sisal factory in Lettuce. They started recently to plant tomatoes in his place - ~~an~~ other places tomatoe cultivations ~~was~~ were developped some years ago.

People in St. Elizabeth and in Warsop.

People in St. Elizabeth are industrious and intelligent. "You find the hardest labouring people in St. Elizabeth. Very intelligent. Very intelligent." They are good cultivators. Their cassava, sweet potatoes are the best. They are famous of rearing animals. "Sheep, goat, horses - if you want the best animals, you must go to this part of the world."

People in St. Elizabeth are honest people. "What they say is what they mean." "I would more prefer to live in St. Elizabeth. People live more respectable in St. Elizabeth, they have more manners, are more God-fearing. "According to home training" - young people get better home training in St. Elizabeth than here. Here petty theft is something of regular occurrence. They steal yam-stacks and evrything that comes into hand. They do it just for fun. In St. Eliz. if they steal, "they do it only for need, for hungry". They do not steal fruit from the trees in St. Elizabeth! "they come and ask permission". The young people in St. Elizabeth are "quite manageable" - ~~not like~~ unlike here.

St. Elizabeth people are also more "intelligent". "Here they are more cultivators and dont speculate. We have cultivators and speculators." St. Elizabeth people frequent local markets, buy cows, horses, dnole ys, rear them for some 6 weeks or so and then sell with a profit. Here they speculate only on yams, never on cattle as in St. Elizabeth.

They are chiefly Anglicans in St. Elizabeth. In Nane, his native place, there is only one Church of England. In Lettice - there is a Moravian Church. Baptists' stronghold is "in Santa Cruz, right in the town."

Payne's plans.

Paine is not so sure whether he will stay here for ever. He is discouraged by the dishonesty of people in Warsop. Besides, as a sickly man he is not able to carry on all difficult tasks of local agriculture. Were he healthy and strong, he might be able to do all field-work by himself. Now he must hire labourers and pay for their work. Small plot of abou one stretch of so under peas near his house cost him 11/. spent on forking the land. He cant continue without ~~ax~~ some financial ~~hand~~ aid. "Cockpit land - they give you, but they dont watch to help you." He plans to sell this land and go back to St. Elizabeth. In his conditions the best solution for him would be some 1/2 acre of land "near the road and the country town" where he could built his home and open a shop to get his ~~axxx~~ living from the sale of goods.*