

## The Contribution of the Dumas Family to E. D. and F. Man.



The following passages have been extracted from the book *The House of Man* (H of M) by Alan Jenkins. The book was published in 1983 on the occasion of the two hundredth anniversary of the founding of the sugar brokering company E. D. and F. Man by James Man (1755 - 1823). Few, if any, company records exist prior to the Second World War, following the destruction of the Man offices in a German bombing air raid over London in May 1941. In writing the book, Mr. Jenkins had to rely heavily on the memory of Tim Dumas, a retired partner in the firm. As a result the book contains almost as much detail about the Dumas family as it does the Man family. The initials E. D. and F. stand for two brothers: Edward Desborough Man and his brother Frederick, pictured left.

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On 10<sup>th</sup> September 1857 Frederick Man married Miss Elizabeth Emily Dumas, of an Anglo-French Huguenot family. This very important link between the Man and Dumas families was to provide two future partners in the House of Man [i.e. the company E. D. and F. Man].

When, in 1685, Louis XIV revoked the Edict of Nantes, he drove many French Protestants into exile. Among them were a branch of the Dumas family then living in Provence, who in 1689 took advantage of the Edict of Potsdam offering them refuge in Brandenburg. Like many refugees in history, they prospered, contributing their skills to their adopted country, but never losing their desire to go back to their own land if ever toleration should return. After 115 years of exile, they thought the time was ripe in 1804. Jean-Pierre Dumas, described in an old history of Hamburg as 'one of the great merchants' of that city, drove to Paris with his parents, his wife and their five children, three boys and two girls. The eldest boy, Henri, was ten, his brothers Emile and Charles eight and six respectively.

In his early twenties Henri (Emily's father) seems to have worked for a friend of the family, another Huguenot exile, Jean de Chapeaurouge of Hamburg, before coming to London with his employer's son, Philippe de Chapeaurouge, to learn English while holding down a job in Baring Brothers bank. He must have done this immediately after Waterloo [1815].



After about three years he went back to Paris; but he had felt more at home in London and returned there to take an insurance job at Lloyds. In 1828, when he was thirty-four, he had married a Miss Elizabeth Sowerby. She was a niece of Alexander Wylie, an insurance broker. Henri and Elizabeth settled in Clapham, and soon their family became interconnected with the sugar families. Henri's son, Henry (spelt in the English way) married Janet Fairrie<sup>1</sup>, daughter of John Fairrie the sugar refiner. He joined Alexander Wylie's insurance business which, became the giant broking firm of Willis, Faber & Dumas and he eventually became chairman of Lloyds. [The company is now headquartered in Ipswich and their officers above were designed by Sir, now Lord, Norman Foster, (see also <http://www.willis.com/about/history.html>). [H of M, p. 63]

Thus the wedding of Fred Man to twenty-two-year-old Emily Dumas, in September 1857 at Holy Trinity, Clapham Common, where the parents of both had worshipped and were buried, was historic. They lived at No. 5 Cavendish Terrace, where, in a few years' time, they would have Mr. and Mrs. Caesar Czarnikow (1837-1909) as next-door neighbours. Two of their children, Bob and Edward, would become partners in the firm. [H of M, p. 70. (right is Caesar Czarnikow)]



Fred's new-found married happiness was cut short in 1864 by Emily's death in childbirth: she had had four children<sup>2</sup> in as many years. Her unmarried sister Louisa went to stay at Fred's house in Cavendish Terrace to look after the children, and there is a family tradition that she fell in love with him. True or false, it could never have ended in marriage, since at that time the *Deceased Wife's Sister Act*, which was the law until 1907, would have forbidden it, and so would the Church.

Fred was quick to remarry: in 1866 he wed Miss Emma Trollope of Wimbledon. It seems more than possible that she was a distant cousin of Anthony Trollope the novelist. Certainly Trollope knew the world of sugar - did not Mr. Slope in *Barchester Towers* (1857) when he was rejected by Eleanor Bold, marry 'the widow of a rich: sugar refiner in London'? And perhaps Trollope, who spent many years in the Post Office, also knew Teddy's young brother James Lawrence, the Blackheath postmaster. Fred and Emma left Clapham and went to live at Beckenham, Kent.

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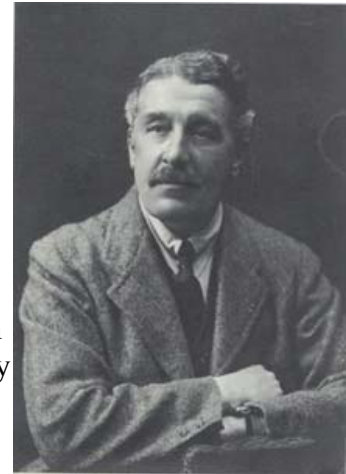
<sup>1</sup> There is some confusion here about whether or not it is Henry or Henri. Henri Jean Phillip Dumas married Janetta Patterson Fairrie. His son was named Henry and is on the 1901 census, so Jenkins or I may have this muddled.

<sup>2</sup> Charles Desborough (1858 – 1931), Margaret Emily (1859 – 1889), Frederick Henry Dumas (Bob), (1861 – 1941), and Edward Kirkness (1862 – 1902)

## 1894 -1904

Fred Man was now senior partner. He was sixty-eight and still took auctions and supervised spot sales of sugar and cocoa [...]. Bob Man was in charge of rum and lime-juice, and John Kirkness, [...] handled correspondence with the West Indian estates, writing all his letters in longhand.

1895 was a bad year financially: profits fell to £1,698. It is difficult to suggest a reason for this. One has the impression of young men with little experience but great enthusiasm inhibited by the caution of their elders - and not only their elders. Bob Man with his acne left over from boyhood, a slight stutter and a nervous excitability which amateur latter-day psychiatrists have attributed to losing his mother at such an early age, was not popular. He was now thirty-four, and staff members who were junior clerks at the time have accused him of bad judgment and missed opportunities. Why, when the Admiralty offered Man an exclusive contract to supply the Navy with cocoa, as they already did with rum, did Bob Man turn it down? No doubt he had his reasons, but to the younger fry they were not apparent. The contract was immediately snapped up by Wilson, Smithett &



Cope. Again, Bob Man (pictured right) was offered the exclusive right to import German beet sugar, but, it was said, he was 'too proud of the firm's reputation as West Indian Brokers'. With hindsight, this may have been a lucky decision, thinking of what was to happen in 1914. Anyway, Caesar Czarnikow quickly grabbed the opportunity. (H of M, p. 86 -7)

Fred Man died, aged seventy-two, on 30 January 1897. His grandson, Frederick Cecil Man (always known as Eric), Bob Man's only son was born the same day. (H of M, p. 89)

## 1905



The important recruit [to the company] of 1905 was Charles Dumas, from the French side of the family. He was Bob Man's second cousin and great-grandson of Jean-Pierre Dumas who had returned to Paris from exile a hundred years before. Charles, at twenty, had just finished his military service in France and wanted to live in England. He did not join the sugar market straight away but went first as an apprentice to Henry Dumas' firm of insurance brokers, Dumas & Wylie. He would eventually become senior partner of Man, but not before he had left the firm and returned to it twice. The first time was in 1908, when Gilbert (afterwards Sir Gilbert) Fox, head of Edward Grey & Co of Liverpool, offered him a fairly senior job. One wonders

whether there were temperamental difficulties with Cousin Bob, or whether he was simply a young man who found the pace a little slow. Charles Dumas, bilingual and speaking English all his life with a slight French accent, never gave up his French nationality<sup>3</sup>.

### **The First World War 1914 – 1918**

The patriotic fervour of 1914 - every man was a volunteer - was quite different from the 'phoney' atmosphere of 1939. Charles Dumas was on holiday in France when the war broke out, and was immediately mobilized into the French Army in which he served as an infantry officer. He did this, as everything, bravely and with panache, winning the Croix de Guerre, the Legion d'honneur (six times!), the British Military Cross and the United States Distinguished Service Medal [...] Dumas was seriously wounded [...]

F. C. (Eric) Man, Bob's only son, joined the Army and survived the war for four years; but in 1919, in Egypt, on his way home for demobilization he died of influenza, which during the past year had reached epidemic proportions throughout the world, killing an estimated twenty million people. The death of his only son was a blow from which it is said, Bob Man never recovered.

At 7 Mincing Lane [where E. D. and F Man were located] Bob Man, who had hoped to take his son Eric into partnership, now looked around for a new partner. The obvious candidate was Charles Dumas; but he had left the firm before - would he now return to it? He was much in demand, and could probably have succeeded in any business he took up. On demobilization he had been offered, and had already accepted, a partnership with his old boss, Sir Gilbert Fox in Edward Grey & Co., shipbrokers, of Liverpool. It says much for the wisdom and persistence of Bob Man and C. J. Bailey that they were able to persuade Dumas to return and Sir Gilbert to release him. And it is a great tribute to Charles Dumas's reputation and popularity in the Sugar Market that no one ever thought of applying the new 'anti-foreigner'<sup>4</sup> rule to him.

### **Sports.**

The influence of C. J. Bailey [senior partner] egged on all sporting activities and promoted inter-office and eventually inter-firm cricket and football matches. Bob Man would hardly have approved; but Bob Man was often away, and, as the years went by, seldom came into the office. He was now spending most winters in South Africa, seeking the sunshine; and the running of the firm fell more and more to Bailey and Dumas. Charles Dumas would probably have frowned on office cricket; not that he was in any way humourless, but as a Frenchman he failed to see the fascination of the game. No doubt the spectacular performances of his countrywoman Mile Suzanne Lenglen at Wimbledon were more to his taste.

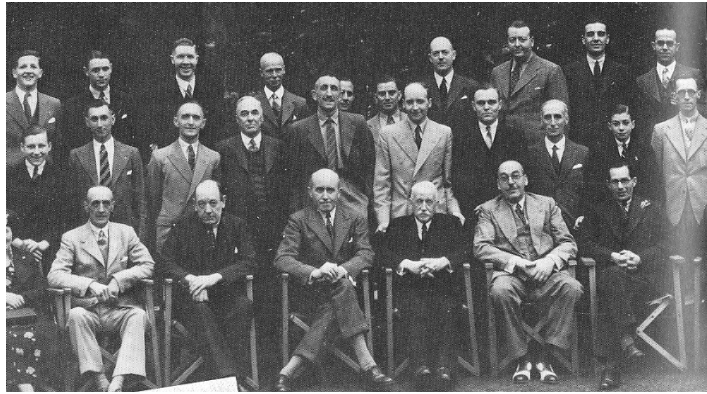
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<sup>3</sup> Charles Dumas (1884-1966) married Suzanne Morillot (1896-1988). She lived in Wimbledon and was a nurse and took care of Charles DUMAS during the First World War when he was wounded.

<sup>4</sup> In 1919 the Sugar Market ruled that only British subjects could be members. (see Jenkins page 104)

So C. J. Bailey waited for him to go in the evening before bringing out the [cricket] stumps. It was always General Office versus Sale Room. The game went on for several years, and by some miracle broken windows were always mended by the following morning. Inevitably there came an evening when Charles Dumas, thought to be safely out of the way, returned unexpectedly to collect some papers he had forgotten. Who said what to whom is not recorded-but it seems that the game continued.

Charles Dumas might not appreciate office cricket; but in the days before his partnership he had always been in the forefront of any practical joke that was going. His favourite was the good old one of turning the rostrum of the Commercial Sale Rooms so that the steps could not be ascended by the chairman. In this he was assisted by the 15-stone strength of Gordon Hodge and sometimes by Sidney Elyatt of Tate & Lyle; they were known as the Three Musketeers of the Sugar Market. They were always among the letters-off of fireworks on 5 November. One wonders who insured the Sale Rooms against fire - it was enough to make underwriters feel overwrought. (H of M , p. 116-117)



E. D. and F. Man 1939, Tim Dumas left back row, Charles Dumas third man seated from left with legs crossed.

### **Bob Man Retires.**

By 1930 E. D. and F. Man's profits fluctuated between £11,000 - £20,000. These were achieved with little or no help from the senior partner Bob Man, who took the lion's share but was absent for 6 months of the year or longer at his house in Cape Town. He sent acrimonious letters accusing his partners of incompetence, while being himself completely out of touch with the market; and there were rows when he did return to England for the remaining months of the year. It looked as if the partnership might be in danger of breaking up. (H of M, p. 119)

In 1934 they came to a head. C. J. Bailey and Charles Dumas confronted Bob Man on his return from South Africa and told him that the partnership would have to break up unless he agreed to retire. This was no mere threat: at one point Bailey called the entire staff into the Partners' Room and told them they were under notice. Bob Man was

seventy-three; the partnership needed new blood, above all partners who worked. The negotiations were long and tedious, but in May 1934 Bob Man bowed out. [Bob died at his home. Thames Lawn (pictured below) in April 1941.]

He had been the fourth generation of the family firm. There may or may not be wisdom in the old City saying that ‘all family firms decline after three generations’, but it was not a risk Bailey and Dumas were prepared to take. (H of M p. 120)



### 1920 – 1938.

So by 1920 there were five partners, a good and reinforced staff and, barring the constant threat of war which pervaded the 1930s, every prospect of success in a new atmosphere of confidence. C. J. Bailey was now senior partner, writing the weekly circular reports and overseeing all sugar matters. Charles Dumas was responsible for sales of raw sugar to both British and French refiners, and also for staff matters. Gordon Hodge looked after raw sugar sales to Dutch refiners [...]

The time had come [1938] for Arthur Lovell and Frank Smith to retire. Lovell had been with the firm for fifty-two years, and he lived to enjoy six years of not very peaceful retirement in wartime. His place as contracts clerk was taken by Peter Hodge, now twenty-two. Tim Dumas, (cousin of Charles (pictured above)) having served two years as office boy, moved up to junior clerk, and Frank Matthews was the new office boy. (H of M, p.125).

The tradition of the summer annual outing for staff continued, with inter-departmental sporting fixtures; and in 1938 the host was Tim Dumas' father, Admiral P. W. Dumas, CB, CVO,<sup>5</sup> at his house at Buckland, near Reigate, Surrey.

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<sup>5</sup> Dumas, Philip Wylie (1868-1948) Naval Attaché, Germany, Denmark and Holland (1906-8); Secretary, Royal Commission on Oil Fuel (1912-13); commanded HMS Roxburgh (1913-14); Assistant Director of Torpedoes, Admiralty (1914-17); commanded HMS Agamemnon (1917-18). For his papers see: 1905-14: diaries and papers, for the location of these papers see: see Chris Cook, Sources in British political history 1900-1951 vol 2 1975. 1912-19: letters to Lord Fisher, Cambridge University: Churchill Archives Centre, NRA 16615 Fisher. 1906-08: journals during service as Naval Attache in Berlin Imperial War Museum Department of Documents.



## 1939 – 1945. The Second World War.

At the outbreak of war the armed forces claimed those of military age and those included Dumas, now fifty-five, who, on the outbreak of war joined the French Military Mission in London as a Major. After the fall of France in 1940 he joined the Royal Sussex Regiment as a junior officer and at length, being bi-lingual, transferred to the Intelligence Corps where he quickly became a Major again as an instructor at the Intelligence School at Matlock.



The offices of ED and F Man (to the left) on Sugar Quay London, in the early 1980's

Later he was lent to the Intelligence Section of the US Army in Grosvenor Square with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. Finally he was sent to the School of Military Government at Wimbledon where he was in charge of one of its two wings. His cousin Pat Dumas, Tim's older brother, who had been an office boy and junior market clerk in the firm from 1931 to 1938, was in the RNVR and transferred to the Fleet Air Arm as a pilot. He was killed in action in 1941. Tim Dumas, commissioned into the Royal Welch Fusiliers in 1940, became a Major and led his company in Normandy, through France, Belgium and Holland into Germany. He was twice wounded, and in the last few days of the war was taken prisoner.

He was one of the last captured and first liberated. His German was enough to withstand two days of interrogation at a camp near the front, having travelled to and from Hanover for fourteen days. His interrogators and escorts seemed to have only one word of command, *heraus!* They knew the war was nearly over, and did not want prisoners. They released Tim in a dark wood at 5 a.m. Both Germans and Tim walked straight into the arms of the advance American troops. Now the roles were reversed. The Germans quietly laid their rifles against trees and surrendered.



In May 1941 the German Air Force began a series of fire-bomb raids which were even more destructive than high-explosive. The worst was on Saturday, 10 May, which wiped out most of Mincing Lane and certainly reduced No. 21 to rubble. In the same raid five docks were destroyed, East End factories went up in smoke, water-mains burst, the Thames was at low tide so that fire-fighters could not use their hoses. Nothing whatever could be salvaged from the offices of E. D. and F. Man located at No 21 Mincing Lane (Mincing Lane pictured soon after the raid).

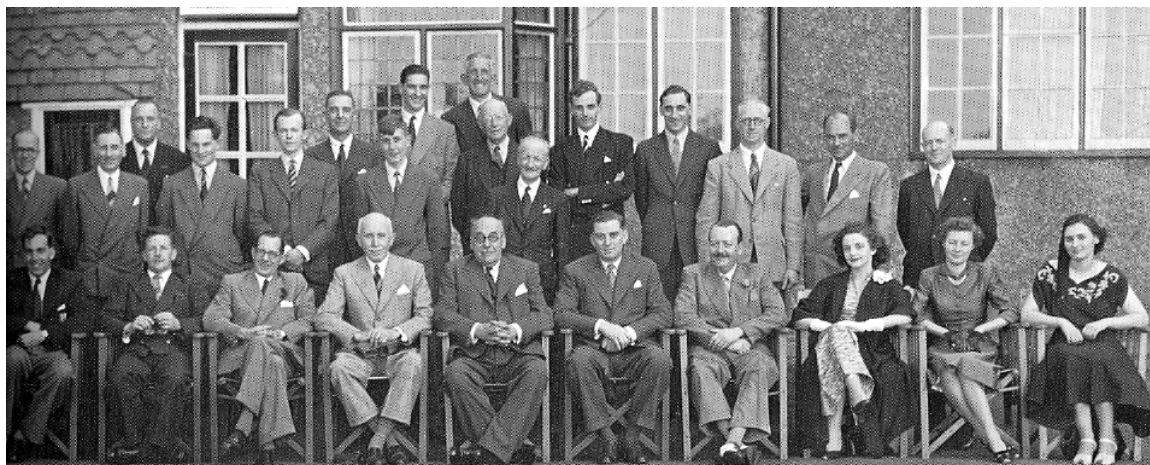
### **After the War.**

In 1949 Tim Dumas became a partner. Charles Dumas was now in 1952 sixty-nine. He had served the firm, on and off (but mostly on) for over forty years, and now wanted to retire. People who remember him use phrases like ‘complete integrity’, ‘urbane and polished’, ‘unselfish and generous’. The partners gave a farewell party for him, attended by the whole staff and their families, at the home of Gordon Hodge, the new senior partner, at Totteridge, north London. In a moving speech, Gordon Hodge paid tribute to Charles Dumas' courage in peace and war, his many decorations, and the unique combination of qualities which had enabled him to overcome the market's post-1918 prejudice against foreigners (for Charles was still a Frenchman!). The firm's size and prosperity had increased under his leadership. How nearly they had lost him to rival firms, among them Czarnikows. And he had twice won the Sugar Walk.



Summing up his friend's character, Gordon Hodge said: ‘He is a man of the finest principles. ... I never saw him ruffled and he never lost his temper. He was tolerant and always listened to the other man's point of view. He was always ready to help anyone less fortunate in life than himself. . . . The world has been better for his presence.’ Charles Dumas' career was crowned four years later by the award of the CBE for services to Anglo-French relations. His sense of humour was tickled when he went to the prime minister's residence to receive it. ‘Downing Street, please,’ he told the taxi driver. ‘Yes sir. Which number, sir?’ (H of M, p. 136).





Retirement party for C. E. F. Dumas who is seated front row fourth from left. His cousin Tim, is seated front row, second from left.

David Man, New York City, January 2003.

The 1901 census showing Henry (son of Henri nephew of Elizabeth Emily) Dumas and family.

Administrative County		Kent.		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the										Page 88		
Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough, Municipal Borough, or Urban District		Ward of Municipal Borough or Urban District		Rural District		Parliamentary Borough or Division		Town or Village or Hamlet				
of Bromley		of St Paul		of Bromley		of Sandridge		of		of		of Bromley				
Date	No. of HOUSES	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. of NAME of HOUSE	Uninhabited	Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Sex	Age last Birthday	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	(1) Deaf and Dumb	(2) Blind	(3) Lame	(4) Inebriate, feeble-minded	
1901	1	228		Ellen Johnson	Wife	F	27	Domestic Occupations			Tottenham					
				Arthur Johnson	Head	M	39	Domestic Occupations			Bromley Kent					
				Emily de	Wife	F	47	Domestic Occupations			India Calcutta					
				Ann R. de	Serv	F	31	Domestic Occupations			London					
				James J. de	Head	M	22	Domestic Occupations			London					
				John de	Head	M	30	Domestic Occupations			London					
				William de	Wife	F	38	Domestic Occupations			Hendon Essex					
				John de	Serv	M	60	Domestic Occupations			Bromley Kent					
				Mary A. de	Serv	F	28	Domestic Occupations			London					
				Maria de	Wife	F	20	Domestic Occupations			London					
				Joseph C. de	Head	M	36	Domestic Occupations			London					
				Pat de	Wife	F	42	Domestic Occupations			London					
				Stanley de	Serv	M	11	Domestic Occupations			London					
				John de	Serv	M	8	Domestic Occupations			London					
				Thomas de	Serv	M	21	Domestic Occupations			Bromley Kent					
				Robert O. de	Head	M	43	Domestic Occupations	Employer		Bromley Kent					
				Bessie de	Wife	F	40	Domestic Occupations			London					
				Kathie de	Serv	F	20	Domestic Occupations			London					
				Margery de	Serv	F	9	Domestic Occupations			Bromley Kent					
				Joseph de	Head	M	48	Domestic Occupations			Bromley Kent					
				Ruth de	Wife	F	38	Domestic Occupations			Bromley Kent					
				Margaret de	Wife	F	20	Domestic Occupations			Bromley Kent					
				Margaret de	Serv	F	20	Domestic Occupations			Bromley Kent					
				William de	Head	M	37	Domestic Occupations	Employer		Bromley Kent					
				Henry J. de	Head	M	39	Domestic Occupations	Employer		Bromley Kent					
				Alfred de	Wife	F	37	Domestic Occupations			Bromley Kent					
				Charles de	Serv	M	12	Domestic Occupations			Bromley Kent					
				Arthur de	Serv	M	21	Domestic Occupations			Bromley Kent					
				Emily de	Wife	F	26	Domestic Occupations			Bromley Kent					
				Emily de	Wife	F	28	Domestic Occupations			Bromley Kent					
				Total of Males and of Females..		8	23									

NOTE—Draw your pen through such words of the headings as are inapplicable.

Below the 1901 Census with Louisa and Clara Dumas (Henry's aunts and sisters of Henri and Emily)

Administrative County		Civil Parish		Ecclesiastical Parish		County Borough		The undermentioned Houses are situate within the boundaries of the		Parliamentary Borough		Rural District		Parliamentary Division		Town or Village or Hamlet		Page 31	
Louth		Louth		St. Peter's		Louth		Louth		Louth		Louth		Louth		Louth		Louth	
No. of HOUSE	ROAD, STREET, &c. and No. of NAME of HOUSE	HOUSES			Name and Surname of each Person	RELATION to Head of Family	Sex	Age last birthday	PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION	Employer, Worker, or Own account	If Working at Home	WHERE BORN	Remarks						
		Uninhabited	Occupied	Partly occupied									(1) Dead and Dumb	(2) Blind	(3) Lame	(4) Imbecile, feeble-minded			
224	5 2a	1			Marie E. Winesworth	Wife	39	Domestic			Hert, Breconshire								
					Maria Poyell	Servant	16	General Servant			Louth								
					Louisa C. Dumas	Head	67	Living on own means			Lancashire								
					Clara D.	Sister	60	"			"								
					Mrs. Collings	Servant	35	Domestic			Gloucester								
					Georgia Wether	Servant	27	Domestic			Hert, Essex - Wells								
225	4 2a	1			James Cooky	Head	52	Living on own means			Lancashire								
					Lane	Wife	42	"			London, Hampshire								
					Constance E. D.	Servant	21	"			"								
					Patricia C. D.	Servant	11	"			"								
					Emily G. Atcher	Servant	36	General Servant			Essex								
					John Russell	Servant	16	General Servant			Hert, Hertfordshire								
226	7 2a	1			Allen F. Mather	Head	62	Teacher	own acc		London								
					Ellie M. D.	Wife	39	"			Worcester, Wiltshire								
					Emma Pettig	Servant	24	"			Germany								
					Walter M. Bradshaw	Servant	30	"			Worcester, Wiltshire								
					Clara D. Bradley	Servant	16	"			Lancashire								
					Ernie Clappfield	Servant	16	"			Worcester								
					Elie D.	Servant	13	"			"								
					Walter Atcher	Servant	16	"			London								
					Patricia Murray	Servant	17	"			South Africa								
					Mary G. Mugg	Servant	11	"			Worcester, Wiltshire								
					Philip Wether	Servant	43	Domestic			London								
					Philip Wether	Servant	18	Domestic			Worcester								
227	The Green	1			Harriet Atcher	Head	44	Living on own means			Worcester								
228	White St. Green	1			Edith Underhill	Head	44	Factory Manager			Hert, Lancashire								
229	2a 2a	1			Elizabeth D.	Wife	46	"			Worcester								
					Thomas D.	Son	18	"			Hert, Cambridge								
					George D.	Son	12	"			"								
Total of Schedules of Houses and of Tenements with less than Five Rooms		50	1		Total of Males and of Females		45												

Note—Draw your pen through such words of the headings as are inapplicable.