

The present is but a preliminary and tentative measure, but as it proves a success (and we have good reason to think that it is already proving this) the tea associations, both in London and Calcutta, will, it is believed, heartily co-operate in more extensive operations, and will arrange for ten times three thousand pounds if required. — Yours obediently,

"ANGLO-INDIAN."

### COFFEE PLANTATIONS ON THE GOLD COAST, WEST AFRICA.

On my arrival at Cape Coast I went to see Mr. Batty, Messrs. Miller Brothers and Co.'s Agent, who kindly gave me quarters for the night and the next day I proceeded to Elmina to visit Mr. Hutchinson's coffee plantation. Mr. Hutchinson calculates that he has about one hundred and fifty acres planted with Liberian Coffee, and that he has planted out sixty thousand plants. The trees are in a very healthy and flourishing condition, and many which have only been planted a year and a half are already bearing a very fine crop of coffee. The trees on this plantation are in three stages; viz: 1st.—There are a number of trees which were planted in May 1889. These trees are about five and a half feet high, and are compact, bushy plants; bearing a splendid crop of coffee, some of which was ripening at the time of my visit. 2nd.—A large area was planted in May 1890. These have grown well and almost all of them are bearing a first crop of coffee. This speaks very well for the suitability of the soil and situation for coffee planting, as in Liberia and other places where this variety of coffee is grown, planters never expect the trees to bear until they are three years old. 3rd.—The remainder of the trees, which comprise the greater part of the plantation were planted in May of last year, and on the whole are growing satisfactorily. Owing to the excessive dryness of the last season the mortality amongst the plants has been rather excessive, but that can be easily remedied by filling up the vacancies during the coming rainy season with good robust plants. The plantation is in a very creditable and flourishing condition. The work is done by a gang of seventy Krooboyes and the land is kept in good order and free from weeds. Mr. Hutchinson seems to thoroughly understand the work and has every confidence in the ultimate success of the undertaking. The next morning on my way from Elmina to Messrs. Miller Brothers' plantation at Kuby Kul, I was asked to visit a coffee plantation belonging to Mr. Ter Meulen who accompanied me himself. This plantation is about twenty-five acres in extent and consists of about five thousand plants, all of which look very healthy. Many of the trees, which are about three years of age, are bearing an immense crop of coffee and others of two years' growth are also bearing. Mr. Ter Meulen informed me that he has been unable to personally superintend his plantation as much as he would have liked, and consequently it had been rather neglected. After spending an hour or two going over the plantation and directing Mr. Ter Meulen as to the best means of carrying on the work, I proceeded on my way to Messrs. Miller Bros.' plantation at Kuby Kul where I arrived at 12-30 p.m. Mr. Ter Meulen proposes to extend his coffee plantation very considerably, and is now raising a large quantity of young plants for that purpose. He is very energetic about the matter and very sanguine as to the results. Mr. Batty met me at Kuby Kul, and after resting a short time, I commenced to go over this plantation along with him. I should calculate that the area of this plantation is between one hundred and thirty and one hundred and fifty acres in extent. The land is undulating and the soil a black mould and very rich and I should say remarkably well adapted for the cultivation of coffee and cacao. The trees here are much more luxuriant in growth than those at the other plantations mentioned. This may be accounted for by extra rainfall and humidity experienced here. Mr. Batty has planted his coffee plants fourteen feet apart, which considering the growth they have already made, does not seem too much,

The growth of some of the trees on this plantation is almost incredible. Many of them have grown as much as five feet in one year and the foliage is of great size and most luxuriant. Besides coffee, Mr. Batty has also planted cacao on an extensive scale. This valuable product seems to thrive equally as well as coffee, the plants which I saw, being in a healthy and flourishing condition especially the ones supplied from the Botanical Station at Aburi, during the previous year. The cacao is planted at distances of thirteen feet apart and shaded with plaintains and bananas, which answer the purpose admirably. Tobacco was also being tried by Mr. Batty. He had about 2,500 plants each of the Havannah and Sumatra varieties. They were well grown plants with enormous leaves of a good texture, and if the operation of curing has been successful should produce a good marketable article. In my report for the period ended the 30th June, I omitted to mention, in connection with my visit to the cacao and coffee plantations at Cape Coast and Elmina, the coffee plantation of Mr. Kuofi at Cape Coast. It was an oversight on my part for which I am very sorry as Mr. Kuofi was most kind and hospitable to me on the occasion of my visit. Mr. Kuofi's plantation which is situated a short distance from Cape Coast was in a very clean and flourishing condition, many of the trees were bearing a good crop and coffee and altogether the plantation showed signs of care and attention and I have no doubt will turn out a success. In Mr. Kuofi's plantation I noticed several fine trees of the valuable rubber producing tree called "Manihot Glaziovii" this tree is of very rapid growth is well worth cultivating as it is the source of the valuable rubber called "Ceava Scrap." The land in front of the House and extending to the Akropong road has been completely planted with Liberian coffee. Also a small plantation of Arabian coffee consisting of three hundred plants has been laid down. This variety of coffee is grown rather extensively by the natives in this district and thrives extremely well. I obtained the plants from the Rev. A. W. Clerk in exchange for cacao plants.

W. CROWTHER.

### INDIAN PATENTS.

Calcutta, the 16th August 1894.

Applications in respect of the undermentioned inventions have been filed during the week ending 11th August 1894:—

APPARATUS FOR TESTING SANDS.—No. 228 of 1894.—James Price Cleghorn, Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Bengal, at present residing in No. 2, Pears Bagan, Ballygunge, for an apparatus for testing sands used for building purposes.—*Indian Engineer.*

TEA-PLANTING EXTENSIONS IN INDIA.—While, on the one hand, we read of the Assam and Jokai Companies as refraining from making additions to their planted acreage this year, on the other, we find the following in *The Planter* of Aug. 3rd:—

A Surma Valley surveyor who is busy staking a large opening out writes:—"It is no easy matter to keep the staking ahead of some three or four hundred people planting; twenty acres a day is barely in it; and as the land is slightly rolling and intersected by streams and khals one has a lot of trouble. What very great strides are now being made in this industry? In November last there was not a stick of jungle out, and now as I write there are four hundred acres planted and drained and with roads laid out. With fair weather seven hundred acres should be out by the end of August, and all thoroughly well planted too. The opening out of a five hundred acre garden in one year would have been considered simply madness ten years ago. We have been enjoying lovely weather for planting. The Chittagong-Assam railway runs quite close to this estate and should be a great boon in the way of obtaining labour and stores.