

Our merchants also do not as here ship all kinds and qualities, however inferior, but select and endeavour to keep up the name of the Trinidad cocoa. It is also shipped to special houses, certain qualities are sent to one house, certain to another. Our trees are also properly pruned; they are properly and scientifically cultivated; and looked after with a care and attention necessary to their growth. Here it is not so. Your trees are first of all not carefully pruned, their situation and necessity of shade not considered. Your process of curing leaves the seeds in a bad and unmarketable condition and your trader instead of looking after the name and reputation of his industry desires but to bring in the present shilling, without foresight or look into the future. Were some of the seeds I have seen here exposed for sale in Trinidad the vender would become liable to a fine for exposing unmarketable produce. I am at present engaged in submitting some of these beans to a process of my own which as you can see has resulted in a marked improvement of the quality.

Mr. Kippa at this stage submitted several samples of Cocoa at various periods of the process of curing, the most interesting of these was the ordinary Jamaica bean as it is put on the market by our native growers in three stages of Mr Kippa's process. First was the ordinary bean, second was the intermediate stage, third the final and improved result of the process. The completed stage of the bean was certainly a marked improvement and to the unskilled eye no difference between it and the famous Trinidad cocoa detected. It had acquired a rich brown color, the cotyledons were full and plump, and the aroma delicate and pervading. The chance was great and would most certainly add to the commercial value of the product. Mr. Kippa states that the process is entirely a natural one, is not expensive or protracted, and can be made available by every one.

We are glad to state that Mr. Kippa has consented to deliver a public lecture on the subject to which we shall draw attention.—*Mauritius Gazette.*

ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER IN CEYLON.

So successful have been Mr. J. Torr Todman's operations so far, that Messrs. Boustead Brothers are about to enter into several considerable contracts: the Grand Oriental and Galle Face Hotels are expected to follow the example of the Bristol, and no doubt certain official contracts—for Queen's House, part of the Customs premises and new General Post Office—will follow; as well as some of the local manufactories—oil-mills—where night work is often necessary and the needful power is already available. Meantime, Mr. Todman has gone upcountry to see what can be done about utilising the power from waterfalls and streams to drive electric motors, and it is stated that he is also to see Matakelle Factory supplied with electric light. Mr. J. M. Boustead deserves credit for going into the matter so energetically; but he has always displayed a great interest in electric motors and appliances. It is quite time that the great amount of power running waste in our rivers and falls in the planting country should be freely utilized.

PLANTING IN SOUTH SYLHET.

The manager of a "Fibre Concern" in this district of Northern India, writes to us:—

"We are going largely in for Sisal and Fourcroya and other hems at this garden as well as experimenting with coffee, rubber, &c. I have been hitherto unsuccessful in procuring seeds of the

following plants:—Cocoa, Brazil nuts, (*Bertholletia Excelsa*) Kolanut, (*Kola Acuminata*) Coca, (*Erythroxylon Coca*) Gambier, (*Uncaria Gambir*). This should be a chance for Messrs. J. P. William Bros. of Henaratgoda.

THE JAMAICA COURT AT CHICAGO.

In the report of the Hon. O. J. Ward, Honorary Commissioner of Jamaica at the World's Fair, which was presented to the Legislative Council on Tuesday, we have, for the first time and probably also for the last, a full authoritative account of the Jamaica Court and some of the results attained by the representation of the Island's products at the great exposition. Part of the preliminary work was the preparation of the illustrated guide-book and brochures, which was accomplished in the Island. Col. Ward mentions his indebtedness. The guide-book assuredly has obtained a wide circulation. It was given away in the Court, and was sent to the Governor of every State in the Union, to the Mayor of every important city, to the leading medical men in the cities of New York and Chicago, to every recognised university, to libraries and school clubs, to foreign commissioners, Governors of British Colonies, &c. &c. Col. Ward states that he has reason to believe that the information thus circulated will not fail to be productive of good to the colony.

The remarks on the pioneer exhibits are of extreme interest. Much was hoped from the banana meal and on this product the report says:—"The banana meal engaged the careful attention of several of the leading grocers in Chicago, and elsewhere. One large house in Chicago, Sprague, Warner & Co., after testing samples of this meal, was so pleased with the result that it offered to undertake to introduce it as a food for infants and invalids, provided the producers would guarantee to supply the necessary amount to advertise it extensively throughout the United States. Messrs. Sprague, Warner & Co. estimated that a sum of not less than \$25,000 would be necessary to launch this new product on the American market, and unless this sum were forthcoming they did not see their way to dealing with it on the ground that no sales in any quantity could be expected. This proposal was in due course submitted to the exhibitors whose meal had been experimented upon; but unfortunately those gentlemen were unable at the time to adopt the course proposed, and the matter is still in abeyance. I am strongly of opinion that with a judicious outlay of capital, and with a reasonable certainty that no sudden changes will be made in tariff regulations there is a market open for banana meal in the United States. This would also benefit both directly, and indirectly the growers of bananas here; inasmuch as the quantity of fruit now rejected by the shippers as not being up to the standard, as regards the number of hands on each bunch, could be utilised for conversion into meal. At present the cost of producing banana meal is very heavy; but the cost would be appreciably reduced were large quantities manufactured and the necessary evaporating and grinding machinery introduced." There is less hope of a market for dried bananas. They do not stand the test of time. Perhaps as long as the ripe fruit is so popular—and it is becoming more and more an economical staple fruit of the people—there will be no chance of this delicacy making its way. Col. Ward states that he has seen bananas sold in the streets of Chicago for almost the same price as in Kingston, but naturally of inferior quality. The kola exhibit received some attention and the supply of Machado's cigars was easily disposed of, but there is no field for cigars under the existing tariff. A considerable amount of dagger and lace-bark work could be disposed of in the States if the duty were lowered. The experience of the Commissioner was that the Americans are attracted by this artistic class of goods. It is satisfactory to learn that our display of fibres was considered to be the finest in the Fair. Samples of the sisal hemp, penguin, &c., were asked for

by the Fibre Investigation Department of Agriculture at Washington and specimens were accordingly presented to them. Col. Ward truly observes that the great problem is the manufacture of a good decorticating machine. So far as the Fair was concerned there was nothing new in this line of machinery on exhibit. The free "afternoon-coffees" prove a great attraction as has already been generally admitted. Appended to the report is a statement showing the expenditure of the £5,000 voted by the Legislature. There is a balance at the credit of the account amounting to £423, which may be slightly increased by the further sale of articles not yet disposed of. The compilation and distribution of the Handbook cost £964, the erection of the Court \$1,182. It should be added that the Atlas Company conveyed the exhibits free of cost to and from New York, and Messrs. Macey and Dunham of that city acted gratuitously as forwarding agents. To the great credit of the Honorary Commissioner be it said that he has not charged in the account a single item of expense incurred by himself.—*leaver.*

TEA SOIL AND OTHER ANALYTICAL EXPERIMENTS.

A planter, who is not keen about the Association following Mr. Hughes' advice, wrote, before he had seen letter on page 57:—"Why can't the Government make Cochran or someone else public analyst, and if any planter wants his soil or tea leaves analysed, send to him, and for a small fee get a report. What good was done by analyses of coffee soils, in times past! A decent clean-looking bean will fetch a good price, no matter where it has been grown. The same thing happens with tea, a fine flavoured tea will fetch a good price wherever grown, and I think most planters of 10 or 15 years' experience know what soils are suitable for tea. I would rather use my own judgment in a matter of that than go to any analyst."

Our correspondent should not suppose that analyses of soils and manuring experiments are the only steps (though these are very important). He cannot have read Mr. Hughes' letters in our columns during the past year very carefully. Take the very latest (before the one above referred to) and what did Mr. Hughes write (April 11th)?—

"With a variation of climate and soil, there will naturally be a variation in the quality and strength of the tea made.

But in what respects does the tea differ, and how far is the difference due to the soil, and how far to the climate; or still more how far is the difference due to the mode of manufacture?

These are the points which I have put forward from time to time in your paper, with a view of exciting the interest and support of your Planters' Association.

It is therefore a matter of regret, and possibly of distinct pecuniary loss to the Ceylon tea enterprise, that up to the present time the Planters' Association have not considered it desirable to promote scientific investigation into the principles of tea manufacture.

As was pointed out in my Report upon the Tea Analyses made last year in London, the market price of the samples examined, varied according to the amount of the soluble ash contained, and the results certainly suggested further research as being likely to yield useful as well as interesting results.

It is probably only a question of time; and very likely a large Tea Company will first lead the way in scientific research and attach an experienced chemist to the Factory staff, who, if a good man, would soon be found most useful, for instance in reporting on the quality of the green leaf delivered from different estates.

In saying this I feel sure I am not simply expressing an opinion, but predicting a fact."

We sincerely regret that the enterprise of the Ceylon Planters' Association in the direction pointed out above, should have fallen so far behind that of the sister Tea Association in Calcutta.

DRUG REPORT.

(From *Chemist and Druggist.*)

London, May 24th.

CASSIA FISTULA.—Twenty bags of fair, but somewhat wormy, Java pods, imported via Amsterdam, were bought in today at 30s per cwt. They are said to represent the residue of the recent imports.

COCAINE.—Next to the drop in salicylates the chief feature of interest in the drug market has been the sudden reduction of 4s per oz. (equal to about 2½ per cent) in the price of hydrochlorate of cocaine. From a minimum of 18s per oz., the quotation for the article (in parcels of at least 100 oz) has been lowered to 14s per oz. Smaller quantities are being offered at 14s 3d to 14s 6d per oz. For 1-oz. bottles 3d per oz. extra is charged. Delivery must be taken within three months from date of contract.

QUININE.—There has been no business at all in the article this week. In the wholesale market it would, perhaps, be possible to buy second-hand German bulk at 11d per oz., but 11½d per oz. is the asking price.

VANILLA.—A fairly large supply, offered at auction today, was well competed for, ordinary and medium kinds realising full prices, fine beans 1s per lb. advance. The following were the quotations:—Fine 8 to 9 inches, 20s to 21s 6d; 7 to 8 inches 18s to 18s 6d; 6½ to 7 inches 12s to 14s 6d; 5½ to 6½ inches 10s to 11s 6d; 4½ to 5 inches 8s to 9s 6d; pale oily and foxy, from 12s 6d down to 2s per lb.

TEA AND SCANDAL.

Mrs. PARTINGTON, Mrs. RAMSBOTTOM and Mrs. GRUNDY are such historical characters that it would be interesting to get their experiences of Tea. I have as yet only come across those of the first-named lady, and I now hand them on to you. They are thus described in "Mrs. Partington's Tea Party":—Mrs. P.'s first visit was to the Grocer's. "I want half a pound of the best black and a quarter of a pound of the best green if you please" said she, to the sharp young man behind the counter. "I'm told Souchong has the best savour, but I don't pretend to know: The real insignificance of the names passes my reprehension." "Perhaps you'd like to try Orange Pekoe ma'am" suggested the shopman. "It's tea I want, thank you" was the reply. "I didn't know that you were conveyors of fruits as well." The man grinned and packed up the black tea. "Gunpowder I suppose ma'am?" he asked. "Lor bless the man; does he think I am going to kill anybody, or have a corrosion in the house or what?" she exclaimed. The man explained that he merely mentioned a certain kind of green tea. "Well" she said, greatly relieved; "if you're sure it won't blow up, I don't mind. I've often heard that it's dangerous to use much green tea and if they put gunpowder in it, I am sure it is no longer a project of surprise." The green tea was also packed up. . . . The tea was made and passed round, and no one present ever tasted a better flavoured cup in his life. Mrs. P. had a genius for tea-making; "an excellent thing in woman." She did not give you all the strength of the leaf in the first cup, and the mere washings of the tea-pot in the second. She did not send you a pale yellow infusion with the first, and a black decoction with the second. She avoided both these faults and managed to give just the right and pleasant degree of strength to both, and even if you were unreasonable enough (as all her guests were) to ask for a third or even a fourth supply, you might be quite certain of finding the quality of the beverage unimpaired. Her tea-pot was like a conjuror's bottle, and seemed inexhaustible in its supply of good liquor except that it continued to pour tea only, and not variously coloured water like the bottle in question. "Paul