

there was a question coming forward on which they wished to express an opinion they could easily set things right by coming forward as members.

He then asked Mr. Gepp for how long he wished the consideration of the business postponed to?

Mr. GEPP:—This day fortnight.

The CHAIRMAN announced his intention of putting Mr. Gepp's amendment first if some one would second it.

On a vote being taken the CHAIRMAN announced that Mr. Gepp's amendment had been lost by five votes to four.

Mr. F. F. STREET claimed as one who voted with the minority, that he had two votes—one for his own firm and one for the firm of Bathgate Pim & Co., which he represented.

The CHAIRMAN said that in that case he would give a casting vote against the amendment, which would therefore be lost by six votes to five.

Mr. CAMPBELL said that before they put his motion to the meeting he should like to say that by the rules upcountry men were not prevented from joining the Association, but the Association elected members by ballot and at any time they could exclude any number of members who were brought forward. This was all he had to say; but he would ask the gentlemen present, if they were strong to be merciful.

The CHAIRMAN then put Mr. Campbell's amendment and it was lost by five votes to two—only the mover and seconder (Mr. Haslam) voting for it.

The CHAIRMAN was understood to say that he was sorry to see this, because he moved the motion himself, and he thought it would have been better if the amendment were adopted. He then put the original resolution.

Ten voted for the resolution and three against it, and the CHAIRMAN declared it carried.

The CHAIRMAN:—The affairs of the Trade will now be conducted by the Colombo Tea Traders' Association, and, as I have said, they have adopted all the other rules of the Trade entirely.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chairman, proposed by Mr. LEECHMAN.

THE CULTIVATION OF THE RUBBER VINE.

It seems to me desirable to ask you whether it be not possible to again stimulate the cultivation of the rubber vine in Ceylon. The demand for Indian rubber is becoming almost excessive, and there appears to be no limit to be assigned to it. The causes that have recently tended towards this are mainly two. The chief of these is undoubtedly the large and increasing use of pneumatic tyres for bicycles. If it were not for the almost prohibitory price of these they would be universally used, for they remove the chief sanitary objection to cycling. It has been told me that these pneumatic tyres, composed entirely of india-rubber, cost about £2 each, and then they require very frequent renewal, I suppose, however, that their material can be again and again worked up, but not of course without very serious wastage. Taken in the second place, a very large proportion of our Hansom cabs now are fitted with india-rubber tyres. The comfort of these is so appreciated in London that no one will select a Hansom off the cab-stands without carefully looking for one so fitted. Both these causes must largely increase the demand for the raw material. This is already at a high price, but even the present figure must shortly largely increase. If, therefore, it may be possible to overcome the difficulties in

the cultivation of the vine that appear to be hampering its extension in Ceylon, it is certain that all you could produce is not likely to fail of an appreciative market here as well as on the Continent, where the use of bicycles and tricycles is largely extending.

A great stimulus would further be given to the use of steam vehicles on common roads if india-rubber could be more freely adapted for the tyres. This is not likely while the supply of it is relatively so short. In France this question of steam road vehicles is receiving a large amount of attention, and some fifty such vehicles were recently entered for long-distance competition, several of them achieving a remarkable success. It may be conjectured that should their use become popularized they might prove a great boon to travellers in Ceylon. Sir Frederick Bramwell, the distinguished engineer, lately read a paper showing the large amount of success obtained between the twenties and forties of the present century with these steam carriages, and, singularly enough, the boilers of all of these were of the water tub type that now appears likely to supersede the old arrangements of such steam generators. And much depends, as I have said, as to whether this past success can be revived and surpassed upon the plentiful supply of india-rubber. Cannot your planters make up their minds to once more attempt the large cultivation of the vine? Reasons sufficient have been given above to stimulate them to do this, and they have rarely failed when sufficient inducement has been offered to them to persevere.
—London. Cor.

DR. WATT ON TEA BLIGHTS.

CALCUTTA, Sept. 10.—On the recommendation of Dr. George Watt, Messrs. Barry & Co., tea garden agents, have made a very large number of experiments with an extract of *adhatoda vasica* for exterminating mosquito and red spider from tea bushes. These have been so completely successful that Dr. Watt has been invited by the Tea Association to make a tour through the tea districts. He leaves Simla on the 15th instant to prosecute further enquiries into tea blights.—Madras Mail.

INDIAN TEA DISTRICTS.

The *Gazette of India* notes that for the week ending 21st August the weather has been seasonable in Assam, and that harvesting of summer and transplanting of winter paddy continue. From Cachar tea blight is reported. The condition of cattle is fair and fodder sufficient, except in parts of Sylhet. Water abundant.—*Indian Planters' Gazette*.

PLANTING IN WEST AFRICA.

(From Reports by Mr. W. Crowther.)

The Gold Coast Colony is situated on the Coast of the Gulf of Guinea. It extends from 20° 40' W. to 10° 10' E. a distance of about 390 miles, and runs inland about 50 miles. The total area is about 29,400 square miles. The country consists of extensive open plains and high lands, covered with large timber. Behind Accra, the capital of the Colony, are the Aquapim Hills, which are covered with thick forest and rise to a height of from 1,600 to 2,000 feet. In the Eastern part of the Colony is the River Volta, its largest river, which is navigable for a considerable distance, and is the outlet for much of the produce of this part of the Colony. The Sweet river, near Cape Coast, and the Anobra, in the mining and timber-producing district of Axim, are the only other large rivers of importance though there are numerous smaller ones in different parts of the Colony.