EXPORT DUTY ON COFFEE FROM SELANGOR.

A notice dated 7th May 1894, has been issued to the effect that a duty of 1½ per cent will be levied on the gross value of coffee exported on and after the 1st day of July 1894. This duty will be collected at Kuala Lumpur, Klang Kuala Selangor, Sabak Bernam, Kuala Langat and Sepang, as is now done in the case of other exports; and the usual charge of two cents per pikul will be made for weighing. Until further notice the average value for all coffee will be taken as $40 per pikul, and duty at the rate of 60 cents per pikul will be levied. Each parcel of coffee exported must be accompanied by a certificate giving the name of the producer and the locality where grown; and the amount of the duty collected will in every case be credited to the district in which the coffee was produced. Receipts for the duty and weighing charges will be issued from counterfoil books, to be obtained from the Government Printer, and each receipt will give the name of the district in which the coffee was produced.—*Selangor Government Gazette.*

INDIAN PATENTS.

Calcutta, the 21st June, 1894.

Applications in respect of the undermentioned inventions have been filed during the week ending 16th June 1894:—

Oil and Gas Engines.—No. 170 of 1894.—Hugh Thompson Reid, of 9, Mill Street, Conduit Street, London, England, Mercantile Agent, for improvements in oil and gas engines.

The Keeler Seeder.—No. 174 of 1894.—Elisha S. Keeler, of Topeka, Kansas, Agricultural Implement Manufacturer for a seed drill and planter, to be known as the "Keeler Seeder."

The fees prescribed in Schedule 4 of Act V of 1888 have been paid for the continuance of exclusive privilege in respect of the undermentioned inventions:—

Stoves or Air-heating Apparatus.—No. 69 of 1889.—Samuel Cleland Davidson, of Sirocco Works, Belfast, Ireland, Merchant, for improvements in stoves or air-heating apparatus. (From 25th July 1894 to 24th July 1895).—*Indian Engineer.*

THE GUTTA-PERCHA INDUSTRY.

(From the "*Revue des Eaux et Forets*," extract from "*Le Bois*" of 10th Jan. 1894.)

Gutta-percha is almost exclusively obtained from Malay, it is the sap of the *Isonandra Gutta*, a large tree which is fairly abundant in that region. The tree does not produce gutta-percha until it is full grown, *i.e.*, after about 30 to 35 years. Its height is then as much as 100 feet and diameter about 3 feet on an average.

The mode of extracting the gutta-percha as practised by the natives is very simple. The tree is first felled and allowed to remain for some time, then a trip of bark is cut off longitudinally, and from this cut the gutta-percha slowly flows. Tapping of standing trees has been tried, as is done in the collection of resin, in order to prolong the period of production, but without success, the sap refuses to flow until after the tree is dead.

The material obtained as above is in a more or less pure state, but from the natives it passes into the hands of the Chinese, who mix various other substances with it in order to increase the weight, and it is only available for use after it has further passed through the hands of a series of traders whose business it is to boil it and increase the volume at the expense of the quality. As a result of this, for some years past the quality of the gutta-percha commerce has been steadily deteriorating, and to obtain the same effect a large and larger quantity has to be used.

THE VALUE OF THE COFFEE INDUSTRY IN SOUTHERN INDIA.

From a careful study of the exports from the different ports of shipment we have set down "Plantation" coffee at two-fifths and "Native" at three-fifths. We have with set purpose taken the f.o.b. price of coffee, as this represents the sum of money spent on the production and preparation of the bean in India, plus the gross profit to the planter at the time it leaves these shores.

The following table will show at a glance how our calculations are arrived at:—

Season.	Total Exports in cwt.	F.O.B. per cwt. Plantation.	F.O.B. per cwt. Native.	Total vaue.
1888-89 ...	304,300	R57	R55	R1,69,79,940
1889-90 ...	190,100	R65	R58	R1,15,58,080
1890-91 ...	200,700	R61	R58	R1,18,81,440
1891-92 ...	270,000	R65	R60	R1,67,40,000
1892-93 ...	255,800	R73	R69	R1,80,59,480

Taking now the average value of these five years, we find that it reaches the sum of R1,50,63,788 or to put it in other words that during this quinquennium the average annual value of the Southern India coffee crop when it left the country amounted to one crore and fifty lakhs of rupees. According to these figures the average annual crop amounted to 244,180 cwt. If we set down the average yield per acre at 2 cwt. it would shew that there were say 125,000 acres of coffee in bearing during this quinquennium. But we are of opinion that the acreage in reality is larger than this though not so large as the statistics, issued officially, would make out. The season of 1888-89 was by never the best, the total exports of that year having never been reached during the four succeeding ones though we think it is likely that the shipments last year did not fall far short, if at all, of the 15,000 tons, while in the coming season from all accounts we ought to see this figure past. Taking into consideration our previous statements, we do not consider we shall under-estimate the annual profit that the European coffee-planter takes out of the country if we put it down at £375,000, which means that half-a-million sterling is the money which the coffee industry puts in circulation each year throughout Southern India.—*Madras Mail.*

COTTON GROWING IN MEXICO.

Recent advices to the Bureau of the American Republics show that there are in the entire Republic of Mexico, about 84,000 hectares (2½ acres each); dedicated to cotton growing, producing 30,000,000 kilograms (66,138,000 pounds), in value about $18,000,000. The quantity of cotton raised is far from being sufficient to supply the demands of the country. For this reason there are imported annually from the United States about 4,500,000 kilograms (9,920,700 pounds), worth $3,000,000. The cotton zone of today includes all the Gulf and Pacific States with the exception of Yucatan, but the region best adapted for cotton growing is La Laguna, situated northwest of the State of Durango and southwest of that of Coahuila.—*American paper.*

A NEW COFFEE.

Of substitutes for coffee there is no lack, and they range from roasted acorns and date-seeds to chicory and horsebeans; but a brand new variety of the well-tried old Arabian sort is a novelty worth recording, and such as has not been heard of since the Liberian species was brought to notice twenty years ago. The new coffee, unfortunately, has a very ugly name, but this may be fully compensated for by its superior quality when that part of the question comes to be tested, for at present no actual examination has been made of its properties or aroma when roasted and ground. Our information, so far as it goes, on this wonderful coffee is based on the high authority of the botanical bureau of Kew, and appears in the number of the *Bulletin* of that establishment for May. The plant, under the