

tivator at Borobridge stated that he knew a ginger growing for forty years in the same patch.

Seaford Town is a German colony and one of the original colonists, Somers, an active old man of 86 years of age, has been cultivating ginger and arrowroot there since his youth; he and the other colonists have been in the habit of planting a small patch a year leaving it to ratoon as long as it was profitable then throwing it up or growing other plants until after a term of years they again plant the same patch with ginger. This is an irregular rotation of crops. "Plant ginger" the produce of planting is of better quality than the ratoons, and the ratoons in each succeeding year are inferior. When the ground is too poor to grow "white ginger" then "blue ginger" the inferior variety can be grown.

More depends upon the curing of ginger, considering the crop as a livelihood than soil. At Seaford Town there was a wet season about two years ago, the people could not dry the ginger in the sun it mildewed, there was consequently very little sale, and the cultivators suffered some distress. I believe from what I saw that as a rule careful attention is given to the curing, and that the badly cured ginger brought sometimes to market is due to wet weather rather than to want of care.

It is difficult to make any recommendations on the subject but the following hints may indicate what points are worthy of consideration by the cultivators. The first is the application of manure. There is a prejudice against its use, some maintaining that it breeds worms, and that there also is a difficulty in getting it in any quantity. It is probable that those who have not succeeded with manure, have used it improperly by applying it fresh or not sufficiently mixed with soil. As to obtaining it in quantity, example should be taken from the Chinese labourer who preserves every particle of matter that can in any way be utilised as manure, not only cattle manure, but decaying matter of any kind, night-soil, etc.; even soapy water left after washing is most useful. To imitate the formation of forest soil, a pit might be filled with alternate layers of bush and manure, everything in the nature of manure or decaying matter should be thrown in and a layer of soil directly over the manure would be useful. The pit ought to be lined with clay to prevent the very valuable part of the liquid of the manure from escaping, and a cover of some kind, e.g. a sheet of corrugated iron, should be fixed in some way over the pit to keep out rains. I noticed several head of cattle in the Seaford Town district, and apparently the manure is lost, because the cattle wander about in search of food. Possibly grass or clover might be grown in old ginger grounds, and the cattle tethered so as to confine them in one place and the manure easily collected.

To facilitate curing and even sometimes to save the crop, the chief storekeeper in a district, who buys the ginger might find it advantageous to himself and the people to invest in an American Evaporator and dry the ginger artificially.

Possibly the Government could take steps through the Surveyor-General to prevent the forests from being ruthlessly destroyed.

The export of ginger is on the whole on the increase as seen from the following table, but if this is accompanied by the general destruction of woods and forests it is not a subject for congratulation.

Year.	Cwt.	Value.
1887	9,927	£17,789
1888	10,222	19,463
1889	8,952	18,615
1890 (½ year)	4,948	11,133
1891	19,885	24,493
1892	16,272	40,681
1893	13,632	27,261
1894	14,932	44,796

ECHOES OF SCIENCE.

The essential oils, which were prized by the ancients have been found to kill bacteria by Chamberland Mauder and others. The most active essence; are

those of cinnamon, lavender, marjoram, clove geranium vervain, and tuberosa. The vapours of these essences will, it is said destroy the germs of cholera in an hour.

The camphor tree of China and Japan is a large evergreen not unlike a linden with a white flower and red berry. The gum is taken from chips out of the root or base, which yield 5 per cent. or more of it. The Japanese Government owns large forests of camphor trees, able to keep up the average supply of the gum for 25 years; and young plantations are growing up. These are under the Japanese Forestry Department. Hitherto the gum has only been taken from trees 70 or 80 years old but it is proposed to operate on younger ones in future.—*Globe*.

PLANTING AND PRODUCE.

CHEAP TEA AND THE INDUCEMENTS TO BUY IT.—All kinds of articles as offered by retailers with the tea sold by them, varying from a fryingpan to a suit of boy's clothes. So long as some grocers appeal to the public in this way there will always be a demand for cheap and inferior tea. The buyer of a pound of tea who receives a flatiron or a looking-glass with it cares nothing for the quality of the tea.

NINETY PER CENT OF CHICORY.—A grocer was recently summoned for selling adulterated coffee. The public analyst certified that the sample consisted of 10 per cent. of coffee and 90 per cent. of chicory. Defendant told the Bench that he purchased the mixture wholesale at 10d per lb., and retailed it at 1s. per lb. The idea of calling this coffee at all is preposterous. The vendor should have been charged with selling chicory adulterated with coffee.

A GIGANTIC COFFEE PLANTATION.—At a meeting recently held in Liverpool of a Company interested in coffee planting in Lagos, a report from the plantation was read, showing that 15,061 coffee trees had been planted, as well as 1084 cocoa trees and 1,500 cocoa seedlings. Other reports received showed that satisfactory progress had been made with the work in the plantation, on which it is proposed to establish a regular colony of coffee growers of African nationality.—*H. and C. Mail*, Sept. 28.

VARIOUS PLANTING NOTES.

LIBERIAN COFFEE.—We notice that at the London auctions at the beginning of the month 90 bags of Travancore Liberian Coffee, chiefly bold yellow and brownish, sold at 85s. per cwt., and at the same time fifteen bags of Liberian, fine bold bright yellow, from Freetown on the West Coast of Africa realised 94s 6d.—*M. Mail*.

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT.—Mr. R. Regunatha Rao, the Dewan Peishcar of the Travandrum Division is carrying on agricultural experiments, on a scientific basis, in rice cultivation. We hear that some very promising results have been achieved in the direction of bumper crops. As rice is the staple food of Travancore, and for that matter places outside this State, the publication of Mr. Regunatha Rao's methods in a popular and easily understood form is calculated to do much good.—*Western Star*.

THE MADRAS SEASON REPORTS.—Yesterday the Board of Revenue telegraphed to the Government of India for the week ending the 6th instant as follows:—"Moderate rainfall in the greater portion of the Circars and South Canara; light scattered showers in parts of the Deccan, Southern Districts and Malabar. Agricultural operations are going on. Standing crops are generally fair, but more rain is wanted in the Deccan, Central and Southern districts. Harvests continue with fair outturn. Pasture is generally sufficient; fodder is available. Condition of cattle is generally good. Prices continue falling slightly though still somewhat higher than the average."—*Madras Mail*, Oct. 10.