

at great expense, in obtaining which there was a certain amount of difficulty, the people in some districts destroying the plants on their way down to Hankow. It is not generally considered that the experiment will prove more successful than the former one. I have, however, heard that the plants arrived in Russia in excellent condition.—*Consul Warren of Hankow.*

PLANTING PROGRESS IN NORTH BORNEO.

We are half way through 1894 and can make a fairly correct forecast of the near future. The revenue farms, which were sold for the year, realized a large increase over 1893, a second increase has been realised on a re-auction of these let for 6 months only. The following prices have been realized in Amsterdam for portion of North Borneo 1893 crop:—

	Guilders.
Bandau Marudu Bay 1st parcel	2.75
Ranau do. do.	2.50
Lamag Kinaba'angan { 1st parcel	1.90
{ 2nd parcel	1.85
Batu Puteh do.	1.52

The managers deserve our best thanks for the plucky way they have held on and pulled their companies out of their difficulties. We also congratulate the latter on their profits which we understand will run as high in some instances as 150 per cent. They waited long, but have reaped their reward which is likely to be maintained every year.

Coffee is not old enough to pay a dividend, but the first crop looks very promising. We leave the managers to settle their disputes about who will have the best crop and pay the first dividend.

Manila Hemp only requires cutting and drawing into fibre. As previously reported Mr. Pryer has sent a consignment to Hongkong.

The gambier and pepper gardens at Kabun China are being extended, the Chinese owner being satisfied that he has done well and can do better.

The demand for labour in North Borneo and their determination to go ahead in developing the resources of the country have lead the Court of Directors to appoint a Protector of Chinese. They have secured the services of Dr. Dennys whose long experience in China and the Straits will be utilized in settling the labour question and in promoting immigration. His first step after visiting most of the Estates here was to proceed to Deli and consult with the employers there with a view to common action and co-operation as regards advances to be made for coolies in China. A telegram has been received to say he has been successful in this mission.

The track for the telegraph line across North Borneo is being prospected and surveyed from both ends as fast as circumstances will permit; offers have been already received to plant on the track, and local enquiries are being made for land.

That more tobacco estates will be opened within the present year, especially where the soil and climate have been proved, seem very probable. It is also certain that the Government will find it necessary to increase their staff and forces within the near future as industries develop just as they found it expedient to reduce them during the recent period of depression.

The Gold Fields only wait exploring, and arrangements are being made to have them examined by a thoroughly qualified gold prospector or mineralogist. During the month of June two coffee planters arrived in the country and more are likely to follow. A gentleman writing to the *Ceylon Observer* regrets that he is not twenty years younger, in which case he would plant coffee in North Borneo. To the readers of the *Herald*, especially to those who think of coming to the country and are anxious to know something about it and what they will be taxed, these notes may be useful.—*B. N. Borneo Herald.*

CHEMICAL ANALYSTS.

It is said that the Government of India has under consideration a scheme for the constitution of a separate Chemical Department for the whole of India, for the purpose of training medical officers as chemical analysts.—*Western Star.*

INDIAN PATENTS.

Calcutta, the 9th July 1894.

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:—

Construction of Light Ploughs.—No. 28 of 1888—Ambrose Shore Massey, Engineer and Partner in the Napier Works, Madras, for the construction of light ploughs. (From 18th July 1894 to 17th July 1895).—*Indian Engineer.*

PLANTING AND PRODUCE.

CEYLON TEA IN AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.—In his report upon the trade of Austria-Hungary Consul-General Von Schoeller writes from Vienna: "Some attention was attracted here by the introduction of Ceylon tea for the first time into this country on a mercantile scale, and also by the establishment here of direct Ceylon agencies, an of houses in London possessing establishments in Ceylon. I have since heard that the rapid growth of this tea has, like all over Europe, found a very good footing here; the Ceylon merchants have encouraged this trade through a system of sending on consignments, and have not failed to create great interest in their teas here, if they have not at once quite seized the market. There is no slightest doubt that this class of tea has been received favourably, and that Ceylon will also find here one of her chief outlets and a growing market.

COFFEE IN BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—Coffee prospects are said to be excellent in British Central Africa, which is likely before long to become one of the chief sources whence Europe will draw her coffee supply. It is calculated that some five millions of coffee plants have been set out in the Shiré districts. This fact tends to show that the African Lakes Company, together with some half-dozen other planters have faith in the future of the country. Native labour is cheap, and there is plenty of it, the country itself charmingly picturesque. The dreaded malarial fever, however, very much discounts these advantages.—*H. and C. Mail, July 20.*

SPRING VALLEY COFFEE COMPANY, LIMITED.

CROP:—1892-93.

In last year's Report, Shareholders were informed that the Coffee Crop of the above season was estimated at 1,200 cwt., and it will be seen that the actual weight sold amounted to 1,346 cwt. 2 qrs, 23 lb., exclusive of Clean and Refuse Coffee. This crop realised £6,799 8s 8d, the average selling price in London being 99s, as compared with 102s 7d per cwt. obtained for crop 1891-92.

The yield of Tea from the Company's Estates amounted to 189,300 lb., the estimate in last Report being 193,000 lb., and this together with 33,381 lb., brought from neighbouring estates and manufactured at Spring Valley, sold for £8,747 11s 8d, or an average of 9½d per lb., the average selling price last year being 11d per lb.

Cinchona Bark to the extent of 22,117 lb. was also sold for £128 7s 3d, the average selling price being 1½d per lb.

The total proceeds from the sale of produce amounted to £15,657 7s 7d., and deducting from this the total expenditure in Ceylon and London, there remains a profit of £3,190. 11s. 2d. on the year's working.