PLANTING IN SELANGOR, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

LIBERIAN COFFEE—PEPPER—COCONUTS AND COPRA.

(From Mr. Treacher's Administration Report for 1893.)

Coffee.—The feature of the year in agriculture has been the spread amongst the Malays throughout the State—chiefly foreigners, Javanese and natives of Sumatra—of the cultivation of Liberian coffee, which may be ascribed to the high prices of late ruling for this product and to the ease with which this profitable culture can be carried on as compared with the laborious operations, followed by smaller profits, involved in the cultivation of rice.

In the Klang District the native coffee has attracted the special attention of European planters and has settled in the affirmative the question of the suitability and even the superiority of low, rather swampy land for the Liberian variety. In this district, in several instances, natives have cut down their areca-nut trees with the object of planting up with coffee. Europeans are now making arrangements to buy up native coffee and cure it locally for the market, and this will have the effect of giving an additional stimulus to this branch of agriculture in the State. There have been several applications by European planters for land at Klang, but until the Government decides on a general scheme of drainage, the cost of which would fall directly or indirectly on the estate owners, the opening up of the District by Europeans will continue, as it now is, to be retarded. Few, I think, will dispute the desirability, in a country the prosperity of which is at present almost entirely due to the working of alluvial tin deposits, of giving every possible encouragement to agriculture, the soundest basis of permanent prosperity and of a contented population in all countries, both among the native and foreign sections of the community. "That all our eggs should not be put in one basket, and that one should possess two strings to one's bow" are accepted dicta. With simple rules, fair terms and prompt dealings, with applications, coupled with a climate especially favourable to the tropical planter, there is no reason why Selangor should not, on a smaller scale, emulate the agricultural success of Ceylon. Prompt dealing, in a wisely liberal spirit, with applications for land is an essential condition. There is only one planting season, this may be lost while an application is "under consideration," and with the season may be lost to the State a good planter and permanent settler.

By the end of the year there were 19 estates, confined to the Districts of Kuala Lumpur and Klang, owned by Europeans and devoted wholly or partly to coffee, aggregating 12,296 acres, of which 2,153 acres were planted or being planted with Liberian coffee.

A "Selangor Planters' Association" has, I am glad to say, been established, and is the first association of the kind in the Native States; it numbers some sixteen members, Europeans. I have no doubt that the association will prove of use and benefit to Government and planters alike.

In the Kuala Selangor District one Chinaman is opening 100 acres and another 30 acres, with Liberian coffee. In Ulu Selangor and Ulu Langat foreign Malays are interesting themselves in this cultivation to a considerable extent. In the Kuala Lumpur District over 500 acres of land held under customary tenure by Malays are planted or being planted with this product. Coffee was exported from the State to the extent of 1,908 pikuls, valued at $61,302, as compared with 1,125 pikuls or $25,572 in the previous year.

Pepper.—At the time when the price of pepper, owing to the troubles in Achin, advanced to high rates, some Europeans engaged in the cultivation of this vine. Prices have of late been very low; there may be better prospects in view, but it is perhaps doubtful whether this cultivation is not better left to the Chinese and natives. There is a large pepper and gambier plantation owned by a Chinese Towkay at Sepang. The export of pepper in 1893 is returned at 8,158 pikuls, valued at $74,971, as compared with 5,746 pikuls valued at $57,134 in 1892.

Copra.—Good prices have stimulated the business in this product; but I do not notice any large extension of coconut planting, coffee now engaging the native mind. There are no plantations in the hands of Europeans, but I consider that it would repay them to turn attention to this cultivation. The plantations are mainly the property of Malays, the manufacture of and the export trade in copra are given up to the more industrious Chinaman. The value of copra exported during the year was $20,986, as compared with $9,578.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.

MR. H. H. JOHNSTON, IN THE "NEW REVIEW."

Quite 75 per cent of the natives of the eastern half of British Central Africa are the friends and supporters of the British administration. Were it not so we should not be there. But it is useless to disguise the fact that our presence in the country is eminently distasteful to the Arabs and to certain slave raiding and trading tribes, like the Yaos of South-Eastern Nyasaland and the Awemba of the Nyasa-Tanganyika Plateau. The back of the Yaos resistance has been broken by the final defeat of Makanjira, but there are still a few recalcitrant smaller chieftains on our eastern border who may seek to renew their raids on our territory, who may therefore force us to fight out the struggle to the bitter end. The Awemba will settle into friendliness when the Arabs are gone. As regards the Arabs, they must all go—every one—and never be readmitted. Some we may bribe to go, others we may have to expel by force; but as long as there is one Arab left in South Central Africa, so long will there be a centre of the slave trade and a source of endless intrigue and stealthy opposition to the white man's civilisation. That happy result will, however, be accomplished before many years are over; but even then we cannot look to the white man and the black man only to accomplish the regeneration of Central Africa; we want the yellow man some shape or form to fill an intermediate function between these two extremes.

In Tropical Africa, the white man cannot hope, except in a few isolated mountain districts, to permanently colonise and create for himself a new home; his *rôle* there, as in Tropical Asia, is simply to direct, govern, and instruct; to take the lead in the organisation of commerce, and the utilisation of the raw materials of a neglected continent. The function of the black man is to serve, for many generations yet, as the *main d'œuvre*—the brute force (so to speak)—which is the necessary complement of the directing will. The European cannot undertake outdoor physical labour in the unhealthy climate of Central Africa; if he attempts to dig, plough, hew, or quarry, as his regular avocation, he succumbs to the sun heat or to the strain on his physical powers. The negro can do all these things without harm to himself, but, on the contrary, to his own profit, and with distinct gain to his status as a man; only, left to himself, he would do little or nothing. He requires the stimulus of contact with a superior race, and, above all, he needs teaching, for his own arts and industries are elementary and unprogressive. In fact, the surface of the greater part of Central Africa has been, through untold ages, scarcely more affected by the presence of the negro variety of man, than by the baboons and the anthropoid apes.

Yet it is found that (especially in unhealthy districts) there is much intelligent work to be done which cannot be entrusted to the average negro who would be too careless, stupid, ignorant, or clumsy) and yet where the employment of the white man is too costly, both in risk to health and life, and in expenditure of money. Consequently

one seeks the solution in the introduction of a yellow race, able to stand a tropical climate and intelligent enough to undertake those special avocations which in temperate climates would be filled by Europeans.

There can be little question as to the yellow race which is called upon to take a share in the *Tridominium* of the eastern half of Africa: it is the Indian—the Sikh, the Parsi, the Hindu, the Hindi, the Khoja, the Memnon, the Kattshi (Cutchee), the Goanese and the Tamul. The Arab is condemned as hopelessly lazy, arrogant, ignorant, vicious and unskilled. The Chinese is an undesirable immigrant for many reasons, which it is not necessary to specify, and besides does not appear to be well suited to the African climate. The yellow race most successful hitherto in Eastern Africa is the native of Hindustan—that race in divers types and of diverse religions which, under British or Portuguese ægis, has created and developed the commerce of the East African littoral.

The immigration of the docile, kindly, thrifty, industrious, clever-fingered, sharp-witted Indian into Central Africa will furnish us with the solid core of our armed forces in that continent, and will supply us with telegraph clerks, the petty shopkeepers, the skilled artisans, the cooks, the minor *employés*, the clerks, and the railway officials needed in the civilised administration of Tropical Africa. The Indian, liked by both Black and White, will serve as a link between these two divergent races. Moreover, Africa, opening this vast field to the enterprise and overflow of the yellow races of the Indian Empire, will direct a large current of wealth to the impoverished peninsula, and afford space for the reception, in not far distant homes, of the surplus population of Southern Asia.—*Public Opinion.*

LEAVES OF TREES AS FODDER.

The United States Consul at Chemnitz, in a recent report, describes the experiments made by farmers on the Continent last year to feed their cattle on the leaves of trees. The French, he says, have taken the lead in the moment. They recommend exclusively the leaves of the hazel, aspen, ash, elm, and willow. The leaves, after being gathered, are spread on the barn floor to the depth of three to four inches, and are turned once a day. They dry in from three to five days, according to the weather, when dry they are piled up ready for use. It is profitable to prepare each day's supply 24 hours beforehand. There is mixed with the leaves to be served each day a small amount of chopped-up turnips, leaving the whole to ferment. Just before feeding, clover, hay, or lucerne is sometimes added. This food has been found especially good for milch cows. Young shoots and branches of trees, with their new leaves, are picked off every five years and fed to sheep. These animals are very fond of the aspen, because of its resinous and sweet buds. Willow leaves and bark mixed with oats are regarded as a very pleasant, nutritious, and strengthening food for horses. It is not good to feed the leaves green; in fact, the cattle prefer them dried. Again, they should be served only with other fodder. When the leaves are young they contain a large quantity of nitrogen. As the season advances this grows less, as do also their nourishing properties. It is said that July and August, when the leaves are full grown, is the best time for harvesting them. Experiments were made with potato leaves, but the results were unsatisfactory. They should be used only in times of greatest scarcity, and only then to save the live stock. The potatoes deprived of their leaves suffer much more than is made up by their leaf value for fodder. The Consul concludes:—"All this trouble in Europe is taken to find substitutes and to save cattle, and yet 2,000,000,000 bushels of the best food for man and beast burden the granaries and barns of the United States. Why do not the European farmers take our maize? It is infinitely better than their best substitute, is one-third as dear as rye or wheat, and, in the testimony of their own chemists almost as nutritious; though twice as dear as potatoes it is more than four times as nutritious."—*The Times.*

THE RELATIVE HEALTHINESS OF TEA AND COFFEE PLANTING.

This subject has recently engaged a good deal of attention. Probably notice was first attracted to it by the statement made to our London Correspondent by the Secretary of the Standard Life Assurance Society, that it materially affected the question of reduction in the rate for Life Assurance in Ceylon. Subsequently we have seen the same cause assigned in our Correspondence columns as affording some excuse—or rather reason—for the alleged increase of a disposition among our planters to take more frequent holidays and relaxation than used to be the custom with those engaged in coffee planting. Now if there can be any good foundation for this contention we should be the last to dispute its wisdom. "All work and no play," we know results in "making Jack a dull boy." It cannot be for the welfare to any country that its industries should be open o such an indictment. It is, however, questionable, we think, if this can altogether be sustained against tea. We are quite prepared to admit the *prima facie* fact that the preparation—as apart from the cultivation—of tea, imposes a duty upon our planters to which they were not in former days subjected. When coffee was king all, or nearly all, the course of preparation was a distinct pursuit. The planter had little or nothing to do with this, and the word "factory" was unknown in estate procedure. But after all a planter can, and does, only work for so many hours daily. The coffee planter passed most of these among his coolies, exposed to the burning rays of the sun. Some of the time so passed is occupied by the tea planter in the factory, and he naturally selects that part of the day during which his predecessor probably suffered most from the heat of out-door supervision. Which of the two conditions would be more likely to injuriously affect health? If the tea planter is incautious enough to expose himself to external chilling by a sudden change from the air of the factory to that outside, of course it can be realized he incurs serious danger. But on comparatively few occasions need this risk be encountered. If disregard be shown to commonsense precautions we can hardly be expected to sympathize much; and if it be observed, it is open to considerable doubt, we believe, if the tea planter has not the better of the coffee planter in the situations compared. Nor should one additional circumstance be altogether overlooked. It was well-known that when the coffee trees were in full blossom and the air was charged by and with a heavy perfume, fever often became prevalent on estates. So well-known a danger was this, that European ladies often endeavoured to reside away from coffee plantations at the blossoming season. We have never heard that the wives of our tea planters are driven by any cause arising from tea cultivation to such an exodus. Of course the husbands or fathers whose duties compelled their remaining upon the coffee estates at the particular season mentioned must have suffered in some degree, and we doubt if, as a whole, fever is now so common on estates either among superintendents or coolies, as it was in the days of coffee planting. We by no means desire to curtail legitimate amusement among our younger generation of planters; but we doubt if the