

capable of making the finest tea, "T," speaking of new markets, says, that this fact is disputed and has still to be determined. Mr. Seton says that thousands of chests of finest tea are sold in Mincing Lane, but strange to say this finds its best market in the North of Ireland. So you see that the test for superiority is determined by the taste of the North of Ireland. (You may remember the "Lunacy" controversy). We make tea on the model of the North of Ireland and expect it to capture the world.

In the endeavour to gain strength we spoil the flavour of our leaf. The flavour is wanted in America, but the strength is objected to; still we hope to force our tea by advertising.

I would ask your planters whether they think that by making up their leaf as Oolong tea the necessary manipulation would spoil the quality of the tea.

They have bad Oolong in America, but you could give them good Oolong at the same price. They have bad, adulterated Congous in America, and you could give them good, clean Congous. If you do so you will find that the grocers will taste your teas and pass them off in quantities calculated by their good quality as compared with what they get from China. "1874."

TEA AND ITS ENEMIES.

Central Province, Sept. 28.

SIR,—I send by parcel post a small box containing some caterpillars which is doing a great deal of damage to a patch of tea on this estate, and some of the damaged leaves and, if something cannot be done to stop them, will, I think, do very serious damage. I shall feel obliged if you will inform me and the readers of your paper if these caterpillars have been seen before and what you think is the best to be done to get rid of them.—
Yours faithfully,
E. E. M.

[Mr. Green of Pundaluoya, to whom we referred the above, is good enough to write us the following interesting and instructive letter:—

Pundaluoya, Oct. 3.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of 29th ult. and enclosure duly to hand. On opening the box I found a number of damaged tea leaves, but not a vestige of any caterpillar or insect of any sort. As the cover of the parcel was open at the ends, and there were numerous breathing holes made in the box, I fear the insects must have made their escape and wandered off amongst the other postal matter. It would be as well to inform your correspondents that it is quite unnecessary to leave air holes in sending insects by post. They will travel much fresher and in better condition if packed in a close fitting box. Nothing is better for the purpose than the ordinary tea sample box in which an ordinary caterpillar would live for a week without any air holes.

In the present instance, from the nature of the injury, I can make a pretty fair guess at the perpetrator. It is in all probability the caterpillar of the very pretty moth *Elerusia Cingala*, an insect peculiar to Ceylon. The moth and caterpillar are figured in Moore's Lepidoptera of Ceylon, (Plate 96-figures 1, 1a.)

I have lately seen a similar attack in this district. In this case the caterpillar devoured all the lower leaves of the bushes over a considerable acreage; but left the tops of the trees uninjured. They were afterwards almost exterminated by their natural enemies—the ichneumon flies. If I am correct in my surmise—the moth is a moderate-sized insect, black and yellowish white with brilliant metallic blue reflections—especially on the hinder wings. These details of colour would of course be only noticeable upon close inspection. On the wing, the insect would look merely black and white. The moths fly in the mornings and evenings and were rather abundant here about two months ago. The caterpillar is lozenge-shaped, reddish-brown with small spiny tubercles on its back upon which little viscid globules may often be noticed.

If it should be found necessary to fight the pest, hand picking—where practicable—would be most effective. If the area affected should be too large for this treatment, the lower parts of the bushes might be sprayed with some insecticide. For which purpose I could recommend the handy "strawsonizers" in knapsack form for which the Eastern Produce and Estates Co. are agents. They also supply a very effective antipest mixture. But kerosine emulsion, if properly compounded, is as good an insecticide as could be desired.—Yours faithfully,

E. ERNEST GREEN.

THE TRADE OF FIJI.

The imports, exports, and total trade of the colony during the past five years have been as follows:—

Year.	Imports.		Exports.		Total Trade.	
	£		£		£	
1889	...	189,393	364,281	553,674		
1890	...	206,757	364,532	571,290		
1891	...	253,019	474,334	727,353		
1892	...	253,586	434,791	688,377		
1893	...	276,898	355,631	632,529		

The imports show a steady advance during each of the five years. The imports of 1893 show an increase of 46 per cent on those of 1889.

The exports of the year 1893 on the other hand are lower than in any of the five years.

The total trade, however, is the third highest during the period.

The quantity and value of the three staple products of the colony—sugar, green fruit and copra—exported during the five years in question are given in the following table:—

Year	Sugar		Green Fruit	Copra	
	Quantity	Value	Value	Quantity	Value
	Tons	£	£	Tons	£
1889	...13,178	263,533	42,525	5,567	33,179
1890	...15,291	244,655	57,525	3,446	31,013
1891	...20,471	327,526	61,501	5,019	46,431
1892	...18,883	302,133	62,442	5,901	49,422
1893	...15,389	246,231	36,597	4,970	42,235

These figures represent exports the produce of these colony only.

The total falling off in exports during the year 1893 as compared with the previous year amounts to £79,160. The falling off on the three principal items of export amounts to—

Sugar	...	£55,902
Green Fruit	...	25,845
Copra	...	7,187
Total	...	£88,934

The decrease in the export of sugar and copra may be regarded as due principally to floods and inclement weather.

The falling off in the export of green fruit is due mainly to the temporary lack of a profitable market in the Australian Colonies through the competition of Queensland in the fruit trade.—*Fiji Times*.

THE EXPORT OF VEGETABLE TALLOW FROM CHINA.—The introduction of vegetable tallow from *Excoecaria sebifera* into Marseilles from China for candle-making has already been noticed. We now learn that this export from Hankow is a revival after a lapse of twenty years. During the last quarter of 1893 there seems to have been a very strong demand at Hankow both from natives and from foreign exporters, so that a considerable advance was expected during the early part of the present year. The quantity of vegetable tallow that could be produced, if there were a demand for it, is stated to be practically unlimited.—*Gardener's Chronicle*.