

order to ascertain the resisting power of certain caterpillars in the presence of poisonous matters. A single drop was placed upon the head of the insect in each case. A solution of alum produced no effect whatever; sulphide of calcium produced no effect; a solution of lime was not fatal in every case; nicotine failed to destroy the insect, while benzine and petroleum were not always effective. Other substances were tried, such as phenic acid, turpentine, and sulphate of copper, all of which produced negative results. M. Huet's experiments have been conducted with caterpillars of several kinds, but particularly with those which live upon cabbage leaves, and the results were almost always the same. The writer says that a universal insecticide does not in reality exist, for if petroleum, for example, kills a caterpillar of one variety it is found, on the contrary, to be without effect upon those of another variety. Caterpillars of the *Lepidoptera*, the natural order which includes the butterflies and the moths, have a greater power of resistance than the larvæ of the *Coleoptera*, the natural order to which the beetle belongs. These facts are all of supreme interest, and they will suggest to the cultivator, whether farmer or gardener, the importance of recognising that reliance cannot be placed upon any specific destroyer of dangerous insects, and more especially that prevention is better than cure.—*Chemical Trade Journal*.

THE COFFEE CROP IN COORG.

The following returns have been received from the Madras Local Administration:—

FORECAST OF THE COFFEE CROP FOR 1894-95.

	Tons.
Forecast of yield obtained from planters' returns... Europeans...	1,907
Forecast estimated for area for which no returns have been furnished... do ...	949
	Natives ... 2,498
Total forecast for 1894-95...	5,354

Estimated average yield per acre of ordinarily well cultivated coffee in full bearing for 1894-95 ...	Cwt. 4½*
Return of export of coffee from Coorg last year 1893-94 taken from Toll gate returns...	Tons 3,873†
Return of export of coffee for 10 previous years... ..	86,802 or 3,680 tons, annual av.

TIMBERS OF WEST AFRICA.

Mr. W. Crowther, Curator of the Aburi Gardens, Gold Coast, writes:—

I have received the following interesting communication from a gentleman named Mr. R. B. W. Walker of Axim, regarding Camwood and Barwood. As there is still a doubt respecting the origin of these woods, it is very interesting. "As one who has purchased and shipped thousands of tons of Barwood and hundreds of tons of Camwood, I am able to answer your enquiry respecting these woods." "Barwood (commonly called Redwood)."—Governor Moloney is wrong in thinking Redwood to be different from Barwood) is found chiefly in Gaboon and places in the immediate vicinity and as far south as Mayemba, —also in the Oil Rivers, where, and at Batanga, &c. it is used for making canoes. Its correct botanical name, is, I think *Pterocarpus Angolinis*. It is totally distinct from Camwood which is a *Baphia*, but whether *B. nitida* or *B. laurifolia*, I am not quite certain, but

* The figure for 1893-94 was 4½ cwt. The quantity forecasted for 1894-95, viz., 5,354 tons being nearly equal to that of last year viz., 5,248 tons, the same figure has been retained.

† These figures are not accurate. The number of carts only are given in the accounts and it is roughly calculated that each cart takes half a ton of coffee, but as a matter of fact most carts carry more than this.

on May or June 1876, I read a paper before the Society of Arts on "The Commerce of the Gaboon" in which after considerable enquiry and research, I gave the correct botanical names of both woods. Camwood is found from Sierra Leone, downward as far as the Gold Coast, but I do not think it exists East of this colony certainly not in Gaboon. No one who has seen Barwood and Camwood could for a moment confound one with the other. "Having been forty-two years on the West Coast of Africa and knowing it from Goree to the Congo, you may be quite certain that I am correct in stating that Barwood and Camwood are different woods entirely."

"P.S.—I shall be happy to give you further information as to Barwood and Camwood if required. Barwood is practically inexhaustible, but Camwood has all been cut near the Coast. Sir A. Moloney displays ignorance in his remarks on the subject (see p. 139.) It is because it is so much more valuable than Barwood that it has nearly all been cut. The natives are quite wide awake, but the two woods do not grow in the same localities."

THE INDIAN TEA TRADE.

The following letters referring to the Indian tea trade appear in the *Times* of the 18th ultimo:—

Aug. 11th.

Sir,—Referring to a letter which we see published in your issue of the 10th inst. on Indian tea, we think that your correspondent "T" might have made his letter still stronger had he given a few figures to demonstrate the necessity of producers introducing Indian tea into the markets of the world, even at the expense of a considerable amount of money.

During the last three years the imports of Indian tea into this country have been 333,000,000lb., and the consumption 330,000,000lb. Had an extra demand for only a few million pounds per annum been introduced into the market, this almost even balance of supply and demand would have been destroyed, and instead of a fall in price of about 1d. per pound, which has occurred during that period, we should doubtless have had an advance.

As was pointed out in the able article on the subject in your issue of the 6th inst., America consumes some 90,000,000lb. of China and Japan tea per annum. Surely it is worth while for Indian producers to expend money freely to secure even a fractional part of such a vast trade, when it is remembered that at the present annual rate of production every 1d. per pound rise or fall in the price of the Indian crop represents a sum of some £600,000.

Producers must remember that America is a country where, owing to vast distances and scattered population, an article, however good in itself, can only become known to the multitude by advertisement of some kind on a large scale; and we doubt whether much good can be done to the Indian tea industry, in which millions of money have been invested, with the insignificant sum mentioned in "T's" letter, a sum that a private firm of moderate size would think nothing of expending.—Yours faithfully,

INDIAN TEA BROKERS.

Sir,—I entirely agree with what has fallen from your correspondent "T," that the sum of £3,000 is quite inadequate for introducing the merits of Indian tea to America, but "T" seems not to be fully informed as to what is really intended. The Indian Tea Association, both at home and in Calcutta, are fully alive to the necessity of liberal expenditure so as to push the tea in foreign markets. There is no thought on their part of stinting their outlay for this purpose, but before spending freely the money of the producers they would like to feel their way a little. They have now a special commissioner in the States, whose business is not only to advertise the tea as shows and in large grocery establishments by means of his staff of Indian servants, but also to inquire and ascertain as to every possible way in which the tea can best be brought before the American public.