

7,500,000 bags but as the feeling and the interests of the coffee people there are now on the side of higher prices it is by no means impossible that their estimates are now too low, as they were three years ago too high.

Consuming countries last season managed very well with only 4,300,000 bags from Rio and Santos, thanks to the liberal supplies from other countries, and whether the present Rio and Santos crops yield 6,500,000 or 7,500,000 bags the quantity is certain to be far in excess of actual requirements of consumption when we look at the provable large quantity to be derived from Victoria and Bahia and the other coffee producing countries of the world.

It is very certain also, that the surplus supplies over and above the wants of consumers will not be eagerly sought after by speculators, unless it should be that price run extremely low. On the other hand capital and speculation prefer to seek investment in many other lines of produce which now are running lower in value than ever known.

It is not difficult to reach the conclusion that, as the crops progress, a lower range of values must be reached from month to month as supplies increase, and in the second half of the Brazil crop, when competition develops in the large quantities of Central American and West Indian coffees, a basis of values is likely to be established much below what anyone would care to express in figures today; lower, in fact, than the actual situation would warrant, as extremes in coffee have been the rule for years back.—*American Grocer.*

THE CEYLON TEA FUND.

MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

Minutes of proceedings of a meeting of the Standing Committee of the "Ceylon Tea Fund" held at Kandy on Friday, the 14th day of Sept. 1894. at 8.45 a.m.

Present:—Messrs. A. Melville White, (Chairman, Planters' Association of Ceylon); A. Philip, (Secretary to the Planters' Association of Ceylon); Hon. Giles F. Walker, M.L.C., (Kandy); Messrs. W. D. Gibbon, (Kandy); F. G. A. Lane, (Kandy); J. G. Crow, (Chairman, Pussellawa Planters' Association); Hugh Blacklaw, (Ambagamuwa); D. Kerr, (Chairman, Ambagamuwa Association); R. S. Duff Tytler, (Honorary Secretary, Pussellawa Association); A. L. Cross, (Nuwara Eliya and Kandy); A. C. Kingsford (Chairman, Kelani Valley Association).

The notice calling the meeting was read.

The minutes of proceedings of a meeting of the Committee held at Kandy on Friday, the 10th August 1894 were submitted for confirmation. Resolved:—"That they be and they hereby are confirmed."

Read letter from the Chairman, Ambagamuwa Association.

Read letter from Messrs. Chas. Strathan & Co.

Read letter from the Honorary Secretary, Dolosbage and Yackdessa Planters' Association.

CEYLON TEA IN SAN FRANCISCO.

Read letter from Mr. Harry Whitham.

Read letters from the Ceylon Tea Company, Limited.

ADVERTISING CEYLON TEA.

Read letter from the Manager, Ceylon Tea Kiosk.

Read letter from Mr. J. H. Renton.

Read letter from Mr. A. Thomson.

Read letters from Messrs. Walker, Sons & Co., Ltd. Resolved:—"That the sum of R500 be granted towards the proposed illumination on the Ceylon Tea Kiosk for the purpose of advertising pure Ceylon tea."

CEYLON TEA IN THE TRANSVAAL.

Read letter from Mr. Alex. F. Souter, making an application for a grant of Ceylon tea for free distribution in the South African Republic. Resolved:—"That consideration of the question be referred to the 'Thirty Committee.'"

CEYLON TEA IN RUSSIA.

Read letter from Mr. M. Rogivue.

Read letters from Messrs. Whittall & Co.

CEYLON TEA IN QUEENSLAND.

Read letter from Mr. M. B. Smead.

WINDING UP OF THE CEYLON TEA FUND.

Resolved:—(I) "That whereas a joint Committee of the Planters' Association of Ceylon and Ceylon Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of pushing the sale of Ceylon Tea in America and elsewhere, hereafter to be known as the "Thirty Committee," has been recently appointed, and an export duty for that purpose has been imposed on tea by the Government, this Committee deems it unnecessary to continue as heretofore the pushing of Ceylon Tea by means of voluntary contributions. (II) That at the next meeting of this Committee the questions of (1) the disposal of the balance of its funds, (2) the future supervision of the Tea Kiosk, (3) the dissolution of the Committee or its continuance for purposes other than those for which the "Thirty Committee" has been appointed, be finally considered. (III) That the Standing Committee of the Tea Fund therefore preparatory to resigning, appoints Mr. John H. Starey, and the Chairman and Secretary of the Planters' Association of Ceylon, a Sub-Committee to draw up a report to be presented to next General Meeting of the Planters' Association. (IV) That subscriptions on leaf gathered up to June 30th 1894 are however due to this Committee authorises the Honorary Treasurer to collect these as speedily as possible."

The Standing Committee of the Ceylon Tea Fund then adjourned.

A. PHILIP,

Secretary to the Planters' Association of Ceylon.

HAPUTALE REVISITED.

AN OLD COFFEE PLANTERS' IMPRESSIONS.

Matale, N.E., Sept. 20th.

I had the best intentions, on starting from this on the 3rd on a trip to Haputale, but those intentions so far, as writing to the papers, were knocked out of me, I saw so much and had so little spare time for writing you or any one else. How the leading V.A.'s can manage to cover so much ground, go into all sorts of calculations as to cost of work, plan it, write long able reports on what has been done, what should be done, or left to another time, all seems very surprising to one unaccustomed to travel far from his own estate. Yet I suppose they get used to it, and enjoy it, and much prefer it to the Colombo office life—or even to that of days gone by when they used to look forward to the visit of their V.A.

I am not going to write about V.A.'s, or their work but of my trip to the good old coffee district of Haputale—a combination of business and pleasure—required that I should leave Matale by the 9-20 on the 3rd, having come over 14 miles that morning, to reach Haputale Pass the same night. The journey was from the land of cocoa and sunshine, through the finest tea in the world, on through the cold bleak and barren moors near Ambawella and Patapolla, through the dense and dripping forests of the Ohiya Valley, but the grandeur of the mountain scenery affords better material for the rapturous song of the poet, than prosy emanations from the pen of an old planter. My first real acquaintance with the Ohiya Valley was in 1872 when at my P.D.'s request I sent an application to the then Mr. J. J. G., who was the Government Surveyor in Badulla to send surveyors to the Valley to cut out a block of about 300 acres and another of about 80 which I wished put up for sale. Messrs. Coulter and Halliley were sent up and I accompanied them. We rigged up a hut for the night, but a more miserably cold night I never experienced in Ceylon. At that time about 3,000 acres were surveyed in blocks of about 250 to 300 acres each, but Government refused to put them up for sale although they would have probably fetched very good prices. The reasons given for not selling, were that the then Government Agent objected to the streams being polluted by the coffee pulp, and it was possible