NEW LONDON BORNEO TOBACCO CO.

The Report for year ended Dec. 31, 1893, states:—

The profit and loss account for the year 1893, shows a credit balance of £8,324 12s. 1d., out of which an interim dividend of 6¼ per cent., or 1s. per share has been paid, and the directors now recommend a further dividend of 1s. per share, less income tax, making a total distribution in respect of 1893 of 12½ per cent. The balance of £324 12s. 1d. will be carried to reserve, in accordance with the Articles of Association.

The crop of 1892 proved to be 3,589 bales, as compared with 2,174 bales in 1891. The average price obtained was about 1s. 9d. per lb. The crop of 1893 is estimated to produce about 3,330 bales, of which 1,385 bales have arrived, and the remainder is expected to reach Amsterdam before the end of July. At the sales held in Amsterdam on June 14, 612 bales of the Company's tobacco were sold at rates equivalent to about 4s. per lb. From the report received on the type samples of the tobacco as yet unsold, the Directors feel justified in anticipating satisfactory results from the crop of 1893. The latest advices from Borneo state that the preparations for a total planting of 800 fields during 1894 were fairly advanced.

Count de Geloes d'Elsloo, who had been Managing Director in Borneo since 1888, returned to Europe in September last, and the Directors have appointed Mr. A. Kamerman to be acting head manager in Borneo. —*L. and C. Express*, June 29.

A TEA PATENT EXHIBITION AT HOWRAH.

An interesting exhibition of the "Patent Acme Tea Sorting Machine," invented by Mr. G. M. Collom was given at Howrah recently at the works of Messrs. John King and Co. A close examination of the machine disclosed that it consisted of two angular steel frames measuring 8 feet long at the top, and 9½ feet at the base standing 2½ feet high, placed opposite each other, and stayed together two feet apart. Between these work (with a reciprocating motion) two long light steel frames, measuring 9 feet long and 2 feet wide, which are the sifters, placed one above the other. These work on four oscillating levers, securely fastened to the angle steel frame inside at four points, by strong case-hardened pins, upon which they work from the centre. The upper sifter is firmly secured by trunnion brackets on the side, to the levers at the top, and the lower one in the same way underneath. The latter better being direct to the crank or eccentric with a 3-inch pitch, receives a reciprocating motion, the same being transmitted to the one above it. Both sifters have an independent action, and work in *opposite* directions at a 100 to 140 revolutions per minute. These sifters can be placed at any incline from 1 to 10 inches at the user's option, so that the tea can be quickly discharged or delayed as the case may be. The upper sifter inclines *towards* the crank, and the lower one *from* the crank; these are fitted with four meshes of sizes (two in each), the trays being *interchangeable sliding* trays, and underneath, running the whole length, is an *enamelled* steel "shute" with four divisions (two in each, corresponding with the mesh above them: for instance, each sifter has two sizes in wire mesh, namely, the top Nos. 40 and 12, the lowers No. 10 and 8, and so are the divisions in the "shute" below, at the end of each division being a small discharge "shute" for the different classes of tea sorted. The bulk tea to be sorted is thrown in at the top back end of the upper sifter on Nos. 40 mesh which sift the *dust*, the residue passing to No. 12 mesh, which separates the *broken pekoe*. The tea is next deposited on the sifter of No. 10 mesh, which removes the *pekoe*. The remainder passes to No. 8 mesh, where the *pekoe souchong* the rest being coarse tea, is discharged at the back end of the machine as *souchong* or *congou* which completes the operation. By this ingenious contrivance, five classes of tea can be sorted by the machine and automatically delivered without any handling, it being thrown in at the *top back* end travelling down and out at the *bottom back* end.—*Indian Daily News*.

INDIAN PATENTS.

CALCUTTA, 5TH JULY 1894.

Specifications of the undermentioned inventions have been filed under the provisions of Act V. of 1888:—

TEA ROLLING MACHINE.—No. 310 of 1893.—John Brown, of London, England, Engineer, for improvements in tea rolling machines. (Specification filed 12th June 1894.)—*Indian Engineer*.

"SPIDER ON TEA" AND A SULPHUR DISTRIBUTOR.

Mr. Drieberg, Principal of the School of Agriculture, writes:—

"I send you a 'soufflet' or bellows (for distributing sulphur and other insecticides and insectifuges) for inspection. You referred to the apparatus in an editorial note in your daily issue of the 18th, and it struck me, as you were interested in the description of it by a Cachar correspondent, that you may like to see it. We procured two soufflets together with an 'Eclair' knapsack spraying machine, for liquids, about two years ago, for our use at the school."

We are much obliged to Mr. Drieberg: the "soufflet" can be seen at our office for a week or so. It is very simple in construction and working and would undoubtedly be of service on tea plantations in fighting and preventing "spider" attacks after the fashion successfully adopted in Cachar.

PLANTING IN KEGALLA DISTRICT, CEYLON.

(*From Mr. Davidson's Administration Report* for 1893.)

Tea.—The area under cultivation has increased to about 24,392 acres, yielding about eleven million pounds of tea. This includes most of the Kelani Valley and a considerable part of Dolosbage and Yakdessa. Over 2,000 acres were opened in 1893. The prospects of this enterprise in this district appear as prosperous as in 1892. Total value of crop R4,400,000.

Coconuts.—The area under cultivation is slowly increasing. It now stands approximately at 20,800 acres. The yield is not to be compared with that in more suitable localities, but the permanent nature of the product and the little trouble it gives make it still the most attractive product to those whose lives are bound up with the soil. Total value of crop about R1,200,000.

Arecanuts.—Both the yield and price of this product have been disappointing: the short crop in this, the native staple of the district, has lessened the purchasing power of the Sinhalese population. Areacanut groves cover about 20,000 acres. Total value of crop about R1,500,000.

Cacao.—This product covers about 1,200 acres. In Four Korales—especially in Galboda and Paranakuru korales—it is freely grown in native gardens. Many hundred pods were distributed gratis from the kachcheri, the supply coming from the Royal Botanic Gardens. I firmly believe that in Kuigoda, Paranakuru and Galboda korales the cultivation of cacao might be carried on with the most favourable results. I have been endeavouring to persuade the Government to sell lands suitable for the cultivation of the product, and it is probable that during 1894 an extent of 1,000 acres or so may be made available for sale.

Other Products.—There is more *coffee* cultivated now, all Liberian; but the area is after all still trifling. *Lunumidella* is grown largely for its timber. *Sapanwood* still yields a small profit, although both supply and demand have fallen off. *Coca erythroxylon* is being grown as an experiment, but the demand is still so small that the district could glut the markets of the world already. *Cinnamon* and *cardamoms* are cultivated over small areas. *Cotton* has disappeared.