

producer, and consequently to the consumer. When tea is judged by its liquor only it will be cheaper to make and to buy. Each Factory could not compress its tea; this would have to be done by the dealers who would buy up large quantities, and be able to supply the same tea at all times, of one quality, in fact of one brand. The establishment of a new Mining Lane in Colombo would probably begin a new era in Tea, in which we could abandon our old course of making unsuitable tea for the benefit of our rivals. And to those who point to the glorious progress of Indian tea, and from that argue that our course must have been right, I would point to the fearful cost, the crores of rupees sunk and lost, which we have paid to oust China. No nation but England could have afforded to rival China in Tea planting, or have faced such heavy losses; and besides the losses, many of us have supplied tea year after year at cost price.

How is it that China can make such very cheap tea? The answer is that it is made by individuals in their spare time, off waste land, with no expenditure for fuel, establishment, buildings, &c., &c. It is probably simply picked, rolled and dried in the sun. This economical method of manufacture must produce bad tea, but it is very cheap; it would probably show a profit at a penny a pound; and it *can* be sold because India supplies the means. 1874.

[Three cheers for the ancient Tarshish!!!
(whether it tish or tishnt!)]

ARABIAN AND LIBERIAN COFFEE.

June 29th.

SIR,—An advertisement for Arabian coffee plants for New Peradeniya estate seems to have caused some surprise. It will be interesting to know how many acres of Arabian coffee have been opened out for the last two years. In one of the oldest districts—Kegalla—about 25 acres have been planted on Andella, a 20 years' abandoned coffee estate, and the coffee seems thriving fairly. An upcountry notice appeared eight or ten months ago offering coffee stumps for sale. On the proprietor of Andella writing for them to fill in vacancies, he received a reply that these were not for planting but for firewood! The re-planting of Arabian coffee has been going on quietly on a small scale, those doing so basing their reasons chiefly on the fact that 5lb. at 2s equals 10 lb. at 1s.

Liberian coffee as a hardier plant is, however, receiving more attention than Arabian coffee, and the cultivation is looked upon now as a sure and paying matter. On Mr. Strachan's property—Mousa—30 acres have in 3 years cleared expenses, and the field is in magnificent condition. When exploring for land I saw near Polgahawalla a bit of Liberian coffee on a place I believe called Edella, equally good but needed a coffee planter's treatment. Many old coffee planters there are not, and the few available are the men to secure for coffee planting. Tea planters will gain experience in four years at some cost. It will take more time to write and give more reasons than I could spare now. For an example, it is not all who know what soil will grow coffee, and though Liberian coffee thrives in low warm districts it will not give ample returns in cabook and certain soils with deficient supply or no lime in it, &c. It will take a long time before the world's markets are over-supplied with any kind of coffee, and with the supply on the decrease for the last eleven years, good prices will prevail for years to come yet. For Liberian coffee the American market

has been open for the last six years, and another exhibition at Chicago or anywhere is not needed to create a taste for it there or even in Europe.

R. O.

COCONUT SUGAR.

DEAR SIR,—In "Young Ceylon" (vol. i., page 20) I see a quotation made as follows:—"Ceylon, says the Colombo Observer, is *par excellence*, a coconut country and every good man we trust would rejoice to see the sweet juice of this palm converted into wholesome sugar, instead of being as at present fermented and distilled into the most pernicious of liquids, spreading as it does moral ruin and physical degradation over the land,—and L. N. (the initials being well-known in Ceylon) proceeded in the same paper to say: "hence, if the manufacture of sugar from the coconut tree promises even to diminish that of arrack the new experiment must be hailed as a blessing to the land, while it will increase its wealth and commercial prosperity."

It also appears that according to Dr. Marshall's little work on the coconut tree, 309,955 lb. of jaggery estimated at £4,946, was exported from Ceylon in the year 1825 and an export duty of 10 per cent. ad-valorem levied by the regulations of 1813.

Would some readers of your valuable journal tell us about jaggery now and the figures of the exportation of late years would enlighten the public whether the manufacture of jaggery pays or not? Now that Ceylon is well-known all throughout the world for the finest tea why should we not also turn out the sugar to be used along with the tea? If this done and the arrack distilleries diminished what a grand thing it will be!—Yours truly, CEYLONESE.

[Last year, the export of "Sugarcandy, palm and jaggery" from Ceylon was 7,510 cwt. valued at £27,731.—Ed. T.A.]

COCONUT PALM JAGGERY.

DEAR SIR,—With reference to the above letter, I do not think it will pay to turn out jaggery in place of arrack! At page 120 of that most useful compilation "All about the Coconut Palm" there is reproduced copy of a letter addressed to Messrs. Lemarchand & Co., Jaffna, by Mr. J. Gianville Taylor, Batticaloa, dated November 27th 1849, relative to the experimental production of sugar from both coconut and palmyra toddy. The paper mentioned in the letter as having been forwarded, together with samples of the sugar, to the Asiatic Society for report, no doubt contained useful information on the subject and if it could be reproduced in the columns of the T.A. it would probably be of interest to your readers.—Yours truly, PLANTER.

A CEYLON PLANTER WISHES TO KNOW
WHETHER HE SHOULD INVEST £5,000
HERE OR CARRY IT TO CENTRAL
AFRICA.

DEAR SIR,—Referring to your various notices about coffee planting at Blantyre in British East Africa, will you or any of your correspondents kindly give me the following information, viz., what line of steamers run from Colombo and how long does the voyage take*—the distance to Blantyre from the Coast and how reached; the area of land at present under coffee cultivation; cost of labor whether plentiful or otherwise; general elevation; season and so on—upon what terms land can be obtained—is big game shooting to be had and would it in your opinion be more profitable to invest there rather than in Ceylon, £5,000.

* There are two routes:—via Aden or Mauritius to Zanzibar; to get to Blantyre from Colombo would, we suspect, occupy the better part of three months.—Ed. T.A.