

December, 1891, to August, 1892. It was then that the seeds were sown of the gigantic speculation, which afterwards developed in Havre and Paris, a speculation which lasted nearly during the whole of 1892; to uphold which in face of large supplies it was necessary to deal in upwards of a million bags of coffee, and send away from the dear market at Havre to the cheaper German markets and elsewhere large quantities of coffee at a loss. This speculation is still so fresh in people's minds that it is no necessary to enlarge on it. It has done infinite harm to the coffee trade generally, and it has not particularly benefited the majority of the participants.—*Statist.*

LIBERIAN COFFEE.

We notice that at the London auctions at the beginning of the month 90 bags of Travancore Liberian Coffee, chiefly bold yellow and brownish, sold at 85s per cwt., and at the same time fifteen bags of Liberian, fine bold bright yellow, from Freetown on the West Coast of Africa realised 94s 6d.—*M. Mail*, Sept. 27.

TEA CULTURE IN HAWAII: A NEW RIVAL.

A CEYLON PLANTER AS PIONEER.

From the *Hawaiian Planters' Monthly* we have the following:—

It is well known to our readers that an effort to raise tea is being made in Kona, Hawaii, under the auspices of the Hawaiian Coffee & Tea Company. The first crop raised on it some months since shows that a superior article can be produced, and one which will readily command a good price. The tea venture is in charge of Mr. Wm. G. Wait, who has resided in Ceylon and has had considerable experience in the culture and curing of tea. In a communication published in the *Gazette*, Mr. Wait says:

"The Hawaiian Coffee & Tea Company's experimental tea garden contains 5,700 bushes. These, though spread over an area of four acres, represent only 1 7-12 acre at the proper distance of 3 by 4. About 1000 of the plants are unforunately of the Japanese variety and are worthless, leaving what represents less than 1 1-3 acre of good hybrid. The first crop was taken off a few weeks ago entirely from the hybrids. The bushes had, however, been stopped more than three months before, and, awaiting preparations for manufacture, had overgrown and showed nothing but hard leaf. The outturn was about 60 lb. of coarse Gougou, or at the rate of about 400 lb. per acre, and it is to be borne in mind that the bushes were not yet quite two years old. This tea was machine plucked, machine rolled, and machine fired, at a cost of about 10 cents per lb. as against 7 1/2 in Ceylon. The great saving was, of course, effected in the plucking, which was done by a specially-constructed machine which, when perfected, will further reduce the cost. The improvements, however, will be rather in the mode of planting and arrangement of the fields than in the principle of the machine."

The introduction of machinery in the gathering and curing of tea, if judiciously done, will no doubt reduce its cost, but it will take time to bring any new labor-saving machinery to that perfection which will insure permanent success. The labor question is a very important one in connection with tea culture, for unless its cost can be materially reduced by machinery, it will be difficult to compete with the cheap labor of China, India, Japan and Ceylon. Mr. Wait has sent us photos of two of his machines, the first being a novel leaf picker, the details of which are not fully shown, and therefore we omit inserting an illustration of it. The other represents a machine for rolling the leaves, which work in China and Japan is wholly done by hand. Mr. Wait thinks that with the improvements which he has intro used, tea can be sent to market at a cost about 18 1/2 cents per pound, and says further:—

"I have taken as a basis of cost of cultivation a return of 600 pounds per acre, which is considered

a fair yield in Ceylon, where, however under system of expensive fertilization and cultivation as much as 1,300 pounds per acre is secured. In Kona, however, all indications go to show that the ordinary yield per acre will be equal to the highest in Ceylon, so that a return of 1,200 pounds per acre would cost but 5s per pound for cultivation, etc., and tea could be put on the market for 13 1/2s per pound."

We have full confidence in this effort to grow tea on Hawaii, and believe that it only requires fair test by competent persons to demonstrate that the best of tea can be produced to supply all that may be required for domestic consumption, and if so, the why not for export also. No good tea can be had here now for less than thirty cents per pound, and from that to one dollar for fancy brands. All the choice tea raised on Hawaii will probably bring at least fifty cents a pound for home consumption, and the quantity now imported here is quite large, probably not less than 250,000 pounds annually.

The tea enterprise is more likely to prove successfully as it is carried on in connection with coffee culture, thus utilizing the labor of the plantation when not wanted in other service. Mr. Wait concludes his interesting article with the hope that "with sugar on the kula or low lands, coffee up to 1,800 feet, and tea on the up-lands, a large extent of country now entirely unproductive, and that is nearly seven-eighths of the two Kona's, eventually be paying plantations."

VARIOUS PLANTING NOTES.

THE BRITISH NORTH BORNEO OFFICIAL GAZETTE of 1st August contains Proclamation No. 3 of 1894, to amend the law relating to Lands.—Regulations are given as to country, and town lands and lands generally, based chiefly on a 999 years' lease system.

RUBBER.—A discovery that bids fair to revolutionize the gathering of rubber in South America is the subject of articles in the *American Indianrubber World* which we are quoting into this issue. The object is to preserve the rubber sap in its liquid state, and the discoverer has spent 18 years in experiments!

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.—Very valuable bulletins are issued by this American Department, we have to acknowledge a splendidly illustrated pamphlet entitled:—"The pollination of pear flowers by Merton B. Waite, special agent. Report on experiments made under the direction of B. T. Galloway, Chief of the division of vegetable pathology." Also a pamphlet on some destructive potato diseases: what they are and how to prevent them, by B. T. Galloway, Chief of the division of Vegetable Pathology.

INDIAN TEA AND NEW MARKETS.—Messrs. Watson, Sibthorp & Co., of Calcutta, write as follows in their circular of 26th Sept:—

The active trade now established here with Bombay, Persia, Turkey and various other places, as well as the Colonies, the United States and Canada, is worthy of the attention of all interested in the trade as the prices paid by the buyers for these markets is, in most cases, far above London rates. In the sales under review pekoe souchongs worth 6d to 6 1/2d in London sold for as. 7-0 to 7-6 and pekoes worth between 7d and 8d at home fetched as. 8 to 9 per lb. As there is no sign at present of this good demand falling off, growers will find it worth their while to think again before passing this market for London where the heavy imports have once more begun to tell the usual tale. A large amount of energy is now being resolutely expended on opening up the American markets, whereas here we have in Bombay, Persia and Turkey a demand already created that only requires a sufficient supply to develop itself into a substantial outlet in the immediate future.