

Mr. E. N. Howard who, after some experience of fruit-growing in California, settled with his brother in Georgia, where they have purchased a farm with a good house, and are grazing cattle and hogs, growing a little maize, wheat and cotton, as well as fruit for which there is a ready sale. They consider that with about £500 a fair start with good promise of success may be made in their district. The thermometer does not go higher than 95° in the summer. The winters are often warm, but subject to occasional "cold snaps," when they get some snow and sledging. Messrs. Howard would receive a student or two, who might wish to look about them before settling, on very moderate terms for board and lodging. Ellis Blyth is about to join them.

We have received a letter from Mr. E. J. Windham, De Clare, Moosomin, Canada, stating that he would be glad to receive another student as partner in his half-section (320 acres.) He writes that he has now been three years in Canada, and the longer he stays the more he likes it.

As a further indication of work done, we quote:—

Mr. Hedges, C.E., has earned well-merited praise this term for the energy with which he has conducted the work of his department. At all hours he has been ready to help any student who showed interest in his important profession. The log bridge, the model of roof, etc., by Stevenson, and the excellent class work by some students, are indications of much good and thoughtful work.

Professor Heatly has also had a most interesting term. He and his class at the time of writing are engaged in Practical Examinations, and in an enquiry into alleged poisoning of cattle by the common brake fern.

Among the general information given is an account by the Earl of Glasgow of a visit to one of the largest and most notable farms in New Zealand. In the course of it we have the following interesting fact:—

The increase of red clover in this colony is a very remarkable thing. At first it was not a success, but the experiment of introducing the bumble bee was tried by the Acclimatisation Society, and it is claimed that the wonderful spread of clover during the last few years is the work of that insect in carrying and fertilizing the seed. There are fields of pasture everywhere where the red clover is spreading year by year in the most wonderful manner.

Finally, we may mention an "Old Students' Directory" as a feature of "Colonia": the list includes from 160 to 170 names, and every British Dependency is represented in the addresses, as well as many parts of the United States, Central and South America; while among young Ceylon planters are four ex-students of the College. Our wish for "Colonia" and the College it represents is for a long and prosperous career and increasing usefulness year by year in the time to come.

### THE TEA OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

The tea of China, though we may suppose it the best, is not the only plant used in that capacity in the world. In Mexico and Guatemala the leaves of quite a different plant (*Psoralea glandulosa*) are used as tea. In the northern part of the same continent there is what is called *Labrador tea*, made from the leaves of the *Gualtheria procumbens* and *Ledum latifolium*. The most famous of all American teas, however, is the tea of Paraguay, of which large quantities are annually imported into Peru, Chili, and the States of Buenos Ayres, and the use of it is so universal in South America, that the inhabitants have always some of this tea ready prepared, whether engaged in occupations at home or in the fields, and no person departs on a journey without being provided with a quantity of the herb. It is made by merely pouring warm water on the leaves, and is sipped through a silver or glass tube from a small vessel called a "Mate Pot" which is carried in the hand, or, should the person be on horseback or engaged in any occupation

requiring the use of his hands, it is suspended from the neck by means of a small chain. It is frequently mixed with a little lemon juice, and is used either with or without sugar. Many European travellers prefer this to any of the teas imported from China. The Paraguay tea is the more remarkable, from its being the produce of a species of holly, a genus hitherto considered as deleterious. This plant has an extensive geographical range, being found in the woody regions of Paraguay, watered by the Parana, Ypane, and Jejni; in the province of the Minas Geraes, and other districts of Brazil; and it appears to have been found in Guiana. The tree is about the size of the orange-tree, to which it bears considerable resemblance in its habit and leaves. The flowers are white, are tetrandrous, and are succeeded by scarlet berries, like those of the common holly. The leaves, whether fresh or dried, are destitute of smell; but, on a little warm water being poured upon them, they exhale an agreeable odour. Mr. Lambert has been so fortunate as to obtain a living plant of this highly interesting tree, which is now growing in his collection at Bayton House, Wilts. In New Holland the leaves of the *Correa alba* make very good tea. The inhabitants of those barren and remote islands denominated the Kurile Isles, in the sea of Kamtschatka, prepare a tea from an undescribed species of *Pedicularis*. Many other aromatic herbs of the order *Labiatae* are used as tea in different countries.—*Derby Comet*.

### JACKSON'S NEW PATENT "PARAGON" TEA DRYER.

Mr. George Reid of M'lang Tea Estate, Assam now sends a further report to Messrs Marshall, Sons & Co., Limited, upon this new machine after working it for several months as follows:—"I have much pleasure in stating that I am as much pleased with the Paragon Dryer as ever. I find that, it ought to be cleaned out every week, i.e., the Soot Chambers; formerly, when we were only having small days, we cleaned it out once a fortnight, but latterly working 12 to 14 hours a day, we found it very hard to keep up the heat unless cleaned out once a week. The machine has given us no trouble whatever since it was erected. On the whole, the machine is a good one and I can safely recommend it."—*Indian Planters' Gazette*.

### THE MANILA HEMP TRADE OF 1893.

#### FALLING-OFF IN EXPORTS.

Mr. W. Stigand, Her Majesty's Consul at Manila, in his commercial report to the Foreign Office for the year 1893, gives the following particulars of the hemp trade at that port.—There has been a decrease of 149,037 bales or 17,604 tons in the export of hemp, the export having been 641,471 bales or 80,183 tons in 1893, against 790,508 bales or 18,814 tons in 1892. The average price of hemp for the year was 7.50 dols. per picul, which is lower than it was in 1892, when prices ruled from 8 dols. to 9 dols. from the beginning of the year to September, when it advanced to 10.75 dols., and remained at this valuation till the end of the year. The year 1892 was the year in which the greatest quantity of hemp was exported from the Philippines since the superiority of Manila hemp has been recognised in English and American markets. The commerce in this article, the chief product until lately of the islands, has almost entirely in recent years been in the hands of the English merchants, owing to their reliance on the superiority of Manila hemp and on its ready acceptance by foreign purchasers. The producers in the provinces, however, formerly forwarded their hemp to the capital insufficiently dried and in an otherwise unprepared state, and frequent complaints from purchasers were received of the deteriorated quality of the hemp. Alarmed at the danger thus threatening the reputation of Manila hemp, the chief export houses of Manila united together and published a circular by