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The Indian Trade Journal.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE dimensions of India's Commerce may be roughly gauged by the facts that in the official year ending March 1905, her sea-borne trade represented a value of £248,212,282; that the shipping cleared from her ports amounted to 22,723,780 tons; and the quantity of goods carried over her railways and rivers was 42,906,963 tons.

All countries of the world participate in this trade, and a well-recognised demand has long existed for a means of disseminating information of the kind required by persons engaged in it. Having regard to the size of India, and to the extent to which the Government of such a country necessarily controls the sources of much valuable information, it has been apparent that a publication of the kind desired must issue under official auspices.

The *Indian Trade Journal* has accordingly been established by the Government of India as the organ of the Commercial Intelligence Department; and it will be edited by the head of that Department, who was formerly a business man and Secretary of one of the principal Chambers of Commerce in India. It will be issued weekly in time for the Homeward mail; and, in order that its conduct may not be trammelled or retarded, a large measure of independence has been left to the Editor. It will be printed in the best possible style.

The desire is that the *Indian Trade Journal* should be in really close touch with the commercial community; and for this reason the Editor will welcome any indication from outside sources of subjects in which an interest is being taken by business men who have relations with any part of India.

It is fully realised by the Editor that to make such a journal of serious value to business men the supreme requirement is the exercise of the most scrupulous discretion in the use of such information as may be entrusted to him.

The Journal will bring together information about—

Customs regulations, Indian and Foreign.
Reviews of Consular Reports.
„ of Commercial Literature.
„ of Technical Literature.
Crop Reports and Forecasts.
Samples received from abroad.
Proceedings of Agricultural Department
„ of Forest Department.
Weekly trade movement.
Factory legislation and public health.
Ports, Docks, Lights, etc.
Tariff Changes at home and abroad.
Synopses of recent literature on special subjects.
Proceedings of Chambers of Commerce.
Précis of selected papers in the Ledger Series.
Openings for Indian enterprise.
Foreign agriculture, forestry, meteorology.
Economic chemistry or entomology.
Finance and Currency.
Shipping and Quarantine.
Inventions and Patents, etc., etc.
Statistical and other facts illustrating any of these.

In the absence of a weekly Government publication intended for the commercial community, the forecasts relating to the various Indian crops have hitherto been issued in leaflet form. These will now be printed in the Journal. The importance of this section may be gathered from the following synopsis :—

JUTE.—1st report	.	July 7th.
2nd „	.	September 21st.
RICE.—1st report	.	October 20th.
2nd „	.	December 20th.
Final „	.	February 20th.
WHEAT.—1st report	.	December 30th.
2nd „	.	March 15th.
Final „	.	May 30th.
COTTON.—1st report	.	August 15th.
2nd „	.	October 15th.
3rd „	.	December 15th.
Final „	.	February 15th.
SESAMUM.—1st report	.	September 1st.
2nd „	.	October 20th.
Final „	.	January 15th.
Supplementary	.	April.
INDIGO.—1st report	.	October 15th.
Final „	.	December 20th.
SUGARCANE.—1st report	.	August 20th.
2nd „	.	October 15th.
Final „	.	February 16th.
WINTER OIL-SEEDS.—1st report		January 1st.
2nd „		March 15th.
Final „		June 1st.
EARTHNUT.—		January.

Such official reports on special trade markets as have hitherto been published in the official Gazettes will now be issued either in the Journal itself, or, when voluminous, as supplements thereto; and the various departments of Government have been invited to furnish information regarding all calls for tenders.

Specifications of patents registered with the Government of India may be published; and it is intended to make that section which deals with publications upon technical and economic subjects as complete as possible.

The existence of a demand for what are known as "trade introductions" is indicated by the number of cases in which merchants abroad apply for the names of firms engaged in particular lines of business. A Government Department must, however, decline to nominate one firm to the prejudice of another; and for these reasons the Journal will contain notifications of such enquiries as have been received from abroad, and a list of such firms in India as desire to get into touch with correspondence in other countries and who possess such rank as is marked by the membership of one of the recognised Chambers of Commerce. Seeing that the purpose of this list, presented in the form of "Commercial Cards," is not advertisement, but merely the assistance of merchants abroad who desire to select a firm specially interested in a particular class of goods, it will show only the name and address of each firm, it bankers or other references, its agents abroad, th Chamber of Commerce or Association of which is a member, and those three lines of business whic it is especially prepared to extend.

Copies of the Journal will be sent gratuitou to the Board of Trade, the Colonial Governmer Secretaries of Chambers of Commerce and of ot approved trade associations in India and abroad. wide circulation is assured; and its merits as an vertising medium—more particularly for purp not served by the ordinary press—are obvious. profit is not aimed at; and the proceeds o advertisement business will be devoted to th provement of the publication, both as an org Indian Commerce and as an advertising medi

NOTES.

The Victorian wheat harvest is estimated at 23½ million bushels.

The Trade Marks Act, United Kingdom, of 1905 came into operation in England on the first of April.

Half a million miners of bituminous coal in the United States went on **strike** on the 31st of March.

The rate of interest for demand loans has been reduced to 6 per cent by the Bank of Bombay. The Bank of Bengal rate remains at 7 per cent.

During the year 1905 the United Kingdom shipped abroad 11 per cent. more **Calico** than in 1904, and of the total yardage, India took 41 per cent. Cotton yarns exported, increased by 25 per cent.

French Bankers have undertaken a method of **thumb print identification** for the purpose of preventing fraud. The thumb prints of depositors are taken and preserved, and the prints catalogued.

The Hon'ble Mr. J. P. Hewett, C.S.I., C.I.E., having left India on leave, the Governor-General in Council has appointed the Hon'ble Sir Charles Lewis Tupper, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., to act temporarily as Ordinary Member of Council.

The comparative **cost of living in Europe and Japan** may be gathered from the fact that a Chinese student sent by the Government to Europe costs the State anything between £120 to £400 a year, while in Japan he costs only from £18 to £40 a year.

The text of the Convention between Britain and France, to govern for twenty-five years the **telegraphic communications** between Mauritius and Reunion has been received and may be consulted at the office of the Commercial Intelligence Department by persons interested in the matter.

The prices per quarter of 8 bushels of **British corn** on the London market during the week ending the 10th of March were :—Wheat 28*s.* 5*d.*; barley 25*s.* 1*d.*; oats 18*s.* 8*d.* The corresponding Calcutta prices in the same period were per 8 bushels wheat 38*s.* 11*d.*, barley 27*s.* 3*d.*

Some weeks ago an unsatisfied **demand for sugar** existed in certain parts of **North-East Persia** and that, attempts to supply it profitably by way of Quetta having failed, indent for sugar from India had been made **on the Yezd market,** which is supplied by way of the Persian Gulf.

A demand for a 5 per cent **advance on wages** has been made by the executive of the Lancashire Card and Blowing Room Operatives. Unless the cotton Employer's Federation yield a month's notice to cease work will be given on the 21st April. Thirty thousand hands, mostly females, are involved.

As a result of a series of **experiments in Cotton cultivation in Uganda,** conducted over an extended period of time, it was found that the variety of cotton seed that answers best is the American Upland. Egyptian Abbasi is also thought of, the staple being clean and strong, fine, and of fair length.

With reference to the remarks about the sugar industry and trade made by the Honourable Mr. Baker in his Budget statement, it is proposed to give in this journal a series of **notes upon various aspects of the sugar question** as it affects India. The first article, on the Indian Sugar Crop, appears in this number.

The **influence of tariffs,** on the **movement of capital**, is shown by a statement of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association, quoted in the last issue of "Canada," to the effect that 120 of the leading concerns in the United States have been obliged, chiefly on account of the Canadian tariff, to establish branch plants in Canada, with a resulting gain to that country of upwards of £10,000,000 in invested capital.

An interesting item of information for **Indian paper manufacturers** comes from America. A paper manufacturer in the United States is about to organise a company, which will make a fibre from cotton stalks, for the manufacture of the coarser grades of paper, such as are used in making sacks and bags for flour, cotton-seeds, meal, and like products. These cotton stalks have been regarded, hitherto as of no commercial value.

It appears that a Bill has been introduced into the United States Congress the effect of which would be to **limit fortunes** to a maximum of two million sterling. Anything above that figure is to be forfeited as pernicious. This would certainly appear to be the most drastic application of the principle of **graduated**

income tax on record; but it has not yet reached the stage of application, and its prospects of doing so are probably remote.

❦

From the official statistics of **Peru** for the year 1902, which bear 1904 as the date of publication, and which have only now been received in the Commercial Intelligence Department, it appears that the value of **Tea imported** into that country in the year in question was £18574 7 sols 50 centavos. The Peruvian pound is equal to the British Sovereign, which since 1898 has been legal tender there. The sol or dollar is equal to two shillings and contains 100 centavos.

❦

Mr. J. J. Macfarlane, in a recent issue of "Commercial America" estimates that there are about 116 million **spindles in the cotton factories** in the world. Of these Great Britain has 48 millions; the United States 24 millions; Germany nearly 9 millions; Russia and Poland 7 millions; France 6 millions; Austria-Hungary 4 millions; Spain and Italy each nearly 3 millions; Switzerland and Japan each about 1·5 millions. The latest figures available in this Department show that the number of spindles in all India was 5,129,168.

❦

The passing of an Act of great importance to the cotton industry in Barbados, by the Legislature of that Colony is noted in the **"Agricultural News"** (Barbados). The Act is entitled "The Sale of Cotton Act, 1906". It provides for the triennial appointment of Cotton inspectors by the vestries of each parish, and for their due payment; for the registration of all lands under cotton cultivation; for the issuing of certificates to sellers and the granting of licenses to purchasers; and for penalties to follow on a breach of its regulations.

❦

In October 1904 the **International Sugar Commission** fixed countervailing duties as applicable to Bolivia, Greece, Guatemala, Hayti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, the Phillippine Islands, Portugal and the Portuguese Possessions. Against these decisions His Majesty's Government appealed. The appeal has been successful in every instance, except in the case of Nicaragua, which is the only one of the abovenamed countries which now stands condemned as giving bounties on sugar. As, however, no Nicaraguan sugar is imported into the United Kingdom, a prohibition order will not be issued.

❦

The **electrical process of iron smelting** and steel making is being investigated by both the Canadian and United States Governments. Canada has voted money for experiments in these directions at Saulte Ste. Marie. The working of an electrical furnace engaged in the smelting of magnetic iron ores in the form of black sands at Portland, Oregon, is being watched by Dr. Day of the United States Geological Survey. It appears that during 8 runs the smelter yielded an average of 55 per cent. metallic iron from the magnetite used. Where the magnetite was especially cleaned in one instance 65 per cent. metallic iron was attained. The average of these 8 runs was 14 lbs. of steel per horse-power day.

❦

The prosperity of the **coal trade in Bengal** is made plain in the report of the Katras Jherriah Coal Company for the half-year ending 31st January last. The capital of the Company is Rs. 5,00,000 and the profits for the half-year, after setting aside the substantial sum of Rs. 30,000 for depreciation, amount to no less than Rs. 1,37,898, which is sufficient to admit of a combined dividend and bonus to the shareholders at the rate of sixty per cent. per annum, leaving a balance of Rs. 32,834 to be carried forward. The amounts written off in previous years to depreciation total four lakhs, and the block now stands in the Company's books at the very low figure of Rs 64,435.

❦

The difficulty of **testing the larger members of constructional engineering works** such as complete girders, columns, roof principals, and parts in the constructions of bridges, roofs and machinery, has long been felt by engineers. A huge machine for the carrying out of such tiatanic tests is now being built in Birmingham for the engineering section of the Birmingham University. The machine is designed to test specimens for tension, compression, and transverse strains. The maximum capacity is 300 tons, the total length 70 ft., and the weight of the metal in the machine is about 85 tons. Specimens can be tested in tension up to 25 ft., in compression up to 30 ft., and transversely up to 20 ft. long. The strain is applied by a hydraulic cylinder and ram.

❦

Something like a **record** in the way of **drilling** oil-wells has been made on a field near Bartlesville, U. S. A., where two producing wells were drilled with one rig and without removal. In drilling the first hole a heavy volume of oil was struck in a stray sand between 600 and 700 ft. It was decided to case the fluid out and drill into the Bartlesville sand. This was done and a 80 qrs. shot cost a production of 150 gallons in the first 24 hours. The temper screw was then set back about 4 ft. and a second hole was started and finished in the shallow sand first tapped. This was shot with 60 qrs. of glycerine. Both wells have been producing at about the same rate since. It is not often that two wells, both fed from different sands, are drilled within 4 ft. of one another by the same tools and rig.

❦

It is reported in the "Nachrichten für Handel" that, with a view to developing the **silk industry of Persia,** which has shown some signs of falling off, an official decree has been promulgated establishing a department which will give its attention to various matters in connection with the improvement of that product. Imported silkworms' eggs will be tested; cocoons will be inspected with reference to their proper treatment and the prevention of disease; schools of instructions will be established; reports on the subject will be disseminated; silkworms' eggs will be published; mulberry plantation will be laid out; utensils and tools will be purchased by the department. The scheme has a workman-like appearance. It is to be hoped that it will work.

❦

In the year 1904-05 **India sent** to various portions of the British Empire 218,515 cwt. of **coffee,** valued at Rs. 1,17,56,499, and to foreign countries 111,132 cwt., valued at Rs. 48,53,250, making a total export of 329,647 cwt., worth Rs. 1,66,09,749. Of this total, 328,298 cwt., valued at Rs. 1,65,66,403, stand to the credit of Madras; 1,273 cwt., valued at Rs. 40,318, to that of Bombay; 44 cwt., valued at Rs. 1,608, to that of Bengal and 32 cwt., valued at Rs. 1,420, to that of Sindh. The exports from Bengal, Bombay and Sindh went through the ports of Calcutta, Bombay and Karachi, whilst the exports from Madras found their way out through several ports. The heaviest export was through Mangalore, 119,607 cwt. Tellicherry coming next with 102,106 cwt., and then Calicut, 69,505 cwt. From the chief port of the Presidency only 9,513 cwt. were shipped.

❦

An interesting statement in Mr. S. Eardley-Wilmot's Review of the forest administration in British India for the year 1903-04 shows that out of a total area of 232,701 square miles of Reserved, Protected and unclassed forests only 37,671 square miles or 16 per cent. were totally closed to grazing, thus no less than 195,030 square miles were available for grazing, though to 23,859 square miles of this area browsers were not admitted. Upwards of thirteen millions of animals including buffaloes, bullocks, cows, sheep, goats and camels grazed in the State forests during the year. Of this number over 2½ millions were allowed to graze free and upwards of 2 millions at privileged rates. The number of cattle impounded for illicit grazing showed a satisfactory decrease over the average for the three previous years, notably in Madras, where only 292,196 cattle were impounded as compared with the previous three year's average of 428,410.

❦

Bearing in mind the recent agitation in India on the subject of **short reeling of yarn** it is interesting to see from the English papers that manufacturers are complaining that recent deliveries of **Egyptian yarns** have very generally been **below the stipulated counts,** and the complaint appears to be directed specially against Bolton spinnings. According to the "Manchester Guardian" it was urged as a defence, when the matter was discussed on Change, that it had never been the custom in Bolton to give what are known as "full counts." The journal says the complaint now made against the Bolton spinners is not that they deliver coarser yarns than are ordered, but that the excess of coarseness is greater than it was some months ago. It is probable that the subject **will be discussed** by the manufacturer's association and the spinner's Federations with a view to arriving at some definite arrangement regarding half-recognised mis-descriptions.

❦

A commercial economic movement of considerable importance is making itself evident in Germany. This is the **establishment abroad of German banks.** Germany has at present 12 banks in foreign countries. These possess a total capital of £3,332,000. Within the last few months six have been established in various parts of the world, two in Africa, one in Asia Minor and others in Bulgaria, Central America and Argentina, while it is stated that more will be established in the near future. The most important feature of the movement is that the purpose for which these banks have been established is the pioneering of German trade. In South America and the Near and Far East the banks actively encourage German residents to embark on new enterprises by becoming themselves a party to commercial schemes and advancing loans, whilst their political influence and connections are not without significance.

❦

The latest published figures of **Java trade** show that among **exports sugar** stands first, the value of the amount annually exported being about £5,600,000. The annual export of coffee, the third on the list, is only about £200,000 less. Copra, tea and rice are the items of next importance. The recently established quinine industry is already in a flourishing condition. Though the natural resources of Java are largely agricultural, there are in the island undeveloped coal measures whose importance has not yet been determined, whilst the geological relations of the island to the Borneo-Sumatra oil-fields suggests the possibility that **petroleum** may yet be discovered. The trade of the island is mostly carried on from the north coast, and is shared between Batavia, Samarang and Surabaya. The last is the largest city of the three, though Batavia is the seat of the Government. A line of railway some 400 miles long connects the three cities. Branch lines and an extensive system of steam tramways operate for 700 miles through Central and Eastern Java rendering all parts of the island accessible for freight and passengers.

❦

Some of the **British Central African wild fibres** are of considerable importance. Steps have been taken to bring certain of these into

cultivation, and they may be expected shortly to enter into the list of exports. The most abundant are two plants yielding a fibre of the **jute class**, "Denji" and "Nsonogwi." These have been identified at Kew as **Sida Rhombifolia, and Triumfetta Rhomboides.** The analysis of these fibres shows that "Denji" is comparable with fine Indian jute. This plant answers best when the seed is sown in May and June, so that young plants get a fair start before the rainy season commences, during which growth is very rapid and strong. A comparison with jute sown at the same time, showed Denji to be more satisfactory, as a period of dry weather for a month or two did not affect it, whilst the jute succumbed during the hot weather of October. Another fibre which exists in great quantities in the Protectorate promises to be of considerable economic importance as a competitor with flax. This is the **Securiduca Longipedi-culata,** known locally as Buazo.

❦

An exhibition was given recently by Messrs. Cook and Company, Manchester, of machinery for the **automatic testing of linen and cotton yarns.** The constant stopping of looms through the breaking of yarns of unequal strength means a considerable reduction in the output, and the two automatic single-thread testing machines on exhibition have been designed with the object of preventing this waste of time. They are capable of testing any single yarn from the finest cotton counts spun to the heaviest linen yarns, and are entirely automatic in in their action. After the bobbins from which a test is desired have been placed in the machine it needs no further attention, and will continue to make tests up to the number of 960 before automatically stopping. These 960 tests take about 17 minutes to complete. They are recorded in a diagrammatic form, showing at a glance the strength and irregularity of the yarn, and pointing out the weak spots, which in reality constitute the true strength of the yarn and are the cause of all subsequent breakages. The use of the machines, it is claimed, will enable the manufacturer to tell what class of yarn he is buying instead of having to wait to find out its deficiencies in actual working.

❦

The **Limited Partnership Bill,** introduced in the Upper House by Lord Avebury, on behalf of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, which stood for second reading on March 15, permits the formation of limited partnerships, provided that any such partnership contains one or more persons called general partners, who shall be liable for all debts and obligations incurred in the usual course of the partnership business by or on behalf of the firm, and one or more persons to be called limited partners, who shall at the time of entering into such partnership contribute, or undertake to contribute, thereto a sum or sums as capital or property valued at a stated amount, and who shall not be liable for the debts or obligations of the firm beyond the amount so contributed or to be contributed. The firm name must not contain the name of any limited partner; every limited partnership is required to be registered; an advance of money for a share of the profits will constitute limited partnership; a limited partner is allowed to inspect the books and advise; the limited partnership must be for a fixed term; and regulations are also included in regard to bankruptcy for partnership debts, the inspection of statements, etc.

❦

The Government of India in the Revenue and Agriculture Department have issued to all Local Governments and Administrations a letter in which they convey instructions for the preparation of **Reports on Experimental Stations,** and proposals for the separate reporting of the Agricultural and Land Records Sections in the Provincial Departments. The term "experimental farm," now so well-known in India, is to be abandoned in favour of that of "Agricultural station," which is properly considered to represent more accurately and fully the scope of the activity of these institutions. It is also proposed to adopt in India the excellent practice observed in America for so many years of publishing separate bulletins, upon the results obtained in specific experiments. The separation of the Department of Agriculture from that of the Land Records is, so far as reports are concerned, only the natural outcome of the development in scientific cultivation; and the instructions given for securing a greater uniformity in the dates of reports all tend to increased usefulness. In future the period covered by all the reports of the Department of Agriculture is to be the year ending 30th June, except in Madras, where the special climatic condition warrant, the adherence to the present year ending 31st March.

❦

The **prices of opium** in the Calcutta market during the week ending March 31st were per chest as follows:—

Behar opium—Rs. 1,373; 1,374; 1,365; 1360; 1,377; 1,358; 1,351; 1,356.

Benares opium—Rs. 1,285; 1,280; 1,270; 1,265; 1,263; 1,255; 1,260.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 4th sale of 1906.—Rs. 1,373; 1,374; 1,365; 1,360; 1,358; 1,351; 1,356.

China market, Hongkong (exchange Rs. 153 to 154 per 100 dollars). Behar $ 920; 920; 910 to 920; 900 to 910; 900; 900; 900; Shanghai (exchange Rs 214½ per 100 Taels) two sales 26th 648 lacs 29th 635 lacs.

Benares.—Hongkong, 27th $ 855; 28th 845; Shanghai 26th 610 lacs 29th 500 lacs.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending the 24th of March, were—for A class (season 1904 to 1905) Rs. 1,425, for B class (season 1903 to 1904) Rs. 1,475 to 1,658; class C, old (season 1902 to 1903) Rs. 1,735 to 1,800. The latest China prices ascertained, were for new classes A and B, Rs. 1,478 at Hongkong and Rs. 1,631 at Shanghai old. (class C) fetched at Hongkong Rs. 1,701 and at Shanghai Rs. 1,665.

❦

The gold production of the world in 1905 is placed by a New York mining authority at £75,093,162. This exceeds all records. The estimate is, however, not based on the returns of the United States Mint, which have not yet been issued. The New York statistician puts the Transvaal output at £20,259,192, whereas the total output of South Africa, including the Rand and Rhodesia, was equal to £22,277,000. Although the official returns have not yet been made in America, the total output of the American mines is calculated to be not less than £17,250,000. The Australian output is reckoned in round numbers to be about £18,000,000. All of these are minimised by the New York expert. It is thought that the estimate arrived at ought to have been £76,250,000 for the approximate total of the world's output last year, and not £75,093,000. The figures of the American Mint showing the output of gold from 1886 to 1894 inclusive are as follows:—

	Rs.		Rs.
1886 valued at	21,430,000	1896 valued at	40,450,000
1887 „	21,500,000	1897 „	47,762,000
1888 „	21,985,000	1898 „	57,486,000
1889 „	23,835,000	1899 „	61,345,00
1890 „	24,260,000	1900 „	50,915,000
1891 „	26,700,000	1901 „	52,198,000
1892 „	29,900,000	1902 „	59,348,000
1893 „	32,60 ,000	1903 „	65,192,000
1894 „	36,765,000	1904 „	69,378,000
1895 „	39,752,000	1905 „	76,950,000

The output increased considerably more than threefold in the twenty years, and has doubled since 1894.

❦

The Irish Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction issues a publication showing the **Extent in Acres, and the produce of Crops in Ireland** for the year 1905. Comparing the rate of produce per acre with those of 1904, it is found that the rate for wheat rose from 18·1 cwt. to 20·2 cwt.; for oats from 15·9 to 16·3 cwts.; for barley from 14·9 to 19·9 cwt.; for rye from 13·0 to 13·5 cwt.; for potatoes from 4·3 to 5·6 tons; and for flax from 33·7 to 37·7 stones. The rate for mangel wurzel remained the same, namely, 17·6 tons; the rate for here fell from 14·5 to 14·1 cwt.; for turnips from 17·5 to 16·7 tons; for beet-root from 17·4 to 13·5 tons; for clover, sainfoin and grasses under rotation from 2·3 to 2·2 tons; and for permanent pasture or grass not broken up in rotation from 2·5 to 2·4 tons. Comparing the average rates of produce per acre in 1905 with the mean rates for the 10 years 1895 to 1904, we find the following increases in 1905:—Wheat from 17·5 to 20·2 cwts.; oats from 15·5 to 16·3 cwts.; barley from 17·3 to 19·9 cwts; bere from 13·7 to 14·1 cwts.; rye from 12·9 to 13·5 cwt.; potatoes from 4·0 to 5·6 tons; turnips from 15·3 to 16·7 tons; mangel wurzel and beet-root from 16·6 to 17·6 tons; flax from 29·4 to 37·7 stones. The average produce of potatoes in tons per acre for the whole of Ireland in each of the 20 years 1886 to 1905 and also the mean produce per statute acre for the same period is shown by the following table:—

Years.	tons.	Years.	tons.	Years.	tons.
1886 .	3·3	1893 .	4·2	1900 .	2·8
1887 .	4·5	1894 .	2·6	1901 .	5·3
1888 .	3·1	1895 .	4·9	1902 .	4·3
1889 .	3·6	1896 .	3·8	1903 .	3·3
1890 .	2·3	1897 .	2·2	1904 .	4·3
1891 .	4·0	1898 .	4·4	1905 .	5·6
1892 .	3·5	1899 .	4·2	Mean .	3·8

❦

That well-known journal *Commercial Intelligence* publishes a good article on some interesting installations of **automatic coal handling machinery.** At one electrical power station in London where 40,000 tons of coal are used yearly in the production of energy, the coal is brought from the wharf-side in barges, and unloaded by means of a grab-pulley holding 15 cwt. It is then hoisted by the hydraulic crane to a height of 70 feet, and discharged into the hopper over a weighing machine, which automatically weighs and registers on a dial the weight of each grab load of coal. The total weight of coal in each barge is thus easily read from the register. The weighing machine discharges automatically into a bunker holding one hundred tons. Thence the fuel is conveyed by a chain conveyor across the road to the top of a long coal store, situated over the boilers, holding some 4,000 tons. Under the boilers runs a similar chain conveyor, which brings away the ashes to the boot, whence they are elevated by a bucket elevator to a height of 20 feet, and distributed as may be desired either into the barges or carts. Cross conveyors carry the coal to other coal stores, the total capacity in these works being no less than 10,000 tons. Hard by the company's private wharf towers a hydraulic crane which, fixed at a height of 60 feet or 70 feet, and has a nominal lifting capacity of 2 tons. The arm swings round, the huge grab slowly descends, gradually clutching up 15 cwt. of dust each time that it closes, raising it—as easily as a boy lifts a nut—from the barge to the hopper on the roof of the coal store. Sixty tons of coal are completely cleared out in two and a half hours by means of this efficient substitute for a regiment of labourers. The entire work is conducted under the superintendence of two men with

the assistance of a boy who acts as trimmer. "The cost," the engineer states, "works out at 5d. per ton, including all labour, delivery into bunkers and the additional cost of the water used by the crane." He also volunteers the information that "the costs of maintenance are very low, and the repairs are almost nominal."

❦

A few remarks on the **comparative value of oil-cake and artificial manure** will be found not uninteresting. Experiments have shown that sheep pastured on fields that have been fertilised by artificial manures, costing less than a pound per acre, lay on more mutton than similar animals grazing similar unmanured land alongside, though the latter animals have been getting as much of the richest cake as they will eat. The same holds good of cattle. Now in both artificial manures and in manure made from cake the value depends on the presence of the three ingredients, nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. In using artificial manures only one of these substances, or any two of them, can be applied in any desired proportion, whereas in cake residues they cannot thus be separated and dealt with. By using an artificial manure the land can be given just that constituent, or those constituents, that it requires, but when cake residue is used waste must take place, and damage may often result, for there are lands which require no nitrogen or no potash, and which are harmed by receiving these substances. With cake residues also great waste takes place in farmyard manure itself. This loss is placed at 50 per cent. by Laws and Gilbert, whose view has been endorsed by Voelcker and Hall. Thus the manurial element of a ton of linseed cake may be worth theoretically £2-11-11. The residues, however, as they leave the animal are worth very much less by the time the farmyard manure is carried to the land and offered to the crop. Besides this loss, it is probable that no more than half of the nitrogen that is left is taken up by the crop. Experiments made on oil-cake and farmyard manure at the South-Eastern Agricultural College, Wye, showed that with farmyard dung, despite every thing having been done to preserve it from decomposition, there was a loss of nearly 15 per cent. of nitrogen. This loss apparently is the normal one, and cannot be reduced. It is more serious than appears to be, for a certain amount of the easily available ammoniacal nitrogen is converted into slowly available insoluble bodies. With bad farming practice this loss of 15 per cent. may very easily be exceeded, and amount to 40 per cent.

❦

The Buenos Ayres Correspondent of the "British Trade Journal" says:—The prospects of the coming crops are excellent. The **agriculture of Argentina** is now spread over so wide an area and composed of such a variety of crops (principally wheat, maize, linseed, and lucerne) that it is not easy to make it a total failure even in a bad year. It is to be hoped that the coming harvest, which promises to be abundant, will not be partially lost, as happened the last two years, by want of sufficient transport accommodation. Reports from the agricultural districts indicate that the quantities of wheat and linseed likely to be obtained for shipment next year are much in excess of those of last harvest, owing partly to the much larger area under cultivation, and partly to the favourable condition of the crops. When it is taken into account that the price of wheat has also advanced materially, it will be seen that the outlook for the Argentine agriculturist is decidedly a bright one. There are various facts which point to the probability that the next few years will see an unparalleled development in the agricultural industry of the country. Among these factors may be noted:—The rapid extension of colonization, of railway communication and of transport facilities; the equally rapid and constant increase of immigration, mainly composed of agricultural elements; the great increase in recent years in the value of agricultural lands, even in outlying districts; the probability of fair prices being maintained; and the comparatively few risks which the Argentine agriculturist has to face in comparison with those of other countries. As might be supposed, the flour industry in Argentina is rapidly forging ahead, the exports of flour having risen steadily from 63,000 tons in 1901 to 130,000 tons in the present year, although the returns are not yet complete. So far, Argentine flour has not been exported to Great Britain to any great extent, as a more profitable market is found in other South American countries (especially Brazil) nearer home, but with the increase which will certainly continue in the exportation, the time will arrive when the surplus available for export will be more than sufficient to meet the demands of other South American countries, and then Argentina may be expected to figure as an important factor in the supply of flour to the United Kingdom also.

❦

In the second **General Memorandum on the wheat crop** of 1905-1906, issued from this Department, the area under wheat in the United Provinces was computed at 5,896,000 acres, and the whole area in all provinces reported on at 23,074,000 acres. Doubt has been expressed in a certain quarter as to the exactness of these figures. With regard to the United Provinces, it was observed that, though the provinces are supposed to grow over one-third of the total wheat grown in India, no accurate figures as to area are given. In the provincial forecast the area was reported to be 15% below (*i.e.*, 85%) the normal, the normal being taken for the purpose of the provincial report at 7,000,000 acres; the estimated area ought, therefore, to have been 5,950,000 acres, and not 5,896,000 acres as stated. With regard to the estimate of the total area, it was remarked that the figure for the preceding year was 28,000,000 acres, whilst the area estimated in the second Memorandum was only 23,074,000 acres, the difference being about 5,000,000 acres, and it was asked how this arose. As regards the estimate of 5,896,000 acres in the United Provinces for 1905-1906, it was provisionally calculated in this Department at 5% (15% below the normal) on the average of the 5 years ending 1903-1904 (6,830,700) and not on the normal (7,000,000). This was explained in the first paragraph of the second Memorandum. The omission of estimates of acreage in the first and second provincial forecasts has for some time been engaging the attention of Government, and steps are being taken to remedy the defect. As regards the doubt cast on the accuracy of the estimate of 23,074,000 acres for all the provinces reported, it appears that comparison has been made not between the figures of the second Memorandums for two years, but between those in the second Memorandum criticised, and the total area shown in the final Memorandum of the previous year (1904-1905). Now, final memorandums include the statistics for Rajputana and Central India, statistics which earlier Memorandums do not include, as they are received but once, in May (after the issue of the second Memorandum). It is to this that the apparent great difference is due. Excluding the area for these provinces, the difference is one of only 1,898,000 acres, and not of 5 million acres.

❦

In the half-developed countries like Persia the embarrassments of the Indian merchants do not end with the difficulties of transport and the quest for a buyer. In such countries practically **no facilities for exchange operations** exist, and the cost of remitting from Persia to India sometimes consumes a great part of the expected profit, seeing that such remittance entails, either on the merchant or on the bank, resort to the primitive expedient of sending cash down country and exchanging it at or near the frontier for Indian currency or notes. And before even this primitive operation can be conducted it is necessary to collect the coin to be remitted. This involves the exaction of payment in cash—a thing most unpopular in Persia not only because of its hurried finality but because the money is really not easy to find. If a merchant would accept goods in return for goods, business would unquestionably move more smoothly; but there is no more general illusion in force at present than the idea that it is experts alone that count in international trade. The modern specialisation of business tends to confirm this infatuation. Britain and India, by the instrumentality of firms that concern themselves with manufactured articles only, attempt to thrust their products upon foreign countries while declining to accept produce in return, and they are surprised that progress is slow. Some years ago the Government of India being interested in the development of trade with Persia by the Nushki route induced the North-Western Railway to sanction a rebate of ¼rd on the freight on traffic going to Persia; but no rebate was allowed on return traffic. In recognition of the considerations stated in the foregoing sentences the Railway Board have now agreed **to increase the rebate to 2-3rd** and to extend it to all traffic either **going to or coming from Persia** by the Quetta-Nushki route over the North-Western Railway. The concession is to hold good for three years, it is hoped that it may encourage Indian merchants to embark on business in Seistan on the only terms on which a really considerable trade can be created in such countries. The present rate ruling between Karachi and Quetta, for indigo, in secure and sound cases or chests, is Re. 1 6 ans. 10 p. per maund; for tea, 15 ans. 1 p. per maund; for piece-goods, in bales pressed and bound or in boxes, 15 ans. 1 p.

❦

It was announced in the English press, towards the end of last year, that the **Chamber of Arbitration at Braila** in Roumania had been dissolved, and that arbitrations would in future be made only between members of the Merchants' Association, to which, however, foreigners are admitted on payment of a small fee. Having regard to the existence of a certain trade between India and Braila the British Vice-Consul at that port was addressed by the Commercial Intelligence Department on the subject, and through his good offices it may now be stated that the Merchants' Association of Braila is a private institution, and has no connection with the Government Law Courts. In forwarding a copy of the correspondence that passed between him and the Association in question, the Consul states that he knows nothing of the said Association, beyond the information contained in that correspondence, and that he is therefore unable to express any opinion in regard to it. The said information may be summarised as follows:—Arbitration by the Association is confined to its own members; but masters and owners of foreign vessels, as also merchants resident abroad, may become members, and so avail themselves of the services of the Association in respect of arbitration on application to the Secretary accompanied by a fee of 15fr. for six months' membership. The usual entrance fee of 40fr. is in such cases dispensed with; and it is added that formerly non-members had to pay double arbitration fees. But the scale of such fees is not communicated, and further enquiries are being made regarding this point. The arbitrators for each case are chosen by ballot, and give their services gratuitously. In cases where it has been so agreed beforehand, the parties also may name their own arbitrators in the first instance from among the 40 arbitrators of the Association. The arbitrators in the first instance are three in number; and appeals are referred to five arbitrators. The revenue derived by the Association, after deducting working expenses and office rent, etc., is said to be devoted to charity. It is further stated that the Roumanian **Chamber of Commerce at Braila** accepts arbitrations only on such transactions as have been previously registered on the Exchange, and these at present do not include chartering and such matters. In the Government **Law Courts** cases are tried in the first instance by a Justice of the Peace when the amount involved does

not exceed 1,500 lei (£60), the Tribunal of the First Instance being the Court of Appeal.

❦

The Burma Government has drawn the attention of certain firms who make speciality of **timber** to the **In tree** (*Dipterocarpus Tuberculatus*) which abounds in the Burma forests. Liberal concessions were offered in 1897 to such firms as were prepared to undertake the extraction of the timber for **export out of India.** These offers are now renewed. Since 1898 a steady and increasing demand for **In** timber has been created in the local market, and the trade in it is already important. In the Southern Circle the outturn of unreserved timber removed under licenses, a large proportion of which belongs to the species of *Dipterocarpus*, has risen from 58,970 tons in 1899-1900, to 87,487 tons in 1903-04, whilst in the Northern Circle no less than a 100,000 tons of **In** timber came into Mandalay during the year 1904-05. In Lower Burma also large quantities of **In** are now extracted annually, especially in the Tennasserim Circle. The forest authorities are of opinion that with the gradual development of the country the demand will continue to increase. This timber is readily bought up in Calcutta for the construction of native houses, and a demand is arising in England, where it is considered suitable for wood paving. Indian timber firms are invited by the Burmese Government to interest themselves in this matter. Details of the concession may be had on application to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence or to the Revenue Secretary to the Government of Burma. The Reporter on Economic Products to the Government of India has kindly furnished the Commercial Intelligence Department with a specimen of the **In** wood which may be seen at the office of that Department, 5, Clive Street, Calcutta, during the month of April. The Reporter on Economic Products also kindly furnished the following particulars :—**D. tuberculatus** is a large deciduous *gregarious tree forming* the **Eng** or **In** forests of Burma and Chittagong. The **In** forests are chiefly found on laterite soil, they cover several thousand square miles of country, over 2,000 in Pegu alone. The trees are from 70 to 80 feet in height with clean stem of from 40 to 50 feet, and with a girth of from 8 to 10 feet. The wood is dark red brown ; weight on an average, is 55 lbs. per cubic foot. The timber is probably the best of the woods given by the species of **Dipterocarpus.** It is in considerable demand for boats and canoes, house-posts and general building purposes, but the wood is subject to the attacks of white ants I may add that railway sleepers treated after the Haskin's process and kept under ground for a year, were, when dug up, found to be partly rotted towards the ends and underneath.

❦

There has been an interesting and important **change in the method of forest working in Siam.** Under the terms of the treaty in 1883 it is necessary to register all agreements concerning forests at His Majesty's Consulate at Chingmai. At the time that this treaty came into force the recognised owners and lessors of the forests in the Laos country were the chiefs and chaos. The Siamese Government has now taken over all the forests and leases are no longer issued, but agreements may be entered into for the extraction and sale of timber. These agreements are negotiated with the Ministry of the Interior in Bankok, none of the formalities, such as the signature by the High Commissioner, being observed. It is now being considered whether the formality of registering leases at Chingmai should any longer be observed, since forest tracts are no longer leased, but purchase contracts made. It is not in Siam alone that changes have been recently introduced into the forest procedure. The **forests of Canada** have been threatened with the ruin that has overtaken the forests of so great a part of North America. Fortunately, however, their wholesale destruction has now been made impossible. A forestry convention was recently held in Ottawa, and the Dominion Government, which is heartily in sympathy with its ends, has arrived at a decision which will have great effect upon the timber and wood-pulp business of the country. It has always been comparatively easy for large companies to obtain grants of timber land. In Eastern Canada thousands of acres of forests have been destroyed through their agency. The **Government has now decided to grant no more new timber limits,** and in the **renewal of any old leases provision** will be made **for the re-foresting** of certain portions of the land. The greatest offenders in the matter of wholesale forest destruction have in the past been American companies. Canadians have only just awakened to the fact that the American invasion was rapidly depriving the Dominion of its forests. One American company possesses over 3,200 square miles of forest lands in the province of Quebec alone. Another American company is the owner of over 1,700 square miles. Other vast tracts have been bought or leased by Americans for purpose of producing woodpulp. The New South Wales forest regulations under the Crown Lands Act have also been made more strict. The newly established Forest Department in the United States, too, is busy trying to save something from the wreck of the once magnificent forests or the land. The planting is going on apace, and, most encouraging sign of all, public opinion is beginning to support the work of the department in really practical fashion, and owners of private estates are emulating the state department in creating plantations and putting a check on wanton destruction of timber.

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The genuine **Swadeshi movement** in India ; the non-political movement for the encouragement of local production, in preference to importation, gives rise to much discussion ; but **one fact is commonly**

overlooked : that so long as India continues her large exports it is economically unprofitable, and therefore not permanently possible, for her to refuse to accept imports in return. Whether it may before long become feasible so to develop India's **sugar production** as to arrest the importation of sugars from Java and Europe remains to be seen. But there can be no doubt that the years of cheap refined beet sugar in this country have created among a large section of the people a taste that did not before exist, and in the opinion of perhaps the greatest expert in England the level of prices in Europe and Java will, for some years to come, conduce to an increased importation from these quarters. One curious feature in the Indian beet sugar business in the year 1905 was a sudden, and almost complete, cessation of German imports during several months, when arrivals from Austria were copious. It has been suggested in some quarters that this predominance of Austria over Germany during these months was due to the enhancement of the rate of wages in the latter country. The latest authorities at Home do not consider this explanation to be sound. There certainly was a time, some years ago, when the Austrians were able to undersell their German competitors, partly owing to the large bounties they received, partly in consequence of the very low freight rates from Trieste and Fiume, but since then this has changed. In addition to the abolition of bounties there are other influences at work, such as the fact that wages in Austria are now more on a level with those in the neighbouring countries, and the efforts made by the German Government to secure the larger part of the export trade, not only of sugar but also of other manufactured goods. The cost of producing sugar in Germany and Austria is now about on a parity, whilst the severe competition of German steamers with the Austrian Lloyd, and even the P. and O. and other British lines, facilitates German sugar business with the East. The remarkable fluctuations in the imports from France during the year 1905 and the first two months of 1906 may be seen from the following figures :—January 65 cwt., value Rs. 1,147 ; February *nil* ; March 24 cwt., value Rs. 347 ; April *nil* ; May 207 cwt., value Rs. 2,573 ; June *nil* ; July *nil* ; August *nil* ; September *nil* ; October *nil* ; November 29,960 cwt., value Rs. 2,91,617 ; December 19,760 cwt., value Rs. 1,75,963 ; January 1906, 56 cwt., value Rs. 675 ; February 24,777 cwt., value Rs. 2,22,993. It is understood that the low prices on which this large business was done were more or less the effect of liquidation of stocks in France which had been involved in the "crac" of July last. Letters from Home indicate that there will probably be only a very moderate reduction in the spring season's output from which it would appear that a permanent improvement in price cannot be expected for sometime.

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During the last three years the **imports of foreign mineral oils into India** have decreased continuously, owing to the increasing consumption of indigenous mineral oils refined in Burma and Assam. In each of the two years preceding 1904-05 the imports of kerosine oil had fallen off by 10,000,000 gallons. Though the quantity received in 1904-05 increased by 6·4 per cent., the total value of the imports was nearly eight lakhs, or 2·6 per cent. lower. The imports in the first 12 months of 1905-06 were below those of the previous year by 17,105,554 gallons, valued at Rs. 92,53,694. Not only is the total importation of kerosine oil decreasing, but the importation of oil in bulk is causing a steady reduction in the imports of case oil. In 1904-05 bulk oil imports increased by 20½ million gallons, one million of the gross increase being Russian oil and 20 millions the produce of Sumatra and Borneo, while case oil fell by 15·8 million gallons. In the first 11 months of 1905-06 the imports of bulk oil amounted to 38,896,000 gallons, whilst the imports of kerosine oil in case amounted to 9,627,350 gallons. Of the case oil imported in 1904-05, Russian oil fell off, by 18 million gallons, to 11½ million gallons, while American oil increased by three quarters of a million to 7·4 million. Imports of case oil from the Dutch East Indies and Straits Settlements amounted to 950,000 gallons. The output of Burma rose from 85½ to 115·9 million gallons, an increase of 36 per cent, representing, with the Assam production of 2½ million gallons of crude oil, about 50 million gallons of kerosine. In the first 11 months of 1905-06 the imports of Russian case oil amounted only to 168,335 gallons. American oil in case in the same period already showed an improvement, and amounted to 8,608,201 gallons. The imports of Dutch East Indian oil amounted in the same period to 768,961 gallons. In the first 10 months of the same year the exports of kerosine oil from Burma to India amounted to 42,285,035 gallons, against 37,333,726 gallons in the same period of the previous year. The destruction on the Baku oil-fields where mob-rule was supreme for months, has been so universal that it has induced the Russian Government to rescind the dues levied on foreign naptha imported into the southern provinces of the Empire, and it will necessarily lead to an enormous contraction of the imports of Russian oil into India in the immediate future. From America have been received some figures of the production of high grade paraffin oil in that country, which will prove interesting to operators in the Indian market. The production of this description in the Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Ohio fields for last year shows a contraction of no less than 4,700,000 barrels. The stock of crude oil in Pennsylvania alone at the close of last year was only 3½ million barrels, or a reduction of 40 per cent. compared with the previous year. This is considered rather alarming, and it is held that, unless new wells are discovered, the stocks may be practically wiped out in the current year. The field has been apparently thoroughly drilled over in the search, but without result. The consumption in Pennsylvania for 1905 showed an excess of 3,000,000 barrels over production.

CYPRUS AS AN ENTREPOT
FOR THE LEVANT.

THE following tables give the direct trade between India and the Levant.

Articles of Foreign merchandise imported into British India from the ports in the Levant.

Articles.		1904-1905.	
		Quantity.	Value
			Rs.
Apparel (including drapery, haberdashery, millinery, etc.)		...	150
Drugs, medicines and narcotics		...	16,1 7
Provisions—			
Fruits and vegetables dried, salted or preserved, other than dates	cwt.	236	11,233
Other sorts of provisions		8	319
Total		...	27,839
Other articles		...	2,247
GRAND TOTAL		...	30,086

Articles of Foreign merchandise exported from British India to the ports in the Levant.

Articles.		1904-1905.	
		Quantity.	Value.
			Rs.
Apparel (including drapery, haberdashery, millinery, etc.)		...	409
Cotton, manufactures—Piece-goods	yds.	219,630	44,871
Drugs, medicines, and narcotics		...	254
Dyeing and tanning materials	cwt.	11	225
Glass and glassware		...	325
Hardware and cutlery, including plated ware		...	400
Shells and cowries		...	6,450
Silk, manufactures		...	1,158
Spices	lbs.	2,835	754
Tea, black	„	813	921
Total		...	55,767
Other articles		...	714
GRAND TOTAL		...	56,481

Indian merchandise exported from British India to the ports in the Levant.

Articles.		1904-1905.	
		Quantity.	Value.
			Rs.
Apparel (including drapery, haberdashery, millinery, etc.)		...	26,918
Cotton, twist and yarn	lbs.	2,111,935	8,06,092
Cotton manufactures—Piece-goods	yds.	84,223	23,201
Cotton handkerchiefs and shawls in the piece	No.	1,501	3,464
Drugs and medicines		...	1,721
Tobacco	lbs.	5,702	6,008
Dyeing and tanning materials, Indigo	cwt.	1,702	3,56,905
Dyeing and tanning materials—Turmeric	„	149	1,147
Dyeing and tanning materials, other sorts	„	85	771
Grain and pulse—Rice not in the husk	„	880,299	33,10,860
Hides and skins	cwt. No.	909,833,390	3,09,668
Jute, manufactures—Gunny bags	„	2,528,900	7,01,688
Jute, manufactures—Gunny cloth	yds.	312,670	38,061
Provisions—Fruits and vegetables: dried, salted or preserved	cwt.	367	1,668
Other sorts of provisions	„	1	40
Seeds	„	221	729
Silk, raw	lbs.	47	258
„ manufactures — Piece-goods	yds.	2,198	2,985
„ goods of silk mixed with other materials	„	18,685	19,316
Spices—Ginger	lbs.	2,421	525
Pepper	„	4,378	1,503
Other Sorts	„	1,504	1,553
Tea, black	„	126,677	51,610
Total	Value	...	56,65,691
Other articles	„	...	9,928
GRAND TOTAL	„	...	56,75,619
Grand Total of Foreign and Indian Merchandise		...	57,32,100

It must be understood that these figures do not represent the entire trade in Indian articles of commerce, for large quantities of these still go indirectly. Formerly the great mass of this trade in rice, jute-goods, tea, etc., was done through intermediate ports in the United Kingdom and elsewhere. So artificial a condition could not persist indefinitely; and of late years a much larger percentage than formerly has been done from India, though transhipment at some port in the Mediterranean has still been necessary in most cases. Under these conditions very large quantities of rice and gunnies have gone to Turkish ports. Indian tea has largely displaced China teas, although in those regions, as in Persia, Afghanistan and other countries of the Middle East, bitterness

of taste and a lack of "bouquet" are alleged as distinctive disabilities of the Indian leaf. The Levant trade in Indian yarns, which till a very few years ago was practically dormant, responded with extraordinary readiness to certain measures of enterprise on the part of the Bombay Millowners, and increased some twelve-fold in a matter of twenty months. The high prices of 1904-05 checked that expansion, as was shown in a Table in our issue of the 5th April; and private advices from Constantinople indicate that in 1905 Italian yarns regained most of what they had previously lost to their Bombay competitors. This, however, has probably been due in large measure to the preoccupation of Indian spinners in other directions; and there is no reason why India should not recapture the strong position she had taken in the Levant, as soon as the decline in the demand for the Further East becomes marked and Bombay spinners are really in a position to fulfil orders for Turkey.

The sudden retirement of the Indian spinners from the Levant trade on the appearance of a good outlet elsewhere is symptomatic of a most unfortunate condition experienced by shippers of all articles to those regions. This is the uselessness of the Turkish Courts of Law for the enforcement of contracts. Almost every merchant, who has had a finger in the Levant trade—whether the article was jute or tea or yarn—has burned that finger more or less, and regards the markets in question largely as a *pis aller*. He knows that on the least provocation—such for instance as the manifestation of a polite desire for the fulfilment of the terms agreed upon in the matter of payment—his Levantine buyer will probably raise a series of vexatious objections about a score of points and so convert a promising piece of business into a minor disaster. The buyer's power to do so reposes on the fact that goods shipped to those ports have to be landed under the sinister shadow of the Turkish courts and that, since these are entirely inefficient, sublimely dilatory and frequently corrupt, there is, practically speaking, no remedy available. Consuls, however, seem to agree that most of the money lost by shippers to Turkey has not been gained by the Turkish buyer but by the slippery Levantine middleman or agent. It was long ago realised that, while such conditions lasted, a full development of trade relations was impossible; and, opportunely, the movement on the part of Cyprus for such a protected port as is indispensable to her trade with Egypt, furnished what may prove to be the solution of the difficulty and a beginning of great things.

Larnaca and Limassol, the two chief ports of Cyprus, are exposed to the winds of the south and in certain states of weather are inaccessible. The trade in these ports is moreover served by lighters, the use of which entails risk, delay and expense. Mr. Chamberlain, then Colonial Secretary, therefore accepted the proposal for the construction of a harbour at Famagusta, a place in the shelter of Cape Greco at the Eastern end of the island, and about ninety miles from the Turkish coast. While the works were in progress, arrangements were also made for establishing a weekly mail service between Cyprus and Alexandria; and pending the completion of the works at Famagusta, the mail steamers touched at Larnaca and Limassol. In the interests of Indian trade, timely representation was made to the effect that **Port Said** ought either to displace Alexandria as the southern terminus of this service or at least to become a regular port of call. This was conceded; and persons familiar with the prime impediment to the Levant trade took steps also to bring to official knowledge the important rôle that might be played by an entrepôt contiguous to the Turkish coast and where goods could be warehoused in bulk under British jurisdiction. Formerly the trade along the coasts of Asia Minor was done entirely by houses having their seat in Smyrna or Beyrout; but the cupidity of sundry authorities having control of the larger ports has led to such an increase in the charges on trade passing through these places that there has been a growing disposition to resort to the smaller ports. But it is necessary either to ship the goods in quantities so small that the cost becomes heavy, or to consign larger quantities to a multiplicity of agents who may or may not be honest.

The waters about Cyprus are well furnished with sailing ships engaged in the coasting trade and in the carriage of timber. There would therefore be no difficulty in making small shipments to any point on the neighbouring coast as money was found to be in hand, while the agents by whom the business was conducted would be under British Courts. The soundness of these representations was recognised, and arrangements were inaugurated for the **bonding of goods at Famagusta.** It is understood that the expediency of declaring Famagusta to be a Free Port has been canvassed recently; but it has evidently been decided in the negative. The probability that Indian Mussulmans resident in Cyprus might become most successful drummers among their Turkish co-religionists is a consideration not to be overlooked. It cannot be too clearly pointed out that under present conditions Port Said offers an extraordinary opening for the creation of a great agency business by some Indian firm. The qualifications needed are:—(1) knowledge of the Indian trades and sources of supply, (2) sufficient standing to command the confidence of shippers, (3) knowledge of a few foreign languages, (4) energy. The languages in question—French, Arabic and Turkish—could be learned orally at Port Said in a year's time; and a man who made good his position as an Indian agent at Port Said (where honest agents are less common than flies) would almost inevitably play a great part in that development of trade with the levant which seems clearly in prospect.

The **completion of the harbour works** was announced in the Board of Trade Journal of 7th December last. On the 16th of the same month the **mail service** between Cyprus and Egypt was discontinued. The following passage from the speech of the High Commissioner at the opening of the present

session of the Legislative Council indicates at once the cause of the deadlock and the trend of his own sympathies in the matter :—

"The contract between the Government and Bell's Steamship Company expired on the 16th of December, and the direct service between Cyprus and Egypt has ceased from that date. Recognizing, as I do, the vital importance to the trade of the Island of such a service, I have endeavoured to obtain the necessary sanction for the payment of a subsidy from the General Revenue such as would enable the Government to make further arrangements for the continuance of direct communication with Port Said or Alexandria. His Majesty's Government are however of opinion that the expenditure necessary for such an undertaking should properly be defrayed from the Fund established by law 12 of 1881, and I very much regret that I am therefore precluded from including in the estimates for the coming year a vote for a direct steamship service. Your Honourable Council is, as I am aware, opposed to the appropriation of any portion of the proceeds of the tax levied under law 12 of 1881 for purposes other than for the destruction of locusts, and I can only suggest for your consideration whether, in view of the vital necessity of the case, it would be unwise to relax your opposition so far as to permit of a continuance of direct steam communication with Egypt."

Unofficial advices from Cyprus state that the mails service is now conducted by various private lines which call at regular intervals : indeed, a post office notice of the 17th January 1906, which can be seen at the Commercial Intelligence Department along with the other documents relating to this matter, shows that the communication is not only regular but frequent. But it is added that, since these steamers call at many intermediate ports, there is very considerable delay. For example, a mail from England which previously took seven days in transit now frequently takes as long as fourteen or fifteen days. Although such delay has probably little importance as far as the carriage of goods is concerned : it is found to be so inconvenient by all classes of the community, and so detrimental to the direct trade with Egypt, that it is almost certain that some way will be found out of the *impasse*.

It is to be hoped that this consummation may not be long delayed ; for it is stated that the steamers by which communication with the island is maintained do not call at Famagusta ; and we thus have the definite and formal institution of a system of bonding at the new port synchronising almost exactly with the discontinuance of the mail service which alone could have been relied on to guarantee regular access to the warehouses in question. It must be admitted that the position is a little absurd, and it is not rendered more intelligible by the recent institution of **harbour dues** which cannot be expected to enhance the attractions of the Port.

It is clear, however, that the argument most likely to prevail in removing the present deadlock would be found in a clear exposition of the volume of direct trade which India might be expected to do with Anatolia under such advantages as would be conferred by the existence of an adjacent entrepôt under British jurisdiction. We have already described the difficulties attending computation of the quantity of Indian articles taken by Turkey ; but such as they are the figures leave small doubt that, with a little **co-operation** on the part of the merchants interested in the various articles, it should become worth the while of the various banking and shipping interests in the Levant to offer special terms and facilities. Indications of a readiness to accord such assistance have already been conveyed to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence from a reliable quarter ; and if the various interests in India will combine on this side there should be no difficulty in securing suitable arrangements on the other side for the conduct of the agency business. The Director-General of Commercial Intelligence is prepared to undertake the preliminaries of bringing these various interests together in the matter ; and communications on the subject should be addressed to him direct.

Incidentally it may be mentioned that a meeting of the British Chamber of Commerce in Constantinople was recently held, at which a Resolution was passed calling the attention of His Majesty's Government in somewhat caustic terms to the alleged defects in the British Consular system in Turkey, and the alleged lack of enterprise and sympathy in the personnel where trade interests are concerned. It is interesting to compare this pronouncement with the criticisms that have sometimes appeared in the Reports of Consular Officers in Turkey regarding the lack of initiative and ingenuity on the part of the traders there ; and we believe it has been the experience of persons in India who have had occasion to refer to the Consulate at Constantinople that, in that office at all events, the readiest assistance is given when enquirers say exactly what they want.

EXPORTS OF ITALIAN COTTON GOODS.

THE **exports of Italian Cotton yarns** were in 1901, 87,099 metric quintals, of which 46,494 went to Turkey and 4,447 to Africa. In 1902 the total was 79,940 metric quintals ; Turkey taking 41,627 and Africa 4,063. In 1903 the total exports were 82,436 metric quintals. The exports to Turkey fell however, to 33,586 metric quintals. The African trade showed an increase and amounted to 5,359. In 1904 the export was 83,044 metric quintals. The Turkish demand again showed a falling-off, 27,168 metric quintals being taken. The African trade again rose and amounted to 6,527 metric quintals. In 1905 there was a general increase ; the total exports amounting to 93,535 metric quintals. The Turkish trade in particular showed an increase, being in that year 45,073 metric quintals, whilst the African trade amounted to 9,432 metric quintals. The **Italian export of tissues** and other cotton goods has progressed with fair steadiness the total

exports in 1901 amounted to 148,072 metric quintals while Turkey took 39,625 metric quintals, and Africa 13,652 metric quintals. In 1902 there was a slight falling-off, the total export amounting to 185,073 metric quintals, the exports to Turkey having dropped to 33,541 and those to Africa to 12,658. In 1903 the export amounted to 168,500 metric quintals. The exports to Turkey rose to 40,976, those to Africa remaining nearly stationary at 12,975. In 1904, the exports rose to 214,316 metric quintals, the exports to Turkey going up to 54,207 and those to Africa to 19,310. In 1905 there was a further increase ; the total exports amounting to 217,123 metric quintals of which Turkey took 55,085, and Africa 27,863.

TARIFF CHANGES.

SERVIA.

Cotton Yarns and Manufactures.

The Servian Government have consented to maintain in force the rates of duty hitherto levied on *cotton yarns*. *The rates in question are as follows* :—

	Dinars. 100 kilogs.
Cotton yarn of all kinds—	
Up to No. 30 English—	
Unbleached or bleached	18·00
Dyed or printed	23·00
Above No. 30 English—	
Unbleached or bleached	27·00
Dyed or printed	33·00

The following are the rates on other descriptions of cotton goods established by the new Servian Customs Tariff, as modified by the recent Serbo-German Treaty :—

	Dinars. 100 kilogs.
Threads made up for retail sale (knitting and embroidery thread) on wooden reels, paper, etc., in balls or skeins, of one or more threads, unbleached, bleached, dyed or printed	150·00
Plain tissues—	
(*i*) Weighing more than 120 grammes per square metre and having in weft and warp in 1 sq. cm.—	
Up to 50 threads	80·00
From 50 to 80 threads	100·00
Above 80 threads	130·00
(*ii*) Weighing from 60 to 120 grammes per square metre and having in weft and warp in 1 sq. cm.—	
Up to 50 threads	180·00
From 50 to 80 threads	210·00
Above 80 threads	250·00
(*iii*) Weighing up to 60 grammes per square metre, and having in weft and warp in 1 sq. cm.—	
Up to 50 threads	130·00
From 50 to 80 threads	300·00
Above 80 threads	350·00
Velvet, plush and other similar tissues	170·00
Tulle, bobbinet, petinet, and other similar tissues	400·00
Congress stuffs, English tulle, canvas, and stiffened open-woven tissues for embroidery, under conditions prescribed by the Minister of Finance	100·00
Knitted and netted goods—	
In the piece, for sale by measure	200·00
Ready-made articles : socks, gloves, hair-nets, furniture-nets, bird-nets, and other like nets, impregnated knitted stuffs and other articles, even combined with wire of common metal—	
(*a*) Cut out and sewn	300·00
(*b*) In lengths marked for cutting, but not cut or sewn	300·00
Others, not mentioned above	250·00
Lace of every kind, including chemical lace	600·00
Embroideries on cotton tissues—	
Crocheted wares, hand or machine made embroideries, with or without application—	
Of silk	700·00
Of other materials	600·00
"Flat stitch" embroideries made on ordinary or shuttle-embroidery machines, *with or without applications*—	
Of silk	700·00
Of other material	600·00
Ribbons of every kind	200·00
Trimmings and buttonmakers' wares even with foundations or insertions of wood, bone or metal	125·00
Cord, twine, or string of cotton yarn of more than 1 mm. in thickness	150·00
NOTE.—Twine of less than 1 mm. in thickness is dutiable as yarn.	
Hose, combined or not with common metal, girths, wicks, knitted or woven	120·00
Tissues and other articles for technical purposes not otherwise mentioned in the tariff	30·06

SPAIN.

Wheat and Flour Import Duties.

On the 12th January a Bill approving the Royal Decrees of the 6th of April and 12th September 1905, which modified the Spanish Import Duties on wheat and flour, received legislative sanction. According to these Royal Decrees the Import Duties on wheat and flour were to be reduced to 4 and 7 pesetas per 100 kilogs., the reduced duties to remain in force while the price of wheat in the markets of Castile exceeds 28 pesetas per 100 kilogs. When the price falls to between 28 and 27 pesetas, the duties fixed by the law of the 14th March 1904 will be levied, namely, wheat 6 pesetas, wheat flour 10 pesetas per 100 kilogs. In the event of the price of wheat falling below 27 pesetas, the full duty inscribed in the tariff, 8 and 13·2 pesetas, respectively, are to be reimposed. Information has now been received by the Foreign Office that a Royal Decree was issued on the 9th of March re-imposing the full duties inscribed in the tariff.

ROUMANIA.

Single unbleached Cotton yarns—further reduction of duties.

With reference to the notice respecting the new Treaty of Commerce between the United Kingdom and Roumania, we are now informed that an agreement has been arrived at between the two Governments to incorporate in the Treaty a further reduction of the Roumanian duty on Cotton Yarns. In accordance with this arrangement the duty on Single Unbleached Yarns (No. 333 and the new tariff) will not exceed 5 frs. per 100 kilogs. so long as the new Treaty remains in force.

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CHILI.

Sugar refined.

The Chilian law reducing the duties on refined sugar imported from abroad by 1*s.* 6*d.* the metric hundredweight has been finally approved.

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EGYPT.

Oils, Colours, etc.

The Egyptian "Journal Officiel" for the 24th February contains the following revised Valuation Tariff for use in assessing import duties on certain oils, colours, etc., which was to come into operation on the 22nd February, and will remain in force until the 21st May, 1906, or until denunciation :—

Articles.	Valuation per kilog.* (net)
	Milliemes.†
Cotton-seed oil, "prime winter yellow"	20½
,, ,, refined, and "summer yellow"	18⅝
Linseed oil, raw	20
,, ,, boiled	21
Zinc, white (1st quality) including "Vieille Montagne"	26
Zinc (2nd quality) including "Nouvelle Montagne"	*Ad valorem.*
Red lead	19
Cochineal	*Ad valorem.*
Cocoanut oil, raw or refined	,,

Sesame Valuation.

The same issue of the "Journal Officiel" contains the Valuation Tariff for use in assessing import duties on certain kinds of sesame. The Tariff was to come into force on the 25th February, and to remain in operation until the 24th May 1906, or until denunciation :

Articles.	Valuation per kilog.*
	Milliemes.†
Sesame from China	12½
,, India	12
,, Zanzibar	12
,, Aleppo and Cyprus	11½
,, Syria and Turkey	14

* Duty is levied on these valuations at the rate of 8%.
† 1,000 milliems = £E1 = £1 0*s.* 6*d.*

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INDIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

BENGAL.

Proposed Nickel One Anna Piece.—At their meeting of 6th February the Committee had before them, through the courtesy of the Hon. Mr. E. N. Baker, C.S.I., samples of the nickel one-anna coin on which Government were experimenting. The design was only provisional, as it had not yet received the approval of H. M. the King-Emperor, and there were also certain mechanical difficulties to be overcome. The Committee considered the design a handsome one, but the raised edge was inconveniently sharp and would tend to accumulate dirt. The suggestion was made that this should be remedied.

Holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act.—The result of the voting taken from members of the Chamber on the two proposals of the Madras Chamber was as follows :—

Proposal to declare the 24th May as a Public Holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

In favour of the proposal	69 votes.
Against	35 ,,

Proposal to alter the date of the celebration of H. M. the King-Emperor's Birthday from 26th June to 9th November.

In favour of the proposal	92 votes.
Against	8 ,,

The Committee have accordingly supported the proposals in question, so far as the province of Bengal is concerned. The Committee have, however, declined to support a further proposal made by the Bombay Chamber that Whit Monday should be gazetted annually as a public holiday under the Act, as they think the Holiday List should not be further extended.

Short Supply of Wagons on the Port Trust Railway.—In reply to a representation made by the Committee, on the 19th January, to the Vice-Chairman of the Port Commissioners, on the subject generally of facilitating traffic on the Port Trust Railway, specially in connection with the supply of wagons, the Committee received a letter of 17th February, detailing what was in contemplation to improve the arrangements for traffic especially in connection with Jute. It was intimated that the steps being taken for the transfer of the hide business to the Docks were well in progress and that contracts had been let out for the completion of the additional premises required by August. These premises will cover an area of over 40 bigahs and have a total length of frontage extending over 1,600 feet. The new Tea Warehouse at the Docks is also approaching completion and will be ready in good time for the next tea season. The transfer of import goods to the existing Tea Warehouse has been commenced in the meantime and exports for the Docks are being received on the ground floor of the Ware-house. The Commissioners have also placed an order for 60 more wagons.

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce—formation of.—Early in February the Committee were favoured by the Chairman of the new Chamber of Commerce at Chittagong with an intimation of its formation, with a copy of the Rules. The Committee replied conveying their best wishes for the success of the new venture. The Punjab Chamber of Commerce, the Eastern Bengal and Assam, and the Chittagong Chambers have all been constituted within the last few months.

Port Sudan in the Red Sea.—On the 22nd February the Committee circulated for information copy of letter of 31st January from the Honorary Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Aden, drawing attention to the new Port of Port Sudan in the Red Sea, and asking for information as to the possibility of Calcutta being interested in exports and imports in connection with the new Port.

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BOMBAY.

(1) READ further letter from the Bombay Government, dated 24th February 1906, forwarding, for the opinion of the Chamber, copy of a communication from the Government of India regarding the effect of the proviso to Clause 2 of the **Bill to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1859.**

This proviso is to the effect that no running agreement with the crew of any foreign going ship, registered in British India under the Merchants' Shipping Act of 1894, shall continue in force if, after the expiration of such period of 6 months as mentioned in Clause I, the ship proceeds on a voyage from a port out of British India to any other port which is not on the direct road, or a customary route, to her port of destination in British India. There is also a proviso to the effect that every such agreement shall, in addition to any other particulars required by law, contain such stipulations for the discharge of the crew, and the payment of their wages, for securing their return to the port at which they were shipped, or to some other port in British India, and for other purposes on the termination of the agreement at a port out of British India under the first proviso as the Governor General in Council may direct.

RESOLUTION.—The Bombay Government to be informed that the point raised in the communication from the Government of India has been carefully considered by the Committee, and that they are of opinion that it is one that is not likely to cause much practical inconvenience, as the routes of steamers under six monthly agreements are always known before departure from the Port at which the crews are engaged and are stated in their agreements. Add that legally a crew could (if the Articles expired at or before arrival at a Port, prior to the Port of destination) demand to be sent back from there, and could refuse to proceed to destination.

But it was hardly likely they would do so, and after all the ship-owner would be himself to blame if he sent a ship to sea on a voyage, which was not covered by the full period of the articles. His remedy in all such cases would be to sign on a fresh crew. Add that in the past ship-owners have consulted their crews, and if the latter were willing, as has usually been the case, they have completed the further round voyage. But as the situation is one that ship-owners should be protected from, the Committee would suggest that a Clause might be sanctioned in the articles whereby, if the men agreed before a Shipping Master, prior to leaving an Indian Port, that they were willing to complete another round voyage, that the Shipping Master should have powers to endorse Articles to that effect, for a further period of say not more than a month, thus making it binding on both parties to continue employment till the return to the original port where the Articles were signed.

(2) READ letter, dated 3rd February 1906, from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on the subject of **Customs Duty on Shortages.**

The Bengal Chamber forwarded copy of a letter (with accompanying papers) from the Calcutta Liners' Conference with reference to the question of charging duty in future on contents found short in packages. The Bengal Chamber stated that under orders of the Board of Revenue passed in 1889, such duty had never been levied in Bengal, although apparently this had not been the case at other Indian Ports. It was understood that Government intended to levy it in future, so as to bring the practice in Bengal into line with that followed at the other Maritime Customs Houses of India. The Bengal Chamber accordingly desired to be informed as to the practice followed by the Customs Authorities in Bombay, in connection with this matter, and enquired whether, in the event of its being as stated in the papers referred to, the Bombay Chamber would join in a representation to the Government of India to get it assimilated to the practice prevailing in Bengal which was manifestly the equitable one.

RESOLUTION.—The Bengal Chamber to be informed that their letter had received the sympathetic and careful consideration of the Committee, but that a reference to the correspondence published in the Annual Report of the Bombay Chamber for the year

1903, would show that this matter had engaged our attention and after much enquiry and correspondence with the Collector of Customs the Committee of that year did not feel justified in proceeding further. Add that the subject might appropriately be placed under two heads: *viz.*, the levy of Customs Duty (*a*) on goods short-landed, and (*b*) on shortages of contents found in packages landed in good condition. That the practice prevailing in Bombay is to hold the ship liable for duty for any shortage, though this has never been willingly acquiesced in by the Shipping Companies. The theory on which the Customs Department proceeds is that all goods manifested and not landed through the Customs House, have in fact been landed in contraband. It is recognised that, when a reasonable presumption exists that the goods in question had been so landed, the theory stated is the only practicable one, but that the Committee maintain it is unreasonable to exact penalty duty in cases in which all the probabilities are opposed to that theory. That the Committee, whilst objecting to any action that might or would transfer the liability from the ship to the importer, are prepared to support the Bengal Chamber in urging Government to undertake not to charge duty on shortages on either party, but to assimilate the practice throughout India to what is considered the more equitable one now prevailing in Calcutta.

(4) READ letter, dated 14th February 1906, from the Bombay Native Piece-Goods Merchants' Association on the subject of the **late shipments of piece-goods.**

RESOLUTION.—The Association to be informed of the action already taken by this Chamber in the matter.

The Manchester Chamber to be again addressed forwarding copy of the letter from the Piece-Goods Merchants' Association and stating that while the difficulties of the question are realized by the Committee, they cannot help feeling that unless some arrangement is soon arrived at between Manufacturers and Merchants to put an end to the present tension, the dealers out here may be led to take independent action resulting in serious dislocation of trade.

(5) READ letter, dated 16th Feburary 1906, from Messrs. Weddel, Turner & Co., asking the Chamber to represent to Government the desirability of reducing the **Duty on Tram line sleepers imported into India from Australia and the Colonies.**

RESOLUTION.—Messrs. Weddel, Turner & Co. to be informed that the Committee are unable to support their suggestion for the reason that the Tariff in this Country is a revenue one, and all imports from outside British India and Burma must pay either 5, $3\frac{1}{2}$ or 1 per cent. as the case may be. Further that if the Committee were to move for the exclusion of duty on Wooden Sleepers for Companies other than Railways, most of the articles of import would likewise have to be included.

BOMBAY, *20th March* 1906.

BOMBAY MILLOWNERS' ASSOCIATION.

The International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' and Manufacturers' Associations wrote recently to the Bombay Millowners' Association asking it to become affiliated with the Federated Association, and in conjunction with the Chambers of Commerce of Calcutta, Madras, and Cawnpore to appoint a delegate to represent the whole of India on the Committee of the International Federation. The Millowners' Associations have invited the Indian Chambers of Commerce to express their views on the subject before taking further action.

The Maneckjee Petit Manufacturing Co., Ld., write to the Bombay Millowners' Associations calling attention to the clause in the new Fire Insurance Policies that required full-pressed bales of cotton to be of a density of not less than 35 lbs. to the cubic foot. It was resolved that the Bombay Association of Fire Insurance Agents be addressed, stating that the Committee were of opinion that the question of density should be deleted, as the purchaser of cotton has no available means of correctly ascertaining whether the cotton he obtains either in Bombay or any of the upcountry markets is of the required density or not. That the enforcement of this condition would hamper operations and be very detrimental to Millowners' interests in general. The Committee recommend the adoption of the following :—

"Warranty that no cotton except Indian $\frac{\text{and}}{\text{or}}$ Egyptian cotton in fully-pressed iron-bound bales, as recognised by the trade at Colaba, $\frac{\text{and}}{\text{or}}$ other hazardous goods be stored therein."

Commenting on the clause of the specification which made it compulsory for an insured mill to allow the Agents of the Fire Insurance Association to enter and inspect the Mill at any time they choose, the Committee pointed out the inconvenience of this procedure in certain contingencies, and advised that no condition of a compulsory nature be entered in the warranty. In conclusion the Committee, in order to avoid misunderstanding, recommended that when changes were contemplated in future they might first be submitted to their consideration, before they were definitely embodied in the usual Insurance Policies.

A letter from the Secretary to Government, General Department, Bombay, forwarding copy of a Draft Bill further to amend the Indian Factories Act, 1881, and requesting the favour of the Association's views on the same, was read. It was resolved that in order to obviate the necessity of suggesting a large number of modifications and alterations which the Committee would otherwise consider indispensable, a clause might be added in the amended Act to the following effect: That on an appeal against a Factory Inspector's orders on technical questions (see Clause V, Section 2), such as ventilation, lighting, machinery, conservancy, etc., the Collector should be advised by two experts, one of whom to be nominated by the party appealing." The above suggestion was based on a desire to avoid the possibility of too rigid an interpretation of the Factory Regulations by Inspectors, who could not always be expected to be specialists on all such technical subjects.

KARACHI.

Sixth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire to nominate delegates to represent this Chamber at the sixth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire to be held in London in July 1906. **Resolution.**—That Messrs. W. W. Petrie and A. Whitworth be invited to represent the Chamber.

Late Deliveries of Piece-Goods and Yarns.—Read letter, dated 21st February 1906, from the Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Glasgow, acknowledging this Chamber's letter of 30th December 1905, on the subject of late deliveries of piece goods and yarns, and stating that after careful consideration the Directors of the Glasgow Chamber are of opinion that, however desirable it may be to prevent manufacturers falling behind in their deliveries, the difficulties in the way of enforcing a law to bring about this object are insuperable. Read letter, dated 9th March 1906, from the Joint Secretaries, Bombay Native Piece-goods Merchants Association, inviting attention to the question of late shipments of piece-goods and yarns, and suggesting that this Chamber should take an action in the matter. **Resolution.**—To be circulated to the Standing Sub-Committee for Piece-Goods and Yarns.

Agitation against consumption of Europe Sugar.—Read letter, dated 14th March 1906, referring to the agitation started in the Punjab in November last with the object of checking consumption of European beet sugar and stating that pamphlets in vernacular were freely distributed asserting that this beet sugar is manufactured with the aid of animal blood and bones, and that Hindus should abstain from using it. A translation of the pamphlet is forwarded. **Resolution.**—The Director General of Commercial Intelligence to be addressed with the object of obtaining reliable official information regarding the actual methods now employed in the manufacture of beet sugar.

Registration of Trade Marks.—Read letter, dated 21st March 1906, drawing the attention of the Committee to the paragraph in the prospectus of the "Indian Trade Journal" referring to Trade Marks, in which it is suggested that such marks should be registered by notices published in the Journal. It is pointed out that this method of registration would be of no practical advantage to merchants and might on the contrary be very mischievous. **Resolution.**—The attention of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence to be invited to the fact that the advertisement referred to is likely to mislead the public and ought not, in the opinion of the Committee, to be inserted in an official publication.

Administration of Persian Customs.—Read letter (confidential), dated 15th March 1906, from the Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, on the subject of the grievances of the British Commercial Community in Bushire in relation to the Persian Customs administration. **Resolution.**—To be acknowledged and recorded.

UPPER INDIA.

Sixth Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire.—The Committee have invited Sir Edward Buck, Mr. T. E. Strachey and Mr. S. M. Johnson to represent the Chamber as delegates to the Sixth Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire.

International Federation of Master Cotton Spinners and Manufacturers Association.—The Chairman of the Federation has been informed that the Committee are in favour of a representative of the Indian Cotton Industry being deputed to serve on the Committee of the Federation, in accordance with the invitation which has been extended to Indian Chambers of Commerce.

Generation of Eletrical Energy from Water Power derived from the Jumna River.—Major-General Beresford Lovett, Secretary of the United Provinces Power Association (London), has communicated to the Chamber particulars of a scheme for the supply of electrical energy to Saharanpore, generated by water power derived from the Jumna river. The scheme contemplates the generation of 20,000 horse power at the turbine axles, to be available probably in the year 1909. The importance of this energy being available to Saharanpore lies, it is contended, in the advantages possessed by that city for future commercial development in respect of (*a*) Railway communication, (*b*) the quantities of wheat and other commodities within easy reach, and (*c*) ample supply of labour. Major-General Beresford Lovett indicates that energy would be supplied to large consumers at 6 pies per horse-power as a preliminary rate. Further details are available on application to the Chamber.

Improvement and Extension of Cotton Cultivation in India.—A communication has been received from the United Provinces Government on this subject in the form of a copy of a letter addressed to the Director of Land Records and Agriculture with copy of the latter's reply. In this letter Government directs the discouragement of the use of machine-ginned seed as much as possible and the selection and distribution of seed by the Agricultural Department in cases where an extension of cultivation seems probable, when it seems likely that the area will be contracted, or where cultivators are not in the habit of themselves practising selection. Efforts are to be made to introduce the superior varieties of cotton acclimatised at the Cawnpore Experimental Farm in areas where for any reason extensions of cultivation may be looked for and where sufficient of

the superior quality of seed might be grown to induce ginning mills to treat it separately. It has also been decided to accept the Committee's suggestion to issue Bulletins giving advice regarding seed, cultivation, etc., and information as to the work being carried out by the Agricultural Department. The Chamber has since last June urged the adoption of these important measures, and the committee view with satisfaction the results of the efforts which have been made to obtain prompt and practical action.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

INDO-CHINA.

In his report on the **trade of Indo-China** for the year 1903-04, Mr. G. W. Pearson, Assistant in H. M.'s Consular Service in China, says that, though the great progress made by the Colony of Indo-China is evident to all, it is not easy to realise its extent or the cost to the Home Government at which it has been achieved. Indo-China is undergoing a process of rapid transformation from a land of agricultural simplicity, where wants are few, to one of bustling industry, of markets and railway communications, of traffic and speculation. All the provinces have great natural resources, and the extent of their possibilities is not yet fully known. In a territory of the extent and nature of Indo-China, there are immense obstacles to be overcome,—physical difficulties; unhealthy climate; the dissimilarity between Indo-China and other spheres hitherto known to French enterprise; and development under such conditions necessitates immense expenditure of money and labour.

Such developments of communications as are at present in hand indicate the efforts that are being made to improve the country generally. There are at present in Indo-China two lines of tramways, and two others are being started. Neither of the two older lines however has, so far, proved a financial success. It is hoped however that the two new lines, which will in reality be extensions of the older ones, will enable them to pay. In Cochin-China four lines are working, all of which are financially successful, and show an increasing turnover. One line is being constructed in Annam, from Tourane to Faïfo. At the close of 1904 there were in Indo-China four lines of railway in operation, whose approximate length was 644 kilometres. Of this length 404 kilometres are worked by the Government, and 240 privately, by the Compagnie Française de l'Indo-Chine et du Yunnan. All of these lines are to be extended. They already carry a considerable number of passengers and a considerable amount of freight. The lines now being constructed are from Haipong to Vietri, Hanoy to Vinh, Vietri to Laokay, Tourane to Hue, Saigon to Kuan-hoa and Siagon to Lang-bain. On all these lines constructional work has proved extremely difficult, and especially on the line into Yunnan, which has to cross several mountain ridges, necessitating the construction of numbers of tunnels and the negotiation of unhealthy valleys where work can only be carried forward in the cold season. There has, moreover, been the greatest difficulty in securing labour, more especially in the upland districts, where the lowlanders refuse to work. The importance of the Laokay-Yunnan-sen line can hardly be exaggerated. When complete, it will unite Tonkin with the capital of Yunnan, the existing means of communication between which is at present a precarious and tedious river journey. The Vietri-Laokay line is of almost equal importance, for it will form the chief artery of the lines that will feed the great Laokay-Yunnan-sen route. Already considerable sections of the line are in working order. At the same time that the railway development is going forward, the French Government are maturing schemes for the improvement of the shipping service between Indo-China, Europe, Australia, and China, and for the extension and improvement of the harbours of Tourane and Saigon. Special encouragement is also being given to trade, and two new departments of Government have been founded, those of "Agricultural Experts," and of Commercial Intelligence. Two establishments of agricultural research have been started, one on the delta of the Red River and the other near Than-ba.

With regard to the financial position of the five provinces of Indo-China, M. Beau, the Governor-General, in his report at the commencement of 1905, stated that the position of Tonkin was extremely satisfactory, a balance of 450,000 dol. from the last statement of accounts going to the reserve fund, which was exhausted by the great expense of 1902 Exposition. The situation in Annam was pronounced satisfactory, a fresh land-tax of 5 per cent., furnishing about 360,000 dol., being devoted to public works. Cambodia promises a balance of 115,000 dol. over the estimates of 1903. Laos remains in a stationary condition. It is a very undeveloped country, and until it is opened up little improvement can be expected. Cochin-China is the scene of considerable developments. A country of great promise, it is still suffering from two considerable natural disasters. There is a large deficit due to this cause, which, however, will be wiped out by 1906.

Commenting on the mining outlook in Indo-China Mr. Pearson says:—"Mining operations are considered under three categories: (*a*) Mines granted with full proprietorship; (*b*) application for grants under consideration; (*c*) prospecting concessions.

This classification is that adopted in Tonkin and Annam. It is somewhat different for Laos and Cambodia, which are not under the same mining laws.

"The most important coal mines are those at Hongay, owned by the Société Française des Charbonnages du Tonkin, which employs about 3,000 workmen, Chinese and Annamites. The total output in 1903 amounted to 367,333 tons, compared with 316,618 tons in 1902. The financial position of the Société is very flourishing. During 1904 the coal

extracted was 230,980 tons, of which 106,289 tons were manufactured into briquettes, some of which were shipped to Hong-Kong.

"The sales were:—

	Quantity.	
	Coal.	Briquettes.
	Tons.	Tons.
For consumption in Indo-China	34,568	73,847
" " abroad	151,239	3,497
Total	185,807	77,344
GRAND TOTAL	263,151	

"The metal mines are the following:—Ste. Josephine, producing *gold, tin, silver and mercury*; Ste. Adèle, tin and gold; and Beau-Site, tin. These mines, lying in the district of Co-a-bang (Ngnyen-buih), are alluvial tin deposits. In the north and west they touch the foot of the Pia-ouac Mountain. Veins of quartz, with cassiterite and wolfram, are very conspicuous in the granulite countries, especially above the Beau-Site mine. The metamorphosed schist and limestone also contain veins. Ste. Adèle mine, better known by its old native name of Tinh-Tuc, is worked by 60 Chinese. Sluices are used, and work is finished with pans; thus a little gold is separated from the cassiterite. Two smelting furnaces of the Banca type produce in pigs of 25 kilos. a very fine tin, which is sold in Indo-China and China. The total output of smelting since the commencement of work is about 30 tons."

As regards prospecting, at the commencement of 1904 there were 93 declarations of reserve land in *force in Tonkin*. The most important prospecting for gold is that made in 1903-04 at the Moson gold mines. Until recently 40 Muogons and 250 Chinese coolies were occupied there, but the latter were disbanded after a mutiny.

In Indo-China, as in India, agriculture is the most important industry and rice is the most important crop. The total export of rice from Indo-China during the last three years was:—

Year.	Quantity.
	Tons.
1904	976,410
1903	676,018
1902	1,115,608

Of the 976,410 tons exported in 1904, 92,757 tons were produced in Tonkin, only 1,622 tons in Annam, the balance mainly coming from Cochin-China and a small quantity from Cambodia.

The total amount was made up as follows:—

Articles.	Quantity.
	Tons.
White rice	564,212
" in bulk	239,135
Dust and flour	101,459
Meal	56,906
Paddy (rice in husk)	11,696

The following table shows the destination of all kinds of rice exported during the years 1902-04:—

Country.	Quantity.		
	1902.	1903.	1904.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
France	196,503	88,752	226,982
French colonies	22,200	40	19,671
European countries	59,03	2,068	35,415
China and Japan	51,383	82,907	76,035
Hong-Kong	416,843	262,399	312,793
Philippines	262,018	162,336	183,459
Netherland Indies	119,913	44,121	54,887

Here it may be observed that although it appears that only 71,918 tons of rice were exported to Japan directly in 1904, *actually the amount* was 262,836 tons. The discrepancy is explained by the fact that much is transhipped at Hong-Kong for Japan, and that the real destination of a large quantity was concealed on account of the war risks prevalent. Japan is no mean market for Indo-China, the totals of the exports and imports during 1904 being imports 7,982,000 yen, exports 5,263,000 yen, total 7,982,000 yen, compared with 15,579,000 and 197,000 yen, making a total of 15,776,000 yen in 1903. The great decrease was of course due to the war.

Many French colonists have been given concessions by the Government for the cultivation of rice, but hitherto seem to have met with little or no success. They attribute their failure to the lack of labour procurable, a cause which handicaps every project in Indo-China. Even when sufficient labourers are

found, installed and given advances of money, they will suddenly disappear, leaving the crops rotting for want of harvesting, and it is impossible to rediscover them when the mischief is done.

Further, the inundation of two district, Vinh-yen and Phuo-yen, has done great damage. The inundation was caused by blunders on the part of the engineers who attempted to deliver Hanoi from all danger of inundation by cutting through existing dykes retaining the Red River; the result was that two years afterwards, in 1897, an inundation occurred, sweeping away the weakened dyke, submerging the surrounding region and damaging the existing works of the Yunnan railway. Successive floods completely devastated the district to the extent of some 300 square miles. A moderate calculation gives the damage done within the past six years as 35,000,000 fr.

In Tonkin it has been found that the actual cost of growing an acre of rice is approximately 66 dol., arrived at as follows :—

	Cost.
	Dols.
Seed	18
Labour—	
Preparation of soil, 60 days at 30c.	18
Harvesting, 40 days at 30c.	12
Carting, 40 days at 30c.	12
Threshing	6
TOTAL	66

UNITED STATES COAL INDUSTRY IN 1904.

Mr. Seymour Bell, British Commercial Agent in the United States, submits a report upon the coal industry of the United States in 1904 which affords some informative reading. The production of coal in the United States in 1903 amounted to 319,068,229 tons, valued at 503,724,381 dollars. The production in 1904 amounted to 314,562,882 tons, valued at 444,816,288 dollars being 4,500,000 tons and 58,908,093 dollars less than in 1904. The average price per ton in 1903 was 1 dol. 58 cents, as compared with 1 dol. 41 cents in 1904. The difference in output is, however, due less to any increase in general industry in United States, necessitating an increased consumption of coal, than to the fact that in 1903 it had become necessary to replenish the coal stocks which, both in bituminous and anthracite coal, had become exhausted owing to the long strike in the anthracite region in 1902. Nevertheless, the development of manufacturing industry in the United States has been enormous, as may be gathered from the fact that in 1904 no less a quantity than 312,334,489 tons was consumed in the country, only 2,228,362 tons being exported. On the whole, the relations between operators and mine workers throughout the country were good. A tendency to work shorter hours made itself manifest, and in the majority of mines the eight-hours day was the rule. The production per man, however, showed an increase where bituminous coal was concerned. This is accounted for by an increase in the use of coal-cutting machines. The production per man amongst those engaged in getting anthracite coal showed a slight falling-off. The average production of anthracite per man for the whole of 1904 was 419 tons, as compared with 444 tons in 1903, the average daily production being, in 1904, 2·10 tons, and, in 1903, 2·15 tons. The average production of bituminous coal per man for the whole of 1904 was 568 tons, against 807 tons in 1903. The average daily production per man was, however, 2·81 tons in 1904, and 2·70 tons in 1903. More men were employed in the mines in 1904 than in 1903, but they worked on the average a fewer number of days. The average number of days worked in the anthracite mines was 200 in 1904, a decrease of six days, as compared with 1903. In bituminous mines the average of days worked was 202 in 1904, a decrease of 23, compared with 1903. The area of anthracite mines in Pennsylvania, Clorodo, and New Mexico is 500 square miles. In 1899 the total production from these mines was 54,030,537 tons. During the strike year, 1902, it fell to 37,024,582, rose in the next year to over 66½ million tons, and stood, in 1904 at 65,382,842 tons. The bituminous coal-fields of the United States cover the enormous area of 336,413 square miles. The total production of the six principal coal-fields in 1887 amounted to 75,992,549 tons. By 1904 it had risen to 173,879,365 tons. The percentage of increase in 18 years was 128·81. The value of the anthracite production decreased 8·6 per cent. in 1904, as compared with 1903, while the value of the bituminous product decreased 13·04 per cent.

The average sale price of anthracite coal in 1904 was 2 dol. 3.c, as compared with 2 dol. 50c. in 1903, 2 dol. 35c. in 1902 and 2 dol. 5c. in 1901.

The average sale price of bituminous coal in 1904 was 1 dol. 23c., compared with 1 dol. 39c. in 1903, 1 dol. 25c. in 1902 and 1 dol. 18c. in 1901.

Referring to the cott of mining anthracite, the *Engineering and Mining Journal* in one of its issues in April 1905, remarked: "As was noted in our columns some time ago, there has been an increase in the cost of mining since the strike It is of interest to put on record some figures which can be derived from reports recently published. The three companies, whose costs are shown in the table below, all operate their mines directly, and not through the intervention of subordinate or controlled companies. The table shows the costs of mining of three important companies, the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, the Delaware and Hudson and the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company. The item of improvements at mines is included in the cost of coal, as it is a necessary part of the expenses of mining, and simply means such development as is really required to maintain the production. The averages given in the table are based on the entire quantity of coal handled by the respective companies :—

	Cost.					
	Delaware, Lackawanna and Western.		Delaware and Hudson.		Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company.	
	Dol.	c.	Dol.	c.	Dol.	c.
Cost of coal mined and bought	1	72	2	1	1	79
Improvements at mines	0	8	0	8	0	23
Total cost of coal	1	80	2	9	2	2
Transportation and selling	1	79	1	14	...	...
Total cost	3	59	3	23	...	...
Average selling price	3	97	3	57	...	...

"With respect to the table, we may add that the Delaware and Hudson costs include a sinking fund charge for all coal mined from the company's estates, which averages 4c. per ton on all coal handled by the company. No such charge appears in the Lackawanna report. The cost of coal—that is, the mining and preparing—was lowest in the case of the Lackawanna for local reasons. That it was lower than in the case of the other company implies rather advantages in conditions than superiority in management. The Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company does not include in its report cost of transportation, as it owns no railroad of its own, and its product is sent to market over the lines of other companies. The Lackawanna sells its coal chiefly either at tide-water or at Buffalo for the lake trade, and has rather a long haul almost entirely over its own lines, so that the cost of transportation is largely a matter of book-keeping between its coal and railroad departments. The Delaware and Hudson also carries a heavy tonnage over its own lines to Northern New York, New England and Canada, but that proportion of its coal which is sold at tide-water is transported over other lines, on what is known to be a very low contract rate, so that its transportation charges may well be lower than those of the other company. The average rate per ton-mile reported by the Lackawanna on anthracite coal last year was 86c. This is somewhat higher than the railroad obtained on through freight, but it must be remembered that the average haul on anthracite is less than 160 miles with both loading and unloading charges, so that rates would certainly be somewhat higher than in the case of through freight with only one terminal charge. On the Delaware and Hudson, as nearly as can be ascertained, the rate per ton-mile was about 63c. or one-quarter lower: this, however, is not an unnatural difference, when we make allowance for the contract rate on tide-water business above mentioned. If we compare the costs above given with the average selling price, it does not appear that the profit in either case was excessive, the expenses having been in both cases over 90 per cent. of the gross receipts."

KHORASAN AND SEISTAN.

No. 3499 of the annual series of Consular Reports contains the review of the trade of Khorasan and Seistan for the year 1904-05.

Major Sykes gives separate figures for the trade of India with Khorasan *viâ* Seistan for two years only. They relate only to Meshed, and are obtained apparently by enquiring from British merchants. There are no Indian statistics corresponding with them, because trade with Khorasan is not separately recorded at Nushki. It should be included in the Seistan trade. But probably some part of it appears under the head of S. W. Afghanistan.

Taking Major Sykes' figures of imports, we find that three items comprise the bulk of the trade from India :—

	1903-04.	1904-05.
	£	£
Indigo	5,331	7,495
Hides (including furs)	1,463	4,202
Tea	4,134	450
	10,928	12,147

These articles in the two last years represented 85 and 88 per cent. respectively of the total recorded imports. For the previous years the figures for Khorasan and Seistan are combined; but the three items mentioned, together with cotton tissues, which do not apparently go so far north as Meshed (though they go to Seistan and probably to the southern parts of Khorasan), constitute 88 and 71 per cent. of the total trade. The conclusion is then that imports of other articles are not at present of any importance.

Of the three articles "hides (including furs)" appears to be composed chiefly of fox and beaver* skins. These are not separately shewn in the Nushki returns, and it seems possible that they are not wholly of Indian origin, as their value is three times greater than the total land frontier exports of Sind and British Baluchistan. In any case they are a very small fraction of the exports of "skins untanned, furs" from Khorasan to Russia (£34,980 a year for last few years).

Indigo is imported into Khorasan from the United Kingdom and India *viâ* Bandar Abbas, to the average value of £5,700 a year, and *viâ* Bushire Yezd (in 1904-05) to the value of £6,753. It is not imported by other routes, or from Russia, save, perhaps, in inconsiderable quantities.

* This is evidently a clerical error, and means other skins.

Tea is imported "from the United Kingdom and India" *viâ* Bandar Abbas (includes tea in transit to Russia) £19,480 (average 4 years) *viâ* Bushire to Yezd ... £6,171 (1904-05) and from Russia (said to be largely Indian tea).

	£
1901-02	525
1902 03	353
1903-04	7,937
1904-05	20,062

Both these articles are well adapted for a long overland journey: they can be packed conveniently, need not deteriorate or waste in transit, and are of high relative value compared with their bulk.

Declared value at Nushki.

Indigo, Rs. 67 per maund.

Tea ,, 49 ,, ,,

Both have at present fairly good positions against similar products of their countries. Because, although synthetic indigo is not an aniline dye, the same considerations which led to the prohibition of the import of aniline dye would create a preference for natural indigo in carpet-making. But synthetic indigo is of course a dangerous rival, and the enormous increase in the imports of "tea, really Indian" from Russia probably account for the corresponding drop in imports *viâ* Seistan.

Major Sykes' proposals to remit the remaining $\frac{1}{8}$ Customs duty, average for another $\frac{1}{3}$ rebate on freights to Quetta do not appear likely to help. The former of course does not apply at all to Indian products. The present $\frac{1}{3}$ rebate As. 7-7 a maund of Indigo, and As. 5 on a maund of tea, from Karachi to Quetta (where the concession is now in force). This is a very small affair when compared either with the declared values at Quetta (7 per cent. and 6 per cent. respectively) or with the camel transport of Rs. 9-6 per maund from Quetta to Khorasan (5 per cent. and 3 per cent. respectively).

Major Sykes says there is an opening for Cawnpore leather and woollen goods. There is nothing in the figures that throws any light on this.

The other main imports into Khorasan by other routes are:—

	Average value of 4 years. Rs.
Metals from Russia	1,90,905
Petroleum from Russia	1,01,860
Cotton tissues from Russia	16,41,750
Sugar from Russia	13,76,165
Cotton and other tissues from U. K. and India by other routes.	5,24,220

As Meshed is only 170 miles from the Russian railway and 1,000 miles from Quetta, it is obvious *that imports from India cannot compete with* articles of such low relative value as—

	Rs. A.
Metals (declared value per maund)	10 0
Petroleum ,, ,, ,, ,,	22 10
Sugar ,, ,, ,, ,,	9 0

Cotton piece-goods, however, with a declared value of Rs. 94 per maund (imports from Russia) do seem to offer an opening because the camel freight from Nushki to Meshed is only 10 per cent. of the value at the latter place. They are in other ways also well adapted for the route, and were exported from Sind, Baluchistan. Seistan (Indian and Foreign) to the value of Rs 1,11,000, 1,54,000 and 1,47,000 in the last three years, and in very much larger quantities to Afghanistan (19 lakhs a year). If, then, by a lower initial cost, or by any advantage inherent in the goods, the difference of 10 per cent. in cost of transit can be met, there is clearly a considerable field for trade.

As regards exports, the positions may be regarded in the same way—

	1903-04. Rs.	1904-05. Rs.
Fistachio nuts	15,585	10,515
Silk	58,140	48,795
Horses	26,880	52,590

constitute over 90 per cent. of the trade of the last few years. The silk that goes to India is apparently manufactured (paragraph 6 of report and chapter the Nushki statistics). Both silk and pistachio nuts are exported by other routes. Horses do not appear to be exported to any great extent except *viâ* Seistan. They are of good quality (page 3 of report), being valued at about £16 each in Khorasan, and also at Nushki but the supply is limited.

Important articles of export to Russia are:—

	Average of last 4 years. Rs.
Carpets	4,12,755
Raw cotton	19,20,450
Fruit	6,62,625
Skins	5,67,945
Raw wool	8,48,205

These articles are all of low specific value, except carpets, in which Major Sykes says "There is one of the few openings for British trade." His figures do not suggest any other.

The conclusions arrived at from the tables may therefore be thus summed up. It is only in articles of high value that Indian trade can compete with Russian trade at Meshed. Indigo and tea are two articles fulfilling the necessary conditions. But the import trade in tea *viâ* Seistan is threatened by the import of Indian tea *viâ* Russia. Cotton piece-goods offer an opening. Major Sykes' proposal to remit the remaining $\frac{1}{8}$ Customs Duty does not affect tea and indigo; it is equivalent to 43% *ad valorem* on the value of piece-goods at Karachi. His proposal to allow a further rebate of $\frac{1}{3}$ of the railway freight is equivalent to a concession of 7 per cent. or less on their value at Nushki. These concessions seem therefore in themselves insufficient to affect the trade.

As regards exports, the best hope for improving present conditions lies in the development of a market for carpets at the Indian end of the Nushki and Seistan route.

CONSTANTINOPLE.

Mr. Consul Waugh in his Report of Constantinople and District, writing of the **consumption of Indian goods** on the Constantinople market during 1905, and the channels by which they arrive, puts the consumption of tea at about 5,000 cases, and states that all arrived *viâ* Port Said, Marseilles and Trieste, except a small quantity *viâ* London. The consumption of shellac amounted to about 3 0 cases of 2 cwts. each which all arrived *viâ* London. The consumption of green hides was 70 to 100 bales, all arriving *via* Port Said, Trieste and Marseilles. The consumption of rice was about 100,000 sacks, which arrived partly by Port Said, Trieste or Marseilles, and partly from large stocks always kept in Alexandria. The consumption of jute was 3,000 to 4,000 bales; all arrived *viâ* Port Said, Marseilles and Trieste, except about 500 bales of material from Dundee. The sale of jute (gunnies and material by the yard) was formerly all in the hands of Indian and Dundee houses. At the present time probably more than half these goods come from Austria-Hungary and Belgium. A syndicate has recently been formed in Austria-Hungary, under the name of the "Vereinigte Jute Fabriken," which is a combination of 14 mills, with a central office in Vienna. This combination is underselling Indian and Dundee goods by about 8 per cent., both in sacks and material. Belgium is also doing some business on this market. In consequence of the increased demand in Japan and China for Indian yarns, owing to the Japanese mills not working during the war, there was a rise in the prices which did not permit Constantinople merchants to compete with the yarns of the Yedi-Coulé Factory and the Italian yarns, and there was in consequence no consumption of Indian yarns during the year. The following table return show, the cotton twist and yarn exported from India to Turkey during the years 1903-04 and 1904-05:—

	Turkey in Europe.		Turkey in Asia.		Total Turkey.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Lbs.	Rs.	Lbs.	Rs.	Lbs.	Rs.
1903-04—						
Indian	464,710	1,51,232	4,311,738	14,71,776	4,776,448	16,23,008
Foreign	...	...	22,300	11,271	22,300	11,271
Total	464,710	1,51,232	4,334,038	14,83,047	4,798,748	16,34,279
1904-05—						
Indian	614,820	2,22,042	3,898,005	14,84,038	4,512,825	17,06,080
Foreign	...	...	42,400	19,824	42,400	19,824
Total	614,820	2,22,042	3,940,405	15,03,862	4,555,225	17,25,904

RAINFALL SUMMARY

For the week ending 31st March 1906.

During the period under review, there was general rain in Assam, the central districts of Rajputana and in Baluchistan, light local rain in the north-west of the United Provinces and the North-West Frontier Province, some rain in Assam, east of the Central Provinces and the west of the Punjab and a few scattered showers in the United Provinces, the northern half of the Punjab and in Sind, while practically throughout the week, there has been rain and snow in the North-West Himalayas and in Kashmir. The principal amounts of rainfall were:—Sonemarg 4·25", Sibsagar 2·85", Srinagar 1·17", Dibrugarh 1·05", Murree 1·00", Ludhiana 0·98", Tezpur 0·97", Minimarg 0·84", Jhansi 0·72" and Pendra 0·17".

The season during which weather in India was largely influenced by depressions travelling eastward from the regions of Persia and Asiatic Turkey was usually near its close at the end of March, and during the past week examples of such low pressure conditions crossing the border of Sind or of the North-West Frontier Province have been wanting. On the 29th instant, the barometer had risen slowly over the northern land area and fallen slowly over the Peninsula, whereby the general pressure gradient up the bay was slightly diminished but otherwise the essentials of the pressure distribution remained unchanged. On the 30th, the barometer had risen slowly over Bengal and rapidly over Assam, while it remained steady over the Burma and the Madras coasts. It fell slightly over the United Provinces. It was above normal everywhere. On the 31st, the barometer fell rapidly in the west, and more irregularly over the rest of the area. There were light showers in Chota Nagpur, Orissa and Assam. Angul reported $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch of rain and temperature, though a little up, remained below normal over the greater part of the area and fell further in Bihar, North and East Bengal. There was a rapid development of cloud over the Peninsula, in South-West and East Bengal, and locally in Assam.

The weekly report on the famine and scarcity in the United Provinces was as follows:—The weather has been cloudy and the rain has delayed harvesting and caused slight damage, but the late crops have benefited; in the Punjab, there was good rainfall during the week in the Jhajjar tehsil and smaller amount in Rohtak which will be of great benefit for fodder.

The following telegram was sent by the Viceroy to the Secretary of State for India:—

Crop prospects: week ending 24th March last.

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh: Rain throughout except in two districts; late crops in distressed districts have been benefited; prospects good on the whole, and harvest in full progress; prices falling still; relief works opened in Etawah. **Punjab:** Rain throughout and crops good to fair generally; prices continue to fall; green fodder available everywhere; distress in Rohtak moderate.

Rajputana : Fair rain has fallen in several States; prices show a tendency to fall generally. **Central India :** Partial rain in Bhopal and Bundelkhand; spring harvest continues. **Bombay:** No rain in affected districts where water supply deficient, but distress not yet acute; relief work opened in Poona; prices are high still in Deccan and Karnatak. **Hyderabad :** Good rain has fallen in some districts. In other Provinces prospects fair or good. Number of persons in receipt of relief, in thousands :—**United Provinces of Agra and Oudh,** 186; **Punjab,** 12; **Ajmer and Rajputana,** 106; **Central India,** excluding Gwalior, not reported, 29; **Baroda,** 3; **Bombay,** 48; **Hyderabad,** 4; total, 388. Since close of week good rain has fallen in parts of Rajputana, United Provinces of Agra and Oudh and Punjab.

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THE STORES COMMITTEE.

An ultra-British View.

One of the principal English commercial weeklies received on the 2nd instant devotes a long special article and its leader to an account and criticism of a sinister policy said to have been inaugurated by the Government of India in the Department of Commerce and Industry. The articles furnish yet another staggering example of the ignorance and misapprehension possessed by most pressmen at home where Indian affairs are concerned; and it is improbable that readers in this country would recognise under the title "PROTECTION FOR INDIA'S LOCAL INDUSTRIES" an *allusion to the Stores* Committee now on tour in India. The appointment of this Committee is interpreted as "a move in the direction of reserving Government contracts for Indian firms **and excluding British firms from any participation in them."** The writer takes credit for having pointed out a year ago the enormity of the circumstance that "certain business that had hitherto been sent to England had been placed with Indian firms;" and he continues, in a tone not more of sorrow than of anger, that "now there appears to be a strong probability that the practice will become part of a regularly organised system with the avowed object of giving assistance to local manufacturers." "It may be urged," the article continues, "that this is not Protection as it is usually understood, that it is indeed only 'Preference' for local manufacturers." And after quoting from the Government Resolution on the subject a judicial admission of the "desire to afford all possible encouragement to manufacturers who have started or who desire to start factories in India," the writer exclaims :—"There we have the gospel of Protection in all its nakedness. Unfortunately for the British manufacturer it is, however, not protection for him but against him, albeit within the British Empire; and we imagine that British manufacturers, whether Freetraders or Protectionists, will agree in denouncing this sort of thing in India."

To persons who know the history of this question it may seem superfluous even to point out that both the arguments and the inferences contained in the article under review are entirely out of relation alike to justice and to fact. Manufacturers in India who have for years considered themselves to be in a position to furnish locally many articles hitherto *imported*, have contended, not that British manufacturers should be excluded from all participation in the supply of Government stores, but that the Indian manufacturers should be admitted to a reasonable measure of such participation. They have shown that if they were given some assurance of a steady demand they could lay down plant that would not only contribute to the development of the country but secure the Government of India against some of the disadvantages and dangers of possible temporary isolation from the sources of supply. Government has recognised that this modest suggestion is *primâ facie* reasonable and that a case for enquiry has been made out. And it can only be said that if there were any serious reason to believe that articles of the kind under review represented the true disposition of commercial men at home towards their more enterprising brethren who have established works in this country, the fact would by itself constitute sufficient warrant not only for the appointment of the Committee but for the adoption by that Committee of an attitude—not of protection but of defence, such as there is no reason whatever to attribute to it.

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THE GOLD RESERVE FUND.

The following passage from a speech by the Honourable Mr. Baker, the Minister of Finance, at the Budget Debate in Council on the 28th March, forms one of the most interesting and important pronouncements of opinion made in recent years in connection with Indian currency.

Profits on Coinage.

Then the honourable member (Mr. Gokhale) points out that the Gold Reserve Fund now exceeds the sum of 10 millions which was named by Lord Curzon two years ago as being sufficient for our purpose, and he asks me to say what we propose to do with the profits of coinage in future. I may remind the honourable member that last year Sir Edward Law expressed the opinion that we ought to have some 20 millions in the **Gold Reserve Fund**, and we are still a long way short of that figure. But personally I regard the matter in a somewhat different way. So long as India has a gold standard combined with a currency which consists mainly of rupees, I consider that we are bound to set apart the whole of the profit on additions to the coinage. Every penny of these profits is linked with an equivalent liability, which is none the less real because it may not have to be discharged for a long time to come. Sooner or later gold will come into circulation in India, as it has done in nearly all countries in the world, and will tend to take the place of rupees. It may be many years before this comes about, and the process will probably be very gradual; but that it will come in the long run, I have no manner of doubt. When it does come, we shall have to reverse the process by which we have been adding to our silver currency in accordance with the requirements of trade; we shall have to dispose of the surplus stock of rupees and replace them by gold. In this view, there can be no limit to the Gold Reserve Fund. But I agree that there is a limit beyond which it is not expedient in practice to store the accumulated profits in the form of ordinary sterling investments. My reason is that it will not be possible to throw more than a certain amount of such investments on to the market at once. If we hold more than can be readily liquidated, the investments will actually not be available when we require to draw upon them to meet the cost of conversion. We have certainly not reached such a limit yet, so that it is rather premature to discuss the question, but when it is reached my view is that further accumulation should be applied to the reduction or avoidance of debt, preferably of sterling debt. The practical effect of employing them in this way would be that we should either expand our programme of productive railways and canals or that we should finance the latter with a smaller amount of borrowing.

The Gold Reserve Fund here referred to must not be confounded with that part of the Currency Reserve which is held in gold; but has been built up by the accumulation of the profits on the coinage and issue of silver rupees at the conventional value. Since its foundation the following sums have been coined in silver and have yielded the profit shown in the second column of the statement.

	Coinage of Silver.	Profit on Coinage.
	Rs.	£
1900-01 .	17,26,48,724	3,031,294
1901-02 .	5,13,47,732	415,100
1902-03 .	11,38,94,848	264,028
1903-04 .	16,53,11,541	2,627,575
1904-05 .	11,37,04,377	1,790,380
1905-06 .	18,26,00,000*	3,488,700†
	79,95,07,222	11,617,077

* Up to 22nd March 1906.
† Revised estimate.

The scale of these operations, unattended by any fall in exchange, testify not only to the economic development of the country but to the correctness of the view that so long as the full profit on silver coinage is set aside in the manner indicated there can be no such "redundancy" as would manifest itself in a general rise of prices and a decline in sterling exchange. Indeed, there are those who think that the slowness and uncertainty of the recovery in the rates of exchange during the first years after the closing of the Indian mints to silver were due to the fact that the Gold Reserve Fund was not established at the outset. But the various pronouncements on the subject have hitherto left room for a certain doubt as to whether a time might not come when the profits on coinage would be passed to ordinary revenue; and although the remarks of the Hon'ble Mr. Baker were couched in the terms of an **obiter dictum,** the **obiter dicta** of a Finance Minister with a considerable term of office before him have a way of crystallising into definite policy. On this account much interest will be aroused both by the statement as to the permanency of the present procedure and by the indication of the principle of devoting to productive works those sums by which the accumulations of the profits on coinage may exceed such amount as it may be considered necessary to hold in readiness for the direct maintenance of the currency ratio.

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SUGAR BEET AND ENVIRONMENT.

The possibility of cultivating the **sugar beet in certain parts of India** where the onion thrives has been mooted from time to time, though never very systematically canvassed. Very interesting results have been obtained in a five years' series of experiments undertaken by the United States Department of Agriculture (Bureau of Chemistry) and are reviewed in a series of excellent brochures entitled *"The Influence of environment upon the composition of the sugar beet."* (Bulletins Nos. 64, 74, 78, 95 and 96.) The investigators started from the assumption that beets grown in more northern latitude commonly show a higher content of sugar than those grown further south, and they recognised that the factors dominant in irrigated areas are very different from those which determine the character of the product in areas where the rainfall is usually sufficient for the production of the crop. Samples of high qualities of seed were distributed to the agricultural authorities in districts selected chiefly with regard to the diversity of conditions of environment found in them; and full details are tabulated and discussed with regard to each of these separate regions. The net results ascertained are depicted in excellent graphic charts at the end of the volumes, and the conclusions are stated in clearly written summaries.

It is impossible in a mere review to give more than one or two of these main conclusions, but it is interesting to find that these accord to a great extent with the theories which had been hitherto held. It is found that the curves of sugar percentage run very evenly with those of **high latitude** and it is shown that the elements of **sunlight** which are active in promoting the action of the chlorophyll cells in the formation of sugar do not depend upon the **direct** rays of the sun. The diffused light coming through the clouds is apparently quite as effective as the direct light; and in examining the charts dealing with this latter factor it must be

remembered that the line relating to sunlight represents only the number of perfectly clear days. The effect of high **temperature** on the sugar production is clearly exemplified, and will naturally interest people in India. The investigation shows that low sugar and high temperature evidently go together, and that the purity of the juice shows a general tendency to follow a high percentage of sugar, though there are many variations in this rule. In general it is shown that higher the percentage of sugar the higher the purity. It is evident also that the shorter the day the lower the content of sugar, the longer the day the higher the content. It is further pointed out that the high temperature line which seems to be so disastrous in its effects upon the sugar content may not produce all these ill effects directly as the result of the temperature itself, but indirectly in the effect produced on the moisture in the soil, the arrest of growth by dry weather, the inducement of a second growth on the accession of rains following a draught, and so on. Special interest attaches to the results obtained in **irrigated regions** where the temperature is high during the growing months and where the distribution of the water on an experimental plot can be absolutely controlled.

The enquiry also brings out a point which those studying agricultural results in India often have to consider very carefully, and that is that the total amount of rainfall has less influence on the sugar content than its **even distribution** during the growing months, provided that the rain is sufficient for the growing crop.

In the first investigations here summarised no enquiry was made into the nature of the **soils** in which the tubers were grown, but this point is discussed in the four later issues of the same series. All the factors enquired into in the earlier experiments were again investigated; and in each case the results ascertained in that earlier series were confirmed. One point of interest to those who have suggested that beet might be successfully grown in those parts of India where the onion has proved successful is that the results obtained at Blacksburg, in Virginia, with an altitude of 2,137 feet tend to show that high altitude may sometimes off-set a low latitude and yield both high sugar content and high purity. In the later enquiries, however, a most interesting, because distinctive, departure is to be found in the analyses of **soils** and the comparison of these analyses with the yields. The study of the data is conclusive in so far as one series of observations can be in regard to the very small effect which the composition of the soil has upon the sugar content of the beet. While it is doubtless true that the character of the soil influences to a greater or less degree the quality of some crops, it is certain that its principal influence in the case of the sugar beet is exerted almost exclusively upon the magnitude of the crop. The tests with fertilisers show that such a use of manure (including what are known as commercial fertilisers) as would produce an extraordinary tonnage, would tend to diminish the percentage of sugar in the beet. This is specially true of nitrogenous fertilisers which tend pre-eminently to produce an increased tonnage, to develop the abundant leaf and root growth, and to diminish to a slight extent the percentage of sugar in the beet. On the other hand, phosphoric acid and, to a less extent, potash bring the beet to early maturity, thus checking the undue growth and increasing the percentage of sugar; but it must be borne in mind that a system of manuring which will produce a very much larger crop would cause almost a corresponding increase in the total sugar produced per acre. These facts may be compared with the particulars given in our issue of the 5th of April regarding the influence of nitrogen upon sugarcane.

An example is noted in which samples of beets grown on the one hand in a soil extremely rich in vegetable mould and, on the other, in an almost pure sand containing scarcely any organic matter had almost exactly the same content of sugar. And the effect of the whole enquiry, while stated with some diffidence, is to indicate that the chemical and physical properties of the soil, while clearly affecting the weight of the crop, have only a minor influence on its quality.

Reviewing the whole question with special reference to Indian possibilities, emphasis must be laid upon the considerations that low temperature and even distribution of moisture are most clearly marked as the dominant factors in the Problem, while the remarkable extent to which the high altitude like that of Blacksburg can off-set the low latitude and its attendant high temperature may well interest those who have suggested the possibility of cultivating this root in places like the Nasik District, standing something like 2,000 feet above sea-level. At the same time it must be admitted that there is a very great difference between the latitude of Blacksburg (37·3°) and that of Nasik which is about 20°.

THE LEATHER AND BOOT MARKETS IN ENGLAND AND INDIA.

According to a recent review in the "Times Financial and Commercial Supplement" the general trade in leather throughout all the principal centres in the United Kingdom is brisk and values for every description as firm as they were at the close of the past year. Lessened imports of American and Australasian leather assisted English tanners materially, whilst there was something more than an active demand from boot manufacturers, who had to satisfy the requirements of their spring season's trade. The outlook for the tanners from the point of view of values was better than had been the case for a long time past. Stocks of sole leather in tanners' hands were considerably smaller than at the beginning of the last year, whilst certain weights, light to medium in the commoners selections for instance, were scarce everywhere. The demand had caused an advance in prices. Sheep leathers received a good share of attention, though the high level of prices retarded business to some extent. Raw sheep stocks continued short and in strong demand for export exceptional prices being made. Pelts and linings which, as usual at the opening of the year, showed a depreciation in quality maintained last year's heavy prices, this of course being equivalent to an advance. The same remarks applied equally to ox and cowhides and calf skins. The English leather trade in 1905 in volume and value was very satisfactory. During the year the British exports of leather were 206,845 cwt. value £21,12,823, an increase as compared with 1904 of 37,713 cwt. and of £3,98,733 in value. Boots and shoes showed substantial gain of £300,432, the total exports for 1905 amounting to £1,882,294. There was an increase of £41,069 in saddlery and harness exported, and of £37,533 in gloves. Of leather imported the total weight received was rather less than during 1904, 1,137,854 cwt. as compared with 1,151,405 on the value of the smaller bulk was greater than in 1904 by £29,104, £8,086,011 as against £8,056,907. According to the report of Messrs. Dyster Nalder the trade East Indian goat and sheep skins was one of the most exciting and interesting of the many which form this important industry. The receipt of skins was smaller last year than for the past three years. An unprecedental heavy demand therefore caused exceptional advances in values. Tanned goat skin shipments to Europe were 81,797 whilst tanned goat skin shipments disposed of at London sales amounted to 7,692,596, last year's figures being, respectively, 9,385,780 and 9,027,108. In raw skins also substantial gains in values were recorded.

But at the same time that British tanners are rejoicing, a wail goes up from the manufacturers of boots, shoes and other leather articles. A great scarcity exists, the "Times" remarked, in the home market of all descriptions of leather suitable for boot and shoe manufacturers. This has brought about an acute crisis in that trade. Reports from Leicester in all papers complain that very heavy losses have been sustained. It is stated that the condition of affairs, which has been gradually becoming worse, has suddenly assumed a very acute phase in consequence of the arrival of the period of greatest activity of the whole year. Manufacturers, who had booked large orders for delivery in March and April, find that it is impossible to secure adequate supplies of leather, and what they do secure can only be purchased at a great advance in prices. It is impossible to meet the contracts placed, except at a very heavy loss, and the position has become so bad that large manufacturers declare that nothing like it has been experienced for fifty years. They have been compelled to appeal to buyers to revise prices, and to pay enhanced rates on orders already placed. If the buyers are agreeable, manufacturers will be able to tide over their difficulties, but if it is insisted that deliveries be made in accordance with terms of the contracts, enormous losses will be sustained. As it is, firms whose balance-sheets at the close of the last year showed an appreciable excess of assets over liabilities have been compelled to call their creditors together and to decline to go on further. From a great variety of causes, of which the demand of leather for Japan was one, the world's supply of hides has been overtaken by the consumption. Manufacturers have been offering to buy 10 to 20 tons of certain kinds of leather at the prices quoted by sellers, and have had their orders declined, because supplies were unprocurable. The situation in Leicester is typical of that throughout the United Kingdom, for Leicester is the greatest leather consuming centre in England. The gloom of the outlook is enhanced by the fact that now when orders are pouring in, it is impossible to get a sufficient supply of raw material, whilst for the last half of 1905, when raw material is procurable, orders could not be got.

Nine-tenths of the leather used in Leicester comes from America, which produces nearly all the glacé kid and box calf now so extensively used for uppers. The American have driven the French and German tanners completely out of the English field, whilst the imports from Australia consist almost entirely of bottom leather. At the same time, however, Indian figures show that the exports in hides and skins from this country to the United Kingdom have increased and continue to increase.

The exports of hides and skins from India to all countries in the years 1902-06 were as follows:—Raw skins and hides in 1902-03, 913,041 cwt. valued at Rs. 5,53,69,668; in 1903-04, 936,117 cwt. valued at Rs. 5,83,62,135; in 1904 05, 1,076,522 cwt. valued at Rs. 7,05,41,385, and in the first ten months of 1905-06, 1,124,948 cwt. valued at Rs. 7,68,64,548. Hides and skins dressed or tanned exported in 1902-03, amounted to 257,178 cwt. valued at Rs. 2,89,81,866; in 1903-04 to 264,494 cwt. valued at Rs. 2,85,17,173; and in the ten months ending with the 31st January of 1905-06 to 282,656 cwt. valued at Rs. 3,01,70,334.

The quantity and value of Hides and Skins exported from British India by sea to the United Kingdom and the United States in the period April 1902 to February 1906, are shown in the following tables:—

	Hides and skins, raw.			
	United Kingdom.		United States.	
	Cwt.	Rs.	Cwt.	Rs.
1902-03	66,020	40,30,777	247,151	2,12,49,968
1903-04	61,760	36,39,137	236,677	2,10,62,580
1904-05	66,255	41,42,393	330,749	2,61,72,770
1905-06	98,580	62,76,318	411,215	3,36,08,537
(Ten months, April to January).				

	Hides and skins dressed or tanned.			
	United Kingdom.		United States.	
	Cwt.	Rs.	Cwt.	Rs.
1902-03 . .	206,039	2,27,48,077	18,728	24,87,429
1903-04 . .	207,817	2,44,95,648	19,409	23,56,611
1904-05 . .	203,729	2,23,73,110	24,598	30,27,374
1905-06 . . (Ten months, April to January).	242,142	2,60,53,079	24,375	28,84,824

In quantity and value alike the exports to the United Kingdom exceed the exports to the United States, but Indian leather does not rank so high in the estimation of British leather consumers as does leather from the United States or Australia. It is at the same time more than probable that not a few of the Indian hides and skins that enter the United States raw under favourable rates find their way to England in normal years as glacé kid and superior box calf.

It is interesting to compare in the table below the average values of raw hides and skins imported and exported by India during the last three years. As India derives a not inconsiderable quantity of her imported skins and hides from Aden, similar figures are annexed for that place. It will be seen that while the value of hides exported has risen in both places, the value of skins has depreciated. A calculation made on a five years' average shows that in India, of hides 12 pieces, and of skins 118 pieces go to the cwt., whilst in Aden the weights are better 10 hides and from 80 to 81 skins going to the cwt.

	1902-03	1903-04	1904-05
	Average value in Rs. per cwt.	Average value in Rs. per cwt.	Average value in Rs. per cwt.
India			
General Imports			
Hides, raw	31	29	29
Skins, raw	41	40	47
General Exports			
Hides, raw	45	47	52
Skins, raw	104	101	91
Aden			
Imports			
Hides, raw	33	34	37
Skins, raw	78	65	62
Exports			
Hides, raw	35	33	41
Skins, raw	83	78	66

Now let us consider how the crisis in the boot trade of the United Kingdom must affect the Indian market. The following tables show the quantities and values of boots and shoes imported into India from each of the following foreign countries in the five years 1900-01 to 1904-05 :—

Countries.	Year.	Quantity.	Value.
		Pairs.	Rs.
United Kingdom	1900-01	443,393	13,13,169
	1901-02	427,321	13,14,918
	1902-03	494,480	15,26,119
	1903-04	539,219	16,59,854
	1904-05	670,332	18,96,733
		2,574,745	7,710,793
Austria Hungary	1900-01	33,895	65,059
	1901-02	40,582	76,883
	1902-03	73,711	1,04,385
	1903-04	115,104	1,58,737
	1904-05	129,144	1,74,867
		392,436	579,931
France	1900-01	15	143
	1901-02	998	1,241
	1902-03	3,834	3,666
	1903-04	23,807	13,178
	1904-05	23,586	12,966
		52,240	31,194
Germany	1900-01	31,780	35,987
	1901-02	11,052	15,314
	1902-03	14,669	20,265
	1903-04	20,983	29,612
	1904-05	63,055	66,280
		141,539	167,458
Italy	1900-01	1,677	5,762
	1901-02	1,130	4,007
	1902-03	1,027	3,621
	1903-04	16,695	10,132
	1904-05	68,680	38,983
		89,209	62,505
Spain	1900-01	...	...
	1901-02	...	...
	1902-03	3,100	2,899
	1903-04	15,865	9,504
	1904-05	28,135	16,123
		47,100	28,526
Egypt	1900-01	7,447	8,869
	1901-02	113	540
	1902-03	9	59
	1903-04	7	73
	1904-05	18	25
		7,594	9,566
Mauritius	1900-01	...	...
	1901-02	1,014	2,037
	1902-03	47	166
	1903-04	95	49
	1904-05	...	...
		1,156	2,252
Natal	1900-01	215	661
	1901-02	14	143
	1902-03	9	102
	1903-04	18	265
	1904-05	24,474	98,176
		24,730	99,347

Countries.	Years.	Quantity.	Value.
		Pairs.	Rs.
Cape Colony	1900-01	...	..
	1901-02	...	...
	1902-03	...	...
	1903-04	35	206
	1904-05	30,151	1,42,495
		30,186	1,42,701
United States of America	1900-01	4,142	24,866
	1901-02	5,636	32,641
	1902-03	3,929	18,929
	1903-04	4,055	11,392
	1904-05	7,718	35,756
		25,480	1,23,584
Ceylon	1900-01	218	1,165
	1901-02	3,555	2,124
	1902-03	3,532	3,593
	1903-04	69	344
	1904-05	5,157	3,328
		12,531	10,554
China	1900-01	3,961	3,144
	1901-02	2,346	2,208
	1902-03	794	894
	1903-04	1,481	1,082
	1904-05	2,763	1,958
		11,345	9,286
Japan	1900-01	2,218	782
	1901-02	3,273	1,178
	1902-03	4,787	1,470
	1903-04	12,493	3,756
	1904-05	54,931	12,265
		77,707	19,481
Straits Settlements	1900-01	1,074	1,048
	1901-02	1,627	1,265
	1902-03	1,611	1,097
	1903-04	3,097	1,307
	1904-05	8,801	3,728
		16,210	8,445
Other Countries	1900-01	352	373
	1901-02	1,095	1,539
	1902-03	336	1,411
	1903-04	154	745
	1904-05	3,485	1,620
		5,422	5,693
Grand Total		3,509,630	90,11,316

The trade of Calcutta is typical of the trade of India and the dependence of India upon England for boots and shoes of medium and superior grade is very evident. During 1904-05, when the total value of boots and shoes imported into Calcutta was Rs. 12,86,462, the United Kingdom made for, and placed on the Calcutta market, boots and shoes valued at Rs. 10,26,039. In the same period boots and shoes made in Austro-Hungary, which stood next on the list, came in to the value of Rs. 50,765. The United States came next with Rs. 35,445, worth. Then followed Germany Rs. 13,183; Switzerland Rs. 10,604; France Rs. 3,463; Japan Rs. 1,597; China Rs. 1,157; Spain Rs. 1,136; Straits Settlements Rs. 928: Holland Rs. 319; Greece Rs. 85, Belgium Rs. 20, Turkey in Asia Rs. 15, whilst Indian made boots and shoes valued at Rs. 1,41,706, were re-imported from South Africa.

Five-sixths of the boots and shoes imported into Calcutta are English in origin, and derived from English ports. A peculiarity of the local trade is that it is mainly in the hands of native dealers. During the official year 1904-05 boots and shoes were imported by 39 European firms, and by 37 native dealers, but the value of the direct importations by native firms was twice that of the importations by European firms, whilst of the European firms many, too, merely clear the goods as indent houses or agents for native dealers or indenters in the bazar.

Unfortunately it is not possible to give reliable figures showing the Indian production of boots and shoes, or the distribution over India of imported goods. The railways do not classify boots and shoes separately, but include them under the head "Apparel" in their invoices, so there is no information available as regards the centres to which boots and shoes are distributed from the ports; neither is any record kept of the prices of imported boots and shoes at various centres, either wholesale or retail.

The following statement, however, shows the quantities and values of boots and shoes imported into the various provinces of British India during the five years 1900-01 to 1904-05, and from it the capacity of the various provincial markets may be gauged very closely :—

Provinces.	Years.	Pairs.	Value Rs.
Bengal	1900-01	324,798	8,55,349
"	1901-02	276,939	7,56,168
"	1902-03	337,858	9,01,318
"	1903-04	359,918	9,56,386
"	1904-05	499,993	12,86,549
Bombay	1900-01	179,937	5,24,433
"	1901-02	204,377	6,35,896
"	1902-03	246,292	7,25,874
"	1903-04	353,283	8,39,281
"	1904-05	563,915	10,99,975
Sind	1900-01	12,784	42,790
"	1901-02	21,396	73,308
"	1902-03	24,898	88,305
"	1903-04	37,257	1,21,642
"	1904-05	57,834	1,70,182
Madras	1900-01	28,425	86,672
"	1901-02	20,652	68,878
"	1902-03	25,046	69,012
"	1903-04	43,693	1,12,960
"	1904-05	60,268	1,27,271
Burma	1900-01	163,115	3,90,599
"	1901-02	222,735	4,94,779
"	1902-03	219,265	3,95,825
"	1903-04	392,456	7,62,980
"	1904-05	431,205	7,74,661

The descriptions and prices of boots and shoes imported by native dealers in Calcutta are as follows,

and may be accepted as an index for India generally :—

			s.	d.	s.	d.
Boots, English	"Balmorals"	Price C. I. F.	6	to 8	0	
,, ,,	"Ammunitions"	,,	4	0 to 5	6	
Shoes ,,	"Pump Court Shoes"	,,	3	11 to 5	4	
Boots and ,,	"Superior"	Children's ,,	2	5 to 4	3	
Shoes.	"first quality"	Youth's ,,	4	9 to 6	11	
		Men's ,,	5	7 to 8	9	

Tan boots are obtained at slightly lower prices than black).

Canvas German and Austrian.	With rubber and composition soles.	Children's ,,	1	6 to 1	11	
		Youth's ,,	2	6 to 2	9	
		Men's ,,	3	4 to 3	7	

The European firms import a great variety of English boots and shoes of different names, makes and classes. The average price of English boots and shoes of superior quality imported by the European firms is about, 11*s.* while the average price of the ordinary quality is about 8*s.* 7*d.* English canvas shoes with red rubber soles are imported at an average price of 13*s.* for superior qualities and 9*s.* for ordinary qualities. American boots are also imported by the European firms. The price ranges from 14*s.* to 23*s.* 6*d.* per pair.

It remains now to be seen if the situation in the home market will cause prices to be raised, or quality to be lowered in the Indian market. Doubtless there will be a tendency in both directions. The consensus of opinion in the leading ranks of the boot manufacturing trade in England is, however, it is satisfactory to see, very sternly opposed to any attempts to lower the quality of goods, or to introduce "faked" articles. The more prominent shoe retailers of the Metropolis have formed an "Association of Boot and Shoe Distributors." This body is to work in conjunction with the Manufacturers' Federation to maintain the old standard of quality, and to discourage the sale of unduly low priced articles.

SUGAR INDUSTRY AND TRADE.

I.

THE INDIAN SUGAR CROP.

It is generally considered that India was probably the original home of the sugarcane; but so many difficulties attend the effort to compute her sugar production that, up to the present, her true position in the world as a sugar-producing country is indeterminate.

In certain of the Provinces in which the largest quantities of sugarcane are grown no accurate records of the areas under the various crops are obtainable; and it is understood that sugarcane is often grown in small and irregular clumps that defy any estimate. Up till 1890 Bengal itself, which, even on the returns received, is understood to bear some 29 per cent. of the sugar crop of British India, attempted no estimate of the sugar areas at all; and it is now impossible to obtain any reliable retrospect on this point.

The fact that Upper Burma was not reported till 1888-89, nor Ajmer-Merwara, Manpur Pargana, till 1880-81, is less important, seeing that the sugar crops in these places are almost negligible. But the following figures for all British India, so far as they relate to years anterior to 1890-1901, have no practical value for our present purpose; while those for later years are subject to the defects inherent in crop estimates in every part of the world. These defects are probably present in very special measure in such estimates for Native States as are given below. No such estimates were received before 1900-01; and since that year only Mysore, Gwalior, Jaipur, Bikaner, Marwar, Tonk, Alwar, Kishangarh, Bharatpur, Jhalawar and Kotah have furnished any sort of report.

The following statement extracted from the agricultural statistics, shows the acreage under sugarcane in India :—

	British Provinces.	Native States. (*d*)
1884-85 (*a*)	1,317,135	...
1885-86 (*a*)	1,463,180	...
1886-87 (*b*)	1,621,793	...
1887-88 (*b*)	1,768,861	...
1888-89 (*c*)	1,854,161	...
1889-90 (*c*)	1,627,952	...
1890-91	2,758,450	...
1891-92	3,100,232	...
1892-93	2,798,637	...
1893-94	2,897,042	...
1894-95	2,764,656	...
1895-96	2,930,583	...
1896-97	2,651,765	...
1897-98	2,648,498	...
1898-99	2,755,211	...
1899 1900	2,693,029	...
1900-01	2,522,442	46,610
1901-02	2,474,857	54,240
1902-03	2,358,101	53,670
1903-04	2,280,251	47,632
1904-05	2,400,000 (*e*)	...

N.B.—The figures following the names of the Provinces in the footnotes state the ratio borne by the sugar area of each such Province to the total sugar area of British India in the five years ending 1903-04.

(*a*) Excluding Bengal (29·6 per cent.), Upper Burma (0·1 per cent.), Ajmer-Merwara (0·01 per cent.), and Manpur Pargana.

(*b*) Excluding Bengal (29·6 per cent.) and Upper Burma (0·1 per cent.)

(*c*) Excluding Bengal (29·6 per cent.)

(*d*) For Mysore, Gwalior, Jaipur, Bikaner, Marwar, Tonk, Alwar, Kishangarh, Bharatpur, Jhalawar, Kotah.

(*e*) Computed.

The following Table gives the areas in the main divisions of British India :—

Acreage under sugarcane in British India (as reported in the returns of Agricultural Statistics).

Years.	Burma.	Assam.	Bengal.	United Provinces.	Ajmer-Marwara and Manpur.	Panjab and North-West Frontier.	Bombay and Sind.	Central Provinces and Berar.	Madras. (*d*)	TOTAL.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1884-85	(*a*) 7,334	17,738	(*b*)	771,360	(*b*)	335,454	87,670	48,766	48,813	1,317,135
1885-86	(*a*) 10,538	20,560	(*b*)	930,422	(*b*)	331,521	80,180	53,235	46,624	1,463,180
1886-87	(*a*) 7,157	20,378	(*b*)	1,060,785	(*b*)700	354,281	80,026	54,114	44,312	1,621,793
1887-88	(*a*) 7,459	17,756	(*b*)	1,192,414	539	366,698	83,633	52,472	47,890	1,768,861
1888-89	9,806	19,293	(*b*)	1,228,443	428	391,060	92,281	53,492	59,358	1,845,161
1889-90	12,432	19,309	(*b*)	1,084,326	390	325,562	70,628	55,330	59,975	1,627,952
1890-91	12,737	17,830	1,126,781	1,104,334	515	323,868	65,817	49,698	56,870	2,758,450
1891-92	11,015	18,473	1,159,900	1,362,794	320	363,976	78,156	47,225	58,373	3,100,232
1892-93	15,382	19,716	1,071,200	1,209,270	221	314,249	71,242	46,263	51,174	2,798,637
1893-94	12,384	17,432	1,030,600	1,322,368	723	327,604	86,959	41,303	57,069	2,897,042
1894-95	12,084	18,414	967,300	1,234,015	1,341	339,930	87,919	41,460	62,193	2,764,656
1895-96	15,362	16,937	944,600	1,389,019	1,127	385,908	74,638	44,401	58,591	2,930,583
1896-97	14,278	20,568	839,800	1,214,159	547	398,202	69,358	36,937	57,916	2,651,765
1897-98	12,447	21,340	972,700	1,148,154	358	348,121	56,892	30,112	58,374	2,648,498
1898-99	11,794	41,705	936,100	1,227,992	393	394,794	61,087	28,888	52,458	2,755,211
1899-1900	11,566	28,315	873,000	1,259,183	215	360,978	73,130	28,004	58,638	2,693,029
1900-01	12,538	32,165	801,800	1,212,594	64	350,818	40,581	15,783	56,099	2,522,442
1901-02	15,308	42,055	661,200	1,228,818	324	381,799	54,077	23,866	67,410	2,474,857
1902-03	16,272	42,044	659,700	1,151,929	232	346,736	56,471	24,814	59,903	2,358,101
1903-04	13,108	40,555	645,400	1,089,730	79	357,991	59,251	19,397	54,740	2,280,251
1904-05	...	...	(*e*)637,800	(*e*)1,243,014	...	(*e*)351,012	...	...	(*e*)48,200	(*f*)2,400,000

(*a*) Excluding Upper Burma
(*b*) Not available
(*c*) Excluding Manpur
(*d*) For raiyatwari and inam areas only; the figures for the years 1901-02, 1902-03, and 1903-04 include a very small portion of zamindari areas
(*e*) As reported in forecasts
(*f*) Computed on the assumption that the reported areas represent as usual 95 per cent. of the whole.

But seeing that the figures for the years anterior to 1890-91 are so incomplete, they must be discarded for the purpose of any estimate as to the progress of sugar cultivation in India; and it would be useless to take in such Native States figures as are so far at our disposal. The following Table, therefore, gives in the first column only the British India areas back to 1890-91, and in the second column the index numbers exhibiting the progress of this branch of agriculture. These **index numbers** are intended for display in a graphic curve which may easily be prepared. But all figures relating to agriculture and commerce in India are subject to violent fluctuations from year to year, according as the rainfall is good or bad; and the period to which these tables relate includes several years of great scarcity. From a curve that reproduces very violent fluctuations it is most difficult to derive any sense of the general tendency to be disclosed. For this reason it is desirable that index figures relating to Indian trade and agriculture should be taken on the average of each group of five years. The ordinary method is to set down the average for the five years as the figure for the mesial year of the group. Each such average contains only one-fifth or, say, 20 per cent. of the year for which it is set down, and four-fifths or 80 per cent. of the other years; and these latter are therefore dominant in its constitution. In this way it sometimes happens that the presence of, say, a famine year in a five-years' group results in the ordinary averaged curves showing a fall where in the actuals there

was a rise. The general character of the curve is thus lost; and for these reasons the Index Numbers and averages in the following tables are taken on a special system adapted to Indian conditions. The actuals for the five years added together with a further five times the actual for the mesial year. There are thus ten parts present, of which six are supplied by the mesial year; and one-tenth of this to tal is an average containing 60 per cent. actual. In this way the true character of the curve from year to year is retained, while a nicely smoothed curve is obtained. It will be seen that since about 1895 there would appear to have been a fairly steady contraction of the area under sugar, and that in 1903-04 the acreage was only some 81·5 per cent. of the average acreage of the five years ending 1894-95.

Acreage under sugarcane in British India with Index Numbers showing contraction; the Index Numbers being averaged as described in the foregoing paragraph.

	Actual acreage under sugarcane.	Percentage of the average of the first five years, *i. e.*, the said average being taken as 100.
1890-91 . . .	2,758,450	98·99
1891-92 . . .	3,100,232	104·10
1892-93 . . .	2,798,637	98·86
1893-94 . . .	2,897,042	101·18
1894-95 . . .	2,764,656	97·30
1895-96 . . .	2,930,583	99·68
1896-97 . . .	2,651,765	94·32
1897-98 . . .	2,648,498	98·95
1898-99 . . .	2,755,211	94·44
1899-1900 . . .	2,693,029	92·75
1900-01 . . .	2,522,442	88·75
1901-02 . . .	2,474,857	86·26
1902-03 . . .	2,358,101	82·78
1903-04 . . .	2,280,251	81·52

It is, however, of importance to establish, if possible, whether any such contraction of sugar area as may have taken place is peculiar to that crop, or finds a parallel in the general agricultural position of the Provinces concerned. We have selected for the purpose of such an enquiry the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh which produce some 48 per cent. of the reported sugar crop of British India; and we believe it will be recognised from the following statement that, until the last three years, when a strong demand for wheat and cotton has led to a good deal of substitution, the sugar area has been fairly constant.

UNITED PROVINCES.

Year.	Area under sugarcane.	Total area irrigated.	Total net area cropped.	Percentage of column 2 to column 3.	Percentage of column 2 to column 4.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1889-90 .	1,084,326	9,201,051	33,997,182	11·8	3·2
1890-91 .	1,104,334	9,901,253	34,141,671	11·2	3·2
1891-92 .	1,362,794	9,975,335	34,039,377	13·7	4·0
1892-93 .	1,209,270	9,250,523	34,125,238	13·1	3·5
1893-94 .	1,322,368	8,837,592	34,329,266	14·9	3·9
1894-95 .	1,234,015	(a) 6,050,956	33,698,217	20·4	3·7
1895-96 .	1,389,019	8,579,511	32,950,702	16·2	4·2
1896-97 .	1,214,159	9,698,584	30,815,002	12·5	3·9
1897-98 .	1,148,154	9,763,474	32,888,611	11·8	3·5
1898-99 .	1,227,992	9,653,940	33,630,518	12·7	3·6
1899-1900 .	1,259,183	10,934,875	33,027,312	11·5	3·8
1900-01 .	1,212,594	8,680,900	34,580,215	14·0	3·5
1901-02 .	1,228,818	10,290,249	34,948,733	11·9	3·5
1902-03 .	1,151,929	10,564,651	36,307,690	10·9	3·3
1903-04 .	1,089,730	11,064,770	35,711,023	9·8	3·1
			Average .	13·0	3·5

Average 12·8. Average 3·5. Average 14·7. Average 3·7. Average 11·6. Average 3·4.

(a) Decrease in wheat and other cereals and pulses.

WIRE LESS TELEGRAPHY IN INDIA.

DURING the recent visit of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales to India a demonstration was made of the feasibility of maintaining **communication between steamers** fitted with wireless apparatus **and the wireless stations on the coast** of India and Burma. At the time of their Royal Highnesses leaving Calcutta the Saugor Island Wireless Office was able to keep in communication with H. M. S. *Terrible* up to a distance of about one hundred miles.

Some 24 hours after passing out of range of the Saugor Island Station, which is only fitted with apparatus designed to work a distance of about 50 miles,—the signals of His Majesty's ships *Renown* and *Terrible* were picked up by the Diamond Island Wireless Office, and thereafter it was found possible to keep in touch with the vessels until they got up to Rangoon about 36 hours later.

Their Royal Highnesses were thus kept supplied with the latest news for some eight hours after

leaving Saugor Island and for some thirty-six hours prior to their arrival in Rangoon. In addition, private and state messages for their Royal Highnesses and the party accompanying them were duly signalled and delivered on board. Altogether 31 messages containing 1,656 words were signalled to the warships on the voyage from Calcutta to Rangoon. A long Reuter's telegram timed Bombay 21·7 hours (standard Burma time) of the 11th was deliverd on board His Majesty's ship *Terrible* at 23·58 hours. Two messages were also received from the warships, one for transmission to another ship and the other to India. During the voyage of their Royal Highnesses from Rangoon to Madras it was found possible to keep up communication for about 33 hours after the ships left Rangoon. The speed at which the vessels were travelling was about 12 to 13 miles an hour and at the time of their passing out of range they were about 280 miles from Diamond Island.

The total number of messages sent to their Royal Highnesses' party on their journey to Madras was 17 containing 1,398 words, and a few messages were also received from the warships for transmission to different parts of India.

When more powerful apparatus is installed at Saugor Island and the new wireless station is opened at Akyab, both of which, it is hoped, will be done within a few months, it should be possible for properly fitted steamers to keep in touch with the general telegraphic system of the country throughout the whole voyage from Calcutta to Rangoon.

Among other advantages of fitting vessels with wireless apparatus it may be mentioned that they are thus enabled to report their position as often as desired. Also the collection of meteorological observations from vessels at sea and the simultaneous issue to them of weather forecasts and storm warnings based on the observations thus collected becomes possible.

IMPROVEMENT IN INDIAN COTTON-GROWING.

THE British Cotton-Growing Association, who approached Lord Curzon in 1904 on the subject of the **improvement of cotton growing in India,** have decided to place at the disposal of the Government of India the sum of £10,000 to help forward this work. This offer was made through the Secretary of State for India on the 5th of January last, the contribution to be spread over a period of four years, at the rate of £2,500 per annum. The Council of the Association leave the method in which these funds shall be spent entirely to the Government of India. The request is, however, made that where advances are given it should be stipulated that the cotton grown should either be sent to the Association for sale, the latter, after deducting the advances made, handing over the surplus proceeds to the planter, or that arrangements should be made as far as possible for the money to be advanced on a business basis, so that there would be some possibility of at any rate some portion of it coming back again. It is stated that if this could be done the Council would probably be prepared to re-advance the money thus lent for a further period. The Government of India, in accepting with thanks the contribution offered by the Association, stated that the suggestions regarding the manner in which the Association desired the money to be utilised have been noted. When the detailed scheme, which the Inspector General of Agriculture has been instructed to elaborate, is received, the Government will be in a position to state when the money will be required. The Government of India, as the papers accompanying the correspondence show, have for some time been working along the lines desired by the British Cotton-Growing Association. In response to the suggestions laid before him the Secretary of State for India in October 1905 sanctioned the addition to the staff of the Imperial Department of Agriculture of a cotton specialist whose services will be entirely devoted to cotton questions. He also expressed his concurrence in other measures, which the Government of India had taken, or were about to take, to improve the quality and extend the cultivation of Indian cotton. A short enumeration of these measures will prove interesting. Apart from the appointment of a cotton expert, the important matter of seed selection and distribution has been taken in hand. The proposal, that three large cotton seed farms should be established, has been deferred pending further investigation. The work of growing selected varieties for seed is being conducted on a smaller scale in order to gain experience and to avoid the risk of failure. The Government experimental farms are provided in all the important cotton tracts, to each of which is added a substantial area to be devoted to the production of selected seed. Private seed farms are being encouraged and ginning factories are co-operated in the separate treatment of the best pickings of the varieties. A botanical survey of the varieties of Indian cotton has been completed, and practical tests are being made of varieties at all Government cotton farms in order to decide the most suitable variety for growth in each tract. The expressed object of the Government is to make cotton of any kind without regard to the length of staple, the most certainly paying crop to the Indian cultivator. The main object of the British Cotton-Growing Association is to increase the production of the stapled variety suited to the needs of Lancashire. These views are, however, not antagonistic; for while cultivators as a whole are not likely to abandon the coarse, hardy, prolific varieties for the fine delicate varieties, until they are satisfied that the latter yield a greater and surer profit, at the same time the Indian cultivator, who grows a good sample of high quality cotton, may reckon on getting for his produce, however small the quantity, a price better than that ruling in the market for the larger supplies of lower grade cotton. It is not possible yet to give exact figures showing the proportion of long stapled cotton specially suited to the Lancashire market and of ordinary cotton grown in and exported

from India. The following, however, are the quantities and values of raw cotton exported to the United Kingdom in the several years 1900—1906 :—

YEAR.	QUANTITY.	VALUE.
1900-01 . .	381,022	1,06,09,456
1901-02 . .	166,215	36,69,757
1902-03 . .	371,796	92,51,998
1903-04 . .	652,183	2,05,89,497
1904-05 . .	346,512	1,12,49,610
1905-06 . . (10 months, April to January.)	282,627	80,65,994

Doubtless in time, as the quantity of long stapled cotton grown in India increases, it will make its presence known in the export figures as upon the market. In the meanwhile, however, it is perhaps necessary to emphasise the fact that the experiment, initiated by the Government of India and desired by the British Cotton-Growing Association, would be spoiled in its economic aspect, if the new long stapled cotton were sent to the Association for sale as they desire. Also in all experiments the cultivation should be undertaken expensively at one point. A new stapled produce in smaller quantities in scattered localities becomes more or less of a freak and will not be recognized by the trade.

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EXPORT OF TEA TO AFGHANISTAN.

THE Tea Cess Committee, in June 1905, informed the Government of India that at the request of planters **exporting tea to Afghanistan,** a bonus of 9 pies per lb. had been offered on tea exported to that country. They enquired if the Government would assist the Committee in obtaining the help of frontier local administrations to check actual exports on the frontier. Government took the matter up at once and in August last made arrangements in conformity with the suggestion of the Cess Committee, these suggestions arose out of the question of promoting the trade in Indian tea with Afghanistan. The Indian tea consumed in that and the neighbouring states is imported to a large extent from the gardens in the Kangra Valley, Dehra Dun, and Kumaon. The proposed bonus would be paid on 250,000 lbs. of green tea.

It was decided that packages or chests of tea intended for export to Afghanistan would be sealed and invoiced at gardens, and on arrival at Peshawar, examined by an official who would check consignments with invoices and certify as to the seals not having been tampered with, the invoices, after checking, being returned to the exporters or their agents, and checked again at the frontier stations when the consignments passed through on their way to Afghanistan. The checking officers in charge of these posts would send the invoices back periodically to the district officers who would return them to gardens, when the planters would submit them to the Tea Cess Committee as vouchers in support of claims for payment of export bounty. It was pointed out to the Tea Cess Committee that the scheme was defective in one point, for the planters would have to offer the Afghan traders some inducement in order to get them to agree to the examination of the documents in question. The Executive Committee, however, examined and accepted the scheme. Later on the planters interested, probably for the reason foreseen by Government, stated that they were not prepared to accept the scheme. The question came up for consideration again at the meeting of the Indian Tea Cess Committee on February 9th, Mr. Grey putting before the committee the reasons that induced the planters to refrain from accepting the proposals made. The Committee for their part, decided that they could not accept the proposals placed before them by the planters; and it was resolved that no allotment would be made for Afghanistan during the current year.

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REVIEWS.

BOLL-WEEVIL AND COTTON BOLLWORM.

MR. H. MAXWELL-LEFROY, M.A., Entomologist to the Government of India, contributed to the first number of the "Agricultural Journal of India" a most interesting account of the insect pests of cotton in India. In this he stated that the bollworm of evil fame in the United States was represented in India by the pink bollworm, and by two cousins though the boll-weevil was unknown. The report of the Board of Agriculture just received states that a special account of the ravages wrought by bollworm in the Punjab is in press, and will appear shortly, and that a campaign against cotton pests is being organised.

An added interest is therefore attached to all literature upon this subject.

In recent years as is well known the cotton growers of Texas have suffered enormous loss through the ravages of the **Boll-Weevil,** and ***Farmers' Bulletin No. 209,*** published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture gives striking examples of the manner in which the pest is disseminated, and of the difficulties of controlling it. Specific instances are cited in which areas clear of the boll-weevil were infected by the procuring of seed-cotton from a gin at which cotton from an infested district had been treated, or by the use of bulk cotton seed from such a gin as a fertiliser. One case is given in which the infection was transported and communicated at a distance of sixteen miles. The results

of various experiments for dealing with the trouble by fumigation are not encouraging, and the following recommendations for measures directed to prevent communication of the infection through machinery are made with an obvious recognition that they are little more than palliative.

"It should be understood that complete success in keeping the boll-weevil out of cotton seed depends upon a combination of the following recommendations for the seed-cotton storage house, in addition to a combination of the recommendations for the gin-house proper. No one alone could be depended upon. On account of the great seriousness of the boll-weevil problem, the importance of these recommendations deserves the careful attention of every ginner, and farmers should realise that it is decidedly to their advantage to have their cotton ginned where the greatest care is taken with the seed."

"I. Where possible, a separate seed-cotton storage house should be provided. In any case, the seed should be stored in a building distinct from the seed-cotton storage house.

"II. In the seed-cotton storage house should be installed special cleaners or droppers which, in addition to removing many weevils, would facilitate ginning and improve the sample."

"III. In the gin-house proper the principal recommendations are that cleaner feeders and cotton cleaners be used more extensively, that the trash therefrom be treated in such a way as to cause the destruction of the weevils, and that a device be perfected for removing and destroying the weevils in the seed and motes.

"IV. Wherever the system of handling and ginning cotton is not found to be effective in removing the weevils, and this is the case in practically all the smaller and many of the larger ginneries in Texas and Louisiana, the seed, at least for planting purposes, should always be sacked and fumigated by the ginner. In regions where the cotton fields are isolated by this means the introduction of the weevils could be delayed considerably.

"V. In addition to the care necessary with the seed for planting purposes, the farmer should also take great pains to prevent the introduction of the weevil in seed or hulls for feeding purposes, as well as in refuse from the ginneries, which is sometimes used as a fertiliser. There is no appreciable danger in cake or meal.

"VI. At present it does not seem possible to control the boll-weevil effectively at the oil mills. The importance the mills at present have in disseminating the weevil, however, could be very materially reduced by the proper care of gins."

The United States Department of Agriculture publishes a **Farmers' Bulletin No. 212** entitled **The Cotton Bollworm.** The publication details investigations and experiments that have been made in various methods of controlling the development of this pest; and although the work has been done in characteristically systematic manner, the authors decline, until the investigations are completed, to state dogmatically such laws as they have been able to deduce. In dealing with the causes that have led to the marked increase in ravages of the bollworm, certain facts are stated as being true about the American planter which we in this country have been perhaps too ready to believe peculiar to the native cultivator. It is asserted that, by reason of the tenant system of farming, cultivation has, on the whole, been insufficient, and the plant has thus been unable to put on an excess of early fruit, so as to ensure a crop in spite of insect attack; and it is said that the situation is aggravated by the use of seed which has not been selected for early fruiting or other desirable qualities, but often from public ginneries and of absolutely unknown variety. It is a comfort to learn that India is not alone an offender in these respects. The accumulated effect of the climate in Texas and the adjacent States is also shown to have made the crop later and later in maturing—especially in the absence of selection of seed.

The importance of early fruiting in cotton is due to the fact that the bollworm does not commonly reach its most injurious stage of development until cotton that has been successfully cultivated early in the season has reached such a state of maturity as to be immune or impervious to attack. Interesting details are given of the system under which land was taken over from the planters for experimental purposes under contracts which guaranteed them satisfactory yield in return for the obligation to carry out the Department's instructions. The experiments were conducted in such a way as to vary the combinations of the following factors :—

Early variety of seed,	Late planted,
Late " " "	Average cultivation,
Native seed,	Thorough "
Early planted,	Fertiliser,
No fertiliser,	

and to carry out these various combinations experimental fields were divided into 12 differentiated plots.

All the results point to the supreme importance of early maturing. To secure it, the use of stimulating fertilisers is recommended, and it is asserted that by this means it is usually possible to produce a crop ahead of the bollworm. This does not seem to us to accord very well with the general law propounded by the same Department in certain sugar pamphlets reviewed by us recently, namely, that the use of such fertilizers conduces to protracted growth in plants and defers maturity. But that by the way. Very interesting particulars are further given about the system of planting, near the cotton to be protected, other crops attractive to the bollworm moth or alimentary of the larvæ. It is recommended that maize should be sown between the cotton rows at such a late season of the year as will bring that plant into tassel and silk at the time when the cotton would be in danger, and that cowpeas (which are peculiarly attractive to the moth) should be sown between the corn plants at such a season as will bring them in flower at the time when the moth is migrating for the purpose of oviposition. The moth is attracted by the flowers

of the cowpeas and diverted from the cotton. It feeds upon the nectar on the cowpea and at the same time deposits its eggs in the adjoining corns. The following extract gives an interesting idea of approximate calculation of the injury thus prevented :—

Assuming the corn rows to be 6 feet apart and the plants 1½ feet apart in the row, there would be on an acre 4,840 plants. On the average of 338·4 eggs per plant, as found above, there would be 1,637,856 eggs distributed over the acre of corn. By a series of observations it has been determined that a single bollworm feeding freely on cotton will destroy on an average 8 squares, 1 flower, and 1½ bolls during the course of its growth. Assuming that all of the fruit destroyed would have eventually matured, there would be a total destruction of 17,470,464 bolls. On an average of 70 bolls to the pound of seed cotton, this would mean a destruction of 249,578 pounds of cotton in the seed, or, at the rate of 1,500 pounds seed cotton to the bale, 166 bales.

"It must be remembered, however, that in the above calculation it was assumed that from every egg a mature larva would develop. This would be far from the case in reality. In fact it has been observed that on an average but one larva reaches maturity from about 50 eggs deposited on corn. It was further assumed that all of the squares and flowers injured would have otherwise reached maturity, which in fact would not be the case as many squares and young bolls are shed by the plants on account of unfavourable weather or other conditions. However, after making due allowance for all of these conditions, the benefits to be derived from a proper use of corn as a trap crop are seen to be very great."

In this connection it may be noted that the wholesale failure of the Panjab cotton crop of last year is said to have been due mainly to the bollworm and that the exceptional visitation was associated with a crop retarded in its development by various causes and reaching maturity at a late date. The comparative absence of the principal parasite of the bollworm, namely the **Rhogos Lefroy**, is said to have contributed largely to the disaster, and to have been a consequence of the exceptional cold in the previous winter. It is understood that Bhindi (*Hibiscus longifolius*) has been tested as a trap crop, and has been planted at Pusa, both in rows between the cotton and as a border round the cotton, with satisfactory results. It is stated that only 4 per cent. of the bolls upon cotton so protected were attacked by the worm, while 58 per cent. of the Bhindi pods in the rows and 80 per cent. of those in the border were destroyed. The planting of such trap crops is the principal remedy recommended as a safeguard in the coming season in districts where the bollworm has been prevalent; but it would probably be well that the instructions should be made very specific as to the sowing of the Bhindi at such a season as to bring the crop into flower at the time when the moths are to be looked for.

THE VITALITY OF BURIED SEEDS.

Bulletin No. 83 of the United States Departmentof Agriculture, Bureau of Plant Industry.—This Bulletin contains an account of certain experiments undertaken to ascertain for what periods seeds of diverse kinds buried to varying depths in the soil will retain their power of germination. The enquiry was designed to elucidate the point, important in any new country, as to how long **noxious weeds** that have been ploughed under or dug in must be left before the ground is again taken into cultivation. The following are some of the general conclusions stated in the summary :—

The seeds of many of our pernicious weeds can be destroyed by a deep ploughing, if the soil is left undisturbed for some time.

Seeds of the cultivated plants, with but few exceptions, lose their vitality when buried in the soil.

Seeds of the plants commonly designated as weeds, retain vitality remarkably well when buried in the soil.

In general, the pernicious character of weeds is directly proportional to the length of time the seeds will remain viable when buried in the soil.

The deeper seeds are buried the better is vitality preserved.

We imagine that the results point to the conclusion that in practice the farmer must continue to wrestle with his weeds on the surface of the land as before. It would be interesting to know how far the vitality of grain such as wheat is affected by the practice of storing underground as is done in parts of India.

MANURING OF SUGARCANE.

Some further information of great interest relating to the **manuring of the sugarcane** is to be found in the Bulletin (No. 93 of the United States Department of Agriculture—Bureau of Chemistry) which deals more particularly with certain experiments in the culture of sugarcane and its manufacture into table syrup.

In page 41 we find the statement that "sugarcane is a crop which fortunately makes very moderate demands on the stores of plant food, considering the weight of organic matter produced. Producing, as it does, no seeds, its demand for nitrogenous fertiliser is reduced to a minimum. There are apparently but few crops which can produce such a quantity of organic matter with so small an expenditure of the three essential elements of food, namely, phosphoric acid, potash, and nitrogen." Certain of the experiments, of which particulars are given, show that in several cases a larger yield of cane and a more satisfactory description of juice were obtained on crops where little or no nitrogen had been artificially given, though in one instance this result was probably due in part to the fact that a leguminous crop had been recently grown upon the land. A number of curious facts about the results obtained upon very poor soil are mentioned in various parts of the publication, but the following may be selected for quotation :—"During the whole course of the experiment the remarkable richness of these sugarcanes in crystallisable sugar was shown. It was naturally expected that by reason of the higher northern latitude and shorter growing season, the canes would be less mature than those grown in Louisiana, but the chemical data seem to show that the contrary of this supposition is true. The canes grown in Georgia present a greater degree of maturity than those grown on the banks of the Mississippi, or in other parts of Louisiana. This fact is doubtless due to the character of the soil which, being very deficient in plant food, causes a more rapid ripening of the cane. It is evident that a plant which has great stores of food at its disposal will tend to grow for a longer time before reaching its maturity than one growing where the plant foods are deficient; and it is shown at a later point that the effect of the fertiliser upon the poorer soil was more marked than upon the richer soil. The percentage of sugar contained in the cane grown on the poorer soil reached almost the same magnitude as that of the cane grown on the based field. The same being further true of the reducing sugar and of purity. Full particulars are given of the soils on which the experiments were made, and these leave no doubt as to their natural poverty. One of the general conclusions arrived at is that there is little if any waste from an excessive application of potash and phosphate on plant cane as the succeeding stubble crop will get the benefit, but that an excessive application of ammonia will be lost as it will have practically all disappeared in the following year. In making this statement the Department seems to have exercised a long-sightedness not shown in their discussion of the burning of refuse or "bagasse." It is argued that since the quantity of the fertilising material which the bagasse contains is very small hence its return to the soil adds very little of the essential plant foods, namely potash, phosphoric acid and nitrogen. Here the point touched on by Mr. Deerr in the passage quoted in our Present issue seems to have been lost sight of; and when the American investigators further object to the return of bagasse to the soil on account of its fibrous nature and its slow rate of decomposition they would appear to be taking the short views of the enquirer who demands immediate results rather than those of the cultivator of cane for industrial purposes.

As regards the yield of cane per acre it is stated that without fertilisers the crop in some cases fell to 5 tons or even less, but it is added that by judicious fertilisation, by proper rotation of produce and by the growth of cowpeas and other leguminous plants it is possible on the sandy soils experimented with to secure very fair yields of sugarcane : 39 tons per acre having been harvested in one instance. This is an outturn which must fill the Indian cultivator with envy; and it is probable that the statements as to yield per acre are fully to be relied upon, seeing that the tests are made on areas enormously greater than those commonly used in crop cutting experiments in this country. A field containing "a little over an acre and half" is spoken of as the smallest area from which reliable conclusions could be deduced. We wonder how often such an area of sugarcane has been involved in an Indian crop cutting experiment. The Bulletin is characterised by all the thoroughness peculiar to the American Agricultural Department and contains full plans and details of the factory and plant erected for the express purpose of testing at heavy cost the project of syrup manufacture on industrial scale.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Enquiries—Consular Officers.

The Director General of Commercial Intelligence wishes to point out to manufacturers and merchants who desire to obtain information in regard to trade matters in foreign countries that it is desirable that applications should first be made to this Department, at No. 5, Clive Street, Calcutta, before communications are addressed to His Majesty's Consular Officers abroad. By the adoption of this course delay would be avoided by the enquirer in cases in which the Commercial Intelligence Department is already in possession of the required information, and Consular Officers would be relieved of much unnecessary work.

Emigration.

Calcutta, the 27th March 1906.

No. 2465—35.—The following draft of a Notification which it is proposed to issue in exercise of the powers conferred by section 80 of the Indian Emigration Act, 1883 (XXI of 1883), is published as required by section 81 of the said Act, for the information of persons likely to be affected thereby, and notice is hereby given that the draft will be taken into consideration by the Governor-General in Council on or after the 1st May 1906.

2. Any objection or suggestion which may be received from any person with respect to the draft before the date fixed aforesaid will be considered by the Governor-General in Council.

Draft Notification.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 80 of the Indian Emigration Act, 1883 (XXI of 1883), the Governor-General in Council is pleased to direct that the following amendments shall be made in rules 6 and 7 of the Rules published with the Notification of the Government of India in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 94 E., dated the 18th March 1886, namely :

1. In Rule 6 after the word 'district' where it first occurs the words 'or sub-division' shall be added.

2. In Rule 7 for the words "any District Magistrate" the words 'the Magistrate' shall be substituted.

W. L. HARVEY,
Secretary to the Government of India.

INDIAN TRADE SUMMARY

IMPORTS INTO BRITISH INDIA FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

	Eleven months, 1st April to the end of February		Increase	Decrease
	1904-05	1905-06		
	R	*R*	*R*	*R*
I.—Animals, living	56,63,691	47,34,215	...	9,29,476
II.—Articles of food and drink—				
Sugar	6,31,32,719	6,57,22,223	25,89,504	...
Other articles	5,63,43,769	5,97,23,537	33,79,768	...
III.—Metals and manufactures of—				
Hardware and Cutlery including plated ware	2,17,44,243	2,06,52,731	...	10,91,512
Metals	8,60,21,209	8,18,30,358	...	41,90,851
Machinery and millwork	3,70,18,560	4,49,75,307	79,56,747	...
Railway plant and rolling-stock (other than Government stores)	1,24,78,443	1,52,33,641	27,55,198	...
IV.—Chemicals, drugs, medicines and narcotics, dyeing and tanning materials	2,51,97,634	2,70,30,153	18,32,519	...
V.—Oils—				
Mineral	3,03,52,471	2,10,98,777	...	92,53,694
Other oils	15,78,228	19,73,347	3,95,119	...
VI.—Raw materials and unmanufactured articles	3,77,05,690	4,50,28,443	73,22,753	...
VII.—Articles manufactured and partly manufactured—				
Cotton yarn	2,21,77,151	3,13,44,116	91,66,965	...
Cotton piece goods	30,33,80,505	33,35,87,377	3,02,06,872	...
Other articles	17,65,84,658	17,97,49,785	31,65,127	...
Total Merchandise	87,03,78,971	93,26,84,010	5,33,05,039	...
Gold	20,38,51,574	13,54,90,077	...	6,83,61,497
Silver	10,61,62,849	5,48,76,551	...	5,12,86,298
GRAND TOTAL OF IMPORTS	1,18,93,93,394	1,12,30,50,638	...	6,63,42,756

INDIAN TRADE SUMMARY

EXPORTS FROM BRITISH INDIA TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

	Eleven months, 1st April to the end of February		Increase	Decrease
	1904-05	1905-06		
	R	*R*	*R*	*R*
Foreign Merchandise Exported	3,10,06,430	3,13,90,973	3,84,543	...
Indian Merchandise Exported—				
I.—Animals, living	17,11,842	17,94,621	82,779	...
II.—Articles of food and drink—				
Rice	16,22,61,428	15,75,31,648	...	47,29,780
Wheat and wheat-flour	17,74,91,942	9,06,28,685	...	8,68,63,257
Tea	8,33,80,408	8,71,43,175	37,62,767	...
Other articles	5,44,08,443	4,93,72,043	...	50,36,400
III.—Metals and manufactures	31,91,033	52,00,802	20,09,769	...
IV.—Chemicals, drugs, medicines and narcotics, dyeing and tanning materials—				
Opium	9,92,32,107	8,84,05,187	...	1,08,26,920
Indigo	68,69,095	45,22,176	...	23,46,919
Other articles	1,20,03,889	1,22,30,061	2,26,172	...
V.—Oils	93,22,910	74,45,450	...	18,77,460
VI.—Raw materials and unmanufactured articles—				
Cotton	15,25,65,691	18,82,22,026	3,56,56,335	...
Hides and skins	6,16,39,282	8,72,16,367	2,55,77,085	...
Jute	11,22,90,321	15,71,95,971	4,49,05,650	...
Oilseeds	13,43,59,582	9,49,04,687	...	3,94,54,895
Other articles	6,03,67,695	7,31,33,398	1,27,65,703	...
VII.—Articles manufactured and partly manufactured—				
Cotton yarn	8,86,48,755	11,06,92,039	2,20,43,284	...
Cotton piece goods	1,49,72,565	1,70,91,313	21,18,748	...
Hides and skins	2,65,02,378	3,27,65,604	62,63,226	...
Jute—bags and cloth	9,01,77,164	11,23,70,761	2,21,93,597	...
Other articles	4,76,04,867	4,76,46,491	41,624	...
Total Indian Merchandise	1,39,90,01,297	1,42,55,12,505	2,65,11,108	...
Gold	3,40,39,830	3,95,24,164	54,84,334	...
Silver	4,25,45,538	1,08,20,810	...	3,17,24,728
GRAND TOTAL OF EXPORTS	1,50,65,93,195	1,50,72,48,452	6,55,257	...

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.

For the week ending 31st March 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign— Imports by sea into	Calcutta	lbs.	590,734
	Bombay	„	252,564
	Madras	„	32,695
Indian— Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	718,282
	Bombay	„	5,525,690
	Madras	„	...

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	30,265,818
	Bombay	„	5,496,149
	Karachi	„	539,853
	Madras	„	1,379,779
	Rangoon	„	104,761

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	4,787,341
	Bombay	„	6,222,873
	Karachi	„	2,212,278
	Madras	„	149,759
	Rangoon	„	514,967

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	5,309,409
	Bombay	„	6,404,479
	Karachi	„	1,399,958
	Madras	„	437,880
	Rangoon	„	556,497

Piece Goods.

(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta	cwt.	36,272
	Bombay	„	*
	Karachi	„	14,819
	Madras	„	4,557

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea	cwt.	200
	Coastwise	„	21,083
	By rail	„	367,389
Imports into Karachi by rail		„	16,105
„ „ Calcutta by rail and river			19,632

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta		cwt.	126,140
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags	No.	6,521,900
	„ cloth	yds.	16,260,300
	Jute	cwt.	203,913
Chittagong—Jute		„	...

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta		lbs.	197,339
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	844,134
	Chittagong	„	...

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	61,495
	Karachi by rail	„	61,606
	Bombay By rail	„	23,268
	Bombay Coastwise	„	12,097
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	1,631
	Bombay	„	3,495
	Karachi	„	2,000

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta	cwt.	305,661
	Chittagong	„	...
	Bombay	„	11,029
	Karachi	„	12,922
	Madras	„	6
	Rangoon	„	941,288

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	12,238
	Bombay by rail	„	104,846
	Karachi by rail	„	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	34,099
	Bombay	„	8,418
	Karachi	„	...

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	38,261
	Bombay by rail	„	9,783
	Karachi by rail	„	25,297
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	119
	Bombay	„	5,910
	Karachi	„	30,931

KEROSENE OIL.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From all other foreign countries.	Total.
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
Calcutta	...	180,558	...	180,558
Bombay	...	...	..	...
Karachi	...	206,289	...	206,289
Madras	...	...	...	...

Exports by sea from Burma to	Calcutta	galls.	...
	Bombay	„	...
	Karachi	„	...
	Madras	„	...
	Foreign ports	„	...

IMPORTS OF SUGAR.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into: Calcutta.	Chittagong	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	10,556	..	9,929	7	500	738	21,730
France	...	...	8,292	...	...	...	8,292
Austria-Hungary	50,266	...	57,992	51,140	500	985	160,883
Other European Countries	5,000	..	48,979	59,380	...	7,880	121,239
Java	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mauritius	29,328	...	85,410	...	...	..	114,738
Other Non-European Countries	...	..	62	...	...	...	62
					Total refined		426,944
					Total unrefined		15,358
					Grand Total cwt.		442,302

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta [The prices include postage] to countries in the Postal Union.

ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 (2*a*.)
2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a*.)
3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—
   - Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. R3 (12*a*.)
   - Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port R3. (12*a*.)
4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. R2. (7*a*.)
5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a*.)
6. Accounts of Trade of the French Possession in India. As. 3. (1*a*.)
7. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possession in India. As. 2. (1*a*.)
8. Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India R4 (6*a*.)
9. Report on the Rail-borne and River-borne Trade of Bengal R1.
10. Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan. R1⅛.
11. Prices and Wages in India. R1½. (9*a*.)
12. Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India. R4. (12*a*.)
13. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India. R2. (10*a*.)
14. Agricultural Statistics of India. R3½. (12*a*.)
    - Part I.—British India.
    - Part II.—Native States.
15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India. As. 5 (2*a*.)
16. Statistics of Mineral Production in India As. 2. (1*a*.)

QUARTERLY.

17. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

MONTHLY.

18. Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)
19. Accounts of the External Land Trade of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)
29. Statistics of the Production of Yarn and Woven Goods in the India Cotton Mills. As. 2.

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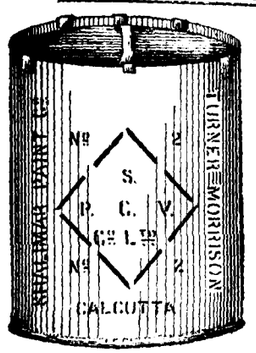
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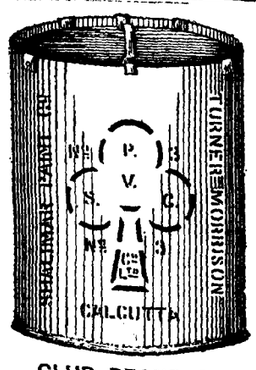


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NOTES.

The French Government is offering a prize of £2,000 for the discovery of a system of utilizing **alcohol for illuminating purposes** under the same conditions as petroleum.

The King has been pleased, by Letters Patent, dated 28th February 1906, to **change the designation of the colony of Lagos to "Southern Nigeria,"** and to make fresh provision for the Government thereof from a date hereafter to be fixed.

The **United Provinces** Government have given over 11¼ lakhs of rupees in the form of *tacavi* (advances for seed, wells, fodder and agricultural improvements), while remissions and suspensions of land revenue on account of the *kharif* demand have amounted to nearly 9¾ lakhs and 4½ lakhs respectively.

It is noted in the "Textile Journal" (U. K.) that spinners engaged in the manufacture of American yarn are complaining about the **irregularity of the staple** of the last American crop of cotton. This, says the Journal, has been causing endless trouble among users of this class of cotton specially in the Oldham district.

From **wood** inventors extracted first paper, then silk, and now experiments are being made in Bavaria, Italy, and France for the production of artificial **cotton** from the wood of the pine tree

after the bark and branch knots had been removed. The material has to undergo several preparatory processes, after which it is as flexible as natural cotton.

❦❦

During the month of February 49,577 ozs. of **gold** valued at Rs. 28,27,387 were extracted from the **Indian gold mines.** The outturn for the eleven months (April to February) was 575,777 ozs. valued at Rs. 3,28,53,773. Of this amount 563,681 ozs. valued at Rs. 3,21,61,773 stands to the credit of Mysore. The mines in the Nizam's Territory yielded 12,096 ozs. valued at Rs. 6,92,000.

❦❦

There were unfortunately in the **first issue** of the "Indian Trade Journal" typographical errors not a few. Some of these were of a nature merely calculated to annoy. There were others of a serious kind, such as the misprint in a note on the **gold production of the world,** on page 7, where the table showing the output of gold for the years 1886 to 1905 was headed rupees instead of pounds sterling.

❦❦

The following delegates have been appointed to attend the **Sixth Congress of the Chamber of Commerce of the Empire,** to be held in London in July 1906 :—

From the Bengal Chamber of Commerce: Sir Ernest Cable, Kt., of Messrs. Bird & Co., a former President of the Chamber; Hon'ble Mr. J.D. Nimmo, of Messrs. Duncan Brothers & Co., the Vice-President of the Chamber; Mr. D. C. Blair, of Messrs. Finlay, Muir & Co., a member of the Committee; the Karachi Chamber of Commerce: Messrs. W. W. Petrie and A. Whitworth; the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce: Messrs. R. F. S. Hardie and F. C. Allen. **Upper India Chamber** of Commerce :— Sir Edward Buck, Mr. T. E. Strachy and Mr. S. M. Johnson.

❦❦

Last week we published an estimate of the **total number of spindles** in the world, which showed the tremendous supremacy of the United Kingdom. In continuation thereof it is interesting to note that, whilst the United Kingdom possesses the greatest number of spindles in the world, and Lancashire the greatest number of spindles in the United Kingdom, **Oldham** possesses the most spindles in Lancashire. She owns a third of the whole of the spindles in the **Oldham** Kingdom, and one-seventh of the whole of spindles in the world. Her sixteen million spindles number nearly twice as many as there are in the whole of Germany, and nearly three times as many as in all Russia.

❦❦

There is an interesting legal point concerning **Co-patentees** which is not generally known. On the authority of Lord Justice Cozens Hardy, in the case of the National Company for the Distribution of Electricity by Secondary Generators (Ltd.) *vs.* Gibbs, we have it that the interest of Co-patentees is joint, and passes, on the death of one, to the survivor, unless some agreement has been made to a different effect. Executors of a deceased Co-patentee would therefore retain no share in the benefits arising from the patents unless special arrangements had been made to that end during the said patentee's life. In the absence of arrangements to the contrary, the whole of the interest in the Patent passes to the surviving patentee or patentees.

❦❦

The Government of India have had under consideration the question whether the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, or the local Directors of Land Records, should **telegraph** the substance of the various **crop forecasts** as published to public bodies and associations, or to private firms or individuals, who may ask for the information in this form. After careful consideration the Government of India have come to the conclusion that any **such privilege would not be for the public interest,** and they have accordingly decided to maintain the principle which is followed in other countries where similar documents are issued, that, while Government prepares and publishes these forecasts at each centre on fixed dates, the dissemination of the information contained in them by telegram must be left to private enterprize.

❦❦

Mr. H. Grant, His Majesty's Consul at **Oporto,** in his report on the trade of the town for 1905 says, "**Jute yarns** from Dundee continue to come in considerable quantities, to be manufactured into sacking by weaving mills, and also by smaller factories into stair and other carpets and table covers The Germans are trying for the trade; but so far as my information goes, hitherto without success. Jute manufactures, such as ornamental table covers, curtains and "novelties," seem to come from Germany and Belgium, the Dundee factories being apparently out of this trade altogether. This Consul in his report utters a word of warning respecting the indiscriminate issue of samples, which, though addressed to manufacturers in the United Kingdom, may well be pondered by manufacturers in India. He says that samples are often written for with the mere object of having them copied, and suggests that samples should be confided only to respectable agents, who will return them after showing them on the markets.

❦❦

Interesting legal decisions regarding **peculiarities of Insurance Law** are sometimes given in the United States. Many states of the American Union have enacted "**Vexatious delay laws,**" which add a percentage penalty to every judgment secured against a Fire Insurance Company, if the policy-holder is compelled to sue to recover a claim, and

can show that his claim should not have been disputed. In a dispute arising out of a case brought against the London, Liverpool, and Globe Company, over the loss of a block of dwellings in Kansas City, agreement could not be reached as to the damages. A suit was begun, and judgment recorded for Plaintiff for over 20,000 dols., the amount of the Insurance. The amount was paid into Court with interest. The lower Court struck out the claim for the ten per cent. penalty, and lawyer's fees for "Vexatious delays." On appeal, the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of such penalty statutes, and the plaintiff asked leave to amend his amended petition by re-inserting the averment to damages, and the attorney's fees. This claim was upheld by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals.

❦❦

The **prices of opium** in the Calcutta market during the week ending April 7th, were per chest as follows :—

Behar opium.—Rs. 1,351; 1,351; 1,325; 1,318; 1,317; 1,318; 1,320.

Benares opium.—Rs. 1,250; 1,250; 1,215; 1,215; 1,215; 1,220; 1,220.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 4th and 5th sales of 1906.—Rs. 1,351; 1,351; 1,324; 1,322; 1,321; 1,322; 1,324.

China market Hongkong (exchange Rs. 155 to 154½ per 100 dollars). Behar $ 887; 887; 882; 882; 882; 880; 880. Shanghai (exchange Rs. 213 to 213½ per 100 Taels) one sale on the 5th 630 Taels.

Benares.—Three sales in the Hongkong market on 2nd, 5th and 6th on $ 835, 825 and 820, respectively, while one sale Shanghai, on the 5th, 588 Taels.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending the 31st of March, were—for A class (season 1904 to 1905) Rs. 1 425, for B class (season 1903 to 1904) Rs. 1,475 to 1,658; class C, old (season 1902 to 1903) Rs. 1,735 to 1,800. The latest China prices ascertained, were for new classes A and B, Rs. 1,478 to 1,542 old (class C) fetched at Hongkong Rs. 1,701 and at Shanghai Rs. 1,677.

❦❦

The Governor of the **Bahamas,** in his report on the Blue-Book for 1904-05, gives an idea of **the Sponge fishery** business carried on in those waters. There were engaged in it 265 schooners of from 5 to 43 tons burden, and 322 sloops of from 1 to 16 tons burden, the aggregate tonnage being 5,952. Attached to the vessels were 2,517 open boats, and 5,517 men and boys were employed on them. In addition there were 291 open boats, owned and manned by people living on the coasts of several of the out islands, who numbered 445. The industry is of the greatest economic importance to the colony, and disquietude is being felt with regard to its future. It is feared that the sponge beds are being exhausted. Increasing quantities of small sponges, which ought to have been left on the beds to grow to a proper size, have been brought to market. This has led to the enactment of a law establishing a Sponge Fishery Board, and vesting in it certain powers for the regulation of fisheries. The greatest harm has been wrought on the sponge beds by itinerant fishermen, who constantly work over the fields, pulling up, regardless of size or quality, the small sponges with which they are thickly sown. The new protective movement is heartily welcomed by all regular sponge fishers.

❦❦

"Industrial Canada" for March publishes the appended statement of the increases in the **prices of Canadian produce** that have taken place since 1897 :—

Article.		May 1897.	May 1905.	Increase	Dec. 1897.	Dec. 1905.	Increase
Beef	lb.	·08	·10	25 %	·05½ ·07-·08 —·08		11½ %
Butter	lb.	·18	·23	55 %	·17	·23	35 %
Bacon	lb.	·11	·14	27 %	·13	·13	...
Eggs	doz.	·09½	·16	68 %	·18	·40	122 %
Flour	bbl.	3·70	4·15	20 %	5·00	5·50	10 %
Potatoes	bag	·60	·75	25 %	·70	1·00	42 %
Rolled oats	bbl.	2·80	4·60	64 %	3·50	4·40	25 %

It is noticeable that the same paper contains an article on the attempt of the Toronto Aldermen to fix a **minimum wage** for their employes; and that the writer, while maintaining a healthy attitude of opposition to a proposal that "confers rewards upon the competent and incompetent alike," admits "the force of labour's plea that in regard to the increased cost of living and in view of the upward trend of prices it is but right that wages should be advanced from time to time."

❦❦

The Government of the Straits Settlements has so far declined to adhere to the **Paris Convention** of 1903. That agreement prescribes a curtailed quarantine period of five days after the sailing of a vessel from a plague-infected port. The Government of the Straits Settlements maintain that this period affords an inadequate protection against the importation of the disease; and in its ports **pratique** is withheld until the completion of the ten days permitted by the Venice Convention. The voyage from Rangoon and Calcutta to Penang occupies three and five days, respectively. This practice of the Straits Settlements therefore causes inconvenience to shipping emanating from Calcutta and Rangoon; and complaints have repeatedly been addressed to the Government of India on the subject, both by private firms and by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. But the Straits Settlements, as a Colony, are free to take their own line in such matters. Representations were made to the Colonial Secretary. He declined to interfere,

beyond enquiring from the Government of the Straits Settlements whether its views on this matter of quarantine remained unchanged. To this the Government replied that in its opinion it would be in the last degree dangerous to relax quarantine regulations, which were considered a very valuable protection to the Colony against the introduction of plague.

❦

The first monthly returns from the recently formed **Sudan Customs** have just been published, says the "Monthly Journal of the British Chamber of Commerce, Egypt." They relate to January 1906, and show the clearances through Suakim and Port Sudan. With regard to **Suakim**, the **imports** during the month amounted to L. E. 6,484, of which India was responsible for L. E 2,393 and Great Britain L. E. 1,750. The principal trade done was in Cloth, the return being one of L. E. 2,485, India sending L. E. 1,718 and Great Britain L. E. 733. The provision figures totaled L. E. 524, Sugar L. E. 498, Wines L. E. 456, and Cotton Goods L. E. 380. To the above mentioned imports of L.E 6,484, there must be added L. E. 9,750 being the value of goods from abroad sent *vid* Egypt, and admitted into the Sudan duty free on account of the charges having already been collected at the port of entry. The **exports** from **Suakim** amounted to L. E. 3,529, Egypt being the highest buyer with L. E. 1,989, and Great Britain the lowest with L.E. 276. The chief item in the exports was Senna Leaves L. E. 1,190, all of which passed into Egypt. Goods to the extent of L. E. 3,333 were carried by coasting vessels from Suakim to port Sudan, the main trade being in provisions L. E. 1,919. In the case of **Port Sudan** the **imports** reached L. E. 1,689, largely due to cement shipments which figure for L. E. 1,217 in the returns. The **exports** were valued at L. E. 76.

❦

The figures showing the quantities and values of **gold and silver imported into and exported from British India** during the month of February have been published. The total quantity of **gold imported** was 144,319 ozs., valued at Rs. 88,95,445. Of this, 119,791 ozs., worth Rs. 74,05,186, represented bullion; and 24,528 ozs., worth Rs. 14,90,259, coin, of which 23,281 ozs., valued at Rs. 14,18,006, represented sovereigns and other British gold coin. The **exports of gold** amounted to 125,036 ozs., the value of which is placed at Rs. 72,26,311. Of this 47,446 ozs., worth Rs. 26,94,250, was bullion, and 77,590 ozs., worth Rs. 45,32,061, coin, of which sovereigns and other British gold coins were represented by 77,425 ozs., valued at Rs. 45,22,500. The total **imports of silver** are placed at 13,898,706 ozs., valued at Rs. 2,72,02,862. Of this total 8,682,734 ozs., the value of which was Rs. 1,74,73,162, represented bar silver. The total imports of coined silver were 5,215,972 ozs., valued at Rs. 97,29,700. Of this 108,097 ozs., worth Rs. 2,89,329, represented Government of India rupees.

The total **exports of silver** amounted to 187,449 ozs., valued at Rs. 4,98.479. Of this 2,199 ozs., worth Rs. 4,479, represented bullion and other kinds of uncoined silver. The total of coined silver exported was 185,250 ozs., valued at Rs. 4,9 ,,000, Government of India rupees contributing 185,250 ozs., valued at Rs. 4,94,000, towards this total.

❦

The Board of Trade Journal recently published particulars of an international competition which is to be held at Milan in connection with the forthcoming Exhibition, the object being to devise a really effective **machine for street-sweeping.** As is natural under European conditions it is pre-supposed that the material to be removed will be mud; and the rewards offered are—first prize, £160; second prize, £80. Whether the Municipalities of our Indian cities would be prepared to offer such inducements to the ingenious inventor who should devise a machine for the removal of dust instead of mud seems doubtful; but it is possible that the solution of the difficulty and the remedy of one of life's greatest discomforts in this country might be found in dust cart having a fan aspirator operated by the wheels as the revolving brush of the common road-sweeper is operated. Some ingenuity would be required in contriving the row of suction nozzles in contact with the roadway, so that they should not foul, and should at the same time draw up all the lighter and more troublesome dust while leaving the heavier grit which is useful as a binding material. Probably the best form of receptacle for the dust would be a cart of the ordinary municipal type covered in with a piece of sacking close enough to retain the mass of the dust while the air escaped through the fabric. Its horizontal position and the agitation attending the movement of the cart would prevent its getting choked.

❦

The **Report** of the Proceedings of the Inspection Committee Trustee **Savings Banks** in England for the year ended 20th November 1905 has been published. The chief feature of the past Savings Bank year has been the activity displayed in founding Special Investment Departments, through which money is accepted for **investment otherwise** than with the Government. The desirability of offering greater facilities to depositors, the intimate relations existing between the Banks and the Municipal Authorities, and the establishment of Savings Bank Departments by Joint Stock Banks, have all conduced to this development. The bulk of the money deposited by special investors has been lent to Town and other councils on mortgages of the rates, and as the depositors generally appear to be satisfied with 2¾*l.* per cent. interest, a minimum rate of interest on investments of 3*l.* per cent. is remunerative to the Banks. As a matter of fact 3¼*l.* per cent. is now being received in many cases, and the expenses of management being small, a surplus or

reserve fund can be rapidly created which will serve as a protection against any unforeseen loss, the risk of which, though remote, must not be lost sight of. The loans are repayable at par, and mostly on short notice, hence there is no locking up of the bulk of the money for longer periods than the notice which the Banks are in a position to demand, if need be, from the special investors, which varies from one to three months, while there is entire freedom from fluctuation in market values.

❦

Reports from **South Africa** show that the **furniture trade** there has now shrunk to comparatively small dimensions. The importation of better class furniture has fallen considerably within the year, and the demand is very small. Even for cheaper class goods prices run very low, and the demand is dull, the generality of people who want furniture, seeming evidently to depend for their supplies upon auction sales. It was very different not so long ago. After the close of the war an enormous demand for furniture to replace that destroyed during the campaign, arose throughout South Africa, more particularly in the Transvaal, Orange River Colony, and Natal. Had manufacturers of, and dealers in, furniture in India taken advantage of that demand, their reward would have been great. India is peculiarly well fitted to supply the class of furniture most in demand in South Africa. Transport from India to South Africa offers no difficulties, and freights are reasonably low. Indian furniture makers are able to command an abundant supply of cheap and suitable wood, and of cheap and not unskillled labour. They ought to have taken the cream of the South African market after the war. Their chance has now passed. The rise and fall in the demand for furniture in South Africa is shown by the following figures indicating imports of furniture and cabinetware into various South African Colonies:—

	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£	£
Natal .	103,066	169,288	317,345	181,396
Orange River .	1,969	30,779	101,152	182,559
Transvaal .	...	373,175	598,088	321,344
Cape Colony .	280,963	618,613	966,988	529,004

❦

The **annual report of the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works** for 1904 contains some interesting observations and warnings by Mr. Verschoyle, Inspector-General of Irrigation, and as these are worthy of the special consideration of traders and agriculturists in India we note them, even though it is some time since the report was issued. The temperature during September and October is, he says, the determined factor of the cotton crop; the influence of pests, such as the cotton worm, in summer, is of a secondary order. The plant pests can be fought, but against the adverse conditions of autumn there is no remedy. Cold and damp nights and morning mists precede the burning sun of the day, with the result that cotton pods shrink instead of unclosing. The damper the autumn, the more danger there is from the attacks of a new species of worm, which eats into the pod itself. Mr. Verschoyle shows that even irrigation, which is life itself to Egypt, is attended with its own peculiar dangers, and must, as we in India have discovered, be conducted with the utmost prudence and judgment. Too much water is nearly as bad as too little. The Egyptian peasant grower is, it seems, falling more and more into the habit of **watering young and tender plants too liberally** during the hot season. This practice is condemned as injuring a good yield, and favouring the growth of the cotton worm. To this undue watering, and to the fact that the ground is being over-cropped, cotton being often sown on the same plot every second year, instead of every third year, and also to the inferior quality of seed generally being sown, Mr. Verschoyle attributes the recent degeneration of the Egyptian cotton crop.

❦

The Board of Trade of the United Kingdom has arranged with British Consuls abroad to forward periodical **lists of British** or **Foreign merchants** in their towns who are likely to do business with the United Kingdom. In forwarding revised lists of the firms in Constantinople the British Consul at that port remarks that British manufactures, in order that they may compete with foreign firms, must adopt some of their competitors' methods, and he makes the following suggestions on this subject:—

1. Success depends almost entirely upon the agent; the manufacturer should select only a man of whose commercial morality, business capacity, and energy he is assured.
2. Every latitude should be given to the agent in respect to the terms of payment.
3. The agent should be encouraged to keep the manufacturer well supplied with samples, new designs and prices of competitors' goods; and the manufacturer should furnish the agent with up to-date samples of his own goods.
4. Wherever possible, the manufacturer should sell directly to the consumer, through the local agent only.
5. Prices should be quoted c. i. f. Constantinople, and for this purpose manufacturers should themselves consider the question of freight.
6. In nearly all cases of non-payment referred to the British Consulate, the reasons given by customers have been either:—
   (*a*) Goods not to sample.
   (*b*) Goods arrived too late for season.

Mr. Waugh suggests in respect to orders that:—

1. All orders should be taken in writing, signed by the customer, and addressed to the manufacturer by name.
2. No shipment should be effected until samples are approved by the customers.
3. An approximate rate for shipment should be specified in the order.

The question of the **reform of consular service** is attracting much attention in the United States, whilst in England modifications have been made in the methods of publication of **consular reports.** In the House of Lords on March the 20th, the Earl of Wemyss asked his Majesty's Government if they would lay on the table of the House Sir Alfred Bateman s deductions from 171 consular reports as to British Trade and methods. The Earl of Granard said that the Board of Trade did not think any usual purpose would be served by printing as a separate paper memoranda contained in a Blue-Book that was in circulation. He said that the Blue-Book was now six years old, and the experience of the department which he represented was against publishing literature of the kind broadcast. It had been decided by the Department in the future not to publish reports of the kind, as the suggestions contained therein became available for foreign competitors as well as for British traders Instructions had been issued to His Majesty's Consular Officers to embody suggestions as to possible improvements in British trade in separate despatches, the contents of which were brought confidentially to the notice of large firms and Chambers of Commerce, or publish at the discretion of the Board of Trade. In the **United States** at a convention held at Washington on the 13th of March a National Consular Reform Association was created to watch consular legislation in the future, and "to keep its members informed of developments relating to the subject." The objects of the Association, as quoted in the English press, seem a little vague, but they include certain definite proposals. Among these are :—"The divorce of the Consular services from the "spoils" or party reward system; an examination test before appointment; knowledge of the language of the country to which he is appointed or of some other language generally spoken there, to be required of every consul; tenure of office during competent and satisfactory service to be assured; the classification of the service in grades, the president to have power to transfer consuls from one post to another in the same grade; original appointments to be made only to the lower grades, with possibilities of promotion for good services as vacancies occurred; salaries to be substituted for fees as a means of remuneration, and consular officers to be prevented from engaging in any other business or profession.

❦

A note by the Hon'ble Mr. H. Marsh, C.I.E., late Chief Engineer, Irrigation, **United Provinces**, on the working of the **canal plantations** for the year ending March 1904, has just been received. This shows that the net revenue derived from the plantations in that year was Rs.22,330 less than in 1902-03, which itself compared unfavourably in this respect with any year of the preceding quinquennium. A statement shows that against assessments aggregating Rs. 1,61,046, charges were incurred to the extent of Rs. 71,401; in the previous year the demands amounted to Rs. 1,79,108 the outlay to Rs. 67,133. The percentage of charges on assessments relating to the four major productive works compared with the mean for the 5 years preceding the year under report, were as fol lows :—

Ganges	42·0	mean 28·7;
Lower Ganges	60·8	mean 54·8;
Agra	63·2	mean 32·7;
Eastern Jumna	23·4	mean 18·5.

As these figures indicate, the proportion of expenditure to assessments is very high in the case of all canals. Compared with the previous year, there has been a small increase of 66 acres in the total area under plantations, which covered 3,099 acres; 7,495 acres were cleared and 1,373 sown as against clearances and sowings of 916 and 1,136 acres respectively in the preceding year. The number of trees planted increased, from 56,109 in 1902-03, to 62·014 in the year under review. The plantations increased on all canals, except on the Agra Canal, where only 2,263 trees were planted, as against 23,988 in 1902-03, and on the Lower Ganges Canal, where a falling off in the planting of trees also manifests itself. While considerable interest appears to have been taken in some of the canal divisions to make plantations a commercial success, the year's working cannot generally be regarded as satisfactory. The Chief Engineer is of opinion that closer supervision and better methods of working in respect of many of the plantations would have obviated largely the general discouraging results which have been recorded. A satisfactory feature of the report is the announcement that the objectionable practice of wholesale failings of miles of plantations has been abandoned. On the other hand cyclonic storms caused immense damage, and not a little of the increase in the cost of working was due to the necessity of clearing away windfalls.

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Steps are being taken to bring about an **improvement in the breeds of work cattle** and **milch cattle** in the Madras Presidency. The Board of Revenue, acting on the advice of Major W. D. Gunn, Superintendent of the Civil Veterinary Department, made certain recommendations which have been approved by the Madras Government, and practical action on the lines of these recommendations will be taken without delay. The recommendations may be divided under three heads: (1) the improvement of Indian work cattle for agricultural purposes; (2) the improvement of Indian milch cattle; (3) the age at which bulls should be sent out into the herds. With regard to the first the consensus of expert opinion is in favour of improvement by selection from purely local breeds, and of improving herds by using only the very best bulls of local breeds, care being taken, at the same time, to insure suitable grazing, proper food, and adequate shelter for the breeding cows and their calves. The principal defects in the existing system of cattle management are, as Major Gunn points out, insufficient feeding, depriving the calves of their natural nourishment, and the keeping of large herds of "wasters", miserably starved and under-bred cattle, which consume fodder and water, that ought to be reserved for cattle of a better class. Major Gunn, and with him nearly all those who have had experience of the Indian agriculturist, is doubtful if **ryots** will ever come to see the wisdom of keeping a few cattle, and maintaining them in first class condition, in preference to owning great herds of starvellings incapable of working well or yielding good milk, and whose offspring are more miserable and more incapable than themselves. The provision of good stocks of fodder is indispensable to the success of any scheme of cattle improvement. The Madras Board of Revenue, bearing this in mind, have suggested that Agricultural Associations, and estates under the Court of Wards, should take the lead in the matter of providing good fodder, and instructing the ryots in the best method of growing and conserving fodder-grasses. Happily for the success of the scheme of cattle improvement in Madras, Southern India is very fortunately circumstanced for the production of fodder, which it can grow cheaply, and of good quality, in any quantity. In connection with the improvement of milch cattle, special attention is called to two points: firstly, the necessity for close attention to breeding, secondly, the provision of pure and plentiful nourishment to the progeny of selected sires during the first two years after birth, with a view to insure full development of the "milk flesh." A suggestion was made to the Madras Board of Revenue that good would result from the importation and acclimatization of milch cattle from Northern India. The opinion is expressed by the Board that before any attempt is made in this direction every effort ought to be made to keep the famous Nellore breed of cattle up to a high standard by the award of substantial prizes and medals to the owners of the best cows and bulls at cattle shows, and that timely steps should be taken to encourage ryots to save the Tiruchengodu and Punganuru breeds from extinction. Seeing that the prosperity of India depends greatly on the condition of her cattle, too much importance cannot be attached to this new movement on the part of the Madras Government, and the progress of the work will be watched with the greatest interest and attention by all in India.

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INDIAN COTTON SPINNING.

THE demand for **Indian cotton yarn** seems to have reached its maximum. The accumulation of stocks in China ports indicates that demand has been slacker for some time in that market; whilst in India the demand, owing to plague and bad crops, is not as good as it was three or four months back. The present time seems therefore appropriate for undertaking a certain enquiry for which the data have now for the first time in history become available.

One of the greatest difficulties attending the **analytic study of industries** is to discover some reliable **statistical test** that will afford an indication of **prosperity or depression.** In respect of trade movements the devising and the application of such a test is a matter of comparative ease; for the returns of imports and exports, and the statistics of railway traffic exhibit the degree in which the commerce of a country is advancing or receding. But the growth of an indigenous industry is much less amenable to analysis. In many cases only a rude guess can be made at the truth; for in countries where manufactures are free from any such taxation as is proportioned to production, there exist no such returns of output as would enable one to estimate the degree in which profit is being derived from its exploitation. In a country such as India—a country in which all material interests are subject to very marked vicissitudes as a consequence of climatic accidents—it is often difficult to say whether a given industry is working to a profit or not, and when this is the case it is peculiarly desirable that some statistical test should, if possible, be devised. Fortunately in this country such returns of production as are made under the Cotton Duties Act enable us to ascertain the amount of production with virtual correctness and it might be contended that the presence of a consistent increase in production over a series of years would in itself furnish clear indication of prosperity. But such an increase of output is sometimes due to additions to plant; and while these additions no doubt are commonly induced by prosperity, they are not necessarily concomitant of it. They may on the contrary very well appear simultaneously with over-production and consequent low prices and loss. When these consequences appear, existing machinery is worked less continuously and the **production in relation to that machinery** declines.

This is the test we have essayed to apply to the **Indian cotton spinning** industry with a view to ascertaining which have been its periods of greatest success and depression; and in this country we possess fairly accurate data about both the factors we require for our comparison—on the one hand the number of spindles in position and on the other the quantity of yarn spun. Unfortunately we cannot ascertain what is the number of spindles actually running or what is the average number of hours in the working day; and before we can deduce from the results of our calculation any definite conclusion as to whether the industry is being worked to a profit or not, it is necessary to form an estimate of what is the actual **maximum working capacity** of modern spinning machinery under the labour conditions existing in India. Fortunately the exceptional activity that has prevailed through the industry during the past twelve months, the heavy demand in all directions, and the large profits known to have been made, entitle us to say that for many months every available spindle in India was working to its utmost capacity. All that remains therefore is to constitute an exact return of the spindles, and to compare their numbers with the poundage of yarn turned out.

The period of greatest activity began with the month of April 1905 and the present calculation is based on the nine months ending December last.

The number of spindles in position at the time of preparation of the last available returns was as follows :—

British India	4,912,382
Native States	216,786
All India	5,129,168

Additions have been made continuously in the meantime, but not to an extent sufficient to vitiate our investigation seriously.

During the nine months April to December 1905 the poundage of yarn spun has been as follows :—

British India	lbs. 493,510,000
All India	„ 512,852,861

British India therefore produced in the nine months some 100·46 lbs. per spindle, equal to 133·95 lbs per annum, or a monthly average of 11·16 lbs. But the period includes several months in which the activity declined considerably; and since our purpose is to ascertain the *maximum* productive capacity, we take the period May to September (five months) when virtually every available spindle was running perhaps rather beyond the staying power of the hands. In fact the contraction since that time has unquestionably been due in part to spontaneous shortening of the hours of labour. The production in British India in these five months was 57·91 lbs. per spindle, which is equal to an annual production of 138¼ lbs. per spindle or a **monthly average of 11·6 lbs.** For British India this may probably be taken as a normal maximum output, for although in the single month of August the returns of production indicated an output of 11·9 lbs., this is in contrast with only 11·39 in July. In the same five months the production in all India repre sented about 11·5 lbs. per mensem, or a yearly total of 138 lbs. per spindle.

Seeing that the statistics from certain Native States, and more particularly those relating to earlier years, exhibit sundry features, that create a doubt as to their accuracy, it is probably well that the further examination of this question should be confined to the figures relating to British India. The following table shows for each year, since the institution of the Cotton Duties Act, the total production of yarn in British India, the number of spindles then in position and the average production per spindle found on comparison of these two data. A fourth column is added giving for each year the percentage ratio of the actual spindle output for that year to the assumed maximum productive capacity (138·25 lbs.), this figure being taken as 100. A fifth column gives for each calendar year the market value of the ordinary shares of mills. The number of mills included in this calculation varies from 54 to 65. This value is stated in percentages of the face value of such shares and is founded on the means of two quotations taken for each mill in April and in October, respectively. A sixth column gives the rate of dividend paid in each calendar year on the face value of the ordinary shares, while a seventh adds as an index of India's general development, the percentage value of her total seaborne trade in each year of the same period, the average of the five years ending 1894-95 being taken as 100.

Average production per Spindle in British India.

Years.	Total production in British India.	Total number of spindles in British India.	Average production per spindle.	Ratio of actual production to capacity.†	Market value of shares. Percentage of face value.*	Divident paid on ordinary shares.*
	lbs.		lbs.	%	%	%
1895-96	430,472,002	3,608,360	119·3	86·29	104	6·1
1896-97	419,196,400	3,761,292	111·45	80·61	115	7·2
1897-98	453,659,346	3,987,358	113·77	82·29	112	8·7
1898-99	502,630,261	4,254,416	118·14	85·45	102	7·3
1899-1900	501,685,195	4,523,828	110·9	80·22	89	6·5
1900-01	312,777,547	4,662,656	73·52	53·17	81	6·2
1901-02	560,004,818	4,727,055	118·47	85·69	74	6·3
1902-03	558,812,040	4,879,548	114·52	82·83	69	5
1903-04	556,190,702	4,899,706	113·52	82·11	67	4·8
1904-05	555,948,426	4,912,382	113·17	81·86	62	5
1905-06 ten months)	547,842,123	4,912,382	133·82‡	96·79‡	100	6·7

* Share values and dividends for calendar years ranging from 1895 to 1905.

† Maximum productive capacity of 138·25 lbs. per annum being taken as 100.

‡ Equated to 12 months.

INDIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

RANGOON.

At the meeting of the 22nd of March the following business was transacted :—

Considered letter dated the 17th February 1906, from the Chairman, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce, intimating for the information of Members that on the 31st January 1906 a Chamber of Commerce was established at that port, and forwarding for perusal a copy of their rules. **Resolved** that the Chairman of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce be informed that this Chamber will be happy to correspond on matters of mutual interest. **Considered** note by Mr. Gibbs in connection with his interview with the Railway Board. The note recommends the appointment of a Standing Sub-Committee for Railways and Communications. **Resolved** that copies of the note be printed and supplied to Members and that the following gentleman be invited to form the Standing Sub-Committee for Railways and Communications. Chas. Findlay, Esq., Chairman; F. McCarthy, Esq.; S. Roberts, Esq.; J. A. Polson, Esq.; W. MacDonald, Esq. **Considered** letter No. 1661-1667-3, dated the 2nd March 1906, from the Government of India in the Department of Commerce and Industry forwarding for information 10 copies of the Report of the Committee on Indian Trade Statistics and of the orders passed thereon by the Government of India. **Resolved** that the papers be circulated to Members for information. **Considered** letter No. 753, dated the 7th March 1906, from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, stating that he has received an enquiry from the representative in India of an Agency in Mauritius and Réunion, who desires to be brought into communication with persons supplying "Gunny bags, rice and other products" or with purchasers of sugarcane tops of the best varieties grown from seeds. **Resolved** that a list of the principal Rice Merchants be forwarded to the Director General of Commercial Intelligence with the intimation that no information regarding gunny bags and sugarcane tops is available.

BOMBAY MILLOWNER'S ASSOCIATION.

Read letter from the Pulgaon Mill Co., Ltd., regarding the lines on which net profits are ascertained for the purpose of Income Tax assessments, and more especially in connection with funds set apart for depreciation of Mill buildings.

Resolution.—That the Pulgaon Mills Co. be informed that the Income Tax Collector does not allow the following as legitimate expenditure charges :—

(*a*) Interest on invested capital of a Company which has not been borrowed, but on which the Company credit interest themselves.

(*b*) Payments on account of Income Tax, Imperial, Provincial, Local, and Municipal taxes. But actual charges paid to the Municipality for water used by a Company are allowed as expenditure. No deductions are, however, allowed on sums credited by a Company to Reserve Funds, nor on depreciation charges set aside on account of buildings.

Further, the Committee resolved that the Government be addressed direct on the above question, and that their attention be drawn to the following opinion expressed by the Departmental Committee in the Report on Income Tax submitted by them to Parliament in 1905. The quotation runs as follows :—

> "Having regard to the fact that, as a rule, the amount of wear and tear of Mills, Factories, and similar premises greatly exceeds that of residential and other buildings, we were of opinion that the full value of premises so occupied should be allowed as a set off in computing the liability under Schedule D, instead of such allowance being restricted to five-sixths only of the annual value assessed under Schedule A."

Read letter from the Collector of Land Revenue and Customs, Bombay, asking information as to the **chances of employment** for persons leaving the Poona District in search of work and the rates of pay likely to be given. And also regarding the number of hands employed in **the Mills**, the rates paid and whether any difficulty is experienced in obtaining labour.

Resolution.—That the Collector be informed that untrained labourers earn about Rs. 10 per month in the local Mills, but that there is very little demand for such unskilled labour. That the total number of labourers employed in 1905 in Mills in the Island of Bombay amounted to 92,924, and the wages earned by them varied from Rs. 10 to Rs. 50 per month according to qualifications.

Read letter from the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, stating that they were unable to agree with the contention of the Association that the prices on which tariff valuations (published with the Notification in this Department No. 7514 of the 15th December 1905) were based, were in fact the prices of calendered goods. The valuations in question represented, with certain deductions, the prices of uncalendered goods and they were accordingly increased by the uniform addition of three pies per lb. in order to represent adequately the values of calendered goods of the same class. In these circumstances the Government of India are unable to accept the view that the tariff values recently notified are inaccurate. In deference to the Association's recommendations, however, orders have been issued that the question of fixing future tariff valuations on the basis of the values of calendered goods only, no differentiation being made between such goods, and uncalendered goods, should be discussed by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence with the Association prior to the next revision of the valuations.

Resolution.—To be recorded.

Read letter from the Bombay Fire Insurance Association calling the attention of Millowners to the fact that while the ceilings of Mills were being painted a number of sprinkler heads had also received coats of paint. It was pointed out that this was a serious matter, for paints which contain mineral pigments are insulators of heat, and consequently if a fire occurred the sprinklers would not operate, or in any case only tardily, giving the fire an opportunity of sweeping all over a room, and thus probably causing much more damage by fire and water than necessary. The Fire Insurance advise that all sprinkler heads be carefully examined, and that any coated with paint or whitewash be replaced by new ones, as such heads cannot be satisfactorily cleaned whilst in position, for in attempting to remove the paint or whitewash, the structural parts may be weakened or the fusibility of the solder impaired.

Resolution.—That copies of the Fire Insurance letter and circular be forwarded for the information of all the Members.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

MARSEILLES.

THE extent to which **India is** interested in the **trade of Marseilles** will be seen from the following extracts from the Consular Report for that centre for the year 1905 which has just been received.

During the last few months of 1904 the outlook for oil seeds and oils in 1905 was most hopeful. Two years' excellent crops had led to a belief in the reports of another full crop for 1905. The low prices at which oil seeds were already offered could only confirm these hopes.

In seeds, as in oils, merchants thought only of selling, feeling certain to cover losses when the expected fall in prices occurred.

These expectations were not realised. In January reports were less favourable, offers became rare, bringing on a rapid rise in quotations.

An attempt was, at the outset, made to oppose what was supposed to be a manœuvre of speculators, but after purchasers had held off for a month, buying became necessary.

Purchases were made, but under very unfavourable conditions, all the more so on account of the extensive previous sales.

Oils could only partially follow the rise in prices owing to the low prices of American cotton-seed oils, which continued very low during two-thirds of the year.

The shortage in arrival of oil seeds was about 20 per cent. of the average. The shortage was specially in sesame and unshelled groundnut; but it had a disastrous effect on the entire market. Millers who usually relied on these seeds had to buy up all the shelled groundnut and copra available.

Bombay sesame rose from 26 to 36 fr., Mozambique from 29 fr. to 37 fr. 50 c.

Shelled groundnuts: Bombay, from 26 fr. 50 c. to 30 fr.; Coromandel, from 21 fr. 12½ c. to 28 fr. 25 c. per ton. Unshelled groundnuts, from 21 fr. at the beginning of the season to 28 fr. and over at the close of the season. Copras varied from 37 to 43 fr.

During 1904 there had already been a heavy falling-off of imports of unshelled groundnuts from the West African Coast—nearly 100,000 tons as compared with 1903.

This shortage, due in the main to local unfavourable climatic conditions, affects French trade all the more because unshelled groundnuts come principally from a French colony (Senegal) and from a British colony (Gambia) where Frenchmen take a leading share of the trade.

Another reason of the decreasing imports of unshelled groundnuts at Marseilles and one that may affect Marseilles trade and industry in a permanent manner, is that these seeds are more and more sought after by French millers of the west and north of France and by manufacturers of northern Europe, who, perhaps, better placed for the disposal of their oils and oil cake, often offer rather higher prices than Marseilles merchants can afford. And, moreover, the conditions of delivery and payment, customary at those ports, are generally more favourable to importers than the conditions prevailing at Marseilles.

During the year 1905 179,700 tons of oil cake were produced at Marseilles. Of this amount 58,000 tons were made from shelled groundnuts from Bombay, Coromandel and Mozambique; 42,000 tons from copra; 24,000 tons from the residue of gingelly seed imported from India and Africa; 20,000 tons from unshelled groundnuts.

Other kinds of oil-cake included those manufactured from the residues of white gingelly from the Levant, 1,800 tons; linseed, 7,200 tons; rape seed and colza, 200 tons; Egyptian cotton seed, 11,000 tons; poppy seed from India and the Levant, 2,200 tons; castor seed from India and the Levant, 9,600 tons; palm kernels, 1,400 tons; mowra and others, 2,300 tons.

Comparing these figures with the total output for 1904 we have a decrease of 33,000 tons.

Cotton oil imports at Marseilles during 1905 reached a net total of 32,448,588 kilos.; of these 32,282,968 kilos. came from America, 80,253 kilos. from the United Kingdom, and 85,367 kilos. from other countries.

During 1904, less than half the amount was imported, 15,003,403 kilos., whereof 13,384,415 kilos. came from America, 1,323,846 kilos. from the United Kingdom, and 295,142 kilos. from other sources.

The total increase in favour of 1905 was therefore 17,445,185 kilos. but the enormous decrease in British imports, namely, 1,243,593 kilos, has to be noted.

Imports from America show an increase of 18,898,553 kilos. From an average of 13,500,000 kilos. for the three preceding years they rose to 32,282,968 kilos., whereas imports from the United Kingdom fell from an average of 1,250,000 to 80,253 kilos.

Mean prices during 1905 (in bond, casking included) were 45 fr. 89½ c. for American oils, and 42 fr. 62½ c. for oils from the United Kingdom; during 1904, 51 fr. 60 c. and 49 fr. 12½ c. respectively, and during 1903, 65 fr. and 60 fr. 75 c. respectively.

The lowest prices during 1905 were in January: 41 fr. 75 c. and 38 fr., respectively; and the highest in December, 50 and 47 fr., respectively.

At the beginning of 1905, India had a large share in supplying Marseilles, but Russia and Africa took the lead as soon as the failure of the crops in India withdrew Indian wheat from the market; but later, when, owing to the events in Russia and to the loss of the African crop, nothing more was to be done in those directions, the intervention of Canadian wheat saved the local market. It is interesting to note that the arrivals from each of these countries followed each other without interruption and without having any effect on prices.

For instance, as to macaroni wheat, of which the arrivals began only at the end of October, about 40,000 tons were imported; and yet, only a few years back, the first samples of this quality had reached Marseilles from the Canadian lake district.

Arrivals from Africa were insigificant, but it is stated that the sowing for the next crops had been made under excellent conditions.

The suppression of bounties on sugar, causing a fall in price of 60 per cent. to the advantage of the consumer, which had already shown good results in the last four months of 1903, brought about a remarkable increase in local consumption, estimated at over 30 per cent.

The grower of beetroot having refrained from excessive planting, the accumulated stocks gradually became absorbed. This brought about a rise in prices; but another cause, the drought of the spring and summer of 1904, reduced the European production from 5,655,000 tons in 1903-04 to 4,626,000 tons in 1904-05.

The French crop fell from 760,000 to 581,000 tons, and white sugar (No. 3), valued at 23 fr. 95 c. in February 1904, reached 41 fr. 43 c. in December.

French consumption of sugar increased by 16·40 per cent. as compared to 1903 and 32·20 per cent. in comparison with 1902.

French exports reached 285,393 tons as against 212,368 tons in 1903, an increase of 34 per cent. Unfortunately Marseilles during 1904 benefited in no way by this increase. The refined sugar exported amounted to 67,466 tons in 1903 and 61,962 tons in 1904. The local refineries supplied to local consumers 58,000 tons in 1904, almost similar to the quantity supplied in the preceding year.

The slowing off in local activity could not be attributed to any want of initiative on the part of the Marseilles merchants and manufacturers. It was due solely to the strikes which, on several occasions, suspended all commercial activity here; one of the Marseilles sugar refineries had even to close its works for 40 days, owing to the utter impossibility of importing or carting raw material and of exporting refined sugar.

The cessation of the Marseilles epidemic of strikes brought about a remarkable activity during 1905, and at the present moment in January 1906, the Marseilles refiners cannot fill half their orders.

At the beginning of 1905, as prices rose, there was little buying; but on the depletion of stocks buying began again with the increasing demand for sugar from Asia Minor and the Persian Gulf.

Marseilles, owing to the disturbed condition of Russia, has taken her place in supplying Asia Minor and the Persian Gulf. Having now got in on those markets, Marseilles exporters hope to keep their hold on them at the expense of Russia.

It is curious that Mr. Gurney's notes on the French sugar trade for 1905 should contain no reference to the vast speculation of the beginning of the year and the collapse which ensued.

CONSTANTINOPLE AND DISTRICTS.

We noticed last week the remarks made by Mr. Consul Waugh, on the consumption of Indian goods on the Constantinople market in 1905. This week we review the remainder of the report, which is a most interesting and instructive one. Mr. Waugh introduced an **innovation in consular practice** by visiting various Chambers of Commerce in the United Kingdom, in order to find out what kind of information manufacturers and merchants look for in Consular reports, and in what other respects, Consular assistance could promote British trade. It would be well if Mr. Waugh's example were more commonly followed by Consular Officers who would increase their usefulness considerably by discovering what they could do in the interest of trade outside of their routine duties. Mr. Waugh states that he found that what seemed most appreciated by British merchants was prompt goodwill in attending to individual inquiries and applications for assistance, and that British traders apparently did not expect much useful information from Consular reports. In his present report Mr. Waugh deals with various suggestions offered him in his interviews with business men in England. The nature of some of these suggestions may be gauged from the fact that one gentleman of Bradford asked whether British Consulates would take upon themselves the collection of debts, as German Consuls did. He said that when a German trader had a bad debt he made it over to the Consul, and the debtor was told that he owed the money to the consulate and was made to pay. Mr. Waugh declares that this statement is exaggerated, and is of opinion that it is outside any Consul's power to undertake to sue for private debts. He remarks further that the Constantinople Consulate receives a good many applications for help in collecting bad debts and is often in a position to help in collecting them.

"There are," he says, "various ways in which unofficial persuasion or pressure can be brought to bear upon debtors; and, whenever possible, this is done. If this fails, a lawyer is recommended who can take legal proceedings; and by treaty the Consulate has the official right to watch lawsuits undertaken by British subjects before the Turkish courts. Firms at home who require assistance in such matters should write direct to the Consulate, giving all necessary details, and mentioning the agent here through whom the business was done. It must be remarked that in many cases these bad debts arise out of business done through agents whom this Consulate would not have recommended had inquiries been made about them. To do business here the first essential is a competent and reliable agent."

The Consulate at Constantinople is also frequently asked for information as to the credit and standing of importers and indenters, and such information is given freely. On this point the Consul remarks that it is most desirable that firms trading with

Constantinople should avail themselves of this means of protecting themselves against those who are known as the "Black Band." Regarding annual trade reports, Mr. Waugh says that he was unable to obtain any suggestions for making them of more practical value. He thinks that **special reports** upon particular trades can be more usefully worked up separately for confidential communication to firms interested. This system, which is adopted by some foreign Consulates, amongst others those of the United States, and of Austria-Hungary, was used by Mr. Waugh with regard to several articles, *viz.*, matches, iron tubes, timber, cloth, and goloshes.

Mr. Waugh remarks that the employment of competent **agents** is a most important point in the development of trade in Turkey, and expresses the hope that the English High School for boys, which was opened in Constantinople in November 1905, will render material assistance to British Commerce with Turkey. The object of the school is to provide a sound commercial education for boys whose parents do not wish, or cannot afford, to send them to England to be educated. Some of these boys, it is probable, will remain in Turkey, and special attention is being paid to teach them Turkish in addition to the ordinary subjects, with the idea that they may qualify for business in Constantinople. The number of Englishmen available in Constantinople as commission agents is very limited, and Mr. Waugh is right in his opinion that, if the number can be recruited from the rising generation, trained for the purpose, real service will be rendered to British trade.

Mr. Waugh refutes the statement that British imports into Turkey are declining. Indeed they show a considerable improvement on the five years' average. Turkey's trade with the five chief European countries in 1: 04 was as follows:—

IMPORTS.

	£
United Kingdom	7,593,000
Austria-Hungary	3,880,000
Germany	3,763,000
Italy	2,664,000
France	2,044,000

EXPORTS.

	£
United Kingdom	6,138,000
France	3,656,000
Germany	2,173,000
Austria-Hungary	1,906,000
Italy	1,565,000

Of the total trade of the United Kingdom with Turkey 64 per cent. consist of cotton piece goods and yarns. The Armenian and Greek Houses established in Manchester perform for British manufacturers in the Turkish market the services which German and Italy Houses have to do themselves, but the rivalry that British trade has to experience is keen and is becoming keener, owing to the persevering and intelligent methods of work adopted by foreign houses, whose push and energy, particularly in the smaller branches of trade, says the report, contrast strikingly with stereotyped methods favoured by British traders. The method and energy of foreign merchants is particularly noticeable in the pains taken by individual manufacturers and merchants to send out special agents to study the market, and push their goods, and their arrangements for enabling purchasers to obtain the goods they require with a minimum of trouble. Individual fancies are also studied very carefully. The difference between foreign and British methods of work is shown by the fact that a leading merchant was visited in the year by representatives of over 80 foreign firms, and by only two British representatives. British traders have however of recent years commenced to establish their own commission agents in Constantinople. These agents, provided that they study the market, and the tastes of customers intelligently, and receive proper support from the manufacturers, should be able to keep the market for the United Kingdom, despite the utmost efforts of foreign competitors. Part of the trade of Turkey consists of a transit trade in British manufactures to Persia by way of Trebizond. This increased considerably in 1904-05, owing to the temporary stagnation of Russian competition, consequent on the crisis in Russia. By a provision of the Commercial Treaty recently drafted between Persia and Turkey, Turkey undertakes during ten years not to raise the 1 per cent. transit duty levied on foreign goods destined for Persia, and promises further facilities as regards the Customs House examination in Turkey of such transit goods.

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 7th APRIL 1906.

DURING the period under review, there was nearly general rain in Eastern Bengal and Assam, scattered rain in Burma, North-West Frontier Province, Upper India, some rain in the extreme south of the Peninsula and in Upper Burma, while rain and snow fell in Kashmir and North-West Himalayas. The principal amounts of rainfall were:—Sonemarg 1·65″, Silchar 1·26″, Dibrugarh 1·13″, Shillong, 1·07″, Chittagong 1·07″, Dras 0·80″, Barisal 0·73″, Murree 0·73″, Sibsagar 0·53″, Cherra Poonjee 0·38″, Trivandrum 0·34″ and Mandalay 0·19″.

The weather this week had been on the whole dry and featureless, no definite centres of disturbance having appeared, with the exception of a very shallow and unproductive depression which travelled eastward, from the head of the Arabian Sea, over India, into Assam and Burma. No rain followed its course until the 2nd of this month, when the depression was filling up, but on that morning rainfall was reported from the Assam valley, and on the 3rd from Burma. Elsewhere rain had fallen in a scattered manner in the extreme north-west and in Kashmir during several days this week, and there had been a few unimportant showers in the south of the Peninsula. On the 1st instant, the barometer fell slowly over the northern land area, remained steady over the Bay and rose slowly in the Andaman Sea; so that the typical hot weather pressure gradient was for the time being established. On the 2nd, the area of lowest pressure had shifted into North Bengal and Assam where the barometer fell rapidly, while it had been rising over Central India. On the 3rd, the depression in North Bengal had filled up to a slight extent, while the barometer remained nearly steady over the rest of the area. On the 4th, the barometer rose slowly in Assam, North Bengal and Madras and was steady elsewhere. Pressure continued in slight defect everywhere. This was further intensified by a moderate fall of the barometer over Central India and a slow rise in Assam and Burma, on the 5th instant. On the 6th, the low pressure, appearing on the 5th, developed into a well-marked depression whose centre was then in the west of Bihar and was causing a strong indraught over the Province and which had caused very general rain in Eastern Bengal and Assam. On the 7th a slow rise of the barometer along the base of the Eastern Himalayas had marked the compression of the area of lowest pressure into a narrow trough stretching from South Bengal into the United Provinces. The wind over the Bay was still from the south-west and strong, but over the Province it had gone round to north-east again. Skies were mostly clear, but remained overcast locally in Assam and in Bengal.

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CROP FORECASTS.

RICE.

THE sixth or final Report on the rice crop of Lower Burma for the current season has been received in the Commercial Intelligence Department. The total area is now reported to be 6,634,100 acres which is about 33,500 acres in excess of the area reported in the fifth Report which was included in the final General Memorandum issued by this Department on the 22nd of February. In the Report now received, however, no change is made in the estimate of the surplus available for export which remains at 36,017,000 cwt. of clean rice. The total area under rice will, therefore, now stand at 51,080,500 acres instead of 51,047,000 acres as published in the February Memorandum.

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EGYPT-CYPRUS MAIL.

To be Resumed.

OUR issue of the 5th April contained an article on the advantages of Cyprus as an entrepôt for the Levant trade; and it was there pointed out that the usefulness of the newly-opened port of Famagusta had been largely affected by the untimely discontinuance of the mail service between Egypt and Cyprus. The mail received this week however brings the satisfactory intelligence that on the 13th March His Excellency the High Commissioner informed the Council that he had received a telegram from the Secretary of State for the Colonies to the effect that the British Parliament would be asked to vote a fixed sum of £50,000 for three years, from 1907, leaving the question of future grants for settlement later. He added that in the same telegram it was stated that he might proceed with the conclusion of a contract for a direct steam service for a further period of three years subject to the approval by the Secretary of State of the amount of the subsidy which would be charged to general revenue.

These facts lend a new importance to the recently issued rules for the bonding of goods at Famagusta which threatened to be a dead letter. Copies of these rules have been procured from Cyprus and may be seen at the office of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence. They have been submitted for the consideration of various expert officials and bodies in India and are by them pronounced to be practically unobjectionable from the trade point of view, though on one point exception might be taken to them by Customs officials, seeing that the books are to be kept by the private keepers of the warehouses and not by the Customs Officers. The rules, moreover, do not show at what stage goods are to be assessed, and when they can be re-assessed. The Indian Sea Customs Act provides that on the delivery of the bill of entry the duty leviable on goods shall be assessed, when the owner of such goods may apply for leave to deposit the same in any warehouse appointed or licensed under the Act. If any goods, upon which duties are leviable *ad valorem* or on a tariff valuation, receive damage through unavoidable accident after they have been entered for warehousing, and assessed before they are cleared for home consumption, the Indian Act provides that they may, if the owner so desires, be re assessed for duty according to their actual value, and a new bond for the same at the option of the owner be executed for the unexpired term of warehousing. The Famagusta rules say nothing on these points, nor do they provide for the remission of duties due upon warehoused goods which have been lost or destroyed by unavoidable accident or delay. The Indian Customs Act provides that if the quantity or value of any goods has been erroneously stated in the bill of entry, the error may be rectified at any time before the warehousing of the goods is completed, but not subsequently. It also insists that all goods shall be warehoused in the packages, but casks or hogsheads in which they have been imported, excepting in cases when, with the permission of Customs Collector, goods are sorted, packed, re-packed, separated, and casks of wines or spirits filled up, or wines or spirits mixed or bottled or samples extracted. The Famagusta rules make no provision corresponding to these, nor is there any rule limiting the period within which goods may be in warehouse after the execution of bond.

COTTON IMPROVEMENT, EXTRAORDINARY.

THE following documents, culled from the Report of the Proceedings of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce for the year 1865-66, furnish a good illustration of the extent to which the improvement of cotton in India engaged the attention of officials even forty years ago, and of the enormous benefits that can be conferred on a great tract of country through the initiative of a single district officer who has the shrewdness to recognise a fleeting opportunity, and the courage to seize it. It should be explained that during the American civil war the prices of Indian cotton rose enormously, speculation of an almost frantic kind took place and every acre that could be brought under cotton was sown with that crop. The result of course was that when peace came there was a slump and much cotton was left on the ground

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of Bombay in the Revenue Department dated 30th November 1865.

Read the following papers :—

Letter from L. R. Ashburner, Esq., Collector of Khandeish, to A. Rogers, Esq., Revenue Commissioner, Northern Division, No. 1953 dated 25th October 1865.

"You are no doubt aware that the indigenous cotton of Khandeish is of very inferior quality ; it is grown on a stunted bush only a few inches high ; the staple is so short that it is difficult, if not impossible, to gin it, and the cotton is harsh and wooly. Its market value is usually Rs. 100 or more less than that of the cotton grown in the adjoining province of Berar. Even this value is a fictitious one. An amendment of the Cotton Frands Act which would enable the local officers to punish adulteration would almost drive Khandeish cotton from the market. At present it is chiefly used to adulterate Berar and Guzerat cotton, and large quantities are exported to Berar and to Guzerat, through the Kondai Baree, for this purpose.

"2. During the past season the sudden fall in the price of cotton rendered a large proportion of the Khandeish crop unsaleable. It would not pay the expense of export even when sold as 'Akote' or 'prime Surat,' and it was left upon the ryots' hands. Advantage was taken of this circumstance to introduce a superior variety of cotton. Early in January circulars were sent round the cotton districts calling on the ryots to state how much Berar cotton seed they would purchase in the event of its being imported for them. When all the returns were received, it appeared that the cultivators had demanded nearly 50,000 Bengal maunds of seed. The difficulties of importing and distributing this large quantity of seed in a country without roads, with every available labourer and cart already fully employed, were very great, and had it not been for Mr. Hewett's indomitable energy would have been insurmountable. He, however, undertook the task at my request, and aided by the Mamlatdars and Sub-Inspectors, has carried it out in a most complete and satisfactory manner. I beg to enclose his report on this subject. Mr. Hewett enters into the fullest details of th importance of the measure and its results. He shows that sufficient seed has been imported to sow 246,000 acres of land Allowing 12lbs. of seed per acre, his is a large average. I believe from 7 to 10lbs. of seed is sufficent for an acre in ordinary Khandeish soils, but as a small quantity of seed remains unsold Mr. Hewett's estimate is perhaps as nearly as possible correct.

"3. Under exceptional circumstances, the area of land under cotton cultivation last year reached 465,000 acre, but comparing the present crop from the new seed with the extent of land cultivated in 1863-64, *viz.*, 354,000 acres, it will be seen that the Berar seed has superseded 69 per cent. of the indigenous cotton of Khandeish, and next season it is probable not an acre will be shown with old Khandeish seed. Allowing 150lbs. of 'kuppas' as the produce per acre, the Berar cotton crop of Khandeish will this year amount to 461,250 maunds, or, taking one-third of this as the outturn of clean cotton, 7,687½ candies (of 1,640lbs.) At the present market rates of Rs. 460 per candy (of 784lbs.), this will sell for Rs. 74,01,883 ; the same quantity of Khandeish cotton would, only fetch Rs. 49,88,225, so that the introduction of Berar seed will place Rs. 24,13,658 in the hands of the Khandeish ryots in excess of what they would have received from the indigenous crop.

"4. Nothing can be more favourable than the present appearance of the new Khandeish Berar crop : it has had a favourable season, and is growing with every prospect of yielding a large outturn.

"5. By the Resolution of Government as per margin, Government sanctioned an expenditure from the Cotton Fraud Fund for the introduction of Berar seed, but it will be seen from the above that the wishes of Government were anticipated. If the importation of seed had only been commenced on the receipt of the Resolution at the end of May little, if any, seed could have reached Khandeish in time for the sowing of this season. The Berar seed has been introduced, without the expenditure of a single rupee from the Improvement or any other State fund."

No. 2162 of 20th May 1865.

The following extract from the Report of the Bombay Chamber leaves no doubt as to the reality of the result obtained :—

"By far the most important of these experiments is that which has been conducted in Khandeish, where, through the energy and the Collector, Mr. Lionel Ashburner, aided by Mr. Pedit the Cotton Inspector, and with the consent and good-will of the Ryots, the cotton cultivation of the province has been completely changed by the introduction of cultivation from Berar seed. By Your Committee had samples of the new Khandeish cotton submitted for their inspection towards the close of last year, and they expressed their opinion to Government that, drawing from the samples submitted to them, the Khandeish experiment was the most important that had yet been made. Should the experiment prove permanent in its character, which there seems no reason to doubt, it promises to supersede the poorest variety of the indigenous cotton of this Presidency by a new variety, that will henceforth entitle the cotton of Khandeish to rank with the best. Your Committee had pleasure in expressing to Government the high sense they entertained of the important services which had been rendered by Mr. Ashburner and Mr. Hewett to the work of improving the indigenous cotton cultivation of this part of India."

It is noticeable that their report in the preceding year had contained the following remarks :—

"It is to be regretted that in the energy displayed in making experiments in various ways nothing appears to be doing for the improvement of the cultivation of the indigenous varieties. It is to be feared that in this, perhaps the most important branch of the question, we have not merely not progressed, but we have sadly retrograded."

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INVENTIONS AND DESIGNS IN INDIA.

The Secretary to the Government of India under the Inventions and Designs Act has issued a complete list of the Inventions and Designs for which protection was obtained or applied for during 1905. It is obtainable at the office of the Superintendent of Government Printing, Calcutta, at the cost of one rupee. The following extracts from Mr. Graves' introduction describes the scope and nature of the work :—

"Part I contains a chronological list in numerical order of (*a*) those applications made in previous years on which effective steps were taken in 1905 to secure the exclusive privilege and (*b*) all applications made in 1905, whether or not the privilege has been obtained thereon. This list is mainly intended for reference when the number of any particular application has been found with the aid of the subject matter and name indexes given in Parts II and III. In this Part I, for each application, is given the registered number, the names of the applicants, the date of reception in the Patent Office, and, provided that the application has reached those stages, the dates of the grant of leave and of the filing of the specification. The latter date is only given when it has been announced in the *Gazette of India* that the specification has been filed, showing that the final step in the acquirement of the exclusive privilege has been taken. The next item of information in this list is the number and date of the corresponding application, if any, for a patent in the United Kingdom. That is followed by a short statement of the nature of the invention and of the number of sheets of drawings attached to the specification, or to the application if the specification has not been filed.

"For fuller information concerning the invention, the application or specification itself must be consulted. Under certain restrictions the original documents may be seen, or a copy obtained, at the Patent Office, 2, Bankshall Street, Calcutta. Duplicates of the specifications as soon as they are notified as filed, but not of the applications, are sent to the Governments of Madras, Bombay, and Burma, and to the Director of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, United Provinces of Agra and Oudh : these copies may be seen on application. Frequently, however, the details of the invention may be found from the corresponding specification in the United Kingdom, or from the abridgment thereof contained in the 'Illustrated Official Journal' published by the British Patent Office. But it must be remembered that the scope of the claims may vary somewhat in the two specifications. Moreover, the fact that a corresponding application has been made in Great Britain does not imply that those sources of information are accessible, seeing that such application may not have been pursued to the point of publication, owing to insufficient lapse of time, abandonment or other cause."

"Pending the next issue of this index, the weekly notifications under the Inventions and Designs Act in the *Gazette of India* should be consulted in order to ascertain what new applications have been made and what specifications have been filed. Similar treatment will be afforded in the consecutive volumes of the series, but full particulars of any case will be found only in the issues for those periods in which the application was made and in which the specification was notified as filed."

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RUSSIAN CLOTH IN INDIA.

IT appears that for some years certain **Russian cloth,** known as Mahut Shikan, has been imported into the **Quetta market** by way of the Seistan route, and that samples of this cloth have been sent to the Board of Trade and the Manchester Chamber of Commerce at various times since May 1903. Samples were received in 1900, but they were not large enough to indicate the width and weight of the fabric, and particulars on these points were not supplied. The samples were, however, shown to certain Indian mill owners who declared that they could produce similar goods if the trade were reliable. But at that time the uncertainty about dimensions and prices prevented any development. The matter was brought again to the notice of the Government of India by the Assistant Political Agent, Chagai, in October last ; and it was then stated that the prices obtained in Quetta for the cloths in question were about double those obtainable in Persia, and that even at these high prices the fabrics sold in considerable quantities and in preference to similar cloths from Britain and India. The matter has been followed up by the Commercial Intelligence Department of the Government of India ; and **samples** of the leading varieties of the cloths in question, together with particulars as to prices, etc., have now been procured by that office, through the courtesy of the Agent to the Governor General in Baluchistan.

They vary a good deal in quality and are variously described as "Broadcloth, Moleskin, Twilled Meltons, Coarse Italians, and very heavy Sateens."

They are of cotton throughout, probably Egyptian. All but the quality approximating to Coarse Italians are well raised, and have a glossy finish on one side. They are in six colours, all good :—

Buff (Khaki).
Dark Slate grey (Mash-i-Siah).
Dark Blue (Nili).
Light Brown (Naswari.)
Warm Chocolate (Unabi.)
Cold Chocolate (Zirai).

They are reported to be made in several qualities, the two lower qualities being the most popular at Quetta because of their relatively low price.

The **superior quality** is known by the name of "Yak Kinara" because this quality is woven in large widths and then split in halves so that the cloth has a hem on one side and a selvidge on the other. The trade in this quality is not great, and it is stated that, of twelve pieces (Thans) imported by a certain merchant from Meshed more than a year ago, five pieces remained unsold at the time of report. The Buff colour, however, was sold out and in strong demand, although the received sample of this colour is almost the lowest in respect of quality.

The **middling quality** is used in the manufacture of caps, called *kullahs ;* and both this and the lowest quality have selvidges on both sides and are of only half the width of the superior quality.

Of all qualities of Mahut Shikan it is stated that the demand at Quetta is not so great that it may be considered one of the regular articles of trade. The demand in Afghanistan is said to be stronger than in Baluchistan. In Seistan it is reported to be "somewhat scarce," and, it is added, that the goods have been exported thence to Meshed both by Indian merchants and camelmen, but only in small quantities and infrequently.

The **size of the pieces** varies in all qualities from 28 to 30 and 35 Meshedi yards (**metres**). Sale is made at Quetta by the Meshedi yard, and the quotations given below are for that measure. In Seistan the metre is known as a **Zara**. The **prices** are variously given as follows:—

All colours.	At Quetta.	In Meshed.	In Seistan.
1st quality per metre.	As. 15 to R 1	3¼ krans = As. 13	Kr. 4 = R 1
2nd „ . .	As. 11 „ As.12	2 „ = As.8	„ 3 = As.12
3rd „ . . .	As. 9 „ As.10	1¾ „ = As.7	„ 2 = As. 8

Another authority quotes prices in Quetta in relation to colours as follows:—

Buff or light Khaki	R 1 4 0	per yard.
Dark Blue	„ 1 0 0	„
Light Chocolate	„ 0 13 0	„
Dark „	„ 0 9 0	„

but it is not stated whether these diverse colours were of uniform quality.

Nothing of the same kind seems to be known in the Calcutta market. The small samples received are being cut and distributed as far as possible to the various Indian Chambers of Commerce, with an expression of the hope that, if there be no objection, persons not members of those bodies may be afforded an opportunity of examining them. Specimens are retained for the present in this office and may be seen there.

It is interesting to notice how incidents of this kind tend to recur. One of the earliest examples known to us is to be found in a despatch from the Honourable the Court of Directors of old "John Company," dated 15th November, 1850. It was there stated that "the English goods hitherto sent to Sindh have been worse in quality and less suited to the tastes of the consumers than those supplied by Russia." The Court continued—"A report furnished to the Collector of Shikarpore by five of the principal merchants of that place and one from the Punjab states, 'As for Bombay goods, that is European piece goods, they do go to the N.-W. and will do so, but they are very inferior to Russian fabrics of the same description, being flimsy and not wearing so well'." It was accordingly requested that samples of all foreign fabrics found in the Sindh markets should be sent Home for the instruction and guidance of English manufacturers. Chintzes, said to be of Russian origin, attracted special attention; and one officer at Bulsar, in reporting upon them, said "I would from the specimens which I saw (in the apparel of a Peshawar merchant and some others) doubt as to whether from brightness and fastness of colour our English chintzes could bear comparison with them." The writer alluded to several specific advantages said to be possessed by the Russian fabrics in the matter of colours and dyes, these comments being, as it afterwards appeared, entirely irrelevant to the particular tissues in question. He concluded, as appears to be the perennial practice of all writers upon Persian trade, by recommending "that for the first three years some advantage should be given to merchants and others desiring to transport themselves and their goods to Karachi, such advantage to consist in the temporary use of such appliances as may be at the command of the Naval Department." Having regard to the growing prosperity of Karachi, there are possibly a number of persons who would be prepared at the present time to avail themselves of such a concession. It was stated in the correspondence that to say that a man wore Russian chintz was equivalent to declaring him to be very well dressed; but at the same time when search was made at Shikarpore, where they were reputed to be common, the enquirer could find none for sale except such as were already made up into linings for pelisses, etc., which were often imported ready made from Kandahar. The Collector of Hyderabad in a letter of 8th April 1851 reported that he could not find a single piece of Russian chintz in that market and, while he made no special reference to the supposed merits of the Russian colours, he dwelt upon the superiority of their weaving and the general durability of the fabrics. The energetic Commissioner who prosecuted the enquiries was no less a person than the embryal Sir Bartle Frere, and he maintained valiantly against the Bombay Chamber of Commerce that the textiles in dispute were of Russian origin. But the question was set at rest when it was shown that samples identical with those under discussion had been received by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce from the Court of Directors of the East India Company and that the Chamber had reported on them in the following terms, "It was at once apparent that the goods referred to were manufactured in Manchester, and shipped in considerable quantities to Persia, Turkey, etc., and duplicates of all the patterns received were on the following day transmitted to the India House by your Board. It is worthy of remark that the bazaar prices affixed to the patterns was R12 per piece of 24 yards, while similar articles can be procured here at considerably less than half the amount." This confirmed the explanation ventured by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce in its letter of 27th March 1852, when it said:—"A large trade which necessarily comes into competition with Russia is now carried on between England and the Levant, chiefly by the route of Trebizond, Tiflis, etc., and it will no doubt be impossible for the traders to distinguish between goods of Russian and British origin coming from similar directions." They concluded with a very British pronouncement: "The Committee believe that the consumption of such expensive fabrics is confined to few. The consumption of the masses, which only is of much importance to commerce, must be of cheaper articles."

In 1851 the Chamber commented in a similar sense on certain samples of certain "narrow twills" of "very superior and expensive quality" which had been sent to them, and which were quite possibly the forerunners of the patterns that have now been obtained. The Chamber inferred that they must be "in limited demand."

NATIVE CAPITAL AVAILABLE IN THE PUNJAB.

THE following extract from the report of the operations under the **Punjab Alienation of Land Act, 1905**, is encouraging, both to those who have deplored the growing supremacy of the money-lender and to those who at the present moment seek to attract native capital to the development of indigenous industries.

The District Reports show that the popularity of the Act with *zamindars* (landlords) and agriculturists is undiminished. Money-lenders still complain, and several Deputy Commissioners note that pleaders have suffered a loss of business. The Deputy Commissioner of Hissar reports an increasing tendency on the part of the *bania* (grocer and money-lender) to accept mortgages in forms permitted by the Act, while the Deputy Commissioner of Hoshiarpur thinks this tendency is confined to mortgages in satisfaction of old debts.

There is now further evidence of the statement made last year that capital is being drawn into wealthier channels of enterprise, such as cotton factories and wholesale trade. Remarks to this effect are made by the Deputy Commissioners of Hissar, Ferozepore, Rohtak, Jullundur, Sialkot and Gujranwala. This **commercial employment of capital** is a very important consequence of the Act, and accords with present economic tendencies in the Province. The spread of irrigation has been great. Agricultural development is being fostered. Railways are being multiplied. What we must now endeavour to promote is the growth of manufacturing industries; and the diversion of part of the *bania's* capital from the mischievous exploitation of the *zamindar* to beneficial investment in manufacture and wholesale trade should be of considerable value in that enterprise. The Financial Commissioner does not doubt that there will always be in the villages *banias* enough with enough capital to finance the *zamindars* to the extent of their legitimate needs as peasants. The surplus fund which the *banias* as a class can now spare for investment in commerce is the amount formerly frittered away in unproductive expenditure on marriage ceremonies and the like under conditions which brought about the ruin of the *zamindar* by means of his own extravagance.

There is indeed plenty of evidence that the Act has induced a contraction of extravagant expenditure, and little doubt also that this result of the Act is viewed with no disfavour by the **zamindar.** On the other hand the money-lender would apparently be quite ready to take advantage of any distress on the part of the **zamindar** to force high rates of interest upon him. Thus, in Montgomery and Attock, where **zamindars** have required advances for seed, money-lenders refused to lend money at reasonable rates until confronted with the competition of *takavi* advances (Government advances for agricultural purposes, recoverable with the rent). At the same time, as just implied, the scope for capital in industrial development is not great enough to allow the *bania* to refuse entirely financial assistance to the *zamindars*. The Deputy Commissioner of Hoshiarpur says that the *bania's* advances are now made with care and discrimination, and with reference to the circumstances and position of the client, not as formerly as a device for entrapping the *zamindar* in the meshes of a complicated debt account with a view to forcing ultimately an alienation of land. Some other interesting remarks of Mr. Fagan's on this subject are subjoined.

"They (*i.e.*, money-lenders) are, I think, gradually coming to recognize that (*i.e.*, the Act) has inaugurated in rural economies a new and more healthy era to which their business must conform. The village *sahuker* (banker) has now to exercise discrimination in selecting his clients and in fixing the amount of advances. He can no longer lend with apparent recklessness, confident that his advances will be more than repaid in land. At the same time there is, I am confident, much capital in the hands of village bankers which has been drawn in in consequence of the effects of the Act and awaits utilization. A genuine movement for the promotion of **native industries** which could attract it would be most beneficial. I do not know that there is much which can be done for the money-lenders by State action beyond facilitating and accelerating, as far as possible, the realization of just claims."

On this the Commissioner, **Mr. H. A. Anderson,** remarks—

"This movement is at present attracting attention in Hoshiarpur; but the leaders do not command confidence and the general opinion is that it will not retain permanent interest. Capitalists, however, are looking out for new channels for investment and capital is available for the promotion of native industries."

TRADE CREDITS IN PERSIA AND EGYPT.

ON more than one occasion there have been complaints regarding the non-payment of bills by merchants in **Persia,** and the difficulty that Indian merchants trading with Persia have in getting any satisfaction when Persian merchants repudiate their liabilities for documents delivered against acceptance.

Recently the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf received a letter of complaint, sent by a Chamber of Commerce, regarding a case in which a British merchant trading in Persia had failed to obtain redress from a Persian merchant who had accepted, but had not paid, the firm's bill, drawn against goods supplied to his order. In reply, he said:—"* * it does not appear that in Persia the meeting of accepted bills can be called a recognised principle of

commercial law, and that even if your bills were quite in order it would not be possible for him (the Karguzar, Agent for Foreign Affairs) to order payment of the amount forthwith. The matter would have to be referred to Teheran."

The goods supplied were of two kinds, and the proposal made by the Persian officials was that they should be treated separately. In writing on this point, the Political Resident went on to say: "It is clear from the correspondence which I have quoted that the Persian Government desire to separate those items from the others, and have them arbitrated upon, without taking for granted that the obligation to meet accepted bills without question is a commercial axiom which is beyond dispute."

A reference was also made to the Manager of the Imperial Bank of Persia. The following are some extracts from his reply:—

"**Documentary bills** are practically unknown in the interior of Persia, for the few firms who indulge in foreign trade generally have bills drawn upon their agents at the port of entry. There are several firms who could be relied to place their acceptance to documentary bills drawn against orders, even if markets had gone against them in the meantime, and to take up such acceptances on due date. Clean bills, however, are by no means always paid on due date, even by reliable merchants, anything up to a month's grace being often required, but merchants are quite willing to pay interest during such time. Such delays do not injure merchant's credit in a very least * *. We may mention that there is really no official authority to refer to in case of dishonour, and very seldom do merchants carry their disputes to the Governor, as the course is found to be expensive to both and generally devoid of practical results. It is certainly generally recognised that any bills which have been accepted must be paid, but here again the smaller merchant thinks it small disgrace to refuse to pay, and the pressure that could be brought to bear upon such is decidedly limited. As, however, Indian traders would probably have no business connections with any but first class merchants, this concerns them little."

Commenting upon this case, and upon the correspondence that it gave rise to, the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce in question said: "It may no doubt be true that merchants in India would deal only with first class houses in Persia, but, even with the utmost precaution, instances must occur where bills are not met on due date. This would especially apply in the case of Persia where business is transacted on protracted credit terms, and where, during the period intervening between the date of acceptance and the due date of a bill of exchange, a firm, whose financial standing at the inception of a transaction might be unquestionable, might be unable to meet its liabilities after the expiration of six months. In such a case there would seem to be no recognised legal remedy at the disposal of the supplier of the goods."

There are many **points of similarity** between the problems of trade credits in **Persia and in Egypt.**

"Speaking generally," says the "Journal of the British Chamber of Commerce of Egypt," "**Egypt** is a country of long credits, the main causes being—(1) apart from home consumption, the cultivator produces only one selling crop per annum of any value—usually cotton; (2) the ingrained habit of the native not to honour his bills on the due date; and (3) the land-hunger which is so strongly developed in fellaheen.

"* * The second reason given for lengthy credits is perhaps the one which is the hardest for British manufacturers to appreciate. There seems a difficulty in convincing British firms that it is the custom, habit, or even principle, of the Arab not to honour his acceptances on the due date. The native does not look upon a bill or draft in the same light as a European. With the former the acceptance is more or less an acknowledgment of a debt owing, and the fact that the document stipulates for the liquidation of the same on a given date is not of paramount importance to him, since the non-payment of a bill on the day it is due does not carry with it a loss of dignity to the Arab in the sense understood by British houses. As a rule the native intends to pay, and will pay, but not on the date originally fixed."

In this respect the parallel between Persian and Egyptian buyers of foreign goods is exact. There is also more than a little similarity in the way credit is given by Foreign dealers in Egypt and in Persia, as the following extracts show:—

"Although merchants and commission agents—British and foreign—are always complaining of the credits they are compelled to give, they have, in a large measure, themselves to blame for the present state of things. The great prosperity of the country during the past decade has brought with it a very large increase in the number of trade competitors, with the result that, in order to obtain business, wholesale prices have been lowered and additional facilities given for payment. The native trader is perfectly well aware that if he breaks with one man there are a dozen more ready to do his business, and it is, consequently, only natural to find that agents are willing to stretch a point in the matter of credit rather than lose a good customer. Competition is carried on to such an extent that some of the largest firms in the country—native and otherwise—are in such a position that they can refuse to sign drafts, or—when goods are delivered from stocks here—to give any acknowledgment beyond a simple receipt.

"One of the few cases in which **payment** is made **by cash** against documents is the trade in cereals, the imports of wheat, flour, barley, etc., being usually made on these conditions. The main reason for this satisfactory state of affairs appears to be the heavy and constant fluctuations in the price of the goods, with the consequent openings for trouble if the market goes against the buyer before delivery

imports, are made on the terms last mentioned, whilst the same remarks are often applicable to cheap confectionery, where prices are cut down to a minimum. * * * *

"It is very little use for firms to contemplate starting an Egyptian trade, unless they are prepared to conform to the present custom of the country, and give credit—assuming they wish to deal with the masses. Of course, if they are able to correspond with a merchant who will buy outright, the case is different, though profits will obviously be smaller." * * * *

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SUGAR INDUSTRY AND TRADE.

II

INDIAN SUGAR PRODUCTION.

THE **estimates of outturn of Sugar in India** must be taken with not less reserve than those of area under cane. It has been the practice to consider a yield of 1 ton per acre as normal in India, but an examination of the returns of other cane-growing countries inspires a belief that this estimated normal yield is too low. The yield in Hawaii, calculated on the average of the five years ending 1901, is 9,000 lbs. per acre or 4·02 tons. A similar calculation in respect of Java for the five years ending 1903, gives a yield of 7,700 lbs. or about 3·44 tons, while 4,500 lbs. or 2·0 tons per acre is given by Mr. Frank R. Rutter, of the United States Bureau of Statistics, as the yield per acre in Cuba. For the West Indies, no authoritative statement is available; but the Consular Report for Porto Rico (No. 3027, Annual Series) for 1902-03 shows a sugar production of 105,000 tons on an area of 62,000 acres, this being equal to 3,800 lbs. or about 1·7 tons per acre. In the Consular Report for 1899 (No. 2465, Annual Series) it was stated that the yield ranges from 4 to 5 tons per acre, with a decrease of about 10 per cent. per annum down to under two tons when the land is ploughed up and replanted or left for a rest in pasture. Mr. Walter Tiemann, in his book *The Sugar Cane in Egypt* (Altrincham, Office of the "International Sugar Journal") goes into this matter with fullness and should be read carefully. Side by side with his various manuring experiments he conducted "controls" designed to illustrate the inferior results obtained by negligent Arab cultivation. From pages 50, 56, 58 and 62, we have selected four of the lowest yields so obtained, and find that they give an average of 2·42 long tons per acre. The lowest yield that can be deduced from his figures by arbitrarily multiplying the lowest yield of cane in the series into the lowest percentage of sugar mad Hadi, in his interesting book on the *Sugar Industry in the United Provinces*, gives at pages 30 and 31 the *average* yields obtained by him from the various descriptions of cane. Taking eight of these average yields, and excluding all the high yields, we get a total of 10·398 tons or an average of 1·299—say 1·3 tons the acre. But all literature of the subject emphasises the importance of manuring which in this country is neglected.

The following is an extract from Mr. Noël Deerr's *Sugar House Notes and Tables* (London Spon., Ltd.):—

"Sixty tons of cane to the acre may be taken as an exceptionally high yield, 40 tons being above the average. Taking the sweetest canes as carrying 18 per cent. sugar, as much as 10 tons sugar per acre might be looked for. In Demerara, Mauritius, Queensland, Natal, Louisiana, West Indies, the return of commercial sugar per acre is, year in and year out, rather under 2 tons; from 3 to 4 tons is a common return in Java, and similar crops have been reported from Peru; in Hawaii the average return is much higher. In a letter received by the writer from Dr. Maxwell, the chief Chemist of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association, the latter mentions an estate there which obtained a return of 10·5 (short) tons per acre of sugar at 100. These figures are not strictly comparable, the ton and acre varying in different countries, and in addition the time to maturity and the number of crops from one planting should be taken into account; for instance, in Demerara, where the return is low, four or five crops are obtained in as many years from one planting, whereas in Java canes are not allowed to ratoon, and in Hawaii canes do not reach maturity till two years; it is an open question still whether high returns are actually economical."

Again, Mr. Francis Watts, a writer whose experience was acquired in the West Indies, notorious for their low yield, mentions crops of 23·3 tons, 28·5 tons, 32·5 tons, and 38·8 tons per acre. An American pamphlet which we reviewed recently quoted 39 tons as large. Even if it be assumed that the crop was only about 25 tons and that the cane carried only 10 per cent. of sugar the yield would be 2½ tons of sugar.

Probably both the Indian cultivator and manufacturer are negligent and wasteful in their methods. The extent of the loss attending the present rude processes of extraction is illustrated by the statement made in a recent publication (Bulletin No. 19 of the Department of Land Records and Agriculture, United Provinces) that certain simple improvements there described and suggested for adoption had effected an increase of at least 25 per cent. in the yield of sugar. Whether the Indian methods are very greatly inferior to those found in the West Indies or among the fellaheen it would be difficult to say; but even if, from the above arbitrary minimum yield of 1·8 tons per acre, we make a 25 per cent. deduction for waste, we shall have 1·35 tons per

CANE SUGAR.

(As reported in the Forecasts.)

Area (in acres).

Years.	Bengal.	United Provinces.	Panjab.	North-West Frontier	Madras. (b)	TOTAL.
	29·6 per.cent.	48·1 per cent.	13·6 per cent.	1·06 per cent.	2·5 per cent.	94·8 per cent.
1898-99 .	861,100	1,227,881	351,200	(a)	45,500	...
1899-1900 .	884,400	1,259,070	343,600	(a)	54,400	...
1900-01 .	801,800	1,212,456	334,500	(a)	55,400	..
1901-02 .	661,200	1,228,691	351,500	23,900	51,100	2,316,391
1902-03 .	673,500	1,151,777	309,400	26,652	46,500	2,207,829
1903-04 .	632,400	1,089,602	321,200	27,090	41,300	2,11 ,592
1304-05 .	637,800	1,243,014	325,100	25,912	48,200	2,280,026

Outturn (in tons, of raw sugar or *gur*).

Years.	Bengal.	United Provinces.	Panjab.	North-West Frontier	Madras. (b)	TOTAL.
	29·6 per(cent.	48·1 per cent.	13·6 per cent.	1·06 per cent.	2·5 per cent.	94·8 per cent.
1898-99 .	871,435	1,204,799	(a)	(a)	(a)	...
1899-1900 .	817,185	838,885	203,935	(a)	(a)	...
1900-01 .	811,420	1,193,214	272,114	(a)	(a)	...
1901-02 .	676,410	976,222	239,105	21,339	109,400	2,022,476
1902-03 .	681,580	904,132	204,012	23,660	93,400	1,906,784
1903-04 .	653, 900	877,102	232,664	24,620	83,700	1,871,986
1904-05 .	631,420	1,183,423	238,652	22,661	90,000	2,166,156

(*a*) Not available.
(*b*) The figures for Madras relate to raiyatwari villages only.
N.B.—The percentage shown under the name of each province indicates what proportion of the entire reported sugar area of British India in the five years ending 1903-04 was situated in that province.

Unfortunately no annual estimate of the total sugar production of each province or of all India was made till the crop became the subject of a series of crop forecasts in 1898-99. Up till 1901-02, Madras confined itself in its forecast to an estimate of area. Bengal, the United Provinces and the Panjab together represent, however, some 91 per cent. of the entire reported sugar crop of British India on the average of the five years ending 1903-04; and these provinces have been attempting an estimate of outturn since 1898-99. The provinces dealt with in the foregoing tables represent in all some 94·8 per cent. of the British India crop reported, but the figures stated in the foregoing paragraph must not be lost sight of. Since the estimates of area in effect go back only to 1890-1891 and those of outturn only to 1898-99, there is nothing to be gained by collating them, in tabular form, with the figures relating to imports and manufacture.

Careful consideration of the reports of crop-cutting experiments in various provinces does not inspire confidence in their results; but if any conclusion were to be based upon those results alone it could only be that 22 cwt. or 1·1 ton per acre is the lowest standard normal yield that can be accepted.* If between this figure and that found in the foregoing paragraph we accepted 1·25 tons per acre as a mean, we might hope to be within the mark. Since 1890-91 the sugar area in that portion of British India from which returns are received has averaged about 2,688,000 acres. This represents, say, 94·8 per cent of the whole sugar area of British India, which latter is, therefore, about 2,835·400 acres, yielding, at the rate of 1·25 tons per acre, some 3,544,600 tons of cane sugar. To this is to be added the yield of palm sugar, which in Bengal alone has been estimated at 163,000 tons; and if it be assumed that this estimate is adequate and that the ratio of Bengal's cane sugar to that of all British India holds good in respect of the palm, a total of some 562,000 tons is derived from this secondary source. This gives a total computed sugar production of 4,106,600 tons; and it is necessary to remember that in addition to the areas for which this estimate is made there are in the Native States immense territories for which there are either no returns or returns so defective that they are not used in making up the above figures. Excluding British Baluchistan, these Native States' territories represent some 433,000,000 acres, or with British Baluchistan about 493,000,000 acres. So it seems possible that unless India's yield per acre is entirely inferior to that of any other part of the world, her total sugar output is something under, but not greatly under, the five million tons at which certain experts have computed it. But it remains that those who know the crop personally are disposed to regard the conventional one ton yield as pretty near the truth; and if it be so accepted the total crop may be under 4,000,000 tons.

The following London quotations for Madras jaggery off coast for United Kingdom on 31st August 1905 and at the same date in the last four years are interesting, and indicate the relation between the values of the two kinds of sugar. This relation should be noted by all who desire to understand India's position as a sugar-producer and who have so far taken cognizance only of the reported areas under sugarcane:—

MADRAS JAGGERY—PRICE.

Off coast for United Kingdom.

	Cane.	Palmyra.
1905 .	8*s.* 0*d.* to 8*s.* 3*d.*	7*s.* 6*d.* to 7*s.* 9*d.*
1904 .	7*s.* 9*d.*	7*s.* 6*d.*
1903 .	7*s.* 3*d.*	6*s.* 9*d.*
1902 .	6*s.* 3*d.* to 6*s.* 6*d.*	6*s.* 0*d.*
1901 .	8*s.* 3*d.*	7*s.* 9*d.*

* Read also Bulletin No. 51, Department of Land

TRADE MARKS LEGISLATION.

This month new Acts for the protection of Trade Marks come into force in the United Kingdom and in the Commonwealth of Australia. Copies of these Acts may be seen at the office of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street, Calcutta. The following parallel columns give the synopsis of the Sections in the two Acts.

TRADE MARKS ACT, 1905.
UNITED KINGDOM.
5 Edw. 7, Ch. 15.

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS.

Section.
1. Short title.
2. Commencement of Act.

PART I.—DEFINITIONS.

3. Definitions.

Register of Trade Marks.

4. Register of trade marks.
5. Trust not to be entered on register.
6. Incorporation of existing register.
7. Inspection of and extract from register.

Registrable Trade Marks.

8. Trade mark must be for particular goods.

9. Registrable trade marks.

10. Coloured trade marks.
11. Restriction on registration.

Registration of Trade Marks.

12. Application for registration.
13. Advertisement of application.

14. Opposition to registration.

15. Disclaimers.
16. Date of registration.
17. Certificate of registration.
18. Non-completion of registration.

Identical Trade Marks.

19. Identical marks.
20. Rival claims to identical marks.
21. Concurrent user.

Assignment.

22. Assignment and transmission of trade marks.

23. Apportionment of marks on dissolution of partnership.

Associated Trade Marks.

24. Associated trade marks.

25. Combined trade marks.
26. Series of trade marks.
27. Assignment and user of associated trade marks.

TRADE MARKS.
THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.
No. 20 of 1905.

PART I.—INTRODUCTORY.

Section.
1. Short title.
2. Commencement.

3. Parts.

4. Definitions.
5. Application of common law.
6. State Trade Marks Acts to cease to apply to Trade Marks.
7. Registration under State Trade Marks Acts to cease after certain period.

8. Trade marks registered under State Act may be registered under this Act.
9. Unregistered trade marks in use in States.

PART II.—ADMINISTRATION.

Division 1.—The Minister, the Registrar, and the Trade Marks Office.

10. Administration.
11. Registrar.

12. Trade Marks Office.
13. Seal of Trade Marks Office.

Division 2.—The Transfer of the Administration of the State Trade Marks Acts.

14. Transfer of administration.
(*a*), (*b*), (*c*) Effect of transfer of administration.

PART III.—REGISTRABLE TRADE MARKS.

15. Of what trade marks may consist.
16. Essential particulars.
17. Additional matter.
18. Use of certain words, etc., forbidden in trade marks.

19. Use of words, etc., indicating Royal patronage.
20. Mark made distinctive by user.
21. Coloured trade marks.

22. Standardization, etc., trade marks.

PART IV.—REGISTRATION OF TRADE MARKS.

Division 1.—General.

23. Trade mark must be for particular goods.

24. Disclaimers.
24. (2) What matters deemed common to trade.
25. Identical marks.
26. Names, etc., of living persons.
27. Registrar may refer rival claims to the Court.

TRADE MARKS LEGISLATION—*continued.*

Renewal of Registration.

28. Duration of registration.
29. Renewal of registration.
30. Procedure on expiry of period of registration.
31. Status of unrenewed trade mark.

Correction and Rectification of the Register.

32. Correction of register.

33. Registration of assignments, etc.
34. Alteration of registered trade mark.

35. Rectification of register.
36. Trade marks registered under previous Acts.
37. Non-user of trade mark.

Effect of Registration.

38. Powers of registered proprietor.
39. Rights of proprietor of trade mark.
40. Registration to be *primâ facie* evidence of validity.
41. Registration to be conclusive after seven years.

42. Unregistered trade mark.

43. Infringement.
44. User of name, address, or description of goods.
45. "Passing off" action.

Legal Proceedings.

46. Certificate of validity.

47. Registrar to have notice of proceeding for rectification.

Costs.

48. Costs of proceedings before the Court.

Evidence.

49. Mode of giving evidence.
50. Sealed copies to be evidence.
51. Certificate of Registrar to be evidence.
52. Certificate of Board of Trade to be evidence.

PART II.

Powers and Duties of Registrar of Trade Marks.

53. Exercise of discretionary power by Registrar.

54. Appeal from Registrar.
55. Recognition of agents.
56. Registrar may take directions of law officers.

57. Annual reports of Comptroller.

Powers and Duties of the Board of Trade.

58. Proceedings before Board of Trade.
59. Appeals to Board of Trade.
60. Power of Board of Trade to make rules.

Fees.

61. Fees.

Special Trade Marks.

62. Standardization, etc., trade marks.

Sheffield Marks.

63. Sheffield marks.

Cotton Marks.

64. Cotton marks.

International and Colonial Arrangements.

65. International and Colonial arrangements.

28. Concurrent user.
29. Associated trade marks.
30. User of associated trade mark.
31. Series of trade marks.

Division 2.—Applications.

32. (1) Who may apply for registration.
32. (2) Form of Application.
33. Lodging of application.
34. Appeal.
34. (3) Appeal to Court.
35. Direct appeal by consent from Registrar to Court.
36. Advertisement.
37. Limit of time for proceeding with application.

Division 3.—Opposition.

38. Notice of opposition.
39. Address for service.
40. Notice to applicant.
41. (1) Counter-statement by applicant.
41. (2) Failure to lodge counter-statement.
41. (3) Service of counter-statement.
42. (1) Day of hearing.
42. (2) Hearing.
43. Appeal to Law Officer.
44. Appeal to Court.
45. Direct appeal from Registrar to Court.

46. Security for costs.

Division 4.—Registration and Effect of Registration.

47. Date of Registration.

48. Duration of Registration.

49. Rights of registered proprietor.
50. Register to be *primâ facie* evidence.
51. Registers to be conclusive evidence after five years.
52. Unregistered trade mark.

53. Infringement.

Division 5.—Renewal of Registration.

54. Renewal of registration.
55. Procedure on expiry of period of registration.
56. Restoration of trade mark removed for non-payment of renewal fee.
57. Status of unrenewed trade mark.

PART V.—ASSIGNMENT OF TRADE MARKS.

58. Assignment and transmission of trade marks.
59. Apportionment of marks on dissolution of partnership.
60. Assignment of associated trade marks.

PART VI.—THE REGISTER OF TRADE MARKS.

61. Register of trade marks.

62. Notification of assignments and transmissions.

63. Trusts not to be noticed.

64. Inspection of register.

65 Certified copies to be supplied.

TRADE MARKS LEGISLATION—*concluded.*

Offences.

66. Falsification of entries in register.
67. Penalty on falsely representing a trade mark as registered.

Royal Arms.

68. Unauthorised assumption of Royal Arms.

Courts.

69. General saving for jurisdiction of courts.
70. Isle of Man.
71. Jurisdiction of Lancashire Palatine Court.
72. Offences in Scotland.

Repeal, Savings.

73. Repeal and saving for rules, etc.

74. Application of 46 and 47 Vict., c. 57, ss. 82-84 Schedule.

66. Certified copies of evidence.
67. False entries in register.

68. Correction of register.

69. Registration of assignments, etc.
70. Alteration in registered trade mark.
71. Rectification of register by Court.
72. Removal of trade mark from register if no *bonâ fide* user.

73. Registrar to carry out orders for rectification.

PART VII.—WORKERS' TRADE MARKS.

74. False application of workers' trade marks prohibited.
75. Registration.
75.(2) Removal from register. Duration.
75.(3) No assignment.
75.(4) Non-application.
75.(5) Deception prohibited.
76. Illegality not authorised.
77. This part not to apply to agricultural, viticultural, and similar products.

The other sections of the Australian Act, which is more detailed than the English Act, are as follows:—

PART VIII.—THE COMMONWEALTH TRADE MARK.

78. Application of Part.
79. Registration of Commonwealth trade mark.
80. Effect of registration of Commonwealth trade mark.
81. Unauthorised application of Commonwealth trade mark.
82. Authority of Minister.
83. Penalty for infringing Commonwealth trade mark.
84. Prohibition of importation of goods to which Commonwealth trade mark applied.
85. Removal from register of Commonwealth trade mark.

PART IX.—PROTECTION OF TRADE MARKS.

86. Forgery or false application of trade marks.
87 Selling, etc., goods with false marks.
88. Importing goods with false marks.
89. Aiding and Abetting offences.
90. Prohibition of importation of fraudulently marked goods.
91. What deemed forgery of trade mark.
92. (1) When trade mark deemed applied.
92. (2) When trade mark deemed applied to goods.
92. (4) What deemed false application of a trade mark.
93. Trade mark, how described in pleading.

PART X.—MISCELLANEOUS.

94. Governor-General may make regulations.
95. Incidental powers of Court.
96. Powers of Registrar and Law Officer.
97. Penalty for disobedience to summons.
98. Penalty for refusing to give evidence.
99. Recovery of costs.
100. Certificate of validity.
101. False representation to Registrar or officer.
102. Power of amendment.
103. Exercise of discretionary power.
104. Fees to be paid in advance.
105. Extension of time.
106. Applications and notices by post.
107. Address for service.
108. Declaration by infant, lunatic, etc.
109. Death of party to a proceeding.
110. Registrar may recognise agent.
111. Certificate of Registrar evidence.
112. Penalty on falsely representing a trade mark as registered.
113. Penalty on unauthorised assumption of Royal Arms.
114. Scandalous and improper marks.
115. International arrangements for protection of trade marks.
116. Provision for inter-colonial, etc., arrangements.

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REVIEWS.

LEATHER FOR BOOK-BINDING.*

In the year 1900 the Society of Arts appointed a Committee to investigate the causes of deterioration in leathers used for book-binding, and the Report has been re-issued with additions and a number of good illustrations. The Committee was divided into two sub-committees, one to visit libraries and ascertain from investigation which of the leathers manufactured at various periods withstood best the test of time, and the second sub-committee to examine the scientific and chemical aspects of the question. The fact that there was a certain amount of overlapping in the work of these two sub-committees is not a disadvantage, inasmuch as the results of the one verified those of the other. It appears evident that the general deterioration in book-binding leathers noticed during the last half century is due more to defective processes, either in tanning or in binding, than to conditions of time. It is found, as was to be expected, that leathers subject to bad conditions in the matter of temperature, ventilation, light and damp, etc., deteriorate with greater rapidity than those protected from such influences; but it will be a blow to many book lovers to learn that one of the ascertained causes of injury is tobacco smoke. It is very noticeable how under all the heads of enquiry East Indian tanned sheep and goat skins appear to fall under special condemnation. On page 12 it is stated that "for book-binding purposes, the sub-committee generally condemn the use of tanning materials belonging to the catchol group, although the leathers produced by the use of these materials are for many purposes excellent and indeed superior. The class of tanning materials which produce the most suitable leather for this particular purpose belong to the pyrogallol group, of which a well-known and important example is sumach. East Indian or "Persian" tanned sheep and goat skins, which are suitable for many purposes, and are now used largely for cheap book-binding purposes, are considered bad. Books bound in these materials have been found to show signs of decay in less than twelve months, and the sub-committee are inclined to believe that no book bound in these leathers, exposed on a shelf to sunlight or gas fumes, can ever be expected to last more than five or six years. Embossing leather under heavy pressure to imitate a grain has, the committee say, a very injurious effect while the shaving of thick skins greatly reduces the strength of the leather by cutting away the tough fibres of the inner part of the skin. The use of mineral acids in brightening the colour of leather, and in the process of dyeing, has a serious effect in lessening its resistance to decay. A good deal yet remains to be learned about the relative permanency of the different dyes.

"Next to the causes of decay due to the original treatment of the leather, come the conditions to which the book is exposed in the library. To try these a very careful series of tests was made. Leathers were exposed under various conditions to gas fumes, to light (sunlight, gaslight, and electric light), and to heat. As the result of these experiments, the sub-committee consider that of the deleterious influences to which books are subjected, the fumes of burnt gas are the most fatal. The results of the experiments of exposing leathers to light of various colours was somewhat unexpected. It was found that leathers of a different character act in very different ways—some are bleached or darkened very rapidly by the action of direct sunlight, others resist for a longer period."

After describing a series of tests the authors say on examining all these sets side by side it was noticed that in each case the leathers tanned with sumach and those tanned in galls were the least affected of any, followed in order of merit by myrabolams, chesnut extract, oakwood extract, oak bark, gambier, larch bark, quebracho, pistacio and tamarix; while the worst of all were the East India leathers tanned with *turwar* (Cassia) bark, and especially the sample which had been scoured, soured and retanned.

Again in respect of the presence of sulphuric acid, East Indian goat skins are severely criticised, it being pointed out that 18 such skins were examined and in all cases were found to possess this disadvantage,

* *Report of the Committee of the Society of Arts on Leather for Book-binding.*- London, George Bell and Sons.

The effect of sulphuric acid is of course to cause very severe and rapid deterioration, more particularly in the presence of moisture.

One point seems surprising and that is that the bacteriology of the question does not appear to have been very seriously examined. It is true that at one point there is a reference to the necessity of using fresh paste in the process of book-binding, since foul paste favours the growth of injurious moulds and bacteria; but those of us who have watched the deterioration of our book-bindings in such a country as India, more particularly during the rains, must be convinced that leather, however tanned, is capable of harbouring bacteria in large numbers, and it would be interesting to know whether the spores were not discoverable in any of the specimens examined.

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BARK-BORING BEETLES.

THE terrible damage wrought by **insect pests** is clearly shown in a "**Note on the Bark-boring Beetles of Zhob,** Baluchistan," by Mr. E. P. Stebbing, Conservator of Forests. Attention was drawn recently to the fact that the trees in the Chilgoza forest on the Shinghur range of hills, in the Sherani country, appeared to be dying out under the attacks of an insect, and enquiries were made as to whether it would be possible to take any steps to prevent the destruction of the forest. Correspondence on the subject, and a specimen log, were forwarded to Mr. Stebbing at the Indian Museum, Calcutta. He says that the outside bark looked exactly as if the log had been stood up on end, and fired into all round from a distance with No. 8 shot, whilst on removing it, the whole of the bast layer was seen to be a network of longitudinal galleries made by the beetles, and of transverse ones by their larvæ. Practically the whole of the bast layer had been removed and the tree had died. So serious did Mr. Stebbing consider the subject, that, on return from leave, he paid a visit to Zhob. In his note he gives a mournful description of the Shinghur Forest:—"Throughout the forest, but, perhaps, commoner in the southern than in the northern area, stand considerable numbers of dead trees, their white trunks and larger branches, from which, in many cases, the bark has fallen and their needleless crowns rendering them very conspicuous. To any one inspecting the Shinghur Forest for the first time this prevalence of dead trees would be a point to at once strike the eye. A closer examination of these trees will disclose one of two facts, and this will be found to be the case throughout the forest.

"If the bark is still on, it will look as if it had been fired into with No. 8 shot, and this appearance does not apply to the trunk alone but to the large spreading branches, and those in the upper portion of the crown of the tree as well. If, owing to the length of time, the tree has been dead, the bark (which in this tree is a very thin one) has flaked off, the sapwood beneath will be seen to be covered with an intricate network of galleries and small holes. The larger and longer galleries are the longitudinal ones, the shorter and finer the transverse ones, which end in little depressions or pits in the wood. The galleries and pits are the work of bark-boring beetles and their grubs, and the death of the tree has resulted from their attacks. The galleries in the smaller branches have a stellate appearance, and are made by a species of beetle different from those boring in the stem and larger branches.

"What is true for one dead tree bearing these tell-tale marks on the trunk and branches is true for every similar tree throughout this forest."

When the insects infest a tree in numbers, that tree will be killed within the year. More usually, however, the swarms of the beetles fly to and burrow into a tree on one side, and that side usually the one most sheltered from the sun's rays. The bark on the portion of the side infested by the beetles dies, and the vitality of the tree is lowered in consequence. Following generations, either during the same or the next year, burrow in the remaining area of bark and the tree is killed. Mr. Stebbing, while declaring that he does not wish to be in any way an alarmist or unduly pessimistic, is of opinion that it is not too much to say that the *Chilgoza Polygraphus*, under certain, not impossibly favourable, conditions to its increase, could kill off the whole of the Shinghur Forest in a few years. Now the Chilgoza forests are of considerable importance—

(1) in preserving and increasing the water-supply (for the springs which exist on the Shinghur range and give water to the valleys on either side are practically entirely dependent upon the hills remaining covered with the Chilgozas and the undergrowth that accompanies them); and

(2) in maintaining a supply of edible seed for the surrounding population.

Mr. Stebbing makes certain proposals as to protection and remedies. He would encourage the enemies of the *Polygraphus* and *Phleosinus* beetles, which are destroying the trees. These pests subject to the attacks of predaceous and parasitic insect foes, who have doubtless held them in some check. He, however, places more faith in trying to cope with the beetles by means of the systematic felling and burning of affected trees. This conservative destruction will have to be very carefully done, but done, at the same time, in a very wholesale manner. While careless selection would result in unnecessary loss of sound trees, the omission to remove trees seriously infected with the beetles will destroy the value of the fellings made, and will mean that, while more trees will be killed, further fellings will have to be carried out by the forest authorities a few years after. There still remain a few points in the life history of the three Chilgoza pests to be worked out. The most important is that which concerns the number of generations. Another important matter to be elucidated is the exact area over which the insects are spread.

Mr. E. P. Stebbing also investigated the damage done to the trees forming roadside avenues and plantations of the town and district of Quetta by a boring beetle, *Æolesthes Sturtus*, of Solsky, familiarly known as the **Quetta borer.** For some years it had been apparent that the trees in Quetta were subject to the attacks of a boring insect. Recently, however, the operations of this insect became so evident, and the destruction done by it so serious, that it was feared that all the trees in Quet a would be killed. Special investigations were ordered, and in May and June 1905 Mr. Stebbing went to Quetta to investigate the matter in person. He found the insect, one of the long horned beetles, operating on a scale of quite unprecedented magnitude. There were few trees that had not been attacked, for the insect was very catholic in its tastes, not confining its attentions to any particular species, though of course attacking soft wood trees more freely than trees whose wood was tough and close grained. The beetle is an insect of unusual vitality and hardiness. Its depredations are assisted by this fact, and by its freedom from any parasitic enemies, whilst the system under which the Quetta plantations are supervised, a system of divided control, made the work of fighting the pest doubly difficult. The borer beetle, according to Mr. C. J. Gahan, of the British Museum, who identified the insect, is an addition to the fauna of British India, it having previously known only from Turkistan and Tibet, and there are several theories as to how it came into the Quetta District. Some fancy that the beetle was in reality indigenous to the district, and that it has only increased and multiplied enormously owing to the existence of a favourable train of circumstances. Others maintain that it was introduced in the poplar and Kabul willow, firewood brought into Quetta to be used as fuel for the troops. However the creature arrived, it has now evidently come to stay, and unless the proposals made by Mr. Stebbing for checking its increase are very energetically carried out, and its numbers reduced, it will not only deprive Quetta of its recently acquired wood, but will spread into India and cause tremendous loss to the forests of the land. The beetle has its origin in a tiny elliptical egg of a milky white colour, measuring from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch in length. When first hatched out the larva is a small grub, but a quarter of an inch in length, with a brownish head, armed with small black mandibles set upon a yellow body. The full grown larva is a large, thick yellow or yellowish white, grub, about 3 inches in length and $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch across the upper and broadest end. It has powerful black mandibles, and is a voracious feeder. When it achieves the pupal stage it is a white or yellowish white object, bearing some resemblance to the future beetle. The perfect beetle, which may be found in the tree several months before it is ready to issue, is a light yellowish brown in colour, with all its outer parts still soft. As these hardened and became firm, the colour darkens to black or brown, while the body and limbs are covered with short irregular yellowish down, which imparts a silvery look to the insect. The length of the beetle is from $1\frac{3}{8}$ to $1\frac{1}{16}$ of an inch. It is distinguished by the long eleven jointed aentennæ, which in the male quite encircle the body, being nearly twice the length of the insect. They are in the female, which measures from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches, considerably shorter. The female lays her eggs in small clumps of from 5 to 8 or 10, together at wounds in the tree at places where branches have been lopped, or where the bark has been so damaged as to cause the sap to ooze out. If the beetle cannot find such wounds, she is forced to gnaw down through the bark into the shappy inner rind, on which young feed when they leave the eggs. The time passed in the egg is from ten days to a fortnight. The young larva on hatching out feeds on the soft sappy bark until its mouth is hard enough for it to attack harder wood, when it goes deeper down, until it reaches the sap wood, and commences boring a winding gallery, which grows deeper as the grub grows older, in this and the bast. When the winter comes the grub, which has spent all the summer and the autumn making this winding gallery, which is very often as much as 16 inches in length, bores down into the wood, and finds its way to the heart of the tree. Its position thus enables it to survive the rigors of the most severe winter. With the coming of spring it commences to carry this tunnel in the wood in a direction opposite to that in which it originally proceeded, and forms its pupal chamber. Having eaten out this chamber it plugs the top with a mass of gnawed wood and lines the sides with a papery lining of brownish fibrous material. It lies in this chamber with its head towards the opening and builds across the top a thick white wall of some calcareous substance, lining the sides of the chamber with the same material for a short way down. This wall blocks up the chamber, and prevents the entrance of enemies who would be able to prey upon the helpless insect. It is about the end of May, and during June that the bulk of the grubs in the trees change into the chrysalis of pupal stage. The pupal stage lasts about 4 or 5 months. In November or December the insect begins to assume the adult form, but passes several months resting in the pupal chamber whilst its outer parts harden and solidify. When the last stage of growth is reached, the beetle bores its way out of the tree by gnawing a tunnel straight to the outside, through the wood, though often it simply breaks the calcareous partition it made in its larval stage at the top of the chamber, crawls up the broad tunnel in the wood, and gnaws its way through the bark. The period that elapses between the laying of the egg to the issuing of the perfect beetle is generally about 2 years, and each female beetle lays about 50 eggs, dying after she has deposited them in the trees. The male beetle dies after pairing with the female. It is during its existence as a grub and as a beetle that the insect damages the trees. The young grubs

feeding on the bast (the inner green bark) if at all numerous ring the tree, which, deprived of its sap, dies. The only way of fighting the beetle is by exercising unsleeping vigilance in the search for the egg deposits (which may be discovered by the bleeding from the wounds made in the tree) and destroying them; by cutting out, where possible, the grubs from beneath the bark of trees that have been slightly attacked, taking care to tar over the wound so made; by collecting the beetles as they issue from the trees. Care must be taken to minimise as much as possible the wounding of trees, for careless pruning, lopping and hacking, or cutting into the bark, assists the insect very directly. All trees badly attacked must be cut down and burned thoroughly. It is advisable to make mixed plantations, and provide trap trees in such plantations, these trapped trees to be cut out and burnt when they are badly attacked.

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The Victorian Year Book for 1904 which has just been received is full of accurate information upon almost all subjects relating to the social and material progress of the colony, more particularly since the establishment of the Commonwealth on 1st January 1901. The volume is, of course, mainly a book of reference, and many of the figures recorded, while scarcely lending themselves to disquisition, are most interesting. The importance of the colony in relation to the **gold production** of the world is indicated by the fact that the quantity of gold obtained in Victoria since the first discoveries in 1851 up to the end of 1904 was 67,557,353 ounces with a total value of £269,970,746. This is more than 50 per cent of the gold production of all Australia, and may be compared with the world's production of gold from 1860 to 1902, given in another part of the volume as 299,892,600 ounces with a value of £1,291,300,200.

The figures as to the **exports of wool** are striking; and the suitability of Victorian conditions is well illustrated by the fact that the average weight of the exported fleece (sheep and lambs) since 1890 has been 5 lbs. 7½ oz.

The statistics relating to the freezing, preserving and **exporting of meat** would have more interest for the Indian cotton mills if these were in want of an outlet for their fabrics. For the carcases for shipment are packed in a peculiar kind of gauze which ought to be well within the scope of the Indian weaving mills. During the last five years the numbers of frozen carcases has been—

	Sheep.	Cattle.
1900	No. 437,242	Qrs. 16,096
1901	,, 417,721	,, 6,395
1902	,, 375,178	,, 1,338
1903	,, 294,906	,, 1,424
1904	,, 469,963	,, 3,394

Particulars regarding the trade in carcase cloth were procured by this Department nearly a year ago together with sample and details about packing, etc. They are held at the disposal of any Indian weaver who thinks of trying for a share in the business; but under present conditions there is little likelihood of an Indian weaver caring to go so far afield for a market, and it would as yet be mere supererogation to labour the point in the pages of this Journal.

Full statistics of the Australasian trade in meat and what Americans call "Packing-house products" will be found in **Meat in Foreign Markets,** Bulletin No. 39, published last year by the United States Department of Agriculture (Bureau of Statistics). The size of the Australian flocks and herds, as also the extent to which they suffered in the cycle of drought, may be gathered from the following statement. The figures represent the number of cattle and sheep in the six states that form the Commonwealth of Australia at the ten-year intervals since 1861:—

Year.	Cattle.	Sheep.
1861	3,846,554	.....
1871	4,277,228	40,072,955
1881	8,010,991	65,078,341
1891	11,029,499	106,421,168
1901	8,465,649	72,125,725
1903	7,104,695*	55,371,220

Number in Victoria estimated.

The same American publication sets forth the measures employed by the various colonial governments to foster the meat trade and states that Victoria has been especially active in such measures. Besides running refrigerator cars on its railways, it has provided cooled storehouses at its country railway stations, and has built a large freezing plant at Melbourne. Cold storage was at first furnished free, but this was not long continued. The Government has tried to guarantee the quality of its exports by a system of inspection and by efforts to arrange with shipping companies for reduced freights. Indeed, it is said that any person in Victoria who wishes to export frozen produce has only to notify the Department of Agriculture and forward the goods over the Government railway to the Government freezing works. The Government attends to the freezing, bagging and packing, engages freight, ships the goods, and, if desired, pays the freight, recovering it together with the other charges before delivery of the Bills of Lading to the exporter.

New South Wales on the other hand, while providing the same facilities as Victoria, charges for them at full commercial rates on the ground that it would be improper to give an advantage to the exporters at the expense of the ordinary tax-payer.

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THE TENDERING OF DYED YARNS.

THERE has of late been considerable discussion regarding the tendering of woollen and cotton yarns when dyed in certain colours, and it is now hoped that as a result of the keen investigation of the subject that complaints on this head will in the future be fewer than they had been in the past. At a recent meeting of the Manchester section of the Society of Dyers and Colourists Mr. R. Pilling read a paper upon certain investigations made by him regarding the causes of the tendering of cotton yarns and fabrics with sulphide colours and the means of preventing it. The experimental part of the enquiry had been worked out in the laboratory of Dr. A. Liebmann. According to Mr. Pilling, these important dyestuffs, which were known to yield some of the fastest blacks and colours that could be produced on cotton, frequently showed the disadvantage that goods dyed with them tender after being stored for some months. This tendering had hitherto been attributed to the gradual formation of sulphuric acid in the fabric by oxidation of finely divided sulphur, which latter was generally supposed to be derived from substances (alkaline sulphides or hyposulphites used) along with the dyestuff in dyeing. This view was now shown to be incorrect, no tendering ensuing without the presence of the dyestuff itself in the fibre. The source of the sulphuric acid which caused the damage, was either the dyestuff itself or else sulphurous acid contained in the air in which the goods were stored. To avoid tendering, no copper or iron salts should be used in developing or fixing the colour after dyeing, experiments having shown that their presence might result in so far tendering the goods as to cause them to fall to dust when rubbed. The safest fixing agent to use was a mixture of *bichromate of potash and acetic acid.* As large quantities of cotton are dyed in with these colours, Mr. Pilling considered the investigation should be of the greatest interest to dyers, manufacturers, and merchants alike. The dyers of India are also interested in this question though, perhaps, not yet to quite the same extent. The following figures show that a steady increase is taking place in the production of dyed cotton goods. The outturn amounted to lbs 19,845,130 in 1901-03, to lbs. 23,203,070 in 1903-04, to lbs. 25,504,669 in 1904-05. This trade is bound to go on increasing, and India can produce all her own natural dyes, whilst she can, at the same time, herself prepare in any quantity the safe fixing mediums, acetic acid and potash bichromate. But tendering of goods is not confined to cotton.

Manufacturers of worsted goods are, says the "Textile Journal," accustomed to hearing many complaints from the weavers and beamers on account of the tenderness of fine worsted yarns when dyed in certain colours. Such complaints are usually referred to the dyer, and if it cannot be shown that the spinner has produced a yarn of false strength by means of sizing which has been washed out in the dyeing process, the responsibility is placed on the dyer, and he is told to remedy matters at once. Such conditions are but the natural consequences of mordanting with chrome, which has a tendency to corrode and weaken the wool fibre. This tendency is diminished, but not entirely counteracted by the use of tartar or lactic acid. In any case there is a loss in strength of from 10 to 20 per cent., which it has heretofore been beyond the power of the dyer to prevent. However, there has lately appeared on the market a product known as Azonil, which restores to the wool those desirable qualities which have been removed by scouring, mordanting and dyeing. It closes the distended scales and serrated edges of the fibre, and toughens the fibre without causing brittleness. When used with chrome-developing colours like diamond black the usual 10 per cent. of weakening due to the chrome is absent, and the strength is unimpaired. The mordanting process proceeds very evenly and slowly, and yet the complete exhaustion of the chrome bath follows. As Azonil is the only mordant which is claimed to increase the strength of the fibre from 10 to 20 per cent., it should be of interest to every manufacturer and dyer of wool.

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EGYPTIAN CONVERSION TABLES.

THE following useful Conversion tables in use in Egypt are extracted from the monthly "Journal of the British Chamber of Commerce, Egypt."

Money at Legal tariff rates.

Egyptian Pound (L. E).	5 Dollars (Talaris) .		
	100 Piastres Tariff (P T.)	=	£ 1. 0s. 61·54d. Fcs 25,92353 LT. 1·1396
	1,000 Milliemes .		
	4,000 Paras .		
1 Pound Sterling.	= 97·5 Piastres Tariff (PT.)	=	Fcs 25·2754. LT. 1·1111.
1 Franc	= 3·8575 Piastres Tariff (PT.)	=	£ 0s. 9·495d. LT. 0·004396
1 Turkish Pound.	= 87·75 Piastres Tariff (PT.)	=	£ 0. 18s. 0d. Fcs. 22·7478

Measures of weight.

1 Cantar (Cotton).	= 100 Rotls . .	=	99·0492 lbs. 44·928 kilos.
	36 Okes . .		
	144·0 Dirhems .		
1 Pound Avoirdupois	= 1·0096 Rotl. . .	= 0·4536 kilos.	
	0·3634 Oke . .		
1 Kilogramme	= 2·22578 Rotl. . .	= 2·2046 lbs.	
	0·80128 Oke . .		

Measures of weight for precious metals.

1 Mithkal	= 1·5 Dirhem . .	=	72·2234 grains troy. 4·68 grammes.
	0·24 Kirats . .		
1 Grain Troy	= 0·0138 Mithkal .	= 0·0643 grammes.	
	0·3323 Kirt . .		
1 Gramme	= 0·2136 Mithkal .	= 15·4323 grains troy.	
	5·1282 Kirats .		

Measures of Capacity.

1 Ardeb* = 12 Kilahs . . = 5·4474 bushels
4· Malwas . . = 198 litres
96 Kadahs . .

1 Bushel = 2·2028 Kilahs . . = 36·3476 litres.
1 Litre = 0·4548 Kadah . . = 0·22009 gallon.

Measures of Length.

1 Pic (Diraa Baladi) for Textiles. ..... = 2·4606 feet. / 0·75 metre.

1 Pic (Diraa Mimari) for Builders. = 0·2115 Kassabah . . = 1·9029 foot. / 6 Abdats . . = 0·58 metre. / 24 Esbaahs . .

1 Kassabah = 4·7333 Pics ("Diraa Mimari"). = 11·6472 feet. / 3·55 metres.

1 Foot . = 0·5255 Pic ("Diraa Baladi"). = 0·30479 metre. / 0·40639 Pic ("Diraa Mimari").

1 Metre . = 1·7241 Pic ("Diraa Baladi"). = 3·2809 feet. / 1·3333 Pic ("Diraa Mimari").

* In the purchase of cotton seed and cereals at Alexandria this measure of capacity has a definite weight attached to it, which in several cases varies for "spot" and "future" terms, thus :—

An ardeb of cotton seed weighs 276 rotls "spot" 276 rotls "future"
,, beans ,, 327 ,, ,, 320 ,, ,,
,, wheat ,, 310 ,, ,, 300 ,, ,,
,, barley ,, 250 ,, ,, 240 ,, ,,
,, lentils ,, 330 ,, ,, 330 ,, ,,
,, maize ,, 310 ,, ,, 300 ,, ,,

Measures of Superficies.

1 Feddam = 24 Kirats Kamel . . = 5024·336 square yards / 72 Kabbahs . . = 1·038 acre. / 333·333 Square Kassabahs = 4200·833 square metres. / 7465·148 Square Pics .

1 Square Yard = 1·48639 Square Pics = 0·83609 square metre.

1 Acre = 0·96331 Feddan . = 4046·71 square metres.

1 Square Metre = 1·7777 Square Pics . = 1·196 square yds.

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GAZETTE NOTIFICATION.

EXCISE.

Dated the 6th April 1906.

His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, United Provinces, is pleased to fix, under section 7 of the Excise Act, 1896, the duty upon coloured rum, brandy, whisky, and gin, removed for consumption within the Panjab from any distillery licensed under section 5 of the said Act in the United Provinces, at Rs. 6 per imperial gallon or six quart bottles of the strength of London proof, the duty to be increased or reduced in proportion as the strength of the spirit exceeds or is less than London proof.

The duty payable upon spirit which has been rendered effectually and permanently unfit for human consumption is not affected by this Notification.

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INDIAN WHEAT TRADE.

Quantity of wheat exported by sea to foreign countries from Bombay, Karachi and Calcutta, in each month of the years 1903-04 to 1905-06; also total quantity of wheat exported in those years from all ports in British India :—

	Bombay.			Karachi.			Calcutta.			Total from all ports.		
	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
	cwts.	cwts.	cwt.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
April	243,223	465,292	552,662	430,444	1,318,049	715,830	209,162	594,663	159,364	882,829	2,377,994	1,451,945
May	608,648	1,002,789	868,669	921,316	1,373,756	1,539,510	534,419	1,194,165	647,480	2,064,383	3,570,710	3,069,333
June	500,358	484,404	469,965	2,370,674	2,750,656	3,301,340	1,005,746	1,960,925	623,332	3,877,131	4,696,099	4,398,693
July	157,330	291,712	201,428	1,872,824	3,174,418	2,495,772	577,991	760,775	364,782	2,608,482	4,228,000	3,069,231
August	264,723	309,458	158,018	1,720,997	2,930,757	1,884,100	213,024	723,369	41,840	2,199,479	3,963,953	2,084,916
September	356,424	475,379	318,105	2,059,783	2,450 993	435 045	273,301	884,706	27,957	2,689 5 8	3,713,616	840 870
October	316,480	465,900	220,794	1,955,403	2,325,957	593 597	360,601	585,253	103,212	2,652,686	3,377 528	899,583
November	185,502	849,019	220,986	1,955,483	3,331 179	995,557	187,935	1,053,173	133,338	2,328,950	5,294,240	1,349,981
December	462,100	634,775	154,706	1,348,965	3,160,399	654 983	265,590	603,124	172,532	2,076,415	4,449,000	982,221
January	144,903	561,404	172,554	774,249	2,313,959	202,610	385,831	727,019	20,539	1,305,983	3,695,351	395,703
February	290,532	185,777	6,089	459,358	1,369,297	58,421	342,273	329,326	539	1,092,164	1,884,400	65,049
Total for 11 Months	3,530,483	5,775,963	3,363,236	15,879,196	26,750,432	12,906,825	4,365,903	8,618,438	2,294,915	23,778,153	41,161,503	18,604,525
March	160,279	189,475	...	1,505,914	1,621,283	...	466,916	28,222	...	2,133,159	1,839,002	...
Grand Total	3,690,762	5,905,438	...	17,385,110	28,380,715	...	4,832,819	8,646,680	...	25,911,312	43,000,502	...

INDIAN WHEAT TRADE—*continued.*

Arrivals of wheat (in hundredweight) by rail and river in each month of the last three years at Bombay, Karachi, and Calcutta.

	Bombay.			Karachi.			Calcutta.			Total Quantity.		
	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
April	323,345	871,705	1,001,025	554,006	654,431	816,005	451,383	944,677	638,057	1,329,234	2,470,813	2,455,087
May	1,088,608	1,267,125	89 ,920	2,125,263	2,648,168	1,711,151	1,322,283	2,633,731	1,021,774	4 528,154	6,549,022	3,623,845
June	575,160	500,799	759,092	2,644,440	3,381,165	3,842,656	744,347	1,199,690	917,118	3,963,947	5,081,654	5,519,166
July	142,247	319,059	259,528	1,658,630	4,121,563	2,914,601	316,343	618,991	306,590	2,117,220	5,059,613	3,540,719
August	289,259	666,116	375,336	2,168,014	3,993,133	1,282,546	471,637	1,115,208	267,369	2,868,910	5,774,457	1,925,251
September	301,867	537,691	313,830	2,185,844	2,495,286	421,766	673,151	743,672	256,643	3,160,862	3,776,649	992,239
October	382,253	999,009	399,904	1,595,504	2,506,699	993,342	341,951	1,176,720	374,940	2,319,708	4,682,428	1,773,186
November	503,923	557,093	413,498	1,819,485	1,786,994	999,321	541,836	793,022	333,392	2,895,234	3,159,209	1,746,211
December	489,201	825,048	248,799	993,013	2,186,745	415,791	645,742	1,073,682	212,808	2,127,956	4,085,475	877,398
January	374,826	493,933	251,647	799,903	1,675,318	...	541,450	597,353	161,450	1,707,179	2,766,604	...
February	192,831	390,514	171,121	964,140	1,358,202	...	586,531	169,930	183,704	1,743,502	1,918,646	...
Total for 11 Months	4,656,010	7,448,172	5,114,700	17,469,242	26,806,852	...	6,636,654	11,069,626	4,784,145	28,761,906	45,324,600	...
March	254,260	270,958	..	1,419,280	1,299,314	...	592,828	371,047	...	2,266,368	1,887,319	...
GRAND TOTAL	4,910,270	7,719,130	...	18,888,522	28,106,116	...	7,229,482	11,336,673	...	31,028,274	47,211,919	...

Average monthly prices (per cwt.) of wheat at Bombay, Karachi, and Calcutta from April 1903 to March 1906 compiled from the Prices Current published by the Chambers of Commerce, Bombay, Karachi, and Bengal.

	Bombay.* (Delhi No. 1, White Pessy.)			Karachi. (White including bags.)			Calcutta. (Club No. 2.)			Average.		
	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
	R A. P.	R A. P.	R A. P.	R A. P.	R A. P.	R A. P.	R A. P.	R A. P.	R A. P.	R A. P.	R A. P.	R A. P.
April	4 7 6	4 5 0	4 11 0	4 3 4	4 2 5	4 6 0	4 1 7	3 13 7	4 10 2	4 4 4	4 1 9	4 8 7
May	4 7 5	4 2 6	4 10 9	4 3 3	3 15 5	4 5 6	4 0 1	3 12 0	4 9 11	4 3 8	3 15 2	4 7 11
June	4 4 1	4 0 10	4 11 10	4 1 3	3 12 5	4 5 6	3 14 7	3 10 6	4 7 5	4 0 11	3 12 3	4 6 6
July	4 4 6	4 4 2	4 13 0	4 1 2	3 15 5	4 7 0	4 0 8	3 13 3	4 7 5	4 1 2	3 15 5	4 7 10
August	4 7 9	4 9 4	4 15 0	4 3 1	4 3 8	4 9 7	4 1 8	3 14 7	4 8 3	4 3 7	4 3 2	4 9 11
September	4 8 1	4 10 7	4 14 3	4 3 0	4 4 0	4 11 4	4 0 0	3 15 3	4 12 7	4 3 5	4 4 1	4 13 5
October	4 7 6	4 10 3	5 0 3	4 2 7	4 3 7	4 13 1	4 0 5	3 14 10	4 12 3	4 2 10	4 3 9	4 13 8
November	4 9 6	4 7 0	5 2 0	4 3 5	4 3 3	5 0 2	4 0 4	3 13 11	4 15 7	4 3 5	4 2 9	5 0 5
December	4 7 0	4 7 1	5 1 11	4 2 11	4 3 11	4 15 7	4 0 4	3 15 3	5 3 11	4 3 6	4 3 9	5 0 9
January	4 7 3	4 6 1	5 4 10	4 3 5	4 3 4	5 2 1	4 0 8	3 14 8	6 3 0	4 2 10	4 2 11	5 4 3
February	4 5 10	4 9 6	5 5 0	4 2 11	4 5 9	5 1 11	4 2 2	4 5 6	6 3 0	4 3 7	4 6 1	5 1 10
March	4 8 0	4 10 2	(a)5 1 9	4 4 1	4 7 9	(a)5 0 7	4 1 5	4 10 0	(a)5 13 11	4 3 8	4 8 1	...

(a) Price for the first week of March 1906.

* Bombay prices include town duty plus 7 per cent.

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.

For the week ending 7th April 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign— Imports by sea into	Calcutta	lbs.	1,030,060
	Bombay	„	188,331
	Madras	„	260,899
Indian— Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	980,962
	Bombay	„	6,152,600
	Madras	„	...

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	23,051,761
	Bombay	„	1,390,298
	Karachi	„	1415,432
	Madras	„	3,259,607
	Rangoon	„	772,839

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	5,485,622
	Bombay	„	1,436,365
	Karachi	„	1,988,607
	Madras	„	293,091
	Rangoon	„	799,850

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	2,620,118
	Bombay	„	2,260,478
	Karachi	„	1,174,535
	Madras	„	741,297
	Rangoon	„	1,535,257

Piece Goods.

(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta	cwt.	32,838†
	Bombay	„	*
	Karachi	„	18,722
	Madras	„	4,964

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea	cwt.	1,340
	Coastwise	„	31,670
	By rail	„	116,236
Imports into Karachi	by rail	„	21,413
„ „	Calcutta by rail and river		17,594†

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta	cwt.	217,944†
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags	No.	8,827,385
	„ cloth	yds.	6,430,400
	Jute	cwt.	212,323
Exports by sea from Chittagong	Jute	„	...

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta	lbs.	131,384†
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	250,319
	Chittagong	„	...

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	6,554†
	Karachi by rail	„	...
	Bombay by rail	„	30,465
	Bombay coastwise	„	4,859
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	470
	Bombay	„	1,153
	Karachi	„	134,669

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta	cwt.	153,63
	Chittagong	„	...
	Bombay	„	20,38
	Karachi	„	8,61
	Madras	„	...
	Rangoon	„	960,33

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	18,385†
	Bombay by rail	„	7,358
	Karachi by rail	„	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	22,033
	Bombay	„	21,632
	Karachi	„	...

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	35,471†
	Bombay by rail	„	12,547
	Karachi by rail	„	53,896
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	15
	Bombay	„	10,470
	Karachi	„	21,828

* Not available. † Incomplete.

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 7th APRIL.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From All other foreign countries.	Total.
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
Calcutta	...	57,322	...	57,322
Bombay	...	...	..	...
Karachi	...	...	...	...
Madras	...	...	...	...

Exports by sea from Burma to	Calcutta	galls.	2,255,000
	Chittagong	„	600,000
	Bombay	„	...
	Karachi	„	...
	Madras	„	...
	Foreign ports	„	...

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 7th APRIL.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	10,017	...	1,050	107	47	260	11,481
France	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Austria-Hungary	22,248	...	27,149	26,401	...	...	75,798
Other European Countries	2,001	...	7,004	12,400	...	...	21,405
Java	...	...	...	19,918	...	...	19,918
Mauritius	...	...	41,927	2,965	...	..	44,892
Other Non-European Countries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Total refined		173,494
Total unrefined		35,224
Grand Total	cwt.	208,718

TOTAL GROSS INDIAN SEA AND LAND CUSTOMS REVENUE (EXCLUDING SALT REVENUE)

(IN THOUSANDS OF RUPEES)

	IN THE TWELVE MONTHS, APRIL TO MARCH, OF									
	1896-97	1897-98	1898-99	1899-1900	1900-01	1901-02	1902-03	1903-04	1904-05	1905-06
SEA CUSTOMS										
IMPORTS										
Special Import Duties										
Arms, ammunition, and military stores	3,72	3,57	3,47	3,08	2,83	3,59	3,57	3,49	4,17	4,08
Liquors—										
Ale, beer, porter, cider and other fermented liquors	1,90	1,80	2,05	2,04	2,01	2,29	2,39	2,54	2,88	3,12
Spirits and liqueurs	59,90	60,61	63,66	64,91	64,06	64,97	69,63	75,16	76,59	90,27
Wines	4,12	3,72	3,82	3,60	3,65	3,50	3,91	3,80	3,74	3,96
Opium	3	5	3	3	3	3	4	3	4	3
Petroleum	41,26	53,18	46,97	43,14	49,27	52,58	53,77	44,00	45,88	36,65
Sugar (countervailing duties, 1899)	—	—	—	8,32	22,71	40,48	17,04	2,32	13	1
Sugar (countervailing duties, 1902)	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,33	21	9	1
General Import Duties										
Articles of food and drink (excluding sugar)	14,37	14,11	14,05	14,61	16,04	15,14	14,58	15,46	18,16	19,23
Sugar (ordinary duties)	16,22	24,60	21,32	17,67	29,86	31,93	25,13	29,27	32,49	39,74
Chemicals, drugs, medicines and narcotics, and dyeing and tanning materials	9,18	10,65	10,74	9,99	11,09	12,09	12,07	13,84	13,90	14,45
Cotton manufactures—										
Piece goods, grey	50,33	45,02	46,10	48,17	49,58	50,30	53,16	45,75	56,47	64,92
„ white	20,05	18,71	17,27	18,55	21,21	27,26	17,73	21,57	28,73	29,37
„ coloured	19,70	14,29	19,41	23,02	20,21	23,56	22,99	27,92	31,64	33,19
Other goods	1,70	1,55	1,85	2,67	2,45	2,64	2,27	3,59	4,86	5,42
Metals and manufactures of—										
Silver, bullion and coin	32,65	43,39	28,63	24,32	13,35	30,64	39,41	40,27	41,12	29,33
Other metals and manufactures of metals.	20,25	22,24	19,86	17,09	22,19	23,40	30,62	34,19	34,63	30,67
Oils (excluding petroleum)	1,65	2,42	1,63	1,32	1,57	2,33	1,42	93	96	1,24
Manufactured articles	50,88	43,66	49,88	52,35	58,76	61,18	61,37	70,81	81,60	83,07
Raw materials and unmanufactured articles	8,81	9,95	8,46	6,52	9,66	8,86	8,28	9,18	10,29	12,09
TOTAL IMPORTS	3,56,72	3,73,52	3,59,25	3,61,40	4,00,53	4,56,77	4,42,71	4,44,33	4,88,37	5,00,85
EXCISE DUTY ON COTTON GOODS	11,23	11,62	13,75	13,40	12,16	17,70	18,66	20,77	23,82	27,07
EXPORT DUTIES—										
Rice and Rice-flour	75,52	72,48	1,01,12	87,64	85,26	91,77	1,26,56	1,20,31	1,31,86	1,14,82
LAND CUSTOMS AND MISCELLANEOUS	5,68	6,51	6,11	7,66	7,83	8,74	8,72	9,53	10,22	8,81
GRAND TOTAL	4,49,15	4,64,13	4,80,23	4,70,10	5,05,78	5,74,98	5,96,65	5,94,94	6,54,27	6,51,55
Provincial distribution of Imports and Exports										
Bengal — Imports	1,33,53	1,31,96	1,34,34	1,47,12	1,56,62	1,66,50	1,60,50	1,50,13	1,73,04	1,79,10
Bengal — Exports	13,30	13,47	22,81	21,29	21,72	16,49	17,36	18,60	21,83	24,30
Bombay — Imports	1,45,92	1,53,05	1,43,30	1,27,69	1,39,38	1,67,59	1,73,45	1,77,46	1,86,36	1,90,33
Bombay — Exports	2,79	3,04	3,68	2,88	3,05	2,84	3,36	2,73	2,51	2,06
Sind — Imports	23,28	27,03	22,12	27,40	37,08	52,63	38,26	33,29	39,27	46,07
Sind — Exports	62	94	1,69	1,16	1,24	2,09	1,43	1,53	1,89	1,94
Madras — Imports	28,32	32,44	28,55	30,73	32,53	38,09	38,26	40,49	42,74	39,01
Madras — Exports	8,05	7,46	4,80	5,63	3,02	5,86	7,67	9,83	7,09	4,78
Burma — Imports	25,67	29,04	30,94	28,46	34,92	31,96	32,24	42,95	46,96	46,34
Burma — Exports	50,76	47,57	68,14	56,68	56,23	64,49	96,74	87,62	98,54	8[illegible]

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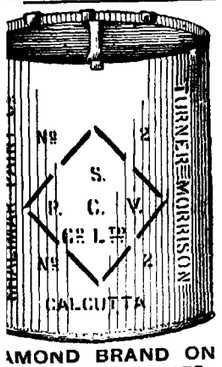
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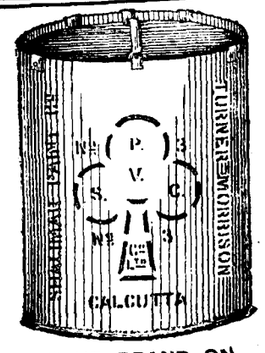


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The Indian Trade Journal.

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NOTES.

❦❦❦

Goods, irrespective of nationality, are now entering the port of **Dalny free** of duty.

❦❦

The prospectus of the **Mayo School of Art**, Lahore, announces that an extensive boarding house has been opened in connection with the School, for the convenience of students from the outlying districts.

❦❦

The Secretary of State for India, in reply to a question from Lord R. Cecil, said that he was not aware of any negotiations that were in progress with regard to the **introduction of Indian coolies into the Transvaal.**

❦❦

The conference of 76 representatives of the **Chilian nitrate industry,** which was held at Iquique, had reached no agreement with regard to the continuation of the combination, when the last mail left Europe.

❦❦

The **exports of cotton** from the **Central Provinces** in the year just closed was 218,000 bales, as against 240,000 bales in the year previous, that being a record. **Berar** exported 478,800 bales of cotton, against 258,000 bales in the year previous.

❦❦

The **Japanese** Government expect that the new **Customs Tariff Bill**, which passed the Diet in

a slightly amended form on March 27th, will increase the revenue by 2,500,000 yen. The measure is decidedly protective and retaliatory in character.

❦

The exports of **Rubber from Brazil** were, in the year 1904, 31,863 tons, of 1,000 kilos, valued at £11,219,393, and in the year 1903, 31,710 tons, of 1,000 kilos, valued at £9,733,041, the increase in 1904 being 153 tons, of 1,000 kilos, valued at £1,486,352. The increase is accounted for by the rise in prices.

❦

The **Rangoon** Port Trust have expended large amounts of money on protecting the river bank, which is being eaten away by the stream. A great wall of laterite was built to protect the Strand Bank sometime ago; this wall, however, is subsiding, and the bank shows evident signs of erosion. The menace to the port is serious.

❦

The "Punjab Gazette" contains the Draft Order of the **Delhi Municipality Electric Tramway**. The promoters of the tramway are:— Messrs. Arthur Grey, of Lahore; Thomas Wilson, of the firm o John Fleming and Company, of Bombay; and Robert Forrest, of the firm of Messrs. Killick Nixon and Company, of Bombay. The line is to be opened within two years.

❦

The total of the **Seaborne trade of Burma** during February amounted to 666½ lakhs, showing an increase of 150¼ lakhs over the same period in 1905. The value of imports entered at the various ports of Burma amounted to a total of Rs. 2,81,97,243, being an increase of 86¾ lakhs over the imports of the same period of the previous year. The total value of exports cleared from the various ports of Burma amounted to Rs. 3,84,35,256, the increase being 64 lacs.

❦

Mr. Chamberlain was asked by an Indian gentleman residing in London to state his views on the position of **India in any scheme for colonial preference.** In reply he stated that he did not desire at the present moment to say anything for publication in reference to the possible position of India further than that if a conference on the subject of tariff reform is held the views of India as expressed by her representatives, ought, in his opinion, to have the same weight as if India were a self-governing colony.

❦

The **imports of rice into Brazil** in 1904 declined 15·57 per cent. The decline, Mr. Consul General Chapman states, is due to increased duties, and the efforts to induce the cultivation of this article, in which the Governor of the State of Rio de Janero has been most active. Home-grown rice is, he says, of excellent quality, and is one of those articles that would more properly figure amongst exports, provided the cost of production was not increased by the protective policy of the Government, and if the causes that tend to restrict immigration of labour were removed. As will be seen from the review of the consular report on the trade of the United States for 1905, on page 97, the increase in home grown rice also makes a marked feature of the economic progress of the Northern Republic.

❦

The **Postal Union Congress,** after having been twice postponed, opened at Rome on the 7th of April. The Postmaster-General appointed as delegates from the United Kingdom, and various British Colonies, Mr. Henry Babington Smith, C.B., C.S.I., Secretary to the Post Office; Mr. Arthur B. Walkley, Principal Clerk in the Secretary's Office; and Mr. Henry Davies, I.S.O., Chief Examiner in the Accountant-General's Department. Mr. Arthur G. Ferard, Principal Clerk for Foreign and Colonial Business, accompanied the British delegation as Secretary, and Mr. E. J. Harrington, of the Accountant-General's Department, as an attaché.

❦

When the last mail left England there was friction in the **Clyde shipbuilding** and engineering trades on the subject of the payment of wages, the workmen desiring their wages to be paid weekly instead of fortnightly in the district, and threatening to strike if their wishes were not agreed to. They stated that out of the total membership of the Trades Unions 16,069 were in favour of striking, and 2,728 against it. The employers declined to promise to introduce weekly pay days, and claimed the right to consult membership of their organisation. This was agreed to by the representatives of the workmen, on the understanding that the employers would give a definite reply before the end of April.

❦

By a Proclamation issued in the "Colonial Government Gazette" of the 3rd April, the **importation into Natal** directly or indirectly **of all animals from India** is prohibited, subject to the reservation that healthy animals may be imported with the permission in writing of the Principal Veterinary Surgeon, Natal, subject to such quarantine as he may in each case direct and to such other conditions as it appears to him may be necessary. The penalty for every animal imported in contravention of Proclamation is a fine not exceeding £50, with the alternative of imprisonment, with or without hard labour, until the payment of the fine, the period of imprisonment not to exceed three months.

❦

Reuter reports that:—"President Roosevelt, in a speech, said it 'would ultimately be necessary to consider the adoption of a **progressive tax on the transfer of unhealthily swollen fortunes,** to prevent individuals inheriting over a certain amount." This speech has created much sensation in America, and the passage in it relating to swollen fortunes is described as advanced socialism, which, it is anticipated, will overshadow pending economic questions. From this it would appear that the proposal referred to in our issue of the 5th instant, to the effect that all incomes above a certain point should be confiscated as pernicious, may be regarded as approaching the realm of practical politics more nearly than had been supposed.

❦

His Majesty's Consul-General **at Hankow** (Mr. E. D. H. Fraser, C.M.G.) alludes to the **native dealers** of his district being able to obtain from their fellows in Shanghai assorted parcels of piece goods made up of small quantities of many varieties, and remarks that it would not pay foreign firms to compete in such transactions, which would involve a large stock on the spot, even if they could work on as small margins as the natives. Indian yarn, he reports, is likewise in the hands of Chinese Shanghai traders, but Japanese yarn tends to fall to Hankow Japanese firms who import direct. The Wuchang mills are doing exceedingly well in Cantonese hands, and the Customs figures are expected to prove their competition to be serious.

❦

The Shanghai Customs Authorities require that the **numbers** as well as the **marks** of packages of foreign merchandise should be stated on "Foreign Goods Passes," when the merchandise is to be re-exported with benefit of drawback. A full explanatory memorandum on the subject has been drawn up by the Acting Commercial Attaché at Peking. From this memorandum it appears that the regulation is not a new one, but dates from 1886; and was originally framed to facilitate the identification of foreign goods on re-exportation from Shanghai, at which port alone it is applicable. If the serial numbering of packages be found impracticable, one and the same number may be given to each package of a consignment, provided the same number be not used for subsequent consignments. Further, certain articles (*e.g.*, kerosene, potatoes, sugar, flour, rice, coke and coal) are not required to be numbered.

❦

In the Review of the Annual Report on the working of the **Punjab Alienation of Land Act** for the year ending 30th September last, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor remarks that he has read with much interest Sir Lewis Tupper's observations on the effect of the Act upon trade and credit. "The contraction of extravagant expenditure on the part of *zamindars* (landowners), besides being a wholesome feature of the results of the Act, it has no doubt says the Resolution, set free a considerable amount of capital, which might be devoted to developing Indian industries, and there are signs that the money-lending community are now beginning to turn to more profitable and legitimate spheres of commercial enterprise than the exploitation of the *zamindar*. If, as has been proposed, the duties of Government with regard to trade and commerce are now concentrated in one bureau, and placed under the charge of the Director of Land Records, more light will be thrown on this movement, and Government will continue to watch it with interest."

❦

The following statement, showing the quantity of **coal imported into Singapore** during the years 1904 and 1905, has been drawn up by Mr. A. Stuart, Registrar of Imports and Exports at that port:—

From	1904.	1905.
	Tons.	Tons.
United Kingdom	53,014*	64,335
Japan	400,628	261,553
Bengal	108,358	172,374
Australia	36,274	66,720
Dutch Borneo	3,977	22,786
Labuan and Sarwak	3,231	5,650
Tongkin	4,613	4,944
TOTAL	610,095	598,362

* Includes 10,045 tons of patent fuel.

❦

Sir Henry Cotton in the Commons put certain questions to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the subject of the **status of the British Indians in the Transvaal.** Mr. Churchill in reply said:— The Secretary of State understands that certain trains by which, as a matter of fact, coloured persons seldom travel, are to be reserved for white people, but that special arrangements will be made on application for well-known coloured people desiring to travel by them. He also understands that restrictions have been found unavoidable in regard to their use of the Johannesburg electric tramways. The registration fee of £3 and the prohibition of ownership of land, which are in accordance with the Law 3 of 1885, are being enforced. In the Orange River Colony the law referred to has not been as yet amended. The grievances of Indians in the Transvaal have, I need scarcely say, the cordial sympathy of His Majesty's Government, who will make every endeavour to obtain their redress, but, as I pointed out in debate on February 28, we lie under difficulties in dealing with such questions in Colonies which enjoy, or are about to receive responsible government.

❦

The **"Agricultural Gazette,"** published under the orders of the Director of Agriculture, **Central Provinces,** Nagpur, is an intersting and valuable

publication, filled with practical hints, admirably expressed, on all matters that appertain to agriculture. Besides indicating new and improved methods of cultivation and gardening, it reports and criticises the proceedings of Agricultural Associations, and concerns itself with the financial problems of the agricultural population. The Journal is now in the second year of its existence. It is to be hoped that not only will it have a long and useful term of existence, but that it will have imitators in other provinces of India. Such provincial Agricultural Gazettes are the most useful form in which publications of this kind could appear. Written by men on the spot for the instruction of those with whom their work brings them into almost daily contact, they must be of far greater practical use than any Journal could be which concerned itself, not with details, and details are everything in agriculture, but merely with general principles, and which instead of catering for a single homogeneous community, was forced to consider the needs of an immense and varied population. It is certain, however, that the value of even such a publication as the "Agricultural Gazette" of the Central Provinces would be enhanced if local vernacular technical expressions were translated into English, for the benefit of those unacquainted with the particular language spoken in the province or district.

❦

In our issue of the 12th of April we gave information regarding a description of **imitation broadcloth of Russian origin found in the Quetta market.** Certain matters relating to the samples obtained were in doubt, and specific enquiries were addressed to the Agent to the Governor General in Baluchistan. In a letter just received the Agent to the Governor General forwards information furnished by the Political Agent, Quetta-Pishin, on the points in question as follows :—

"(1) The samples sent were all of the superior quality, except one (the black piece) which was of the inferior quality. I now send a sample of the intermediate quality, sold in Quetta at 12 annas per yard. There is apparently no great demand for it.

"(2) The goods are not stamped on every yard; there is only one stamp on each piece.

"(3) The breadth of the middling and inferior qualities is half that of the superior quality at the time of its first manufacture.

"(4) I have not been able to ascertain the derivation of word 'Mahut,' but it seems to be a word in common use in Sind and other parts of India, as well as in Persia, to designate what is called elsewere 'Banat,' that is, as I understand it, broadcloth. 'Shikan' is from the Persian 'Shikastan' to break; and the meaning of the name, as explained to me, is 'market breaking Mahut', *i.e.*, 'Mahut' which breaks, or injures, the market for other 'Mahut' by reason of its greater cheapness. I am told that there is a cheap stuff made in Russia corresponding to the 'Kashmira' fabrics made in India which is known as 'Kashmira Shikan'."

The sample will be cut, and sent to the public bodies to which the last samples were distributed, one specimen being retained in the Commercial Intelligence Department for inspection.

❦

In a circular, drawing the attention of Peers to the question concerning the experimental **cultivation of sugar beet in the United Kingdom,** Lord Denbigh points out that considerable and increasing interest is now being taken in the possible establishment of a home sugar industry, "which, as is realized by all who have in any way studied the matter, might open up a new era of prosperity for British agriculture by providing profitable employment in our arable districts, and so tend towards the solution of the problem of maintaining our rural population on the land." His lordship, premising that the present Government, by reason of their large majority, have now an exceptionally favourable opportunity for giving, on the question of Excise, such a guarantee as might be sufficiently attractive to capitalists, submits that every encouragement should be offered to those who might be willing to undertake the experiment. Enclosed with the letter is a copy of the correspondence which passed between Lord Denbigh, on the one hand, and Lord Onslow and Mr. Austen Chamberlain, on the other, during the existence of Mr. Balfour's Administration. Writing as Chancellor of the Exchequer, on December 20, 1904, Mr. Austen Chamberlain said he could quite understand that heavy initial capital expenditure was required to start the new industry on a profitable basis, and that, however promising the ultimate prospects, it might be a year or two before the enterprise could show any return to investors. This he considered might indeed be one of the cases in which the natural course of industry would ultimately be helped, not hindered, by aid given in the initial stages of a new manufacture. But such a change would be a great departure from the fiscal policy which had prevailed in England for the last 60 years, and the then Government were precluded from making it during the current Parliament by the pledges which they had given to the country. Lord Denbigh adds that he afterwards decided to do nothing further for the time being, as the prices for sugar were of an abnormally fluctuating nature, and it seemed advisable to wait until the market settled down and some opinion could be formed of the probable normal price under the new conditions.

❦

The Cataract Construction Co., in the year 1890, startled the world by proposing to utilise for the **generation of electricity** the power which for millions of years had been running to waste at **Niagara.** Its scheme provided for 200,000 Horse Power [illegible]

American side of the falls, and its 5,000 Horse Power turbines then formed one of the wonders of the engineering world. The company now distributes regularly something under a 100,000 Horse Power, supplying the town of Buffalo, 30 miles away and also the Carborundum Company, the Union Carbide Co., and other firms close to the falls. The Electric and Hydraulic Co. have also constructed a station, with the intention of bringing their capacity up to to 135,000 Horse Power. On the Canadian side, the Canadian Niagara Power Co. (whose turbine units are of 10,000 Horse Power, working under a head of 135 feet, and generating a three-phase current, at 12,000 volts, which can be stepped up to 40,000 or 60,000 volts for long distance transmission); the Ontario Power Co.; and the Toronto Power Co., have generating stations. It is estimated that, if all plants were working to their full capacity, the 700,000 Horse Power developed would represent about 30 per cent. of the water going over the falls at minimum flow. So rapid had been the development of electric generation stations at Niagara that it looked as if the words of Professor Ayrton, that "Niagara, which had inspired us and are ancestry with reverential awe, may appeal to our descendants as only a vast electric generating station," were about to come true. Recently, however, steps have been taken to preserve the scenic beauty of the falls. To this end, an **International Waterways Commission,** composed of members from Canada and from the United States, was established. The **report** of the Commission has now been published. It recalls in a way the reports of the Alaska Boundary Commissions, for the Canadian Commissioners and their United States colleagues do not exactly agree respecting the measures which it is proposed to take. The Canadians contend that, if the scenic beauty of the Falls is now impaired, it is due to the works existing on the American side, for not one Canadian Company has its intake above the Falls. They suggest that no more charters should be granted to power companies on the Canadian side, and insist that, if any agreement is entered into with the United States, such treaty should not endure for more than 25 years, and that it should include all International Waterways, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and not simply Niagara alone. The American Commissioner's Report, which has been submitted to Congress, recommends that legislation be passed, based on a treaty between America and Canada, to prevent further depletion of the water, to maintain the present scenic effects, and to regulate the electric supplying companies which are using the falls for power. It is proposed to limit the diversion of the water on the American side to 28,500 cubic feet a second, and on the Canadian side to 36,000 cubic feet a second. As, however, the power generated on the Canadian side is largely used in the United States, the advantage to Canada is more apparent and real. The report states that the diversion of water by works already authorised is likely to injure the Falls, and will possibly leave the American Fall dry.

❦

An article by Mr. Price-Williams in the "Financial and Commercial Supplement of the Times" deals with the tendency to **co-operation or amalgamation among British Railways** as a means of reducing competition and diminishing cost of working. The question of the State purchase of railways—being in fact the consummation of a policy of amalgamation—naturally comes under discussion, and the writer shows—what was not before generally known—that statutory powers of purchase by the State already exist under the Regulation of Railway Act, 1844. These powers exist under what is known as the "Gladstone Purchase Clause," which is so called because it was introduced at the instance of Mr. W. E. Gladstone. This was done "quite as an afterthought" for indeed the extent to which railways would develop was then foreseen by no one. Mr. Price-Williams describes the provisions of the clause and the legal cognizance already taken of it as follows:—"Not only has the State compulsory powers to purchase British and Irish railways on prescribed terms, but it was forced by nearly all the railway companies to exercise these powers as recently as 1871, when the telegraphs were acquired by the Post Office. The telegraph companies, who were merely lessees for very limited periods as a rule of the railway telegraphs, where by some mistake considered by the Government to be the real owners, and the telegraphs were purchased from them on that assumption. But the railway companies then stepped in and claimed under the 'Gladstone clause' much to the surprise and discomfiture of the Government, for the compulsory purchase of their property in the telegraphs and wayleave rights. The satisfaction of the railway companies' statutory claims cost the Government some £3,000,000." "This clause" he continues, "authorizes the Government to acquire 'on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen', after an interval of 21 years from the passing of the Act, all the future railways in the United Kingdom on giving the companies three months' notice, the terms of purchase being defined at 25 years' purchase of the average of the three preceding years' 'divisible profits', claims for prospective profits being referable to arbitration." * * * * * "The Act of 1844 provides that if the divisible profits should equal or exceed 10 per cent. of the capital of the railways, then the rates and regulations would be subject to revision. And so long as such revised rates and regulations were in force, the option of State purchase would not be exercised without the consent of the companies. But the divisible profits have never, I believe, reached 10 per cent. except in the case of one company, and the numerous subsequent revisions of rates and regulations have taken place not under the Act of 1844 but under special Acts, notably those of 1873, 1888, and 1891. There is, therefore, every reason to believe that the 'Gladstone purchase clause' has not been affected by such revisions and might at any time be put into operation." "There is only one instance in which a Government has proposed to exercise the 'Gladstone clause' provisions in the Act of 1844, and that was in the case

of the railways in Ireland in 1866." * * * * "The agreements recently come to by the London and North-Western Railway and Midland Railway Companies for administrative co-operation are a sufficient acknowledgment by those companies that the present working expenditure is excessive and capable of reduction. There can be no question that similar and more comprehensive administrative combinations (approved and sanctioned by the Board of Trade) of the principal railways in this country would result in the large economies needed to reduce the present excessive **working expenditure (62 per cent.** of the gross receipts) to something like the more normal and average figure of 52 per cent maintained during the period of 34 years which preceded the rapid and almost continuous increase which has occurred during the last 15 years." * * * * * "Even if a large measure of co-operation should tend in the future towards State purchase—as in my opinion it inevitably would—this prospect need not deter the railway companies. The 'Gladstone clause' purchase terms are based on the average annual divisible profits', and the greater the saving in unnecessary expenditure the higher the divisible profits and the higher the purchase price."

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A good beginning has been made with **Co-operative Credit Societies** in the **Central Provinces,** in some of the districts of the Nagpur Division and in Hoshangabad. The first work has been commenced in the districts where conciliation of debts has been undertaken, and the experience acquired by officers who have carried out these conciliation proceedings is being taken advantage of in devising schemes which will be acceptable to the people, and are therefore likely to meet with success. How far conciliation has progressed may be gathered from the fact that in the Hoshangabad district debts amounting to Rs 73,00,000 have been remitted. This of course means that, though a considerable portion of these debts were hopelessly bad and irrecoverable, many people will be given a fresh start in life. The " Agricultural Gazette " of the Central Provinces gives extracts from a note read by Mr. Crosthwait, Assistant Commissioner, Hoshangabad, at the Agricultural Association held at Bandrabhan Fair. In this note Mr. Crosthwait explained the aims, duties, possibilities, and limitations of Co-operative Credit Societies in general, and in the Central Provinces in particular. " **The foundation** upon which the structure of a Society rests is, " said Mr. Crosthwait, mutual trust and confidence amongst its members. If there reside in the same village or group of villages, or if there be amongst the members of any particular class or caste at least ten individuals who have sufficient knowledge of each other's character and circumstances to warrant such mutual trust and confidence towards each other as I have mentioned, those ten men may apply to the Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies for registration as a Society. With their application they should submit a memorandum which should explain for what purpose it is intended to start a Society and the manner in which it is proposed to raise the capital. Proposed by-laws which will govern the working and organization of the Society should also be submitted for the sanction of the Registrar. When the Registrar has satisfied himself that the Society will, if registered, have a reasonable prospect of success before it, and that its constitution complies with the requirements of the law and of the rules made by the Local Administration under the Act, he will proceed to register the Society. After registration the Society becomes a body corporate, the individual members of which are all jointly and severally responsible for the liabilities of the Society. Let us suppose that a Society having gone through the preliminary steps I have mentioned has sprung into actual existence. The next step that lies before it is the **employment of its capital** in granting loans to members, for it is to members only that the Society is able to lend its money, the one exception being that an Urban Society may lend to a Rural Society. You all know that perhaps the most weighty reason why a money-lender charges a high rate of interest to his clients is because he is bound to consider the risk which his business entails. I mean that he must expect that some at least of the money which he lends out will never be repaid to him. His scheme of business therefore necessitates that those of his clients who will repay the loans he has made to them will also repay the loans of his defaulters. These who pay, in fact, must make good the losses caused him by those who do not pay, together with interest sufficiently high to yield the money-lender a satisfactory return for the whole of the capital which he has embarked in his speculations. In a Co-operative Credit Society, however, which numbers amongst its members only men whose character for honesty is of the highest order, the element of risk, as far as such risk is caused by failure to pay just debts, is so small that it can be left out of consideration. A Society, therefore, can easily afford to lend money at a low rate of interest. Further a body corporate existing only for the mutual benefit of its members need not realize the same amount of profit as a private individual, because its expenses and its necessities are not so great. When you consider what I have said it will most probably occur to you that if these Societies prosper the business of the money-lender must decay. But further reflection will also tell you that it is open to the money-lender to invest his money in these Societies, and thereby secure for himself a certain return which will probably be as great as that which he at present obtains, because the **risk of failure to** pay has been reduced to a minimum, and consequently expensive legal proceedings and bad debts have not to be reckoned with. Nor, indeed, can these Societies even grant loans to all who require them, because, while human nature continues to be what it is,

mutual trust and confidence cannot be expected to become universal. The field of operations which lies open to the money-lender is a very large one It embraces in fact the whole of impecunious humanity, whereas the work of these Societies cannot ever be extended beyond those amongst whom mutual trust and confidence exist. Again as these Societies must, if they succeed, eventually divert some of that vast capital which is now absorbed in money-lending, into channels which will lead to the industrial development and prosperity of the country, I cannot imagine any man who has the welfare of India at heart wishing the Co-operative Credit Society Movement anything but success, and doing all in his power to aid it. The affairs of a Society are controlled by a committee which is elected by members of the Society from their own number. The chief officers of the Society, that is to say the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer, should be members of the committee and are elected by the vote of the members of the Society at its annual general meeting. The committee meet as often as the requirements of the Society business demand, and their work comprises the consideration of members' applications for loans, and such other executive matters as demand attention from time to time. They correspond directly with the officer of Government to whom the charge of these Societies in this district has been entrusted. The functions of the officer-in-charge are those of guide, counsellor and friend, and he in his turn refers for advice and assistance to the Registrar." After showing what the Co-operative Credit Societies were already doing he continued: "The rate of interest charged in all Rural Societies in this district is for the present 9 per cent. per annum, or Rs. 0-12-0 per cent. per mensem. But as membership increases and the position of these Societies becomes more secure, the rate of interest will be gradually decreased until it reaches 6 per cent. When interest has thus been decreased and the **reserve fund** of these Societies has reached a sum equal to twice their liabilities, profits will be distributed amongst members, according to the share held by each. Till then, however, profits will not be distributed amongst members but will be carried over to the reserve fund. You will have seen that in the starting of these initial Societies the Government and Court of Wards have both given encouragement in the shape of loans. The interest charged by the Court of Wards is only $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. per annum, and in my opinion the leading and public-spirited malguzars of this district could give no better proof of their desire for the welfare of their tenantry than by coming forward and assisting to finance, to organize, and to start Co-operative Credit Societies on their estates. Before sitting down, I should like to remark that these Societies are still in their infancy. This time last year they were not in existence at all, but to-day we can point to six Societies with a membership roll numbering 335 members and with a paid up capital of Rs. 13,904-6-6. Of this capital Rs. 10,144 have been given out in loans. Nor, though these banks are but infants, need we be afraid that they will succumb before they have had time to develop into men. Just as an infant is unable to provide for itself and is dependent on the good will and attention of others who have had more experience of life for its continued existence so do these infant banks of ours require all the sympathy and kind treatment that can be extended to them. If they receive this sympathy, there is no doubt that they will be able to take care of themselves and to fight their own battles before very long."

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The Secretary of State has sanctioned the establishment, at Dehra Dun, of a **Scientific Research Institute** in connection with the **Forest Department**. The Dehra Dun Forest School is also to be given the status of a college. Among the officers to be appointed will be Professors of Botany, of Chemistry, of Entomology, of Geology and of Economic Forest Products, as well as a Superintendent of Working Plans. Each scientific branch will have its own professor, who, besides giving lectures, will devote his time to his own branch of study. Forest research will be concentrated in one centre, and it is expected that considerable advantage will result to the **commercial** community, as systematic attention will be paid to its special enquiries and needs.

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Mr. H. M. Maze, His Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul, and Acting Commissioner of Chinese Customs, **Szemao,** in his notes on the **trade** of the town **for the September quarter of 1905 says:** "As a rule the amount of revenue during the third quarter of the year is the lowest of the four, trade being hampered very much by the rainy season. However, we have had an increase for this quarter in comparison with similar periods in bygone years. The explanation of this increase is not due to the growing development of trade, however, but to the late arrival of many Muhammadan caravans from Burma, who brought in a good many young deer horns and Burmese knives, etc., and whose goods should have appeared in the statistics of the second quarter. Export trade was poor, and there is little hope for its improvement. The internal trade has secured an advance in almost every item of commerce, with the exception of cotton raw which, though forming the chief article, has, owing to failure of crops during the year 1904, diminished to a certain degree. Nevertheless, dealers have made good profit by means of speculation in this commodity on account of scarcity in the Szemao market."

IRRIGATION WITH FERTILIZATION.

THE following extract from **The Nile in 1904**, by Sir William Willcocks, is very suggestive :—

"The colour of Nile water is generally a pale yellow, but in June when the first indications of the coming flood are given by a continuous gentle rise of the river from its minimum gauge, the water changes to green and remains so for two or three weeks. This green water has a very disagreeable taste and odour, and is especially objectionable when the Nile has been very low and the rise is a slow one. In June 1900 it was extraordinarily bad, and the river water was so poor in oxygen that standing on Kasr-el-Nil bridge at Cairo one could see the surface of the water covered with fish which apparently could only live near the surface. In the deep reaches near Kalabsha in Nubia, the fish died in myriads. This green water is attributed by some to the immense amount of vegetable matter brought down by the White Nile from the Sudd region. Some say that it comes principally with the first rise of the Sobat river. But the generally accepted theory to-day is that the green water is the result of vegetable growths from germs in the water itself, and that wherever or whenever the current becomes exceedingly slack they multiply greatly. Upstream of the Assuan dam in June 1903 the water was extraordinarily green and exceedingly objectionable. As it was shot out of the upper sluices of the dam and broken up into spray on the downstream side of the dam it became so purified that I found it difficult to understand that the water flowing past Elephantine Island was what I had seen at Shellal."

Tout ça donne furieusement à penser. If the oxygen was exhausted it was so certainly because it was used by some organisms in the elaboration of matter. And since there are in the soil certain bacteria capable of fixing free nitrogen and rendering it available for plant life, there is an actual probability that some such bacterium exists in water. If it were found to be so, a new era of irrigation cum-fertilization might be inaugurated. It might then become possible to grow a description of green manure crop in an irrigation canal and to discharge on to the fields the nitrogenous matter accumulated in transit, for it may be assumed that such free nitrogen as was removed from the water and converted to the use of organic life would be continuously replaced by a fresh supply from the atmosphere.

The purpose of this article is not to assert that such bacteria exist, for such knowledge as the writer possesses is borrowed from scientific friends who have been good enough to correspond with him. But so far as can be learned the existence of such bacteria is not even improbable, and the idea is now suggested in the hope that persons possessing the requisite knowledge may thresh it out.

It seems to be agreed among such persons that the solubility of nitrogen in water follows the law of that the diffusion of gases and is therefore small; and that, while it is perfectly possible that some surface-living organism might act in the way suggested, the point could be determined only by investigation. At present no such organisms appear to have been discovered; but no search for them has been made, and only a short time has elapsed since the bacteria now sold for soil inoculation were, so to speak, run to earth.

It seems probable that the greenness of the early flood water in the Nile is due to luxuriant growth of minute freshwater algæ and that this luxuriant growth is rendered possible by the large amount of dead organic matter derived from the Sudd region. Nitrogen would be derived from this source; but it would be interesting to know whether its origin in that source is due to the possession by the Sudd growth of some such parasitic agency as is possessed by the leguminous plants used for green manuring ashore. If so—and indeed if the organic matter is derived in any manner from the Sudd region—it is possible that the present sudd-cutting operations may do great harm by diminishing the virtues of the Nile water for irrigation purposes.

Carbonic acid also would be derivable from the decomposing organic matter and from the bed of the river, where similar processes would be going on.

Oxygen is of course derived from the atmosphere and it is essential to the life of the more highly organised varieties of plant life in the water. Algæ use oxygen; but such of them as contain chlorophyll (the green colouring matter of plants) give off more than they absorb. This surplus would be consumed in the oxidation of any cast-off dead matter, probably through the instrumentality of such bacteria (called ærobic) as subsist on air.

It seems clear from the account given by Sir William Willcocks that the oxygen in the water was exhausted by the growth of various organisms of this class, and that thereupon there ensued extensive mortality attended by decomposition and the supervention of those organisms that thrive under airless conditions. These commonly smell disagreeably or, as our scientific friends say, excrete odoriferous compounds. All we can learn about decomposition proves more and more clearly that its processes depend on the action of bacteria, and shows that many of the phenomena of so-called direct oxidation in the presence of putrescence are due to a restoration to vigour of the ærobic and comparatively odourless organisms. In this connection note should be taken of the distinctive faculty of so-called rejuvenescence enjoyed by algæ—that is, the power of suspending vitality under hostile conditions and resuming animation and reproductions when circumstances improve. The purification which our author noticed as a result of the spraying of the water from the upper sluices at Assuan probably arose from this cause; and it may be supposed that if the supply of oxygen were maintained such healthy growth would continue till the other elements of plant food were exhausted. And it is, as we have said, an admittedly reasonable hypothesis that there may be in water some bacterium capable of rapidly converting to the use of plant life such small quantities of nitrogen as are acquired by the water at each æration.

It is probable that Egypt would be the most suitable scene for investigations in this matter; and even if it be ultimately found possible to introduce into the Indian irrigation system the bacteria desired and the sudd in which they presumbly originate, all that can be done for the moment is to lay the idea in its present crude form before those properly qualified to estimate its possibilities.

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TARIFF CHANGES.

PHILLIPPINES.

Cotton Tissues, Boots and Shoes.

THE Board of Trade in England have received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of an Act of the United States Congress, approved on February 26, amending the Customs tariff of the Phillippine Islands in respect of the import duties levied on certain kinds of cotton tissues and on boots and shoes; and repealing the export duty on cocoanuts. The principal provision of this Act involves the application to cotton tissues known as "splits" of a surtax of 100 per cent. above the duties chargeable on the tissues according to class. The Act also reduces from 100 to 65 centimetres the limit of width for the cotton textiles included in the tariff class (117) covering stamped or printed tissues weighing eight kilogs. or more per 100 square metres; and rearranges the classification of cotton tissues by number of threads, in such a way as to render the subdivision much more minute.

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SPAIN.

Port improvement and equipment works at Ceuta—Import and Export charges leviable for.

COASTING-TRADE NAVIGATION

(Between Spanish ports of the African coast, the Peninsula, Balearic and Canary Islands.)

Ten centimes of a peseta per *hundred* kilogrammes or fraction thereof, on imported or exported *foodstuffs.*

Fifteen centimes of a peseta per *hundred* kilogrammes or fraction thereof, on articles destined for *industrial purposes.*

FOREIGN NAVIGATION

Fifteen centimes of a peseta per *hundred* kilogrammes or fraction thereof, on imported or exported *foodstuffs.*

Twenty centimes of a peseta per *hundred* kilogrammes or fraction thereof, on articles destined for *industrial purposes.*

The charges referred to shall be levied by the Port Works Committee at Ceuta from and after the 1st January 1906.

CONSULAR REPORT.

UNITED STATES.

Trade for the year 1905.

MR. BELL, British Commercial Agent in the **United States**, in his **Report for 1905**, states that the **year was one of great activity** in trade, industry and speculation in the United States. There was an abundance of money for industrial purposes; the farmers were prosperous; manufacturing plants turned out quantities of products in excess of any previous year, while there was no over-production; the mileage of railways steadily increased; issues of stocks and bonds were without precedent, and failures were fewer in proportion to the number of firms in business. Over 1,000,000 immigrants were absorbed by the country, without affecting the labour market. Wages were good, the scale of living high, and there was abundance of employment for labour with but few strikes of consequence.

Writing of labour troubles, he says that, owing to the combinations among the manufacturers and workmen's unions the whole tendency is to meet difficulties half way, and voluntarily allow advances in wages as soon as the condition of trade justifies it, adding that there did not appear to be any reason "at the present moment" (March 1906) to anticipate any serious dissensions in 1906. Money in circulation increased more rapidly than the population, and the purchasing power of the nation was shown by the high level of the prices of commodities. The average circulation on December 1, 1905, stood at 31 dol. 73 c. per capita, the highest on record. On December 1, 1904, it stood at 31 dol. 22 c. in 1903 at 30 dol. 21 c. and in 1902 at 29 dol. 52 c. At the end of the year the stock of gold in the Federal Treasury amounted to over 765,000,000 dol.

During the past year goods could not be manufactured fast enough to meet the demand in many cases, and the railways had great difficulty in transporting material, owing to a shortage of rolling-stock. The prosperity of the farmers, due to the large crops in the past year, will, he considers, materially affect the business prospects of 1906, adding, "this, taken together with the large purchases by the railway companies and the very large building operations being carried on at present all over the country, assures a large and prosperous business for the present year."

The volume of orders already given out exceeds any previous year in the country's history, and high prices do not appear as yet to have any effect upon consumptive demand. When it is stated that the wealth production on farms in the United States in 1905 was estimated at 6,415,000,000 dol. it can readily be understood of what importance the farmer is as a purchasing agent. It is an indication, at the same time, how greatly the earnings of railways are affected when there is a shortage in crops. The failure of crops means serious curtailment of purchases, and consequent disaster among the manufacturers. Of all the agricultural pro-

ducts of the United States corn or maize is the most important. It reached its highest production last year with a crop of 2,708,000,000 bushels, and a total estimated value of 1,216,000,000 dol. Hay was second in order of value, reaching 605,000,000 dol. Cotton comes next with an estimated value of 575,000,000 dol. The wheat crop was 684,000,000 bushels valued at 525,000,000 dol., yet only 21,000,000 bushels were available for export. Oats yielded 939,000,000 bushels, valued at 282,000,000 dol.; potatoes to the value of 138,000,000 dol.; barley, 133,000,000 bushels, valued at 58,000,000 dol.; tobacco, valued at 52,000,000 dol; sugar cane and sugar beets, valued at 50,000,000 dol. The aggregate yield of cereals, including rice, was 4,521,000,000 bushels, valued at 2,123,000,000 dol.—an increase of 145,000,000 dol. over the year previous. During the last five years the value of the real estate of medium farms in the United States has increased 33·5 per cent., as compared with an increase of 25 per cent. from 1890 to 1900. The highest percentage of increase, 40·8 per cent., is in the South Central States. Next to this is 40·2 per cent. for the Western States. The lowest of all, 13·5 per cent., was in the North Atlantic States. This increase in value is considered to be largely due to the more intelligent methods now adopted in farming.

The **foreign commerce** of the United States during 1905 exceeded, both in imports and exports, that of any preceding year. The imports amounted to 1,179,135,344 dol. in value, and the exports of domestic merchandise amounted to 1,599,420,539 dol., making a total foreign trade of 2,778,555,883 dol. Comparing these figures with previous highest years it is found that the value of the imports in 1905 exceeded those of 1904 by 143,226,154 dol. and those of 1903 by 183,641,017 dol., and the value of the exports in 1905 exceeded those of 1904 by 173,672,401 dol. and those of 1903 by 141,773,356 dol. There was an increase in imports in 1905 over 1900, of 42·2 per cent.; in exports, of 8·2 per cent.; and in the total trade, of 20·4 per cent.

The increase in imports is accounted for chiefly by the extra demands for materials to be used in manufactures. The value of materials imported for this purpose increased from 469,660,209 dol. in 1903, and 477,618,563 dol. in 1904, to 561,425,245 dol. in 1905, and formed 47·61 per cent. of the total imports in the latter year. Food-stuffs from the tropics were also accountable for a considerable portion of the increase.

The principal **articles imported for use in manufacturing** were raw silk, valued at 54,812,294 dol., a decrease of 66,982 dol. as compared with 1904 and 32,186,238 dol. compared with 1895; indiarubber, valued at 48,517,906 dol., an increase of 4,733,609 dol. as compared with 1904 and 30,042,524 dol. compared with 1895; fibres, valued at 41,329,098 dol., an increse of 5,018,816 dol. as compared with 1904, and 28,047,017 dol. compared with 1895; tin, valued at 26,316,023 dol., an increase of 3,959,127 dol. as compared with 1904, and 19,529,599 dol. compared with 1895; wool, valued at 46,832,129 dol., an increase of 17,476,795 dol. as compared with 1904 and 21,259,376 dol. compared with 1895; tobacco, valued at 18,676,139 dol., an increase of 2,017,575 dol. as compared with 1904 and 3,930,419 dol., compared with 1895; wood, valued at 24,250,057 dol., an increase of 2,962,775 dol. as compared with 1904 and 9,559,641 dol. compared with 1895; **hides and skins**, valued at 73,397,418 dol., an increase of 15,780,608 dol. as compared with 1904 and 47,274,476 dol. compared with 1895; raw cotton, valued at 10,391,337 dol., an increase of 1,843,370 dol. as compared with 1904, and 5,676,962 dol. compared with 1895; and chemicals, drugs, dyes, etc., valued at 68,884,147 dol., an increase of 4,625,370 dol. as compared with 1904 and 25,316,538 dol. compared with 1895.

The above supply about 73 per cent. of the total imports of manufacturers' materials.

The chief food-stuffs imported were sugar, valued at 102,542,503 dol., an increase of 18,072,102 dol. as compared with 1904, and 26,079,667 dol. compared with 1895; coffee, valued at 75,307,536 dol., a decrease of 12,119,563 dol. as compared with 1904 and 20,823,181 dol. compared with 1895; tea, valued at 15,003,588 dol., a decrease of 1,853,691 dol. as compared with 1904 and an increase of 1,832,209 dol. compared with 1895; cocoa, valued at 8,965,387 dol, an increase of 76,863 dol., as compared with 1904, and of 5,769,576 dol. compared with 1895; and fruits and nuts, valued at 26,913,304 dol., an increase of 2,528,084 dol. as compared with 1904 and 9,673,381 dol. compared with 1895.

Of the 345,678,983 dol. of manufactured articles imported, the chief were manufactures of cotton, valued at 54,517,059 dol., an increase of 7,093,869 dol. as compared with 1904, and of 21,320,434 dol. compared with 1895; manufactures of fibres, valued at 44,850,727 dol. an increase of 5,986,891 dol. as compared with 1904, and of 18,559,733 dol. compared with 1895; silk manufactures, valued at 33,591,144 dol., an increase of 2,554,893 dol. as compared with 1904, and of 2,385,142 dol. compared with 1895; iron and steel manufactures, valued at 26,392,728 dol., an increase of 4,770,758 dol. as compared with 1904, and of 3,244,213 dol. compared with 1895; jewellery, valued at 38,732,737 dol., an increase of 9,412,898 dol. as compared with 1904, and of 30,657,969 dol. compared with 1895; and manufactures of wool, valued at 21,373,742 dol., an increase of 5,241,241 dol. as compared with 1904, and a decrease of 15,169,342 dol. compared with 1895.

The importation of tropical products into the United States continues to show an important increase. The growth of tropical imports has been rapid. In 1870 the value of the total imports amounted to about 140,000,000 dol.; in 1880 to 242,000,000 dol.; in 1890 to 298,000,000 dol.; in 1900, to 335,000,000 dol.; and in 1905 to 536,000,000 dol. Thus the importation of tropical products has increased at a more rapid rate than the general

imports. The following table shows the value of tropical products imported into the United States since 1870 at five-year intervals:—

Fiscal year.	Value.
	Dollars.
1870	139,800,086
1875	205,758,034
1880	242,383,732
1885	217,734,246
1890	297,716,578
1895	302,594,545
1900	334,590,780
1905	535,767,565

The principal **tropical** and sub-tropical **products imported** were silk, sugar, tobacco, tea, coffee, rice and indiarubber.

The consumption of tropical products in the United States in 1870 was 3·63 dol., and in 1905 about 6·53 dol. per head of population.

About 12 per cent. of the tropical products imported in 1905 was supplied by the islands recently added to the producing area of the United States, as compared with 5 per cent. in 1895.

The total value of **domestic exports** in 1905 amounted to 1,599,420,539 dol., compared with 1,07,538,165 dol. in 1895, 742,189,753 dol. in 1885, and 513,442,711 dol. in 1875.

The value of exports of agricultural products in 1905, 897,659,755 dol., was more by 102,935,014 dol. than those of 1904. This was due chiefly to larger shipments of maize and increased value of cotton. The value of flour exported in 1905 amounted to 49,966,229 dol., in 1904 to 50,409,767 dol. and in 1903, 275,188,050 dol. The value of wheat exported in 1905 amounted to 17,134,957 dol., in 1904 to 10,821,350 dol. and in 1903 to 59,329,791 dol. In quantity the exports of wheat and flour (in terms of wheat) amounted to 71,788,579 bushels in 1905, against 64,957,058 bushels in 1904 and 207,993,899 bushels in 1903. Cotton exports, on the other hand, were in 1905 the largest on record. The value of cotton exported in 1905 amounted to 392,600,644 dol., against 368,839,188 dol. in 1904; 278,635,778 dol. in 1903, and 290,491,225 dol. in 1902.

The value of manufactured articles exported in 1905 amounted to 571,410,497 dol., as compared with 502,739,729 dol. in 1904; 183,595,743 dol. in 1895; 147,187,527 dol. in 1885 and 92,678,814 dol. in 1875.

In 1905 manufactures formed 35·73 per cent. of the total domestic exports; in 1904 they formed 35·26 per cent.; in 1895, 31·52 per cent.; in 1885, 20·25 per cent.; and in 1875, 16·57 per cent.

The increase in the value in exports of manufactured articles occurs chiefly in manufactures of iron and steel, copper, cotton, cloths and leather. In iron and steel the increase is about 15,000,000 dol.; in copper about 10,000,000 dol.; in cotton cloths, about 22,000,000, dol.; and in leather, about 3,000,000 dol.

The increase in the value of exports of copper was due chiefly to the large quantities sent to China. Of the increase in the value of exports of cotton cloths almost 20,000,000 dol. occurred in exports to China.

In a recent report of the Secretary of Commerce and Labour it is pointed out that the increase in the value of the imports during the fiscal year 1904-05 was distributed among all of the grand divisions of the world, and most of the principal countries, while the increase in the value of the exports was chiefly to China, Japan, Canada, Argentina, Cuba, and the new Republic of Panama. The increase in the value of imports was, from Europe, 41,000,000 dol.; from North America, 28,000,000 dol.; from South America, 30,000,000 dol.; from Asia and Oceania, 24,000,000 dol.; and from Africa, 2,000,000 dol. The increase from Europe was distributed among the principal countries, and was chiefly composed of manufactured articles and raw wool, raw silk, hides and skins and diamonds. In the value of exports an increase of 82,000,000 dol. occurred in the trade with Europe. To North America the value of exports increased 21,000,000 dol.; there was an increase of 12,000,000 dol. to Cuba, 7,000,000 dol. to Canada, and nearly 5,000,000 dol. to Panama. To South America the value of exports increased 13,000,000 dol., of which practically all was to Argentina. To Asia the increase in the value of exports amounted to 52,000,000 dol.; there was an increase of 30,000,000 dol. to China, and 24,000,000 dol. to Japan. Of the 30,000,000 dol. increase to China 20,000,000 dol. was in cotton cloths and 10,000,000 dol. in copper. Of the 24,000,000 dol. increase to Japan, 10,000,000 dol. was in raw cotton, 1,000,000 dol. in sole leather, and 1,000,000 dol. in canned beef.

The total value of exports to Cuba from the United States in 1905 was 44,569,812 dol. against 32,644,345 dol. in 1904 and 23,504,417 dol. in 1903. This is an increase of 36·5 per cent. over 1904, and of 89 per cent. over 1903, the last year before the reciprocity treaty came into force. The increase in the value of the exports to Cuba from the United States occurs chiefly in manufactures of iron and steel, flour, provisions, lumber and rice.

Rice has now become an important article of export from the United States. The value of rice of domestic production exported in 1905 amounted to 1,900,086 dol., against 484,217 dol. in 1904, 667,387 dol. in 1900 and 16,484 dol. in 1895. The value of imports of rice in 1905 amounted to 2,081,383 dol., against 2,633,897 dol. in 1904 and 3,445,512 dol. in 1895.

In 1904 there were 610,700 acres in Louisiana and Texas under rice cultivation, yielding 869,426,800 lbs. of rice, an increase of nearly 190

per cent. in acreage compared with 1899. The increase occurred chiefly in Texas. In 1899 Texas had 178 acres of rice, in 1899, 8,711 acres, while in 1904 the acreage had increased to 376,500.

For the first time a table is included in the U. S. A. Annual Trade Report which shows principal articles imported, and the countries whence shipped, together with their values, and the percentages of increase or decrease. In 1905 the United States imports from the East Indies were as follows:—**Coffee**, to the value of $ 909,103, a decrease, as compared with 1904, of 56·4 per cent.; **jute**, to the value of $ 4,863,529, an increase of 23·6 per cent.; **hides** and **skins**, $ 11,562,207, an increase of 32·6 per cent.; **spices**, $ 3,283,796, an increase of 78·5 per cent.; **tea**, direct $ 942,905, a decrease of 18·5 per cent.; and through the United Kingdom, $ 1,630,597, an increase of 6·7 per cent.

The total importation of tea into the United States from the United Kingdom, British North America and the East Indies increased 0·41 per cent. when the total imports, chiefly from China and Japan, decreased 11 per cent. This trade, says Mr. Bell, is worth cultivating, as the taste for Ceylon and Indian teas has been increasing. The total imports of teas of East Indian and Ceylon quality were valued in 1902 at 1,423,530 dol., in 1903 at 2,462,003 dol., in 1904 at 3,040,261 dol., and in 1905 at 3,058,789 dol.

In the mean time it is interesting, though, perhaps not over cheering, for Indian tea-growers, to note that experiments in the cultivation of tea in the United States continue under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture. It has been demonstrated that the most important varieties of the tea plant, that from Ceylon excepted, make a growth and give a yield comparing favourably with the results produced in their own lands. Negro children make expert pickers, and machinery has been invented for sterilising, polishing, and rolling the leaves. Twenty-five acres have been planted in 1905 with tea at Pierce, Texas, and a preliminary picking indicated a high grade of tea. During the past year 9,000 lbs. of tea were turned out at Somerville, South Carolina.

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 14th APRIL 1906.

DURING the period under review, there was rain on the South Burma coast and in parts of Assam, some rain in Eastern Bengal and Assam and in the North-West Frontier Province, while there were rain and snow in Kashmir. The principal amounts of rainfall were:—Dibrugarh 2″; Silchar 1·22″; Sibsagar 1″; Sonemarg 1″; Cherra Poonjee 0·76″; Tavoy 0·61″; Moulmein 0·37″; Peshawar 0·36″; Mymensing 0·32″; Dras 0·27″; and Bhamo 0·25″.

A condition of low pressure was observable in Baluchistan during last week as a very shallow depression, and in the course of the early days of the week under review it passed over India into Bengal and Assam, becoming stronger as it progressed. It was only, however, on reaching this eastern end of its path that the conditions of humidity required for the production of rain were met with and that wet weather resulted from its influence. Excepting the unsettled weather which resulted in rain and snow in the North-West Frontier Province and Kashmir in the early days of the week, no other definite cause of widespread rain appeared during the week, but spasmodic showers fell in Burma, Bengal and the south of the Peninsula. Mean temperature was much below normal in North-West India and on the Konkan coast; elsewhere it was in excess, especially in the submontane districts of North-East India, Hyderabad and the Madras Deccan. The highest temperatures recorded on the 10th *instant* were:—Cuddapah 111°, Kurnool 110° and Bellary, Akola, Amraoti and Cuttack 109½°. On the 8th, the barometer fell rapidly in North Bengal and Assam and slowly over the rest of the area, so that the narrow trough of low pressure occurring on the 7th, flattened out over the whole northern land area with only a very slight residual depression over South-West Bengal. On the 9th, the depression became somewhat deeper over Bihar, and in general the pressure distribution was typical of the hot weather. On the 10th, the depression progressed over North Bengal with only a slight deepening, and a simultaneous increase in the strength of the indraught at the head of the Bay. The depression had filled up a little without its centre changing its position and altogether on the 11th, there was no important change in the distribution of pressure. On the 12th, the centre of the depression had moved a little eastwards without any marked change of depth. The indraught over Bengal continued strong, and being mainly from the west, the atmosphere remained very dry, except in Assam and East Bengal. On the 13th, the lowest barometer was reported from the United Provinces, while pressure had increased rapidly in the North-East and winds had gone further round towards the south over the Province. On the 14th, the barometer rose rapidly over the north of the area and more slowly elsewhere. The depression of the last few days had thus almost entirely filled up and the south to north pressure gradient, and consequently the indraught from the Bay over the land had become less than usual for the season. Humidity increased somewhat considerably except in North Bihar, where also, with the Central Provinces, skies remained quite clear.

The following **telegram** dated the 9th April 1906, was sent from the Viceroy to the Secretary of State:—

Crop prospects: week ending 31st March last.

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh: Rain has fallen in all except fifteen districts. Severe hailstorm has done great damage to the standing crops in parts of Agra and Etawah. Numbers on relief risen in all famine districts except two. Prices stationary. **Punjab**: rain throughout; standing crops much improved and prospects generally good to fair. Prices are rising in affected districts. The recent rain greatly benefited distressed tracts where condition of cattle improving. **Rajputana**: Fair to slight rain has fallen in several States. Prices show a tendency to fall. **Central India**: No rain. General position unaltered in affected States, distress getting more severe in parts of Gwalior. **Bombay**: No rain in affected districts where numbers on relief increasing owing to return of emigrants. Prices are high still in Deccan and Karnatak. Cattle in affected tracts losing condition. Grass imported by Government finds ready sale. **Hyderabad**: No rain, spring harvest generally completed. In other provinces prospects fair or good. Number of persons in receipt of relief in thousands:- **United Provinces of Agra and Oudh,** 191; **Punjab**, 13; **Ajmer and Rajputana,** 106; **Central India,** 98; **Baroda,** 4; **Bombay,** 57; **Hyderabad,** 4; total 473.

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CROP FORECAST—SESAMUM.

ESTIMATE OF THE SESAMUM CROP OF THE SEASON 1905-06.

Province.	Area (in acres): Of current year's crop (1905-06)	Area (in acres): Of previous year's crop (1904-05)	Area (in acres): Average of preceding: Five years	Area (in acres): Average of preceding: Ten years	Percentage by which column 2 exceeds (+), or is less than (−), area in: Column 3	Percentage by which column 2 exceeds (+), or is less than (−), area in: Column 4: Five years	Column 4: Ten years	Yield (in tons): Estimated yield of current year, *i.e.*, of area in column 2	Yield of previous year, *i.e.*, of area in column 3	Yield: Average of preceding: Five years	Yield: Average of preceding: Ten years	Percentage by which column 7 exceeds (+), or is less than (−) yield in: Column 8	Column 9: Five years	Column 9: Ten years
1	2	3	4		5	6		7	8	9		10	11	
Bombay*	816,700	793,900	773,100	766,500	+2·9	+5·6	+6·5	93,600	52,700	114,200	105,400	+87·1	−13·7	−6·5
Sind*	86,700	83,700	120,000	139,200	+3·6	−27·7	−37·7	6,600	5,300	8,800	8,800	+24·5	+6·5	−25·0
Madras	743,400	674,200	776,400	861,400	+10·3	−4·2	−13·7	56,700	55,100	66,900	76,300	+2·9	−15·2	−25·7
Central Provinces and Berar	883,800	891,100	1,035,000	854,500	−0·8	−14·6	+3·4	76,400	69,000	74,300	58,700	+10·7	+2·8	+30·2
Bengal	293,400	283,800	†401,700	†330,100	+3·4	+30·7	+38·2	36,500	30,400	28,600	28,200	+20·1	+28·7	+40·0
Eastern Bengal	231,800	209,900			+10·4			28,600	28,200	28,800	21,600	+1·4	+25·9	−39·1	−18·9
United Provinces { Pure	278,200	304,100	277,100	219,200	−8·5	+0·4	+26·9	17,500	13,800	69,000	62,000	+26·6	−34·8	−27·4
United Provinces { Mixed.	7 ,000	600,000	643,600	619,000	+16·7	+8·9	+13·1	45,000	35,000	69,000	62,000	−13·1	−19·6	−20·8
Panjab	146,000	158,000	†182,200	†189,900	−7·6	−19·9	−23·1	13,900	16,000	16,100	†17,600	−37·4	−9·8	−9·8
Hyderabad	465,600	780,000	416,100	471,200	−40·3	+11·9	1·2	18,400	29,400	20,400	20,400			
TOTAL { Pure	3,945,600	4,178,700	3,981,600	3,882,00	−5·6	−0·9	+1·6	353,200	300,(00	377,500	355,300	+17·7	−6·4	−0·6
TOTAL { Mixed	700,000	600,000	643,000	619,000	+16·7	+8·9	+13·1	45,000	35,000	69,000	62,000	+28·6	−34·8	−27·4

* Including Native States † Defective

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SUPPLEMENTARY MEMORANDUM ON THE SESAMUM (TIL OR JINJILI) CROP OF THE SEASON 1905-06.

This memorandum supplements the final general memorandum issued on the 13th January 1906, by (1) reports from Bengal and Eastern Bengal which had not been received when the memorandum was issued, and (2) the final estimates from Madras and Hyderabad.

Madras (***19·9***%)—The total area under sesamum in *raiyatwari* villages is estimated to be 743,400 acres as compared with 674,200 acres last year—an increase of 10 per cent, which is attributed partly to seasonable rainfall and partly to certain rice lands having been cultivated with sesamum owing to the fact that the supply of water in the irrigation sources was inadequate for the cultivation of rice. The crop is generally in fair to good condition. The gross outturn is estimated at 56,700 tons as against 55,100 tons last year, an increase of 3 per cent. Villages other than raiyatwari report a total area of 25,200 acres under sesamum; but the reports are incomplete.

Bengal (***6·2***%) reports the area sown (according to estimates framed in February) to be 293,400 acres as compared with 283,800 acres last year—an increase of 3·4 per cent. The prospects of the crop, which were somewhat gloomy early in the season through want of sufficient moisture, became favourable after the general rainfall in December and January. The gross outturn is estimated to be 36,500 tons compared with 30,400 tons for last year, this representing an increase of 20 per cent.

Eastern Bengal (***4·9***%) maintains the February estimate of 231,800 acres as compared with 209,900 acres for last year—an increase of 10·4 per cent. The increase is due to substitution of sesamum for mustard in the Rajshahi district; but the season has not, on the whole, been favourable owing to ill-distributed rainfall. The gross outturn is estimated at 28,600 tons as compared with 28,200 tons for last year.

Hyderabad reports the total area sown to be 465,600 acres as against 780,000 last year—a de-

limiting it to ten million bags per annum. A tax may be levied on all fresh planting of coffee, except such as is necessary to maintain actual plantations, for a period of two years. This law came into force in March, but the general opinion is that the law will not be effective. Nevertheless, an effort is to be made to limit the production and output of Brazilian coffee. In addition, the stocks of coffee in November were Sao Paulo only 148,000 bags, against 342,000 the year previous, and Santos 758,000, against 1,353,000, whilst the receipts at Brazilian ports to the 13th March amounted to only 8,691,000 bags, or 79,000 less than the total on that date in the year previous instead of, $10\frac{1}{2}$ million, as was estimated. The news is chiefly interesting to Indian coffee-growers, but it is not without interest to glance at South America as a possible market for Indian tea.

The inhabitants of South America, unlike the Australians, and the natives of Persia, are not confirmed tea drinkers. But there seems to be no reason why a better market for tea than now exists should not be created in the countries of the southern half of the New World. The possibility of developing this market is being considered by the Indian Tea Cess Committee, though it is probable that some little time may elapse before active steps can be taken in the matter.

It is, unfortunately, virtually impossible to secure statistics showing the tea trade or consumption of the majority of the States of South America, whilst those figures that can be secured are to a large extent conjectural. Still, a survey of such facts as it is possible to bring together permits the entertainment of a hope that Indian tea planters will find in South America a market favourably disposed towards their wares. The necessity for sending only the best possible teas commensurate with reasonable prices must, however, be constantly borne in mind.

The aggregate population of the ten principal States of South America amounts to 38,259,538. The States with populations of three millions and upwards are five in number. Brazil heads the list with a population numbering 14,333,915. Then follow Argentina (5,022,248), Peru (4,609,000), Columbia (4,000,000), and Chili (3,146,577).

So far as Chili is concerned, the figures tend to show that the bulk of its imports are from the United Kingdom. In the period 1900-02 the United Kingdom exported to Chili £4,998,000; whilst the total of Chilian imports in the same period amounted to £5,909,000.

The total imports into Brazil, as returned, fall short of the declared exports from the United Kingdom, intended for Brazil. On the other hand, the imports in 1900 into Argentina are very largely in excess of the exports from the United Kingdom for that country.

Very little tea seems to enter South America from the United States, whilst the exports from China to the South America markets are traceable only in 1903, at 40,033.

It may therefore be concluded that the bulk of the tea consumed in South America is probably imported from the United Kingdom.

The following figures show the imports of tea from the United Kingdom to the principal South American countries:—

	£
Chili	1,800,000
Argentina	800,000
Brazil	380,000
Uruguay	160,000
Peru	130,000

This shows a total importation of £3,270,000 of tea for an aggregate population of about 28,000,000, and a consumption per head of 117 lbs., Chili being the only State where the consumption amounts to over half a pound per head.

There is an import trade in tea from China, but the amount is not known. As already indicated, it seems small, however.

There is nothing to show whether the tea imported from the United Kingdom is derived from India, Ceylon, or China. The probability is, however, that it comes mainly from the first two countries. This supposition is borne out by the following particulars of the fall in prices.

For the four years 1894-97 the average import value was Re. 1-8 per lb. In the five years 1898-1902, it was Re. 1 per lb. In 1899, however, retail prices were still said according to the report of the British Consul-General, to be "exorbitant," and the quality of the tea "poor."

The import duties (shown in Indian money) on tea in the various countries are as follows:—

	Rs.	a.	p.	
Argentine Republic	0	4	5	per pound.
Bolivia	0	3	10	"
Brazil	2	4	9	"
Chili	0	8	2	"
Columbia	1	3	4	"
Ecuador	0	2	9	"
Paraguay	0	1	1	per pound + a a surtax to about 50 per cent. of the value.
Peru	0	3	7	per pound.
Venezuela	0	5	5	"

No tea is now grown in South America, though it was cultivated in Brazil some 30 years ago.

The principal competition it has to encounter is that of coffee and mâté.

The consumption of coffee in South America is not known, but it was estimated in 1902 to be—

in Chili . 1·32 lbs. per head of population, and
in Argentina. 3·81 lbs. per head of population

as compared with—

U. S. A.	13,82 lbs.
Germany	6,65 "
United Kingdom	0,67 "

Brazil, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela all export coffee. The average export value of the Brazilian coffee shipped to the United States of North America in the five years ending 1904 was about 6 cents. per lb.

Mâté, or Paraguay tea, which consists of the powdered leaves of a small evergreen wild shrub, is largely used in Brazil, Argentina and the neighbouring countries. The consumption in Argentina was estimated at £13 per head twenty years ago. The increase in the imports of tea into Chili is said to have been effected at the expense of mâté, but there is nothing definite in this or other countries to show that such substitution is really taking place, on the other hand, the exports of herva mâté from Brazil in 1904 amounted to no less than 43,757 tons, against 36,129 tons in 1903.

SUGAR INDUSTRY AND TRADE.

III.

SUGAR, ITS EARLY HISTORY.

SUGAR in the last hundred years has furnished perhaps the best recorded example of demand created by supply. Its alimentary value is not new; but until it became cheap it was practically not available as a food. Up to the nineteenth century it was regarded rather as a flavouring substance than as an article of diet, and the world's only sources of supply were those countries that grew cane. But in recent years even primitive peoples have been able to satisfy themselves that commercial sugar is a useful and agreeable source of energy. Sugar has, probably for the first time, become the subject of a specific and natural want. Every fresh development tends to confirm that desire; and it may be said that sugar has in the last half-century come into existence as a prime commodity. These facts are of the utmost importance to India which is the greatest sugar-producer in the world.

In Anderson's *Origin of Commerce*, published 1764, it is stated that the first specific mention of sugar in European literature was made about A.D. 625 by Paulus Aegineta "a noted compiler of medical history and one of the last Greek writers on that subject." Sugar was extensively cultivated in Sicily in the beginning of the 12th century, and it was from that island that Madeira, the first sugar plantation in the West, derived its seed in 1419. The first cargo arrived in Europe from the Canaries in 1503; and until Brazil began to ship sugar in the middle of the 16th century, the article was such a rarity that honey was still the chief means of sweetening food and drink. Some idea of the prices of sugar in those times may be derived from the following quotations from the *Origin of Commerce* already referred to. In his account of the development of Barbados and the establishment of sugar factories there in 1641-47, the author says:—

"In consequence whereof, the ports of London and Bristol soon after became the great magazines for sugar, for supplying therewith all the north and middle parts of Europe, reducing the Portuguese sugars of Brazil in time so low as from £8 to £2 10s. per hundredweight: and so it remained, until the French, in their turn, so greatly improved their sugar isles as to be able to undersell us in most parts of Europe."

And in Vol. II, page 182, he refers to the fact that in 1685 a duty was for the first time in England specifically imposed on sugar, which had, up to this, been subject only to a so-called "poundage" of 5 per cent which he says was equal to 12*d.* per pound."

It is true that in 1747 Margraff, a German, discovered the presence of sugar in beet; and that in 1799 Achard submitted to the Institute of France his proposed method for extracting the sugar for purposes of consumption. But so long as the supply of cane sugar on which France relied was available, no steps were taken to put the method in practice.

Under the *Pacte Colonial* of France all sugars derived from colonies other than French were subjected to duties practically exclusive. This *pacte* really was a set of principles recognised in France as governing the proper relations of a nation and her colonies. These principles, as stated by Colbert at the constitution of the Compagnie des Indes in 1664 may be summarised as follows:—

(1) Reservation of the metropolitan market for the produce of its own colonies.
(2) Reservation of the colonial markets for the metropolitan products.
(3) Reservation of all national freights for national shipping.
(4) Levy of duties upon all colonial products on leaving the colonies or on entering France.

The French colonial sugars, therefore, had a virtual monopoly of the markets in France, but it was obligatory that all refining processes should be carried out in France itself. At one time, it was required that all sugar destined by a colony for foreign markets should be brought to France for transhipment; but this was relaxed in 1726 with great advantage to the trade. England, which had up to that time a similar law, found herself compelled by French competition to follow suit; and in 1739 the West Indian Islands were permitted to ship direct to places south of Cape Finisterre. There grew up an intimate association of interests between the French colonies and planters on one side and the French shipping and refining industries on the other, and these relations survived many conflicts with the beet sugar interest.

The earliest systematic planting and treatment of beet as a source of commercial sugar were made in France. In the first years of the last

century Britain had established a mastery of the seas and isolated France from her colonial sources of supply; while Napoleon by the decrees of Berlin and Milan, had excluded from the Continental markets, not only all British produce, but any produce of British colonies carried in British shipping. The colonial interest was thus suspended, and the refining industry was temporarily ruined. Sugar became so rare that the price rose to Fr. 360 per quintal (100 kilos); and the proposal to resort to beet-root as a new source of supply was welcomed. Napoleon sustained the new industry in every way, and granted it privileges and immunities which not only fostered it, but were the cause of eventual conflict with the colonial interest. Heavy duties were imposed on foreign imports; and for the time the beet industry throve so well that in 1812 there were in France some forty factories with a productive capacity exceeding 3,000,000 lbs.

When peace was proclaimed in 1815, and the import duties upon cane sugar were reduced, the beet industry received a heavy blow; but the debilitated economic condition of the mother country compelled the Bourbon government in 1820 and 1822 to resort again to import duties for mere revenue purposes; and, under the shelter of these duties, the internal sugar industry recovered, the production in 1828 being 4,000,000 kilos and in 1838 30,200,000 kilos or 50,000,000 as given by other authorities.*

This expansion was attained of course at the expense of the colonial interest which found its sugar, after payment of freight and duty, unable to compete with the untaxed new article. A certain cleavage between the interests of the planters and of the refiners had resulted from the engagement of some of these latter in the treatment of the beet product, and it is uncertain whether the situation would have been remedied had not the Government found that its revenue from imported sugar was on the brink of extinction. The shrinkage of revenue was not due entirely or mainly to the exclusion of the colonial sugar, but to the facts that the state of the domestic market necessitated its re-exportation after refining, and that on re-exportation it became entitled to **a refund calculated on an erroneous assumption as to the equivalent of refined sugar to raw.** In 1835 the sugar revenue amounted to only 62 per cent. of the expectation; and the persons interested in cane thereupon pointed out that the situation arose from the existence of the beet industry.

In consideration of this circumstance, a duty of Fr. 16·50 per 100 kilos or about 6*s.* 9*d.* per cwt. was imposed on beet sugar and was increased in 1840 to Fr. 27·50 or about 11*s.* per cwt. Even this left an advantage of some Fr. 20 per quintal in favour of the beet sugar. But the enormous increase in production led to a rapid fall of price. In 1819 the price had been Fr. 1·50 per kilo. In 1829 it was Fr. 1·35, in 1836 Fr. 1·30 and in 1838 Fr. 1. A large number of factories stopped work, and on the reduction of output the price recovered.†

So far the struggle was confined to the domestic markets; but in these the new article so increasingly displaced the old that the revenue was again in difficulties, and in 1842 it was seriously proposed that the nation should buy the beet industry out at a cost of some £1,600,000 and abolish it. The proposal was rejected; but in its place there was adopted one for raising the duties on beet sugar to the level of those on cane sugar, by successive increments of Fr. 5 per quintal. The first augmentation of the excise was made in 1844 and the last in August 1848, ostensibly placing the two descriptions of sugar for the first time fiscally on a par. The taxes were fixed at Fr. 45 on colonial sugar and Fr. 25 on domestic sugar, the latter taking the form of an excise assessed on the quantity and density of the juice.

But in this year the **liberation of the slaves** in the French colonies was carried out; the supply of sugar from the plantations abruptly contracted from 100,000,000 kilos to 15,000,000 kilos; and the beet industry, still under cover of heavy discriminating duties against foreign sugar, once more found itself master of the situation.

The contraction of supply led, however, to reduction of the duties upon foreign sugar; and at the same time the Island of Réunion, finding a ready market in France, steadily increased her output till the producers of beet sugar were put upon their mettle and compelled to improve their methods and processes. Such was their progress that in 1858 they produced some 151,514,000 kilos of sugar.

Meantime the **exportation** of beet sugar had been established and the industry received a new stimulus, not merely from the off-take of its possible surplus, but from the scale on which refunds of duty were allowed on exportation. The duty levied on a given measure of raw sugar was refunded on such smaller measure of refined sugar as was supposed to remain after the process of refining. But the law assumed in this connection a much smaller yield of refined from raw sugar than was really obtained; and refunds were consequently made on a scale that offered a substantial inducement to export.

* Kilo = 2·2400 lbs.

† 1 franc = 9½*d.*

Similar systems were in force in other Continental countries that had engaged in beet culture; and when the sugars from these various sources began to encounter each other in common markets, allegations of unfair competition resulted in the calling of the **first Sugar Conference** in 1863. The object of this Conference was to agree as to a common scale of equivalents of refined and raw sugar, with a view, of course, to equalising the conditions of competition and obviating the dangers of under-cutting.

OPIUM PRICES.

The **prices of opium** in the Calcutta market, during the week ending 14th April, were, per chest, as follows:—

Behar opium.—Rs. 1,312; 1,317; 1,326; 1,331; 1,331; 1,330; 1,322.

Benares opium.—Rs. 1,219; 1,224; 1,230; 1,233; 1,233; 1,232; 1,225.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 5th sale of 1906.—Rs. 1,314; 1,319; 1,328; 1,332; 1,332; 1,331; 1,322.

China market, Hongkong (exchange Rs. 153½ per 100 taels). Behar $ 880; 880; 880; 887; 887; 890; 890. Shanghai; no quotations receive. d

Benares.—No quotations, Hongkong and Sanghai markets.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending the 7th April were—for A class (season 1904 to 1905) 1st and 2nd April Rs. 1,425 and 3rd to 7th Rs. 1,400. B class (season 1903-04) 1st and 2nd April Rs. 1,475 to Rs. 1,658 and 3rd to 7th Rs. 1,475 to Rs. 1,610. Class C old (season 1902-03) 1st and 2nd Rs. 1,735 to Rs. 1,800 and 3rd to 7th Rs. 1,750. The latest China prices ascertained were:—Hongkong Rs. 1,429 new (A and B class) and Rs. 1,614 old; Shanghai, Rs. 1,512 new and Rs. 1,677 old.

THE INDIAN STORES COMMITTEE.

The Indian Stores Committee, after collecting evidence at Lucknow, proceeds to Naini Tal, to take the evidence of officers of the Local Government, and reaches Simla, where the report will be written, about the end of the current month.

In a previous number we remarked on certain articles which appeared in "Commercial Intelligence," on the subject of the **Stores Committee,** criticising adversely the action of the Government of India with regard to the purchase of stores in India. The policy which that journal regards with such misgiving is not new. It dates from the 10th of January 1885, when a Government Resolution, No. 185 of the Finance Department, was published containing the following paragraph:—

"His Excellency the Governor-General in Council desires again to invite the special attention of **local Governments to the expediency of supplying** the wants of Government by the purchase in the local market of articles of *bonâ fide* local manufacture. The Government of India is desirous to give utmost encouragement to every effort to substitute for articles now obtained from Europe articles of *bonâ fide* local manufacture or of indigenous origin, and where articles of European and of Indian manufacture do not differ materially in price and quality, the Government would always be disposed to give the preference to the latter, and the Governor-General in Council desires to remind all officers of Government that there is no reason why articles manufactured in India should not be obtained locally, even although the raw material necessary to their manufacture may have been originally imported from Europe."

The present movement is only an effort to give effect to the repeated and renewed pronouncements of Governments.

THE BUSINESS MAN'S BOOK CASE.

THE JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.
Vol. 66, 8½ × 5½, 266 × clviii. pp. . . . . 10.
Murray.

THE GENERAL STUD BOOK.
First Supplement to Vol. XX, containing a Return of Brood Mares for 1905, List of Foals, etc. 8½ × 5½, 150 pp. . . . . 5.
Weatherby.

THE HORSE-BUYERS' GUIDE.
By F. T. Barton, M.R.C.V.S. 8½ × 5½, 32 pp. . 1-6 net.
Everett.

THE FOREIGN OFFICE LIST FOR 1906.
Edited by G. E. P. Hertslet. 79th publication. 527 pp. . . . . 10-6.
Harrison.

DEBRETT'S HOUSE OF COMMONS AND JUDICIAL BENCH, 1906.
Fortieth Annual Edition. 8½ × 5½, 464 pp. . 7-6 net.
Dean.

THE CITY OF LONDON DIRECTORY FOR 1906.
Thirty-sixth edition. 10¼ × 7, 1197 pp. . . 12-6.
City Press.

THE TEXTILE YEAR-BOOK AND POCKET ANNUAL, 1906—COTTON.
Compiled by S. Ecroyd. 6 × 4, 178 pp. Manchester . . . . . 2-6 net.
The Textile Mercury.
(A new annual pocket book of memoranda for mill managers and others engaged in the cotton industry.)

OUR WATERWAYS.
A history of Inland Navigation, considered as a branch of Water Conservancy. By W. A Forbes, Barrister-at-Law, and W. H. R. Ashford. 8½ × 5½, XV. × 336 pp. . . . . 12 net.
Murray.

(This book is an outcome of the interest taken in this subject; and is part of a larger comprehensive work on water Conservancy.)

THE CHEMISTRY OF THE MATERIALS OF ENGINEERING.

By A. Humboldt Sexton, F.I.C., F. C. S., Second Edition (revised) 7½ × 5, 335 pp. . . . . 5 net.

The Technical Publishing Co.

INJECTORS.

The Theory, Construction, and Working. By W. W. F. Pullen. Third Edition. (Revised) 7¼ × 5, 208 pp. . . . . 3-6 net.

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By Joseph Rowntree and Arthur Sherwell. Vol. I., London . . . . . 10-6 net

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By W. J. White. Edinburgh . . . . . 1 net

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FOR FREE TRADE.

By Winston S. Churchill, M. P. London . . 1 net.

A. L. Humphreys.

NOTIFICATION.

SHORT-REELING OF YARN.

RESOLUTION.

Dated Simla, the 14th April, 1906.

AFTER consultation with the Local Governments and Chambers of Commerce as to the practicability of the suggestions formulated by the Committee appointed to consider the question of adopting measures to prevent the short-reeling of yarns manufactured in Indian mills for sale in India, the Government of India announced, in October 1904, that they had decided not to take any further action in the matter. Their attention was again drawn to the subject by Resolution No. 9 passed at the Conference of Indian and Ceylon Chambers of Commerce in January 1905, and by a representation from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, which was forwarded for their consideration by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India. In replying to that representation, the Government of India adhered to their former decision; but the Secretary of State, while not dissenting from the general conclusions at which they had arrived, has pointed out that the decision should not be held to imply, as has in fact been inferred in certain quarters, that the Government of India propose to abstain from all action under the Indian Merchandise Marks Act in respect of short-reeled yarn manufactured in Indian mills, and he has suggested that it would be advisable expressly to delegate powers in respect of prosecutions to certain authorities in India. In compliance with the Secretary of State's instructions, the Government of India have decided that the Local Governments should, in certain classes of cases, and subject to certain conditions, be authorised to undertake prosecutions under sections 6 and 7 of the Act. The attached instructions governing this matter have been framed on the lines of the Regulations issued by the Board of Trade to provide for the conduct of prosecutions in similar cases in the United Kingdom.

Instructions for the prosecution, under sections 6 and 7 of the Indian Merchandise Marks Act, 1889 (IV of 1889), of offences relating to the short-reeling of yarn in Indian mills.

1. The prosecution of such offences shall, subject to the condition hereinafter prescribed, be undertaken by the Local Governments in cases which appear to them to affect the general interests of the country, or of a section of the community, or of a trade.

2. Every application to a Local Government to undertake a prosecution shall be accompanied by the following documents :—

(*a*) A statement showing the nature and circumstances of the case and sufficient to enable the Local Government to form an opinion whether the case affects the general interests of the country, or of a section of the community, or of a trade.

(*b*) A statement showing the facts which, if the Local Government undertakes the prosecution, will be capable of proof, and setting out the proofs and names of the witnesses available to prove such facts.

The Local Government may require the above statements to be supplemented or additional evidence to be furnished.

3. If, on the evidence, the Local Government is of opinion that there is no reasonable prospect of a conviction being obtained, it will not, unless it thinks fit, undertake the prosecution.

4. If the Local Government is of opinion that the prosecution would be better or more properly conducted under some other Act, it will not undertake the prosecution.

5. The Local Government may, before undertaking a prosecution, require the applicant to give security for costs on such terms and in such manner as it thinks proper.

6. For the purpose of carrying these instructions into effect, the Local Governments may, from time to time, prescribe the use of such forms and give such directions as they may deem expedient.

7. Nothing in these instructions is intended to affect the power of any person or authority to undertake private prosecutions in respect of such offences under the Indian Merchandise Marks Act.

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.

For the week ending 14th April 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign— Imports by sea into	Calcutta lbs.	. . .	115,558
	Bombay „	. . .	165,112
	Madras „	. . .	10,400
Indian— Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	. . .	617,900
	Bombay „	. . .	5,483,594
	Madras „	. . .	...

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	. .	26,039,557
	Bombay „	. . .	3,501,432
	Karachi „	. . .	644,502
	Madras „	. . .	202,915
	Rangoon „	. . .	282,179

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	. .	3,453,507
	Bombay „	. . .	2,411,682
	Karachi „	. . .	2,472,457
	Madras „	. . .	26,027
	Rangoon „	. . .	659,201

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	. .	1,502,315
	Bombay „	. . .	1,980,758
	Karachi „	. . .	1,349,752
	Madras „	. . .	166,799
	Rangoon „	. . .	663,532

Piece Goods.

(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta cwt.	. .	24,451†
	Bombay „	. .	*
	Karachi „	. .	16,852
	Madras „	. .	4,665

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea cwt.	. .	149
	Coastwise „	. .	26,163
	By rail „	. .	98,826
Imports into Karachi	by rail „	. .	26,884
„ „	Calcutta by rail and river „	. .	9,303

* Not available.

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta cwt.	. .	141,088
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags No.	. .	10,009,786
	„ cloth yds.	. .	12,935,800
	Jute cwt.	. .	172,599
Exports by sea from Chittagong	Jute „	. .	...

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta lbs.	. .	64,869
Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	. .	414,605
	Chittagong „	. .	...

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river cwt.	. .	3,469†
	Karachi by rail „	. .	137,254
	Bombay By rail „	. .	26,184
	Bombay Coastwise „	. .	4,336
Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	. .	162
	Bombay „	. .	1,545
	Karachi „	. .	126,123

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta cwt.	. .	143,094
	Chittagong „	. .	...
	Bombay „	. .	4,137
	Karachi „	. .	7,074
	Madras „	. .	183
	Rangoon „	. .	613,201

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river cwt.	. .	47,718†
	Bombay by rail „	. .	6,671
	Karachi by rail „	. .	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	. .	62,057
	Bombay „	. .	32,049
	Karachi „	. .	...

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river cwt.	. .	33,208†
	Bombay by rail „	. .	42,617
	Karachi by rail „	. .	113,773
Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	. .	7,004
	Bombay „	. .	28,556
	Karachi „	. .	60,987

† Incomplete.

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 14th APRIL 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From All other foreign countries.	Total.
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
Calcutta	40,249	33,031	...	73,280
Bombay	...	...	..	...
Karachi	...	...	...	...
Madras	...	...	...	...

Exports by sea from Burma to			
Calcutta	galls.	.	...
Bombay	„	.	...
Karachi	„	.	600,000
Madras	„	.	520,000
Foreign ports	„	.	...

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 14th APRIL 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	2,006	...	5,004	...	4	764	7,778
France	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Austria-Hungary	54,400	...	34,308	5,522	...	...	94,230
Other European Countries	23,400	..	5,580	6,517	...	...	35,497
Java	...	...	5,660	...	...	...	5,660
Mauritius	14,518	...	16,190	13,364	...	..	44,372
Other Non-European Countries	...	...	...	...	...	294	294
Total refined							187,831
Total unrefined							26,006
Grand Total cwt.							213,837

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta [The prices include postage] to countries in the Postal Union.

ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 (2*a.*)
2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a.*)
3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—
   - Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. R3. (12*a.*)
   - Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port R3. (12*a.*)
4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. R2. (7*a.*)
5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a.*)
6. Accounts of Trade of the French Possession in India. As. 3. (1*a.*)
7. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possession in India. As. 2. (1*a.*)
8. Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India. R4. (6*a.*)
9. Report on the Rail-borne and River-borne Trade of Bengal R1.
10. Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet Sikkim and Bhutan. R1½.
11. Prices and Wages in India. R1½. (9*a.*)
12. Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India. R4. (12*a.*)
13. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India. R2. (10*a.*)
14. Agricultural Statistics of India. R3½. (12*a.*)
    - Part I.—British India.
    - Part II.—Native States.
15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India. As. 5 (2*a.*)
16. Statistics of Mineral Production in India As. 2, (1*a.*)

QUARTERLY.

17. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a.*)

MONTHLY.

18. Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of British India. As. 8. (2*a.*)
19. Accounts of the External Land Trade of British India. As. 8. (2*a.*)
29. Statistics of the Production of Yarn and Woven Goods in the India Cotton Mills. As. 2.

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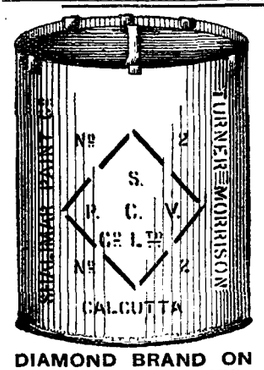
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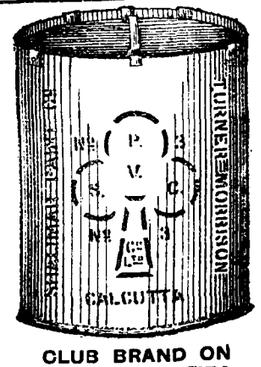


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VOL. I. No. 4:] CALCUTTA, THURSDAY 26th APRIL 1906. [ANNAS 4.

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NOTES.

We call attention to the new Government **Regulations** regarding **coal mines** in India, which are published in the section devoted to Notifications.

The **new Sale Tea Warehouse** at the Calcutta Docks is nearly finished, and the Port Commissioners have issued circulars to all exporting firms that the new season's teas should be booked to it.

A **new line of steamers** has been established between the **Dutch Indies** and **British India**, running from Java to Calcutta by Singapore and Rangoon. The first steamer will leave Java at the end of June.

The **sugar crop of Mauritius** has been estimated at 180,000 tons, or 40,000 in excess of last year's crop. The low prices obtained have, however, proved very disappointing and only a small margin of profit has been gained.

Sanction has been accorded to the construction of a **Chord Line**, on the 5 ft. 6 in. gauge, between Lodhra and Khanewal, on the North Western Railway, length 56·59 miles. This will improve communication between Karachi and the Punjab.

The *Cyprus Gazette* for 23rd **February last** contains an Order in Council (No. 412 of 1906), notifying that, from and after 1st March 1906, a **wharfage due** of 4½ cp. (6*d.*) per ton will be levied upon all lime shipped at any port in **Cyprus.**

It is notified in the *Moniteur des Intérêts Matériels*, of Roumania, that tenders will be received up to the 28th June, at the Directorate of State Monopolies, Bucharest, for the supply of 250,000 jute sacks for salt and 35,000 metres of jute cloth.

❦

It is reported in the English press that several veins of **mica** have been discovered at Quilca, a small port on the coast of **Peru**, a few miles from Mollendo. A syndicate has been formed to exploit the discovery. The Peruvian mica is, it is stated, almost transparent as glass.

❦

For sometime a difficulty was experienced in the weaving of **fine yarns from Ramie fibres.** This difficulty has now been overcome, and cloths suitable for all purposes are being made. The fibre is remarkably durable. The cloths made therefrom stand very hard wear and, it is stated, lend themselves in a most satisfactory manner to the dyer.

❦

The Japanese House of Representatives has accepted, without amendment, by 243 votes to 109, the **Railway Nationalisation Bill.** The total cost of purchasing the Home Railways is estimated at £50,000,000. The Finance Minister declares that the purchase can be effected in five years without disturbing the market.

❦

Messrs. Saxby and Farmer, Limited, of London, for whom Messrs. Heatly and Gresham, Limited, of Calcutta, have long acted as Agents, have decided on starting **branch works in India**, for the manufacture of railway signals and safety appliances. The new factory, which will be situated at Entally, will be the first works of the kind in India.

❦

The London paper, *Commercial Intelligence*, publishes an up-to-date and valuable "Consular and Commercial Map of Persia," which shows the populations of the towns; the positions of British Consulates and Vice-consulates; and the trade, and production of the country, alike in quantity and kind. The trade statistics are exhibited by both diagrams and by figures.

❦

Mr. T. H. Holland, **Director of the Geological Survey of India**, is granted privilege leave for three months, with effect from the 18th April 1906, or from any subsequent date on which he may avail himself of the leave. Mr. T. H. D. LaTouche, a Superintendent in the Geological Survey of India, is appointed to officiate as Director of the Geological Survey of India, during the absence of Mr. Holland, or until further orders.

❦

A report from the Washington Department of Agriculture states that it has developed a number **of new breeds of cotton**, which promise nearly to double the value of the cotton crop wherever they are used. These new cottons have been bred from the native and short staple upland variety; the fibre in them is from one-half to three quarters of an inch longer than in the cotton grown from the parent seeds.

❦

Of the two **Commercial agents,** who are being sent **to the East** by the Victorian Government, one will have charge of the region including Hongkong and northwards up to Vladivostok, including Japan and the Philippines. The other, starting at Singapore, will work the islands of Sumatra, Java, Borneo and up the coast to Siagon, the Malayan Peninsula, Penang, and Burma as far as Calcutta.

❦

It is reported from the Continent that for some time past negotiations have been in progress for a still further consolidation of the German Chemical Industry, and that one of the first results of this will be a **gigantic analine trust,** with a nominal capital of £10,000,000. It is declared that the Elberfield-Baden-Treptow group of works will be converted into a single concern, with a capital of some 2,000,000 marks, and their expectation is that this consolidation will force the Höchst-Frankfort group to enter into combination with them.

❦

The *Berliner Tageblatt's* Apia correspondent states that **cocoa and India rubber** are being planted in the **Samoan group** of islands. A large English Rubber Company has established itself there and has begun working on a large scale. The correspondent states that the moment is a favourable one for German emigrants possessed of sufficient capital to turn their attention to the development of the islands, where about £500,000 of German capital is already invested. He speaks very highly of Chinese labour.

❦

Recently a paper was read before the Scientific Society of the Technical College of Glasgow on **"Forced Lubrication."** Some roller bearings employed in Messrs. Noble's Explosives Factory were declared to have given the greatest satisfaction. One of these bearings was taken out and examined the day before the lecture, and was found, after ten months' hard running, to be in perfect condition, looking as if it had never run at all. It was stated that Messrs. Noble were working 19 cartridge packing machines from their engine, but that by the addition of these roller bearings they had increased the number to 46 machines, with only an increase of two H. P. while their oil bill had been reduced to a tenth of what it had been previously.

❦

The *International Sugar Journal* contains some interesting details of the working of a **Naudet installation** which was erected in Trinidad east year. The plant grinds about 600 tons of cane per day, and, though the installation was new and stump-

to the workers, the whole crop of the estate where it is established was taken off by the Naudet process, which is stated to have given a far better result than did the double-crushing mills which worked the previous crop. Certain improvements have been made which have greatly increased the efficiency of the process. Writing of the improved plant the owner of the estate declares that the **average extraction** for two weeks was 95 per cent and for two days in the third week 97·2 and 97·7 per cent. The new process extracts at least 97 per cent. of the total sucrose in the cane. The produce is also exceptionally pure, as the canes only passed through one crushing.

❦

American newspaper reports state that the influx of **immigrants into the United States** at the present time is assuming formidable proportions. In the last week in March, 30,666 persons landed, and 25,000 more were due to land in the first week of April, in New York alone. These numbers were regarded with some uneasiness, and formed the subject of a Conference at the Department of Commerce and Labour. It was determined to enforce rigorously the regulation to prevent the landing of undesirables. In this connection it is interesting to note a remarkable downward tendency in **German emigration**, as shown by recent financial statistics. In 1905 the number of native emigrants leaving German ports was 21,966, and leaving foreign ports, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Amsterdam, 2,109, the total being 28,075. The numbers in 1903 were 36,316 and 27,984 in 1904. Of the 28,075, 26,005 went to the United States.

❦

There is a considerable **discrepancy** in the **statistics** of trade between **Australia and Germany,** as published by the Australian and by the German Governments. The Commonwealth Statistical Department gives the exports to Germany during 1904 as £3,741,030, whereas the Official German Return gives the value as £7,237,970. The imports for the same year are shown by the Australian returns as being £2,655,855, and by the German return as £2,157,550. The difference is altogether three millions, or nearly 50 per cent. over the Australian totals. The explanation is that in imports from Australia the German figures include all goods of Australian origin, whether imported directly, or from other centres, such as London, while in exports they include all goods other than those of German shipped from German ports. It is only since 1904 that the German returns show the trade with Australia separately. Before that German Commerce with Australia, New Zealands, and the British Pacific Islands had all been lumped together.

❦

The Political Agent in **Sikkim**, writing in July last on the subject of Indo-Tibetan trade, said "the **trade with Tibet** has, prior to the recent mission to Tibet, always passed over the Jelap-la, but since last February some of it has come across the Nathu-la, and this portion was not registered at Yatung which lies to the south of Phema, where the road over the Jelap-la and Nathu-la branch off. The trade over the Nathu-la will increase as Gangtok traders have given large advances for wool." He therefore advocated the opening of a **Registration Post at Phema** or Chumbi and expressed the opinion that registration of goods should be carried out by British officials and that statistics of trade should no longer be based on the returns prepared at Yatung by the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Department. The Government of India agree that the establishment of a Trade Registration Post at Chumbi is desirable, and have requested the Political Agent in Sikkim to submit a proposition for the establishment required to undertake the work at an early date.

❦

British Textile Reports show that the **Manchester cotton market** had been very firm in tone when the last mail left England. Manufacturers and spinners were in strong position, and full rates were demanded from buyers. Raw material showed a tendency to harden. Business in cotton with China and India was brisk and progressive. Purchasing was active on the part of shippers to China, and some large transactions were arranged for forward delivery at long dates, in some cases extending to next March. While the Indian demand was brisk, it was reported that **mulls and dhooties** were quiet, the demand not equalling manufacturers' expectations. Tea-cloths and Mexicans moved well and printing cloth of both Burnley and Cheshire makes sold encouragingly. In the **Dundee jute market** the feature of the week ending April 4th was the sudden and decided drop in the price of common jute. Black S.C.C. group fell to £16-10-0, a drop of 0-20-0 in the week. Daisee was 0-7-6 less at £19-10-0, £18, and £16-10-0 for ones, twos, and threes. Business in Firsts was done at £19-18-9 for April. The sales of the week were only fair, and fell off towards the close.

❦

The following is the **itinerary for the proposed** new weekly **mail service between Cyprus and Egypt.** Tenders for the service are now being called for:—

Inwards.

Leave Alexandria .	Tuesday, 2 P.M.
,, Port Said .	Wednesday, 10 A.M.
Arrive Limassol .	Thursday, 7 A.M. (remain one hour for mails and passengers).
Arrive Larnaca .	Thursday, noon. (remain one hour for mails and passengers).
Arrive Famagusta .	Thursday, 5 P.M. (remain until about midnight).

Outwards.

Arrive Larnaca	.	Friday, 6 A.M. (remain until 2 P.M. or 4 P.M.)
Arrive Limassol	.	Friday, 5 P.M. or 8 P.M. (remain until midnight)
Arrive Papho	.	Saturday, 6 A.M. (remain until noon Saturday).
Arrive Port Said	.	Sunday 11 A.M.
Arrive Alexandria		Monday 6 A.M.

His Majesty's Consul-General at Warsaw reports that the prospects for the **future of the jute industry of Poland** are not at all favourable, as not only have manufacturers been obliged to concede higher wages and shorter hours to the workpeople, but the **duty on raw jute** was raised by about 10 per cent. from 1st March, thus enabling the cheap linen sacks manufactured in the north of Russia to complete better with jute sacks In spite of strikes all factories were fully employed last year, some, indeed, working overtime, and there was a slight increase in the importation of looms from Scotland. Looms can be made in Russia or imported from Hamburg for about half the price of a Scotch loom, but manufacturers as a rule prefer to pay 50*l.* for a Dundee loom delivered in the country, as it stands work better, and so comes cheaper in the end. Jute fabrics, such as linoleum, were formerly imported, but Poland is now able to supply the market with home-made goods. There are about 1,000 **looms** and 10,000 **spindles** in the three Polish jute factories. The reason that the number of spindles is so small as compared with the number of looms is that the spindle hands work in shifts for longer hours. Over 4,200 **hands** are employed, and the value of the **output** of the three mills is put down at 600,000*l.*

The **Export Trade of Calcutta** during the month of **March** was valued at 5,810 crores. This was an increase of 143¼ lakhs was compared with March of the previous year. Nearly every principal article of commerce participated in this increase. One and a half lakhs represented a more active export of treasure, but the improvement in the export of general merchandise was 141¾ lakhs. Opium, linseed cotton twist, and raw hemp fell off, however, in the aggregate by 16½ lakhs. Raw jute showed an advance of 64 lakhs. Over 1 million cwt. of raw jute were shipped, an increase on the same month of 1905 of 452,216 cwt. Jute exports have been well sustained in the first quarter of 1906, and show an aggregate increase of nearly 1½ million cwt. in that period. Each month of the past 2 years has shown a steady increase in the export of hides and skins, over the figures for the same periods of the previous year, and this year hides and skins have been sent away in larger quantities than ever. Jute manufactures contributed in the last month 29⅓ lakhs to the general increase in the value of exports. Tea shipments rose in value by 19⅔ lakhs; cotton by nearly 6 lakhs; and tea exports from Calcutta by 694,594 lbs. and from Chittagong 252,303 lbs. Higher values were also shown for grain, pulses, manures, mica and castor-oil.

In the **Convention between Siam and Denmark** which was signed on the 24th of March 1905, agreements were arrived at concerning the **registration of and jurisdiction over** Danish subjects in Siam. The Convention provides that the registration of Danish subjects residing in Siam shall comprise all persons residing in Siam upon whom the Danish laws confer Danish nationality, and no other persons shall be entitled to any protection from the Danish Government.

With regard to the jurisdiction to which in the future without any exception all Danish subjects in Siam will be subjected, the two Governments agree:—

In criminal matters if the offender be a Danish subject, he shall be tried and punished by the Danish Consular officer.

In civil matters all actions brought by a Siamese against a Danish subject shall be heard before the Danish Consular Court. If the defendant is a Siamese, the action shall be heard by the Siamese Court for Foreign Causes.

But all civil or criminal cases arising in the Provinces of Chiengmai, Lakhon, Lampoon, Pray and Nan, brought or instituted either by the Siamese Government or by Siamese or Foreign subjects, in which a Danish subject may be a defendant, and likewise all civil and criminal cases in which a Danish subject may be the plaintiff or complainant, the defendant being a person under Siamese jurisdiction, shall be heard before the Siamese International Court.

The *Board of Trade Journal* publishes the following return of the number of **Bales of Cotton Imported and Exported** at the various ports of the **United Kingdom** during the week and 13 weeks ended 29th March, 1906:—

	Week ended 29th March 1906.	13 weeks ended 29th March 1906.	Week ended 29th March 1906.	13 weeks ended 29th March 1906.
	Imports (Bales).		Exports (Bales).	
	No.	No.	No.	No.
American .	47,695	1,029,939‡	3,508	54,894‡
Brazilian .	1,058	20,722‡	84	4,474
East Indian .	620	42,211‡	510	13,627‡
Egyptian .	3,330	197,323‡	2,178	43,892
Miscellaneous	2,421*	18,609‡†	143	1,922‡
TOTAL .	55,184	1,378,804	6,723	118,809

* Including 542 bales British West Indian and 346 bales British West African.

† Including 1,755 bales British West Indian and 628 bales British West African.

‡ Co[illegible]

In his report for the year 1905, His Majesty's Consul-General at Warsaw (Mr. A. P. Murray) gives some particulars of an entirely new industry recently established in the Russian Empire, *viz.*, the manufacture of **artificial food for cattle.** The matter is worthy of general attention, particularly in a country like India, where it is so often necessary to supplement ordinary fodder when insufficient in quantity or inferior in quality. The decline of Russian cattle farming, says Mr. Murray, is generally admitted to be chiefly due to the insufficiency and inferior quality of food-stuffs.

Manufactories of cattle food in the United Kingdom, France and Germany employ large quantities of Russian molasses for purposes of their production, and a considerable amount made of Russian raw material is sent back to Russia in the form of cattle food. The richer class of stock owners, who are the chief purchasers, have to pay the cost of transport, duty and agency fees, in addition to the high price of the food.

Under these circumstances, special interest must be attached to the first artificial cattle food factory in the Empire, just started near Warsaw by an Austro-Polish company, which is, therefore, the pioneer of an industry capable of great expansion in Russia.

As molasses will be principally used in the manufacture of the special food made by this factory, there will be no difficulty in obtaining material from the local sugar refineries.

The price of the food made in this factory is at present high, but the directors explain that it will vary in accordance with the market price of the dearer ingredients, as for instance bran; and that a poud (36 lbs.) will always be from 15 to 20 copecks (4*d.* or 5*d.*) cheaper than the same weights of oats.

Mr. J. Heniker Heaton, writing to the *Times* on the subject of the Postal Congress and **universal penny postage,** quotes some interesting statistics in support of universal penny postage.

These we reproduce:—"During the last century ten million British emigrants went to the United States, as against five millions to our Colonies. The American-English send home £15,000,000 yearly to poor relatives in the United Kingdom.

"It would cost us about £25,000 in the first year to establish penny postage to the Unted States, and £125,000 to all foreign countries. In the third or fourth year there would be a profit.

"All the populous states make a large profit from the Post Office, but the American surplus is swallowed up by concessions to book post senders.

"It costs 2½*d.* for a letter to France, 21 miles, but only 1*d.* for one to Fiji, 11,000 miles.

"Our letters sent abroad number but 60 millions out of a total of 2,624 millions posted.

"Seven hundred and eighty thousand passengers cross the Channel yearly. Thirty-six thousand English are settled in France alone. Many thousands of our children are educated on the Continent.

"Our 2½*d.* foreign postage rate is," says Mr. Heaton, "in effect a tax on British exports, a species of impost which must revolt protectionists and free traders alike. We have already universal half-penny postage for printed matter; let us strive to bring about universal penny postage for written matter. I have earnestly pressed the new Postmaster-General to give such instructions to his representatives at the Rome Congress on this subject as will be in accordance with the general and hearty sentiment of the British people, here and in the Colonies."

Dr. H. H. Cousins, M.A., Government Analytical and Agricultural Chemist, Jamaica, wrote for "Jamaica in 1905" certain notes on the **Sugar industry** of the island. Some of the passages of his note are particularly **interesting to Indian readers.** "The **causes of the depression** of the sugar industry are" he says, "not far to seek, and in so much as they are of local origin the writer has no hesitation in affirming that they are entirely remediable. **The cane grown** in Jamaica to-day probably contains nearly the same percentage of sugar as the cane first brought from Otaheite by Captain Bligh in 1796. Its **content of sugar** is quite 10 per cent. below that of the improved sugar-beets grown in Germany at the present time. There are many estates in the island producing from 12 to 15 tons of canes per acre, or the equivalent of an ordinary crop of sugar beet. Instead of a **recovery** of a ton of sugar from 8 or 9 tons of produce, as in a modern sugar factory, no estate in the island works less than 11 tons, and the average if fully 16 to 18 tons of cane per ton of sugar. The writer knows of an estate where 27 tons of cane are required to produce 1 ton of sugar."

"The **yield of sugar per acre** on estates at present in cultivation in Jamaica can be **doubled** by the most ordinary methods and appliances. This statement is not lightly made, and it errs rather in under-estimation than over-estimation of the problem. Some of the most obvious of these improvements are the following:—The original expectation that the sugarcane might be as greatly improved in sugar content as the sugar beet, by years of systematic selection of seedlings, on analysis, has not been fulfilled. Beyond a certain point—24 per cent. sucrose in the juice—any increase in richness of cane involves a reduction in agricultural yield. The line of development of the sugarcane as a cultivated plant, lies primarily in the direction of increased tonnage of cane, and secondly, in that of greater purity of juice. Systematic work in the improvement of the cane has been carried on for some years in Demerara and Barbados.

"Large stretches of the most unctuous loam ever blended in an alluvial plain are available for sugar cultivation in certain districts of the island. In the past, failure has attended sugar cultivation on

certain of these lands, owing to an entire failure to appreciate the vital necessity of **deep and thorough drainage.** With a tropical rainfall this is far more essential than in a temperate clime.

"What **cultivation** can do in improving the growth and production of cane has been well illustrated by the results of a few progressive sugar planters. Deep ploughing, subsoiling drainage, green manuring with cow peas, frequent harrowing, and cultivation are practices vital to the success of cane cultivation on most Jamaica soils. There are estates where good cultivation alone has turned a moribund property into a source of splendid profit to its owners.

"At least ten times the amount of fertilizers at present applied to cane land in Jamaica is demanded in the interest of the industry. It is granted that on lands where cultivation is neglected and the proprietor is satisfied with the minimum crop, which an untilled and uncared-for soil is capable of producing, the use of fertilizers might result in very little financial profit. On well-tilled soils, where sugarcane is not merely grown, but cultivated, such fertilizers as basic slag or acid phosphate of nitrogenous manures could be extensively used, and a remunerative increase obtained. A proprietor recently told the writer that the use of fertilizers during the past two years has encouraged him to continue his property as a sugar estate and to secure a profit, whereas, before, he made serious losses owing to the low yield of cane. The working of a series of experimental plots, to test the profitable manuring of the sugarcane, is being undertaken by the Board of Agriculture in all the chief sugar districts, and the results applicable to each locality will soon be available to guide the planters as to the judicious use of fertilisers."

Dr. Cousins also goes into the question of central factories, defective crushing and the manufacture of rum.

❦

In our issue of the 12th April, we referred to a request, made in the House of Lords, by the Earl of Wemyss, for the **deductions** made by Sir Alfred Bateman **from 171 Consular Reports,** as to British trade and methods, to be laid upon the table of the House. The reports digested by Sir Alfred Bateman covered the period 1898-1902. The following are in brief his deductions :—

"The reports indicate that the following are some of the causes which are considered as tending to place British trade at a disadvantage in those districts where, especially of late years, foreign competition has been more than usually keen.

"(1) The disinclination of British traders—(*a*) to supply a cheaper class of goods; (*b*) to be content with a small order at first; (*c*) to study customer's wishes; (*d*) to adopt the metric system in calculations of weights, cost, etc.; (*e*) to grant credit facilities.

"(2) The scarcity of British commercial travellers, in comparison with those of other nationalities, their ignorance of the language of the countries they visit, and the endeavour to supply their place by a lavish distribution of catalogues and other matter printed in English only.

"(3) The inferiority of the British to the German and American methods of packing.

"(4) The additional cost of goods caused by the high rates of freight on British lines of steamers.

"(5) The frequency of strikes in the United Kingdom tending to cause uncertainty in the delivery of orders.

"(6) The development of technical education in Germany, and the greater attention paid in schools to modern languages, added to the system of sending young Germans all over the world to acquire a practical knowledge of the language, business habits, etc., of the other countries, by means of which they are afterwards able to compete with those countries with a greater chance of success.

"It is necessary, more than ever, that the change of conditions should be recognised, and we can scarcely expect to maintain our past undoubted pre-eminence, at any rate without strenuous effort, and careful and energetic improvement in method."

And he goes on to add :—

"The problem, how best this can be done, is of vital interest to all classes of the industrial and commercial community alike, though the assistance which the State can give in the matter must necessarily be of a limited character."

❦

The following statement, showing the weight of **tin and tin ore** (tin exported in the form of ore having been taken at 70 per cent. of the gross weight of the ore) **exported from the Federated Malay States** during the years 1904 and 1905, is reprinted from the "Selangor Government Gazette":—

State.	1904.			1905.		
	Tin.	Tin exported in the form of ore.	Total.	Tin.	Tin exported from the form of ore.	Total.
	Pikuls.	Pikuls.	Pikuls.	Pikuls.	Pikuls.	Pikuls.
Perak . . .	147,397	303,273	450,670	139,005	307,776	446,781
Selangor. . .	120,151	184,550	304,701	114,686	175,181	289,867
Negri Sembilan .	49,810	35,879	85,689	48,998	36,135	85,133
Pahang . . .	5,687	22,381	28,068	5,600	29,279	34,879
Total .	323,045	546,083	869,128	308,289	548,371	856,660

Note.—1 pikul=133⅓ lbs.

The figures for 1904 will not agree with those previously published. In order to obtain a true comparison it has been necessary to reduce the ore to 70 per cent. instead of 68 per cent. of the gross weight in respect of the period January to October, inclusive.

In connection with this statement it is interesting to read the figures published by the Mexican Ministry of Finance on tin mining and prospecting in that republic. At present there are in existence 38 tin properties, and 710 claims in Mexico. Of these seven are in the State of Durango, where 31 claims have been established. In Guanajuato there are 20 properties and 50 claims, and in Zacatecas 8 properties and 296 claims. The mineral has not been exploited to any great extent, as have gold, silver, lead, and copper, which claim almost a monopoly of attention from financiers. It is stated in England, however, that a growing interest as being shown in the tin resources of Mexico, which are important. Most of the Mexican tin is found in the old beds of rivers.

❦

The following table, compiled by the South African Customs Statistical Bureau, shows the value of the principal articles exported from Cape Colony during the six months ended 31st December, 1904 and 1905, respectively :—

	Six months ended 31st December.	
	1904	1905
	£	£
Animals living . . .	326,000	192,000
Copper ore and regulus . .	260,000	283,000
Diamonds*	3,042,000	3,482,000
Feathers, ostrich . . .	467,000	577,000
Gold, raw*	8,016,000	10,678,000
Hair, Angora	333,000	372,000
Hides and skins . . .	271,000	312,000
Wool	756,000	906,000
Other articles	126,000	94,000
Total exports over sea .	13,597,000	16,896,000
Exports to other States in the Union	768,000	1,165,000
Total exports of South African produce	14,365,000	18 061,000
Imported goods re-exported over-sea	188,000	215,000
Imported goods removed to other States in the Union . .	2,367,000	2,284,000
Specie to all parts . . .	17,000	74,000
Grand total of all exports† .	16,937,000	20,634,000

* Includes produce of other South African Colonies in transit.

† Exclusive of goods shipped through the post. The value of such goods during the six months ended 31st December was 14,000*l.*

❦

The following table shows the **shipments of gunnies** from Calcutta **to Peru** during the year beginning 1st April 1905, and ending 31st March 1906 :—

Port of shipment.	Number of bales.	Pieces.	Value. £
Callao . . .	1,100	371,300	96,191
Cerro Azul . . .	242	83,600	23,067
Eten	881	278,300	87,616
Huacho . . .	80	24,000	6,270
Huanchaco . . .	990	297,000	84,562
Mollendo . . .	555	187,000	43,622
Pacasmayo . . .	169	50,700	19,313
Pisco	135	45,000	23,077
Salaverry . . .	1,238	375,400	117,789
Samanco . . .	103	30,900	11,746
Supe	365	109,500	31,670
Total .	5,858	1,854,700	544,923

❦

Agricultural questions have been receiving special attention throughout India during the last few years, and already the improvement in agricultural practice in every province of the Empire is becoming pleasingly evident. During the past year the Department of Land Records and Agriculture of the United Province has been especially busy. The Department, which had been thoroughly reorganised, made good progress with the establishment of an agricultural college, with research laboratories attached, at Cawnpore, and also established agricultural stations with experimental farms, at several places in the province at which cultivators are now able to obtain advice from experts. The Departmental report shows that very satisfactory results were obtained from the working of the **Government Sugar Factory** at Rampore. Influenced by these demonstrations the Rampore State is importing machinery, with a view to working a new process of sugar manufacture on a considerable scale. Three large landholders who have decided to start small factories are also procuring machinery through that Department, and several applications have been received from persons who desire to learn the process. The Demonstration Farm at Meerut has, however, not proved the success that it was hoped it would be, and it has been decided under the new scheme to close this farm, and restore the land to the original owners. The farm was started in an unfavourable situation, and on too large a scale. At the same time it might have paid its way but for the fact that severe frost caused considerable damage to certain special crops from which a large income was expected.

INDIAN TEA.

The area under tea in 1885 was 283,925 acres, and the yield 71,525,977 lbs. In 1895 the area under tea had increased to 415,717 acres, and the production to 143,407,827 lbs. The area and production since 1900 have been as follows :—

Year.	Area.	Production.
	Acres.	lbs.
1900	522,487	187,460,664
1901	524,767	191,902,773
1902	525,257	188,589,201
1903	526,611	209,041,888
1904	521,472	222,217,223

STATISTICS of the area under tea in India, and of the production of tea in the year 1905, are not yet available. It is certain, however, that the area and production will not be below those of any previous period.

In the year 1904, nine-tenths of the area under tea in India was in the Provinces of Assam and Bengal. The other tenth was divided between Northern and Southern India, Northern India possessing 7,300 acres, and Southern India 33,322 acres. There were at the end of March 1905, 134 Tea Planting Companies registered in India, with a nominal capital of Rs. 3,93,62,880, of which Rs 3,42,22,658 had been paid up. Of these companies 128 were registered in Bengal, their nominal capital amounting to Rs. 3,60,88,380, of which Rs. 3,22,72,158 had been paid up.

The following table shows the quantity and value of tea exported from India in the last six years :—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	Rs.
1900-01	190,305,490	9,55,09,301
1901-02	179,684,932	8,14,94,893
1902-03	181,423,518	7,36,16,471
1903-04	207,159,793	8,55,79,327
1904-05	211,887,158	8,46,54,867
1905-06	214,198,943	8,87,72,866

The quantities of tea exported from India to the principal countries of the world for the last four years were as follows :—

Country.	1902-03	1903-04	1904-05	1905-06
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
United Kingdom .	152,895,000	170,186,000	167,691,000	166,604,000
Canada . . .	5,554,000	8,576,000	12,607,000	15,019,000
Russia . . .	3,968,000	9,451,000	9,332,000	9,991,000
Australia . .	5,795,000	7,269,000	6,601,000	7,746,000
Turky in Asia .	3,273,000	2,830,000	4,009,000	3,464,000
Persia . . .	3,254,000	2,171,000	3,136,000	1,091,000
United States .	2,672,000	1,528,000	2,237,000	2,185,000
Other countries .	5,234,000	10,901,000	6,978,000	8,084,000

An analysis of the values of the export trade in tea from India to the principal foreign countries in the year 1905-06, as compared with the year 1904-05 shows that exports to the United Kingdom increased by Rs. 19,02,544, or 2·8 per cent.; to Canada by Rs. 12,37,371, or 22·6 per cent.; to Russia by Rs. 10,11,830, or 30·7 per cent.; and to Australia by Rs. 7,16,273, or 32·3 per cent. The trade with the United States, on the other hand, fell off by Rs. 82,391, or 9·7 perc ent,, and with Persia by Rs. 8,76,047, or 65·5 per cent.

The value of India's export trade in tea to the United States and to Persia shows very violent fluctuations. For instance, the value of the trade with Persia was in 1900-01 Rs. 11,44,221, and in 1901-02 Rs. 11,41,549; in 1902-03 it rose to Rs. 15,08,893, dropping again, in 1903-04, to Rs. 10,33,381, rising, in1904-05, to Rs. 13,37,191, and again sinking in 1905--06 to Rs. 4,61,144. That is to say the trade in 1902-03 showed an increase of 31·9 per cent. over that of 1900-01, whilst the trade for 1905-06 was 59·7 per cent. below that of 1900-01, and 91·5 per cent. below that of 1902-03. The great increase in imports of tea into Persia in the year 1902-03 is accounted for by the rush that took place to get in ahead of the new Customs Tariff, which so greatly increased the imposts on tea. Nevertheless it is evident that the Indian tea trade with Persia has shrunk considerably. One reason for this is found in the distaste for the "rough" Indian teas evinced by the Persians, who as the report of the Indian Commercial Mission recorded, prefer the milder Java blends.

The values of Indian tea exported to the United States were as follows :—

In 1900-01 Rs. 6,29,241; in 1901-02 Rs. 3,85,736; in 1902-03 Rs. 7,89,333; in 1903-04 Rs.6,23,266; in 1904-05 Rs. 8,44,476, and in 1905-06 Rs. 7,62,085. Comparing the trade of 1905-06 with that of previous years we see that the value in that year was 21·1 per cent. greater than in 1900-01, and 97·5 greater than in 1901-02, but 3·4 per cent. under that of 1902-03. On the whole, therefore, it has advanced in a satisfactory manner.

The following table, showing the imports of tea into India in the years 1900 to 1906 is interesting :—

Year.		Countries. United Kingdom.	Ceylon.	Straits Settlements.	China.	Java.	Other Countries.	Total.
1900-01	Quantity .	lbs. 22,304	lbs. 1,496,700	lbs. 448,328	lbs. 2,361,608	lbs. 431,483	lbs. 189,210	lbs. 4,949,633
	Value .	Rs. 14,229	Rs. 5,62,428	Rs. 1,62,032	Rs. 12,87,030	Rs. 4,05,903	Rs. 1,05,499	Rs. 25,37,121
1901-02	Quantity .	lbs. 35,618	lbs. 820,709	lbs. 461,224	lbs. 1,594,741	lbs. 150,660	lbs. 141,515	lbs. 3,204,467
	Value .	Rs. 20,617	Rs. 3,27,104	Rs. 1,64,655	Rs. 9,00,789	Rs. 1,18,317	Rs. 72,454	Rs. 16,03,936
1902-03	Quantity .	lbs. 33,617	lbs. 780,078	lbs. 491,246	lbs 2,111,442	lbs. 267,623	lbs. 164,351	lbs. 3,846,357
	Value .	Rs. 19,725	Rs. 3,12,123	Rs. 1,75,440	Rs. 12,71,175	Rs. 2,14,092	Rs. 67,240	Rs. 20,59,795
1903-04	Quantity .	lbs. 32,539	lbs. 433,365	lbs. 542,301	lbs. 2,141,847	lbs. 305,400	lbs. 217,381	lbs. 3,672,833
	Value .	Rs. 20,341	Rs. 1,80,035	Rs. 1,89,463	Rs. 13,63,029	Rs. 2,15,700	Rs. 1,14,656	Rs. 20,83,224
1904-05	Quantity .	lbs. 33,617	lbs. 1,612,608	lbs. 532,986	lbs. 1,229,703	lbs. 199,225	lbs. 126,440	lbs. 3,734,579
	Value .	Rs. 21,930	Rs. 6,06,918	Rs. 1,95,996	Rs. 8,83,763	Rs. 1,28,247	Rs. 59,161	Rs. 18,96,015
1905-06	Quantity .	lbs. 29,587	lbs. 1,741,838	lbs. 491,170	lbs. 1,379,067	lbs. 151,881	lbs. 5,682	lbs. 3,799,225
	Value .	Rs. 19,554	Rs. 6,41,858	Rs. 1,81,992	Rs. 8,72,419	Rs. 1,15,602	Rs. 3,344	Rs. 18,34,769

The Indian market for all kinds of tea was firm all through the year, and the new year opened hopefully for foreign trade.

The average price of Indian Pekoe per pound in Calcutta, as reported by the Calcutta Price Current and Market Report was in 1900, 5 as. 8 p.; in 1901 4 as. 9 p.; in 1902 5 as. 5 p.; in 1903 6 as. 3 p.; in 1904 7 as. 11 p.; and in 1905 8 as. The price was maintained in January and February, there being no quotation for March or April.

Messrs. Barry & Co.'s report gives the average prices for all teas as 5 as. 3 p. in 1902-03; 5 as. 10 p. in 1903-04; 5 as. 4 p. in 1904-05; 5 as. 5 p. in 1905-06 on the Calcutta market, the London equivalents being 6·50*d.* 1902-03; 7·15*d.* 1903-04; 6·50*d.* 1904-05; 6·75*d.* 1905-06.

Reports regarding the London market, the most important one for India, show that in the year 1905 there was a high market for good and fine teas and a low one for common qualities. On the whole, profits were more evenly distributed over the various tea-producing districts than they had been in recent years. The price of common tea had been consistently low, notwithstanding a deficiency in Cachar and Sylhet crops, being kept down by the larger import of Ceylon tea in 1905 and by the China Congou left over from the previous year. Assam crop however showed an improvement of nearly 1*d.* per pound in the average price, whilst the reduction of 2*d.* per pound on the duty has caused an easier feeling in the market. The stocks in hand in London on the 31st March were :—

	lbs.
Indian	82,514,414
Ceylon	29,581,025
Java	3,346,944
China	14,250,583
Total .	129,642,966

The imports of India tea into London during the calender year 1905 amounted to lbs. 159,500,000 as compared with lbs. 161,000,000 in 1904. Deliveries were 15,560 lbs. (including 11 millions for export) against 160,000,000 (including 13 millions for export) during the previous year. Imports of Ceylon tea during the year amounted to 110,000,000 lbs., against 97,000,000 lbs. in 1904. Deliveries were 104,500,000 lbs. (including 16 millions for export) compared with 93 millions pounds (including 14 millions for export) in the previous year. The London market in 1904-05 was somewhat upset by the imposition of the additional tax of 2*d.* per pound in April 1904, whilst the removal of this tax in July 1905, though it relieved the trade, interfered with the natural course of sales. The attention of the trade in England is now fixed on the question of a probable further reduction in the tea duty. This results in duty payments being kept within smallest possible dimensions, stock already in the country which has paid duty being drawn upon for current requirements. Duty payments in March 1906 were, however, slightly in excess of those in 1905, and early in April were well ahead. This indicates that

there is no excessive congestion of tea in the country outside of bonded stocks. Reports for the opening year show that good tea is in brisk demand. An increase in the prices of lower grade tea was rendered impossible by over supply from Ceylon in 1905, as it was by over supply from India and China in 1904. The taste for higher grade teas is, however, evidently growing throughout the United Kingdom just as it is in America. In other countries, though the aggregate consumption of India and Ceylon tea was stationary at the end of 1905 and the beginning of 1906, an increase is looked for. Canada continues to take steadily increasing quantities of Indian tea, but, even as in the United Kingdom and the United States, the chief demand is for higher grade in preference to lower grade teas. In both Canada and the United States a distinguishing feature has been the growth in the sale of packet teas, as a result of steady advertisement.

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INDIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

BENGAL.

Cust oms Duty on Australasian Sleepers.—At their meeting of 6th March the Committee considered a letter from Messrs. Weddel, Turner & Co., London, suggesting a representation being made by the Chamber to Government with a view to the repeal of the duty on sleepers imported from Australasia for the use of Companies other than railways. The letter pointed out the large and growing nature of trade in Australian hard woods and that the tramway companies were placing orders for Australian sleepers. The Committee found themselves unable to comply with this request, as they were opposed to the practice of making special exemptions in customs duty, and did not see that any sound reason existed in this particular case.

"Indian Trade Journal."—At their meeting of 6th March the Committee had before them a preliminary prospectus of the "Indian Trade Journal," a weekly publication then about to be issued by the Commercial Intelligence Department. The Committee took exception to the proposal to afford proprietors of trade marks, known in the Indian markets, a means of publicly asserting their claims to exclusive user by notification in the "Indian Trade Journal." As it was feared that serious complications might arise from such publication of trade marks, for which the necessity was not shown, there was strong opposition against the proposal on the part of piece goods importers who considered they were sufficiently protected by the existing law and the facilities offered would, it was believed, only be made use of by parties who desire to establish doutful claims. The Committee are glad to state that, as the result of a representation to the Hon'ble Mr. Hewett, the proposal which had met with similar opposition in Bombay was withdrawn. The further proposal to insert commercial cards, or trade introductions in the Journal has also met with strong opposition both in Calcutta and Bombay, and the protests have been referred to the Government of India.

Prevention by Legislation of Fraudulent Watering of Jute.—At their meeting of 6th March the Committee considered the revised draft Act prepared by Messrs. Sanderson & Co., and in view of the fact that Government were pressing strongly for the opinion of the Chamber and as the matter had been under discussion for a long period, it was decided to forward copies of the draft to all parties interested, with a request that opinions should be sent in not later than 19th March.

At their meeting of 20th March the various replies were considered, and a Sub-Committee consisting of Mr. A. P. Rodocanachi, Mr. Peter Swan, and Mr. P. E. Suttie, of Naraingunj, was appointed to consider the suggestions made, and report to the Committee as to any futher necessary amendments. The Sub-Committee met on the 27th March, and their report on the Bill, with further proposed amendments is now in the hands of Messrs. Sanderson & Co. for the purpose of re-drafting. The Committee propose to submit the Bill, without further delay, to the Governments of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam, and if legislation is introduced it will no doubt be sent down for further consideration.

Liability for Shortage on Sugar Cargo landed at the Docks and delivered from the Jetties.—At their meeting of the 6th March the Committee considered a representation from a firm of sugar importers, members of the Chamber, asking for an opinion as to where the liability rested for loss occasioned by sugar cargo landed at the docks but delivered from the jetties. Under ordinary circumstances sugar would be landed at the jetties, but owing to congestion it was now being discharged to a great extent at the docks. Three days were allowed by steamer agents for making claims, and this was sufficient when cargo was landed at the jetties but now that it had to be brought up from the docks to the jetties, steamer agents were repudiating liability unless claims for shortage were made within three days from the landing of the last bag at the docks, a condition which was found practically impossible under existing circumstances. After consultation with the Shipping, Sub-Committee the Committee expressed their opinion that the claim for shortage or damage was apparently against the Port Commissioners unless the Port Commissioners could show that the damage was done before the sugar came into their hands. The Committee also addressed the Port Commissioners suggesting that similar claims should be dealt with liberally with a view to reducing the drawbacks to dock discharge.

Trade with Tibet.—On the 10th March the Committee addressed the Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, pointing out that at the present moment the great obstacle to the development of trade of any kind with Tibet was the absence of a satisfactory road, and representing that if commercial development was to be expected improved communications are essential. The Committee suggested the construction of a road on a route through Bhutan which they believed had already been surveyed and which, they understood, could be constructed with easy gradients to the Chumbi Valley and thence on to Gyantse. A reply has just been received intimating that the construction of the road in question is at present under the consideration of the Government of India.

Colliery Disaster at Courrieres in France.—As the result of a meeting of members of the Chamber held on the 23rd March a fund has been opened by the Committee to assist in relieving sufferers by the recent Colliery explosion at Courriers in France, which was of unprecedented magnitude. Up to date of issue about Rs. 6,000 has been subscribed, and when the fund has been closed the money will be transmitted through the Consul-General of France, who has expressed his appreciation of the action taken by the Committee.

Customs Duty on Shortages.—On the 28th March, the Committee addressed the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, with refereuce to a change which they understood was to be introduced in the present system of levying Customs duty on the contents of packages found short on being landed in this port. The Committee were informed that the system in Calcutta was to be assimilated to that which was operative in the ports of Bombay, Madras, Karachi, and Rangoon, but ascertained from the Committees of Bombay, Madras, and Karachi Chambers that they considered the practice prevailing in those ports was objectionable and should be assimilated to the more equitable system at present in force in Calcutta. The Committee submitted that the Calcutta practice was the correct one, and requested that the whole question should be re-considered by the Government of India.

Inadequate supply of Wagons on Indian Railways.—This formed the subject of further correspondence with the Railway Board which the Committee addressed at considerable length on the 19th March in support of previous representations both from the Chamber and from the Indian Mining Association. The letter has been already published for general information and consequently need not be referred to at length here. The Committee are glad to report that a prompt reply was received on the 31st March from the Railway Board, the statements in which were considered satisfactory and may be summarised as follows:—While the Board admitted that Indian Railways as a whole are at present below what should be the standard of equipment of rolling-stock for present requirements, they had taken steps to improve this standard and would continue to do so to meet future development of trade. The amount allotted for rolling stock during 1906-1907 was for open lines solely. The actual amount asked for by railway administrations was 395 lakhs, the amount allotted was 382 lakhs, and the whole of the demands of the railways running into Calcutta were granted. The grant was 108 lakhs in excess of the provision for the year 1905-1906 and formed a very large proportion of the total sum available for the improvement and extension of the railways in India.

Guarantees by Provincial Governments for construction of Local Railways.—The opinion of the Committee of the Chamber was asked in December last by the Government of Bengal, with regard to the proposals put forward by the Government of India on the subject of guarantees for the construction of local railways, and the Committee after consultation with firms interested in the promotion of such lines, have submitted their views as follows:—

(*a*) That the guarantee should be in perpetuity terminating only with the acquisition of the lines by Government; the option of acquisition to be exercised after 21 years from the opening of the lines for traffic, thereafter at intervals of seven years.

(*b*) That the rate of interest should certainly not be less than 4% .

(*c*) That the profits should be divided equally between Government and the shareholders after 4% has been reached.

The Committee have intimated that investors would not be attracted by any terms less favourable than the above.

Freight charges levied by the East Indian Railway.—On the 29th March the Committee addressed the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, on the subject of the freight charges at present levied by the East Indian Railway Company and dealt with a letter of 6th December 1905 addressed by the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce to the Government of India, traversing the arguments put forward by this Chamber, in support of their suggestion for a modification of the existing system of uniform minimum mileage rates. In this letter, which has been published for general information, the Committee further elucidated their views in support of their previous arguments that uniform minimum mileage rates have entailed needlessly high freight charges on the Eastern lines. They cannot but feel that the position has been misapprehended to some extent by the Bombay Chamber, and that the arguments put forward by that body are not sound.

Plague Regulations: imposition of Quarantine at Penang and Singapore.—The abstract of proceedings for December 1905 contained a reference to the action of the Committee in approaching Government urging that a representation should be made for the revision of the plague regulations to Penang and Singapore, which appeared to be unduly rigorous involving serious detention to vessels. The matter was referred to the Government of India, who moved the Secretary of State for India to make a representation on the subject, through the Colonial Office, which the Committee regret to state was ineffectual, the Straits Settlement Administration having refused to become a party to the Paris Sanitary Convention and also declined to reduce the period of quarantine below 10 days.

Report of the Commitee on Indian Trade Statistics.—The Report of this Committee, which was formed under orders of the Government of India in January 1905, was received early in March by the Committee of the Chamber, accompanied with resolutions conveying the orders of the Government of India upon it. The Report, which is of a somewhat voluminous nature, gives in full detail the recommendations and statistics made by the Committee to improve the accuracy and to increase the usefulness of the trade statistics at present published by Government. The Committee have been asked by Government to assist the officials as far as possible in introducing the new arrangements and obtaining the co-operation of members, and have promised every assistance in their power.

Inland Book and Packet Postage.—In January 1906, the Committee addressed the Director-General of the Post Office of India, suggesting the advisability of a modification of the existing regulations for inland book and packet postage. The tariff provides at present a minimum of $\frac{1}{2}$ anna for 10-tola packets. The Committee suggested that if the minimum rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ anna were introduced for 5-tola packets, leaving the 10-tola rate as at present, it would meet a general want, and would result in a large increase in traffic, which would more than compensate for the concession. The Committee were informed, however, by Sir Arthur Fanshawe, who had received a similar representation from the Punjab Trades Association, that he did not see his way to introducing this reform at present, as Government were of opinion that it would not be a remunerative rate of postage in this country. Sir Arthur Fanshawe pointed out that the Hon. Mr. Hewett, in his speech at the debate on the Budget, intimated that it had been decided that the first object to which the surplus revenue of the Post Office would be devoted was to raise the weight of a letter to be carried for $\frac{1}{2}$ anna postage to one tola. The Committee will bear the matter in mind for a suitable opportunity of moving again in connection with it.

Rates for Urgent & Ordinary Telegrams.—The Committee have supported a representation to the Director-General of Telegraphs from the Madras Chamber of Commerce, pointing out an anomaly in the charges for urgent and ordinary telegrams when messages exceed 16 words. In these classes the charges for 16 words are Rs. 2 and Re. 1, respectively, and for additional words 4 and 2 annas, respectively. The charge for additional words is not in proportion to the payment for the 16 words, and the result is that in cases of lengthy telegrams senders are understood to be in the habit of splitting up the messages in 2, 3, 4 or even more telegrams to the same addressee where one would suffice, if the charge for an additional word were half of what it now is. A case in point was given of an urgent message, of 70 words in the text and 2 in the address costing Rs. 16 if despatched in one message, but Rs. 10 only if despatched in 5 *separate messages*. The representation has also been supported by the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, who have urged that the charges for *extra words* in deferred messages should be reconsidered at the same time.

Stamps on Share Transfers.—At a recent conference with the Hon. Mr. F. A. Slacke at the Board of Revenue, the previous suggestions of the Committee for regulating the stamping of share transfers, were discussed and confirmed. The following suggestions were made on behalf of the Committee

(*a*) That for the protection of the Stamp Revenue each Company might be required to certify to the Collector yearly that all the stamps used for transfer purposes had been completely defaced by a perforating machine directly the documents to which they were affixed had been produced during the year under report before the Company for the purpose of registration.

(*b*) That blank transfer documents should be dated by the seller in the first instance and be valid for six months only from the date of the execution of the deed.

(*c*) That the existing stamp duty might be lowered *from* $\frac{1}{4}$*th to* $\frac{1}{8}$th per cent. as the higher rate, in the opinion of the Committee, was a direct encouragement to evasion.

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MADRAS.

Disputes about Trade Marks :—Read (1) a letter, dated the 16th instant, from Messrs. M. Ostermayer & Co., Bombay, requesting the Chamber to arbitrate with reference to a dispute regarding their trade mark, and (2) a letter from Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. on a similar subject. **Resolved** to inform both firms that the Chamber is willing to undertake arbitration in such cases. The fees in each case will be fixed after the reference has been made and particulars furnished.

Delays in shipment and delivery of piece goods in India :—Read and recorded a letter dated the 21st ultimo from the Chamber of Commerce and Manufacturers, Glasgow, on the above subject communicating a resolution of that Chamber to the following effect: "That however desirable it may be to prevent manufacturers falling behind in their deliveries, the difficulties in the way of enforcing a law to bring about this object are insuperable." "That it must not be forgotten, that buyers have always the legal right to buy in against defaulting sellers, and although under some market conditions this may mean nothing, still, on the other hand, when prices are falling, manufacturers in their turn have often a distinct grievance for unreasonable cancelment on the pretext of slight late delivery caused by no fault of theirs."

"Under the circumstances, and especially in view of the fact that the unprecedented rise in values now extending over nearly two years, has accentuated the present position from a buyer's point of

view, the Directors are unable to take any further action in the matter beyond the expression of opinion above indicated."

Empire Day and the King's Birthday :—Read and **recorded** (1) a reply, dated the 16th instant, from the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, *enclosing copy of a letter addressed to the Government of India* in which the Bombay Chamber regrets its inability for special local reasons to support the Madras Chamber in advocating the gazetting of Empire Day (May 24th) as a public holiday, but supporting the proposal of the Madras Chamber that the King Emperor's Birthday holiday should be observed on November 9th instead of on June 26th as at present; (2) a reply from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce supporting the Madras Chamber's proposals both as regards Empire Day and the King's Birthday holidays.

Railways of the Madras Presidency :—Read letter, dated the 6th instant, from the Agent and Manager, Madras Railway Company, enclosing copy of a Note by the Chairman of the Company on some of the financial aspects of the railways of the Madras Presidency with special reference to the important questions as to the administration of these railways which are bound to arise in the near future, as the periods in their contracts are reached. Read Minutes. **Resolved** that the letter be recorded with the remark that the Chamber agrees generally with the views expressed in the Note. **Resolved further** that the letter since received by the Chairman from the Cocanada Chamber of Commerce in connection with the proposed Godavery Valley Railway Scheme be circulated to Members.

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TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

THE *Board of Trade Journal*, published on the 5th of April, in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations, gives particulars about :—

United Kingdom & Roumania.—Ratification of New Commercial Treaty.

Australian Commonwealth.—Customs Decisions.

Natal.—Prohibition of Importation of Live Stock from East Coast of Africa.

Russia.—Surtax on Indian and Ceylon Teas. Withdrawal of Free Importation of Fish at Arctic Ports. Suspension of New duties on Raw Silk.

France-Switzerland.—Prolongation of the France-Swiss Provisional Commercial Arrangement.

Belgium.—Tariff Modifications.

Spain.—Rate of Exchange for Adjustment of Customs Duties payable in Gold.

Austria-Hungary.—New Customs Tariff.

Bulgaria.—Classification of Soaps.

United States of America.—Customs Decisions.

Cuba.—Classification of Firearms of Importation.

Venezuela.—Closing of Custom-house at Rio Carsibe.

Peru (Loreto Province).—Tariff Alterations in the Department of Loreto.

Ecuador—New Customs Tariff.

We give the following **particulars of changes interesting to Indian Trade.**

UNITED KINGDOM-ROUMANIA.

New Commercial Treaty—Ratification of.

The Ratifications of the new Commercial Treaty between the United Kingdom and Roumania were exchanged at Bucharest on the 17th March.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

(Customs Decisions.)

The following is the substance of some decisions affecting the application of the United States Customs Tariff, which have recently been issued by the Treasury Department at Washington :—

Articles.	Number of Tariff under which dutiable.	Rate of duty.
Cocoa-butter substitutes.—An oily product, having a melting point of 80·6° F., manufactured by refining or otherwise manipulating cocoanut oil so as to fit it for use as a substitute for cocoa-butter; dutiable as "cocoa-butterine" . .	282	lbs. 0 03¼
Chromium, chrome metal, molybdenum, molybdenite, and other similar substances used for hardening steel; dutiable by similitude to ferro-manganese	122	ton. 4 00
	Paragraph of the Tariff under which dutiable.	
Buffalo hides.—So-called wild buffalo hides from Singapore; dutiable as hides of cattle .	437	15% *ad val.*
Capsicum.—The dried pods or fruit of the red paper, a plant of the genus **capsicum**	287	lbs. 0 02½

NETHERLANDS.

Law regulating the levying of *ad valorem* Import Duties, Bill for Revision.

The Foreign Office has issued a translation of a Bill, which has been submitted to the second chamber of the Dutch Legislature, for the revision of the Law of the 20th April, 1895, regulating the method of assessing import duties on goods subject to *ad valorem* rates of duty.

RUSSIA.

Indian and Ceylon Teas—Surtax on.

A recent circular of the Russian Customs Department states that the Imperial Order of August 15th, 1903, increasing the duty on Indian and Ceylon teas from 31 rbls. 50 cop. to 33 rbls. per lb. (*from* 1*s.* 10½*d.* to 1*s.* 11¼*d.* per lb.) remains in force in spite of the entry into operation of the new Customs Tariff, in which only the lower rate is specified. The higher duty referred to applies to all teas of Indian or Ceylon origin imported over the European or Black Sea frontiers, except tea *in transit* to the Trans-Caspian Government and Persia. The Decree also required that certificates of origin shall be furnished in respect of imported teas.

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 21st APRIL 1906.

During the period under review, there was nearly general rain in Assam, local rain in Kashmir and some rain in Upper Burma and Southern India. The principal amounts of rainfalls were :—Cherra Poonjee 8·34″, Sibsagar 4·96″, Silchar 4·61″, Dibrugarh 2·12″, Gauhati 1·52″, Tezpur 1·13″, Sonemarg 0·69″ and Dras 0·47″.

Except in the Brahmaputra Valley and Kashmir, weather had been practically dry over India and Burma throughout the week. In the Brahmaputra Valley, nearly general rain fell on several days, notably on the 17th and 18th, and in Kashmir weather had been generally unsettled and rain had occurred locally. There had also been a few showers in Upper Burma (Bhamo) and the south of the Peninsula (Wellington). **In the first two districts, *viz.*, Kashmir and the Brahmaputra Valley, rainfall had been in excess.**

Of other features of the weather during the period under review, it may be said that a moderate cold wave, followed immediately by a slight warm wave, itself succeeded by a second cold wave, travelled across Northern India during the week, the combined effect being to cause changes amounting to about 8° or 10° within two days. These waves of temperature were due to the persistence of the winter eastward travelling depressions, which were, however, of so weak a character that their presence was not readily detected, and the probability of rainfall resulting from them was small.

On the 15th instant, the barometer fell rapidly in Bihar and the United Provinces and more slowly over the surrounding area, and the South to North pressure gradient was practically normal for the season. On the 16th, the barometer fell slowly over the province and north-west and rose slowly in the south-east of the Bay, so that the hot weather pressure gradient was again a little steeper for the season. On the 17th, the barometer continued falling slowly over the province and rising slowly over the Bay, especially in the south-east, so that the pressure gradient and the consequent indraught from the south-west were as steep and strong as are usually only to be expected in the latter half of May. A further fall of the barometer on the 18th along the base of the Himalayas and a further slight rise in the south-east corner of the Bay had still further increased the quite abnormal south-east to north-west pressure gradient, thereby fully maintaining the strong indraught from the south-west. On the 19th the barometer rose slowly to rapidly over Bengal and Assam and fell slowly over the Bay and in the west, but the general character of the pressure distribution remained unchanged, except for an increase of the east to west component of the pressure gradient over the province. On the 20th the barometer rose rapidly in North Bihar, North Bengal and East Bengal and more slowly over the rest of the area and especially in the south of the Bay, where it remained practically steady. On the 21st, the barometer rose over the whole area with a little progressive diminution of the pressure gradient and scarcely perceptible decrease in the strength of the indraught from the Bay. Temperature was little lower yesterday in South-West Bengal and Madras and a little higher nearly everywhere else. Humidity had increased a little in Bengal and Assam and diminished irregularly elsewhere. Skies were heavily overcast in Assam, Bengal and Orissa and were practically clear over the rest of the area.

The following Telegram, dated the 16th April 1906, was sent from the Viceroy to the Secretary of State :—

Crop prospects: week ending 7th April last. United Provinces of Agra and Oudh :—No rain in affected districts; markets well supplied but scarcity of fodder felt in parts; prices generally easier and still falling. **Punjab :** Slight showers in North and West; prices falling except in the case of wheat; crop prospects good to fair; condition of cattle improving. **Rajputana :** situation in all affected States relieved by the recent rain and prices easier; numbers on relief decreased owing to harvest operations. **Central India :** General situation unaltered in Gwalior and Bundelkhand, where poor houses are being opened; prices falling slightly in parts. **Bombay :** Prices are high in Deccan and Carnatic; distress not yet acute; cattle deteriorating; much grass imported; general condition of the people good. **Hyderabad :** Crops in good condition generally; fodder scarcity in parts. In other provinces prospects fair or good. Number of persons in receipt of relief in thousands :—**United Provinces of Agra and Oudh,** 194, **Punjab** 12, **Ajmer** and **Rajputana, 97, Central India,** 103; **Baroda,** 4, **Bombay,** 61, **Hyderabad,** 4; total, 475.

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GOLD AND SILVER.

The following tables show the **imports and exports of Gold and Silver** from and to foreign countries into and from British India and each month of the year 1905-06 :—

Gold.

Month.	Imports.		Exports.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	oz.	Rs.	oz.	Rs.
April . .	175,347	1,07,92,847	51,076	29,45,939
May . .	147,344	88,29,074	57,911	32,96,609
June . .	121,133	76,68,352	51,491	29,33,867
July . .	255,787	1,57,50,959	312,331	1,81,89,603
August . .	236,816	1,45,52,334	314,960	1,83,21,559
September .	189,991	1,16,66,693	311,525	1,81,05,327
October . .	235,829	1,43,60,980	315,916	1,83,59,433
November .	220,845	1,34,61,123	308,317	1,79,33,832
December .	346,362	2,07,92,397	66,831	38,34,257
January .	139,720	87,79,680	316,046	1,83,77,428
February .	144,319	88,95,445	125,036	72,26,311
March . .	187,926	1,19,39,638	230,452	1,33,85,666
Total .	2,396,419	14,74,89,722	2,461,892	14,29,03,836

Silver.

	Imports.		Exports.	
	oz.	Rs.	oz.	Rs.
April . .	5,462,491	99,80,476	524,742	11,83,750
May . .	3,203,250	58,92,489	182,169	4,85,599
June . .	6,382,778	1,17,87,805	325,712	8,65,325
July . .	4,751,579	86,23,959	392,249	10,43,475
August . .	3,698,608	67,15,612	768,622	20,46,397
September .	1,646,773	31,15,462	499,762	13,30,170
October . .	3,727,339	70,18,124	718,306	19,15,454
December .	9,659,130	1,87,47,340	23,916	63,900
January .	11,653,817	2,26,46,445	194,512	5,12,116
February .	13,898,706	2,72,02,862	187,449	4,98,479
March . .	19,877,372	3,80,39,845	305,703	7,89,429
Total .	88,855,119	16,90,24,716	4,535,314	1,17,90,218

Of the total quantity of gold imported, bullion was represented by 1,339,984 oz., valued at Rs. 8,54,30,452. The total quantity of gold coin imported amounted to 1,056,435 oz., valued at Rs. 6,20,59,270, of which British gold coin was represented by 1,019,769 oz., valued at Rs 5,99,17,270. Of the gold exported, 634,092 oz., valued at Rs. 3,61,12,503, represents bullion. The total of gold coin exported was 1,827,800 oz., valued at Rs. 10,67,97,333, of which British gold coin was represented by 1,824,282 oz., valued at Rs 10,65,92,094. Of the silver imports, 63,982,188 oz., valued at Rs. 12,40,76,609, represent bullion, and 24,872,931 oz. valued at Rs. 4,49,48,107 coin, of which 1,220,712 oz., valued at Rs 32,58,091, represented Government of India rupees. Of the silver exported bullion is represented by 83,958 oz., valued at Rs. 1,69,628, whilst the total of coin exported was 4,451,356 oz., valued at Rs. 1,16,20,590, of which Government of India rupees amounted to 4,155,508 oz., valued at Rs. 1,10,81,420.

The most notable feature in the year's exports of gold was that in February sovereigns worth 45 lakhs were exported on private account from Bombay to the Yokohama Specie Bank, Japan, whilst in March 105 lakhs worth of gold was exported against opposite payment in London. The shipment to Japan was unusually heavy, for, in the 5 years 1900-01 to 1904 to 1905, only 7½ lakhs worth of gold had been exported to Japan, the whole of it in the year 1901-02. The sudden development is explained by shipments made on account of the Japanese loan, raised on the London market. In the "Times" "Financial and Commercial Supplement" of March the 19th, it was noted that "during the week further purchases of gold on Japanese account had been made in Australia and Bombay." At the same time that Japan was raising gold on the London market, the Indian Government were there buying silver. It will be remembered that in November last a Japanese loan was sanctioned of £50,000,000 at 4 per cent. Half of this was to be new debt, the other half being held back to replace the 6 per cent. loan of 1904 when it should become repayable. The "new debt" thus amounted to £25,000,000 only. Of this one quarter has been called, the remaining 75 per cent. (£18,750,000) being payable by the 16th of May next. Now Japan has very large balances at all great money centres, New York, Paris, and Berlin, as well as London. These credit balances, it is estimated, would total in March, April and May to not less than £50,000,000. It was anticipated that Japan would not do anything to disturb the money market, but would remit what she needed in the shape of the produce of England, of Europe, and the United States generally, and of India, and that she would be an extensive purchaser of silver. In March, however, it became known on the London market that Japan had secured a million in gold from the Indian Government. This million, as we have already seen, was paid in two sums of 45 and of 105 lakhs. The information came as a surprise, the shipment of gold from Japan to China, and the consequent shipment of gold from India to Japan, upsetting the general expectation. Till March rice had been shipped in large quantities to Japan from Burma, but this had ceased, and it was not expected that gold remittances would be really large. The particular transaction would seem, however, to have nothing to do with the Secretary of State's purchase of silver. It seems probable that Japan could

not find western commodities destined for her markets in such volume as she required for remittance purposes, and so was contented to make some of her shipments to India, there accepting gold.

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MEKRAN.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. L. P. Tucker, C.I.E., Agent to the Governor-General in Baluchistan, in an account of a recent **Tour in Mekran** gives some interesting information regarding the development of the country, and the general position of affairs therein. The peace of the country is, he says, well maintained, thanks in great measure to the satisfactory footing upon which the Mekran Levy Corps has been maintained. The disputes or difficulties that commonly occur on the Persian border arise generally in connection with the realisation of dues from migratory tribesmen who cross the border whenever the grazing on one side is better than on the other. Such difficulties as have recently occurred have been adequately dealt with. The difficulties would be fewer could the Persian Government, whose nearest post is at Bampur, 150 miles from the border, exercise stronger control over the Perso-Baluch tribesmen and Sirdars, a matter of some difficulty. The localities which, from the point of view of trade, are the most important on the Persian side of the border are Dizak, Magas, Jalk, and Sib Soran. Mr. Tucker reports that some cotton, grain and ghee finds its way to Panjgin and Pasni from Dizak, which seems to be a place of some little productiveness. As regards the possible development of Mekran in the future, Mr. Tucker understands that in the Dasht Valley there is much good land, which, if brought under irrigation, would be very productive. He reports that cotton growing is on the increase in the Kej Valley, where the soil is very good, and supports not only extensive date groves, but a good deal of cultivation when the rains are favourable. Pasni is gradually developing as a small coast port: the fishing trade is on the increase, and exports and imports are growing. Mr. Tucker states that a pier or landing stage is much needed there and has authorised the expenditure from Mekran revenues of a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,000 for this purpose, the work, if necessary, to be done under the advice of a competent engineering firm at Karachi. Jiwani, although a very small coast port indeed, is also showing some development. The harbour dues realised at Pasni and Jiwani go toward the Nizamat revenue, the receipts of which for the year 1905-06 are estimated at Rs. 60,000. It is to the back of Jiwani that the culturable land in the Dasht lies. Though trade is growing at Pasni, and there are signs of improvement in various directions, the country as a whole is a backward tract, covered with low bare hills, cultivation on any scale being restricted mainly to the Kej, Punchgar and other valleys, where, however, it is developing gradually. The population of the country is not accurately known, but the Agent to the Governor-General hopes, if all goes well, that there will be little difficulty in carrying out an enumeration five years hence. It is possible, he says, that the country may contain mineral wealth, though none has yet been discovered. He says that the extension of the telegraph line from Karachi to Las Bela, and onwards to Punchgar (Chitkan) will assist in the development of the country, and that improvement in roads and postal communication should follow as the country becomes more settled and pays its way. The Government of India, commenting upon Mr. Tucker's report, observes that it will be desirable that, as opportunity offers, the prospects of increasing cultivation and irrigation in the Dasht Valley should be further examined, as this might greatly conduce to the peace of the frontier and the development of the sources of the Mekran.

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SUGAR INDUSTRY AND TRADE.

IV.

INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS, CONFERENCES AND CONVENTIONS.

Only France, Belgium, and Holland participated in the *First Sugar Conference 1863*. Other countries, such as Germany, Austria, and Russia, were not concerned in the establishment of the particular scale of equivalents in question, seeing that they on their side levied their first duty not upon the raw sugar, but upon the beets used in its production. Austria and, till 1881, Russia, assessed the tax upon the **estimated beet consumption** of the particular factory, while Germany taxed the quantity of beets actually received into the works. But one feature was common to all these systems: that the quantity of material—whether raw sugar or beets—required for the production of a given measure of refined sugar was overestimated. First in Austria and afterwards in Germany, it was assumed that $11\frac{3}{4}$ measures of beets were required to produce 1 measure of sugar: in other words, that the yield of sugar from beets was 8·51 per cent. When a quintal of 100 kilos of sugar was exported, it received a drawback equal to the tax leviable upon 11·75 quintals of beets; and it is obvious that, if only 10 quintals of beets had been used and subjected to duty, the exporter would receive a bounty equal to the first duty upon the 1·75 quintals of beet which he had saved. On this basis it is evident also that if all the sugar were exported the State would be out of pocket; and it is a fact that in Austria the system in 1875-76 became a charge on the exchequer.

This is the **origin of the bounty system** so largely resorted to by Continental countries up

to 1903, and indeed not altogether eradicated at the present time. At first the taxes upon indigenous sugar or its raw materials were levied for revenue purposes, and a proportionate refund of duty was subsequently allowed upon exportation of the finished article as a mere corollary. Latterly it almost came to be true that the bounty upon exportation was the characteristic of the system, and that the consumption taxes did little more than furnish the funds for such bounties.

In any case the **leading features of that system**, as recently stated by the Hon'ble Mr. Baker, were (1) a bounty upon exports, (2) an internal tax upon the indigenous industry to furnish the bounties or recoup them, (3) an import duty to exclude foreign competition and so leave the manufacturer in a position to recoup the internal tax at the expense of the public. In all cases the import duty was made high enough to be virtually prohibitive and to exceed largely the amount of the bounty upon exportation. It is often suggested that the amount by which the import duty exceeded the internal excise, determined the extent to which the manufacturer could mulct the local consumer. This is a fallacy. So soon as foreign competition has been effectively excluded, by duties or otherwise, the amount of the bounty on exportation determines the adventitious price to be paid by the home consumer, and no augmentation or multiplication of that import duty will add to the said price so long as an adequate internal competition is operative. For it is obvious that if the home price were to rise in proportion to an enormous import duty and were so to offer an internal profit larger than the export bounty, no one would export, the market would be flooded, and prices would at once return to the level at which it became advantageous to export—in other words, to the level of the bounty. But the existence of internal competition was essential to the healthy operation of this law, and the perception of that circumstance led to elaborate combination on the part of the manufacturers in certain Continental countries and to domestic extortion on a scale that occasioned discontent and political trouble.

At the same time, there is no good reason to believe that a bounty was contemplated by those who prepared the first laws. In France, as we have seen, the refunds were the simple corollary of the import duties both on colonial and on foreign sugars; and it is a matter of history that when the German manufacturers in the early fifties petitioned their Government for a grant of refunds on exportation, they were refused on the ground *inter alia* that the payment of a drawback might result in a bounty, since the calculation of the equivalents of sugar to beets was difficult, and that such a bounty would be opposed to all sound principles of economic politics. It is true that their views in this matter underwent a certain modification, and that their pronouncement marks a perception of the issues; but the fortuitous origin of the bounty is sufficiently indicated by the facts that from 1872 to 1874 and again in 1877, the quantity of beets required to produce a quintal of sugar actually exceeded the conventional standard, while in 1880 and 1881 it scarcely departed from that standard.

But the potential premium was there, to be reaped by anyone who, through improvements in cultivation or in processes of manufacture, could get a ton of sugar from less than 11·75 tons of roots. A substantial premium was thus offered on intensive methods; and in 1884, the first year of the period to which these notes more particularly relate, the ratio of beet sugar had already been reduced to 9·49 to 1. It is necessary at this point to state these facts in order that the history of the beet sugar industry subsequent to the first Sugar Conference of 1803, may be easily intelligible.

The Conference of 1863, at which only France, Belgium and Holland were represented, resulted in the **Convention of November 8th, 1864**, by which these countries sought to establish a common standard of equivalents and to restrict the bounties by mutual agreement. But, of course, no standard founded on a conventional ratio of refined to raw sugar could be permanently satisfactory that did not provide for variations in the quality of material employed and for continuous improvements in the methods of manufacture.

Consequently disputes arose, and the effective adoption of the standards agreed upon was delayed. Representations were made by Britain, whose refining industry was being swamped by the flood of bountied Continental sugar; and at the second Conference held in 1868 the application of the new provisions was postponed till the end of 1899. In 1869 a third Conference was held, but nothing was done till 1871. The French Government then attempted to pass a Bill in conformity with the Convention of 1864; but in the intervening years the fallacy of the assumptions on which that Convention was based had been generally recognised and indeed demonstrated; and the Bill was thrown out. Its critics appear to have laid stress on the unreliability of the colour test in that it could be fraudulently frustrated.

In 1872 Britain, under the pressure of the increasing Continental duties and the concomitant higher bounties, convened a fourth Conference of

those Powers that had signed the Convention of 1864, and she sought to procure the abandonment of the colour test and a general resort to manufacturing in bond. Under this system the excise taxes would have been levied on the ascertained production and the refunds have been paid on the basis of actual percentages attained. But the interests behind the Continental governments were too strong, and the Conference proved abortive.

April 1873, saw a fifth Conference assembled in Paris; and on this occasion it was the British Government which withheld its assent to the new programme. This embodied proposals for a general adoption of the polariscope test, but it did not include any provision as to manufacturing in bond. Britain regarded this point as crucial and, therefore, declined to participate in another Conference which it was proposed to hold at Brussels in 1874. But, in France at all events, the British view as to the need for official supervision of manufacture and for a basis of actuality for fiscal assessment, gained ground; and in 1874 an Act was passed ordaining such a system in France from 1st July 1875.

The Conference convened in 1875 at the instance of France, and actually held at Brussels, is commonly known as the **Sixth International Sugar Conference**, and is important as marking a new phase, though it was as abortive as its predecessors. The object of France was to persuade all the other sugar-producing countries to follow her lead and to institute official supervision; and there can be little doubt that her acceptance of this principle and her anxiety to impose it on others were due in a measure to the pressure of the increasing German and Austrian competition. The Conference sat from May to August, and an agreement was actually arrived at; but it was half-hearted on the part of the other delegates, so after the Conference, France, which had perceived this fact, first postponed the Act of 1874, and then rescinded it and passed another law providing for continuance of the polariscope test in the event of the other Powers not ratifying the agreement. The Dutch Government threw it out, and France reverted to her previous position. Other Conferences met in 1877 and in 1887, and at the latter a Convention—ultimately abortive—was signed.

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OPIUM PRICES.

The **prices of opium** in the Calcutta market, during the week ending 21st April, were, per chest, as follows:—

Behar opium—Rs. 1,328; 1,322; 1,321; 1,322; 1,338; 1,340; 1,337.

Benares opium—Rs. 1,230; 1,225; 1,224; 1,225; 1,235; 1,237; 1,235.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 5th sale of 1906—Rs. 1,328; 1,322; 1,321; 1,323; 1,338; 1,340; 1,337.

China market, Hongkong (exchange Rs. 150½ to 154½ per 100).

Behar—$ 895; 892; 892; 892; 897; 897; 897.

Shanghai—No quotations received.

Benares—No quotations, Hongkong and Shanghai markets.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending the 14th April were—for A class (season 1904 to 1905) Rs. 1,400, and for B class (season 1903-04) Rs. 1,475 to Rs. 1,610, and class C, old (season 1902-03) Rs. 1,750. The latest China prices ascertained were:—Hongkong Rs. 1,429 new (A and B classes) and Rs. 1,614 old; Shanghai, Rs. 1,519 new and Rs. 1,658 old.

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(The above from Macmillan & Bowes, Cambridge.)

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THE MATERIAL DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW COUNTRY.

THE **Bankers' Magazine** (London) for April contains a good article on "**Canada's Banking Record.**" It begins by indicating certain matters in respect of which that record at the present time calls for special study; and the writer pays a merited tribute to the banking system and institutions of the Dominion. While admitting that their virtues may be traced to a Scottish origin and tutelage, the writer points out that the inherited methods and ideas have long been outgrown and that he who would see what the Scottish Banking system is capable of must go not to Scotland but to Canada. Naturally, a new country, with every form of enterprise in full process of growth, affords opportunities and imposes tasks not encountered in one that has already been exploited to the limit of its capacity; and the writer of that article points out the value of banking statistics as an indicator of economic growth.

He goes back to the year 1878 when economically the Dominion was still dormant, and quotes from a characteristic speech of Sir John Macdonald an account of the state of stagnation and depression that then existed. In confirmation of Macdonald's words, he mentions that in the five years 1873—78 the Banknote circulation of Canada shrank by fully one-third, namely, from 29½ million dollars to 18½ millions, while the total banking assets, which in 1877 had nearly reached 188½ million dollars, fell rapidly to 170½ millions. The Canadian Pacific Railway, he says, was begun in fact as a possible escape from an unemployed problem of gigantic magnitude and difficulty, and its inception had a remarkable effect on the banking operations of the country. From the day when ground was first broken for an all-Canadian railway to the Pacific, both note circulation and bank deposits showed rapid expansion.

The first general banking law had been passed in 1871; and it has, with slight modifications, formed the banking code of the Dominion ever since. In the year before it came into operation, the total resources of the existing banks very slightly exceeded 100 million dollars; in 1906 they considerably exceed 800 millions. The deposits were only about 50 million dollars, while to-day they are fast approaching 600 millions. And the note circulation has grown in these thirty-five years from 14 millions dollars to about 70 millions.

It is notable that the concurrent increase of paid-up capital has been relatively small—only about three-fold.

Striking tables are given showing in succession the growth of Canada's Banking system of her Agriculture, her Commerce, her Revenue and her Staple Exports since 1885; and a comparison is instituted to show how greatly the growth of credit operations, in Canada as elsewhere, exceeds the increase in the material products and factors on which they are based. It is shown that an addition of 20 per cent. to the volume of the wheat crop may be attended by an increase of 50 per cent. in local trades, and how this may double the net earnings of railways and bear fruit in a four-fold increase in the operations of the banks.

The writer of the article reviews successively all the material factors in the remarkable development of Canada in recent years; and, having found in them no adequate explanation of the disproportionate expansion of her banking resources, ascribes the discrepancy in great part to the land boom in the North-West. "In this respect," says the author, "a land boom is more exuberant than either a trading or an industrial boom. The latter must be chiefly confined to persons already in the business. It does not present an open door to all and sundry as a land boom does. . . . . There is no agricultural experience or capacity required to begin the game, though a good deal may be needed to get well out of it again. The thousands of immigrants who are rushing West, some to settle and many merely to speculate, all take a certain amount of capital with them. They create a demand for land over an immense stretch of virgin country, and raise its

market value. Both these movements are good for the local banks. They excite financial as well as commercial activity, the effect of which is to increase banking operations and resources. Nor is their effect merely local. It reacts in the eastern provinces, stimulating their industries and their trade. This is a fresh gain to the banks. While the existing conditions last in the North-West the banks are bound to benefit by it all along the line. The danger which they and others need to guard against is fallacious ideas as to this great increase of banking activity being based entirely on solid wealth."

The article will interest readers in India; for the story of rapid advance in a new country when it has once fairly overcome inertia is full of fascination and of admonition for those whose environment offers scope for a movement of somewhat similar character.

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"SHODDY" & "MUNGO."

A CORRESPONDENT contributed recently to the *Times Financial and Commercial Supplement* an interesting article on the use and the abuse of "Shoddy." The article is one so replete with interest for Indian mill-owners that we give a resume of it here, as enquiries have recently been made regarding the possibility of Indian mills manufacturing articles of shoddy for special purposes. Shoddy conveys to the public mind an idea of worthlessness and trickery. For this not the material, but its sale as something else is to blame. The material is in itself good and genuine enough. Unfortunately it has too often been sold as pure wool. It is this spurious trade that has brought the name into discredit. The masquerading of Shoddy articles as pure wool ought, says the *Times* correspondent, to be stopped by Government inspection, just as at present the sale of adulterated foods and drugs is stopped when discovered by the Government Inspectors. "Shoddy" and "Mungo," a kindred product, are both made from woollen waste material which has served its purpose and become rags. "Shoddy" is made from the softer kinds of woollen manufactures, such as blankets, comforters and knitted goods: "Mungo" from the harder and more milled goods, such as woollen cloth used for clothes. There are two kinds of Shoddy and Mungos, one made from cuttings and clippings of fabrics, obtained from the tailors of the merchants' shops: is known as "new"; the other, known as "old," being derived from rags which have been discarded. The rags are collected by dealers, who sell to the Shoddy manufacturers. They are then disinfected and carefully sorted according to different qualities and colours. After this they go through a machine which tears them to pieces and dissects fibre from fibre, turning out the Shoddy into the form of a soft fleecy product closely resembling carded wool. The quality of Shoddy and Mungo depends on the quality of the wool used in the production of the original fabric; but the fibres of the wool are damaged to some extent in every process of manufacture, and are very severely tried in the conversion from rags into Shoddy material, losing much of their strength and utility, and the resulting shoddy is not equal in strength to the original rags. Shoddy, although made from rags, is a hygienically pure enough material, for, apart from the original disinfection which the rags undergo, the various processes through which the material passes before emerging a Shoddy are such that, however numerous the disease-germ may have been in the original rags, they are destroyed before the finished fabric is complete Shoddy is an extremely useful fabric. But for this cheap material a great majority of the working classes of Europe could scarcely afford to wear woollen garments at all, or would be compelled to retain one garment in use for a distressingly long period. Shoddy enables the poorer classes in cold countries to clothe themselves with some approach to comfort and suitability at a low cost.

So long as Shoddy sells as Shoddy, it is a honest and valuable product. When, however, as is too commonly the case, it is mixed with pure wool so cleverly that few experts could tell its presence and woven and sold as pure wool, the public, and the dealers in pure woollen garments and articles, have reason to complain.

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GAZETTE NOTIFICATION.

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BASSEIN PORT REGULATIONS.

THE *Burma Gazette* of the 14th contains a draft notification Act relating to **rules for regulating** the manner and condition in or on which **vessels** may enter, leave, or be **moved in the port of Bassein.** These draft rules are:—

1. During the period of the North-East monsoon (1st November to 30th April) no vessel which is loaded so as to make her draught more than 27 feet, and during the period of the South-West monsoon (1st May to 31st October), no vessel which is loaded so as to make her draught more than 25 feet shall enter, leave or be moved in the port without the permission in writing of the Port Officer.

   Such permission will only be given if in his opinion such entry, leaving or moving of the vessel loaded so as to exceed such draught can be accomplished without danger of damage to the vessel or of obstruction to the channel.

2. No single-screw steamer exceeding 400 feet in length and no twin-screw steamer exceeding 450 feet in length shall enter, leave or be moved in the port without the permission in writing of the Port Officer.

   Such permission will only be given if in his opinion such entry, leaving or moving of the vessel exceeding such length can be accomplished without danger of damage to the vessel or of obstruction to the channel.

COAL MINING CERTIFICATES.

IN exercise of the powers conferred by section 20 of the Indian Mines Act, 1901 (VIII of 1901), the Governor General in Council is pleased to make the following rules for application to all coal mines in British India, in continuation of Notification No. 864—68-20, dated the 10th March 1904:

VIII.—Rules regarding certificates, the conditions on which they are granted, and the qualifications which the managers of the various classes of mines must possess.

Rule 27.—For the purposes of rules 28 to 54, every system of underground workings interconnected in such a manner that communication is practicable from any one part of the system of the other part means of underground channels shall be deemed to constitute a mine. If access from one system of underground workings to another such system is not practicable without coming to the surface of the ground, each such system shall be deemed to constitute a separate mine.

Rule 28.—There shall be constituted a Board of Examiners for the purposes of these rules, which shall consist of the Chief Inspector of Mines for the time being, and of two other persons possessing technical qualifications fitting them to serve on the Board. One of these persons shall be the owner or manager of a mine, the other shall be a mining engineer. They shall be appointed by the Governor General in Council for a term of three years:

Provided that on the expiry of any term for which he has been appointed, any such person shall be eligible for re-appointment. Each such person shall receive such remuneration as the Governor General in Council may fix. The Chief Inspector of Mines shall be *ex-officio* President of the Board.

Rule 29.—Certificates under these rules shall be granted by the Board of Examiners, and their decision regarding the grant of such certificates shall be final. Certificates granted by the Board shall hold good throughout British India, and shall be of two kinds, namely, certificates of competency and certificates of service, and of two classes of each kind, namely, first and second class.

Rule 30.—Certificates of competency shall be granted to candidates after such examination as the Board of Examiners may from time to time prescribe. The examinations shall be held at such times, and at such centres, as may from time to time be fixed by the Board, and shall be conducted by local examiners, who shall be appointed by the Board. The local examiners as appointed shall be subject to the orders of the Board in respect of all matters relative to the conduct of the examinations, and they shall receive such remuneration as the Board with the sanction of the Governor General in Council may fix. The Board may from time to time make regulations as to the conduct of such examinations; and they shall, so far as this is practicable, take steps that the standard of knowledge which a candidate must attain before he obtains a certificate of competency of any particular class shall be uniform throughout British India. Every regulation made by the Board under this rule shall be published in the local official Gazette, and no such regulation shall take effect until six months from the date on which it was first so published.

Rule 31.—Full information regarding the date and place of each examination shall be published, under the orders of the Board of Examiners, in each issue of the local official Gazette, and in such other publications as the Board may consider desirable, for a period of not less than three months prior to the date fixed therefor.

Rule 32.—No person shall be admitted as a candidate at any examination for a first class certificate of competency unless he has attained the age of 23 years, and has satisfied the Board of Examiners that he has had practical experience in a coal mine for a period of not less than five years:

Provided that this period may be reduced to three years, if the Board of Examiners think fit, in the case of a candidate who has received a diploma in scientific and mining training after a course of study of at least two years at an educational institution approved in this behalf by the Governor General in Council, or who has taken a degree in scientific and mining subjects at a University approved in this behalf by the Governor General in Council.

Rule 33.—No person shall be admitted as a candidate at any examination for a second class certificate of competency unless he has attained the age of 21 years, and has satisfied the Board of Examiners that he has had practical experience in a coal mine for a period of not less than three years:

Provided that this period may be reduced to one year, if the Board of Examiners think fit, in the case of a candidate who has received a diploma in scientific and mining training after a course of study of at least two years at an educational institution approved in this behalf by the Governor General in Council or who has taken a degree in scientific and mining subjects at a University approved in this behalf by the Governor General in Council.

Rule 34.—A fee of Rs. 15 shall be paid by every candidate attending an examination for a first class certificate of competency and a fee of Rs. 8 shall be paid by every candidate attending an examination for a second class certificate of competency.

These fees shall be paid, not less than one month prior to the date of the examination, to the Chief Inspector of Mines at his office.*

Rule 35.—The Board of Examiners may grant without examination to any person holding a first or second class certificate granted under any Act for the regulation of mines for the time being in force in United Kingdom, or in any British Colony, a certificate of a similar class under these rules. They may also grant to any person holding a certificate of proficiency in mining, if approved by them, a certificate under these rules, of the first or second class, if they are satisfied that the applicant possesses sufficient knowledge and experience to warrant them in doing so:

*NOTE.—The fees may be remitted by Money Order or paid in any other manner.

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.
For the week ending 21st April 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign— Imports by sea into	Calcutta	lbs.	760,774
	Bombay	„	140,250
	Madras	„	272,400
Indian— Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	375,000
	Bombay	„	1,022,330
	Madras	„	...

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	9,892,419
	Bombay	„	2,048,172
	Karachi	„	1,377,970
	Madras	„	3,074,264
	Rangoon	„	419,870

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	1,210,236
	Bombay	„	3,006,656
	Karachi	„	1,991,344
	Madras	„	615,306
	Rangoon	„	454,521

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	1,959,733
	Bombay	„	3,304,546
	Karachi	„	3,004,635
	Madras	„	565,513
	Rangoon	„	1,287,732

Piece Goods.
(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta	cwt.	33,887
	Bombay	„	*
	Karachi	„	15,224
	Madras	„	5,699

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea	cwt.	460
	Coastwise	„	55,687
	By rail	„	123,946
Imports into Karachi	by rail	„	20,306
„ „	Calcutta by rail and river	„	12,429

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta	cwt.	144,462
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags	No.	8,675,350
	„ cloth	yds.	26,159,500
	Jute	cwt.	147,311
Exports by sea from Chittagong	Jute	„	...

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta	lbs.	145,532
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	150,812
	Chittagong	„	...

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	14,416†
	Karachi by rail	„	106,018
	Bombay by rail	„	31,419
	Bombay coastwise	„	7,279
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	653
	Bombay	„	5,831
	Karachi	„	119,446

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta	cwt.	230,199
	Chittagong	„	...
	Bombay	„	14,127
	Karachi	„	12,304
	Madras	„	73
	Rangoon	„	106,000

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	86,688†
	Bombay by rail	„	9,451
	Karachi by rail	„	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	65,092
	Bombay	„	27,411
	Karachi	„	...

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	57,059†
	Bombay by rail	„	24,147
	Karachi by rail	„	31,098
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	17,434
	Bombay	„	67,135
	Karachi	„	68,507

* Not available. † Incomplete.

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 21st APRIL 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	America.	All other foreign countries.	Total.
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
Calcutta	...	123,793	...	123,793
Bombay	...	...	..	...
Karachi	...	...	...	...
Madras	...	4,085	359,536	363,621

Exports by sea from Burma to	Calcutta	galls.	...
	Bombay	„	...
	Karachi	„	...
	Madras	„	...
	Foreign ports	„	...

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 21st APRIL 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	11	200	1,008	15	2	1,231	2,467
Germany	6,000	...	64,766	103,398	...	13,010	187,174
Austria-Hungary	2,920	...	18,833	61,950	500	...	84,203
Other European Countries	...	..	4,587	11,400	...	...	15,987
Java	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mauritius	...	...	47,264	17	...	..	47,281
Other Non-European Countries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total refined							337,112
Total unrefined							26,062
Grand Total cwt.							363,174

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta [The prices include postage] to countries in the Postal Union.

ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 (2*a.*)

2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a.*)

3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—

   Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. R3. (12*a.*)

   Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port R3. (12*a.*)

4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. R2. (7*a.*)

5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a.*)

6. Accounts of Trade of the French Possession in India. As. 3. (1*a.*)

7. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possession in India. As. 2. (1*a.*)

8. Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India. R4. (6*a.*)

9. Report on the Rail-borne and River-borne Trade of Bengal R4.

10. Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet Sikkim and Bhutan. R1½.

11. Prices and Wages in India. R1½. (9*a.*)

12. Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India. R4. (12*a.*)

13. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India. R2. (10*a.*)

14. Agricultural Statistics of India. R3½. (12*a.*)

    Part I.—British India.

    Part II.—Native States.

15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India. As. 5 (2*a.*)

16. Statistics of Mineral Production in India. As. 2, (1*a.*)

QUARTERLY.

17. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a.*)

MONTHLY.

18. Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of British India. As. 8. (2*a.*)

19. Accounts of the External Land Trade of British India. As. 8. (2*a.*)

29. Statistics of the Production of Yarn and Woven Goods in the India Cotton Mills. As. 2.

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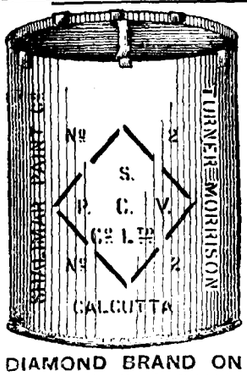
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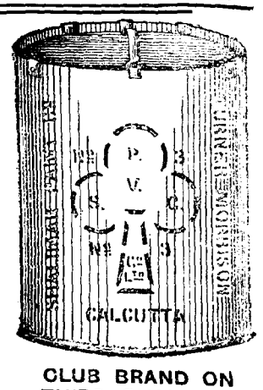
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Part 1.—The Mineral Production of India during 1904.
Pleistocene Movement as indicated by Irregularities of Gradient of the Narbada and other Rivers in the Indian Peninsula. (With Plates 1-4).
On Recent Changes in the Course of the Nam-tu River, Northern Shan States. (With Plate 5).
Note on the Natural Bridge in the Gokteik Gorge. (With Plates 6-9).
Notes on the Geology and Mineral Resources of the Narnaul District (Patiala State).
Miscellaneous Notes.

Part 2.—General Report of the Geological Survey of India for the year 1905.
The Lashio Coalfield, Northern Shan States. (With Plates 10 and 11).
The Namma, Man-sang and Man-se-le Coalfields, Northern Shan States, Burma. (With Plates 12 and 13).
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The Indian Trade Journal.

Issued by the Commercial Intelligence Department of India.

VOL. I. No. 5.] CALCUTTA, THURSDAY, 3rd MAY 1906. [ANNAS 4.

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NOTES.

The **United States** Government estimate of the year's **wheat crop** is 473,000,000 bushels.

The King of Italy formerly opened the **International Exhibition at Milan** on the 28th of April.

The **Chilian nitrate** combination has been renewed, 99⅓ per cent. of the producers having joined the new organisation.

A misprint in our last number put the **Trade of Calcutta** for March at 5,810 crores of rupees, whereas it ought to have been $5\frac{8}{10}$ crores.

The **increased excise duties** imposed by the Russian Government **at Baku** on **benzine, gasoline,** and **solar and lubricating oils** were to have come into force in the middle of April.

Owing to the boycott by the Chinese the **Standard Oil Trust's exports** to China during the last quarter of 1905 dropped from two million cases to one million cases, as compared with the same quarter in 1904. In Shanghai the Trust's business was practically suspended.

Reports brought by this mail state that it has been decided to curtail the **weekly reports of the United States Weather Bureau** by **eliminating** from them the special **reference to crop condi-**

tions, and though it is said that the New York dealers in commodities were in favour of this, some opposition to the change has developed.

❦

It is now definitely announced that the **Tibet Treaty** has been concluded. It is stated that the Anglo-Chinese agreement provides for the opening of **Gyantse and Gartok as trade marks**, and the developments of telegraphs, mines and railways by Chinese capital, or the co-operation on the Chinese and British Capital. Final decision regarding the tariff on British imports into Tibet is reserved.

❦

The *Petroleum World* says:—The consumption of **illuminating petroleum** exported from the United States continues to increase, while that produced in Canada continues to decrease. There was 70 per cent of the consumption furnished by the United States, and only 30 per cent produced by the Canadian petroleum fields in 1904. Oil is now being shipped to Canada from this side of the Atlantic.

❦

It was reported on the 11th April that a month's notice has been given to the Master Cotton Spinners' Association at Manchester that the members of the Amalgamated Association of **Operative Cotton Spinners** would require a 5 **per cent advance** of wages for all work performrd at all mills belonging to the federation, exclusive of the Bolton area. This advance has now been accorded to all card room operatives.

❦

Several important **ordinances bearing on commercial law**, passed during the last session of the **Orange River Colony** Legislative Council, have received the assent of the Lieutenant-Governor of that Colony, and have now been promulgated as law. They include a measure facilitating the recovery of petty debts, a measure providing for the registration of deeds of assignment and composition, a measure providing for the authentication of foreign documents, and an act consolidating and amending the law relating to transfer duty.

❦

The *Times* Paris correspondent states that a **new trade route** has been opened up by the French in North-West Africa, between the coast and lake Chad. The route runs along the valleys of the Senegal and Niger, and crosses the French Territory of Zindar. Goods are forwarded up-country by rail from Kayes to Kuliku on the Niger. From there they go by river to Niamey, whence regular camel caravans take them on to Nguighi. The new route is considerably shorter, cheaper and safer than the old Congo road by the Niger, Benue and Logone rivers.

Lloyd's Register of Shipping states that the number of **vessels**, excluding warships, **under construction in the United Kingdom** at the close of the quarter ended March 31st, was 547, of 1,401,882 tons gross. The tonnage under construction has shown a steady increase since December 1903, and the present figures are within 12,000 tons of the total reached in September 1901, which is the highest on record. As compared with the return for the December 1905 quarter, the figures show an increase of 46,000 tons, while the total for September 1905 is now exceeded by over 76,000 tons.

❦

It is announced that from the 14th of May a penny will be taken off the **duty on tea** imported into **United Kingdom**. The duty will then be 5*d*. per pound. It is interesting to compare with this the duties on tea in other European countries. On the 1st of March the German duty was reduced from 5*d*. per pound to 1½*d*. The duty on tea in Switzerland is 1¾*d*. per pound; in Spain 6½*d*.; in France the duties vary from 9*d*. to 11¾*d*. per pound, being higher on indirect than on direct importation; in Holland tea pays an import duty of 2¼*d*. per pound; in Roumania 3¼*d*. per pound; in Denmark 4*d*.; in Austria and Hungary 9¾*d*.; in Italy 11*d*.; in Greece 1*s*. 0¾*d*.; in Portugal 2*s*. 0½*d*. In Belgium and the United States tea is admitted duty free.

❦

A decision interesting to retail traders all the world over has been given recently by a Judicial Court of Ohio, U.S.A. The decision affirms the right of manufacturers to "**restrict**" **retail prices.** It appears that this fixing of a minimum selling price has been common for some years in the cotton goods trade in the States. Some people, however, after entering into an agreement, have, says the New York *Journal of Commerce* "violated it on the assumption that they owned and paid for the goods and could do with them as they pleased." The manufacturers' contention is, that it is only a qualified ownership, and the Ohio Court has confirmed this view. The legal decision will, it is believed, have the effect of increasing these contracts, which, however, must sometimes create practical difficulties.

❦

In presenting the select committee's **Report on the Madras Coast Lights Bill**, 1904, to the Legislative Council of the Governor General held on the 11th March 1904, Sir Edward Law referring to the **Burma coast light dues** said "the rate at which the dues are levied should be revised every five years, the first revision being made when the results of the year 1904-05 are known, and being based on the recorded average annual surplus during the *quinquennium*. At each revision, the rate at which the dues are levied will be re-adjusted equilibrium between receipts and expenditure."

In accordance with this statement of the then Member of Finance, the Government of India have now **reduced** the Burma coast light **dues by four pies per ton of burden**, that is, from one anna and six pies to one anna and two pies.

❦

According to papers received by this mail, the **British Cotton Growing Association** is entering into an agreement with the Colonial Office for the more rapid development of **cotton cultivation in the Gold Coast Colony**. In this connection it is interesting to note the rapid advance that has been made under the auspices of the British Cotton Growing Association, by the Sea Island cotton industry in the West Indies. The West Indian cotton industry was started four years ago. In 1904 the exports amounted to 695,981lbs. and the value of lint and seed was estimated at £30,056. In 1905 there were exported 1,122,800lbs. of cleaned cotton, and the estimated value of lint and seed had risen to £63,291. Prices from the beginning have ruled high, and select Barbadoes bales have sold as high as 17*d*. per lb. in Liverpool.

❦

Cotton grown in Sind from Egyptian seed has been **sold in Liverpool** for 9*d*. per pound. American uplands cotton on the same market sold at 7*d*. per pound and Sea Island cotton at from 1*s*. 2*d*. to 1*s*. 3*d*. per pound. The expectations raised by Mr. Fletcher's experiments have been realised. Three years ago Mr. Fletcher imported seeds of the Egyptian Abassi and Mitaffiffi varieties of cotton, and 10 tons of seed were sown on 1,500 acres of land irrigated from the Jamrao canal. When the crops were gathered, the **zamindars** expressed themselves most satisfied with the result, and declared that they were eager to extend the cultivation on a large scale. It is apparent that the buyers in Liverpool are as satisfied with the Sindh Egyptian cotton as are the growers. The plant has evidently taken very kindly to the soil in Sindh. What is more, for same reason, it has so far shown itself less liable to attack from the boll-worm than is the indigenous variety. Whether this immunity will continue remains to be seen.

❦

The Registrar of **Trade Marks**, Pretoria, recently gave judgment on **an important point** which arose in a case where Messrs. Marks, Limited, applied for the registration of a certain trade mark. Opposition had been lodged by Messrs. Mosenthal & Co., and while the case was pending the latter firm applied for leave to amend their opposition. Messrs. Marks, Limited, refused to agree to this, contending that as the proposed amendment amounted to the introduction of a fresh ground of opposition, it was debarred owing to the fact that the legal limit of three months laid down in the law governing the period when such opposition may be entered, had elapsed. The Registrar, after a lengthy review of the case, and reference to precedents, found that at any time before he had finally disposed of the opposition proceedings, he could entertain an application for an amendment of an opposition, and, if he thought fit, allow such amendment upon whatever terms he might consider right and proper. He therefore allowed Messrs. Mosenthal & Co. to amend their opposition in the terms sought.

❦

The **prices of opium** in the Calcutta market during the week ending 28th April were, per chest as follows:—

Behar opium—Rs. 1,343; 1,343; 1,343; 1,341; 1,338; 1,339; 1,338.

Benares opium—Rs. 1,243; 1,243; 1,243; 1,241; 1,238; 1,238; 1,238.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 5th sale for 1906—Rs. 1,343; 1,343; 1,343; 1,341; 1,338½; 1,338½; 1,338.

China market, Hongkong (exchange Rs. 153 to 154½ per 100 dollars).

Behar—$ 897½; 895 to 897½; 897; 895; 892½ 895; 887 to 887½; 880.

Shanghai (exchange Rs. 213 to 213½ per 100 Taels), one sale on 20th 640 Taels.

Benares—Three sales in the Hongkong market on 23rd, 26th, and 27th on $ 822½, 823½, and 817½, respectively, while one sale Shanghai on the 26th 590 Taels.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending 21st April were—for A class (season 1904 to 1905) Rs. 1,400, for B class (season 1903 to 1904) Rs. 1,475 to 1,610, class C, old (season 1902 to 1903) Rs. 1,750. The latest China prices ascertained were for new classes (A and B Rs. 1,426 to 1,529, old (class C) fetched at Hongkong Rs. 1,619 and at Shanghai Rs. 1,658.

❦

In the course of a lecture before the Manchester Association of Engineers recently, on the **Equipment of Harbours and Docks**, Mr. W. H. Hunter, speaking of the Manchester docks, said special arrangements had been made for dealing with grain in parcels and part cargoes. At the easterly end of the dock, he said, foundations have been formed upon which it is intended that a second **grain elevator**, with a capacity similar to that of the elevator at Trafford wharf (40,000, tons), shall be erected. The elevator having been designed especially for dealing with parcels of grain will, instead of having one main marine leg, have on the side facing the quay six different legs for elevating grain, so that six different classes of grain may be received, weighed, and distributed at one time. For the conveyance of grain to this elevator house, special subways have been constructed in the dock walls. These subways will in each case be fitted with four sets of conveyor belts formed in lengths of 450 ft. each, and they will extend throughout the whole distance covered by the subways. Each belt in each length will be driven by an independent motor of

30 b. h. p., and the whole will form a system by which grain imported as part of the cargo of any vessel berthed in the dock will be lifted from the holds by means of moveable elevators of the crane type, passed through small hatches in the quay on to the several belts, and carried by the belts directly to the respective lifting legs in the elevator house.

In the *Engineering Supplement* of the *Times* there is a note on the subject of the **breaking axles** on the Metropolitan District Railway, as to which a question has been put in the House of Commons, and also on the subject of the supply of **waggon frames of foreign make to Indian railways.** The *Times* says:—"The reply was substantially to the effect of our note upon the matter, it being intimated in addition that the German axles in question were being replaced by others of British make. It appears singular that in almost every respect, excepting their motive power, the foreign-made cars for the Metropolitan District line have proved unfortunate. The public from the beginning took strong exception to their construction and equipment; the sliding doors are being abolished, the Krupp hollow axles discarded, and it is a grave question whether the carriage frames will long stand the strain to which they are being subjected. Meanwhile, on the general question of foreign railway work for this country and its dependencies, a correspondent writes:—I desire to bring under your notice the fact that privately-owned corporations in this country are not the only sinners in using German-made and inferior material. Our Indian Railway Board to my knowledge recently had the bodies of waggons for certain of our Indian railways made in this country, while they had German-made wheels and axles fitted to the same, and this when they were offered English-made material of the same pattern at a lower price."

Statement showing the **exports of Rice from Saigon** (Cochin-China) in the first quarter of the year 1906, compared with the corresponding periods of the years 1904 and 1905.

Countries to which exported.	First quarter of		
	1904.	1905.	1906.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.
China	51,333	23,982	11,750
Java	...	15,405	28,857
Philippine	43,429	41,696	19,571
Straits Settlements	...	...	...
Japan	12,393	10,619	25,642
Europe	27,821	29,673	18,929
Other countries	30	2,030	13,333
TOTAL	135,006	123,405	117,482

That well known journal of the British Corn Trade, *Milling* publishes as a supplement to the last number a **map of India,** prepared by Mr. Broomhall, F. S. S., showing the **areas under wheat** in each district. The distribution is well shown.

At the recent London Conference of Naval Architects Mr. J. E. Thornycroft read a paper on **gas engines for ship propulsion.** He described the general principle of the producer gas system, pointing out the modifications required to meet the quick and frequent variations of load required for marine work, especially on small craft, and in describing various applications gave comparative data of gas and steam plant. The gas producers required only one-fourth of the grate area per horse power of boilers for steam engines. The **heat losses** were very small. The **heat efficiency** of suction gas plant was 90 per cent., against 66·7 per cent. in steam boilers. Twenty to thirty minutes sufficed from lighting up to starting the gas engines. The theoretical **thermal efficiency** of the gas engine was about 80 per cent. against 30 per cent. for the steam engine; the former converted 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. of the heat in the cylinder into useful work, the latter 5 per cent. to 20 per cent. For small-power ships under 100 h. p. the coal consumption in gas plant was 1 lb., and in steam plant 2 lb. to 3 lb. per i. h. p.; for installations of not less than 500 h. p. 0·8 lb. against 1·6 lb. per i. h. p., or one-half. Stoking would be automatic, fire-cleaning easier, and the weight and space occupied much less, the producers in large ships being placed over the engines. On the authority of M. W. W. May, of Messrs. Beardmore & Co., he stated that in a 7,000 ton cargo steamer a saving of 13,000 cubic feet of cargo space would be effected. On a ten hours' run 70-75 h. p. vessels required for gas plant 530 lb. of German anthracite, and for steam plant 1,820 lb. steam coal. The same boats, tested with a towing meter, exerted the gas engine boat a 2,140 lb. pull, the steam vessel a 2,020 lb. pull.

The **Postal Union Congress at Rome** was formally inaugurated on April 7th at the Capitol by the King and Queen of Italy in the presence of most of the Ministers and principal officials of the Government. Speeches were delivered by the Syndic of Rome and Signor Alfredo Baccelli, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs, the latter of whom gave an account of international postal communication and briefly alluded to the work before the congress. The congress is the sixth since that of Berne in 1876 and the first to be held in Rome. It is stated by the "Giornale Italia" that the principal questions for discussion are a notable reduction in the postal tariff for foreign letters and newspapers and the introduction of a system for sending letters with prepayment of replies. The British delegates to the congress submitted a proposal that the Transvaal and Orange River Colony instead of being represented by Great Britain should either be allowed each one vote, as they would have had before they became British colonies, or should have at least one vote between them. It is also suggested that New Zealand, whose vote it had been arranged should be included in that of Australia, shall have one vote. The congress began its labours on April 9. The opening speech was delivered by Signor Morpurgo, Under Secretary of Posts and Telegraphs. Commandatore Carlo Gamond, Director-General of Italian Posts, was elected President. Three committees were formed to prepare the work of the congress. Signor Gneso, delegate of Abyssinia, Director of the colonial section of the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, announced to the congress that the Abyssinian Government desired to join the Universal Postal Union.

The President of the Board of Trade (United Kingdom) has appointed Mr. Montagu J. Muir MacKenzie, one of the official referees (chairman); Mr. Joseph Addison, representing the **Law** Society; Mr. John Barker, M.P.; Mr. George Moore Chamberlain, representing the Trade Protection Societies; Mr. Samuel T. Evans, K.C., M.P.; Sir Edward W. Fithian, representing the Association of Chambers of Commerce; Mr. William B. Paul, representing the Institute of Chartered Accounts; Mr. William M. Richardson, representing the United Kingdom Commercial Travellers Association; and Mr. John Smith, C.B., late Inspector-General in Bankruptcy, to be a committee to inquire into and report upon the effect of the **Laws in force in the United Kingdom in relation to bankruptcy,** deeds of arrangement and compositions by insolvent debtors with their creditors, and the prevention and punishment of frauds by debtors on their creditors. The committee are to report specially as to the desirability of **amending the provisions** of the Bankruptcy Law in relation to the following matters, namely, the investigation of the bankrupt's conduct and the realisation of his estate, the position of debtors who are married women, the right of a bankrupt to discharge, and, in the case of a bankrupt solicitor, to renew, his practising certificate, also the rights of trustees in bankruptcy against persons who have honestly dealt with bankrupts in respect of property acquired during the bankruptcy, and against persons claiming under settlements when the settlor has become bankrupt. The Committee are also to report as to the desirability of requiring certain classes of securities which are now exempt from registration to be registered, and of bringing under official control and audit estates administered by trustees under voluntary arrangements made between insolvent debtors and their creditors.

The British Commercial Agent in the United States (Mr. E. Seymour Bell) has compiled the following **table showing the quantity of lumber cut in the United States** during the years 1904 and 1905:—

	1904.	1905.
	Thousand feet	Thousand feet
Fir	2,667,089	2,481,228
Spruce	143,876	220,050
Cedar	325,125	311,356
Redwood	472,455	534,693
Sugar pine	132,140	154,927
Other pine	692,423	899,395
Other softwoods	24,678	109,579
Total Pacific Coast softwoods	4,457,784	5,711,228
Northern pine	4,220,917	3,628,029
Eastern pine	165,787	103,594
North Carolina pine	822,477	619,059
Longleaf pine	50,383	59,637
White pine (south eastern)	19,417	28,160
Hemlock	2,257,733	2,251,056
Spruce	.....	143,919
Cypress	54,236	561,853
Yellow pine	3,289,513	3,229,080
Total softwood	15,338,257	16,335,645
Poplar	382,664	526,739
Oak	420,578	576,456
Ash	22,070	44,822
Walnut	5,52.)	14,599
Hickory	19,223	35,232
Elm	15,546	35,688
Gum	80,913	140,594
Cotton wood	105,567	145,592
Mixed hardwoods	1,329,441	1,489,059
Total hardwoods	2,381,531	3,008,781
Other mixed woods	220,780	372,827
GRAND TOTAL	17,940,568	19,717,253

Mr. Bell adds that **aggregate stocks** at the mills were lighter at the close of the season 1905 than in 1904, the difference being 356,690,000 ft. White pine stocks were lighter by 615,258,000 ft. than in 1904, hemlock stocks lighter by 250 435,000 and North Carolina pine stock lighter by 65,490,000 ft. Pacific Coast woods showed an increased stock of 153,306,000 ft. in 1905, cypress of 229,304,000 ft., and hardwoods of 189,430,000 ft. It is worthy of note that one of the standard measures used in the lumber trade is that known as **"Board Measure."** By it boards of less than 1 inch in thickness are measured as though they were 1 inch thick. In ascertaining the number of board feet in lumber one-fifth of an inch in thickness, each superficial foot thereof is to be reckoned as 1 foot board measure.

TIBETAN AND PERSIAN CARPETS.

ENQUIRIES have been made recently by certain Indian firms with regard to the **manufacture of carpets and rugs in Tibet and in Persia**, and their import into India. The following figures and extracts may therefore prove interesting. The imports of woollen carpets and rugs by sea from Persia into British India in the year 1905-06 amounted to 368 cwt., valued at Rs. 66,815. The figures for the overland trade do not differentiate between carpets and other imports in manufactured wool. The imports of woollen piece-goods which include carpets and rugs into British India by way of Nushki-Seistan route in calendar year 1905 amounted to 177 cwt. valued at Rs. 21,073. The imports of woollen piece-goods from Tibet in the same period were 815 pieces, weighing 735 cwt., measuring 183,876 yds., and were valued at Rs. 86,563. With regard to manufacture of Tibetan carpets, Major Waddell, in his description of the market at Gyantse, notes the attractive exhibits of carpets and saddle rugs of local manufacture for which the town was famous. These he said are full of delicate art tints of faded rose, and blue and gold. These carpets are made for the most part at Gobshi down the valley. Mr. Parceval Landon, writing from Gyantse gives the following description of the carpet factory at this place :—

"At **Little Gobshi** (one had to distinguish it from the better known Gobshi, seventeen miles away along the Lhasa road) there was, and now probably is again," he says "the **finest rug factory in Tibet.** A large two-storied house with a courtyard was filled entirely with the weaving looms of both men and women workers. The patterns used are native Tibetan, and the colours are excellently blended and rich in themselves. It is difficult for them to make a piece of stuff wider than about thirty inches, because their looms are of a primitive description, scarcely more advanced than those of the Chumbi Valley, nor do they attempt to make a pattern larger than can be contained upon a single width. The plain orange and maroon rugs are made in narrow strips and sewn together to any desired width, but this is not done with the figured cloths. The difference in quality between one rug and another is often a matter of expert knowledge only. At first one is surprised and inclined to resent the great differences in the price of these rugs ; two will be shown you, one slightly softer in the pile, perhaps also slightly looser in design. You will get that for three rupees. The other one, crisper to the touch and, if you will look closely, far richer in colour, they will not sell you for less than twenty-five. But when the eye is once taught to recognise the difference, the cheaper rugs are easily seen to be inferior from every point of view. They are, however, more than good enough for the London market, and this is one of the industries at Gyantse which might most profitably be developed. Even now if a big London firm were willing to place an order for five hundred rugs in Gobshi, that is to say, if it were to buy up practically the entire annual out-put of this first factory in Tibet, it could, while it held the monopoly, charge almost any price it liked to London buyers and obtain it. It is an experiment which is, perhaps, worth the attention of Farringdon Street Without. In those halcyon days at Gyantse I wrote to Lord Curzon in London and offered to act as commercial traveller for any firm which cared to make a trial of these really beautiful things.

The following is the gist of the Report **on the Persian carpet industry** made by the Newcomen Commercial Mission to Persia, which gives a very up-to-date account of carpet manufactures of Iran :—

There has been a steady increase in the export of carpets and shawls of late years. The value in Krans * of exports of carpets and table covers, according to Persian Customs Statistics, for the year ending March 20th are :—

		Krs.
	1901 . . .	11,368,000
	1902 . . .	13,879,000
	1903 . . .	13,347,000
	1904 . . .	22,412,853
Shawls	1904 . . .	642,964

*(*N. B.*—Exchange in 1904-05 fluctuated between 387 and 430 Krans per 100 Rupees.)

The weaving of carpets, the greatest of Persian industries, is carried on in every part of the country, but more specially is the art exercised in the region round Ferhan and Sultanabad, and in Hamadan, Kurdistan, Fars, Tabriz, Kerman, Baktharistan and Bashakird.

The finest Kerman carpets are perhaps the best carpets in the world, excellent alike in material, workmanship and design. In Constantinople, the world's great carpet mart, they command higher prices than any other from Persia.

The carpet weaving industry in Tabriz is a new one, but it has made great progress since its inauguration. The carpets are of fine workmanship, and the best, being made mostly of the peculiarly soft fine wool of Meshed and Khorasan, are of superior value and fetch high prices. The ordinary grade Tabriz carpets are, however, not equal to ordinary Sultanabad carpets. Being made of hard-textured local wool from Urmiah, Khoi and Soujboulak, they are stiff and unpliable, and are apt to crack if folded and packed flat.

Sultanabad and Farhan carpets are well known in European markets ; they are made of all grades, but the bulk are of ordinary quality.

The price of wool in Sultanabad, as well as in Kerman, has more than doubled within the last ten years.

The yarn required for carpet weaving must be good white wool as brown or dark wool can only be dyed in dark colours. Even for red dyes, the wool must be white, about a quarter of the wool employed in carpet-making is lost in clippings which are all waste. As these clippings must amount to a considerable quantity, it might be worth while seeing if anything could be done with them.

In Kerman, Tabriz and Sultanabad, there are carpet factories, but there and elsewhere the bulk of the carpet weaving industry is carried on in the weavers' homes. The work is done entirely on hand looms, and for the most part by women and children. The "manufacturer" supplies the weaver with the design, and the quantities of wool of various colours required for the work in hand, so as to ensure the same shades of colours being used throughout. He also makes advances on account of the price arranged, so that the price of the carpet is often nearly all paid for whilst it is still on the loom. This practice of working in weavers' homes is not a satisfactory one, as supervision cannot be properly carried on there and the work is apt to be slovenly and dilatory, lacking in skill and finish. The untrustworthy weaver will, too, sell the good and well dyed wool entrusted to him, substituting inferior material or aniline dyes. As often as not he will sell the finished work, against which he has drawn advances, and set up a new piece which is delivered long after contract time has expired.

The best work is done in the factories, where the boys employed on the work attend and accomplish their task under the direction and supervision of a foreman, known as the *ustad*. There seems to be no reason why more factory work should not be done, or why women should not attend at suitably equipped factories. This would mean considerable economy of time and of material, and increased skill and finish of work, all of which ought to make the factory prosper. No foreigner could, however, hope to start such a factory.

In Kerman few women or girls are employed on the 1,000 looms in the city. Most of the "Nomad" rugs are, however, the products of feminine fingers. It is declared that men and boys do stronger and, at the same time, more delicate work than women.

The Kerman patterns are very ancient and have been handed down orally from father to son from many generations, indeed for centuries. The work is done entirely from a pattern which is recited in a low chant, from memory, and used formerly to be neither drawn nor written ; now, however, the patterns are dictated from designs which are most skilfully drawn to scale, and coloured. As before, the *ustad* still chants the design, colours, and numbers of threads to be used, the operators repeating them parrot-like after him. It appeared to me nothing short of marvellous how deftly and correctly these oral instructions were executed.

The usual size of Kerman carpet is 7 feet by $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet. The unit of measurement is the carpet Zar of 39 inches by $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The ordinary quality of Kerman woollen carpet contains 640 stitches to the Zar, but good carpets contain from 900 to 1,500 stitches. These last of course take long to make, and are extremely expensive. The price per Zar for ordinary quality carpets averages £1, but have fluctuated very considerably. For the fine and superfine articles the price will run up to £3, £5, and £6 per Zar. Carpets of most of these last qualities are, however, too expensive for the ordinary market requirements.

The woof of Kerman carpets is nearly always cotton, and is made from Manchester and Bombay yearn and twist ; the warp and pile are wool. The carpets are woven on upright looms, and are generally made in pairs, in order to save the wages of the *ustad*, two carpets being woven from one recitation. The pieces are set up on looms indiscriminately, face or back to the front. The rate of progress of weaving may be put at for ordinary qualities, 18 sqare feet a month, fine and intricate work taking from twice to four times as long.

Of the silk carpets of Kerman Lord Curzon has said with truth, that he does not "think that a more exquisite fabric has ever been woven by human hands." These carpets are used for hangings and portieres. They cost about two or three times as much as woollen carpets, and contain from 225 to 400 stitches to the square inch. These silk carpets are never stocked, but are made to order.

The average value of the outturn of Kerman carpets may be put at something over £50,111 a year. It has increased considerably of late years though there have been periods during which the trade has not been prosperous, and many small weavers have been forced to suspend business. One of these periods came to an end with the autumn of 1904, when the Kerman carpet manufacturers suffered from a heavy fall in prices consequent on a glutted and stagnant market in Constantinople which followed on the refusal, by Europe and America, of a quantity of carpets the wool of which had been dyed with aniline material.

Though the Kermanis show an aptitude in the manufacture of carpets, they show none in their disposal, as this business is almost entirely in the hands of Turk merchants from Tabriz. The Tabriz market is indeed the largest one for carpets in Persia, and it has been through here that the great increase in the export of carpets, which has marked recent years, has taken place. An increase, however, also took place at the Gulf ports.

Tabriz sells both through Constantinople and direct to other foreign markets. America and France being the largest buyers. Shiraz exports carpets *vid* the Gulf to Egypt and Constantinople and Kerman also ships carpets through Bander Abbas. The bulk of the outturn from Kerman and other carpet-manufacturing centres, is, however, either consigned to or sold at Tabriz, for the Constantinople market.

In 1904 the export of carpets through Bander Abbas rose suddenly from 268 bales, nearly all the increase going to Switzerland, a country which had never imported carpets direct. Bushire in 1903 exported 625 bales of carpets, and 618 bales in 1904.

INDIAN COAL.

THERE were, at the end of the year 1905-06, 46 companies engaged in mining for coal in India, working with a nominal capital of Rs. 2,86,04,500, of which Rs. 2,32,76,926 had been paid up. Forty-five of these companies conducted their operations in Bengal, their nominal capital amounting to Rs. 2,84,54,500; the other company was in Burma. The first coal mine in India was opened in Bengal in 1820. For 20 years this was the only mine at work in India, and there was hardly in progress after that until the construction of railways began, and the East Indian Railway in 1854 passed through coal fields. In the beginning, however, Indian railways not only consumed comparatively small amounts of coal, but depended to a large extent for their coal upon the United Kingdom. With the construction of mills and factories in Western India and in the neighbourhood of Calcutta, the demand for Indian coal grew apace. Indian factories now work almost entirely with Indian coal, and Indian railways have reduced their demands for foreign coal to a minimum, whilst Indian coal is being taken yearly in greater quantities by ships trading to Indian ports.

The increase in output from the beginning, and particularly during the last 20 years, has been steady, with but few set-backs. The output of Indian coal in 1885 was 1,294,221 tons. In 1904 the production had risen to 8,216,706 tons, and stood in 1905 at 8,425,431 tons.

The field in which the greatest development has occurred is Raniganj, in which the collieries are from 120 to 140 miles only from Calcutta, the port for distribution along the Indian coast and to Ceylon. Jherria, some 40 miles further from the port, is, however, being developed, and is rapidly overtaking Raniganj as a producer. The coal in these fields occurs mainly in two series of strata—a younger and upper series, known as the Raniganj series, which yields two-thirds of the coal raised in the Raniganj field, and an older set of beds known as the Barakar series which are the only ones being worked in the Jherria field, and the only ones which exist in the Giridih field. It is found that the coal from the Barakar series invariably contains a smaller proportion of moisture than that obtained from the Raniganj series, whilst it has on an average a higher percentage of fixed carbon with less volatile hydrocarbons.

The coal which is now being largely worked in Assam is much younger in age than that mined in Bengal, and is very different in chemical composition. The Assam coal has often a remarkably low percentage of ash, but generally with a considerable quantity of moisture. Much of it has a high calorific value and forms an excellent coke for metallurgical purposes. The principal mining operations are being conducted in the Makum area, where the output in 1904 reached 266,765 tons, but the coal-bearing tertiary rocks stretch for a considerable distance, and in most places yield petroleum as well as coal.

Prospecting operations have been carried on in the Chindwara district where the coal, if found to be satisfactory, will be well situated to meet the demands of the mill industries on the line of rail to Bombay. Developments have gone on also in connection with the lignite of Bikaner, where attempts are being made to manufacture briquettes. The coal-mining industry in this State, which commenced in 1898, has grown steadily year by year, though the output last year was only 45,078 tons. In Burma good coal has been reported by the Geological Survey on the Upper Chindwin river and near the new Mandalay-Lashio railway extension in the Northern Shan States.

The increase in the individual efficiency of workers has been as steady as the increase in the output. In 1901, the amount of coal raised per person employed was 69·6 tons; in 1902, 75·5 tons; in 1903, 84 tons; in 1904, 88·6 tons; in 1905, 94·6 tons.

The following table gives the production and value of coal in 1905 and the labour employed in the mining in India :—

Production and Value of coal in 1905 and the labour employed in mining.

	Tons.	Rs.	Daily average number of persons employed.
Assam	277,065	13,17,391	1,549
Bengal	7,242,758	1,57,17,453	73,108
Rajputana (Bikanir)	42,964	1,03,606	142
Central India (Rewah)	157,701	6,02,058	1,690
Panjab	62,623	5,08,196	2,031
Kashmir	...	...	...
Baluchistan	40,762	3,61,741	1,056
Central Provinces	147,265	6,66,778	1,763
Nizam's Territory	454,294	21,01,110	7,666
Total	8,425,431	2,13,78,333	89,005

The following table shows the production of coal in India in the years 1902–05, and also in the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany and France :—

India.

1905	8,425,431 tons English of 2,240 lbs.	
1904	8,216,706	" "
1903	7,438,386	" "
1902	7,424,402	" "

United Kingdom.

1905	236,111,150 tons in English of 2,240 lbs.	
1904	232,411,784	" "
1903	230,334,000	" "
1902	227,005,000	" "

United States.

1905	61,410,201 tons in English of 2,240 lbs.	
1904	314,563,000	" "
1903	319,068,000	" "
1902	269,277,000	" "

Germany.

1905	2,030,317 tons English of 2,240 lbs.	
1904	120,816,000 tons Metric of 2,204 lbs.	
1903	116,638,000	" "
1902	107,474,000	" "

France.

1905	36,048,264 tons in Metric of 2,204 lbs.	
1904	33,838,000	" "
1903	34,218,000	" "
1902	29,365,000	" "

The following figures show the average earnings of miners on a representative coal mine in Bengal :—

	Average number of buckets raised per miner per day.	Average daily earnings per day.	Average total earnings per day.	Average per month.
1882	2.4	0.097	0.23	7
1883	2.1	0.104	0.22	6.5
1895	2.1	0.14	0.29	5.8
1890	2.23	0.14	0.31	6.51
1897	2.10	0.14	0.3	6.9
1898	2.19	0.14	0.31	6.51
1899	2.15	0.14	0.3	6.6
1900	2.25	0.14	0.31	6.82
1901	2.17	0.14	0.3	6.6
1902	1.94	0.14	0 27	5.94
1903	1.95	0.14	0.273	0.27
1904	2 16	0.14	0.302	6.644
1905	1.98	0.14	0 277	6.094
1906	2.1	0 14	0.294	6.46

NOTE.—A bucket contains seven maunds of coal. The men are partly miners and partly farmers, depending on neither mining nor agriculture solely.

The death-rate from accidents per thousand persons employed in coal mining in India was ·67. It is interesting to compare with this the proportion of fatal accidents in the mining countries of the world as set forth in the following statement published by the French Statistical paper "L'Economiste":

Fatal accidents in coal mines per 1,000 persons employed :—

United States	3·26
Russia	2·53
Germany	1·93
Japan	1.70
Austria	1·60
British Empire	1·46
Holland	1·27
United Kingdom	1·24
France	1·09
Belgium	1·07
Divers other Countries	2·20
Mean for the whole world	1·93

The total amount and value of coal (Indian merchandise) exported by sea from British India in 1905-06 were as follows :—

	Tons.	Rs.
Coal—		
To Mauritius	10,618	72,435
" Aden	29,812	2,34,491
" Ceylon	380,117	29,84,373
" China -Hongkong	126,064	9,46,747
" Java	8,171	63,867
" Straits Settlements	232,134	18,24,023
" Sumatra	35,227	2,81,816
" Australia	7,501	60,008
" Other Countries	3,868	53,389
TOTAL	833,012	65,21,149
Coke—		
To Ceylon	934	10,528
" Straits Settlements	3,295	52,245
" Other countries	10	88
TOTAL	4,239	62,861

In the calendar 1904-05 the exports of coal from Calcutta mounted to 2,375,977 tons, about three-fourths being loaded into coasting vessels. In 1905-06 the exports of coal from Calcutta amounted to 2,834,397 tons, of which 2,012,996 tons were loaded into coasting vessels and 821,501 tons exported abroad including bunker coal steamers.

The imports of coal and coke from principal foreign countries by sea into British India in the same year were :—

COAL.

	Tons.	Rs.
United Kingdom	131,482	24,00,396
Italy	3,204	61,980
Cape Colony	542	8,005
United States	500	7,500
Ceylon	1,210	18,350
China—Hongkong	1,110	17,112
Japan	27,862	3,81,214
Australia	6,259	79,460
Other Countries	522	7,061
Total	172,691	29,81,078

COKE.

United Kingdom . .	4,235	1,46,440
Italy	400	13,000
Germany	200	9,015
United States . .	399	11,976
Ceylon	2	80
Total .	5,236	1,80,f11

The average prices in the years 1904 and 1905, and the first 4 months of April 1906, of local coal at Calcutta, Bombay and Karachi were as follows:—

	Calcutta (ton into wagons.)		Bombay.	Karachi.
	Bengal, best.	Bengal, good.	Cardiff (per ton.)	North Wales (per ton.)
1904.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p. R a. p.
Average .	2 15 2	2 1 7	17 6 5	18 10 0 to 19 6 8
1905.				
Average .	3 8 2	2 5 0	16 9 2	15 15 4 to 16 10 0
January 1906 .	...	..	18 0 0	16 0 0 to 17 0 0
February . .	4 8 0	3 12 0	19 8 0	16 0 0 „ 17 0 0
March . . .	4 8 0	3 12 0	19 4 0	16 0 0 „ 17 0 0
April . . .	4 8 0	3 8 0	20 0 0	17 0 0 „ 18 0 0

The coal trade in India during the year was not marked by any feature of particular interest. Progress was steady and satisfactory, though complaints were made by managers of Bengal coalfields regarding the shortage of wagons, a matter which engaged the special attention of the Railway Board. In the United Kingdom the Conciliation Board was busy, but, though once or twice strikes seemed to threaten, in the Cardiff and Scottish coal regions, the masters and men settled their differences amicably. Strikes, however, of a extenanj nature occurred in France and threatened in the united States. The strikes movement in France bowming particularly violent after the terrible Courrieres disaster, when the men claimed a very considerable advance in the wages, which, so far the masters have not seen their way to grant In America strikes threatened among both the bituminous and the anthracite workers, and some of the men went out.

Had the coal owners not seen their way to agreeing to the majority of the demands made by the Miners Association, and had not the men in some degree modified their demands, the dislocation of business would have been enormous. The strikes, however, affected prices in Europe less than was at first expected. The prices of coal in London as reported in the "Economist" were in the first quarter of the year 1906:—

January . . .	15*s.* 6*d.* to 16*s.* 6*d.*
February . . .	15*s.* 6*d.* to 16*s.* 6*d.*
March	15*s.* to 16*s.*

In April there was an advance in prices, and, the selling price of Northumberland coal, at the pit month, having advanced, from 6*s.* 2·15*d.* per ton to 6*s.* 3·42*d.* per ton, and the Conciliation Board, when fixing the wages of minors for the three monthly period, April-June, incresed them by 1¼*d.* per cent.

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INDIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

KARACHI.

Existing anomaly in the charges for Urgent and Ordinary Telegrams.—Read letter, dated 15th April 1906, from the Secretary, Bombay Chamber of Commerce, forwarding for the information of this Chamber, copy of a letter addressed by his Chamber to the Director General of Telegraphs, in support of a representation made by the Madras Chamber regarding the existing anomaly in the charges for Urgent and Ordinary messages. Resolution.—The representation regarding the proposed improvements in the telegraph tariff to be strongly supported.

Commercial Holidays for 1906 under the Negotiable Instruments Act.—Read letter No. 1931-A, dated 6th April 1906, from the Under Secretary to the Government of India, Finance Department, acknowledging receipt of this Chamber's letter No. 242 of 23rd March 1906, advocating the gazetting as public holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act, of the 24th May (Empire day) and the 9th November (the King's birthday), and stating in reply that the same will be submitted for the consideration of the Government of India. Resolution.—To be circulated and recorded.

Registration of Trade Marks by notices published in the Indian Trade Journal.—Read letter No. 1664, dated 12th April, 1906, from the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, acknowledging this Chamber's letter No. 287 of 4th April 1906, protesting against the proposed registration of Trade Marks by notices published in the Indian Trade Journal, and stating in reply that the matter has been referred to the Government of India for decision. Resolution.—To be circulated and recorded.

Late deliveries of Piece-Goods and Yarns.—Read letter, dated 23rd March, 1906, from the Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Manchester, referring to previous correspondence on the subject of late deliveries of piece-goods and yarns, and stating that the Directors of his Chamber are doing all that is possible to bring about a satisfactory outcome to the present discussion, and that his Chamber is in active communication with the Chambers of Commerce of Blackburn and Burnley. Resolution.—To be recorded.

Liability of a Railway Company in the matter of goods stolen while in transit.—Read letter, dated 11th April 1906, from the Secretary, Punjab Chamber of Commerce, Delhi, stating that it has been brought to the notice of his Committee that in the case of a bag of flour, admitted to have been stolen from the Railway, part of a consignment booked from Delhi to Howrah on a Risk Note B, the East Indian Railway Company repudiates liability on the ground that the risk note exonerates the Railway Company from all responsibility. The Punjab Chamber invite the views of this Chamber on the matter. Resolution.—The Secretary, Punjab Chamber of Commerce, to be informed that the subject was discussed at length at the first Conference of Indian and Ceylon Chambers of Commerce held in Calcutta in January 1905, and his attention invited to the official Report of the proceedings.

Admixture in Indian Wheat.—Read letter No. 3458, dated 5th April 1906, from the Under Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Bombay, forwarding copy of a letter from the Government of India, No. 1960—1964 of 10th March 1906, and enclosures, and requesting the Chamber to favour Government with its view on the point raised in para. 2 of the Government of India's letter, in which it is suggested to make an authoritative statement that Indian Wheat can be regularly supplied containing not more than two per cent. of impurities. Resolution.—The Government of Bombay to be informed that the proposal to make an authoritative official statement that Indian Wheat can be regularly supplied containing not more than two per cent of impurities if required, meets with the warm support of this Chamber.

❦

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

The *Board of Trade Journal* published on the 12th April in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs, Regulations, gives particulars about:—

Spain.—Proposed New Customs Tariff.

Australian Commonwealth.—Customs Decisions.

New Zealand.—Customs Decisions.

Austria-Hungary.—Withdrawal of Prohibition against Importation of Servian Meat and Poultry.

Bulgaria.—Tare Regulations. Net Weight—Importers may claim to pay on Real Net Weight.

United States of America.—Modifications of Customs and Consular Regulations.

Columbia.—Tariff Modifications. Places where the Customs Duty on Liquors and Matches is not levied.

Ecuador.—New Customs Tariff.

We give the following particulars of changes **interesting to Indian Trade.**

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SPAIN.

CUSTOMS TARIFF—NEW—PROPOSED.

The proposed new Customs Tariff for Spain has just been published by the Government of that country. Articles I and II of the Royal Decree accompanying the Tariff provide that appeals against its classifications and rates may be made to the Spanish Government at any time before the end of the present month. These will be submitted to the Tariff Commission and considered by the Government in the course of May, and the Tariff with such amendments as may result from decisions on these appeals, is to come into force on 1st July next.

According to Article III, the duties contained in the second column of the Tariff (*i.e.*, the duties forming the *minimum* Tariff) are to be applicable to merchandise from countries where Spanish products enjoy most-favoured-nation treatment, provided that the Spanish Government consider that the treatment accorded by such countries to Spanish goods affords an equivalent concession. The duties contained in the first column (*i.e.*, the maximum Tariff) are to be applicable to the goods of all other countries, the Government being empowered to add surtaxes to these duties in the case of countries which treat Spanish vessels or goods in a specially unfavourable manner as well as in the case of goods on which export bounties have been given. Non-European products imported from an European country are by Article IV, to be subject to special duties.

It is important to note that Article V of the Decree provides that all Customs duties levied under the Tariff are to be paid in gold. It is further stipulated, by Article VI, that the duties contained in the new Tariff are to be revised every five years, taking into account any changes which may have occurred in the valuations upon which they have been based.

❦

BULGARIA.

Tare Regulations.

The following is a summary of the principal provisions of the Decree, that fixes the basis upon which the weight of goods imported into Bulgaria, is to be calculated for the purpose of levying import duties:—

Duties will be levied on the **gross** weight (*a*) when that treatment is expressly specified in the tariff, and (*b*) when the rate of duty does not exceed 10 francs per 100 kilogs. In cases where the "general" tariff rate exceeds 10 francs per 100 kilogs, but the "conventional" rate does not exceed that standard, the duty will be levied on the gross weight.

A certain number of articles specified in the Schedule appended to the Decree are to pay duty on the **real net** weight, *i.e.*, on the weight of the articles stripped of all their covering; but a majority of articles are dutiable on the net weight arrived at by deducting from the gross weight an official **tare rate** fixed in the Schedule.

Receptacles (such as baskets, demijohns, cases painted or unpainted, hampers, cans, boxes, sacks, barrels, etc.), the weight of which is, in accordance with the Schedule, to be deducted from the gross weight, but which are susceptible of commercial use when empty, will be dutiable separately, according to kind, after deduction of their weight from the gross weight of the entire package. In case the

receptacle is dutiable at a higher rate than that fixed for the goods, the receptacle will be dutiable separately without its weight being deducted from the gross weight. In the case of goods dutiable on the net weight, but imported in unusual receptacles (*i. e.*, receptacles not in conformity with the established usages of commerce, and not suitable to the goods which they contain), no tare deduction is made; but the duty is levied on the entire weight, receptacle included. In addition, the receptacle is dutiable separately, according to kind.

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Customs and Consular Regulations – Modifications of.

Paragraphs 678 and 680 of the Consular Regulations have been amended as follows :—

678. Purshased goods, where certified.—Invoices of merchandise purchased for export to the United States must be produced for certification to the Consul of the district in which the merchandise was purchased, or in the district in which it was manufactured, but as a rule consular officers shall not require the personal attendance at his office of the shipper, purchaser, manufacturer, owner, or his agent, for the purpose of making declarations to invoices, but he shall certify invoices sent to him through the mails or by messenger. To conform to the statute which requires that merchandise shall be invoiced at the market value or wholesale price of such merchandise as bought and sold in usual wholesale quantities at the time of exportation to the United States, in the principal markets of the country whence imported, consuls will certify to invoicers, the additional cost of transportation from the place of manufacture to the place of shipment whenever the invoice is presented to be consulated in a country other than the one from which the merchandise is being directly exported to the United States.

680. Invoice and declaration to be verified.—When the invoice and declaration are received by the consul, it is his duty to examine carefully each item and satisfy himself that it is true and correct. In aid of this examination it shall be the duty of such consular officer to confer with official Chambers of Commerce and other trade organisations in his district, and he shall report any and all written communications from such commercial bodies and trade organisations that may be submitted to him in writing, together with all schedules of prices furnished him officially for that purpose; and the consul is authorised, in his discretion, to call for the bills of sale of merchandise purchased for export to the United States; to inquire into the cost of production of merchandise not obtained by purchase; to demand samples; and, if the conditions require it, to examine the entire consignment. Whenever an invoice is offered for certification which covers consolidated shipments consisting of the productions of different manufacturer, the consul may demand the submission of the manufacturer's bills relating thereto. Even when the merchandise has been purchased for export, and the invoice sets out truly the price paid, the consul should ascertain whether the price represents the market value of the goods.

Hearings in Re-appraisement Cases.—Hearings in re-appraisement cases shall be open and in the presence of the importer or his attorneys whenever, in the judgment of the Board of General Appraisers, the public interests will not be prejudiced thereby.

Investigations of foreign market value or cost of manufacture of exports to the United States.—Confidential agents of the United States Treasury Department abroad, in making investigations of foreign market value or cost of manufacture of exports to the United States, shall first confer with Chambers of Commerce and other trade organisations, and report information derived therefrom, together with price lists submitted and approved by such organisations.

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CONSULAR REPORT.

ITALY.

MR. PERCY BENNET, Commercial Attaché to His Majesty's Embassy at Rome, has compiled an interesting Statistical Report on **foreign trade of Italy** in the year 1904. The general Import trade amounted to £80,295,288, including goods in transit and precious metals. Excluding transit trade the total was £78,330,624, and excluding precious metals, £76,549,384. The general export trade, including goods in transit and precious metals, amounted to £66,241,864. Excluding goods in transit, but including precious metals, the total was £64,277,200. The total exports, if precious metals be excluded, amounted to £63,888,784. The figures in both imports and exports, excluding precious metals, show a higher total than has ever been reached by Italian trade in any preceding year. The steady record of increase on both sides is shown by comparison of the totals for 1904 with those of the preceding quinquennial period.

Year.	Value.	
	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1899	60,262,000	57,256,000
1900	68,009,000	53,529,000
1901	68,779,000	54,978,000
1902	70,729,000	58,896,000
1903	74,478,000	60,697,000
1904	76,549,000	63,888,000

The value of the imports from and exports to the most important countries during the year 1904, as compared with the previous 4 years, is shown by the following tables :—

Countries of Origin and Destination.	Imports.				
	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£	£	£
Austria-Hungary .	7,655,760	7,136,440	7,044,520	7,042,480	7,580,960
Belgium . .	1,398,980	1,224,000	1,304,400	1,490,240	1,871,800
France . .	6,694,280	7,169,240	7,357,040	7,730,920	8,001,040
Germany . .	8,137,080	8,224,920	8,868,600	9,443,120	10,164,640
United Kingdom .	14,350,760	11,074,560	11,482,040	11,293,320	12,786,440
Roumania . .	1,314,240	2,564,360	2,960,280	2,983,080	1,100,160
Russia . .	5,324,040	6,000,320	7,260,520	8,411,800	6,332,160
Spain . . .	1,081,880	729,480	1,115,520	1,222,400	1,235,320
Switzerland .	2,296,480	2,291,360	2,261,480	2,375,640	2,456,040
Turkey in Europe	679,720	859,600	991,480	1,387,200	1,179,320
United States .	9,052,640	9,373,840	8,413,560	8,490,960	9,555,680
Argentina . .	1,374,160	1,521,720	1,254,400	1,426,560	1,442,560
India . . .	2,454,560	3,018,560	2 962,600	4,004,840	4,722,280
Egypt . .	434,280	468,080	393,880	1,108,760	659,160

Countries of Origin and Destination.	Exports.				
	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	£	£	£	£	£
Austria-Hungary	5,773,680	5,232,280	5,052,320	6,153,440	5,486,640
Belgium . .	904,000	808,040	1,110,600	1,110,240	1,225,200
France . .	6,748,640	6,916,280	6,732,880	6,834,680	7,277,320
Germany . .	8,856,720	9,402,200	10,638,280	9,055,800	8,408,320
United Kingdom .	6,157,160	6,055,720	5,232,780	5,266,040	5,341,480
Roumania . .	68,920	105,040	264,600	227,480	223,400
Russia . .	369,440	514,640	428,320	508,440	495,520
Spain . . .	662,600	443,480	409,560	549,760	527,800
Switzerland .	8,274,280	8,181,560	10,417,240	10,967,420	10,822,280
Turkey in Europe	1,054,600	1,761,320	1,403,680	1,552,840	1,965,960
United States .	4,860,440	5,593,960	7,080,920	6,651,960	7,637,920
Argentina . .	2,729,400	2,442,200	2,412,040	3,159,480	5,183,600
India . . .	1,174,720	1,177,280	1,132,760	1,197,160	1,304,280
Egypt . .	1,064,040	1,283,240	1,201,560	1,452,360	1,843,040

British imports into Italy were well maintained and increased, but they have to meet steadily growing competition, particularly from Germany and the United States. The trade with India, both in imports and exports, increased. Excluding precious metals imports and exports, in Italy are divided into 16 categories. The following tables, arranged according to this system, give the value of the imports and exports of 1904 as compared with those of the previous year. These figures include "goods in transit," which in 1904 amounted to an approximate value of 2,000,000*l***.**

TOTAL IMPORTS.

Item.	Description.	Value.		
		1903.	1904.	Difference.
		£	£	£
1	Spirits, beverages, oils	2,129,361	2,614,308	484,947
2	Colonial goods .	2,029,366	2,108,228	78,862
3	Chemical products .	2,683,172	3,079,116	395,044
4	Colours and dyeing materials . .	1,338,533	1,415,924	77,391
5	Hemp, flax and jute	1,211,879	1,375,264	163,385
6	Cotton . . .	7,607,613	10,235,976	2,628,363
7	Wool, horse and other hairs . . .	3,759,752	4,187,248	427,496
8	Silk, raw and manufactured . .	8,642,394	8,048,772	593,622
9	Wood and straw .	3,251,855	3,687,308	435,453
10	Paper and books .	1,171,910	1,237,036	65,126
11	Hides . . .	2,357,785	3,047,604	689,819
12	Minerals, metals, etc.	9,888,262	11,291,952	1,403,690
13	Stones, earthenware, glass . . .	7,823,632	8,258,088	434,456
14	Cerials, flour, etc. .	13,128,325	9,929,836	3,199,489
15	Animals and their products . .	5,495,147	6,636,500	1,141,353
16	Miscellaneous articles	1,117,897	1,360,860	242,963
	Approximate totals .	75,906,000	78,514,000	2,607,000

TOTAL EXPORTS.

Item.	Description.	Value.		
		1903.	1904.	Difference.
		£	£	£
1	Spirits, beverages, oils	4,636,769	5,046,380	409,611
2	Colonial goods .	402,616	716,732	314,116
3	Chemical products .	1,771,110	2,148,668	377,558
4	Colours and dyeing materials . .	362,714	298,356	64,358
5	Hemp, flax and jute	2,520,687	2,935,220	414,533
6	Cotton . . .	3,390,027	4,714,056	1,324,029
7	Wool, horse and other hairs . . .	844,926	1,198,948	354,022
8	Silk, raw and manufactured . .	19,944,087	21,557,212	1,613,125
9	Wood and straw .	2,182,520	30,574,444	1,391,924
10	Paper and books .	660,264	726,132	65,868
11	Hides . . .	1,299,001	1,404,608	105,607
12	Minerals, metals, etc.	1,533,299	1,766,412	233,113
13	Stones, earthenware, glass . . .	3,668,982	3,647,696	21,286
14	Cereals, flour, etc. .	7,214,693	8,026,432	811,739
15	Animals and their products . .	6,898,699	6,809,900	88,799
16	Miscellaneous articles	1,144,202	1,272,648	171,554
	Approximate totals .	62,125,000	65,841,000	3,716,000

These 16 categories are grouped under four heads :—

(1) Raw materials for manufacture.
(2) Other materials for manufacture which have already undergone some treatment.
(3) Manufactured articles.
(4) Articles of food and drink.

The trade in raw materials for manufacture showed in 1904 an increase of £4,106,000 over the average of the preceding four years. Other articles for manufacture, partly treated, showed an increase of £1,254,000. Manufactured articles showed an increase of £2,161,750, and articles of food and drink showed an increase of £153,250. In exports the increase over the average of the four preceding years was: in raw materials for manufacture, £941,500; in partially treated material for manufacture, £1,590,000; in manufactured articles, £3,863,500; in articles of food and drink, £470,250.

The total increase in imports in 1904, above the average of the preceding four years, was £5,990,500, and in exports £6,865,250. This important increase in the importation of raw materials, and in the exportation of manufactured articles, points to a steady increase in **Italian manufacturing industry.**

The largest increase among imports occurred in raw cotton, £1,885,076; wool, £79,951; wood for building, £307,310; raw hides, £475,076; iron and steel scraps, £128,968; horses, £105,148; manure, £159,308, rubber, £60,932.

In manufactured articles there was an increase in imports of £1,630,292, and in exports of £3,406,870 as compared with the figures of the previous year. This large increase in the export of manufactured goods is the most salient feature in Italy's foreign trade for 1904, and shows the important position which Italian industrial products, principally textiles, are rapidly acquiring in the world's markets. The principal increases in imports of manufactured goods occurred in woollen goods, £98,458; vehicles, £55,820; boilers, £63,388; machinery, £526,220; scientific instruments, £113,660; and railway carriages, £131,406. The principal increase in exportation took place in: Cotton tissues, £915,780; woolen tissues, £144,288; silk tissues, £68,300; ships and other floating materials, £1,313,112; hats £54,992. The sudden increase under the head of shipping is accounted for by the sale of two cruisers to the Japanese Government.

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WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 28th APRIL 1906.

During the period under review, there was nearly general rain in Assam, local rain in Kashmir, North-West Himalayas and Submontane districts, some rain on the South Burma coast and in Southern India. The principal amounts of rainfall were :—Cherra Poonjee 3·92″, Sibsagar 3·48″, Silchar 3·15″, Cochin 2·38″, Dibrugarh 2·12″, Sonemarg 0·95″, Mergui 0·65″, Rawalpindi 0·62″, Madura 0·50″, Dras 0·44″, Srinagar 0·42″, Mercara 0·41″, Murree 0·35″, Peshawar 0·25″, and Leh 0·16″.

Throughout the week there had been intermittent rainfall in Kashmir which however, it appeared, was not due to the effect of any definite low pressure condition; and temperatures from 4° to 10° below normal had been recorded there during the past five days. The amounts of rain reported, which were in no case large, were greatest at Sonemarg and Dras, and at each of these stations the week's total falls of about 2″ were spread over six rainy days. In the Brahmaputra valley the heavy rainfall which began at the close of last week continued, but generally in smaller amounts, up to the 26th. The rainfall was due to the formation of a low pressure trough which, from the 16th onwards, remained and developed with but slight change of position over the plain country skirting the East Himalayas. Its action was to modify very materially the direction of winds from the Bay, and to give them a strong component from the West. The rainfall at Cherra Poonjee rose and fell with the degree of intensity of this development.

Excepting a few trifling showers in Burma and at hill stations in the south of the Peninsula, weather had been dry over the rest of India throughout the week.

Mean temperature fell in the greater part of the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province, in Hyderabad and on the Malabar coast and was 14° below normal at Murree, 11° at Sialkot and 7½° at Lahore on the 27th instant. In Eastern Bengal, Bengal and Orissa weather became hotter, the mean temperature being 9° in excess at Bogra, 8° at Mymensingh and 6° at Berhampore and Jalpaiguri.

On the 22nd the barometer had changed little and irregularly. On the 23rd the depression over the United Provinces and Bihar deepened a little; while the barometer remained more nearly steady over the Bay so that the strength of the indraught was fully maintained. On the 24th, the barometer fell a little over the northern land area and rose slightly over the Bay; so that the pressure gradient was again considerably steeper than usual at this season, and the winds in the Province and in the north of the Bay proportionately stronger. From the 25th to 27th there had been almost no change in the general distribution of pressure. The barometer remained steady over Burma, but rose a little over the rest of the area. On the 28th the barometer fell rapidly in Assam and slowly over the rest of the area. Pressure was about one-tenth of an inch below normal in Assam and North Bengal, and was practically normal over the Bay. Humidity changes had been irregular. The sky was overcast in Assam and moderately clouded elsewhere.

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THE BENARES SILK WEAVERS' CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION: BY MR. J. HOPE SIMPSON.

The silk weaving industry of the Mahommadan *Julahas* (weavers) of Benares city, and of certain towns in the surrounding districts, is of old standing

and established reputation. A combination of causes has, however, tended to impoverish the weaving class. The weavers are as a class, and with a few honourable exceptions, ignorant, improvident and poor. They have of recent years fallen on evil times. The demand for brocades of fine quality, the most paying form of silk manufacture, has contracted,—no attempt has been made by the weavers themselves to seek out new markets, and the trade has largely passed into the hands of dealers, to whom the majority of the weavers now stand in a position of acute financial dependence. The natural result has followed. The profits of the trade in manufactured silks has been transferred from the pockets of the manufacturer to that of the silk merchant. The latter are frequently prosperous, occasionally very wealthy. The former have hitherto day by day become more and more hopelessly indebted. It is obvious that under these conditions there is no incentive to the workman to do his best work or to turn out an article in any way superior in quality to what will pass muster in the warehouse of the merchant. Improvement in quality may mean improvement in price but under the conditions hitherto existing, the latter would simply resolve itself into increased profit for the merchant-salesman.

Within the last few months, acting on the initiative of certain of the more prosperous members of their class, the weavers have taken a step which, if successful, bids fair to rescue the industry from the moribund condition in which it at present finds itself. An association has been formed and has been registered under the Co-operative Credit Societies Act (Act X of 1904), which has for its objects improvement of the manufactured product, establishment of direct relations between the weavers and the market, and provision of advances of raw material and of cash at reasonable rates of interest to the manufacturing community. The registered capital of the Association is Rs. 45,000. It has been fully subscribed, and the first of three calls of share capital paid in.. Large purchases of raw material have been made, and these have been sold in retail amounts, but at practically wholesale prices, to the members of the Association. At the same time the Association has gone a step further, and has purchased from its members the manufactured article at prices fixed, in the case of the rarer qualities, by appraisers, and in the case of the commoner Kashi silks, at the market rates for these commodities. The Association, commanding as it does the labour of some 700 weavers is in an excellent position not only to stock large quantities of manufactured silks, but also to execute orders of considerable amount, and to maintain a supply of any particular class of silk stuff for which a regular market may be open.

The Association deals in all the **descriptions of silk** locally manufactured. Kamkhwab, Pot, Báfta Pitambar, Gulbadan, Mashru, Amru, Sangi and Bel,—saris, dupattas, safas, dhotis, lahngas, rúmals, jhárans, all can be there obtained. A speciality is being made of Kashi silks of every description, suited for shirtings, summer suits, and dresses, both of the European and of the Indian styles.

But while maintaining the industry and attempting to open new markets, the Association is not blind to the necessity for improvement of method where this may be possible. During the recent Industrial Exhibition at Benares a deputation of the weavers visited the weaving section to consider the possibility of introducing the fly-shuttle for weaving Kashi silks. In this the weavers are not hopeful of success. They allege that the ordinary breadth to which Kashi silk is woven—54 inches,—is excessive for the fly-shuttle. This is a matter which can be determined only by experience and experiment, and any information as to fly-shuttle looms for silk weaving, on which cloths of the breadth mentioned can be woven, will be gratefully received by the **Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies (United Provinces), Lucknow.**

The management of the Silk Weavers' Co-operative Association is in the hands of Haji Nur Mahammad, himself one of the leading workshop-owners of Benares **and an experienced dealer in Benares** silks. To help him in his duties the Association has appointed three assistant managers, M. Abdul Qadir, Haji Azimullah, and Sardar Rahmatullah. These gentlemen represent the three mohals of the weavers of Benares and each of them is a kárkhánedár. The Association is fortunate in having obtained an excellent warehouse rent-free, through the generosity of one of the members of the Association.

The members belonging to each neighbourhood (muhalla) have grouped themselves into small affiliated societies. Work is distributed to these societies by the Committee of the Association. The committees of the local society distribute the Association's order among the members of their society in rotation. An attempt is thus made to ensure that each member shall get his fair share of the work done for the Association. Exceptions to this rule are of course necessary in the case of orders which can only be filled by one particular society or in extreme cases by one particular workman. Such orders are however rare. The advantage to the workmen lies in the fact that if the work is performed in execution of an order the full price obtained, minus a small commission, is paid to the workman immediately on receipt of payment. In the case of work prepared for the market and not in compliance with any specified order, the advantage is still more apparent. The Association takes over such work and at once pays the cost price as fixed by the appraisers. When the piece is sold the Association again pays to the workman the difference between the price realized (minus a small commission) and the amount paid to him when the piece was deposited in the workhouse.

The Benares Silk Weavers' Co-operative Association is the outcome of a most laudable endeavour at self-help. It is a movement of a true patriotic type,

without any political bias or interest on the part of the members. It can claim the support of all those whose principles incline them to support home industries. Samples of the products of the Association may be seen at the office o the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta. Letters of enquiry or orders should be addressed to The Honorary Manager, Benares Silk Weavers' Co-operative Association, Katchar, Benares

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THE NATIONALISATION OF RAILWAYS, AND THE UNITED STATES RAILROAD RATES BILL.

The New York *Commercial and Financial Chronicle* writing on the financial situation in America, notes that dullness has lately characterised Wall Street. It remarks that one of the disturbing conditions is the socialistic tendency, which has seen such rapid development in the United States legislation during the last two or three years. The *Chronicle* instances, as a case in point, the talk about taking away the rate-making powers from the railroad managements, and putting this power into the hands, and subject to the will and moral standard, of a few men, while remarking that at the same time efforts are being made in administrative circles to make the General Government the head and regulator of all the corporations in the land. The *Chronicle* considers that this is a most dangerous policy, for it would mean that the officials, in whose power lay the government of these corporations, would be exposed to enormous temptation.

It is significant, however, that this tendency to the nationalisation of the control and government of railroads is not confined to the United States, but extends to nearly every Government in the world. Where railroads are not already State property, very strong demands are being made, and that not in official circles alone, for further nationalisation and for their regulation by Government. In our issue of the 19th April we noticed an illuminative article by Mr. Price-Williams, which appeared in the *Financial and Commercial Supplement* of the *Times*, dealing with the tendency to co-operation or amalgamation among the British railways, with a view to reducing competition and diminishing working expenses, and with the question of the State purchase of railways, which is the consummation of a policy of amalgamation. In that article Mr. Williams showed that statutory powers of purchase by the State already existed in the United Kingdom, under what is known as the "Gladstone Purchase Clause" of the Regulation of Railways Act of 1844. There is only one instance, however, that of the railways in Ireland in 1866, in which a Government had proposed to exercise the "Gladstone Clause" provision of the Act. Nevertheless, should the State so desire, it could purchase any railway or railways it liked on giving the companies defined on 25 years' purchase of the average of the three preceding years' divisible profits. The Act provides that if the divisible profits should equal or exceed 10 per cent. of the capital of the railways, then the rates and regulations should be subject to a revision. The numerous revisions of rates and regulations that have taken place with regard to the English railways have been made, however, not under the Act of 1844 but under special Acts, notably those of 1873, 1888 and 1891. These have not affected the "Gladstone Purchase Clause," which can be put into operation at any time should the nation so desire.

In Japan the House of Representatives has passed without amendment the Railway Nationalisation Bill. The whole cost of the purchase of the home railways is estimated at 50 million pounds, and the Finance Minister is confident that the purchase can be effected in five years without disturbing the market. It is expected also that the Bill for the purchase of the Seoul-Fusan Railway by the Government will also pass into law.

In Austria an agreement has been adopted for the nationalisation of the Emperor Ferdinand's Northern Railway.

In India, 20,071 miles of railway are owned by the State, as compared with 4,035 miles owned by companies, 3,385 by Native States, and 73 miles in foreign territory. The State, when it does not work its railways directly does so through companies under the new system, whilst it reserves to itself all powers where the drawing up or variation of rate schedules is concerned. Certain minimum rates have been fixed for the carriage of goods, and on more than one occasion demands for the reduction or enhancement of these rates have been refused.

In America the Rail Roads Rates Bill, which grew out of certain proposals having for their object the better control by Government of the railroads of the United States, brought forward some time ago by President Roosevelt, has caused intense excitement and controversy. The President suggested that power should be given to some competent administrative body to decide whether any rate of which complaint is made is unreasonable or unjust, and after full investigation to fix reasonable maximum rates, and that that same body should be empowered to adopt means for putting a stop to all commissions or rebates from rates to favoured railroads customers. The Bill was placed in the hands of Senator Hepburn, who succeeded in getting it through the House. The Hepburn Rate Bill, which represents the final compromise reached between the various conflicting interests in the United States House of Representatives on the subject of railway rate legislation, emerged from the House of Committee as the result of the consideration by that Committee of 19 different measures which had been introduced in the House on the subject. It was passed almost unanimously. The Bill takes the form of amendments to certain sections of the existing Inter-State Commerce Act, of 1887, and leaves untouched the Elkins Law, which was

prohibiting discriminations and devices for giving and obtaining rebates. The suggestions which were before the Committee which framed this Bill, for changing the existing Inter-State Commerce Law, were, in the inverse order of their importance, the following:—The improvement of the legal procedure, in cases arising under the Act, so as to hasten the obtaining of final results; more definite prohibition of devices whereby, through switch charges, private terminals and other methods, illegal rates were obtained and kept in force; definite provisions for bringing within the scope of the Act private car lines; and, finally, the giving to the Inter-State Commerce Commission the power, in case of a determination that an existing rate was unreasonable, to fix and determine the reasonable rate for the future. As to the advisability of all these changes except the last mentioned there was, according to the "Financial and Commercial Chronicle," practically unanimous agreement on the part of all interests, including the railroads as well as the shippers.

The Bill seeks to extend the powers of the present Act over private transportation lines by adding the following new clause:—"If the owner of property transported under this Act, directly or indirectly, renders any services connected with such transportation, or furnishes any instrumentality used therein, the charge and allowance therefor shall be no more than is just and reasonable, and the Commission may, after hearing the complaint, determine what is a reasonable charge as the maximum to be paid by the carrier or carriers for the service so rendered, or for the use of the instrumentalities so furnished." It is expected that these features of the Hepburn Bill will be included in any Bill approved by the Senate, as it is to the interests of all that private transportation companies should not remain beyond the operation of the Act.

Another change, proposed by the Hepburn Bill, is the conferring upon the Inter-State Commerce Commission the power in certain instances to fix maximum rates. The new clause provides that "the Commission is authorized and empowered, and it shall be its duty whenever after full hearing upon a complaint made as provided in Section 13 of this Act, or upon complaint of any common carrier, it shall be of the opinion that any of the rates or charges whatsoever demanded, charged or collected by any common carrier or carriers, subject to the provisions of this Act, etc., are unjust or unreasonable, or unjustly discriminatory, or unduly preferential, or prejudicial, or otherwise in violation of any of the provisions of this Act, to determine and prescribe what will, in its judgment, be the just and reasonable and fairly remunerative rate or rates, charge or charges to be thereafter observed in such case as the maximum to be charged; and what regulation or practice in respect to such transportation is just, fair and reasonable to be thereafter followed, and to make an order that the carrier shall cease and desist from such violation to the extent to which the Commission find the same to exist, and shall not thereafter publish, demand or collect any rate or charge for such transportation in excess of the maximum rate or charge so prescribed, and shall conform to the regulation or practice so prescribed."

This proposed legislation is not so radical as that proposed by many of the interests in Congress. The power to initiate rates is not given to the Commission. Neither is it attempted to give the Commission power to readjust the existing classifications of freight. Mr. Hepburn, in his speech introducing the Bill, commented upon the fact that no new legislation was suggested on the subject of "relation of rates," meaning that he believed that under the proposed Bill the Commission could not attempt to revise the general scheme of differential rates as between various ports. The Bill merely requires the Commission, where it finds existing rates unreasonable, to establish the maximum rate for the future, which gives the advantage of flexibility to the rate. It is contemplated by the Bill that an order of the Commission fixing a maximum rate shall go into effect thirty days after notice to the carrier, and remain in force unless suspended by the Commission itself or suspended by a court of competent jurisdiction. The main questions raised in the discussion at present in the Senate concerns the making of additional provisions for adequate and immediate review by the courts of the Commission's determinations as to maximum rates. It was says "Chronicle," evidently the intention of the farmers of the Hepburn Bill that, unless a railroad appealed at once to the court for an injunction modifying the order of the Commission fixing the maximum rate, the rate so ordered should stand until revised by the Commission itself. Commenting on this the journal remarks: "It is probable that even the Hepburn Bill itself does not accomplish this result. It is doubtful whether Congress has, under the Constitution, the power to delegate to the Commission authority to do more than establish maximum rates which shall be *prima facie* the rates to be charged for future service. This being the case, if the Commission ordered a maximum rate which was really unreasonable, a railroad might simply disregard the order and charge what was actually a reasonable rate for its services, with the probable result that upon the Commission's attempting to enforce its order, the courts would refuse such enforcement upon the showing by the railroad that the rate actually charged by it was reasonable." It is probable that there will be some further modifications in the Bill before it becomes law.

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SUGAR INDUSTRY AND TRADE.

V.

SUGAR: LEGISLATION AND BOUNTIES IN EUROPE.

In this series of articles upon sugar it is necessary to bring into line the history of the beet industry in **Germany and Austria**, which countries to-day represent the great mass of the European production, and which are differentiated from those Powers, France, Belgium and Holland,

of which we have so far principally spoken, by the fact that their excise duties were levied not upon raw sugar but upon beets. We have already seen (paragraph 14) in what way that system furnished a bounty upon exports.

Germany had engaged in the industry almost as soon as France. The first factory is said to have been started in Silesia in 1812; and 25 years later there were some 122 factories with a raw-sugar output of about 1,400 tons. At first there was no internal taxation to be borne; and as the duty on imported sugar ran from 54 to 60 marks per quintal, there was abundant shelter. In 1841 the production was ten times as great as it had been in 1837, and the beet tax was, thereupon, first imposed to recoup the revenue lost by the exclusion of cane sugar. The same financial consideration led to the gradual increase of this tax to 0·60 marks per quintal in 1851, and to its doubling in 1853.*

It was at this time that the manufacturers naturally began to press for grant of **drawback** on exportation; but the Government, as has been already said, replied in terms that included an express repudiation of even an accidental bounty. This refusal led inevitably to a flooding of the domestic market with beet sugar, to a more complete displacement of cane sugar, to a further loss of revenue from import duties, to a corresponding enhancement of the internal excise, and to a proportionate intensification of the clamour for drawbacks. The Government gave way in 1861, and ordered payment of refunds at the rates of 16·40 marks per quintal of raw sugar and m. 20 on refined.

Germany began to export from this time, and France's virtual monopoly of the world's markets was on the wane. After the failure of the Brussels Conference of 1863, the German rates of refund were enhanced to m. 17·60 and m. 21 respectively; and in 1870 that on raw sugar was raised to m. 18·80. But it has already been stated that about this time the ratio of sugar to beets was so low that no bounty is apparent. It was only about 1880 that the progressive reduction in bulk of material left a clear advantage to the exporter. In the year ending 31st July 1882 only 10·46 quintals of beet were required to produce 1 quintal of sugar; and by 1883 it had been realised that the advance in intensive methods was involving the exchequer in such loss as called for an alteration of the law. From this time onwards, successive modifications were made both in the rate of the beet tax and in the amount of drawback, with a view to establishing an equipoise.

* 1 mark = 11¾*d.*

The following table summarises the various changes made:—

TABLE I

Germany, Sugar taxes and bounties, 1869 to 1903

(In marks, per 100 kilograms).

Period	Import duties		Internal taxes		Payment on exportation		
	Raw	Refined	Beet tax	Consumption tax	Raw	Refined Candy & loaf sugar	Other
September 1st, 1896, to August 31st, 1883	24·00	30·60	1·60	...	18·80	23·00	21·60
September 1st, 1883, to July 31st, 1886	24·00	30·00	1·60	...	18·00	22·20	20·80
August 1st, 1886, to October 31st, 1887	24·00	30·00	1·70	...	18·00	22·20	20·80
November 1st, 1887, to July 31st, 1888	24·00	30·00	1·70	...	17·25	21·50	20·15
August 1st, 1888, to July 31st, 1892	30·00	30·00	·80	12·00	8·50	10·65	10·00
August 1st, 1892, to May 1899	36·00	36·00	...	18·00	1·25	2·00	1·65
June 1st, 1896, to August 31st, 1903	40·00	40·00	...	20·00	2·50	3·55	3·00
September 1st, 1903, to date	18·40	18·80	...	14·00	...	...	...

But the continuous progress made both in processes of manufacture and in the selection and cultivation of the beet, was consistently greater than the law had allowed for. In 1887-88 the law assumed the ratio of beet to sugar to be 10·15 to 1, while in practice it was so low as 7·65 to 1; and between the years 1884 and 1888 no less than 78 per cent of the gross revenue from sugar was paid away in refunds.

From 1st August 1888 a radical change was made in the system of taxation, in order that the treasury might have a calculable source of revenue. A **consumption tax** of m. 12 per quintal was imposed on sugar for domestic consumption, the **beet tax** was reduced from m. 1·70 to m. 8, and the **drawback** on raw sugar was reduced from m. 17·25 to m. 8·50 with proportionate reductions in respect of refined sugar. The ratio of sugar to beets was somewhat raised as a stimulus to further improvements of method.

In 1892 the beet tax and its complementary drawback were abolished, and the consumption tax was raised by 50 per cent to m. 18 per quintal. The place of the drawback was taken by **direct bounties** of m. 1·25 on *raw sugar*, m. 2 on *candy and loaf* and m. 1·65 on *other refined sorts*. These rates are to be compared with the old bounty, which amounted to about m. 2·02 per quintal. The **import duty** was of course increased at the same time and the rates held good till 1896. This was the period in which beet sugar first began to make serious inroads on the Indian markets.

In May 1896 a new law was passed which doubled the direct bounty upon exportation of raw sugar, and greatly increased that on refined sugars. The rates from that date till the coming in force of the Brussels Convention on 1st September 1903 were as follows:—Raw sugar, m. 2·50; candy and loaf, m. 3·55; other refined, m. 3·00. But, in addition to the consumption tax, this law introduced a new **manufacturing tax** assessed on the annual production of the individual factory. This tax was calculated at the rate of 10 pfennigs per quintal on an output not exceeding 4,000,000 kilograms, with an enhancement of 2½ pf. for every increase of 1,000,000 kilos or part thereof. An official estimate was to be made of the production of the particular factory in previous years; and, in order that a limit might be set to the amount of bounties, it was provided that any production in excess of that estimate should be subject to an **additional tax** equal to the rate of bounty payable on similar sugar, if exported.

The introduction of this **official estimate** of the productive capacities of individual factories is important. The rule which it was designed to serve had the effect of preventing over-production; and, both in this respect and in others, the official estimate itself played so important a part in the powerful combinations known as the cartels, as to impart a certain colour of official sanction to the tactics of the trade.

In Austria and in Russia an official estimate of the productive capacity of each factory had been a feature of the sugar legislation from the beginning. In these countries, as we have already said, the beet tax was charged, not upon actual consumption of beets as in Germany, but upon such an estimate as is here in question. But in Germany the official estimate determined only the point at which production became subject to the supplementary tax. In Austria the beet tax was fixed at 80 kreutzers per quintal, and this remained in force till 31st July 1888. The drawbacks during this time were paid at rates varying in accordance with the polariscopic test of the grade. On sugar testing less than 93° but not less than 88° florins 8·40 per quintal were paid, while sugar testing less than 99·5° but not less than 93° received fl. 9·40, and sugars of 99·5° and above received fl. 11·55.*

* *Up to 1892 the florin* or gulden existed with a sterling value of 1*s.* 8*d.*, divided into 100 kreutzers.

Seeing that the beet tax was levied upon less than the actual consumption of roots and that the ratio of 11·75 to 1 was recognised in **Austria** as in Germany, the incentive to intensive methods in the former country was even greater than in the latter, and as we have already said the bounties in 1875-76 exceeded the total receipts. To guard against a recurrence of this experience, various projects of law were considered, and in 1878-79 a system was instituted under which any excess payments could be recouped by **a supplementary tax** *assessed, like the other, upon the officially estimated capacity of each factory.* The revenue to be derived from sugar was fixed at fl. 6,000,000 for the first factory year, with an annual increase of fl. 500,000 till fl. 10,500,000 should be reached. But two years later it was decided to begin at once at fl. 10,000,000 per annum with annual increases of fl. 400,000 until fl. 12,800,000 was attained in 1887-88. Any excess of receipts over the fixed minimum in one year was to be carried over to the next year and applied to diminution of the supplementary tax for the latter. It is estimated that under this system the effective bounty on exportation was about 16*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

We have seen that Germany resorted to a fixed **consumption tax** in August 1888; and twelve months later Austria adopted the same course, with the difference that she abolished outright the beet tax which in Germany survived at a much reduced rate till 1892. The first Austrian consumption tax was thus unsupported by a beet tax, and was fixed at fl. 11 per quintal as compared with Germany's m. 12. In 1896 when Germany raised her consumption tax to m. 20, Austria raised hers to fl. 13, and in August 1899 a further enhancement to fl. 19 took place. It was in March of 1899 that the first countervailing duties were established in India.

Under the new law Austria also adopted **direct bounties** instead of drawbacks, so that here again her legislation synchronised approximately with that of Germany. The maximum amount of such bounties payable in any one year was limited to fl. 5,000,000 during the period 1888-89 to 1895-96; to fl. 9,000,000 for 1896-97 to 1901-02; and to fl. 10,500,000 for 1902-03. Any payments of bounty in excess of these amounts were recoverable from the entire industry *pro rata*, not of the exportation by individuals, but of their production.

The rates of bounty were as follows:—

	fl.
Sugar testing less than 93° but not less than 88°	1·50
Sugar testing less than 99° but not less than 93°	1·60
Sugar not less than 99·5°	2·30

In 1899, sugar testing less than 90° ceased to be entitled to a bounty, while the rate of fl. 1·60 was applied to sugar testing less than 99·3° and that of fl. 2·30 to any sugar of a higher test. But the conditions as to maximum total payments of bounty remained; and the supplementary tax on production, designed to make good any excess beyond that maximum, had the effect of diminishing the actual rate of bounty, so that in the various years between 1888 to 1902, it fell short of the theoretical rate by from 4 to 38 per cent.

While the proof of domestic sugars in Austria was made with the polariscope, foreign sugars were assessed for import duty in conformity with the Dutch colour standards. Prior to August 1899 this import duty varied from fl. 15 for sugar up to No. 18 Dutch standard, to fl. 20 for raw sugar not below No. 19, and for refined sugar. On 1st August 1899 the rate for raw sugar *below* No. 19 became fl. 6 and for refined sugar fl. 11 per quintal, all imported sugars being subjected also to the consumption tax of fl. 19.

These rates held good till the 18th September 1903, when there came in force the law of January 31st of that year passed in conformity with the Brussels Convention. All bounties were then abolished and the import duties were reduced to fl. 2·20 and fl. 2·40 for raw and refined sugar, respectively, the Dutch standard No. 18 remaining as before the highest number in the raw class. Monsieur Guyot in his brochure published in 1901 estimated the *direct* bounties paid by the three principal countries in 1899-1900 as follows :—

	Fr.
France . . .	15,387,646
Germany . . .	34,503,670
Austria . . .	18,450,000
	68,351,316

It is not intended to do more in this paper than to give a perfectly clear account of the systems that gave rise to the sugar bounties and ultimately necessitated special legislation on the part of India. We have dealt in some detail with the history of the industry in France because the legislation there was typical of that prevailing in countries that based their sugar taxation upon the quantity of sugar produced. Germany stood by itself in that it levied its beet tax on the actual consumption. Austria and Russia may be taken as representing the system of assessment upon an official estimate of productive capacity. It is unnecessary to follow the course of legislation in all the other countries; but no account of the situation which India was called upon to confront would be intelligible without a brief sketch of the great trade combinations known as cartels.

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GAZETTE AND OTHER NOTIFICATIONS.

TELEGRAPHIC.

List of Government Telegraph Offices reported as opened, closed, etc.

OFFICES OPENED.

Name of Office.	District.	Date opened.
Damnagar . . .	Kathiawar . .	17-3-06
Homalin . . .	Upper Chindwin .	19-3-06
Tijara . . .	Alwar . . .	20-3-06
Mahwa (Jaipur) . .	Jaipur . . .	23-3-06
Hindaun Road . .	Jaipur . . .	23-3-06
Koradacheri . .	Tanjore . . .	23-3-06
Hindaun . . .	Jaipur . . .	24-3-06
Drug . . .	Raipur . . .	25-3-06
Mathura (Pabna) .	Pabna . . .	29-3-06
Patuakhali . . .	Backergunge . .	30-3-06
Kuttalam-Tanjore .	Tanjore . . .	31-3-06
Aditvari (Nagpur) .	Nagpur . . .	1-4-06
Mejikajan . . .	Assam . . .	1-4-06
Kalugumalai . .	Tinnevelly . .	1-4-06
Rehabari . . .	Lakhimpur . .	2-4-06
Balambha . . .	Kathiawar . .	3-4-06
Dibrugarh Steamer Ghat	Lakhimpur . .	6-4-06
Todgarh . . .	Merwara . .	9-4-06
Mailhar . . .	Mailhar . . .	10-4-06
Kunnamkulam . .	Malabar . . .	11-4-06
Shadadpur . . .	Upper Sind Frontier .	11-4-06

OFFICE CLOSED.

Name of Office.	District.	When closed.
Kengtung Cantonment .	Southern Shan States	11-4-06

OFFICES SANCTIONED BUT NOT YET OPENED.

Name of Office.	District.	Date sanctioned.
Marcolly . . .	Assam . . .	22-3-06
Paharganj . . .	Delhi . . .	27-3-06
Avinigudda . .	Kistna . . .	27-3-06
Gauhati Steamer Ghat .	Kamrup . . .	30-3-06
Kot-Radha-Kishen R. S.	Lahore . . .	2-4-06
Jubbulpore Central Post Office . . .	Jubbulpore . .	2-4-06
Swabi . . .	Peshawar . .	6-4-06

The following Telephone Exchanges, worked by the Telegraph Department, have been opened for the public from the dates noted against each :—

Allahabad Telegraph Office Exchange .	6-2-06
Naini Tal Telephone Exchange . . .	1-4-06

A telephone line for the Bengal Nagpur Railway from Shalimar to Khargpur, 67·5 miles in length (the longest direct telephone connection in India), was completed and made over to the railway on the 15th March 1906.

The wireless telegraph traffic disposed of at Port Blair, etc., during the month of March 1906 was as follows :—

Sent from Port Blair .	446	messages containing	21,121 words
Received at „ „ .	424	„ „	9,828 „
TOTAL	870	„ „	30,949 „
Exchanged at Slipper Island . . .	257	„ „	7,676 „
GRAND TOTAL	1,127	„ „	38,625 „

Communication was maintained throughout the month but there was delay to communication for an hour or so at a time on a few occasions owing to atmospheric disturbances.

Wireless telegraph communication between the Pilot Steamer "Fraser" and Saugor Island was again established on the 17th March 1906 and the following amount of traffic was disposed of during the 15 days 17th to 31st March 1906 at Saugor Island :—

Sent from Saugor Island .	5	messages containing	1,123 words
Received at „ „ .	73	„ „	1,321 „
Shipping Reports . .	124	„ „	561 „
TOTAL .	249	„ „	3,109 „

Communication was maintained throughout the period mentioned above but as was expected at this season of the year, the effect of atmospheric disturbances is beginning to be felt.

From the commencement of the Simla season the Baudot system of working has been regularly employed for traffic between Calcutta and Simla, with Allahabad in translation.

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LIGHTING OF COASTS.

The 24th April, 1906.

THE Governor General in Council has directed the publication of the following revised *pro-forma* account, showing the receipts and charges in connection with the Burma Coast-lights for the year ending on the 31st March 1905, in substitution of the account which was published with the Notification in this Department, No. 5861—5-3, dated the 14th October 1905 :—

Annual pro-formâ *accounts of the Burma Coast-light dues for the year 1904-05.*

Capital expenditure up to					
Year.	Amount.	Interest at 4 per cent. on capital expenditure.	Annual sinking fund payment necessary to liquidate the capital expenditure incurred to date in 60 years assuming interest at the rate of 3½ per cent.	Excess of the annual receipts over the annual establishments and maintenance charges.	Profit or loss.
1	2	3	4	5	6
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1904-05	40,74,434	1,62,977	21,570	3,50,493	+ 1,65,946

NOTE.—General charges on account of the supervision of the lights by the Principal Port Officer, Burma, and by other administrative officers of the Government, also the cost of pensions to the establishment are not included in the charges incorporated in this statement.

In exercise of the power conferred by section 6 of the Burma Coast-lights Act, 1879 (IX of 1879), the Governor General in Council is pleased to reduce the rate at which coast-light dues are leviable under section 4 of the Act from one anna and six pies to one anna and two pies per ton of burden.

❦

EXPLOSIVES.

The 25th April, 1906.

IN accordance with the provisions of section 18, sub-section (1) of the Indian Explosives Act, 1884 (IV of 1884), and with the directions contained in the Notification of the Government of India in the Home Department, No. 1964, dated the 2nd September 1888, the Governor General in Council is pleased to publish, for the information of persons likely to be affected thereby, the following amendments which it is proposed to make in the Rules published with the Notification of the Government of India in the Department of Commerce and Industry, No. 5484—4-10 (Explosives), dated the 2nd October 1905, namely :

In section III for the word "exception" the word "exceptions" shall be substituted, and the following clause shall be added, namely,—

(*b*) Picric Acid thoroughly mixed with not less than three times its own weight of—

(i) anhydrous sulphate of soda,

(ii) crystallized sulphate of soda, when packed in hermetically closed packages, or

(iii) potash alum,

shall be exempt from being deemed to be an explosive within the meaning of the said Act.

The draft will be taken into consideration on or after the 1st June 1906.

RETAIL PRICES.

Retail prices of certain food-grains and salt at selected stations for the second half of March 1906. (Prices are stated in annas, etc., per ser.)

	Rice, common.	Wheat.	Barley.	Jawar.	Bajra.	Ragi.	Gram.	Salt.
BURMA—	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.
Rangoon	1 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 10
Toungoo	1 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 2
EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM—								
Rangpur	1 9	1 9	...	...	...	...	...	1 2
Backerganj	1 10	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 1
BENGAL—								
Calcutta	2 3	1 7	...	..	...		...	1 2
Patna	1 3	1 5	1 1	...	...	...	...	1 0
UNITED PROVINCES—								
Cawnpur	...	1 4	1 1	1 2	1 3	...	1 3	1 4
Fyzabad	...	1 4	1 0	1 4	1 6	...	1 1	1 2
Meerut	...	1 4	1 1	1 2	1 3	...	1 2	0 11
PUNJAB—								
Delhi	...	1 3	1 0	...	1 3	...	1 1	1 0
Amritsar	...	1 1	0 9	1 3	1 1	...	0 11	0 10
Rawal Pindi	...	1 2	0 8	0 11	1 1	...	1 0	0 10
SIND—								
Karachi	...	1 5	...	1 2	1 4	...	1 5	0 9
BOMBAY—								
Belgaum	...	2 0	...	1 4	1 4	...	...	0 11
Ahmadnagar	...	1 8	...	1 5	1 6	...	...	1 0
Bombay	...	2 1	..	1 5	1 6	...	...	1 4
Ahmadabad	...	1 9	...	1 4	1 7	...	...	0 10
CENTRAL PROVINCES—								
Jubbulpore	...	1 3	..	1 0	...	...	1 3	1 3
Nagpur	1 6	1 3	...	1 2	...	...	1 4	1 4
Raipur	1 1	1 3	...	...	...	...	1 2	1 2
MADRAS—								
Bellary	2 0	...	...	1 2	...	1 0	...	1 1
Madras	2 0	...	...	...	...	1 3	...	0 9
Salem	2 2	...	...	1 3	1 4	1 2	...	1 1

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.

For the week ending 28th April 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign—Imports by sea into	Calcutta lbs.	602,661
	Bombay „	289,300
	Madras „	42,800
Indian—Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	559,612
	Bombay „	9,883,935
	Madras „	...

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	35,379,306
	Bombay „	5,595,327
	Karachi „	1,770,090
	Madras „	381,933
	Rangoon „	233,885

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	4,687,675
	Bombay „	6,008,716
	Karachi „	3,622,707
	Madras „	74,995
	Rangoon „	686,963

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	2,757,787
	Bombay „	5,771,431
	Karachi „	4,193,793
	Madras „	153,335
	Rangoon „	767,466

Piece Goods.

(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta ‡ cwt.	32,820
	Bombay „	*
	Karachi „	14,335
	Madras „	6,088

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea cwt.	6,097
	Coastwise „	37,329
	By rail „	121,417
Imports into Karachi by rail „		19,043
„ „ Calcutta‡ by rail and river „		7,549

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes ‡ in Calcutta cwt.			150,191
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	Gunny bags No.	12,917,520
		„ cloth yds.	26,726,220
		Jute cwt.	78,620
	Chittagong—Jute „		...

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes ‡ in Calcutta lbs.		268,437
Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	401,839
	Chittagong „	...

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail† and river cwt.		26,949
	Karachi by rail „		209,000
	Bombay	By rail „	34,029
		Coastwise „	2,900
Exports by sea from	Calcutta „		897
	Bombay „		6,144
	Karachi „		80,629

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta cwt.	198,653
	Chittagong „	...
	Bombay „	8,396
	Karachi „	3,171
	Madras „	...
	Rangoon „	628,982

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail† and river cwt.	140,294
	Bombay by rail „	11,706
	Karachi by rail „	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	92,554
	Bombay „	54,254
	Karachi „	...

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail† and river cwt.	54,199
	Bombay by rail „	26,485
	Karachi by rail „	17,780
Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	8,322
	Bombay „	59,669
	Karachi „	44,237

* Not available. † E. I. Railway only. ‡ B. N. Railway figures not received.

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Current Deposit Accounts opened, and Fixed Deposit received for 12 months or shorter periods on terms which may be ascertained on application.

Calcutta Agency, 5, COUNCIL HOUSE STREET.

Bombay Agency, ESPLANADE.

Rangoon Agency, 76, PHAYRE STREET.

Shalimar Paint, Colour & Varnish Company,

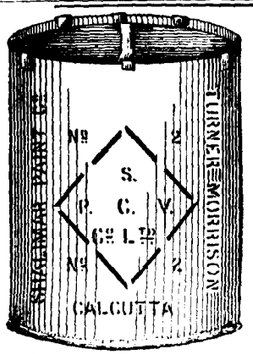
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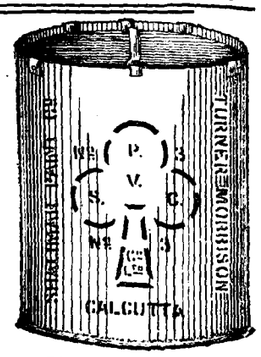
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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta [The prices include postage] to countries in the Postal Union.

ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 (2*a*.)
2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a*.)
3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—
   - Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. R3. (12*a*.)
   - Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port R3. (12*a*.)
4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. R2. (7*a*.)
5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a*.)
6. Accounts of Trade of the French Possession in India. As. 3. (1*a*.)
7. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possession in India. As. 2. (1*a*.)
8. Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India. R4. (6*a*.)
9. Report on the Rail-borne and River-borne Trade of Bengal R4.
10. Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet Sikkim and Bhutan. R1½.
11. Prices and Wages in India. R1½. (9*a*.)
12. Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India. R4. (12*a*.)
13. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India. R2. (10*a*.)
14. Agricultural Statistics of India. R3½. (12*a*.)
    - Part I.—British India.
    - Part II.—Native States.
15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India. As. 5 (2*a*.)
16. Statistics of Mineral Production in India. As. 2, (1*a*.)

QUARTERLY.

17. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

MONTHLY.

18. Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)
19. Accounts of the External Land Trade of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)
29. Statistics of the Production of Yarn and Woven Goods in the India Cotton Mills. As. 2.

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All figures, blocks, etc., intended for insertion in the advrtisement-columns of the *Indian Trade Journal* must first be submitted for approval to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence. The type used in the making up of an advertisement, whether display or line, must be of the kind approved by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence.
No advertisements of retail trade will be accepted.

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The Indian Trade Journal.

Issued by the Commercial Intelligence Department of India.

VOL. I. No. 6.] CALCUTTA, THURSDAY, 10th MAY 1906. [ANNAS 4.

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NOTES.

Advices from **Mexico** state that the fiscal authorities now consider the **gold standard** firmly established in that country.

The **code of regulations** for the levying of **customs duties** on goods entering or leaving **Persia** has now been published as No. 646, Miscellaneous Series, Diplomatic and Consular Reports.

The Mysore Gazette contains rules for the guidance of exhibitors and others at the **agricultural exhibition and cattle show** which will be opened at Conjeeveram on the 30th of May and will continue open till the 5th of June.

It is expected that the **new Chinese silver dollar,** one tael in value, will be put into circulation before the end of the present year. The new dollars will first be circulated in the treaty ports as stipulated in the new Anglo-Chinese commercial treaty.

A Bill **"for preventing the manufacture,** sale, or transportation of adulterated, or misbranded, or poisonous, or **deleterious foods,** drugs, medicines, and liquors, and for regulating traffic therein." has passed the United Co. The te, and is now before the Hou complete when th

ad, appearance of being carved
of This mammoth building is
has a height of 92 f of Customs has stated
agent of the German

Government with a view to improving **trade relations between Canada and Germany** will be taken into consideration by the Ministers in revising the Canadian tariff.

The annual report of the **Indian Board of Scientific Advice** will shortly be issued. It will contain full information as to the work done, including the proceedings at the Meeting in December last. The current proceedings at Simla will be published after the usual submission to Government.

Experiments with an **artificial wood tie** are being made on the Western Ohio Railway of America. The tie, which looks very like wood, is made by compressing various waste products. It is claimed to be indestructible, non-soluble in water, and a non-conductor of electricity.

The money market on May 9th (Wednesday) was firm at 1-4-1/32 for Telegraphic Transfer and 1-4-1/16 for On Demand, and 1-4-7/16 and 1-4-9/32 respectively for six and three months' sight Credits and Documents for Acceptance. Government Paper was quiet at Rs. 98-5 for ready and Rs. 98-7 for forward. Consols on Tuesday were quoted higher at 89⅝.

A meeting attended by all the leading money-lenders and other wealthy persons of Delhi was recently held to consider the question of the establishment of another **agricultural bank at Delhi**. The proposal was approved by the gathering and the capital of the bank has for the present been fixed at one lakh, the directors having, however, power to increase the same.

It is stated at Singapore that the Dutch company which works a **coal concession on Pulo Laut**, to the south-east of Dutch Borneo, has transferred the Singapore agency to an important German firm as the German lines of steamers had made contracts for large quantities of their coal, necessitating the maintenance of a large coal depôt on Pulo Laut.

Samples of the fabrics woven by the Benares Silk weavers to which reference was made on page 162 of the "Indian Trade Journal" of the 3rd May, have been received in the office of the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, where they may be seen on application. The samples comprise plain, corded and fancy [illegible] etc., and have the price [illegible]

A resolution has been passed by the German Reichstag recommending the introduction, during the present Session, of a Bill to reduce the **excise duty on sugar from** 14 to 10 marks per 100 kilogs (from 7*s.* to 5*s.* per cwt). Should this measure be passed, the import duty on sugar (which consists of the excise duty, the "surtax" of 4 marks 40 pfg. on raw sugar, and 4 marks 80 pfg. on refined sugar) will be correspondingly reduced.

The French official Customs returns issued show that the **imports into France** during the first three months of the present year amounted in value to 1,316,058,000 francs, an increase of 115,584,000 francs as compared with the corresponding period of 1905. The **value of the exports** during the quarter under review was 1,177,795,000 francs, an increase of 116,734,000 francs, as compared with the first three months of last year.

A serious hitch seems to have arisen in connection with the powers sought by the **London and India Dock Company** to amalgamate with the **Millwall Dock Company**. The Board of Trade has sent an intimation to the effect that the Government will insist upon a "sterilisation clause" in the Bill reserving any advantages which may result from the arrangement for the benefit of any new dock authority which may be established.

According to a report from the United States Consul at Pretoria there is a rapidly **growing trade for musical instruments** in South Africa. In 1904 the Transvaal purchased musical goods to the value of £32,650 from Germany, £18,400 from England, and £7,910 from the United States. Germany has now far outstripped all competitors, having increased her sales in musical instruments tenfold in two years, and leading the United Kingdom, despite its preferential duty of 2½ per cent., by almost double in importations.

According to the "Bulletin" of the French Chamber of Commerce at Madrid, **Spanish agriculturists** are beginning to appreciate more and more the value of **chemical fertilisers**; the home manufacture of these is therefore on the increase. A chemical factory, under Belgian management, is being established at Torrelavega (Santander), and the "Cantabrica" factory at Bilbao is about to increase its output. However, the few chemical factories scattered about the country are by no means equal to the demand, and chemical fertilisers have to be largely imported.

The Premiers of New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia have agreed upon **a scheme for the construction of locks on the Murray and Murrumbidgee rivers**, the cost devolving upon each State not to exceed £100,000 per annum. The work, Reuter states, is to be commenced immediately the agreement has been ratified by the Parliaments of the respective States. The total expense is estimated at £2,350,000. The completion of the works will facilitate navigation, and admit of the diversion of large quantities of water for purposes of irrigation and conservation.

"The Commercial Motor" has taken a fortnightly census since June last of the **motor omnibuses** employed in London. Easter Monday's records disclosed a total of 393 motors, being an increase of no less than 37 during the previous two weeks, after correction for withdrawals and replacements, but including such vehicles as happened to be under repair on that date. The figures are:—Makers: Milnes-Diamler, 162; Straker-Squire and Bussing, 92; De Dion-Bouton, 44; Durkopp, 27; Leyland, 12; Brillie, 11; Ducommun, 10; Clarkson, 9; Stirling, 9, Orion, 8; other makers, 9. "The Commercial Motor" estimate of London's motor buses at the end of the current year was 1 300, but this was made nearly a year ago. Various factors have retarded delivery, and it is thought that the figure will not be more than 1,000 at the end of the year.

A case of great interest to factory owners has just been decided by the Punjab Chief Court. The owner of certain Mills in Delhi was prosecuted, under the newly passed Steam Boilers Act, for using boilers in a dangerous condition. The allegation was that the boilers could not safely bear a steam-pressure exceeding 100 lbs. to the square inch, whereas they had been worked at a steam-pressure of 110 lbs. The local Magistrate, on hearing the case in the first instance, dismissed the charge on the ground the defendant had employed a competent engineer to run the boilers, and had therefore divested himself of personal responsibility. The Government appealed against this decision to the Chief Court, and the appeal was heard by the Chief Judge, Sir William Clark, and Mr. Justice Robertson, who upheld the finding of the Lower Court and dismissed the appeal.

Rubber planting is engaging the attention of great numbers of planters and traders in the East. Ceylon, the Federated Malay States, the Straits Settlements and Borneo have all planted, and continue to plant, rubber on a large scale, and now Siam is interesting herself in this direction. "By all accounts," says the "Siam Free Press," "unprecedented interest is now being taken in the development of the Siamese Peninsula by the Bangkok Government. Along the whole Peninsula, from five to ten miles inland, the soil is admirably adapted for the cultivation of cocoanut trees. From ten miles inland right up to the hills, where the soil is red and solid, the plantation of rubber trees will be carried on to a very great extent. With a view to the extensive cultivation of cocoanut and starting para-rubber plantations in the Peninsula several syndicates are being floated."

The Prime Minister on April 7th informed the **British Cotton Growing Association** that he would receive a deputation at the Foreign Office on Thursday, May 17th, with reference to the development by railways and roads of the British West African and some other African colonies. It is expected that, in addition to the Council of the British Cotton Growing Association, the deputation will include representatives of various municipalities and chambers of commerce and of employers' and operatives' associations, together with a number of Members of Parliament. At a meeting of the West African section of the British Cotton Growing Association held at Manchester, recently, it was reported that arrangements had been entered into with the Gold Coast Government, whereby the Association agrees to spend £3,000 per annum for a period of three years for the development of cotton cultivation in the colony, and the Government of the Gold Coast agrees to make a grant of £1,500 per annum towards the expenditure.

Mr. George E. Roberts, Superintendent United States Mint, in a recent address at the University of Chicago, on "the **World's gold supply and its relation to prices,**" predicted that:—Within the next 20 years the World's gold supply will be more than doubled; the tendency of prices will be upward; a great period of enterprise and construction will begin; the United States will enter a greater era of prosperity, and Japan, Russia, South America, Mexico, eastern and southern Europe, and even the more advanced countries will experience renewed industrial periods." He said that the discovery of new goldfields in the Transvaal, Colorado, and other places within the last decade, the advancement in the mechanical and metallurgical treatment of low grade ores, and the more scientific methods of mining have placed the world to-day in a position paralled only by the periods following the discovery of America and opening up of the California and Australian goldfields. Whatever the ultimate effect so much new gold, the immediate results must be to ease money conditions and to facilitate financial business.

A new system in the construction of fire-proof warehouses is being adapted at Newcastle, where a gigantic warehouse is being erected by the North-Eastern Railway Co. The warehouse, which was nearly complete when the last mail left, has the appearance of being carved solidly out of concrete. This mammoth building is 180 feet by 410 feet, and has a height of 92 feet, and throughout its

construction steel and wood are absent. The main weight is borne by cantilever arches, and above them pillars, all of solid concrete, support the successive storers, this being carried to such an extent that the walls are mere skins sour inches thick, also of concrete. The building is being constructed in the new ferro-concrete process, and the only metal used is a series of iron rods which are buried in the concrete, and afford the necessary adhesive power enabling huge floors to stand secure, with only pillar supports at intervals. The great merit of the construction is the absolute safety from fire, as there is nothing to burn. The usual concrete shell building, which is labelled fireproof, depends on steel girders, and they warp under fire, while wood fittings give the flames something to feed on.

❦

The **prices of opium** in the Calcutta market during the week ending 5th May 1906 were, per chest, as follows:—

Behar opium—Rs. 1,333; 1,340; 1,339; 1,337; 1,333.

Benares opium—Rs. 1,220; 1,220; 1,210; 1,210; 1,210; 1,210; 1,210.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 5th and 6th sales of 1906—5th sale Rs. 1,342; 1,339; 1,330; 6th sale, 1,331; 1,330; 1,329; 1,326.

China market, Hongkong (exchange Rs. 156 to 157 per 100 dollars).

Behar—$ 880; 877½ to 880; 880; 880; 877½ to 880; 877; 875.

Shanghai (exchange Rs. 216 to 218 per 100 taels), one sale on 30th April 630 taels.

Benares—Two sales in the Hongkong market on 30th April and 3rd May on $ 807½ and 807½, respectively, while one sale Shanghai on 30th April 580 taels.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending 28th April were—for A class (season 1904 to 1905) Rs. 1,400, for B class (season 1903 to 1904) Rs. 1,450 to 1,600, class C, old (season 1902 to 1903) Rs. 1,750. The latest China prices ascertained were for new classes (A and B) Rs. 1,426 to 1,571; old (class C) fetched at Hongkong Rs. 1,619 and at Shanghai Rs. 1,679.

❦

The following Press communique has been issued:—Some misconception apparently exists as to the connection of the Government of India with the recent **Commercial Mission to Persia** and to the amount of responsibility that can be attached to the remarks contained in the report of the mission. The mission was entirely unofficial in its inception and constitution, though the Government of India readily, in the interests of Indian commerce, rendered all such assistance as was reasonable in facilitating the despatch of the mission from India and in arranging with the Persian Government for its protection and support while in that country. A few sowars from the Consular escorts were deputed with the members of the mission as orderlies in addition to the Persian escort, and British Consular officers in portions of Persia visited were requested to render all possible assistance. To reduce the cost of the mission it was arranged that the report should be printed at the Government Press; but Government is not responsible for the remarks and opinions contained in the report, whether as to the prospects of trade or the attitude of the British or Persian officers in that country as these rest entirely on the authority of the head of the mission, Mr. Gleadowe Newcomen, who wrote the report. Application for copies of the report should be addressed to the Upper India Chamber of Commerce, Cawnpore, which took a leading part in this attempt to open up a new country to Indian and British trade.

❦

Considerable activity is observed in the erection of **mustard oil mills** in the new Province of **Eastern Bengal and Assam.** Quite recently an enterprising Marwari firm started a mill at Gauhati, with 60 or 70 pairs of gandis. A still more recent mill has been started at Chandpur. At Gauhati an additional mill is about to be erected. A mill, owned by Mr. Severin and a Marwari merchant is now being erected at Chappermukh, and will be ready in May next. It is stated that Messrs. Finlay, Muir & Co. and the Baraora Tea Co. are about to erect an oil mill at Srimangal station on the Assam-Bengal Railway. The Railway Company have reduced rates for mustard seed so that this industry may be encouraged. Altogether the outlook of this industry is bright. In a short time Eastern Bengal and Assam, at least the whole of the Province on the left bank of the Brahmaputra river, will be self-supporting in regard to this commodity, and consignments of mustard oil from Calcutta will become a thing of the past. Up till now mustard seed had to be sent from Gauhati all the way to Calcutta, the oil extracted and then sent back again to Gauhati. There is declared to be room for more mills along the Assam-Bengal Railway. A mill at Tinsukia and Nazira and Moriani ought to succeed, and tea garden proprietors might follow the example of Messrs. Finlay, Muir & Co. and the Baraora Tea Co., who will probably get all the oil cake they require for manure for nothing, together with a profit on the oil. Special low rates are being charged by the Assam-Bengal Railway to those who have to bring machinery from the seaboard.

❦

"It is," says the *"Times"* Engineering Supplement, "becoming increasingly evident that the **use of steel,** even for purposes of ordinary **construction,** is in the process of undergoing a great change. When by means of the Bessemer, and other like systems of manufacture, the production of steel was

enormously simplified, and its price correspondingly reduced, it was as soft or "mild" steel that its introduction became general, and for a long series of years steel of this quality has been taking the place of wrought iron for structural purposes. A demand has, however, now arisen for steel of far greater tensile strength than that formerly required, and with the production of steel in the electric furnace and a great increase in the knowledge of the properties of the various steel alloys, the time seems to be fast approaching when hard and tough steel, the use of which was at first mainly confined to the manufacture of tools and small parts, or for certain very special forms of armour-plate, will become far more general. It was stated by Mr. J. Kent Smith that Messrs. Willans and Robinson are producing vanadium steel at their Queensferry Works at the rate of 800 tons per annum. The principal difficulty hitherto experienced in the employment of hard steel of great tensile strength has been its excessive brittleness; but certain of the new alloys possess the requisite strength without undue brittleness, and we now have, moreover, improved systems of testing which enable the qualities of the metal to be fully investigated. The advantages of the use of steel of relatively high tensile strength are at once evident, since the total weight of metal can be greatly reduced, and in steel trusses and girder work a diminution in weight of 50 per cent. can readily be attained. It is interesting to note that the manufacture of the modern motor-car has given a great impetus to the production of improved qualities of steel."

❦

The recent remarkable rise that has taken place in England in the prices of tin, the price having advanced to £163 per ton, and being expected to go up to £200, has been accompanied by a corresponding, and even more accentuated, **increase in the price of antimony,** which, according to London reports, appears to be very scarce, and almost impossible to procure even at the enhanced market quotation, which was about £90 per ton when the last mail left England. It is scarcely likely, however, that this high price will endure for long, seeing how widely spread are the sources from which the market can be supplied. Austria and Japan are the two chief countries from which stibnite, the commercial ore of antimony, is derived, but India is also capable of supplying the market. The statistics of mineral production in India contain no figures showing the outturn of this mineral, but good loads of stibnite occur at Shigri in Lahoul; in the Jhelum district of the Punjab; in Bajour; in the Bardi pargana of Rewa, Central India; in the Una district of the Junagadh State, Kathiawar; in the Ganjam district of Madras; in the Ye-u district of Upper Burma, and in the Kyaukkaung district of Tenasserim. The deposits in Tenasserim are scattered over two regions, measuring, respectively, 250 and 37 square miles, the larger division belonging to Siam. This region is wild and very thinly populated. The stibnite there occurs in irregular deposits of a pocketty nature, often massive and of great value, lining and filling fissures in the lime-stone. Nowhere in India is antimony sought for by sinking or driving on any large scale. The method of working is that known as "*fossicking*" in likely localities. It, however, is one of those minerals the regular and scientific working of which would be well repaid. The principal commercial use of antimony is the manufacture of type metal. It is thus assured of a enormous and steady demand, and a fairly regular market.

❦

News from Rio de Janeiro states that in early March the **Coffee Trust** had made great strides towards formation, and had also received a blow which might prove mortal. The Presidents of the States of Sao Paulo, Minas, and Rio de Janeiro met and made an agreement to fix the price of coffee at 60 francs per bag to be gradually advanced to 70 francs. They are to contract a loan of 15 millions sterling, repayable principal and interest by a tax of 3f. on every bag exported. "Dr. Nilo Pecanha, the President of the State of Rio, was understood" says the "Times" Rio correspondent, "to be against the principles of the trust, and some surprise was felt when he consented to form one of the conference. But this statesman, who will be the strong man of the next administration, had something up his sleeve which he presented in the form of an amendment that the valorization of coffee should be dependent upon and subsequent to the fixation of the value of national currency. The contracting parties were obliged to accept this reservation, so the £15,000,000 are to be deposited in the Treasury as gold reserve against paper issue. To an impartial observer it is difficult to see how this amount of money can be used for cornering the world's supply of coffee, which next December may be worth £40,000,000, and at the same time act as guarantee for a currency of 670,000 contos,, the conto being worth nearly £70. But worse was to come. In the afore-mentioned report by Dr. Coelho, this banker expressed his thinly-veiled disapproval of the trust. He was not called upon to do more than that, and he could not conscientiously do less. The too willing witness for the defence was destined to elicit a thunderbolt from this quarter. A partisan of the scheme wrote an open letter to all the newspapers, explaining away Dr. Coelho's objections. Dr. Custodio Coelho replied with the same publicity:—"It would be ridiculous for me, merely to make myself agreeable to the delegates of the Government of the State of S. Paulo, that I should divorce myself from those principles of economy for which I have always fought, accepting now a measure which, more than criminal, is in my opinion immoral. . . . I cannot believe that

the authorities of my country will sanction so pernicious an adventure, which I am convinced would destroy in a few months all that in these long seven years has been done to rehabilitate our national currency." So the matter stands at present.

❧

The Ways and Means Committee of the American House of Representatives has decided by a vote of 16 to 2 to report the **Free Alcohol Bill**, without amendment, and a preliminary canvas of the Senate shows that there is no serious obstacle to favourable treatment of it there. **The measure** provides for the withdrawal of alcohol from bond, without payment of the inland revenue tax, "for use in the arts and industries, and for fuel, light, and power," provided it be mixed, in the presence and under the direction of an authorized Government official, "with denaturing material suitable to the use for which the alcohol is withdrawn, but which destroys its character as a beverage, and renders it unfit for liquid medicinal purposes." The value and importance of untaxed alcohol to the industry and trade of the country have been convincingly shown by evidence given before Congressional committees but the Oil Trusts are fighting hard to render legislation in this direction abortive. Mr. Murdock, a well-known advocate of "free alcohol" speaking in support of the Bill said "the most important effect of removing the tax on denatured alcohol would be its regulation of the present erratic price of kerosene and gasolene. Gasolene sells in some of the Eastern cities at nine cents per gallon, and in some of the Western States at thirty cents per gallon. Kerosene has a similar range. The price of both is arbitrarily fixed. Actual tests have demonstrated that alcohol at thirty cents a gallon is cheaper for light than kerosene at fifteen cents a gallon. Twenty-cent alcohol would drive ten-cent kerosene down in price or out of the market. For internal combustion engines twenty-cent alcohol would bring thirty-cent gasolene down to twenty cents, and would in time supplant it, perhaps, because gasolene, of which petroleum yields but two per cent., is increasing in price because of its increased use in engines. The internal combustion engine is making a conquering march through the land. Light in weight, small in size, easy to start, requiring a minimum of attendance while in operation, it is everywhere bringing new economies. It is turning the weekly newspaper press; the town feed mill; the lathe of the village blacksmith; the belt of the local elevator, and in some sections, it bales the farmer's hay, shells his corn, shreds the fodder, pumps the water, separates the cream, saws the wood. With the tax removed from denatured alcohol, the use of the internal-combustion engine will increase by leaps and bounds."

❧

SUGAR.

Reports show that in Europe although the sugar market in the year 1905-06 opened with a firm and advancing tendency there was owing to draught on the Continent, a grave deficit as compared with the previous year in the supplies of beet sugar. Anxiety was felt as to the supply of the world's wants before the close of the sugar year (August 31st). The crop was reduced by 500,000 tons. The activity of buyers both in the United Kingdom and on the Continent by the first-half of January had brought about an advance of 1*s.* 9*d.* per cent. in prices, and first products beet which had stood on January 1st at 14*s.* 7*d.* had been raised by the 19th of January to 16-3½ f. o. b. and for first products May (Hamburg market) the price rose on January 18th to 16-4½ f. o. b. and there was great activity and heavy speculation on the Paris market.

British refiners then directed their attention to cane from Java and Peru securing the crystals at 17*s.* basis 86%, and Peruvian syrups at 14-6 basis 89%. Consumption was curtailed all over the world, Great Britain alone, during the first three months taking 40,000 less than usual. Spain supplied 5,700 tons in March 1905 to the United Kingdom but was prohibited from exporting any more by an Order in Council of the Brussels Convention.

American markets moved very much in sympathy with the British markets in the early months of the year being supplied in a great measure by Cuba. The calculation of that time of 1,400,000 tons had later, to be reduced to 1,050,000. The shortage there was also owing to unfavourable weather.

Active sowing of new beet crop commenced in April, and was reported late in excess of previous comparison by 13 to 15 per cent. May beet which had been quoted early in April at 14-8 was driven down by the end of the month to 12-9 f. o. b. and again to:—First beet products 12-7½ f. o. b. Java and Peruvian crystals to 14-3 basis of 96°/₀ polarization and Peruvian syrups to 11-4½ basis 89°/₀ polarisation, on floating terms.

In May, June, and July, the market was remarkably stagnant. First product beet going down on the 13th of June to 9-8 and 11*s.* 9*d.* for Java and 9*s.* for Peruvian syrup while the coming delivery for October-December was obtainable at 9*s.* 3*d.* on the 31st July. However fear was dissipated by large failures in France and the consequent putting on the market of large quantities by Paris and Hamburg enabling refiners to find ample supply during September and until new crop beet became available in October without advance in price.

The world's visible supplies of beet and cane together with stocks carried over from August 31st stand, till August 31st next, at 12,999,075 tons, of which tons 1,165,075 represent stock carried over, tons 6,875,000 European beet root crops, tons 265,000 American beet root crops, tons 4,694,000 cane crops. These figures are the largest on record whilst at the same time prices have fallen. The average range of prices on the London market for first product beet f. o. b. Hamburg has been as follows:—In 1901, 8*s.* 6*d.*; 1902, 6*s.* 7½*d.*; 1903 8*s.* 3*d.*; 1904, 10*s.* 0¾*d.*; 1905, 11*s.* 5½*d.* First products beet crop 1906-07, for October-December delivery, were offered recently in London at 8*s.* 9*d.* f. o. b. Hamburg, basis 88 per cent. But the shrinkage in consumption which took place in 1905 under a period of high prices will have to be made good during the current year, though values have fallen abnormally low. Should there be any material decrease of sowings the position of sugar as regards price will be at once improved.

In India the season was as little favourable to sugarcane as it was in Europe to the sugarbeet crop. In Northern India serious damage was done to the seed cane in the beginning of the year; and while in the North-West Frontier Province, the injury was to a great extent repaired by a subsequent mild winter, the crop in the Punjab and United Provinces suffered from interruption of the monsoon, the latter province which usually carries nearly one-half the reported sugar crop of British India, experiencing the effects of continued drought. In the final general memorandum of the sugarcane crop of the season 1905-06, the total under sugarcane was reported as 2,110,800 acres, as compared with 2,244,800 at the same date (February 15th) in the year 1904-05, while the total yield of unrefined sugar, known as "gur," was expected to amount to about 1,725,300 tons, as against 2,169,000 tons in February 1905. Whilst the contraction of area was thus seen to be about 6 per cent., the decline in the estimated output represents some 20 per cent. of the figures for 1905.

The following tables show the provincial areas in acres under sugarcane and the yield in tons of raw sugar together with the average of each for periods of 5 and 10 years previous.

Province.	Area (in acres) Of current year's crop (1905-06).	Of previous year's crop (1904-05).	Average of preceding Five years.	Ten years.
Bengal	446,900	449,400	494,200	...
Eastern Bengal	176,100	183,600	...	...
United Provinces	1,228,900	1,212,600	1,188,300	1,215,400
Punjab	172,700	325,500	332,900	...
North-West Frontier	25,600	25,900	25,900	...
Madras	60,600	47,800	50,900	51,100
Total	2,110,800	2,244,800	2,092,200	...

Province.	Yield (in tons) of raw sugar (*gur*) Estimated yield of current year, *i.e.*, of area in column 2.	Yield of previous year, *i.e.*, of area in column 3.	Average of preceding Five years.	Ten years.
Bengal	452,300	444,900	492,300	...
Eastern Bengal	162,700	189,800	...	...
United Provinces	884,060	1,183,400	957,800	...
Punjab	89,000	238,300	230,400	...
North-West Frontier	22,800	22,600	23,200	...
Madras	114,500	90,000	95,500	...
Total	1,725,300	2,169,000	1,799,200	...

The following statements show the quantity of sugar imported into India from the principal Non-European sugar producing countries in the 12 months ending 31st March 1906 and also all countries of origin and the total imports of sugar excluding confectionery and molasses from all foreign countries.

Principal non-European sugar-producing countries whence imported.	Quantity imported in March 1906.	Quantity imported in the twelve months ending March 1906.
	cwt.	cwt.
Egypt	...	132,786
Mauritius	202,543	2,015,476
China	2,275	130,628
Java	...	1,685,391
Straits Settlements	555	150,868

Countries of origin of total imports.	Share of each country in the total imports in March 1906.	Share in the twelve months ending March 1906.
	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	(a) 4	353
Austria-Hungary	644,343	2,453,733
Belgium	85,655	122,445
Denmark	...	14
France	24,905	224,443
Germany	342,637	630,416
Holland	147	2,029
Italy	(b) 4	17
Russia	...	...
Egypt	...	132,786
Zanzibar	...	...
East Africa (Delagoa Bay)	...	...
Mauritius	202,543	2,014,955
Natal	...	4
Réunion	...	35,269
Mexico	...	3,072
United States	...	...
West Indies	7	7,983
Central America	...	2
South America (excluding Argentine Republic and Chile)	3,293	22,318
Argentine Republic	...	150
Chile	...	...
Falkland Islands	...	...
Aden	(c) 5	20
Arabia	...	2
Ceylon	13	646
China	152	27,731
India	...	...
Philippines	...	3
Japan	...	2
Java	20,862	2,006,837
Maldives	...	550
Siam	...	...
Straits Settlements	(d) 402	10,100
Australia	...	1,026
Total	1,324,972	7,696,906

(a) Imported from the United Kingdom, origin unknown.
(b) ,, ,, Italy, ,, ,,
(c) ,, ,, Aden, ,, ,,
(d) Of which country imported from the Straits Settlement, origin unknown.

The quantity and value of *Beet* and *Cane* sugar imported from foreign countries by sea into British India in the year 1905-06 may be gathered from the following tables :—

BEET.

	Tons.	Rs.
United Kingdom	7,101	14,23,260
Austria Hungary	117,035	2,22,49,623
Belgium	5,716	10,28,561
France	4,315	7,97,793
Germany	35,622	64,65,346
Holland	44	9,267
Spain	1	154
Italy	1	259
Total	169,835	3,19,74,263

CANE.	Tons.	Rs.
United Kingdom	7,101	14,23,260
Egypt	6,639	15,70,356
Réunion	1,759	3,42,133
Mauritius	100,773	1,97,62,561
Natal	1	146
Aden	1	372
Ceylon	63	10,074
China—Hong Kong	6,513	15,94,385
Treaty Ports	18	7,653
Arabia	1	30
Japan	300	49,712
Maldives	27	5,225
Java	84,269	1,68,47,251
Philippines	1	31
Persia	1	15
Siam	...	7
Straits Settlements	7,541	14,26,460
Australia	54	13,301
Total	215,065	4,30,52,873

The following table shows the range of prices of various classes of sugar in the Calcutta market during the year 1905 and the first 5 months of 1906 :—

PRICE OF SUGAR IN CALCUTTA (PER MAUND OF 82 LBS.).

	Beet, German, 1st month.	Cane, Mauritius.	Java, T. M. O., white.	Raw sugar, gur.
1905.				
	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.	₹ a. p.
January	9 0 0	9 2 0	8 14 0	4 12 0
February	10 0 0	10 0 0	9 14 0	4 12 0
March	9 12 0	9 15 0	9 13 0	4 12 0
April	9 4 0	9 6 0	9 2 0	5 4 0
May	9 7 0	9 6 0	9 7 0	5 4 0
June	8 10 0	8 10 0	8 8 0	5 4 0
July	8 9 0	8 7 0	8 9 0	5 4 0
August	8 0 0	7 14 0	7 10 0	5 0 0
September	8 0 0	8 0 0	7 15 0	5 8 0
October	7 13 0	7 12 0	7 13 0	5 8 0
November	7 8 0	7 4 0	7 4 0	6 4 0
December	7 3 0	7 2 0	7 2 0	6 4 0
Average	8 9 6	8 9 2	8 7 11	5 5 0
1906.				
January	6 9 0	6 8 0	...	6 4 0
February	6 11 0	6 9 0	6 14 0	6 4 0
March	6 8 0	6 6 0	6 9 0	6 4 0
April	6 6 0	Not quoted	6 7 0	6 4 0
May	6 7 6		6 9 0	Not received

INDIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

RANGOON.

Considered papers received from the Port Commissioners, Rangoon, regarding the erosion of the River Banks at and in the vicinity of the port of Rangoon with suggestions for the training and control of the river.

After considerable discussion it was resolved that these papers be brought forward for further consideration at the Special General Meeting to be held on the 19th April 1906.

Considered letter dated the 26th March 1906, from Messrs. The Arracan Company, Limited, regarding the silting up of the Moulmein River and the necessity for some action being taken in the matter.

Resolved that Members of the General Committee, who have representatives in Moulmein be asked to kindly endeavour to obtain specific information on this subject to enable the Chamber to move in the matter if considered desirable.

Offer of an Agency of a French firm in the cork trade.—READ letter, dated 12th April 1906, from the Consular Agent for France, Karachi, stating that the Consul for France in Bombay has asked him for the name of a firm who is willing to undertake the Agency of a French firm in the cork trade; and enquiring if any member of the Chamber would be willing to take an Agency of this description. RESOLUTION.—To be acknowledged, circulated and recorded.

Enquiry for names of firms dealing in hides and skins.—READ letter, dated 14th April 1906, from Messrs. C. Campbell and Co., Cawnpore, requesting to be furnished with names and addresses of firms in Karachi who export hides, more specially goat and sheep skins, and stating as being interested in this line they are desirous of entering into correspondence with some good firms. RESOLUTION.—To be acknowledged, circulated and recorded.

Bombay-Sind Connection Railway.—READ letter, dated 12th April 1906, from the Secretary, Bombay Chamber of Commerce, acknowledging a copy of this Chamber's letter to the Bombay Government regarding the alignment of the Bombay-Sind Connection Railway, and forwarding in reply copy of a letter addressed by his Chamber to Government in support of this Chamber's advocacy of the Bhuj route. RESOLUTION.—To be acknowledged, circulated and recorded.

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BOMBAY.

(1) **Read** letter, dated 6th March 1906, from the Collector of Land Revenue, Customs and Opium, Bombay, stating that the description "**Spanish Stripes**" which was formerly applied, and was still properly applicable, to Cloth made of Wool only, had been recently attached to an article of Cotton manufacture, and that consignments of Cotton goods so marked had been allowed to pass the Customs House without objection. The Collector believed that both descriptions were recognised in the market, Woollen Spanish Stripes being sold at 13 to 14 annas per yard against 3½ to 4½ annas for Cotton Spanish Stripes; that it had been recently held in the Bombay Customs House that Spanish Stripes was properly the description of Woollen cloth only, and that Cotton articles so marked bore a false trade description. He accordingly asked for the opinion of the Chamber as to whether—

(1) "Spanish Stripes" consisting of Cotton were recognised in the market; and

(2) whether it was desirable to insist on consignments of such articles in future being marked "Cotton Spanish Stripes."

Resolution.—The Collector to be informed that the goods in question might be of Wool or Cotton, or a mixture of both; and that while the words "Spanish Stripes" usually designate Woollen Cloth only, they considered that the words "Cotton Spanish Stripes" and "Cotton and Wool Spanish Stripes" should be marked on the other varieties above named.

❦❦❦

(3) **Read** letter from the Punjab Chamber of Commerce, forwarding copy of a communication addressed by that body to the Director-General of Telegraphs on the subject of the slowness of the **Inland Telegraph Service.** Read also letter from the Director-General.

Resolution.—The Director-General of Telegraphs to be thanked for the explanation given by him in the matter. His attention should at the same time be called to the **Late Delivery of Cable Messages in Bombay,** pointing out that the time occupied in the despatch and delivery of such Messages is excessive and that the Committee consider a more rapid transmission might be feasible.

(4) **Read** letter, dated 20th March 1906, from the Madras Chamber of Commerce, forwarding copy of a communication addressed by that body to the Director-General of Telegraphs, calling attention to the anomaly in the **Charges for "Urgent" and "Ordinary" Telegrams** when messages exceed sixteen words.

The point of the Madras Chamber's representation was that the present charges for sixteen words in the above two classes, *viz.*, Rs. 2 and Re. 1, and for every additional word annas 4 and 2, respectively, were not in proportion to the payment for the first sixteen words; that rather than pay excessive charges in cases of long telegrams, senders were understood to be in the habit of splitting up the messages in two, three, four or even more telegrams to the same addressee where one would suffice, if the additional charge per word were half what it now is.

Resolution.—The Director-General of Telegraphs to be addressed in support of the Madras Chamber's letter. Attention should at the same time be drawn to the greater anomaly in the charges for the more extensively used Deferred Messages, as the following will show :—Urgent Messages, 16 words for Rs. 2, and each additional word, 4 annas, that is,

twice as much as each word in the original Message; Ordinary Messages, 16 words for Re. 1, and each additional word, 2 annas—also twice as much; Deferred Messages, 10 words for 4 annas, and each additional word, 1 anna. Here each word in the original Message costs only 4·8 pies per word, whereas each additional word costs 1 anna, or 2½ times as much. It should be added that, in view of the growing practice of splitting up Messages (as referred to in the Madras Chamber's letter) which causes inconvenience to the public and an appreciable loss to Telegraph Department both in money and extra labour, it would be to the advantage of all concerned if the additional words were charged for as follows:—

For Urgent Messages at 2 annas per word.
„ Ordinary Messages at 1 anna per word.
„ Deferred Messages at 6 pies per word.

(5) **Read** letter, dated 17th March 1906, from the Agent, B. B. & C. I. and R.-M. Railways, suggesting that the Chamber should represent to Government the desirability of linking up Bharatpur and Agra with a broad-gauge line in connection with the **Nagda-Muttra Railway Project.**

RESOLUTION.—The Railway Board to be addressed in terms of the Agent's letter, stating that the attention of the Committee has recently been drawn to the orders issued by Government in this matter, and that although it is the intention of Government to eventually link up Bharatpur and Agra with a broad-gauge line, no action in this direction appears to be contemplated for the present. Point out that the Committee view this postponement with much concern, as they consider the link between Bharatpur and Agra a most important one in the interests of trade between Bombay, Guzerat and the United Provinces. State that the distance between Bharatpur and Agra is only 33 miles; that by the construction of a broad-gauge line between these two points the distance between Agra and Bombay would be reduced by 50 miles; and that the construction of such a link would bring all the stations on the B. B. & C. I. Railway system—such as Surat, Broach and Baroda—into direct connection with Agra and the East Indian Railway beyond.

(6) **Read** letter, dated 2nd March 1906, from the Government of India, forwarding copies of the Report of the Committee on **Indian Trade Statistics** and of the orders passed thereon by Government.

Resolution.—The papers to be referred to the Sub-Committee previously appointed to consider the letter from the Collector of Customs, Bombay, regarding certain proposed changes in the arrangement and distribution of work in the Customs House. The Sub-Committee subsequently reported on the two matters put before them, and in accordance with their recommendations the General Committee addressed the Government of India and the Custom House authorities in Bombay.)

(7) **Read** letter, dated 1st March, from the Madras Chamber of Commerce, forwarding copy of a communication addressed by that body to the Government of India, advocating the gazetting as **Public Holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act** of the 24th May (Empire Day) and the 9th November (King's Birthday), and asking for the support of the Bombay Chamber in the matter.

Resolution.—The Government of India to be addressed stating that while in sympathy with the Madras Chamber as regards the idea of Empire Day, they do not, for special mercantile reasons connected with Bombay, see their way to advocating such a Holiday on the 24th May as suggested, but that they would strongly support the suggestion that the 9th November was the proper and most suitable day for the celebration of His Majesty's Birthday throughout India. Suggest also that Whit-Monday be gazetted a public holiday in India, as it is already so observed both in the United Kingdom and the Colonies.

Indian Trade Journal.

Noticing from the Prospectus of the above Journal that it was intended to include in the publication information respecting the **Registration of Trade Marks,** and at the same time to introduce a system of **Trade Introductions,** the Committee addressed the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence stating that the giving of notices in the Journal of claims to certain Trade Marks would not serve any practical purpose, while it might lead to mischievous consequences and prove more detrimental than beneficial to the interests of the Mercantile Community.

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BOMBAY MILLOWNERS' ASSOCIATION.

(1) **Read** letter from the Textile Manufacturing Co., Ltd., regarding certain orders passed by the Senior Inspector of Steam Boilers that all **mountings for Boilers** above 120 lbs. pressure should have steel bodies.

Resolution.—Address the Collector, and say, as the procedure is new to the Committee, they would be obliged by some explanation and information on the subject.

The Collector in his reply stated that the matter was referred to the Bombay Boiler Commission, who recommended a reference at home, as to the general land boiler practice there. That, pending the result of this reference, it has been directed that boilers already in this country or on their way out, which would otherwise be passed for working pressure up to 160 lbs. per square inch, will not have any restrictions placed on their working pressure, merely because their mountings are of cast iron, provided there is no reason to suspect the design or quality of the mountings.

(2) **Read** letter from the Berar Manufacturing Co. regarding a new clause in Fire Insurance Policies on the density of **full-pressed cotton bales.**

Resolution.—*Refer the Berar Manufacturing* Company to the circular letter recently issued by the Fire Insurance Association, in which it was proposed to revise the clause complained of regarding the density of bales.

Read letter from the Collector of Bombay, inviting the attention of the Association to Section 9 of the Bombay **Boiler Inspection Act.**

Resolution.—Letter to be acknowledged with thanks, and copies of the same to be forwarded to the Members for their information.

Read letter from the Under-Secretary to the Government of India, acknowledging the Association's letter of the 12th March 1906, in which the question was raised of allowing a percentage of deduction, on account of **depreciation in the value of buildings** occupied by Cotton Mills in Bombay, in calculating the net profits of such mills for the purposes of assessment to income tax. The letter stated that the Association's representation had been forwarded to the Government of India for their consideration.

Resolution.—To be recorded.

Read letters from Mr. Herbert R. Greaves and the Currimbhoy Mills Company, calling the attention of the Association to the fact that the Rules regarding 13 **hours of labour** and closing work at 7 P.M. were not being generally observed.

Resolution.—That the letters be acknowledged and further information asked for; and that a circular be addressed to all the Members, calling their serious attention to the grave consequences that will follow the breaking of such salutary regulations.

Read letter from the Acting Under-Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Revenue Department. The letter referred to the Resolution passed at the Agricultural Conference held in Bombay in February 1906 to the effect that the Conference was of opinion that Government should take steps to minimise the danger of the introduction of American **cotton boll weevil** into India. The Director of Agriculture reported that it was possible to disinfect all American cotton seeds *imported into* India, and destroy the weevil by fumigation with bisulphide of carbon, and he suggested that legislation might be undertaken to assume this power.

Resolution.—That the Committee approve of the suggestion to destroy the weevil by fumigation, provided this method has already been proved to be efficacious for the purpose and does not injure the ultimate germination of the seed itself. On this assumption the Committee favour legislation being undertaken on the lines indicated.

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TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

THE "Board of Trade Journal," published on the 19th April in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations, gives particulars about:—

Germany.—Proposed Reduction of Excise Duty on Sugar.

United States of America.—Proposed Pure Food Legislation.

Egypt.—Valuation Tariff for Iron and Steel Manufactures. Valuation Tariff for Exports.

France—Switzerland.—Prolongation of the Franco-Swiss Provisional Commercial Arrangement.

Switzerland.—Modifications in Customs Tariff in consequence of Treaty with Austria-Hungary.

Norway.—Allowance on Materials used in Shipbuilding. Refunds.

Portugal—Mozambique.—Temporary Importation of Sacks.

Bulgaria.—Duty on Kerosene and other Mineral Oils under Convention with Russia.

Servia.—Duty on Cotton Yarns.

United States of America.—Right of Reappraisement of Goods—Seized for Undervaluation. Customs Decisions.

Chile.—New Sugar Duties. Bounty on Home-produced Sugar.

Argentine Republic.—New Valuation Tariff—Principal Alterations.

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We give the following particulars of changes **interesting to Indian Trade:—**

PORTUGAL—MOZAMBIQUE.

Sacks—Temporary Importation of.

THE "Boletim Official de Mocambique" for the 3rd March, contains a Royal Decree provisionally authorising the temporary importation, through the Custom-houses of the Province of Mozambique, of sacks of burlaps, bagging, or other coarse tissues of flax, hemp, jute, etc., intended exclusively for the exportation of the agricultural or industrial products of the Province.

The import duty on packing materials for the exportation of industrial products of the Province, as specified in the Decree of 18th June, 1901, is fixed at one real per kilog. (2¾d. per cwt.).

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SERVIA.

Cotton Yarns—Duty on.

IT was notified, on page 15 of the "Indian Trade Journal" of the 5th April, that the Servian Government had consented to maintain in force the rates of duty on cotton yarns leviable under the former Servian Customs Tariff.

Information has now been received to the effect that the duties in question will be applied to yarns imported into Servia from the United Kingdom only, until Servia has concluded a new treaty affecting the tariff treatment of such yarns, and, at latest, until the 1st—14th May. The duties now being levied on British cotton yarns imported into Servia—*i.e.*, the conventional duties of the former tariff

applied to the more minute classification of the new tariff, and including the "obrt" tax, which, for the purpose of simplifying the collection, is now levied concurrently with the Customs duty—are shown in the following statement, which should be substituted for that previously given :—

Tariff No.	Classification.	Rate of duty (inclusive of the "Obrt" Tax).
274	Cotton yarn, single—	
	(*i*) Up to No. 8 English—	Dinars per 100 kilogs.
	(*a*) Unbleached	27·00
	(*b*) Bleached	30·00
	(*c*) Dyed and printed	36·00
	(*ii*) From No. 8 to No. 20—	
	(*a*) Unbleached	30·00
	(*b*) Bleached	32·00
	(*c*) Dyed and printed	40·00
	(*iii*) From No. 20 to No. 30—	
	(*a*) Unbleached	32·00
	(*b*) Bleached	35·00
	(*c*) Dyed and printed	45·00
	(*iv*) Above No. 30—	
	(*a*) Unbleached	50·00
	(*b*) Bleached	55·00
	(*c*) Dyed and printed	60·00
275	Cotton yarn of two or more threads—	
	(*i*) Up to No. 8 English—	
	(*a*) Unbleached	30·00
	(*b*) Bleached	35·00
	(*c*) Dyed and printed	40·00
	(*ii*) From No. 8 to No. 20—	
	(*a*) Unbleached	32·00
	(*b*) Bleached	36·00
	(*c*) Dyed and printed	42·00
	(*iii*) From No. 20 to No. 30—	
	(*a*) Unbleached	35·00
	(*b*) Bleached	40·00
	(*c*) Dyed and printed	46·00
	(*iv*) Above No. 30—	
	(*a*) Unbleached	52·00
	(*b*) Bleached	58·00
	(*c*) Dyed and printed	62·00

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Customs Decisions.

The following is the substance of some of the further decisions affecting the application of the United States Customs Tariff, which have recently been issued by the Treasury Department at Washington :—

Articles.	Paragraph of the Tariff under which dutiable.	Rate of Duty.
Ramie braids	339	60% *ad val.*
Welding material, composed of a mechanical mixture of borax, iron filings, wire and oxide of iron, borax being the material of chief value	193	45%
Extract of Persian berries, sold under the name of "vegetable yellow", and used exclusively for staining food products	Section 6.	20%
Corundum ore crushed or ground into fine grains	419	Lb. 0 01.

Dirt in nuts.—No allowance is to be made for impurities found to be present in imported nuts (dutiable under paragraphs 269 and 270 of the Tariff), in the absence of evidence showing abnormal quantities of foreign matter, or a variation from the ordinary wholesale condition.

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CHILE.

New Sugar Duties. Home-produced Sugar—Bounty on.

Recently a Chilean Law was approved authorising the reduction of the import duty on refined sugar by 1s. 6d. per 100 kilogs. and increasing the import duty on raw sugar by the same amount, and in addition providing for the payment of a bounty on beet sugar produced in the country. The provisions of this Law are as follows :—

Article I.—Sugars imported into Chile shall pay the following specific duties :—

		Pesos.
Refined sugar, whole or crushed, moist or dry	100 kilogs.	13·35
White sugar, granulated or ground moist or dry, as, for instance, "Rosa Emilia"	„	„ 10·40
Granulated sugar, first product or muscovado, moist or dry	„	„ 7·50
Unrefined sugars ("*chancaca*" or "*concreto*") moist or dry	„	„ 6·00

Article II.—The State shall pay, from the 1st January, 1907, until the 1st January, 1915, to the national manufactories of beet sugar a bounty of 80 centavos per 100 kilogs. of sugar beets used in their manufacture.

The payment of the bounties shall be stopped if after four years there shall not be established manufactories other than that of Parral.

CONSULAR REPORT.

GERMANY.

Mr. Consul-General Schwabach, in his **Report on the Trade of Germany for the Year 1905,** publishes some very interesting facts and figures. The year under review was a good one for German industry and commerce both at home and abroad. The satisfactory economic condition in the first half of the year became more accentuated and general in the second half. The demand for labour increased to such an extent that in some branches it could not be entirely satisfied by Germans, and necessitated the drafting into the country of Austrian, Polish and Galician miners, as well as Italian and other foreign builders, labourers and navvies. Market reports from the iron and coal centres and the textile, chemical, electrical, machine and metal industries showed increasing orders, especially for home account, and full employment; there was a rise in the prices of a large number of manufactures, the output of coal and the production of iron increased considerably from month to month as compared with the preceding years, and in the building trade and its allied branches remarkable activity prevailed until late in the year. In the timber trade, too, business was brisk, while even the cement industry, which for the last five years has suffered from excessive expansion and ruinous competition, recovered to some extent. The railway traffic returns are considerably in excess of those for 1904, and inland navigation, which was interrupted for several months in 1904 owing to the great drought, continued unbroken all through the summer —an important consideration not only for the Upper Silesian industry but also for the Westphalia mining and the Lorraine iron industries. The goods traffic was particularly heavy throughout the year, and in the last quarter the demand for trucks in the colliery districts (specially in the Rhenish-Westphalian) was so great that in one week there was a shortage of no less than 26,000 ten-ton trucks. With increasing prosperity, labour disputes became more frequent, and although none of them assumed the gigantic proportions of the miners' strike in January, the number of hands affected exceeded 10,000 in several instances. The Westphalian builders' dispute involved 20,000 men, the movement in the Berlin electrical industry in September 40,000, the strike in the Bavarian metal industry 22,000, and the disputes in the Thuringian textile industry over 10,000 hands. Strikes on a smaller scale were numerous. Notwithstanding the magnitude of these labour movements they do not seem to have caused any serious damage, excepting perhaps the miners' strike, which necessitated the importation of large quantities of foreign, chiefly British, coal, and for a time hampered the iron and machine-building industries. The labour disputes were conspicuous for their orderly character, order being maintained by the men themselves through their own delegates.

While the years 1902-04 formed a period of recuperation after the collapse of 1901, the year 1905 may be called one of general prosperity. There was, it is true, says the Consul-General nothing of the nature of a boom, but trade was well sustained; the existence of those powerful and comprehensive bodies the Coal Syndicate, the Silesian Coal Convention, the Pig Iron Syndicates, the Steel Works Syndicate, and the large number of smaller, though in the respective branches, no less important, syndicates and conventions, forms in itself a strong guarantee for the maintenance of the output in a certain proportion to the demand; though competition between the works is by no means entirely abolished, its scope is greatly reduced, and whatever may be their shortcomings, the various syndicates, cartels and sales offices prevent to a large extent over-production and spasmodic convulsions of the market. Fairly regular and, during the last two years, improving employment of the industrial population at slightly better wages, and—for the still important peasant population—two successive good corn harvests tended to increase the spending power of the masses."

The rate of increase of population is higher in Germany than in any of the other great industrial countries, excepting, perhaps, the United States of America. The rate of increase in Germany was 13·8 per cent. for the decade ending 1900 against 9·9 per cent. from 1891-1901 in the United Kingdom and 12·1 per cent. (for England alone), while in the period 1896-1905 it amounted to fully 15·5 per cent.; in other words, the German Empire added within the last 10 years 8,160,000 to its population, which in 1905 exceeded 60,000,000, the growth being due almost entirely to natural reproduction. Until lately Germany lost by emigration some 20,000 persons per annum, but recently immigration would seem to outnumber the emigration. From 1896 to 1900 the net gain by immigration amounted to 0·1903 per cent., while in the preceding five years (1891-1905) there was still a loss of 0·18 per cent. Emigration has fallen to a very low figure, viz., from 120,000 in 1891 (highest figure on record) to 37,500 in 1895, and 22,000 in 1901 (lowest figure); in 1903 the figure rose again to 36,300, but receded in 1904 to 30,000, and in 1905 to 28,075. It follows that a much greater number, both absolutely and relatively, than in the United Kingdom has to be provided for every year, and that the stress on the labour market is much more formidable in Germany. That the general condition of the people is, on the whole, steadily improving in spite of these facts, speaks for the strength of the present favourable economic condition of the German Empire. Germany has recovered quickly from the years of depression 1901 and 1902. In spite of the high rate of natural reproduction the percentage of unemployed in normal times is comparatively low, and although the number of unemployed rose rapidly during the last period of depression (1901-02), this calamity hardly assumed the proportions it did in the United Kingdom, and moreover, disappeared much quicker. On the other hand, in good years, such as 1905, the national supply of labour does not

even satisfy the demand, theiscarcity of hands rendering it necessary to employ large numbers of Russians, Poles, Italians and other foreigners in connection with house building, husbandry, earthworks and the construction of canals and waterways. Only a small percentage, absolutely and relatively, of the increase of population finds employment on the soil, and even a smaller fraction than could be accommodated turns to agriculture because of the greater attractions offered by industry and commerce in the form of higher wages and the amenities of town life; the contingent added every year to the industrial and commercial army of Germany is therefore very considerable; the large increase of population enables Germany continually to extend her industrial and commercial development, in fact, forces it to do so. The numerical increase, as well as the economic progress of the population, means a larger and a more prosperous market at home. Every year at present adds to the wealth of Germany, and two bad years above mentioned retarded this upward movement only temporarily. All observers familiar with the aspect of Germany 10 years ago cannot fail to notice the general improvement and greater prosperity; people dress better, houses are built better, numerous new and spacious factories bear testimony to the growing industrialisation, and the communities of small towns and large cities in all parts of the country spend considerable sums on street and sanitary improvements and public buildings. This aspect of increasing prosperity is confirmed by the returns of the savings banks, income tax commissioners and insurance companies, and with an uninterrupted development at home the foreign trade of Germany is likely to follow an upward course.

Some uncertainty and uneasiness was introduced by the new commercial treaties which came into operation in March 1906 and which will, in all probability, have the effect of increasing the cost of living through considerably higher impositions on breadstuffs and other necessaries of life and introducing new or heavier rates on a number of raw materials and partly finished goods required for industrial purposes; on the other hand, German manufacturers will have to face increased duties in some of the most important markets. "The high standard of excellence, however, now attained by German industry in all its branches, the well-known efficiency of engineers and analytical chemists, the intelligent application of arts and crafts to manufactures (in the textile industry, furnishing trade, etc.), the acknowleged keenness of the German commercial traveller, the careful study and adaptation to the requirements of foreign markets, invariable readiness to meet all reasonable wishes of new and prospective customers, in one word the technical and tactical efficiency of German manufacturers and merchants, coupled with the skill and discipline of the workmen and a recognised high standard of technical and scientific training of the clerical staff, also the constant attention everywhere devoted to technical and commercial instruction, are," says Mr. Consul Schwabach "a strong guarantee that no effort will be spared to maintain and extend Germany's position wherever possible in the world's markets."

He goes on to add "the success of German manufacturers abroad cannot be explained by reason merely of low wages and unfair practices such as the imitation of trade-marks, substitution of inferior quality for dearer articles, etc. Wages have increased considerably and exports have grown all the time, nor is it only the inferior article that swells the export figures, for the exportation of better class and expensive high class articles is increasing to a remarkable extent."

Foreign trade was very satisfactory in 1905. The total value of exports increased by 190,00,000*l.* against 1904 and 28,000,000*l.* against 1903; exports of manufactured articles alone being responsible for increases of 15,000,000*l.* and 23,000,000*l.*, respectively. More important, however, than this remarkable growth of foreign trade was the increasing home demand, which was very brisk indeed. While the expansion of the home trade cannot be illustrated by accurate statistical figures, as in the case of foreign trade, it is nevertheless certain that the home trade was in a very prosperous condition, recalling and, to some extent, equalling the high-water mark of prosperity in 1899 and 1900. The greater purchasing power of the masses has already been referred to as an important element of the situation. Germany experienced a series of fair and even good harvests in the last few years, which could be disposed of at good prices, more especially in the last two years. The value of the crops was estimated at 210,025,000*l.* in 1900, 203,165,000*l.* in 1901, 211,025,000*l.* in 1902, 229,500,000*l.* in 1903, 260,335,000*l.* in 1904. These figures, it is true, are open to criticism, but give a good idea of the importance and the increased value of the crops. That the spending power of the agricultural population has increased during the last two years is proved by the activity of building operations in rural districts. The improvement in the condition of the industrial population is manifest from the better returns of the labour market, the reports from most of the industries, the higher wages and the frequent labour disputes.

The level of wages, which under the influence of the depression of 1901 and 1902, fell considerably below that reached in 1898-1900, has gradually improved since; but although a great number of rises were reported in 1905, it is asserted that in many branches wages are still below those paid in 1900. This is the more serious as the prices of many articles of food, as well as rents, have risen not inconsiderably; the prices of meat, for instance, were so very high as to countervail advance of less than 10 per cent. on the wages of 1904.

The level of prices was considerably higher in 1905 than in the preceding years, statistics compiled by the Imperial Statistical Office showing that the average wholesale prices of most articles of food had increased considerably, a fact which was acutely felt by masses of the population and gave

rise to loud complaints and protests against the prohibitive policy of the Government regarding the importation of cattle, while prices of raw materials for industrial purposes and fuel rose as a rule less than in the United Kingdom, especially in the case of coal and pig iron, which is primarily attributed to the price of the Pig Iron and Coal Syndicates.

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FRENCH WEST AFRICA.

H. M. Consul at Dakar, in his report to the Colonial Office on the trade of French West Africa, states:—The reorganisation of French West Africa, which has been progressing by stages since 1895, was completed and consolidated by the decree of Oct. 18, 1904, which converted the territories of Senegambia and the Niger into a separate colony under the name of Upper Senegal-Niger, administered by a Lieutenant-Governor, and most important of all, created a general budget to be settled by the Governor-General in Council, to which are devoted the funds derived from the Customs and navigation duties of all the constituent colonies, and which provides for all expenses which interest all the colonies generally.

The several colonies, therefore, can only reckon on the funds arising from their internal resources, such as capitation tax, trading licences, &c.; but they are at the same time relieved of many expenses which have been transferred to the General Budget. In addition the General Budget gives a subvention to those of the colonies which are unable to make both ends meet out of their unaided resources. In 1905 these subventions were as follows:—Senegal, £39,580; Ivory Coast, £52,000; Dahomey, £86,800, and the Territory of Mauritania, £8,000—or a total of £185,580. In the Budget for 1906 the following subventions are estimated for:—Senegal, £30,650; Ivory Coast, £59,200; Dahomey, £75,440; and Mauritania, £24,000—making a total of £189,290, an increase of £3,710 over 1905. On the other hand, the prosperous colonies, after providing for their reserve fund, made a contribution to the funds of the General Budget; thus in 1905, Upper Senegal-Niger contributed £20,000 and the Senegal Protectorates £28,000, but in 1906 only the latter are expected to contribute the sum of £27,598. The General Budget thus not only provides for the services of pregeneral interest, but also serves as a means of preserving the financial equilibrium, receiving contributions from the surplus of the rich colonies, which help to provide the subventions required by the poorer ones. The terms rich and poor are used relatively, as the colonies requiring assistance are not necessarily poorer than the others, but owing to greater momentary expenses necessary for their development cannot balance their Budget. The Government General has also taken over the entire service of the debt, including the loan of £2,600,000 contracted in 1903. In 1905 the sum of £118,280 was required for interest and sinking fund on the various outstanding debts, and £166,080 is estimated for 1906. The general Budget for 1906 is estimated to balance at a sum of £670,020, an increase of £49,000 over that of 1905. As the final results of the operations of 1905 will not be known before June 30, 1906, the reserve fund of the general Budget has not yet been started, but it is limited by law to £200,000, and is to be in addition to those of the colonies, which, on June 30, 1905, stood as follows:—Senegal and protectorates, £95,940; French Guinea, £40,626; Ivory Coast, £37,515; and Dahomey, £120,980.

The former reserve fund of Senegambia and the Niger will be divided, while that of the new colony of Upper Senegal-Niger has not yet been formed for the same reason as that of the General Budget. By a decree of Nov. 16, 1905, the reserve funds of the different colonies are limited as follows:—Senegal proper, £60,000; Senegal Protectorates, £40,000; French Guinea, Ivory Coast, and Dahomey, £60,000 (each); Upper Senegal-Niger, £40,000. So that including the General Budget the maximum of the reserve funds for French West Africa amounts to £520,000.

The works mentioned in my report for 1903 as to be undertaken by the Government General and paid for out of the loan of £2,600,000 have made satisfactory progress. In 1904, as explained in my previous report, little was done beyond organising the different works, greatest progress having been made with the improvement of the rivers Niger and Senegal, and the French Guinea Railway, which latter had been already commenced by the colony.

It was estimated that in the course of 1905 a sum of £800,000 would be spent, divided as follows:—Drainage and sanitation at St. Louis, Dakar, and Rufisque, £136,000; harbour works at the above towns, £160,000; improvement of the rivers Niger and Senegal, French Guinea Railway, and Ivory Coast Port and Railway, £504,000. At the close of the year it was found that the amount actually expended had been £660,000, the harbour works at St. Louis and Rufisque not having been commenced, but on the other hand the whole amount estimated for the rivers and railways had been spent except £4,000, and good progress had been made with the drainage schemes and Dakar harbour.

The Budget for 1906 provides for an expenditure of £606,000 on the above works, divided as follows:—Drainage works, £84,000; harbour works, £228,000; rivers and railways, £292,600; and £1,000 for unforeseen expenses.

All the works provided for in the original programme, and paid for out of the loan, are expected to be finished in the course of 1907, and already the works which are to follow are being studied and will probably be submitted by the Governor-General to the Council of Government for approval in 1906. But to carry out a further programme another loan will be necessary, which it is hoped will be sanctioned towards the end of the year 1906.

The cost of the construction of the Dahomey Railway, amounting to £32,000 in 1905 and estimated at £31,320 in 1906, is borne by the General Budget out of its ordinary resources.

The commerce of French West Africa, as a whole, shows a steady increase during the last ten years. with the result that in 1904 the last year for which the statistics are available, both the imports and exports were about double those of 1895.

The total imports in 1904 amounted to £3,636,536 (against £3,597,934 in 1903), and the exports to £2,601,55›, compared with £2,474,971. Both in imports and exports the balance of trade done with France and her colonies and with foreign countries is slightly in favour of the latter. From the figures given it is evident that whatever fluctuations may have occurred in the commerce of individual colonies, that of French West Africa as a whole has steadily and progressively increased. Prior to the allocation of all the Customs dues of the Government-General to the General Budget each of the constituent colonies had its own special Customs tariff, which varied greatly according to local circumstances. A decree was therefore published on April 14, 1905, unifying the different tariffs as far as international conventions permitted. taking the highest tariff, that of Senegal, as a basis. This tariff, which includes a preferential duty of 7 per cent. on all goods of other than French origin, was, with a few alterations, applied to French Guinea, which had till then preserved the open door. The provisions of the Niger Convention of June, 1898, however, prevent this tariff being applied to the Ivory Coast and Dahomey, to which a different regimé had to be applied.

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WEATHER SUMMARY.

For the week ending the 5th May 1906.

DURING the period under review there was nearly general rain in Assam, North-West Himalayas, some rain and scattered thunder showers in Bombay, Deccan and the South-West districts of Madras and local rain in the extreme south of the Peninsula. The principal amounts of rainfall were :—Trivandrum 3·13″, Dibrugarh 2·93″, Cherra Poonjee 2·37″, Sibsagar 1·95″, Cochin 1·58″, Silchar 1·33″, Calicut 1·31″, Kodaikanal 1·25″, Sonemarg 1·05″, Srinagar 1·00″, Mercara 0·93″, Calicut 0·89″, Belgaum 0·70″ and Murree 0·53″.

During most of the days of this week, rainfall continued in Kashmir, and snow fell during storms on the higher peaks. Low temperatures also persisted there from last week, the stations for which normals were available having reported weather from 2 to 9 degrees colder than usual.

The general conditions of the regions further to the east remained unchanged; a long trough of low pressure still surrounds the foot of the hills in the United Provinces and Bengal and to the north of the Brahmaputra valley, and the winds from Orissa and the west of the head of the Bay still pursue a more eastward course than they should do during the first week of May. Weather in Bengal therefore continued exceedingly hot, and indeed the excess temperatures of last week had been further accentuated and the area under their influence had extended. In the Brahmaputra valley, the rainfall had been almost daily varying from local showers to falls of a more general character, and in amounts from a tenth of an inch to three inches within the twenty-four hours. In the south, irregular local changes of pressure and unduly high temperatures had occurred, and thunder showers had been almost daily reported.

Weather had been uninterruptedly dry in other parts of India and in Burma (excepting the Western Sub-Himalayas and Mergui). Temperatures in the north-west rose during the week from widespread deficiencies of from two to six degrees to slight excesses over normal values, and, except in the Frontier Province and in part of the Punjab where rainfall cooled the air on the 2nd and 3rd, remained high to its close. In Bengal, maximum temperature rose considerably and was on the average about 9° in excess, while in the United Provinces the nights had become much warmer.

On the 29th ultimo, the barometer rose slowly or remained steady over the whole area, excepting North Assam, where it continued to fall slowly. On the 30th, the barometer rose rapidly in North Assam, and slowly over the rest of the area under report. On the 1st instant, the barometer fell slowly over Bengal and North Burma and remained steady over the Madras and the Orissa coasts. On the 2nd, pressure fell slowly over the whole area except in North Bengal, where it remained steady. It was below normal in Bengal and practically normal over Chota Nagpur and the Orissa, Madras and Burma coasts. On the 3rd, the barometer fell slowly over the whole of the area under report, except in South Burma where it remained steady. On the 4th, pressure rose slowly over Bengal, Orissa and Burma and remained steady over the Madras Coast.

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The following telegram, dated 30th April 1906, was sent from the Viceroy to the Secretary of State :—

Crop prospects : week ending 21st April last.

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh : Fodder continues scarce in parts: water running short in two districts; loss of mahua crop much felt in Jalaun : closed forests being opened for its collection; prices almost stationary; cholera in places. **Punjab** : spring harvest outturn likely to be fair except on unirrigated areas in Delhi Division; condition of cattle improving. **Rajputana :** situation same as last reported. **Central India :** general situation unaltered. **Bombay :** condition of the cattle deteriorating in affected districts where measures being taken for their relief; food supplies are adequate; numbers on relief rising owing to return of emigrants; no aimless wandering. **Hyderabad :** fodder and water scarce in many places. In other provinces prospects fair or good. Number of persons in receipt of relief in thousands : **United Provinces of Agra and Oudh,** 197; **Punjab,** 10; **Ajmer and Rajputana,** 99; **Central India,** 116; **Baroda,** 4; **Bombay,** 72; **Hyderabad,** 5; total 503.

U. S. A. TURPENTINE INDUSTRY.

MR. BELL, British Commercial Agent in the United States, has written a Report on the Turpentine Industry in the United States, full of interesting figures.

The gathering of resin in the United States dates back to the time of the early settlers of that part of the country which is now North Carolina. From there the industry has extended, and is now carried on in all regions where the longleaf pine is found in sufficient abundance and more especially in the South Atlantic and Eastern Gulf States. In addition to the resin and turpentine, the industry includes the manufacture of tar and pitch, the distillation of spirits of turpentine and other by-products.

The following figures, taken from the United States census returns, show the progress of the industry since 1850 :—

YEAR.	Number of establishments.	Value of products.
		Dollars.
1850	856	2,855,657
1860	625	6,468,369
1870	227	3,585,225
1880	508	5,876,983
1890	670	8,077,379
1900	1,503	20,344,888

The process, in brief, is as follows :—The trees are tapped and the sap allowed to flow into receptacles prepared for the purpose. This resin is distilled and spirits of turpentine and resin are obtained. Tar is obtained by the destructive distillation of the wood itself, and oil of resin, oil of tar, common pitch, brewers' pitch, etc., are obtained by a redistillation or combination of the above-named products

Resin is obtained chiefly from the longleaf pine, of which there was formerly an unbroken forest extending from Southern Virginia through the South Atlantic and Gulf States to Eastern Texas. More than one-half of the original forest, however, has been exhausted and there has been little or no renewal.

For a number of years the seat of the naval stores industry continued near the forests of North Carolina. It was transferred to South Carolina at a later period. Within recent years, owing to the increased demand for spirits of turpentine and resin having caused a large growth of the industry, the districts have been very much extended, and now the centre is in Florida and reaches into Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

The Southern States abound in sandy soils suitable for the growing of pines. These tracts were at one time covered with what were supposed to be boundless forests. Though there are still large areas which have been untouched, the greater portion of the primeval forests have had their best timber removed. Forest fires and the operations of the turpentine gatherers have greatly damaged the remainder.

The pine forests may be divided into four belts, according to the different types recognisable :—

(1) The coast plain, 10 to 30 miles wide, once occupied by the longleaf pine (Pinus palustris) and now being replaced by the Cuban (Pinus heterophulla) and loblolly (Pinus tæda) varieties.

(2) The rolling pine hills, with a width of 50 to 120 miles, almost entirely covered with the longleaf pine.

(3) The belt of mixed growth, of from 20 to 60 miles in width, in which the shortleaf (Pinus echinata), the loblolly and the hardwoods grow with the longleaf.

(4) The shortleaf pine belt, where the longleaf is almost entirely absent and the loblolly and hardwoods are the most frequent.

Combining quantity and quality, the longleaf and shortleaf pine are the most important, but the Cuban or slash pine, which is cut and sold without distinction with the longleaf pine, is of as fine a quality and of more rapid growth.

Under the present methods of cutting the trees it is merely a question of a comparatively short time before the supply will be exhausted. It has been at last realised that the timber supplies are not unlimited, and it is absolutely necessary that there should be some modification of the present treatment if continued reproduction is to be insured instead of the complete exhaustion which threatens to despoil the magnificent forest resources.

Extensive investigations have been carried on in recent years by the United States Department of Agriculture, and very interesting results have been obtained of the mechanical and other properties of pines.

In general the wood of all these pines is heavy for pine (31 to 40 lbs. per cubic foot, when dry), soft to moderately hard (hard for pine), requiring about 1,000 lbs. per square inch to indent one-twentieth inch; stiff, the modulus of elasticity being from 1,500,000 upward; strong, requiring from 7,000 lbs. per square inch and upward to break in bending, and over 5,000 lbs. in compression when yard-dry.

The relation of strength to specific weight has been established as follows :—

	Transverse Strength.	Specific Weight of Test Pieces.
Cuban	100	100
Longleaf	91	94
Loblolly	84	82
Shortleaf	77	77

The locality where the Cuban and longleaf pines are grown does not appear to influence their weight or strength. With the loblolly and shortleaf varieties this is not the case. The growth of the shortleaf pine is materially influenced by the soil and climate of the locality where it is growing. The wood from the most Southern States is generally heavier than that grown further north. The loblolly growing in both wet and dry soils, varies accordingly.

As "bleeding" pine trees for the purpose of extracting turpentine and resin has been regarded as injurious to the timber, the Agricultural Department undertook a special investigation involving mechanical tests; physical and chemical analyses were made of the wood of bled and un-bled trees from the same locality. The results proved conclusively (1) that bled timber is as strong as unbled if of the same weight; (2) that the weight and shrinkage of the wood is not affected by the bleeding; (3) that bled-trees contain practically neither more nor less resin than un-bled trees, the loss of resin referring only to the sapwood, and therefore the durability is not affected by the bleeding process.

The rate of growth of pines naturally varies according to the soil conditions in which they occur. The four species gave for average trees under average conditions, based on a large number of measurements, the following results:—

Cuban pine grows about 22 feet in 10 years, about 58 feet in 25 years, about 83 feet in 50 years, about 95 feet in 75 years and about 105 feet in 120 years.

Loblolly pine grows about 18 feet in 10 years, about 45 feet in 25 years, about 70 feet in 50 years, about 88 feet in 75 years and about 102 feet in 120 years.

Shortleaf pine grows about 13 feet in 10 years, about 35 feet in 25 years, about 60 feet in 50 years, about 73 feet in 75 years, about 81 feet in 100 years.

Longleaf pine grows about 8 feet in 10 years, about 30 feet in 25 years, about 57 feet in 50 years, about 70 feet in 75 years, about 80 feet in 100 years and about 95 feet in 150 years.

The diameter growth is as follows:—

Cuban pine, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in 10 years, $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches in 25 years, $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches in 50 years, 18 inches in 75 years, $20\frac{3}{4}$ inches in 100 years, and $22\frac{3}{4}$ inches in 120 years.

Loblolly pine $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in 10 years, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in 25 years, $10\frac{3}{4}$ inches in 50 years, $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches in 75 years, $18\frac{3}{4}$ inches in 100 years, and $20\frac{1}{4}$ inches in 120 years.

Shortleaf pine, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in 10 years, $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches in 25 years, $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches in 50 years, $14\frac{3}{4}$ inches in 75 years, and $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches in 100 years.

Longleaf pine, 2 inches in 10 years, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in 25 years, $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches in 50 years $12\frac{1}{4}$ inches in 75 years, 16 inches in 100 years, and 20 inches in 150 years.

According to the United States census returns for 1900 the area occupied by pure pine forests in the Southern States was at that date approximately 100,000,000 acres. The average stand of timber on this area was estimated at not far from 3,000 feet per acre, giving a total stand of 300,000,000,000 feet. The cut in that year was 8,523,000,000 feet, or nearly 3 per cent. of the estimated stand. There would therefore, appear to be sufficient yellow pine to last, for 33 years, without allowing for increase in the rate of consumption or anything for growth in the interval.

The longleaf pine (Pinus palustris) is the tree of widest distribution and of greatest commercial importance in the Southern Atlantic forest region. In a portion of Texas and Louisiana the yield is from 4,000 to 6,000 feet per acre, but as a rule the yield is from 2,000 to 4,000 feet per acre.

The longleaf pine is principally confined to a belt about 125 miles in width in the lower parts of the Southern States. The northern limit of the tree is found on the coast near the southern boundary of Virginia in latitude 36°30′N. Westwardly it extends to Trinity River, Texas, in longitude 96°W. While it is found chiefly on low lying sandy and gravelly land it is found also at an altitude of from 1,500 to 2,000 feet in the State of Alabama.

The timber of the longleaf pine is greatly appreciated where strength and elasticity are needed. Among the trees of the same order there is found no other equally rich in resin.

The wood of the longleaf pine is heavier and stronger than of any other pine. The average weight of the kiln-dried wood is about 38 lbs. per cubic foot. The wood shrinks about 10 per cent of its volume in drying, about 6 to 7 per cent. along the rings (tangentially), and 3 to 4 per cent. along the radius.

Its stiffness and strength are remarkable. The average of a large number of tests indicates for the dry wood of longleaf pine an elasticity of 1,540,000 lbs. per square inch; strength in cross-breaking, 10,900 lbs. per square inch; strength in tension, 15,200 lbs. per square inch; strength in shearing, 706 lbs. per square inch.

The resinous product of the longleaf pine furnishes the bulk of the raw material for the production of naval stores, which consist of resin, turpentine, pine tar and common pitch.

In addition to the above products charcoal is obtained by burning the logs after the larger useful timber has been removed, the green leaves of the trees furnish by distillation an essential oil, and pine wool is made from their cellular tissue.

The resin of the longleaf pine recently exuded is almost colourless or of a pale straw colour. It has a terebinthinous odour and taste, is insoluble in water, but soluble in alcohol, ether and spirits of turpentine. It consists of a volatile oil and a soluble resin. The best quality is obtained during the first year the tree is worked. Each succeeding year the colour becomes deeper and the resin is poorer in volatile oil. The volatile oil is spirits of turpentine or oil of turpentine. When this volatile oil is distilled crude turpentine is left, which is the resin of commerce. Pine tar is produced by the destructive distillation of wood itself, and when boiled down until it has about one-third of its weight it becomes pitch.

GOLD DREDGING IN BURMA AND THE TREATMENT OF BLACK SANDS IN QUEENSLAND.

The Burma Gazette of 20th of April contains instructions to Deputy Commissioner on the subject of licenses for **gold dredging** and also a form of an exploring license for gold dredging. These may be seen in the section devoted to Gazette and other notifications. For the present exploring licenses only will be granted.

It is not without interest to go into the question of alluvial gold mining in India and Burma. **India** occupies a position about seventh amongst the leading **gold producing countries** in the world, though the total Indian output, aggregating as it does no more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the world's annual supply is comparatively insignificant. The Indian output is derived mainly from the quartz crushed on the Kolar Field in Mysore. **Washing for alluvial gold** is carried on in many places in British India but the yields are small, and the meteorological conditions of India are such as to forbid the entertainment of any hope of an extension in this direction. There is a possibility, however, that in Burma **dredging for alluvial gold** may yet bring the returns up to a substantial figure. Dredging for gold was commenced above **Myitkyina** on the Upper Irawaddi, at the end of 1902; by a company which began work with a dredger capable of dealing with 10,000 tons a week. The grant possessed by the company extends along about a 150 miles of river. The prospecting, which lasted well into 1903, gave returns sufficiently satisfactory to warrant an extension of operations. In 1904 the Burma Gold Dredging Company employed one dredger, and produced 214·30 oz. of gold; in 1905 two dredgers were employed and 620 oz. of gold, valued at Rs. 39,178, were secured. The work has so far, however, progressed little beyond the stage of prospecting. The value of the other gold won by washing in Burma amounted in the same year to only Rs. 100. Alluvial gold is secured mainly in Burma, the Punjab and the United Provinces, though in Burma there was till 1903, when the pay chute was lost, a reef mine of importance, at Kyaukpazat, near Wuntho in Upper Burma.

The following figures show the quantity and value of gold secured in these three provinces in the years 1895-1905:—

Year.		Burma.	Punjab.	United Provinces.
1895	Quantity . . oz.	274	...	54
	Value . . Rs.	15,892	...	3,473
1896	Quantity . . oz.	893	...	81
	Value . . Rs.	51,794	...	4,197
1897	Quantity . . oz.	834	...	51
	Value . . Rs.	48,372	...	2,761
1898	Quantity . . oz.	1,121	...	44
	Value . . Rs.	65,018	...	2,325
1899	Quantity . . oz.	1,198	161	17
	Value . . Rs.	65,798	9,241	837
1900	Quantity . . oz.	1,236	380	20
	Value . . Rs.	49,905	18,996	1,104
1901	Quantity . . oz.	1,984	151	26
	Value . . Rs.	1,14,100	7,903	1,394
1902	Quantity . . oz.	2,179	78	47
	Value . . Rs.	88,420	5,350	1,714
1903	Quantity . . oz.	1,095	105	24
	Value . . Rs.	59,832	9,220	1,537
1904	Quantity . . oz.	216	370	23
	Value . . Rs	12,150	20,682	1,249
1905	Quantity . . oz.	621	75	1·5
	Value . . Rs.	36,278	4,919	170

Of particular interest in connection with the dredging for gold in Burma is a communication which has been published by the Queensland Mines Department, announcing the discovery of a **successful process for the treatment of black sands.** The process is the property of a well-known London firm of mining engineers. In this letter the firm in question point out that all auriferous alluvial deposits, when treated either by dredges, hydraulicking, or hand-washing, yield not only coarse free gold, but also a concentrate (usually of black sand) containing very finely-divided gold. This concentrate, after it has been carefully re-washed, and all the visible gold extracted from it, is looked upon as worthless and is thrown away. As a matter of fact, however, it is often very valuable, and the firm state that they recently assayed samples of black sand containing over 100 oz. of gold, and oz. of platinum per ton. They say they have recently completed a method of treating such sand so as to extract its values economically, and are in a position to purchase all such material and give a good price for its gold and platinum contents. They are willing, the letter states, to examine free of cost any samples sent to them, and make the owners quotations for each parcel. Gold, platinum-tinstone and monazite are found in the beach sands on the south coast of Queensland, but operations have been carried on upon a small scale with sluice boxes, without payable results, and the Assistant Government Geologist has lately suggested that this might be a favourable field for dredger or other appliances on a large scale.

MEERSCHAUM INDUSTRY OF ESKISCHEHIR, ASIA MINOR.

THE following particulars of the Meerschaum industry of the district of Eskischehir, which, it is stated, supplies the whole of the meerschaum consumed throughout the world, appear in the "Bulletin Commercial" (Brussels) :—

The chief sources of meerschaum production are found within six hours' journey from Eskischehir, the Sepedschi, Saricu, Odhscak Konigli, and Jarmalar mines giving the best yield; but there are still nearly 2,000 points where meerschaum is extracted from the sea. The industry gives employment to about 4,000 persons, mainly Kurds and Persians.

The methods of working are primitive, and no attempt is made to secure immunity from accidents, although these occur from time to time. Batches of from three to fifteen workmen are set to sink a well about one metre in diameter, and no propping up is effected until they strike—at a depth of 20, 40, or even 60 metres—a bed of the red clay in which is found meerschaum mixed with serpentine, in pieces ranging from the size of a hazel-nut to that of an apple. The extraction of these pieces is often attended with great difficulties, but work is carried on day and night.

Once a week retail traders from Eskischehir visit the mines in order to purchase the raw material. This is brought into the town and passed through three cleansing operations; the clay adhering to it is then carefully removed, and the irregular pieces are rounded. The meerschaum is next examined by the wholesale merchants who have to possess considerable experience in order to distinguish the various qualities of the pieces, to calculate the number of these to a case (the product being sold by cases or boxes, not by weight), and to estimate their value.

When purchased by the wholesale merchants, the meerschaum is humid, heavy, and of a yellowish tinge. It has, therefore, to be dried, either in the sun or in a kiln, according to the season of the year; this causes two-thirds to waste away, but turns it a snow-white colour. It is afterwards rubbed with hot water and sand, and finally polished with wax.

The meerschaum is then ready to be placed on the market, the pieces being sorted into four classes, according to quality and size, *viz.*:—Svia-Maly, Birimbirlik, Pembeli, and Dockme. Each of these classes is in turn divided into eleven categories. When sorted, the pieces are wrapped in cotton wool and packed in boxes of different sizes, containing from 32 to 40 pieces of the first, or 75 to 90 pieces of the second, quality; 100 to 200 pieces of the third quality fill a large box, which would contain from 200 to 400 pieces of the fourth quality.

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THE SIXTH CONGRESS OF THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF THE EMPIRE.

THE sixth Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, which will be held July 10th to 13th, has been convened by the London Chamber of Commerce. Delegates from all parts of the British dominions will attend to discuss matters of commercial and Imperial interest. The meeting will take place at the hall of the Grocers' Company, Prince's street, E. C. Lord Elgin, Secretary of State for the Colonies, is the hon' president, and among the vice-presidents are the Duke of Argyll, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Ripon, Lord Crewe, Mr. Asquith, K.C., M. P., Sir Edward Grey, M.P., Mr. Gladstone, M.P., Mr. Lloyd George, M.P., Lord Aberdeen, Mr. Bryce, M.P., and Sir Henry Fowler, M.P. The official programme contains a large number of resolutions on a great variety of subjects from which we select the following :—

On the subject of commercial relations between the mother country, her colonies and dependencies, resolutions advocating preferential treatment on a reciprocal basis will be submitted by the Montreal, Vancouver, Toronto, and Winnipeg Boards of Trade, the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and La Chambre de Commerce du District de Montreal. Some of these resolutions also advocate that a scheme on these lines be immediately devised. The South of Scotland Chamber of Commerce will move a resolution expressing a hope that means will soon be found for the establishment of a commercial preference over the whole of the British Empire. The creation of an Imperial Council to consider questions of Imperial interests is advocated by the Vancouver Board of Trade and the Liverpool and Aberdeen Chambers of Commerce. The Montreal Board of Trade and La Chambre de Commerce du District de Montreal propose to reaffirm the principle adopted at the last Congress, that it is the duty of the self-governing colonies to participate in the defence of the Empire. The reduction of postal charges will be advocated as strengthening Imperial unity, and there is one resolution in favour of universal penny postage "unless this has already been adopted at the Postage Congress held in Rome." The Montreal Board of Trade desires the Imperial Government to devise means whereby cable and telegraph news to and from all parts of the British Empire shall be furnished entirely through Imperial channels. The British Chamber of Commerce of Turkey declares that it is incumbent on His Majesty's Government to take into serious consideration a change in the present diplomatic and Consular system as regards its relations to British trade and enterprise and to adapt it to modern exigencies. Other bodies recommend the appointment of special British trade representatives throughout the Empire. Several resolutions are aimed at diverting the flow of British emigration and capital to British possessions instead of to foreign countries. The adoption of the decimal system throughout the Empire is advocated by several bodies, as is also the codification of commercial law. The removal of the restrictions on the importation of Canadian store cattle is desired by the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce. La Chambre de Commerce du District de Montreal wishes the Imperial Government to state its reasons for maintaining the restrictions; and, if the regulations are solely due to a belief that Canadian cattle are now affected with contagious diseases, it urges the appointment of a commission of physicians and veterinary experts to investigate the matter. Resolutions for the final edition of the programme must be sent in by colonial chambers not later than June 15, and from home chambers not later than June 1.

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GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

GOLD-DREDGING.

FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER'S CIRCULAR NO. 2 OF 1906.

TO ALL COMMISSIONERS AND DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS IN BURMA, AND THE SUPERINTENDENT, AND SUPERINTENDENT AND POLITICAL OFFICER, NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN SHAN STATES, RESPECTIVELY.

Dated Rangoon, the 20th April 1906.

Revenue VII.—Mines and Minerals.

THE following **instructions** are issued **on the subject of licenses for gold-dredging.**

2. For the present exploring licenses only will be granted. Such licenses will be granted in the attached special form.

3. Until further notice licenses should not be granted by Deputy Commissioners. On receipt of applications Deputy Commissioners should deal with them in accordance with the rules, but after carrying out the preliminary procedure they should submit the applications to the Commissioner, who will forward them to this office.

4. Licenses cannot be granted over the same tract to two or more persons. Deputy Commissioners should bear this in mind in dealing with applications.

5. No special license should be issued unless a certificate of approval of the kind referred to in Rule 10 of the Mining Rules is produced by the applicant.

Exploring License for Gold-dredging.

(NOTE.—All blank spaces must be filled up in this form before signature.)

This exploring license made the day of 19 between the Secretary of State for India in Council hereinafter called the "Secretary of State" (in which term are also included his successors in office and assigns unless the context shall be repugnant to such construction) of the one part and of (hereinafter called "the licensee") of the other part Witnesseth as follows :—

1. In consideration of the prescribed fee of Rs. which has before the execution hereof been paid by the licensee to the Collector of on behalf of the Secretary of State license is hereby granted by the Secretary of State to the licensee subject to the restrictions conditions and provisos hereinafter contained to enter upon the lands whether covered with water or not described in the schedule hereunder written and to explore and search the surface of the same for gold and subject to the restrictions hereinafter contained or such other restrictions as the Local Government may from time to time impose to remove any specimens or samples thereof found by the licensee in or upon the said lands during the term for which this license shall be in force.

2. This license does not authorise the licensee to enter upon or commence exploring in any reserve forest included in the lands described in the schedule hereunder written without days' previous written notice to the District Forest Officer nor without obtaining the sanction in writing of that officer upon such conditions as such officer may in his absolute discretion prescribe or to enter upon the surface of any land in the occupation of any person without the consent of the occupier *or to cut or damage any trees or standing crops and in particular and without prejudice to the general prohibition the licensee shall not interfere with or cause damage to any buildings huts or other structures or to the property of any occupier or occupiers of the said lands or any portion thereof and he shall make good and pay reasonable satisfaction and compensation for all injury which may be done by him in exercise of the powers conferred on him by this license and shall indemnify the Secretary of State against all claims which may be made by third parties in respect of any such damage or injury.*

3. This license shall not authorise the licensee to mine or quarry within the boundaries of the land specified in the schedule but the licensee shall be at liberty with the sanction of the Collector and subject to such conditions as may by such sanction be imposed to turn up to the depth of feet the surface of any unoccupied land within such boundaries and to extract gravel and mud from any such portion thereof as may be covered with water and with the like sanction and subject as aforesaid and with the consent of the occupier thereof to turn up to the like depth the surface of any land within the said boundaries which may have been granted by Government for agricultural purposes with a reservation of the right to minerals and further subject to the like sanction conditions and consent as aforesaid to extract gravel and mud from such portions thereof as may be covered with water.

4. This license shall be in force for a period of one year only from the day of the date of these presents *and on the determination thereof the licensee shall forthwith remove all huts and structures machinery conveniences and other chattels and effects which he may have erected or brought upon the said lands.*

But if upon the expiration by effluxion of time of the term thereby granted the said Collector is satisfied that the licensee has been prevented from completing his search of the land by causes other than his own default then the said Collector may with the approval of the Local Government at the request and cost of the licensee in writing renew this license for a further *term not exceeding one year as* the licensee may desire from the expiration of the term hereby granted subject to the like conditions in all respects save as to renewal as are herein contained.

5. The licensee may remove any specimens or samples found by him in or upon the said lands in the course of his exploring operations under this license subject to the following restrictions namely :—

6. The licensee shall within days of the discovery by him his servants workmen or agents of any and all precious stone and stones upon the said lands report the discovery and produce the *stones to the Collector of*
or to such other officer as the Collector may from time to time appoint in that behalf and the licensee shall pay to the Collector or other officer aforesaid on behalf of the Secretary of State by way of royalty per cent. of the value of the precious stone or stones so found such value in the case of dispute to be fixed by the Local Government.

7. This license shall not nor shall any right or interest thereunder be assigned or transferred without the consent in writing of the Local Government.

8. In the event of the licensee neglecting or *failing to report the discovery of or to produce* any precious stone or stones within the time fixed by clause 6 *or to produce them and pay the said royalty upon the same or in the event of his committing any breach of the terms of this license* the Collector of acting on behalf of the Secretary of State may forth-with cancel this license and thereupon all rights conferred thereby or enjoyed thereunder shall absolutely cease and determine.

9. At any time during the continuance of this license after the promulgation by the Government of India of new rules for the grant of licenses to explore and prospect for gold and other minerals by dredging and alluvial mining and for the grant of mining leases to extract gold and other minerals by dredging and alluvial mining in substitution so far as regards the extraction of gold by dredging and alluvial mining for the rules published in Resolution of the Government of India Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 18—17-2 (Minerals) dated the 20th May 1899 the licensee shall subject as to area and as to all other matters to such new rules be entitled to a prospecting license or mining lease in respect of such portion of the lands described in the schedule hereunder written as he may select. Provided that if the licensee shall in the exercise of such right obtain a prospecting license or mining lease in respect of any portion of such lands he shall not thereafter be entitled to a prospecting license or mining lease of any further or other portion of such lands but the Secretary of State shall thereafter be at liberty to grant prospecting licenses or mining leases in respect of the remainder of such lands to other persons.

In witness whereof the said parties hereto have set their hands the day and year first above written.

Signed by
for and on behalf of the

acting in
the premises for and on behalf of the Secretary of State for India in Council in the presence of

Names and addresses of witnesses.

Signed by the abovenamed
in the presence of

Names and addresses of witnesses.

NOTE.—The portions printed in italics are not prescribed *by the rules, but are suggested as proper and reasonable.*

The schedule above referred to

Here insert description of land with area and boundaries, names of district, sub-district, thana, etc.

NOTE.—The parties must sign against the end of the schedule. Witnesses.

❦

EMIGRATION.

Simla, the 4th May, 1906.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 80 of the Indian Emigration Act, 1883 (XXI of 1883), the Governor General in Council is pleased to direct that the following amendments shall be made in rules 6 and 7 of the rules published with the Notification of the Government of India in the Department of Revenue and Agriculture, No. 94-E., dated the 18th March 1886 : namely,

1. In Rule 6 after the word "district" where it first occurs, the words "or subdivision" shall be added.

2. In Rule 7 for the words "any District Magistrate" the words "The Magistrate" shall be substituted.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Number and Particulars of Joint Stock Companies Registered in each Province in British India in the quarter ending the 31st March 1906.

No.	Name of Company.	Situation of Registered office.	Object.	Capital. Nominal.	Capital. Paid-up.
				R	R
	I.—BANKING, LOAN AND INSURANCE—				
	(*a*) *Banking and Loan*—				
1	Indian Mills, Co-operative Life Assurance and Mahomedan Central Banking Co.	Bengal .	Erecting mills and factories for the production of cloth, etc., carrying on the business of life and other forms of insurance, and the business of banking	10,00,000	...
2	Govindanallur Sasvatha Nidhi .	Govindavallur, Tinnevelly, Madras.	Money lending (mutual) .	84,000	...
3	Sri Vijaya Venkatachalapathi Ela Nidhi.	Pattakurchy, Tinnevelly, Madras.	,, ,, .	40,000	...
4	Salem Town Arisipalium Janopakara Nidhi Bank.	Arisipalium, Salem, Madras.	,, ,, .	20,000	346
5	Aryalur Sarva Jana Sahaya Nidhi .	Aryalur Trichinopoly, Madras.	,, ,, and trading.	19,996	...
6	BhagampiriyalDravia SahayaNidhi	Tuticorin, Madras.	,, ,, .	1,44,000	...
7	Vellore Panapattie Srimada Vara Nidhi Branch.	Vellore, Madras.	,, ,, .	1,00,000	1,310
8	Vellore Sri Sarva Janopakara Nidhi	,, ,,	,, ,, .	1,25,000	...
	TOTAL .	,, .		5,32,996	1,656
9	Sidlaghatta Sri Surya Narayana Swami Bank.	Mysore .	Banking and Trading in Silk and Jewels.	20,000	...
	Total, Banking and Loan .			15,52,996	1,656
	(*b*) *Insurance*—				
10	Indian Mutual Assurance Co. .	Vizagapatam, Madras.	Life Insurance .	20,000	...
11	Sri Satya Vardhani Mutual Benefit Society.	Gannavaram, Kistna Madras.	,, ,, and Marriage endowment	900	...
12	Arya Marriage and Life Assurance Co.	Gajapatinagaram, Vizagapatam, Madras.	,, ,,	10,000	...
13	Sri Ramthirtham Provident Institution.	Sri Ramathirtham Vizapatam, Madras.	Life Insurance . .	10,000	...
14	Great Indian National Provident Co.	Madras .	,, ,, and Marriage endowment.	15,000	...
15	Kumaradanam Provident Institution.	Kumaradanam, Kistna, Madras.	Life Insurance . .	360	...
16	Indian Ryots Life Assurance Co.	Waltair, Madras.	,, ,, . .	10,000	...
17	Indian Mutual Helping Fund .	Allipur, Ganjam, Madras.	,, ,, . .	8,000	...
18	Marriage and Provident Institution	Guddigudam, Kistna, Madras.	,, ,, and Marriage endowment.	500	...
19	Sri Vani Vilasa Mutual Benefit Society.	Kistna, Madras	,, ,, .	320	...
20	Guntur National Improvement Fund.	Guntur, Madras.	,, ,, .	1,000	...
21	Competing Mutual Life Assurance Co.	Allipur, Vizagapatam, Madras.	Life Insurance . .	20,000	...
22	East Coast Provident Company .	Narasimapeta, Ganjam, Madras	,, ,, . .	10,000	...
23	Hindu Union Society Fund .	Berhampore, Ganjam, Madras.	,, ,, . .	2,000	...
24	Naganali Provident Co. . .	Veraghatta, Vizagapatam, Madras.	,, ,, . .	12,000	...
25	Moon Life Assurance Co. . .	Chithvalsa, Vizagapatam, Madras.	,, ,, . .	1,000	...
26	Indian Janopakara Provident Co. .	Tekkali, Ganjam, Madras.	,, ,, . .	10,000	...
27	Universal Mutual Life Assurance Co.	Sripuram, Vizagapatam, Madras	,, ,, . .	20,000	...

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES—*continued*

No.	Name of Company	Situation of Registered office	Object	Capital Nominal	Capital Paid up
	I.—Banking, Loan and Insurance—*continued.*			R	R
	(*b*) *Insurance*—continued.				
28	Bhimadola Akinchana Manochiranjana Provident Institution.	Bhimadola, Kistna, Madras.	Life Insurance . .	240	...
29	Rising Sun Provident Co. . .	Chicacole, Ganjam, Madras.	,, ,, . .	10,000	...
30	United India Life Assurance Co. .	Madras. .	,, ,, . .	1,00,000	...
31	Asiatic Life Assurance Co. .	Bimlipatam, ,,	,, ,, .	20,000	...
32	Coromandel Life Assurance Co. .	Ditto .	,, ,, . .	25,000	...
33	Sri Jayavilas Provident Co. .	Tekkali, Ganjam, Madras.	,, ,, . .	10,000	...
34	Light of Asia Life Assurance Co.	Vizagapatam, Madras.	,, ,, . .	50,000	...
35	Swadeshi Mutual Life Assurance Co.	Tallavalsa, Vizagapatam, Madras	,, ,, . .	10,000	...
36	Sitarama Vijaya Vilasa Life Assurance and Marriage Provident Co.	Bimlipatam, Madras.	,, ,, . .	1,500	...
37	Marriage and Life Assurance and Trading Co.	Kuppli, Vizagatam, Madras.	,, ,, and trading	20,000	...
38	Southern Anglo Assurance Co.	Kalavalsa, Bimli atam, Madras	,, ,, . .	1,000	...
39	Hindu Provident Association .	Ampalam, Ganjan, Madras.	,, ,, . .	5,000	...
	Total, Insurance .	.....	.....	4,02,820	...
	Total, Banking Loan and Insurance .	.....	.....	19,56,816	1,656
	II.—Trading—				
	(*a*) *Navigation*—				
40	East Bengal River Steam Service .	Bengal . .	Carrying on the business of shipowners and carriers by land and water.	6,00,000	...
	(*b*) *Co-Operative Associations*—				
41	Munshigung Co-Operative Co. .	,, . .	General trading, and trading in Indian arts and manufacture.	20,000	...
42	Aligarh Co-Operative Stores Co. .	Aligarh, United Provinces.	Dealing in liquors, oilman's stores, etc.	10,000	...
43	Kumbakonam Co-Operative Stores	Kumbakonam, Madras.	Co-Operative Stores, etc. .	10,000	...
	Total, Co-Operative Associations .	.....	.....	40,000	
	(*c*) *Printing Publishing, and Stationery*—				
44	Bharat Literature Publishing and Physic Trading Co.	Lahore, Panjab .	Publishing, etc., and general trading.	1,00,000	...
	(*d*) *Others*—				
45	Premier Farming Company .	Hanthawaddy, Burma.	Business of horse-breeding, Cattle-farming and rearing of poultry	75,000	...
46	Barrackpore Electric Supply Co. .	Bengal . .	Electrical engineering and dealing in electrical appliances etc.	2,00,000	...
47	Tirhut Stores	,, . .	Trading in Indian articles, etc.	50,000	
48	Santipur Desiya Bhandar . .	,, . .	Dealing in articles of Indian art, manufactures and produce, etc.	20,000	...
49	Satkhira Sulov Bhandar Co. .	,, . .	General trading . .	20,000	
50	Nimtola Swadeshi Bhandar Co. .	,, . .	Dealing in articles of Indian art, manufacture and produce, etc.	25,000	... ...
51	Calcutta Hessian and Bag Co. .	,, . .	Business of spinning, etc., jute, etc., and general trading	2,00,000	... ...
52	Northern Bengal Co. . . .	,, . .	Ditto .	2,00,000	...
	Total .	,, . .		7,15,000	...

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES—*continued.*

No.	Name of Company	Situation of Registered office	Object	Capital Nominal	Capital Paid-up
	II.—Trading—*continued*			R	R
	(*d*) *Others*—continued				
53	Khareedar Kapra Co. . . .	Cawnpore .	General trading . .	1,25,000	...
54	Swadeshi Bhandar Co. . .	Etah, United Provinces.	Ditto . .	20,000	...
55	B. Vassel & Co.	Allahabad, United Provinces.	Ditto . .	50,000	...
56	General Trading Co. . . .	Lakhimpur, United Provi..ces.	Ditto . .	10,000	...
	Total .	,,		2,05,000	...
57	Doaba Swadeshi Vastu Co. . .	Jullundur, Punjab	Encouraging the manufacture and sale of Indian goods	20,000	...
58	Co-Operative Swadeshi Trading Co.	Nasik, Bombay .	General trading . .	20,000	...
59	Ahmedabad and Kathiawar Nagori General Commission Agency Co..	Ahmedabad, Bombay	General Agency . .	10,000	...
60	Shroff & Co.	Bombay, Bombay	Trading and Commission Agency	4,65,000	...
61	Bombay Brush Manufacturing Co..	,, ,,	Manufacturing brushes .	10,000	...
62	Bombay Match Manufacturing Co.	,, ,,	,, matches .	1,00,000	...
63	Mahabaleswar Motor Service Co.	,, ,,	,, and importing motor cars and carrying of passengers, etc.	1,00,000	...
64	Hyderabad Industrial and Commercial Co.	,, ,,	Trading and Commission Agency	1,00,000	...
65	Krishna Dyeing, Weaving, and Trading Co.	Satara, ,,	Dyeing yarn silk, etc. .	50,000	...
66	Sholapur Industrial Financing Fund	Sholapur, ,,	Manufacturing cigars and cigarettes	2,00,000	...
67	Nariad Swadeshi Sahkari Mandali .	Nadiad, ,,	General trading . .	10,000	...
	Total .	,,		10,65,000	...
68	Nagpur Supply Agency . .	Nagpur, Central Provinces	Ditto . .	20,000	
69	Kistna Textile Manufacturing Co. .	Navasapur, Kistna, Madras .	Development of indigenous industries and general trading	1,00,000	...
70	Guntur Industrial Co. . . .	Guntur, Madras .	Encouraging Indian Manufactures, Industries, etc.	2,000	...
71	Ganjam Industrial Association .	Berhampore, Ganjam, Madras	Ditto . .	15,000	...
	Total .	,, . .	.....	1,17,000	...
	Total, others .	.....	.....	22,17,000	...
	Total, trading .	.....	.....	25,57,000	...
	III.—Mills and Presses—				
	(*a*) *Cotton Mills*—				
72	Bengal Luxmi Cotton Mills . .	Bengal . .	Spinning and manufacturing of cotton	12,00,000	...
73	Bankey Behari Lall Jainarian Cotton Mills Co.	Etawah, United Provinces	Manufacture and sale of cotton, etc.	1,20,000	...
74	Ahmedabad New Edward Manufacturing Co.	Ahmedabad, Bombay	Spinning and weaving cotton, etc.	5,25,000	...
75	Ahmedabad Swadeshi Spinning and Manufacturing Co.	Ahmedabad, Bombay	Ditto . .	8,00,000	...
76	Poona Swadeshi Weaving Co. .	Poona, Bombay .	Ditto . .	2,50,000	...
77	Rehmani Mills	Bombay, ,, .	Ditto . .	10,00,000	...
	Total .		.....	25,75,000	...

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES—*concluded.*

No.	Name of Company	Situation of Registered office	Object	Capital Nominal	Capital Paid-up
				R	R
	III.—Mills and Presses—*continued*				
	(*a*) *Cotton Mills*—continued				
78	Vizagapatam Spinning and Weaving Co.	Vizagapatam, Madras	Spinning and weaving cotton, etc.	1,00,000	...
	Total, Cotton Mills .	.....	.....	39,95,000	...
	(*b*) *Jute Mills*—				
79	Lawrence Jute Co.	Bengal . .	Spinning and weaving jute, etc.	15,00,000	...
	(*c*) *Cotton and Jute Screws and Presses*—				
80	Aya Ram Ginning and Press Co. .	Dera Ghazi Khan, Punjab.	Ginning and pressing cotton, etc.	1,00,000	...
81	Narnarayan Press and Manufacturing Co.	Broach, Bombay	Ditto .	60,000	...
82	Rannabennur Ginning and Trading Co.	Rannabennur, Bombay.	Ditto .	50,000	...
	Total .	. . .	...	1,10,000	...
	Total, Cotton and Jute Screws and Presses.	...	...	2,10,000	...
	(*d*) *Other Mills and Presses*—				
83	Sholapur Oil and Flour Mills Co. .	Sholapur, Bombay	Millers and oil compressers.	50,000	...
84	Gujarat Oil Mill and Manufacturing Co.	Ahmedabad, Bombay	Manufacturing and selling oil.	2,50,000	
	Total, other Mills and Presses .	...	...	3,00,000	...
	Total, Mills and Presses .	...	...	60,05,000	...
	IV.—Planting Companies—				
	(*a*) *Tea*—				
85	Putinbaree Tea Association . .	Bengal . .	Cultivation and manufacture of tea.	20,000	...
	(*b*) *Others*—				
86	Southern India Rubber Co. . .	Madras, Madras .	Planting India rubber, etc.	3,00,000	18,000
	Total, Planting Companies .	...	...	3,20,000	18,000
	V.—Mining and Quarrying Companies—				
87	Mysore Manganese Co. . .	Mysore . .	Mining, Quarrying, etc. .	10,00,000	...
	VI.—Others—				
88	Industrial and Social Improvement Fund.	Guntur, Madras	Encouragement of Industrial and Foreign education and maintenance of widows' home, etc.	500	...
	Grand Total .	...	...	1,22,39,316	19,656

ABSTRACT TABLE OF COMPANIES REGISTERED IN THE QUARTER ENDING THE 31ST MARCH 1906

		Capital (L). Nominal.	Paid-up.
9	Banking and Loan Companies	15,52,996	1,656
30	Insurance Companies	4,03,820	...
1	Navigation Company	6,00,000	...
3	Co-operative Associations	40,000	...
1	Printing and Publishing Company	1,00,000	...
27	Trading Companies (*other than those specified*)	22,17,000	...
7	Cotton Mills	39,95,000	...
1	Jute Mill	15,00,000	...
3	Cotton and Jute Screws and Presses	2,10,000	...
2	Mills (*other than those specified*)	3,00,000	...
1	Tea Company	20,000	...
1	Rubber Company	3,00,000	18,000
1	Mining Company	10,00,000	...
1	Company (*other than those specified*)	500	...
88		1,22,39,316	19,656

TOTAL GROSS INDIAN SEA AND LAND CUSTOMS REVENUE (EXCLUDING SALT REVENUE).

(In thousands of Rupees.)

	In the month of April								
	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1900-01.	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1906-07.
SEA CUSTOMS.										
Imports.										
Special Import Duties.										
Arms, ammunition, and military stores .										
Liquors—										
Ale, beer, porter, cider and other fermented liquors	31	19	17	19	19	28	32	32	27	33
Spirits and liqueurs	16	14	21	17	18	22	17	20	24	21
Wines	4,92	5,33	5,87	5,32	5,80	6,36	6,01	6,17	6,73	5,52
Opium	35	28	28	28	27	39	28	26	30	29
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Sugar (countervailing duties, 1899) .	4,60	3,30	3,82	3,33	5,35	6,01	5,53	3,53	3,11	2,25
Sugar (countervailing duties, 1902) .	—	—	...	1,07	3,32	6,57	36	...	...	...
	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	1	...	...
General Import Duties.										
Articles of food and drink (excluding sugar)	92	84	1,07	1,03	90	1,05	98	1,12	1,33	1,21
Sugar (ordinary duties) . . .	1,65	1,64	95	1,67	2,65	2,59	1,78	2,60	1,40	4,56
Chemicals, drugs, medicines and narcotics, and dyeing and tanning materials .	93	82	92	74	91	1,11	1,04	1,11	1,17	1,04
Cotton manufactures—										
Piece goods, grey	3,59	3,98	4,69	3,76	4,29	5,39	5,30	3,60	5,05	5,77
,, white	1,61	1,70	2,05	1,40	2,65	2,09	1,97	2,24	2,34	2,17
,, coloured	1,05	1,52	2,13	1,44	1,55	1,90	2,24	2,18	2,29	2,46
Other goods	9	9	13	10	9	11	11	18	20	22
Metals and manufactures—										
Silver, bullion and coin . . .	4,36	4,48	3,14	1,29	1,07	3,69	2,69	4,40	3,09	2,76
Other metals and manufactures of metals	1,68	1,60	1,50	1,97	1,96	2,95	2,86	3,74	2,16	2,35
Oils (excluding petroleum) . . .	18	16	8	6	8	16	7	7	7	17
Manufactured articles	3.29	3,38	3,84	3,47	4,27	4,78	4,99	5,75	5,41	6,17
Raw materials and unmanufactured articles	51	46	53	51	74	75	79	93	77	60
Total Imports .	30,20	29,91	31,38	27,80	36,27	46,41	37,58	38,41	3,593	38,08
Excise Duty on cotton goods .	56	96	1,22	62	61	91	1,08	1,05	85	58
Export Duties—										
Rice and Rice-flour	5,38	11,13	10,21	9,77	10,30	15,65	16,26	14,19	15,86	18,16
Land Customs and Miscellaneous.	40	62	68	61	74	93	74	78	61	67
GRAND TOTAL .	36,54	42,62	43,49	38,80	47,92	63,90	55,66	54,43	53,25	57,49
Provincial distribution of Imports and Exports.										
Bengal . . . . { Imports .	11,16	11,22	12,03	10,92	12,74	13,38	13,24	12,02	12,31	13,64
Exports .	98	2,08	1,78	1,95	1,27	1,44	1,61	1,56	2,09	1,53
Eastern Bengal and Assam . { Imports .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...
Exports .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...
Bombay . . . . { Imports .	12,34	12,48	11,78	9,39	13,77	20,35	13,90	17,00	14,03	13,69
Exports .	31	48	17	41	36	59	18	35	24	20
Sind . . . . . { Imports .	1,97	1,99	2,24	2,95	4,61	6,50	3,81	3,25	3,50	4,27
Exports .	13	26	13	8	21	16	13	19	16	23
Madras . . . . { Imports .	2,34	1,91	2,63	1,83	2,56	3,26	3,13	2,79	2,56	2,78
Exports .	96	36	62	29	54	67	76	52	39	65
Burma . . . . { Imports .	2,39	2,31	2,70	2,71	2,59	2,92	3,50	3,35	3,53	3,70
Exports	3,00	7,95	7,51	7,04	7,92	12,79	13,58	11,57	12,98	15,55

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.

For the week ending 5th May 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign—Imports by sea into	Calcutta lbs.	189,656
	Bombay „	76,229
	Madras „	...
Indian—Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	723,800
	Bombay „	2,470,800
	Madras „	...

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	12,979,516
	Bombay „	4,392,245
	Karachi „	473,444
	Madras „	344,713
	Rangoon „	310,874

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	1,764,954
	Bombay „	3,337,974
	Karachi „	1,953,735
	Madras „	13,506
	Rangoon „	4,084,681

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	874,528
	Bombay „	3,109,028
	Karachi „	2,913,826
	Madras „	7,057
	Rangoon „	984,656

Piece Goods.

(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta* cwt.	38,726
	Bombay† „	6,796
	Karachi „	15,186
	Madras „	5,784

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea cwt.	3,492
	Coastwise „	58,589
	By rail „	97,889
Imports into Karachi by rail „		17,043
„ „ Calcutta by rail and river „		13,788

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta cwt.		75,319
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags No.	9,592,100
	„ cloth yds.	8,372,100
	Jute cwt.	105,814
Chittagong—Jute „		...

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta lbs.		391,910
Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	406,000
	Chittagong „	...

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river cwt.	38,190
	Karachi by rail „	86,756
	Bombay—By rail „	37,318
	Bombay—Coastwise „	19,512
Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	404
	Bombay „	8,473
	Karachi „	52,324

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta cwt.	122,956
	Chittagong „	...
	Bombay „	12,684
	Karachi „	39,583
	Madras „	...
	Rangoon „	826,792

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river cwt.	107,469
	Bombay by rail „	9,714
	Karachi by rail „	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	43,747
	Bombay „	41,941
	Karachi „	...

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river cwt.	51,338
	Bombay by rail „	15,988
	Karachi by rail „	1,785
Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	4,194
	Bombay „	60,853
	Karachi „	38,430

* E. B. S. Railway figures not received.

† B. B. and C. I. Railway figures only.

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 5th MAY 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From All other foreign countries.	Total.
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
Calcutta	...	49,071	25,401	74,472
Bombay	...	...	...	...
Karachi	...	...	...	...
Madras	...	3,430	...	3,430

Exports by sea from Burma to	Bengal	galls.	1,004,839
	E. B. & Assam	„	...
	Bombay	„	...
	Sind	„	...
	Madras	„	...
	Indian Ports non-Br	„	...
	Foreign ports	„	..

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 5th MAY 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	11	...	1,026	3	2	25	1,067
Germany	15,000	...	38,134	34,300	...	...	87,434
Austria-Hungary	43,610	...	38,920	47,502	...	...	130,032
Other European Countries	2,008	..	15,975	9,864	...	...	27,847
Java	...	...	...	9,359	...	...	9,359
Mauritius	10,752	...	83,533	...	...	..	94,285
Other Non-European Countries	3,652	...	...	...	...	...	3,652
					Total refined		353,676
					Total unrefined		46,768
					Grand Total cwt.		400,444

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta. [The prices include postage] to countries in the Postal Union.

ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 (2*a.*)

2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a.*)

3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—

Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. R3. (12*a.*)

Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port R3. (12*a.*)

4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. R2. (7*a.*)

5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a.*)

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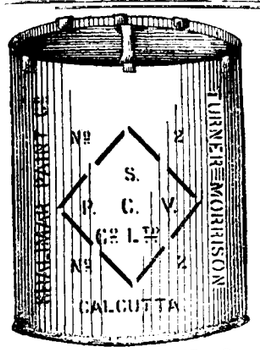
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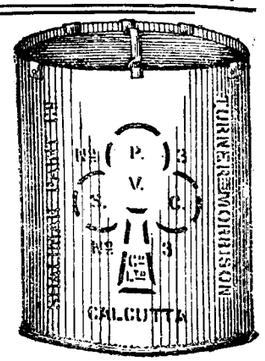
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All figures, blocks, etc., intended for insertion in the advertisement columns of the *Indian Trade Journal* must first be submitted for approval to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence. The type used in the making up of an advertisement, whether display or line, must be of the kind approved by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence.

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NOTES.

Government Departments and others who have occasion to **communicate with the Director General of Commercial Intelligence** are requested to note that the correct **address** of that office is 5, Clive Street, Calcutta.

The Hamburg-America Line announces that it will shortly inaugurate a **new steamship service from Hamburg** and other European ports **to the ports in the Persian Gulf.**

British shipping at Reunion is decreasing daily and now consists of about a dozen steamers calling there annually. Not a single British sailing ship has called for the last three years.

Durban is the chief South African port interested in the Australasian trade, and the local merchants engaged in this trade strongly favour **a direct service** being instituted **between New Zealand and South Africa.** They consider that the extent of trade warrants a monthly service of 5,000-ton steamers and say that unless this is promptly arranged the New Zealand business must pass into other channels.

The London secretary of the Transvaal Consolidated Land and Exploration Company (Limited) informs the *Times* that "a cablegram has been received from the head office in Johannesburg advising that a rich **discovery of float tin** has been made on Farm Groenfontein, No. 195, District Waterberg. Development is at present not sufficient to enable an estimate to be made of the value, but work is being pushed on with energy, and the prospects are regarded as good."

❦

The British Chargé' d' Affaires at Guatemala has forwarded to the Board of Trade a sample of **cotton grown in the Retalhuleu district of Western Guatemala,** known as Pachon, and said to be possessed of special weevil-resisting characteristics. It is a short season cotton, says the *Board of Trade Journal* productive and ripening very early, with a fibre of good length and texture. The rapid ripening tends to leave the weevil without opportunity to breed during a large portion of the year.

❦

Complaints are heard in England from manufacturers who find themselves in difficulties owing to their **inability to procure adequate supplies of aluminium.** It is stated that the equilibrium between supply and demand has been disturbed chiefly owing to the large absorption of the available supplies by Motor Car makers. In Germany and France similar difficulties, though not in so great a degree, are being experienced, and prices have risen, though not so rapidly as in England. Since last July the price of aluminium on the London market has advanced £40 and now stands at about a £170 for ingots.

❦

It is stated that a new **agreement** has lately come into force between the **Japanese Cotton Spinners' Union** and the **Nippon Yusen Kaisha,** whereby raw **cotton from Bombay** will in future be landed at Osaka instead of at Kobe. Of about 500,000 bales of cotton imported every year 60 to 70 per cent. is consumed in the Osaka district and it has hitherto been landed at Kobe and thence transferred to lighters. This has increased the cost of freight and caused much delay in delivery, while complaints have been made that owing to imperfect accommodation at the Kobe Customs, the cotton has been damaged, with consequent financial loss.

❦

The improvement of the **Hindustan-Tibet Route,** having been decided upon by the Government, is to be carried out in a systematic fashion. The survey of the route has been sanctioned to Shipki and will be done by the Punjab Public Works Department. It is hoped that before long a good road, suitable for pack animals, will be constructed from Simla, through Shipki to the Tibetan trading centres. As was mentioned in the *Indian Trade Journal* (page 119) every encouragement is being given to the development of Tibetan Trade by the Eastern route. From the improvement of the Hindustan Tibet Route through Simla and Shipki to Gartok, the trade of Western Tibet will receive considerable impetus.

❦

The Johannesburg Chamber's attention has been called by the London Chamber of Commerce to the **liability of persons dealing in goods bearing the mark "Registered."** Under the Trade Marks Act in force in the Transvaal, Act of 1902 (and under various other Acts in force in various Colonies, including amongst others Natal, Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania, West Australia, New Zealand, and Ceylon), it is an **offence to apply the word "Registered"** to a trade mark unless the mark is, in fact, registered in the particular Colony in which the goods are being sold. The law in this respect in the various Colonies is the same as in England, and the word "Registered" is held to imply that the mark is registered in the Colony in which the goods so marked are being sold, unless it is clearly stated to the contrary.

❦

Attention was lately drawn in *The Times* to the large number of **Consulates maintained by the United States in Canadian business centres.** No fewer than 12 of these offices are now to be abolished, however, those at Amherstburg, Brockville, Chatham, Goderich, Guelph, London (a city of 38,009 population), Peterborough, St. Thomas, Stratford, and Wallaceburgh, in Ontario, and Grenville and Stanbridge, in Quebec. Lack of business is the significant cause given. One argument used by the Washington Government in defence of the reduction is the smallness of British Consular representation in the United States, as compared with the number of American Consuls in Canada. It appears that there is not a single British Consul in Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, or Wisconsin, though these States include such cities as Detroit, St. Paul, and Minneapolis.

❦

A copy of the Draft Regulations governing **investments in Savings Banks** in the United Kingdom has been received. The Regulations relate both to the Trustee Savings Banks and to the Post Office Savings Banks. The points of difference between British and Indian Regulations are as follows:— The **minimum amount** that can be invested in a Post Office Savings Bank is 1*s.* in England and Rs. 10 in India. **The maximum** amount that can be invested in England **in one year** is £200, in India Rs. 1,000. The **maximum total amount** that can be placed to the credit of any one person in a Post Office Savings Bank is in England £500, and in India Rs. 5,000 in the case of an adult and Rs. 4,000 in the case of a minor. When Government Securities are sold or purchased transactions must be completed in England within 7 days after application from the depositor, whilst in India 10 days are allowed.

❦

There has just been published by the Japanese Consulate in London a pamphlet which will prove singularly interesting to all who are concerned in high finance and trade. It traces the **development of Japanese foreign trade** over a period of 20 years, and from it can be gathered a very clear idea of the wonderful progress that has been made by that empire. The total foreign trade has expanded from £6,854,000 in 1884 to £69,092,000 in 1904. It would be difficult to surpass this. If the ratio of increase in the last five years were to be maintained the foreign trade of Japan in 1909 would amount to £110,000,000. What is more, there is a possibility of this advance coming to pass, for the extension of railways in China and Korea will benefit Japanese commerce very greatly, whilst the cutting of the Panama canal will open vast new areas to the Japanese trader. The bulk of Japanese exports is still represented by raw materials rather than by manufactured articles.

❦

Major R. A. E. Benn, C.I. E., Assistant Political Agent at **Chagai,** in his *Report* for the week ending 8th of April 1906 says: The **trade figures for February 1906** show an increase of Rs. 77,581 over those for the corresponding month in 1905. The comparative figures are:—

	1906.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
Afghanistan . .	1,749	11,190	...	9,441
Persia . . .	91,558	19,334	72,224	...
Baluchistan . .	43,094	28,296	14,798	...
Total .	1,36,401	58,820	87,022	9,441

A daily service of trains between Quetta and Nushki was started on 1st April. The District Traffic Superintendent visited Nushki on 2nd. He proposes to build goods-sheds at Nushki Station as he now considers the amount of goods traffic is sufficient to justify expenditure on this object.

❦

Commercial Intelligence publishes details of a unique type of **railway waggon** which has been built by A. Leeds & Co., **for carrying** traction engines, steam ploughs, and other **heavy pieces of machinery** on a sugar plantation in lower Egypt. The length of the waggon over buffers is 33 ft. 7 ins., the body length 31 ft. and the width 10 ft. 6 ins. It is carried on bogies, the wheels of which are 2 ft. 4 ins. in diameter. At one end is a ramp which is hinged on to the end of the headstock of the underframe so as to permit of its being lowered on to the rails and so making a sloping platform up which the engines, etc., can be hauled. The length of the ramp is 10 ft. 11½ ins., and it is very solidly constructed. At the other end of waggon is a hand-winch which hauls the load on to the truck or lowers it. The buffers on the ramp end of the end train are hinged at the bottom, and by withdrawing a cotter-pin from the top, they drop out of the way of the ramp. The ramp is turned upward and fastened in a perpendicular position when the waggon is in running order. The struts which are placed under the ramp and the end of the waggon, so as to distribute the weight of the engine as it is being hauled on to the truck, are hoisted out of the way and secured by a hook under the headstocks. The waggon, with ramp and winch, weighs 11½ tons, and carries a load of 25 tons.

❦

The **copper industry** is the subject of an interesting and ingenious contribution to the United States *Engineering and Minning Journel* by Professor James Douglas. The author states that the present high cost of copper has excited speculation as to its cause, and he proceeds to argue, with a good show of reason, that the **price of copper is dependent on the production of pig iron.** To demonstrate this new and interesting theory Professor Douglas produces statistics ranging over the past ten years showing the total each year of the production of pig iron with increased percentages, and he compares these figures with similar statistics relating to the production of copper. On these Professor Douglas says:—

During the 10 years illustrated in the table the consumption of copper has been one ton of copper to 83 tons of iron, and so uniform is the proportionate use of the rarer to the baser metal that, assuming the bracketed years merely to correct variations due to shifting stocks or temporary disturbances, the ratio of consumption of copper to iron has never fallen below 1 to 80 nor risen above 1 to 87. But during 1905 the percentage in increase of pig iron over 1904 was 39·48 per cent., though the average for 10 years was only 12·25 per cent., while the increase of copper production in 1905 over 1904 was only 10·95 per cent., or only 3 per cent., above the average. If, therefore, there has been a demand for copper in the ratio of 1 to 83 of iron, to meet the requirements of the trade, the stocks of copper must be very low, and we need not attribute to artificial manipulation the existing scarcity.

❦

When it was announced that **cotton grown in Sind from Egyptian seed,** had been sold on the Liverpool market for 9*d.* per lb., we (page 151)

compared the price with that obtained for American and Sea Island cotton. Reuter now announces that this Sind-Egyptian cotton has sold at Liverpool for 10*d.* per lb. It is interesting to compare with this price the **quotation for various classes of cotton** on the Liverpool market on the latest date shown in English Market Reports to hand by this mail. These were :—

	Fair.	Gd. Fair.	F. G. F.	Good.	Fine.
Egypt'n br'n .	8¾	9⅜	10¼	11	11⅞
Do. Upper .	8 15/16	9¼	9 11/16	9 15/16*n.*	10 1/16*n.*
	L. M.	Mid.	G. M.	F. G. M.	M. F.
American .	5·89	6·05	6·25	6·33	6·55
	Mid. fair.		Fair.		Gd. fair.
Pernam .	5·79		6·19		6·45
Ceara . .	5·86		6·24		6·46
Paraiba .	5·78		6·16		6·40
Maceio . .	5·80*n.*		6·18*n.*		6·40
	Gd. Fr.	F. G. F.	Gd.	F. G.	Fine.
M. G. Broach .	...	...	5⅜	5 17/32	5 17/32
Bhownuggar .	4 7/16*n.*	4 3/8*n.*	4 11/16*n.*	4 15/16*n.*	4 15/16
No. 1 Oomra .	4 15/16*n.*	4 15/16*n.*	4 11/16*n.*	4 15/16*n.*	4 15/16
Bengal .	3 31/32	3 31/32	3 31/32	4 1/32	4 1/32
Tinnevelly .	5 1/16	5⅛	5½	...	...

The **British South Africa** Company report that the further consignment of 177 bales of **cotton** recently received from North-Eastern Rhodesia has realized a satisfactory figure in Liverpool, having fetched from 8*d.* to 9*d.* per lb., this being a distinct advance, both in quantity and price, over the previous supplies sent over for sale.

The following is a translation of the Introduction to the Commercial Statistics of Persia for the year ending 20th March 1905: "After a continuous increase during recent years the **commercial imports and exports of Persia** have during the last 12 months been re-acted upon by the events occurring in Russia and have suffered from the epidemic of cholera which has prevailed so intensely in all the provinces of the Empire. Considering the evil influence which these two circumstances were bound to exercise upon the economic activity of Persia, the general results shown in the statistical tables appended may be considered as relatively favourable, above all, if one also takes into account the fact that the exportation of native produce has been maintained approximately at the same figure as in the preceding year. The important diminutions in the sale of rice, fruits, precious stones, raw cotton, silk, etc., have been compensated by more extended dealings in gums, carpets, opium, hides, etc.

The importations from Russia, England, France and Austria have undergone diminution approximately in proportion to their total traffic with the Empire. The decline in total value of imports and exports combined when compared with the previous year represents a sum of 41,934,709 Krans which, taking into consideration the depreciation of exchange during the course of last year, represents a fall of $\frac{1}{13}$th. This large figure is to be accounted for by the circumstances mentioned above and is not to be attributed in any way to economic causes such as might occasion misgivings about the future of Persian commerce. In fact although the prejudicial causes continued in existence during the present year, there have been indications of a very appreciable and very encouraging recovery in the general commerce."

On the 25th December last a boycott of the **Hongkong trade viâ Tongking and Yunnan** was instituted by the Chinese merchants on account of a supposed intention on the part of the French Customs officials to enforce unreasonable regulations in respect of **cargo lost in transit by river** through French territory. Since it is possible that others have shared the misconception on which these merchants acted, it is well to explain its nature.

It should be understood that foreign (*i.e.*, non-French) goods imported into Yunnan *viâ* Tonking pay 20 per cent. only of the general tariff on proof that they really do pass into China and are not sold in French territory.

Towards the end of last year a Chinese merchant reported the loss of his merchandise (which was in transit) by the wreck of a boat on the Red River. The French Customs authorities appear to have entertained some doubt as to the genuineness of the loss, and before letting the goods off under the reduced tariff they instituted enquiries and asked for proof of the wreck. The Chinese traders in Yunnan became alarmed at this and took it to mean that even when a boat went down in the river with goods in transit they would have to pay the full tariff unless they were able to point out the goods lost to the nearest Customs authorities, which would of course be ridiculous. They also jumped to the conclusion that this was a new regulation of the French Custom House and they decided in order to protest against it to stop all further shipments from Hongkong for Yunnan *viâ* Tonking. This situation, however, only lasted nine days; for the Customs officials explained that there was no question of any new regulation or even of a new application of the old rule, and that even in the case under dispute they had not insisted on payment of the tariff in full but had caused enquiries to be made as to the authenticity of the wreck. The misunderstanding was thus completely removed and the trade went on as usual. The Government Departments of Indo-China are of course sincerely desirous of fostering the transit trade to Yunnan. At the same time with a complicated tariff like the

native traders. A considerable section of French public opinion in Tongking seems to be opposed to their Customs system on the ground that it prevents money from coming into the colony and that its application renders the administration unpopular with the natives. There does not, however, appear to be any likelihood of a substantial modification of the French Colonial Customs policy.

The importation of **motor-cars and cycles** into the United Kingdom is remarkable. The value of the imports in 1902 was £1,103,000, in 1903 £1,988,000, in 1904 £2,470,000 and in 1905 £3,447,000.

The **Court of Wards** in the Punjab having, through careful management of encumbered estates under their control, accumulated large funds now find some difficulty as to **investment.** The Lieutenant-Governor has ordered the Financial Commissioner to investigate the question, and to report as the most advantageous method of employing the surplus revenue of the estates under the Court.

According to the *Mexican Herald*, the cotton production of the Laguna section of the Republic where the bulk **of Mexican cotton** is raised, will reach about 70,000 bales this year. The constantly growing demands of the Mexican mills require the importation of ever increasing amounts from the United States each year, and it is believed that during 1906 there will be imported into the country something like 80,000 bales.

Information has been received from the Aden Chamber of Commerce to the effect that the only ***regular sailings* to Port Soudan** at present are by the Khedivial Line, once a fortnight from Aden. There are no regular sailings direct from Indian ports to the new Soudan port, but it is believed that the British India Steam Navigation Co., and the Austrian Llyods Co., contemplate establishing regular services to port Soudan as soon as there is sufficient development there.

The *Calcutta Gazette* of May 16, contains the draft notification of the rules which the Lieutenant-Governor proposes to make for carrying out the purposes of the **Bengal Smoke Nuisance Act.** The rules will be taken into consideration on the expiry of three months from this date, and the Lieutenant-Governor will be glad to consider any suggestions or observations which may be made by any person concerning them within that period. The draft rules may be seen at the office of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street, or in the Bengal Secretariat Office.

The correctness of certain figures showing the **import of cane and beet sugar into India,** published by us on page 188 of the issue of the *Indian Trade Journal* of the 10th of May, having been questioned, it is as well to explain that in the **official classification** of imports of sugar, owing to the impossibility of differentiation, it is assumed that sugar coming from the United Kingdom consists of beet and cane sugar in equal proportions. Imports from other European countries are assumed to consist entirely of beet sugar.

The Quebec Legislature, according to the *Board of Trade Journal*, has now passed the Bill, **requiring every commercial traveller** selling goods other than intoxicating liquors to obtain a license from the collector of provincial revenue for the district in which he begins his operations in the province. The license, which runs for six months, costs $50 (£10) in the case of travellers dealing with the wholesale trade, $100 (£20) in the case of those dealing with the retail trade, and $200 (£40) in the case of those dealing with the consumer. It is provided, however, that the tax shall be only $50 (£10) for taking orders for factory machinery and supplies not obtainable in the province, even though the dealing be with the consumer.

The recent **convention** modifying the treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation existing **between Italy and Siam** defines the status of Italian subjects resident in that country. Those persons only are considered to be Italian subjects on whom the Italian Civil Court confers Italian nationality, or who are the subjects of Italian dependencies. With regard to the jurisdiction to which in the future without any exception all Italian subjects in Siam will be subjected, the two Governments agree: In criminal matters, if the offender be an Italian subject, he shall be tried and punished by the Italian Judicial Consular Officer; in civil matters all actions brought by a Siamese against an Italian subject shall be heard before the Italian Judicial Consular Officer. If the defendant is a Siamese, the action shall be heard by the Siamese Court for Foreign Causes; but in the Provinces of Chiengmai, Lakhon, Lampoon and Nan, all civil and criminal cases to which an Italian subject may be a party, shall be heard before the Siamese International Court.

The Order in Council dealing with British Treaty Rights, capitulations, and grants, within the Kingdom of Siam, which was published in the *London Gazette*, of the 10th of April, is re-published for general information in the *Gazette of India*. All His Majesty's jurisdiction exercisable in Siam for the hearing and determination of crimi-

nal or civil matters, or for the maintenance of order, or for the control or administration of persons or property, or in relation thereto, is to be exercised under and according to the provisions of this Order. The Order covers the constitution and the power of courts; criminal matters; civil matters; procedure (criminal and civil); bills of sale; the King's regulations; registration; International Courts; and relations with foreign subjects and tribunals. The order provides that there shall be a Court, styled His Britannic Majesty's Court of Siam which will be presided over by a Judge, assisted by as many other Judges as may from time to time be required; that Consular officers shall hold district courts in certain places appointed, and that the Minister may, with the approval of the Secretary of State, appoint one or more Consular Officer to act as Travelling District Judges. The Court of Siam will ordinarily sit at Bangkok. Justice will be administered after the fashion obtaining in British India, the judges being assisted by juries or by assessors. The rules governing assessors and jurors are similar to those in force in India. The following are the principal **rules regulating the registration of British subjects**:—A register of British subjects shall be kept in the office of every Consulate in Siam. Every British subject, resident in Siam, shall in the month of January of every year register himself or herself at the Consulate of the Consular district within which he or she resides. If any British subject fails to obtain registration under the provisions of this Order, he shall not be entitled to be recognised or protected as a British subject in Siam, and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £2 for each instance of such failure, but he shall, although not registered, be subject to the jurisdiction of His Majesty's Courts in Siam. A person not of Asiatic descent, arriving in Siam and applying to be registered as a British subject, shall be so registered if the Consular officer is satisfied, after such inquiry as he may deem fit, that he is entitled to the status of a British subject. A person of Asiatic descent, arriving in Siam and applying to be registered as a British subject, shall be so registered if he (*a*) produces a passport as a British subject from British India or a British possession; or (*b*) files an affidavit or sworn declaration showing that he was born within His Majesty's dominions or within the territory of any Prince or State in India under the suzerainty of or in alliance with His Majesty, or that he has been naturalized in the United Kingdom; and (*c*) in either case gives satisfactory evidence of his identity.

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The **prices of opium** in the Calcutta market during the week ending 12th May 1906 were, per chest, as follows:—

Behar opium—Rs. 1,322; 1,319; 1,319; 1,316; 1,314; 1,315; 1,319.

Benares opium—Rs. 1,210; 1,207; 1,202; 1,209; 1,202; 1,203; 1,202.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 6th sale of 1906—Rs. 1,322; 1,319; 1,319; 1,316; 1,314; 1,315; 1,319.

China market, Hongkong (exchange Rs. 157 to 158 per 100 dollars).

Behar—$ 872; 872 to 872½; 870; 870; 867; 860; 862.

Shanghai (exchange Rs. 219 per 100 taels), two sales, one on 9th, 626 taels; the other on 11th 620 taels.

Benares—Two sales in the Hongkong market on 7th and 11th May on $802½ and 790, respectively; two sales, Shanghai, on 9th and 11th May on 596 taels and 570 taels, respectively.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending 5th May were—for A class (season 1904 to 1905) Rs. 1,400, for B class (season 1903 to 1904) Rs. 1,450 to 1,600, class C, old (season 1902 to 1903) Rs. 1,750. The latest China prices ascertained were for new classes (A and B) Rs. 1,455 to 1,571; old (class C) fetched at Hongkong Rs. 1,651 and at Shanghai Rs. 1,679.

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COTTON.

THE year 1905 was everywhere one of prosperity in every branch of the cotton trade, and Indian cotton growers, spinners and weavers, as well as the traders in piece goods, had a full share of this prosperity, which shows no sign of diminishing in the opening months of 1906. The future, too, looks hopeful, for prices are firm for raw cotton, and yarn, notwithstanding the great outturn of both. The piece goods market has also been, and continues to be, healthy.

It is difficult, almost impossible, to get at exact figures for the world's annual supply of raw cotton. In the first place some of the cotton-producing countries, Asiatic Russia, and the Central and South American States for instance, do not publish reports showing their production, in the second place many discrepancies occur in estimates, owing to their being prepared in different countries on widely dissimilar dates.

In an interesting estimate of the world's production of cotton entering into commercial channels during the year ending the 31st August 1905, prepared for *Commercial America* by Mr. J. J. Macfarlane, the total is put at about 19,900,000 bales, of which 13,693,000 bales, or about three quarters, represented American cotton. The Indian production is given as 2,960,000 bales, and the Egyptian contribution as 1,118,000 bales. The difference between the figures in this estimate, and in the official Indian estimate is explained when it is known that Mr. Macfarlane's year ends with August, and the Indian official year with March. The American statistician's figures, however, show very fairly the proportion in which the countries in question contribute to supply the world's demand for the raw article.

So steady has been the increase in the number of the world's spindles, and so steady the growth in the demand for cotton yarn and finished goods, that the supply of raw cotton from America is nearly always insufficient to cope with the demand. Thus prices have been kept up very steadily. The year 1904, opened with middling American at nearly 7*d.* per ℔. on the Liverpool market. The price by the beginning of February had gone up to 8·96*d.* The year was one of wild speculation, and prices fluctuated but declined through the twelve months, till in December of that year middling American sold at 3·63*d.* per ℔. 1905 began with this cotton well below 4*d.* In April the price was so low that in America there was talk of contracting the area under cotton in order to ensure remunerative prices to the planters. This was not done, however, and the last American crop was a bumper one. On the Liverpool market, however, prices advanced. They reached 4¾*d.* before the end of May, and passed 6*d.* in July. The spinners in Europe then considered the matter so serious that, at the instance of France and Austria, a meeting of the Committee of the International Federation of Cotton Spinners was held in London to consider the position. The price of middling American stood at about 6*d.* through August to November, when there was a slight rise. The opening price in January 1906 was 6·10*d* falling to 6·07 at the close. February opened with middling American at 5·94, the price falling to 5·76 at the close of the month; March, however, brougth a rise, the price on the 1st being 5·83, rising to 6·03 on the 30th.

In 1903-04 the short cotton crop in America, and the height to which prices had been forced by speculation, caused a great demand for Indian cotton, and raised the value of exports to an unprecedented amount. In 1904-05 reaction set in with the appearance of a gigantic American crop, and the fall in prices that resulted when spinners found there was no fear of any insufficiency in the world's supply. The export of cotton from India fell off very greatly, though prices did not drop till the second-half of that year. In 1905-06 exports of raw cotton showed a recovery, and were 30·7 per cent. better in quantity than in the previous year, and only 6·8 per cent. behind the record year 1903-04. The rise in the value of exported cotton was, however, not quite as great as that in quantity.

The exports of raw cotton from India have been as follows:—

Year.	Cwt.	Rs.
1903-04 .	7,931,000	24,37,61,464
1904-05 .	5,658,000	17,43,46,872
1905-06 .	7,395,000	21,32,74,900

The following figures showing the countries to which India exported her raw cotton during the years 1900-1906, make very clear the important position that Japan holds as a purchaser of Indian cotton. Europe has been buying Indian cotton in smaller quantities of recent years, but it is certain that as this country grows more long stapled cotton Europe will take more and more of it, and, judging from the prices realised in the Liverpool market by Sind-Egyptian, the benefit to Indian growers will be considerable;—

	1900-01	1901-02	1902-03	1903-04	1904-05	1905-06
Japan . .	634	2,256	1,722	1,680	1,951	2,231
Germany . .	656	754	1,122	1,568	1,025	1,384
Belgium . .	599	413	779	1,089	668	1,127
Italy . .	421	520	647	1,001	627	803
Austria-Hungary	331	373	569	705	456	615
United Kingdom	381	166	372	652	347	371
France . .	279	267	419	560	235	482
China . .	109	559	196	165	171	185
Spain . .	57	67	111	265	127	140

The area under cotton, together with the production and prices for the last 12 years may be gauged from the following table:—

Year.	Acres under cotton.	Production (Bales of 400 lbs. each).	Price in Bombay, per candy of 784 lbs.
			Rs. A.
1894-95 . .	14,959,103	2,223,029	215 0
1895-96 . .	14,515,662	2,670,388	202 8
1896-97 . .	14,643,495	2,264,890	217 4
1897-98 . .	13,683,437	2,473,033	196 0
1898-99 . .	14,602,892	2,915,269	175 0
1899-1900 . .	11,884,576	1,090,168	150 8
1900-01 . .	14,231,150	2,953,381	210 0
1901-02 . .	14,506,295	2,744,591	215 0
1902-03 . .	16,581,046	3,367,030	212 0
1903-04 . .	18,042,781	3,168,113	207 4
1904-05 . .	19,900,000	3,826,000	248 0
1905 . .	20,400,000	3,249,000	215 8
			January 1906 255 0

Indian imports of raw cotton in 1904-05 were 192,554 cwt., valued at Rs. 63,85,391, exceeding the imports in the previous year ten and a half

INDIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

MADRAS.

Factories.—READ G. O. of the Madras Government, dated the 21*st ultimo*, requesting the opinion of the Chamber on the question of restricting by legislation the hours of labour of adult males in factories and modifying the provisions of the law regarding the employment of children. **Resolved** that Government be addressed to the effect that so far as this Chamber can ascertain there is no necessity for the suggested official interference at present. In this Presidency the hours of work in Mills appear to be reasonable and the operatives contented. Indeed, seeing that labour for factory purposes is not superabundant in this country, unless the wishes of the labourers are consulted a short supply of labour is certain to ensue. Further that labour is not disposed to allow itself to be driven hard in this country can be inferred from the fact that in an Indian Cotton Mill, four to five hands are required to do the work that one hand would do in Lancashire. In these circumstances the Chamber deprecates any State interference with adult Indian labour.

As regards the employment of children the Chamber has no reason to think that children physically unfit to work are employed or that false personation to any extent is prevalent.

The Adulteration of Indian wheat.—READ letter, dated the 12th instant, from the Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, enclosing copy of a letter from the Government of India, dated the 10th March 1906, on the subject of the adulteration of Indian wheat and requesting the favour of the Chamber's opinion thereon. **Resolved** that the Collector be informed that as Madras has no wheat trade the Chamber regrets that it is not in a position to offer any opinion on the subject, beyond what it has already stated in its letter to the Government of India, dated October 4th, 1905, copy of which will be enclosed.

Railway Risk Notes.—READ letter, dated the 11th instant, from the Punjab Chamber of Commerce, with enclosure regarding railway risk notes, and the claim of the railways to be exempt from liability for loss by theft in transit. **Resolved** that the Punjab Chamber of Commerce be informed that this Chamber is in entire accord with the views expressed in the letter under reference, and that it appears necessary to address the Government of India on the subject.

The Supply of Stores for Public Service.—READ a G. O. of the Madras Government, dated the 14th ultimo, regarding the appointment of a Committee to report on the question of the supply of stores for public service. **Resolved** that the Government be addressed to the effect that the G.O. under reference only reached this Chamber on the 10th April, after the Indian Stores Committee had left Madras, and that the latter did not place itself, while here, in communication with the Chamber. In these circumstances the Chamber regrets that its Members were not able to make use of the facilities offered by the visit of the Committee.

The Chamber Arbitrations.—READ a letter, dated the 2nd instant from Mr. A. D. Jackson, with enclosures, regarding Chamber arbitrations. **Resolved** that the selection of arbitrators for the settlement of disputes submitted to the Chamber in connection with Imports shall in future rest with the Imports Sub-Committee.

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COCANADA.

Commercial Holidays for 1906 under the Negotiable Instruments Act.—READ letter, dated 1st March 1906, from the Madras Chamber and also copy of the letter addressed by the Madras Chamber to the Secretary to the Government.

"**Resolved** to address Government in support of the request made by the Madras Chamber, *viz.*, that Empire day the 24th May, and the King's birthday the 9th November, be annually commemorated by general Commercial Holidays throughout India under the Negotiable Instruments Act."

Metric Weights and Measures.—READ letters, dated 23rd February 1906 and 16th March 1906 received from the Decimal Association.

"This Chamber will do all it can to keep the subject of the introduction of the system of Metric weights and measures to the front in all resolutions of Chamber of Commerce."

Godavery Valley Railway.—READ letter from the Agent and Manager, Madras Railway, dated Madras, 5th April 1906, *re* proposed alignment of Godavery Valley Railway.

"**Resolved** to reply that the alignment, this Chamber had in view when it addressed the Railway Board as per its letter of 22nd March, was the same as that shown in the map forwarded, *viz.*, the left bank of the Godavery."

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KARACHI.

Linking up of Bharatpur and Agra with a broad gauge line.—READ letter, dated 26th April 1906, from the Secretary, Bombay Chamber of Commerce, forwarding for the information of this Chamber, copy of a letter addressed by his Chamber to the Railway Board regarding the linking up of Bharatpur and Agra with a broad gauge line; and inviting the support of this Chamber in the matter.

RESOLUTION.—To be acknowledged, circulated and recorded.

Registration of "Trade Marks" by notices published in the "Indian Trade Journal."—READ letter No. 3210, dated 26th April 1906, from the Under Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, intimating in reply to the Chamber's representation, that the Government of India have altogether abandoned the proposal to allow the owners of trade marks to publish their claims in the "Indian Trade Journal."

RESOLUTION.—To be circulated and recorded.

Sixth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire.—READ letter, dated 2nd April 1906, from the Secretary, London Chamber of Commerce, intimating that it has been definitely decided to hold the Sixth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire during the second week in July next, the opening meeting to take place on Tuesday, the 10th July, and forwarding the first edition of the programme containing the Resolutions submitted by various Chambers participating in the Congress.

Resolution.—To be circulated amongst members of the Chamber and suggestions invited.

Proposed reduction in the Postal Money Order Commission.—READ letter, dated 21st April 1906, from the Secretary, United Planters' Association of Southern India, Bangalore, forwarding, with reference to previous correspondence regarding the proposal made by his Association for a reduction of the Money Order Commission, copy of a letter received by his Association from the Director-General of the Post Office of India, in which the Director-General states he is unable, for reasons detailed in the letter, to entertain the proposal, but that it must not be understood that he is averse to any reduction in the existing rates for inland money orders which may, in the future, become feasible.

Resolution.—To be acknowledged, circulated and recorded.

Contamination of European Sugar in the process of purification.—READ letter No. 1801, dated 23rd April 1906, from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, stating in reply to the Chamber's letter of 29th March 1906 regarding the alleged contamination of European Sugar in the process of purification, that no one in India appears to possess special information on the point mentioned by the Chamber, and enclosing a copy of a passage from Mr. Noel Deerr's Sugar House Notes and Tables describing the process of purification. The Director-General further states that he is continuing his enquiries both in India and Europe, and that he will communicate with the Chamber again.

Resolution.—To be acknowledged, circulated and recorded.

Bombay-Sind Connection Railway.—READ letter, dated 23rd April 1906, from the Secretary, Cutchi Union, Bombay, acknowledging receipt of a copy of the Chamber's letter to the Government of Bombay on the subject of the alignment of the Bombay-Sind Connection Railway, and requesting to be furnished with a copy of the Government's reply thereto, and making remarks. Also read letter, dated 3rd May 1906, from the same, drawing the Chamber's attention to a paragraph in the "Pioneer" of 30th April, in which it is stated that a Railway Survey for the Bombay-Sind extension, by a northerly route, avoiding the State of Cutch, is proceeding steadily, and that it is believed that a satisfactory alignment will be found. The Secretary, Cutchi Union, suggests that the Chamber should now make representation to the Government of India and the Secretary of State in the matter.

Resolution.—The Secretary, Cutchi Union, Bombay, to be informed that the Committee do not see their way to take any further steps in the matter at present.

Customs Duty on goods short landed by steamers.—READ letter, dated 23rd April 1906, from the Under Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, forwarding, in reply to the Chamber's letter of 12th April 1906, regarding the present system of levying customs duty on contents found short in packages on importation, a copy of his letter, dated 17th April 1906, and of its enclosure addressed to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce in reply to a similar representation, in which the Government of India state that for reasons mentioned in the letter they are unable to alter the decision already given in this matter, as a relaxation of the orders might open the door to fraud and collusion.

RESOLUTION.—To be circulated and recorded.

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UNITED KINGDOM—LIVERPOOL.

The **annual meeting** of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce was held on the 23rd April. The Lord Mayor (Alderman Ball) presided at the first part of the meeting. Sir Alfred Jones, the president, who subsequently took the chair, moved the adoption of the report. He referred to the question of the proposed abolition of light dues, expressing the hope that this tax might cease to be a direct charge on shipowners. With regard to the proposed transfer of the Liverpool Custom-house from its present site, in Canning-place to the George's dock site, he said the city, in gift of site and in expenditure on buildings, had offered an outlay of £100,000, and the Treasury had so far been asked in vain for a contribution of the same amount towards the erection of a suitable building. The sum was only a small part of the annual increase in receipts from Custom duties at Liverpool, which now reached six millions sterling per annum. They would press until they succeeded in obtaining this change. Liverpool, he complained, had been neglected by the Board of Trade in the matter of selecting members for the three **Advisory Committees on Commercial Intelligence.** With respect of the Suez Canal dues, they hoped soon to see the charges which were at present so heavy a burden on vessels in the Eastern trades considerably reduced. As regards the work of the African trade section, there had been pure water supplies in the West African colonies, health measures, including the stamping out of the small-pox, formation of railways, and the keeping down of their charges. They had had to complain of the enforcement of tolls on the roads from Ashanti to cape coast, and they trusted that the financial arrangements would shortly be made by the Colonial Secretary which would do away with the necessity of collecting taxes in this objectionable form. The animal and meat trades section continued to advocate the removal of restrictions on the importation of

Canadian live cattle under suitable regulations as to the prevention of disease. He also referred to the great progress of the work of the **British Cotton-Growing Association,** and the highly useful work accomplished by the School of Tropical Medicine and the Liverpool University Institute of Commercial Research. Colonel Goffey seconded the resolution. Mr. Harmood Banner, M. P., said they were indebted to the President of the Board of Trade for having introduced the **Shipping Bill.** Mr. R. R. Cherry, M. P., said in reference to the Custom-house, Liverpool had a very good case, and he trusted they would be able to induce the Treasury to yield to their appeal. Mr. David MacIver, M. P., and Major Seely, M. P., also supported the resolution, and the report was adopted. Sir Alfred Jones was re-elected president of the Chamber.

A report received from the British minister at Christiania states that **calcium carbide** is manufactured in Norway at Hafslund, Borregard, Notodden, and Meraker. The exports rose from 5,258 tons in 1904 to nearly 9,000 tons in 1905.

In report from the British minister at Christiania **on mining in Norway** in 1905, it is stated that the output of the Sulitjelma mine rose to about 87,000 tons. A new smelting furnace, invented by the manager, is said to reduce the expense of smelting to one-half or even one-third of the former cost. The system will also be used in the Alten copper works in Finmarken. The Bosmo mine in Nordland produced the same quantity as in former years, about 25,000 pyrites. The Roros copper works have been worked under somewhat more favourable conditions than of late; about 30,000 tons were produced. Of other and more important copper mines, the Kjoli, Killingdal, and Mandfield may be mentioned, the last named being expected to produce before long about 60,000 tons annually. It is stated that there are very extensive deposits at Rostvangen that are at present not available on account of difficulties of transport. The exportation of pyrites from Norway has increased considerably within the last year or two, and the Norwegian cellulose factories now also absorb a large quantity.

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TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

THE "Board of Trade Journal," published on the 26th April in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations, gives particulars about—

Russia.—Proposed Free Importation of Fish Tins and of Tinned Fish. Suspension of Proposed Tariff Reductions on Naphtha and Coal.

Japan.—New Draft Customs Tariff.

Dominion of Canada.—Importation of Spring Scales.

Australian Commonwealth.—Customs Decisions. Drawbacks.

Natal.—Removal of suspension of Import Duty on Wheat, etc.

Gambia,—Customs Regulations.

Russia.—Withdrawal of Free Importation of Fish at Arctic Ports.

Russia—Roumania.—Commercial Convention.

Sweden.—Increase of Import Duty on Arrack and Rum.

Norway.—Tariff Modifications.

Denmark.—Law relating to Marking of Agricultural Produce.

Germany.—Import Duty on Currants. Regulations respecting Free Admission of Products of German Fisheries. Regulations respecting Free Admission of Materials for Shipbuilding. Importation of Malting Barley for the Manufacture of Kiln-dried Malt for Export. Modification of the Sugar Law Regulations.

France.—Forthcoming Reduction of "Refining Tax" on Sugar.

Spain.—Rate of Exchange for Adjustment of Customs Duties Payable in Gold.

Italy—New Commercial Treaty with Austria-Hungary.—Schedule of Italian Import Duties.

Bulgaria.—Duty-Free Admission of Samples of Tissues. Tariff Classification.

Cuba.—Transhipment of Goods. Tariff Classification of Emery Cloth. Consumption Duty on "Sparklets."

San Salvador.—Import Duties—How Payable.

Argentine Republic.—Reduction of Duty on Jute and Pita Yarns.

Ecuador.—New Customs Tariff.

We give the following particulars of changes **interesting to Indian Trade:—**

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RUSSIA.

Proposed Tariff Reductions on Naphtha and Coal—Suspension of.

With reference to the notice relative to the proposed temporary free admission of naphtha and reduction of the duty on coal imported into Russia through ports on the Black Sea or on the Sea of Azov, "if the necessity of such measures be proved," the Board of Trade are now in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that there is no immediate intention on the part of the Russian Government of putting these reduced duties or exemptions into operation—the present supply of coal and naphtha being considered adequate.

NATAL.

Suspension of Import Duty on Wheat, etc.—Removal of.

The "Natal Government Gazette" for 20th March last contains a Proclamation (No. 45 of 1906) notifying the removal, with effect from 20th March 1906, of the suspension of duty, as provided for by Section 11 of the Customs Duties Act of 1903, thus making wheat grown in any place not within the union, and flour, wheat and wheaten meal, including pollard, manufactured from other than South African wheat, when imported into, and intended for consumption in the Colony of Natal, again liable to duty according to the Tariff.

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FRANCE.

"Refining Tax" on Sugar—Forthcoming Reduction of.

Article 15 of the French Budget Law for 1906, the text of which appears in the "Journal Officiel" for the 18th April, provides that from the 1st September, 1906, the "refining tax" on sugar is to be reduced from 2 frs. to 1 fr. per 100 kilogs. of refined sugar.

The "refining tax" is levied on all refined sugar imported into or refined in France.

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CONSULAR REPORT.

ARGENTINA.

MR. CONSUL ROSS, in his report on the trade and commerce of the Consular district of **Buenos Ayres** for the year 1905, states that the exports from the Buenos Ayres Consular district during 1905 were valued at £44,814,900, and the imports £35,931,000. There has been a considerable increase of trade in 1905, as compared with 1904, when the exports were £33,199,600 and the imports £33,106,600. There has been an immense increase in frozen beef exports, 80 per cent. of which was sent to the United Kingdom, the rest to South Africa. There has been a substantial increase in wool. As usual, the bulk of the wool has been taken by France and Germany. The amount taken by the United Kingdom was 11,400 tons, being 6,000 more than in 1904, an increase greater than that of any other country. There was a large increase in wheat, and also a very substantial increase (44 per cent.), in the quantity of flour exported. In quebracho extract and logs there was again a large increase. Germany takes the bulk of the logs, the United States of America of the extract. The United Kingdo- based a larger quantity of extract than before. -sider-ably more than half the logs were shipped to order. The increase of 9·5 per cent. in imports is not so large as that of the exports. The total is the largest on record.

In August 1905, regulations regarding the port of Buenos Ayres were established. In these provision is made for the berthing of various classes of vessels, for a minimum amount of a day's discharge of cargo (200 tons for iron and 400 tons for general cargo), for entering and leaving the port after dark, for loading or discharging in the roads, for the discharge of petroleum, etc. At the present time the accumulation of vessels is so great that in most of the docks vessels are lying three deep on both sides, and complaints of delays are made. Opportunities for extension of British trade appear to exist in every direction and in every line of business. The United Kingdom or her colonies contribute to all of the 763 headings under which imports are classified, except in special products grown only in certain districts, such as oranges, petroleum, coffee, wood-pulp, certain timbers, etc., but although this is the case the British contribution to many classes of manufactured goods is still very small. Good travellers are indispensable, as the personal element enters largely into business. The market for all goods save those connected with farming is limited, as the city population is small. The cost of living is very high; 1 dol. paper (1*s.* 9*d.*) has the purchasing power of 1*s.* Advertising of the most extensive and elaborate character is much in vogue. Spanish is the language of the country and the Argentine paper dollar the currency. The metric system of weights and measures is the one used. There are no hard-and-fast terms of business. The terms and time of payment differ in every line and often with different houses in the same line, and are matters for arrangement.

It is said that the Chargeurs Reunis is to run a bi-monthly service to and from Yokohama, and a line to Japan has also been spoken of. Several steamers brought cargoes of hessians, etc., direct from India. British steamers arrive from and go to all parts of the world as cargo is offered. There are no new ports and harbours: improvements have been made in Buenos Ayres and Bahia Blanca to accelerate the export of cereals. Shipbuilding is restricted to lighters and small sailing craft. There

are two dry docks in Buenos Ayres and one in Bahia Blanca, and in the former place are several large and well-equipped engineering shops, where large repairs can be done.

Steamers frequently come to Buenos Ayres in ballast. The average rate for chartering steamers from Buenos Ayres to Europe during the year has been 14*s.* 6*d.* per ton, ranging from 11*s.* to 18*s.* 6*d.* This market has not been a profitable one for shipowners. During the year the passenger service has been improved. No new British Company has taken up the passenger service; the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company has placed on this route a new vessel of 10,000 tons, thoroughly well appointed. At intervals during the year this company provides a weekly passenger service. During the passenger season there is a great demand for berths, and everything available is taken up weeks in advance. Many passengers travel in cargo liners or go to Monte Video to embark in vessels calling there. The German, French, and Italian passenger steamers which run from Buenos Ayres provide excellent accommodation, and take a large share of this trade. There is a considerable amount of coasting trade with the southern part of the Republic carried on by the steamers of the Hamburg South American Company. This is a business that is worth nursing. There is an immense trade carried on between Buenos Ayres, Monte Video, and Paraguay, and many intermediate ports. The passengers carried in a year must number many thousands, and the cargoes thousands of tons. There is a steamer to Monte Video, one returning every night. On the regular voyage to Ascuncion the steamers stop several times a day, and at every place passengers and cargo are discharged or loaded. This business is practically in the hands of one company. It is continually on the increase, and must be a very profitable undertaking. The excess of immigrants over emigrants during 1905 has been estimated at 140,000. More than half of the immigrants were Italians and one-third were Spaniards. British immigrants did not amount to a couple of thousand.

Apart from railway extension there have been no improvements in the means of communication by land. The problem of transport between farm and port is one of the most important in the country. At present the only roads are earth tracks. The distance of a piece of land from the railway is a most important factor in determining its value. The most important of the railway works at present on hand are probably the extension of the narrow-gauge line from Rosario to Buenos Ayres, thus connecting the Federal capital with Jujuy in the north and Rioja and Catamarca in the north-west, and the scheme for having a train ferry from Entre Rios across the Parana to some port in the province of Buenos Ayres from which a line on the Entre Rios gauge will be run into Buenos Ayres, and the Pacific Railway Company's extension connecting Bahia Blanca with San Rafael and other parts of the west of the Republic. Some very difficult and important work is being done on the extension of the narrow-gauge line north of Jujuy towards Bolivia and on the branch of the same line from Perico *vid* Ledesma towards Oran. These two lines run along old established track routes to Bolivia. The country they pass through is very mountainous and rough and is traversed by wide rivers. It is anticipated that when completed these lines will tap the trade of the central and eastern regions of Bolivia.

The year 1905 has for the Argentine Republic been one of unprecedented prosperity, both the export and import trades having been larger than in any previous year. There were no political troubles to speak of during the year. The weather was favourable, and the crops were good. Stock did well and there were no epidemic diseases. Freights were low, and prices for cattle, sheep, and all products were well maintained. In some cases they were high. There has been a large influx of money. Rents and prices of land and other property have risen immensely. A very distinctive feature of the year has been the facility with which large sums of money have been obtained for industrial enterprises of various kinds.

Mr. Vice-Consul Cumming, writing from **Bahia Blanca** reports as follows :—

About 1,000,000 tons of wheat have been shipped from Bahia Blanca in ocean-going steamers during 1905, and it is expected that the 1906 crop will be about equal to last year. The freezing factory of Messrs. Sansinena and Co. at Cuatreros is being extended, additional freezing chambers are now in course of erection which will about double their storage accommodation, prices of live sheep are well maintained, and there is always a ready market for the farmers on the spot, instead of having to send the stock as they did a few years ago to Buenos Ayres. The Great Southern Railway Company's wharf accommodation for shipping is just about the same as it was in 1905, and at present there are 36 steamers in the stream waiting for berths. The Buenos Ayres and Pacific Railway Company are getting on with the extension of their wharves, and expect to have accommodation for six or eight steamers in 1907. At present they can only accommodate two ocean-going steamers, and these berths are nearly always occupied discharging the railway company's own material. The new light-house at the entrance to the estuary of Bahia Blanca, situated in lat. 39°2 S., long. 61·12 W., was opened on January 1, 1906, and will prove of great benefit to shipping making for this port. The population of the town and port of Bahia Blanca is estimated to be 30,000. Puerto Belgrano has not been much used during the past year; the dry dock has not for a long time been occupied by any foreign vessel, nor even by those of the Argentine Navy. There is still a rumour of Government making a commercial port of Arroyo Pareja, near the present naval dock.

WEATHER SUMMARY.

For the week *ending the 12th May 1906.*

During the period under review, there was general rain in Eastern Bengal and Assam, Bengal, Kashmir and North Burma, light scattered showers on the Bombay Deccan and on the Malabar Coast. Thunderstorms were reported from the Kumaon Himalayas and duststorms, with rain, from the south of the Central Provinces. In Kashmir, snow had been reported from Skardu and Dras; while a thunderstorm, with hail, appeared at Sonemarg. Hail storms had also occurred at Chaibassa and Chakrata. The principal amounts of rainfall were :—Chittagong 3·02″, Belgaum 2·12″, Silchar 2·01″, Mercara 1·96″, Sibsagar 1·93″, Narayanganj 1·77″, Skardu 1·65″, Darjeeling 1·62″, Cherra Poonjee 1·56″, Mymensingh 1·48″, Calcutta 1·40″ and Wellington 1·19″.

On the 6th instant the wind at Calcutta and Saugor Island changed from south-west to south and moist air from the Bay was carried into South-West Bengal, but skies were clear there and mean temperature continued from 2° to 7½° in excess. Mean temperature rose over the United Provinces, the Panjab the North-West Frontier Province, Rajputana, Central India, the Central Provinces and Gujarat, and was above normal over practically the whole of India except in Kashmir and on the Madras Coast. On the 7th, the precipitation in Kashmir was associated with a large decrease of pressure in Upper India, and skies were heavily overcast in the extreme north. Both day and night temperatures rose in Kashmir, the Panjab, the North-West Frontier Province, Sind and Rajputana. The maximum temparature of Jacobabad was 118°, the highest as yet recorded this year. The trough of low pressure moved away from the Himalayas so that moist winds from the Bay appeared in Bengal and skies had become heavily overcast. These conditions, combined with abnormally high temperatures, were favourable for the occurrence of thunderstorms. On the 8th the rain in Bengal and Eastern Bengal was associated with dust, thunder and hailstorms; these had cooled the air to a great extent, and the night temperatures were about 2° in defect: but maximum temperature was still on the average 5° above normal. The trough of low pressure continued to move away from the Himalayas and thus allowed the winds from the Bay to extend up the Gangetic plain. The barometer fell again in the extreme north and skies in Kashmir were still heavily overcast. Temperature was about 6° in excess in the Panjab, Rajputana and the United Provinces; the only parts of India where the weather was cooler than usual were Kashmir, the Konkan and Ganjam. Allahabad reported a maximum temperature of 115·3°, the highest recorded there in May since 1897. On the 9th, the barometer rose in Northern India, especially in the North Panjab, and the depression in Upper India decreased in intensity without appreciably shifting its position. Cloud had decreased in Burma, in the centre of which skies were clear: but it had increased considerably in North-East India, the east of the United Provinces and the southern half of the Peninsula. On the 10th, owing to the rapid rise of pressure in Upper India, weather in Kashmir was becoming settled and cloud as well as precipitation decreased; the depression in the Panjab disappeared. Cloud had decreased in North-East India and remained almost unchanged in the Peninsula, while humidity had increased in South India. On the 11th, the area of precipitation extended northward in the Peninsula and local thunder showers occurred south of the latitude of Masulipatam except in the East Coast districts. An area of low pressure existed over Chota Nagpur, Bihar and the east of the United Provinces, and winds at the head of the Bay had changed from a south-easterly to a south-westerly direction. Pressure was low off the South Konkan Coast and winds were irregular, while cloud as well as rain increased in the southern half of the Peninsula except on the East Coast. Humidity had decreased in Chota Nagpur and slightly in Orissa, but had increased in the United Provinces and the Deccan. On the 12th, pressure fell rapidly in Upper India. Temperature also fell in the area of rainfall in North-East India and rose in the United Provinces, the Panjab and the North-West Frontier Province. Cloud was again seen in Upper Burma. Skies were clear in Central and Upper India, excluding the hill stations.

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TELEGRAM FROM THE VICEROY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Crop Prospectors: Week *Ending 28th April last.*

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh: Spring harvest outturn generally fair; prices have fallen in eighteen districts; markets well supplied but fodder is scarce in parts; cholera has caused people to leave works in three affected districts. **Punjab:** prices falling or stationary; yield of spring harvest good, except in the case of unirrigated areas in Delhi Division; fodder continues scarce in many places, where condition of cattle poor; prices are high and practically steady; decrease in numbers on relief in Ajmer-Merwara due to harvest and opening of works distant from areas where relief previously provided. **Central India:** Outturn spring crops poor in Bundelkhand and Malwa; fodder is scarce in parts of Gwalior. **Bombay:** Distress is increasing gradually but not yet acute; condition of people generally good; cholera in places. **Hyderabad:** Fodder and water continue scarce in many places; advances for well-sinking giving employment to people. In other Provinces prospects fair or good. Number of persons in receipt of relief (in thousands): **United Provinces of Agra and Oudh,** 174; **Punjab,** 10; **Ajmer and Rajputana,** 91; **Central India,** 116; **Baroda,** 4; **Bombay,** 76; **Hyderabad,** 5; total 476.

SUGAR INDUSTRY AND TRADE.

VI.

SUGAR CARTELS.

The **cartels** were trusts with this distinctive feature that their constitution reposed ultimately upon the official estimates of individual productive capacity, and so became linked with and governed by the provisions of the law.

The first cartel was that established in Austria-Hungary in 1897-98. That in Germany did not come into existence till June 1900; and it followed the Austrian lines except in the matter of determining the retrospective average prices on which differences were to be paid.

The cartel applied only to the home market; and makers of raw sugar were free to export their product either in the raw or in the refined state.

It has been explained in an earlier number of the Journal that, in the presence of effective internal competition, the maximum profit obtainable in the domestic markets was determined by the amount of the bounty upon exportation. The protective import duties largely exceeded the bounties; and the prime object of the cartels was to stop the internal competition and approximate the internal price to that at which it would become possible to place imported sugar on the market. There were really two distinct combinations, one among the refiners and one among the producers of raw sugar. Those producers of raw sugar who were also refiners belonged to both combinations; and the two combinations associated themselves on the basis of exclusive dealing. The refiners bound themselves to take their raw sugar only from those producers who belonged to the ring, and the producers bound themselves not to refine for the domestic market and not to sell to any refiners who were not members of the refiners' cartel. The refiners further agreed that whenever the price of raw sugar fell below m. 25·50 per quintal they would make over to the cartel for subsequent distribution among the factories the difference, not exceeding m. 6·80 per quintal, between the average price for the month and the standard price of m. 25·50. In effect, therefore, the refiners guaranteed to pay the producers of raw sugar a uniform price of m. 25·50; and the danger of such an arrangement between individuals would of course be that the seller would lose all incentive to obtain the best price for his goods. But in the case before us the compensation was not paid to the individual with reference to the prices he himself obtained, but was paid to all producers on the basis of the average price obtained; so that if a producer accepted a price below that which was accepted by others, he would recover in compensation only a small fraction of what he gave away in price.

Nor was the compensation or bonus calculated with reference to the quantity of sugar sold by a particular factory, but upon a fixed scale which was determined by the official estimates of productive capacity, otherwise called the official allotment. This official allotment was fixed at the constitution of the cartels, and remained unchanged to the end. For if it had been possible for a manufacturer to increase his allotment in subsequent years by a present increase of output, there would certainly have been over-production and consequent disunion. Even as it was, there were moments when serious disputes arose.

And while the official estimate of production governed the distribution of bonus to the makers of raw sugar, so it determined the extent to which the refiners were to participate in the exploitation of the Home market.

From 1895 to 1903, the price in the **Russian market** was maintained by more direct official agency. At the beginning of the year Government appointed what total quantity of sugar might be sold for home consumption on payment of the ordinary excise, what percentage of that total might be supplied by each individual, and what further fixed quantity might be sold for home consumption on payment of a double excise. Seeing that this double excise was prohibitive and that the extent to which each factory might exploit the market was determined with regard to its estimated productive capacity, Government virtually fixed the prices and controlled the trade.

One feature of the Russian law merits study in all countries where the distances are great. A manufacturer's right to put a certain quantity of sugar on the internal market without extra excise was conveyed by a **certificate** and this was transferable and **negotiable.** It therefore became possible for a refiner situated near the frontier to send all his produce abroad, and to sell at full value his domestic "put" of sugar to another manufacturer situated near the main domestic markets. This arrangement naturally effected a considerable saving in freights and other charges, and helped to keep Russian sugar in foreign markets at reasonable prices. The system was much simpler and sounder than that in France which maintained the "Détaxe de distance," and "détaxe de cabotage" whereby an inducement was offered to the unnecessary transport of sugar between remote points. For in this latter case the service of carriage is rendered, the loss is incurred, and it is only distributed over the industry in general. Under the Russian system the unnecessary transportation is not facilitated but obviated.

The result of these arrangements was of course that the production and exportation of beet sugar from these Continental countries increased enormously. The production, which in 1884 amounted to 2,204,200 tons, reached its maximum of 6,366,000 tons in 1902, when the Convention was impending; fell to 5,236,000 in 1904; and was estimated at 4,681,000 for the campaign of 1904-05, more than 1,000,000 tons of this contraction being ascribed to drought.

The growth of exports was due mainly to the inordinate expansion of the bounty system as a consequence of competition. That the said system had become an incubus to its inventors but had outgrown their control is shown by the holding of frequent conferences, by the terms of successive conventions—from that of 1864 to that of 1887—and by the fact that neither of these conventions was brought into force. That of 1887 was a promising document; and the significance of its Article VII, which dealt with the most-favoured-nation aspect of countervailing duties, remains although the convention fell through on the abandonment of the British Enabling Bill of 1888 after one reading. The failure of the conference of 1898 has also been sometimes ascribed to the detached attitude of the British delegates; but the actual proceedings of that assembly suggest that its fruitlessness was due rather to the jealousy of the producing countries and to a lack of confidence on their part, similar to that which has so far frustrated all proposals for disarmament.

These exports went of course to those markets that were not closed by prohibitive tariffs, the principal buyers being the United Kingdom, the United States and India. To the United Kingdom the supply of sugar below cost price was a boon, but in those of her dependencies and to the United States in which cane sugar was an important agricultural product the benefit was open to doubt. The United States Tariff Law of 1890 contained certain provisions for the levy of countervailing or, at all events special duties, upon bountyfed sugar. The Act of 1894 developed the principle to some extent; and in 1897 it was enacted that all bountyfed articles entering the United States should be subject to an additional duty equal to the amount of the bounty received. This for a time virtually spoiled the American market for Continental sugar, with the result that the flood set the more strongly towards India.

AN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY HISTORY OF BRITISH COMMERCE.

Probably ninety-nine per cent. of the people who at the present day set themselves to "think imperially" believe that the term "the British Empire" was invented by Mr. Disraeli in the later seventies and was popularised by Mr. Chamberlain in successive political campaigns. Most of them would be prepared to maintain that the loss of "the American plantations" was due to a failure to realise the destiny or even the existence of such an Empire and to an indifference concerning those possibilities of commercial expansion which it afforded. Some even of those who are fairly well read in modern economics and politics would assign a very recent origin to many of the principles most commonly involved in any discussion of imperial politics. Certain of those principles, as, for instance, that of fiscal reciprocity between a mother country and her colonies, are the subjects of dispute. But the recognition of the dominion of the seas as a first condition of imperial security, the value of a mercantile marine as a recruiting ground for the navy, the "Balance of power," the doctrine of **hinterland** and so forth—these are accepted as the axiomatic premises of all up-to-date discussion of the kind in question.

And yet every one of these doctrines, laws and axioms was familar to the writers on such subjects a hundred and fifty years ago. One of the best examples of such writers is a certain A. Anderson who in 1764 published a work in two folio volumes and dedicated it to the Society of Arts Manufacturers and Commerce. The book is entitled

AN

HISTORICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL DEDUCTION OF THE ORIGIN OF COMMERCE

From the Earliest Accounts to the Present Time

Containing

An HISTORY of the Great Commercial Interests of the BRITISH EMPIRE

To which is prefixed—

An Introduction exhibiting a view—

Of the ancient and modern state of Europe;
Of the importance of our colonies; and
Of the Commerce Shipping Manufactures Fisheries, etc., of Great Britain and Ireland
And their influence on the Landed Interests.

With an APPENDIX

Containing the modern Politico-Commercial Geography of the several Countries of Europe.

In an appendix to the second volume the reproduces an "excellent small treatise" entitled "Observations concerning the Dominion and Sovereignty of the Seas" which had been published

In an appendix to the second volume he reproduces an "excellent small treatise" entitled "Observations concerning the Dominion and Sovereignty of the Seas" which had been published by Sir Philip Medows in 1689 and which, as our author says, had in his own time "long since been out of print and become somewhat scarce." So a treatise on the dominion of the four seas was out of print a hundred and fifty years ago, and yet many of our publicists of to-day expound the doctrine as if it were a new gospel.

Although the book under review was published before Adam Smith's **Wealth of Nations** and although it discusses in a familiar and systematic manner most of the economic laws which Adam Smith is popularly supposed to have propounded and fromulated for the first time, it is not necessary to lay much stress upon the point. For the popular acceptance of Adam Smith as the father of political economy indicates so complete an ignorance of the earlier literature of the subject and so lofty a disregard of fact that one must refrain from any attempt to dispel the legend.

It is well, however, to bear in mind that although the trouble with the American Colonies was already acute in 1764, no open hostilities had taken place, and the whole purport of Anderson's book was in fact to incite his fellow Englishmen — or Scotsmen — to think imperially.

He opens his preface with an apophthegm which from the outset leaves no doubts about his mettle and almost by itself would entitle him to record in these columns.

"Whatsoever things may be said to be useful and excellent either in Nature or in Art—whether for sensual or for intellectual Gratifications;—For the Ease, Conveniency, or Elegance of Life; which some Parts of our Earth afford, and other Parts want, may be truly affirmed to be principally communicated by Commerce, either primarily, or mediately. To the instrumentality of Commerce alone, the Britannic Empire is most peculiarly indebted; for its Opulence and Grandeur;—its Improvements in Arts and knowledge;—and in general for the great bulk of its solid Comforts and Conveniences." On a later page he alludes to the "unaccountably stupid Contempt of Commercial History testified even by some Nations, who, nevertheless, may be justly said to be indebted to Commerce alone, not only for their present Wealth but likewise for their very existence as a distinct and independent Nation." This is a subject that makes him rage; and he cites with scorn an unfortunate Portuguese historian who had affirmed "That trade is a subject unbecoming a grave history." Later on, when describing the growth of the industrial spirit in the world, he quotes a passage in which Sir William Temple compared the Kingdoms and Principalities to Noblemen and Gentry and the Free States and Cities of Italy, the Netherlands and the Hanse-Towns to Merchants and Traders, and continued:—"These, at first despised by the others, the others served and revered by them! till by the various Course of Events in the World, some of these came to grow rich and powerful by industry and parsimony, and some of the others poor by war and luxury; which made the Traders begin to take upon them and carry it like Gentlemen, and the Gentlemen begin to take a fancy of falling into Trade." From which it would appear that modern social developments are not alto ether so modern as the writer of popular fiction implies.

As a rule our author's comments are marked by an extraordinary coolness of judgment, versatility of knowledge and trenchancy of style. He writes of the Balance of Power with all the familiarity of Mr. Stead and differentiates between an active and a passive commerce or between pernicious and beneficent immigration with a lucidity and common-sense that might be envied by Professor Marshall. There is about him a certain quality of dryness that suggests a northern origin. He describes the ancient system in accordance with which the people of one country are said to have deposited their superfluities on their frontiers and accepted in return such articles as their neighbours considered to be a fair return "relying solely on each other's honour. That method, however," he concludes, "could not hold long and doubtless very soon gave way to a direct commercial correspondance by proper Barter."

He hates a Frenchman with the cordiality of his period; and after speaking of the then recently frustrated endeavours of France to cut off our colonies in America from the *hinterland* that made their value he expresses the hope "that a watchful eye will be kept upon that part of our Possessions in Times of Peace as well as of War. And indeed" he adds, "it may be said that Times of Peace with a perfidious people are more dangerous than Times of Open Hostilities," and on the same page he says "as we have never been able to obtain a reasonble Tariff or Treaty of Commerce with that Crown, it is thought better for us to remain without any Commercial Treaty at all with a Nation which invariably seizes on all advantages from every other State without giving or returning any at all."

But the true merit of the book lies not in the paragraphs that lend themselves most readily to the purposes of a preliminary general notice, but in those longer passages in which the inception and growth of particular trades and industries and economic doctrines are described with a method and with a wealth of statistical detail that are both surprising. The trade of India and the Gulf is handled with a comprehension quite unlooked for; and many of his facts about Prices and Freights, the currencies of his own and other times, Customs Taxation and so on are invaluable to any one who is interested in the economic growth of the Empire. We hope in a succeeding number to reproduce certain of those passages. The volumes bristle with matter applicable to the present situation of the British Nation; and in the act of closing them our eye lights for the first time upon the following:—

"How happy then is the change in our national circumstances, since we have had **American** Plantations, the demand from whence, of all kinds of merchandize, having so greatly excited our people at home to the improvement and increase of our old manufactures, and to the introduction of new ones? Whereby and likewise by the vast increase of the productions of our **American** Plantations we have got rid, for the most part though not as yet entirely) of a precarious dependence on other nations, for what we now either manufacture much better at home, or else are supplied with from our own Plantations and foreign settlements, in exchange for our native commodities, instead of our formerly sending out much of our Treasure for the same? How greatly are our Customs thereby increased, from £36,000 at Queen **Elizabeth's** Death to £400,000 at the Restoration of King **Charles** II; and to four times this last sum at the present time? How vastly is our great Metropolis increased, from little above 200,000 souls, with all its suburbs on both sides of the **Thames**, at the said Queen's Death to about (or very near) four times as many at present."

THE ADULTERATION OF JUTE.

THE question of legislation regarding the **Adulteration of Jute** is engaging the serious attention of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, of the India Office, and of the Chambers of Commerce most interested in the matter.

The Secretary to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, Financial Department, has addressed the Secretary to the Board of Revenue on the subject, forwarding to him a copy of a despatch which has been addressed to the Government of India by the Secretary of State on the subject of the **intervention of Government** to prevent the watering and sanding of jute which is so prevalent in the Eastern Province.

The advice of the Board of Revenue is asked upon the question of legislation to check the adulteration of jute. The Commissioners and Collectors of the transferred districts will be consulted by the Board, and their replies forwarded to the Lieutenant-Governor. To facilitate discussson of the question the following main points are indicated for consideration:—

(1) Generally, is it expedient to attempt to check by special legislation the adulteration of jute?

(2) Should this legislation be directed against buyers and sellers or against sellers only?

(3) By what "criteria" and in what manner should jute be determined to be "adulterated?" Should any percentages be laid down?

(4) How should the law be set in motion—by the complaint of private parties or by Government Inspectors?

(5) Should an inspecting staff be maintained, and, if so, of what status and of what strength? How should its cost be provided?

(6) What should be the penalties which a breach of the law should entail?

It is hoped that the Board of Revenues report upon the matter will reach Government by the end of August at latest.

Suggested scope of legislation.

The Secretary of the **Bengal Chamber** of Commerce has addressed the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, and the Secretary to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, Financial Department, as follows:—

Sir,—I am directed by the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to forward for the consideration of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and His Honor the Lieutenant Governor of Eastern Bengal and Assam a draft Bill for the prevention of adulteration of jute, and for the suppression of certain practices in the jute trade.

2. This Bill is the result of prolonged and careful consideration on the part of the Committee of the Chamber, in consultation with representatives of all the various branches of the trade in jute. The Committee are satisfied that there is a unanimous desire on the part of everyone connected with the trade—both European and Native—that steps should be taken at the earliest possible moment to put an end to the prevailing evil of adulterating jute by the admixture of sand and water. There is further an unanimous expression of opinion that legislation alone will put an end to these malpractices, which are damaging to the common interests of the trade and bringing a valuable staple into disrepute in foreign markets.

3. The provisions of the Bill are comparatively simple in their nature and speak for themselves. The subject has been most thoroughly discussed by all branches of the trade during the last two years, and the Bill, the Committee believe, fairly represents the general consensus of opinion which has been arrived at as to the best mode of dealing with evils to which it is now sought to put an end, and the existence of which is well known to Government. The movement for legislation is supported by the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Bengal and Assam, the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, the Indian Jute Mills' Association, the Calcutta Baled Jute Association, the Jute Fabrics Shippers' Association, and by the principal representatives of the trade in loose jute.

4. Under these circumstances, I am directed to express the hope that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor may see his way to introducing legislation on the lines of the Bill at as early a date as possible.

The Draft Bill is as follows:—

An Act for the preventing of adulteration of jute and for the suppression of certain practices in the jute trade

Whereas it is expedient to provide by special enactment for the prevention of adulteration of jute and for the suppression of certain practices in the jute trade.

1. This Act may be cited as "**The Adulteration of Jute Act, 190** ."

It extends to the whole of the Provinces of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam.

2. In this Act, unless there be something repugnant in the subject or context.

"Jute" includes mestha pat (Hibiscus Cannabinus).

"The Magistrate" shall mean the Magistrate before and by whom proceedings may be had and taken under this Act.

3. Every person who shall sell or expose or offer for sale or tender in fulfilment of any agreement for sale or have in possession for sale or purchase or acquire or accept or take delivery of any jute which has been adulterated deteriorated or increased in weight by watering or by exposure to dew or by moistening by any other means shall be liable on summary conviction for the first offence to a fine not exceeding Rs. and for the second offence to a fine not exceeding Rs. and for the third or any subsequent offence to a fine not exceeding Rs. .

4. Every person who shall sell or expose or offer for sale or tender in fulfilment of any agreement for sale or have in possession for sale or purchase or acquire or accept or take delivery of any jute which has been increased in weight by the addition thereto or in any parcel or package containing the same of any sand, dirt, stones or foreign matter or substance whatsoever shall be liable on summary conviction for the first offence to a fine not exceeding Rs. and for the second offence to a fine not exceeding Rs. and for the third or any subsequent offence to a fine not exceeding Rs. .

5. Provided that jute shall not be deemed to be adulterated deteriorated or increased in weight within the meaning of either section 3 or section 4 of this Act as the case may be merely by reason of the presence therein of any moisture or of the presence therein or in any parcel or package containing the same of any sand, dirt, stones, other foreign matter or substance the presence whereof shall in the opinion of the Magistrate be attributable solely to the treatment to which the fibre has been subjected or to the want of proper treatment thereof in the recognised preparatory processes of steeping washing and drying.

6. Provided also that no person shall be liable to be convicted under either section 3 or section 4 of this Act if he shows to the satisfaction of the Magistrate that the condition of any jute seized and detained under the power in that behalf contained in section 8 of this Act is attributable solely to climatic influences or accidental causes.

7. For the purposes of carrying out the provisions of this Act, the President for the time being of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce may as soon as convenient after the passing of this Act, and in all cases as and when vacancies shall occur or when required by the Local Government shall appoint for any district or districts within the Provinces to which this Act applies one or more persons possessing competent knowledge, skill and experience as Inspectors of jute, and shall pay to such Inspectors such remuneration as shall be mutually agreed upon, and may remove him or them as they shall deem proper; but such appointments and removals shall at all times be subject to the approval of the District Magistrate who may require satisfactory proof of competency to be supplied to him and may give his approval absolutely or with modifications as to the period of appointment or removal or otherwise; provided that no person shall be appointed an Inspector of jute under this section who shall be engaged directly or indirectly in any trade or business connected with jute.

8. An Inspector of jute appointed under this Act may within the district or districts for which he shall be appointed examine any jute sold or exposed or offered for sale or tendered in fulfilment of any agreement for sale by any person or in the possession of any person for sale or purchased or acquired or accepted or taken delivery of by any person, and for the purposes of such examination it shall be lawful for an Inspector of jute appointed under this Act to enter any building, enclosure, premises, market or place in which any jute may for the time being be or be stored whether loose or in bales and to open any parcel or package or parcels or packages of jute, and if upon any such examination such Inspector shall be of opinion that such jute has been sold or exposed or offered for sale or tendered in fulfilment of any agreement for sale or is in the possession of any person for sale or has been purchased or acquired or accepted or taken delivery of by any person contrary to the provisions of this Act it shall be lawful for such Inspector to seize and detain, and if he shall think fit to remove the same.

9. An Inspector of jute appointed under this Act and other person or persons acting under his authority or by his direction in the carrying out of the provisions of this Act shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of the Indian Penal Code.

10. If while any jute shall be in the custody of an Inspector appointed under this Act or of any person or persons by his authority or direction or in any building, enclosure, premises, market or place under seizure or detention by such Inspector any person shall remove or attempt to remove such jute or any portion thereof from such custody or from any building, enclosure, premises, market or place wherein the same shall be under seizure or detention such person shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to or with fine which may extend to Rs. or with both.

11. When an Inspector of jute appointed under this Act shall upon examination of any jute under the provisions of section 8 of this Act be of opinion that an offence against the provisions of this Act has been committed in respect thereof he shall having seized and detained such jute thereupon in

writing or otherwise report the result of his examination to the Magistrate.

12. Whenever the Magistrate on receiving a report of an Inspector appointed under this Act or other information considers that an offence against the provisions of the Act has been committed the Magistrate may make an order requiring the person or persons who upon such report or information shall appear to him to have committed such offence to attend before him at the place where such jute shall have been seized and detained or to which it shall have been removed at a time to be fixed by the order.

13. The order made by the Magistrate under the last preceding section shall if practicable be served on the person against whom it is made, or, if such order cannot be so served, a copy thereof shall be posted or affixed at or to the building, enclosure, premises, market or place in which the jute under seizure and detention shall have been found or to which it shall have been removed.

14. If on attending at the time and place mentioned in the order the Magistrate, on inspecting the jute under seizure or detention and causing it to be subjected to such test, if any, as he may deem necessary and taking such evidence, if any, as he thinks fit, is satisfied that an offence against the provisions of this Act has been committed by the person or persons against whom such order is made and such person or persons shall not show sufficient cause why he or they, as the case may be, should not be convicted, the Magistrate shall convict him or them accordingly and impose upon him or them the fine prescribed by this Act. There shall be no appeal against the sentence of the Magistrate under this section.

15. The provisions of sections 64 to 70 both inclusive of the Indian Penal Code shall apply to fines imposed under this Act, and all such fines shall be recoverable according to the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code.

16. It shall be lawful for the Magistrate, besides imposing upon the person or persons guilty of an offence against the provisions of this Act the fine prescribed by this Act for such offence, to direct the payment by such person or persons to the Inspector of jute appointed under this Act of the expenses, if any reasonably incurred in connection with the examination, seizure, detention, removal, inspection or testing of the jute in respect of which such offence shall have been committed, and in the event of non-payment of the amount thereof within days from the date of such direction, such amount shall be recoverable in the same manner as if the same were a fine imposed upon such person or persons under this Act.

17. All proceedings and offences under this Act shall be cognisable in the Town of Calcutta by a Presidency Magistrate, and elsewhere than in the Town of Calcutta by a Magistrate exercising powers not inferior to those of a Magistrate of the second class as defined in the Criminal Procedure Code.

18. For the purpose of creating and maintaining a fund to provide the remuneration to be paid to Inspectors of Jute appointed under this Act and the means for carrying out the provisions of this Act there shall be paid by all manufacturers of jute fabrics within the Provinces to which this Act applies in respect of all jute purchased or acquired and received by or delivered to such manufacturers and by all exporters of jute from any port within such Provinces in respect of all jute shipped for export by such exporters such general or differential fees or cesses as shall from time to time be fixed by the President for the time being of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

19. Such fees and cesses as in the last preceding section mentioned shall be submitted to the Government of Bengal and the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam for sanction and if sanctioned by such Governments the same shall be published in the Official Gazettes of such Governments and shall forthwith come into operation and remain in operation until altered or revoked by the President for the time being of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce with such sanction as aforesaid.

20. Such fees or cesses as in section 18 of this Act mentioned shall become due and payable in so far as the same shall be payable by manufacturers of jute fabrics within the Provinces to which this Act applies as and when jute purchased or acquired by such manufacturers shall be received by or delivered to them, and is so far as such fees or cesses shall be payable by exporters of jute from any port within such provinces as and when jute shall be shipped by such exporters for export.

21. Such fees or cesses as shall be payable under this Act shall be paid to and received by the President for the time being of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce as the person or authority by whom Inspectors of jute shall be appointed under section 7 of this Act and if such fees or cesses or any part thereof having become due and payable shall not be paid within seven days from the date, demand shall be made in writing by or on behalf of the President for the time being of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for payment thereof the amount so demanded or any part thereof which shall not be paid within the time aforesaid shall be deemed to be in the nature of a debt due and owing to the President for the time being of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and shall be recoverable from the defaulter by suit in any competent Court at the instance of such President for the time being.

22. All manufacturers of jute fabrics within the Provinces to which this Act applies and all exporters of jute from Ports within such Provinces and if any manufacturers or exporters be a company the principal officer of every such company shall prepare and on or before the first day of February and the first day of August in each year after the passing of this Act deliver or cause to be delivered to the President for the time being of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce at Calcutta in the form set forth in

the Schedule to this Act a return or statement in writing showing the quantity of jute purchased or acquired and received by or delivered to such manufacturers or the quantity of jute shipped for export by such exporters and such return or statement shall be subscribed by the person or persons making it with a declaration that it is correctly prepared.

23. If any manufacturers or exporters or company shall fail to deliver or cause to be delivered in due time to the President for the time being of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce any return or statement mentioned in section 22 of this Act he shall on conviction by a Magistrate be punished with fine which may extend to Rs. 10 for every day during which the default continues.

24. Nothing in this Act shall affect the civil rights and remedies of any person or persons and such rights and remedies to the full extent thereof shall be enforceable and enforced as if this Act had not been passed.

Section 22.

Return or statement showing the quantity of jute purchased or acquired and received by or delivered to manufacturers or shipped for export by exporters during the half-year ending the day of 190 .

MOORISH COPPER COINAGE.

THE Moorish Maghzen continue to juggle with the **coinage** in a perfectly incomprehensible manner. They originally issued copper coinage at a very large profit to themselves, and Moorish merchants found it a profitable business to introduce on their own account a large quantity of counterfeit coin' until between them the country became flooded. For three days in the second week in April the Maghzen called in the copper coinage, buying it back at 20 per cent. reduction and giving in payment written orders on the Treasury. These orders, when presented on the 17th April, were paid in copper, again at a reduction of 50 per cent. on the face value. On the comparatively small quantity of copper called in the Maghzen lose 30 per cent. by this transaction, but on the very same day evening criers announced to the population that in future the entire copper coinage would pass at exactly 50 per cent. of its face value, which means a very considerable loss to the townspeople and others who, owing to the quantity in circulation, hold considerable sums in copper. Briefly, the Maghzen originally purchased 10 centime pieces in Europe for about three centimes, palmed them off on the people at 10 centimes, and now order that they are to pass at five centimes.

GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

BURMA FOREST ACT AMENDMENT.

BURMA ACT NO. IV OF 1906.

An Act to amend the **Burma Forest Act**, 1902.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend the Burma Forest Act, 1902; it is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Burma Forest Act (1902) Amendment Act, 1906.

(2) It shall come into force at once.

2. For section 58 of the said Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely:—

"58. Whoever fells, cuts, girdles, marks, lops or taps any reserved tree, or injures by fire or otherwise any reserved tree or the timber of any such tree, except in accordance with rules made by the Local Government in that behalf or as permitted under the provisions of section 34, shall be punishable:—

(a) if the offence has been committed in respect of a teak or any other reserved tree, or the timber of any such tree standing or found on land at the disposal of Government, with imprisonment which may extend to six months or fine which may extend to five hundred rupees or with both; or

(b) if the offence has been committed in respect of a teak timber or teak tree standing or found on land not at the disposal of Government, with fine which may extend to twenty rupees, or, when the damage resulting from his offence amounts to more than ten rupees to double the amount of such damage."

NEW REFERENCE BOOKS.

CAUTLIE, JAMES.
Physical Efficiency. A Review of the deleterious effects of Town life upon the population of Britain, with suggestions for their arrest. With preface by Sir Lander Brunton, and a foreword by Sir James Crichton-Brown. Globe 8vo . . . 3-6

VAGRANCY.
Report of the Committee of the Departmental Committee of Vagrancy, Vol. I (Blue Book) (Cd. 2852) . . . . . 1-1 net

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City Government for Young People. A Study of the American City adapted for school use, and for home reading for children. Cr. 8vo . . . 2 net

RETAIL PRICES.

Retail prices of certain food-grains at selected stations for the first-half of April 1906. (Prices are stated in annas, etc., per ser.)

	Rice, common.	Wheat.	Barley.	Jawar.	Bajra.	Ragi.	Gram.	Salt.
BURMA—	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.
Rangoon	1 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 10
Toungoo	1 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 6
EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM—								
Rungpur	1 8	1 5	...	...	...	...	...	1 2
Backerganj	2 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 1
BENGAL—								
Calcutta	2 3	1 7	...	...	...		...	1 3
Patna	1 3	1 4	1 0	...	...	...	...	1 0
UNITED PROVINCES—								
Cawnpur	...	1 4	1 0	1 2	1 2	...	1 2	1 0
Fyzabad	...	1 4	1 0	...	1 6	...	1 1	1 2
Meerut	...	1 2	0 11	1 1	1 5	...	1 1	1 0
PUNJAB—								
Delhi	...	1 2	1 0	1 3	1 5	...	1 1	1 0
Amritsar	...	1 0	0 9	1 3	1 1	...	0 11	0 10
Rawal Pindi	...	1 1	0 8	0 11	1 1	...	1 0	0 9
SIND—								
Karachi	...	1 5	...	1 1	1 4	...	1 4	0 9
BOMBAY—								
Belgaum	...	2 0	...	1 4	1 5	...	...	1 0
Ahmadnagar	...	1 8	...	1 4	1 7	...	...	1 0
Bombay	...	2 1	...	1 5	1 6	...	...	1 4
Ahmadabad	...	1 7	...	1 3	1 6	...	...	0 10
CENTRAL PROVINCES—								
Jubbulpore	...	1 2	...	1 1	...	...	1 3	1 3
Nagpur	1 6	1 3	...	1 3	...	...	1 5	1 3
Raipur	1 5	1 3	...	...	...	...	1 2	1 2
MADRAS—								
Bellary	2 0	...	...	1 2	...	1 0	...	1 1
Madras	2 0	...	...	...	...	1 3	...	0 9
Salem	2 2	...	...	1 3	1 4	1 2	...	1 2

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.
For the week ending 12th May 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign—Imports by sea into	Calcutta	lbs.	603,172
	Bombay	„	30,599
	Madras	„	611,400
Indian—Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	747,726
	Bombay	„	7,610,940
	Madras	„	...

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	25,110,440
	Bombay	„	3,159,707
	Karachi	„	727,623
	Madras	„	3,738,073
	Rangoon	„	...

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	3,852,024
	Bombay	„	4,020,891
	Karachi	„	2,590,430
	Madras	„	511,337
	Rangoon	„	46,074

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	3,911,553
	Bombay	„	3,656,253
	Karachi	„	2,586,740
	Madras	„	474,587
	Rangoon	„	187,980

Piece Goods.
(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta*	cwt.	41,609
	Bombay†	„	5,865
	Karachi	„	12,599
	Madras	„	4,622

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea	cwt.	69,104
	Coastwise	„	35,467
	By rail	„	55,868
Imports into Karachi	by rail	„	12,270
„ „	Calcutta* by rail and river	„	11,963

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta*	cwt.	73,426
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags	No.	8,583,820
	„ cloth	yds.	14,986,200
	Jute	cwt.	67,496
Chittagong—Jute		„	...

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta*	lbs.	1,077,260
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	554,034
	Chittagong	„	...

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta‡ by rail and river	cwt.	54,806
	Karachi by rail	„	200,090
	Bombay—By rail	„	50,047
	Bombay—Coastwise	„	20,025
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	1,301
	Bombay	„	17,919
	Karachi	„	91,275

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta	cwt.	152,065
	Chittagong	„	...
	Bombay	„	5,865
	Karachi	„	19,438
	Madras	„	...
	Rangoon	„	832,683

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta‡ by rail and river	cwt.	95,371
	Bombay by rail	„	8,142
	Karachi by rail	„	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	121,066
	Bombay	„	30,033
	Karachi	„	...

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta‡ by rail and river	cwt.	13,852
	Bombay by rail	„	29,436
	Karachi by rail	„	110,001
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	6,669
	Bombay	„	25,784
	Karachi	„	33,793

* B. N. Ry. figures not received. † B. B. and C. I. Ry. figures only. ‡ Figures for E. B. S. and B. N. Rys. not received

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 12th MAY 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From all other foreign countries.	Total.
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
Calcutta	...	16,176	825,714	841,890
Bombay	23,974	194,300	513,486	731,760
Karachi	...	...	647,087	647,087
Madras	...	...	...	...

Exports by sea from Burma to	Bengal	gallons.	213,280
	E. B. & Assam	„	...
	Bombay	„	...
	Sind	„	...
	Madras	„	593,506
	Indian Ports, Non-Br.	„	...
	Foreign ports	„	..

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 12th MAY 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	4,291	...	1,002	1,039	10	1	6,343
Germany	40,100	...	47,523	82,902	...	...	170,525
Austria-Hungary	13,660	...	6,600	32,900	...	...	53,160
Other European Countries	3,546	..	6,003	3,000	100	...	12,649
Java	...	...	6,106	...	...	...	6,106
Mauritius	...	...	70,343	...	...	...	70,343
Other Non-European Countries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
					Total refined		319,116
					Total unrefined		26,668
					Grand Total cwt.		345,784

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

****

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

****

Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta [The prices include postage] to countries in the Postal Union.

ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 2*a*.)

2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a*.)

3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—

   Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. R3. (12*a*.)

   Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port R3. (12*a*.)

4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. R2. (7*a*.)

5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a*.)

6. Accounts of Trade of the French Possession in India. As. 3. (1*a*.)

7. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possession in India. As. 2. (1*a*.)

8. Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India. R4. (6*a*.)

9. Report on the Rail-borne and River-borne Trade of Bengal. R4.

10. Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan. R1⅛.

11. Prices and Wages in India. R1½. (9*a*.)

12. Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India. R4. (12*a*.)

13. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India. R2. (10*a*.)

14. Agricultural Statistics of India. R3¾. (12*a*.)
    Part I.—British India.
    Part II.—Native States.

15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India. As. 5. (2*a*.)

16. Statistics of Mineral Production in India. As. 2 (1*a*.)

QUARTERLY.

17. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

MONTHLY.

18. Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

19. Accounts of the External Land Trade of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

20. Statistics of the Production of Yarn and Woven Goods in the India Cotton Mills. As. 2.

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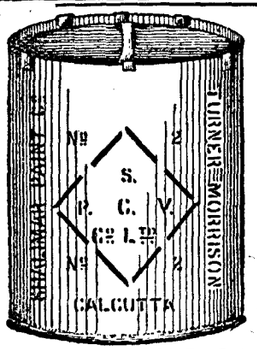
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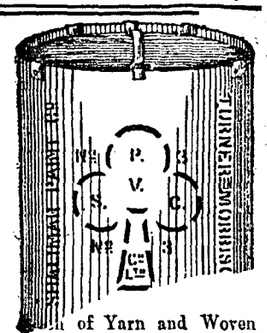


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NOTES.

The attention of readers is invited to the **revised Valuation Tariff** for assessing **duties on hemp and jute cloth**, sacks and twine imported into Egypt, which is republished in the section devoted to tariff revisions.

The papers to hand by the last mail contain an item of news **important to shipping.** The authorities of Trinity House have decided to supersede the old bell fog-signal at the Needles lighthouse, Isle of Wight, with a reed horn fog-signal.

We draw the attention of **shippers of tea** to a notice issued by the Collector of Customs regarding tea shipped on an optional bill of lading. When tea is thus shipped, lading shippers are requested to state the fact in the remark column of the Shipping Bill.

The Moss line and the Ellerman line have acquired the steamers and business of the **Bell's Asia Minor Steamship** Company, Limited, whose steamers have been trading for many years between Alexandria, Cyprus and the Syrian Coast. The new Company will be called the Asia Minor Steamship Company, Limited.

Metric Weights are now used **in the British Post Office.** The Secretary to the Post Office has informed the Decimal Association that **letters**

addressed to France and Germany, weighing more than ½ oz. but not more than 15 grammes, if only stamped 2½*d.*, are not surcharged. The difference in weight is but small (about 5 per cent.), but the importance of the announcement may be gauged from the fact that letters are frequently stamped with 5*d.* which, under this ruling of the Post Office, would go for 2½*d.*

The **bales of cotton imported into the United Kingdom** during the week ended the 26th April 1906, amounted to 78,654 (including 133 bales British West Indian and 673 bales British West African), and the number imported during the seventeen weeks ended the 26th April was 1,673,937 (including 2,723 bales British West Indian and 1,644 bales British West African). As regards exports, the figures are, for the week ended the 26th April 1906, 8,967 bales, and for the seventeen weeks, 141,091.

His Majesty's Minister at Christiania (Sir A. J. Herbert, K.C.V.O.), reports that there has recently been considerable agitation against **the water power of Norway** passing into the hands of foreigners, and that a **Bill** has been hastily passed **forbidding the sale of waterfalls to foreigners,** who in future are only allowed to lease them. A Bill dealing more fully with the subject will, it is stated, shortly be introduced, in which, in addition to the above conditions, the lease of any waterfall to a company is rendered illegal unless half the capital of the company is Norwegian.

In the twelve months April 1905 to March 1906, the total **outturn of Gold** from mines in India was 624,844 oz., valued at Rs. 3,56,51,737. The outturn in 1904-05 had been 619,566 oz., valued at Rs. 3,55,01,130, and in 1903-04 was 613,755 oz., valued at Rs. 3,51,30,448. The provincial shares were in 1905-06:— Mysore 611,644 oz., valued at Rs. 3,48,98,347; Nizam's Territory 13,200 oz., valued at Rs. 7,53,390. The total outturn in March was 49,068 oz., valued at Rs. 27,99,574, to which Mysore contributed 47,963 oz., valued at Rs. 27,36,574, and the Nizam's Territory 1,105 oz., valued at Rs. 63,000.

According to a Colonial Office Report, about 140 lbs. of **thorianite, which were received from Ceylon,** through Mr. W. D. Holland, who first obtained this mineral, were sent to the Crown Agents in November, and were sold by Professor Dunstan of the Imperial Institute for £95 2*s.* 4*d.* Professor Dunstan is taking further steps to obtain reports on the commercial value of the sample sent to him, and for supplying such further information as may lead to more discoveries. The Mineralogical Survey were further engaged in examining the gemming districts in Sabaragamuwa and the Southern Province, in investigating discoveries of corundum and of heavy minerals containing rare elements, as for example, allanite and several minerals belonging to the Samarskite group.

The matter of **Time contracts for India** was discussed when the Manchester Chamber of Commerce met on April 11th, Mr. E. H. Langdon, President, in the chair. The minutes of the India, China, and Colonial Committee recorded that a conference had been held between that Committee, as representing the Chamber on the one part, and representatives of the North and North-East Lancashire Cotton Spinners and Manufacturers Association and the Blackburn and Burnley Chambers on the other. A tentative scheme providing for **a scale of allowances** and defining the rights of buyers and sellers when contracts are not adhered to—in respect of the date of delivery—had been submitted by the Manchester Chamber to the representatives of the other bodies, and had, on the whole, been favourably received. The subject was under consideration in Blackburn and Burnley by the constituents of the bodies represented.

Mr. J. Medley Wood, Director of the Botanic Gardens at Durban, has issued a report on "Profitable Agricultural Industries. Mr. Wood states that, in the opinion of all authorities on the matter, the **collection of rubber from the Landolphia plant,** which has been found growing in abundance in Zululand, will pay, given cheap labour and efficient supervision. He is of opinion that the trees which yield the rubber known as Panama and Para are quite unsuitable for the climate of Natal. The Natal Government have inserted the following clause in their notice calling for **applications for leases** of land in Zululand for the purposes of rubber extraction: "If within two years from the date of the lease the lessee shall not have extracted at least 40,000 lbs. of rubber upon which royalty shall have been paid, or in addition to such extraction shall, within three years from date of lease, fail to successfully plant not less than 500 acres of rubber, this lease shall, *ipso facto*, become null and void."

His Majesty's Consul at Ciudad Bolivar (Mr. C. de Lemos) reports that a **new kind of rubber tree,** previously unknown in that part of Venezuela, has been discovered in the extensive forests of the Caura district, situated from 150 to 200 miles to the west and south-west of Ciudad Bolivar. Sample lots of the rubber produced from this tree have been sent to London, New York and Hamburg, and have realised from 3*s.* to 3*s.* 6*d.* per lb. This price is remunerative, as good facilities for transport by water exist. As yet no efficient system of tapping the trees has been discovered, as by the method of tapping applied to the indiarubber trees in the Rio Negro district the milk does not exude freely. The consequence is that the collectors fell the trees to be able to tap them all along the trunk, following in this respect the system they employ for collecting the Balata rubber. This will bring about the eventual exhaustion of the forests, which in the case of the Balata tree is already beginning to be felt.

The **prices of opium in the Calcutta market** during the week ending 19th May were, per chest, as follows:—

Behar opium—Rs. 1,311; 1,312; 1,310; 1,316; 1,316; 1,320; 1,319.

Benares opium—Rs. 1,191; 1,192; 1,190; 1,196; 1,196; 1,200; 1,199.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 6th sale of 1906—Rs. 1,311; 1,312; 1,309½; 1,316; 1,316; 1,320; 1,319.

China market, Hongkong (exchange Rs. 157 to 157½ per 100 dollars).

Behar—$ 857; 857; 855; 855; 855; 852 to 852½; 852.

Shanghai (exchange Rs. 217½ to 218½ per 100 Taels), one sale, on 18th, 616 Taels.

Benares—Two sales in the Hongkong market on 15th and 18th May on $785 and 780, respectively; while one sale, Shanghai, on 18th on 566 Taels.

The daily **prices of opium in the Bombay market** for the week ending 12th May were—for A class (season 1904 to 1905) Rs. 1,400, for B class (season 1903 to 1904) Rs. 1,450 to 1,60[illegible], class C, old (season 1902 to 1903) Rs. 1,750. The latest China prices ascertained were for new classes (A and B) Rs. 1,455 to 1,571; old (class C) fetched at Hongkong Rs. 1,651 and at Shanghai Rs. 1,703.

The expiration of the **Hall patent for the manufacture of aluminium** may, says a writer in the *Times Engineering Supplement*, have some effect in inducing attempts to provide new sources of supply for a metal, the growing scarcity of which is having an appreciable influence on trades where light mechanical adjuncts are a necessity. The essential feature of the Hall patent have been imported into England at first in defiance of the patent rights claimed by the British Aluminium Company, Limited, who have the sole right of manufacture under the Heroult patents for this metal. Some years ago the British Aluminium Company, Limited, brought an action against the representatives in England of the Pittsburgh Reduction Company for selling aluminium manufactured, it was alleged, in infringement of their patent rights. It is understood that some amicable arrangement was come to in the matter, the American Company submitting to an injunction, and at the same time, contracting to furnish the plaintiff company with large supplies of American-made aluminium over a course of years. Since that time the demand for aluminium has enormously increased; and if a successful method for **soldering the metal** could be discovered, there is no doubt that it would come into still larger use. It is to be noted that although the Hall patent has expired, a patent complementary to it and of almost equal importance with the Hall process—that of Bradley—has still some three years to run.

The arrival of spring this year was accompanied by more than usually violent friction between employers and employed in various branches of industry in Germany. The statistics for the year 1905 show that the **strike movement in Germany** tends to assume more and more serious dimensions every year. The average number of strikes for the years 1899 to 1903 inclusive was 1,242; in 1904, it rose to 1,870; and in 1905 to 2,057. Of much significance is the increasing number of lock-outs, which show that combination among employers is also developing. The number of lock-outs, which averaged only 42 for the period 1899-1903, rose in 1904 to 120 and in 1905 to 200; it is expected that the figures for 1906 will show a further considerable increase. The industry most seriously affected by the movement at the present moment is that of the metal workers. In Breslau a serious strike has been in progress for some time, which on April 19 led to a collision with the Police that resulted in bloodshed. At Offenbach a threatened strike of 4,000 workmen has been answered by notice of a lock-out on the part of the employers which, when the mail left, threatened to cause 16,000 men to be idle. A strike in Dresden appears to be drawing to a close. In view of the wide extension of the movement a meeting of the United Association of German Metal Industrialists will shortly take place in Berlin, at which the advisability in certain circumstances of a general lock-out of all the metal workers in Germany is expected to be discussed.

The United States Consul at Mannheim advises **consumers and refiners of potash** (potassium salts) to take notice of **a Bill** now before the German Parliament, which has for its object the creation of an **export duty on this mineral.** Germany being the only country in the world where potassium salts are found in paying quantities, the enactment of such a law will certainly cause a rise in the price of this salt. Some years ago a trust (Kali-Syndicat) was formed, and recently renewed. The most interesting feature connected therewith is the fact that the State, the Kingdom of Prussia, is its principal stockholder and promoter. The State a short time ago decided to buy another of the many mines owned by private companies, at the price of £1,400,000. Most of these mines are in the neighbourhood of Strassfurth, where vast deposits of potassium salts are

located. A great many of them still belong to private companies, but the State of Prussia now has the controlling interest in the trust. The syndicate, as well as all others interested in the production and sale of the mineral, will make a bitter fight against the proposed law, as they fear a diminution of consumption abroad. On the other hand, the advocates of the measure argue that the price of the article is now too high to be used extensively as a fertilizer by the small German farmer, and that by levying a duty on export the producers will be compelled to sell cheaper at home in order to get rid of the stuff. In this manner they hope to assist the German agriculturist, whose soil is exhausted, at the expense of the foreign consumer. Stocks in the various companies advanced considerably when these facts became known.

❦

The British Consul General at Odessa, when sending the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs a list of **sailings of Russian Steamers between Odessa and the Persian Gulf Ports,** points out that there was a very noticeable **shrinkage** in the **cargo carried,** in 1905-06, as compared with the year previous. The reasons given for this are :—

(1) The price of Russian sugar, one of the chief articles of export, is much higher than that produced in Austria, Germany and France.

(2) The disturbances in Batoum have materially hindered the exports of Russian petroleum to Persia. Petroleum for this trade is packed in cases at Batoum, but the packing business has been so much hindered by the disturbances that the commodity is unobtainable.

(3) The demand for Russian-printed cottons, crockery, matches and other goods in Persia has fallen off through competition.

The freight operations, however, of the vessels of the Russian Steam Navigation and Trading Company are still successful. Cargo is picked up at the various ports *en route* and the vessels eventually arrive fully loaded in the Persian Gulf. The "Truvor" (sailed March 28th, 1906) loaded, for instance, a quantity of Austrian sugar at Constantinople.

On the return journey these vessels take dates and other cargo for Red Sea ports, such as Hodeida and Jeddah. As first the attempt was made to import Persian dates into Russia, but they proved to be of too inferior a quality for this market; they are now shipped to the Red Sea ports, as above mentioned, for consumption by the pilgrims.

The "Tigris" one of the two boats now building on the Neva to meet the special draught requirements of this trade, is expected to be completed by the end of July.

❦

The United States Consul General at Yokohama says that last year the **yarn market in Japan** was very favourable, and every spinning company in the country made enormous profits. As there are indications of yet greater prosperity, **many mills have undertaken the increase of their spindles.** At the end of last year there were 49 spinning mills in Japan, the spindles aggregating 1,330,000, and producing 905,537 bales of yarn, an increase of 210,324 bales over 1904. The number of operatives in 1905 were 12,811 males and 58,634 females, earning averages of 17 and 11 cents per day. The Fuji Spinning Company's profits for the last half of 1905 was $405,000 gold, and a semi-annual dividend of 10 per cent. was declared. The company decided to increase its capital by $1,200,000 for the extension of mills. The Directors of the Amagasaki Spinning Company have decided to increase the spindles by 20,000. Another company has decided to establish a mill at Shanghai, at a cost of $1,500,000. Cotton weaving also made great strides in Japan last year. In the preceding year only 9 spinning mills were engaged in weaving, with 5,000 looms, the number increasing to 7,472 looms by the end of December, 1905. The production of cloth last year was 60,000,000 yards. Some of the spinning mills which have just begun weaving are fitting looms for weaving narrow cloth for the markets in Formosa and Korea. The 200 looms now being worked in the Kanegafuchi mill are an experiment, the object being to determine the best in machinery. The project is to instal several thousand looms. Fears were entertained by yarn manufacturers that the great increase in the number of spindles would glut the market with yarn, but these fears have been altogether dispelled. It is now feared that the time may soon come when sufficient yarn cannot be supplied to China and the home market, in consequence of the more rapid increase in the weaving industry than in the addition of spindles. Several new industries are about to be established. One of these is the Toyo Paper Mill Company of Osaka, which has chosen a factory site on the Kanzaki River, and will manufacture rice paper. The Ishigari Colliery Company, capital $7,500,000, has been formed to establish coal-mining in Hokkaido Province, and build a railroad to, the coal terminal at the coast, where a harbour will be established to accommodate vessels of 10,000 tons. They expect to handle 2,000,000 tons of coal annually. Steps have been taken to establish a large steel foundry near Kokura, and the Sumitomo steel foundry at Osaka is to be extended.

❦

The *Manchester Guardian* of the 1st of May, 1906, in the **"Monthly Review of the Cotton Trade,"** says :—American cotton has varied within comparatively narrow limits during **April.** Middling spot was 6·04*d.* on the 2nd, which was almost the lowest of the month, though 6·03*d.* was touched on two occasions. The highest price was 6·24*d.*, which

was recorded on the 11th and on the 17th, and it was 6·04*d.* on the 30th, or exactly the price at which the month opened. Up to Friday the 29th the cotton into sight was 9,861,000 bales, against 11,509,000 in 1905 and 9,479,000 in 1904. Since March 30th the visible supply has lost 347,000 bales and the visible supply of all kinds 374,000 bales. The visible supply of American stands at 2,676,610 bales and of all kinds at 3,210,320 bales. According to Mr. Hester, the average weight of bales for the expired seven months of the season is 517·11 lb., as compared with 519·57 lb. for the corresponding period last season, and this, though a decrease, seems to dispose of one of the extreme bull contentions. A good deal has been said about the prospectus of the new crop, but there is not much authentic information, and in the absence of any proper estimate it can only be concluded that the circumstances are favourable to a considerably increased acreage, and that the planting weather has been generally good. Early in the month Messrs. Neill Brothers issued a circular which suggested a probable growth of about 10,850,000 bales for the present season and a commercial crop of 11,000,000 or over. The census promoted by the International Federation of Spinners gave an estimated stock on March 1 of 1,532,990 bales of all kinds in the hands of the spinners of Great Britain and the Continent (excluding Russia). The comparison with the estimated stock six months ago is interesting. As Austria was not included in the previous census, it is necessary for the purposes of this comparison, to subtract its estimated stock of 148,000 bales, which leaves 1,385,000 bales, as compared with 1,233,000 bales on September 1. A notable feature is the return of actual stock of Egyptian by British spinners, this amounting to over 80,000 bales, as compared with 39,000 bales on September 1, when, however, a rather smaller number of spinners reported. The strength of Egyptian cotton has been a remarkable feature of the month, and lly good fair, which was 9⅝*d.* on April 2, has advanced steadily and stands at 10⅜*d.* on the 30th. Opinions differ as to the stability of Egyptian cotton, but it is pointed out that the scarcity of long-stapled cotton generally, as well as the particular scarcity and also the strong and continuous demand, must make for higher prices."

❦

The following is a concise statement of the nature of the several postal **reforms proposed by the Postmaster-General, United Kingdom,** and announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget Speech :—

1. Revision of **parcel post** scale.

The present parcel post scale is 3*d.* for the first lb. and 1*d.* for every additional lb. It is proposed that after 3lb. the scale should ascend by two steps of 1*d.* for 2lb. Thus a 4-lb. parcel would be carried as at present for 6*d.*, a 5-lb. parcel for 8*d.* instead of 7*d.*, and 7-lb. parcel for 7*d.* instead of 9*d.* From 7lb. to 11lb. the rate would be 1*d.* a lb.

Subjoined are the present and the proposed scales :—

Weight not exceeding	Rate of Postage.	
lb.	Present.	Proposed.
1	3*d.*	3*d.*
2	4*d.*	4*d.*
3	5*d.*	5*d.*
4	6*d.*	5*d.*
5	7*d.*	6*d.*
6	8*d.*	6*d.*
7	9*d.*	7*d.*
8	10*d.*	8*d.*
9	11*d.*	9*d.*
10	1*s.*	10*d.*
11	1*s.*	11*d.*

It is proposed to introduce this alteration on July 1.

II. Extension of postal and telegraphic facilities in rural districts.

III. Reduction of **commission on postal orders.**

The present commission is ½*d.* and 1½*d.* onwards It is now proposed to place the 2*s.* and 2*s.* 6*d.* orders (which already together have a circulation of 12 millions) in the ½*d.* scale of commission and the orders from 11*s* to 15*s.* inclusive in the 1*d.* scale. This reduction of commission will take place on July 1.

IV. It is proposed to reduce the commission on **foreign and colonial money orders** not exceeding £1 from 4*d.* to 3*d.*, as from July 1.

V. Improvements in the half-penny post.

It is proposed to enlarge the class of commercial and business documents which are allowed to pass through the post at ½*d.* so as to give the benefit of the ½*d.* post, as far as practicable, to all purely formal communications, while excluding anything in the nature of a personal letter.

It is proposed that this change should take effect as from October 1

The annual loss to the Post Office Revenue from the several changes proposed is estimated at £156,000, the proportion falling on the current financial year will be £105,000 as stated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr. A. Sauerbeck writes to the *Banker's Magazine* for May :—

The following are the **index numbers** of the prices of forty-five commodities, the average of the eleven years 1867-77 being 100 : —

	Average.		Monthly Numbers.	
1878-87	79	December,	1889	73·7
1886-95	68	February,	1895	60·0
1890-99	66	July,	1896	59·2
1895-1905	68	July,	1900	76·2
	—	December,	1901	68·4
1884	76	December,	1904	70·9
1896	61	March,	1905	71·8
1900	75	June,	1905	72·0
1901	70	September,	1905	72·4
1902	69	December,	1905	74·9
1903	69	January,	1906	75·2
1904	70	February,	1906	75·0
1905	72	March,	1906	75·7

The index-number for March shows a further advance, and is now very near the highest point within recent years, *viz.*, 76·2 in July 1900 (the highest since 1884). During the past month wheat ruled slightly lower, but meat improved, particularly mutton and pork ; while there was a fall for butter. Sugar was a little higher, but coffee slightly lower. Among minerals iron, lead and coal experienced scarcely any change, but copper rose from £78$\frac{7}{8}$ per ton to £84, and tin from £165$\frac{1}{2}$ per ton to £169. The latter has during the last few days established a fresh record, *viz.*, £174 on April 4, against £170, the highest in 1888. (It may be added, more as a matter of curiosity, that tin was quoted £174$\frac{1}{2}$ in notes in 1814, a year in which Bank of England notes were depreciated about 25 per cent., and £174 in 1811, when the depreciation of bank notes was about 8 per cent.)

In the case of textiles American cotton closed a little higher, and there was a fresh rise for wool, fine and coarse. Flax, hemp, jute, and sundry materials showed hardly any change.

Taking articles of food and materials separately, the index-numbers compare thus (1867-1877-100) :—

	1878-87. Average.	1886-95. Average.	1895-1905. Average.	1895. Feb.	1896. July.	1900. Feb.	1905. Dec.	1906. Feb.	1906. Mar.
Food .	84	71	67	63·8	60·0	65·8	68·7	68·3	69·1
Materials .	76	66	60	57·0	58·6	81·9	79·4	79·9	80·5

Silver had a somewhat fluctuating market, and sold rather lower on the average. The prices and index-numbers compare thus (60·84*d.* per oz., being the parity of 1 gold to 15$\frac{1}{2}$ silver=100) :—

	Price.	Index-number.
Average, 1886-95	40$\frac{1}{4}$*d.* =	66·2
„ 1896-1905	27$\frac{1}{8}$*d.* =	44·6
„ 1896	30$\frac{7}{8}$*d.* =	50·5
End, December, 1900	29$\frac{9}{16}$*d.* =	48·6
Lowest, November, 1902	21$\frac{11}{16}$*d.* =	35·6
End, December, 1904	28$\frac{3}{4}$*d.* =	46·6
„ March	25$\frac{13}{16}$*d.* =	42·4
„ December, 1905	30*d.* =	49·3
„ February, 1906	30$\frac{3}{8}$*d.* =	30·3
„ March	29$\frac{15}{16}$*d.* =	49·2

The full particulars of the annual average prices of the forty-five commodities and of silver during the last fifteen years, and all index-numbers, have now been published in the March number of the Royal Statistical Society's Journal.

ENQUIRIES.

Rough Tobacco.

An English firm seeks information as to possible supplies, and approximate prices, of very **rough dark heavy Indian tobacco** or tobacco refuse would suit the requirements of the firm.

For further particulars application should be made to the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, Government of India, Calcutta.

General Produce.

An enquiry has been received from a firm in London giving good references which desires to sell on commission sale the following goods : **Hides and skins, rubber, horns, carpets, drugs, barks, oils, bristles, ivory, isinglass, gums** and all kinds of general produce.

Apply for particulars to the Director General of Commercial Intelligence.

Call for Jute Tenders.

Jute sacks and cloth.—Tenders will be received at the Directorate of State Monopolies, Bucharest, until June 28th, for 250,000 jute sacks, for salt, and 35,000 metres jute cloth.

CROP FORECASTS. GENERAL MEMORANDA.

In order that the gist of Crop Forecasts may be known to the public without delay, a manuscript copy of the analytic tabular statement will, before publication of the said forecasts, be exhibited in a glass case affixed at the door of this office, 5, Clive Street, Calcutta.

The Final General Memoranda on the **Indian Wheat Crop** and on the **Spring Oilseeds Crop** are due to appear on the 31st instant, and it is hoped that if all the provincial data be received in time, it will be possible to exhibit the tabular statement at four o'clock on the afternoon of the 30th instant.

STRAITS CURRENCY.

The Straits Settlements Dollar has been established successfully at 2*s.* and 4*d.* At one time the parity of the standard Mexican Dollar transposed these figures, and stood at 4*s.* and 2*d.* ; but in 1903 both this coin and the British and Hongkong dollars had fallen to about 1*s.* 7*d.*, when certain recommendations of the Straits Settlement Currency Committee were put in force. The **measures adopted** resembled those taken in India some ten years before ; and it was recognised that while those measures would ultimately terminate the exchange friction as between the Straits and gold countries, they would only transfer that friction to the relations between the Colony and those countries in which a silver standard survived. But seeing that, in Straits trade, gold countries greatly transcended silver countries in importance, the transfer was well worth making.

The issue of Mexican and British dollars by Government was discontinued ; and arrangements were made with the Government of India for the production of a special Straits dollar to take their place. The manufacture of this coin began in September 1903 ; and since that time the following quantities have been struck in the Bombay mint and shipped to the Straits from that port :—

1903-4	$ 15,009,891
1904-5	$ 20,364,664
1905-6	*Nil.*
Total	$ 35,374,555

The importation of the old dollars was also forbidden, although within the Colony they continued to be legal tender together with the new dollar. The reason for the prohibition no doubt was that the large quantities of the old dollars outstanding in various foreign territories where they circulated would tend to flow back and fill the vacuum which the measures were designed to create. The new dollar, as we have said, was made full legal tender concurrently and on a par with such old dollars as were in the Settlements. The old and new thus became linked. The relation of the old dollar to commodities, and so to sterling, was altered by the process of rarification ; and the new dollar came into existence on a plane with it. But a forcible alteration in the level of general prices by a process of rarification of the currency is inevitably accompanied by some temporary inconveniences ; and in the Straits it led in time to complaints on the part of trade. In January last the sterling value of the dollar had risen to two shillings and five pence ; and the Government agreed to call a halt and "for the present" to accept 2*s.* 4*d.* as the sterling value of the dollar. Accordingly, on the 29th of January last, they notified that they would issue notes in exchange for gold at the rate of **sixty dollars to seven pounds sterling** ; and they have undertaken to issue dollars against the deposit of gold in London at the rate of 2*s.* 4$\frac{5}{16}$*d.* per dollar. This rate is, however, considered unfavourable, and in April 1906 gold to the value of Rs. 7,57,500 was shipped from India to Singapore, whereas the monthly average shipment since 1903-04 had been only some Rs. 1,07,600. It was an integral part of the original scheme that so soon as the dollar reached a convenient sterling level, the profit on the issue of the silver coinage at that level should be passed to a Gold Reserve Fund, similar in constitution and control to that in India. Why this was not done as soon as a profit appeared is not very clear. However, it is now done ; and in this connection we may refer again to the true nature and functions of such a Gold Reserve Fund as expounded by the Hon'ble Mr. Baker last March and reported by us in our issue of the 15th April.

For the moment the operation may be said to be complete. Whether it may be the intention of the Government to place their currency in a more directly calculable relation to the pound sterling remains to be seen ; but now that the new dollar has been linked to the old in a parity of exchange, any further elevation of the sterling value must almost inevitably be brought about by renewed restriction of the currency unless indeed the general rise in gold prices which has no doubt favoured the operation and which may reasonably be expected to continue for some time should make up the difference of 2*d.*

It is difficult to refrain from speculation as to the effect that may be produced by the successive object-lessons of India, Japan and the Straits on the vital centres of China in their present receptive condition. Doubtless one has always to reckon with the possibility that China may suddenly become a prey to the panic exclusiveness that sees merit in all disabilities restrictive of relations with the outer world. And unfortunately Englishmen are not always in a position to throw stones at her in this matter, for only a few weeks ago a correspondent in *the Times* based a hot opposition to the adoption of the decimal and metric systems on the ground that our present eccentric weights and measures proved a veritable hedge about our markets for the confusion of the foreign manufacturer. All the arguments of the Paleolithic or Early English school in this controversy may not command respect ; but it is not necessary that its advocates should rely frankly upon doctrines of sheer economic fibulation.

THE LEVANT YARN TRADE.

The **exports of Indian cotton twist** and yarn to the Levant and Egypt during the twelve months ending March 1906 amounted to only 1,776,080 lbs., with a value of Rs. 7,05,029. Indian spinners are much pre-occupied elsewhere and it is unlikely that for sometime they will be able to make any serious effort to recover the position they had assumed in the Levant a couple of years ago. Meantime their tickets, which had become known in those markets, are falling out of knowledge and

those local merchants who helped to popularise them and to create a business in them naturally feel that their endeavours have to some extent been wasted. A reputation for constancy of supply is a most important element in the popularity and success of any article of trade; for no merchant cares to spend himself in pushing a commodity of which the source may dry up at the moment when he has attained his aim. It is quite probable that on this account there will be a prejudice against Indian yarns in the Levant markets for some time to come; and we would suggest that Indian spinners should take steps not only to remove it but to keep a place for Indian goods in Turkey.

Since the individual spinners are unable to maintain a steady supply, it would be well that the Millowners' Association, or at all events a group of its members, should come to an agreement of co-operation under which every month a stated quantity of the most suitable descriptions of yarn should be marketted at Smyrna, Constantinople, Beyrout, etc., under a distinctive range of tickets. There are a number of mills in Bombay which could turn out almost identical yarns. Every member of the group should have the right to ship or "put" a given quantity of yarn of a specified description or descriptions under the marks in question, and the group or syndicate would have the right to require each individual member to ship up to the said prescribed quantity at the covenanted price when the market was bare.

The proportions in which the profit and the loss would be shared by the members of the group —though of loss there would probably not be much danger if the reputation of the marks were maintained—would depend entirely upon the details of the arrangement. When the market improved the size of each member's "put" would be increased, and *vice versa*; but in any case there should be no failure to place a stated minimum quantity on the market every month. It is very possible that when the present demand in other quarters declines, such a group would find themselves virtual masters of the Indian yarn trade with the Levant.

The following extract from the report of the United States Consul upon the Levant yarn markets is full of useful information:—

COTTON YARN.

"Turkey-in-Asia.—In order that American spinners may know the present condition of the yarn trade here, I have collected the following data. The two qualities chiefly sold at Smyrna are the 'water gray' and the 'water gray, extra hard.' **Water gray.**—The annual consumption is about 15,000 bales. Each bale contains 30 packets, each weighing 10 lbs. net. The sizes range from No. 4 to No. 32. Each packet of No. 4 contains 20 skeins of 2 hanks each; No. 6 contains 20 skeins of 3 hanks each; No. 8, 20 of 4 each; No. 10, 20 of 5 each; No. 12, 24 of 5 each; and in all the following numbers each skein contains 10 hanks; No. 14, 28 skeins; No. 16, 16; No. 18, 18; No. 20, 20; No. 22, 22; No. 24, 24; No. 26, 26; No. 28, 28; No. 30, 30; No. 32, 32. Every large hank consists of 7 small hanks of continuous thread. A small hank is forwarded of a 'water gray' yarn No. 20, bearing the mark of the firm Hintley of Manchester, a mark highly appreciated at Smyrna. Yarns of this make are now quoted at 17 cents per lb. for the size No. 20. There is an increase or diminution of $\frac{1}{4}$ cent per lb. for each bi-number above or below No. 20. Thus, No. 22 costs $17\frac{1}{4}$ cents per lb.; No. 18, $16\frac{3}{4}$ cents per lb., etc **Water gray, extra hard.**—The annual consumption is about 5,000 bales. Each bale contains 30 packets of 10 lbs. net. Sizes range from No. 4 to No. 24. Each packet of No. 4 contains 20 skeins of 2 hanks each; No. 6, 20 of 3 each; No. 8, 20 of 4 each; and in all the following numbers each skein contains 5 hanks: No. 10, 20 skeins; No. 12, 24; No. 14, 28; No. 16, 32; No. 18, 36; No. 20, 40; No. 22, 44; No. 24, 48. Each large hank consists of 7 small hanks of continuous thread A sample hank is forwarded of a 'water gray, extra hard,' No 18 bearing the mark of the Indian Mills of Manchester, a mark highly esteemed here. Yarn of their make is now quoted at $19\frac{1}{2}$ cents per lb. for the size No. 20. There is an increase or diminution of $\frac{1}{4}$ cent per lb. for each bi-number above or below No. 20. Thus, No. 22 costs 20 cents per lb. Skeins are folded into bundles 9 in. long, 9 in. wide, 8 in. high. Each bundle is well wrapped in paper of good quality. The colour of the wrapping paper varies according to the desires of buyers. Each bundle bears the lable of the manufacturer. Prices are always quoted in pence per lb. avoirdupois, *c.i.f.* Smyrna. Payment is made on the arrival of goods, less 3 per cent., cash discount, against bill of lading. The bills of lading are presented through a bank, usually through the local agencies of the Imperial Ottoman Bank or the Credit Lyonnais. The Italian manufacturers, who are now steadily increasing their sales in this section, give more liberal terms. Bills of lading are forwarded to their local agents, who surrender them to buyers, against three months' drafts on London. These drafts are remitted immediately to the manufacturers. Quotations fluctuate constantly, following the price of the raw material. Dealers purchasing in quantity usually buy 100-bale lots assorted as follows, in accordance with current demand:—One hundred bales of 'water gray' contain 40 per cent. of Nos. 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14; 50 per cent. of Nos. 16, 18, 20, 22, 24; 10 per cent. of Nos. 28, 30, 32. One hundred bales of 'water gray, extra hard' contain 40 per cent. of Nos. 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14; and 60 per cent. of Nos. 16, 18, 20, 22, 24. The leading firms in Smyrna which handle English and European yarn are Lucas Essayan, Sivrissarian and Aznavorian, and Jacq. Filippucci & Co.

United States Consul at Smyrna.

INDIAN CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

EXCERPTS FROM PROCEEDINGS.

BOMBAY.

(1) READ letter, dated 31st March 1906, from the Bombay Government asking for the views of the Chamber regarding the **danger of the introduction of American Cotton Boll Weevil into India.** (The Director of Agriculture, Bombay Presidency, in reporting on the matter to Government, stated that it was possible to disinfect all American seeds imported at the principal ports in India, and destroy the weevil by fumigation with bi-sulphide of carbon, and suggested that legislation might be undertaken to assume this power.)

RESOLUTION.—Government to be informed that the Committee approve of the suggestion of the Director of Agriculture, provided that the method mentioned above has already been proved to be efficacious for the purpose, and does not injure the ultimate germination of the seed itself. Government should at the same time be asked for information as to whether any experiments have been tried in India, and with what results, as the Committee feel it would be hazardous to legislate without a definite scientific decision on so important an issue. Assuming, however, that Government were in possession of reliable information on the subject, the Committee stated that they favoured the idea of legislation being undertaken on the lines indicated.

(2) READ copy of letter from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, to the Secretary to the Railway Board on the subject of the **inadequate supply of wagons on Indian Railways.**

RESOLUTION.—The Railway Board to be addressed in support of the Bengal Chamber's representation, pointing out at the same time that the grievance referred to was not only felt in Bengal, but also in the west of India; that on more than one occasion, lines leading to Bombay had been seriously inconvenienced by the shortage of stock on the East Indian Railway, and had in consequence to withdraw wagons from their legitimate work of carrying traffic for the public in order to send them to Bengal to fetch coal. As such conditions were an obvious hindrance to the development of trade, the Committee expressed the hope that Government would give the matter their early and serious consideration.

(3) READ letter, dated 18th April 1906, from the Secretary, Bombay Port Trust, stating that enquiry has been made into a complaint by the Native Piece-goods Merchants' Association as to the **pilfering of import packages,** but without satisfactory result, owing partly to want of data as to particulars of the cases which occur. He further asked the Committee to invite piece-goods importers to assist in the matter by reporting all cases of pilfering or shortage, giving particulars of the ports at which the packages were shipped, the marks the packages bore and whether they were taken delivery of from the transit sheds or warehouses.

RESOLUTION.—A circular letter to be addressed to importers of piece-goods, who are members of the Chamber, asking them to furnish the Committee, from time to time, with any information that may be available on the subject, for communication to the Port Trust.

(4) READ letter, dated 30th March 1906, from the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Bombay, stating that the Secretary of State had asked for information on the question of the **mixing of different growths of cotton,** and enquiring whether the Chamber had any information on the following points:—

(1) Quantity and sources of cotton imported into Bombay (either by land or sea) in other than fully pressed bales.

(2) The number of bales of Cotton pressed in Bombay for export to foreign countries.

READ also letter from the Directors, Bombay Cotton Trade Association, on the subject.

RESOLUTION.—The Deputy Director to be informed that no definite information is available on the points mentioned.

As regards the mixing of different growths of cotton, the Deputy Director to be informed that the question is too large a one to reply to satisfactorily without first collecting detailed information on the subject from the cotton districts, embracing as it does (*a*) the mixing of different growths in the up-country factories, as well as in Bombay, and (*b*) the transferring of cotton by rail and carts from one district to another, with the double object of obtaining a favourable station mark on the bales before despatch to Bombay, and also of mixing cotton from one district with that of another, that has a better reputation for style and staple. The Committee suggested that for purposes of a thorough investigation, Government should have enquiries made on the spot in the up-country cotton centres, and collect statistics from Railway Companies showing how much cotton is despatched by rail from one up-country station to another, when, as it is often the case, it cannot be required for local consumption.

(5) READ letter, dated 29th March 1906, from the Karachi Chamber of Commerce forwarding copy of a communication addressed to the Government of Bombay on the subject of the **Alignment of the Bombay-Sind Connection Railway.**

RESOLUTION.—The Bombay Government to be addressed stating that the Committee are in complete accord with the views put forward by the Karachi Chamber, and therefore strongly urge that the alignment of the Railway in question should be carried *via* Bhuj, rather than north of the Runn of Cutch.

(6) READ letter, dated 5th April 1906, from the Bombay Government forwarding copy of a communication for the Government of India on the subject of the **Adulteration of Indian wheat, and of the measures which should be taken to secure the export of cleaner grain.**

RESOLUTION.—The Bombay Government to be informed that the subject referred to has already been fully dealt with in the Chamber's letter of 12th October 1905; but that with reference to para. 2 of the Government of India's letter, in which the views of the Chamber are desired as to whether wheat could be regularly supplied containing not more than 2 per cent. of impurities, the Committee are of opinion that as regards Bombay wheat this low percentage of refraction would not, for the reasons previously stated, cover the maximum amount of impurities due to natural causes.

(7) READ letter, dated 11th April 1906, from the Punjab Chamber of Commerce, on the subject of **lost consignments and Railway Liability.** (The Punjab Chamber stated that in the case of a bag of flour admitted to have been stolen from the Railway—part of a consignment of 450 bags booked from Delhi to Howrah—on a Risk Note, Form B, the East Indian Railway repudiated liability on the ground that the Risk Note exonerated the Railway Company from all responsibility. The Punjab Chamber suggested a representation being made to Government in the matter.)

RESOLUTION.—The Punjab Chamber to be informed that the Committee understand this question is having the attention of Government; that in March last, a revised form of Risk Note, as adopted by the Railway Conference, was circulated to the different Railways to ascertain if they were prepared to accept the Risk Note as revised by Government, whereby the loss of a complete consignment, or one or more complete packages forming part of a consignment, due to the neglect of a Railway, was not exempted by the terms of the Risk Note.—

(Vide Resolution Bengal Chamber, page 260, col. 1.)

(8) READ letter, dated 12th April 1906, from the Karachi Chamber of Commerce, forwarding copy of a communication addressed to the Government of India, suggesting that **Circular Steel Plates or Discs** should, in future, be charged Import Duty at the rate of 1 per cent., instead of 5 per cent. as hitherto.

RESOLUTION.—Government to be addressed in support of the Karachi Chamber's proposal —

(Vide Resolution Bengal Chamber, page 260, col. 2.)

(9) READ letter, dated 18th April 1906, from the Government of India, forwarding copy of a communication addressed to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, in reply to the representation made by that body (and supported by the Bombay Chamber), regarding the **Levy of Customs Duty on the Contents of Packages found short on importation.**

The following is the Government of India's reply to the Bengal Chamber:—

"The question of the levy of Customs Duty on the contents of packages found short on importation was thoroughly examined by the Government of India, and that after full consideration of the legal and administrative aspects of the case, the orders contained in the letter from this Government to the Government of Bengal, No. 4271, dated 15th October 1891 (a copy of which is enclosed), were issued. The orders of the Board of Revenue, L. P., dated the 9th May 1889—which are referred to in para. 2 of your letter of the 28th ultimo—were superseded by these orders, but the incorrect procedure previously in force appears to have been allowed to continue in Calcutta, and in December last the attention of the Government of India was drawn to the fact. The matter was again considered and it was decided that the orders of 1891 should be maintained and that the practice obtaining at Calcutta should be assimilated with that in force at Bombay, Karachi, Madras and other Indian ports.

The master of a vessel is responsible, under the Sea Customs Act, if a package is found broken on board, and if it can be shown by reasonable evidence that the contents are deficient. He is not, however, responsible for any articles missing from a case on board his vessel, if the case is unbroken, and if it appears in the Manifest (as it always does) as a package the contents of which are unknown; nor is he responsible if the breakage or deficiency is not discovered until after the goods have been landed. Masters of vessels are, therefore, held responsible for deficiencies in packages only when the circumstances are such that these deficiencies are in all probability due to negligence, or fraud, or defective supervision on their part. The Agents of the vessel are not in any case responsible for duty or penalties on goods landed, under section 85 of the Act, into their custody, unless they agree in writing, prior to the grant of the permission required by that section, to accept the liability for all duties which would or might have been recoverable in respect of missing or deficient goods had the cargo been examined on board.

The Government of India regret that they are unable to alter the decision already given in this matter as a relaxation of the orders might open the door to fraud and collusion.

RESOLUTION.—To be recorded pending further communication from the Bengal Chamber.

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BENGAL.

The Labour Question.—At their meeting of 3rd April the Committee considered letter of 22nd March from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, General Department, forwarding a copy of letter from the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, dated 8th March, with official papers, following on a recent article in the *Times of India* on the conditions of mill labour in Bombay. This had formed the subject of correspondence between the Government of Bengal and the Government of India. The Government of India had decided that it was desirable that the various questions raised in connection with the matter should be discussed and a definite policy adopted. The Government of Bengal now invited the opinion of the Chamber on the following points:—(1) The advisability of restricting the hours of labour of adult males in factories. (2) The advisability of requiring the production of a certificate of physical fitness as well as of age in the case of children, before they are employed as workers. It was decided that as large questions were opened up by this reference, intimately connected with the working of mills, factories, engineering works, and other departments of labour, the papers should be referred to the various associations for an expression of their views, before any reply was sent.

Late Shipment of Piece-Goods.—At their meeting of 3rd April the Committee considered a letter of 29th March from the Secretary, Calcutta Import Trade Association, enquiring whether any communication had been received from the Manchester and Glasgow Chambers of Commerce to the representation made by this Chamber in October 1905, as they had been approached by the Marwari Chamber of Commerce with a request for information. Copy of the reply received, under 21st February, from the Chamber of Commerce and Manufactures at Glasgow was sent to the Committee of the Calcutta Import Trade Association and subsequently copy of a further letter, dated 23rd March, from the Secretary, Manchester Chamber of Commerce, was also forwarded to them. This last letter intimated that the Directors were doing all that was possible to bring about a satisfactory outcome of the present discussion and were in active communication with the Chambers of Commerce of Blackburn and Burnley.

Telegraph Service.—The Committee dealt in the course of the month with a number of complaints with reference to various shortcomings of the Telegraph Service in connection with mis-delivery of telegrams, delays in delivery of telegrams, and illegible writing on the telegrams themselves. These complaints were not confined to mercantile firms but also emanated from the banking community. The Committee addressed the Superintendent in charge, Government Telegraph Office, requesting that such steps might be taken as would prevent a recurrence of these complaints, which were becoming numerous, and received in reply a letter stating that the matter had already been taken up and steps had been taken to ensure a better delivery in the system all round. The Superintendent expressed the hope that members of the Chamber would bring direct to his notice any complaints they had to make of any kind as it would facilitate his control.

Government Securities.—The attention of the Committee was drawn, in connection with the recent case in which the Allahabad Bank, Ld., were defrauded of Rs. 80,000 by accepting a forged Government Promissory note on genuine paper as security for an advance, to the necessity which existed for the introduction of some procedure in the Public Debt Office under which the validity of Government Promissory notes could be ascertained without delay. Under present circumstances the only means of testing the genuineness of a Government Promissory note is, by presenting it at the Public Debt Office for renewal which involves a fee of Re. 1 and also the detention of the note for a week or ten days. The Committee have addressed the Government of India, Finance Department, asking if it is possible to introduce a system by which the validity of notes can be ascertained with reasonable despatch, as this would be a great convenience and protection to the community in general.

Indian Councils Act, 1892.—The opinion of the Committee was invited by the Government of Bengal on a proposal to amend Rule VI of the regulations made by the Governor-General in Council under the provisions of the Indian Councils Act, 1892, with the object of restricting nominees to the Legislative Council of Bengal to Commissioners of Municipalities or members of District Boards. The Committee in reply expressed their regret that they were not in accord with H. H. the Lieutenant-Governor in regard to this question as the proposal appeared to them to be of a somewhat re-actionary character, and to strike at the independence of the electorate who are at present absolutely free to select the best representatives possible from wide areas; and it is a matter of the greatest importance to residents in Calcutta in particular and Bengal in general, that the best men should be sent up for the Council.

Lower Ganges Bridge Project.—This has formed the subject of a strong representation by the Committee to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Public Works Department, pressing upon Government the urgent necessity for the construction of a bridge at Sara. The letter, which has been published for general information, reviewed the history of this project from the time when it was originally made in 1890, and the steps which have since been unsuccessfully taken to get it accomplished. The Committee submitted that proper weight should be given to the views of the Chamber in the matter, as representing the mercantile community, and they protested strongly against a bridge being constructed anywhere but at the Sara-Damukdia crossing which was of vastly greater commercial importance, from a trade point of view, than any other site which had been suggested for the bridge. The final decision in this important matter rests with the Secretary of State. The Committee's representation has been supported by the Indian Tea Association, the Indian Jute Mills' Association, and the Calcutta Baled Jute Association.

Hospital Port Dues Fund.—The representation made by the Committee to the Government of Bengal, urging a reconsideration of the Hospital Port Dues Fund, in view of the large unexpended balances which were accumulating every year, was referred to in the abstract of proceedings for February. On the 6th April the Committee were informed by the Government of Bengal that H. H. the Lieutenant-Governor had decided to reduce the rate of the Hospital Port Dues, levied on ships entering the Port of Calcutta, from nine pies to

six pies per ton, with effect from the 1st April 1906. About the same time the Committee gathered from the Bengal Financial statement 1906-07 that a contribution of Rs. 2,00,000 had been made from the Calcutta Hospital Port Dues Fund towards the maintenance of the Presidency General Hospital. This would reduce the balance shown at the end of 1904-05 to about Rs. 1,50,000.

Railway Risk-Notes.—The Committee dealt with a reference from the Punjab Chamber of Commerce on a point in connection with the repudiation of liability by the East Indian Railway Company with regard to the loss of a bag of flour booked from Delhi to Howrah on a risk-note—Form B—on the ground that the risk-note exonerated them entirely. The Committee pointed out that under present circumstances the Railway Company were exonerated under risk-note form B, but that there was little doubt that in the course of a short time this particular form would be abolished and another would be introduced, on the lines indicated by the Railway Conference, providing for responsibility on the part of a Railway Company for the loss of a complete consignment, or of one or more packages forming part of a consignment, due to the wilful neglect of the Company or its servants, or of theft by its employés. Although this did not go quite as far as the recommendations put forward by the Conference of Indian and Ceylon Chambers of Commerce held in Calcutta in January 1905, it was thought, in view of the remarks made by the Hon. Mr. Hewett in his speech in Council on the 28th March in the Budget debate, there was nothing much to be gained by moving further at present.

Commission on Inland Money-Orders.—In December 1905, the Committee supported a representation to the Director-General of the Post Office from the United Planter's Association of Southern India, pressing for a reduction in the Commission on Inland Money-Orders and have been favoured by the Director-General with a copy of his reply which pointed out that, while he was not averse to any reduction in the existing rates for Inland Money-Orders which might in the future become feasible, no reduction was possible at present, as the Post Office, as a commercial department, could not be expected to perform such service at a loss.

Campbell Hospital.—The Committee have approved of a proposal made by the Government of Bengal for the formation of a lay Committee of visitors for the Campbell Hospital, Sealdah, similar to that which has been constituted for the Presidency General Hospital, and have intimated their willingness to nominate a representative of the Chamber on the Committee.

Customs Duty on Shortages.—The representation made to the Government of India, and referred to in the abstract of proceedings for March, urging that the system which has so long prevailed in Calcutta may not be changed has, they regret to say, been unsuccessful, although supported by the Committees of the Bombay, Madras and Karachi Chambers of Commerce.

Assessment of Import Duty on Circular Steel Plates or Discs.—The Committee have supported a representation made by the Karachi Chamber in favour of an alteration of the Import Tariff Schedule providing for the re-transfer of circular steel plates or discs to the category of unmanufactured articles liable to 1 per cent. duty only from which they were taken at the last revision of the tariff.

Prevention by Legislation of the Fraudulent Watering of Jute.—Since the issue of the abstract of proceedings for March, the draft Bill referred to therein has been finally considered and approved by the Committee. It has been submitted to the Government of Bengal and to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, as the result of prolonged and careful consideration on the part of the Committee of the Chamber, in consultation with representatives of all the various branches of the trade in jute, after a discussion which has lasted two years. The Committee believe that it fully represents the general consensus of opinion as to the best mode of dealing with the evils to which it is now sought to put an end, although it may require modification in matters of detail, and they have expressed a hope that legislation will be introduced on the lines of the Bill at as early a date as possible. The papers have been already published for general information.

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TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

THE "Board of Trade Journal," published on the 3rd May, in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations, gives particulars about—

Japan.—Draft of Proposed New Customs Tariff.

Australian Commonwealth.—Customs Decisions Free Importation of Military Collar Pads. Drawbacks.

South African Customs Union.—Customs Decisions.

British Central Africa Protectorate.—Rate of Exchange.

St. Vincent.—Additional Duty continued during 1906.

Egypt.—Valuation Tariff for Hemp and Jute Cloth, Sacks and Twine.

Russia (Finland).—Duty-Free Admission of "American Bacon."

Germany.—Greco-German Treaty of 1884.—Valonia Free of Duty. Tariff Index. Instructions for Levying Customs Duties. Declaration of Goods for Statistical Purposes. Statistical Index, etc.

Germany—Ethiopia.—Treaty of Friendship and Commerce.

France—Haiti.—Prolongation of Commercial Convention of 1900.

Italy—New Commercial Treaty with Austria-Hungary.—Schedule of Italian Import Duties.

Roumania.—Time of Application of New Tariff—Refund of Duties overcharged.

Nicaragua.—Free Importation of Common Soap. Free Exportation of Silver Coin.

Costa Rica.—Duty on Liquefied Carbonic Acid Gas. Articles of Prohibited Importation.—Transhipment into Small Vessels.

Honduras.—New Port of Entry for the District of Puerto Cortes.

Venezuela.—Establishment of Cartridge Factory: Import of Cartridges Prohibited.

Bolivia.—New Customs Tariff.

Ecuador.—New Customs Tariff.

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We give the following particulars of changes **interesting to Indian Trade:—**

JAPAN.

Proposed New Customs Tariff—Draft of.

The new Tariff Law proposes to permit the refund of the duties paid on the materials used in the case of certain articles (to be subsequently specified) manufactured from imported materials and exported to foreign countries. It is also proposed to levy countervailing duties on bounty-fed goods. **Coal** is to be free of duty; also **ships' stores** supplied to ships in open ports.

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BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

Exchange—Rate of.

A copy of the "British Central Africa Gazette" for 28th February last contains a Customs Notice, until further notice, the following will be the rate of exchange, for Customs purposes, for Portuguese and Indian currency within the British Central Africa Protectorate:—

Portuguese currency, 4,500 reis to the 1*l.* sterling.

Indian currency, 15 rupees to the 1*l.* sterling.

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EGYPT.

Hemp and Jute Cloth, Sacks and Twine—Valuation Tariff for.

The Egyptian "Journal Officiel" for the 14th April contains a revised Valuation Tariff for assessing import duties on hemp and jute cloth, sacks, and twine. This Tariff, which came into force on the 17th April, and is to remain in operation for one year, or until denunciation, is as follows:—

Articles.	Valuation per kilog.*	
	Indian Sacks.	European Sacks.
	Millièmes †	Millièmes.†
Hessian jute or hemp sacks, made of plain cloth, common quality	27½	32½
Twilled hessian jute or hemp sacks, common quality	18½	22
Hessian jute or hemp cloth, plain or twilled, common quality, not exceeding 4½*d.* per yard for the plain	32½	
Jute or hemp untwist twine	28	
Old sacks	14½	

* Duty is levied on these valuations at the rate of 8 per cent.

† 1,000 millièmes = £E 1=1*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*

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CONSULAR REPORT.

RUSSIAN OIL DISTRICTS.

Mr. Consul Stevens, in his report on the **Trade** and Commerce of **Batoum and District** for the year 1905, dated Batoum, March 26, 1906, states that the downward movement in the trade of Batoum, which began so far back as the middle of the year 1904, went from bad to worse in January, 1905, and towards the month of April of the latter-mentioned year the situation became exceedingly acute. Trade declined to such an extent that most, if not all, of the industrial establishments of the town were compelled to bring their activity to a complete standstill, and to discharge all their workmen. Much of this deplorable condition of affairs is to be attributed to the continued disturbances throughout Russia and in particular to the prevalent disorders in the Caucasus.

Setting Batoum and its industries and commerce aside for the moment, he gives a few examples of the havoc wrought by the **labour and railway strikes, racial conflicts and other disorders** which followed each other in such rapid succession during the whole of the year 1905, in many parts of the vast region included in this Consular District.

In February, 1905, racial conflicts between Armenians and Tartars broke out at Baku, in which a very large proportion of the labouring classes employed at the oil-fields took an active part. These struggles were followed by strikes of a more or less prolonged duration at various periods of the

first-half of the year, the troubles reaching their culminating point towards the month of August, 1905, when an industry of the greatest value and magnitude, and probably the most extensive one in the Russian Empire, was practically wrecked by incendiarism and otherwise destroyed by infuriated mobs of workmen, to an extent which has necessitated the reconstruction and complete reorganisation of the whole of the wonderful and costly machinery installations and other appliances which existed at **the oilfields,** and a very long time may elapse before the output of oil by the wells near Baku reaches the volume which the production of crude petroleum had attained at the end of the year 1904. Towards the close of October and in the first three days of November last, fresh troubles broke out at Baku, and were accompanied by considerable loss of life and destruction of property, but on this occasion the oil fields were not affected to such a great extent, although the trade of the town suffered very severely in consequence.

A perpetual state of commotion was likewise maintained in many parts of the Caucasus outside Baku and Batoum, including the **manganese ore** territory in the government of Kutais, the city of Tiflis, the towns of Elisavetpol, Erivan, Kutais, Ozourgheti and several other industrial and commercial centres. At these places the incessant activity of the turbulent elements reacted most disastrously upon the economic condition of the country, the population of which, in consequence of the prevalent financial crisis, is on the verge of a state of pauperism never before witnessed in the Trans-Caucasus. The municipalities of the localities referred to are, without a single exception, bankrupt, many people are also in a very bad plight and are compelled to liquidate their business, seeing that they are unable to meet their financial obligations, and the peasantry throughout the country are in the greatest distress.

Under the above conditions it is difficult to expect in the near future the return of industry and trade to the normal conditions that obtained before the recent outbreak.

As a consequence of all this no improvement took place in the general state of employment at Batoum and other Caucasian ports during the year 1905, when compared with the year that immediately preceded it. During the first three months of the year most of the industries having closed down there was practically no demand for labour. In the harbours, however, the few ships that called required to be either discharged or loaded, and here the same difficulties in the employment of labour were experienced as in 1904. The unruly and defiant spirit which was so prevalent amongst the men throughout the year 1904, was again exhibited by them in 1905, and in all instances they went so far in their demands that it became extremely difficult, and at times almost impossible, to get any work connected with shipping done in the various harbours situated in the district of this Consulate.

In this connection it would seem that the acute distress created by the general upheaval and stopping of industries, which threw a practically unlimited number of hands on to the few branches of business, which under great difficulties were still kept going, should have rendered labour plentiful and cheap. Experience showed, however, that the more labour that was thrown on the market and the greater the demand for employment the more complicated was the situation rendered.

Under the influence of the deplorable state of affairs that obtained at both ends of the Trans-Caucasian railway, the quantity of **mineral oil for shipment** to foreign countries was reduced to a minimum, and beginning from the month of May last the number of steamers usually visiting the port commenced to drop off until, towards the autumn of the year, one or two of the companies running regular lines had ceased to send their boats to Batoum, and British shipping dwindled down to figures which have never yet been recorded since first the port became a visiting centre for shipping, some 19 to 20 years ago. Only 75 British steamers, of the aggregate tonnage of 172,681 tons, entered, and 76 steamers, of 175,150 tons, cleared from the port of Batoum. The arrival and departure of tank steamers at the port has become almost an event of the past, although hopes are entertained that a resumption of the oil-carrying trade by vessels of this class may take place by the middle of the present year. The number of tank steamers of all nationalities that entered and cleared at the port of Batoum in 1905 was 158, so that nearly 50 per cent. of bulk oil was taken away from the port in British hulls.

Apparently owing to the impossibility of arriving at any satisfactory arrangement with the factory hands at Batoum, one of the more extensive **case and can manufacturing** firms decided last year to **transfer its business to Alexandria,** to which place some of the machinery belonging to one of its Batoum factories was removed, and, together with a consignment of new machinery imported from America, was installed in the Alexandria factory. It is stated that this installation is capable of producing 10,000 cases and 20,000 cans per diem, and the oil required for filling them is imported in a tank steamer belonging to the firm in bulk from Batoum. It is also reported that another firm has acted pretty much on similar lines at one of the Italian Adriatic ports. It is quite possible that the once prosperous industry which, during its better day, furnished permanent employment, at a low estimate, for 6,000 factory hands and a very large number of dock labourers, may never be rehabilitated at Batoum in its former prosperous and extensive proportions.

The annual return of **exports** shows a marked falling-off in the shipments of petroleum products during the year 1905, which were over 50 per cent. less than the quantities exported in 1904. The figures of the other principal articles exported from Batoum, such as wool, manganese ore, walnut wood, cocoons and raw silk also show a considerable decrease. On the other hand an advance is apparent in the figures of the shipments of liquorice root and paste, of maize and one or two other unimportant items.

The increase in the export of liquorice root is to be attributed to the fact that the capitalists who purchased one or two of the factories engaged in pressing liquorice root in the Caucasus in 1904 only shipped the production of the factories thus acquired in 1905.

Under the prevailing unsatisfactory conditions the **import trade** of Batoum suffered. The principal items of import are exclusively dependent upon the prosperity of the oil industry, and the case-making factories having shut down in the early part of the year, the imports of tin plates, timber, spelter, tin, etc., which were no longer required, ceased to arrive. In like manner the Baku oil refineries having been compelled, through strikes and other unprecedented events, to reduce their activity, the demand for sulphur during the year was less than in preceding years.

The total quantity of **mineral oil** that was brought to Batoum during the year 1905 from Baku by pipe-line and tank-cars was :—

	Quantity.	
	Poods.	Barrels.
Kerosene	17,408,710	1,892,250
Machine oil	4,324,119	470,010
Solar oil	2,058,875	221,510
Mazut	819,119	81,911
Distillate	456,876	49,650
Spindle oil	519,340	56,450
Cylinder oil	156,295	16,990
TOTAL	25,743,334	2,788,771

As compared with the totals for the years 1904-02 :—

Year.	Quantity.	Decrease.	
	Poods.	Poods.	Barrels.
1904	80,486,885	55,743,541	5,950,380
1903	81,081,942	55,338,598	6,015,060
1902	77,229,357	51,486,030	5,596,310

The stocks of oil at Batoum at the close of the year were :—

	Quantity.	
	Poods.	Barrels.
Kerosene	2,834,901	308,140
Distillate	18,804	2,040
Solar oil	430,993	46,850
Machine oil	33,035	14,460
„ distillate	19,642	2,790
Cylinder oil	19,859	2,160
Lubricating oil	14,112	1,540
Mazut	207,213	20,721
Crude oil	5,597	560
TOTAL	3,584,296	399,261

The bulk of the balance of **kerosene in stock at Batoum** on the last day of 1905 and most of the other oils referred to have been exported since January 1, 1906, so that until fresh oil commences to arrive from Baku the Batoum stocks are practically depleted, except some very insignificant quantities of kerosene which remain for local consumption.

The following quantities of **petroleum products** were exported from Batoum during the period under review :—

	Quantity.	
	Number.	Poods.
Cases of kerosene 1·8 poods net weight.	1,564,832	4,075,352
Cans of kerosene 0·9 „ „	1,398,728	
Petroleum products in bulk	...	32,687,773
Total	...	36,763,125

Or in cases and cans 442,760 barrels, and in bulk 3,553,302 barrels, which when compared with the exports of oil in previous years give the following results :—

In.	Quantity.	Decrease.	
	Poods.	Poods.	Barrels.
1904	77,095,527	40,332,402	4,383,950
1903	77,128,348	40,365,223	4,387,520
1902	80,475,905	43,712,870	4,838,350

Although the **transit of merchandise** from foreign countries **through the Caucasus to Persia** is strictly forbidden, yet at times, by special permission of the Russian Government, goods in exceedingly moderate quantities do find their way through the country, and 1,556 tons of general goods were in this way transported through Batoum during the year and despatched by rail to Baku for conveyance to Persia.

In view of the unsatisfactory economic condition of the country, the past year was not propitious for trade in British manufactured goods with the Caucasus. It is doubtful whether the demand for such goods is likely to improve during the present year, and Mr. Stevens is inclined to think that in this respect a revival should not be anticipated. Besides, the **newly introduced customs tariff** is likely greatly to handicap the entry of British goods

into the country, especially so in the case of iron manufactured articles and machinery, the duties on which have been raised very high.

The **mines belonging to the Caucasus Copper Company** in the district of Artvin were shut down in the latter half of 1905 as the system adopted for treating the ore proved unprofitable. It has been decided to adopt another method and new plant is being erected at a very heavy outlay which is fully expected to prove successful.

Messrs. Siemens, who owned copper mines in the Government of Elisavetpol, have also acquired concessions in the district of Artvin and are carrying on exploration works there.

Should these two concerns prove successful it seems possible that Batoum may look forward to derive some benefits from the mining industry in its neighbourhood.

The following particulars concerning **manganese ore** will be of interest. The unstable and depressed condition of the Caucasian manganese ore trade, which was so prevalent for a period extending over four years, commenced to revive again in the spring of 1905. At about this time an important advance in the prices of ore took place, the demand for manganese became brisk and the mines at Tchiatouri during the rest of the year worked with unprecedented intensity, except of course on the several occasions on which they were compelled to remain idle in consequence of the vexatious strikes of the year. At one time during the period under review the narrow-gauge railway on the Tchiatouri branch line was working up to 200 trucks per diem, and two or three fresh sidings were added on this branch in order to increase the traffic capacity of the line. These sidings rendered it possible to bring as much as 180,000 poods (or about 3,000 tons) of ore per diem down to the trunk line from the mines. It is reported that the whole of this quantity of manganese is now daily handled, without interruption, at the station of Sharopan where the ore is transferred to other trucks for conveyance to Poti by the broad-gauge railway. Both at the mines and at this point it would seem that work throughout most of the year was carried on by day and night in two shifts.

Mr. Vice-Consul Urqhart reports as follows of **Baku :—**

Owing to the disturbances which have occurred during the past year and the consequent disorganisation which has taken place in every branch of trade and commerce, this report cannot be written with the fullness that would be wished; that is to say, it must lack the greater part of the statistics and figures relative to the oil business. None of the Government figures are to hand, and the offices of the Society of Producers and Refiners are themselves some two months behind-hand with their work and have none of the usual statistics worked out.

The oil trade, which is the staple industry of the town, and that on which all other trade depends, has passed through a crisis during the year under review such as perhaps no other industry has been called upon to face.

Dating back as far as 1903 **labour troubles** have been felt in Baku more severely, perhaps, than in any other part of Russia; in July of that year the first general strike took place. Owing to the political conditions of the country and the cosmopolitan interests held by the various firms and small owners, combination with a view to resistance has hitherto been an impossibility, and the labour movement has grown more or less unchecked. During the past year strikes either in the work-shops or on the oil fields have been almost a monthly occurrence, and not for a single month can it be said that the output of crude petroleum has been up to the normal standard.

The total amount of **British Capital** in the oil industry here amounts to about 6,000,000l., the five principal British companies being The Russian Petroleum and Liquid Fuel Company, Limited, The Baku Russian Petroleum Company, Limited, The Schibaieff Petroleum Company, Limited The Bibie-Eybat Petroleum Company, Limited and The European Petroleum Company, Limited. Each of these companies suffered very heavily during the August-September disturbances. Every endeavour was made to obtain compensation for losses from the authorities in St. Petersburg: but all efforts in this direction failed, it being ruled that British companies trading in Russia should be on the same footing as Russian companies. By way of compensation the Russian Government has issued a loan of 22,000,000 r. to the producers and refiners on the following conditions: The loan to be paid back in 10 years, with interest at the rate of $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. during the first two years there is no obligatory payment of the loan and no interest, but a guarantee of three-quarters of a copeck on each pood of crude petroleum produced. The loan thus issued is to be divided among the various firms and owners according to their actual losses incurred.

As mentioned before, the loss of actual material destroyed by fire was estimated at 27,000,000 r., which estimate was based on prices of material before the fires, and labour for reconstruction was not taken into consideration. After the fires the prices of material naturally rose to 35 per cent. above their former quotations, and the total cost of reconstruction, including labour, was estimated at 40,000,000 r.

At the beginning of the year under review it was expected that **prices** for crude and petroleum residium would be high owing to the prospective shortage; now, however, on account of the incessant stoppage and consequent extra shortage, the prices for crude and petroleum residium are abnormally high, crude oil being quoted at 26 c. per pood (one pood equals 36 lbs.) for forward delivery and residium at 27 c. per pood. The following will serve to show what are the normal requirements:—

It is reckoned that Russia herself requires at least 340,000,000 poods of residium for purposes of liquid fuel for her own consumption during the year and the replenishment of her stocks. The year is reckoned over a period dating from November to November, this being the approximate date of the closing of the navigation of the Volga, after which date stocks have to accumulate in Baji until the re-opening. Taking the following approximate figures for requirements of all products, we have :—

	Quantity.
	Poods.
Petroleum residium forwarded into Russia	340,000,000
Through Novorossisk (various products)	25,000,000
„ Batoum—	
Kerosene	55,000,000
Lubricating oil, etc.	30,000,000
Sent into Russia—	
Kerosene	50,000,000
Crude oil for fuel	30,000,000
Lubricating oil, etc.	5,000,000
Used for fuel in Baku for refining and in production on the fields, loss in leakage and fuel on the Caspian Sea	100,000,000
Total	635,000,000

Taking into consideration the fact that only half the usual quantity of kerosene was forwarded through Batoum and Novorossisk for export, owing to the lack of demand and lowness of prices abroad, the total requirements for 1905 were about 600,000,000 poods of crude oil, whereas the total output for the year was only just over 400,000,000 poods (official figures not yet issued); this leaves a shortage of some 200,000,000 poods at the beginning of the year 1906. This, of course, is considerably counteracted by the fact that owing to the strikes and stoppages of railways and manufactories in Russia the requirements in Russia were less than usual during 1905. Stocks have not been taken into consideration, as the stocks at the opening of the last navigation were only about 10,000,000 to 12,000,000 poods in Russia, and this may be counted as dead stock, enough to cover the bottoms of the reservoirs and storage tanks. From this it will be easily seen that at the opening of the present navigation the stocks in Russia will be practically nothing, and as the output this year is also expected to be short of the required quantity, very high prices for crude oil and residium are expected.

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BEIRA.

Mr. Consul Maugham in his report on the **Trade and Commerce** of the Consular District of **Beira** for the year ended December 31, 1905, states that the commercial depression, which for several years past has been felt so severely throughout the territory of the Mozambique Company, continues unabated. During the year 1905, notwithstanding strenuous efforts on the part of the Government to introduce measures calculated to assist and encourage existing undertakings, so restricted has been the amount of business actually offering that merchants have been forced to the conclusion, after reducing working expenses to the narrowest possible margin, that the restricted population of Beira and the territory behind it is at present insufficient to keep them actively employed. The circulation of money is limited and credit is strained to its utmost extent.

At the time of writing the report it was only possible to furnish the gross amount of the value of the imports during the year under review. They show a decrease in comparison with those of the preceding year, thus :—

	£
1904	262,925
1905	212,089
Decrease	50,836

These depressing yearly decreases are due for the most part to the fact that the Mozambique Company's territory has not yet succeeded in attracting a sufficient number of settlers and that the internal resources of the country are not yet developed to a point at which they can be regarded as of any great importance towards quickening the existing commercial stagnation into any semblance of activity.

A steady business continuous to be done in **printed cotton goods,** considerable quantities of which are imported by local German and Dutch firms. These products are in many cases of Manchester manufacture, printed in the Netherlands and Germany, and arrive here packed in bales of 100 pieces, each piece consisting of five cloths, measuring 68 ×48 inches. These goods are shipped to Portuguese East Africa by ships of the German East Africa Line of steamers, and are to a large extent nationalised at Lisbon as Portuguese products, a process from which they derive a customs rebate of 20 per cent. on arrival. The texture of some of these cottons is phenomenally light, a circumstance from which they derive an advantage which will be understood when it is explained that the duty charged is 380 reis (1s. $8\frac{3}{4}$d.) per kilo.

"In my annual report for 1904," says Mr. Maugham, "I drew attention to the difficulty which merchants and others experience locally in finding markets for goods of a superior quality, adding that Continental producers are fast replacing standard articles by cheap imitations which are eagerly purchased by that preponderating class of the community which cannot afford to pay the prices asked for goods of the best make. More than ever is this now the case."

"In the absence of customs figures," he adds, "it is impossible to say how the value of the **imports from India** for 1905 compare with those for the preceding year, but among the British Indian merchants themselves it is believed that these show a tendency to diminish in importance. This I attribute to the growing prevalence of the custom of importing British and Continental products in place of those which were formerly so largely shipped from India. By the native of these coasts the

European product is now preferred, he having discovered the difference between the two in point of quality and consequent durability."

Large shipments of rice continue to be received (amounting in value in 1904 to 17,227*l.*). as well as other **Indian goods** consisting of cotton cloths, both blue and white, in pieces of 12 by 1½ yards, selling at 6*s.* and 6*s.* 6*d.*, also in lengths of 20 yards. with widths of 4, 4½ and 5 feet. Of the latter Mr. Maugham says :—"These manufactures are very inferior, heavily sized, and rarely long survive the washing-stone. Other goods received from India consist of flour, ghee, sugar, tea, furniture, native earthenware, matches, cheap hand-mirrors, inferior tinned provisions and cheap silks. The Indian merchants who receive and retail these articles are very keen business men, of exceptionally developed commercial instinct, and belong usually to the Bunya, Battia and Parsee castes. Their frugal habits and unremitting attention to business enable them to succeed where many Europeans would fail."

The value of the **oversea exports** from the Mozambique Company's territory through Beira, of which no details are as yet available, shows a slight increase over that of the previous year, thus :—

	£
1905	89,440
1904	87,744
Decrease . . .	1,694

The principal articles consist of rubber, sugar, groundnuts, oil seeds and bees wax.

Results obtained in the cultivation of cotton during the past year, though not extensive, are to some extent encouraging and the plantation of this valuable product continues.

The value of the Landolphia rubber exported by the Mozambique Company exceeded their output for the preceding year by 1,467*l.*, the total value shipped by the Government during 1904 and 1905 having been respectively 7,642*l.* and 9,109*l.*

The cultivation of the cocoanut palm continues steadily, if slowly and several plantations are assuming important proportion.

The **export of sugar** from the Zambezi declined slightly during 1905, the actual output reaching 6,095 tons. or nearly 1,000 tons less than in 1904.

This important industry, which will, it is believed, have a considerable influence in shaping the the destinies of the Zambezi Valley, continues to attract attention, and another important plantation on the south side of the river at Chimbué in the Mozambique Company's territory is projected. This undertaking has received a concession of 12,500 acres of land, on the condition that by June 1, 1908, it is capable of manufacturing 8,000 tons of sugar yearly.

On the **Lower Zambezi,** which year by year **grows shallower** and more and more unreliable as a waterway, there are on both sides immense expanses of land in every way suitable for the cultivation of the sugar cane, and it is probable that in years to come this industry will be very extensively pursued in this favourable region.

The **mining industry** of Manica, which for some years past has been slowly but consistently decreasing in importance, presented an unexpected appearance of reviving animation at the end of last year.

The area over which careful prospecting has been undertaken is extremely circumscribed; it would therefore be premature to hazard a conjecture as to what mineral wealth the district may contain. Speaking broadly, however, it may be assumed that the talchose-schist reef formation of Manica forms one with the Umtali field of South-Eastern Rhodesia.

The output of 1905 in comparison with the preceding year shows an actual decrease of 1,197 ozs. 19 dwt., valued at 13,087*l.* 5*s.* 1*d.* in 1904; and 2,138 ozs. 15 dwt., valued at 7,197*l.* 14*s.* in 1905. This decrease is attributable to the fact that the most important mining association in the district ceased working at the end of July 1905, and although continuing development work on other claims, is not at present producing gold.

There at present 18 stamps working in Manica, compared with 10 for the preceding year. Of these, 10 are of 1,250 lbs., 5 of 750 lbs., and 3 of 250 lbs. but a re-awakening interest in the district is manifested by the fact that during the past year 28 stamps were ordered, purchased or erected by claim-holders or small syndicates.

During 1905 no less than 89 prospecting licences were issued, as against 33 in 1904, and it is hoped that the resulting discoveries may to some extent improve the condition of this hitherto unfortunate industry.

During the past year 217 tons of sorted copper ore, taken from the district of Manica and locally estimated to contain 17·07 per cent. of copper, were shiped from Beira as also 4 tons estimated to contain 15 per cent. of the metal.

From the Upper Zambezi very important discoveries of gold-bearing reef and rich alluvial deposits are reported. Large claims have been registered and concessions granted liberally.

Evidence of extensive **coal deposits** has also been found, and some activity in the portion of the Zambezi Valley in the Tete region is not improbable at an early date.

During 1905 a considerable decrease in the number and tonnage of the mercantile vessels entering the port of Beira will be apparent as compared with the figures representing the movement during the preceding year.

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WEATHER SUMMARY.

For the week ending the 19th May 1906.

DURING the period under review there was nearly general rain in Burma, Eastern Bengal and Assam, local rain in South-West Bengal, on the Orissa Coast and in the western districts of South India; a few light showers were reported from Murree and Peshawar in the extreme north; dust and thunderstorms with rain had been fairly general in the United Provinces the Punjab and the West Himalayas, while a number of thunder-storms had occurred in South India. The principal amounts of rainfall were:—Silchar 3·73″, Shillong 3·70″, Saugor Island 2·03″, Burdwan 1·91″, Jessore 1·69″, Cochin 1·40″, Purnea 1·39″, Chittagong 1·38″, Dinajpur 1·37″, Berhampore 1·36″, Narayanganj 1·35″, Bogra 1·27″, Trivandrum 1·23″, Salem 1·20″, Cherra Poonjee 1·07″, Mymensingh 1·05″, Rangoon 1·04″, Darjeeling 1·03″, Calcutta 0·93″, Lucknow 0·90″, Gorakhpur 0·71″ and Murree 0·63″.

Rainfall continued throughout the week in North-East India and in the south of the Peninsula; in both these areas thunder-storms had been prevalent. On the 13th instant, the trough of low pressure shifted slightly southward, and the damp air from the Bay flowed across Lower Bengal into Chota Nagpur where conditions were accordingly more favourable for the occurrence of thunder-showers. Skies had become partially overcast in the Central Provinces and cloud increased on the Malabar Coast, while there had been a considerable increase in humidity in Chota Nagpur and a large increase in the United Provinces. On the 14th, the winds at the head of the Bay were irregular and the flow of humid air into North-East India was somewhat interrupted which may later diminish the rainfall in that area. The winds on the lower Burma coast and at the Andamans which had been for sometime west-north-westerly and unfavourable for rainfall in Burma were showing a tendency to assume a more usual direction with a southerly component. There had been a decrease of cloud in Eastern Bengal and Assam, Bengal and the eastern districts of South India and an increase in Behar, Chota Nagpur, the Central Provinces, Hyderabad and on the Bombay Coast. The changes in humidity had been small.

On the 15th, the winds on the Lower Burma Coast and at the Andamans shifted to a south-westerly direction, but as there was an ill-defined area of low pressure off the Coromandel Coast the prospects of an increase of rainfall in Burma were not very good. At the head of the Bay, winds were again south-easterly and as cloud had increased in North-East India, conditions were favourable for the continuance of rainfall in that area. In Kashmir, the barometer fell and skies became thickly overcast. Cloud had decreased in Burma, South India and on the Bombay Coast; it had on the other hand increased in the sub-montane districts of the United Provinces where skies were heavily overcast and humidity increased a little. The air was also damper in the Punjab, Rajputana and Central India. On the 16th, cloud increased considerably in Upper Burma but the winds at Slipper Island and Diamond Island had shifted to a south-south-easterly direction and the flow of moist air into Burma was somewhat interrupted. At the same time this shifting of the winds and the low pressure on the Central Madras Coast indicated the existence of an area of low pressure in the Bay. Cloud had decreased in South Bihar and Chota Nagpur, but skies were heavily overcast in the remainder of north-east India. Maximum temperature fell over four degrees in Bengal and Orissa, and was in large defect in the area of rainfall. A number of dust storms had occurred in north-west and Central India, specially in Rajputana and dust haze was reported from many stations. The most prominent changes in the Peninsula had been an increase of humidity in the Bombay-Deccan and of cloud on the Malabar coast. In all the east coast districts skies were partially overcast and in those at the extreme south, temperature was in large excess. On the 17th pressure continued low in the south-west of the Bay, but the winds at the Andamans returned to a westerly direction and skies were moderately to heavily clouded on the lower Burma coast. The prospects for rain had accordingly improved in this part, but in Upper Burma cloud had decreased materially on the 18th, dust and thunderstorms cooled the air to a great extent in the United Provinces and the Punjab, temperature there being about 3° below normal and the greatest deficiency 11½° at Gorakhpur. Humidity had increased in the United Provinces and Kashmir, while skies were moderately to heavily clouded in the latter area and had become clear in the Punjab. On the 19th, cloud in Burma had increased in the interior, and skies were moderately to thickly clouded on the coast. Strong south-westerly winds were blowing into Bengal, and cloud accordingly had increased there and in Eastern Bengal and Assam. Clouds had reappeared in the West Himalayas, the sub-montane districts and Kashmir. They had decreased on the Bombay coast, and skies were lightly clouded in the greater part of the Peninsula, There were no indications of an area of low pressure in the south-west of the Bay.

TELEGRAM FROM THE VICEROY, TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Crop Prospects : Week Ending 5th May last.

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh : Fodder is scarce still in some districts and water supply running short in others; prices have fallen in 17 districts; cholera severe in 4 districts and causing people to leave works in two. **Punjab :** prices are falling generally; fodder scarcity practically disappeared. **Rajputana :** water insufficient in parts; conditions of cattle poor in many places. **Central India :** general situation unaltered. **Bombay :** useful rain in some affected districts but condition of the cattle deteriorating; irrigation sources failing; distress not yet acute; cholera in places. **Hyderabad :** situation same as last reported. In other provinces prospects fair or good. Number of persons in receipt of relief in thousands :—**United Pro-**

vinces of Agra and Oudh, 173; Punjab, 11; Ajmer and Rajputana, 93; Central India, 119; Baroda, 4; Bombay, 78; Hyderabad, 5; total 483.

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DRIFT SARAL AND TELLI TIMBER.

It may be of some interest to timber merchants to know that some 500 excellent pine logs saral (*cupressus torulosa* and *Telli-Pinus longifolia*) have been collected just outside the boundary of British territory on the borders of the Lakhimpur District, and are for sale. A great deal of pains and trouble have been spent by certain timber agents to collect these logs, many of which have been dug out of sand at considerable expense.

In his report on samples of this timber sent to Calcutta in 1904, the Reporter on Economic Products expressed his opinion that the wood of the cupressus was superior to Deodar and from experiments made at Dehra Dun proved more durable as sleepers than the timber of Cedrus Deodara and was especially suited for the pinjra style of wood carving—the making of ceilings and wood panelling; and that he expected it would fetch (presumably in Calcutta) Rs. 3 to Rs. 3-8 per cubic foot.

Local rates, however, are at present considerably below half these figures. Its use in the past has been restricted to the very limited supply—only those logs which were caught by villagers drifting at different points on the Brahmaputra in the high floods being available. An especially high flood in 1896 brought down a fair quality.

I have seen posts of the cupressus which have been in the ground for 10 years or more, quite sound above and below ground.

It is apparently not attacked by white ants, as I have seen pieces of it embedded in a nest of white ants undamaged by them.

Owing to the excellent quality of the timber an attempt has been made to put a larger quantity on the market. If the somewhat costly experiments that have been made proves remunerative, further endeavours will undoubtedly be made to supply any demand.

F. H. CAVENDISH,
Offg. Dy. Consvr., Forests,
LAKHIMPUR.

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BRAZILIAN COFFEE.

THE coffee planters of Southern India, wishing to know exactly how their industry stood in relation to that of Brazil, the Government of India in April, 1905, at the instance of the Government of Madras, sent a despatch to the India Office asking for information regarding the **Brazilian Coffee Industry**. Very detailed questions were asked regarding: labour and wages, cultivation, area, soil and forests; the system of cultivation; the type of trees; the raising of bye-products, shade on estates abandonment of old and opening up of new estates, etc.; crops and the curing of coffee; diseases, and pests; finance, and cost of production; climate, and physical features of the coffee districts; transport and duties. This despatch was transferred through the Foreign Office to the British Minister in Brazil, who distributed the lists of questions to the various Consuls, in order that they might make personal enquiry into the subject. The answers to these questions have now been collected and issued as a white paper by the India Office.

Transmiting the replies from the Consuls, the British Minister in Brazil, in his despatch dated 6th February, 1906, says: "The difficulty of obtaining trustworthy information of a statistical nature in this country is sufficiently recognised to render all explanation of the inability to furnish full and exhaustive reports from the various Consular districts unnecessary. The enormous area of the country, the difficulties of communication and the expense of travelling preclude the possibility of acquiring minute information which could only be obtained by a personal visit to the numerous coffee planters scattered throughout a large portion of Brazil, except by experts specially appointed for the purpose, without other occupations to attend to and with considerable funds at their disposal for travelling purposes."

The British Consul-General at Rio de Janeiro writes of his district:—

"**Coffee planting** is the principal industry of Brazil and coffee is the principal article of export. The consumption of the world is estimated at 16,000,000 bags, the bulk of which is produced in Brazil which yields some 9,000,000 to 15,000,000 bags. The limited demand for the quantity produced caused a crisis in recent years owing to bumper crops and over production. Since then there have been **schemes to restrict production** but these have only taken effect in the State of Saõ Paulo, in which State alone can any official statistics on this subject be obtained.

Saõ Paulo is the principal coffee district.

Labour.—The conditions of labour are different in each locality. It may, however, be calculated that men earn about 2$ a day and women 1$, besides food. "Colonials" or those labourers established on the estate receive land and a certain number of trees in lieu of wages: others have an interest in the crop. The labour is chiefly Italian and Negro, and is bad and scarce. Immigration is required, but has been so badly treated that it is discouraged. Owing to extravagance the planters are mostly in difficulties and do not pay wages when due, or the men are fleeced by the truck system. It is possible for the labourers to live by the cultivation of their own plots. The work on the estate takes some nine months of the year.

NOTE.—1 melries=2*s.* 2·934*d.* formerly, now 1*s.* 5*d.* say Re. 1 1*a*.

Cultivation.—It is only the principal coffee districts which are comprised in the newspaper reports; and there are large tracts of land unplanted and suitable for coffee, and these lands are likely to remain unplanted until the demand for coffee increases. It would probably not be practicable to obtain land for coffee-planting where restriction is in force, nor under the circumstances would it be likely to be profitable. There are extensive railways through the principal coffee districts, the rates varying but are high.

Old fazendas are abandoned and not cultivated, but coffee is picked when the trees happen to yield. When the trees no longer bear the plantation is abandoned, and as the land is privately owned it does not revert to Government, nor is it taxed. **Coffee trees yield berries up to 30 years.** After bumper crops the next crop or two is smaller. Land in Saõ Paulo in some districts produces 3 or 4 times as much as that in Rio de Janeiro. There does not seem to be any extension of planting, and that planting is to replace those trees that go out of bearing. There is not much planted that has yet to come into bearing. Trees begin to bear three years after planting. In Rio the land is hilly, and in Saõ Paulo undulating and flat, with a red soil. There is some heavy forest and much scrub, and the undergrowth is very thick, with creepers, thorns, and grass; heavy timber is found in the forests.

System.—The cost of production and placing at local railway stations may be estimated at 4·300$ a bag of 60 kilos (or 132¼ lbs.).

There are two kinds of trees cultivated in Brazil, the "Bourbon" and "Criola."

The land is not manured, only weeded. No pruning, trees allowed to grow free. No artificial or other shade used. The branches of the "Bourbon" grow up, those of the "Criola" grow out and bend down.

The trees grow to about eight feet high and are planted two metres apart. A full grown tree is about one inch in diameter, one foot from the ground. When planting out one plant is put in each pit. Bye-crops are the exception, and then generally consist of maize. No manure is used. No Government scientific help is given to planters. Abandoned plantations have become so from old age and want of cultivation, and are hopelessly gone. The only cultivation bestowed on coffee is keeping the trees free of weeds. Coffee trees ten years old are in their prime.

Crops and Curing.—A tree takes three years to come into bearing, and continues for 30 years. There are three blossomings a year—in August, September and October—and if these fail and there is rain there will probably be a fourth.

The corps are picked carelessly, the branches or twigs being stripped by running the hand down. Coffee is cured either by drying on a drying ground, or is pulped. The yield in Saõ Paulo is calculated at 200 arobas (the aroba being 32½lbs.) the alqueire of land. Full grown trees are affected to a certain extent after a heavy crop. Ants damage the trees.

Financial.—The system is by advances on crops and mortgage at 12 per cent. The present low prices leave a profit. The lower the exchange the more milreis are received as the price of coffee, so these crops represent gold. The higher the exchange the less profit is made, as expenses are paid in milreis and have not altered.

The financial condition of the majority of the estates is bad, and the general opinion as to the future of the industry is gloomy, No Government financial help is yet given. It is not likely that India can compete with Brazil in the production of coffee whilst the supply exceeds the demand.

Climate and physical features.—Tropical, steamy, relaxing but the climate depends on the altitude. No proper record of the rainfall in the different districts. The country is hilly, broken and overgrown.

Transport.—Extensive railroads run through coffee districts and connect with principal ports. F. O. B. expenses come to about 3$ per bag including price of sack. Sea freights to London about 50 shillings and 2½ per cent. primage. A ton consists of 17 bags.

Duties.—Export duties in Rio de Janeiro 8½ per cent., in Minas Geraes 9 per cent. Information obtained is often conflicting owing to the lack of reliable official returns, and it is difficult to ascertain the lowest price at which the production of coffee would leave a profit, as so much depends on the financial position of the planter and the condition to which the plantation may have been reduced by neglect or through lack of means. As a rule the planter has to calculate a profit after paying off the interest on borrowed capital.

The **report from Per nambuco states that the** industry there is comparatively new, and on a small scale. Labour is, however, very scarce. The rate of wages is from 0·800 to 1·000 for 10 hours' labour. About six hands are employed to the acre, and they receive no supplements to their wages. They work, on an average, 265 days in the year for the planters, and can help themselves very little by subsidiary cultivation on their own account. In the district there are enormous uncultivated tracts suitable for the growing of coffee. These tracts are untouched owing to want of capital, communications, and transport. The land could be leased for 0·040, (about ⅓*d.*,) per square metre. It is impossible, however, to say when communications will be improved. The soil of the district is good, consisting of black vegetable earth, clayey, loose, flat, loamy and retentive. No plantations have been abandoned, but no new plantations are being opened up. The country is rich in forest, both heavy timber and scrub, and the timber is often of great value. The undergrowth consists of dense grass.

It was only recently that planters in the district have taken to **pruning** their coffee, and not many of them do this. The ordinary height of the coffee tree is from 6 to 9 feet. The trees are never topped. They are grown unshaded, though when very young

they are sheltered by the castor oil plants which are grown between the rows. This plant gives fairly dense shade, and the leaves later on form excellent manure. The coffee grown in the district is of the Arabian variety. The trees are planted, one in each pit, at intervals of 10 to 12 feet. **Bye-products** are cultivated between the rows of coffee trees when these are young. These bye-products consist of mandioca, maize and castor oil. No artificial manure is used in the district, the only manure the plants get consisting of the coffee husks and decomposed vegetable matter left on the ground after weeding and cleaning. The **condition of ten-year old trees** is satisfactory, in spite of the fact that all the cultivation they receive consists of weeding. The trees come into bearing at the age of from 2 to 3 years.

There are usually three flushes of bloom, and blossoms and small green berries are often seen on the same tree. Only the ripe berries are picked. **The yield is about 1,100 lbs. per acre.** The trees after a heavy crop usually take two years to recover. The coffee is dried in the husk, stored for two or three months and then hulled. The only **disease** known in the district is the leaf-blight. This appears first as a small yellowish spot upon the leaves, which gradually get darker, till eventually the whole foliage is affected and the tree is killed.

The estates are managed by their owners, and being here fairly free from mortgage, cultivation is still found to be profitable. **The cost of production** is from 14$000 to 17$500 per cwt. (1$000=17*d*). The reason given for the fact that coffee cultivation is still found to pay, in spite of low prices, rising exchange and dear labour, is that, estates being managed by their owners, there is a saving in salaries to agents and middlemen, whilst efficient supervision is secured; freights from Brazil are low, the heavy Suez Canal dues are avoided, and land is more fertile in Brazil than in India. Nevertheless the **outlook** for the coffee industry in Brazil is not considered brilliant. In reply to the question as to what, in his opinion, was the outlook for South Indian coffee planters, the Consul could hold out little hope for future prosperity. **The cost of coffee F. O. B.** is given at 100 reis per bag of 75 kilos, and the freight to London as 30*s. plus* 5 per cent. per ton of 1,000 kilos. There is an export duty of 200 reis per 15 kilos

In his **Report on the industry in Santos,** His Majesty's Consul, writing on the **state of labour, the class** of labour employed, and the wage rates obtaining says:—Brazilian planters are always short-handed. This is due to inability to pay the wages in many cases, consequent upon the crisis produced by low prices. Generally speaking, the great bulk of labour is Italian: probably 95 per cent. The wages average about R 70$000 per year for taking care of 1,000 trees: one average family of say, 5, man, woman, and three children, can take care of 5,000 trees per year=R 350$000 Besides which they make for picking during the harvest say an average for the above-named family 20 alqueires (50 letros) per day for say 70 days=1,400 alqueires at 350 reis=R 490$000 They are allowed also to plant between the rows of coffee trees maize, beans, etc., and to keep pigs, goats, poultry, etc. In this way I calculate they would gain further about R 500$000 per year or . . . R 350$000

„ 490$000

„ 500$000

TOTAL . 1,340$000

at 16*d.* exchange=£89-6-8.

This I estimate a family of 5 persons would make in a year. They save it almost entirely, as their food is practically raised by themselves on the land between the trees.

There are about 70 persons, labourers and dependents, employed to the 100 acres. The labourers work about 150 days for the planter and 150 on their own crops.

There is very little suitable coffee land left unclaimed, except in the far interior, where it is left untouched on account of unremunerative prices, the want of railways and the incident of the Government planting tax. All estates are owned by individuals. It is intended to extend the railways to the interior as soon as the growing of coffee becomes profitable. The estates in Santos were mostly opened from 10 to 12 years ago. The trees have recently come into full bearing and there has been much over-production, chiefly in the State of Saõ Paulo. Some of the estates show signs of exhaustion, owing to heavy crops and to lack of fertilizers. The virgin soil gives enormous crops for the first year, but as nothing is put back into the soil its powers become exhausted. The cultivation of bye-products, maize and beans, between the trees tends to still more exhaust the ground. **The average production has fallen off,** and future crops promise to be smaller than former yields. Owing to the planting tax no extension is going on, and there is some abandonment of exhausted plantations. No new planting has taken place for three years. **In Saõ Paulo the yield from** the new vigorous lands has been very great. The best lands yield 80 to 100 cwt. of clean coffee per 1,000 trees. (700 trees go to the acre.)

The average **yield for the whole country** is, however, calculated to be not more than about 15 cwt. The ground is only weeded, no digging being done: neither is there any manuring. Pruning is done in a very primitive way. Topping is not practised. Coffee is grown unshaded. The trees are about 12 to 16 feet high, very thick and bushy. They are planted, three to a pit, at intervals of 4 yards. They are nearly all of the *bourbon* and what is known as *cafe commun*; the former gives a large bean. Brazilian trees have all been imported from other coffee-producing countries, but have lost all their distinguishing characteristics. The trees **come into bearing** at from 3 to 4 years old, and are at their best between their ages of 10 and 15. When the coffee is being gathered the trees are stripped of everything, ripe and unripe. A great deal of ripe coffee falls on the ground and is gathered therefrom. The coffee is sometimes pulped, but is mostly sun-dried on brick platforms. There is no **disease,** the trees being too new, and **pests** are unknown. The estates, which are mainly owned by private individuals, are **financed** by Commission Agents in the port, who make loans for one year against which they are secured by mortgage on the crop and also by mortgage on the estate. The interest is high, 12 per cent. being the rule. The financial condition of most of the estates is unsound, 95 per cent. of them being mortgaged to above their present value. The Government affords the planters no financial help. The opinion is expressed that the coffee planters of India cannot compete with Brazil, owing chiefly to the large yield of Saõ Paulo. There are good railways to the coffee districts, but owing to excessively high railway rates, the cost of transport is enormous. Exclusive of export duty, the cost of carriage from plantation to steamers averages about 10*s.* per cwt. The export duty on coffee from Santos is 11 per cent. *ad valorem.* There are heavy import duties, exceeding sometimes 100 per cent. *ad valorem.* The freight to London is 30*s. plus* 5 per cent. per ton of 1,000 kilos.

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SUGAR INDUSTRY AND TRADE.

VII.

THE INDIAN DEMAND.

IT was shown in the first article in this series that India is perhaps the greatest sugar producer in the world. At the same time, there are large and populous tracts in India where sugarcane is little grown, and sugar has consequently been imported in increasing quantities for many years. It should be understood that in a warm climate like that of India sugar has a much greater **alimentary value** than in a cold climate. The following is an extract from a letter on the subject by an authority:—

"Of the three main elements of diet, *viz.*, proteid, fat, and carbohydrate, the last is far and away the cheapest source of muscular energy. Where, therefore, bodily heat is easily kept up, and muscular energy is the main requirement, albeit in rather reduced amount, as in a hot climate, carbohydrate becomes the main staple of diet.

"Of course muscular energy can be obtained from proteid and fat, but that would be exceedingly wasteful, and ultimately harmful, the proper function of these elements of diet being to replenish waste, and to keep up the body's heat.

"In hot climates the people will not live such an active life, therefore waste will be less and there will be a correspondingly reduced demand for proteid. Owing also to the relatively small loss of bodily heat the demand for fat will also be largely decreased."

It was, therefore, natural that India should readily respond to an offer of cheap sugar. The following tables show the imports of various descriptions of sugar from diverse countries in the last 20 years. The first set gives the quantity and value of various descriptions of sugar received into British India. To this is appended an analytic table showing the relations borne by the quantity of any particular description to the other descriptions or groups to which it is related. The second set gives the quantity and value of the sugar received into British India from the various sources. The third set of tables gives the quantity and value of sugar of various descriptions received into the principal ports of British India. With these Tables the figures relating to prices, (given Art. II, on page 68 of the Indian Trade Journal of the 12th April) should be collated; and, in order that the data relating to the various years may be seen in their true proportions, occasional reference should be made to the annexed series of Index Numbers, which show the growth of India's sea-borne trade, calculated upon its rupee values without regard to the exchange value of the coin. In respect of a country whose prosperity depends so directly upon climatic conditions these Index Numbers (averaged on the system described in paragraph 55) may be accepted as a gauge of her economic health.

GENERAL GROWTH OF INDIA'S COMMERCE during the period dealt with. Index Numbers relating to Imports and Exports of Merchandise (Private and Government), the mean of the first five years being taken as 100 and the numbers being averaged on the system described in Article I, on page 33 of the Indian Trade Journal of the 5th April.

Years.	Imports.	Exports.	TOTAL.
Average of first five years . . .	100	100	100
1884-85 . . .	92·5	95·2	94·1
1885-86 . . .	93	95·7	94·6
1886-87 . . .	100·2	99·9	100
1887-88 . . .	105·8	103·4	104
1888-89 . . .	111·3	108·9	109·9
1889-90 . . .	112·3	114·7	113·7
1890-91 . . .	114·8	114·7	114·7
1891-02 . . .	113·9	120·2	117·7
1892-93 . . .	112·1	119·9	116·7
1893-94 . . .	121	121·5	121·3
1894-95 . . .	119·2	122·4	121·1
1895-96 . . .	119·9	124·5	122·6
1896-97 . . .	121·7	119·3	120·3
1897-98 . . .	120	115·7	117·5
1898-99 . . .	120·1	123·6	122·1
1899-1900 . . .	124·7	123·8	124·2
1900-01 . . .	131·2	126·6	128·5
1901-02 . . .	141	140·9	140·9
1902-03 . . .	143·1	148·9	146·6
1903-04 . . .	152·6	108·2	161·8
1904-05 . . .	159·8	170·6	166·2

SUGAR IMPORTS, BRITISH INDIA, by Sea from Foreign Countries, distinguishing Cane and Beet refined and unrefined

ACTUAL QUANTITY

YEAR	CANE			BEET			TOTALS		
	Refined	Unrefined	Total	Refined	Unrefined	Total	Refined	Unrefined	Combined
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons
1884-85	79,040	191	79,231	1,614	...	1,614	80,654	191	80,845
1885-86	57,708	355	58,063	494	1	495	58,202	356	58,558
1886-87	82,406	3,554	85,960	1,518	...	1,518	83,924	3,554	87,478
1887-88	83,518	4,674	88,192	2,232	...	2,232	85,750	4,674	90,424
1888-89	72,390	8,362	80,752	133	...	133	72,523	8,362	80,885
1889-90	77,988	4,975	82,963	3,192	...	3,192	81,180	4,975	86,155
1890-91	90,944	9,870	100,814	45,781	...	45,781	136,725	9,870	146,595
1891-92	89,423	7,206	96,629	14,026	1	14,027	103,449	7,207	110,656
1892-93	77,510	5,596	83,106	14,883	...	14,883	92,393	5,596	97,989
1893-94	91,305	4,830	96,135	10,257	1	10,258	101,562	4,831	106,393
1894-95	100,499	9,708	110,207	14,311	13	14,324	114,810	9,721	124,531
1895-96	89,738	10,297	100,035	36,511	2	36,513	126,249	10,299	136,548
1896-97	89,782	8,939	98,721	44,341	8	44,349	134,123	8,947	143,070
1897-98	100,003	18,660	118,663	111,766	2	111,768	211,769	18,662	230,431
1898-99	111,931	15,629	127,560	76,314	...	76,314	188,245	15,629	203,874
1899-1900	103,173	21,243	124,416	43,625	...	43,625	146,798	21,243	168,041
1900-01	153,110	20,432	173,542	90,295	...	90,295	243,405	20,432	263,837
1901-02	125,190	28,082	153,272	147,393	1	147,394	272,583	28,083	300,666
1902-03	177,065	22,560	199,625	73,484	1	73,485	250,549	22,561	273,110
1903-04	251,822	23,820	275,642	41,051	...	41,051	292,873	23,820	316,693
1904-05	236,099	23,611	259,710	87,130	1	87,131	323,229	23,612	346,841

ACTUAL VALUE

	CANE			BEET			TOTALS		
	Refined	Unrefined	Total	Refined	Unrefined	Total	Refined	Unrefined	Combined
	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹
1884-85	2,09,95,202	18,436	2,10,13,638	3,94,735	4	3,94,739	2,13,89,937	18,440	2,14,08,377
1885-86	1,44,38,738	22,793	1,44,61,531	1,19,325	116	1,19,441	1,45,58,063	22,909	1,45,80,972
1886-87	2,01,81,217	2,58,945	2,04,40,162	3,65,194	40	3,65,234	2,05,46,411	2,58,985	2,08,05,396
1887-88	2,02,88,989	3,32,810	2,06,21,799	5,14,371	...	5,14,371	2,08,03,360	3,32,810	2,11,36,170
1888-89	1,73,67,160	4,90,747	1,78,63,907	45,483	...	45,483	1,74,12,643	4,96,747	1,79,09,390
1889-90	2,08,46,827	3,09,441	2,11,56,268	8,44,220	...	8,44,220	2,16,91,047	3,09,441	2,20,00,488
1890-91	2,23,27,814	7,30,335	2,30,58,149	1,09,40,682	30	1,09,40,712	3,32,68,496	7,30,365	3,39,98,861
1891-92	2 17,81,631	4,51,813	2,22,33,444	33,86,403	110	33,86,513	2,51,68,034	4,51,923	2,56,19,957
1892 93	2.16,11,930	3,38,668	2 19,50,598	43,06,230	...	43,00,230	2,59,18,160	3,38,668	2,62,56,828
1893-94	2,49,71,230	2,61,123	2.52,32,353	30,09,400	146	30,09,546	2,79,80,630	2,61,269	2,82,41,899
1894-95	2,47,51,909	3,93,061	2,51.44,970	36,07,691	309	36,08,000	2,83,59,600	3,93,370	2,87,52,970
1895-96	2,17,41,007	4,18,483	2,21,59,490	89,08,348	293	89,08,641	3,06,49,355	4,18,776	3,10,68,131
1896 97	2,08,50,865	3,78,441	2,12,29,306	1,02,68 316	20,669	1,02,88,985	3.11,19,181	3,99,110	3.15,18,291
1897-98	2,27,02,622	7,56,573	2,34.59.195	2,43,85,308	291	2,43,85,599	4.70,87,930	7,56,864	4,78,44,794
1898-99	2,36 52,850	6,37,648	2,42,90,498	1,58,79,470	21	1,58,79,491	3,95,32,320	6,37,669	4,01,69 989
1899-1900	2,25,84,098	14,31,348	2,40,15,446	97,50,806	47	97,50,853	3,23,34,904	14,31,395	3,37,66,299
1900-01	3,43,72,218	8,58,302	3,52,30,520	2,13,21,366	277	2,13,21,643	5,50,93,584	8,58,579	5,65,52,163
1901-02	2,04,94,482	19,49,673	2,84,44,155	3,05,57,978	93	3,05,58,071	5,70,52,460	19,49 766	5,90,02,226
1902-03	3,42,14.729	9,09,128	3,51,23,857	1,44,25,025	217	1,44,25,242	4,86.39,754	9,09,345	4,95,49,099
1903-04	4.88,04,943	20,12,094	5,08,17,037	85,40,702	...	85,40,702	5,73,45,645	20,12,094	5,93,5 ,739
1904-05	4,84,07,453	14,93,110	4,99,00,563	1,91,26,466	350	1,91,26,756	6,75,33,859	14,93,460	6,90,27,319

Index Numbers showing percentage variations in the *absolute* quantities and values of sugar of various *descriptions* imported by sea from foreign countries, the mean of the first five years being taken as 100 and the numbers being averaged as described on page 33 of the issue of 5th April

VARIATIONS IN QUANTITY

YEAR.	CANE			BEET			TOTALS		
	Refined	Unrefined	Total	Refined	Unrefined	Total	Refined	Unrefined	Combined
1884-85	100·6	26·1	97·3	114·4	...	114·4	100·8	26·2	97·6
1885-86	89·3	31·3	86·8	83·9	...	83·	89·3	31·4	86·7
1886-87	104·9	101·8	104·8	113·4	...	113·4	105·1	101·9	104·9
1887-88	105·5	132·1	106·6	156·3	...	156·3	106·3	132·2	107·4
1888-89	102·5	213·7	107·4	446·7	...	446·8	108·	213·7	112·5
1889-90	107·2	174·9	110·1	678·8	...	678·8	116·2	175·9	118·7
1890-91	115·	249·1	120·9	2,561·9	...	2,562·	153·5	249·1	157·6
1891-92	116·5	199·9	120·2	1,321·1	...	1,321·2	135·5	199·9	138·3
1892-93	111·6	190·2	115·	1,449·6	...	1,449·8	132·6	190·3	135·1
1893-94	120·6	180·3	123·2	1,179·2	...	1,179·5	137·3	180·4	139·1
1894-95	126·8	256·5	132·5	1,601·4	...	1,602·3	150·	256·8	154·6
1895-96	122·6	303·2	130·5	3,336·7	...	3,337·2	173·2	303·3	178·8
1896-97	125·4	314·9	133·7	4,214·9	...	4,214·7	189·7	315·1	195·1
1897-98	132·5	490·4	148·3	7,273·7	...	7,273·9	244·8	490·5	255·4
1898-99	149·9	475·8	163·3	6,242·9	...	6,243·1	244·8	475·8	254·7
1899-1900	147·8	613·4	168·2	5,738·8	...	5,738·9	235·8	613·6	252·
1900-01	191·4	613·1	209·8	7,367·1	...	7,367·2	304·2	613·1	317·5
1901-02	191·4	748·6	215·8	9,455·8	...	9,455·9	337·1	748·6	354·8
1902-03	243·8	674·9	262·6	6,734·3	...	6,734·4	345·8	675·	360·3
1903-04	304·7	702·6	322·	5,354·2	...	5,354·3	384·	702·6	397·7
1904-05	303·2	684·	319·8	6,275·9	...	6,276·	397·1	684·1	419·4

VARIATIONS IN VALUE

	CANE			BEET			TOTALS		
	Refined	Unrefined	Total	Refined	Unrefined	Total	Refined	Unrefined	Combined
1884-85	104·6	29·8	100·5	115·9	...	116·	104·8	29·9	103·9
1885-86	90·6	33·8	88·8	82·8	...	82·9	90·5	33·9	89·8
1886-87	104·	107·3	103·5	113·4	...	113·5	104·2	107·3	104·2
1887-88	104·2	136·5	104·6	154·9	...	155·	105·1	136·5	105·4
1888-89	100·7	204·	101·9	449·4	...	449·4	106·	204·1	107·1
1889-90	110·9	171·1	111·6	693·2	...	693·2	119·7	171·2	120·3
1890-91	115·5	264·5	117·3	2,578·8	...	2,578·6	153·	264·6	154·3
1891-92	118·2	192·5	119·	1,369·5	...	1,369·4	137·1	192·6	137·8
1892-93	119·7	171·2	120·4	1,625·3	...	1,625·2	142·7	171·2	143·
1893-94	128·5	140·2	128·6	1,329·4	...	1,329·4	146·7	140·3	146·6
1894-95	127·4	166·1	127·9	1,672·4	...	1,673·1	150·9	167·1	151·1
1895-96	119·9	190·3	120·8	3,290·9	...	3,291·4	168·1	191·3	168·4
1896-97	116·8	198·1	117·8	3,974·3	...	3,978·3	175·5	203·6	175·8
1897-98	120·6	327·7	123·1	6,640·2	...	6,640·2	219·7	328·7	221·
1898-99	129·9	320·8	132·2	5,593·8	...	5,593·9	213·	321·8	214·2
1899-1900	130·1	566·	135·3	5,234·1	...	5,233·5	207·7	566·	212·
1900-01	167·8	446·	171·2	6,898·1	...	6,897·4	270·1	446·	272·4
1901-02	160·2	748·3	167·3	8,247·6	...	8,246·8	283·1	748·3	288·6
1902-03	194·7	520·8	198·7	5,770·8	...	5,770·2	279·5	520·8	282·4
1903-04	241·4	792·9	247·9	4,672·3	...	4,672·	308·7	792·9	314·5
1904-05	244·7	655·1	229·6	5,582·5	...	5,582·5	325·8	655·1	329·7

Index Numbers showing percentage variations in the *relative* quantities of the various descriptions of sugar imported by sea

Year	Cane refined to Total cane	Cane refined to Total refined	Cane unrefined to Total cane	Cane unrefined to Total unrefined	Total cane to Grand Total	Beet refined to Total beet	Beet refined to Total refined	Beet unrefined to Total beet	Beet unrefined to Total unrefined	Total beet to Grand Total	Total refined to Grand Total	Total unrefined to Grand Total
1884-85	99·8	98·0	0·2	100·0	98·0	100·0	2·0	...	...	2·0	99 8	0·2
1885-86	99·4	99·2	0·6	99·7	99·2	99·8	0·8	0·2	0·3	0·8	99·4	0·6
1886-87	95·8	98·2	4·2	100·0	98·3	100·0	1·8	...	...	1·7	95·9	4·1
1887-88	94·7	97·4	5·3	100·0	97·5	100·0	2·6	...	...	2·5	94·8	5·2
1888-89	89·6	99·8	10·4	100·0	99·8	100·0	0·2	...	...	0·2	89·7	10·3
1889-90	94·0	96·1	6·0	100·0	96·3	100·0	3·9	...	...	3·7	94·3	5·7
1890-91	90·2	66·5	9·8	100·0	68·8	100·0	33·5	...	...	31·2	93·3	6·7
1891-92	92·5	86·4	7·5	100·0	87·3	100·0	13·6	...	...	12·7	93·5	6·5
1892-93	93·3	83·9	6·7	100·0	84·8	100·0	16·1	...	...	15·2	94 3	5·7
1893-94	95·0	90·0	5·0	100·0	90·4	100·0	10·0	...	...	9·6	95·5	4·5
1894-95	91·3	87·5	8·7	99·9	88·5	99·9	12·5	0·1	0·1	11·5	92·2	7·8
1895-96	89·7	71·1	10·3	100·0	73·3	100·0	28·9	...	...	26·7	92 5	7·5
1896-97	90·9	67·0	9·1	100·0	69·0	100·0	33·0	...	...	31·0	93·7	6·3
1897-98	84·3	47·2	15·7	100·0	51·5	100·0	52·8	...	...	48·5	91·9	8·1
1898-99	87·8	59·5	12·2	100·0	62·6	100·0	40·5	...	...	37·4	92·3	7·7
1899-1900	82·9	70·2	17·1	100·0	74·0	100·0	29·8	...	...	26·0	87·4	12·6
1900-01	88·2	63·0	11·8	100·0	65·8	100·0	37·0	...	...	34·2	92·3	7·7
1901-02	81·7	46·0	18·3	100·0	51·0	100·0	54·0	...	...	49·0	90·7	9·3
1902-03	88·7	70·6	11·3	100·0	73·1	100·0	29·4	...	...	26·9	91·7	8·3
1903-04	91·4	86·0	8·6	100·0	87·0	100·0	14·0	...	...	13·0	92·5	7·5
1904-05	90·9	73·0	9·1	100·0	74·9	100·0	27·0	...	...	25·1	93·2	6·8

It will be seen that while the imports of cane sugar have grown to about 320 per cent of the figure at which they stood twenty years ago, those of beet sugar have grown to no less than 6,276 per cent after having touched 9,456 per cent in 1901-02. The total imports of all kinds of sugar have risen to 418 per cent of their level in 1884-85; and cane sugar, which then represented 98 per cent of that total, now, with its increased quantity, represents only 75 per cent. But in 1890 beet sugar (which in the previous year had slightly risen to 3,192 tons of 3·7 per cent of the total imports) suddenly advanced to 45,781 tons, or 33·5 per cent, while cane sugar advanced only from 83,000 tons to 100,000 tons. Up to 1897, beet sugar seemed unable to retain the position it had thus captured; but in that year the creation of the Austrian cartel and the institution of the American countervailing duties resulted in a fresh invasion of India, which brought beet to the level of 48·5 per cent of the whole. The analytical tables above should be studied closely.

GAZETTE NOTIFICATION.

CUSTOMS.

No. 3664-13.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 4, sub-section (3) of the Indian Tea Cess Act, 1903 (IX of 1903), the Governor General in Council is pleased, on the recommendation of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, to appoint Mr. W. E. Preston, Agent, Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, to fill the vacancy on the Indian Tea Cess Committee caused by the resignation of Mr. Reginald Murray.

❦

Notice to Shippers of Tea.

In all cases in which tea is shipped on an optional bill of lading, shippers are requested to state this in the Shipping Bill by entering the words "*optional bill of lading*" conspicuously in the remark column, together with the names of the alternative ports of destination.

L. F. Morshead,

Collector of Customs.

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.

For the week ending 19th May 1906.

❦

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign—Imports by sea into	Calcutta	lbs.	261,658
	Bombay	„	243,666
	Madras	„	163,918
Indian—Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	308,200
	Bombay	„	3,098,561
	Madras	„	...

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	15,465,595
	Bombay	„	5,373,445
	Karachi	„	1,070,140
	Madras	„	2,150,062
	Rangoon	„	579,051

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	1,102,308
	Bombay	„	4,637,377
	Karachi	„	2,594,108
	Madras	„	356,065
	Rangoon	„	972,066

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	862,912
	Bombay	„	3,258,209
	Karachi	„	3,542,256
	Madras	„	700,392
	Rangoon	„	1,844,892

Piece Goods.

(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta	cwt.	32,910
	Bombay*	„	4,944
	Karachi	„	12,380
	Madras	„	4,837

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea	cwt.	1,583
	Coastwise	„	42,037
	By rail	„	114,068
Imports into Karachi	by rail	„	8,517
	Calcutta by rail and river	„	9,454

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta	cwt.	76,592
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags	No.	9,786,200
	„ cloth	yds.	24,950,300
	Jute	cwt.	51,578
Exports by sea from Chittagong	Jute	„	...

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta	lbs.	924,905
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	656,092
	Chittagong	„	...

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta† by rail and river	cwt.	52,332
	Karachi by rail	„	170,296
	Bombay by rail	„	51,093
	Bombay coastwise	„	12,681
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	5,186
	Bombay	„	30,539
	Karachi	„	246,341

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta	cwt.	81,593
	Chittagong	„	...
	Bombay	„	18,642
	Karachi	„	15,902
	Madras	„	95
	Rangoon	„	749,550

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta† by rail and river	cwt.	73,486
	Bombay by rail	„	86,888
	Karachi by rail	„	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	140,116
	Bombay	„	50,117
	Karachi	„	...

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta† by rail and river	cwt.	81,815
	Bombay by rail	„	56,243
	Karachi by rail	„	31,188
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	21,512
	Bombay	„	136,059
	Karachi	„	32,119

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 19th MAY 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From All other foreign countries.	Total.
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
Calcutta	...	99,331	...	99,331
Bombay	...	1,404,914	...	1,404,914
Karachi	...	143,196	12	143,208
Madras	...	...	...	...

Exports by sea from Burma to	Bengal	galls.	1,425,816
	E. B. & Assam	„	...
	Bombay	„	...
	Sind	„	...
	Madras	„	...
	Indian Ports, Non-Br.	„	...
	Foreign ports	„	...

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 19th MAY 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	4,014	...	67	8	5	1,386	5,480
Germany	78,900	...	56,389	9,384	...	3,595	148,268
Austria-Hungary	3,400	...	2,300	5,000	...	...	10,700
Other European Countries	...	..	7,001	...	...	...	7,001
Java	...	...	...	...	...	34	34
Mauritius	...	...	19,356	2,533	...	..	21,889
Other Non-European Countries	...	...	30	...	...	...	30
					Total refined		193,402
					Total unrefined		102,197
					Grand Total cwt.		295,599

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta. [The prices include postage] to countries in the Postal Union.

ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 (2*a*.)

2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a*.)

3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—

Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. R3 (12*a*.)

Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port. R3. (12*a*.)

4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. R2. (7*a*.)

5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a*.)

6. Accounts of Trade of the French Possession in India. As. 3. (1*a*.)

7. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possession in India. As. 2. (1*a*.)

8. Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India. R4. (6*a*.)

9. Report on the Rail-borne and River-borne Trade of Bengal. R4.

10. Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan. R1⅛.

11. Prices and Wages in India. R1⅛. (9*a*.)

12. Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India. R4. (12*a*.)

13. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India. R2. (10*a*.)

14. Agricultural Statistics of India. R3⅛. (12*a*.)
Part I.—British India.
Part II.—Native States.

15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India. As. 5. (2*a*.)

16. Statistics of Mineral Production in India. As. 2 (1*a*.)

QUARTERLY.

17. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

MONTHLY.

18. Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

19. Accounts of the External Land Trade of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

20. Statistics of the Production of Yarn and Woven Goods in the India Cotton Mills. As. 2.

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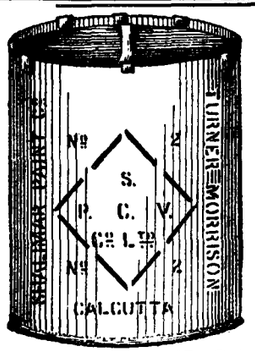
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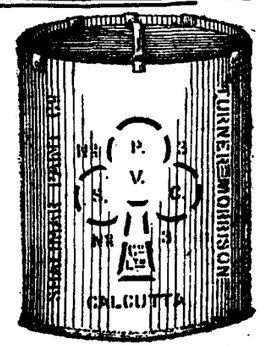
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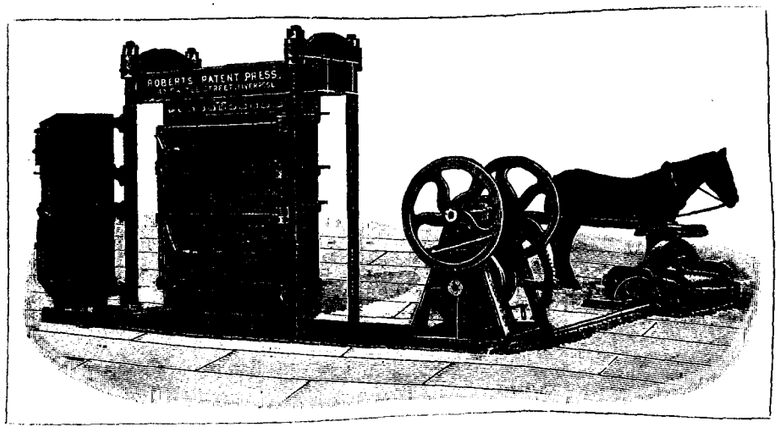
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NOTES.

The total **exports of Indian tea** from Calcutta and other Indian ports during last April amounted to 2,137,597 lbs. as against 1,517,128 lbs. in April 1905.

In a resolution which appears in the *Gazette of India* of May 26th, the Government of India state that they have decided not to participate in the **International Exhibition** which will be held at **Christchurch**, Newzealand, in November next.

In the section devoted to Gazette Announcements will be found, the new regulations issued by the Railway Board for the carriage by passenger or goods trains of **dangerous pdtroleums,** under which head are included petrol or motor spirit, benzine, benzoline, and gasoline.

In a report upon the administration of the Vilayet of Aleppo, H. M. Consul (Mr. H. D. Barnham) states that the railway works in connection with the **Hama-Aleppo railway** are being pushed on with the greatest energy, and it is hoped that the new line will be ready and inaugurated on the 1st September, the anniversary of the Sultan's accession.

There was considerable activity on the Manchester and other provincial Exchanges in **textile shares**

just before the last mail left England. Uncertainty had prevailed for some time with regard to **crop prospects,** but Messrs. Neill Brothers' latest circular had convinced speculators there was no reason for anxiety in this respect. The total supplies available of the old crop were in excess of last year, while favourable estimates were current with regard to the current crop, leading American authorities anticipating an increase of 5 to 10 per cent.

❦

The **Chinese Customs returns** just published show that the revenue for 1905 amounted to £5,281,280, an increase of £767,262 over the returns for 1904, which were the previous largest on record. The **postal service** is now financially independent of the Customs. In spite of the suspension of communications in Manchuria, the total number of articles dealt with was 76,000,000. There has been a continuous increase every year from 1901, when 176 post offices were open and 10,500,000 articles were dealt with. There are now 1,626 post offices open.

❦

H. M. Consul-General at Leipzig (Baron C. Von Tauchnitz) reports that the **type-founding industry** of that district suffered during the year from heavy over-production of novelties in type and printing ornaments. The falling-off in the demand for type was undoubtedly due to the ever-increasing use of such type-founding and type-setting machines as the Lanston, Monotype, Typo-Electrograph, Typograph, Linotype, Monoline, etc. A convention has decided on the selling prices and the terms of sale of type, and it is hoped so to prevent a further fall in the present low prices.

❦

For the **sixth Congress of Chambers of Commerce** of the Empire to be held in London in July, under the auspices of the London Chamber, nearly **40 notices** already appear on the **agenda paper.** The question of the commercial relations between the Mother-Country, her Colonies, and Dependencies, will be strongly raised, especially by the Canadian Chambers, who will move for "preferential treatment in their respective markets on a reciprocal basis." An Imperial Council for the Empire, defence of the Empire, postal facilities, telegraph facilities, telegraph communications, emigration, commercial law and education, and many other important matters are to be dealt with.

❦

It is now estimated that the total loss **to insurance companies** in the **San Francisco disaster** amounts to about £40,000,000, and that the amount covered within the district is nearly £60,000,000. Eighty American offices carried £29,880,000 of the risk, but only six of these were involved for more than £1,000,000. The Hartford and Connecticut had insured property to the extent of £1,446,500, and the Phœnix, of Brooklyn, had policies issued amounting to £1,236,800, these being the two largest sums covered by American offices. As a result of the disaster insurance premium rates are going up rapidly everywhere in America. It is stated that already the premiums in New York have been increased 25 per cent.

❦

An **Act** has been passed by the **Straits Settlements** Government **to prevent the landing** and leaving **of decrepit beggars** in the settlements of Prince of Wales' Island, Singapore and Malacca. The Act imposes on the master or consignee of any vessel bringing such persons to the colony the liability of either reconveying them to their port of embarkation, or paying to the Straits Government the costs of maintenance and removal, and also renders masters liable to a fine in the event of such persons being landed without the consent of the Chief Police Officer. Masters and owners of vessels are warned to take precautions against accepting as passengers any persons not being natives of the Colony or of the Federated Malay States, who may reasonably be suspected of being decrepit beggars.

❦

The **Indian Patent Office** was in 1905 subordinate to the Department of Commerce and Industry, instead of that of Revenue and Agriculture. The annual report for the calendar year 1905 shows that it has been found possible to introduce minor changes, and efforts have been made to obtain improved descriptions and drawings of inventions. The number of applications for leave to file specifications reached 566 in 1905, compared with 552 in the previous year ; 214 applications were made by residents in India, and 572 from outside India, the leading place was taken by transport, but textile industries were well to the front. Exclusive privileges were kept alive by payment of fees in 552 cases. The gross revenue for the year amounted to Rs. 54,766 as compared with Rs. 58,043 in 1904, a decrease of Rs. 3,276.

❦

The **divergence of opinion** among the signatories of the **Brussels Convention** as to the application of the **penal provisions in the case of non-signatory sugar-producing countries** which were revealed at the meetings of the Permanent Committee last October have again become acute, says the *Tribune's* Brussels correspondent. Several countries contend that sugar from Brazil should be surtaxed, or in the case of England prohibited, on the ground that, although exports may not be directly stimulated by the cartel, they are indirectly stimulated by the Protectionist *régime* in Brazil. Great Britain, on the other hand, objects to being forced to penalise any more sources of supply at the cost of her consumers and with the sole result of diverting the cheap supplies to the United States.

A meeting of the Ambassadors has been held to consider the recent note in which the Porte reiterates its demand for the consent of the Powers to the proposed increase of the **Turkish Customs duties.** It was decided to draw up a reply to the Turkish note. The demand has already been accepted in principle, but various conditions have been made by the different Embassies. In the case of some of the Powers the consent of the Governments will need to be embodied in a convention, and to be ratified by the respective Parliaments, as it is equivalent to a revision of the treaties of commerce. Germany is one of these Powers, and it is understood that the German Embassy is now engaged in settling the terms of the convention which will have to be laid before the Reichstag.

❦

A novel form of testing apparatus, constructed by the *Aktiebolaget Alpha* of Stockholm, is illustrated and described in the April issue of *La Revue Mineralurgique.* The principle employed is that of causing a steel ball to be forced by means of hydraulic pressure against the surface to be tested ; the amount of penetration being measured by the depth and extent of the spherical depression formed, and from this, the weight or force employed being known, the co-efficient of hardness is calculated. From this factor the tensile strength of the metal can be ascertained with a sufficient amount of accuracy for all ordinary practical purposes. It does away with the need of preparing costly trial-prices, to be dealt with in special machines, and even finished work can be tested without injury or loss of time. The apparatus is very valuable, moreover, in cases where it is necessary to judge of the results of tempering steel or bronze, and the amount of space occupied is very small.

❦

Recent statements of Sir William Van Horne and Lord Strathcona furnish interesting indications of **Canadian development.** The former, as Chairman of the Canadian Pacific Railway, refers to the progress of the double-tracking of the road, which will be the first trans-continental line to be thus equipped from ocean to ocean. There are now 400 miles of this track in hand. Lord Strathcona deals with the prospect of improving the communications between Canada and Europe by sea, and anticipates that with the rapid strides now being made in turbine construction the distance from land to land will be in the near future accomplished in four days. This would effect the commercial development of the Dominion very greatly. Canada's export trade in wheat would benefit, and her ports would also secure the diversion of passenger business from New York. The Canadians claim that their wheat is greatly superior to the American product, but that, owing to the fact that it is partially diverted to the States in its passage to the world, the latter secures a reputation which it does not always deserve.

Major R. A. E. Benn, I.A., C.I.E., Assistant Political Agent for Chagai, in his report for the week ending 30th April 1906, states that the export and import returns of **trade through Nushki** during the month of March 1906 show an increase of Rs 77,326 over the figures for the corresponding month in 1905.

Comparative figures are given below :—

	1906.	1905.	Increase*	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Afganistan . .	2,320	3,788	...	1,468
Persia . . .	84,628	13,347	71,281	...
Baluchistan . .	29,371	21,858	7,513	...
TOTAL .	1,16,319	38,993	78,794	1,468

* Net increase Rs. 77,326.

❦

The total quantity of **gold imported into British India** from foreign countries in the month of April 1906, was 147,287 ozs. valued at Rs. 92,50,868, The quantity of **gold exported** amounted to 114,174 ozs. valued at Rs. 66,07,484. Of the imported gold 116,795 ozs. valued at Rs. 74,53,460 consisted of bullion, whilst of the remainder 25,943 ozs, valued at Rs. 15,28,178, represented sovereigns and other British gold coins. Of the exports 31,263 ozs. valued at Rs. 17,59,484 represented bullion, British gold coin being represented by 82,208 ozs. valued at Rs. 48,07,500. The total **imports of silver** amounted to 11,533,557 ozs. valued at Rs. 2,30,72,357 of which 10,543,315 ozs. valued at Rs. 2,11,78,398 represented bullion, and 82,026 ozs. of the value of Rs. 2,18,977 represented Government of India rupees. The total **exports of silver** amounted to 1,360,631 ozs valued at Rs. 36,27,466, of which 1,358,531 ozs. valued at Rs. 36,22,750 represented Government of India rupees ; and 1,077 ozs. valued at Rs. 2,640 British dollars. The remaining 1,023 ozs. valued at Rs. 2,076 consisting of bar and other kinds of uncoined silver.

❦

The Acting British Vice-Consul at **Jaffa** (Mr. J. Falanga) reports that in spite of the competition carried on by Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy and Belgium the following **British goods** find a good market there :—Coal and patent fuel, caustic soda, Manchester goods (prints and T-cloths), iron (bars, girders and plates), tin, zinc, tin plates, copper plates, bedsteads, paint and linseed oil, confectionery, tinned provisions and herrings. On the other hand the Continental manufacturers hold the market in the following articles :—Glass, earthenware and pottery, hardware, hosiery, cloth, silk stuffs, leather, ladies' clothing, pharmaceutical products, sugar, coffee, silver work,

watches and clocks, beer, spirits in bottle, and perfumery. The preference is given to the above articles for their low prices, the articles themselves being of very inferior quality; also the sellers offer facilities to the buyers in allowing them for their payments three and six months' credit, and further for the reason that a great number of commercial travellers are sent out by the manufacturers to promote new business and to get fresh orders from their clients.

❦

The *Commercial and Financial Chronicle* of New York, with their issue of the 28th April, published a special number of 185 pages of small print packed with facts about the constitution, capital, purposes, working and results of all the **Railway Companies in America.** The Companies are arranged alphabetically so that reference to them becomes easy, and a special index is provided relating to such subsidiary Companies as are not given in alphabetical order but grouped with their parent lines. All the main systems are represented by full-page maps of admirable clearness, and in every way the publication is the best thing of its kind that we have seen. Its up-to-dateness may be gauged from the fact that its table of the monthly gross earnings of principal Railroads, numbering fifty-seven, contains in most cases the returns for March. In fact it may be questioned whether in any other country than the United States the production of such an issue would even be attempted. In addition to Railways it deals also, though in different sections, with a large number of industrial and miscellaneous Companies, various classes of banks, etc. But its principal use will be as a compendium of such information regarding American railways as may be wanted by the Stockholder or investor.

❦

The scarcity of structural steel in the United States, picturesquely described by the general Press as a "steel famine" has, says a writer in the *Times Engineering Supplement*, been attended, as was to be expected, by energetic measures in adding to the existing supplies of this material. A new steel plant is to be laid down by the Indiana Steel Company—a branch of the United States Steel Corporation—at a cost which is estimated by the *Iron Age* at over £15,000,000. It appears that the furnaces, rolling mills, and other plant are to cover a square mile of territory, while thousands of acres of contiguous land are available for the township which will spring up on the establishment of the works. The town in question, though not yet in existence, is already in enjoyment of a name. It will be called *Garey*, in honour of Judge Garey, Chairman of the United States Steel Corporation. The Indiana plant, it is stated by the *Iron Age*, will consist ultimately of 16 blast furnaces and 84 open hearth furnaces. For the present the work of building four blast furnaces and 24 open hearth furnaces will be taken in hand. There will be six finishing mills. The first to be built is to be the steel rail plant, which is to have a capacity of about 75,000 tons per month. This will be followed by a bar mill, a structural mill, and, finally, by plate mills. It is probable that a large new bridge works will be added.

❦

In a report on the **agriculture of Tuscany,** H. M. Consul General at Florence (Major W. P. Chapman) gives the following particulars of the **agricultural implements** most in use there:—(1) a primitive description of plough, fitted with a long pole for oxen; (2) hillside or turnwrist, with oxen pole; (3) a still more primitive instrument like the old Egyptian plough, which is used to cover the seed when hand sown; (4) in some districts where the farms are large enough, mowing and reaping machines are in vogue and are chiefly of American manufacture; (5) chaff cutters are generally used and also maize (Indian corn) shellers are much in use; (6) the system of pressing the grapes with the feet has greatly gone out of fashion and machines worked by hand and steam are now used to crush the grapes before putting them in the presses; (7) wine presses of a superior make, made in the country after the system of those used in France; (8) spray pumps are always used for spraying sulphate of copper, and a kind of bellows to distribute powdered sulphur on the vines against mildew, etc.; (9) olives are ground with stone mills (edge runners) and pressed with screw presses by hand, but in the larger estates by hydraulic presses worked by steam power; (10) threshing is nearly all done by British and German threshers and engines, and the rate pay is 6 or 7 lire per 220 lbs. (about 2*s.* 5*d.* to 2*s.* 9*d.* per cwt.)

❦

H. M. Consul at Jerusalem (Mr. J. Dickson), in his report on **Palestine** for 1905, remarks that it is to be regretted that the experiments in **cotton cultivation** did not produce the expected results, but this has been due more to want of experience in rearing the plant than to an unsuitable climate or soil. With proper attention and care there is still hope of the cultivation becoming a success. The Acting British Vice-Consul at Jaffa (Mr. J. Falanga), writing on the same subject, says that all the efforts made by a Liverpool firm have been fruitless, notwithstanding that the conditions are favourable; this failure is due to the incapacity and laziness of the natives, who did not carry out properly the cultivation of the plant. If a European specialist were to make trials on a sufficiently large scale, that is to sow about 300 acres of land, Mr. Falanga thinks he would succeed in showing the natives that they would find it profitable to imitate him, which fact would soon spread the cultivation all over Palestine. **Land for growing cotton** there is ten times cheaper than in Egypt. The soil is rich and fit for the

purpose (30 years ago cotton was cultivated on a large scale with success), labour is cheap (a day's work, including the labourer's food, being at the rate of 1*s.* per day of 10 hours), irrigation is possible, if required, the climate is suitable, and the local authorities would be ready to help such a work, which would be greatly to their advantage.

❦

The prices of opium in the Calcutta market during the week ending 26th May were, per chest, as follows:—

Behar opium—Rs. 1,329; 1,329; 1,329; 1,329; 1,329; 1,331; 1,331.

Benares opium—Rs. 1,220; 1,220; 1,220; 1,220; 1,220; 1,221; 1,221.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 6th sale of 1906—Rs. 1,329; 1,329; 1,329; 1,329; 1,329; 1,331; 1,331.

China market, Hongkong (exchange Rs. 158 to 159 per 100 dollars).

Behar—$ 860; 860; 860; 855 to 862; 860; 855; 850.

Shanghai (exchange Rs. 220 to 221 per 100 Taels), two sales, one on 21st, on 620 Taels; the other on 24th on 610 Taels.

Benares—one sale in the Hongkong market on 23rd of $ 785; while two sales, Shanghai, on 21st and 24th May of 570 Taels and 560 Taels respectively.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending 19th May were—for A class (season 1904 to 1905) Rs. 1,400, for B class (season 1903 to 1904) Rs. 1,450 to 1,600, class C, old (season 1902 to 1903) Rs. 1,750. The latest China prices ascertained were for new classes (A and B) Rs. 1,504 to 1,571; old (class C) fetched at Hongkong Rs. 1,677 and at Shanghai Rs. 1,703.

❦

Mr. Samuel B. Wood, one of the leading cotton growers of Virginia, has been interviewed on the subject of the work being done by the **British Cotton Growing Association** and the **influence** it is likely to have on prices and production **in the United States Cotton growing region.** He said "Cotton as now grown in the South by the small farmer, with little capital, is costing about 7 cents a pound. With improved scientific methods of cultivation and fertilisation, and with the economies which can be practised in all large operations, it can be grown for 4*c.* a pound and less. Wheat in the United States in olden times, when grown by the small farmer alone, sold for from $2 to $3 per bushel. As soon, however, as companies began to grow it on a large scale, a single firm putting in sometimes 20,000 acres, driving its implements several miles without stopping to turn, and cutting off many of the expenses of the small farm, wheat came down to 65*c.* and 85*c.* per bushel. The same thing can be done in cotton." Asked if lands could be obtained for growing cotton on this scale at a reasonable price, he replied: "Yes, unless the buyers boom the price by injudicious action. I recently saw in the South a tract of 30,000 acres which could be bought for 32*s.*, or $8 per acre. It is good cotton land, capable of producing from a bale to a bale and a half per acre. This land lies on two railways and on a navigable river. I saw other large tracts which can be bought at about the same price. These lands improved would be worth $25 to $30 per acre."

❦

The paper read by Professor Adolph Frank before "The International Congress of Applied Chemistry at Rome" was probably the one which aroused most interest among the members of the congress. The subject was **"The Direct Utilization of the Nitrogen of the Atmosphere for the preparation of Manures and other Chemical Products."** Professor Frank had already read a preliminary paper on the subject before the Congress in Berlin in 1903; but since that time his invention has been developed on a large scale, and many new uses have been found for the products. Large factories are in course of erection or at work, and the agriculturists of Europe, who already owe the introduction of the Stassfurt potash salts (on which it is proposed to lay an export tax) to Dr. Frank, will soon have at their disposal an abundant and inexhaustible supply of nitrogen suitable as a food for plants. Dr. Frank's invention consists in the production of calcium cyanamide by bringing nitrogen into contact with calcium carbide. The calcium carbide is produced by heating lime and coal in an electric furnace, while the nitrogen is obtained by the fractional distillation of liquid air, oxygen being obtained as a by-product. This raw calcium cyanamide can be used direct as a manure for plants, giving up its nitrogen in a form which is as easily assimilated as that of ammonia or sodium nitrate. But it is also the source of other products of considerable technical importance. Ammonia of great purity can be produced by heating the raw material with water under pressure, and various other products have been obtained, one of which, dicyandiamid, has been used as an ingredient of explosives in order to diminish the pressure and temperature during explosion. The calcium cyanamide has been used with success for case-hardening tools and armour plates, and many other uses are being found for a material that promises to become the starting point of many minor industries.

❦

Rear-Admiral Sir Massie Blomfield, Director-General of the **Port of Alexandria,** has laid before the Egyptian Ministry a scheme prepared by the port engineer, M. Malabal, for a **remodelling of the canal system** connecting the main Mahomoudieh Canal with the harbour. The Admiral, in a communication to the Minister, recalls the inadequate resources of the port to cope with the rapidly increasing commerce with abroad. The necessity for

improvement was nowhere better expounded than by Lord Cromer in a letter to the President of the International Chamber of Navigation, dated December 13, 1904, detailing a series of projects for the port of Alexandria, under the consideration of the Government. Among these was the building of new quays on the Gabbary shore. Since that time the abolition of tolls on the Egyptian Nile and its canals has stimulated fluvial navigation; and this incentive results in harbour congestion. The project to create a new arm of the Mahomoudieh Canal is as full of technical as of controversial interest. Its primary object would be to carry away the traffic which will be developed as soon as the harbour extensions now in progress are completed. The length of the proposed branch is ten kilometres. Subsidiary works comprise four swing bridges, one result of which would be to allow the doubling of the railway line running on to the quays, with consequently more expeditious handling of traffic. The sum of a quarter of a million or more provided for the undertaking does not seem too great in view of the advantages involved.

The works for securing **perennial irrigation in the Delta** is also progressing. The transformation works of basin into perennial irrigation in Ghizeh province will be completed by July next. On the execution of several supplementary works, recognized as being essential by the Government engineers, the whole of Lower Egypt will enjoy perennial irrigation. The Cairo Ministry has voted £E.150,000 for the Sudan irrigation service.

❦

In order to test the effect of the new system under which exporters of **wheat to Egypt "for orders,"** are expected to report the final destination of their cargoes, a statement has been compiled showing the proportion of India's monthly export of wheat (in cwt.) to Egypt for orders, as compared with the total exports of wheat to Egypt and to all countries. The figures for the year 1902-03 were :—Exports of wheat to all countries 10,292,159 cwt.; exports of wheat to Egypt 2,345,784 cwt. That is to say 22·7 per cent. of all the wheat exported was sent to Egypt. At that time the system of reporting "on order" wheat was not in force. It began working on the 1st of April 1903. Since then the figures have been :—

Particulars.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06. Apl. to Jan.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
Total exports of all countries.	25,911,312	43,000,502	18,750,467
Total exports to Egypt .	7,856,888	12,233,484	4,157,241
Do. do. for orders.	7,701,172	11,971,020	4,102,985
Percentage of wheat to Egypt for orders as compared with total exports of wheat to Egypt.	98·0	97·8	98·7

From these figures it is very plain that practically all the wheat sent to Egypt is merely transit wheat, which goes on to other countries of destination. The percentage of the wheat sent to Egypt, from India as compared with the total export of wheat to all countries, has been fairly constant. In 1902-03, it was 22·7 per cent., in 1903-04 it was 30·3 per cent. and 28·4 per cent. in 1904-05, whilst in the ten months of 1905-06 it was 22·2 per cent.

❦

The following very interesting figures of **Cotton consumption** are published in the *Commercial and Financial Chronicle* of 28th April, 1906 :—Japan in 1885-86 used very little cotton, but is now turning into goods about 17,000 bales of 500 lbs., average net weight per week. The Southern mills in the United States during the like interval have increased their requirements from 6,000 bales weekly to 43,000 bales, and the Continent of Europe instead of 53,000 bales requires now 99,000 bales. East Indian mills absorbed only 10,000 bales in 1885-86 against 26,000 bales now, Great Britain's requirements have risen from 56,000 bales to 74,000 bales and Northern mills in the United States took only 29,000 bales per week twenty years ago as compared with about 43,000 bales at present. Moreover, bringing together the data for the different countries, we have a **total weekly consumption** at the present time of about 302,000 bales of the net average weight of 500 lbs., against but 155,000 bales in 1885-86, a gain very little less than 100 per cent. To show the progress in intervening years the *Chronicle* has prepared the following table, the 1905-06 results, as will be seen, being estimated along very conservative lines :—

Average weekly consumption of cotton in thousands of bales.

500 lb. bales.	Great Britain.	Continent.	United States		India.	Japan.	Total.
			North.	South.			
1885-86 .	56	53	29	6	10	1	155
1890-91 .	65	70	35	11	17	2	200
1895-96 .	63	80	33	17	21	7	221
1900-01 .	63	88	41	30	21	12	255
1901-02 .	63	93	42	35	27	14	274
1902-03 .	61	99	39	38	26	13	276
1903-04 .	58	99	38	37	24	10	266
1904-05 .	70	99	42	41	26	17	295
1905-06(a) .	74	99	43	43	26	17	302

(a) Estimated.

To the foregoing compilation some small amounts should be added to cover fully the world's consumption of cotton, but as it stands sufficiently it is complete for all practical purposes. It not only indicates that consumptive requirements are now nearly 100 per cent. greater than 20 years ago, but, what is really wonderful, that this increase as stated above has not been checked, but has been accelerated in the latest years of extremely high prices.

The following statement shows the quantity of **sugar imported** from the principal non-European sugar-producing countries: also countries of origin of the total imports of sugar (excluding confectionery and molasses) from all foreign countries **into British India in the month** of April 1906 and in the 12 months ending with March.

Principal non-European sugar-producing countries whence imported.	Quantity imported in April 1906.	Quantity imported in the 12 months ending March 1906.
	cwt.	cwt.
Egypt	56	132,786
Mauritius	185,738	2,015,476
China	1,366	130 628
Java	25,578	1,685,391
Straits Settlements . . .	713	150,868

Countries of origin of Total imports.	Share of each country in the total imports in April 1906.	Share in the 12 months ending March 1906.
	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom . . .	(a) 9	353
Austria-Hungary . . .	401,625	2,453,733
Belgium	55,686	122,445
Denmark	...	14
France	8,856	224,443
Germany	342,351	630,416
Holland	2	2,029
Italy	...	17
Russia	...	...
Egypt	56	132,786
Zanzibar	...	...
British East Africa(Mombasa) .	(b) 1	...
Mauritius	185,737	2,014,955
Réunion	8,450	35,269
Natal	...	4
Mexico	...	3,072
United States	...	...
West Indies	27	7,983
Central America	...	2
South America (excluding Argentine Republic and Chile) .	4,126	22,318
Argentine Republic . . .	10	150
Chile	...	...
Falkland Islands	...	...
Aden	...	20
Arabia	...	2
Ceylon	22	646
China	133	27,731
India	...	...
Philippines	...	3
Japan	...	2
Java	47,988	2,006,837
Maldives	...	550
Siam	...	...
Straits Settlements . . .	359	10,107
Australia	...	1,026
TOTAL .	1,055,438	7,696,913

(a) Imported from the United Kingdom, origin unknown.
(b) " " Mombassa, " "

The quantity of **Beet and Cane Sugar imported by Sea** from foreign countries **into each Province of British India** for the month of April 1906 was :—

	Beet Sugar.	Cane Sugar.	TOTAL.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
Bengal . . .	167,066	53,449	220,515
Eastern Bengal and Assam	200	...	200
Bombay . . .	313,822	152,676	466,498
Sind	311,668	38,563	350,231
Madras	962	174	1,136
Burma	14,805	2,052	16,858
TOTAL .	808,524	246,914	1,055,438

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COMPULSORY LICENSES FOR PATENTS.

DURING the last few weeks in England there has been a considerable revival of interest in the question of **compulsory licenses** *versus* **compulsory working of patents.** The matter was brought prominently forward by a deputation of the Associated Chambers of Commerce to the President of the Board of Trade. Since then it has been taken up by various technical periodicals, notably by the *Engineer* with a leader and several letters in its issue of April 13, 1906, and following numbers, and by a leader in the *Financial and Commercial Supplement of the Times*, dated April 23, 1906.

The position in India, at present, is controlled by the Inventions and Designs Act of 1889, which is substantially identical with the British law of 1883. The latter was amended by the Patents Act of 1902, but the present position is considered by many to be still highly unsatisfactory, especially in the chemical and dyeing industries where German-held patents control the situation. In view of the growing importance of India as a manufacturing country, the question may become acute here also, and it may be worth while to discuss the situation briefly.

A patent in Great Britain, or an exclusive privilege of making, selling and using an invention in British India, can be obtained without distinction by a subject of the Crown and by a foreigner on the condition *inter alia* that the nature of the invention is fully disclosed. When the right is obtained, the patentee frequently, according to the views of the extremists, simply sits tight, nursing his patent as a weapon of blackmail and refusing to manufacture in the country or to allow others to do so. As presented by Mr. Levenstein, who has been pre-eminent in the English agitation, the case appears to be one of considerable hardship. Some of the great German firms have obtained valid patents in England for dyes which are not protected in their own country. They are thus enabled to control the English market and manufactures, but are subject to competition in their own country outside of which their profit is made.

The only remedy of the Englishman is to apply to the Board of Trade for a compulsory license, and the application is referred to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. In India the appeal is to the Governor-General in Council, who may call the Courts to his aid. The English procedure is expensive and, judging by the cases collected by Mr. J. W. Gordon in his book on Compulsory Licenses, was generally unsatisfactory. By the 1902 Act much the same procedure is adopted; but now, not only may a license be imposed but, as a last resource, the patent may be revoked if the reasonable requirements of the public are not met. These requirements are not satisfied if the patentee neither works his patent nor grants licenses, and thereby prejudices any existing or new industry or fails to supply the demand. The terms, as stated more definitely in the Act, are very wide; but the complaint of the objectors is directed to the difficulty of proving failure to comply with reasonable requirements—of defining the term **reasonable** in any particular case.

To overcome those difficulties compulsory working is proposed, that is, manufacture under the patent must be conducted in the country or the patent automatically lapses. There is a good deal to be said for this aspect, but the case against it is strongly stated by Mr. E. Carpmael in the *Engineer*. He points out that compulsory working tends to discourage new industries as it gives no security against time and money wasted in the experimental stages if the patent is to lapse, without hope of renewal, in a brief period. Further it is very questionable what amount of working is necessary to comply with the law, and it would be the height of futility to prescribe the same life for a penny toy and a Bessemer process. A lapsed patent, as Julius von Schultz has remarked, is frequently not ownerless but destroyed property. If manufacture on a very limited scale, in the laboratory for instance, sufficed to comply with the law an absurd position results, and in any case the trial before the Courts would involve issues on a parity with those in a license action.

Mr. G. F. Emery, in the *Times Supplement*, takes another position and holds that patents on unworked inventions are bad because they are contrary to law, or prejudicial or inconvenient to the subjects of the Crown, the grant being fundumentally intended as a reward for the introduction or exploitation of a new industry. The patentee is allowed to make, use exercise and vend his invention, but if he only vends it, then it may be that it is not, within the terms of the letters patent, a new invention as to its use and exercise. Hence there may be a remedy at common law. His suggestions would appear to be feasible: but they break new and doubtful ground.

The main trouble, if the suggestion may be made here, is that the present attitude of the Courts to patent property is always tender— too tender, in fact, as the patent is always interpreted beneficially in favour of the patentee if possible. Rougher justice is called for, and a stringent interpretation of the word reasonable when the manufacture is not conducted in the country. That would be possible under the present form of the Indian Act; and if the British clauses, suitably modified, were adopted, there would not seem to be any demand for the system of compulsory working.

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REVIEW.

THE BASIS OF RAILWAY RATES.

At a time when the State control of Railways is very specially before the world, a book on **the Basis of Railway Rates*** as understood in the United States is sure to be welcomed. But whether Mr. Kirkman's volume will be read with the zest with which it will be opened is another matter. Everyone is aware of the position of this particular question in America, and has probably noted the progress made by the President in his attack upon inequitable discriminations and rebates. And persons having any acquaintance with the American temperment, its dislike of the "mugwump" and the vehemence of its political partisanships, would expect to find so "live" a question as that in hand discussed in a manner more forensic than judicial. It is true also that acquaintance with American disquisition upon general principles of any kind prepares the reader for a certain magnificent simplicity in the statement either of the most obvious commonplaces or of the most mendacious special pleading. But as a rule American treatises upon a concrete subject like that of railway rates is founded upon a basis of exhaustive statistical enquiry. The book under review not only is devoid of any such merit but it bears all the marks of exceptional perfunctoriness in execution. Its diction is that of dictation; and the stenographer (to say nothing of the incompetent proof reader) is revealed in such phrases as "the exercise of the right of condemnation" where "combination" is clearly indicated by the context. The peculiarly empirical nature of railway rates is perfectly well understood in this world, and scarcely requires to be re-asseverated. But when a man proposes to himself to write about the basis of that which avowedly has at present no definable basis, the reader reasonably expects some intelligent canvass of such principles and theories as might conceivably be substituted for mere rule of thumb. But the book gives us nothing of this kind. There is indeed no discoverable method or scheme in the arrangement. The fact that in this small volume of some 325 pages there should be a series of chapters bearing identical titles is sufficient to indicate the manner in which the subject has been handled. Every page abounds in repetitions of what has been already superfluously said and in the statement of elementary principles which appear to be new to the author, but to the ordinary reader of such literature are of a perfectly tedious triteness. It is as if a writer upon conic sections were to sprinkle his pages with the axioms of Euclid. After the perusal of a few paragraphs has given us the measure of our author we wade through page after page of rhetorical nonsense in the hope of picking out a concrete fact here and there; for it seems incredible that a writer should have embarked on such a work with no better qualifications than the volubility of a quack doctor, a perfect reliance on the stupidity of his fellow-men, and an unassorted collection of economic maxims as familiar as a nursery rhyme, and equally as incredible. But the scarcity of concrete facts is amazing; and the speciousness of their context makes one sceptical about such as are found. On the whole the most valuable information to be derived from the book is to be found in the short bibliography at the end, in which the author refers us to other writers upon his theme

We began by noting passages for criticism or comment; but our author is so divagations that it would be the merest waste of time to pursue him into all the bye-paths and quagmires of fallacy in which he wantons. His method is that of misconstruing and misrepresenting his opponent's case, erecting a spurious bogie with the sorriest articulations, and then dismembering it with whoops of derision. He pretends to believe that President Roosevelt and his party condemn all difference in rates, and he pours out torrents of words to show that the rates on one railway must necessarily vary from those on another, and the rate for one article differ from that for another. All of which is of superlative irrelevance. If our author wasted only his own time it would not matter; but he wastes his reader's time as well and since the title is of the kind that might attract a class of men with little time to spare, it is only fair to put them on their guard.

*The Basis of Railway Rates, Private *versus* Government management, by Marshall M. Kirkman, New York. The World Railway Publishing Company.

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CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

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RANGOON.

The minutes of the previous Meeting held on the 5th April 1906, are confirmed.

Considered letter No. 80-4G—5, dated the 4th April 1906, with enclosures, from the Local Government inviting the views of this Chamber on the following four questions raised by the Government of India:—

(1) The restriction by legislation of the working hours of adult factory operatives.

(2) The existence of abuses at present in regard to the hours of employment of adult males.

(3) The requirement of certificates of fitness as well as age from children on engagement as factory workers.

(4) The employment of an adequate inspecting staff to supervise child labour.

Resolved that the Local Government be informed, with reference to sub heads (1) and (2), that 'shifts" or changes in the personnel of labour are arranged in local factories when working beyond an ordinary day's labour and that no abuses exist so far as is known.

With regard to sub-head (3) the Committee see no objection to children being required to produce certifications of fitness as well as of age on engagement as factory workers. In view, however, of the difference between conditions of labour at present existing here and those prevailing in Indian Mills and Factories in favour of the former, there being freedom from confinement and occupations consequently healthier, the Committee consider that special legislation in this Province is uncalled for at present. At the same time the Chamber will be glad to be afforded an opportunity of criticising any draft regulations should it be considered necessary to legislate on the subject.

Considered letter, dated the 30th March 1906, from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, suggesting that this Chamber should join in requesting the Secretary of the London Chamber of Commerce to send an official invitation to the Hon'ble Mr J. P. Hewett, C.S.I., C.I.E., who has intimated his willingness to attend the Sixth Congress of Chambers of Commerce to be held shortly in London.

Resolved that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce be informed that this Chamber will join in the request for an official invitation to be sent to the Hon'ble Mr. J. P. Hewett.

The minutes of the previous Meeting held on the 19th April 1906, are confirmed.

Considered letter No. 710-3M.—17, dated the 28th April 1906, from the Local Government, forwarding for disposal a letter dated the 20th March 1906, from Messrs. Snowdon, Sons and Company, Limited, London, asking for assistance in finding a dealer in rice oil.

Resolved that the papers be circulated to the general body of Members and that Messrs. Snowdon, Sons and Company, Limited, London, be informed that rice oil is not manufactured in Burma.

Considered the subject of the appointment of the Chief Judge of the Chief Court of Lower Burma.

The despatch of the following telegrams on 8th instant, which had been circulated and approved by the Committee, was recorded:—

To Sir Lewis Tupper, Member of Viceroy's Council for Commerce and Industry, Simla:—

> In view of vacancy in Chief Judgeship of Chief Court, Lower Burma, Rangoon Chamber of Commerce invite your support to appointments being conferred upon a Barrister with practising experience. Commercial Community deplore frequent changes and appointments being held temporarily by Civilians until suitable vacancies in executive or administra-

tive departments become available. Previous memorials explain reasons.

To the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy :—

Rangoon Chamber of Commerce respectfully invite His Excellency's attention to memorials previously submitted concerning Chief Judgeship of Chief Court of Lower Burma, and again solicit the favour of appointment being conferred upon a Barrister experienced in practice as such. Mercantile Community deplore Chief Judgeship being held temporarily by Civilians until suitable vacancies in higher executive or administrative departments are available.

The Chairman states that in anticipation of sanction a telegram enlisting the support and sympathy of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce had been sent to the Secretary, and likewise a cable to the same effect to the Chamber's representatives on the London Chamber of Commerce.

The Chairman's action is confirmed.

Considered a draft Memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy prepared by the Chamber's Legal Advisers at the request of the Chairman.

Resolved that said Memorial be re-circulated for approval after sundry minor alterations.

Considered letter, dated the 3rd May 1906, from the European Merchants resident in Moulmein on the subject of the unsatisfactory condition of the Moulmein river, furnishing certain information required by the Committee to enable them to deal with the matter.

The Committee regret to note that the most important information required—*i.e.*, draughts of loaded vessels sailed from Moulmein during past 10 years or so—is not available.

Resolved that the signatories to the letter be asked to kindly furnish a list of the names and net registered tonnage of vessels which sailed from Moulmein during the past ten years, with description and quantities of cargo carried therein : also to furnish a list from the 1st January 1906 of the number of vessels that were unable to proceed to sea after loading, together with a note of the quantity of cargo which such vessels may have had to refuse in order that they might proceed to sea without detention.

Considered the desirability of addressing the Telegraph Department regarding the mutilation of telegrams received from Europe which it is reported to the Committee has of late been of frequent occurrence.

Resolved that the matter be brought to the notice of the Telegraph Master, Rangoon.

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UPPER INDIA.

The scale of charges for Inland Telegrams.

The attention of the Committee was drawn some months ago to the fact that, under the recently introduced tariff of charges for Inland Deferred Telegrams, it was possible to divide a long message into two or more parts and so transmit the message at less cost. The fact that ten words can be sent for four annas, while each additional word costs one anna, is responsible for this anomaly which results in inconvenience to the receiver of a message and entails extra labour on the Signalling Department without additional revenue. In the absence of evidence to show that the practice of so dividing messages was a common one, the Committee deferred taking action. A letter addressed to the Director-General of Telegraphs by the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, indicates that the public are now becoming alive to the feasibility of thus effecting economy in charges for transmission and the Committee have therefore addressed the Director-General in support of the Bombay Chamber's contention that six pies should be charged for each additional word after ten.

The Committee have suggested also the dividing of telegrams into two classes instead of three, as at present, and that the charge for an ordinary telegram to be dealt with in the same way as all telegrams are in the United Kingdom might be one rupee for 16 words and one anna for each additional word, the rate for the deferred or cheaper class to be as now suggested.

Private-owned waggons for carriage of coal for mills and factories in Cawnpore.

In view of the oft-repeated congestion of coal traffic from the Bengal coalfields to Northern India, a proposal was made to the Committee that a Company might be formed to purchase or build waggons to supplement the rolling-stock of the coal carrying railway administrations. Enquiries were addressed to the E. I. Railway and the O. and R. Railway Administrations regarding the terms on which they would be prepared to hire such wagons.

The proposal has not been favourably received, and the Committee do not propose pursuing the subject further.

Sixth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire.

The Committee have invited the Hon'ble Mr. A. McRobert, President of the Chamber, and Mr. A. B. Shakespear, the Secretary, to act as delegates to the Congress in addition to the delegates already appointed.

Curriculum for Primary Schools.

The Director of Public Instruction has asked for the opinion of the Chamber on an order of the Government of India, bearing date 6th June 1904, in which suggestions are invited for changes in the curriculum for primary schools with a view to adapting the teaching more to the needs of an industrial population.

The Committee have replied that in their opinion the success or otherwise of primary education in a city like Cawnpore depends to a great extent upon the class from which the teachers are recruited and stress has been laid on the importance of *methods* of teaching rather than *subjects* of study. The Committee are of opinion that something of the Kindergarten system might be introduced with adavntage, but meantime they have asked to be furnished with copies of the school books now in use.

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BOMBAY MILLOWNERS' ASSOCIATION.

Read letter from the Bombay Government, together with enclosure from the Government of India, referring to the distinction at present drawn between "Madras Cloth," and "Imitation Madras Cloth," for the purpose of assessment to excise duty under the Cotton Duties Act 1896 (II of 1896).

Resolution—That the Committee have no objection to the Government suggestion, that such goods, in the circumstances described, should be assessed on an *ad valorem* basis as a temporary measure.

Read letters from members regarding the disregard by certain Mills of the rule that all work should cease at 7 P M. (Bombay Time).

Resolution—To address the Mills referred to and send copy of the Committee's previous circular on this subject.

Read letter from a member, suggesting that the Association should invite the members to send for file, copies of any correspondence which may have passed relating to questions between Inspectors of Steam Boilers and owners.

Resolution—That the suggestion is approved, and that a circular notice be addressed to the members, inviting them to comply with the proposal.

Read further letter from the Government of India on the subject of deduction on account of depreciation of Mill Buildings in calculating net profits for purposes of Assessment to Income Tax. The Committee were informed that the representation had been referred to the Local Government for disposal.

Resolution—To address the Bombay Government, forwarding also copy of the Association's representation to the Government of India.

Read letters from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence regarding samples of Russian cloth, sent for the inspection of the members. Full information about these samples would be found in the issues of the *Indian Trade Journal* of the 12th and 19th April 1906.

Resolution—The Director-General to be thanked and the samples returned as requested.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

THE *Board of Trade Journal*, published on the 10th May, in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations, gives particulars about—

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.—Drawback : Rice-meal.

NATAL.—Restriction of Importation of Animals from Mauritius and India.

CEYLON.—Customs Amendments.

MAURITIUS.—Importation of Live Stock from Réunion ? Prohibition removed.

GAMBIA.—Customs Amendment : Munitions of War.

BARBADOS.—Continuation of Import and Excise Duties to 31st March, 1907.

RUSSIA (FINLAND).—Increased Duties on Spirits, etc. Time of Operation. Reduction of Duty on Rock Salt.

SWEDEN.—Establishment of Free Port at Gothenburg.—Import Duty on Tiles.

NETHERLANDS.—Exemption from Import Duty of Butyl Chloride. Tariff Decisions.

GERMANY.—Duty on Meat Extracts in Tins with Screw Lids.

GERMANY.—Agreement with CHINA respecting Kiaochow. New Customs Regulations at Kiaochow.

FRANCE.—Law respecting Contraband on Board Ship.

SPAIN.—SPANISH POSSESSIONS IN THE GULF OF GUINEA.—Customs Tariff. Import Duties. Export Duties. Surcharge of 50 per cent.

ITALY.—NEW COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.—Schedule of Italian Import Duties.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.—Standards of purity for Food Products.

SAN SALVADOR.—Import Duty on Tailors' Tabs.

COLUMBIA.—Customs Duties and Customs Regulations. Import Duties at Tumaco.

JAPAN.—Customs Decisions.

We give the following particulars of changes **interesting to Indian Trade :—**

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

Drawback : Rice-meal.

THE *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* for 24th March last contains a Customs Notice, dated 15th March 1906, issued in accordance with the provisions of Customs Regulations, No. 131, notifying that a drawback of duty may be allowed on the undermentioned imported material used in the manufacture of articles within the Commonwealth upon the exportation of such manufactured article, under certain conditions, *viz.* :—

Rice-meal produced in the process of cleaning imported uncleaned rice.

CEYLON.

Customs Amendments.

An Ordinance (No. 3 of 1906), which was assented to by the Governor of Ceylon on 1st March of the present year, amending the Law relating to the general Customs regulations of the Colony.

The present Ordinance provides, *inter alia*, for the revision of duties imposed by the "Customs Duties Amendment Ordinance, 1903," on various articles imported into the Colony, the principal alterations effected in the Import Tariff being as follows:—

Articles.	Import Duties.	
	Old rates.	New rates.
Perfumed spirit and bay rum .	Rs. 7 per gall.	Rs. 7 per gall.
Other perfumery . . .		5½ % *ad val.*

The "free list" is extended by the inclusion of the following articles:—

Cardboard.
Machinery for the preparation, manufacture, and packing of raw rubber.
Machinery for steam launches and motor boats used in the conveyance of goods and passengers or towage of lighters.
Motor trailers.
Motor bicycles (when imported as "passenger's baggage").
Beading used for picture frames.
Rails, rail-fasteners, tie-rods, fish-plates and turn-tables.
Uniforms—naval, military and civil.
Boxes used for the despatch of samples of tea or other Ceylon products.

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NETHERLANDS.

Tariff Decisions.

The *Nederlandsche Staatscourant* for the 2nd April contains two resolutions of the Minister of Finance to the following effect:—

Tea chests.—So-called "Venesta" chests, the sides of which consist of three wooden layers glued together, lined with tea-lead, are assimilated to ordinary tea chests for the purpose of the tare allowance on imported tea.

Catechu nuts (the seeds of the anacardium occidentale) are to pay duty as "almonds," at the rate of 4fl. per 100 kilogs. (3*s.* 4¾*d.* per cwt.).

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GERMANY.—AGREEMENT WITH CHINA RESPECTING KIAOCHOW.

Kiaochow—New Customs Regulations at.

An Agreement has been arrived at between the Chinese and German Governments, which modifies the Agreement of 1899, under which a Custom-house was established in Tsingtau.

This Agreement came into force on 1st January last.

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FRANCE.

Contraband on Board Ship—Law Respecting.

The French *Journal Officiel* for the 12th April, respecting Customs frauds committed in the interior of ships. The Law provides that if, in addition to the articles regularly manifested or composing the cargo, and the ship's stores duly declared before the arrival of the Customs officers, any prohibited articles, articles liable to internal taxes, are found on board a vessel within the limits of a port or roadstead, such articles (but only such articles) are to be confiscated; and the captain, unless he can prove non-responsibility, is to be required to pay a fine equal to their value, and not less than 500 francs.

The same penalties are applicable to those who are proved guilty of having fraudulently disembarked or attempted to disembark such articles.

This Law is applicable to Algeria and to French Colonies.

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JAPAN.

Customs Decisions.

The following decisions relative to the application of the Japanese Customs Tariff are taken from recent issues of the *Japan Weekly Mail*:—

Articles.	No. of Tariff under which dutiable.	Rate of Import Duty.*
		Yen.
Iron putty, composed of sulphuric calcium, powdered iron, carbon, clay and sulphur . .	497	30 % *ad val.*
Initial perforators, articles used to print initials on the lining leathers of hats . .	271	30 % „
Traction engines, dutiable as "machines not specially provided for"	17	10 % „
Straw matting . . .	496	15 % „
Cotton damask . . .	322	20 % „
Alpaca, whether or not made with cotton, either in wrap or weft	324	Sq. yd. 0·075 and 15 % *ad val.*

*Including the Special War Tax when applicable (whether Import Duty or Consumption Tax).

SWEDEN.

Free Port at Gothenburg—Establishment of.

A company has been constituted in Sweden for the establishment of a Free Port at Gothenburg, on the lines of the "Frihavn" at Copenhagen. The system to be adopted is an extension of the bonded warehouse system. An area will be set apart where goods and manufactures may be landed without payment of import duties; and factories will be established within this area for the working up of raw material from other countries, with a view to re-exportation free of duty or to distribution through Sweden on payment of duty.

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CROP FORECASTS.

WHEAT.

Final General Memorandum on the Indian WHEAT crop of the season 1905-06.

The wheat crop as a whole is a good one; for, while the total area falls short of that of 1904-05 by 2,244,000 acres (or nearly 8%) the outturn is believed to exceed that of the said year by 978,000 tons, or 13%. There have been very large percentage shrinkages in certain of the reporting areas, as, for instance, in Bombay, Rajputana and Mysore; and unfortunately the form in which these forecasts have up to the present time been printed does not show what actual contraction or expansion of area or yield is indicated by such percentages.

Some of the areas that report the largest declines in acreage (as, for instance, the United Provinces) show the largest gain in tonnage; and fortunately it is the largest of the wheat provinces—the United Provinces and the Panjab—in which conditions have been most favourable. But in both of these regions there were times in the early part of the year when continued drought augured very ill for the crop.

The total estimated outturn of 8,560,000 tons falls short of only one recorded year, that of 1903-04, when 9,641,000 tons were produced.

The following is a summary of the principal reports. The **figures in brackets** following the name of each province indicate what percentage of the total area under wheat in British India is ordinarily cultivated in that province.

Panjab (***34·7*** %) reports the area under wheat as finally ascertained to be 8,572,100 acres (4,615,400 irrigated), as compared with 7,712,100 acres (4,053,600 irrigated) last year—an increase of 11 per cent. Conditions were most favourable for early and for late sowings, but deteriorated under drought which lasted till the middle of February. Since the heavy and general rain that then set in the season has been excellent. The total outturn is estimated at 3,510,300 tons as compared with 2,855,300 tons last year—an increase of about 23 per cent. The grain is of excellent quality everywhere, and there need be no hesitation in classing the harvest as a bumper one.

North-West Frontier Province (***4·2***%) reports 1,024,600 acres (279,500 irrigated), compared with 882,200 acres (273,000 irrigated) for last year—an increase of 16 per cent. The season was on the whole a very favourable one; and the crop has been much above the average, though it suffered from hailstorms and high winds in places. The total yield is reported to be 279,700 tons as against 267,600 tons last year, this representing an increase of 4½ per cent.

United Provinces (***33·4*** %).—The total area shown is reported to be 6,367,500 acres as compared with 7,706,500 acres last year—a decrease of 17 per cent owing to drought at sowing time. The deficiency of rain was, however, largely made up by irrigation, which began much earlier than usual. The irrigated crop, which this year comprised nearly two-thirds of the total area under wheat, has done exceptionally well; the yield has been heavy and the quality of the grain exceptionally good. The unirrigated crop suffered much from continued drought: the rain of February was expected to improve it; but strong winds which blew at the time the grain was ripening reduced the outturn. The total outturn is estimated at 2,428,700 tons as compared with 1,897,000 tons last year—an increase of 28 per cent.

Bengal (***6·2*** %) reports 1,259,000 acres as compared with 1,324,900 acres for last year, this representing a decrease of 5 per cent. In spite of the want of rain at the sowing season in October, the crop promised fairly well at first; but in February continous rain accompanied by cloudy weather and hailstorms caused serious damage. The total yield is expected to be 400,000 tons as compared with 433,200 tons last year—the decrease being one of nearly 8 per cent.

Eastern Bengal (*1* °/°) reports 159,800 acres as compared with 180,700 acres for last year—a decrease of 11·5 per cent. The season on the whole was not a favourable one. The yield is expected to be 50,000 tons as compared with 62,000 tons last year, this representing a decrease of 19 per cent.

Central Provinces and Berar (*12·5*°/₀).—The total area sown is reported to be 3,446,500 acres (3,022,200 in the Central Provinces and 424,300 in Berar), as compared with 3,497,100 acres (3,068,500 in the Central Provinces and 428,600 in Berar) for last year. The crop suffered from drought and also from an absence of dew; but it was greatly benefited by the rain received at the end of January. The harvest was on the whole not much below normal. The total yield is estimated to be 827,800 tons (767,450 in the Central Provinces and 60,350 in Berar) as compared with 831,900 tons (751,900 in the Central Provinces and 80,000 in Berar) for last year.

The British districts of **Bombay** (*5·6*°/₀) report the area sown to be 928,800 acres as compared with 1,749,000 acres last year, a decrease of 47 per cent. The Native States (including Baroda) return a total area of 381,100 acres as compared with 511,900 acres last year, a decrease of 25 per cent. Of the total area sown, 344,000 acres, or 26 per cent, were helped by irrigation. The dry crop fared tolerably well in north Gujarat; but elsewhere it suffered through deficiency of moisture and also in places from cloudy weather. The irrigated crop was generally fair in the Deccan; but elsewhere it suffered through deficiency of water-supply. The yield in the British districts is estimated at 118,200 tons compared with 201,800 tons last year, a decrease of 41 per cent. The estimate for **Native States** is 152,500 tons as against 154,800 tons last year—a decrease of 1·5 per cent. The total yield for the presidency proper shows a decrease of 24 per cent.

Sind (*2·1*°/₀) reports 616,300 acres (43,000 in Native States) as compared with 522,700 acres (31,300 in Native States)—an increase of 18 per cent owing to timely and plentiful inundation. The crop suffered slightly from locusts and in places from frosts; but the season on the whole was favourable, and the yield fairly satisfactory. The total outturn is estimated at 193,100 tons as compared with 126,100 tons last year—this representing an increase of 53 per cent.

Hyderabad reports 934,500 acres compared with 1,126,600 acres last year—a decrease of 17 per cent, arising from failure of late rains. The crop was almost a complete failure in the important district of Aurangabad; and the total outturn is estimated to be only 40,400 tons as compared with 89,700 tons last year—a decrease of as much as 55 per cent.

Rajputana and Central India.—Rajputana reports 683,100 acres and 141,500 tons as compared with 1,023,890 acres and 189,000 tons last year, or a decrease of 33 °/₀ in area and of 25 °/₀ in yield. Central India reports 1,850,500 acres and 418,000 tons as compared with 2,227,400 acres and 473,200 tons last year, that is, a decrease of 17 °/₀ in area and of 12 °/₀ in yield.

Mysore—reports 2,400 acres and 140 tons compared with 5,300 acres and 440 tons last year, the decrease being attributed mainly to deficient rainfall.

Exports and Prices.—The exports of wheat from India to foreign countries by sea during the last five years have been :—

	Tons
1901-02	366,091
1902-03	514,607
1903-04	1,295,566
1904-05	2,150,025
1905-06	937,523

The following figures represent the quantities (in *sers*) sold for a rupee in the first-half of the months mentioned :—

	Panjab	United Provinces	Central Provinces and Berar	Bombay
March 1902	15·56	14·31	11·8	9·19
„ 1903	15·01	14·75	12·94	10·85
„ 1904	16·85	15·67	14·1	13·24
„ 1905	14·81	12·13	13·64	12·47
„ 1906	13·15	10·56	11·36	8·86
April 1906	16·36	12·1	12·3	8·85

Estimate of the Wheat crop of the season 1905-06.

Province	Area (in acres) Of current year's crop (1905-06)	Of previous year's crop (1904-05)	Average of preceding: Five years	Average of preceding: Ten years	Percentage by which column 2 exceeds (+), or is less than (−), area in: Column 3	Percentage by which column 2 exceeds (+), or is less than (−), area in: Column 4 Five years	Column 4 Ten years	Yield (in tons) Estimated yield of current year, *i.e.*, of area in column 2	Yield of previous year, *i.e.*, of area in column 3	Average of preceding: Five years	Average of preceding: Ten years	Percentage by which column 7 exceeds (+), or is less than (−), yield in: Column 8	Column 9 Five years	Column 9 Ten years
1	2	3	4		5	6		7	8	9		10	11	
Panjab . .	8,572,100	7,712,100	6,960,400	6,825,000	+11·2	+23·2	+25·6	3,510,300	2,855,200	2,383,300	2,034,900	+22·9	+47·3	+72·5
North-West Frontier .	1,024,600	882,200	862,100	848,400	+16·1	+19·5	+20·8	270,700	267,600	228,100	220,600	+4·5	+22·6	+16·8
United Provinces . .	6,367,500	7,706,500	6,830,700	6,293,000	−17·4	−6·7	+1·2	2,428,700	1,897,000	2,679,800	2,283,500	+28·0	−9·4	+6·4
Bengal . .	1,259,000	1,324,900	1,276,400	1,276,600	−5·0	−1·4	−1·4	400,000	433,300	413,700	420,400	−7·7	−3·3	−4·8
Eastern Bengal .	159,800	180,700	200,200	198,100	−11·5	−20·1	−19·3	60,000	62,000	76,400	71,400	−19·3	−34·5	−30·0
Central Provinces and Berar . .	3,446,500	3,497,100	2,001,500	2,065,100	−1·4	+32·5	+20·3	827,000	831,900	539,200	499,800	−0·5	+53·5	+65·6
Bombay (*a*) .	1,309,900	2,260,900	1,614,600	1,901,800	−42·1	−18·9	−31·1	276,700	356,600	330,000	450,300	−21·1	−38·0	−39·9
Sind (*a*) . .	616,300	522,700	459,300	482,700	+17·9	+34·2	+33·2	193,100	126,100	115,700	124,100	+53·1	+66·9	+55·7
Hyderabad .	934,500	2,126,600	(*b*)665,500	(*b*)908,400	−17·0	+40·4	+2·9	43,400	89,700	(*b*)44,400	(*b*)44,400	−55·0	−2·4	−0·0
Rajputana .	683,100	1,023,890	711,900	1,011,300	−33·3	−4·0	−32·4	141,500	189,000	168,400	233,800	−25·1	−16·0	−40·7
Central India .	1,850,500	2,227,400	1,306,900	1,479,900	−16·9	+41·6	+25·0	418,000	473,200	301,600	294,300	−11·7	+38·5	+42·0
Mysore . .	2,400	5,300	4,000	4,200	−54·7	−40·0	−42·9	140	440	370	380	−68·2	−67·8	−63·2
Total	26,226,200	28,470,200	23,593,300	24,174,500	−7·9	+11·2	+8·5	8,560,340	7,582,040	7,277,970	6,683,080	+12·9	+17·6	+28·1

(*a*) Including Native States. (*b*) Defective.

SPRING OILSEEDS.

Final General Memorandum on the crop of the season 1905-06

In this forecast the two crops are for the first time dealt with in separate columns and this, it is hoped, will make for clearness.

In the area under **Rape and Mustard** (pure) there has been an increase of 345,700 acres or about 9 %, while the outturn has risen by about 21,000 tons or nearly 4 %. In Rape and Mustard ("mixed"—that is to say, grown on the same ground with other crops) there was a falling off of 483,000 acres or 19 %, and yet an improvement of 18 % or 62,000 tons in the estimated outturn.

The **Total Area** under Pure Rape and Mustard is returned at 3,985,700 acres as against 3,640,000 in 1904-05; and the total area under the "mixed" crop at 2,026,000 acres as compared with 2,509,000.

The **Total Outturn,** mixed and pure, is computed at 959,300 tons as compared with 876,400 in 1904-05.

The area under **Linseed** (grown alone) has decreased by considerably more than a million acres or nearly 28°/₀ and that under Linseed grown interspersed with other crops has fallen by 80,000 acres or 12·4°/₀. But whereas the outturn of the unmixed crop has decreased by 11°/₀ or some 33,000 tons, there has in the mixed crop been a rise of 39,000 tons or 79·6°/₀.

The **Total Area** under pure Linseed is returned at 2,700,400 acres against 3,747,400 last year, and the total area under mixed crop at 567,000 acres as against 647,000 in 1904-05.

The **Total Outturn** of mixed and unmixed crop together is computed at 353,400 tons as against 347,400 last year making a net decline of some 6,000 tons.

But it is necessary to bear in mind that the figures for mixed crop which these totals comprise are avowedly conjectural.

The following is a summary of the provincial reports. The figures in brackets following the name of each province indicate what percentage of the total area under rape and mustard in British India is ordinarily cultivated in that province :—

Rape and Mustard.

United Provinces (*3·7*%).—The area under the *unmixed* crop is reported to be 154,700 acres as compared with 140,100 acres last year—an increase of 10·4 per cent. The absence of early winter rains injuriously affected the prospects of the crop; but in the eastern and submontane districts, where rapeseed is extensively grown, natural moisture was sufficient, and the yield has been better than elsewhere. The total outturn is estimated at 30,000 tons compared with 18,800

tons last year—an increase of 59 per cent. The area of rapeseed grown in combination with other crops chiefly for home consumption, is estimated at 2,026,000 acres and the quantity at 398,000 tons, compared with 2,509,000 acres and 336,000 tons respectively for last year. These estimates, however, are highly conjectural.

Bengal (*22·5%*) reports the area sown to be 751,900 acres as compared with 782,700 acres last year—a decrease of 4 per cent. The crop suffered to some extent from want of moisture at the time of sowing, but it suffered more severely from untimely rain in January and February. The outturn is estimated to be 116,000 tons compared with 125,900 tons last year—a decrease of 8 per cent.

Eastern Bengal (*35·1%*) reports the area sown to be 1,094,500 acres, as compared with 1,194,800 last year—a decrease of 8 per cent, owing to a bad sowing season. The crop suffered from ill-distributed rainfall and also from insects in places. The total outturn is estimated at 168,900 tons as against 234,400 tons last year—a decrease of 28 per cent.

Assam (*6·2%*) reported 164,400 acres in March last as compared with 157,700 acres at the same date last year—this representing an increase of 4 per cent. The outturn was reported to be 30,200 tons compared with 28,000 tons last year—an increase of 8 per cent.

Panjab (*26%*) reports the area sown to be 1,614,200 acres compared with 1,210,800 acres last year—an increase of 33 per cent. The sowing season was favourable. The prolonged drought of January and early February gave the crop a serious check; but it recovered under the heavy and general rain in the latter part of February. The total outturn is estimated to be 182,700 tons as against 119,500 tons last year—an increase of 53 per cent.

North-West Frontier (*3·1%*) reports 85,500 acres as compared with 55,700 acres last year—an increase of 53 per cent. The season was on the whole favourable. The outturn is estimated at 12,200 tons compared with 8,500 tons last year—the increase being one of 47 per cent.

The British districts of **Bombay** (*0·1%*) report 800 acres compared with 2,800 acres last year, but the Native States report 38,700 acres compared with 22,300 acres last year—an increase of 73 per cent. The increase in the Native States, where the crop is important, is attributed to favourable late rains. The outturn in the British districts is estimated at 200 tons. In the Native States it is estimated to be 9,400 tons compared with 2,800 tons last year.

Sind (*2·3%*) reports 66,700 acres (3,900 in the Native States) as compared with 60,100 (2,900 in the Native State) last year—an increase of 11 per cent. The crop has been good; and the total outturn is estimated to be 11,600 tons (600 in the Native States) as compared with 2,500 tons (300 in Native States) for last year; but the crop of last year was almost a complete failure.

Hyderabad reports 14,300 acres and 100 tons as compared with 13,000 acres and 200 tons last year.

Linseed.

United Provinces (*21·7%*).—The area under the *unmixed* crop is reported to be 210,800 acres as compared with 634,500 acres last year—a decrease of as much as 67 per cent owing to insufficient moisture for sowing, especially in the important linseed-growing tracts in Bundelkhand. The absence of early winter rains very injuriously affected the prospects of the crop. In the eastern and submontane districts, however, where the crop is extensively grown, natural moisture was sufficient, and the yield has been better than elsewhere. The total outturn is estimated at 32,800 tons as compared with 51,800 tons last year—a decrease of 37 per cent. The area of linseed grown in combination with other crops (chiefly for home consumption) is estimated to be 567,000 acres and the outturn 88,000 tons, as compared with 647,000 acres and 49,000 tons respectively for last year. These estimates are highly conjectural.

Bengal (*29·6%*) reports the area sown to be 727,200 acres as compared with 730,400 acres last year—a decrease of 0·4 per cent. The crop, however, yielded fairly well although it suffered from untimely rain in January and February. The total outturn is estimated to be 110,600 tons compared with 96,600 tons last year, this representing an increase of 14½ per cent.

Eastern Bengal (*5·3%*) reports 103,000 acres as compared with 99,000 acres last year—an increase of 4 per cent. The crop suffered from ill-distributed rainfall and also from insect pests. The outturn is estimated 17,300 tons as against 17,500 tons last year—a decrease of 1 per cent.

Central Provinces and Berar (*29·3%*) report the area sown to be 900,200 acres (803,500 in the Central Provinces and 96,700 in Berar) as compared with 959,700 acres (825,700 in the Central Provinces and 134,000 in Berar) for last year—a decrease of 6 per cent. Frost, hail storms, and absence of seasonable winter rain did serious damage to the crop. The total outturn is estimated to be 76,800 tons (69,100 in the Central Provinces and 7,700 in Berar) as compared with 80,500 tons (67,300 in the Central Provinces and 13,200 in Berar) for last year—the decrease being one of about 5 per cent.

The British districts of **Bombay** (*8·9%*) report 140,000 acres compared with 528,900 acres last year—a decrease of as much as 73 per cent. The Native States report 14,700 acres as compared with 24,100 acres last year—a decrease of 39 per cent. The decrease is attributed mainly to deficient late rains. The crop suffered from want of moisture, and perished completely in places. The total outturn is estimated to be 3,200 tons only (200 in Native States) as compared with 18,500 tons (2,500 in Native States) last year—a decrease of 83 per cent.

Hyderabad reported 664,500 acres in February last as compared with 775,800 acres at the same date last year—a decrease of 22 per cent attributed mainly to unfavourable conditions in the important linseed-growing district of Aurangabad. The total outturn was estimated to be 24,700 tons as against 33,580 tons last year—a decrease of 26 per cent.

Prices and Export.—The figures below are the quotations about the middle of May and at the same period in the four preceding years:—

	Rapeseed			Linseed					
	Bombay (per cwt)			Karachi (per candy of 656 lb)			Calcutta (per maund)			Bombay (per cwt)		
	₹	a.	p.	₹	a.	p.	₹	a.	p.	₹	a.	p.
1902	7	0	0	35	8	0	7	4	0	10	4	0
1903	6	1	0	32	0	0	5	0	6	7	5	6
1904	5	6	9	26	12	0	3	9	0	5	5	0
1905	7	4	0	34	12	0	5	12	0	7	8	0
1906	8	12	0	41	0	0	5	11	6	8	3	0

The quantity exported to foreign countries during each of the last five years has been (in tons)—

	Rapeseed	Linseed
1901-02	346,245	366,393
1902-03	196,346	318,409
1903-04	217,150	340,818
1904-05	257,745	559,100
1905-06	99,684	289,478

Estimate of the Spring Oilseeds crop of the season 1905-06

Province	AREA (IN ACRES)							YIELD (IN TONS)						
	Of current year's crop (1905-06)	Of previous year's crop (1904-05)	Average of preceding		Percentage by which column 2 exceeds (+), or is less than (−), area in			Estimated yield of current year, *i.e.*, of area in column 2	Yield of previous year, *i.e.*, of area in column 3	Average of preceding		Percentage by which column 7 exceeds (+), or is less than (−), yield in	
					Column 3	Column 4						Column 8	Column 9
			Five years	Ten years		Five years	Ten years			Five years	Ten years		
1	2	3	4		5	6		7	8	9		10	11	
Rape and Mustard—														
United Provinces { Pure	154,700	140,100	112,600	103,300	+10·4	+37·4	+49·8	30,000	18,800	32,300	27,400	+59·5	−7·1	+9·5
United Provinces { Mixed	2,026,000	2,509,000	1,811,000	1,645,000	−19·2	+11·9	+22·0	398,000	336,000	487,000	405,000	+18·4	−12·9	−1·7
Bengal	751,900	782,700	770,700	868,100	−3·9	−2·4	−13·4	116,600	125,900	133,200	153,300	−7·9	−12·9	−24·3
Eastern Bengal	1,094,500	1,194,800	1,206,900	1,198,900	−8·4	−9·3	−8·7	168,900	234,400	225,800	213,200	−27·9	−24·9	−20·8
Assam	164,400	157,700	150,000	*148,600	+4·2	+9·6	+10·6	30,200	28,000	25,300	*24,700	+7·9	+19·4	+22·3
Panjab	1,614,200	1,210,800	*732,800	*664,900	+33·3	+120·3	+142·8	182,700	119,500	*83,200	*74,700	+53·1	+119·6	+144·6
North-West Frontier	85,500	55,700	105,000	102,800	+53·5	−19·5	−16·8	12,200	8,300	14,400	13,900	+47·0	−15·3	−13·2
Bombay	39,500	25,100	29,900	45,600	+57·4	+33·1	−13·4	9,600	3,000	4,400	8,100	+220·0	+118·2	+18·5
Sind	66,700	60,100	80,200	88,300	+11·0	−16·8	−21·8	11,600	2,500	9,300	11,500	+364·0	+26·1	+0·9
Hyderabad	14,300	13,000	*11,400	*8,900	+10·0	+25·4	+60·7	100	200	*200	*200	−50·0	−50·0	−50·0
Total { Pure	3,935,700	3,640,000	3,199,500	3,326,400	+9·5	+24·6	+23·5	561,300	540,400	527,000	527,000	+3·9	+6·5	+6·5
Total { Mixed	2,026,000	2,509,000	1,811,000	1,645,000	−19·2	+11·9	+22·0	398,000	336,000	487,000	405,000	+18·4	−12·9	−1·7
Linseed—														
United Provinces { Pure	210,800	634,500	499,500	494,600	−66·8	−57·8	−56·5	32,800	51,800	103,000	87,900	−36·7	−68·2	−62·7
United Provinces { Mixed	567,000	647,000	517,000	496,000	−12·4	+9·7	+14·3	88,000	49,000	99,000	87,000	+79·6	−11·1	+1·1
Bengal	727,200	730,400	694,500	600,700	−0·4	+6·2	+21·1	110,600	96,600	118,100	105,400	+14·5	−6·3	+4·9
Eastern Bengal	103,000	99,000	122,200	132,400	+4·0	−15·7	−22·2	17,300	17,500	21,900	21,800	−1·1	−21·0	−20·6
Central Provinces and Berar	900,200	959,700	699,700	928,300	−6·2	+28·7	−3·0	76,800	80,500	43,500	46,700	−4·6	+76·6	+57·7
Bombay	154,700	548,000	216,900	280,200	−71·8	−28·7	−44·8	3,200	18,500	1,900	19,400	−82·7	−83·2	−83·5
Hyderabad	664,500	775,800	*364,400	*376,300	−22·1	+65·9	+60·7	24,700	33,500	*15,300	*14,500	−26·3	+61·4	+70·3
Total { Pure	2,700,400	3,747,400	2,587,200	2,802,500	−27·9	+4·4	−3·6	265,400	298,400	312,400	297,700	−11·1	−15·0	−10·9
Total { Mixed	567,000	647,000	517,000	496,000	−12·4	+9·7	+14·3	88,000	49,000	99,000	87,000	+79·6	−11·1	−1·1

* Defective

NOTE.—The estimates of the mixed crop, which refer to linseed and rapeseed grown in the United Provinces in combination with other crops, are highly conjectural

WEATHER SUMMARY.

For the week ending the 26th May 1906.

During the week under review there was general rain on the Burma coast, in Eastern Bengal and Assam, Andamans and in south-west Bengal. Showers were reported from Murree and Peshawar in the extreme North. Thunderstorms had been rather numerous in Kashmir and South India. Duststorms accompanied with rain occurred at Cuttack and Jhansi. The principal amounts of rainfall were:—Rangoon 9·05″, Mergui 2·95″, Mymensingh 3·84″, Bogra 2·67″, Cherra Poonjee 2·32″, Moulmein 1·93″, Narayanganj 1·85″, Port Blair 1·71″, Dhubri 1·70″, Chittagong 1·59″, Yamethin 1·44″, Jessore 1·33″, Tavoy 1·25″, Mysore 1·21″, Salem 1·19″, Dinajpur 0·96″, Shillong 0·92″, Sonemarg 0·72″ and Dras 0·54″.

The total rainfall for the first twenty-six days of May had been in defect in most parts of the country. It had been practically normal in the sub-divisions represented by the stations of Dinajpur, Darbhanga, Bijapur and Madura, and in excess in the Delta of Bengal and the Burdwan sub-division. The largest deficiency, expressed in inches, occurred in the Bay Islands and Burma.

Temperature had been below normal throughout the week in North-East India and had been in large excess in Upper Burma and from the 20th in the central parts of the country. In the Peninsula the departure from normal temperature had not been large except in the Deccan and the central parts of the Madras coast, where it was occasionally from 6° to 7° above normal.

On the 20th instant, the northern end of the trough of low pressure moved slightly northward and, owing to increased steepness of the pressure gradients, strong south-westerly winds were blowing across the coast at the north-west angle of the Bay, carrying moist air into Bengal and Eastern Bengal; cloud had accordingly increased in these parts and also in Assam. There had been a considerable increase of cloud, accompanied by a decrease in humidity, in the West Himalayas and Kashmir; while both cloud and humidity had increased in the interior of Burma. On the 21st the trough of low pressure extended somewhat in a south-easterly direction and the winds in Orissa and south-west Bengal assumed nearly southerly direction instead of south-westerly. Cloud had consequently extended westward into Chota Nagpur and Bihar, and had decreased in the upper Brahmaputra valley. The air had also become damper in North Bengal and Bihar. Cloud and humidity had increased in Kashmir, where skies were heavily overcast, but on the plains of Upper India cloud was reported from only one or two stations. In the United Provinces the air became drier, but in the extreme north on account of the recent disturbed conditions there had been a considerable drop in temperature. On the 22nd the pressure distribution in Burma was beginning to facilitate the inflow of humid air into the interior, but the winds at Diamond Island and the Andamans were less favourable in direction than they had been. The trough of low pressure had shifted a little northwards, and light southerly winds were blowing at the head of the Bay; skies in North Bihar had become heavily overcast; cloud had also increased on the west coast, in Mysore, the Madras Deccan and on the central parts of the Madras coast. On the 23rd, owing to a considerable rise of pressure in Assam and a slight fall in Lower Bengal and Orissa, winds had shifted from a southerly to a south-easterly direction at the head of the Bay and moist air was flowing into Chota Nagpur, causing a material increase in humidity. The heat has moderated a little in the United Provinces, but in the Punjab, Upper Sind, the Frontier Province and Kashmir temperature rose, the rise in the two latter areas being over 4°. Cloud had increased a little over the Frontier Province and the air became damper there and in the West Punjab. On the 24th, on account of the change in the direction of the wind at Diamond Island from north-west to west-south-west, moist air was flowing more freely into the interior of Burma and had produced an increase of cloud and humidity. The trough of low pressure had moved considerably southward owing to a rise of pressure along the hills, and winds in Lower Bengal had changed to easterly and north-easterly directions Cloud and humidity had accordingly decreased in the northern districts of North-East India and had increased in Chota Nagpur; skies had also become heavily overcast in Orissa. In Central India and the Central Provinces humidity hade increased. On the 25th cloud continued to increase in the interior of Burma and skies were moderately to heavily overcast in the central parts as well as on the coast. The air became slightly damper and cooler throughout Burma. The trough of low pressure remained practically stationary and humid winds were still partially diverted from the northern and central districts of North-East India to Chota Nagpur: in the former area skies had accordingly cleared and the air became considerably hotter and slightly drier. In Kashmir the disturbed weather appeared to be passing away and skies were clearing, but owing to the rain the air became considerably damper. In the Central parts of the country cloud had increased and skies were partially overcast at the majority of stations. On the 26th the pressure was very low in South Burma and Orissa, wind velocity was diminishing but directions were becoming cyclonic round a centre to the west of Diamond Island. The heavy rainfall in South Burma showed that a preliminary advance of monsoon winds was taking place. The wind directions round the Bay and the abnormally low pressure in the south-east of the Bay suggested the formation of a disturbance in front of the moist current.

TELEGRAAM FROM THE VICEROY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Crop prospects: week ending 12th May last.

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh: Condition of cattle is bad in Bundelkhand districts where fodder and water scarce; grass being imported in Jalaun; cholera continues in five districts and has further reduced numbers on works in two; prices have fallen or falling in 14 districts. **Punjab:** No change in prices; cattle generally in good condition; spring crops outturn average to good. **Rajputana:** Condition of the cattle continues poor in many places; emigrant cattle returning; deficiency of water serious in parts; cholera has broken out near Ajmer. **Central India:** General situation unaltered. **Bombay:** Rain has fallen in some affected districts; prices continue high in Deccan and Karnatak; trade active; numbers on relief increasing owing to return of emigrants. cholera continues in places. **Hyderabad:** Fodder and water continue scarce in many places. In other Provinces prospects fair or good. Number of persons in receipt of relief in thousands:—**United Provinces of Agra and Oudh,** 164; **Punjab,** 11 (last week's figures); **Ajmer and Rajputana,** 95; **Central India,** 115; **Baroda,** 4; **Bombay,** 81; **Hyderabad,** 5; total 475.

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CONSULAR REPORT.

PORT SAID AND SUEZ.

Mr. Consul-General Cameron in his report on the **Trade and Commerce of Port Said** for the year 1905 gives the total values of imports exports, goods in transit and re-exports during the last four years at Port Said as follows:—

Year.	Value.				
	Imports.	Exports.	Transit.	Re-exports.	Total.
	£ E.	£ E	£ E.	£ E.	£E.
1902 .	916,900	267,700	796,700	4,800	1,985,400
1903 .	1,036,100	431,900	787,000	9 3 0	2,264,300
1904 .	1,369,292	509,249	890.536	12,970	2,782,047
1905 .	1,284,473	401,060	779,353	12,056	2,476,942

Note.—1 *l.* E. equals 1*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*, *i. e.*, one-fortieth must be added to give values in English sterling.

The coal imports in 1905 amounted to 1,269,000 tons, or 7,000 tons less than in 1904.

Of this total some 1,098,000 tons entered with British manifests through this Consulate-General, namely. 216 British colliers with an average cargo of 5,000 tons.

The 4,116 steamers which passed through the Canal in 1905 took 1,157,939 tons. The remaining 111,000 tons imported were used on shore, or sent to Damietta.

In answer to numerous inquiries on the subject, he states that coal is imported at Port Said by six firms:—Port Said and Suez Coal Company (Lambert, Brothers); Wills and Co. (Moxey, Savon and Co.); Worms et Cie Deutsches Kohlen Depôt of Hamburg. All these companies have agencies at Suez.

The total exports from Port Said have fallen from 509,250 *l.* E. in 1904 to 401,060 *l.* E. in 1905, owing to the absence of the export of cotton from Ismailia which amounted to 244,790 *l.* E. in 1904.

Out of a total export trade in cigarettes from Egypt of 703 metric tons, valued at 554,000 *l.* E., Alexandria exported 220 tons and Suez 68 tons.

Of the 415 tons from Port Said 47 tons went to the United Kingdom, 65 tons to India and 275 tons to Germany for distribution on the Continent.

The value of the frozen meat brought to this harbour from Australia and New Zealand in 1905 was 31,000*l.*E., as against 19,000*l.*E., in 1904. Until recently the meat was supplied almost entirely for the use of ships in transit, but a promising trade is springing up with the interior, at Cairo and Alexandria.

The Government salt monopoly expired on January 1, 1906, since which date salt may be imported into Egypt on payment of a duty of 8 per cent. *ad valorem*. The Salt and Soda Company of Cairo, which formerly enjoyed this monopoly, have agreed to sell salt at 2 millièmes per kilo., *i. e.*, about 0½*d.* per lb.

There is another (British) Company called the Port Said Salt Association, which has hitherto worked the salterns here for export, but with the abolition of the monopoly it may also be able to sell salt in the interior. In 1905 this association exported to India 36,000 tons of salt valued at 5,400*l.* E.

From January 1, 1906, the lighthouse dues in the Red Sea have been reduced from 14 to 10 millièmes per ton for ships under 800 tons, and from 7 to 5 millièmes for ships over that tonnage.

Import duties have also been reduced from 8 to 4 per cent. *ad valorem* on coal, liquid fuel, charcoal, timber, petroleum and cattle, sheep and goats, and on frozen meat.

With the opening of the ordinary gauge Government railway on June 1, 1904, a new era of prosperity has begun for Port Said. The journey to Cairo has been shortened to five hours and the number of daily trains has been increased both for goods and passengers, thus enabling the town to cope with the demands of traffic in connection with the thousands of tourists who pass through Port Said in the winter season. A large tract of land has been recovered from Lake Ménzaleh, and embankments have been made for the permanent station and depôts.

During the next five years the harbour will have been increased to more than twice its present area. An extensive basin is being dredged on the eastern side of the Canal for the use of colliers and petroleum

ships. When this is completed the Abbas basin (on the western side now occupied by the colliers) will be available for vessels to load or discharge general cargo in connection with the interior of Egypt. At the same time the Bassin Cherif on the western side is being doubled in size and deepened to 30 feet, and wharves and warehouses will be constructed without delay.

The Suez Canal Company's workshops will be removed to the eastern side of the harbour, where accommodation will be made for a new village for European and Arab workmen, and the tract of land at present occupied by the workshops will be dredged away and deepened, making a new large basin of the arsenal with wharves reaching up to the railway station.

The navigable dimensions of the Suez Canal are now practically double what they were 20 years ago, the superficies of the vertical profile having been increased from 320 to 580 square metres in the ordinary channel, and to 740 square metres in the numerous gares or crossing-places, the dredging being so carried out as to exceed the limits originally agreed upon.

From 1898 to 1904, owing to the increasing size of ships, larger gares were begun, some 20 in number, at intervals of 3 miles, each gare having an effective length of 820 yards with approaches of 328 yards at either end. At each gare the bottom width of the canal is 50 yards, the width at the water level over 100 yards, the depth of the gare itself being 31 feet.

Taking the Canal as a whole, its width on the water level in the northern half is from 100 to 120 yards, and in the southern half from 80 to 100 yards.

In 1902, the maximum draught was raised from 25 feet 7 inches to 26 feet 3 inches (8 metres). On January 1, 1906, the maximum was raised to 27 feet (8 metres 23 centimes.)

The original tariff for laden ships was 10 fr. per ton in 1869. This was raised to 13 fr. in 1874, but was lowered ½ fr. per year from 1877 to 9 fr. in 1893, and to 8½ fr. in 1903. On January 1, 1906, the tariff was reduced to 7 fr. 75 c. For ships in ballast the tariff has always been 2 fr. 50c. less. The 10fr. rate for passengers has never been changed.

Four thousand one hundred and sixteen vessels, of a net tonnage of 13,134,105 tons, passed through the Canal in 1905, as compared with 4,237 vessels of 13,401,835 tons in 1904, showing a decrease of 121 vessels and 267,730 tons.

Of these 4,116 vessels, 2,954 were merchant vessels, 823 mail steamers, 162 war ships, transports and Government-chartered vessels, and 177 ships in ballast.

The transit receipts were 113,829,667 fr. as against 115,733,607 fr. in 1904—a decrease of 1,903,940 fr.

The mean net tonnage has risen from 1,000 tons in 1871 to 1,500 tons in 1880, to 2,000 tons in 1890, to 2,800 tons in 1900, to 3,163 tons in 1904 and to 3,191 tons in 1905.

The mean duration of transit remains about the same, namely, 18 hours for all vessels; but the general effective rate for mail steamers is 15 hours. The use of the electric light is practically universal, amounting to 96 per cent.

Out of a total of 4,116 vessels, 2,484 were British, a decrease of 195 as compared with 1904. The British net tonnage was 8,356,940 tons—a decrease of 476,989 tons as compared with 1904. The British percentage in number of vessels is 60·4 and in tonnage 63·6.

These figures apply only to the general total; but if we consider only merchant vessels, the British percentages have steadily risen during the last five years from 67 to 74 per cent. in number and from 71 to 77 per cent. in net tonnage.

During the last four years the German percentage in number of ships has risen from 13 to 14·6 per cent., and their tonnage from 15 to 16 per cent.

France, the Netherlands, Austria-Hungary, Italy and Norway combined furnish a total of 19·1 per cent. of the vessels and 16·7 per cent of the tonnage.

While British shipping may be said to be holding its own, the leading German lines of steamers are showing great enterprise. Their mail and passenger ships are increasing in size, their companies appear to be remarkably well-managed and to pay good dividends and one of them in particular, the Hansa, is constantly represented in this port.

Mr. Pro-Consul Hughes-Laferla of Suez reports as follows:—

The general trade at the port of Suez for the year 1905 shows an increase of 143, 799*l*E. over the year 1904. This increase is due chiefly to imports.

The total value of all articles imported during the year 1905 amounted to 1,011,400*l*E.

The quantity of coal landed at Suez during the year 1905 was 10,352 tons, as against 10,497 tons imported last year. Of the above quantity 3,955 tons were passed through the Suez customs for local consumption: the remainder was taken for ships' bunkers in transit. For coaling men-of-war of deep draught at Suez outward bound most of the coal required is brought from Port Said in boats for the purpose. The greater part of this coal does not appear in the above quantity of coal landed at Suez.

The importation of charcoal, all of which came from Turkey during the year, was 3,778 tons, valued at 9,43*l*E., or 380 *tons more than the previous year.*

The quantity of liquid fuel landed into the Shell Company's tanks at Port Tewfik, Suez, in 1905 was 7,981 tons, valued at 8,634lE., as against 9,399 tons in 1904. The above quantity was

supplied to ships for bunker purposes; 1 per cent. duty is charged on such supplies.

An increase of 1,410 tons is shown in the importation of gunnies over last year, the importation for 1905 *being 10,057 tons, valued at* 212,907lE.

The importation of coffee was 1,277 tons, valued at 52,058lE.—117 tons less than the previous year.

A decrease of 198 tons, valued at 28,893lE., is shown in the importation of indigo for the year 1905, the importation being 478 tons, valued at 115,924lE. This decrease is attributed to the surplus stock remaining over from the year 1904.

The artificial or synthetic indigo (all of which was imported from Germany into Egypt through Alexandria) was 306 tons, valued at 19,401lE.

The number of live cattle and sheep imported during 1905 is given at 17,306, valued at 7,958lE. —a decrease of 17,241 head as compared with 1904.

The number of carpets imported in 1905 was 34,104, valued at 61,621lE. This shows an increase of 18,747 carpets, valued at 32,651lE. over the year 1904.

The importation of sugar for the year 1905 was 17,424 tons, valued at 217,073lE.—an increase of 11,159 tons, valued at 141,879lE. over the previous year. Nearly the whole of the above quantity is raw sugar imported from Batavia and the Far East. It is refined in Egypt for re-exportation.

Two thousahd one hundred and forti-one kilos of tobacco and cigars were imported in 1905—1,126 kilos, less that the previous year. The duty charged on stick-tobacco and cigars is 25 pias per kilo.

The amount of cotton imported in 1905, all of which came from Suakin, was 578 tons. Most of this cotton is grown in the Tokar district. It is said to compare well in quality and fineness of staple with some of the best cotton grown in Egypt. A factory has been erected at Suakin, where the cotton is ginned, compressed into bales and shipped to Suez. With the opening of the Nile-Red Sea Railway greater facilities will be offered for the cultivation and transport of produce to the Red Sea ports.

The Khedivial Mail Company here, who own a fleet of vessels trading in the Red Sea, have doubled the service of the mail boats to Port Sudan and Suakin, and their other vessels call oftener at the other Red Sea ports carrying passengers and cargo.

The importation of cotton twist, all of which came from India, was 131 tons, valued at 7,713lE.

One hundred and thirty-four tons of dried fruits were imported, valued at 2,430lE., nearly all coming from India and other British possessions in the East.

The importation of tea was 213 tons, valued at 11,915lE.

Twelve thousand seven hundred and ninety-five lE. worth of underclothing was imported.

The impor duty has been reduced to 4 per cent since November 25, 1905, on the following goods, *viz.*, coal, charcoal, fuel-wood, liquid-fuel, paraffin oil and live-stock.

The export trade for the year 1905 shows an increase of 20,748lE. as compared with the previous year. This increase is attributed mainly to the increasing demand from the Red Sea and Eastern ports.

The exportation of gum was 4,815 tons, valued at 117,994lE.—a decrease of 1,695 tons in weight and 28,528lE. in value for the year.

Nineteen thousand and ninety-eight tons of Egyptian refined sugar, valued at 454,961lE., were exported during the year 1905, all of which was shipped to the East the bulk going to India. This shows an increase of 1,255 tons, valued at 63,812lE., for the year 1905.

Eleven and-a-half tons of ivory, valued at 6,729lE., compared with the previous year. Of the above quantity 8 *tons*, valued at 4,902lE, were shipped to the United Kingdom.

Two and three-fourths tons of ostrich feathers, valued at 4,864lE., were exported, as against 13⅓ tons, valued at 7,727lE. in 1904, the United Kingdom taking the whole quantity.

Fifty tons of cotton were exported, valued at 2,884lE. Of the above two-thirds was shipped to China and the remainder to India.

Twenty three thousand two hundred and seventy-seven ardebs of wheat, valued at 22,705lE., were exported. Nearly all of the above was shipped to Turkish ports in the Red Sea.

The value of goods which passed in transit through the Suez customs was 13,794lE. Of this amount nearly one-half came from the United Kingdom and the remainder from China and Eastern possessions.

The value of the gold imported in specie as declared at the custom house was 97,090lE. and that exported 86,56 lE. The silver imported in specie was declared at 10,004lE. and that exported at 7,476lE.

SUGAR INDUSTRY AND TRADE.

VIII

SUGAR PRICES IN INDIA.

OUR last issue contained a series of tables showing and analysing the imports of sugar into India. To-day we give statements of prices at various dates during the last ten years. The first exhibits the changes that have taken place in the price of gur (raw sugar) in up-country districts in recent years. The prices from 1885 to 1896 are taken from an old Table in the Agricultural Statistics of the Government of India which showed the prices obtained by agriculturists for their produce on the last day of the agricultural year. The prices for the years from 1897 to 1904 are wholesale market prices paid by the consumers or dealers. The quotations for the first twelve years are, therefore, not quite on all fours with those for later years. They have for this reason been reconciled and assimilated in a set of Index numbers which are given below:—

Variation in the average annual prices of sugar, raw (gûr) in 45 districts from 1885 to 1904, taking the average price of 1885-1889 as 100.

1885	114·6
1886	103·2
1887	102·2
1888	92·7
1889	87·3
1890	102·4
1891	110·7
1892	102·8
1893	96·9
1894	91·5
1895	97·3
1896	96·2
1897	95·5
1898	91·8
1899	80·2
1900	92·9
1901	87·4
1902	73·7
1903	78·2
1904	87·1

With these prices must be compared those for beet sugar since the time when they began to have an interest for India. This was about 1892, which is the earliest year for which a regular record of beet sugar quotations in Calcutta is available. The record as regards Bombay does not go further back than August 1898. With the prices for the Indian ports, which have been reduced to terms of sterling per cwt. are collated those for f. o. b. in London and the rate for Mauritius sugar in Bombay. These prices must be scrutinised *in extenso*; for there is no value in average prices per annum calculated upon twelve-monthly quotations, to each of which a uniform weight is given, regardless of the widely varying quantities of goods that may have passed under them. The most salient points in these tables, so far as they relate to India, are of course the rapid reduction in price when the cartels came into operation, the sympathetic, or, at all events, corresponding, decline in rates for Mauritius sugar, the culmination of the general fall when the special legislation of 1902 was imminent, the gradual recovery during 1903, the fall again in the early part of 1904, the marked stiffening that followed the European drought of that year and the present return to old levels as a result of the prospective large production and the consequent collapse in French speculation. It is to be borne in mind too that at certain periods the Indian Import markets were virtually in the hands of a particular producing country, as for instance in the interval between the formation of the Austrian cartel and the imitation of that measure by the German. For that time the prices quoted may be taken as relating to Austrian sugar; and later on it was Germany whose terms dominated and whose produce held the markets.

Price per cwt of beet sugar in London, Calcutta, Bombay, and Karachi, and of Mauritius sugar in Bombay in each month from January 1892. In sterling per cwt.

	Beet sugar				Mauritius sugar
	London (a)	Calcutta	Bombay	Karachi (b)	Bombay
1892	s d	s d	s d	s d	s d
January	14 3	16 7	...	12 9	16 5
February	14 9	16 2	...	12 4	16 2
March	14 4½	16 1	...	14 11	14 8
April	13 0½	15 7	...	15 6	15 1
May	12 10½	16 9	...	15 11	17 5
June	13 3	18 7	...	16 9	16 9
July	13 0	16 8	...	15 11	16 1
August	13 1½	16 1	...	15 9	17 1
September	14 0	16 7	...	16 3	18 5
October	13 1½	15 2	...	17 6	18 5
November	14 4½	17 2	..	18 5	18 7
December	14 1½	18 5	...	19 0	18 5
1893					
January	14 4½	18 10	...	18 6	18 5
February	14 4½	...	...	18 1	18 1
March	14 1½	19 11	...	18 6	17 7
April	15 7½	18 8	...	18 5	17 11
May	17 6	19 0	...	17 4	17 2
June	18 6	19 4	...	17 9	18 3
July	18 7½	20 6	...	19 4	18 8
August	16 4½	18 2	...	17 8	18 1
September	14 4½	19 8	..	18 2	18 7
October	13 9	19 11	...	18 1	16 10
November	13 9	18 7	...	18 1	15 10
December	12 6	18 4	...	15 10	15 3
1894					
January	12 7½	15 8	...	14 11	14 4
February	12 9	15 0	...	13 10	13 11
March	12 9	15 7	...	14 6	14 8
April	12 7½	15 5	...	14 6	14 3
May	11 7½	14 7	...	13 11	14 4
June	11 7½	...	...	14 6	15 4
July	11 7½	16 5	...	14 11	15 2
August	11 4½	17 3	...	...	15 9
September	12 3	...	...	15 8	15 9
October	10 1½	...	...	15 4	14 11
November	10 0	...	...	14 3	...
December	8 10½	...	...	13 5	13 2
1895					
January	8 6	14 1	...	12 1	12 5½
February	9 1½	13 4	...	12 5	13 5
March	9 0	13 6	...	12 6½	13 3½
April	9 3	13 8	...	13 3	13 3
May	9 9	13 8½	...	13 0	13 5
June	10 3	14 3	...	12 6	13 5
July	9 10½	13 3½	...	12 0½	13 3½
August	9 10½	14 7½	...	13 0	13 3
September	9 7½	13 9	...	13 1½	13 0½
October	11 1½	14 3	...	13 2	13 8½
November	10 7½	14 8½	...	13 8½	13 9½
December	10 9	15 1½	...	13 7	13 8
1896					
January	10 10½	15 6½	...	13 10	13 11
February	11 10½	15 5	...	14 5½	14 9
March	12 3	15 6½	...	14 10½	14 6
April	12 6	15 1½	...	14 11½	14 11½
May	12 7½	14 9	...	15 4½	15 3½
June	10 9	...	...	15 9½	14 7½
July	10 3	15 0	...	15 4	14 5½
August	9 6	15 5	...	14 5	14 3½
September	9 0½	15 2½	...	13 3	14 0½

(a) German f. o. b. (b) Continent.

	Beet sugar				Mauritius sugar
	London	Calcutta	Bombay (c)	Karachi	Bombay
1896—contd	s d	s d	s d	s d	s d
October	9 1½	15 1	...	13 1½	14 1½
November	9 5	15 6½	...	13 5½	13 10
December	9 3	15 4	...	13 0½	13 2½
1897					
January	9 1½	14 10½	...	12 9½	13 1½
February	9 0	14 0½	...	12 7	13 0½
March	9 0	14 5½	..	12 5½	12 7
April	9 1½	14 3	...	12 6½	13 1
May	8 10½	13 11½	...	12 0½	13 11½
June	8 10½	14 4½	...	12 4	13 2
July	8 7½	14 10½	...	12 5½	13 3
August	8 9	14 8½	...	12 5	13 8½
September	8 10½	14 4½	...	13 2	14 3½
October	8 9	14 10	...	13 2	14 3½
November	8 9	14 8½	...	13 9½	13 10½
December	9 1½	14 8½	...	13 7½	13 10½
1898					
January	9 7½	15 4½	...	12 10	13 6
February	9 1½	13 10	...	12 5	13 1
March	9 3½	13 0½ (d)	...	12 2	13 0
April	9 3	13 6½	...	12 5½	13 3½
May	9 6	13 2½	...	12 4½	12 11½
June	10 0	13 8½	...	12 10½	13 1½
July	9 8	13 3	...	12 7½	13 0½
August	9 4½	13 3	13 6½	12 10½	13 1½
September	9 7½	13 11½	14 9	13 4½	13 1½
October	9 9	14 5½	15 0½	13 0½	13 1½
November	9 8½	14 3½	14 3½	13 0½	12 9½
December	10 1½	14 11½	14 5	12 8	12 10
1899					
January	9 5½	13 10½	14 4	12 4	12 6
February	9 10½	13 2	13 6	12 6	12 6
March	9 9½	12 10	13 4	13 3	13 2
April	10 5	13 7	14 8	14 4	14 0
May	11 5	14 1½	15 0	14 4	15 0
June	11 1½	14 11½	15 11	14 10	14 6½
July	10 6½	15 1	15 5	14 10	14 6½
August	11 0½	15 2	16 8	15 1	15 1
September	10 1	15 9	17 4	15 1	14 9
October	9 3	16 2½	16 11	15 1	13 10
November	9 2	15 11½	16 2	13 11	13 10
December	8 11½	14 2½	15 0	13 2	13 8

(c) Superior Austrian.
(d) German crystals, 1st marks, spot price.

	Beet sugar								Mauritius sugar	
	London		Calcutta		Bombay		Karachi		Bombay	
1900	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d
January	9	8¾	14	8¾	16	0	13	6	14	2
February	9	2½	14	11½	16	0	14	0	14	5
March	9	9½	15	2½	16	4	14	11	14	11
April	10	3	16	1	16	8	15	4	15	0
May	10	6	16	8	16	4	15	8	16	1
June	10	8½	16	9	16	4	15	7	15	10
July	11	4½	16	1	16	11	16	4	16	11
August	11	6	16	5	17	10	16	4	17	0
September	11	6	16	7	17	4	15	5½	16	2
October	11	0	16	4	17	4	15	7	15	1
November	9	3¾	15	9¾	17	4	14	8¾	14	11
December	9	6	15	5	17	4	14	8	14	10
1901										
January	9	0	15	5	16	0	14	8	14	11
February	9	2	15	3	16	1	14	6	14	11
March	9	2½	15	4	15	11	14	6	14	6
April	9	0¾	15	2	14	4	13	11	14	0
May	9	1½	15	5	14	5	14	0	14	3
June	9	5½	14	9	14	10	14	0	13	10
July	9	3½	14	2	14	4½	13	6	13	6
August	9	3	14	1	14	7	13	6	13	10
September	8	0¾	14	3	14	11	14	7	13	10
October	7	5¾	14	10	14	9	13	5	13	6
November	7	1¾	14	3½	14	11	13	2	13	6
December	7	2¾	13	4½	14	4¾	12	11	12	11
1902										
January	8	5¾	12	7	13	11	12	4	12	5
February	6	8¾	12	1	13	6	11	5	12	3
March	6	5	12	0	11 (b)	9	11	5	11	8
April	6	6	11	8	11	4	10	11½	11	8
May	6	3	15	7	12	8	11	6	12	4
June	6	1¾	13	10	13	0	12	2	12	4
July	5	11¾	13	7	12	9	12	8	12	1
August	6	0	13	4⅜	12	6	12	8	12	0
September	5	11¼	12	11	12	6	12	7	11	9
October	7	2	13	0	12	5	12	4 (c)	11	11
November	7	4¾	13	0½	13	6	12	10	12	3
December	8	2¾	13	2	13	2	12	11	12	4

(a) Superior Austrian.
(b) Ordinary crystals. (c) Dutch sugar.

	Beet sugar.								Mauritius sugar.	
	London		Calcutta		Bombay		Karachi		Bombay	
1903	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d	s	d
January	8	1	13	3	13	3	12	11	13	0
February	7	11	13	6	13	9	13	4	13	1
March	8	4½	13	4	13	8	13	6	13	1
April	8	3	13	4	14	1	15	0	13	6
May	8	4	14	1	14	0	15	2	13	5
June	8	1½	14	3½	13	8	14	6	13	5
July	7	9	14	3¾	13	8	14	8	13	5
August	8	0	14	6	14 (d)	5	14	3½	13	5
September	8	5½	14	3½	14	7	14	8	13	5
October	8	5¼	14	3½	14	8	14	9	13	0
November	8	3	14	3½	...		14	8	12	8
December	8	3	13	10	...		14	10	11	10
1904										
January	8	4	13	2	...		14	2	11	10
February	7	8	12	8	12 (e)	5	13	0	11	10
March	8	2	12	7	12	7	12	11	11	11½
April	8	6	12	10	12	4	12	4	12	1
May	8	10½	12	8	12	8	13	4	12	2
June	9	3½	12	8	12	8	13	0	12	7
July	9	4	13	0	13	0	13	1	12	9
August	10	3	13	2	13	7	13	4	13	3
September	10	9	14	1	14	1	14	5	13	11
October	11	3	15	5	15	4	15	7	14	10
November	12	9	15	2	15	4	15	0	16	0
December	14	1½	16	4	16 (f)	9	16 (g)	7	17	2
1905										
January	15	1½	16	4	16 (h)	11	17	0	17	4
February	15	9	18	2	18	7	18	4	18	1
March	15	4⅜	17	8	18	1	18	0	16	8
April	14	6	16	9	17	1	17	5	16	10
May	11	1⅜	17	1	16	4	17	8	15	6
June	11	9	15	8	15	9	15	10	14	2
July	10	11½	15	6	15	6	15	4	13	6
August	11	1⅜	14	6	16	4	15	6	14	0
September	8	9	14	6	16	4	15	9	13	10
October	8	9½	14	2	16	4	...		12	4
November	8	3¾	13	7⅛	16	4	13	5	...	

(d) Dutch superior.
(e) Austrian crystals.
(f) Austrian spot.
(g) ,, sugar.
(h) Superior Austrian.

EGYPTIAN COTTON.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST PESTS.

The Cairo Correspondent of the *Times* "Financial and Commercial Supplement" writes as follows:—The commercial importance of the Egyptian cotton crop and the increasing dependance thereon of an enormous majority of the Egyptian people have necessitated a serious study of the best methods of combating the insect pests which have often inflicted heavy loss on the cultivator. The deadliest of the scourges, the cotton-worm, has long been known and neglected. Commissions of Inquiry, which sat in 1883 and 1884, demonstrated that the worm was simply a caterpillar produced by the eggs of a well-known tropical and sub-tropical moth—the **Prodenia litteralis** of entomologists. The second of these Commissions succeeded, in the words of its report, in convincing a number of cultivators, and even a Mudir or two; but the inertia of the mass of fellaheen and the fact that the Commission exercised no powers of compulsion greatly limited its usefulness. In succeeding years its instructions were forgotten by all but the most enlightened landowners, and serious injury to the crop was reported in 1886, 1891 and 1895. In 1904 the pest is believed to have caused a loss of, at least, £E1,500,000, and the Khedivial Agricultural Society, which had observed with anxiety the extension of the pest, petitioned the Government to take steps to minimize the severity of its attacks. In consequence of this request a decree, for the execution of which the Ministry of the Interior was held responsible, was promulgated by the Government in April, 1905. It enforced the picking and burning of all infected leaves and gave the local executive authorities powers to requisition boys for the task. Pending its promulgation preliminary instructions had been published and distributed among the local authorities, and in May the campaign opened and was conducted with considerable success. Lord Cromer in his recent report refers to this campaign, and it has also formed the subject of a special report by Mr. Machell.

The Cotton-Worm and other Pests.

Before describing the organization employed by the Ministry of the Interior in combating the pest, it is necessary to describe in brief the habits of the "cotton-worm" and to mention certain other pests that appear at the same time and were the object of considerable study in 1905. The female cotton-moth in winter and spring deposits its eggs on **berseem** (clover), the principal forage crop of Egypt. Owing, no doubt, to unfavourable climatic conditions the larva does not develop rapidly till April or May, and the two or more generations of moths that appear between November and May are not strikingly numerous. But in late spring and early summer the caterpillars, thanks to the warmth and to the departure of the numerous small insect-eating birds that winter in Egypt, develop more rapidly and show a great increase in numbers. As the **berseem** is browsed by cattle, etc., and the plants left for seed become dry and distasteful, the caterpillars migrate in swarms to the young cotton, attain maturity very rapidly, and burrow in the soil, where they form pupæ. Brood follows brood during the summer months, when the female moths deposit their eggs almost solely on the cotton, selecting one or two of the larger leaves near the base of the plant. On an average 300 eggs are laid on each leaf, and the rapidity with which the insect can become a veritable scourge is shown by the fact that on one infected property of 350 feddans of cotton no less than 2,465,738 leaves seldom bearing less than 300 eggs were destroyed last summer. Between its emergence from the egg to its appearance as a moth the insect passes at most a month (during the cotton season) and often only three weeks in the larval and pupal stages. Its voracity is equal to that of almost any similar pest; the perfect female insect is in a position to lay fertile ova within four days after emergence. These facts, with the figures given above, show the urgency of the need for a State-organized campaign against the cotton-worm both last year and in future years.

Of other pests the larva of a common moth (Agrotis ypsilon), too well known to American growers as the "greasy cutworm," has done considerable damage to young cotton in Berbera, and the so-called nedwet-el-assal has alarmed and injured numerous growers in the same province. In large areas that had escaped cotton-worm the leaves suddenly turned black, the plants became feeble and a large number were lost. It appears that at the flood season large numbers of aphides (greenfly) infest the cotton, covering the leaves with a sticky secretion resembling honeydew. The spores of a sooty fungus carried everywhere by the wind are retained by the sticky surface of the leaves, and immediately propagate with such rapidity that the leaf-pores are choked and the plant dies or becomes greatly enfeebled. Finally, there is the boll-worm, a very serious pest which may yet do more harm than the true cotton-worm. Like the latter—the caterpillar of a common sub-tropical moth—it attacks the bolls, young or mature, and spoils what it does not destroy. Its habit of burrowing into them and lying concealed till it has eaten the seeds and spoilt the fibre they contain makes it far more difficult to attack than the larva of **Prodenia littoralis**.

Plan of Campaign.

To turn to the details of the campaign, the essence of the plan adopted by the Ministry of the Interior was the expansion of the normal administrative machinery. The "Omdeh" (headman) of each village was the real executive unit; supported by the Sheikh of Ghaffirs (watchmen or rural police) with the three or four Sheikhs el Beled of the village responsible to him, he answered for the area under his charge to the Maowen Idara in charge of 1-6th to 1-5th of the Markaz (District).

The five or six Maween were responsible to the district head officer (Mamour Markaz) and the head of each district to the Mudir of the province. Sub-inspectors, mostly British, drawn from the Ministry of the Interior, and other Ministries, and from the School of Agriculture were told off to supervise the work in one or more districts under the orders of a British superior inspector who kept in close touch with the Mudir as chief executive official. The whole of the superior inspectorate of the Ministry of the Interior, reinforced by officials from the Ministry of Finance, the Police, and the School of Agriculture, was engaged on this special work, and superior inspectors and sub-inspectors alike showed the utmost activity and remarkable tact, a very necessary quality in all relations with every class of native official. The services of a certain number of Egyptian Army officers from the half-pay and retired lists were placed at the disposal of the Government by the Sirdar, and these men proved as a rule of great value. More of the these native officers will be called upon for service this summer, and the work will be greatly facilitated by the passing of a decree compelling cultivators of infected crops to report infection to the local authorities under penalty for neglect. It may be objected that thanks to the Capitulations, this could not be made applicable to foreigners, but in no single instance has any European shown anything but the greatest anxiety to save his crop.

Attitude of the Fellaheen.

The fellaheen, throughout the operations, showed a curious combination of ignorance and docility. There was little opposition to the requisition of boys, who were paid reasonable wages, and what opposition there was disappeared after a few fines had been inflicted. On small holdings the fellah usually cleaned his own ground, with the aid of his family and relations, without expense. The owners of great estates had recourse to the Government, which supplied the necessary quota of boys after their wages had been paid in advance. The fact that in July and August, the most dangerous months, scarcely any damage was done by the worm did more, with the fines inflicted on delinquents, to convince the average fellah and his sheikh of the utility of the campaign than any number of scientific explanations. Mr. Machell writes :—

For years he has seen Europeans and wealthier proprietors clean their own land with a certain measure of success, but it required the decree, and a very vigorous application of it to make him do anything himself. He has abstained from work until this year, not, as many suppose, through a conviction that it is wicked to oppose the will of God—this is only brought forward for the sake of argument and as the best means of stopping a rejoinder—but through the stubborn innate conservatism that characterizes him.

But strong as is the conservatism of the fellah, his desire for wealth is stronger. In former days he had to be driven by force to sow the cotton and to pick it : now he cannot be restrained from planting too large a proportion of his land with cotton. The old system of triennial rotation, which does not exhaust the land and allows its owner to clean it far more throughly, has been abandoned by the great majority of proprietors owing to the high prices of cotton in the last few years, with the result that the yield per feddan appears to be decreasing. Biennial rotation, close planting, and over-watering produce a state of things eminently favourable to the development of insect pests, and, should any sudden fall in the price of cotton take place, the results would prove so disastrous that, in spite of its obvious difficulties, much is to be said for the proposal that the cultivation of cotton should be kept down to one-third of each holding. Even the soil of the Delta can be exhausted, and there is nothing to recommend a system that tends to produce wood and leaf at the expense of the fibre and to make the reappearance of the cotton-worm and of the more dangerous boll-worm an ever present danger.

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GAZETTE NOTIFICATION.

RAILWAY BOARD.

Revised Rules for the packing and carriage of Petrol.

Amendments in rule 14, Chapter III, Part II, and in Appendix A of the General Rules for working open lines of railway—Rules to regulate the packing and carriage by railway in India of certain dangerous petroleums.

Read—

Section 47 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890 (IX of 1890).

Government of India, Public Works Department, notification No. 118, dated the 21st March 1895, and the Government of India, Public Works Department, Circular No. 6 Railway, dated the 12th March 1895.

Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, notification No. 801, dated the 24th March 1905.

Railway Board's Circular No. R. T. 146-8, dated the 26th October 1905.

Memo. from the Consulting Engineer to the Government of India for Railways, Calcutta, No. 95, dated the 9th January 1906, and letter from the Standard Oil Company of New York, Calcutta, dated the 9th January 1906.

Resolution.—With their circular No. R. T. 146-8, dated 26th October 1905, the Railway Board promulgated revised rules to regulate the packing and carriage by railway in India of petrol or motor spirit both by passenger and goods train.

They are now advised that the rules laid down in the above circular should apply to all dangerous petroleums which include benzine or benzol, benzoline, gasoline, motor car spirit, motor spirit, motorine, naphtha and petrol. The Railway Board accordingly direct that their circular No. R. T. 146-8, dated the 26th October 1905, be cancelled and in exercise of the powers conferred by the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Commerce and Industry, No. 801, dated the 24th March 1905, read in the preamble above, they sanction, under section 47, sub-section (*4*) of the Indian Railways Act, 1890 (IX of 1890), as in force in British India, or as locally applied, the adoption by the administrations of the railways concerned, whether in British India, in foreign territory or in Native States, to which the General Rules for working open lines of railway, promulgated with the Government of India Public Works Department, Circular No. 6 Railway, dated the 12th March 1895, apply, of the accompanying amendments in rule 14, Chapter III, Part II, and in Appendix A of the General Rules referred to.

Order.—Ordered, that this circular with its enclosure be published under a notification in Part I of the *Gazette of India* as required by section 47, sub-section (*3*) of the Indian Railways Act, 1890 (IX of 1890), and that a copy thereof be kept open for inspection at railway stations as directed by sub-section (*6*) of the same section ; also, that a copy of this circular and of its enclosure be communicated to the Governments, Administrations and Officers noted in the margin, for information.

The Governments of Madras, Bombay and Burma, Public Works Department, Railway Branch.
The Governments of Bengal, the United Provinces and Eastern Bengal and Assam, Public Works Department.
The Government of Bengal, Marine Department.
The Honourable the Resident at Hyderabad.
The Honourable the Agent to the Governor General for Rajputana.
The Consulting Engineers to the Government of India for Railways, Calcutta and Lucknow.
The Managers, North Western, Oudh and Rohilkhand and Eastern Bengal (State) Railways.

[*Enclosure to the Railway Board's Circular No. R. T. 337-4, dated the 8th May 1906.*]

Amendments in Rule 14, Chapter III, Part II, and in Appendix A of the General Rules for working open lines of railway—Rules to regulate the packing and carriage by railway in India of certain dangerous petroleums.

From rule 14, Chapter III, Part II, *delete* the following items, *viz.*,—

Benzine or Benzol	D.
Benzoline	D.
Gasoline	D.
Naphtha	D.

and *add* the following under a separate class E, *viz.*,

Benzine or Benzol	E.
Benzoline	
Gasoline	
Motor Car Spirit	
Motor Spirit	
Motorine	
Naphtha	
Petrol	

In Appendix A *add* the following as new rule V.

V.—Goods marked E. in Rule 14.

I.—By passenger train.

(i) In drums or receptacles of not more than four gallons capacity up to a limit of twelve gallons in one train.

(ii) The drums or receptacles containing the goods must be made of tinned or galvanized sheet iron, steel or lead plate, and they must be packed in strong wooden cases, the thickness of the wood to be not less than half an inch ; provided that wood cases shall not be necessary when the drums or receptacles are made if tinned or galvanized sheet iron or steel and have the following thickness of metal :—

	Not less than
(1) When the capacity does not exceed 2 gallons	25 B. W. G.
(2) When the capacity exceeds 2 gallons but does not exceed 4 gallons	22 B. W. G.

(iii) The drums or receptacles containing the goods must be fitted with well made filling holes and well-fitting screw plugs, or fitted with screw caps with metal air-tight undercap. They must also be gas-tight and so substantially constructed and secured as not to be liable, except under circumstances of gross negligence or extraordinary accident, to be broken or become defective, leaky or insecure in transit.

(iv) The nature of the contents and also the words "highly inflammable" must be distinctly marked on the drums or receptacles.

(V) A certificate must be handed in by the consignor to the effect that the air space of at least $\frac{1}{10}$th of its capacity was left in each drum or receptable at time of filling.

(vi) Drums or receptacles in a damaged condition must not be accepted.

(vii) The screw plugs or caps of empty drums or receptacles must be securely fastened.

(viii) The drums or receptacles must be carried in the rear brake-van, which should be well ventilated and they must not be exposed to the sun or be brought into contact with naked lights. They must be placed as far away as possible from the other packages in the brake-van.

II.—By goods train.

(i) In drums or receptacles of not more than ten gallons capacity.

(ii) The drums or receptacles containing the goods must be made of tinned or galvanized sheet iron, steel or lead plate, and they must

be packed in strong wooden cases, the thickness of the wood to be not less than half an inch; provided that wood cases shall not be necessary when the drums or receptacles are made of tinned or galvanized sheet iron or steel and have the following thickness of metal:

	Not less than
(1) When the capacity does not exceed 2 gallons	25 B. W. G.
(2) When the capacity exceeds 2 gallons but does not exceed 4 gallons	22 B. W. G.
(3) When the capacity exceeds 4 gallons	16 B. W. G.

(iii) The drums or receptacles containing the goods must be fitted with well made filling holes and well-fitting screw plugs or fitted with screw caps with metal air-tight undercap. They must also be gas-tight and so substantially constructed and secured as not to be liable, except under circumstances of gross negligence or extraordinary accident, to be broken or become defective, leaky or insecure in transit.

(iv) The nature of the contents, and also the words "highly inflammable" must be distinctly marked on the drums or receptacles.

(v) A certificate must be handed in by the consignor to the effect that an air space of at least 1-10th of its capacity was left in each drum or receptacle at time of filling.

(vi) Drums or receptacles in a damaged condition must not be accepted.

(vii) The screw plugs or caps or empty drums or receptacles must be securely fastened.

(viii) The drums or receptacles may be carried in ordinary iron wagons, provided the wagons are well ventilated. They may, at the option of the Railway Administration, be loaded in vehicles with other goods of a non-explosive or non-dangerous nature.

(ix) The drums or receptacles containing the motor spirit must not be allowed to stand in the sun.

(x) Lamps or naked lights must not be allowed in, or brought near vehicles loaded with drums or receptacles containing the goods.

2. The chief danger to be apprehended is from leakage, as the vapour of these goods is heavier than air and is inflammable. The vapour is also explosive when mixed with certain proportions of air in a confined space.

3. Tanks of motor cars or motor cycles tendered for carriage by railway, must be empty, thoroughly cleaned and free from vapour before the vehicles are accepted.

C. A. R. Browne, *Lieut.-Col., R.E.,*
Secretary, Railway Board.

Notice to Shippers of Tea.

In all cases in which tea is shipped on an optional bill of lading, shippers are requested to state this in the Shipping Bill by entering the words "*optional bill of lading*" conspicuously in the remark column, together with the names of the alternative ports of destination.

L. F. Morshead,
Collector of Customs.

Ordnance Notice.

Sealed tenders will be received by the undersigned up to 12 noon on Friday, the 15th June 1906, for the supply of the following tents to the Ferozepore Arsenal:—

450 Privates' tents, 50 G. S., 160 lbs. tents, complete, also 500 outerflies of Privates' tents and 900 purdahs ditto.

Supply is to be completed by 31st October next.

2. Full particulars regarding the terms of contract, printed forms of tenders and schedules of tents required can be had from this Arsenal on payment of R1 per set.

M. Campbell, *Major, R.A.,*
Ordnance Officer in charge.

Ferozepore Arsenal;
The 23rd May 1906.

NEW REFERENCE BOOKS.

REPORT OF THE KANSAS STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE FOR THE QUARTER ENDING MARCH, 1906.
Vol. XXV. No. 97. 9×6, 248 pp. Topeka.
Kansas State Board of Agriculture.

SPECIFICATION.
For Architects, Surveyors, and Engineers when specifying, and for all interested in Building. Annually, No. 9, (1906). 12¾×8¾, 712 pp. . . . . 2s. 6d. net.
The Builders Journal and Architectural Record.

PORCELAIN.
Oriental, Continental, and British. A book of handy reference for collectors. By R. L. Hobson, Assistant in the British Museum, Illst. 8¾×5¾, xvi, 215 pp.
Constable.

THE INDIA LIST AND INDIA OFFICE LIST FOR 1906.
8¾×5¾, 710 pp. . . . . 10s. 6d.
Harrison.

DIRECTORY OF PAPER MAKERS.
Pocket Edition, 1906. 4¾×3¾, 101 pp. . . 2s. 6d.
Merchant Singer.

A HANDBOOK OF THE ORDINARY DIALECT OF THE TAMIL LANGUAGE.
By the Rev. G. U. Pope, D.D. Part IV. The English-Tamil Dictionary. Seventh edition. 9×5¾, 108 pp.
Oxford: Clarendon Press. London Frowed. 5s. net.

Bound with the Tamil-English Dictionary . 8s. 6d. net.

FRENCH ABBREVIATIONS.
Commercial, Financial, and General. Explained and translated by E. Latham. 6½×4½, 255 pp. London; Paris . . . 2s. 6d. net.
E. Wilson. Paris: Boyveau and Chevillet

MEYER'S CROSSES KNOVERSATIONS-LEXIKON.
Sechster Auflage. Vol XIII. Lyrik bis Mitterwurzer. 10×6½, 928 pp. Leipzig und Wien:
Bibliographisches Institut.

ATLAS OF THE WORLD'S COMMERCE
By J. G. Bartholomew. Part 3. . . . . 6d. net.
Newnes.

BALANCE-SHEETS AND HOW TO READ THEM.
By T. H. Gough Reprinted from the *Magazine of Commerce.* 7½×5, 79 pp. London: Simkin. 1s. net.
Stourbridge: Mark and Moody.

SYSTEMATIC INORGANIC CHEMISTRY.
From the Standpoint of the Periodic Law. A text-book for Advanced Students. By R. M. Caven, D.Sc., Lecturer on Chemistry in the University College of Nottingham, and G. D. Lander, D.Sc., Professor of Chemistry in the Royal Veterinary College, London. 7½×5, xixx, 374 pp. . . . . 6s. net.
Blackie.

ELECTRICITY METERS.
Their Construction and Management. A practical Manual for Central Station Engineers, Distribution Engineers, and Students. By C. H. W. Gerhardi, A. I. E. E., Chief of the Testing Department of the Metropolitan Electric Supply Company, London. 8½×5½, 337 pp. "*The Electrician*" *Printing and Publishing Company* . . . . . 9s. net.

THE MARINE STEAM TURBINE.
A practical description of the Parsons Marine Turbine. 60 Illusts. By J. W. Southern, 8¾×5½, 88 pp. *Whittaker.* . . . . 2s. 6d. net.

THE INDICATOR HAND BOOK.
By C. N. Pockworth. Part. I. The Indicator. Its Construction and Application. Third Edition. 7½×5, 50 pp. *Emmott* . . 3s. net.

AMALGAMATED SOCIETY OF ENGINEERS.
Fifty-fifth Annual Report. 8¼×5⅝, 267 pp.
Co-operative Printing Society

THE ENCYCLOPÆDIA OF PRCATICAL ENGINEERING AND ALLIED TRADES.
Edited by J. G. Horner, A. M. I. Mech. E., Vol. III. Bio-Civ. 10×7¼, 24[illegible] pp. *Virtue* . 7s. 6d. net.

MOTOR-CAR MECHANICS FOR BEGINNERS.
An A. B. C. of Automobile construction. By G. F. Pedley 7¼×5, 58 pp. *The Car Illustrated (Limited).* . . . . 1s. net.

SCHLICH'S MANUAL OF FORESTRY
Vol. I. Forest Policy in the British Empire. By W. Schlich, Ph.D. Third edition. Revised and enlarged. 9×5¾, 216 pp .. 6s net.
Bradbury, Agnew.
(Dr. Schlich's work has been re arranged for this edition and the part of Vol. I dealing with "Forestry in Britain and in India" has now been enlarged into an abstract of Forestry in the Empire. The second half of Vol. I has been transferred to Vol. II.)

A SPEECH DELIVERED IN PARLIAMENT, MARCH 8. 1906, ON THE POLICY OF THE ARMY IN THE ENSUING YEAR.
By the Right Hon. B. B. Haldane, the Secretary of State for War. 7¼×5, 56 pp. . 6d. net.
Dent.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, for the year ending June 30, 1904.

REPORT OF THE U. S NATIONAL MUSEUM.
9×6, xvi, 751 pp. Washington:
Government Printing Office.
(The bulk of this volume, pp 187-733, is devoted to "Contributions to the History of American Geology," by G. P. Merrill, Head Curator of Geology at the Museum, with illustrations and special index.)

INDIA SEA BORNE TRADE FOR APRIL.
SUMMARIES.

	Month of April		
	1904	1905	1906
	₹	₹	₹
IMPORTS—			
Merchandise, Private—			
Bengal	2,69,32,232	2,94,12,987	3,19,51,325
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	2 18,553
Bombay	2,60,12,428	2,40,15,694	2,62,39,826
Sind	62,80 866	60,51,607	88,94,225
Madras	51,53 002	68,01,836	70,36 815
Burma	64,49.551	61,91,972	70,81,522
Total	7,08,88,079	7,24,78,096	8,34,26,365
Ditto, Government Stores	63,60,113	1,01,72,304	83,12,807
Total Merchandise	7,72,48,192	8,25,50,400	9,17,39 073
Treasure, Private	82,98,944	38,91,705	15,32,327
Bengal	(a)	(a)	6,083
Eastern Bengal and Assam	1,86,63,778	1,30,17,886	1,27,00,088
Bombay	3,48,995	2,28,609	55,086
Sind	5,68,258	2,53,550	2,79,875
Madras	1,92 595	2,500	2,43,033
Burma			
Total	2,80,72,570	1,73,94,250	1,48,16,492
Ditto, Government	20,50,669	33,79,073	1,75,06,733
Total Treasure	3,01,23,239	2,07,73,323	3,23,23,225
Grand Total of Imports	10,73,71,431	10,34,23,723	12,40,62,298
EXPORTS—			
Merchandise, Private—			
(Foreign Merchandise)—			
Bengal	1,26,288	2,23,344	1,98,928
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	...
Bombay	21,30,382	18,89,316	26,07,710
Sind	2,45,209	1,27,870	1,83,265
Mardas	87,693	71,443	1,46,543
Burma	24,749	29,095	46,321
Total	26,14,321	23,40 968	31,82,767
(Indian Merchandise)—			
Bengal	3,88,55,243	4,14.91,445	4,99,29,208
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	800
Bombay	4,67,02,538	3,93.91,489	4,10,77.950
Sind	1,21,19,900	81,48,194	76,49,112
Madras	1,31,20,121	1,39,85,668	1,71,60,270
Burma	1,81,31,611	2,05,24,514	2,66,04,456
Total	12,93,29,413	12,35,41,610	14,24,21,796
Total Foreign and Indian Merchandise exported—			
Bengal	3,89,81,531	4,17,14,689	5,01,28,136
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	800
Bombay	4,88,32,920	4,12,80,805	4,36,85,660
Sind	1,29,65,109	82,76,364	78,32,377
Madras	1,35,01,814	1,40,57,111	1,73,06,813
Burma	1,81,50,309	2,05,53,609	2,66,50,777
Total	13,24,43,734	12,58,83,578	14,56,04,563
Ditto, Government Stores	1,15,072	75,092	74,176
Total Merchandise	13,25,58,806	12,59,57,670	14,56,78,739
Treasure, Private—			
Bengal	5,51,785	1,25,000	20,34,576
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	...
Bombay	66,22,680	39,68,689	78,20,484
Sind	58.075	30,000	75,000
Madras	5,00,000	...	3,00,000
Burma	...	1,000	2,640
Total	77,32,540	41,24,689	1,02,32,700
Ditto, Government	6,200	5,000	2,250
Total Treasure	77,38,740	41,29,689	1,01,34,950
Grand Total of Exports	14,02,97,546	13,00,87,359	15,59,13,689
Gross Amount of Import Duty Collected, including Salt	59,48,470	52,88,389	57,82,489
Ditto, Export Duty Collected	14,19,164	15,85,700	18,16,788

(a) Included with Bengal

APRIL IMPORTS.

SUGAR.

Quantity of Beet and Cane Sugar imported by sea from foreign countries into each Province of British India for the month of April.

	Bengal.	Eastern Bengal and Assam.	Bombay.	Sind.	Madras.	Burma.	TOTAL.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
Beet Sugar	167,066	200	313,822	311,668	962	14,806	808,524
Cane Sugar	53,449	...	152,676	38,563	174	2,052	246,914
TOTAL .	220,515	200	466,498	350,231	1,136	16,858	1,055,438

COTTON YARN.

Quantity of Cotton Yarn No. 31 and higher counts, imported by sea from other countries into each province of British India in the month of April 1906.

	Bengal.	Eastern Bengal and Assam	Bombay.	Sind.	Madras.	Burma.	TOTAL.
	lb	lb	lb	lb	lb	lb	lb
Mule and water, Nos. 31 to 40 .	674,694	...	330,754	74,800	109,569	8,725	1,198,542
„ 41 to 50 . .	68,000	...	...	2,500	27,500	...	98,000
„ above 50 . .	69,895	...	44,267	...	17,856	...	132,018
Orange, red, and other colour, Nos. 31 to 40.	473,500	...	128,744	124,340	325,707	65,400	1,117,691
Orange, red, and other colour, Nos. 41 to 50.	...	...	4,800	...	250	29,390	34,440
Orange, red, and other colour above 50.	2,200	...	12,182	...	16,098	13,460	43,940
TOTAL .	1,288,289	...	520,747	201,640	496,980	116,975	2,624,631

RETAIL PRICES.

The following are the Retail prices of certain food-grains at selected stations for the second-half of April 1906. (Prices are stated in annas, etc., per ser.)

	Rice, common.	Wheat.	Barley.	Jawar.	Bajra.	Ragi.	Gram.	Salt.
BURMA—	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.
Rangoon . .	1 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 10
Toungoo . .	1 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 6
EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM—								
Rangpur . .	1 9	1 7	...	...	...	...	...	1 2
Backerganj . .	2 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 1
BENGAL—								
Calcutta . .	2 3	1 6	...	...	...		...	1 4
Patna . .	1 3	1 4	0 11	...	...	...	...	1 1
UNITED PROVINCES—								
Cawnpur . .	...	1 4	1 0	1 3	1 2	...	1 2	1 0
Fyzabad . .	...	1 4	1 0	...	1 6	...	1 0	1 2
Meerut . .	...	1 2	0 11	1 1	1 6	...	1 2	1 0
PUNJAB—								
Delhi . .	...	1 3	1 0	...	...	...	1 2	1 0
Amritsar . .	...	1 0	0 8	1 3	1 1	...	0 11	0 10
Rawal Pindi .	...	1 1	0 9	0 11	1 1	...	1 0	0 9
SIND—								
Karachi . .	...	1 5	...	1 0	1 4	...	1 4	0 9
BOMBAY—								
Belgaum . .	...	2 1	...	1 5	1 5	...	...	1 0
Ahmadnagar .	...	1 8	...	1 4	1 6	...	...	0 11
Bombay . .	...	2 1	...	1 5	1 6	...	...	1 3
Ahmadabad .	...	1 7	...	1 3	1 6	...	...	0 10
CENTRAL PROVINCES—								
Jubbulpore . .	...	1 2	...	1 1	...	...	1 2	1 2
Nagpur . .	1 7	1 3	...	1 3	...	...	1 5	1 3
Raipur . .	1 5	1 2	...	...	...	...	1 2	1 2
MADRAS—								
Bellary . .	2 0	...	...	1 2	...	1 2	...	1 1
Madras . .	2 0	...	...	...	...	1 3	...	0 10
Salem . .	1 11	...	...	1 3	1 6	1 2	...	1 1

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.

For the week ending 26th May 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign—Imports by sea into	Calcutta	lbs.	576,422
	Bombay	„	228,913
	Madras	„	94,300
Indian—Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	649,430
	Bombay	„	6,741,345
	Madras	„	...

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	18,420,108
	Bombay	„	3,884,810
	Karachi	„	2,291,593
	Madras	„	236,370
	Rangoon	„	166,773

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	1,871,297
	Bombay	„	3,014,830
	Karachi	„	4,029,696
	Madras	„	19,719
	Rangoon	„	348,965

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	3,163,296
	Bombay	„	3,445,439
	Karachi	„	3,874,480
	Madras	„	24,144
	Rangoon	„	470,648

Piece Goods.

(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta	cwt.	23,516
	Bombay*	„	4,782
	Karachi	„	13,716
	Madras	„	3,934

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea	cwt.	3,761
	Coastwise	„	35,792
	By rail	„	97,057
Imports into Karachi by rail		„	8,551
„ „ Calcutta by rail and river		„	12,606

* B. B. and C. I. Ry. figures only.

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta		cwt.	79,397
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags	No.	13,016,520
	„ cloth	yds.	22,500,610
	Jute	cwt.	40,398
Chittagong—Jute		„	...

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta		lbs.	883,096
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	381,608
	Chittagong	„	...

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta† by rail and river	cwt.	64,349
	Karachi by rail	„	518,599
	Bombay—By rail	„	57,538
	Bombay—Coastwise	„	11,779
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	22,169
	Bombay	„	8,302
	Karachi	„	473,454

...

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta	cwt.	96,905
	Chittagong	„	...
	Bombay	„	8,240
	Karachi	„	6,057
	Madras	„	2
	Rangoon	„	133,757

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta† by rail and river	cwt.	112,681
	Bombay by rail	„	61,249
	Karachi by rail	„	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	66,642
	Bombay	„	26,897
	Karachi	„	...

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta† by rail and river	cwt.	11,050
	Bombay by rail	„	41,697
	Karachi by rail	„	46,400
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	15,030
	Bombay	„	85,923
	Karachi	„	31,754

† Figures for E. B. S. Ry. not received.

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 26th MAY 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From All other foreign countries.	Total.
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
Calcutta	40,249	903,290	378,280	1,321,819
Bombay	...	...	...	...
Karachi	...	...	...	...
Madras	...	...	...	...

Exports by sea from Burma to	Bengal	galls.	988,708
	E. B. & Assam	„	...
	Bombay	„	...
	Sind	„	...
	Madras	„	...
	Indian Ports, Non-Br.	„	...
	Foreign ports	„	...

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 26th MAY 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	8,147	...	2,007	8	2	1,477	11,641
Germany	44,000	...	34,254	...	...	...	78,254
Austria-Hungary	...	...	12,364	21,100	500	...	33,964
Other European Countries	...	..	3,939	800	...	...	4,739
Java	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Mauritius	...	...	...	5,500	...	...	5,500
Other Non-European Countries	...	...	228	...	...	1,246	1,474
						Total refined	135,572
						Total unrefined	9,886
						Grand Total cwt.	145,458

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ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 (2*a*.)
2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a*.)
3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—
   - Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. ₹3 (12*a*.)
   - Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port. ₹3. (12*a*.)
4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. ₹2. (7*a*.)
5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a*.)
6. Accounts of Trade of the French Possession in India. As. 3. (1*a*.)
7. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possession in India. As. 2. (1*a*.)
8. Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India. ₹4. (6*a*.)
9. Report on the Rail-borne and River-borne Trade of Bengal. ₹4.
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15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India. As. 5. (2*a*.)
16. Statistics of Mineral Production in India. As. 2 (1*a*.)

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17. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

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18. Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)
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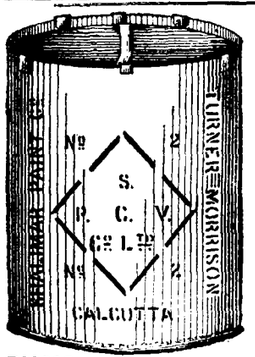
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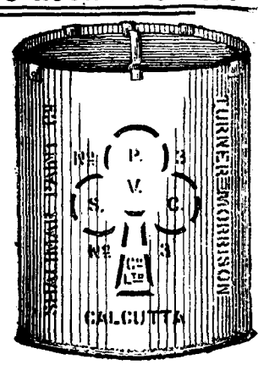
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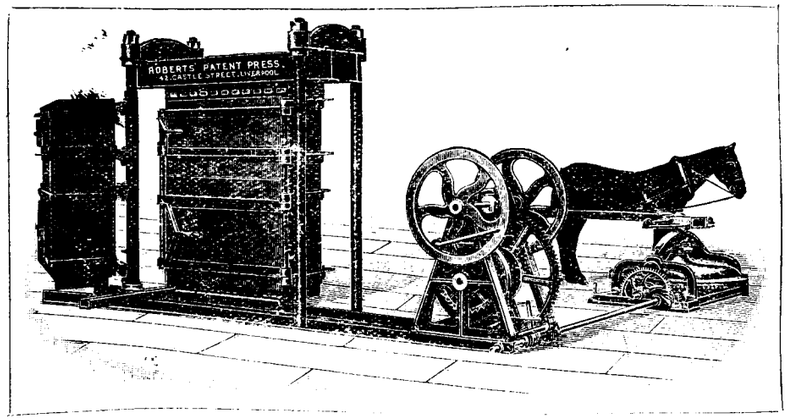
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NOTES.

Twenty-eight dollars per ton has been fixed by the **American Steel Trust** as the price of their **standard rails** for 1907.

The net profit on the **working of Indian Railways** for 1905 was higher than in any previous year and amounted to nearly 264 lakhs.

A statement issued by the Accountant General, Bengal, shows that the **payments** made to cultivators **for planting opium** in Behar and Benares, in the official year April 1905 to March 1906, amounted to Rx25,02,484. Of this total Rx8,46,831 were spent in Behar and Rx16,55,653 in the Benares division.

"Up to the present," writes Mr. Vice-Consul Richards, of Bushire, "the merchants in Bushire have refused to have anything to do with **Mauritius sugar**, especially the **brown**, but I learn that it has been largely imported lately into Bunder Abbas and Lingah; therefore it is only a matter of time before it will be accepted here."

His Majesty's Consul-General at Honkow (Mr. E. D H. Fraser, C.M.G.) reports that the completion of the **bridge over the Yellow River** presages **a heavy fall in the importation of railway plant** and materials. **The demand for sleepers is, however, likely to be maintained,** as, in spite of special treatment (for which some 50 tons of sulphate of copper were imported), they wear out fast.

His Majesty's Secretary of State for India has sanctioned the **construction by the Burma Railways Company** of a loop line, 66·25 miles in length, on the metre gauge between the stations of Neikban and Begayat on the Henzada-Bassein section of the Burma Railways. The line has been placed under the control of the Government of Burma and will be known as the East Daga loop.

A meeting of the Conciliation Board of the **tinplate trade** was held at Swansea on May 17th, when it was reported that 95 per cent of the non-associated employers had agreed to fall into line with the suggestion for a week's holiday, to be taken in the first week in June, instead of in August. Every effort is to be made to get the remainder to agree and a cessation of work is now regarded as a certainty.

Trade in New South Wales was buoyant during the first four months of the year. The value of the imports increased by £804,679, of the exports by £3,106,806, and of the gold yield by £110,160. The net earnings of the railways for the first nine months of the financial year increased over 30 per cent. and notwithstanding a large increase in the mileage the working expenses have only increased 3 per cent.

The **coal strikes** in France and the United States concluded simultaneously. By the 7th May work had been resumed everywhere in the Pas-de-Calais, and on the same day the anthracite miners and owners in America arrived at an undertaking that the 1903 Strike Commission's award was to remain in force for another three years, whilst the companies reinstated all strikers except those guilty of acts of violence.

Sir Alfred Jones, speaking at the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce on Monday, said the **British Cotton Growing Association** would **import from West Africa** £100,000 to £120,000 worth of cotton this year. He argued that West Africa would produce shortly more cotton than Lancashire required African labour conditions were more economic than in America, and the land could be had for virtually nothing.

In the Legislative Assembly, Pietermaritzburg, on May 15, Mr. Tatham submitted a motion re-affirming a previous resolution of the House referring to "**the baneful influence of the shipping ring** on Imperial and Colonial interests," and urging the Imperial Government to abolish deferred rebates. Speaking on his motion, Mr. Tatham undertook to produce a contractor prepared to accept cargo at 22*s.* 6*d.* a ton all round.

A substantial increase in the **leather industry in the United States** is shown in a preliminary report issued by the Census Bureau, for the year ending December 31st, 1904. The report shows that notwithstanding a decrease of twenty per cent. in the capital invested, a twenty-four per cent. increase in the value of products is recorded, the figures showing that in 1904 the output was $252,620,986, as against $204,038,127 in 1900.

A Blue-Book has been issued containing the report of the British delegates at the **International Conference on Agriculture at Rome.** In their report the British delegates say "that the proposed institute will, in effect, constitute an international agricultural intelligence department for the collection, collation, and publication of technical, economic, and statistical information of interest to agriculturists, special prominence being given to the questions of co-operation, insurance, and credit."

A Bombay telegram to the *Englishman*, reporting a fire that destroyed fifteen lakhs of rupees worth of cotton stored on the **Colaba Cotton Green** on the 2nd of June, states: "There is now an unprecedented quantity of cotton stored on the Cotton green. It is estimated that there are no fewer than a million bales, whose value runs into millions of pounds sterling. These fires, coupled with the shortage of water in the city, are making Insurance Companies very chary of doing business."

In the one hundred and five miles of **river lying between Calcutta and the open sea,** measuring from the Hoogly bridge, there are only five miles where ships find less than eighteen feet of water at low tide. The Calcutta Port Commissioners have decided to deepen the channel along these five miles, and have ordered the building of a suction dredger capable of raising 5,000 tons of sand an hour. The dredger will cost £70,000 and will be ready in the early part of 1907. It will be, when complete, the largest of its kind in existence.

The **daily arrivals of wheat at Karachi** continue, according to advices from that port dated June 5th, to be very low. The deliveries for the first three days of June show a total of 9,421 tons against 15,531 tons in 1905 and 17,068 tons in 1904 on the corresponding three days. The total arrivals so far this month are the worst on record. In the meantime all the ship wharves at Keamari are reported full and steamers are waiting for cargo. It is announced, however, that the North Western Railway will deliver 180,000 tons of wheat in Karachi during the current month.

His Majesty's Consul-General at **Yunnanfu** (Mr. W. H. Wilkinson), in a report on the **production and sale of tin at the Kuo-chin mines** (near Mengtzu), states that the methods of thirty years ago are still in force. The market value of the tin at Mengtzu before paying export duty is 60 dols. (6*l.*) a picul (133⅓ lbs.). All tin passing Mengtzu goes to Hong-kong, whence it is distributed to Canton, Swatow, Ningpo, Shanghai, etc. The amount thus exported in 1904 was 50,043 piculs (59,575 cwt.), and its value 3,187,214 taels (478,082*l.*). The whole trade is in Chinese hands.

The following is the **weekly memorandum of remittances to the Home Treasury:—**

Amount to be remitted during 1906-07	£17,800,000
Remitted from 1st April 1906 to 2nd June 1906 by Council Bills	£2,812,060
By Gold	*Nil*
Balance to be remitted from 3rd June 1906 to 31st March 1907	£14,987,940
The Reserve in Silver held by the Paper Currency Department amounted on the 31st May to Rs. 15,65,96,811 against Rs. 4,18,04,334 held in gold.	

At the committee meeting of the **Sugar Convention,** which opened at Brussels on May 15, Great Britain was represented by Sir Henry Bergue, assisted by Mr. H. Fountain, of the Board of Trade, Mr. A. Pearson, sugar expert, and Mr. J. Addison, secretary. The meeting finished its sittings on the 17th. The only question of importance brought up was that relating to Brazilian sugar. The proposal to penalize Brazilian sugar on the ground that it was bounty-fed was vigorously opposed by the Brazilian envoy Senhor Wileman, whose arguments tending to show that no bounty exists received the support of Sir H. Bergue at the last meeting.

With effect from the 1st August 1906 arrangements will be made that **investment certificates for Government securities purchased through the agency of the Post Office** may be granted to investors across the counter of the Post Office at which the application is made, at the time when the application is handed in. For the present this system will be confined to head Post Offices, but it is hoped that hereafter it may prove possible to extend it to sub-post offices also. Certain other changes have also been made in the Rules for the Guidance of Depositors in Post Office Savings Banks which it is hoped will simplify and popularize the system. They will take effect from the same date.

A Silk-weaving experiment of more than ordinary interest has recently been carried out on behalf of the Canterbury Weavers—one of the Home Arts Schools—by the Textile Department of the City of Bradford Technical College. The fabric in question is of a specially fine texture, the original being a gauze structure that was introduced into Canterbury by the Huguenots some 300 years ago. So fine is the texture that one square yard of the fabric weighs less than one ounce; and yet, owing to the method of interlacing employed, a firm wearable fabric is produced. During the Easter vacation Mr. W. H. Wyrill, of the Textile Department, visited Canterbury, and on his return he mounted one of the Swedish hand-looms to produce this fabric by the same primitive but very effective means as would no doubt be employed by the Huguenot weavers. Thus, while the loom-mounting is most simple, the fabric produced is more than ordinarily interesting, and it is already claiming special attention.

In Lord Cromer's **report for 1905 relating to the Sudan** it is stated that the total area under cotton cultivation in 1905 was 23,898 acres. This constitutes an increase of 8,631 acres on the figures of 1904. Lord Cromer gives a few extracts from the reports of the various Governors of Provinces, which enable some idea of the prospects of increased cotton cultivation in the Sudan to be formed. The following extract from the report of Mr. Broun sums up the case very succinctly: "When it is taken into consideration how naturally indolent and conservative the people of the Sudan are, and how difficult it is for them to abandon beaten tracks, there is no reason for being disappointed with the rate of progress which has been attained this year. This much knowledge we have acquired with greater certainty than heretofore, namely, that Egyptian cotton can be grown, with a reasonable chance of success, in most parts of the Sudan, provided it is sown at the most favourable period of the year, and the right amount of water can be provided."

The American House of Representatives' Committee on Judiciary Affairs was on the 15th of May startled by a statement made by Mr. Dawson, actuary for the Armstrong Insurance Investigation Committee, who was discussing a model Insurance Regulation Act for the district of Columbia. Mr. Dawson declared that there is no **Fire Insurance Company in America** that knows whether it will be solvent or not when it pays its **San Francisco losses.** He said that the Chicago fire put most of the American companies out of the business, while not one British company failed, though they had paid every loss. Since then the British companies had been increasing their business constantly. This was not because they had more money or were better insurance men, but because the laws of the United States required American companies to hold a reserve fund of 50 per cent. of their capital, while the British reserve laws gave the companies a larger capital to meet a loss such as that caused by the San Francisco disaster. The American companies, which could not touch their 50 per cent. reserve, went into the hands of the receivers, but the British companies, using their reserves down to 30 per cent. lived through the strain.

The Alexandria General Produce Association, in its **resumé** of answers to enquiries regarding the **Egyptian cotton crops** received in April, says the bulk of the sowing took place at the usual time say, 10th March to 20th April. The earliest ones, about half of the whole, easily stood the very cold weather at the end of March and beginning of April. Their condition is satisfactory, but the sowing made during the cold spell of weather did not germinate and grow so quickly. The young plants are rather backward, but healthy, and ready to get along with the first warm weather. Growers have had to resow more than last year, either because of the cold weather or the damage caused by mole crickets to the very young plants. There is a slight increase in the acreage of the Lower Egypt provinces arising almost entirely from the new land brought into cultivation. The water-supply is sufficient in Upper Egypt and Fayoun. It is considered that in Upper Egypt, especially in the provinces of Benisuef and Minieh, the acreage under cotton is again larger, whilst in the Fayoum it is the same as last year. The chief growth is Ashmouni. Several trials of Mit, Afifi, and Abassi continue to be made. There has been more resowing than usual, on account of the cool weather. The young plants are rather backward, but healthy.

Mr. Macara, President of the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners' Associations, interviewed by a representative of the *Manchester Guardian* on the subject of the **conciliation Scheme** and the recent settlement arrived at between masters and operatives in Lancashire cotton mills, said that the interdependence of all sections of the cotton industry was such that **had there been a stoppage of work** in the area covered by the Master Spinners Federation, the **loss** to capital and labour in the spinning, weaving, subsidiary and dependent industries and other interests involved would, it is estimated, amount to **£800,000 per week.** "It is obvious," he added, "that a cessation of work in the spinning section would have affected all the other sections, and would have also seriously interfered with the great mercantile interests both in the raw material and manufactured products." The advance in wages now given to spinners and cardroom workers represents an **annual sum of about £300,000,** and the total increase in wages since 1900 in the spinning section alone will amount to something like £800,000 per annum. During the same period the advance in the wages of the weavers amounts to about £900,000 per annum. The increase of wages in the spinning and weaving sections of the cotton industry, representing 500,000 operatives, thus reaches a sum since 1900 of nearly a million and three-quarters per annum.

The **prices of opium** in the Calcutta market during the week ending 2nd June 1906 were, per chest, as follows:—

Behar opium—Rs. 1,335; 1,335; 1,336; 1,336; 1,332; 1,329; 1,328.

Benares opium—Rs. 1,220; 1,220; 1,221; 1,225; 1,220; 1,225; 1,224.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 6th sale of 1906—Rs. 1,335; 1,335; 1,336; 1,336; 1,332; 1,329; 1,328.

China market, Hongkong (exchange Rs. 158½ to 160 per 100 dollars).

Behar—$ 855 to 857; 860 to 862½; 865; 865; 865; 862 to 862½; 862.

Shanghai (exchange Rs. 220 to 221 per 100 Taels), two sales, one on 28th May to the value of 615 Taels; the other on 1st June of 620 Taels.

Benares—four sales in the Hongkong market on 27th, 28th, and 29th May and 1st June of $ 785, 787½ to 790, 790, and 785 to 790, respectively; while two sales, Shanghai, on 28th May and 1st June, of 565 Taels and 570 Taels, respectively.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending 26th May were—for A class (season 1904 to 1905) Rs. 1,400, for B class (season 1903 to 1904) Rs. 1,450 to 1,600, class C, old (season 1902 to 1903) Rs. 1,750. The latest China prices ascertained were for new classes (A and B) Rs. 1,504 to 1,560; old (class C) fetched at Hongkong Rs. 1,677 and at Shanghai Rs. 1,715.

A correspondent sends us the following suggestions regarding the bringing into use of **waste lands along the line of the Assam Bengal Railway Company in the Nowgong District:—**

In 1904 the Government issued a Notice inviting settlers to take up waste land in the Nowgong District from a point bounded by Chaparmukh on the west and Lumding Station on the east. About half way between these two points there is excellent land on the right bank of the Kopili river and it appears this land is **suitable for Jute cultivation.** Perhaps it is not generally known that a few Dacca families have settled down further west than this point, and have grown jute for some years. If a few Jute Mill Companies combined, and as an experimental measure obtained a grant of a few thousand acres of land and settled Dacca or Chandpur families there, the Jute Mill Companies supplying the capital and dividing the profits in some equitable way with the cultivators, there is reason to believe they could get their jute for Rs. 5 a maund, and it would pay both parties handsomely. A start might be made with Rs. 50,000; this would enable the requisite number of families to be settled there, and would supply them with bullocks, ploughs, seed and food for the first year's operations. The scheme requires working out, but with the assistance of a good agriculturist acquainted with zemindary a very perfect scheme could be drawn up. If this scheme became a success, every mill in the country would have a certainty to fall back upon and prices would be steadied.

The **annual report of the Board of Scientific Advice** for India has been published. The Board was constituted in 1902, and was originally designed to consist of the heads of the Meteorological, Geological, Botanical, Forest, Survey, Agriculturist and Veterinary Departments. It was later decided to ask other officers engaged in scientific work in India to serve on it. The intention was to form a central body to regulate scientific research in India, so that the work of officers could be conserved and directed and the results collected in some definite form. The Board would also be of use in advising Government in preparing any scheme that needed the assistance of science in its development. A general programme of research embodying the views of the heads of departments in so far as their special departments are concerned is submitted annually by the Board to the Government. The report for 1904-05 deals with a variety of matters of economic interest, including the various fibres used in India, the nature of woods suitable for sulphite paper pulps and utilization of Indian timbers as sleepers. The cultivation of cotton, and particularly the success of the long stapled Egyptian cottons in Sindh, is dealt with. Investigations were made of the complaints about the deterioration of jute. The opinion of the Board is "that there is not only no proof that any deterioration in either of the jute plants has occurred, but there is strong evidence that the plants are now precisely as they were a century and more ago. The best kinds now as then, if cultivated liberally, yield excellent crops, and their fibres—if properly extracted—are also excellent." The complaint of dealers in jute that the fraudulent watering of jute is resorted to with bad results to the fibre was, however, fully borne out.

The Budget of the Commissioners of the **Port of Calcutta** for the year 1906-07 provides for **capital outlay** to the extent of Rs. 92,57,769. Of this amount, a sum of Rs. 3,89,650 is required for the **construction of vessels** for the Port Department. This will be met by appropriation from the Vessels' Depreciation Fund. The **expenditure on new works,** amounting to Rs. 88,68,119, will be met partly from the balance of debenture loans already raised and partly from further loans to be raised by the Commissioners. The principal works to be undertaken during the year include the following:—

Two additional import jetties, including transit sheds, cranes, sidings, etc., for ocean going steamers, estimated to cost Rs. 21,55,198. Reconstruction of jetty No. 2, including transit sheds, sidings, cranes and other equipment, to cost Rs. 8,78,262. Enlargement and improvement of petroleum depôt, including acquisition of land, to cost Rs. 15,80,261. Pontoon, landing stages and warehouse for river steamers at Armenian Ghat, costing Rs. 2,74,387. Pontoon, landing stages and warehouse for river steamers at Babu Ghat, for passengers by China steamers, to cost Rs. 1,00,000. Reclamation and land and wharf improvements, at Shalimar and Ramkristopore to cost Rs.3,22,978. Floating bathing ghat for Hindu ladies, to cost Rs.1,00,000. Improvement of lines on the Shalimar and Riverside sections, station buildings, etc., and the provision of Rolling stock (140 waggons) to cost Rs. 6,00,000. One new anchor vessel, and one steam-launch for Harbour Master's Department to cost Rs. 2,77,650. A large dredger for the river, which will cost Rs. 10,78,080. One Pintsch's self-contained gas-light vessel for Upper Gasper Station, costing Rs 92,000. Warehouse for sale teas, at Kidderpore Docks, costing Rs. 7,90,400. Premises for the hide and skin trade, costing Rs. 5,83,514. The estimated cost of work for the improvements of Messrs. Schroder, Smidt & Co.'s premises Rs. 1,11,126. Quarters will be erected for staff and for coolies, and will cost Rs. 1,92,617. Machinery, including the extension of Hydraulic and Main Pumping Stations, costing Rs. 1,74,825. An electric installation for power and lighting, and a Steam tug (1,000 H.-P., £12,700 say) estimated to cost Rs. 10,04,318. Seven steamers for ferry service, Rs. 7,00,000. Acquisition of land Rs. 7,00,000. Filling up lowland at Kantapukur Rs. 3,01,952. Removal of workshop to the Docks, and new machinery and tools, to cost Rs. 6,77,547. Rebuilding old Dry Dock for Commissioners, Workshop, slipway, etc., costing Rs. 2,50,000. Four new berths for produce other than coal, in Dock No. 2, to cost Rs. 39,34,270. One timber coal jetty (No. 23) Rs. 1,61,753.

Of the works which the commissioners have in hand or are about to commence, the most important are the extension and improvement of the jetties and the provision of four new berths for large steamers in Dock No. 2.

The following figures show the quantity and value of the **exports of Raw Silk** (Indian produce) from British India by sea to other countries :—

	1905-06.	
	Quantity.	Value.
	lbs.	
Silk, raw (excluding tasar and other wild silks)—		
To United Kingdom	220,692	20,37,112
„ France	278,205	21,62,653
„ Italy	18,984	1,59,280
„ United States	33,426	2,67,501
„ Other countries	239	1,815
TOTAL	551,546	46,28,361
Silk, raw (tasar, munga, eria, cricula, etc.)—		
To United Kingdom	...	...
„ France	26,494	1,02,721
„ Turkey in Asia	410	1,750
„ Other countries	...	...
TOTAL	26,904	1,04,471
Silk, chasam (excluding tasar and other wild silks)—		
To United Kingdom	84,145	87,614
„ France	404,777	3,06,993
„ Other countries	8,445	10,080
TOTAL	497,367	4,04,687
Silk, chasam (tasar, munga, eria, cricula, etc.)—		
To United Kingdom	38,447	26,711
„ France	595,753	4,11,411
„ Other countries	393	250
TOTAL	634,593	4,38,372
Silk, cocoons (excluding tasar and other wild silks)—		
To United Kingdom	2,000	2,000
„ France	18,165	13,218
„ Other countries	2,016	1,350
TOTAL	22,181	16,568
Silk, cocoons (tasar, munga, eria, cricula, etc.)—		
To United Kingdom	35,400	35,400
„ France	11,325	11,820
„ Other countries	...	...
TOTAL	46,725	47,220
Total Mulberry	1,071,094	50,49,616
„ Wild	708,222	5,90,063
GRAND TOTAL	1,779,316	56,39,679

In a report on the **mining industry of Egypt** for the year 1905, by Mr. J. Wells, annexed to Lord Cromer's report (Egypt No. 1, 1906), it is stated that on the **Red Sea littoral,** in the neighbourhood of Jebel Zeit, **petroleum undoubtedly exists,** but whether in commercial quantities or not is at present undecided. The concession lately held over the above area has been abandoned, but negotiations are being conducted with a view to granting other applicants the right to conduct boring operations in the neighbourhood. Another application has been received for the right to explore for coal any unleased lands, and with a view to giving facilities for those wishing to prospect, a new form of prospecting licence has been drafted for all unleased lands throughout Egypt. The general terms of this licence are: a yearly fee of £E 25 per licence, which will permit the licensee to take up a prospecting area of 25 square miles, and should coal or oil be found, the right to apply for and receive a concession not exceeding 10,000 acres for coal, and 5,000 for oil at a yearly rental per acre of P. T. 12½ with a royalty of P. T. 15 per ton of coal, P. T. 2½ per 100 gallons of raw oil, and P. T. 15 per ton on mineral waxes or other substances included in the licence.

At the conclusion of his report, Mr. Wells says that the economic conditions existing are good, and expresses his opinion that the extent and distribution of the various mineral belts in Egypt are such as to warrant the expenditure of capital in their development, but it will take at least ten years of active prospecting and development to prove the commercial possibilities of the many mineral belts. Outside of the heavy minerals and gold, there are, he says, very considerable possibilities in the deposits of phosphates and nitrates chiefly for internal consumption, and also in the various building stones available in the Eastern Desert. The latter occur in great variety, and are many of them of exceptional beauty.

It has been decided by the **Railway Board** that the following **procedure is to be observed in the purchase of timber sleepers for State Railways** for both open lines and lines under construction: (1) All timber sleepers are to be purchased on contracts awarded after publicly calling for tenders by notice advertised in the press. The tenders should invariably specify that the sleepers to be tendered for may be either of Indian, colonial, or foreign woods; (2) the notice will be issued by and in the name of the Railway Board, but will be drawn up and submitted to the Board by the Railway concerned; (3) the notice must contain all the information necessary to enable suppliers to tender without further reference, *viz.*, (i) the number of sleepers required, description of sleepers required, dimension, etc.; (ii) parties tendering should be requested to state the number of sleepers offered of each class of timber when more than one class is offered, and to quote rates for each class as well as the average rate, whether parties can tender for the whole or part of the sleepers required; (iii) brief specification; (iv) place and mode of delivery and dates on which delivery is to commence and be complete; (v) arrangements for inspection and incidents of cost of same; (vi) amount of earnest money to accompany tender; (vii) any other information considered necessary; (viii) the usual conditions that the Railway Board do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any tender and that the whole or any part of a tender may be accepted or rejected; (ix) the full title and address of the official to whom the tenders are to be addressed, *i.e.*, Secretary, Railway Board (the superscription to be written on the cover of the tender), and the place, date and hour at which the tenders are returnable, (4) the tenders after being opened by the Railway Board will be sent to the Manager of the Railway concerned (who must treat them as entirely confidential), and he will return them to the Railway Board with the following:—(i) abstract of all the tenders showing in detail the classes, rates, etc., in each prepared, so that comparison can be easily made: (ii) a slip attached to each tender showing whether it complies with all the conditions of the notice and in what respects it does not do this; (iii) a report on the tenders by the Engineer-in-Chief containing his views on the rates tendered with special reference to the suitability of the different classes of timber offered; (5) on receipt from the Manager of the Railway concerned the Railway Board will decide what tenders or parts of tenders are to be accepted, and will authorise the manager to enter into contracts supported by detailed specifications.

COPPER AND TIN.

It will be remembered that in 1904-05 the **imports of copper** showed an incipient decline, doubtless on the satisfaction of the more urgent requirements and in response to the elevation of price. In the past twelve months this decline has become marked, and has amounted to 36·5 per cent. of the quantity and 32 per cent. of the value. Both wrought and unwrought descriptions share in the decline. Unwrought fell to 22,661 cwt. or Rs. 12·66 lakhs, the contraction in quantity being one of 67·8 per cent. and in value 65·3 per cent. The average value was Rs. 55·8 per cwt. Wrought copper, which represents 91 per cent. of the whole copper imports, fell 30·4 per cent. in quantity and 25 per cent. in value, the actual receipts amounting to 247,295 cwts. with a value of Rs. 130 lakhs. The general contraction is a phenomenon of the extraordinarily high level of copper prices throughout the world. These prices at the close of the financial year ruled higher than at any time since 1888; but whereas in that year the rise was operated by speculators in France, the present high levels may be accepted as due to a real industrial demand of exceptional intensity. The abnormal consumption of copper during recent years has depleted stocks; buyers have been working as far as possible from hand to mouth in expectation of a fall; and now the extraordinary activity of the engineering industries has carried prices to an extreme level.

The obvious importance of copper as a material for domestic utensils in India has given rise to a careless assumption in some quarters that the imports of the metal would afford a criterion of internal prosperity. For such a purpose it has several disqualifications. So indispensable are copper utensils to the people that they part with them only in real need, and replace them as soon as the worst straits are over. It thus happens that a great expansion in the imports of wrought copper may, other things being equal, mark only an incipient recovery from complete destitution and may co-exist with a very pernicious economic state. And thereafter may come a decline in the imports such decline by no means indicating that conditions have deteriorated, but on the contrary, that the people have for the moment satisfied their most urgent requirements in the matter of cooking utensils and have begun to buy articles of secondary importance.

In the appended Tables, which we have prepared for the purpose of illustrating this question statistically, it will be noticed that years of notoriously short rainfall are accompanied or immediately followed by (*a*) a contraction in the exports of Indian merchandise, (*b*) a decline in the imports of cotton piece-goods, and, (*c*) an increase in the exports of copper. It also appears that such years are immediately followed by a considerable recovery in the imports of copper and more tardily followed by a recovery in the imports of cotton piece-goods. The measure in which the one lags behind the other could be shown only by means of monthly returns: and it is not practicable to give these in respect of so long a period as is necessary for the illustration of a broad law. But in the last forty years the purchasing power of the rupee in respect of imported articles has undergone extensive modifications. Between 1866 and 1893 the rupee declined from 1*s.* 11·75*d.* to 1*s.* 2·546*d.*, and in the three years after the closing of the mints it recovered to 1*s.* 4*d.* Therefore it cannot be considered that the rupee

possessed in the period in question the quality of constancy requisite in the terms of statistical analysis. For this reason the values for each year so far as they relate to imported articles are converted into sterling at the average rate of exchange for that year.

Values are adopted instead of quantities because the commodity is one whose price fluctuates largely, and whose imports are affected by such fluctuations; so that a fall occurring in the quantitative imports of copper in a year of high prices might be interpreted as marking a decline in demand, while in reality there had been an increase in the sum of money paid by the country as an expression of that demand.

But since it is difficult for the ordinary reader to follow relative fluctuations when expressed in large sums of money, a second statement is attached in which the sterling value for each year is exhibited as a percentage of the average value of the first five years, such average being in fact taken as 100.

The columns representing Indian exports of copper and net imports of copper are worthy of close study in conjunction with that which shows the average price of the year. Copper is, of course, not produced in India; but vast stocks of that metal are held by the people in the form of vessels and by native dealers and artisans as material. It is notorious that when famine occurs these vessels are sold in large quantities by the people and are hammered up and sent abroad. Again, when the world's price of copper reaches a high level the reserves of copper in India restore considerable quantities of the metal to the world's stock, and large exports take place. Although the world's production of copper has more than doubled in the past ten years the consumption has increased even more rapidly, and to-day the price of copper braziers in Calcutta is no less than 148 per cent of the average price ruling in the five years 1871 to 1875. An unfavourable diagnosis as to the country's state might have been deduced from the shrinkage of the imports and of the net imports; but the refusal of India to export copper even in response to the highest prices known in eighteen years, and in face of the defective harvest of 1904-05, shows how largely the ravages of a cycle of really bad years have been repaired by the more favourable crop conditions that have prevailed since the new century began.

Tin is associated with copper in the constitution of materials used in certain industries that are now exceptionally active; and the two metals often share common vicissitudes of demand and price. This association received formal recognition from the circumstance that the two metals fell conjointly within the purview of the famous "secretan" operations of 1888. It has recently been well marked in the course of the two trades not only throughout the world but in India in particular. Professor James Douglas in the American *Engineering and Mining Journal* recently showed that the demand for copper bears a fairly constant relation to the demand for pig iron. It would probably be equally easy to establish the existence of a relation between tin and copper. Each of the metals was formerly the subject of continual speculation; and it is possible that holders, like those of other commodities in abnormal demand, do nothing to minimise the conditions that make for the rise. But there is good reason to believe that those conditions have a very real existence. As in the case of copper so in the case of tin, the prices now ruling are the highest since 1888. And in each case it seems fairly clear that consumption has entirely outstripped production, but the conditions and their effects are more pronounced in the case of tin. The American *Journal of Commerce* of the 9th April quoted £174 per ton as having been recently paid in London as compared with £170 in 1888, and it hinted that the advance might proceed to £200. An article in the *Times Financial and Commercial Supplement* of 14th May just to hand reproduces most of the facts, figures and opinions in the New York paper but adds that on 12th May £204-10*s* was actually paid. This represents an advance of over 110 per cent. on the £97-10*s.* recorded at the end of 1901, and of about 51 per cent. on the price of twelve months ago. Whereas the consumption in 1888 was only from 60,000 to 63,000 tons, in 1905 it was from 90,000 to 93,000 tons: and this in spite of great economies adopted in the methods of tinning and soldering. About half of the world's tin is derived from the Straits and Malay Archipelago; and practically the whole of India's imports during 1905-06 came from that source. But while the quantity imported in 1905-06 declined some 46 per cent., the value fell only 37·5 per cent., that is to say from Rs. 39·2 lakhs to Rs. 24·5 lakhs. The *Journal of Commerce* (New York) of 9th April and 7th May and the *Times Supplement* of 14th May should be consulted for figures regarding output, consumption, etc., which it is impossible to reproduce here.

The price of **zinc** has also continued to rise during the past twelve months, and while the quantity imported has fallen about 10 per cent., there has been a slight increase in the total value, which now stands at Rs. 14·9 lakhs.

From the following tables may be learned the Value in Rupees of Exports by Sea of Indian Merchandise and in Sterling of Imports of Cotton piece-goods, also of Imports, Exports and Net Exports of Copper by Sea, together with the average price of Copper Braziers in Calcutta in each official year from 1866-67 to 1905-06.

I.

Actual values and actual prices.

YEARS.	Exports of Indian Merchandise.	Imports of cotton Piece-goods.	Imports of Copper.	Exports of Copper.	Net Imports of Copper.	Average price of copper Braziers.*
	Rs.	£	£	£	£	Rs. A.
1866-67 . . .	40,77,39,592	12,002,268	1,202,453	56,803	1,145,650	35 10
1867-68 . . .	49,59,66,646	14,453,045	1,868,948	87,072	1,781,876	36 0
1868-69 . . .	51,67,62,321	15,486,572	1,679,546	58,840	1,620,706	33 2
1869-70 . . .	50,67,95,443	13,132,226	1,698,834	49,971	1,648,863	33 6
1870-71 . . .	53,55,16,812	14,585,579	1,269,556	15,101	1,254,455	30 6
1871-72 . . .	61,69,72,252	14,462,742	998,879	2,908	995,971	30 0
1872-73 . . .	53,44,03,833	13,788,180	548,643	26,371	522,272	36 14
1873-74 . . .	53,11,44,194	14,067,064	477,774	5,675	472,099	39 12
1874-75 . . .	54,50,10,802	15,015,619	799,838	5,311	794,527	40 7
1875-76 . . .	56,21,22,438	14,581,322	1,089,014	21,272	1,067,742	40 7
1876-77 . . .	58,93,00,693	13,427,323	1,193,688	31,223	1,162,465	39 14
1877-78 . . .	65,55,04,505	14,690,130	1,297,794	34,941	1,262,853	36 1
1878-79 . . .	61,50,60,107	11,367,871	1,057,352	47,575	1,009,777	33 2
1879-80 . . .	67,76,13,358	13,790,818	1,347,436	52,986	1,294,510	31 2
1880-81 . . .	76,09,92,870	18,625,905	1,347,044	40,712	1,306,332	32 0
1881-82 . . .	82,67,31,383	16,942,243	1,216,465	29,079	1,18 ,386	32 6
1882-83 . . .	83,55,93,461	17,060,744	1,576,949	45,683	1,531,266	34 2
1883-84 . . .	88,72,04,989	17,289,359	1,797,183	62,411	1,734,772	31 8
1884-85 . . .	84,94,30,777	16,659,927	1,665,329	38,826	1,626,503	28 12
1885-86 . . .	86,51,44,466	15,681,732	1,592,540	45,931	1,546,609	24 12
1886-87 . . .	90,94,22,149	18,438,976	1,449,063	34,452	1,414,611	22 12
1887-88 . . .	90,04,60,307	16,431,973	1,409,607	147,799	1,261,808	24 12
1888-89 . . .	96,12,60,926	18,547,375	384,429	33,065	351,364	35 2
1889-90 . . .	1,02,67,67,610	17,821,060	1,533,980	69,896	1,464,084	32 10
1890-91 . . .	97,88,10,403	20,062,287	1,366,919	61,804	1,305,115	28 12
1891-92 . . .	1,06,08,88,516	17,155,511	1,456,485	84,474	1,372,011	29 7
1892-93 . . .	1,04,28,52,617	13,955,471	1,104,294	95,355	1,008,939	29 9
1893-94 . . .	1,04,48,66,714	17,309,767	1,443,999	39,416	1,404,583	29 12
1894-95 . . .	1,06,58,68,850	15,929,509	825,200	29,949	795,251	30 4
1895-96 . . .	1,12,46,17,172	12,592,826	1,187,606	41,641	1,145,965	32 15
1896-97 . . .	1,03,25,57,910	15,503,092	646,834	36,821	610,013	32 10
1897-98 . . .	97,35,98,586	14,302,980	911,907	30,016	881,891	32 6
1898-99 . . .	1,12,93,67,088	15,934,028	74 ,518	48,573	698,945	32 9
1899-1900 . . .	1,09,46,05,919	17,278,734	352,758	54,895	297,863	33 0
1900-01 . . .	1,08,90,37,412	17,498,343	611,422	154,630	456,792	43 12
1901-02 . . .	1,25,61,96,431	19,438,972	720,296	44,230	676,066	44 0
1902-03 . . .	1,29,74,93,968	18,117,200	1,308,288	36,895	1,271,393	38 12
1903-04 . . .	1,53,74,97,751	18,313,045	1,445,852	78,241	1,367,611	36 12
1904-05 . . .	1,58,64,31,998	22,492,975	1,405,968	43,020	1,362,948	37 10
1905-06 . . .	1,42,55,10,829	24,638,356	955,692	35,114	920,578	41 0

* The prices quoted are for the calendar years.

II.

Percentage variations on the average of the five years ending 1870-71.

YEARS.	Percentage variations of Exports of Indian Merchandise.	Imports of cotton Piece-goods.	Imports of Copper.	Exports of Copper.	Net Imports of Copper.	Average price of copper Braziers.*
1866-67	82·8	86·1	77·9	106·6	76·9	106
1867-68	100·7	103·7	121·1	162·6	119·6	107
1868-69	104·9	111·2	108·8	109·9	108·7	98
1869-70	102·9	94·3	110·0	93·3	110·6	99
1870-71	108·7	104·7	82·2	28·2	84·2	90
1871-72	125·3	103·8	64·7	5·4	66·8	89
1872-73	108·5	98·9	35·5	49·2	33·8	109
1873-74	107·8	100·0	30·9	10·6	30·5	118
1874-75	110·6	107·8	51·8	9·9	51·5	120
1875-76	114·1	104·7	70·5	39·7	71·6	120
1876-77	119·6	96·4	77·3	58·3	75·3	118
1877-78	133·1	105·4	84·1	65·2	84·7	107
1878-79	124·8	81·6	68·5	88·8	65·4	98
1879-80	137·6	99	87·3	98·9	86·9	92
1880-81	154·5	133·7	87·2	76	84·6	95
1881-82	167·8	121·6	78·8	54·3	79·7	96
1882-83	169·6	122·5	102·1	85·3	99·2	101
1883-84	180·1	123·7	116·4	116·5	116·4	93
1884-85	172·5	119·6	107·9	72·5	105·3	85
1885-86	175·6	112·6	103·1	85·8	103·8	73
1886-87	184·6	132·4	93·9	64·3	91·6	68
1887-88	182·8	117·9	91·3	276	84·7	73
1888-89	195·2	133·1	24·9	61·7	22·7	104
1889-90	208·5	127·9	99·3	130·5	98·2	97
1890-91	198·7	144	88·5	115·4	84·5	85
1891-92	215·4	123·1	94·3	157·7	92·1	87
1892-93	211·7	100·2	71·5	178	65·3	88
1893-94	212·1	124·2	93·5	73·6	94·2	88
1894-95	216·4	114·3	53·4	55·9	51·5	90
1895-96	228·3	90·4	76·9	77·8	76·9	98
1896-97	209·6	111·3	41·9	68·7	39·5	97
1897-98	197·7	102·7	59·1	56	59·2	96
1898-99	229·3	114·4	48·4	90·7	45·3	97
1899-1900	222·2	124	22·8	102·5	20	113
1900-01	221·1	125·6	39·6	288·7	29·6	130
1901-02	255	139·5	46·7	82·6	45·4	131
1902-03	263·4	130	84·7	68·9	82·3	115
1903-04	312·1	131·4	93·6	146·1	88·6	109
1904-05	322·1	161·4	91·1	80·3	91·5	112
1905-06	289·4	176·8	61·9	65·6	59·6	122

* The prices quoted are for the calendar years.

REVIEW.

FICUS ELASTICA.

THE Forest Bulletin No. 4* is an interesting treatise on the **Ficus Elastica**, a wild rubber tree which is widely distributed in India. It is stated that it occurs in suitable localities in the foot hills of the Himalayas from Nepal eastward; it has been found in the Khasia Hills up to an elevation of about 3,000 feet and is reported from the Hukong and other valleys of Upper Burma up to nearly 5,000 feet above sea-level. It is found as a dominant tree in the evergreen forests of Assam; the finest specimens in hilly country up to an elevation of 2,500 feet.

The main factor determining the distribution of this species seems to be excessive humidity of the atmosphere. It appears to be able to accommodate itself to many varieties of soil. The absence of a very high temperature would also seem to favour its growth, as the species is unknown in otherwise suitable localities below 2,500 feet) in Lower Burma. But this much is certain that it is found growing in abundance on the Lounau hills at an altitude of 5,200 feet and is reported from high altitudes in the Jan Mun Bun mountains to the east of N'tupusa on the north and south watersheds of the Taron river, the higher crests and peaks of which are covered with large masses of snow in the winter. It does not appear to actually grow in places which are subject to snowfalls, but is found in all the damp, deep gorges on the slopes of such hills, very often creeping up the latter to considerable altitudes

The tree is essentially a light demanding species and, though an evergreen and associated with and growing amongst dense shade-bearers, no tree can be more exacting in its demands for light. Wherever it is surrounded with dense shade it will be found that this tree, in order to escape from it, has grown to enormous heights, in many cases towering head and shoulders above every other tree in its vicinity.

"Seedlings grow as a rule in the forks or crevices in the bark of the light-foliaged trees (Dalbergia, etc.) at a great height from the ground and occasionally on the half-rotten trunks of dead and dying trees in places where from windfalls or otherwise clearings have been formed in the leaf canopy. The young seedling thus obtains a good start over its rivals in the struggle for existence.

"The young plant remains an epiphyte for years until its ærial roots touch the ground: as soon as this takes place, the little epiphyte changes rapidly into a vigorous tree, throwing out numerous ærial roots which gradually envelope the tree on which it first began life and often kill it. Having started life so high up, it is able to throw out branches which overtop the surrounding trees, and the numerous ærial roots which fall from these and establish connection with the ground enable it in a few years to dominate the forest growth around it.

"In 1892-93 and the two previous years, attempts were made to kill out the suppressed rubber trees in the Chardwar plantation by tapping them heavily. However, on examining the roots it was found that those of neighbouring trees had anastomosed, so that the plantation had practically become one huge tree. The roots spread out near the surface of the ground to a distance of 150 feet or more.

"The general conditions for the healthy and rapid growth of the young trees of *Ficus elastica* are:—

(1) Perfect drainage about its roots and looseness of soil so as to admit the air readily, the composition of the soil not, so far as is known, seriously affecting the trees as long as the above conditions are fulfilled: but gravel or sand does not appear to be suitable since all the caoutchouc collectors state that the trees produce much smaller quantities of rubber when grown in such soil even in the best localities.

(2) Plenty of light.

(3) Heat and moisture combined, or what is commonly termed a close, steamy atmosphere."

The curious ærial habit of the epiphyte, the seeming indifference of the adult plant to the nature of the soil in which it eventually takes root, its positive aversion from moisture in that soil, the affinity of its roots for air and its dependence on an exceptional degree of humidity in the atmosphere all suggest a certain suspicion that the tree may be found to have the power of assimilating atmospheric nitrogen; but that is a point that could not be verified without close investigation.

The method of propagation preferred appears to be that of the Chinese grafts known as gooties. "To prepare gooties, vigorous young branches 12 to 20 feet long are selected, those still covered with red bark probably giving the best results. A strip of bark 3 to 8 inches wide is then removed, care being taken not to injure the wood, at the point where the roots are wanted, and this should be at least 9 inches above where it is proposed to saw off the branch in order to allow the gootie to be firmly fixed in the mound. At the point in the branch where the bark has been removed a large lump of wet clay, mixed with cowdung, is tied on with a piece of gunny cloth and kept wet till such time as small rootlets appear through the cloth when the gootie is ready for planting out."

The various other methods of propagation and of reproduction are clearly described and also the processes of collecting and preparing the rubber. Interesting tables are given showing the total outturn of rubber and the yield per acre at various plantations, the analysis of the rubber and various other practical details such as cost of operations, cost of labour and so on.

* "Ficus Elastica. Its natural growth and artificial propagation" by E. M. Coventry, Dy. Conservator of Forests, Government of India Press, Calcutta.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

EXCERPTS FROM PROCEEDINGS.

Madras.

The Prevention of Adulteration of Jute.—Read copy of a letter, dated the 7th instant, addressed by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to the Governments of Bengal and Assam, together with a draft Bill for the prevention of Adulteration of Jute. **Resolved** that the letter be acknowledged with the remark that the Members of this Chamber have read the papers with much interest and trust that the Bengal Chamber's efforts in this direction will meet with success.

F. O. B. Terms for Contracts with the India Office.—Read a letter, dated the 4th instant from Messrs. Walker & Co., Madras, regarding the question of manufacturers in England being asked to quote on *F. O. B.* terms for contracts with the India Office. **Resolved** to address the Government of India to the effect that under the present rules a manufacturer cannot make use of his Agents here in India in respect to handling and delivery of goods shipped for Government use, even when special handling may be necessary, as this work is entirely in the hands of the Agents for Government Consignments and suggesting that the rules be altered so that in the event of a manufacturer being in a position to quote for delivery at site in India there may not be any obstacle to his doing so.

Income Tax.—Read G. O of the Madras Government, dated the 23rd ultimo, with reference to this Chamber's letter, dated the 4th April, 1906, regarding the action of the income tax assessors in imposing in certain cases an arbitrary percentage on the year's turnover instead of determining the actual profits in the usual manner, after examining the assessees' books. **Resolved** to address other Chambers of Commerce to ascertain if similar instances have occurred, and, if so, whether they will be prepared to join in a representation to the Government of India.

The Cordite Factory and the Explosives Trade.—Read a letter, dated the 3rd instant, from the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, in reference to this Chamber's letter, dated the 6th December, 1905, regarding the Cordite Factory and the Explosives Trade. **Resolved** in acknowledging the letter to point out that dynamite is not a "surplus product" of a Cordite Factory, but is a new industry to be started to meet the demand for railway construction, which hardly falls within the province of a factory for the production of military ammunition.

Sixth Congress of Chambers of Commerce.—Read (1) a letter, dated the 2nd April, 1906, from the London Chamber of Commerce, with reference to the forthcoming Sixth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, enclosing first edition of the programme of Resolutions to be considered by the Congress and requesting this Chamber to call a Special Meeting to consider them with a view to instructing their delegate as to his attitude on these Resolutions at the Congress; and (2) a letter, dated the 16th April, from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce regarding a proposed Resolution at the Congress on the inadequate supply of rolling-stock on Indian Railways. **Resolved** with regard to (1) that a letter be addressed to Mr. Yorke, the Chamber's delegate now in London, regarding the subjects in which the Chamber is more specially interested, and with regard to 2 that the Bengal Chamber be informed that this Chamber heartily supports the Resolution regarding railway rolling-stock and will instruct its delegate accordingly.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

The *Board of Trade Journal*, published on the 17th May, in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations, gives particulars about—

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.—Customs Decisions. Free Importation of Umbrella Pins.

NEW ZEALAND.—Customs Decisions.

JAMAICA.—Continuance of Present Tariff to 1st June, 1911. Customs Amendments.

EGYPT.—Valuation Tariff for Certain Metals. Valuation Tariff for Certain Exports.

RUSSIA.—Duty on Salted Herrings at Arctic Ports.

GERMANY.—Customs Regulations. Classification of Graphite Electrodes.

DUTCH EAST INDIES.—Valuation Tariff for the Second Quarter of 1906.

ITALY—NEW COMMERCIAL TREATY WITH AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.—Schedule of Import Duties.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.—Regulations respecting Samples of Precious Metal Wares.

PERSIA.—Partial Removal of Embargo on Exportation Corn.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.—Parcel Post Convention with Sweden.

We give the following particulars of changes **interesting to Indian Trade**:—

JAMAICA.

Present Tariff to 1st June 1911—Continuance of.

Provision is made in an Ordinance issued by the Jamaican Colonial Secretary, dated 11th April last, which amends various Tariff Laws at present in force in the Colony of Jamaica for the continuance of the Tariff Law No. 20 of 1899, as amended by the Tariff Laws Nos. 42 of 1903, and 2 of 1905, to 1st June, 1911. In the ordinary course the operation of these Tariffs would have lapsed on 1st June, 1906.

Customs Amendments.

The import duty on "matches" imposed by section 4 of Law No. 2 of 1905, is repealed, and the following duty imposed (as item 40 of the Tariff Law, 1899) in lieu thereof:—

Matches, lucifers and others—

Per gross of 12 dozen boxes, each box to contain 50 sticks, and boxes containing any greater or less quantity to be charged in proportion . . . . . 1*s.* 9*d.*

EGYPT.

Certain Metals—Valuation Tariff for.

The Egyptian *Journal Officiel* for the 2nd May contains the following revised Valuation Tariff for use in assessing import duties on certain imported metals and metal manufactures. This Tariff came into force on the 1st May, and is to remain in force until the 30th September next or until denunciation:—

Articles.	Valuation per kilog. *	
	Former.	New.
	Millièmes. †	Millièmes. †
Copper and brass sheets, round and bottoms . . .	81	92
Copper sheets, plain, or in rolls, bars, round and flat	78	89
Copper ingots	75	86
Brass and copper wire, and brass sheets, plain, 24 by 48, 8 lbs. to 5 lbs.	ad val.	ad val.
Tin ingots and bars . . .	143	165
Lead sheets and lead piping .	16	17
„ shot	17	18
„ pig	15	16
Zinc sheets and ingots . .	29	29
Phosphor, bronze . . .	100	100
Antimony	40	40
Quicksilver	270	270

*Duty is levied on these valuations at the rate of 8 per cent. 11,000 millièmes = £E1 = 1*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*

PERSIA.

Exportation of Corn—Embargo on—Partial Removal.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of telegraphic information to the effect that the embargo on the exportation of corn from Persia has been removed as regards southern ports and the borders of Arabistan.

WEATHER SUMMARY.

For the week ending the 2nd June 1906.

DURING the period under review, there was general rain in Burma and North-East India, some rain in Eastern Bengal and Assam; thundershowers were numerous in Kashmir, Orissa, east of the Central Provinces and on the Malabar Coast, while a number of duststorms and thunderstorms with rain had occurred in the Panjab, United Provinces, Central Provinces, and Hyderabad; thunderstorm with hail had occurred at Darjeeling; besides the above a duststorm with rain was reported at Gopalpur and showers at Bijapur, Wellington, North and Lower Bengal.

The principal amounts of rainfall were:—*Tavoy 10·00″, Diamond Island 8·15″, Mergui 6·64″*, Moulmein 5·52″, Cuttack 3·86″, Sibsagar 3·71″, Bhamo 3·19″, Bassein 2·70″, Barisal 2·60″, Yamethin 2·42″, Maymyo 2·35″, Minbu 2·31″, Darjeeling 1·3[illegible]″, Cochin 0·85″, Chera Poonjee 0·81″, Sonemarg 0·67″, Chittagong 0·65″, and Montgomery 0·54″.

The meteorological conditions of the week had been largely determined by the pressure distribution.

Early in the week the barometer was low in the Indo-Gangetic plain, Assam and especially in Burma. On the 28th and 29th pressure was becoming uniform at the head of the Bay, while gradients to the south were getting steeper. The flow of humid air was accordingly determined chiefly to Burma, and rainfall was heavy on the coast, while in the interior it gradually increased until it became general on the 30th. The total rainfall for the past four weeks was in excess on the Burma Coast and about 25 per cent in defect in the interior. In North-East India there was a deficiency except in the Delta of Bengal. Skies had been heavily clouded during the greater part of the week in Burma, but in North-East India they had been, on the whole, only lightly overcast. In the former area temperature steadily decreased

and was in considerable defect, but in the latter a slight deficiency at the beginning of the week had been changed into a large excess at the close. On the 27th the trough of low pressure moved slightly northward and moist winds from the Bay were flowing into Eastern Bengal and Assam; cloud had increased in this area except in the northern districts where skies were clear. They were also clear in Bihar, the greater part of Chota Nagpur, United Provinces, North-West Punjab, and the Frontier Province. Cloud had increased a little in South India, but had decreased on the East Coast between Madras and Gopalpur, and skies were lightly to heavily overcast in the Peninsula. On the 28th the trough of low pressure moved northward to the neighbourhood of the hills and cloud had extended over almost the whole of Eastern Bengal and Assam. In the extreme north, owing to the recent disturbed weather, temperature fell considerably and the fall had extended over the greater part of the Panjab plains and Upper Sind. Temperature was 12° in defect at Gilgit and Chaman and 5° at Quetta. Skies became clear over North-West India except in Kashmir and Guzarat, while the air was drier in Sind and Rajputana. On the 29th skies in the United Provinces were clear and there had been a further rise in the maximum temperature, the highest occurring in India yesterday being 115½° at Jhansi and 115° at Cawnpore and Mainpuri. An area of low pressure reappeared over the Panjab and weather was becoming disturbed in the extreme north; skies in this area had become moderately to heavily overcast and night temperature rose over 5° in the Frontier Province. In Rajputana skies became clear. On the 30th precipitation in North-East India had been practically confined to Assam, where it was nearly general except in the upper Brahmaputra valley. The trough of low pressure extended in an east-south-easterly direction across the head of the Bay into Burma, and accordingly the flow of moist air into North-East India was practically interrupted. Skies were moderately to heavily overcast in the greater part of this area. The air became a little damper at the majority of stations, and in Orissa the increase of humidity had been considerable. Cloud had decreased considerably in Kashmir, while in the north of the Panjab and at Peshawar skies were heavily overcast; in the rest of North-West India skies were practically clear. On the 31st in the greater part of North-West India temperature fell considerably and was normal or in defect. This was probably the cause of a small increase in the humidity. The area of low pressure in the Panjab moved slightly eastward. In the Central Provinces humidity had increased a little, but it varied greatly from one station to another. On the 1st, in the Gangetic plain, the west sub-Himalayas, Rajputana and Central India, cloud and humidity had increased, and in the greater part of these areas skies were lightly to moderately overcast, temperature was above normal in the United Provinces and the east of Central India, the greatest excess being 5½° at Gorakhpur, while in Rajputana, the west of Central India and the Central Provinces it was generally in defect. In the Peninsula the weather had been practically rainless and in the southern part cloud had decreased, while in the northern part it covered a wider area. On the 2nd pressure was above normal everywhere. Mean temperature rose in Burma, Assam, East Bengal, and Orissa, and fell in Madras, North and South-West Bengal. It was above normal everywhere. Gaya, Cuttack, Chaibassa, Cocanada and Masulipatam reported maximum temperatures of over 112°. Calcutta recorded 100° yesterday, about 6 degrees above normal. Humidity had increased in Madras, South-West Bengal and Orissa, and diminished in Assam and Burma. The sky was heavily clouded over Assam and North Bengal; cloud was diminishing in Lower Burma.

CONSULAR REPORT.

BUSHIRE.

Mr. Vice-Consul Richards, in his **Report on the Trade and Commerce of Bushire** for 1905, says that the year, agriculturally, was most favourable, a large harvest being gathered and selling well. In early April signs of trouble began to manifest themselves in a dispute between the merchants and the new Director of Customs, who was anxious to bring into force at once all the articles of the Règlement Légal, which had become law on September 1, 1904.

The Persian merchants not understanding the new rules, which were in instances peculiarly unadaptable to the port of Bushire, and fearing that they meant further taxation and hampering of trade, decided to boycott the custom-house and to appeal to Teheran, seeking the assistance not only of their fellow-countrymen in Shiraz and Ispahan, but of European firms in Bushire, to support them in their petition. Meetings were held, both by the European and Persian merchants, to decide what course they should pursue, the latter deciding to refuse to clear their cargo from the custom-house, to cancel previous orders and to make no fresh ones until they received some redress. The European merchants also were ultimately driven to follow suit and to refrain from clearing their goods by way of protest against what appeared to be the harsh application of the Règlement.

This dispute lasted from five to six weeks, when a *modus vivendi* was arrived at regarding the clauses in the Règlement which were most objected to as harsh and inapplicable to the peculiarities of the port of Bushire. The dispute and boycotting resulted in a very heavy decrease in the custom-house returns for the first six months of the year when compared with those of 1904, and is partly responsible for the total decrease of £127,893 on

the whole year. Trade was practically at a standstill in April and May.

The Hamal Bashi, or landing contractor, was another disturbing element to the even course of trade. Many disputes occurred between the merchants and the steamship agents and between both of these and the contractor, who in his turn complained of the treatment he received from both parties, especially the steamship agents. This dispute continued well on to the end of the year, when in October a working arrangement was arrived at which tended to relieve the situation.

In December another hitch occurred, when the Shiraz merchants, as a protest against the Governor of that province, instructed their Bushire agents not to clear from the custom-house or forward to them any merchandise whatever: but this only lasted a few weeks.

In March exchange began to fluctuate, running up from 63¼ krans per £1 on the 1st to 64 krans on the 20th, and with slight fluctuations to 64¾ krans on May 1, when it steadily fell to 55½ krans in the middle of June, rising again to 61 krans in the middle of July, at which figure it kept steady till the end of the year, with the exception of a drop to 58 krans in September for a few days. These fluctuations were due to rumours of Persian loans, Japanese-Russian War and price of silver, but for its heavy rise in the latter part of the year the sovereigns it is estimated, would have stood nearer 60 krans.

This great rise and fall in exchange had a certain effect on the purchasing of grain for export, as it was just when the harvesting was over that the sovereign fell to its lowest, and, leaving other considerations against purchasing grain out of the question, the merchant who had prepared funds when the pound sterling stood at 64¾ krans found that he could make a surer and quicker profit by remitting home again.

The heavy rise in silver at the end of the year not only affected the value of the sovereign, but it was found profitable by the merchant of the south to export the Persian kran to India, where it was melted down and sold as bullion, and in some instances minted and brought back into the country again in the form of rupees.

This export of krans to India also took place to a certain extent in the early part of the year, and some 2,500,000 krans had to be brought from the north to meet demands; but not withstanding this cash was fairly plentiful throughout the year, and about 60,000 krans over and above what was remitted from the north in the early part of the year were sent up-country. No bar silver was imported during the year.

Freight rates to the United Kingdom have kept steady throughout the year at £1 10*s.*, and to India at 10rs.

No epidemic of any kind visited the district during the year.

From the beginning of the year until the middle of March transport rates to Shiraz remained steady at 85 krans per 100 maunds, they then went to 95 krans, but dropped by degrees to 75 krans at the end of April; the harvesting season brought transport to a standstill for a few weeks, when it started again at 95 krans, rising to 100 krans in October and November and 110 krans in December.

Donkey transport being very scarce throughout the year enabled the muleteers to hold out for higher rates, but the illegal exactions imposed on the muleteers by the road guards and the tolls levied by the Governor-General of Fars, against all instructions from the central administration in Teheran, were also responsible for the abnormally high rates.

Taken below are a few of the articles which are **imported from India,** showing the increased percentage paid as import duty under the present tariff as against the old 5 per cent. *ad valorem* duty.

Rice, imported in bags of about 165 lbs. each or 25¼ batmans, value 7 rs. each; 100 bags at 7 rs. equals 700 rs.; duty 5 per cent. *ad valorem* equals 35 rs.; 100 bags at 25½ batmans each equals 255 krans—at 4 krans per rupee equals 63·75 rs., or 9·11 *per cent. This duty is now beginning to be felt;* but although it is bad for the importer it is good for the producer in Persia, as rice grown in the country is being more generally used and its cultivation is accordingly increasing.

Calcutta tea, costing 4 ans. per lb. in India under the new tariff, levied at the rate of 6 krans per batman of 6½ lbs., has to pay as near as possible 92½ per cent. Notwithstanding this there has been a considerable increase in the import of the tea during the year both from India and Batavia, but Russia shows a decrease of some 5,000 *l.* odd. Still, tea is being extensively smuggled into the country.

Spices are only imported from India, with a little from China.

Market prices of pepper and cinnamon 4½ annas per lb. with duty at 1½ krans per batman of 6½ lbs., equals a little over 20 per cent.

Dry ginger pays 15 per cent.

Turmeric costing 2½ annas per lb. and a duty at 1½ kran per batman of 6½ lbs. pays 37 per cent.

The import of the above articles (except tea), as shown in the custom-house returns, is steadily decreasing year by year, which is attributed to smuggling.

Gunny bags are imported for the purpose of exporting Persian produce, such as wheat, barley, gum, dry fruit, etc. They cost roughly 5 annas each: therefore duty at ½ kran per batman works out at nearly 14 per cent., which the merchant considers exceedingly hard on him seeing, as above stated, they are only brought into the country to be exported again with produce of the country, and he claims that a transit duty would be fairer.

Coming to other articles imported which show a marked decrease we find as follows:—Iron, tin, copper, gold and silver, and manufactures of these show a total decrease of 100,000 *l.* This is due to

two reasons—firstly the markets were over-stocked; and secondly, during the whole year prices were so abnormally high that buyers who required to replenish their stocks preferred merely filling actual requirements by small lots from time to time from Bombay than ordering large shipments from Europe.

The import trade in piece-goods has in consequence of exchange operations (referred to above) been neglected considerably. Goods with small marginal profits though in constant demand, were ignored. Besides this, the great fall in cotton prices was not followed by a corresponding decrease in cloth prices; this was due to the very heavy demands on the manufacturers from all parts of the world, principally India and China, who therefore were able to keep up their prices and also obtain an unprecedented long time for delivery—in some instances, it is reported, up to 14 months.

These two reasons, together with the merchants' disputes (referred to elsewhere), are the main causes of the decrease in these goods.

Owing to the disturbed state of Russia no supplies reached the north; and, stocks running low, an unprecedented demand in the south for sugar, both loaf and soft, was the result, and big shipments have been arriving since October.

Unfortunately the sugar in question came forward during the most unfavourable season of the year, when rain and strong winds are prevalent; this, together with the steamship agents' anxiety to despatch their steamers with the least possible delay, which resulted in their perhaps not considering the interests of the consignees of their cargo as they otherwise might have done, and the unsatisfactory arrangements of the landing contractor with regard to protecting cargo between ship and shore, has caused a very considerable percentage of cases and bags to be badly damaged by sea and rain water, and it is feared that the merchants who were anxious to take advantage of the chance of cutting into the trade of the north with Russia, rather than being encouraged are discouraged, and will have to face a loss instead of a profit unless they happen to be insured against all risks.

Up to the present the merchants in Bushire refuse to have anything to do with Mauritius sugar, especially the brown; but I learn that it has been largely imported lately into Bunder Abbas and Lingah; therefore it is only a matter of time before it will be accepted here.

The total result of the year shows an increase in exports of 14,960*l.* over 1904; but when the increase of 29,136*l.* in export of specie is taken away it will be seen that there is a decrease of 14,176*l.* But the export of specie must not be taken this year as simply an export of cash balancing the import trade (produce in sufficient quantities being unobtainable) as a large percentage of the krans exported were treated as produce—see remarks on exchange. They were bought and exported on exactly the same principle as wheat, barley or the output from silver mines might be: that is to say, silver was obtainable in Persia which it was profitable to buy and export by selling drafts either on Europe, Bombay or elsewhere, or in exchange for goods, the loser over the transaction being the Persian Government.

Opium shows a decrease of 74,980*l.* this year, which is due to the fact that the crop was practically a failure.

There is a slight increase in wheat and barley; but, as stated elsewhere, the export as shown in the custom-house returns is not as large as was expected or the harvest justified.

There is a big increase in the export of woollen carpets this year owing to the disturbed state of Russia. It was found safer to export them by the south than by the north.

Almonds, pistachios and fresh and dry fruits (dates) show increases, due to a good year.

Gum shows an increase. The export to Germany is gradually growing.

Raw cotton shows also an increase. More interest is being taken in its growth in the south, which might partly be attributed to the advent of Russian firms.

In the Persian Gulf "heavy duties" are synonymous with "heavy smuggling." All articles bearing a heavy duty are largely smuggled into the country through the means of native boats and the various small ports.

The goods as a rule are brought to Muscat, Oman, Dubai, Bahrein and Koweit by steamers from Europe and India. The trade in these ports is far in excess of their actual requirements, and from these ports systematic smuggling is carried on with the smaller Persian Gulf ports, notwithstanding the vigilance and untiring efforts of the European staff of the Customs Administration, to the detriment of the Government Treasury and the *bonâ fide* merchants.

Guns, tea, spices, indigo, etc., all bearing high duties or prohibited, are smuggled into the country, while wheat and barley are smuggled out of it.

It is estimated that 40,000 to 45,000 tons of wheat and barley were smuggled from the various small ports of Southern Persia during the year to Busreh, Koweit, Bahrein and Arab ports. This is due to the fact that duty according to the tariff, which is 1 kran per 10 batmans on wheat and barley alike, is equal to 15 to 20 per cent. on the former and 30 to 40 per cent. on the latter, which has so seriously affected the export of grain from Bushire by *bonâ fide* traders that only 476 tons were exported in 1905, although the harvest was as good, if not better, than in 1894, when some 40,000 to 50,000 tons were exported.

Since the introduction of a customs administration controlled by experienced men, drawn from the Belgian Customs Department, the increase of trade, the interest other countries besides the United Kingdom and India are taking in Persia, and the opening up of new trade routes to the interior, the working of the steamship companies and trade generally are changing, and, says Mr. Vice-Consul Richards, unless the steamship companies and firms who have for years been trading up the Gulf march with the times they will find their trade and their carrying trade taken from them. He gives a case to point his warning.

A certain enterprising firm in the East, very favourably situated, wished to participate in the supply of a certain article very much worn by the Arabs. The firm says Mr. Richards, took a good deal of trouble in obtaining the exact size and colours, etc., required by the Arabs, who in this article of attire are very particular, almost verging on the point of "dandyism."

Samples and full particulars were sent to the British manufacturer, but the goods supplied were not exactly according to order. On the manufacturer being asked to correct the little difference, which little difference was of great importance to the Arab, he refused to do so. The result was the firm had to give up the business, as the Arabs would not by what the British manufacturer supplied him. Another firm, not British, took up the business, went to the Continent for his article, obtained what was required and captured the trade.

There is, in the opinion of Mr. Richards, an opening for a good all-round general commercial traveller in Persia. He should be young and energetic, capable of travelling in a country where mules and horses are practically the only means of conveyance from one place to another; the more languages he can converse and correspond in the better, French being essential, and he should be prepared to deal in all classes of goods, both big and small.

Nearly all the French goods imported into Persia *viâ* this port are sold by a French traveller who visits this country once a year, and who has in the course of three or four years worked up a very lucrative business both for himself and those he travels for. He pays annual visits to Bushire, Shiraz, Ispahan and Teheran, and goes home *via* Russia, but he very rarely if ever visits the other big centres of trade in Persia, such as Kermanshah, Hamadan, Sultanabad, Meshed, Kerman and Yezd.

The goods he sells are also imported *viâ* the north, and he does not exclusively confine himself to French goods. He travels with samples and a small quantity of the smaller and easily transportable articles, such as watches and jewellery, etc.

There must be a hundred and one miscellaneous articles manufactured in the United Kingdom which, if properly shown, would be purchased both by the European and native population; and it must not be forgotten that the latter consists of a certain percentage of Armenians, besides Mohammadans, although they, in most cases, do not belong to the wealthy classes.

A traveller would find it to his advantage to study the peculiarities of the natives with regard to their wants and habits, and would very soon learn what he could sell and what he could not. He must remember that in the matter of big sales trade is only done on the credit system when dealing with the middleman, but with the actual consumer and smaller merchants only credit on very small scale, if at all, need be given.

It will be seen from the statment attached of the trade of the whole Gulf, compiled from the custom-house returns, that Bushire, with the exception of three smaller ports, Jask, Bunder Dilam and Bunder Rig, is the only port in the south of Persia which shows a decrease in the imports of 1905 as compared with 1904.

While all the other ports have a very substantial increase Bushire shows a decrease of £127,893, which nearly equals the whole of the increases put together.

This could be put down to the following reasons:— (1) Attitude of steamship agents towards consignees of the cargo their steamers carry and the treatment it receives, more particularly that from India; (2) Hamal Bashi or landing contractor's unsatisfactory method of working; (3) disturbed state of Shiraz; (4) the insecurity, owing to robbery and blackmail, of the road between Bushire and Shiraz; (5) merchants, disputes with the custom-house. Owing to these causes the import and forwarding trade of Bushire is seriously threatened with being diverted to other ports, such as Bunder Abbas and Mohammerah.

The foreign trade of the smaller Gulf ports, such as Kishm, Chrabar, Bunder Dilam, Karak, Henjam, Jask, Bunder Rig, Dayer and Minab is carried on by native boats and is roughly as follows:—

Kishm imports from India and Zanzibar: Rice, wood, hemp and vegetable fibres and a small quantity of general cargo.

Exports to India, Oman, Bahrein: Dry and salted fish, dates and ghee.

Chrabar imports from India: Rice, provisions and a little general cargo.

Export to India: Dry and salted fish, ghee, dates, cotton wool and skins.

Bunder Dilam imports from Turkish Arabia and India: Fruit, provisions and a little general cargo.

Exports to Bahrein, Koweit and Turkish Arabia: Sheep, ghee, wheat and barley, vegetables, wool, skins, almonds and pistachios.

Karak (custom-house only established in 1905) imports from India: Provisions.

Exports: *Nil.*

Jask imports from India, Turkish Arabia and Muscat: Provisions, rice, dates, sugar and a little general cargs and piece-goods.

Exports to India: Dry and salted fish.

Bunder Rig imports from India and Turkish Arabia: Provisions, dates and rice.

Exports to Bahrein and Turkish Arabia: Sheep, wheat and barley and ghee.

Dayer imports from Bahrein and Turkish Arabia: Rice, dates, sugar and a little general cargo.

Exports to Bahrein and Turkish Arabia: Sheep, wheat and barley, dry and salted fish, wood and mats.

Minab imports from Turkish Arabia: Provisions.
Exports to Turkish Arabia, Oman and India: Dates, wool, *mats*, ghee, wheat and barley.

Comparative Statement of **Total Imports into Bushire** from all countries during the years 1904-05.

Country.	Value. 1904.	Value. 1905.	Increase.	Decrease.	Approximate Percentage 1904	Approximate Percentage 1905
	£	£	£	£		
United Kingdom	389,323	322,167	...	67,156	44	42
India	204,099	176,255	...	27,754	23	23
Germany	40,141	26,264	...	13,877	4	3
Austria-Hungary	25,040	30,831	5,791	...	3	4
France	69,812	57,717	...	12,095	8	8
Russia	33,663	33,981	318	...	4	5
Turkey	19,590	51,517	31,927	...	2	7
China	20,299	13,396	...	6,903	2	2
Egypt	1,395	10,940	9,545	...		1
Bahrein	2,116	6,299	4,183	...		1
Dutch Indies	7,870	9,696	1,826	...		1
Netherlands	5,535	5,635	100	...		
Italy	72	53	...	19		
Switzerland	109	157	48	...		
Sweden	2,038	2,934	896	...		
Japan	183	545	362	...	3	
Ceylon	1,854	3,326	1,472	...		
Koweit	2,106	1,123	...	983		
Muscat	475	1,057	582	...		3
Zanzibar	411	807	396	...		
Oman	...	442	442	...		
Burmah	...	1,413	1,413	...		
Other countries	107	313	206	...		
United States	41,699	1,472	...	40,227	5	
Belgium	21,978	3,592	...	18,386	2	
Total	889,825	761,932	59,507	187400	...	...
Net decrease	...	...	127,893			

VILAYET OF ALEPPO.

Mr. Consul Barnham, in his report on the Trade and Commerce of the **Vilayet of Aleppo** for the year 1905, says that the total value of trade was 3,880,599*l.*, stated as follows :—

Exports 1,393,333*l.*; imports 2,487,266*l.*

Of these imports *the* United Kingdom supplied *more than half, viz.*, 1,310,330*l.*

These figures show that the import trade of Alexandretta, both general and British, is enormously larger than that of Smyrna or Beyrout, and only second to that of Constantinople. He lays stress upon these figures now because the prosperity of Alexandretta is imperilled by the extension of the Rayak-Hama Railway to Aleppo, and in future, if it does not lose its trade entirely, it must at least share it with Beyrout.

The export trade through Alexandretta shows a decrease of 7,360 tons in volume and 167,965*l.* in value. The import trade shows an increase of 3,510 tons, with a value of 317,617*l.*

The importation of manufactured goods increased in volume 1,455 tons, with a value of 194,748*l.*, in spite of the large stocks which remained over from the year 1904.

Of 152,750 cases of petroleum imported last year 75,500 came from Batoum, 54,000 from Fiume and 23,250 from New York. Formerly petroleum was imported exclusively from the Caucasus.

The following **articles of Indian origin** were imported last year. They reach Alexandretta in transit *via* Port Said, Alexandria, Marseilles and Trieste :—

Articles.	Quantity.	Articles.	Quantity.
	Tons.		Tons.
Rice	700	Jute	430
Tea	16	Indigo	72
Buffalo-hides	450	Pepper	15
Cotton yarns	122	Silk	4

Mr. Barnham gives a note of the **expenses incurred in landing Indian goods** at Alexandretta *from* the moment they leave the ship until their delivery in the merchant's warehouse.

Eight per cent. *ad valorem* on all goods imported, irrespective of country of origin. The customs authorities have the right to value the goods either at the invoice price or at the local current rate, less 10 per cent. discount. On the other hand the merchant has the option of paying the duty either in cash or kind.

Goods are discharged from the steamers into lighters called *mahones* and landed at the custom-house pier. This is a small wooden structure in a dilapidated condition and totally inadequate to the purpose for which it is intended.

The landing dues adopted by all steamship companies at Alexandretta are as follows :—

(*a*) $1\frac{2}{3}$ c. ($2\frac{1}{2}d.$) for each package weighing from 40 to 200 kilos., and the same for every fraction of 100 kilos. beyond 200 kilos.

(*b*) $6\frac{1}{4}$ c. for each buffalo-hide if landed separately and not in bales.

When goods are landed on public holidays or on other days after the custom-house has been closed, the merchants make arrangements for stowing the goods in the custom-house yard, and the expense of doing so is divided *pro rata* among the consignees of the goods. These expenses vary from 5 to 20 c. per case, according to size.

Porterage is paid as follows :—

1 pias. gold ($2\frac{1}{6}d.$) for every package weighing from 1 to 250 kilos., $3\frac{1}{2}$ pias. gold from 250 to 400 kilos., $6\frac{1}{2}$ pias. gold from 400 to 600 kilos., and 8 pias. gold from 600 to 1,000 kilos.

To this we must add a charge of 6 pias. gold, for each load of several bales removed from the custom-house to the merchant's warehouse is charged as follows :—

$\frac{1}{2}$ pias. gold ($1\frac{1}{12}$) for each package weighing from 1 to 200 kilos. and 1 pias. gold for anything from 200 to 300 kilos.; for cases weighing more than 300 kilos. there is no fixed rate, but bargain must be made.

In weighing the merits of a short direct line some 80 miles in length between Aleppo and Alexandretta, against those of the Beyrout-Aleppo line we must not, he says, lose sight of the fact that the port of Alexandretta is the best on the Syrian coast. It can accommodate any number of steamers, whereas the port of Beyrout can hold a very limited number.

Aniline blue dye introduced from Germany has succeeded in sensibly diminishing the importation of indigo.

Goods imported from India are the following :—Jute, gunnies, hides, tea, rice, indigo, and they come to Mersina in transit from Port Said.

Goods are valued by the custom-house according to the market price, and custom duties are paid in cash or in kind. The import duty is 8 per cent. *ad valorem*.

The following is a note on the charges paid on a consignment of jute from the moment the goods are unshipped to their arrival at the merchant's office :—

	Value.
	Piastres.
100 okes (281 lbs.) of jute	640
Less 10 per cent. discount	*64*
Difference	576
Custom dues at 8 per cent.	46

Other Expenses.

	Expenses. Piastres c.
Discharging the above into lighters and removal to custom house	3 0
Porterage to merchant's store	1 0
Landing at pier	0 25
Stamped receipt	0 25
Total	4 50

Total expenses for a bale containing 281 lbs. weight of jute including customs, $50\frac{1}{2}$ pias. Gold currency (110 pias. equals 1*l.*)

PERSIA—ARABISTAN.

Mr. Consul McDouall in his Report on the **Trade and Commerce of Arabistan** for the year 1905, states that **exports and imports from and to Mohammerah** in 1905 were below the average. The decrease in exports was largely due to the smallness of the opium crop up-country, although the local exports were above the average, whilst cotton goods alone are responsible for the decrease in imports.

The shops at Mohammerah in the latter part of the year were very short of cotton goods, said to be partly due to high prices at Manchester. It appears, however, that one of the principal importers had large outstandings which he had to collect before he could obtain further supplies. A large import was expected to take place in the year 1906, as orders had been sent from several firms.

A Russian firm from Ispahan was trying to push Lodz cotton goods. There is a certain sale for their prints—soft finish in several colours. Similar goods from India or Manchester are said to be of superior quality but too high in price for the market. The firm obtained some orders for cotton tweeds, cashmirs and that class of cotton cloth; the demand for these is not large and lately similar patterns from a Manchester firm are noted to be better and no dearer in price. The Russians give three months credit, which British firms will not do, as the risk is great.

In some articles, *e.g.*, coffee, spice and tea the high tariff has stopped the import for local use, the position of the town of Mohammerah being very favourable for smuggling.

Exchange, which was at 63 krans to the 1£ in January, 1905, fell to 57 krans in July, shortly rising again to 60 krans. The accompanying statistics are calculated at 60 krans equal to 1£.

The silver kran at this rate being worth less than its intrinsic value became an article of export, and at the end of the year the shortage of currency became a great inconvenience. It was partly supplied by the use of Turkish lirash and Indian rupees, the former at 54 krans and the latter at 4 krans each.

Twenty-three British steamers called from Europe with cargo but only four took cargo. The British India steamers called frequently from Bombay and those of the Bombay Persian Company occasionally. Freight to London was 1*l.* 10*s.* to 1*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* per ton. There was great delay in getting cargo away from Mohammerah. The cargo being in small quantities and the port being between a much larger port and the bar of the river, steamers after loading at Busreh have often no space left for Mohammerah, and in the case of cargo engaged up-country for transhipment to Bombay the steamers carrying mails are limited both in draught and time by the depth of water on the bar and time of high water, and frequently have no time to stop at Mohammerah; cargo has been delayed from 20 to 40 days, a serious drawback to this route from the interior.

The one British steamer ran fortnightly to Naseri on the Karun. On the upper river from Ahwaz to Shushter the water was unusually low in autumn and cargo could only be carried in small quantities. A Persian merchant will put a British-built steamer on the Lower Karun in the course of 1906.

The wheat crop on the Lower Karun was very small, owing to failure of the early rains, but in the Shushter and Dizful districts, as also in the eastern part of the province, the crop was good. The local authorities prevented export from Shushter, alleging that the grain was required for the troops. In other districts the price remained too high for purchases for the London market, owing to the high rate of export duty. Price at Mohammerah was about 4*s.* 3*d.* per cwt.

The date crop was large but inferior in quality to the previous one. Price, 4*s.* per 1½ cwts.

There was a larger clip of wool, but quality was inferior, pasture having been poor.

Beans were again exported to London. In 1895 there seemed a prospect for a fair export trade in this article, and a large amount was consequently grown in 1897. The Government, however, prohibited the export and the surplus crop was wasted, in succeeding years only enough for local consumption has been grown.

Imports for the interior by the Ahwaz-Ispahan route showed an increase, but there was at times a difficulty in obtaining transport animals. During the last two winters traffic has continued to pass throughout the winter, though occasionally delayed by snow, as is the case on other routes.

The Dizful-Khoremabad route continues impassable owing to the lawlessness of the tribes.

The health of the province was good throughout the year, but in December disease carried off many buffaloes and cattle in one district. Symptoms resembled cholera.

The Concessions Syndicate, Limited, began to import machinery at the end of the year for oil well drilling which is being forwarded to the oil-bearing districts.

To facilitate the clearing of cargo, invoices should give complete lists of the contents of each package, with either weight or value of each item according to whichever way the duty is leviable. In the case of bales of cotton goods, for example, containing different varieties, the invoice should give for each bale the number of pieces of each variety and weight per piece.

It is interesting to see that owing to the increased use of drafts the exports of specie have fallen steadily. In the year under report exports of specie had fallen off by £27,231 as compared with the previous year and by £36,272 as compared with the quinquennial average. The exports of gum tragacanth amounted to 690 cwt., which was 327 cwt. better than the five-yearly average. The exports of insoluble gum amounted to 8,976 cwt. which shows an improvement of 2,679 cwt. over the 5 years' average. This gum is exported almost entirely to the United Kingdom and to India. The exports of oil-seeds amounted to 9,260 cwt., which shows an improvement of 3,469 cwt. over the average for the 5 years previous. Of the oil-seeds linseed is sent to India, United Kingdom and Germany, sesame to India and France. The crop in the year under report was a large one, owing to increased irrigation. The exports of wool amounted to 9,230 cwt., which was 3,193 cwt. better than in the year previous, and 3,587 cwt. better than 5 years' average. The wool was all sent to United Kingdom and to India. Of imports into Mohammerah cotton goods amounted to £94,204 in value which showed a falling-off of £79,977 as compared with the previous year and of £44,824 as compared with the five-yearly average. These goods are imported mainly from Manchester and India, a small quantity coming from Russia and Turkey. The decrease was due to high prices and to large outstanding accounts. The import of drugs amounted to £1,952 in value, the increase over the previous year being £1,187. This increase is due, it is said, to the accounts for 1905 being more accurate than in previous year. The import of rice amounted to 7,394 cwt., this being an increase of 3,724 cwt., the increase being due partly to fuller returns and partly to a deficiency in the local crop. Supplies came from India and Turkey. The import trade in spices, which amounted to 272 cwt., showed a falling-off of 616 cwt., as compared with previous year. This falling-off was due to the high duty levied on spices which are supplied mainly by India. The sugar imported amounted to 15,878 cwt., crushed sugar 19,774 cwt. of loaf sugar. The imports of crushed sugar were greater than the five-yearly average by 3,999 cwt., while the imports were 8,289 cwt. behind that average. The high price of loaf sugar in 1905 caused it to be replaced by powdered sugar.

SUGAR INDUSTRY AND TRADE.

IX

APPENDIX.

Indian duty on Sugar.

I.—Rates of countervailing duties levied on imported bounty-fed sugar under Acts XIV of 1899, VIII of 1902, XII of 1903, and XI of 1904

Countervailing duties on sugar produced in, and exported from, the countries named below which grant bounties on export, were charged under section 8-A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894 (added by Act XIV of 1899, and amended by Act XII of 1903), at the rates (being equivalent to the bounties) noted against each, in addition to the general import duty of 5 per cent

Countries	Kinds of sugar	Bounties bestowed per 100 kilograms	Rates of duty per cwt	Duration	Authority (Government of India Notification)
			₹ *a.* *p.*		
Argentine Republic	All kinds . . .	6 Centavos per kilog.	9 2 0	From 20th March 1899 to 30th June 1901	No. 1327, dated 20 Mar. 1899
	„ „ excepting sugar exported without payment of internal revenue tax	10 „ „	15 3 10	From 1 July 1901 to 5th Sept. 1905	„ 3374, „ 20 June 1901
	All kinds . . .	R10-15-8 per cwt	10 15 8	From 6 Sept. 1905	„ 4787-18-2, dated 6 Sept. 1905
Austria-Hungary	Sugar under 93 and of at least 88 per cent polarisation	1·37 florins .	0 11 8	From 20 Mar. 1899 to 31 July 1899	„ 4293, dated 24 Aug. 1900 superseding—
					No. 1327, dated 20 Mar. 1899
					„ 3559, „ 3 Aug. 1899
	Sugar under 99·3 and of at least 90 per cent polarisation	1·46 „ .	0 12 6	From 20 Mar. 1899 to 31 July 1899	Ditto
			0 12 5	From 1 Aug. 1899 to 31 July 1900	No. 521, dated 1 Feb. 1901
		3·20 krones .	0 12 6	From 1 Aug. 1900 to 31 July 1901	No. 1262, dated 28 Feb. 1902, superseding above, and No. 523, dated 1 Feb. 1901
			0 11 3	From 1 Aug. 1901 to 31 July 1902	No. 793, dated 13 Feb. 1903
			1 0 3	From 1 Aug. 1902 to 31 Aug. 1903	No. 523, dated 1 Feb. 1901
	Sugar of at least 99·3 per cent polarisation	2·10 florins	1 1 10	From 20 Mar. 1899 to 31 July 1900	No. 4293, dated 24 Aug. 1900
					„ 521, „ 1 Feb. 1901
		4·60 krones .	1 2 0	From 1 Aug. 1900 to 31 July 1901	„ 1262, „ 28 Feb. 1902 superseding last but one
			1 0 2	From 1 Aug. 1901 to 31 July 1902	No. 793, dated 13 Feb. 1903
			1 7 4	From 1 Aug. 1902 to 31 Aug. 1903	No. 523, dated 1 Feb. 1901
Belgium .	Raw sugar . . .	4·50 francs .	1 6 0	From 20 Mar. 1899 to 31 May 1899	No. 1327, dated 20 Mar. 1899
		4·05 „ .	1 4 0	From 1 June 1899 to 27 Dec. 1900	„ 2635, „ 9 June 1899
		3·90 „ .	1 2 10	From 28 Dec. 1900 to 31 Aug. 1903	„ 6524, „ 28 Dec. 1900
	Refined sugar .	5·36 „ .	1 10 0	As above respectively	
		4·60 „ .	1 6 0		
		4·40 „ .	1 5 3		

I.—Rates of countervailing duties levied on imported bounty-fed sugar under Acts XIV of 1899, VIII of 1902, XII of 1903, and XI of 1904—*continued.*

Countervailing duties on sugar produced in, and exported from, the countries named below which grant bounties on export, were charged under section 8-A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894 (added by Act XIV of 1899, and amended by Act XII of 1903), at the rates (being equivalent to the bounties) noted against each, in addition to the general import duty of 5 per cent.

Countries	Kinds of sugar	Bounties bestowed per 100 kilograms	Rates of duty per cwt	Duration	Authority (Government of India Notification)
			₹ a. p.		
Denmark .	Refined sugar . .	1·12 crowns	0 8 0	From 20 Mar. 1899	No. 1327, dated 20 Mar. 1899
France .	Raw sugars from 65 to 98 per cent polarisation for beet sugars, or 65 to 97 per cent for French Colonial sugar	10·82 francs	3 4 0	From 20 Mar. 1899 to 31 Aug. 1899	No. 1327, dated 20 Mar. 1899
		11·16 „ .	3 5 11	From 1 Sept. 1899 to 31 Aug. 1900	„ 4138, „ 6 Sept. 1899
		10·62 „ .	3 3 4	From 1 Sept. 1900 to 31 Aug. 1901	„ 5324, „ 19 Oct. 1900
		9·96 „ .	3 0 1	From 1 Sept. 1901 to 31 Aug. 1902	„ 5242, „ 10 „ 1901
		9·51 „ .	2 13 11	From 1 Sep. 1902 to 31 Aug. 1903	„ 5502, „ 16 „ 1902
	Sugar candies . .	11·51 „ .	3 7 6	As above respectively	
	Refined sugars in loaf or crushed, clear, hard, and dry	11·95 „ .	3 9 9		
		11·26 „ .	3 6 5		
		10·40 „ .	3 2 3		
		9·83 „ .	2 15 6		
	Raw and refined sugars in grains or crystals of a minimum standard of 98 per cent polarisation	11·17 „ .	3 6 0	Ditto	
		11·56 „ .	3 7 10		
		10·94 „ .	3 4 10		
		10·18 „ .	3 1 2		
		9·67 „ .	2 14 9		
Germany .	Raw sugar of at least 90 per cent polarisation	2·50 marks .	0 15 3	From 20 Mar. 1899 to 22 Aug. 1899	No. 1327, dated 20 Mar. 1899
		2·40 „	0 14 7	From 22 Aug. 1899 to 14 Dec. 1899	„ 3934, „ 23 Aug. 1899
			0 14 4	From 15 Dec. 1899 to 31 Aug. 1903	„ 5720, „ 15 Dec. 1899
	Refined sugar under 98 and of at least 90 per cent polarisation	2·50 „ .	0 15 3	From 20 Mar. 1899 to 14 Dec. 1899	„ 1327, „ 20 Mar. 1899
		2·40 „ .	0 14 4	From 15 Dec. 1899 to 31 Aug. 1903	„ 5720, „ 15 Dec. 1899
	Candy and sugar in white, hard loaves, blocks, crystals, etc., of at least 99 per cent polarisation	3·55 „ .	1 6 0	As above respectively	
		3·44 „ .	1 4 7		
	All other sugar of at least 98 per cent polarisation	3 marks .	1 2 0	Ditto	
		2·89 „ .	1 1 3		

I.—Rates of countervailing duties levied on imported bountry-fed sugar under Acts XIV of 1899, VIII of 1902, XII of 1903, and XI of 1904—*concluded*

Countervailing duties on sugar produced in, and exported from, the countries named below which grant bounties on export, are charged under section 8-A of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894 (added by Act XIV of 1899, and amended by Act XII of 1903), at the rates (being equivalent to the bounties) noted against each, in addition to the general import duty of 5 per cent.

Countries	Kinds of sugar	Bounties bestowed per 100 kilograms	Rates of duty per cwt	Duration	Authority (Government of India Notification)
			₹ a. p.		
Holland .	Raw beet sugar of less than 98 per cent polarisation	2·2354 florins	1 7 0	From 20 Mar. 1899 to 31 May 1901	No. 1327, dated 20 Mar. 1899
		1·50 „ .	0 15 3	From 1 June 1901 to 31 Aug. 1901	„ 2479 „ 7 May 1901
	Raw sugar produced in Holland from beet roots	1·16 „	0 11 9	From 1 Sept. 1901 to 31 Aug. 1902	„ 3496 „ 11 June 1903 „ 7244 „ 30 Nov. 1903 superseding
		1·75 „ .	1 1 9	From 1 Sept. 1902 to 31 Aug. 1903	„ 817 „ 7 Feb. 1902 „ 6460 „ 5 Dec. 1902 „ 3494, dated 11 June 1903
	Raw beet sugar of at least 98 per cent polarisation	1·7655 florins	1 2 0	As above respectively	
	Sugar, refined from beet root raw sugar produced in Holland	1·72 „ .	1 1 5		
		1·31 „	0 13 3		
		1·94 „ .	1 3 1		
	Refined beet root sugar .	0·2946 „ .	0 3 0	In addition to countervailing duty if any on the raw sugar	Ditto
	Refined sugars from materials other than beet root raw sugar	0·2946 „ .	0 3 0	Ditto	
	Sugar, refined from imported raw sugar	·22 „ .	0 2 3	Ditto	
		·15 „ .	0 1 6	Ditto	
		·19 „ .	0 1 4	Ditto	
Russia .	Sugar of at least 99 per cent polarisation	0·50 rouble per pood (36·113lb avoir.)	3 11 0	From 20 Mar. 1899 to 5 Oct. 1899	No. 1327, dated 20 Mar. 1899
			2 7 4	From 6 Oct. 1899 to 28 Feb. 1903	„ 4600, „ 6 Oct. 1899 „ 977, „ 20 Feb. 1903
	Sugar less than 99 but not less than 88 per cent polarisation	0·44 rouble per pood	3 4 0 2 2 7	As above respectively	
	Sugar of less than 88 but not less than 75 per cent polarisation	0·38 rouble per pood	2 13 0 1 13 10	Ditto	
Chile . .	Raw sugar . .	2 centavos per kilog.	0 9 2	From 10 May 1900	No. 2280, dated 10 May 1900
Italy . .	Sugar below No. 20 Dutch standard	5·60 francs .	1 11 0	From 15 Aug. 1901 to 16 Jan. 1902	No. 4110, dated 1 Aug. 1901 „ 314 „ 17 Jan. 1902
	Sugar No. 20 and above Dutch standard	6·13 „ .	1 13 7		

II.—Rates of Additional Special Duties levied on imported Bounty-fed Sugar under Acts VIII of 1902, XI of 1903, and XI of 1904

Special additional duties are charged under Section 8-B of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894 (added by Act VIII of 1902 and continued in force by Acts XII of 1903, and XI of 1904), on sugar *produced in, or exported from*, the countries named below where the difference between the rate of duty or other taxation to which foreign sugars are subject and that imposed on home product exceeds 6 francs per 100 kilograms for refined sugar and 5 francs 50 centimes for other sugar, the duty being limited to half such excess.

Countries	Duty per cwt R a. p.	Duration	Authority (Government of India Notification)
Austria-Hungary	3 3 9	From 6th June 1902 to 31st August 1903	No. 3131, dated 6 June 1902
Germany	2 13 9	Ditto ditto	Ditto
France—Refined sugar	0 9 8	From 1 March 1903 to 31 August 1903	No. 975, dated 20 February 1903
France—Unrefined „	0 8 5		
Denmark—Candy and sugar in whole or broken loaves, plates, cakes, etc., whatever the colour may be, and white pulverised sugar which is lighter than the Amsterdam standard sample No. 18	0 8 10	From 1 March 1903	No. 975, dated 20 February 1903, and No. 2026, dated 25 March 1904, as amended by No. 2081, dated 29 March 1904
Argentine Republic—Refined	5 7 5	From 1 March 1903 to 5 Sept. 1905	Ditto ditto
Argentine Republic—Unrefined	4 0 8		
Refined sugar or sugar polarising 96° and more	6 0 2	From 6 Sept. 1905	No. 4794-18-3, dated 6 Sept. 1905
Unrefined sugar or sugar polarising less than 96°	4 8 9		
Sugar candy	3 2 9		
Russia—Refined	9 10 2	From 1 March 1903	No. 975, dated 20 February 1903, and No. 2026, dated 25 March 1904, as amended by No. 2081, dated 29 March 1904
Russia—Unrefined	5 15 10		

NOTE—Duties leviable in pursuance of Sections 8-A and 8-B of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894, were remitted by Notifications Nos. 7249 and 7252, dated the 2nd December 1903, in respect of sugar produced after the 31st August 1903, in any country being a party to the Brussels Sugar Convention of 1902, namely, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, France, the Netherlands, Austria-Hungary, Italy, Sweden and Norway, Peru, and Luxemburg.

THE COAL OF EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM.

THE only coal field in Eastern Bengal and Assam now exploited is, says a correspondent, the Margherita field, which is a close monopoly. Margherita coal is sold to tea gardens one mile away from the colliery at R13-8 annas a ton, and 200 miles away at the same rate; this is the only coal to be had in the new Province at present: besides it is far removed from Dacca, Naraingunge, Chittagong and other central parts of the Province.

There is also a little coal extracted at Cherraponjee and sold in Shillong at very high rates. This Cherraponjee coal field contains one million tons; but some time must elapse before it is opened out scientifically. The most extensive coal field, and near to the centre of the new Province, is the Garo Hills Coal field. The Daranggiri coal fields extend for twenty square miles, the average thickness is 5 feet 6 inches, 7 feet 6 inches at Daranggiri and 3 feet 6 inches on the Rengchi, and the total amount of coal is assumed to be, by the Government Geological experts, 76 millions of tons.

An assay of the coal was as follows:—

Moisture at 230°F	6·2
Volatile excluding moisture	39·4
Fixed carbon	51·8
Ash	2·6

These assays were made in 1874.

This seems the most important coal field to serve the populated districts of the Province, and if opened out will do more to advance its prosperity than any other conceivable measure.

The people of the Province require cheap coal to assist in the expansion of industries. But if the Garo fields are handed over to private ownership the syndicate or company securing the monopoly would insist on obtaining as high a price as possible for the commodity, and it would be sold at just as high a rate as Bengal coal, or probably just a fraction lower, so as to keep Bengal coal out of the market.

It might be better for the Province if Government were to do for the Garo field what was done when the Umaria coal field was opened out, work it themselves for the first few years, selling to all miners, at a fair rate. To develop the field properly it will be necessary to build a railway from the Dacca-Mymensingh line to a point at the mouth of the Sumeswar River.

There is a great future for the Eastern Province, and if this Garo coal should prove suitable for carriage in ocean-going steamers, it can be carried from the mouth of the Sumeswar River to Chittagong for export at the low rate of R3 a ton approximately; the coal ought to be landed at the mouth of the Sumeswar River at R3 8 annas a ton with profit, making the rate to Chittagong R6 8 annas a ton. This would place Chittagong on an equal footing with Calcutta in regard to price for export.

GAZETTE AND OTHER NOTIFICATIONS.

TELEGRAPHIC.

List of Government Telegraph Offices reported as opened, closed, etc., since compilation of the last list.

Offices Opened.

Name of Office.	District.	Date opened.	REMARKS.
Moradabad City	Moradabad	17th Jan. 06	
Mohadebpur	Dacca	13th Apl. 06	
Thandaung	Toungoo	18th Apl. 06	
Delhi Ketra Baryan	Delhi	18t A pl. 06	
Delhi Paharganj	Delhi	22nd Apl. 06	
Seikpyu	Pakokku	1st May 06	
Samaguri	Nowgong	1st May 06	

Offices sanctioned but not yet opened.

Name of Office.	District.	Date sanctioned.	REMARKS.
Kyawzan	Myaungmya	16th Mar. 06	
Egra	Midnapore	21st Apl. 06	
Prithimpassa	Sylhet	21st Apl. 06	
Vijiapuram	Tanjore	10th May 06	
Hoshiarpur	Hoshiarpur	12th May 06	
Charanpur	Burdwan	12th May 06	
Murarai	Birbhum	12th May 06	
Kusunda	Manbhum	12th May 06	
Sejua	Manbhum	12th May 06	
Namdi	Burdwan	12th May 06	
Darwha	Yeotmal	15th May 06	
Garifa	24-Parganas	16th May 06	
Morsi	Amraoti	16th May 06	
Nagpur Sadur Bazar	Nagpur	16th May 06	

Offices raised to 1st or 2nd Class.

Name of Office.	District.	Date.	Raised to.
Shillong	Khasi Hills	5th Apl. 06.	1st class.
Amherst	Amherst	20th Apl. 06.	2nd class.

Departmental Offices converted into combined Offices.

Name of Office.	District.	Date.	Remarks
Midnapur	Midnapur	30th April 06	

The steam pilot vessel *Fraser* left the Sandheads for Calcutta on the 2nd May for coaling and watering, when wireless telegraph communication between that vessel and Saugor Island was suspended. The *Fraser* left Calcutta for the Sandheads on the 17th May and wireless telegraph communication with Saugor Island was resumed on the 19th May 1906.

It has been decided to place Bombay and Madras in communication by the Baudot system as soon as possible utilising for this purpose the spare instruments hitherto held in reserve at Calcutta and Simla during the initial trial of this system of working. The success of the trial has decided the Telegraph Department to order more Baudot instruments with a view to installing them in course of time between Calcutta and Madras, and between Calcutta and Rangoon.

The wireless telegraph traffic disposed of on the Andamans circuit during April 1906 was as follows:—

Sent from Port Blair	328	messages containing	7,313 words
Received at „ „	363	„ „	18,025 „
Total	691	„ „	25,338
Exchanged at Slipper Island	170	„ „	7,747 „
GRAND TOTAL	861	„ „	33,085

Of these totals 366 messages containing 6,971 words were classed as "Private."

Communication was maintained throughout the month but it was imperfect on 11 days and was interrupted on the afternoons of 8 days during the period owing to atmospheric disturbances.

The wireless telegraph traffic disposed of at Saugor Island during April 1906 was as follows:—

Sent from Saugor Island.	99	messages containing	1,569	words.
Received at "	" . 432	"	" 3,911	"
Total	. 531 .	"	" 5,480	"

Of these totals 208 messages containing 3,555 words were classed as "Private", and 296 messages containing 1,327 words were "Shipping Reports." There were no interruptions during the month.

EXPLOSIVES.

In supersession of the Notification of the Government of India in the Home Department, No. 1747, dated the 11th August 1899, and in exercise of the powers conferred by section 17 of the Indian Explosives Act, 1884 (IV of 1884), the Governor General in Council is pleased hereby to declare that acetylene when liquid or when subject to a pressure greater than $1\frac{1}{2}$ atmospheres shall be deemed to be an explosive within the meaning of the said Act:

Provided that, subject to the conditions hereinafter specified, acetylene, when in admixture with oil-gas, shall not be deemed to be an explosive within the meaning of the said Act, when under compression—

(1) The acetylene shall be generated only by Atkin's Dry Process.

(2) The proportion of acetylene shall not exceed fifty parts by volume in every one hundered parts of the mixture of acetylene and oil-gas.

(3) The acetylene and oil gas shall be mixed together in a chamber or vessel before the gass are subjected to compression.

(4) The mixture shall not be compressed to a pressure exceeding one hundred and fifty pounds per spare inch.

NEW REFERENCE BOOKS.

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW. BULLETIN OF MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION, 1905. 9½ × 6, 103 pp. . . . . 2s.
Wyman.

PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF TAXATION.
By G. Armitage-Smith Principal of the Birkbeck College. 8 × 5¼, 94 pp. Murray. 5s. (The object is "to present in a concise and simple form an account of the British system of taxation and the principles on which it is based, together with some of the leading historical facts in its evolution.")

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS.
An introduction to the Study By H. C. Taylor, Assistant Professor of Political Economy in the University of Wisconsin. (The Citizens' Library.) 7½ × 5, 327 pp. The Macmillan. Co. 5s. net.

FOREIGN TEA.

Quantity (in lbs.) of Foreign tea exported by sea from British India from 1st October 1905 to 31st March 1906.

Countries to which exported.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	TOTAL.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
United Kingdom	...	16	...	48	...	...	64
France	...	...	150	...	...	...	150
Greece	...	...	...	12	13	...	25
Russia	20,275	...	...	1,445	...	...	21,720
Turkey in Europe	...	...	...	...	...	126	126
Egypt	388	10,602	160	11,158	...	4,195	26,503
Abyssinia	...	...	...	1,388	...	...	1,388
Africa, East (British)	2,124	999	645	2,198	1,482	200	7,648
" " (German)	383	...	235	92	545	870	2,125
" " (Portuguese)	1,604	1,512	1,008	1,403	1,145	880	7,552
Madagascar	...	...	...	480	585	...	1,065
Mauritius	...	...	...	787	...	...	787
Natal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Somaliland	...	...	...	50	185	...	235
United States	...	...	...	475	...	...	475
Aden	346	230	...	70	86	648	1,380
Arabia	15,106	13,422	11,435	5,548	6,433	7,352	59,296
China-Hongkong	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Treaty Ports	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Persia	17,605	46,363	30,025	38,745	25,141	21,563	179,442
Turkey in Asia	9,076	3,090	9,868	10,783	4,720	11,255	48,792
TOTAL	66,907	76,234	53,526	74,682	40,335	47,089	358,773

INDIAN TEA.

Quantity (in lbs.) of Indian Tea exported by Sea from British India from 1st October 1905 to 31st March 1906.

Countries to which exported.	October.	November.	December.	January.	February.	March.	TOTAL.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
United Kingdom	22,121,084	24,382,168	18,415,857	14,712,203	8,092,239	2,552,634	90,276,185
Austria-Hungary	8,854	4,772	50	2,375	4,780	188	21,019
Belgium	...	5,560	5,667	1,080	...	180	12,487
Denmark	6,460	...	1,710	...	1,710	...	9,880
France	2,230	1,610	6,108	11,168	3,269	1,344	25,729
Germany	27,551	86,449	123,437	97,075	119,205	37,867	491,584
Greece	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Holland	2,250	7,080	1,920	9,100	...	4,541	24,891
Italy	644	200	540	470	315	115	2,284
Norway	...	1,900	...	...	2,240	...	4,140
Russia	1,106,321	1,416,863	904,844	184,361	164,185	67,920	3,844,494
Spain	377	...	...	...	...	...	377
Sweden	...	6,965	...	...	13,554	...	20,519
Turkey in Europe	32,100	57,196	35,582	39,649	20,445	16,373	201,345
Egypt	38,189	62,240	44,738	70,089	27,190	71,269	313,715
Abyssinia	...	675	2,060	...	1,315	960	5,010
Africa, East (British)	9,416	1,860	9,636	10,207	11,402	4,110	46,631
" " (German)	80	160	225	1,490	772	782	3,509
" " (Portuguese)	2,786	2,416	3,223	440	...	5,720	14,585
" " (Other ports)	...	...	...	20	298	...	318
Cape Colony	6,230	6,155	2,802	900	3,334	4,650	24,071
Madagascar	...	...	425	3,238	645	...	4,308
Mauritius	1,000	570	400	445	310	216	2,941
Natal	300	10,418	...	1,400	5,163	2,660	19,941
Somaliland	...	...	7,308	1,852	1,000	...	10,160
Other Countries in North Africa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Canada	2,190,337	2,347,356	1,803,296	1,297,711	838,107	321,023	8,797,830
Mexico	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Argentine Republic	2,280	...	...	6,300	...	...	8,580
Chile	...	250	...	...	...	...	250
United States	158,807	310,637	315,551	247,493	391,378	105,292	1,529,158
West Indies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sandwich Islands	...	...	...	10	...	...	10
Aden	26,803	20,742	12,547	4,360	18,646	27,386	110,484
Arabia	14,472	9,664	124,919	50,357	32,309	19,940	251,661
Bahrein Islands	...	...	...	...	...	1,610	1,610
Ceylon	171,897	321,518	157,340	153,802	135,540	166,866	1,106,963
China-Hongkong	171,782	218,863	166,652	321,952	202,921	5,377	1,087,547
" Treaty Ports	373,322	438,489	101,445	340	226,254	900	1,140,750
Japan	...	...	400	500	40	130	1,070
Java	...	...	...	200	...	...	200
Mekran and Sonmiani	289	...	...	...	...	...	289
Persia	55,426	34,901	63,782	47,342	90,495	86,594	378,540
Philippines	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Siam	110	1,305	...	1,094	36	1,568	4,113
Straits Settlements	13,610	14,081	18,053	12,900	13,070	12,157	83,901
Turkey in Asia	276,842	410,859	394,532	312,233	315,178	211,058	1,920,702
Australia	649,071	620,942	1,134,550	1,219,961	3,070	723,521	4,349,215
New Zealand	25,471	6,405	241,207	66,948	120	21,416	361,567
Total	27,496,421	30,810,369	24,100,806	18,891,065	10,740,535	4,475,367	116,514,563
Indian tea exported from native (non-British) ports in Travancore to United Kingdom.	lbs. 20,205	11,400	21,110	15,945	14,850	11,470	94,980
	Rs. 10,102	5,700	10,555	7,973	7,425	5,735	47,490

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.
For the week ending 2nd June 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign—Imports by sea into	Calcutta	lbs.	109,524
	Bombay	„	235,975
	Madras	„	1,000
Indian—Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	413,140
	Bombay	„	2,065,630
	Madras	„	...

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	20,814,746
	Bombay	„	5,265,950
	Karachi	„	...
	Madras	„	553,999
	Rangoon	„	374,476

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	1,963,309
	Bombay	„	5,003,908
	Karachi	„	646,735
	Madras	„	15,1[illegible]3
	Rangoon	„	631,249

Other Piece Goods.

Import by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	1,016,611
	Bombay	„	4,02[illegible],705
	Karachi	„	366,673
	Madras	„	44,862
	Rangoon	„	1,674,721

Piece Goods.
(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta	cwt.	18,111
	Bombay*	„	5,572
	Karachi	„	14,038
	Madras	„	4,023

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea	cwt.	6,288
	Coastwise	„	32,418
	By rail	„	82,567
Imports into Karachi by rail		„	11,928
„ „ Calcutta by rail and river		„	13,639

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta		cwt.	66,734
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags	No.	7,5[illegible]9,000
	„ cloth	yds.	5,957,800
	Jute	cwt.	43,493
Chittagong—Jute		„	9,768

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta		lbs.	924,946
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	1,289,491
	Chittagong	„	31[illegible],700

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	57,080
	Karachi by rail	„	273,506
	Bombay—By rail	„	46,302
	Bombay—Coastwise	„	22,710
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	313
	Bombay	„	39,817
	Karachi	„	488,089

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta	cwt.	48,550
	Chittagong	„	...
	Bombay	„	9,359
	Karachi	„	17,581
	Madras	„	...
	Rangoon	„	473,710

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	99,786
	Bombay by rail	„	54,487
	Karachi by rail	„	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	63,360
	Bombay	„	10,426
	Karachi	„	147

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	95,566
	Bombay by rail	„	29,127
	Karachi by rail	„	39,922
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	7,916
	Bombay	„	18,440
	Karachi	„	63,370

* B., B. and C. I. Ry. figures only.

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 2nd JUNE 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From All other foreign countries.	Total.
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
Calcutta	...	837,749	1,052,542	1,890,291
Bombay	...	1,165	...	1,165
Karachi	...	115,779	...	115,779
Madras	122,149	...	...	122,149

Exports by sea from Burma to	Bengal	gallons.	1,370,062
	E. B. & Assam	„	445,731
	Bombay	„	...
	Karachi	„	...
	Madras	„	...
	Indian Ports, Non-Br.	„	...
	Foreign Ports	„	...

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 2nd JUNE 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	2,448	2	102	50	554	31	3,187
Germany	63,137	...	27,369	37,950	...	4,023	132,479
Austria-Hungary	1,000	...	29,797	2,000	...	...	32,797
Other European Countries	...	..	...	3,000	...	...	3,000
Java	...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Mauritius	17,060	...	8,493	1,462	..	...	27,015
Other Non-European Countries	...	...	599	...	...	...	599
					Total refined		199,077
					Total unrefined		32,722
					Grand Total cwt.		231,799

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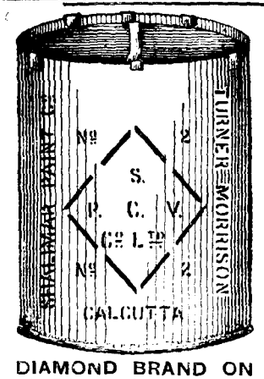
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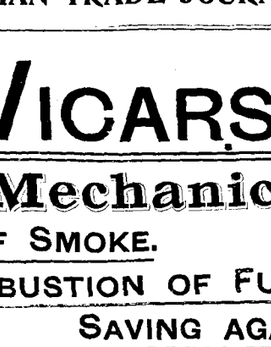
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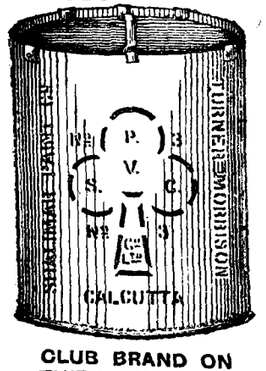


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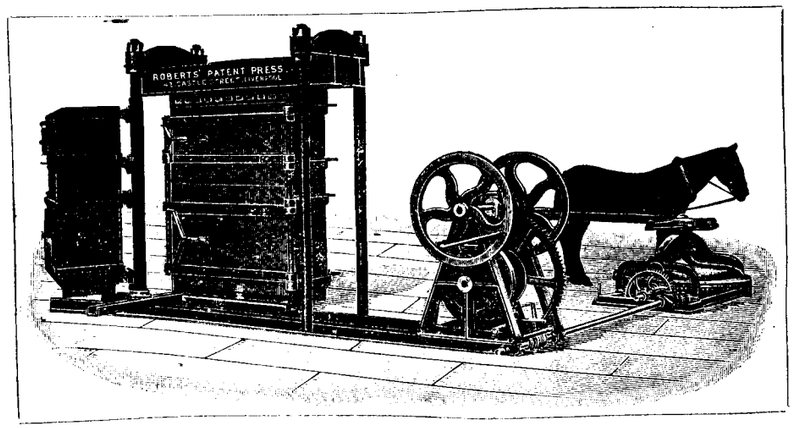
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NOTES.

The **Egyptian War Department invite tenders** for the supply of 3,000 **brown woollen jerseys.** Tenders are to remain open up to the 23rd July.

The United States Department of Agriculture publishes Farmer's Bulletin No. 240, being a note by two leading American authorities upon the **Inoculation of Legumes** with nitrogen-fixing bacteria. It gives an excellent set of practical directions so concisely stated that it is impossible to condense them here.

Persons interested in **Life Insurance** and who have access to a file of the New York *Chronicle* will find in the issue of the 12th May an interesting article in which a review is made of the general purport and effect of the eight or nine life insurance laws recently enacted by the United States Legislature. It is of course impossible to give in these pages even the briefest summary of the laws or of the criticisms offered.

From a statement published by the Irrigation Department showing the **areas leased for irrigation in Bengal** up to the end of April 1906, it is seen that 604,136 acres were leased in the year under report, as compared with 632,957 acres in the

year previous. The area under long term leases was 581,638 acres, as compared with 604,195 acres in the year previous. The area of kharif crop under irrigation in the present year was 1,570 acres, as compared with 10,917 in the year previous.

The following statement shows the amount of **Home bills** paid in the three Presidencies during 1905-06.

Presidency.	Bills and Telegraphic Transfers paid for.	Produced in sterling.	Exchange (Gain).	Average rate of Exchange.
	₹ a. p.	£ s. p.	₹ a. p.	
Bengal .	27,00,80,278 0 4	18,064,161 0 11	7,32,137 10 8	16,043 pence.
Bombay .	15,25,23,238 13 7	10,199,041 14 6	4,62,387 0 5	16,048 pence.
Madras .	5,43,83,580 12 6	3,632,860 8 5	1,09,325 8 6	16,032 pence.
TOTAL .	47,69,87,097 10 5	31,896,063 3 10	13,03,850 3 7	16,043 pence.

The report on the **winter wheat crop of the United States** shows an improvement of 2 points in condition during April, bringing the average on May 1 up to 91 as compared with 92 on May 1st last year, and with 76 on the last ten years. The area under wheat, after deducting the portion winter killed, is given as 29,623,000 acres, or only about 241,000 acres less than the area of winter wheat reported as harvested last year. The indications, *therefore*, are that there will be another large winter-wheat crop, barring, of course, unexpected developments between now and harvest time, which is still a good way off. The winter-wheat crop last season amounted to 428,000,000 bushels, against 333,000,000 in 1904 and 400,000,000 bushels in 1903.

Replies have been received by Mr. Wolf, the **Insurance Commissioner, San Francisco State,** in response to his **appeal to the insurance departments of other States.** The replies indicate a certain amount of **co-operation in compelling insurance companies to deal fairly with policy-holders** who suffered by the San Francisco disaster. The State Controller of Nevada writes that he will revoke the licences held in Nevada by all *companies who resort to technicalities to evade* just claims. He argues that owners of houses which were destroyed by dynamite in order to stay the conflagration are entitled to the insurance money in the same way as owners of houses which were actually burned.

The text of the **"Bill to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1894,"** brought in by Mr. Ellis and backed by Mr. Morley, has been printed (Bill 186). The following explanatory memorandum is prefixed:—

The Indian Railways Act of 1894 enables Indian railway companies, on certain conditions, to pay interest on their share capital out of capital during construction.

By section 9 of the Act, the duration of the Act extends to December 31st, 1905, and to the end of the then next Session of Parliament, and no longer, unless Parliament shall otherwise determine.

It appears desirable that the Act should be made permanent, and the accompanying Bill has been prepared with this object.

In a country where in some seasons **the quick setting of cement** is of great importance, the following extract will be read with interest, though the use of soda in this connection has been heard of before.

"In making cement roofing tiles it is sometimes found that they take a long time to set or harden. A maker of roofing tiles who had considerable trouble with the cement in this way observed that a plasterer *facing* a wall with cement put a handful of soda into the mixing box before using the cement. This, he stated, was for the purpose of making the cement set quickly. The tile maker experimented himself, since which time he has added a handful of soda to each sack of cement and has had no further trouble with slow setting. It has not yet been proved, however, what the effect of the soda will be upon the quality and durability of the cement in the course of time."

The **Java** correspondent of the *Home and Colonial Mail,* commenting on the **sugar industry** of the Island, says the area planted under sugarcane was slightly larger in 1905 than in the year previous, but the yield was less, owing to unfavourable weather. Progress was noticeable in the endeavours made to eradicate the many diseases to which sugarcane is liable, the success in great measure being due to the process of careful selection. The best results were again obtained from the seedlings, the popularity of which increases annually. The foreign cane has fallen into disfavour, and is likely soon to be entirely abandoned, while the indigenous cane, although yielding good results, proves expensive *through having to be nurtured* in gardens in the hills. As foreshadowed, the profits made by mills on the 1904 working were in most cases expended on new machinery, and the majority of the mills in Java may now be said to be up to date as far as installation is concerned.

The following is an extract from the report of the Consul on the **Trade of Cyclades** for the year 1905 and deals with **imports from India.** Attention may be drawn to the statement that the cotton

yarn is required for dyeing and that whiteness is not of primary importance:—

"The imports from India last year were more satisfactory than in 1904, consisting of 7,500 bags of rice from Rangoon, 5,000 bags of which were glazed in Europe; 8,500 dry buffalo-hides from Penang, Singapore and Rangoon, 25,000 empty sacks from Calcutta; 200 cases of gum alivanum; and 20 cases of indigo from Bombay. The German aniline dyes have reduced the demand for Indian indigo to a low ebb. Local factory owners have had their attention drawn to Indian cotton yarns and a trial order has already been given for 1,500 lbs. As these yarns are required for dyeing, their whiteness is consequently not a point of primary importance; and I am informed that if they are found suitable, the price being 20 per cent. cheaper than European produce, they will probably supersede the letter in course of time."

When Mr. Asquith announced the **reduction of** 1*d.* in the **tea duty** (from 6*d.* per lb. to 5*d.*) it was, says the *Times,* asserted in trade circles that this would make no **difference in the price charged to the consumer,** as the reduction was too small to allow of its being split up into fractional parts. It is, however, already apparent that competition among retailers may have the effect of reducing the prices—as regards the cheapest qualities especially—even to a greater extent than 1*d.* a lb., notwithstanding the decision of a number of large distributors to keep up quotations and "improve the quality," a euphemism for retaining most of the reduction in duty for themselves. It happens that the market value of the cheapest tea is 1*d.* per lb. less than it was a year ago, and there is an immense quantity of it at present in the bonded warehouses worth from 3½*d.* to 4*d.* per lb. With the 5*d.* duty this tea can be retailed at 10*d.* per lb., as compared with the hitherto lowest quotation of 1*s.* per lb. The reduction of 2*d.* is made up by the 1*d.* duty and the fall in market value of 1*d.* Until this large stock is so retailed at a price to stimulate consumption by the poorest classes it will remain in bond. Our market reports show how difficult it is to dispose of this cheap tea, except at such a reduction in price. Retail vendors have in many places already shown their appreciation of the possibility of attracting trade by a cut in prices.

The 23rd report of the Comptroller-General of **Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks** (U. K.) with appendices, for the **year 1905,** has been issued as a *Parliamentary paper* (167). It affords interesting evidence of the trend of inventive genius during the year. It is stated that considerable development was made in speed-gear and wheel tires of motor-cars. There was a remarkable falling off in all other forms of locomotion, including railways and tramways, road vehicles, cycles, and flying machines, while the number of applications relating to harness and saddlery decreased nearly 30 per cent. On the other hand, there was a striking increase, to the extent of 81 per cent., in the number of inventions relating to railway signalling largely *due to the unfortunate occurrence of* several "tunnel mysteries" during the year. It is strange that none of this increase was shared by the allied subject of wireless telegraphy, which during the same period showed a considerable falling-off. Much attention was directed to turbines, as in the previous year, and there was a growth of 24 per cent. in the number of inventions for pumps. A striking development in both gas and oil lamps was due mainly to improvements in the construction and application of incandescent mantles. The number of applications relating to arc and incandescent electric lamps decreased considerably, although the number of mercury vapour lamps continued to increase. The subjects of torpedoes and ship propulsion received increased attention from inventors.

The prices of opium in the Calcutta market during the week ending 9th June 1906 were, per chest, as follows:—

Behar opium—Rs. 1,329; 1,332; 1,324; 1,320; 1,314; 1,320; 1,320.

Benares opium—Rs. 1,229; 1,230; 1,250; 1,245; 1,240; 1,245; 1,245.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 6th and 7th sales of 1906—Rs. 1,329; 1,332; 1,327; 7th sale—Rs. 1,322; 1,316; 1,322; 1,322.

China market, Hongkong (exchange Rs. 157 to 160 per 100 dollars).

Behar—$ 860; 860; 855; 865; 865; 870; 870.

Shanghai (exchange Rs. 216½ to 218½ per 100 Taels), two sales, one on 4th of 615 Taels; the other on 6th of 625 Taels.

Benares—two sales in the Hongkong market on 6th and 8th of $ 800 and $ 805, respectively; while two sales, Shanghai, on 4th and 6th of 585 Taels and 590 Taels, respectively.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending 2nd June were—for A class (season 1905-06) on May 27th and 28th Rs. 1,400, and on May 29th to June 2nd Rs. 1,345 to 1,360; for B class (season 1904-05) on May 27th and 28th Rs. 1,450 to 1,600, and on May 29th to June 2nd, Rs. 1,420 to 1,550; class C, old (season 1903-04) on May 27th and 28th, Rs. 1,750, on May 29th to June 2nd, Rs. 1,700. The latest China prices were for new classes (A and B) Rs. 1,520 to 1,560; old (class C) fetched at *Hongkong* Rs. 1,704 and at *Shanghai* Rs. 1,715.

The statistical abstract of the Japanese Empire, which has just been received, is full of interest; and as the totals for earlier years are given

it enables one to mark statistically certain of the effects of the war. The latest year covered by the statements is in some cases 1904, in others 1903; and it is therefore impossible to review all subjects on a par. One would have expected to find a decline in the areas under various food-grains in 1904 owing to the mobilisation; but the decline is less than 0·4 per cent. as compared with the average of the five previous years. In the production of tea the decline is one of 10½ per cent. In livestock (for which however the figures bring us only to the end of 1903), the number of cattle per 1,000 of population fell from an average of 33·3 to 30·5. The number of animals slaughtered, on the other hand, increased in 1903 by some 42 per cent as compared with the average of the five previous years; and one of the items under this head—"horses" to wit—increased from an average of 47,118 to 53,841. The statistics of the cotton spinning (power) in 1903 were reported sometime ago, but one point worth noticing is that a comparison of yarn production with cotton consumption as returned shows a wastage of slightly over 14 per cent. It is impossible to reproduce the interesting table of wages paid to various descriptions of employés; and it is recognised that the collection of correct figures in this matter makes one of the most difficult problems of the statistician. But the rise in the all-round level of remuneration in the course of the seven years recorded is very striking. The movement of Treasure shows, in 1904, a net exportation of Yen 73,849,202 as compared with a net importation of 8,806,270 in 1903 and of 30,132,376 in 1902. A review of the tables of general commerce, finance communications and so on would occupy more space than we can give. There is an excellent little map of Japan at the end of the volume with Formosa in a corner of the plate.

The Standing Committee of the House of Commons for Trade took up on the 21st of May, the consideration of the **Merchant Shipping Acts Amendment Bill,** a Government measure which embodies the recommendations of three committees, and makes important alterations in the law relating to passenger and emigrant ships. Clause I of the Bill, which applies the British load-line provision to all foreign ships while they are within any ports in the United Kingdom, was amended against the advice of the Government, the operation of the clause to foreign ships being extended to include them not only while they are in a British port, but also on all voyages with cargo to the United Kingdom. The mover of the amendment pointed out that while a foreign vessel could over-load in a foreign port to the full extent of her bunker capacity, so far as it was required, on the Homeward run, this was not the case with British ships, and this advantage might mean the difference between profit and loss on the voyage. The Government's contention was that there was no use in moving the amendment, as the Government were already endeavouring to try and arrive at a settlement of the question by international agreement, and the imposition of further obligations on foreigners might hamper the negotiations. With the assent of Government substantial alterations were made in Clause II, which prohibits the engagement of seamen in the United Kingdom who have an insufficient knowledge of English. In the first place the date on which this law would become operative was advanced, from December 31st, 1903, to December 31st, 1907. The prohibition of the Act were also extended to any port within the Home Trade limits—that is to say on the Continent of Europe—between the river Elbe and Brest. An effort was also made to try and strike out the words exempting lascars from the prohibition. This last amendment however failed. An amendment was also introduced relating to the statutary scale of food for seamen.

The following statement shows the quantity (in cwts.) of **cotton consigned to the United Kingdom** during the month ending 30th April 1906, compared with the corresponding period of 1905:—

Country whence consigned.	Month ending 30th April 1906.	Month ending 30th April 1905.	Increase (+) or Decrease (−) in 1906 compared with 1905.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
(A) Consigned from Foreign Countries—			
America . .	970,679	1,117,964	−147,285
Brazil . . .	49,794	10,547	+39,247
Egypt . . .	149,224	252,056	−102,832
Other countries .	8,212	6,048	+2,164
Total .	1,177,909	1,386,615	−208,706
(B) Consigned from places in the British Empire—			
East Indies . .	54,120	13,007	+41,113
British West Indies .	2,918	580	+2,338
British West Africa .	2,812	514	+2,298
British Central Africa	87	...	+ 87
British East Africa .	453	...	+453
British Guiana and Honduras.	2	...	+2
Canada . . .	180	2,030	−1,850
Other British Possessions.	24	...	+24
Total .	60,596	16,131	+44,465
GRAND TOTAL .	1,238,505	1,402,746	−164,241

Before a meeting of the London section of the Society of Chemical Industry on Monday evening, May 21st, Mr. A. Gordon Salamon, F.I.C., presiding, Professor Phillipe A. Guye (of Geneva) read a paper on the subject **of electro-chemical fixation of nitrogen.** Among those present were Sir William Ramsay, F.R.S., Dr. N. Caro (Berlin), Dr. Voelcker (Royal Agricultural Society), Dr. B. Dyer, Dr. Edward Divers, F.R.S., Dr. Mills, F.R.S., Professor Armstrong, F.R.S., Mr. C. Bingham, Mr. R. J. Friswell, Mr. W. F. Reid, Mr. O. Guttmann, and Mr. de Mosenthal. Lord Rayleigh and Dr. Ludwig Mond wrote regretting their inability to be present.

The author, who has devoted many years to the study of the subject, dealt with technical and commercial aspects of the problem, with a view to determining whether the industry about to be started was likely to prove a remunerative one, and if the Chilian nitrate deposits were actually threatened with the competition of atmospheric nitrogen. Statistics were quoted showing that the amount of nitric acid annually consumed in the manufacture of explosives, in the colour industry, in metallurgy, and for other purposes amounted to no less than 200,000 tons, and it was pointed out that in order to produce this amount by water-power, without reference to other means of energy for generating electricity, the whole water-power of Europe at present in sight would have to be harnessed for the purposes. If, therefore, the farmer was to receive the benefit of the new application of electricity, it would be necessary, in order to supply him with the vast quantity of nitrate required, to enlist another source of energy. As a result of a careful review of all the items of cost involved in the electro-chemical production of nitric acid in Switzerland and Norway, and taking the ascertained cost per kw. of the cheapest power available, the author arrived at the conclusion that nitric acid could be manufactured at a price about 30 per cent. below the cost of production of to-day based upon the present price of Chilian saltpetre. It was pointed out in the course of the discussion that in the event of competition it was possible to secure a further cheapening of the price of power by use of producer gas.

A Reuter Agency report from Sydney states that at the recent **New South Wales Wool Sales,** the price for scoured wools reached 2*s.* 2*d.* per pound, which is the record for the present season. The correspondent says that it may now be considered that the volume of last year's wool clip is fairly determined. It was foreshadowed that somewhere about 250,000 bales additional would be shipped as a result of last year's clip, and during the nine months ended March 31st the increase in the exports from Australia was 225,780 bales, of which 142,106 bales represented the larger shipments from New South Wales. Probably the June quarter will make good the difference. Wool-selling brokers in Sydney are priding themselves upon the amount of wool which has passed through the local sales this season. The quantity in nine months has reached 1,103,686 bales, showing an increase over the previous year's local sales of 226,176 bales, and the final quarter may add to the total slightly. A portion of this wool again appears at the London sales, but much more is shipped direct to manufacturers, and the London series suffer. Some London wool circulars urge that the London sales pay the grower better, but the local brokers maintain quite the contrary. Probably in the long run there is not much difference. But there can be small doubt that the foreign buyers—Continental, American, and recently Japanese—have made the Australian markets what they are to-day. It pays them to have their buyers in Australia and ship direct, and to some extent this has forced the home buyers to participate, because otherwise the foreign manufacturers would secure the pick of the wools. Another factor is that the local grower gets him money quicker at the local sales, and if he is dissatisfied with the price bid here he has a second string, and can ship to London. As a result the local sales this year have beaten all previous records, because the buyers were eager, and the growers, satisfied with the prices secured. On a falling market it is quite possible the London market would secure larger proportion. It is quite likely that the 1906 wool clip will show a further addition of 200,000 or 250,000 bales, and it is proposed to extend the length of the season's sales in Australia instead of crowding them into four months.

At a meeting of the Royal Society held on the 17th May a paper was read by Dr. W. N. Shaw, Director of the Meteorological Office, entitled "An Apparent **Periodicity in the Yield of Wheat** for Eastern England, 1885-1905." The conclusions presented in the paper were developed in a course of researches begun some time ago as to the relation between the weather and the growth and yield of the cereal crops in England. One of the earliest results of the inquiry pointed conclusively to the existence of an intimate relation between the rainfall of the autumn months and the wheat harvest of the following year. Working entirely upon a meteorological basis, Dr. Shaw computed that in the eastern counties of England the yield of wheat in 1905 would amount to 31·9 bushels per acre. The returns of the Board of Agriculture issued at the end of the season showed that the actual yield was 32·0 bushels. Dr. Shaw has since found distinct evidence of a periodicity in the yield of wheat in the eastern counties of England. Dealing with the statistics for the 21 years, 1885 to 1905, in the middle of the period there was one year, 1895, with a deficient yield, followed by another year, 1896, with an abundant harvest, a mean of the two corresponding very closely with the average for the whole 21 years. Regarding this central two-year period as the standpoint, he found that, taking all pairs of years distant by two from the standpoint,

a deficiency in the one year was compensated for by an excess in the other. Thus, in 1893, distant by two from 1895, there was a deficiency, while in 1898, distant by two from 1896, there was an excess, a similar compensatory result being shown by the years 1891 and 1900, and, in fact, throughout the entire series of years. A result even more remarkable is shown in an apparent periodicity of 11 years in the yield of wheat, not always as regards actual bulk, but certainly in relation to the average. Thus, in 1885, and 11 years later, in 1896, the yield was above the average; in 1886 and 1897 it was deficient; in 1887 and 1898, and again in 1888 and 1899, it was abundant, and so on, without a single exception throughout the whole 21 years dealt with in the discussion. Unless the eleven-year rule breaks down, the yield of wheat this year in the eastern counties should be below the average.

The Report of the British Consul at Philadelphia for the year 1905 contains the following account of a new method of **handling steel and iron** by means of a powerful **electro-magnet**:—

"A novel application of electricity in the handling of iron and steel is that which is shown in the lifting magnets made by a firm in Cleveland, Ohio. This form of magnet consists of a large iron disc supported by chains which may be fastened to the hoop of a derrick or crane block. To the top of the disc is applied an electric plug device connected with insulated wires which by an ingenious auxiliary pulley arrangement are led to a controller at some convenient point at the base of the derrick or in the operator's cab of the crane. This disc is lowered over the material to be lifted and the current turned on, and in this way enormous loads of material may be gathered together and held by the magnet as long as the current remains connected. Different forms of the disc are made for handling pig iron, heavy melting stock, such as crop ends, butts, steel risers, small castings, tin scrap, whether loose or in bales, shearing scrap, rod scrap, bolts, nuts, punches, rivet spikes, rail ends, machine borings, flats, sheets, and in fact almost any form of iron or steel which affords a surface sufficiently large for the magnet to act upon it. When the material has been carried to the place where it is desired to land it the current is turned off and the magnet at once releases the load.

"By the use of one of these magnets a car containing 61,000 lbs. of heavy crop ends, many individual pieces weighing over 500 lbs. was recently unloaded in an hour and a half. It was necessary in this work to lift each load carried by the crane 15 feet in order to clear a box car and then to trolley it 20 feet and carry it 75 feet down the yard. In this way at least one hour of the time consumed was occupied in crane travel, so that the actual time of lifting and dropping of the load was not more than 30 minutes, making the average amount lifted and dropped per minute over 2,000 lbs.

"Scrap tin has always been an ugly form of material to handle satisfactorily, but by the use of this device it may be disposed of as rapidly and as easily as heavier stock.

"The **design of the magnet** is the result of a number of years of experiment. The case is a heavy casting made of such a grade of steel that when the circuit of the energising coil is opened the magnet drops its load instantly. The energising coil is form wound, heavily insulated and treated with a special vacuum impregnating process which insures it against grounding or shortcircuiting. The coil is completely closed and protected by the case, which is ribbed in order to provide for the rapid reduction of the heat of the coil. The magnet is moisture-proof and is so heavily constructed that it cannot be injured by rough usage."

The Military Supply Department have recently been enquiring into the **question of chrome tanning**, and the possibility of using such chemically tanned leathers for harness and accoutrements. Major Forestier Walker, and after him Major H. F. Vanderzee, R.A., were deputed to visit tanneries in the United Kingdom, on the Continent, and in the United States, to examine various process of chrome tanning on the spot and to report upon the suitability of chrome tanned leathers for the purposes above mentioned. Both officers reported to the Government of India. Their reports are interesting, but a perusal of them makes it very clear that chrome tanned leathers are not likely, despite certain advantages possessed by them, to replace leather manufactured after the older method, and that bark tanning will not be superseded yet awhile by any chemical process. This opinion is held not only in India and the United Kingdom but in the United States, where, had the material been properly marketable, it would long since have driven bark tanned leather into the back ground. The process employed in chromed tanning saves much time, and confers special and valuable properties on the leather, such as resistance to heat and wet, and the power of standing great strains, when specially prepared, for belting. It is, however, considered to be too stretchy, too much like India rubber, and does not dress well, failing therefore, to earn the approbation of harness and boot makers. At the same time good leather can be produced by "combined tannage," that is to say, the hide is tanned chemically, and then finished by being treated with bark liquor and specially filled. Major Vanderzee's report contains some items of information especially interesting to India. In the opinion of Mr. Seymour Jones and Dr. Gordon Parker, two of the leading authorities on hides and tanning in the United Kingdom, leather manufactured by the combined tanning process, though firm and well filled, was not "meaty" enough to stand the Indian climate. Major Vanderzee, writing on East India kips, reports that Messrs. Paul and Sons, of Leeds, do a big trade in these. The kips are received half-tanned, and are re-tanned and then dressed as uppers for black boots. Messrs. Robson and Sons, of Oshawa, a manufacturing town, 40 miles from Toronto, informed him however that they had given up using East India kips, owing to these having deteriorated in quality. Major Vanderzee has an interesting note on the use of Oxalic Acid in cleaning the insides of hides after tanning. He found Oxalic Acid being used freely in many places in the United Kingdom and the United States for this purpose, and says the leather seemed to suffer no injury. His report also throws an interesting sidelight on the methods of the leather trade in the United States. Mr. Currie, Managing Director of the firm of Smith and Worthington, one of the biggest and best makers of harness and saddlery in the United States, complained bitterly of the way leather of all kinds was doctored, and got up to hide defects. He said that he had recently—early in 1905—been importing a lot of his leather from Germany, and made the statement that he could import good English oak bark tanned leather, pay 40 to 50 per cent. duty, and freight on it, make it into bridles, reins, etc., and still sell at a profit in the States.

The following passages relating to the **Iron and steel trade in the United States** are taken from the report of the British Consul on the Trade and Commerce of the Consular District of Philadelphia in 1905:—

"The production of pig iron during 1905 was phenomenal. All tonnage records in this direction have been very largely exceeded. In 1904 it was estimated that the maximum capacity of the various plants in the United States, including the additional furnaces which were then approaching completion would amount to about 21,250,000 tons per annum.

"The total production for 1904 amounted to about 16,575,000 tons. This was below the record of 1902 and 1903, of which the pig iron production was about 18,000,000 tons. In 1905 the production was 23,000,000 tons, a gain of 5,000,000 tons or 28 per cent. over the best previous record and of 6,500,000 tons, almost 40 per cent. over 1904.

"To be correct, statistics show that the production of coke and anthracite pig iron in the United States in 1905 was 22,585,000 tons. Adding to this 345,000 tons for the production of charcoal furnaces gives the total of 22,930,000 tons.

"A statement of the capacity of the coke and anthracite furnaces on January 1 and December 1, 1905, shows the weekly capacity of such furnaces on January 1 to be 297,238 tons as compared with 293,451 tons on December 1 (Philadelphia district).

"In 1905 the mines of the United States produced 44,000,000 tons of iron ore, which was 15,000,000 tons more than 1904. The output of the Lake Superior mines alone increased 12,000,000 tons, and all the other States only increased 3,000,000 tons.

"The production of **pig iron** in the United States, during 1905, as already stated, amounted to 23,000,000 tons. Pennsylvania produced 10,500,000 tons Ohio 4,500,000 tons, Illnois 2,000,000 tons, Alabama 1,600,000 tons and New York 1,200,000 tons. A remarkable feature of the iron industry is that while three-fourths of the ore is obtained from the Lake Superior mines, yet nearly three-fourths of the pig iron is made in Pennsylvania and Ohio and none of it in the Lake Superior regions.

"This is due to the fact that it has been found cheaper to transport the ore to localities in the coal regions than it would be to take the coal to the ore regions. By means of large **barges** the ore is brought down from the Lake Superior mines to Cleveland and other Lake ports, and thence by rail to the iron centres in Eastern Ohio and Western Pennsylvania, for instance, Youngstown and Pittsburg. The largest barges used for these purposes in 1905 held over 12,000 tons; in this way millions of tons could be handled at a very low rate. Cheap and abundant supplies of coal and coke near Pittsburg have made that city the largest iron centre. Pennsylvania produced in 1905 as much pig iron as Germany and more than the United Kingdom.

"About 1·87 tons of ore are used in the manufacture of 1 ton of pig iron, and fully 80,000,000 tons of material of all kinds are used in the production of 23,000,000 tons of pig iron.

"In 1900 the **value of all the iron and steel** and their various products made in the United States was estimated at 1,793,000,000 dol. (£358,600,000).

"The iron industries of the United States are remarkably concentrated. Birmingham (Alabama), Wheeling (West Virginia) and St. Louis (Missouri) are the only cities south of the Potomac: and Ohio and west of the Mississippi which have an output of iron and steel foundry and machine shop products of over 4,000,000 dol. (£800,000) or of hardware of over 700,000 dol. (£140,000). It may be noticed that the iron and steel industry is for the most part far from the source of supply of the iron ore.

"Although the United States leads in the production of iron and steel and in the total value of their

products, it only ranks third as an exporter of this class of merchandise. The United Kingdom leads exporting 165,000,000 dol. (£33,000,000) worth in 1904 and 185,000,000 dol. (£37,000,000) worth in 1905; Germany is second, exporting 128,000,000 dol. (£25,6000,000) worth in 1904; United States is third, exporting 70,000,000 dol. (£14,000,000) in 1904 and about the same amount in 1905 France is fourth, exporting about 30,000,000 dol. (£6,000,000) in 1904."

SUGAR INDUSTRY IN INDIA.

OPENINGS IN BENGAL.

One of the principal difficulties encountered by persons disposed to interest themselves in the development of the **sugar industry in India** is that of determining where the **best openings for the enterprise** are to be found. Such an opening depends on various factors, but chief among them are abundance of suitable raw material and the existence of an adequate and convenient market.

Although a certain amount of information has been collected regarding the quality of the sugar-cane available in certain districts, a general enquiry concerning all districts is impracticable and would be superfluous. Not only is there already sufficient work for the district staffs on which would fall the burden of such an enquiry so far as it related to agriculture; but the processes of ascertaining the sugar value of a given description of cane grown in a given environment demand patience and expert knowledge, both practical and scientific.

It would be no less difficult to make selection of districts in which a market was to be found and to show ground for one's selection when made. It must necessarily be left to the individual to go into the details of such a project as he may have in mind to satisfy himself, by local enquiry, that the elements of profit are present and, if necessary, to modify his schemes to meet such conditions as he encounters.

But it is possible for a Government office to furnish at all events the crude statistical data that may enable the manufacturer to restrict his investigations to those regions in which there exists a *primâ facie* case for enquiry. With the intention of doing so, the appended statement has been prepared. It relates only to Bengal; but it is intended that similar statements relating to the other principal sugarcane areas in India shall be prepared and issued as the other work of the Department permits.

Columns 2, 3 and 4 of the statement show for each district the total area, the area under sugar, and the proportion of the sugar area to the total area. This ratio is brought out because it may afford a rough indication of the suitability of the local conditions to the cultivation of sugar; but of course in any given case it might fail to do so, and for this reason specific verification would be called for.

Columns 5 to 9 give particulars that may afford an indication of the extent of the local market; for so long as beet-sugar can be landed in India as cheaply as at present it will be impossible for the local product to roam very far a-field for buyers. Column 5 gives the population of the district, and column 6 the number of inhabitants per acre—or, in other words, the density of the population. This of course is obtained by dividing the figures in column 5 by those in column 2; but it will be found interesting in certain cases to take column 3 (sugar area) to set down an equal number of tons of raw sugar as its produce (that being the estimate generally accepted), to reduce that quantity to pounds and to divide by the district population. In this way will be obtained a rough estimate of the number of pounds of local raw sugar available per head of population. Take any district at random—say, Bogra with 18,300 acres under sugar and a population of 854,533. Eighteen thousand and three hundred tons=lbs. 40,992,000: so that in Bogra there would seem to be a potential supply of nearly 48 lbs. of raw sugar per head of the population, and apparently no sugar factory in the district. Column 7 shows the considerable sugar factories where they exist; while columns 8 and 9 show in each case the neighbouring large towns and their respective populations, seeing that it is to towns and large villages that a sugar factory in a sparsely populated country must look for the mainstay of its business.

Total area, area under Sugar, and population of each District in Bengal (including Eastern Bengal.)

Districts.	Total area of Districts.	Area under sugar.	Ratio % of col. 3 to col. 2.	Population of Districts according to last Census.	Population per acre.	Number of Sugar Factories in each District.	Neighbouring large towns.	
							Name.	Population.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	acres.	acres.						
Bardwan	1,720,960	26,000	1·5	1,532,475	0·89	...	Bardwan	35,022
Bankura	1,677,440	12,800	0·8	1,116,411	0·66	...	Bankura	20,737
Birbhum	1,121,280	8,900	0·8	902,280	0·8	...	...	...
Midnapur	3,319,040	18,400	0·6	2,789,114	0·84	...	Midnapur	33,140
Hoogly	1,088,640	14,300	1·3	1,899,796	1·74	...	Hoogly Serampore Howrah	29,383 44,451 157,594
24-Parganas (a)	3,100,160	9,100	0·3	2,078,359	0·67	1	Calcutta and Suburbs Naihati and Bhatpara	1,026,987 45,293
Khulna	3,049,542	17,600	0·6	1,253,043	0·41	...	...	...
Nadia	1,787,520	6,800	0·4	1,667,491	0·93	5	Krishnagar Santipur	24,547 26,898
Jessore	1,872,000	28,400	1·5	1,813,155	0·96	10	...	...
Murshidabad	1,371,520	14,200	1·0	1,333,184	0·97	...	Berhampur	24,397
Dinajpur	2,525,440	25,000	1·0	1,567,080	0·62	...	...	...
Rajshahi	1,659,520	18,500	1·1	1,462,407	0·88	...	Rampur Boalia	21,589
Rangpur	2,235,520	22,300	1·0	2,154,181	0·96	1	...	...
Bogra	869,760	18,300	2·1	854,533	0·98	...	...	...
Pabna	1,176,960	4,200	0·4	1,420,461	1·2	...	Sirajganj	23,114
Darjeeling	744,960	200	0·03	249,117	0·33	...	...	...
Jalpaiguri	1,895,680	4,700	0·2	787,380	0·41	...	...	...
Dacca	1,780,480	19,800	1·1	2,649,522	1·48	...	Dacca Narainganj	90,542 24,472
Faridpur	1,459,840	25,000	1·7	1,937,646	1·32	...	...	...
Backerganj	2,906,880	18,500	0·6	2,291,752	0·78	...	...	...
Mainmensingh	4,052,480	20,600	0·5	3,915,068	0·96	...	...	...
Tippera	1,599,360	7,900	0·5	2,117,991	1·32	...	...	...
Noakhali	1,052,160	600	0·1	1,141,728	1·08	...	...	...
Chittagong	1,594,815	9,000	0·6	1,353,250	0·84	...	Chittagong	22,140
Patna	1,328,000	20,000	1·5	1,624,985	1·22	...	Patna Bihar Dinajpur	134,785 45,063 33,699
Gaya	3,015,680	30,400	1·0	2,059,933	0·68	...	Gaya	71,288
Shahabad	2,798,720	34,100	1·2	1,962,696	0·70	4	Arrah Sassaram	46,170 23,644
Darbhanga	2,142,690	16,000	0·7	2,912,611	1·36	...	Darbhanga	66,244
Muzaffarpur	1,942,400	9,200	0·5	2,754,790	1·42	1	Muzaffarpur Hajipur	45,617 21,398
Saran	1,711,286	45,800	2·7	2,409,509	1·41	1	...	...
Champaran	2,259,840	10,500	0·5	1,790,463	0·79	7	Bettiah	24,696
Monghyr	2,510,080	7,200	0·3	2,068,804	0·82	...	Monghyr	35,880
Bhagalpur	2,704,640	64,900	2·4	2,088,953	0·77	...	Bhagalpur	75,760
Purnea	3,196,153	7,000	0·2	1,874,794	0·59	...	...	...
Malda	1,215,360	3,100	0·3	884,030	0·73	...	...	...
Sonthal Parganas	3,500,800	13,600	0·4	1,809,737	0·52	...	...	...
Cuttack	2,338,560	4,000	0·2	2,062,758	0·88	...	Cuttack	51,364
Balasore	1,334,368	2,000	0·1	1,071,197	0·80	...	Balasore	20,880
Angul	1,075,840	2,300	0·2	191,911	0·18	...	...	...
Puri	1,599,360	2,500	0·2	1,017,284	0·64	...	Puri	49,384
Hazaribagh	4,493,440	35,600	0·8	1,177,961	0·26	...	...	...
Ranchi	4,561,920	300	0·1	1,187,925	0·26	...	Ranchi	25,970
Palamau	3,144,960	4,200	0·1	619,600	0·19	...	...	...
Manbhum	2,654,080	12,000	0·5	1,301,364	0·49	...	...	...
Singhbhum	2,490,240	1,000	0·04	613,579	0·25	...	...	...
Total	97,680,374	676,800	0·7	73,772,308	0·75	30	...	...

(a) Excluding Calcutta.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

EXCERPTS FROM PROCEEDINGS, KARACHI.

Admixture in Indian Wheat.

Read copy of a letter, dated 16th May 1906, from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to the Director of Agriculture, Bengal, on the subject of the adulteration of Indian Wheat and of the measures which should be taken to secure the export of cleaner grain.

Resolution.—The Department of Commerce and Industry to be informed with reference to the conclusion of the Chamber's letter of the 30th April last that in Karachi "impurities" mean dirt, oil-seeds, chaff, straw, and foreign matter other than food grains such as barley, gram, pulse, etc. The attention of the Department also to be drawn to the proportion which Karachi's wheat export bears to those from other Indian ports. Copies of the correspondence to be sent to the Bengal and Bombay Chambers of Commerce.

Curtailment of the free time allowed for undelivered inward goods at the Karachi City Station.

Read letter No. 16982, dated 23rd May 1906-from the District Traffic Superintendent, North-Western Railway, Karachi, intimating that with effect from 15th June 1906, the period during which inward goods may lie at Karachi city free of wharfage will be reduced from 48 hours to 36 hours counting from midnight of the day on which they are unloaded. At the expiration of that period besides incurring wharfage charges goods will be entirely at the risk of the owner.

Resolution.—To be acknowledged, circulated and recorded.

Existing anomaly in the charges for Urgent and Ordinary telegrams.

Read letter No. 5371-T., dated 23rd May 1906, from the Director-General of Telegraphs, stating in reply to the Chamber's letter No. 339, dated 30th April 1906, that the question regarding the anomaly in the charges for Inland telegrams has already been referred to the Government of India.

Resolution.—To be recorded.

Change in the system of registration of the sea-borne trade.

Read letter, dated 22nd May 1906, from the Chief Collector of Customs in Sind, intimating that Government have decided to make a change in the system of registration of sea-borne trade and that for the present there will be a double registration of such trade, imports being recorded as at present as well as according to the country whence consigned, and exports as at present and also according to the country of final destination. The Collector forwards 50 spare copies of the instruction drawn up by Government as to the manner of preparing Bills of Entry and Shipping Bills, and requests that the same may be given effect to forthwith.

Resolution.—To be acknowledged, circulated and recorded.

Lack of uniformity in weights and measures.

Read letter, dated 19th May 1906, from the Secretary, Upper India Chamber of Commerce, Cawnpore, forwarding a tabulated statement setting forth the very considerable lack of uniformity in the weights and measures in the United Provinces, and enquiring whether this Chamber would support a representation to Government regarding the undesirable condition of weights and measures throughout India.

Resolution.—The Committee fully recognise the inconveniences referred to, and are quite ready to support a representation to Government aiming at uniformity in weights and measures. The Committee are of opinion, however, that it would be best to advocate the introduction of the metric system, rather than the English system of weights and measures.

Assessment of Income Tax.

Read letter, dated 26th May 1906, from the Secretary, Madras Chamber of Commerce, forwarding for the information of the Chamber, copy of a letter addressed by his Chamber to the Government of Madras with reference to the action of the income-tax assessors in imposing in certain cases an arbitrary percentage on the year's turnover instead of determining the actual profits in the usual manner, and enquiring whether this Chamber have experienced similar difficulties and whether they are prepared to join in a representation to the Government of India.

Resolution.—The Secretary, Madras Chamber of Commerce, to be informed that the Committee have not had any cases, such as that referred to, brought to their notice.

Tare of Sugar Bags.

Read letter, dated 2nd June 1906, from Messrs. Finlay, Muir & Co. referring to the general custom of allowing a tare of 4 lbs. per bag when weighing over Continental Sugar and stating that lately refiners have been using much lighter bags than formerly and it is therefore clear if sellers continue to allow a tare of 4 lbs. per bag, every shipment will show a very considerable shortage. Messrs. Finlay, Muir & Co. suggest that some concerted action be taken by Import Houses to get this matter put on a satisfactory basis and thus avoid unnecessary loss.

Resolution.—To be referred to a Sub-Committee for favour of early report.

Scarcity of rolling-stock on the North Western Railway.

Read correspondence and telegrams between the Chamber and the Manager, North Western Railway, Lahore, regarding the scarcity of rolling-stock for the movement of the wheat crop, and the wheat storage capacity of Karachi. Also read letter, dated 1st June 1906, pointing out that the daily arrivals of wheat into Karachi are still very unsatisfactory and that this state of affairs has completely disorganised the trade of the Port. It is suggested that a strong representation be made to the Government of India, pointing out how the trade of the port is paralysed through the inability of the North Western Railway to supply sufficient wagons for the wheat traffic. Also read telegrams from the Manager, North Western Railway dated 4th and 5th instant, stating that in absence of accidents the Railway can put 180,000 tons into Karachi in June.

Resolution.—The Manager, North Western Railway, to be thanked for his telegram of date, stating that the Railway can deliver 180,000 tons of wheat in Karachi during the current month. In view of his letter No. 729-F of the 5th April last the Chamber had expected a higher figure, and steamer tonnage had been engaged accordingly. The Committee trust that the figures now given will be exceeded, if possible, and that the management of the North Western Railway will always give the Chamber the very earliest information of any changes in the situation which may adversely affect the carrying capacity of the Railway in the direction of Karachi. The question of addressing Government to be deferred pending the collection of further information.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

THE *Board of Trade Journal*, published on the 24th May, in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations, gives particulars about :—

CYPRUS.—Proposed and Revised Export Duties on Raisins, Wine, etc.

DUTCH EAST INDIES.—Tariff Revision.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.—Customs Decisions.

NEW ZEALAND.—Agricultural Pest Act, 1903; Prohibitions.

NATAL.—Importation of Cattle from Madagascar prohibited.

PROTECTORATE OF SOUTHERN NIGERIA.—Import Duties on Spirits. Removal of Prohibition of Exportation Cotton-Seed. Free Importation of West African Produce.

UGANDA PROTECTORATE.—Firearms Regulations.

MAURITIUS.—Prohibition of Importation of Live Stock from Réunion.

EGYPT BULGARIA.—Provisional Commercial Arrangement.

RUSSIA.—Decree respecting Spare Parts of Machinery and Apparatus. Prolongation of the Free Admission of Certain Articles.

FRANCE.—Exhibits for International Exhibition of Photography.

FRENCH WEST AFRICAN COLONIES.—Additions to Free List.

SPAIN.—Rate of Exchange for Adjustment of Customs Duties Payable in gold.

SERVIA.—Duty on Cotton Yarns.

ABYSSINIA.—Customs Duties. Import Duties. Export Duties.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.—Sufficiency of Protests. Duty on Artificial Silk. Transportation of Dutiable Goods without Appraisement. Amendment to Quarantine Regulations. Special Quarantine Regulations for Fruit Vessels. Regulations respecting the Importation and Inspection of Tea. Customs Decisions.

BRAZIL.—Importation of Goods bearing labels in Portuguese.

We give the following particulars of changes **interesting to Indian Trade :—**

PROTECTORATE OF SOUTHERN NIGERIA.

Prohibition of Exportation of Cotton-Seed—Removal of.

The exportation of "Cotton Seed" from the Protectorate of Southern Nigeria was prohibited from the 1st March 1905. A further Proclamation has been issued which repeals from the 18th January 1906.

UGANDA PROTECTORATE.

Firearms Regulations.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the "*Official Gazette of the East Africa and Uganda Protectorates*," dated 1st April 1906, which contains the "Uganda Arms Ordinance, 1906" (No. 5 of 1906), laying down the regulations to be observed respecting the importation, storage and sale of firearms, etc., in the Uganda Protectorate.

The Ordinance, which was enacted by the Acting Commissioner for the Uganda Protectorate on 10th March last, provides, *inter alia* that—

All firearms or ammunition introduced into the Protectorate at any port shall be deposited at the cost, risk and peril of the owner in a public warehouse, and may not be withdrawn, except in accordance with a permit in writing signed by a Sub-Commissioner.

Before a permit for withdrawal for use in the Protectorate is granted, every firearm or part thereof, and every package of ammunition is to be stamped and registered provided this has not already been done in the East Africa Protectorate.

A registration fee of 1 rupee is to be paid for stamping and registering each firearm, part of firearm, or case of ammunition.

Provision is also made in the Ordnance for the introduction of the arms and ammunition by land by travellers, persons accompanying caravans, and Europeans leading expeditions into the Protectorate from adjacent territories. Persons possessing firearms, who are not provided with a licence under the Game Regulations or the Bird Protection Regulations, 1901, are to pay a "gun tax" of 3 rupees per annum, payable on the day the firearm is withdrawn from the public warehouse.

A special licence from the Commissioner is required for persons either residing in or passing through the Protectorate, to possess, use or carry, any cannon or machine gun.

FRENCH WEST AFRICAN COLONIES.

Additions to Free List.

A Frech Presidential Decree, dated 2nd May 1906, has been issued adding raw rubber, raw gum, copal, and ground nuts to the list of articles which may be imported into the French Possessions in West Africa free of duty.

ABYSSINIA.

Customs Duties.

A Supplement to the *Moniteur Officiel du Commerce* of the 5th April, contains a report by the French Consul at Dirre-Daoua on the commercial situation in Abyssinia. From this it appears that no Customs legislation is at present in force in Abyssinia, and that imported merchandise is nominally liable to duties which have been fixed by various commercial treaties at a maximum of 8 per cent. *ad valorem* in practice, however, the duties are levied in accordance with the following tariff.

It is to be noted that goods entering Dirre-Daoua on which the duties are not paid there, and which are destined for Adis-Abeba, are liable on arrival to a duty of 10 per cent. instead of 8 per cent. Goods imported at Harrar which have paid duty there are liable to a fresh duty if sent from there to Adis-Abeba. This surtax amounts to 3 per cent. when the goods have been sold at Harrar.

Import Duties.

NOTE.—1 frassela = 16·8 kilogs. = 37lbs. 16 piastres = 1 thaler = 1*s.* 10*d.*

Articles.	Rate of Duty.	
	Frassela.	Piastres.
Sugar, soap, tobacco	Frassela	6
Pepper	,,	8
Rice	Sack	8
Flour	,,	12
Oil, alimentary	Doz. litres	24
Fish, large	Dozen	12
,, medium	,,	6
Candles	Packet of 8	0½
Petroleum	Case	8
Mineral essence	,,	12
Oil for lighting purposes	Cask	12
Boots and shoes, first quality	Pair	6
,, second quality	,,	4
,, third quality	,,	2
,, fourth quality	,,	1
Leggings, first quality	,,	4
,, second quality	,,	2
Cotton tissues	Piece	½ to 12
Silk tissues	Metre	1 to 4½
Cotton sheeting (Aboudjedid), ordinary quality.	20 pieces	138
Cotton sheeting (Aboudjedid), inferior quality.	,,	80
Abyssinian and Somali clothing	Piece	1
Blankets, first quality	,,	6
Thread	Packet	2 to 18
Silk twist	,,	8

EXPORT DUTIES.

The following duties are levied on merchandise exported :—

Articles.	Rate of duty.
Abyssinian coffee	Free.
Harrari coffee	8 per cent. *ad valorem.*
Wax	Frassela, 2½ thalers.
Civet, ivory	10 per cent *ad valorem.*
Gum	8 per cent *ad valorem.*
Goatskins	Twenty, 2½ thalers.
Hides	Lb., ¼ piastre.
Native butter	Frassela, 1 thaler.
Barley and doura	Sack, ½ thaler.
"Wars" (kind of henne)	8½ per cent *ad. valorem.*
Horses, mules, oxen	Each, 5 thalers.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The importation and inspection of Tea—Regulations Respecting.

A circular issued by the United States Treasury Department on the 22nd February last contains the regulations in force governing the importation and inspection of tea under the Act of 1897, entitled "An Act to prevent the importation of impure and unwholesome tea."

Article 19 of these Regulations contains a list of tea standards which have been selected by the Board of Tea Experts for testing teas imported into the United States during the present year.

CUSTOMS DECISIONS.

Articles.	Paragraph of the Tariff under which dutiable.	Rate of duty
Ground sesame seed, or sesame pulp, from which oil has not been extracted, but which is commercially known as sesame oil	626	Free.
Oil-cake meal, the residue resulting from extracting oil from nuts by hydraulic pressure, which usually remains in solid form and is not put to any further process of manufacture, even if it crumbles into the form of meal as the result of exposure or jarring, dutiable as oil-cake	625	Free.

THE MONSOON FORECAST.

The forecast of the probable character of the **South-west Monsoon rains of 1906**, prepared by Dr. Walker, Meteorological Reporter, and Director-General of Indian Observatories, has been published. It affords most interesting and instructive reading.

The first few paragraphs deal with the **methods** which have been **employed in the past** in preparing the forecast, as well as the difficulty in interpreting the information that is available, and the absence of data that are much to be desired, all of which must lead to inaccuracy in the result. The earliest predictions were chiefly based on the limited information of the snowfall reports, but it was recognised by Dr. Eliot in 1894 that Indian conditions alone were not sufficient to give reliable indications, and from that year a certain amount of marine information was employed. Owing, however, to the small number of years for which data were available satisfactory, comparisons with periods of similar conditions, could rarely be made, and it has only been lately that reliable deductions by statistical method have been possible, and these have led to results which are not what in all cases had been anticipated. Nothing, for instance, seems *à priori*, more probable than that heavy rain at Zanzibar or Seychelles in May, when the Monsoon passing over the Equator, should be a passage of an abundant Monsoon, yet experience shows that the exact opposite is the case. Again the natural inference that abnormally high pressure at Mauritius which is near to the source of the Monsoon currents is likely to impel the mosture laden air more strongly than usual towards India, now proves to be equally misleading. In the light of this freshly accumulated experience there has naturally been some change in the value allotted to the various factors on which the rainfall of the approaching Monsoon is presumed to depend.

The **data** which have been discussed in the **present memorandum**, and on which the forecast has been founded are :—(1) The influence of snowfall, (2) the influence of heavy rain in sub-equatorial regions, and (3) the influence of the pressure conditions. The snowfall data show that large accumulations of snow existed in the Western Himalayas at the end of April, almost equal in depth to those at the corresponding period last year, that snow fell to a very low elevation in the Kumaun Hills in April and May, and that there were excessive falls in parts of the Assam Himalayas. The rainfall data of Zanzibar and Seychelles show a large excess of rain in April at both stations, and at Zanzibar in May. It is well known that in general the air rises at the Equator and that rainfall is thereby caused in that neighbourhood. Such excess of rain would suggest increased ascensional movement, which would during the Monsoon period involve diminished continuity between the South-East Trades, south of the Equator and the Monsoon. Abnormally heavy rain at Zanzibar and Seychelles during the period of the Indian Monsoon should be associated with deficient rainfall in India. Finally, as regards the pressure conditions, the evidence is very conflicting, as the excess of pressure in equatorial regions this year is small in amount, and probably unimportant.

From the above data the following inferences are drawn as to the probable Monsoon rainfall of the present year :—

The most important features of the present year have been the heavy and late snowfall, associated as usual with excessive sub-equatorial rain, both at Zanzibar and Seychelles in April, and in May at the former station only. As is natural under these conditions, the northward progress of Monsoon has taken place much more slowly than is normal, and recent logs of ships suggest that it may be some time before the establishment of the rains is effected. These impressions are entirely corroborated by the reports from Egypt, where the rises of the Blue Nile and Sobat River have been delayed, and pressure conditions still appear somewhat unfavourable. As to the existence of unfavourable abnormality of the second type, the excess of pressure in the Indian Ocean, the direct evidence shows the present existence of a very slight amount, but the data from Chili suggest distinctly that pressure in general is likely to be favourable. The present conditions in the Indian Ocean have been described as resembling those of 1897, 1900 and 1901. The snowfall data are much like those of 1897, 1901 and 1905, and the sub-equatorial rainfall resembles 1901 closely, with 1897 and 1900 less closely. In all these years the Bay current was affected, as well as the Bombay current during June and part of July. On the whole 1901 seems to bear the closest resemblance.

The forecast for the South-west Monsoon of 1906 :—

(*a*) It appears likely that the Bay branch of the Monsoon will be somewhat late in establishing

itself, and weak during June and that the Arabian Sea branch will be more decidedly late and weak during that month, especially in the northern half of its field, *i.e.*, in the Punjab, the North West Frontier Province, Rajputana, Gujarat and the west of Central India. (*b*) In July it may be anticipated that the rainfall will be somewhat below normal, and that the deficiency, while roughly similar in distribution, will probably be less than in June. (*c*) As regards August and September there are no indications at present upon which any reliance can be placed, but if the snowfall of June and July is not more than usual, a material improvement seems probable. (*d*) On the whole there is reason to expect that the seasonal rainfall will not be appreciably smaller in the total amount than that of last year, which was, however, considerably below the normal.

WEATHER SUMMARY.

For the week ending the 9th June 1906.

During the period under review there was nearly general rain in Eastern Bengal and Assam, Bengal and Burma, light rain with a few duststorms and thunderstorms in the United Provinces, the Punjab, Kashmir and the Frontier Province. Rainfall was also general on the Circars and Malabar coasts, while a few thunderstorms had occurred in the North of the Bombay-Deccan and on the Konkan coast. The rainfall in Bengal had extended into Orissa : in this area as well as in Lower Bengal, the rainfall had been associated with Nor'-westers and thunderstorms. The principal amounts of rainfall were :—Cherra Poonjee 7·69″, Poona 3·82″, Mymensingh 3·02″, Moulmein 2·30″, Dinajpur 2·15″, Port Blair 2·03″, Dhubri 1·90″, Akyab 1·87″, Bhamo 1·81″, Purnea 1·76″, Sibsagar 1·75″, False Point 1·60″, Gopalpur 1·35″, Chittagong 1·32″, Maymo 1·30″, Silchar 1·12″.

Skies were moderately to heavily overcast in North-East India during the greater part of the week and temperature which was on the average 4° in excess at the beginning was in considerable defect at the end of the week except in Chota Nagpur. In Central India skies were lightly to moderately overcast, but in North-West India they were clear during the greater part of the week. Mean temperature was normal or in defect at the beginning, but from the 4th to the 7th it was above normal, the excess being large in the United Provinces. In the beginning of the week weather was practically rainless over the Peninsula, but on the 4th there were indications of disturbed conditions in the south of the Arabian Sea owing to an onflow of the monsoon and from this date until the 7th rainfall occurred daily on the Malabar coast. In the Deccan and Mysore, skies had been of the average moderately clouded and temperature considerably above normal.

The rainfall of the period from the 4th May to the 7th June was below the average over by far the greater part of the country. It was practically normal or in excess in only the Andamans, the Burma coast, the Delta of Bengal and the Subdivisions of Dinajpur, Burdwan, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad : the largest excess occurred in the Subdivision of Calcutta.

On the 3rd the barometer fell slowly over the north of the area under report, along the west of the Bay and in Lower Burma, and rose slowly over South-West Bengal. Pressure was above normal everywhere except along the Coromandel Coast. Wind velocity had not changed materially, and directions were cyclonic round the low pressure area near the Central Provinces. On the 4th the barometer rose slowly over the greater part of the area. Pressure was above normal everywhere north of Madras, the excess being greatest in North Bengal and Lower Bengal. The low pressure area to the north-west was moving westward or filling up and there was evidence of the existence of a low pressure area to the south of the Peninsula. Pressure was remarkably uniform over the centre of the Bay. On the 5th the barometer fell rapidly over North Bengal and slowly over East Bengal, Lower Burma and the Coromandel and Circars coasts. It rose slowly over Assam and the Orissa coast. It was generally above normal to the north of Madras. Wind velocity had generally diminished except at Saugor Island and Diamond Island. On the 6th, the barometer rose rapidly over East Bengal and slowly to rapidly over the coast of Lower Burma, Lower Bengal and North Bengal. It had remained steady over the west coast of the Bay and was apparently following to the west of the Andamans. Pressure was considerably above normal everywhere except on the west coast to the south of Madras. The excess was over 15 inches in some stations in East Bengal. Wind velocity was increasing in the north-west angle of the Bay, and directions had a distinct easterly tendency in Lower Burma and the Andamans. On the 7th, the barometer rose slowly to rapidly over Lower Bengal, North Bengal and the north-west of the area under report, remained steady along the west coast south of Gopalpur and fell slowly in Lower Burma. Pressure was abnormally high in Bengal and the United Provinces, the excess reaching nearly 2 inches at Burdwan and Berhampur. Winds had preserved their easterly tendency at the east of the Bay. Velocity was diminishing at the head of the Bay and increasing at Diamond Island. On the 8th, the barometer fell slowly over the north of the Bay. It rose slowly or remained steady elsewhere. Pressure was in considerable excess everywhere except at the west of the Bay, south of Madras. The excess was greatest over Bengal. On the 9th, the barometer fell slowly to the north-east of the area under report, rose slowly to the south of Madras and remained steady elsewhere. Pressure was above normal everywhere, the excess being greatest in North Bengal. The south-westerly winds appeared to be re-establishing themselves again along the Orissa coast, False Point, Puri and Gopalpur reporting 14, 30 and 18 miles an hour, respectively. Mean temperature rose slightly and was above normal by small amounts over practically the whole area. The sky was heavily clouded in North Bengal and moderately clouded in Burma, Madras and North Bihar : elsewhere it appeared to be clearing. Humidity changes had been irregular. The shallow low pressure area that had existed for some days in the Bay appeared to have drifted in a north-easterly direction into Burma. There was no indication of disturbed weather in the Bay.

TELEGRAM FROM THE VICEROY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Crop prospects : Week ending 26th May last. United Provinces of Agra and Oudh : rain in 21 districts, including three affected districts ; great scarcity of fodder felt in Bundelkhand districts and in part of Agra Division, and water very deficient in Hamirpur ; large demand for advances for cattle ; cholera increasing in Jalaun, where numbers on relief still falling ; village works being extended ; prices are generallly stationary. **Punjab:** Slight rain has fallen in all districts except five ; prices are falling generally ; yield of spring crops good. **Rajputana :** rain in four States ; emigrant cattle returning ; some deaths from cholera in Ajmer ; conditions otherwise practically unchanged. **Central India :** Partial rain in parts of Gwalior and Bundelkhand ; general situation unaltered. **Bombay :** rain in some affected districts ; food stocks ample and trade active ; prices continue high in Deccan and Karnatak ; cholera prevalent in places. **Hyderabad :** fodder and water continue scarce. In other Provinces prospects fair or good. Number of persons in receipt of relief in thousands : **United Provinces of Agra and Oudh,** 145 ; **Punjab,** 11 ; **Ajmer and Rajputana** 91 ; **Central India,** 113 ; **Baroda,** 3 ; **Bombay,** 96 ; **Hyderabad,** 4 : total 463.

CONSULAR REPORT.

ST. PETERSBURG.

The following notes relating to articles of trade in which India is interested are extracted from the Report for 1905 on the Consular District of St. Petersburg :—

The average crop of **grain per acre in Russia** is the lowest in the world, 33·8 poods per desiatin (518 lbs. per acre), but it is asserted that well-managed estates give 85 poods of rye, 88 poods of wheat* and 102 poods of oats. The backward state of agriculture is due to the ignorance and poverty of the peasantry, the large number of religious holidays, and the system of parcelling out the land in such a way that a holding of about 30 acres may be broken up into from 30 to 60 scattered lots.

Despite the bad harvest of 1905 and the agrarian troubles, there does not seem to be any considerable diminution of the area under winter grain, but it is feared that the spring sowings may be less. According to the latest reports the autumn sowings are in a very promising condition. The snow has been unusually abundant.

The cotton industry contributes one-fifth of the total value of the industrial production of Russia, and more than three-fourths of the value of manufactured goods. The **cost of the raw material** is one-third of that of the product. Among consumers of cotton Russia comes third, after the United Kingdom and the United States. She buys from one-half to two-thirds of her cotton abroad (53·3 to 32·6 per cent. during the period 1899-1902). The qualities of American cotton chiefly used in Russia are middling, good middling, middling fair ; of East Indian cotton **Dharwar,** Broach, Dhollerah, Bengal, Tinnevelly.

The Bokhara, Khiva, Samarkand, Tashkent and Trans-Caucasian cottons resemble one another : they are of short and average fibre and similar to the **East Indian** varieties in quality. The length of fibre is not uniform and the fibres are somewhat coarse. The longest variety is Tashkent from American seed, and for certain yarns this is even preferred to imported American : it is white with a yellowish tint, length 20 to 27 millims., a little coarser than American but stronger and, therefore, better for a groundwork.

At Moscow in the middle of March, when the industry was suffering from scarcity and dearness of fuel, the mills were buying Russian raw cotton at 13*r.* 25*c.* to 13*r.* 35*c.* per pood (*i. e.*, £1. 7*s.* 6*d.* for 36 lbs). At that time the **price** for mitkal (common cotton stuffs) 28 inches wide, weighing 72 lbs. per length of 585 arshins (28 inches) was 9¼*c.*—(2¼*d* per arshin)—with 12 months' credit.

The **native cotton** of Central Asia has a fibre not more than 22 millims. in length, and the pod has to be artificially opened, the seeds are difficult to separate from the fibre, and there is a wastage of 30 per cent. in cleaning ; for machine use it can only be used mixed with American, and then only for numbers coarser than 40. Of American seeds the upland varieties are by far the best for Central Asia. Cotton grows satisfactorily south of the parallel of Khojent, and it is only abundant **irrigation** which makes the Tashkent region productive ; it is estimated that 70 to 80 per cent. of the Russian territory in Turkestan is incapable of irrigation. The average yield in Central Asia is 50 poods of raw cotton per desiatin (6 cwts. per acre), but in some cases it is 100 to 120 poods ; cultivation is generally on a small scale, about half-acre lots.

The cotton crop in the Syr Daria region in 1905 was good and abandant, but the area under cultivation was diminished ; only about one quarter was native cotton.

In Ferghana also the cotton harvest was above the average, but the acreage was less. In Andizhan district 100,000 acres produced 38,000 tons.

* About 10½ cwts. per acre.

The Trans-Caucasian native cotton, karakaza, gives a short, coarse fibre, but is sufficiently white; it is gradually being replaced by American varieties, and by 1887 two-thirds of all the cotton grown in the Caucasus was from American seeds. It is estimated that the Governments of Elizavetpol, Erivan and Baku can produce 13,000 tons per annum; the figures for 1900-01 were Erivan, 7,400 tons Elizavetpol 2,700 tons, Kutais 500 tons, Baku 800 tons.

Nearly all the cotton exported **from Persia**, 13,000 tons in 1903-04, goes to Russia. It is cheaper than American cotton of a similar grade and unaffected by speculation, and there are certain factories in Russia specially adapted for the use of Persian cotton; complaints are, however, made that the varieties are mixed and sold in Baku and Astrakhan in parcels of doubtful quality, often adulterated with seeds; nevertheless, all that is offered is bought, mostly for Lodz.

Though the imposition of a high duty in 1901 has extended the area under cotton in Russia, she does not produce 4 per cent. of the world's crop.

The works in the south have received large orders for ferro-manganese from America, but the stoppage of the Trans-Caucasian Railway delayed the despatch of the necessary manganese from Chiaturi.

The best dolomite for lining furnaces is found at Stockmannshof, on the Riga-Ural Railway. The next best is at Nikitovka, in the Bakhmut district of Ekaterinoslav. Works for burning dolomite were built at Stockmannshof six years ago and produce 4,000 tons per annum. The workings at Nikitovka are the largest in Russia and turn out 80,000 tons per annum, of which half is sold in its raw state and half is burned, a process which reduces its weight to little more than half. Raw dolomite sells at 6½c. (1½) and burnt at 25 to 30c. (6¼*d.* to 7½*d.*) per pood of 36 lbs.

Magnesite is more expensive than dolomite but more durable. It is always sold burnt or in bricks. It was formerly imported from abroad (over 5,000 tons in 1903), but by the imposition of a customs duty and a special railway tariff the native product from the Ural has been enabled to compete.

Graphite has been found at Kokotau, in the Okpetinsk district of Semipalatinsk, 50 versts from Sergiopol, in a region rich in copper and said to contain alluvial gold. The projected Tashkent-Polomoshnaya railroad would open up this locality, which is difficult of access. At Balta-Karak, near Kokotau, graphite was worked 30 years ago; though it was not of good quality, it was bought by the Ural companies. The new deposit is said to be of superior quality and abundant, but only 15 tons had been mined when the report was made.

On the Ukhna, a tributary of the Pechora, a Russo-Belgian group of prospectors report the discovery of millions of tons of copper ore, but the region is still more difficult of access than that of Okpetinsk, already referred to.

The production of sugar during the past season was 1,063,255 tons, of which 870,000 tons were destined for home consumption. There was already a surplus of 64,000 tons left over from the preceding season, and this will be put on the home market as soon as prices rise above the limit fixed officially. The export of sugar from September 14, 1905, to March 4, 1906, was about 16,000 tons, against nearly 100,000 tons in the corresponding period of the preceding year. Russia produces about one-fifth of the world's output of sugar; the consumption per head is about one-fifth of that of the United Kingdom. The dividends of sugar factories declared during the Kiev fair, in March 1906, were one at 2½ per cent. (the factory suffered severely during agrarian disturbances), one at 3 per cent., one at 4 per cent., one at 5 per cent., one at 15 per cent., one at 17 per cent., three at 20 per cent., two at 25 per cent., two at 30 per cent., one at 45 per cent.

WUCHOW.

Mr. Acting Consul F. E. Wilkinson, in his Report on the Trade of Wuchow for the year 1905, says: "I have again to record an increase in the value of the trade of Wuchow. The net total in 1905, as shown by the Imperial Maritime Customs returns and excluding therefore the munk trade, rose to £1,682,880, or 11,188,173 taels, as compared with £1,583,486, or 11,084,227 taels in 1904—an increase of £99,394, or about 6 per cent. Expressed in silver the increase, it will be noticed, is only 103,946 taels. Whether reckoned in sterling or silver the total is a record."

He gives a table showing the proportion of foreign import into Wuchow taken by the provinces supplying themselves through that port:—

Name of Province.	Value. 1904.	Value. 1905.	Remarks.
	£	£	
Kwangsi . .	360,800	361,300	In 1904 the total value of the foreign imports into Kwangsi from all sources was, roughly speaking, about £500,000, into Kweichow about £ 900,000, and into Yunan about £ 1,200,000.
Kweichow . .	617,800	696,840	
Yunan . .	84,700	50,800	

Kwangsi, notwithstanding the suppression of the rebellion, has failed to increase to any appreciable extent her consumption of foreign goods. Yunan has also taken considerably less than in 1904; but in her case the deficiency has probably been made up at Mengtze, the importance of which, as a distributing centre, is being greatly enhanced by the new French railway into Yunan. Mr. Wilkinson to the greater poverty of this province, which is doubtful, as to the extensive cultivation of opium by her neighbours at the expense of other produce which makes them more dependent than Kwangsi on foreign countries and the rest of China for the ordinary necessities of life.

He appends another table showing how, during the same two years, the foreign imports into Wuchow have been divided and the increase or decrease in each class:—

Articles.	Value. 1904.	Value. 1905.	Remarks.
	£	£	
Cotton manufactures.	546,330	642,090	Indian yarn: 1904, £320,014; 1905, £415,270.
Woollen . .	25,556	19,865	
Silk . .	20,760	17,593	
Metals . .	25,268	23,577	
Miscellaneous goods	454,484	418,375	Miscellaneous goods include native cloth: 1904, £72,678; 1905, £54,463.

Cotton manufactures are the only class which show any improvement, and for this improvement Indian yarn is almost entirely responsible. One or two popular cloths have, however, maintained and even bettered their position, though the majority show a diminished import.

White shirtings, which advanced from 106,455 pieces in 1904 to 123,292 pieces in 1905, and T-cloths which increased in the same period from 42,414 to 50,358 pieces, make the best showing.

Plain grey shirtings have fallen from 105,491 to 93,180 pieces, dyed Hong-Kong shirtings from 67,450 to 59,664 pieces, figured shirtings from 52,799 to only 18,966 pieces and cotton flannel from 29,866 to 20,084 pieces.

Cotton yarn, all of which is of Indian origin, has increased from 104,720 to 128,890 cwts., valued at £415,270.

Native cloth has fallen in value from £72,678 to £54,463. The explanation in this case is not any decline in the demand, but that a larger quantity than in 1904 has been imported direct from Chinese ports. The demand in fact is increasing.

Raw cotton is supplied mostly by India and Burmah and to a small extent by Saigon. The import increased from 4,133 cwts. in 1904 to 6,566 cwts.

The sugar comes from the Hong-Kong refineries. The import was 11,164 cwts., and the export of native sugar from Wuchow 7,336 cwts. In 1900 the import was 300 cwts. and the export 152,000 cwts. The rebellion, helped by a succession of bad harvests, has ruined the sugar industry in Kwangsi.

The export trade to foreign countries fell considerably below expectations. Expressed in sterling the value was £435,500, which is slightly higher than in 1904, but if reckoned in silver it was lower.

Hides again show the highest value, *viz.*, £70,138. The supply is apparently diminishing, for ever since 1902, when it reached its high water mark, the export has been steadily falling. In that year the quantity shipped from Wuchow was 93,500 cwts. Last year, notwithstanding that the price has since risen very nearly 50 per cent., the export was only 25,120 cwts.

Leather shows a slight increase in value but a decrease in quantity. In all 12,326 cwts., valued at £37,657, were exported. Both hides and leather went for the most part to Singapore, the demand from Japan, which was the feature of the trade in 1904, having ceased with the close of the war. Writing of the opium trade he says:—

"Although the local opium administration publishes no statistics, I learn from unofficial sources that the total amount of native opium imported into Kwangsi from Yunan and Kweichow, both for local consumption and in transit to the Canton province, amounted to about 8,000 piculs—that is, 2,000 piculs below the official estimate for the year. The decline was partly due to the increase in the duty but principally to the insecurity of the trade routes from Kweichow and Yunan, on the borders of which provinces several opium caravans were held up and plundered at the beginning of 1905. The losses suffered by the local opium dealers have, in fact, been so heavy that two of the largest firms have been compelled to close their doors. As the decline in the import has not led to any appreciable diminution in the consumption of the drug, it may be presumed that most of the plundered opium has been smuggled by some means or other into the province.

The import of Indian opium increased last year to 26 cwts., and I am told that about half as much again arrived here *viâ* Canton and does not figure in the return published. It is probable that there will be further advance this year.

PANAMA CANAL.

In the course of a report on the **Panama Canal** H. M. Consul at Panama (Mr. C. Mallet, C.M.G.) remarks, with regard to the constantly increasing volume of population and trade at that city, that American manufacturers display unusual energy in competing for this new trade. Their agents overrun the entire Isthmus; agencies have been opened, and information is gathered which will enable them to understand precisely what kind of purchases of machinery and supplies will have to be made by the Commission during the construction of the Canal. Chambers of Commerce of the United States have sent delegates to make exhaustive enquiries and report upon the future prospects of the market.

With regard to the Canal works, Mr. Mallet states that the French machinery found on the Isthmus has been utilised as far as possible, but is being supplemented by modern American machinery as fast as it can be designed, contracted for, constructed and installed. At the beginning of 1905 two American steam shovels and two French excavators were working in the Culebra cut; in December the number of shovels had been increased to nineteen, and the average shovels working through out the year was seven and one-quarter. From the prism of the Canal 912,054 cubic yards of material were removed during the twelve months ended the 31st December last. The labour force in the same period was increased from 1,200 in January to 2,000 in December.

In the Culebra division, between the Bas Obispo and Pedro Miguel, a distance of 8 miles, new tracks are being laid, the dams erected by the French Company are being removed, and the work so arranged that a modern locomotive can haul trains from shovel to dump of 20 to 40 cars, each car carrying 20 to 40 cubic yards, instead of five to ten cars containing from five to ten cubic yards each hauled by the French equipment.

Dredging at the terminal wharves at La Boca and Cristobal and the approaches to the Canal, where 1,226,970 cubic yards of material were removed in 1905.

General sanitary work, such as waterworks, laying of sewer pipes, draining swamps, clearing jungle and the construction of commodious offices, a fine residence for the Governor, hotels to hold 300 employés each, small residences, new labour quarters, and repairs to the old buildings.

INDIAN TURPENTINE.

THE *United Provinces Gazette* contains an interesting report on the **manufacture of turpentine at Bhowali, Naini Tal District.** In 1896 experiments were taken in hand with a view to the manufacture of turpentine from the resin of the *chir* tree (*pinus longifolia*); and Rs. 1,000 were placed at the disposal of the Forest Department with this object. These experiments met with very doubtful success till 1900, the principal cause of this being want of experience. The number of trees tapped annually varied, the maximum being about 20,000.

In 1901 a well-regulated scheme of tapping was devised and the work was undertaken much more systematically, with the result that the working at once began to show a profit, the number of trees tapped was doubled and stood at about 40,000 increasing to 60,000 in 1904; while the plant required for distillation was improved, enlarged and a new still purchased capable of dealing with 4 maunds of crude resin at each charge, or some 16 maunds per diem. The old still, which was of half of this capacity only, was left standing but was only occasionally used. The net revenue continued to increase until in 1904 the normal surplus of income over expenditure was estimated at Rs. 12,000, though actually during that year it was some Rs. 16,000 consequent on a good tapping year and enhanced demand. The price of turpentine rose to about Rs. 2-4-0 per gallon delivered at Kathgodam, while the bye-product, "colophony", which had up to date been very sparingly saleable, began to find a ready market.

An enquiry was at this time instituted as to whether, since the experiment had become a proved success, the tapping of trees and distillation of turpentine were likely to be taken up by private enterprise either in England or India. After a somewhat lengthy correspondence with various firms this idea was abandoned, as it was recognized that owing to the Forest Department obtaining the crude resin free of cost, to its having a large establishment on the spot capable of supervising all details of collection and manufacture at no additional expense, it was in a position to work on a far cheaper basis than any outside firm. It was also recognized that as the intensity of tapping had to be carefully regulated, and its effect on the individual tree watched in view of any possible injury, a maximum of supervision was necessary such as could only be carried out by the agency of the Department.

Thus in 1904-1905 the manufacture was in a flourishing condition and the demand for both turpentine and colophony excellent, at prices that gave a good margin of profit. It was therefore determined, with the approval of Government, to extend the industry by bringing new areas under tapping and by enlarging the capacity of the plant. To this end in that year the number of trees tapped was increased from some 60,000 to 100,000, while a new still, capable of dealing with 4 maunds of crude resin and of being worked 4 times per diem, was purchased and erected at a cost of Rs. 1,854.

The results of the year's working have just come to hand. Placing on one side this capital expenditure of Rs. 1,854 and estimating the stock in hand at the close of the financial year at a moderate figure somewhat below the actual selling price, the year's work disclosed a surplus revenue of about Rs. 24,000—or double the normal surplus years.

The following details are of interest. The total amount of crude resin collected during the year was 6,811 maunds or 3,111 maunds in excess of the previous year, the average outturn per tree being much the same, *viz.*, between 5 and 6 lbs. The amount of turpentine distilled during the year was 9,667 gallons while the weight of the colophony, the bye-product, was 3,983 maunds : 6,687 gallons of turpentine and 4,307 maunds of colophony were disposed of at remunerative rates. The price of turpentine varied slightly; a considerable reduction is made for sales in bulk and if delivery be taken in the district, this latter absolving the Department from all risks of leakage, etc., on the railway. The colophony was all sold at Cawnpore, the prices varying from some Rs. 6 to Rs. 8-8-0 per maund according to the demand. The quality of the turpentine has been tested at various times and is generally reported to be excellent, so much so that indents are received from one of the largest firms of chemists on the seabord who prefer to take it at the price demanded and pay the carriage, to purchasing the American or English article at the market prices for these. The fact that it is thus used in medicine by a responsible firm is alone a sufficient guarantee of its purity. It is delivered in tin canisters containing 4 gallons packed in wooden boxes holding 2 canisters, and is largely used by railways, the Ordnance Department, etc., samples are delivered free on the railway on application.

The total value of the plant employed, allowing for depreciation, is between Rs. 6,000 and, Rs. 7,000 and the total capacity of the two stills now at work, allowing for 11 months' working (1 month being required for cleaning) at 24 days per month is about 10,000 to 11,000 gallons per annum. The industry, however, can be largely extended should the market demand warrant this.

Owing to the question having arisen as to whether the tapping of trees for resin leads to the deterioration of the timber or retards the rate of growth, experiments are being undertaken with a view to enable some definite decision to be come to; as far as can be at present ascertained, carefully regulated tapping has not injured in any way the quality of the timber nor have any complaints been received from timber merchants to this effect, nor is there any proof that trees have died under the influence of tapping, nor that their rate of growth has been retarded.

Trees are tapped for five years and then given a rest for 10. These experiments are, however, still in their infancy and no definite conclusions can be arrived at for some years to come. The Department is now in a position to accept extensive indents and is prepared to purchase disused kerosine tins in large quantity. All enquiries and applications are dealt with by the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Naini Tal Division.

THE NUSHKI-SEISTAN TRADE ROUTE.

MAJOR R. A. E., BENN, Political Agent, Chagai, has submitted his report on the Nushki-Seistan Trade route to the Government of India. The report shows clearly the proportions of the **trade with Persia, Afghanistan and Balucnistan,** and the fluctuations that have marked it during the twelve months.

The total amount of trade on the route in the year was valued at R15,44,981, composed of Imports R6,10,341, and Exports R9,34,640, and shows a slight decrease (R76,636), as compared with the figures for the period 1904-05, when the total amounted to R16,21,617, made up by Exports valued at R9,20,446, and Imports R7,01,171. The decrease occurred entirely in Imports, which fell off by R90,830, exports showing an increase of R14,194

The value of the trade with Afghanistan, Persia, and Baluchistan in the years 1905-06 and 1904-05 is shown in the following table :—

Year and Country.	Exports.	Imports.	Total.
1905-06.	R	R	R
Afghanistan .	53,895	1,30,323	1,84,218
Persia . .	4,11,338	3,34,782	7,46,120
Baluchistan . .	4,69,407	1,45,236	6,14,643
Total .	9,34,640	6,10,341	15,44,981
1904-05.			
Afghanistan .	1,07,208	3,53,231	4,62,439
Persia . .	3,23,174	2,23,098	5,46,272
Baluchistan .	4,90,064	1,22,842	6,12,906
Total .	9,20,446	7,01,171	16,21,617

Put in another way, we find that, in the year 1905-06, there was, as compared with the year 1904-05, an increase in exports of Rs. 88,164 to Persia, a decrease in exports of Rs. 53,313 to Afghanistan, and Rs. 20,657 to Baluchistan, or Rs. 73,970 in all; an increase in imports of Rs. 1,11,684 from Persia, and Rs. 22,394 from Baluchistan or Rs. 1,34,078 in all, and a decrease in imports of Rs. 2,24,908 from Afghanistan. The trade with Afghanistan shows a net decrease of Rs. 2,78,221, and that with Persia a net increase of Rs. 1,99,848, whilst trade with Baluchistan shows an increase of Rs. 22,394, and a decrease of Rs. 20,657, the net gain being Rs. 1,737.

The improvement in the export trade was entirely due to the very marked increase in Indian **exports to Persia.** The increase was greatest in Cotton piece-goods, Indian and European; dyeing materials; Hides and skins (jackal skins being exported in particularly large numbers); Leather manufactured; Metals and manufactures of metals; Sugar, refined and un-refined.

The following table shows in detail the increase in various articles of trade : —

ARTICLES.	VALUE IN RUPEES.		Increase.
	1905-06.	1904-05.	
Animals, Camels . . .	1,000	*Nil.*	1,000
Cotton piece-goods . .	1,79,343	1,47,097	32,246
Dyeing Materials, Indigo, etc.	1,40,450	1,21,169	19,281
Earthenware and Porcelain .	2,085	1,140	947
Glass and glassware . .	1,077	*Nil.*	1,077
Grain and pulse, rice, etc. .	1,936	1,173	763
Hides and skins—			
Cattle, sheep and jackal .	26,876	13,592	13,284
Leather, manufactured . .	12,901	6,631	6,270
Metals, and metal manufactures	2,907	400	2,507
Provisions (Other kinds) .	1,392	479	913
Spices	3,292	2,289	1,003
Sugar, refined and un-refined.	4,790	966	3,824
Tea, Indian, Black and Green	9,615	7,676	1,939
All other articles of merchandise manufactured . .	16,797	13,222	3,575
TOTAL .	4,04,461	3,15,834	88,627

There was, on the other hand, a slight falling off in:—Apparel R595; cotton, twist and yarn, R227; Drugs and medicines R1,133 (none being exported) and Wool manufactured R505. If, however, the figures be compared with those for the year 1903-04, it is seen that there has been a gain in all these classes. Exports of cotton, twist and yarn in 1905-06 were valued at R483, as compared with R710 in 1904-05, and with R40 only in 1903-04. Apparel exported in 1905-06 was valued at R595, in 1904-05 at R767, and in 1903-04, at R200. In 1905-06 there were no exports of drugs and medicines, but in 1903-04 these exports only totalled R35. Woollen goods exported to Persia by the Nushki route in 1905-06 were valued at R1,584, showing a decrease of R595 as compared with 1904 05, but an increase of R1,144 as compared with 1903-04.

The import trade from Persia over the Nushki route shows a similar satisfactory increase. That trade in 1905-06 amounted in value to R3,34,782, and in 1904-05 to R2,23,098, showing a net increase of R1,11,684, The year 1904-05 had shown a net increase of over R10,000 as compared with the year 1903-04 (R2,22,281, as compared with R2,11,656). The increase was most marked in the trade in drugs and medicines, precious stones, ghi and wool, the trade in hides and skins, fruit and nuts, oil seeds and silk having shown a falling off.

In the year 1905-06 the increases, and decreases in the Persian Imports into India over the Nushki route have been as follows:—

Increases:—Apparel (R1,570); Dyeing materials (R1,0 9; Jewellery, precious stones—all turquoise—(R42,000); Silk manufactured (R1,27,980); Spices (R1,640); Stone and marble—imported for the first time—(R550); Wool, raw, and manufactures of wool (R16,897) this head included carpets and felts valued at R20,390; and Russian cloth, **Shikan mahut,** worth R5,500; other articles of merchandise (R11,902).

Decreases:—Animals, living, for sale (R55,800); Horses, ponies and donkeys (R200); Drugs and medicines (R4,311); Earthenware and porcelain (R1,400); Fruit, vegetables and nuts (R1,666). Grain and pulse, excluding rice (R180); Sheepskins (R1,390); Ghi, (R 26,947).

The total of increases amounted to R2,03,578, and the total of decreases to R91 894.

For the past two years, Indo-Persian trade by the Nushki route has shown steady and satisfactory growth and Major Benn seems justified in expecting that this growth will continue, provided always that seasons continue fairly favourable, and that the recent severe outbreak of plague in Seistan is got under—a difficult task. Persians and Indians trading with Khorassan and Seistan find the Nushki trade route convenient for their purpose, as it is policed and safe for a great part of its length, while, caravans have been enabled to secure water and necessary supplies at the various stages. The still greater facilities afforded by the daily service of trains on the Nushki Railway since April 1906, ought to ensure a steady increase in the popularity of the route.

It was pointed out to the Political Officer, Chagai, by this Department that a serious discrepancy existed between the figures of trade registered in 1904-05 by the Nushki-Seistan route and those recorded at Seistan by the Belgian Customs Department. Major Benn explains that this discrepancy might be due to—(*a*) the trade recorded in Nushki being incorrectly classified; (*b*) trade with Persia by routes other than Seistan, where the Belgian Customs Department have a bureau, having possibly escaped record in the Belgian Customs registers, (*c*) trade with minor Persian places, such as Jalk, Mashkel and Sarhad, not having been registered by the Belgians, (*d*) to goods registered at Nushki and Seistan having been undervalued. In addition to risks of error arising from misdiscription of places of origin and destination on the part of caravan conductors, and to differences in valuation at Nushki and in Seistan owing to false declarations by caravan masters and undervaluation by the Belgian Customs authorities, it is possible that goods are disposed of along the trade route or on the Helmund to avoid the payment of dues in Seistan, and that traders coming from and going to Meshed and Birjand escape the customs bureau at Kuh-i-Malik Siah or Nasratabad by using the intermediate route *viâ* the Palang Kuh, and Afghan Shela, or by following the route through Afghanistan *viâ* Ahwaz. This trade would be registered in Nushki, but not in Seistan. Steps are being taken, however, where by discrepancies will be minimised, if not obviated, in the future.

In spite of the subsidy of R300 a month paid by the Government of India to camel contractors for the supply of transport to traders along the Nushki-Seistan Trade Route, these latter have been inconvenienced by the contractors failing to supply camels at Nushki, and to land merchandise at its destination within the time agreed on. Proposals have now been submitted to the Agent to the Governor General in Baluchistan which it is hoped will remedy the defect.

The decrease in export **Afghan trade** is due to the fact that the Afghans of Shorawak, Garmsel and Kandahar bought only about half the amount of Indian and European cotton piece-goods during the past year as compared with their purchases in 1904-05, when India exported these goods to Afghanistan by the Nushki route to the value of R91,289, the value of this trade in 1905-06, being only R50,530. This reduction Major Benn attributes to an excess of stocks in Afghanistan, combined with a scarcity of money, calculated by him at 2¼ lakhs, consequent on India having very greatly reduced her imports from Afghanistan. In 1904-05 India imported from Afghanistan goods worth R3,55,231, whilst in 1905-06 the value of the import trade fell to R1,30,323, or less than half. The main decreases occurred in drugs (assafœtida) R50,170; grain and pulse, excluding rice, R16,479; ghi, R84,360; and wool, raw and manufactured, R64,823. This fall in trade is accounted for first by the severe winter, which injured the assafœtida and grain crops, telling also upon the herds of camels and the flocks of sheep and goats; and secondly by the stringent embargo placed by the Amir during the year upon the export of cereals and other local products into British Baluchistan, where the Afghans usually dispose of them for cash, or barter them for cotton piece-goods.

The **Baluchistan trade** is about normal and the decrease of R20,657 in exports is accounted for by the withdrawal of the thousands of labourers engaged upon the construction of the Quetta-Nushki Railway. This decrease is therefore not a loss, but merely marks the return of the local Baluchistan trade to its former level. Some portion of the decrease is, however, due to the districts on the Kharan-Mashkel, which, in common with Afghanistan, had suffered from the severe winter, not having imported cotton piece-goods and spices to the amount they had done in the year previous.

The heads under which decreases occurred were Wearing apparel (Rs. 929); Cotton piece-goods, twist and yarn (Rs. 15,875); Earthenware and porcelain (Rs. 839); Jute bags and cloth (Rs. 868); Provisions (Rs. 22,963); Silk (Rs. 835); Spices (Rs. 4,145).

The linking of Nushki with India by rail seems, however, to have given trade in general a distinct impetus, and there was a marked increase in trade in grain and pulse (Rs. 11,308); Liquors (Rs. 1,756); Metals and metal manufactures (Rs. 1,550); Sugar, refined and unrefined (Rs. 5,768); Tobacco (Rs. 1,294); and other merchandise manufactured (Rs. 7,545.)

The appearance of Russian cloth in the Indian Frontier markets has already been noticed in the *Indian Trade Journal*. (*Vide* p-63 April 12th .)The cloth is a sort of "mole-skin," buff or *khaki* in colour, and is mostly worn by Afghans and Brahuis. It is cheap, and at first attractive in appearance: but it loses its colour almost at once, and wears very badly. It is mostly bought by the Pathan tailors in Quetta to make into *kullahs*, or Afghan caps.

The falling-off in the import trade in Persian horses is considerable. In 1904-05, there came into India by the Nushki route 220 animals, whilst the number fell to 26 in the year just concluded. There are three reasons for this. The first is that Persian horses are not much in demand in India, remaining unsold at the great horse fairs at Quetta, Sibi and Jacobabad, unless priced very low. In the second place, the price of horse-flesh has increased greatly in Khorasan, and Afghan dealers say that it does not pay them to buy in Meshed for the Indian market. Lastly, the severe winter deterred Peshin traders from going to Meshed.

DRAFT PETROLUEM RULES.

There being a want of uniformity in the **rules** in force in various parts of India **regarding the importation, possession and transport of petroleum**, consolidation of the rules of all Provinces is necessary. The Government of India have, however, been advised that under the existing law a uniform set of rules for the whole of India cannot be issued by the Supreme Government, and that, until the Indian Petroleum Act, 1899 (VIII of 1899) is amended, the rules must continue to be issued by each Local Government under Section IX of the Act. Meanwhile, however, it will be possible to attain in great measure the object in view by maintaining strict uniformity in the rules so issued. With this intention a set of rules has been drawn up by the Government of India after careful examination of the existing provincial rules. A draft of these consolidated rules is being circulated to various Local Governments, their criticism thereon being invited. The rules will also be published in the various Local Gazettes, so that the public may have the opportunity of examining and criticising them. The following is a brief synopsis of the draft consolidated rules:—

Part I is Preliminary, and contains Definitions.

Part II contains rules for the possession and transport of petroleum.

Chapter I treates of the possession of Petroleum. The following are the sections into which it is divided:

1. Smoking prohibited within installations.
2. Supervision of operations within installation.
3. Cleanliness of installation.
4. Supply of sand in installation.
5. Enclosure walls and embankments.
6. Marking of capacity of tanks.
7. Protection from lightning.
8. Testing of lightning-conductor by licensee.
9. Official testing of lightning-conductor.
10. Time for work in installations.
11. Closure of pipes and openings.
12. Material for sheds and godowns.
13. Posting up of rules and conditions.

Chapter II treats of the transport of petroleum. The sections deal with:—

1. Conditions of carriage of petroleum in bulk by water.
2. Petroleum in bulk on barges or flats.
3. Inflammable cargo, or passengers.
4. Towage of barge carrying prtroleum.
5. Cleaning of compartments.
6. Hatches to be kept closed.
7. Loading and discharge.
8. Naked lights, fire, or smoking prohibited.
9. Flag to be carried.
10. Loading and unloading by night.
11. Validity of license granted in another Province.

In Chapter III are contained general provisions relating to licenses, such as:—

1. Applications for licenses.
2. Licensing authority.

3. Refusal of license.
4. Forefeiture of license.
5. Particulars of license.
6. Renewal of licenses.
7. Supply of rules to licensee.

Chapter IV concerns itself with licenses for the possession of petroleum, the sections dealing with :—

1. Continuance of license.
2. Petroleum not in bulk other than dangerous petroleum.
3. Transfer of certain licenses.
4. Dangerous petroleum not in bulk.
5. Dangerous petroleum not exceeding forty gallons.
6. Storage in major installations.
7. Storage in minor installations.
8. Storage of crude petroleum in bulk.
9. Dangerous petroleum for use on motor-vehicles.
10. Storage by local authority.

In Chapter V are the conditions of licenses for the transport of petroleum as :—

1. General licenses for the transport of non-dangerous petroleum.
2. General license for the transport of dangerous petroleum.
3. Effect of general license.
4. Pass for transport of petroleum.
5. Special licenses for the transport of petroleum other than dangerous petroleum.
6. Special licenses for the transport of dangerous petroleum.
7. Effect of special license.
8. Particulars to be given in applications for special licenses.
9. Transport of dangerous petroleum by motorists otherwise than on a motor-vehicle.
10. Transport of dangerous petroleum in bulk in Burma and Assam from places of production to refineries.

Chapter VI relates to Fees ;—

1. The Method of levying fees.
2. Fees for licenses for possession of petroleum.
3. Fees for licenses for transport of petroleum.

In Part III are to be found rules for the importation of petroleum, such as :—

1. Ports of importation.
2. Procedure at ports other than those of importation.
3. Declaration by master of ship carrying petroleum or by the ship's agent.
4. Delivery of certificates.
5. Certificate and declaration to be forwarded to Chief Customs-Officer.
6. Delivery of samples.
7. Selection of samples.
8. Sealing of samples and forwarding the same to testing officer.
9. Methods of test.
10. Averaging results of tests.
11. Procedure when tests show want of uniformity.
12. Procedure on report.
13. Report of testing officer.
14. Exemption of petroleum already tested in British India from further test.
15. Fee for testing.
16. When a ship carrying petroleum may anchor at ordinary anchorage.
17. When a ship carrying petroleum must anchor at a special anchorage.
18. Petroleum referred to in rule 17 not to be landed until it has been tested.
19. Exception in respect of certificated petroleum exceeding five thousand gallons.
20. Landing of petroleum in bulk.
21. Landing of petroleum otherwise than in bulk.
22. Transhipment of petroleum.
23. Import licenses how obtainable.
24. Petroleum comprised in ship's stores.
25. Petroleum used for lubricating and batching purpose.

GAZETTE AND OTHER NOTIFICATIONS.

FORESTS.

The following Resolution dated, Simla, the 5th June 1906, is published in the Gazette of India *of the 9th June :—*

The Government of India have had under consideration the desirability of making better provision for scientific research in connection with the Indian forests. They cordially acknowledge that the work of the Forest Department has been characterized by marked and progressive development which has resulted in an improved condition of the standing timber and in a satisfactory increase in the net revenue derived by the State from its forests, while due regard has been paid to the interests and needs of the population residing in their neighbourhood and to the requirements of the future. The energies of the Department have, however, hitherto been largely confined to the practical managment of the forests under its charge, and comparatively little attention has been directed to the work of research, which has been pursued with such beneficial results in other countries. In order therefore to provide a staff of experts who will be in a position to devote a large proportion of their time to the prosecution of scientific research connected with forest produce as well as to give the best available training to candidates for the Forest Services both of British India and of the Native States, they have, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, decided to raise the status of the existing Imperial Forest School at Dehra Dún and to add to its staff. The School will now be known as the Imperial Forest Research Institute and College, and the staff will include six officers of the Imperial Service, holding the following posts :—

(*i*) An Imperial Silviculturist, who will make silviculture his special study.

(*ii*) An Imperial Superintendent of Forest Working-Plans, who will collect and collate the statistics of the results of forest management throughout India, which are provided by the control forms annually submitted to the Government of India, so that the valuable information acquired in the different provinces will be made available to the whole Department. In addition to this he will assist the Inspector-General of Forests in the control at present exercised by the Government of India in the preparation of Working-Plans, performing in this matter the functions at present exercised by the Assistant Inspector-General of Forests. In order to render this assistance more effective, and to remove a serious defect in the present system, he will visit forests in which Working-Plans are being prepared, and will record a note upon the local conditions of the forest for the information of the Inspector-General of Forests. A copy of this note will also be sent through the Conservator to the Local Government for information, and for any action that they may care to take upon it.

(*iii*) An Imperial Forest Zoologist, whose chief duty will be to investigate the damage caused by insects and other pests, and to suggest remedial measures.

(*iv*) An Imperial Forest Botanist, who will study the botany of forest plants, the diseases of trees, and the distribution of species.

(*v*) An Imperial Forest Chemist, who will invesigate the chemical properties of the soils and of the produce of forests.

(*vi*) An Imperial Forest Economist, who will make a special study of the best methods of rendering forest produce of all kinds available at the smallest cost to consumers, and who will keep in touch with the commerce of India with the view of fostering and meeting the the demand for forest products.

These officers, in addition to their research work, will each deliver a course of lectures on his special subject at the College, and take part in the training of the students ; but the educational work will be mainly carried on by the Assistant Instructors, who, besides their duties in the class-room, will be in personal charge of the students out of lecture-hours and during practical training in the forests. They will be four in number and will usually be selected from the Provincial Forest Service.

3. One of the Imperial officers, who will ordinarily be a Conservator of Forests will, in addition to his other duties, hold the post of Principal. The members of the staff, who will be **seconded** on their respective lists, will draw the pay, substantive or officiating, to which they are entitled on those lists, ogether with the following local allowances :—

	Rs. per mensem.
The Principal	200
The other Imperial Officers	150
The Assistant Instructors	75

MERCHANT SHIPPING.

The following resolution, dated Simla, the 6th June 1906, is published in the Gazette of India *of the 9th of June :—*

It was suggested to the Government of India by the Secretary of State, at the instance of the Board of Trade, that in the form of agreement for the engagement of lascars in India, provision should be made for the transfer of a lascar crew from a vessel at a port abroad to one at a port in the United Kingdom. The suggestion was referred to the maritime Local Governments and was unanimously approved by them.

2. In these circumstances, the Governor General in Council is pleased to direct that, under section 27 (1) of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1883 (V of 1883), the following additional stipulation shall be inserted at the foot of the form of lascar agreement.

"Additional stipulation which must be entered into and signed either by the owner of the vessel, or by the Master in his behalf, in the event of discharge at a port not in British India and not in the United Kingdom :—

I hereby further agree that if the employment offered to the said lascars or other natives whose names are subscribed on the other side of this sheet is in a ship sailing from a port in the United Kingdom, then in that case I will provide and pay in advance to the said lascars or other natives the charges to which they may be put on account of the journey to such port and their wages for the time during which they may be in transit and make good to them any loss or damage which they may suffer in transit, and I further agree that they shall be transferred only on the terms of an agreement approved in the manner prescribed in section 125 (3) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, and otherwise in accordance with the terms of that sub-section, and that the fee or fees for such approval shall be paid by me."

NOTICES TO MARINERS.

The following Notices are published for general information.

W. A. INGLIS,

Calcutta, the 1st June 1906. *Secretary, Marine Department.*

PERSIAN GULF—Bandar Abbas.

Particulars of shoal in approach.

No. 191 (first publication).—With reference to Notice to Mariners No. 477, dated 9th December 1905, issued by this office, the British Admiralty has given further notice (No. 423 of 1906) that an examination of the shoal reported by the Master

of the S. S. *Euphrates*, in the approach to Bandar Abbas, shows it to have a depth of 2 fathoms over it, situated in a position from which the north-western extremity of Hormuz island bears N. 25° E., distant about $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles, and the south-eastern xtremity of the same island N. 83° E.

Approximate position, lat. 27° $1\frac{1}{2}'$ N., long. 56° $24\frac{1''}{4}$ E.

This patch, which has depths of 5 fathoms at distances of half a cable on its east, west and south sides, appeared to form part of a narrow ridge, composed of coral and sand, which connects it with the shoal water extending south-westward from Hormuz island.

(*Variation Nil in 1906.*)

This Notice affects the following Admiralty Charts:—Persian Gulf entrance, No. 753; Persian Gulf, with plan of Kishm, No. 2837a: Also Persian Gulf Pilot, 1898, page 206; and Supplement, 1905, page 22.

INDIA, WEST—MALABAR COAST.

Talayi—Buoy marking Pinnacle rock removed.

No. 185 (second publication).—With reference to Notice to Mariners No. 396, dated 18th October 1905, issued by this office, the Presidency Port Officer, Madras, has given further notice (No. 7 of 1906) that the small spherical buoy marking the pinnacle rock off the subport of Talayi will be removed on the 25th May 1906 for overhaul and will be replaced about the 1st October 1906 when the working season again commences.

INDIA WEST—BOMBAY COAST.

Buoys between Alibag and Bhatkhal removed for the south-west monsoon.

No. 186 (second publication).—The Bombay Government has given notice (No. 46 of 1906) that the buoys on the west coast of India from Alibag to Bhatkhal will be removed for the south-west monsoon after 15th May 1906.

The dates of the removal of buoys will be notified hereafter.

INDIA WEST—BOMBAY COAST.

Bombay harbour—Fishing stakes area.

No. 187 (second publication).—The Bombay Government has given notice (No. 48 of 1906) that fishing stakes may be expected north of the prescribed limits within the following area:—

Latitude 18° 43′ N. to 18° $44\frac{3}{4}'$ N.

Longitude 72° $39\frac{1}{4}'$ E. to 72° $42\frac{1}{2}'$ E.

This Notice affects the following Admiralty Chart:—Arnala Island to Kundari No. 737, also west coast of Hindustan Pilot, 1898, page 211.

INDIA WEST—BOMBAY COAST.

Aguada light—Alteration in character.

No. 188 (second publication).—With reference to Notice to Mariners No. 72, dated 27th February 1906 issued by this office, the Bombay Government has given further notice (No. 49 of 1906) that the Aguada fixed light has been substituted by another one with characteristic marks:—

A group of three flashes each of 46 seconds' duration separated by eclipses of 1·54 seconds (duration). Between each two groups there is an eclipse of 5·54 seconds.

The light is visible in fair weather at a distance of 25 miles.

This Notice affects the following Admiralty Charts:—Vengurla to Cape Comorin, No. 827; Viziadrug to Cochin No. 2737; Achra river to Cape Ramas No. 740; and Aguada to St. George's Islands including Marmugoa and Goa roadstead; also west coast of Hindustan Pilot, Fourth Edition 1898, page 164, and List of Light-houses and Light vessels in British India, page 28, No. 257.

NEW REFERENCE BOOKS.

NOMAN'S LAND.
A History of Spitsbergen from its discovery in 1596 to the beginning of the Scientific Exploration of the country. By Sir Martin Conway. $9\frac{3}{4} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$, 377 pp. Cambridge University Press. 10*s.* 6*d.* net.
(Most of the historical portion of this volume was contained in papers contributed to the *Geographical Journal.*)

THE ART OF EXTEMPORE SPEAKING.
By H. Ford, LL.D. 6th Edition. Revised and Enlarged. $7\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{3}{4}$, 155 pp. Stock . . 2*s.* 6*d.* net.

THE BUSINESS BLUE BOOK.
$8\frac{3}{4} \times 5\frac{3}{4}$, XV. +281 pp. . . . . 2*s.* net
Curtis Gardner.
(A large collection of short papers (partly reprinted) "to assist the busy, progressive business man"—"how to start in business," "how to keep proper accounts," "how to read a prospectus, etc.," and dealing very fully with company insurance and partnership business).

THE CO-OPERATIVE UNION (LIMITED) BIRMINGHAM CONGRESS.
Reports 317 pp. Statistics, 118 pp. $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$. Manchester: *The Co-operative Union (Limited).*

TRANSACTIONS OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF WATER-WORKS ENGINEERS.
With Subject Index. Vols. I. to X. Vol. X. Edited by Percy Griffith, Secretary. $8\frac{3}{4} \times 5\frac{3}{4}$, XXIX+183 pp. *Biggs.*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE UNITED SOCIETY OF BOILER-MAKERS AND IRON AND STEEL SHIPBUILDERS.
$8\frac{1}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$, 231 pp. Newcastle-upon-Tyne: *Robinson.*

THE TRADE MARKS ACT, 1905.
By L. Mossop, B.C.L. $8\frac{3}{4} \times 5\frac{3}{4}$, 196 pp. *Waterlow* 6*s.* net.
(A handbook for the trader and his agent.)

TOTAL GROSS INDIAN SEA AND LAND CUSTOMS REVENUE (EXCLUDING SALT REVENUE).

(IN THOUSANDS OF RUPEES.)

	IN THE TWO MONTHS APRIL AND MAY, OF									
	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1900-01.	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1906-07.
SEA CUSTOMS.										
IMPORTS.										
Special Import Duties.										
Arms, ammunition, and military stores	54	51	39	40	43	54	59	65	58	63
Liquors—										
Ale, beer, porter, cider and other fermented liquors	30	36	35	34	31	41	38	43	47	44
Spirits and liqueurs	9,28	10,34	11,42	10,57	11,51	11,39	11,98	12,46	13,69	11,45
Wines	62	53	60	59	57	65	60	57	68	63
Opium	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...
Petroleum	8,52	6,77	6,90	8,52	10,89	10,65	11,17	7,21	7,05	7,15
Sugar (countervailing duties, 1899)	—	—	62	2,84	6,70	9,25	70	3	...	...
Sugar (countervailing duties, 1902)	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	2	...	...
General Import Duties.										
Articles of food and drink (excluding sugar)	1,94	1,66	2,09	2,24	1,97	2,03	2,05	2,27	2,84	2,74
Sugar (ordinary duties)	3,07	2,64	2,55	3,97	5,21	4,23	3,53	5,79	2,84	9,75
Chemicals, drugs, medicines and narcotics, and dyeing and tanning materials	1,59	1,57	1,88	1,65	1,87	2,17	2,15	2,17	2,22	2,27
Cotton manufactures—										
Piece goods, grey	6,48	7,48	9,00	7,19	8,07	10,06	9,04	7,67	10,50	11,56
„ white	2,76	3,13	3,85	2,88	5,43	3,49	3,57	4,47	5,45	4,32
„ coloured	1,86	2,93	4,20	2,78	3,39	3,43	4,25	4,57	5,00	5,16
Other goods	15	18	30	23	22	19	24	39	45	49
Metals and manufactures of—										
Silver, bullion and coin	9,11	8,87	5,19	2,44	3,15	10,02	7,17	9,78	5,87	5,95
Other metals and manufactures of metals	3,50	3,19	2,85	4,14	4,03	5,50	5,62	7,17	4,72	5,03
Oils (excluding petroleum)	33	29	24	24	22	31	15	16	18	30
Manufactured articles	6,13	6,62	7,86	7,65	8,81	8,88	9,66	11,22	11,92	12,74
Raw materials and unmanufactured articles	1,19	1,10	1,16	1,03	1,52	1,45	1,44	1,80	1,73	1,53
TOTAL IMPORTS	57,38	58,17	61,45	59,70	74,31	84,66	74,39	78,89	76,20	82,12
EXCISE DUTY ON COTTON GOODS	1,34	2,12	2,25	1,81	2,02	2,24	2,50	2,38	2,88	2,68
EXPORT DUTIES—										
Rice and Rice-flour	9,95	19,83	17,13	18,80	15,74	26,67	22,92	25,83	24,23	29,15
LAND CUSTOMS AND MISCELLANEOUS	1,12	1,14	1,41	1,36	1,49	1,62	1,56	1,59	1,39	1,49
GRAND TOTAL	69,79	81,26	82,29	81,67	93,56	1,15,19	1,01,37	1,08,69	1,04,70	1,15,44
Provincial distribution of Imports and Exports.										
Bengal Imports	18,73	20,90	24,80	24,49	26,21	26,56	24,75	24,69	25,39	29,26
Bengal Exports	1,58	3,42	3,28	3,83	2,03	3,08	2,69	3,23	4,12	2,73
Eastern Bengal and Assam Imports	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Eastern Bengal and Assam Exports	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...
Bombay Imports	26,56	24,40	22,67	20,15	28,28	37,10	28,88	34,59	29,98	30,24
Bombay Exports	53	75	36	94	75	1,03	41	69	47	36
Sind Imports	3,36	4,02	4,04	5,17	8,42	9,88	6,84	5,85	7,74	9,04
Sind Exports	20	33	24	14	40	32	22	33	28	58
Madras Imports	4,70	3,89	4,82	4,81	5,59	5,90	7,25	6,21	6,44	6,00
Madras Exports	1,85	77	1,12	51	93	1,19	1,33	1,18	89	1,15
Burma Imports	4,03	4,96	5,12	5,08	5,81	5,22	6,67	7,55	7,15	7,53
Burma Exports	5,79	14,51	12,13	13,38	11,63	21,05	18,27	20,40	18,47	24,33

RETAIL PRICES.

The following are the Retail Prices of certain food-grains and salt at selected stations for the first-half of May 1906. (Prices are stated in annas, etc., per ser.)

	Rice, common.	Wheat.	Barley.	Jawar.	Bajra.	Ragi.	Gram.	Salt.
BURMA—	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.
Rangoon	1 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 10
Toungoo	1 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 6
EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM—								
Rangpur	1 8	1 7	...	...	...	...	...	1 2
Backerganj	2 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 2
BENGAL—								
Calcutta	2 3	1 6	...	...	...	...	...	1 4
Patna	1 5	1 5	1 0	...	...	...	...	1 0
UNITED PROVINCES—								
Cawnpur	...	1 3	1 0	...	1 2	...	1 2	1 0
Fyzabad	...	1 4	1 0	...	...	...	1 1	1 2
Meerut	...	1 2	0 11	1 3	1 7	...	1 1	1 0
PUNJAB—								
Delhi	..	1 3	1 0	...	...	...	1 1	1 0
Amritsar		1 0	0 8	1 3	1 1	...	0 10	0 10
Rawal Pindi	...	1 1	0 9	1 2	1 1	...	1 0	0 9
SIND—								
Karachi	...	1 5	...	1 0	1 3	...	1 4	0 9
BOMBAY—								
Belgaum	...	2 3	...	1 5	1 5	...	...	1 0
Ahmadnagar	...	1 7	...	...	1 3	...	...	0 11
Bombay	...	1 11	...	1 5	1 6	...	...	1 3
Ahmadabad	...	1 7	...	1 3	1 7	...	...	0 10
CENTRAL PROVINCES—								
Jubbulpore	...	1 2	...	1 1	...	...	1 2	1 2
Nagpur	1 7	1 3	...	1 3	...	...	1 5	1 3
Raipur	1 5	1 2	...	...	...	...	1 2	1 2
MADRAS—								
Bellary	2 0	...	...	1 2	...	1 2	...	1 1
Madras	2 0	...	...	...	...	1 2	...	0 10
Salem	1 11	...	...	1 3	1 6	1 1	...	1 1

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.

For the week ending 9th June 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign—Imports by sea into	Calcutta lbs.	385,838
	Bombay „	157,651
	Madras „	351,963
Indian—Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	373,100
	Bombay „	8,565,450
	Madras „	...

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	19,190,745
	Bombay „	3,621,223
	Karachi „	837,981
	Madras „	2,921,016
	Rangoon „	294,130

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	1,776,657
	Bombay „	4,475,692
	Karachi „	1,665,327
	Madras „	301,249
	Rangoon „	337,243

Other Piece Goods.

Import by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	1,341,525
	Bombay „	2,288,383
	Karachi „	1,197,593
	Madras „	1,232,533
	Rangoon „	720,930

Piece Goods.

(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta cwt.	20,745
	Bombay* „	4,874
	Karachi „	13,556
	Madras „	4,456

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea cwt.	2,427
	Coastwise „	27,273
	By rail „	82,005
Imports into Karachi by rail	„	7,757
„ „ Calcutta by rail and river	„	13,115

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta	cwt.	57,085
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags No.	5,231,850
	„ cloth yds.	10,829,750
	Jute cwt.	22,233
Chittagong—Jute	„	6,389

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta	lbs.	1,631,211
Exports by sea from Calcutta	„	985,255
Chittagong	„	831,100

WHEAT.

Imports into Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	44,609
Karachi by rail	„	583,83
Bombay—By rail	„	47,996
Coastwise	„	14,483
Exports by sea from Calcutta	„	749
Bombay	„	2,096
Karachi	„	496,375

RICE.

Exports by sea from Calcutta	cwt.	33,271
Chittagong	„	...
Bombay	„	2,893
Karachi	„	17,574
Madras	„	...
Rangoon	„	593,156

LINSEED.

Imports into Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	81,738
Bombay by rail	„	42,914
Karachi by rail	„	...
Exports by sea from Calcutta	„	71,736
Bombay	„	36,317
Karachi	„	93

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	56,652
Bombay by rail	„	26,429
Karachi by rail	„	95,334
Exports by sea from Calcutta	„	7,605
Bombay	„	29,647
Karachi	„	64,507

* B., B. and C. I. By. figures only.

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 9th JUNE 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From All other foreign countries.	From Total.
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
Calcutta	...	83,675	...	83,675
Bombay	...	...	...	...
Karachi	...	...	...	...
Madras	...	...	...	...

Exports by sea from Burma to—		
Bengal	galls.	435,464
E. B. & Assam	,,	...
Bombay	,,	...
Karachi	,,	...
Madras	,,	590,847
Indian Ports, Non-Br.	,,	...
Foreign Ports	,,	...

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 9th JUNE 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	2,710	...	1,017	4	1,006	246	4,983
Germany	25,060	...	11,600	51,350	500	...	89,010
Austria-Hungary	11,640	...	6,882	65,136	...	...	83,658
Other European Countries	...	...	...	1,576	...	...	1,576
Java	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mauritius	4,769	...	7,426	219	...	...	12,414
Other Non-European Countries	27	...	30	...	...	1,172	1,229
Total refined							192,870
Total unrefined							6,201
Grand Total cwt.							199,071

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta. [The prices include postage] to countries in the Postal Union.

ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 (2*a*.)

2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a*.)

3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—

Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. R3. (12*a*.)

Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port. R3. (12*a*.)

4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. R2. (7*a*.)

5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a*.)

6. Accounts of Trade of the French Possession in India. As. 3. (1*a*.)

7. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possession in India. As. 2. (1*a*.)

8. Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India. R4. (6*a*.)

9. Report on the Rail-borne and River-borne Trade of Bengal. R4.

10. Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan. R1½.

11. Prices and Wages in India. R1½. (9*a*.)

12. Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India. R4. (12*a*.)

13. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India. R2. (10*a*.)

14. Agricultural Statistics of India. R3½. (12*a*.)

Part I.—British India.

Part II.—Native States.

15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India. As. 5. (2*a*.)

16. Statistics of Mineral Production in India. As. 2, (1*a*.)

QUARTERLY.

17. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

MONTHLY.

18. Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

19. Accounts of the External Land Trade of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

20. Statistics of the Production of Yarn and Woven Goods in the India Cotton Mills. As. 2.

[Amount within parenthesis denotes cost of packing and postage.]

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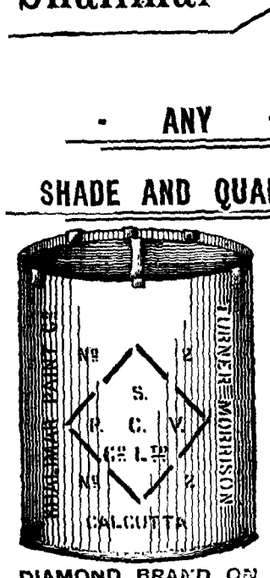
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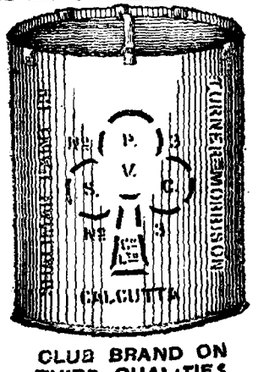


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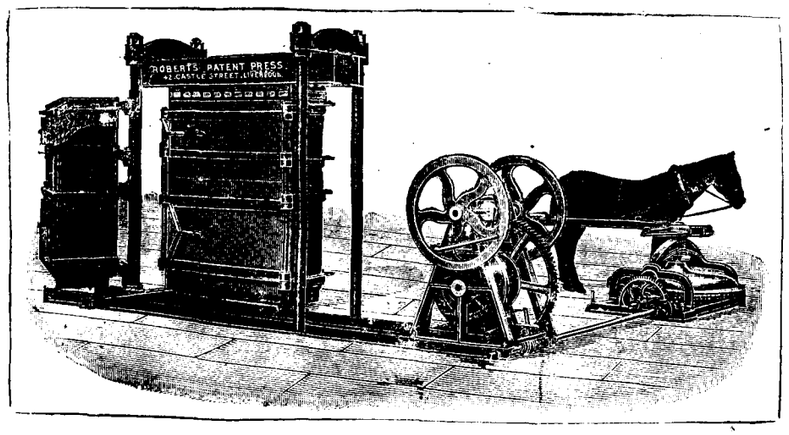
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Issued by the Commercial Intelligence Department of India.

VOL. I. No. 12.] CALCUTTA, THURSDAY, 21st JUNE 1906. [ANNAS 4

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NOTES.

Australian rubber manufacturers are, according to Reuter, making inquiries at Penang with a view to the **purchase of rubber in the Straits,** instead of in London, so as to effect a saving in freights.

The **sixth congress of the Chambers of Commerce** of the Empire will be held at Grocer's Hall, from July 10th to 14th next. The Earl of Elgin, Secretary for the Colonies, will open the proceedings on Tuesday, July 10th, at 10 A.M.

The **German** Government has concluded an agreement with the **British** Government similar to those already existing with France, Holland, Italy, Belgium, and the United States, for the **mutual protection of trade marks in China.**

The **Egyptian Prisons Department** (Ministry of the Interior Cairo) is asking for **tenders for the supply of 5,000 woollen blankets.** The tenders must be submitted to the Inspector General of that Department before noon on the 30th June, made out on stamped paper, and accompanied by a sum of £E. 200.

The results of the first year's working having been satisfactory, the Government of India have sanctioned the permanent continuance of the system of giving **drawbacks at Bhamo on the goods which are declared at Rangoon for export to Tengyueh,** and which have paid the duty in Rangoon. Declaration forms can be got at the Custom House.

According to a Reuter telegram from Atlanta, Georgia, the Southern Cotton Association estimates the **area under cotton in the United States** in 1906 at 27,735,870 acres, being a net increase of 2·76 per cent. The estimate also predicts that a scarcity of labour will cause an abandonment of 10 per cent. of the acreage.

It is reported that enough **coal** has been discovered in the Island of Batan, one of the **Philippine group,** to supply the Philippine Government, together with the Army and Navy, with 200,000 tons annually for 348 years. Favourable results have followed the use of this coal on some of the inter-island transports.

A Mr. Hugo Lentz, of Berlin, is reported to have devised a method of **applying a turbine to locomotive design,** for which it is claimed that [illegible] disadvantages consequent on the provision of suitable flexibility in the connections are successfully avoided. The turbine is mounted on the driving axle between the wheels and the method of obtaining play for the steam pipes without loss of power constitutes the chief feature in the invention.

There has been an increase of £255,617 in the return from **Italian Government monopolies.** The increased yield from the tobacco monopoly is £127,744; this result is ascribed to improvements in the preparation of the tobacco, especially that smoked by the working classes, the increased consumption being considered as a sign of the improved economic condition of the less well-to-do classes. The annual increase under this head for the three preceding years has averaged £220,000. The lottery monopoly also shows an increase, although a larger sum had to be paid in prizes than had been provided for in the estimates. There is a decrease of some £4,500 in the returns from the quinine monopoly.

Sorghum, the juar or "great millet," on which Sir George Watt has just published a monograph, is a very important article of food with the labouring classes of India who regarded it as the most wholesome of the cereals. Approximately some 22 million acres have been devoted to its cultivation in British India. The cultivation in Bombay is usually from seven to eight million acres, but only about 130,000 acres are cultivated in Bengal. In Hyderabad it is the most important grain crop, more than one-third of the total cultivated area being devoted to it. The Famine Commission of 1876 estimated that it absorbed 68·31 per cent. of the food area of the province. It has been estimated that the value of produce is ordinarily 25 per cent. in excess of the cost of the cultivation and may even go up to double that amount. The unimportance of juar and in fact of all millets in Bengal may be gathered from the opinion of the Famine Commission, namely, that famine in Bengal meant essentially the loss of the rice crop sown in April to June and reaped from November to January. The loss of the bhadoi or intermediate crops, which consist largely of Indian corn, millets, etc., would not produce famine, not even scarcity. In the United States the Sorghums are grown rather as a forage than a food crop. The subject is exhaustively and clearly dealt with in Farmer's Bulletin No. 246—Saccharine Sorghums for Forage by the Assistant Agrostologist, Bureau of Plant Industry. The pamphlet treats of the history of the introduction of the Sorghum into the United States, the area and importance of the crop, the varieties of Sorghums, the conditions of their growth, their habits, the effect they have upon the soil, proper methods of culture and harvesting and curings the food valves of the seed, and stalks. There are about 1·33—million acres, under Sorghum in the United States, or about a seventeenth of the area devoted to maize, but it is grown entirely as a pasture crop. The tendency of the young plant to become poisonous in time of drought, owing to the formation of prussic acid in the leaves, is noticed.

The **annual returns of navigation through the Suez Canal** for the year 1905, as compared with those of the two previous years, 1903 and 1904, have been published as a Parliamentary paper (Cd. 2922). The net tonnage for the past year shows a decrease of 267,730 tons, as compared with that of 1904, and an increase of 1,226,817 tons as compared with that of 1903. The number of vessels which passed through the Canal was 4,237 in 1904 and 4,116 in 1905, of which 2,679 in 1904 and 2,484 in 1905 carried the British flag. There has been a decrease of 476,989 tons last year as compared with 1904 in the tonnage of British vessels, which amounted to 8,356,940 tons in 1905. During the same period the tonnage of German vessels has increased from 1,969,561 tons in 1904 to 2,113,484 tons in 1905. The percentage of British vessels and their net tonnage decreased in 1905, being 60·4 and 63·6 respectively, as against 63·2 and 65·9 in 1904. The percentage of German vessels and their net tonnage was 14·6 and 16·1 respectively, as compared with 12·8 and 14·7 in 1904, while the percentage of net tonnage of the other maritime nations using the Canal in 1905 remained practically stationary as compared with the preceding year.

The **American** Senate has passed unanimously the **Agricultural Bill** in its amended form. The amendments include a **provision** for the **rigid inspection of meat,** applying not only to exports but also to inter-State shipments. It is admitted that this provision goes further in the direction of Government supervision over a private industry than any previous legislative enactment. It is understood that the Administration backs the amendment, and that opposition to it was silenced by a threat of a Presidental Message on the abuses discovered in the meat-packing industry by the Government's Labour Commissioner and others. Laffan's correspondent at Washington says: "The bill imposes heavy penalties on railways and other carriers for handling meats unless they have been certified pure by the United States inspectors, and unless they have a certificate that the plant from which the meat comes is clean and wholesome."

The following tables show the **trade by sea between Stettin and India** during the years 1904 and 1905:—

Exports from Stettin.

Articles.	Quantity. 1904.	1905.
	Tons.	Tons.
INDIA.		
Soap, soft	...	0·7
Starch, sugar	..	0·9
Locomobiles	...	25·4
Wire rope	...	0·3
Iron plates and tin plates	..	24·9
Sewing machines, with stands	0·1	...
" " without stands	0·1	...
Shoe blacking	14·3	...
Wrought iron, in bars	...	1·9
Pig iron	103·6	...
Zinc, rolled	6	10·2
Ironware, of wrought iron	...	6·8
" fine	...	0·2
Farina	...	1·2
Wood articles	4·9	6·4
Cement	9·1	...
Vinegar of lead	3	...
Arsenic, white	3·7	...
" Composition	3	...
Glue	...	2·7
Ink	...	0·2

Imports into Stettin.

Articles.	Quantity. 1904.	1905.
	Tons.	Tons.
INDIA.		
Machine tools	...	0·3
Clay, not specified	...	302·5
Log, wood	...	10·5
Wheat	29·9	0·3
Raw products not specified	2·1	2·6
" " for the manufacture of brushes.	...	10·9
Gum	...	0·2
Hemp	8·9	...
Jute	...	500·1
Vegetable fibres	...	29·1
Maize	181·0	...
Unplaned planks of hard wood	202·8	1·2
Manila-hemp yarn	...	11·1
Coir fibres twisted into threads	...	2·2
Jute goods, undyed	24·3	14·9
Cloves	...	0·5
Ginger	...	11·3
Cardamom	...	1·4
Mace	...	0·8
Pepper, black	59·8	45·9
" white	59·0	39·5
Pimento	2·8	6·4
Cinnamon	...	0·1
" flowers	...	1·7
Coffee, raw	295·1	520·3
Sago	...	3·8
Rice, husked	660·4	65·6
" " in Germany	2,390·2	1,912·9
Fat oils	...	0·1
Gum-lac, shellac	...	12·4
Hides	...	18·1
Rice offal	...	108·4
Catechu	...	5·9
Pulse	...	94·0
Poppy seed	...	48·2
Ben-nuts	...	63·9
Resin	...	1·4
Residues of the manufacture of fat oils	...	156·9
Linseed	281·1	...
Waste and chips	0·3	...
Rape and rape seed	13,766·8	12,271·7
Mustard, raw	25·7	15·2
Palm and cocoanut oil	1·0	...

The British Consul at **Constantinople,** in his report for 1905, published certain **estimates of landing and other charges** levied on various articles of merchandise. He writes to say that he has been asked by the Agent of the Khedivial Steamship Co.—a line sailing under the British flag, and working between Alexandria, Constantinople and the Red Sea—to correct the estimate of charges on rice given on page 17 of the Trade Report No. 3533 for 1905. The Agent says the Khedivial Co. makes no landing charge on goods of which delivery is taken from the ships' side: also the porterage is

exaggerated, it should not be more than 2 piastres per sack to merchants' store in the rice bazar. Estimate would run on whole lighter load of 25 tons:

	p.
Lighterage 1 day	70
Mooring dues	20
Quay dues	123
Porterage at 2 *p.* per sack of 113 kilos	442½
	655½

instead of 1,723 as stated in the report.

One thousand six hundred and thirty-seven tons of **tanning materials,** valued at Rbls. 6,458., were **imported into Finland** in 1905 against 2,114 tons, valued at Rbls. 11,360., in 1904. This article is becoming an important one as the quantity imported in 1905 is more than twice, that imported in 1904 and more than three times, as large at the import for any of the three previous years, namely, 1901-03. Tanning materials, consisting for the most part of oak bark, quebracho, valonia, mimosa, algarobilla and sumach are mostly imported from German firms, a certain amount of oak bark, however, coming from Sweden. There is absolutely no reason why British firms should not be in a position to sell these goods as well as the German houses. "With the exception of oak bark, I believe," says the British Vice-Consul, Uleaborg, "none of the materials used can be grown or manufactured in the United Kingdom or Germany, therefore neither nation has any advantage over the other on this account; the freight should be the same for both, and the only advantage the Germans have is that at least two houses send a traveller up here twice a year, still I think these goods could be sold without a traveller on sample only. I noticed last year that 160 tons of valonia sold by a German firm were shipped *vid* Hull. Any information as to buyers and materials required can be obtained from the British Vice-Consulate, Uleaborg, Finland."

His Majesty's Consul at Galveston, Texas (Mr. H. D. Nugent), reports that in the **cultivation of rice** in the **United States** the Carolinas and Georgia have of late been completely overshadowed by the newer fields of Louisiana and Texas.

The swampy lands on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico in these two States have been found to be peculiarly suited to the growth of rice, and land that was a few years ago thought to be almost valueless is now sold at high prices. Additional impulse has been lent to the industry by the presence of several colonies of Japanese, skilled rice cultivators, and more of them are expected. There are already several hundred of these Japanese.

The progress of the rice industry in Texas can readily be seen when it is stated that in the report issued by the Secretary of Agriculture at Washington in December last, out of a total of 460,198 acres under rice cultivation in the United States in 1905 no less than 432,286 acres were in Louisiana and Texas; 237,900 acres in the former and 194,386 acres in the latter. Texas produced 6,025,966 bushels of an average value of 1 *dol.* per bushel and Louisiana 6,137,820 bushels of an average value of 89 *c.* per bushel.

As yet, however, there is comparatively little rice exported from Texas, the bulk being grown for home consumption.

The text of the **"Bill to provide for taking a Census of production,"** introduced by the President of the Board of Trade on May 16th, has been published. The Bill contains ten clauses. Its aim is to arrive at a correct estimate of home trade. The President of the Board of Trade said that at present there were no means of arriving at dependable data with regard to British home industries. The following is a list of persons required to make returns:—

(*a*) The occupier of every factory or workshop within the meaning of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

(*b*) The owner, agent, or manager of every mine and quarry.

(*c*) Every builder, that is to say, a person who, by way of trade or business, undertakes the construction, alteration, repair, or decoration of a building or any part thereof.

(*d*) Every person who by way of trade or business executes works of construction alteration, or repair of railroads, tramroads, harbours, docks, canals, sewers, roads, embankments, reservoirs, or wells, or of laying, altering, or repairing gas or water pipes, or telegraphic, telephonic, or electric lines or works, or any other prescribed works.

(*e*) Every person who by way of trade or business gives out work to be done elsewhere than on his own premises.

(*f*) Every person carrying on any other trade or business which may be prescribed.

The **Fine Cotton Spinners' and Doublers' Association** held their ninth annual meeting on the 25th of May at the Association Hall, Manchester. Sir W. H. Houldsworth, the chairman, presided. Moving the adoption of the report he said that if he were asked to describe the year through which the Association had passed he should simply say it was a year of good work and progress. The gross profits for the year 1905-06 were £542,441, as compared with gross profits in 1904-05 of £381,447, or an increase of £160,994. After deducting depreciation, which amounted to the same in both years, the net profits for the present year were £402,441, as compared with those of the preceding year of £241,447. He did not know whether that result would be satisfactory to the shareholders, for he could imagine that they might have had expectations of a greater amount, but what he said at last year's meeting applied to some extent to the cotton trade, which had been in a very healthy condition and large profits had been made, the improvement had not reached their department. It had been very slow in coming to them. Still there had been a steady improvement, for in the second half of the year 1904-05 the profit was £103,655, in the following half-year it was £170,000, and in the last six months £231,000. That improvement was due to two causes—the greater demand for their production resulting to a great extent from the improvement in the home trade, and the great improvement in machinery and in the organisation of the business.

A Consular Report on the **trade and agriculture** of the states of **Oregon, Washington and Idaho,** U.S.A., says as the harvests were much greater than in 1904 and the stock of **bags and bagging** light, there has been a good trade at higher prices both for grain bags, wool packs and hop cloth, and at the close of the year there were no stocks carried over. Average price of standard grain bags, £1 8*s.* per 100. Consumption in the district was not less than 40,000,000 bags and yards; hop cloth, 830,000 yards; wool bags, 90,500. There is but one jute mill in the district, at Washington State Penitentiary, and the product is only sold within the state. The following are the statistics as furnished by the Warden:—

Articles.	Quantity.		Remarks.
Raw material used .	Bales	2,985	Or 1,194,000 lbs jute.
Wheat bags manufactured.	No.	1,012,596	Price list, £1 3*s.* 5*d.* per 100.
45-inch burlaps .	Yards	15,500	Price list, 2½*d.* per yard.
Hop cloth . .	„	119,808	Price list, 5*d.* per yard.
Oat bags . .	No.	3,332	Price list, £1 4*s.* 9*d.* per 100.
Wool bags . .	„	2,978	Price list, 1*s.* 3*d.* each.
Special bags . .	„	4,118	Price list, 4*d.* to 4½*d.* each.
Fleece twine . .	Lbs.	1,913	Price list, 6*d.* per lb.

Mr. Consul Hugh Mallet, in his report on the trade of the Rosario district of **Argentina,** says that the **imports from India** consist principally of silks, and of hessians for making bags for grain.

During the year 1905 there was a great decline in the export of sugar, due to the abolition of the bounty formerly paid by the National Government on exported sugar. Remarking on the subject of **agriculture** he says that year by year more land is being cultivated, preference being given to maize, wheat, linseed, and lucerne; Italians being the principal grain farmers. Unfortunately the primitive and unscientific manner in which they too often work is the cause of a much poorer harvest and quality of grain than would otherwise result if more care were taken.

The National Department of Agriculture is now trying to improve this by addressing circulars to the grain growers recommending change of seed, etc.

The extension of Argentine territory now being cultivated is so vast that the harvest must naturally vary a good deal. While in some districts, due to favourable weather, etc., the harvest is good, in others, owing to drought and visitation of locusts (the latter having, after several years' absence, again made their appearance in increased numbers), it has been poor, in some districts yielding barely sufficient to supply seed. The provinces of Santa Fé, Cordoba and Entre Rios have in some departments suffered from these causes, but on the whole, due to the increased area under cultivation, the quantity for export during 1906 will not, I think, show any marked decline. The quality of wheat is varied.

According to the *Review of the River Plate* the quantity of wheat and linseed for export from the whole country is estimated at 3,000,000 tons (in view of damage to crops perhaps a little too high) and 550,000 tons respectively. From Rosario Port I estimate the shipment of wheat and linseed will be about the same quantity or perhaps a little less than during the year under review, when 806,900 tons of wheat and 265,000 tons of linseed were shipped.

According to the National Statistical Department of Agriculture the total production of wheat and linseed for 1905-06 is as follows:—

District.	Quantity.	
	Wheat.	Linseed.
	Tons.	Tons.
Buenos Ayres . . .	2,078,922	224,994
Santa Fe	819,063	284,395
Cordoba	663,104	29,687
Entre Rios	158,650	94,662
La Pampa and other provinces .	162,000	6,300
Total .	3,881,739	640,038

As regards the maize crop, it is too early to report, harvesting only having recently commenced, but taking into account the quantity sown, larger than in any previous year, and notwithstanding that locusts and drought have occasioned considerable

damage in some districts, the quantity for export will probably exceed that exported during the year 1905. The condition of this grain, due to its dry state, is reported to be exceptionally good for shipment.

According to the *Review of the River Plate* the quantity of maize exported from the whole country during 1905 amounted to 2,277,731 tons and may amount to 3,500,000 tons during 1906.

SUGAR.

SUGAR represents 53·3 per cent. of the total value of the articles of Food and Drink imported into India, and retains the place which it assumed in 1904-05 as the third largest single article of importation.

Beet-sugar continues to rule the Indian sugar market; and the extraordinary vicissitudes of the trade during the past year cannot be better presented at a glance than by means of a statement showing the fluctuations in the monthly prices and arrivals.

	Beet.			Cane.		
	Quantity.	Value.	Average Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Average Value.
	Cwt.	R	R	Cwt.	R	R
April 1905	90,241	11,90,706	13·2	154,041	19,82,172	12·9
May ,,	28,024	3,49,171	12·4	217,453	25,54,529	11·7
June ,,	84,592	9,83,727	11·6	133,382	15,25,993	11·4
July ,,	14,918	1,76,755	11·8	190,411	19,42,035	10·2
August ,,	4,429	30,075	6·8	499,016	53,09,775	10·6
September ,,	1,905	12,794	6·4	645,031	66,43,504	10·3
October ,,	18,941	1,99,359	10·5	950,691	95,97,886	10·1
November ,,	285,526	22,63,371	7·9	528,208	55,47,175	10·5
December ,,	497,999	45,04,439	9·	226,704	20,18,462	8·9
January 1906	682,028	63,99,615	9·3	285,350	23,76,716	8·3
February ,,	626,934	58,67,954	9·3	208,224	18,04,916	8·6
March ,,	1,097,693	98,73,687	9·	227,269	19,62,410	8·6
TOTAL	3,433,262	3,17,61,553	9·2·	4,264,786	4,32,05,583	10·1

At the beginning of the year the largest quantities came from Mauritius with Austria second, at 98,000 cwts. and 90,000, respectively. In June the trade of Mauritius and Austria began to dwindle equally, and in July Java came to the front with 83,579, cwts. This lead it improved to 276,082 cwts. in August, with Mauritius coming up at 187,766 cwts; and in September, Java did its best of the year at 438,742 cwts., with Mauritius second and beet-sugar down to a total of 1,996 cwts. In October, Java fell back a little and Mauritius came up almost in line with it; but in November beet-sugar began to take the upper hand: Java withdrew, being in fact sold out. Mauritius kept its place for a few weeks with a total of 342,566 and Austria at 168,227, but in December Austria had risen to 381,248 and Mauritius had receded to 120,000. In these two months France sent to India considerable shipments which were understood to issue from speculative stocks in liquidation. In January, February and March Austria has placed increasing quantities on the market, making a total of 1,562,528 cwts. since the beginning of the calendar year, with Mauritius and Germany disputing the second place.

The previous financial year closed in March 1905 with the Bombay price at R13-15-0 per cwt. and the European price of 88 per cent. sugar at 13s. 3*d.* f. o. b. Hamburg. The highest point in recent years had been reached two months before that time when R14-5-0 was recorded in Bombay. These high levels were due to several causes. The abolition of the bounties in European producing countries and the consequent reduction of the internal sugar taxes had led to a restriction of cultivation and had induced such an expansion of domestic consumption as had not been foreseen. The crop season in Europe in 1904 had been characterised by wide-spread drought, and on the strength of it an extensive speculation arose. But the high prices attained brought their own cure, for they induced at once an increase of some 16 per cent. in the acreage sown with beet in Europe, and also a resort on the part of consumers to reserve stocks of which the speculators had not had knowledge. After the opening of the financial year 1905-06 prices fell steadily, and they gave way completely about the month of July. Since July the decline has been practically continuous, and since the close of the calendar year the price in Bombay had stood practically steady at R9-14-0 per cwt. During certain months, when high prices prevailed, the quotations were really nominal. Some embarrassment has also been suffered by importers as a consequence of the native agitation for the preference of indigenous products, but it remains to be seen how far the principles underlying that movement will prevail against the inducement offered by the present extraordinarily low price of beet-sugar.

The arrivals of beet and of cane-sugar in each of the last five years are shown in the following statement. The statement designates the countries from which the sugar was shipped to India, not those in which it was produced or refined. Until 1902-03 it was assumed, for statistical purposes, that the imports from the United Kingdom consisted of cane and beet-sugar in equal proportions. Since 1902-04 the division has been made in accordance with the declarations of origin; but the last three years have been too abnormal to admit of any deduction from them regarding the probable amount of error under the old system:—

—	1901-02.	1902-03.	19 03-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
Beet.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.	cwts.
Austria-Hungary .	2,257,928	888,018	260,259	1,411,240	2,340,717
Germany .	577,130	145,666	7,205	176,488	712,410
United Kingdom .	94,151	157,398	51,865	50,452	177,682
Other Countries .	6,993	266,435	194,468	48,308	201,595
Total .	2,933,211	1,457,517	552,737	1,716,488	3,432,404
Cane.					
Mauritius . .	1,759,203	1,915,664	2,616,655	1,823,675	2,015,476
China . . .	182,767	568,601	348,898	285,027	130,629
Java . . .	446,686	573,666	1,335,548	2,091,508	1,685,391
Straits . . .	63,056	207,937	229,993	211,040	150,868
United Kingdom .	94,151	157,398	585,412	70,896	106,361
Other Countries .	83,198	106,412	368,872	351,163	176,920
Total .	2,629,061	3,529,678	5,485,378	4,833,309	4,265,641
Total sugar, excluding molasses and confectionery	5,565,272	4,987,195	6,038,115	6,549,797	7,698,018
Value R .	5,72,66,293	4,76,98,243	5,77,23,413	6,71,08,487	7,50,27,133

Java, which last year headed the list of contributors, has given way to Austria-Hungary, which now resumes the first place with a total exceeding even its record of 1901-02 by some 82,800 cwts. Mauritius which in 1902-03 stood second, and in 1903-04 stood first, has resumed the second place with some 600,000 cwts. less than in the latter year.

In his Budget statement, published in the *Gazette* of March 24th, 1906, the Hon'ble the Financial Member of Council reviewed certain of the statistics of the sugar trade in recent years with a view to determining what effects, if any, had attended the imposition of additional duties to countervail the bounties of producing countries. That legislation was embodied in four Acts passed, respectively, in 1899, 1902, 1903 and 1904, the last two being little more than continuing enactments. He quoted the figures of the area under sugarcane in India in each year 1890-91 to 1898-99; and, taken by themselves, these figures do not substantiate the allegations of greatly reduced cultivation on which the original plea for legislation was founded. On the other hand the contraction of sugar area which has taken place since the passing of the first Act is much more marked; and when the figures are taken in conjunction with those representing the increasing volume and diminishing cost of beet imports they fully bear out the conclusion of the Finance Minister that the legislation and the provisions of the Sugar Convention to which it gave place have not achieved their object so far as India is concerned.

All the best-informed auguries portend a European beet crop not less than that of last year, unless indeed the abnomal climatic conditions recently reported from Europe should be maintained and be found to have caused injury.

The prices of opium in the Calcutta market during the week ending 16th June 1906 were, per chest, as follows:—

Behar opium—R1,317; 1,314; 1,311; 1,312; 1,314; 1,318; 1,320.

Benares opium—R1,240; 1,237; 1,235; 1,235; 1,237; 1,240; 1,245.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 7th sale of 1906—R1,317; 1,314; 1,311; 1,312; 1,314; 1,318; 1,320.

China market, Hongkong (exchange Rs. 156 to 157 per 100 dollars).

Behar—$870; 870; 865; 865; 865; 865; 865.

Shanghai (exchange R 216 per 100 Taels), one sale, on 13th of 624 Taels.

Benares—One sale in the Hongkong market on 13th of $800; one sale, Shanghai, on 13th of 580 Taels.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending 9th June were—for A class (season 1905-06) R1,345 to 1,360; for B class (season 1904-05) R1,420 to 1,550; class C, old (season 1903-04) R 1,700. The latest China prices were for new classes (A and B) R1,497 to 1,520; old (class C) fetched at Hongkong R1,704 and at Shanghai R1,682.

ENQUIRIES.

Hard Spelter.

A firm of metal merchants in Swansea wishes to know the names of firms in India interested in "Hard Spelter."

Sugar.

A native merchant of position desires to be put in touch with sugar dealers in the following countries:—Germany, Australia, Java, Mauritius and Glasgow.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

EXCERPTS FROM PROCEEDINGS, UPPER INDIA.

Inland Telegrams.

CORRESPONDENCE on this subject with the Director-General of Telegraphs continues. The Director-General is averse to the merging of Urgent and Ordinary Telegrams into one class, but states that the use of the Ordinary telegram is diminishing and that that class will probably disappear. The Committee hold that this is an indication that they have correctly voiced the feeling of the general public in this matter, and the Director-General is being addressed again to that effect.

Income Tax Assessment.

The Madras Chamber has asked this Chamber to join in a representation to the Government of India regarding the manner in which incomes are in certain cases assessed for payment of Income Tax

The procedure complained of consists in the practice of estimating profits by calculating an arbitrary percentage on the volume of business put through by assessees. The Government of Madras in reply to a letter on the subject from the Madras Chamber stated that this procedure could not be entirely dispensed with until all assessees adopted the practice of maintaining complete trustworthy and intelligible accounts.

No complaints having been brought to the notice of this Chamber, the Committee replied that they were not prepared to take up the matter.

Publication of Trade Introductions.

The Director-General of Commercial Intelligence has intimated that the Government of India, after careful consideration of the matter, have resolved to carry out the proposal to insert Trade Introductions in the *Indian Trade Journal*.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

THE *Board of Trade Journal*, published on the 31st May, in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations, gives particulars about :—

SOUTH AFRICA.—Proposed South African Customs Union Convention, 1906.

BRITISH GUIANA.—Continuation of Import Tariff to 31st March 1907. Continuation of Tax Ordinance.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS.—Free Importation of Oil for use as Fuel.

GERMANY.—Duty-free Importation Tanning Materials in "Improvement" Trade. Tare allowances.

GERMANY-SWEDEN.—New Treaty of Commerce and Navigation.

ITALY.—Certain Conventional duties lower than those fixed by the new Italo-Austrian Treaty.

We give the following particulars of changes interesting to Indian Trade :—

SOUTH AFRICA.

South African Customs Union Convention, 1906—Proposed.

The present Convention, which was expected to be laid before the various South African Legislatures for ratification towards the end of May, has just been published as a Parliamentary Paper (Cd., 2,977 of 1906), price 2½*d.*, and may be obtained either directly or through any bookseller from Messrs. Wyman & Sons, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E. C.

It provides, *inter alia*, that the Convention of 1903 shall only have effect until a date not later than the 30th June 1906, but notice has now been received that the duties provided by the Convention are already (since 25th May) in force.

With regard to the changes proposed under the new Customs Convention it may be remarked that certain specific rates have been increased, with a rebate to United Kingdom goods of the total amount of duty added to the existing rates. In such cases, therefore, the United Kingdom rates remain the same, whilst rates on "foreign" goods are increased by a duty approximately equal to 3 per cent. *ad valorem*.

At the same time, the specific duties on some articles (*i. e.*, blasting compounds, candles, second-hand clothing, corn and grain fodder, spirits, cigarettes and tobacco) have been increased, notwithstanding the rebate accorded United Kingdom goods.

Mixed rates (*i.e.*, partly specific and partly *ad valorem* rates) are to be imposed on such articles as boots and shoes, printed matter and vehicles (not including motor cars or cycles), whilst articles of United Kingdom manufacture that were previously charged 25 per cent. *ad valorem* with a rebate of 6¼ per cent. are now accorded a rebate of only 3 per cent.

Aerated and table waters, fruit juices, syrups, biscuits, bricks, harness and saddlery have been added to the 25 per cent. *ad valorem* list.

Some articles (the most important of which are agricultural implements and machinery) that were previously free are now rated at 3 per cent. *ad valorem*, whilst many chemicals used in manufacturing and mining, unmanufactured wood, ceiling and flooring boards and galvanized iron sheets are added to the 3 per cent. *ad valorem* list. All articles subject to a duty of 3 per cent. *ad valorem* are accorded full rebate of duty when the manufacture of the United Kingdom.

Chemicals and raw, or semi-raw, materials used in manufacturing or mining are added to the free list.

The general *ad valorem* rate will be raised from 10 per cent. *ad valorem* to 15 per cent. *ad valorem* with a rebate of 3 per cent. *ad valorem* on British goods. The rates at present in force are, therefore, 7½ per cent. British and 10 per cent. Foreign, as against the proposed rates of 12 per cent. and 15 per cent. *ad valorem* respectively.

A new article is added to the Convention which provides for the total prohibition of the importation of prison and penitentiary-made goods, and also of opium (except for medicinal purposes) into the Union. (Article IX.)

Southern Rhodesia may, under Article XVI, suspend certain duties (*e. g.*, candles, condensed milk, fish, meat and oil). It may be added that under the previous Convention they were empowered to suspend the duties on many more articles than now scheduled.

Provision is made, under Article XVI, to impose an excise duty on spirits manufactured from the produce of the vine in any colony or territory of the Union. If not manufactured from the vine each party to the Union may retain full liberty to permit such manufacture with or without such duty of excise, or may prohibit its manufacture altogether under certain conditions.

Provision is further made, as in the previous Convention, for a rebate equivalent to that accorded goods the produce or manufacture of the United Kingdom to be granted similarly to the goods of any British Colony, Possession or Protectorate granting equivalent reciprocal privileges to the Colonies and Territories belonging to the Union.

GERMANY.

Tanning Materials in "Improvement" Trade—Duty-free Importation of.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that the Bundesrath has authorised the duty-free importation, under the condition governing "improvement" trade, of quebracho and other tanning woods, and of tanning materials generally, destined either to be cut up in small pieces and re-exported, or for use in the manufacture of tanning or colouring extracts for exportation.

WEATHER SUMMARY.

For the week ending the 16th June 1906.

DURING the week under review there was general rain in Burma and in Eastern Bengal and Assam : nearly general rain on the west coast, on the Madras, Deccan and South India, in the United Provinces, Punjab, Rajputana and Central India ; thunderstorms and duststorms were numerous, while there was showery weather in Kashmir and Central Provinces. The principal amounts of rainfall were :—Tavoy 6·0″, Murmagao 4·60″, Goa 4·44″, Mangalore 4·28″, Cuddapah 4·16″, Cherra Poonjee 3·61″, Bombay 3·44″, Ajmer 3·10″, Akyab 2·86″, Moulmein 2·83″, Bhamo 2·78″, Karwar 2·77″, Mergui 2·70″, Cocanada 2·45″, Barisal 2·40″, Dhubri 2·37″, Murree 2·15″, Narainganj 2·10″, Veraval 2·05″, Diamond Island 1·87″, Dibrugarh 1·82″, Salem 1·80″, Bellary 1·75″, Port Blair 1·73″, Chitaldroog 1·72″, Dinajpur 1·65″, Allahabad 1·52″ and Madras 1·43″.

The important feature in the weather during the past week had been the appearance of monsoon rainfall on the west coast on the 12th instant, and its breaking with less than the usual strength on the 13th when moderately heavy rain occurred on the Konkan coast.

The rainfall of the period from the 4th May to the 16th June had been normal or in excess in Burma, the Delta of Bengal, Gujarat, the Deccan, South India and the sub-divisions of Dinajpur, Burdwan and Jaipur. It had been in defect in all other parts of the country, but the large deficiency shown last week had been materially reduced in the north-west dry area, the east coast (south) and the sub-divisions of Lahore, Jubbulpore, Jhansi and Bombay. Skies had been moderately clouded over Burma throughout the week, and temperature had been generally in slight defect in Upper Burma and in slight excess in Lower Burma.

In Bengal nor'westers and thunderstorms were fairly numerous on the 12th. Skies had been moderately to heavily overcast throughout the week in Assam, and in the remainder of north-east India they had been lightly to moderately clouded over. Temperature, which was everywhere in defect at the beginning of the week, was in defect in Eastern Bengal and Assam at the close, but in the western districts it was in large excess owing to the prevalence of dry westerly winds in these parts. In many instances, duststorms and thunderstorms accompanied with rain appeared in northern and Central India, but the falls were in a good many cases light. In the Central Provinces the rainfall covered the greatest area during the day ending at 8 hours on the 10th. In consequence of these local disturbances, which had probably given snow on the higher ranges of the Himalayas, temperature was generally below the normal during the week in the Punjab, the Frontier Province and Kashmir ; and from the 12th there had been a steady fall, the mean temperature at the end of the week being on the average 10° below normal. On the 12th temperature fall rapidly over the remainder of north-west India, but it soon recovered, and by the 4th it was again approximately normal. In the Peninsula precipitation, was confined to the west coast and the adjacent districts, but on the 10th the rain extended into the Deccan and continued during the next day. On the 12th monsoon rainfall appeared, and from this date until the end of the week nearly general rain fell daily. Skies were lightly to heavily overcast at the beginning of the week, but at its close they were almost completely clouded over. Temperature was generally in excess before, but on the 14th it was in defect. On the 16th pressure gave way briskly over the whole area, the fall of the barometer being greatest off the Orissa coast. Pressure was generally below normal except in Chota Nagpur and Bihar, the defect reaching 1·25 inch at Diamond Island. Winds were cyclonic round a low pressure area in the north of the Bay. Wind velocity was increasing in the north-west angle, but had diminished along the Circars coast. Mean temperature had changed irregularly. It was below normal along the west of the Bay and in Lower Burma, but above normal elsewhere. Humidity had diminished in Bihar, the Central and United Provinces and Assam, but had risen slightly elsewhere. The sky was heavily overcast in Madras, Burma and Lower Bengal, but was clearing to the north-west of area under report. The depression noticed appeared to have intensified, and there was a fairly complete cyclonic circulation round the north of the Bay. The depression at present was only of slight intensity, and had possibly not yet developed into a storm.

CONSULAR REPORT.

HAVRE.

Consul-General Hearn, in his report on the **trade of Havre in 1905,** says that of the British vessels entered with Cargoes, 650, measuring 495,838 tons (not including the Southampton mail service), came from Great Britain (none came from Ireland); 111, measuring 314,086 tons, came from the United States; 39, measuring 57,472 tons, came from the West Indies; 28, with 42,767 tons, from Brazil; 23, with 23,280 tons, from Spain; 20, with 48,452 tons, from Canada; 16, with 39,403 tons, from India; 11, with 25,135 tons, from Russia; and 8, with 13,209 tons, from the River Plate.

The British vessels which cleared from Havre with cargoes were :—311, with 345,769 tons, to Great Britain, not including the Southampton mail boats (none went to Ireland); 53, with 91,021 tons, to Brazil; 34, with 71,985 tons, to French ports to complete or finish discharging; 25, with 56,254 tons, to the River Plate; 17, with 44,725 tons, to Canada; 15, with 34,940 tons, to Antwerp; and 13, with 22,647 tons, to German ports. The register of British shipping showed an increase in 1905 of 106 vessels over 1904, of 43,560 tons in direct shipping and 157,629 tons in indirect shipping. There was an increase of 203,071 tons in steamers and a decrease of 1,882 tons in sailing vessels (which numbered only 28 and measured 7,841 tons). The amount of coal brought in British bottoms was 541,627 tons, being 20,619 tons less than in 1904. The amount of cotton brought from the United States in British vessels was 666,953 bales, being an increase of 190,072 bales on 1904, whereas the number of bales brought from India was only 8,422, being a falling-off from 1904 of 1,323 bales.

The year 1905 saw a continuation of the fever of **speculation in cotton** which broke out at the end of 1903. In September last the Southern Association of Cotton Planters fixed the minimum price at 11c., and in December a circular was sent to the planters recommending them not to increase the area under cotton in the present year, and to hold on to their crops until prices for the present crop should reach 15c. The rise thus produced on the cotton markets prevented manufacturers purchasing for a time, and two mills in the Havre district had to work short time from August last. The supply of cotton turned out, however, to be very large, the American Crop being the largest on record, and although it was naturally expected that the war in the Far East would have curtailed transactions, the consumption of cotton, on the contrary, in 1905 was the largest ever known, and French spinners took from Havre 822,721 bales against 730,168 bales in 1904.

Transactions were large, and although there was a great deal of complaint over the unfavourable basis of the import trade, still the year ended with a very large quantity of cotton at sea and every appearance of an active season in 1906. The total imports of all sorts of cotton to Havre in 1905 were 868,784 bales against 642,825 bales in 1904. The **imports of Indian Cotton** in 1905 amounted to 26,300 bales against 53,698 bales in the previous year. The tendency, however, remains in favour of holding but small stocks of cotton so long as prices are ruled by American speculation. There is a great desire both in France and the United Kingdom to encourage the **cultivation of cotton in** their **colonies**. In British colonies the cultivation of cotton is progressing; Sierra Leone produced last year 10,000 bales, and this is expected to increase to 250,000 bales within the next two years. Indo-China, the only French colony where cotton cultivation is systematically carried on, sent home in 1905 2,736 cwts. of cotton. Madagascar and Nossi Bé exported 42 cwts. in 1905, while 60 cwts. from Algiers and 7 cwts. from Guadeloupe were imported at Havre. The efforts of the Colonial Cotton Association have, however, been more particularly turned towards the French colonies on the West Coast of Africa. In the Soudan some hundreds of acres have been sown with Mississippi, Georgia and Louisiana seed. The cotton from Sansandig (Niger) in 1904 gave excellent results in spinning and behaved equally well on the loom, and it is now proved that the Valley of the Niger produces cotton capable of competing with the best American kinds. The amount of Niger Valley cotton received during the year was 161 cwts., out of which 100 bales from Dahomey were sold on the Havre market at the price of 66 fr. per 50 kilos., showing that the success of the plantations in the colony is probable. The American monopoly of cotton growing and selling has shown the necessity for other sources of supply, and so trials are being made in every quarter of the globe and cotton will certainly become a much more general cultivation than hitherto. The Japanese are going to cultivate it in Corea, where the soil has been shown to be suitable for it, but the question would appear to be also one of climate.

In Cambodia, where two years ago cotton was unknown, the cotton crops of 1905 amounted to 19,000 bales. Thanks to the inundations of the Me-Kong, the conditions of cultivation are similar to those of Egypt, and there are, it appears, thousands of acres well fitted for cotton growing. It is evident, therefore, that efforts are being made on all sides to combat American speculalion, which has become the ruler of the market, and it is to be hoped that the speculative manœuvres hitherto indulged in will now become more and more difficult of realisation.

Prices of **hides** at the commencement of 1905 were very high and there was no indication that these prices would not only be maintained but that they would be exceeded later in the year, which actually happened. There was lack of animation in the first months of the

period prices somewhat fluctuated in certain grades, although they were not very marked; but during the latter half of the year, on information received from the United States, Germany and the United Kingdom, these prices underwent, especially for lighter kinds, an irresistible rise such as has not been heard of since 1895. Some kinds, such as Rio light ox, dry and salted Ceara, salted Para and Manaos and others, surpassed the very high prices of that memorable year. Heavy hides followed this movement, but in a less degree. For some time it has been evident that light hides are rising in favour at the expense of heavy hides. The reason for this is found in new ways and requirements of manufacturing shoes, in which light leather is now more usually employed. Since these demands of production are made the same now in all countries, the season of the scarcity of light hides and the consequent rise in price is explained. The importation of hides to Havre in 1905 increased considerably, amounting to 1,213,662 hides of all kinds, against 1,104,678 hides in 1904 and an average of 1,160,734 hides for the five years 1901-05. River Plate hides formed the majority of this total. Monte Video Saladero ox fell off considerably in number, amounting only to 113,924 hides in 1905 against 154,236 hides in the previous year, but this was compensated for by the River ox, which were imported in large quantities. As to the future, it seems as if the situation would undergo but little change for some months. Stocks are small in all markets and the demands of consumption are great, as is proved by the rise in price of leather in France. The stock at Havre on December 31st, 1905, was 64,791 hides against 59,640 hides in 1904.

Indigo, says the report, becomes yearly of less importance, and will probably soon disappear from the market owing to the competition and success of artificially produced indigo dyes. The following figures show how indigo has fallen off in demand during the last five years :—

Year.	Quantity.			
	Bengal.	Madras-Bombay.	Guatemala.	Total.
	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.	Cases.
1905 . . .	718	...	495	1,213
1904 . . .	921	...	1,388	2,309
1903 . . .	596	11	2,224	2,831
1902 . . .	1,614	23	2,708	4,345
1901 . . .	2,314	80	1,685	4,079

The value of this article, which varied from 6*s.* 8*d.* to 8*s.* per lb., was quoted in July last at 2*s.* 1½*d.* Still, on news being received that the crops in Bengal were short, prices rose to 3*s.* 2*d.* in December and will probably rise further. The stock at Havre on December 31st, 1905, was 451 cases against 626 cases on the same date of 1904.

The report from **Rouen** says that notwithstanding the importance of the American cotton crop, which was expected to be considerable, and in fact went beyond all expectations, the Americans owing to their financial organisation succeeded in checking the fall in the prices at the beginning of the first quarter of 1905 and to raise slowly and regularly the prices of cotton wool during the months of February and March. These prices still continued to rise during the second quarter and especially during the month of June, owing to a strong market throughout the world. This rise in the price of the raw material resulted in many cases disastrously to **spinners** in Rouen who were caught without stock.

From the month of July, American speculation had benefited by the early information of the new crop, as well as by the still great activity in the consumption of cotton throughout the world. The price of the raw material gradually increased, even in the face of a crop which did not appear to be in excess of the requirements of the industry, until the figure reached within 25 per cent. last October's prices.

The **price of thread** followed with great difficulty that of cotton, and the still precarious situation of the spinning industry, added to the doubt which buyers of the manufactured article had, as to rates being maintained, prevented remunerative prices being obtained.

However, the spinning industry, owing to an understanding among the various spinners succeeded in agreeing to a minimum price at which goods should be sold, which agreement was joined by the majority of spinning interests of this district.

In consequence of this arrangement better business resulted during the last part of the year, notwithstanding that spinners were forced to replenish their stock on a rising cotton market. Nevertheless the French manufacturers made a poor show in comparison with the foreign and especially the British spinning industry.

Buyers at the end of 1905 became very reserved and sales were noticeably inferior to the production, though the prices were not in proportion to those of cotton yarns and threads.

The export trade to Algiers was poor, and is explained by the financial crisis which that colony has gone through owing to successive poor crops and consequent general bad state of business.

In the rouenneries and handkerchiefs branch of the cotton trade, as in other branches, the year 1905 must be divided into two periods. The first from January to about the end of May, the second from the beginning of June, continuing till the end of the year.

During the first period prices of cotton wool were low, but improved as orders were taken by manufactures sufficient to keep them busy for several months. These orders relieved the situation which

existed at the end of 1904, and owing to the low price of raw material at the end of that year, enabled manufacturers to make a certain though small profit.

During the second period of the year, contrary to expectations, prices of the raw material rose considerably, resulting in a noticeable diminution in the sale of tissues.

Most of the manufacturers, however, were enabled to avoid closing down owing to the orders which they had taken at the beginning of the year, and also by exporting part of their output and accepting smaller profits. In this they were assisted by the demands of foreign markets.

Buyers at the end of 1905 became very reserved and sales were noticeably inferior to the production, notwithstanding that the price of the manufactured article had not risen proportionately to the rising price of the raw material.

The manufacture of cotton prints during the first nine months of the year was not prosperous. This was owing to the uncertainty of the prices of cotton and to the lack of buyers, who were persuaded that lower prices would follow. Their purchases were made as needed from day to day and the manufactures found it hard to keep their factories going.

The last three months of the year were brighter, especially in December, after the report of the Board of Agriculture had been issued. As the price of cotton increased buyers became more plentiful, fearing that by waiting they would have to pay higher figures. At the end of the year manufacturers increased their prices, which however did not decrease sales.

The export trade with Algeria, Madagascar and other French colonies was poor.

Mr. Vice-Consul E. Harrison Barker of **Tréport and Eu** reports that **sugar** shipped in 1905 showed an increase of about 10,000 tons over the same export in 1904; moreover, in the latter year, a large part was simply moved from one French port to another, whereas the whole of the shipments in 1905 went to the United Kingdom. It should, however, be noted that a considerable percentage of the total was consigned to London for transhipment to India. In reality there was a large increase in the **demand for sugar** (raw) from the **British and Indian markets.**

SALE OF TEA IN A SATPURA DISTRICT.

THE district to which these remarks relate is a small and backward one, which has enjoyed railway communications only for the last two or three years. It is a rice-growing district. The half of it lying below the Satpura hills contains three or four small towns, varying in population from one to six thousand, and is traversed by the railway: the other half is hilly and forest clad, though it is being rapidly colonized from the plains.

The use of tea was up to some 12 years ago practically confined to Europeans. Since that time the custom of drinking tea has extended to natives. Government servants were the first to take it up: and it is at present in somewhat general use among the more educated members of this class. Latterly tea has come into use as an accessory to *pan supari* at social gatherings.

Gradually its use extended to village landlords, and even to the more well-to-do cultivators and village officers, especially within the last three years. Some cultivating castes have a special liking for it and drink it even three or four times a day. They usually mix with it what from the European point of view is an excessive amount of milk and sugar. The example of railway and irrigation employés has added much to the rapidly growing popularity of tea.

The places where tea is sold are as follows:—

Town.	Population.	Numbers of shops at which tea is sold.	Value of tea sold per annum.
			R
A	6,100	20	800
B	4,000	16	200
C	1,500	3	15
D	2,400	3	Only recently started.
E	2,400	4	5

The only village in the jungly tract where tea is sold has a population of about 1,300, of whom at least one-third are Government servants or their dependants. One shopkeeper sells tea both in his shop and at one or two local bazars which he visits. His sales average about 2 maunds (160 lbs.), a year of which about seers 40 (80 lbs.) are brought by better caste villagers, 20 seers (40 lbs.) by aboriginals and low castes and the balance by Government officials.

The classes of tea sold are two only. Lipton's teas in tins and Broken Pekoe dust, the former of which comes from Bombay and the latter from Calcutta. Lipton's tea is usually bought by Government officials and the Pekoe dust by landlords and villagers. The prices at which tea is sold vary very much. Where sales are small the prices run much higher, the rate for loose tea being as high as R2 to R3 a seer (two lbs.) where there is not much demand: while at towns A and B the price varies from R1 to R1-4 a seer when sold by the seer, the usual rate for petty sales is from one pice (3 pies) a tola to 6 pice (half-an-anna) a chhatak. Tea is regarded by some persons as a medicine, and it is occasionally prescribed by village doctors; others on the other hand have the impression that it is injurious and liable to cause diabetes. The sale, save in the principal towns, is entirely in the hands of Kiranawalas,

or dealers in spices. They sometimes, though not often, take it about for sale at weekly bazars.

The sale of tea is undoubtedly on the increase, and is likely to become extensive. In view of the neccessity for the tea trade to find new markets, it would be well to try every means of extending sales among villagers. The best method of doing this would be to put up small quantities in packets and small tin-boxes to sell at from annas 2 to annas 4 each. The people should have their choice of purchasing boxes that they can use again: but they should also be able to get tea in paper packets.

A cheaper variety of tea than that at present sold would no doubt be appreciated: this could properly be attained by supplying local tea merchants or, at any rate, those who supply smaller tradesmen as well as their own customers direct from the gardens.

C. E. LOW.

INDO-TIBET TRADE.

THE following is an extract from a letter from the Assistant Political Officer, Chumbi, to the Political Officer in Sikkim, No. 159, dated the 7th May 1906:—"Chumbi traders lately returned from Lhasa state that there are now more Indian goods in Lhasa than has ever been the case in the past. Prices have fallen considerably, and the Chumbi people complain that they can no longer make the large profits on Indian goods which they were accustomed to make in the past. The reduction in prices is doubtless due to the breaking down of the Chumbi carrying monopoly, and is a healthy sign of increasing trade. Supplies on the road between Gyantse and Lhasa are said to be unusually dear, which fact also points to an increased traffic."

In this connection it is interesting to compare the values of the Indo-Tibetan trade for the last five years. It will be seen that the importation into India of goods from Tibet has fallen, but the value of goods exported to Tibet has risen. The Bengal figures are for 11 months only, and the total for the year 1905-06 is, therefore, incomplete.

Statistics of trade between India and Tibet during the five years 1901-02 to 1905-06 are as follows:—

Value of imports from Tibet.

Province.	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
Merchandise—	R	R	R	R	R
Punjab . .	2,93,909	2,02,276	1,84,653	1,34,093	1,30,070
United Provinces	7,51,185	8,24,788	7,50,125	6,50,402	6,61,662
Bengal . .	7,93,060	9,63,165	3,56,814	4,10,794	7,16,310*
Total .	18,38,154	19,90,229	12,91,592	11,95,289	15,08,042†
Treasure—					
Punjab . .	...	...	...	...	...
United Provinces	...	603	212	...	...
Bengal . .	91,372	95,625	23,220	1,91,034	2,82,914*
Total .	91,372	96,228	23,432	1,91,034	2,82,914†
Grand Total of Merchandise and Treasure . .	19,29,526	20,86,457	13,15,024	13,86,320	17,90,956†

* Figures for 11 months. † Incomplete.

Value of Exports to Tibet.

Province.	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
Merchandise—	R	R	R	R	R
Punjab . .	37,551	38,222	68,883	53,606	47,959
United Provinces	3,72,844	3,03,773	3,08,864	2,50,916	4,32,243
Bengal . .	7,23,876	8,10,677	3,92,361	7,38,946	10,79,937*
Total .	11,34,271	11,52,672	7,70,108	10,43,468	15,60,139†
Treasure—					
Punjab . .	4,200	1,750	14,400	3,000	7,500
United Provinces	11,061	48,765	23,492	62,618	46,809
Bengal . .	51,440	40,365	64,544	84,000	1,38,960*
Total .	67,301	90,880	1,02,436	1,49,618	1,93,269†
Grand Total of Merchandise and Treasure . .	12,01,572	12,43,552	8,72,544	11,93,086	17,53,408†

Total Value of Imports and Exports.

Province.	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
Merchandise—	R	R	R	R	R
Punjab . .	3,31,460	2,40,498	2,53,536	1,87,696	1,78,029
United Provinces	11,24,029	11,28,561	10,58,989	9,01,318	10,93,905
Bengal . .	15,16,936	17,73,842	7,49,175	11,49,740	17,96,247*
Total .	29,72,425	31,42,901	20,61,700	24,38,754	30,68,181†
Treasure—					
Punjab . .	4,200	1,750	14,400	3,000	7,500
United Provinces	11,661	49,368	23,704	62,618	46,809
Bengal . .	1,42,812	1,35,990	87,764	2,75,034	4,21,874*
Total .	1,58,673	1,87,108	1,25,868	3,40,652	4,76,183†
Grand Total of Merchandise and Treasure . .	31,31,098	33,30,009	21,87,568	25,79,406	35,44,364†

* Figures for 11 months.
† Incomplete.

GERMANY AND THE PERSIAN GULF TRADE.

THE concession for the construction of the Baghdad Railway was secured by a German Syndicate in 1902. The terms of the concession granted by the Sultan were extremely generous. The syndicate were to build a railway from Konia to Baghdad and on to the Persian Gulf on a guarantee from the Turkish Government. The guarantee was to take the shape of a two-fold kilometric annuity, first of 11,000 francs per kilometre built and opened for traffic, and secondly of 4,500 francs towards working expenses. In addition to this the Syndicate were given the right to exploit all mineral resources lying

within 20 kilometres on each side of the railway. It has been estimated that, allowing a fairly liberal margin, the line ought to be built for £8,000 per kilometre. In this case the double guarantee represents a little over 4 per cent. on capital expenditure.

A 4 per cent. guarantee on capital invested in railways ought to be fairly attractive, when to it are added the mining rights over an enormous extent of territory, the railway company being in a position to lay out its line so as to include the richest districts in the country. But, somehow, capital does not come in. Germans seem to experience a certain reluctance to invest in the project; and the construction of the line is delayed. When the concession was granted it was decided that the company should get to work within six months from the date of the concession, and build a line capable of carrying trains running at 75 kilometres an hour, including stops. Four years have elapsed since then, and now the rail-head is at Eregli, 60 kilometres, or 46·6 miles, less than an hour's run from Konia, and the total length of the line still to be built is over 1,800 miles, or some 2,896 kilometres.

This delay is possibly due to uncertainty whether the Sultan's guarantee constitutes a sufficient security. Turkish securities are already mortgaged except the land tithes, and these the Sultan dare not hypothecate. The caution of the German investor is therefore not unreasonable, since the double guarantee if effective would palpably have been excessive. Mesopotamia doubtless is a land with a wonderful past, and with immense potentialities, but it is a land that is all to make over again, and Turkey is not at present in a position to experiment in nation-making. If, as might easily be the case, the Baghdad Railway did not pay in the beginning, the Sultan's Government would have to stand the loss, and this loss might easily amount to a very large sum.

Even if Turkey felt inclined to spend such a sum she could *not get it under present conditions*. The public debt holds all sources of indirect taxation at its mercy, whilst *even possible sources of revenue* improvement, such as increases in the customs, are ear-marked in favour of the foreign bondholder. A step was made towards the possible establishment of a tangible guarantee two years back when, at the instance of M. Rouvier, The French Financier, the conversion and unification of the Turkish debt was carried out, and the Sultan was left free to dispose, as best he liked, of any surplus that remained after the payment of the fixed interest on the debt, instead of being forced, as before, to pay it into the hands of the bond-holders. In another few years the hands of the Sultan will be still more free, for the B. bonds, which are held mainly in England, fall due for amortisement in 1910. It is then that the work of the Baghdad Railway may be seriously undertaken if the Turkish Government so wishes, unless events have in the interval created fresh obstacles.

In the meanwhile, though the railway through Mesopotamia halts, Germany is not neglecting that quarter of the world, as is shown by the following article, which appeared in the *Neue Hamburgische Borsen-Halle* of the 24th April 1906 :—

A German Line of Steamers to the Persian Gulf.

"We have before us to-day a report, which, in consideration of the German interests in the valley of the Euphrates and Tigris often discussed and appreciated in our paper, is very interesting. According to it the Hamburg-American Line intends shortly to increase its connections by a line from Hamburg and other Continental places to the ports of the Persian Gulf.

The desire for the establishing of such a line has already existed for some length of time, not only on account of the interest which on the part of Germany is taken in the re-opening of these old lands of culture through the Baghdad Railway and on account of the prospects which are created through this, but also from the circles of German business already existing with the Persian Gulf, the desire has repeatedly been expressed to have such a line started. Its basis is without doubt capable of being developed, and does not only consist of future prospects. For the export from the Gulf to German ports by means of English steamers has steadily increased during recent years. The number of the articles which come into question for commerce in that direction, is naturally not very extensive, but especially for German sugar, further for cotton goods, dyeing material, copper and iron ware, drugs and cotton textures, there are prospects of an extending market; likewise a direct line of steamers would without doubt speedily promote the export of wool from the Persian Gulf to Germany, which trade is still in its infancy, and for the local merchant business such commodities from that quarter as gall nuts, rubber, sesame seed and other seeds, already come into consideration, and will increase to do so in the future. That trade to those districts is not so very inconsiderable is seen from the fact that the value of the imports over Baghdad amount to over 30 million Marks a year, whilst the value of the exports fluctuates according to the extent of the harvests, in favourable years almost reaches that of the imports, in bad years remains more or less behind same. The expectation is therefore justified that a German line will be able to establish a firm footing there. The idea of its establishment has, as already said, often been spoken about and discussed, these discussions have even already recently reached that point in the English press—which takes a very lively and, as in all our endeavours in the trade of large rivers, not over kindly disposed interest in the German tendencies there—of being condensed to the assertion that the German Government would subsidise a line to the Persian Gulf. That is by no means the case, the new line of our Hamburg ship-owning company is called to life without any subsidy. That it has to be taken as being a new manifestation of the interest taken by Germany in the development of things in the Persian Gulf, and as being of importance, and welcome, scarcely requires any particular emphasising. It will be a preliminary for the carrying on of the Baghdad Railway, regarding which there of course does not seem to be any prospect in the near future, and smoothen the way for it.

Shipping to the Persian Gulf has hitherto lain principally in English hands, its inauguration reaches back about 30 years. French owners have also participated temporarily in same. At present the firm, F. C. Strick & Co., Ltd., carries on under the style of the "Anglo-Arabian and Persian Steamship Company, Limited," they trade with 5 steamers, further the ship-owning concern of Buckuall Nephews with 4 steamers and the "West Hartlepool Steam Navigation Company." These three companies have formed a pool amongst themselves, which exists since about 4 years, correspondingly restricts the sailings to the requirements, and has increased the rates of freight not a little. In consequence of this a line established by the *Russische Dampfschiffahrts and Handelsgesellschaft* from Russia, Russian Steam Navigation and Trading Company to the Gulf found support from commercial firms on account of its cheaper rates. The Russian sailings, which, by the way, were stopped during the war, only however took place 4 or 5 times a year, whilst the English companies had monthly sailings. The Russian company specially incited a considerable export of sugar with the support of the Government, which has however now completely stopped. Of the extent of the shipping trade an idea is given by the number of arrivals in the port of Busra; according to the statistics there arrived there in the year 1904, 130 steamers of altogether 132,000 tons. In connection with the ocean shipping an English river shipping company runs on the Tigris from Busra to Baghdad, which quite recently has met with some opposition from a Turkish Company which it is said is managed excellently.

After all this one may express the hope that the new line of the Hamburg shipowning company will prove to be a new limb of promising success and capable of development. At the same time it is a new evidence of the never ceasing spirit of enterprise shown by our shipping, that it also makes the effort to assist in bringing back to those places the culture which, at the beginning of the world's history, issued forth thence towards the west."

The following figures show Germany's position in Persian trade according to the Belgian customs returns :—

Countries.	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	Krs.	Krs.	Krs.
Afghanistan .	4,913,867	5,042,312	4,956,179
Austria . .	10,709,766	...	10,709,766
Belgium . .	1,184,199	2,760	1,186,959
British Empire .	119,695,710	27,554,048	147,249,758
France . .	17,142,870	11,943,404	29,086,274
Germany . .	6,668,983	380,500	7,049,483
Holland . .	1,478,343	600	1,478,943
Italy . . .	3,533,778	936,556	4,470,334
Russia . .	169,979,355	147,563,578	317,542,933
Turkey . .	10,773,700	39,939,790	50,713,490
U. S. of A. . .	1,531,839	380,930	1,912,769
Other Countries .	2,302,203	14,216,862	16,519,065

GAZETTE AND OTHER NOTIFICATIONS.

RUBBER CULTIVATION, BURMA.

The following notification, dated Rangoon, the 27th April, is issued :—

No. 221.—In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 18 and 58 of the (Lower) Burma Land and Revenue Act, 1876 (II of 1876), and with the previous sanction of the Governor-General in Council, the Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to make the following *additions* in the Rules published in Revenue Department Notification No. 244, dated the 22nd July 1897, as subsequently amended by Revenue Department Notifications No. 31, dated the 17th February 1898, and No. 360, dated the 3rd September 1902, namely,—

After Chapter IV, the following Chapter shall be added, namely :—

Chapter IVA

Grants and leases of land for the cultivation of Rubber.

29A. Grants or leases of waste land not exceeding 1,200 acres in area for the purpose of planting Rubber trees may be made by the Deputy Commissioner, with the previous sanction of the Commissioner, in any District of the Tenasserim Division, and in any other District specially notified by the Local Government.

When the area, which it is proposed to grant or lease, exceeds 1,200 acres, the application shall, with the recommendations of the Deputy Commissioner and the Commissioner, be submitted to the Financial Commissioner for his orders.

29B. The following special conditions, as well as the general conditions of Chapter III, so far as they are not inconsistent with the special conditions, shall apply to all grants or leases made under this Chapter, namely :—

(1) The grantee or lessee shall, within five years from the date of the instrument of grant or lease, plant not less than 50 trees per acre of the area granted or leased.

(2) At the expiry of the twelfth year from the date of the instrument of grant or lease the number of trees growing on the area granted or leased shall not be less than an average of 150 trees per acre of the total area granted or leased, and shall be fairly distributed over the whole area :

Provided that in computing the total area the land occupied by, or appertaining to buildings erected for the purposes of the grant or lease and the land, if any, declared by an officer, deputed by the Conservator of Forests for the purpose, at the instance of the Deputy Commissioner, to be unsuited for the purpose of growing Rubber trees, shall be excluded.

(3) The grantee or lessee may cultivate such other crops as he desires in addition to Rubber trees, but such cultivation shall be strictly subordinated to the cultivation of Rubber trees.

(4) During the continuance of the grant or lease the average of 150 trees per acre of the total area, as computed in the proviso to Condition (2), shall be maintained.

29C. If at any time the Deputy Commissioner considers that a grantee or lessee is infringing any of the conditions imposed by Rule 29B, he shall make such inquiry as may be necessary, and if he suspects that there is an infringement of Condition (3), he shall take the opinion of the Conservator of Forests as to whether the grantee or lessee is prosecuting the cultivation of Rubber with sufficient attention.

29D. If the Deputy Commissioner considers that the grantee or lessee has failed to observe any of the conditions imposed by Rule 29B, he may resume the whole or part of the area granted or leased. In the event of a partial failure by the grantee or lessee to observe the said conditions the area to be resumed shall be determined by the Deputy Commissioner, in consultation with the Conservator of Forests, on taking into consideration the extent to which the grantee or lessee has failed to observe the conditions.

Provided that an order of the Deputy Commissioner under this Rule shall not take effect until it has been sanctioned by the Commissioner.

29E. The term of a lease granted under this Chapter shall be thirty years, and the lessee shall have the right to a renewal for a further period of twenty years, subject to such revenue as may be prescribed under Rule 29G.

29F. The land granted or leased shall be exempted from assessment to land revenue (which term shall in this Chapter and in leases issued under this Chapter be deemed to include rent) for a period of twelve years from the date of the instrument of grant or lease.

29G. After the expiry of the period of twelve years specified in Rule 29F, the entire area of the land comprised in the grant or lease (or such portion thereof as remains with the grantee or lessee) with the exception of any areas excluded under the proviso to Condition (2) of Rule 29B, shall be assessed to land revenue at such rates (not exceeding the highest rate sanctioned for paddy land in the same District) as the Local Government may by general or special order prescribe.

Land excluded from the computation under Rule 29B, (2) as unsuited for the purpose of growing Rubber trees shall after the expiry of the twelve years' exemption be liable to assessment at the same rates as similar land in the neighbourhood.

CARBIDE OF CALCIUM.—TRANSPORT OF.

The following resolution has been issued by the Government of India :—

In the consolidated rules to regulate the importation, possession, sale and transport of carbide of calcium in India, circulated with the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, letter Nos. 1876-1884-3, dated the 14th March 1906, read in the preamble, it has been ruled that carbide of calcium shall be contained in substantial hermetically closed metal vessels each containing not more than two hundred and twenty-four pounds, and that while in the possession of a railway for transport, it shall not be stored in any railway goods shed, but shall be stacked in the open under waterproof sheets and so placed as to prevent its getting wet.

2. In exercise of the powers conferred by the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Commerce and Industry, No. 801, dated the 24th March 1905, read in the preamble above, the Railway Board sanction the adoption by the administrations of railways concerned, whether in British India, in foreign territory or in Native States, to which the General Rules for working open lines of railway apply, of the accompanying amendments in rule 24 A, Chapter III, Part II, and rule I, Appendix A, of the General Rules referred to.

A copy of this circular will be kept open for inspection at railway stations as directed by sub-section (6) of the same section.

Rules 24 A, Chapter III, Part II.—For sub-rule (3) substitute the following :—

(3) Carbide of calcium, while in the possession of a railway for transport, shall not be stored in any railway goods shed, but shall be stacked in the open under waterproof sheets and so placed as to prevent its getting wet.

And add the following as sub-rules (4) and (5).

(4) All lights shall be kept away from carbide of calcium stacked as provided in sub-rule (3).

(5) If any carbide of calcium is wetted while in the possession of a railway for transport, it shall be destroyed by immersion in at least twenty times its bulk of water.

NOTE.—The fact of carbide of calcium having become wet will be indicated by the outward appearance of the drum or case, and probably by a disagreeable odour, showing a leakage of gas.

Rule 1, Appendix A.—For the words one hundred and fifty pounds, *in sub-rule (1 A) (c) substitute the words* two hundred and twenty-four pounds.

NOTICES TO MARINERS—*(continued.)*

CHINA, EAST COAST—YUNG RIVER.

Bank in entrance extending.

No. 192 (first publication).—The British Admiralty has given notice (No. 428 of 1906) that the local pilots report that the outer limit of the bank adjoining the coast between Sei Yuen fort and Wang Yuen fort, Yung river entrance, is extending to the northward, the depth on it being about 8 feet; the channel to the southward of Sessotris rock is consequently not now used.

Approximate position, Wang Yuen fort, lat. 29° 58½′ N., long. 121° 44¾″ E.

This Notice affects the following Admiralty Chart:—Yung river, No. 1592: Also China Sea Directory, vol. III, 1904, pages 383, 385

CHINA SEA—SOUTHERN PORTION.

St. Esprit and Tambelan islands—Particulars of shoals in the vicinity.

No. 195 (first publication).—The British Admiralty has given notice (No. 434 of 1906) respecting certain reported shoals in the vicinity of St. Esprit and Tambelan islands as follows :—

St. Esprit group :—

(1) A shoal, with a depth of 8 feet over it, exists in approximately lat. 0° 37′ 20″ N., long. 107° 3′ 20″ E. This reef is about 5 cables long in a northerly direction and one cable broad.

(2) A bank, with a depth of 8 fathoms over it, exists to the south-eastward of S. E. island in approximately lat. 0° 30′ 0″ N., long. 107° 10′ 55″ E. This bank, which is about half a cable in extent, has depths of 20 fathoms around it.

(3) The position of Ebeling reef was found to be 5 miles S. 9° W. from the position as shown on the chart; it is a coral shoal one cable in extent, with a least depth of 12 feet over it, and is situated in approximately lat. 0° 27′ 45″ N., long. 107° 25′ 20″ E. There are depths of more than 25 fathoms around it.

With reference to Notice to Mariners No. 591 of 1897, this office No. 217, dated 5th November 1897 :—

(4) The position of Alida shoal was found to be 4½ miles N. 35° W. from its position as shown on the chart; it is a coral shoal about one cable in extent, with a least depth of 12 feet over it, and is situated in approximately lat. 0° 58′ 35″ N., long. 107° 51′ 35″ E.

(5) The shoal marked E. D. on the chart in approximately lat. 0° 29′ N., long. 106° 58′ E. could not be found, and, as it has been previously searched for without success, it has been erased from the chart.

(Variation 1° Easterly in 1906.)

This Notice affects the following Admiralty Charts:—Eastern Archipelago, No. 941a; China Sea, No. 2660a; Indian Ocean, No. 748b: Also China Sea Directory, vol. II, 1899, pages 47, 48, 49.

CHINA SEA—GULF OF SIAM.

Bangkok river entrance—Beacon lights replaced by hulks and boats.

No. 198 (first publication).—With reference to Notice to Mariners No. 266, dated 15th July 1905, issued by this office, the British Admiralty has given further notice (No. 441 of 1906) that the Inner and Outer beacons, at the entrance to the Bangkok river, situated respectively at distances of 2⅛ miles N. 37° E. and 1¼ miles S. 32° E. from the Bar light, having disappeared, a *green fixed* light shown from a hulk will in future mark the position of the Inner beacon, and a *red fixed* light from the mast of a white buoy-boat the position of the Outer beacon. The foregoing lights are elevated about 20 feet above the sea, and visible from a distance of about 4 miles.

Approximate position, Outer beacon, lat. 13° 27¾′ N., long. 100° 34⅓′ E.

(Variation 2° Easterly in 1906.)

This Notice affects the following Admiralty Charts:—Koh Ta Kut to Cape Liant, No. 2720; Menam Chau Fya, No. 999: Also List of Lights, Part VI, 1906, Nos. 694, 695, China Sea Directory, vol. II, 1899, page 368; and Supplement, 1901, page 14.

CHINA SEA—TAIWAN (FORMOSA)—WEST COAST.

Nan wan (Kwa liang bay)—Shoal reported.

No. 199 (first publication).—The British Admiralty has given notice (No. 442 of 1906) that a shoal named Taamusaachotau, with a depth of about 1¼ fathoms over it, is reported to exist in Nan wan or Kwa liang bay, in approximately lat. 21° 56′ 15″ N., long. 120° 47′ 20″ E. This shoal is steep-to, having depths of 5 to 10 fathoms close around it.

This Notice affects the following Admiralty Charts:—Luzon Island, No. 2454; Formosa Island and Strait, No. 1968; Also China Sea Directory, vol. III, 1904, page 238.

PACIFIC OCEAN—THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS—LUZON.

(Manila harbour Entrance—Lights altered.)

No. 177 (second publication).—The British Admiralty has given notice (No. 401 of 1906) that the red fixed light, situated near the south-eastern end of the additional breakwater at a distance of 1 7/10 miles S. 22° W. from Manila cathedral, is elevated 24 feet above high water, and visible in clear weather from a distance of 7 miles; it is exhibited from a white concrete pillar.

Also, that the colour of the light, situated at a distance of 1⅓ miles S. 37° W. from the cathedral, on the north-western end of the same breakwater, south side of entrance to the new harbour, has been altered from white *to green*; it is elevated 24 feet above high water, and visible from a distance of 2 miles.

Approximate position, cathedral, lat. 14° 35½′ N., long. 120° 58′ E.

(Variation Nil in 1906.)

This Notice affects the following Admiralty Charts:—Manila Bay, No. 976; Manila and Kavite anchorages, No. 3487: Also Lists of Lights, part VI, 1906, No. 676a (Remarks); China Sea, vol. II, 1899, page 310; Supplement, 1901, page 9; and Eastern Archipelago, part I, 1902, pages 64, 65.

JAPAN—HONSHU, SOUTH COAST.

Shimoda harbour—Shoals.

No. 181 (second publication).—The British Admiralty has given notice (No. 413 of 1906) of the existence and non-existence of the undermentioned shoals in Shimoda harbour :—

(*a*) A rock, with a depth of $1\frac{3}{4}$ fathoms over it, is situated in a position from which Inuhashiri jima summit bears S. 24° W., distant $1\frac{9}{10}$ cables, and Monzo yama N. 33° W.

Approximate position lat. 34° 40¼′ N., long. 138° 57¼′ E.

(*b*) The rock awash shown on the chart at a distance of seven-tenths of a cable N. 60° E. from Noroshi zaki does not exist, depths of $6\frac{1}{2}$ and 7 fathoms having been obtained in the position and its vicinity. This rock has consequently been erased from the charts.

(*c*) The depth on the shoal Onagare is $1\frac{3}{4}$ fathoms and not $2\frac{1}{4}$ fathoms as shown on the chart.

(*Variation 4° Westerly in 1906.*)

This Notice affects the following Admiralty Charts :—Omai saki to Tsurugi saki, No. 953 ; approaches to Shimoda harbour, No. 2655 ; Also, Sailing Directions for Japan, &c., 1904, page 358.

BAY OF BENGAL—ORISSA COAST.

False Point anchorage—Depth of water in the channels.

No. 189 (second publication).—The Port Officer, Cuttack and Balasore, reports that the following depth of water in the channels was found in False Point anchorage on examination on the 22nd May :—

Water at buoys.

	Ft.	In.
Fairway buoy	22	6
Outer Ridge	19	6
Inner Ridge	14	6
Outer Spit	13	9
Inner Spit	17	0
Reddie flat	14	6

A. S. BALFOUR, LIEUT., R.I.M.,
Port Officer of Calcutta.
pro. tem.

BAY OF BENGAL—CHITTAGONG COAST.

Kurnafuli river—Depth of water in the channels.

No. 164 (third publication).—The Port Officer Chittagong, has given notice that the following depth of water was found in the river channels by soundings taken on the 12th May and reduced to zero :—

	Ft.	In.
Tract No. 1—Outer bar—		
Disc on diamond	14	0
Tract No. 2—Inner bar—		
Disc on diamond	11	6
Batten beacon on pillar	12	6
Tract No. 3—		
Triangle on cross and ball	18	0
Tract No. 4—Guptakhally crossing—		
Tripod on diamond	18	0
Cross and ball on diamond	21	0
Ring bar	12	0

AFRICA, SOUTH—NATAL.

North sand bluff—Shoal to the eastward.

No. 167 (third publication).—The British Admiralty has given notice (No. 365 of 1906) that the Master of the S. S. *Congella* reports that his vessel, when about one mile from the shore, struck on a shoal in a position from which North sand bluff bore S. 83° W., distant about 4 miles. This danger has been placed on the chart as having a depth of less than 6 feet over it and marked "Congella shoal."

Approximate position, lat. 31° 0¼′ S., long. 30° 18′ E.

(*Variation 27° Westerly in 1906.*)

This notice affects the following Admiralty Charts :—Hondeklip bay to port Natal, No. 2095 : Bashee river, to Umtamvuna river, No. 2087 ; Umtamvuna river, to Tugela river, No. 2088 ; Also, Africa Pilot, part III, 1905, page 170.

CHINA, EAST COAST—HAITAN STRAIT, SOUTHERN ENTRANCE.

Rock reported.

No. 170 (third publication).—The British Admiralty has given notice (No. 388 of 1906) that the Captain of the S. S. *Amping maru* reports the existence of a rock which dries, in the southern entrance to Haitan strait, in a position from which High Cone, Lam Yit bore N. 45° W., distant one mile, and Triangle Yit summit N. 81° E.

Approximate position on chart No. 1985, lat. 25° 11¼′ N., long. 119° 34′ E.

(*Variation 1° Westerly in 1906.*)

This Notice affects the following Admiralty Charts :—Ockseu to Tung yung, No. 1761 ; Haitan strait, No. 1985 ; Also China Sea Directory, vol. III, 1904, page 195.

CHINA SEA—TAIWAN FORMOSA, WEST COAST.

Ampei—Wreck in anchorage.

No. 171 (third publication).—The British Admiralty has given notice (No. 389 of 1906) that the wreck of the ship *Mobile Bay* lies sunk in Ampei (Amping) anchorage, in a position from which Anpei light bears No. 75° E, distant $1\frac{7}{10}$ miles, and the western angle of an old fort north-westward of the town N. 14° E.

Approximate position on Chart No. 1926, lat. 23° 0¾′ N., long. 120° 8′ E.

(*Variation Nil in 1906.*)

This Notice affects the following Admiralty Chart :—West coast of Formosa, No. 2409 ; Anpei anchorage, No. 1926 : Also China Sea Directory, vol. III, 904, page 1245.

BAY OF BENGAL—BURMA COAST.

Akyab harbours—Alteration in soundings on Outer bar.

No. 174 (third publication).—The following Notice to Mariners (No. 44 of 1906), issued by the Bombay Government, is republished :—

The Port Officer, Akyab, reports that considerably less water has been found on the outer bar of Akyab Harbour than is shown on the Preliminary Chart of Akyab Harbour and its approaches, 1904, and Admiralty Chart, Arakan river, Akyab, No. 1884.

This Notice affects the following Charts :—Admiralty Chart, Arakan river, Akyab, No. 1884 ; and photozinco preliminary chart, Akyab Harbour, and approaches : Also Bay of Bengal Pilot, third edition, 1901, page 256.

INDIA, WEST—MALABAR COAST.

Cochin harbour—Certain buoys removed for the ensuing monsoon season.

No. 175 (third publication).—The Officiating Presidency Port Officer, Madras, has given notice (No. 6 of 1906), that the Bar and Spit Buoys at the Harbour entrances and the Quarantine buoys in the inner harbour will be removed for the ensuing monsoon on the 15th May 1906, and that the light on the Mallipuram flagstaff will be exhibited from the same date to 30th September next.

E. J. BEAUMONT, COMDR., R.I.M.,
Port Officer of Calcutta.

NEW REFERENCE BOOKS.

LECTURES ON THE METHOD OF SCIENCE.
Edited by T. B. Strong, Dean of Christ Church.
9 × 5¾, 249 pp.
Oxford : *Clarendon Press.* London : *Frowde 7s. 6d. net.*
(These form part of a course on Scientific Method delivered during the University Extension summer meeting at Oxford last year. The general question is dealt with by Professor Case and Professor Gotch ; and method in special sciences by Professor Sherrington, Professor Weldon, Mr. W. McDougall, Mr. A. H. Fison, Sir Richard Temple, and Professor Flinders Petrie, while the Dean himself treats of Scientific Method as applied to history.)

IMMIGRATION.
And its effect upon the UNITED STATES. By Prescott F. Hall. (American Public Problems.) 7¾ × 5, 393 pp. New York, Holt ; London, Bell.

A VISION OF INDIA.
By Sidney Low. 8¼ × 5¾, 365 pp. . . . *10s. 6d. net.*
Smith, Elder.

LASHA AND ITS MYSTERIES.
With a record of the Expedition of 1903-04. By L. A. Waddell. Third and cheaper edition.
9¼ × 5¾, 530 pp. . . . . *7s. 6d. net.*
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THE FRONTIERS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.
By T. Miller Maguire, LL.D. Reprinted from the "Royal Engineers' Journal," May 1906. (With two useful maps showing railway communications in North America and Asia).

THE PLACE CHEMISTRY MUST TAKE IN PUBLIC ESTEEM.
By Professor H. E. Armstrong, LL.D., Ph. D., F.R.S. Manchester : Sherratt and Hughes. (An address delivered before the University of Manchester Chemical Society, February 6). . . *6d. net.*

BEARING AND IMPORTANCE OF COMMERCIAL TREATIES IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.
A lecture delivered on Dec. 6, 1905. By Sir Thomas Barclay (Manchester University Lectures, No. 3). . . . . *6d. net.*
Manchester University Press.

THE STATESMAN'S YEAR-BOOK, 1906.
Edited by J. Scott Keltie, LL.D., with the assistance of I. P. A. Renwick, M.A., LL.B. Forty-third Annual Publication. 7 × 4¾, lxiv + 1604 pp. . . . . *10s. 6d. not*
Macmillan.

PALMER'S INDEX TO THE TIMES NEWSPAPER.
January 1st to March 31st, 1906, 8¼ × 6, 107 pp.
Shepperton-on-Thames : . . . . *10s.*
Palmer.

TOZER'S SHIPPING GUIDE.
By S. TOZER. 7¼ × 5, 324 pp. . . . . *5s.*
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FIVE THOUSAND WORDS FREQUENTLY MISSPELT.
By W. SWAN SONNENSCHEIN. (Routledge Miniature Reference Library.) 4 × 2¾, 301 pp. . *1s. net.*
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(This little contribution towards the work of standardizing English spelling is compiled with considerable care from good authorities. Accurate spelling is to some extent a gift of nature ; and those who are not thus fully endowed, and still more the imperfectly educated, should keep Mr. Sonnenschein's little book by them.)

AN AINU-ENGLISH-JAPANESE DICTIONARY.
Including a Grammar of the Ainu Language.
By the Rev. John Batchelor. Second Edition.
9 × 6, 159 pp. Tokio : London : Kegan Paul. . *21s. net.*
The Methodist Publishing House.

INTERNATIONAL COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL GAMBLING IN "OPTIONS AND FUTURES" (MARCHES A TERME), THE ECONOMIC RUIN OF THE WORLD
By Charles W. SMITH. 8¾ × 5¼, 339 pp. P. S. King. *5s. net*
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(An American work, by the Professor of Ethics and Economics in the St. Paul Seminary.)

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PERSIA BY A PERSIAN.
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Stock.
(Dr. Adams is a native Christian missionary who has travelled in Europe and in America, where he studied medicine. More than half the book (Part III) is devoted to the religions of Persia; while in Part I, the author gives an account of his own life, and in Part II of Persian manners and social life.)

AN INQUIRY INTO AN EXPLANATION OF DECIMAL COINAGE AND THE METRIC SYSTEM OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.
By Edwyn Anthony. Third Edition. 9¼ × 7½, 118 pp. . . . . 2s. 6d.
Routledge.

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Is their Resuscitation Practicable? By Edwyn A. Pratt. 8½ × 5½. . . . . 2s. 6d. net
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COLLIERY WORKING AND MANAGEMENT.
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Crosby, Lockwood.

THE YEAR-BOOK OF AGRICULTURE FOR VICTORIA, 1905.
By the Staff of the Department. 9¼ × 6¼, 448 pp.
Melbourne: R. S. Brain.

ORIGIN OF THE ANGLO-SAXON RACE.
By the late T. W. Shore. Edited by His Sons T. W. and L. E. Shore. 9 × 6, 416 pp. . . . 9s. net.
Stock.
(This study of the Settlement of England and the Tribal Origin of the old English people is a work of extensive research by a well-known Hampshire antiquary and author of "The History of Hampshire," etc.)

YEAR-BOOK AND RECORD OF THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY, 1906.
Ninth Year of Publication. 9¾ × 6¼, 238 pp.
1, Savile Row, W.

ACTS OF THE PRIVY COUNCIL OF ENGLAND
New Series. Vol. XXXI., A. D. 1600-1601. Edited by John Roche Dasent, C. B. 10 × 6½, xi + 539 pp.
Wyman.

LA FONDATION DE L'EMPIRE ALLEMAND (182-1871). . . . . Fr. 10.
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7½ × 5, 299 pp. . . . . 5s. net.
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Its Posts and Postage Stamps. By Fred. J. Melville. . . . . 6d. net.
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O. Marsh, Belvedere Road, Norwood. S. E.

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Three Lectures on Free Trade Imperialism. By W. Cunningham, DD. 7¼ × 4¾, 125 pp. . . . 2s. net.
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CANADA.
The New Nation. By H. R. Whates. 7¾ × 5¼, 284 pp. . . . 3s. 6d. net.
Dent.
(Mr. Whates travelled extensively in Canada on behalf of the *Standard*, and for the first part of his book, "The Emigrant in Canada," he has drawn freely on his letters to that paper. The second part of the book devotes seven chapters

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Number and Particulars of Joint Stock Companies Registered in each Province in British India in the month of April 1906.

No.	Name of Company.	Situation of Registered office.	Object.	Capital. Nominal.	Capital. Paid-up.
	I.—Banking, Loan and Insurance—			R	R
	(a) Banking and Loan—				
1	Sudesa Sahaya Co. . . .	Nachikulam, Madura, Madras.	Money lending (mutual) .	4,00,000	...
	(b) Insurance—				
2	Co-operative Assurance Co. . .	Lahore, Panjab .	Fire and Accident Insurance	5,00,000	...
3	Sri Radhakistna Vilasini Assurance Co.	Bimlipatam, Vizagapatam, Madras .	Life Insurance, Marriage Endowment, etc.	10,000	225
4	British India Provident Co. . .	Polutri, Ganjam, Madras.	Life Insurance . .	15,000	...
	Total, Insurance .	.....	.....	5,25,000	225
	Total, Banking, Loan and Insurance	.....	.....	9,25,000	225
	II.—Trading—				
	(a) Navigation—				
5	Madras Steam Navigation Co. .	Rangoon, Burma .	Navigation between Rangoon and the Coromandel Ports	10,00,000	...
	(b) Others—				
6	Magura Deseya Bhandar . .	Bengal . . .	Trading in country-made goods.	15,000	...
7	Bengal Industrial and Trading Co. .	,, . . .	General trading . .	50,00,000	...
8	Laxmir Bnandar	,, . . .	Trading in Indian Manufactures and Products.	1,00,000	...
9	Oriental Match Manufacturing Co. .	,, . . .	Manufacturing matches .	1,00,000	...
10	Shragers	,, . . .	Spinning and doubling cotton, flax, etc., and manufacturing linen.	1,00,000	...
11	Swadeshi Wastu Prochar Co. .	Maghiana, Jhang, Panjab.	Encouraging Indian Arts and Industries.	20,000	...
12	Ahmedabad General Agency Co. .	Ahmedabad, Bombay	Commission Agency .	1,00,000	...
13	Swadeshi Hitechu Traders Co.	Nasik, Bombay .	Trading in Cloth . .	20,000	...
14	Swadeshi Vyapar Uotejak Mandali .	Satara . . .	General trading . .	20,000	...
	Total, others .	.....	.....	5,25,000	...
	Total, Tradings .	.....	.....	15,25,000	...
	III.—Mills and Presses—				
	(a) Cotton Mills—				
15	Finlay Mills	Bombay . . .	Spinning and weaving cotton, etc.	20,00,000	...
	(b) Cotton and Jute Screws and Presses—				
16	Krishna Ginning Co. . . .	Shikohabad, United Provinces.	General trading . .	80,000	...
17	Sialkot Swadeshi Co. . . .	Sialkot, Panjab .	Ginning, pressing, etc., textiles, fabrics, wool, etc.	50,000	...

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.—*concluded.*

No.	Name of Company.	Situation of Registered office.	Object.	Capital. Nominal.	Capital. Paid-up.
	III.—Mills and Presses—*contd.*			₹	₹
	(b) Cotton and Jute Screws and Presses—continued.				
18	Coromandel Baling Co. . . .	Coconada, Godavari, Madras.	Baling and pressing .	3,00,000	...
	Total, Cotton and Jute Screws and Presses.	.....	.....	4,30,000	...
	Total, Mills and Presses .	.....	.....	24,30,000	...
	IV.—Sugar Manufacture—				
19	Anakapalle Sugar Works and Trading Co.	Anakapalle, Vizagapatam, Madras.	Sugar manufacturing and trading.	2,00,000	...
	Grand Total .	.....	.....	50,80,000	225

ABSTRACT TABLE OF COMPANIES REGISTERED IN THE MONTH OF APRIL 1906.

		Capital (₹) Nominal.	Capital (₹) Paid-up.
1	Banking and Loan Companies	4,00,000	...
3	Insurance Companies	5,25,000	225
1	Navigation Company	10,00,000	...
9	Trading Companies (*other than Navigation*)	5,25,000	...
1	Cotton Mills	20,00,000	...
3	Cotton and Jute Screws and Presses	4,30,000	...
1	Sugar Manufacturing Company	2,00,000	...
19	Total .	50,80,000	225

COTTON SEED.

Cotton seed exported by sea from British India during last cotton season (*i.e.*), from November 1905 to April 1906.

	November 1905.		December 1905.		January 1906.		February 1906.		March 1906.		April 1906.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Cwts.	₹	Cwts.	₹	Cwts.	₹	Cwts.	₹	Cwts.	₹	Cwts.	₹
To United Kingdom .	329,623	8,49,984	480,485	12,63,909	594,839	17,54,198	315,105	9,75,594	468,181	12,82,105	215,667	6,33,890
„ Belgium . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,000	22,500
„ France . . .	...	...	4,400	22,913	1,000	2,875	2,000	5,500	6,001	17,503	...	...
„ Egypt . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18,998	21,970	102,280	2,81,324
„ Aden . . .	1,304	3,656	...	...	...	...	280	681	844	2,092	...	...
„ Ceylon . . .	2,361	7,140	1,691	5,130	2,699	8,197	2,295	7,124	2,338	7,095	2,214	6,761
„ Other Countries .	25	66	7	21	88	242	42	135	...	...	99	266
From Bengal . . .	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,000	5,000	6,499	11,593	3,368	7,020
„ Bombay . .	321,510	8,29,232	475,491	12,64,295	589,919	17,41,218	315,385	9,76,775	487,515	13,12,077	315,639	9,11,388
„ Sind . . .	1,882	6,466	2	6	4,010	11,248	12	45	...	...	2,027	5,675
„ Madras . . .	9,921	25,148	11,090	27,672	4,697	13,046	2,325	7,214	2,338	7,095	7,217	20,658
Total .	333,313	8,60,846	486,583	12,91,973	598,626	17,65,513	319,722	9,89,034	496,352	13,30,765	328,251	9,44,741

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.

For the week ending 16th June 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign—Imports by sea into	Calcutta lbs.	345,434
	Bombay „	319,819
	Madras „	513,300
Indian—Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	244,880
	Bombay „	4,196,185
	Madras „	...

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	27,980,152
	Bombay „	4,732,467
	Karachi „	1,374,815
	Madras „	2,655,263
	Rangoon „	303,811

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	3,329,684
	Bombay „	3,340,788
	Karachi „	2,337,411
	Madras „	659,015
	Rangoon „	645,059

Other Piece Goods.

Import by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	3,392,525
	Bombay „	3,735,354
	Karachi „	3,870,278
	Madras „	1,389,080
	Rangoon „	1,802,069

Piece Goods.

(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta cwt.	20,274
	Bombay* „	5,314
	Karachi „	12,718
	Madras „	4,448

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea cwt.	2,005
	Coastwise „	10,888
	By rail „	69,047
Imports into Karachi by rail	„	3,771
„ „ Calcutta† by rail and river	„	4,253

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta† cwt.			43,934
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags No.		8,047,850
	„ cloth yds.		17,215,750
	Jute cwt.		18,991
Chittagong—Jute „			...

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta‡ lbs.			2,037,536
Exports by sea from	Calcutta „		1,524,746
	Chittagong „		...

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river † cwt.		42,986
	Karachi by rail „		604,160
	Bombay	By rail „	33,623
		Coastwise „	16,808
Exports by sea from	Calcutta „		586
	Bombay „		33,985
	Karachi „		838,761

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta cwt.		47,776
	Chittagong „		...
	Bombay „		7,662
	Karachi „		2,117
	Madras „		...
	Rangoon „		184,160

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta† by rail and river cwt.		60,676
	Bombay by rail „		31,326
	Karachi by rail „		...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta „		72,169
	Bombay „		47,324
	Karachi „		...

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta† by rail and river cwt.		52,976
	Bombay by rail „		14,485
	Karachi by rail „		41,001
Exports by sea from	Calcutta „		2,204
	Bombay „		16,014
	Karachi „		58,300

* B., B. and C. I. Ry. figures only. † B. N. Ry. Shalimar figures not received. ‡ Kidderpore Dock figures incomplete.

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 16th JUNE 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From All other foreign countries.	Total.
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
Calcutta	...	16,430	8,287	24,717
Bombay	...	1,276,726	...	1,276,726
Karachi	...	383,346	...	383,336
Madras	...	...	...	...

Exports by sea from Burma to	Bengal	galls.	908,668
	E. B. & Assam	,,	...
	Bombay	,,	809,450
	Karachi	,,	...
	Madras	,,	...
	Indian Ports, Non-Br.	,,	190,080
	Foreign Ports	,,	...

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 16th JUNE 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Totals.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	3,774	...	52	507	604	139	5,076
Germany	30,216	...	33,911	49,982	...	1,919	116,028
Austria-Hungary	...	...	250	1,300	...	...	1,550
Other European Countries	...	..	...	...	...	..	...
Java	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mauritius	...	...	14,414	...	...	...	14,414
Other Non-European Countries	...	...	2,500	298	...	...	2,798
					Total refined		139,866
					Total unrefined		6,661
					Grand Total cwt.		146,527

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta. [The prices include postage to countries in the Postal Union.]

ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 (2*a.*)

2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a.*)

3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—

Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. R3. (12*a.*)

Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port. R3. (12*a.*)

4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. R2. (7*a.*)

5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a.*)

6. Accounts of Trade of the French Possession in India. As. 3. (1*a.*)

7. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possession in India. As. 2. (1*a.*)

8. Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India. R4. (6*a.*)

9. Report on the Rail-borne and River-borne Trade of Bengal. R4.

10. Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan. R1½.

11. Prices and Wages in India. R1½. (9*a.*)

12. Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India. R4. (12*a.*)

13. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India. R2. (10*a.*)

14. Agricultural Statistics of India. R3½. (12*a.*)
Part I.—British India.
Part II.—Native States.

15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India. As. 5. (2*a.*)

16. Statistics of Mineral Production in India. As. 2, (1*a.*)

QUARTERLY.

17. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a.*)

MONTHLY.

18. Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of British India. As. 8. (2*a.*)

19. Accounts of the External Land Trade of British India. As. 8. (2*a.*)

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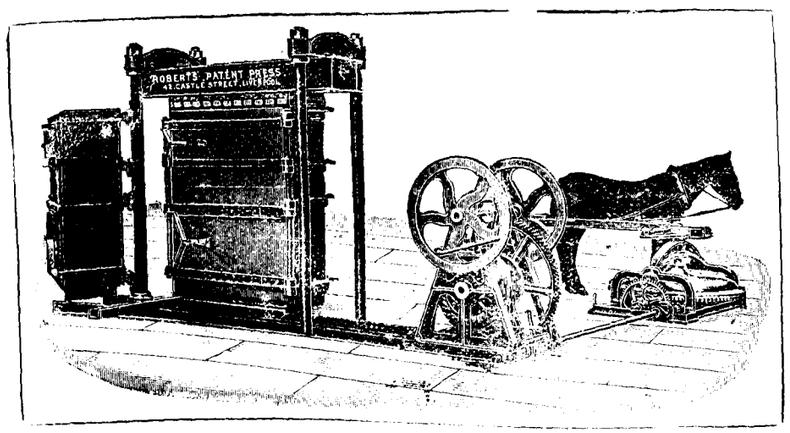
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NOTES.

The Treaty of Friendship and Commerce between **Germany and Ethiopia**, having been ratified by the German Government, came into force on the 16th June.

A Parliamentary paper contains the important information that the date for the opening of the forthcoming **Colonial Conference had been definitely** fixed for April 15th, 1907.

An interesting detail in the design of the **new Cunarders**, the first of which was launched on the 7th June is that they are to be fitted so that they can use oil fuel instead of coal, if necessary.

The **British India Steam Navigation Company** have, according to the Glasgow correspondent of the *Shipping World*, placed orders with Clyde, Belfast, and Sunderland shipbuilders for no fewer than 20 large steamers.

The United States Census Bureau's return shows that the value of **steel products** in the **United States** in 1905 totalled £134,793,005, and the capital invested amounted to £152,036,462, an increase for the past five years of 13 per cent.

With effect from the 1st of July 1906 the following **rates of poundage** will be charged on British postal orders sold in India :—

Denominations.	*Poundage.*
6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* inclusive . . .	½ anna.
3*s.* to 15*s.* ,, . . .	1 anna.
15*s.*, 6*d.* to 21*s.* ,, . . .	1½ annas.

A report from **Kabul** states that the Amir has sanctioned the inclusion of **Hindus** in the list of those **privileged to take advances from the State Treasuries** for trading purposes, good security being taken, but no interest. The Jelalabad Treasury will be one of those from which money will be lent.

The official report of the **area under cotton in the United States** shows an acreage of 28,686,000, an increase over last year of 6·2 per cent, and condition 84·6 per cent. against 77·2 last year, 83 two years ago, and 74·1 three years ago. The *New Orleans Times Democrat* estimates the acreage increase at 5 per cent.

A contemporary recently represented us as having stated that the **price of aluminium** had risen *from* £40. What we stated was that it had risen *by* £40. This was pointed out to a correspondent interested in the trade, who wrote to this office on the subject; but the correction which he has addressed to the daily press is so worded as to obscure the above essential fact, which we therefore think it well to clear up.

The British Vice-Consul at Sucre (Mr. E. F. Moore) in his recent report states that **coal veins** have been discovered in the South of Tarina, on the borders of and extending into **Argentina**, and are said to be very extensive and of excellent quality, also very near the surface. The coal was experimented upon for lighting purposes and it was found that after the moisture had evaporated the gas burned with a good light.

On the 1st of June a deputation representing the Presbyterian Churches of Victoria waited upon Mr. Deakin, the Federal Premier, and upon the late Mr. Seddon, Premier of New Zealand, in Melbourne, and, urging the importance of the **New Hebrides becoming British**, suggested that the best way to secure this would be by **giving France the Island of Mauritius**, or other territory elsewhere, in exchange.

Arrangements have been completed by the India Office for the early despatch to Calcutta of ten tons of **Russian and Belgian flax seed** of the best quality obtainable for experimental cultivation in India, indigenous seed not being considered good enough. The Director of Agriculture, Bengal, is to arrange with the Inspector-General of Agriculture in India, for the distribution of the seed on favourable terms to planters and others who may desire to take part in the experimental cultivation of flax.

The Commission appointed by the Canadian Province of Ontario to inquire into the development of **electric power at Niagara Falls** estimates that the cost of transmitting the current from a distance equal to Toronto would be only £1 per horse-power per year, plus £1 12*s.* for the cost of development, as compared with £5 to £8 with coal. "This," comments the American Department of Commerce, "is the explanation of the unwillingness of some of the Canadians to agree to a limitation of the right to divert water from the Falls."

A Committee of the American House of Representatives has ordered a favourable report to be made on the Fowler Bill, which provides for a **system of credit currency**, adjustable to varying business demands, and designed to prevent autumn panics arising from demands for money for moving crops. The bill authorises the National Banks to issue bank notes for a sum not exceeding 50 per cent. of their paid-up and unimpaired capital without depositing Government bonds as security for them, the amount not to exceed each bank's secured notes, and the total of both issues not to exceed the unimpaired paid-up capital.

The word "**telegram**" is now so fully established as an integral part of the English language that it is generally assumed to have come into existence simultaneously with the thing it designates. But the following passage from one of the "diary letters" written by Lady Canning to her people at home while her husband was Governor-General of India indicates that the word is one of the **labour-saving appliances** derived from America :—

"*Calcutta, January 16th, 1857.* . . . Saturday we expected the Ansons, but a 'telegram'—a new Yankee word for a telegraphic despatch—arrived saying they would not come till this morning."

The State Department in Washington reports that the Japanese authorities are now imposing an **additional export duty** of 240 yen per picul on **tea shipped from Formosa**, and that this tax came into effect on the 1st April. Hitherto a tax of equivalent amount was paid by the natives in the form of an internal revenue impost, but this has now been lifted from native shoulders and placed on those of foreign exporters, principally

British and American. The total export duty now paid on tea is 4 yen per picul, or about 1½ cents United States currency per pound. Importers claim the change will not cause any alteration in prices in the United States, and probably the only effect that it will have will be the bringing about of a more careful inspection of teas coming down from the country by foreign buyers.

German Industrial Development in Shantung.—The British Consul at Chi-fu gives particulars of the industrial activity of the German community at Tsingtau. A glass factory has been established at Poshan, on a branch line of the Tsingtau Chinan Fu Railway, the machinery for which is to be exclusively of German manufacture. A sugar refinery is to be established at Tsingtau, which is expected to put an end to the monopoly hitherto enjoyed in Northern China by the two English refineries at Hong-kong. Its daily output is estimated at 200 tons, requiring about 80,000 tons of raw sugar annually from the Dutch Indies and the Philippine Islands. A soap factory also has been opened equipped with two boilers each of 2,000 litres (440 gallons), and a third of 6,000 litres (1,320 gallons), and with machinery, the greater part of which has been supplied by a Dresden firm.

The Committee appointed by the Conference of the ***International Maritime Committee***, held last year in Liverpool, which sat this year in the first week of the month in Paris, under the presidency of M. Autran, in a room placed at its disposal by the Central Committee of French shipowners, has been engaged in drawing up two codes. The first relates to the limitation of the responsibility of shipowners, and the second deals with *maritime securities* and bottomry. It is hoped that after having been studied and submitted to a diplomatic conference these codes will be eventually adopted as law on these questions by all the *maritime nations*. The need for a uniform system of maritime law was recently illustrated by a decision of the Italian Courts declaring invalid in Italy, and contrary to the law of that country, a security on a British ship which was recognised by British law as perfectly valid.

The Acting Collector of Customs at Bathurst, in his observations on the **trade statistics of the Gambia for 1905**, remarks that there was a very great decrease in the exportation of raw cotton last year, but that this was to be expected. In 1904, the British Cotton Growing Association endeavoured, with the aid of the Government, to push the cultivation of cotton, but from reliable reports submitted by agricultural experts who have visited and travelled throughout the length and breadth of the Colony it is now recognised that the growing of cotton in the Gambia territories on a scale suitable for export cannot pay at the present prices, and it is clear that the industry is at an end. The people will have none of it, preferring to devote their energies to the cultivation of ground nuts which gives them a much better return for their labour. Of course, a certain amount of cotton will always be grown in the Colony, but only for local consumption. For this there is ready sale at 8*d.* per lb. for lint cotton.

The total quantity of **gold imported into British India** from foreign countries in the month of May 1906 was 180,079 ozs., valued at R1,14,38,919. The quantity of gold exported amounted to 77,139 ozs., valued at R44,29,693. Of the imported gold 160,464 ozs., valued at R1,02,79,823, consisted of bullion, whilst of the remainder 16,724 ozs., valued at R9,90,308, represented sovereigns and other British gold coins. Of the exports 63,067 ozs., valued at R36,06,458, represented bullion, British gold coin being represented by 12,947 ozs. valued at R7,57,635. The total imports of silver amounted to 9,077,175 ozs., valued at R1,84,37,117, of which 7,495,452 ozs., valued at R1,54,93,842, represented bullion and 40,982 ozs., of the value of R1,09,293, represented Government of India rupees. The total exports of silver amounted to 669,956 ozs. valued at R17,86,299, of which 669,294 ozs. valued at R17,85,061 represented Government of India rupees; and 662 ozs., valued at R1,238, British dollars.

Intelligence from the posts of observation recently established in South Egypt announces that **abundant rains** have fallen along the **upper reaches of the Nile.** Hopes are therefore running high that this summer will witness an adequate Nile flood, or at least a flood bettering the meagre flood-stream which last year taxed to the utmost the expedients at the command of the irrigation engineers to save the crops. So unexpectedly satisfactory is the volume of water that the Government notifies the provisional suspension of rotation periods, which a previous order had enforced, in various points of the Delta. It is worth noticing that Captain Lyons has recently established from the Survey Department's physiographic observations on the Nile—(1) that, generally speaking, the curve of metric pressure of the summer months, *viz.*, that high pressures accompany high floods; and (2) that the effect of excessive sub-equatorial rainfall in April and May in the neighbourhood of Zanzibar seems to have an exceedingly prejudicial effect on the Abyssinian rains.

Sir William Willcocks, famous for his irrigation work, and a number of financiers with him, are turning Egyptian capital and enterprise to account in the **development of Cyprus,** that hitherto some-

what neglected portion of the Empire. Sir William Willcocks, after a tour in Cyprus, returned to England convinced of its great potentialities. A number of valuable estates have been acquired by him and his fellow-capitalists. These purchases have naturally enhanced land values throughout the island generally. Steam agricultural machinery is for the first time being introduced, together with improved implements. Among the more interesting developments in progress are the rearing and scientific cultivation on a large scale of carob, olive, and mulberry trees, as well as sericulture, for which the Island is peculiarly fitted The revival of these industries, the progress of the Agricultural Bank just founded in Cyprus, and the results of the new railway will be followed with interest.

The **third International Cotton Congress** is being held in Germany. The Committee were received by the heads of the German Government in Berlin on June 22nd and 23rd and the Congress will meet at Bremen on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The subjects for discussion included rules of cotton exchanges, damp in cotton, cotton markets, cotton statistics, and cotton-growing. It was arranged that the delegates were to be entertained by the High Senate of Bremen, the Bremen Chamber of Commerce, and the Bremen Cotton Exchange. When business is at an end they will attend the Kiel Regatta as the guests of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company. The countries represented are Great Britain, Germany, France, Austria, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland, the United States of America, Denmark, India and Japan. Since its formation two years ago the International Cotton Federation has done much good work. Founded to deal with the crisis caused by the smallness of the cotton crop of that year and the operations of speculators, it has exercised considerable influence upon the trade, and has made a marked impression on the Governments of the countries represented. The members have decided that a great cotton reserve must be established in order to steady the market.

The British Consul at **Bolivia**, in his report on the trade of 1905, says that **tin mining** which is the principal industry, and which is certainly the one which offers the best prospects, is progressing much better than would be expected considering the enormous difficulties that all engaged in the business have to contend with. The lack of facilities in transport is perhaps the worst, and not a little less felt is the scarcity of labour, which, as new mines are worked, becomes more accentuated. The former may perhaps be overcome by the projected railways, but the latter will remain a problem until such measures are taken as will bring out a sufficient number of emigrants. New mines are constantly discovered, and it appears that their possessors are losing no time in putting up the necessary concentrating plant in order to ensure as large a production as possible, so as to participate to the utmost extent in the high prices now ruling for this commodity. Yet another measure taken by Congress to increase the revenue has been that of increasing the export duty on tin from 1 bol. per quintal (100 Spanish lbs.) to 2 bols., more or less. This has been fixed on a sliding scale according to the quotations for Straits tin.

In passing the Lodge Bill for the improvement of the **Phillippine currency system,** which is threatened with a shortage of coin due to the rise in the value of silver, the American Senate has presented a measure which will at least allow time for more deliberate reflection. That some relief is needed is shown in the letters of the Governor-General to the Secretary of War complaining of the shortage of Phillippine pesos and stating that the need for Congressional action is urgent. The treasurer of the islands, in order to meet the exigency, had recommended the purchase of silver sufficient for the coinage of pesos which would involve a loss of about three hundred thousand pesos out of the gold standard fund. The remedy is expensive, and another way out of the difficulty has been suggested, that of reducing the fineness of the peso. This method, which does not look well to one unacquainted with the situation, is recommended as the best course to pursue for the following reasons :— The value of the peso is not guaranteed by the bullion value ; the fineness of the peso is greater than that recommended prior to its adoption; and the peso would be more easily retained by the change in the fineness.

Some **extraordinary statements** have been made by Sir John Madden, the Lieutenant Governor of Victoria, and Sir John Cockburn, an ex-Premier of South Australia, as to the wonderful way in which the **Australian Commonwealth has recovered from the effects of the drought.** Sir John Madden stated that there were now depastured in Australia as many sheep as there were before the drought. Mr. Doxat, who acted as chairman at the meeting at which these statements were made, questioned them, and Sir John Cockburn then asserted that, as a matter of fact, Australia now possessed 2,000,000 more sheep than ever before. Mr. Doxat, has been a leading London wool-broker for the last forty years or more, and is an authority on the colonial wool trade. In 1894 there were 100,930,418 sheep in Australia, and the annual report of the Australian Mortgage, Land and Finance Company gives the number at the present time as only 73,000,000, of which New South Wales has 40,000,000, Queensland 12,400,000, Victoria 10,000,000, South Australia 6,000,000, Western Australia 3,000,000, and Tasmania 1,600,000. The discrepancy is 28 or 30 millions, and an explanation from Sir John Madden and Sir John Cockburn of the figures given by them at the meeting of the Australian Chamber of Commerce held in London would be worth hearing.

The **report** presented to the general meeting of the shareholders of the **Suez Canal Company,** which was fixed for the 12th instant in Paris, shows that the receipts from traffic through the Canal in 1905 were about £84,000 less than in the preceding year. Considering, however, that 1904 was one of the most favourable which the Company has to record, the results of the last financial year (says the report) may be considered entirely satisfactory, and will permit of the dividend being maintained at 141 francs net, and the sum of 3,000,000 francs being added to the special reserve fund. The total receipts for 1905 amounted to 117,308,196 francs, and the total expenditure to 40,984,184 francs. During the year 1905, 4,116 ships, representing a tonnage of 13,134,105 tons, passed through the canal, being a decrease of 121 ships and 267,730 tons as compared with 1904. The report goes on to say that, despite the increase in the dimensions of ships using the canal, navigation, owing to the works carried out, has been rendered both safer and easier, as evidenced by the decrease in the number of ships going ashore. Reference is made to the fire on board the British dynamite steamer *Chatham* last September and the sinking of the vessel, and to the successful and expeditious manner in which the canal was cleaned by the blowing up of the wreck. Power is asked to increase from 25,000,000 to 50,000,000 francs the loan, the conclusion of which the shareholders authorised in 1901, to meet the cost of improvements, although the Directors have hitherto not availed themselves of their authority.

The prices of opium in the Calcutta market during the week ending 23rd June were, per chest, as follows:—

Behar opium—R1,319; 1,320; 1,319; 1,319; 1,319; 1,321; 1,322.

Benares opium—R1,245; 1,246; 1,245; 1,245; 1,245; 1,247; 1,248.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 7th sale of 1906—R1,319; 1,320; 1,319; 1,319; 1,319; 1,321; 1,322.

China market, Hongkong (exchange Rs. 157 to R159 per 100 dollars).

Behar—$ 862; 860 to 862; 857½ to 862; 855 to 857; 857 to 860; 857; 860.

Shanghai (exchange 217⅛ to 219½ per 100 Taels) two sales, one on 18th of 620 Taels; the other on 19th of 616 Taels.

Benares—Four sales in the Hongkong market on 18th, 19th, 20th, and 21st of $795, $792½, $790, and $792½ respectively; while two sales, Shanghai, on 18th and 19th of 580 Taels, and 576 Taels, respectively.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending 16th June were—for A class (season 1905-06) R1,345 to 1,360; for B class (season 1904-05) R1,420 to 1,550; class C, old (season 1903-04) R1,700. The latest China prices ascertained were for new classes (A and B) R1,481 to 1,497; old (class C) fetched at Hongkong R1,669 and at Shanghai R1,682.

A statement of the production of **copper** in the United States for the year 1905 has been given out by the United States Geological Survey, the total amount being 901,630,998 pounds, valued at $137,498,727, as against 812,537,260 pounds, valued at $105,629,845, produced in 1904. The news of the desperate **strike-riots** which took place at the **Greene Consolidated Copper Company's** mines at Cananea, Mexico, in the beginning of June, had the effect of immediately **hardening prices** in American and London markets. In London sellers were extremely reserved on the 6th June, and the market closed strong at an advance of 17*s.* 6*d.* for cash and 5*s.* forward, at £85 15*s.* and £84 15*s.*, respectively. The fear was generally entertained that the production would be materially curtailed for some time, in spite of the news from Loss Angels that the leaders of the riots had been executed, that the Company's losses did not exceed £1,000, and that work would be resumed within a week, this news being evidently balanced in the opinion of operators by the statement that the whole region was disturbed as a consequence of the riots, and that, both Americans and Mexicans being highly excited by the conflict and the killing of their compatriots, the danger of a racial feud had by no means passed. It is interesting to see that while copper advanced, there was a depreciation in the values of tin, and while business was fairly active the general sentiment was bearish.

The **increased value of rubber** during the past two years has induced traders, says our Consul at **Iquitos, Peru,** to give credit to all capable men wishing to work either in fine rubber or Peruvian ball, and this facility of credit has tended to augment the area worked and led to greater activity in small rivers up to the present only partly explored. The total exports of rubber during the year from Iquitos and Caballo Cocha were 2,348 metric tons divided more or less as follows :—1,400 tons to Liverpool, 870 tons to Havre, 78 tons to the United States. The total value at to-day's prices works out at about £1,000,000, showing an increase on the value of the previous year's exports of about £330,000. Trade up to the end of the year has been generally good. There has been a considerable increase in the output of rubber from the River Putumayo. With reference to this river, although partly Peruvian and partly Colombian,

Brazil (whose frontier has to be passed by all trading steamers in order to get into the river) has placed some difficulties in the way of Peruvian steamers trading there. The Brazilian authorities at the frontier insist on a guarantee being given for the value of duties on all rubber coming from that river for Iquitos. Between Colombia and Peru a treaty exists in reference to the trading in that river, providing that goods should be despatched in transit and duties collected according to the Peruvian tariff and divided between the two countries. The export duties on rubber will be raised to 20 centavos (about 5*d.*) per kilo. on the gross weight of all kinds, independent of quality. This means a considerable rise in the export duty.

Some **interesting figures** respecting **strikes and lock-outs** which occurred **in Germany** during 1905 are given in the current number of the Journal of the German Statistical Department. It appears that the past year was one of great industrial disturbance, and, according to the statistics, more disputes between employers and workmen took place than in any recent year. In 1904 there were 1,870 strikes and 120 lock-outs, while in 1905 there were 2,403 strikes and 254 lock-outs; in all, therefore, 2,657 disputes occurred in 1905, as compared with 1,990 in 1904. Placing the principal groups of occupations in order of magnitude, we get the following :—

Trade.	No. of persons on strike or lock-out.
Mining	231,453
Building	78,776
Engineering	73,699
Textile	36,713
Clothing	29,741
Wood	23,363
Metal	19,559

Out of the 2,403 strikes which came to an end in 1905, 528 resulted in a victory for the workpeople, 971 in a partial victory, and 904 in a defeat for the workpeople at the hands of the employers. In the case of the 254 lock-outs the masters gained the day in 65 cases and the employés in 45 cases, while a partial victory was obtained by the masters in 144 cases. The official figures, as they appear year by year, are criticised regularly by the trade-union organs, which allege that the Government statisticians considerably *underestimate* the total number of labour disturbances. As, however, they are brought out on the same basis each year, they afford a reliable indication of the *extent* to which industry is disturbed in one year as compared with another.

The *following note* on the **Transfrontier Trade of Arakan** is contributed by Mr. C. M. Prendergast, Deputy Commissioner of the Northern Arakan District:—"The trade in **rubber** and **elephant** tusks from the Shandu country (*unadministered tract*) lying north of this district between Northern Arakan, Chittagong, Lushai and Chin Hills is carried on during the fine weather months, *i.e.*, from November to May, at the Frontier Police posts of Daletme and Kaletwa.

Rubber is sold at from R70 for *good quality* to R30 for inferior quality per maund and elephant tusks generally from R150 to R200 a pair.

Up to the present no royalty has been charged by Government on Transfrontier Forest Produce but the subject is now under consideration by the Local Government.

Rubber from across the frontier is exported to Akyab and Calcutta and fetches prices ranging from R107 to R200 in the local market.

In the administered tract of the district **tobacco** of an excellent quality is cultivated to a large extent.

Tobacco to the value of R45,737 is annually exported into the Akyab district. Undoubtedly tobacco planting would pay any private person or firm if taken up on a large scale.

Tea and coffee could also be successfully grown. Many years ago an experiment was tried by Government which I understand was *successful*, and up to the present at Paletwa, the headquarters of the district, tea and coffee plants are still in existence and thrive without any attention being paid to them.

Teak is not indigenous, but many years ago was sown in several parts of the district and thrives most successfully, and I am of opinion rubber, if grown in the administered tract, would also thrive and be a very paying business.

The **Arakan Hill Tracts** have an evil name for malarial fever, but I am of opinion the climate is not as bad as reputed, and during November, December, January, February and up to the middle of March the climate is charming.

The bad reputation of these hills has, I think, undoubtedly stopped private enterprise up to date.

In the *Indian Trade Journal* of the 3rd of May, page 164, we gave a review of the **American Railway Rates Bill**, which, slightly modified, passed through the Senate on the 20th of May after a struggle of 52 days. The measure as it now stands is practically the same measure recommended to Congress in President Roosevelt's message in December 1904, which passed the House as the Esch-Townsend Bill, only to be killed by the Senate, and which last December was revived as the Hepburn Bill, the President securing its acceptance by drawing to his side the weight of the Democratic party. The Bill remains to be perfected by Senate, but its features, skeletonised, are as follows :—

"Inter-State Commerce Commission shall fix maximum rate to be charged where complaints were made.

"These rates, so fixed, may be reviewed to fullest extent by courts.

"Before rate can be suspended, interlocutory decree notice of five days and hearing before three judges are necessary.

"Rate fixed and passed upon goes into effect within 30 days and may remain in force for two years.

"Commission may fix joint through rates and part rail and part water rates.

"Commission is to consist of five members, as at present.

"Railroads and carriers are prohibited from dealing in commodities they carry.

"Pipe lines, private car lines, express companies and palace car companies are made common carriers.

"Rebates are punished by imprisonment to either party or fines of from $1,000 to $20,000.

"A person soliciting or compelling a rebate may also be fined three times the amount of the rebate.

"Railroads must also make uniform reports.

"Giving of Inter-State passes, except in numerous stated cases, prohibited. (The wide-open policy shown by the Senate in this amendment excited much amusement, not to say derision.)

"Commission may compel switch and siding connections.

"After rate commission made is suspended or injunction made permanent appeal shall lie direct to the Supreme Court.

"Damage done to goods sent over a joint through route shall be borne by the initial carrier."

The Secretary of the Wine and Spirit Association has addressed a circular to members of Parliament in view of the recent observations made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Budget statement regarding the manufacture of what is known as **"basis wine"**, so called because it is of a neutral character and can be used to cheapen foreign descriptions. He says :—"It is not generally known that British wines, containing very often about 25 per cent. of proof spirit, are exempt from duty, whilst light wines from foreign countries and our Colonies, which contain much less alcohol, pay 1*s.* 3*d.* duty per gallon. The present immunity from taxation of wine made in this country has resulted in an extensive trade. Large quantities of scientifically treated grape must (unfermented grape juice), paying no duty, are being imported into London for the purpose of being converted into foreign wine. This grape must, after having been fermented, is sold to the public under names conveying the impression that the wine in question is a genuine duty-paid foreign imported wine. My Committee has ascertained from His Majesty's Board of Customs that in 1905 the quantity of grape juice imported into this country was 783,009 gallons, of which probably a large proportion is fermented and made into wine without paying duty. Out of this quantity no fewer than 187,231 gallons were entered as *condensed must*. This last amount is undoubtedly imported for the express purpose of being made into wine, and when mixed with water and fermented could be converted into about ten times the amount of wine, which, estimating the duty at 1*s.* 3*d.* per gallon, would amount to a loss to the revenue of the country of over £100,000, and the effect is to place merchants who import and pay duty on foreign and colonial grown wines and spirits at a serious disadvantage. Further there is a large manufacture in this country of so-called wine from currants and raisins, which is used either for mixing with foreign wines or for diluting spirits. My Committee, while asking you to support the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his endeavour to bring the manufacture of wines in the United Kingdom under Excise supervision and control, most earnestly desire to point out that the only way this unfair competition can be effectually stopped is by levying a duty *equivalent to the duty on* imported wines on the alcohol contained in all wines made in this country.

The total value of the **Sea-borne trade of the Madras Presidency** including merchandise and treasure, during the year 1905-1906, together with the value of the trade in each of the four previous years, is set forth in the annexed table, *foreign trade* being distinguished from *coasting trade*, which latter is again divided into *external*, that is, trade carried on with territories and States outside the Presidency, and *interportal*, that is, trade with ports inside the Presidency. The real value of the *interportal trade* should be accepted as *one-half* of that given in the table as the figures represent an interchange once as exports at one port and again as imports at another. The values include also imports and exports on account of Government both in merchandise and treasure.

	1901-1902.	1902-1903.	1903-1904.	1904-1905.	1905-1906.
	R	R	R	R	R
Foreign trade	21,04,30,774	22,85,23,046	24,40,09,911	24,21,91,133	24,28,87,873
Coasting trade—					
External trade	8,99,77,335	8,18,41,656	8,33,69,579	8,59,85,318	9,60,62,971
Interportal trade (within the Presidency).	2,76,82,257	2,56,03,369	2,31,15,321	2,37,33,970	2,42,90,017
TOTAL	11,76,59,592	10,74,45,025	10,64,84,900	10,97,19,288	12,03,52,988
GRAND TOTAL.	32,80,90,366	33,59,68,071	35,04,94,811	35,19,10,421	36,32,40,861

Though the trade of the year under review was considerably greater than that of any of the previous thirty years and exceeded that of the preceding year by 113·30 lakhs of rupees, the fact that nearly 89 per cent. of that increase or 100·78 lakhs of

rupees was contributed by the external coasting trade with other provinces in British India, Native States and foreign possessions in India, detracts somewhat from a statement otherwise indicative of great commercial prosperity and indicates that there was less agricultural prosperity than in the previous year. An analysis of the external coasting trade reveals the fact that Madras had to import 91·87 lakhs of rupees' worth more of *food products*, chiefly *grain and pulse*, than in the previous year from the sister provinces while its exports consisted mostly of such articles as *spices*, *coffee*, *oils and oilseeds*, *cotton goods*, *cocoanuts* and *copra*, in each of which articles the coastwise export trade showed a considerable increase. The deficient rainfall of the year 1905-06 caused considerable anxiety to agriculturists, and but for the prosperity which attended the manufacturing industries—such as the cotton and tanning industries—and the abundance of the west coast and hill products such as *pepper*, *coffee* and *tea*, the foreign trade would have shown a considerable contraction. The unfavourable character of the season reflected itself also in the contracted imports of *cotton goods* and of certain classes of *metals*.

In connection with the launching of the new monster Cunarder, *Lusitania*, the largest vessel in the world, the following figures showing the **advance in shipbuilding**, in speed and engine power, and the remarks we quote about the cost at which great speed is attained, are particularly interesting.

In this table is shown the growth in the magnitude, speed, etc., of the Cunard Company's vessels.

	Britannia, 1840.	Persia, 1855.	Gallia, 1879.	Umbria, 1884.	Campania, 1893.	Lusitani a, 1906.
Speed knots . .	8·5	13·1	15½	19	22	25
Coal necessary to steam to New York tons.	570	1,400	1,836	1,900	2,9 0	5,000
Cargo carried . ,,	224	750	1,700	1,000	1,620	1,500
Passengers . .	115	250	320	1,225	1,700	2,350
Indicated horse power	710	3,600	5,000	14,500	30,000	68,000
Steam pressure . lb	9	33	75	110	165	200
Coal per indicated horse power per hour . . lb	5·1	3·8	1·9	1·9	1·6	1·45

The *Lusitania* is the largest vessel that has yet been built, alike in length, draft and displacement. The reason for this was less the attainment of her great speed, than the necessity for providing sufficient accommodation to bring in revenue enough to cover the extra cost of the extra speed. *Engineering*, in the course of a lengthy article on the Cunarder leviathan says that the proposal has often been made that first-class passengers only should be carried on high-speed Atlantic liners, as it would not then be so necessary to build such very large ships. This, of course, would somewhat reduce the power for a given speed. The case of the torpedo boat destroyer is quoted; but destroyers have limited fuel capacity; the Atlantic liner has to carry coal to maintain her maximum speed for a voyage of 3,000 miles across the Atlantic. This itself is a very heavy load, and there is involved a great increase in size and in weight of constructional material, which again necessitates great power. The importance of making a ship of very fine lines and consequently of securing the least possible co-efficient of fineness calls for length as well as great beam; and thus, notwithstanding the continuous aim on all hands to economise the size of the ship, each increment in speed has involved a great advance in size. The 20-knot Atlantic liner of twenty years ago had a displacement of 10,500 tons; the 22-knot ship of ten years ago was 18,000 tons; the 23-knot ship of five years ago 23,000 tons; and now to reach 25-knots it has been found necessary to raise the displacement weight to 38,000 tons. The dominant factor in this great increase of displacement is the great addition to engine power for a comparatively slight increase in speed. Thus, twenty years ago the ratio of power to displacement for a 20-knot speed was 1·35 to 1; for 22-knots ten years ago, 1·66 to 1; and to-day for 25-knots, it is 1·8 to 1. Thus for an advance in speed in twenty years equal to 25 per cent., the power has increased from 14,000 to 68,000, or nearly five-fold. It is true that with increased economy the coal consumption per unit of power is considerably less—25 per cent.—but notwithstanding the less time taken on the voyage, owing to increased speed from Liverpool to New York, the total tonnage of coal has gone up from 2,900 to 5,000 tons. Since the first Cunarder was built, sixty-five years ago, the speed has been multiplied only threefold, but the power has had to be increased nearly a hundredfold. Owing, however, to the higher economy, and the shorter time taken on the voyage—about four and a half days, as compared with fifteen days—the coal consumption for the voyage is only ten times greater.

THE CLEANING OF LAC.

In the *Indian Trade Journal* of the 19th April there appeared an article on the subject of the **collection of lac.** It was pointed out that in most cases lac is still gathered at the season formerly selected with a view to securing the largest quantity of lac-dye; that lac-dye had ceased to have any real market value; and that its presence in the lac occasioned difficulty in the processes of manufacture. It was pointed out that the dye consisted of the larvæ of the lac insect, and that if these were allowed to leave the lac before it was collected various advantages would be gained. It was therefore suggested that an effort should be made to teach the people to leave the lac upon the trees until the larvæ had issued or "swarmed." A circular from the Inspector-General of Forests to Conservators drew attention to these considerations and, in the covering letter, he requested that samples of lac gathered after swarming should be sent to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence for the purpose of testing the possibility of separating the lac quickly from the vegetable and insect contamination by trituration and **centrifrugal washing.**

Several Forest Officers in various parts of India have been good enough to send samples said to have been gathered after swarming was complete. These specimens did not show the external characteristics expected in empty or *phunki* lac, inasmuch as there were few orifices through which the larvæ could have issued. This observation was confirmed with some diffidence by various persons engaged in the trade; but some time passed before anyone could be found who knew the article so intimately in its wild state as to be able to speak with certainty. Meantime **tentative tests** were undertaken. Specimens of seed lac were ground in a small coffee-mill with a regulating screw, which gave a fairly uniform trituration with little powder but disclosed the presence of considerable quantities of insect matter. This became doubly evident when water was added or when the dry lac was finely ground in a mortar. In these cases the whole substance took the deep red colour characteristic of ordinary lac; but no experiments were made in the removal of the pigmental matter by washing, seeing that such processes are already understood and that the particular enquiry was primarily designed to relate to *phunki* or "empty" lac free from such matter. It was, however, noticed that in addition to the lac and the soluble lac-dye there were present large quantities of solid matter, evidently of insect origin and the source of much of the dye. It was also observed that the **specific gravity** of these solids was evidently less than that of the lac itself, the difference apparently being greater before they had had time to take up much moisture from the water in which they were washed. This fact gives increased importance to the rapidity of separation rendered possible by centrifugal action.

Incidentally, an attempt was made to separate these solids by dropping the lac after grinding through a lateral **current of air** from an electric fan; and although the test was of the most tentative kind it was found that a good deal of the insect matter was removed from the lac in this way. Industrially such separation would probably be carried out by means of an aspirator such as is used in modern flour-milling.

Such **centrifugal separators** as were courteously made available for the crucial experiments were of the ordinary laboratory type, and not in the least such as would be used industrially; and the experiments were marred by the largeness of the quantities in which the insect and dye matters were present. Nevertheless, it was apparent that the difference between the specific gavities of lac and of the solid contaminations of insect origin is sufficient to give a practical separation, and it even seems possible that a nicely adjusted process of **levigation** might produce the same result. **Levigation** is the process by which a substance is subject to the action of water moving with sufficient velocity to carry away the lighter particles while leaving those that are heavy.

Since that time an expert familiar with lac in its wild state has seen the lac from which the specimens for these experiments were taken, and has pronounced them positively not to be *phunki* lac. True. *phunki* lac of the new crop will not be available for some time and further experiments on the lines contemplated must be postponed till then. But while the object of this Department is to procure results of an industrial kind with the least delay, the conduct of an extended series of experiments on an industrial scale does not fall within its functions. It, therefore, seems probable that the matter will receive prompt and practical examination with greater certainly if **experts in lac and in machinery** for centrifugal processes, and for those of winnowing and levigation, are given an opportunity of taking it up in such a way as to secure to themselves the fruits of their enterprise. The Director-General of Commercial Intelligence will give any assistance in his power. He has obtained particulars about various classes of centrifugal machinery, and will be glad to hear from the makers of separators for the separation of two triturated solids both heavier than water. The specific gravity of lac is 1·139.

SUGAR IN NORTH-EAST PERSIA.

In the *Indian Trade Journal* of 5th April it was noticed that there existed an unsatisfied demand for **sugar in certain parts of North-East Persia,** and that, attempts to supply it profitably by way of Quetta having failed, indents had been made on the Yezd market, which draws its supplies from the Persian Gulf. At the time when this note was published enquiries were made regarding the price of various kinds of sugar on the North Persian market from the Consul at Turbat-i-Haidari, the first important town between Seistan and Meshed. A reply has

been received showing that on the 19th May the price of white loaf-sugar (beet) in the bazaar at Turbat was 7 krans 15 shahis or, roughly, Rs. 1-15-0 per Persian maund (Man Khorasani) of $6\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. The price, which on the 22nd of March had been 10 krs. per maund, was expected to fall still lower, but, according to the Consul, 4 as. per lb. English was the lowest that sugar was likely to fall to. This would make the price of one Indian maund of 80 lbs. equal to Rs. 20. Captain Keyes, the Consul at Turbat, made enquiries from a well-known Indian sugar manufacturing company regarding the prices at which they could deliver sugar at Nushki. They replied saying they made no loaf-sugar, but offered to land white grain sugar at Nushki for Rs. 12-8-0. per maund. As camel hire from Nushki to Tarbat-i-Haidari is very high, namely Rs. 55 per camel, camels carrying from 250 to 300 lbs., the average weight being about 280 lbs., it is not thought likely that sugar costing Rs. 12-8-0 per maund at Nushki can be laid down with any profit on the market at Turbat. The plague in Seistan will also deter Khorasan merchants from importing anything *vid* Quetta-Nushki trade route. Indian merchants can, however, reach Turbat-i-Haidari in two other ways through the Persian Gulf, namely, by way of Yezd, or direct by the Winter Caravan Route from Bunder Abbas eastward, and northward *vid* Rigan and Tum-i-Reg.

The following table shows the lengths of the various caravan routes which might be used to supply this demand in North-East Persia, the approximate time occupied in transit, and the average rates of freight :—

Quetta-Birjand, 90 days, 773 miles	. R102-8 as per *maund* of 80 lbs.
Quetta-Meshed, 150 days, 1050 miles	. R350 per *kharvar* of 650 lbs.
Bander Abbas-Meshed, *vid* Kirman, Naiband Tun, 110 days, 970 miles	. Krs. 300 to Krs. 350 per *kharvar*.
Bander Abbas-Meshed, *vid* Yezd and Tabas, 105 to 150 days, 1020 miles	. Krs. 280 to Krs. 420 per *kharvar*.
Bander Abbas-Seistan *vid* Rigan, 60 days, 550 miles	. Krs. 150 per *kharvar*.
Yezd-Meshed, 50 days, 500 miles.	. Krs. 150 to Krs. 200 per *kharvar*
Yezd-Birjand, 30 days, 300 miles	. Krs 75 to Krs. 90 per *kharvar*.

For exchange purposes the kran may be taken at 4 annas. The *kharvar* is 650 lbs. Time and rates both vary considerably

ENQUIRY.

Cotton Waste.

An enquiry has been received from a Melbourne Firm which is largely interested in the Cotton Waste Trade, and which desires to be placed in communication with manufacturers and those interested in the export trade in this article. Conditions etc., may be ascertained on application to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street.

NOTICES.

CORRESPONDENT WANTED.

A newspaper in England requires a correspondent, to telegraph summaries of Indian Crop Forecasts. For particulars, apply to the Director-General, Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street, Calcutta.

MAIL SERVICES - TENDERS.

The Director-General of Commercial Intelligence has obtained from the Board of Trade three copies of each of the eight advertisements for the following mail services called for by the Postmaster General and to commence 1st February 1908 :—

Tender for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails between Brindisi or some other South European Port and Bombay.

Tender for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails between a Port in the United Kingdom and Colombo *vid* Brindisi, or some other South European Port, and Aden.

Tender for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails between a Port in the United Kingdom and Australia *vid* Brindisi, or some other Port in South Europe, Aden and Colombo.

Tender for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails between Aden and Australia.

Tender for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails between Colombo and Australia.

Tender for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails between Brindisi, or some other Port in South Europe, and Hong-kong or Shanghai.

Tender for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails between Colombo and Hong-kong or Shanghai.

Tender for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails between Madras (or Calcutta) and Hong-kong or Shanghai.

One copy is retained in the Commercial Intelligence Department, 5, Clive Street, Calcutta, and may be seen on application.

The other two copies have been forwarded to the Chambers of Commerce at Bombay and Madras, respectively, with the request that, if there be no objection, they may be shown to enquirers whether members of those Chambers or not.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

EXCERPTS FROM THE PROCEEDINGS.

BOMBAY.

Read letter, dated 16th May 1906, from Messrs. Ralli Brothers calling attention to the abnormal delays which have of late taken place in the **deliveries of Sugar from the Docks.**

Resolution.—The Port Trust to be addressed and asked to give the matter their serious consideration. It should be pointed out that delays such as those complained of by the firm are a hardship to buyers ; that Sugar being a perishable article is subject to considerable deterioration as regards condition ; and that importers, on account of these delays, are compelled to pay allowances on damaged bags which, if delivered in time, would have been accepted as sound.

Read letter, dated 17th May 1906, from Messrs. W. and A. Graham & Co., Agents, the Asiatic Petroleum Company, Ld., regarding the **Statutory testing of Cargoes of Kerosine Oil**, and raising the question as to the correctness of the instrument used for that purpose. The Petroleum Act of 1899 lays down that the instrument should be verified with the model test apparatus at Calcutta once every five years. Messrs. W. and A. Graham & Co. considered this procedure unsatisfactory : one objection being that with certain instruments is was believed the journey across to Calcutta was sufficient to upset the standardising they had been subjected to there.

Resolution.—The Chemical Analyser to Government to be addressed in terms of Messrs. W. and A. Graham & Co.'s letter, with a request to furnish the Chamber with a list of testing instruments required for the regulation of trade for which Bombay is at present dependent on Calcutta. Add that the information is required to enable the Committee to address Government in the matter.

Read Memo., dated 18th May 1906, from the Collector of Customs and Opium, Bombay, forwarding copy of letter addressed to a dealer in which it is stated that **Embroidered Nets,** such as those imported by him, would be passed at the rate of **$3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent** ; that **Cotton Goods** which were admitted to be recognisable by the usage of the trade as **Piece Goods** and which were not capable of being used without manipulation for domestic purposes or as **Wearing Apparel** would be charged at the $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. rate. This, it was added, would not affect the treatment of **Saris, Scarves, Chadars, and Dhuties**, in so far as they were at present assessed at the lower rate even when capable for use as apparel without manipulation.

Resolution.—To be recorded.

Read letter, dated 7th April 1906, from the Commissioner of Customs, Salt, Opium and Abkari, forwarding copies of correspondence between the Collector of Customs and himself on the subject of the **draft rules for the importation and bonding of Foreign Salt at Bombay**, and asking for the views of the Committee thereon. Read also letter from Messrs. Turner, Morrison Co.

Resolution.—The Commissioner to be informed that the Committee have no objection to the framing of rules as proposed, except to those parts which dealt with the check of reweighment, which did not state clearly at whose expense such reweighment was to be made. The attention of Government should be drawn to another point in connection with bonded salt which often caused inconvenience and trouble to importers. The larger portion of the salt was imported in bulk and stacked at the Government Bonded Warehouse. On completion of delivery of a consignment, there was always a certain quantity of sweepings left, which, being unfit for human consumption, had to be destroyed. The Committee suggested that a rule should be laid down that either the importer should be empowered to remove such sweepings on his undertaking not to use it for human consumption, or else that the Department itself should destroy it, on the Collector hearing from the importer that such sweepings had accumulated.

Read letter, dated 12th May 1906, from the Upper India Chamber of Commerce, forwarding copy of a letter addressed to the Director General of Telegraphs in support of the Bombay Chamber's representation about the **scale of charges now in force for the transmission of Inland Telegrams.** The Upper India Chamber at the same time asked for an expression of the Committee's views as to the proposal put forward by that body to merge Urgent and Ordinary telegrams into one class.

Resolution.—The Upper India Chamber to be thanked for their support. With regard to the proposal to merge Urgent to Ordinary telegrams, the Committee felt that the procedure would not meet with general approval as the facilities afforded the public under varying conditions by the present three classes of telegrams were recognised to have their distinct advantages. While, therefore, approving an all round reduction of rates, they did not see their way, under existing circumstances, to favouring the change suggested. The Upper India Chamber was informed accordingly.

Read copy of letter addressed by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to the Secretary, Railway Board, on the subject of the **inadequate supply of rolling-stock on Indian Railways.**

Resolution.—The Railway Board to be addressed in support of the Bengal Chamber's representation. (The Railway Board, in acknowledging receipt of the Bombay Chamber's letter, forwarded a copy of the reply which had been sent to the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. In the course of this reply it was stated that the Railway Board had already expressed the opinion that Indian Railways as a

whole were at present below what should be the standard of equipment of rolling-stock for present requirements, and that since the formation of the Board they had taken steps to improve this standard and would continue to do so to meet future development of trade.)

Read letter, dated 23rd May 1906, from certain members of the Chamber drawing attention to the **difficulties and dangers that the trade of this country is subjected to on entering Portuguese East Africa,** and the uncertainty of obtaining redress in matters of dispute. Specific instances were given in support of the above statements.

Resolution.—Government to be addressed on the subject, pointing out that the unstable conditions that govern trade in the above territories are a serious hindrance to the legitimate development of India's trade in that direction.

Read letter, dated 30th May 1906, from the Government of India, forwarding a copy of a letter addressed to the Karachi Chamber of Commerce in reply to the representation from that Chamber (supported by the Bombay Chamber) regarding the **Classification of Circular Steel Plates or Discs in the Import Tariff Schedule.** The Government of India stated that they had carefully considered the request of the Karachi Chamber, but that they were unable to accept the suggestion that the articles in question should be regarded as raw material and assessed at a duty of one per cent.

Resolution.—To be recorded. The Committee note with regret that Government state no reasons for arriving at the above decision.

Read Resolution, dated 23rd May 1906, of the Government of India (together with relative papers) regarding the **Exhibition to be held at Christ Church in New Zealand** in November 1906.

Resolution.—Papers to be recorded and made available to members of the Chamber on application to the Secretary.

In a further letter received from the Government of India, in reply to representations made by this and other Chambers of Commerce regarding the **publication of Trade Marks in the "Indian Trade Journal,"** it was stated that the proposal to allow the owners of such marks to publish their claims in the Journal in question had been altogether abandoned.

With regard to the **Insertion of Trade Introductions in the same Journal,** the Government of India stated that they were not at present convinced that the proposal, which was fully weighed before it was put forward, should be withdrawn.

KARACHI.

Import Duty on Circular Steel Plates or Discs.

Read letter No. 4271—58, dated 30th May 1906, from the Officiating Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, intimating in reply to this Chamber's letter No. 263 of 29th March 1906, that the Government of India are unable to accept the Chamber's suggestion that Circular Steel Plates or Discs imported into India should be treated as raw material and assessed to duty at 1 per cent.

Resolution.—To be circulated and recorded.

Rebate on Persian Traffic *vid* Seistan.

Read N.-W. Railway Rate Circular No. 62, dated 7th April 1906, announcing with effect from 1st June 1906, a rebate of $\frac{2}{3}$rds of actual freight paid on the Oudh and Rohilkhand and East Indian Railways on all goods traffic, including live-stock booked to and from Quetta off Nushki *en route* for or from Persia *vid* Seistan.

Resolution.—To be circulated and recorded.

Indian Trade Journal.

Read letter, dated 4th June 1906, from the Secretary, Bengal Chamber of Commerce, forwarding with reference to this Chamber's letter of 30th May 1906, copies of replies received by his Chamber from the Bombay and Upper India Chambers of Commerce on the subject of the suggested joint representation to the Government of India against the proposed insertion of trade introductions in the Indian Trade Journal. The Secretary, Bengal Chamber, further states that his Committee have not yet decided on their course of action in connection with the matter.

Resolution.—Consideration deferred.

Use of Metric Weights in the Indian Postal Department.

Read letter, dated 9th June 1906, from the Secretary, Bombay Chamber of Commerce, forwarding for the information of the Chamber, copy of a letter addressed by his Chamber to the Director General of the Post Office of India, suggesting that the privilege of using Metric Weights for letters between England, France and Germany, be conceded in favour of the postage charges between India and the above named countries.

Resolution.—The Bombay Chamber's representation to be supported.

Existing anomaly in the charges for Urgent and Ordinary Telegrams.

Read letter No. 5492-T., dated 8th June 1906, from the Director General of Telegraphs, intimating in reply to this Chamber's letter No. 339 of 30th April 1906, that the Government of India have carefully considered the representations of the Chambers of Commerce regarding the anomaly in the rates for Inland telegrams, that they recognise that an anomaly exists which, at some future time, it will be necessary to remedy, but that they regret they are unable to make any reduction in the charge for additional words at present, or to hold out hopes that it will be possible to do so at an early date.

Resolution.—To be recorded.

Scarcity of Rolling Stock on the N.-W. Railway.

Read copy of telegram, dated 12th June 1906, despatched by the Chairman of the Chamber to the Manager, N.-W. Railway, Lahore, pointing out that the average daily arrivals of wheat into Karachi for the first 10 days of June are 3,600 tons only, and stating that exporters still complain of a serious shortage of wagons, and enquiring if there is any reason to fear that the Railway will be unable to deliver 180,000 tons wheat during June as promised. Also read the reply of the Manager, N.-W. Railway, dated 16th June 1906, stating that the arrivals are improving and that he will wire on the 16th instant. if any alteration be necessary in the estimated figures. Also read letter No. 814-M., dated 16th June 1906, from the Manager, N.-W. Railway, explaining the difference in his estimate, and stating that he is now of opinion that the Railway should be able to put into Karachi from 165,000 to 170,000 tons of wheat in June. The Manager hopes to be in Karachi on the 23rd instant when he will be glad to discuss the situation with the Committee.

Resolution.—To be recorded. The Manager, N.-W. Railway, to be invited to meet the Committee one afternoon next week.

Birthday of His Majesty the King-Emperor.

Read copy of a telegram, dated 15th June 1906, from the Secretary to Government, Financial Department, Bombay, to the Commissioner in Sind, stating that the King's birthday will be celebrated on the 29th June and requesting that a holiday be notified on that date in substitution for 26th June 1906; received by the Chamber under endorsement No. 1580 of 16th June 1906, from the Commissioner in Sind.

Resolution.—To be recorded. Friday, the 29th instant, to be a Charter Party Holiday instead of Tuesday, the 26th instant.

Tare of Sugar bags.

Read report, dated 15th June 1906, of the Sub-Committee appointed under the Committee's Resolution No. 9 of 5th June 1906, to consider and report upon the question of tare of sugar bags. The Sub-Committee are of opinion that, in respect of British and Continental sugars, it is advisable to introduce a system of delivery by net invoice weight less $\frac{3}{4}$% in lieu of weighment; in the case of torn bags which require to be weighed over, a tare of $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. per bag should be allowed; and as regards Java and other sugars, the weights of which are irregular, delivery should be given after the actual tare has been ascertained by the weighment of a few empty bags. The Sub-Committee further recommend the application of these systems to all contracts made after the 1st of July 1906.

Resolution.—The Committee approve of the recommendations of the Sub-Committee and trust that sugar importers will adopt the same as a local custom. A meeting of members interested in the sugar trade to be convened for Friday, the 22nd instant, at 3 P.M.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

COTTON DUTIES—MADRAS CLOTHS.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 7 (1) of the Cotton Duties Act, 1896 (II of 1896), the Governor General in Council is pleased to direct that entries Nos. 24, 35, 36 and 37, fixing tariff values for certain descriptions of Madras cloth, shall be omitted from the list of tariff values appended to the Notification of the Government of India in this Department, No. 7514, dated the 15th December 1905. This decision will take effect from the 10th July 1906, and from that date Madras cloths of the descriptions in question will be assessed to excise duty on an *ad valorem* basis.

The following is the notification referred to above. The entries quoted in the present notification are starred :—

In exercise of the power conferred by section 7 (1) of the Cotton Duties Act, 1896 (II of 1896), and in supersession of the Notification in this Department, No. 8030-S. R., dated the 20th December 1904, the Governor General in Council is pleased to fix, for the descriptions of cotton goods hereunder specified, tariff values as follows, with effect from the 1st January 1906 :—

Grey goods, plain or bordered.

	Tariff value per lb. a.	p.
1. Bed-covers, bedsheets, and chadars, twilled with borders not over $\frac{1}{2}$"	8	6
2. Chadars and bedsheets, plain, or with borders not over $\frac{1}{2}$"	8	6
3. Dangari or Khadi cloth	7	0
4. Dhuties, cholas, dupattas, and lungis, plain, or with borders not over $\frac{1}{2}$"	8	6
5. Dhuties, cholas, dupattas, and lungis, plain, or with borders over $\frac{1}{2}$" but not over $1\frac{1}{2}$"	8	9
6 Dhuties and patals with headings over 4" wide and coloured borders	9	6
7. Domestics, T. cloths, shirtings, longcloths, sheetings with borders not over $\frac{1}{2}$"	8	6
8. Drills and jeans, plain	8	6
9. Fents	7	6
10. Printers	8	9
11. Printers (bhagavad)	8	3
12. Shirtings, twilled, unbleached	9	9
13. " " bleached	11	0
14. Tent, sail, commissariat, and double threaded cloth (dosuti)	7	9
15. Zanzibar cloth, including American cloth	8	6

Provided that for calendered grey goods 3 pies shall be added to the above values.

Figured or coloured goods.

		Tariff value per lb.
		a. *p.*
16.	Bed-covers, quilts, and table-cloths, with borders not over ½"	8 9
17.	Bed-covers, quilts, table-cloths, twilled sheets and chadars, coloured, warp or weft	9 3
18.	Bed-covers, quilts, table-cloths, twilled sheets and chadars, coloured, warp and weft	10 3
19.	*Ordinary* susi checksheets, grey ground	11 0
20.	Bed ticking, plain or drilled	9 3
21.	Chadars, twilled, coloured (shawl-checks)	11 9
22.	„ not twilled, coloured, calico wove, shawl pattern	10 9
23.	Cholis and saris (coloured)	12 0
24.	Cotton tweed, commonly called hunting cloth, plain or striped, including lehoria, Thana susi, Thana twill, and Thana check	10 9
25.	Other cotton tweeds and English checks, trouserings, and coatings	11 9
26.	Drills and jeans, striped	9 3
27.	„ „ „ checked	9 9
28.	„ „ „ khaki dyed	12 3
29.	Tent cloth, blue and red	9 0
30.	„ „ Khaki	10 6
31.	Fents	8 3
32.	Lungis, unbleached, coloured stripes and borders	8 9
33.	Lungis coloured	10 3
34.*	Madras cloth	10 6
35.*	„ „ (imitation)	9 6
36.*	„ „ twilled, checked or striped, coloured warp and weft	11 6
37.*	Madras cloth handkerchiefs or lungis	12 3
38.	Napkins, unbleached	9 6
39.	„ bleached	10 6
40.	Susi, ordinary, coloured stripes, grey ground	9 6
41.	„ „ „ „ weft	10 0
42.	Ordinary susi checks, grey ground	10 9
43.	„ „ „ coloured warp and weft	11 3
44.	Fancy dobby pattern checks, coloured warp and weft	11 3
45.	Flannel pattern susi and dobby susi, grey weft	9 9
46.	„ „ „ „ „ „ coloured weft	10 6
47.	English susi check, grey ground	12 0
48.	Check gumchas and glass checks	11 6
49.	Towels, Turkish, unbleached	9 6
50.	„ „ bleached	10 6
51.	„ „ honeycomb, unbleached	8 6
52.	„ „ „ bleached	9 9
53.	Zephyr cloth	9 9
54.	„ striped and checked	11 3

Provided that any goods specified in the foregoing lists shall, when woven with borders of silk, be assessed to duty *ad valorem*.

The *Board of Trade Journal*, published on the 7th June, in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations, gives particulars about :—

JAPAN.—Proposed New Customs Tariff.
AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.—Customs Decisions.
NEW ZEALAND.—Customs Decisions.
SOUTH AFRICA.—Date of Operation of Customs Union Convention, 1906.
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Additional Duty on Nicaraguan Sugar.
BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.—Customs Treatment at Chinde of Goods in Transit.
EGYPT.—Valuation Tariff for Certain Oils, Colours etc.
GERMANY-SWEDEN.—New Treaty of Commerce and Navigation.
GERMANY-ETHIOPIA.—Ratification of Treaty of Friendship and Commerce.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.—Labelling of Imported Chocolates and Cocoa. Preservatives and Artificial Colours in Macaroni. Customs Decisions.
BOLIVIA.—Stamp Tax on Alcoholic Beverages.

We give the following particulars of changes **interesting to Indian Trade** :—

JAPAN.

New Customs Tariff—Proposed.

Notices of proposed changes appeared on pages 261 of the *Indian Trade Journal*, of the 24th of May, and 296 of the 31st of May, regarding the revision of the Japanese Customs Tariff.

Under an Imperial Ordinance of 30th March 1906, the new Customs Tariff law is to come into force on 1st October next.

A translation of the Tariff law and tariff, with a comparison with the rates now in force, will be issued by the Board of Trade, as a supplement to their Journal of the 14th of June next.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Operation of Customs Union Convention, 1906—Date of.

With reference to the notice which appeared on page 404 of last week's issue of the *Indian Trade Journal* respecting the proposed changes in the rates of duty in the Customs Union Convention *Provisionally* agreed to by the representatives of the South African Colonies at a conference held at Pietermaritzburg in March 1906, the South African High Commissioner states that the duties imposed by the Convention will be levied as from 25th May 1906.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Nicaraguan Sugar—Additional duty on.

The *Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette* for 4th May last, contains a notice which provides under sec. 7 of Act 5 of 1903, for the imposition (with effect from 1st April 1906)

additional duty on sugars when imported into the Cape of Good Hope from Nicaragua as follows :—

Country.	Kinds of Sugar.	Rate of Additional Duty.
Nicaragua	Raw sugar ... per. 100 lbs	12*s.* 6*d.*
	Refined sugar .. „	12*s.* 5*d.*

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA.

Customs Treatment at Chinde of Goods *in Transit*.

THE following extract is from a communication recently received from the British Vice-Consul at Chinde (Mr. S. H. Fletcher) and gives particulars respecting the customs treatment at Chinde of goods in transit for British Central Africa :—

"Goods destined for British Central Africa from any country except Portugal or her Colonies should be sent to the British Concession at Chinde where they will be landed and re-embarked on river steamers for transport to their destination. These goods will not be dealt with in any way by the Portuguese customs authorities. They will pay 1*s.* per ton wharfage dues in the British Concession and, of course, any landing charges customary to the Shipping Companies.

"Goods coming from Portugal or her Colonies are not allowed to be sent direct to the British Concession. They must be passed through the Portuguese Custom house. There they will be subject to no duty whatever, being simply in transit, but must be cleared as such and the fee for each despatch (which may deal with any amount of goods as far as the size of the forms allows) is 200 reis (equal to about 9*d.* at the present rate of exchange).

"Should goods be wrongly sent to the Portuguese port of Chinde, and not to the British Concession, they will be treated similarly to the goods emanating from Portugal.

"All goods passing through the Portuguese Customs house in transit must be accompanied by a statement, made up locally, declaring their home value, their gross weight, and their net weight, stated in kilos. The original papers may be required but are not generally asked for. When goods are thus passed in transit it is necessary that the persons clearing them at the Customs house deposit a guarantee bond for five times the amount of Portuguese Territories. These bonds are returned on production of the way bill duly signed by the consignees or their agents at the British Director of Customs at the nearest Customs house in British Territory.

"Naturally, when these goods arrive in British Territory they are subject to the British Custom duties which are generally 10 per cent. *ad valorem*."

EGYPT.

Certain Oils, Colours, &c.—Valuation Tariff for.

The Egyptian *Journal Officiel* for the 19th May contains the following revised Valuation Tariff for use in assessing import duties on certain oils, colours, &c., which came into operation on the 22nd May, and will remain in force until the 21st October 1906, or until denunciation :—

Articles.	Valuation per kilog (net). *
	Milliemes. †
Cotton-seed oil, "prime winter yellow"	22
„ „ „ refined and "summer yellow"	20
Linseed oil, raw	21
„ boiled	22
Zinc white (first quality), including "Vieille Montagne"	26
Zinc (second quality) including "Nouvelle Montagne"	*ad val.*
Red lead	19
Cochineal	*ad val.*
Cocoanut oil, raw or refined	„

* Duty is levied on these valuations at the rate of 8 per cent.

† 1,000 milliemes = £ E 1 = 1*l.* 0*s.* 6*d.*

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Customs Decisions.

The following is the substance of some decisions affecting the application of the United States Customs Tariff which have recently been issued by the Treasury Department at Washington :—

Combed Silk.—Combed silk which in the process of further manufacturing fell from or was caught in the machines, so that the process was not completed, is dutiable at the rate of 40 cents. per lb. under the provision in paragraph 384 of the Tariff, for "silk partially manufactured . . . . . and not further advanced or manufactured than . . . combed silk," and is not to be free of duty under paragraph 661 as "silk waste."

Extracts of quebracho and mangrove, invoiced as "cutch," are to be dutiable under paragraph 22 of the Tariff.

Wool—Absorption of water other than sea water.—In an importation wool which has absorbed an unusual amount of water while on the voyage of importation and before arrival at the port of destination, the collector in assessing duty may make allowance by way of a deduction from the landed weight on competent proof of such excessive weight. Article 1276 of the Customs Regulations of 1899, relating to the unusual absorption of sea water or of moisture, by implication includes water other than sea water.

WEATHER SUMMARY.

Week ending the 23rd June 1906.

DURING the period under review there was general rain in Burma and Eastern Bengal and Assam; nearly general and moderately heavy rain fell on the West Coast and in the Bombay Deccan; nearly general light to moderate rain fell in North-East India and on the Orissa Coast; local rain fell in the east of the United Provinces and the Punjab; moderate to heavy general rain occurred in the Central Provinces and in the south-west of Central India. The principal amounts of rainfall were:—Ratnagiri 6·55″, Chanda 6·41″, Vizigapatam 5·70″, Nagpur 5·32″, Goa 5·23″, Akyab 5·07″, Pachmari 4·44″, Port Blair 4·17″, Seoni 4·03″, Diamond Island 4·02″, Mercara 3·87″, Mergui 3·80″, Bhamo 3·65″, Tavoy 3·50″, Marmagoa 3·42″, Hanumkunda 3·32″, Amraoti 3·29″, Mangalore 3·22″, Masulipatam 3·15″, Sibsagar 3·08″, Cherra Poonjee 2·91″, Calicut 2·48″, Bhuj 2·35″, Pendra 2·45″, Darjeeling 2·21″, Karwar 2·01″, Sambalpur 1·95″, Trivandrum 1·84″, and Calcutta 1·45″.

A depression appeared off the North Circars Coast on Sunday morning and developed during the day, until on the next morning its barometric depth was approximately a quarter of an inch. The depression crossed the coast on Monday, and passed slowly inland through Orissa and the Central Provinces, reaching, on the morning of the 21st, the neighbourhood of Sangor. Under its influence the Bay monsoon current became established in North-East India and monsoon conditions extended up the Gangetic plain as far as the eastern boundary of the Punjab. On the other side, the Bombay current penetrated freely into the Central Provinces and the west of Central India, and at the end of the week was being drawn into parts of Rajputana and Gujarat.

On the Burma Coast the rainfall was general throughout the week and, at times, moderately heavy; but in the interior of Burma it had usually been light, and had varied from local to nearly general. Skies were moderately to heavily overcast and temperature was in slight defect.

Owing to the depression rainfall increased rapidly in North-East India, and from the 19th to the end of the week it was nearly general and moderately heavy. Skies were only lightly to moderately overcast in the beginning of the week, but during the remainder they were heavily clouded over. The moderate to large excess of temperature on the 15th and 16th disappeared on the 18th, and from the 19th to the 21st weather was cooler than usual.

In the United Provinces, the Punjab and Frontier Province, Kashmir and Rajputana rain, usually associated with duststorms and thunderstorms, was reported from a number of stations during the first part of the week. During the second half the monsoon gave light rain at a few of the stations in the United Provinces: there was also a large increase in humidity, and skies became moderately to heavily overcast. There were, however, clear skies during the greater part of the week in the Punjab and Rajputana. Temperature was in large excess in the United Provinces in the beginning and below normal at the end of the period, while in the Punjab temperature had been on the average in defect.

In the Central Provinces, owing to the depression, heavy rain fell during the latter part of the week; while in Central India rainfall was moderately heavy in the western districts and light in the eastern. Skies which were lightly to moderately overcast from the 15th to the 18th were completely overcast from the 19th to the 21st, and temperature which was in large excess in the central part of the Central Provinces for several days was below normal over the whole Province on the 21st.

Moderate to heavy rain fell on the West Coast daily and on the Circars Coast from the 17th to 19th. On the 18th rainfall increased considerably in the Deccan, and good rain was received during the rest of the week in the Bombay Deccan and Hyderabad. Skies were heavily overcast and temperature in considerable defect throughout the week.

The rainfall of the period from the 4th May to the 23rd June was normal in Burma and normal or in excess over a large part of North-East India and practically the whole of the Peninsula. It was in defect in the Brahmaputra Valley, Bihar, Chota Nagpur, the United Provinces, Central India, the whole of North-West India and Malabar: the defect was large, averaging more than 50 per cent. in North-West India.

TELEGRAM FROM THE VICEROY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Crop prospects: Week ending 9th June last.

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh: Light rain in several districts, including four affected districts fodder and water very scarce still in all affected districts; cholera abating and numbers on relief rising village works and gratuitous relief being extended prices are generally stationary; great demand for advances for the purchase of plough cattle. **Punjab** Rain more or less general; no change in prices **Rajputana**: Light rain in some affected States and good rain has fallen in parts of Ajmer, Jodhpur and Bikaner since close of week; prices are high but show a tendency to fall in parts; emigrant cattle returning in large numbers; water-supply failing. **Central India:** Partial rain in parts of affected States; prices are high. **Bombay:** A affected districts had good, moderate or slight rain which however was not sufficient for general sowing but improved drinking water-supply; prices continue high in Deccan and Karnatak; numbers on relief rising; distress is increasing but nowhere acute since close of week monsoon set in over West Coast and given good rain in Deccan and Karnatak **Hyderabad:** Fodder and water continue scarce In other Provinces prospects fair or good. Number of persons in receipt of relief, in thousands:—

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, 158; **Punjab**, 12; **Ajmer and Rajputana**, 98; **Central India**, 84; **Baroda**, 3; **Bombay**, 109; **Hyderabad**, 5: total 469.

CONSULAR REPORT.

BASRA.

MR. CONSUL CROW, in his Report on the **Trade of Basra for the year 1905**, says the harvest of 1905 was fair, but the expectations of an unusually heavy crop were not fulfilled. In some districts considerable damage was done to the crops by the high rise in the river.

The value of **exports** showed an increase of £199,014 as compared with 1904; but, in consequence chiefly of the short date crop and high prices maintained here, the year was on the whole a bad one for shippers and many native merchants lost heavily.

As prices at Basra kept high, the export of grain to Europe was neither very large nor profitable. On the other hand shipments to Jeddah were larger than usual during the latter half of the year, and this contributed to the rise in prices. A new feature in the market was the despatch of one or two steamers direct to Antwerp and Hamburg with large parcels of grain in bulk. The export of barley in 1905 exceeded that in 1904 by about 1,668 tons and that of wheat was about 3,185 tons greater than in the preceding year. Barley was poor in quality. In addition to this so much dirt is mixed with the grain by the up-river dealers that the winnowing process at Basra is insufficient to clear it, and London and Continental buyers are averse to taking it. This defect has gone on steadily increasing during the past two years, and much damage has resulted in consequence to the trade with the Home and Continental markets. Jeddah buyers, on the contrary, continue to purchase grain with about 20 per cent. of soil admixture. The crop of dari seed was much larger than in 1904 and, owing to the absence of rain in November and December, it arrived in excellent condition.

Nothing has yet been done to improve the river. The present condition of the Euphrates is an effective bar to the shipment of grain in sound condition before the rain sets in, and the loss to growers and merchants through exposure of their stock must be enormous.

The harvest prospects for 1906 are favourable, as the rains, though late, have been abundant, especially in the Karun districts. The rainfall in Basra during the three months ended March 31st 1906 was 4·37 inches.

The prospects of an unusually heavy date crop, based early in the year on climatic conditions, the state of the river and the appearance of the trees, were not realised. The crop of Hallawees and Khadrawees, though excellent in quality, was much smaller than was expected. Large forward sales were made by native merchants in the London and Continental markets at low prices; but an additional steamer was berthed at the last moment for America and higher prices ruled than was anticipated. Growers availed themselves of the keen competition, which began before the dates in any quantity were ripe, to hold out for high starting prices and, as the shortage in the crop became apparent, these price were fully maintained throughout the season. The result was an unprofitable business and a heavy loss to shippers. A new feature was the considerable shipment of Khadrawees and Zehdees to Egypt, Tunis and Oran, where new markets appear to be opening up. Though the quantity of Hallawees and Khadrawees was below expectation the crop of Syres was heavy. The largest shipments to India are of this quality, and these were heaviest in October and November but fell off later as the Bombay market became overstocked. A large quantity of pressed dates in baskets still remains unshipped, as merchants prefer to await the chance of a better market. Prices opened in Basra, Hallawees (first quality dates), 260 shamis (16*l.* 3*s.* 2*d.*) per 40 maunds of 143 lbs. each, or £7 per ton, the same as in 1904; Khadrawees (second quality), 230 shamis; and Syres, 160 shamis. These rates were maintained throughout the season, but towards the end of October Syres rose to 175 shamis. The total export of dates in cases is given as 957,601 cases. Of this quantity 692,601 cases (about 18,600 tons) went to the United Kingdom and Mediterranean ports instead of 540,000 cases as in 1904. The export to America was 265,000 cases (about 7,000 tons) instead of 6,000 tons as in 1904.

The Indian market in 1904 was so poor that many horses remained unsold. An epidemic of glanders moreover broke out in Bombay during which 400 or 500 animals died or were destroyed Dealers therefore lost heavily and were disinclined to make large shipments. The total number of horses and mules exported did not exceed 2,262, a decrease of over 400 as compared with the previous year. Owing to the Royal visit to India the market proved better than was expected.

The value of liquorice root here is £1 per bale of 3½ cwts. This article shows an increase of 25,298*l.*—more than double the value exported in 1904. One firm alone exported 36,000 bales. It is sent principally to the United States and France. The export to the United Kingdom is small.

Wool sent to the United Kingdom, America, France and Germany rose £61,194. The price increased 5*s.* per bale and the profits realised encouraged merchants to ship more than in 1904. Most of the wool comes from Koweit, *viâ* Zobeir, and from Amara. Koweit wool is particularly dirty, but that sent from Amara is of better quality and cleaner. The wool is badly and carelessly packed and foreign substances are often put in to make up weight. Municipal supervision, even if exercised, would be quite ineffectual to secure proper packing. Due notice has been given to exporters that they

will find no market for their goods in the United Kingdom unless better arrangements are made.

Hides and skins show an increase of £7,690 owing to the increased demand in Austria-Hungary and Germany, where new openings were found. They are also sent to the United Kingdom, America and France.

Ghee rose £7,556. The demand was greater than the supply.

Opium shows an increase of £3,900. The Persian crop was good. It is sent to China and India and a small quantity to Europe.

Gall-nuts show an increase of £1,914. They are grown in the neighbourhood of Mosul and are sent to the United Kingdom and France. The year's crop was a good one.

Imports show a general increase in value of £126,880 over those of 1904, chiefly due to cotton piece-goods and gunnies.

Piece-goods increased £127,000, chiefly Manchester, though Indian and Suakin also contribute. The increase is largely due to better orders in Baghdad.

Coffee increased £1,241. Merchants imported a large quantity of cheap coffee from America. Mokha coffee is little used here.

Copper shows an increase of £2,270. It is imported in bars and the demand in Baghdad has much increased of late years.

Loaf-sugar rose £7,247. The sugar crop in France was poor, but the quantity required was imported from Egypt and Belgium. Large speculative purchases were made and merchants realised a good profit.

China and glass decreased £1,521. Enamelled ironware seems to be taking its place, natives in general preferring it on account of its greater durability.

Coal fell £1,340 owing to the accumulated stock of the previous year.

Iron and steel decreased £4,067. The large import in 1904 was due to the construction of the Hamidieh Administration's new steamers.

Tobacco decreased £3,915 owing to the surplus stock remaining on hand from 1904.

The importation of machinery was about the same as in 1904. There was a trifling increase. A new ice factory was erected by a native company under the superintendence of a British engineer. An American firm are erecting a new liquorice press.

The following **Indian products** and manufactures are imported direct to Basra by the steamers of the British India and Bombay and Persia Steam Navigation Companies and by sailing craft.

All charcoal is from Cutch, in India. It is largely used for cooking purposes. The quantity imported (40,830 sacks) was considerably larger than in the previous year (35,695 sacks), but the value—4*s.* 6*d.* per maund of 165 lbs.—was 6*d.* less than in 1904.

Gunnies increased 15,420*l.*, 12,258 bales being imported instead of 9,688 bales in the previous year. Jute is largely used in the date and grain trades.

Indigo decreased 1,975*l.*—802 chests were received instead of 881 chests in 1904. The price was the same. The consumption in Basra is small, most of the indigo being sent to Baghdad for dyeing purposes. Printed cloths cost less than the articles dyed and prepared in Baghdad, hence the consumption is decreasing.

Drugs are mostly Indian: the 4,215 packages imported, valued at 12,645*l.*, show a small decrease.

Persia does not import much Indian rice *viâ* Basra and Baghdad: 16,801 bags were received, value 13,441*l.*, instead of 19,550 bags, value 14,662*l.* in 1904. The price rose from 15*s.* to 16*s.* per bag of 143 lbs. The local consumption of Indian rice is large. The decrease is due to scarcity of the product in India.

The quantity of rope and twine imported, value 5,095*l.*, shows a small increase.

Spices, such as cloves, cinnamon, cardamoms, pepper, etc., are imported from India. The value 27,120*l.*, shows a slight decrease last year.

About three-fourths of the tea is from India and Ceylon. A large quantity of tea of inferior quality is consumed annually in Turkish Arabia, average price 4 *a.* (4*d.*) per lb. in Calcutta. The quantity of superior tea sold in this district is insignificant; 14,538 cases were imported, value 18,172*l.*, and show an increase of 1,282*l.* as compared with the previous year.

The value of cotton yarn and twist imported was 32,530*l.*, and shows a small decrease.

There was a large increase in the import of cotton piece-goods; but it is difficult, in the absence of any custom-house statistics, to say what proportion of the total (21,238 bales, value 631,700*l.*) is due to Indian manufacture.

Indian cotton goods, such as white cloth in the piece, are largely used by the labouring classes in Turkish Arabia for making shirts. The increase is to be attributed to a brisker trade in Baghdad, as local conditions in this district offer little scope for expansion.

The import of Indian hides is insignificant, and shellac is little known.

No Indian kerosene is imported; the oil consumed is nearly all Russian.

The statistics furnished with this report include goods destined for Baghdad and Persia *viâ* Khanikin, which pass through this port, and the British firms established at Baghdad are mainly engaged in the import trade while those here confine themselves almost entirely to exports.

Estimate of landing charges levied on certain articles of Indian merchandise in the port of Basra between the ship and the merchant's store:—

Eight per cent. *ad valorem* is levied on all imports and is calculated at the option of the custom-house, either on the invoice value *plus* 25 per cent. or on the market price at Basra less 10 per cent., or is payable in kind. The assessment of import duty by the official estimator of the custom-house may work out anything between 7 and 9 per cent. on the actual cost, freight and insurance of the goods.

Custom-house expenses and gratuities amount to from ¼ to ½ per cent.

Goods are landed from the steamer, discharged at the custom-house and thence conveyed by lighter to the merchant's store by two functionaries appointed for the purpose and called Hammal Bashi. Their tariff of charges for these services is as follows:—Tea, 4 *a.* per case; jute bags, 6 *a.* to 8 *a.* per bale; cottons and cotton yarns, 8 *a.* to 10 *a.* per bale; rice in bags, 1½ *a.* per bag or Rs. 7 per 100 bags; kerosene, 2*a.* per case or Rs. 7 per 100 tins; shellac and hides, no special tariff, from 4 to 10 *a.* per case or bale.

These landing charges are calculated per package, bale, case, or bag, and vary according to size.

There are no quay dues. The lighters for discharge are furnished by the Hammal Bashi and the cost is included in the tariff given above.

In the case of merchandise in transit for Baghdad, transhipped direct from ocean steamer to river steamer, the transhipment charges are estimated at Rs. 2 per ton and the transhipment is effected by the Agent of the River Company which carries forward the goods.

In the case of goods booked through from India to Baghdad or Persia these transhipment charges are included in the through freight.

In the case of goods destined for Baghdad or Persia, but booked to Basra only and landed in the custom-house and thence transferred to the river boats, it is impossible to give an accurate estimate of charges, but it seems that double the charges quoted above in the detailed tariff may be adopted as a fair basis for calculating the expenses they would incur.

The operations of the Imperial Ottoman Bank in Basra have greatly facilitated trade, with the result that during the past date-season exchange in London was maintained at the same level as that of Baghdad and fluctuated very slightly as compared with previous years. Cheques are now freely accepted by date-growers and others and this saves merchants the risk and trouble of handling large sums of money themselves. The business of the bank has doubled since its establishment in 1904, and all important exchange operations have been centralised within its doors. Merchants are no longer at the mercy of the native sarafs who extorted heavy differences from shippers in previous years.

During the date-season the exchange for sterling bills at four months' date averaged 107½ pias., an exceptionally favourable rate for a place situated at so great a distance from the regularising influence of the central markets, where the cost of importing specie is at least 1½ per cent.

Freights for grain remained steady during the year at 1*l.*, London; the rate for wool, gum and other general cargo being 1*l.* 10*s.* Rates to Bombay during the first six or seven months of the year were also steady at Rs. 8 but have since increased to Rs. 12.

The condition of the Tigris is unaltered and nothing has been done to improve the navigation of the river. Cargo for Baghdad has not been coming forward in the same volume as in previous years and since March 1905 there have been no accumulations awaiting transhipment as formerly. Native passenger traffic has slightly improved, presumably owing to the reduction of quarantine against India to five days for the fast and two days for the slow mail steamers.

CANARY ISLANDS.

In the yearly months of the year, owing to the keen competition among exporters, says the British Consul for the **Canary Islands** in his recent report, the farmers obtained prices considerably above the actual market prices in the United Kingdom. In May, however, one of the largest houses doing business in the **fruit trade** introduced a new system of receiving and buying. Contrary to expectations, the West Indian banana seems to have depreciated the larger sized bunches. It was always thought (and reasonably so) that the smaller Canary bunches would suffer through the importation of the West Indian fruit, and on that expectation growers were constantly advised to exercise the greatest care in cultivation with a view to produce a greater percentage of larger bunches. The unexpected depreciation of the larger bunches has made it necessary to reorganise the whole system of buying bananas in these islands. The method in vogue hitherto was to pay for bunches according to the number of "hands" they contained. (By a "hand" is meant each cluster of fruit, and each "hand" generally contains from 10 to 15 "fingers" or pods.) In view of the results it would seem that this system has been entirely wrong; but then in the so-called "old times" the margin of profit was considerably larger than it is to-day, and exporters were able to reap good results in spite of that system. Bunches of bananas vary considerably, not only in size but also in their development: hence two bunches, although containing equal numbers of hands, need not necessarily represent the same value, as one might be poorly developed and the other well developed, and consequently of larger size. The result is that the buyer in the United Kingdom pays more for the better bunch, whereas in the islands they are bought for the same money. The injustice of that system is apparent. Farmers who cultivated with care could not obtain better prices than those others who merely watered their land and cut their fruit. It is well known that the Canary banana cannot be shipped to

United Kingdom naked, but that it must be packed very carefully in crates. Therefore the buyer in the United Kingdom will judge by the size of the crate and apparent weight of the fruit. The new system referred to above as having been introduced consists simply in paying the farmer according to the quality of his fruit, and without reference to the number of hands contained in each bunch. The introduction of this new system met with great opposition, fostered by the competitive firms, and it appeared as if the bold departure would leave the innovators without any fruit. This took place in the month of May, and the outcry against it was that it would leave the farmer in the dark as to the yield of his plantations, which would appear natural enough considering that the system was quite new to him. In addition to the new system the firm referred to adopted a method of paying for the fruit in accordance with the prices obtained in the British markets, which, of course, entailed constant change of prices here. Previously the price was a fixed one contracted for a certain number of months or even years. As already referred to above, the West Indian banana has depreciated the price of the higher sized bunches, and therefore the buying of fruit here had to be modified accordingly. The banana trade seems to have entered now into the phase of an ordinary business with all its risks, and, contrary to prediction, it does not look as if it would disappear. The exports of bananas to Germany are increasing considerably. During the year ending December 31st, 1905, the actual quantity shipped from these islands to that country amounted to 50,184 crates. It is expected that these shipments will increase, as shipping facilities to Humburg have greatly improved since one of the German lines of steamers established a coaling-station in Las Palmas.

TEAK TIMBER.

EXPORTS.

A GREAT expansion in ship-building and in some other branches of construction in the United Kingdom, Germany and the United States has synchronised with a contraction in the available supplies of Teak and has induced a rise of price—in some cases prohibitive. The average price in 1904-05 at Calcutta was R111 to R116 per ton of 50 c. ft. In 1905-06, it was R120 to R125. Exports of Teak have increased in quantity by 12·5 per cent. to 53,000 cubic tons and in value by 17·25 per cent. to R70·4 lakhs. But the difference between these two percentage rates of increase does not gauge the enhancement in average value of a uniform quality of timber, for it is understood that a good deal of inferior wood has gone forward in the twelve months under report. Exports from Burma to India proper decreased by a further 5·9 per cent. and reached a value of only R71,30,683, while Imports into India from Siam and Java increased by some 34·7 per cent. to a total of R57 lakhs. But as was pointed out last year, practically the whole of the teak trade in the north of Siam is controlled by British Companies.

IMPORTS.

The contraction in the available supplies of Indian teak has induced a rapid expansion in the importations from other sources. These are mainly Siam and Java which have supplied teak to an aggregate value of R57 lakhs, this being 34·7 per cent. greater than in 1904-05. The total imports of timber of all kinds rose from R58 lakhs in 1904-05 to R81·47 lakhs or by about 40·5 per cent. which indicates that substitution was to some extent induced by the high price of teak.

FRENCH SILK INDUSTRY AND COLONIAL PRODUCTION.

THE following is a translation of an interesting article on the French silk industry which M. E. Lemoigne publishes in *Le Monde Economique* of June 1st.

Although the French silk industry cannot be considered to be falling off it is certain that we have not progressed so rapidly as our rivals, and that we have allowed ourselves to be left behind.

Our silk industry will keep the first place for a long time to come. As Louis Reyband wrote in 1856.—"If there is one industry, truly French, it is that of silk and silk goods. At whatever time you take it, before or after our big political convulsions and under the most diverse administrations in the midst of the changes that chemistry or machinery have imposed on all manufactures, you always find it with the national character which has distinguished it and which nothing could alter. France alone produces as much of the silk goods as the rest of Europe."

Times have changed very much since then. At that time, the United States had only just commenced their industrial development, and did not appear as a competitor to the manufactures of the old world.

Although hard pressed by singularly enterprising neighbours, we were able to preserve our superiority until 1900, but since 1902 the American production took the lead, and since then has steadily increased its lead.

You must not conclude from these statements that there has been a falling off in our silk industry, but we have not been able to progress so rapidly as our rivals. They, after coming up to us, have passed us.

This extra ordinary spurton their part does not fail to create fear in some, for, say they, the big demand, big, is out of proportionate to production of raw material. The world's production remains the same. If Asiatic crops increase, this increase only helps to make good the reduction that takes place in the production of Europe.

Our industry has to fear a considerable rise in the price of, or else a failure in the supply of, raw materials. An epidemic is always possible in a big producing country, and might in a day deprive our manufacturers of raw material, or bring about a rise in price.

The crops of the Far East, China and Japan are far and away the most important, as they represent 61 per cent. of the world's production. As has been remarked by M. Pelleray, in a very interesting work that has recently appeared; "What a fearful crisis, what a catastrophe if this primordial source failed or was simply delayed! And besides to what uncertainty the crops are liable to in those parts!

To dangers beyond the power of man to influence, such as the inclemency of the seasons, the crops of the Far East are more exposed than those of Europe. They are more exposed also to the ravages of epidemic diseases. The selection of seed is not carried out so methodically as with us, and the methods of combating disease have never been assisted by the works and discoveries of a Pasteur. Also are brigandage and war destructive forces with which one has to count."

In addition to these dangers, there is another to which we have to look. Japan has been transformed faster than had been hoped by those who helped in her education; China, seems, since some little time, to desire to awake from the lethargy which has retarded her progress for thousands of years, and already one can look forward to the time when the yellow races, throwing themselves in their turn in the economic fight, will, with their superabundant and cheap labour, offer a competition the most formidable to the nations of Europe and America.

Although the danger is not immediate we should ever bear in mind its possibility.

For sericulture in particular, silkworm nurseries cannot be created in a day: the Lyonese Mission has recognised that it requires at least fifteen years to gather the first results. The masters of our silk industry should from now interest themselves in so important a question and seek for means to create new centres of production to compensate for that which will, some day or other, be unable to supply us with sufficient raw material.

On this point our colonies can be of great assistance. We have already studied the question of rubber and cotton, materials which can be supplied by them to our national industries. The same results can be attained for sericulture and once more can France beyond the seas be brought to the help of the mother country.

Of all our colonies Indo-China is the one which should first attract our attention. *The Mau-su* books tell us that silkworms were imported from China and Annam since the creation of the world. Other works make mention of the king Huin-Dé, of the Chinese Dynasty, that reigned 2,700 years before our era. The queen, his wife, had been instructed to rear the worms in the Palace, and to weave the garments of her husband This queen was canonised at her death and consecrated goddess of sericulture by the grateful people.

The silk production of Indo-China is already important; it cannot be exactly valued, but it cannot be less than 700 tons, and that notwithstanding the primitive methods employed by the natives, the degenerating of the silkworm caused by want of care, and faulty selection.

It is therefore necessary to educate the natives, and to show them that it is to their interest to transform and better their methods It is also necessary to improve the cultivation of the mulberry, weakened by excessive cuttings. Government is already struck with this question. It ought to persevere in this channel, without being disheartened by slow results.

Here are according to M. Em. Pelleray, the exports from Indo-China in 1898 to 1902.

EXPORTS DESTINED FOR :—

		France.	Hongkong, Singapore, Burma and Siam.	TOTAL.
		Kilog.	Kilog.	Kilog.
1898	Raw	..	95·591	95 591
	Floss, Cocoons, Waste, etc.	110·116	5·220	115·336
1899	Cocoons	110	...	...
	Raw	1·180	12·881	14·161
	Floss in Masses	62 065	380	62·445
1900	Cocoons	1·430	183	1 613
	Raw	1·904	156·514	158·418
	Floss in Masses	48·457	69	48·526
	Waste	41·532	...	41·532
1901	Cocoons	26·327	19	26·346
	Raw	2·983	133·587	136 570
	Floss in Masses	37·770	1·304	39·074
1902	Cocoons	2·366	...	2·366
	Raw	1·685	96·183	97·868
	Floss in Masses	524	...	524
	Waste	78·166	2	78·168

But alongside of the silk worm of the mulberry Indo-China possesses a great number of kinds of wild silk producing insects, which seem well adapted for use.

In Madagascar, one meets the native silk worm, of which the production (silk called *betsileo*) is hardly sufficient for local consumption.

"But outside of the Native silkworm, at the time of our arrival at Tananarive, the natives of Imerina cultivated a silkworm of China, much degenerated, introduced by Jean Laborde, as also a mulberry which was used for nourishing. This offered proof positive of the possibilities of rearing a silkworm in Madagascar," says Galhein.

The local Government quickly discovered the advantage there would be in developing this breed

and in improving of the production by teaching the natives better methods. Since 1898, a mulberry plantation of ten acres (4 Hectares) had been laid out at the professional college at Tananarivo ; a Decree of the 7th May 1901, decided that with the object of encouraging the planting of mulberry trees in villages having suitable land prizes would be given to those best kept and that a silkworm nursery "controlled by a staff of Malagasy sericultural overseers" explain the best methods of breeding.

Lastly, the station of Manisana was specially instructed to study the question of the cultivation of the mulberry and the breeding of the silkworm, as well as to supply the necessary seed.

The efforts made to assist the development and breeding of the silkworm of the mulberry has not prevented the administration from interesting itself in the native silkworm, and one can already foresee, like General Galliéni, the time when Madagascar will contribute "to the feeding of the home silk industry. Amongst the different products of the colony that are being exploited, the production of silk will be one of the most interesting ; it will be for the central regions a precious source of revenue."

Outside of Indo-China and Madagascar, where the work already begun gives the best hopes, it seems to me that experiments can also be made with every hope of success in East and Central Africa, and also in Guiana, where there already three kinds of silk are met with.

Once more can our Colonies come to the aid of the motherland threatened by a most acute competition, and supply her first hand with the article wanted. But it is necessary, to avoid a crisis which appears imminent, to take from now necessary measures to develop and encourage the breeding of silkworms in our possessions. The administration has very wisely commenced the indispensible preliminary studies, but it is necessary for private initiative to busy itself in this important problem. The French manufacturers, in helping and aiding the enterprise, will collaborate in developing the economic resources of our colonies, and prevent a crisis which does not seem far distant.

THE MEAT TRADE AND THE COLONIES.

WHAT is known as the "Chicago Canned Meat Scandal" is engaging the popular attention. The papers are filled with violent assertions, and with denials even more violent. On one side it is declared that the Chicago canning trade is carried on under conditions almost too horrible for belief. On the other we are assured that the scrupulous care bestowed on the sanitary conditions of the great slaughter-houses and food-factories is in advance of anything known outside of the highest surgical practice. Both assertion and denial are evidently marked with the exaggeration that is so characteristically human and American. Time and investigation will show what of truth or fancy there is in the scandal.

In the meanwhile, though it is not for us to take sides in what an American paper styled "The Potted Putridity Campaign," a few figures showing the world's trade in meat and packing-house products will be of interest, especially as the injury that the scandal is certain to do to the American trade ought to result in benefiting the provision trade of our Colonies.

The figures are derived mainly from the publications of the United States Department of Agriculture.

It is assumed that the entire value of the meat animals and their products entering into the world's commerce is fairly represented by the total value of the imports of these articles into fourteen leading countries. These it is estimated amounted in 1904 to 507 millions of dollars in value. Allowing for duplication, arising from re-exports, and putting against these duplications small imports into countries not named, the value of the world's meat trade in that year may be estimated at about five hundred million dollars in value.

This is a sum greater than that representing the value of the world's wheat trade.

The main source from which the meat-importing countries draw their supplies is the United States. In the year 1904 about 40 per cent. of the international trade in meat animals and their products, and nearly 50 per cent. of the packing house products, including lards, tallows, soups, extracts, soap-stock, hair, bones and bonedust, horns, hoofs, etc., for fertilizers, emanated from the United States. Of the packing house provisions put on the European market by the United States in 1904 the United Kingdom took 42 per cent., Belgium 51 per cent., the Netherlands 57 per cent. and Germany 58 per cent. To France during the same year the United States sent these canned goods to the value of 2,000,000 dollars, whilst $1,700,000 worth went to Denmark.

It is not possible to say, from the statistics available, what is the exact proportion of American packing house products coming to India, but in the year 1904-05 "Provisions, Bacon and Hams" entered India to the amount of 1,373,474 lbs. valued at R8,09,678, and in 1905-06 to the amount of 1,600,961 lbs. valued at R9,40,180. "Canned and bottled provisions" were not entered under a separate head of their own till the year 1905-06, when it is recorded that 37,202 cwt., valued at R17,29,271, entered the country.

In the years 1904-05 and 1905-06 India bought provisions of all kinds from the United Kingdom and the United States to the following values:—

	1904-05.	1905-06.
United Kingdom .	R83,98,583	R91,43,868
United States . .	„ 1,29,382	„ 1,73,389

The following tables, showing the values of the export trade in meat animals and their products from the United States and from the Australian Commonwealth, Canada and New Zealand, will be found interesting and instructive. The values are given in dollars, which for conversion may be taken at 4*s.* 2*d.* The United States' figures represent all animal matter, live meat, packing house products, dairy products and minor items, poultry and game, eggs, egg-yolks, feathers, quills, honey, bees-wax, silk, wool and glue. The tables for the Colonies we give in slightly greater detail, showing live meat animals, packing house products, and rabbits and hares, game poultry and other meat products separately, for convenience of scrutiny, and to indicate where the greatest increase in exports may be hoped for under the new conditions.

U. S. A., Total Exports.

	$
1890-1899	1,881,056,989
Average of 10 years . . .	188,165,699
1900	233,764,590
1901	254,966,844
1902	250,815,851
1903	220 998,208
1904	233,034,269

Australia, total Exports.

Year.	Live animals.	Packing house products.	Rabits and Hares.	Poultry, game, and other meat products.	TOTAL.
1895-1902 .	1,212,038	111,904,485	4,806,869	936,999	118,950,391
Yearly average, 8 years . .	151,505	13,995,561	600,859	120,875	14,868,799
1903 . . .	162,998	9,301,649	1,069,769	81,144	10,615,560
1904 . . .	89,130	9,749,668	1,072,143	64,656	10,975,597

Canada, Total Exports.

1895-1902 .	80,143,993	78,038,742	...	1,430,808	159,658,538
Yearly average, 8 years . .	10,017,999	9,760,468	...	178,851	19,957,317
1903 . . .	13,318,075	17,435,230	...	205,043	30,958,353
1904 . . .	11,995,823	16,442,421	...	189,803	28,628,047

New Zealand, Total Exports.

1895-1901 . .	361,563	70,854,624	2,561,410	16,410	73,794,007
Yearly average, 7 years . .	51,652	10,122,089	365,916	2,344	10,542,001
1902 . . .	411,866	16,161,885	578,549	43,390	17,195,690
1903 . . .	134,772	18,227,572	487,078	25,359 None exported in 1895 and 1896.	18,874,781

The figures showing the Australian meat export trade are not complete, in so far as Southern Australia furnishes no returns and only partial returns are published by Tasmania. Were these omissions supplied, it is estimated that the Australian totals would be increased by a little under than 10 per cent. The Australian meat trade had its beginning in 1880, when the first shipment of frozen mutton, consisting of the carcases of about 400 sheep, was sent out from Melbourne. It was not till 1890, however, that the trade gained any importance, and was considered a comparatively new thing as late as 1896 in New South Wales, where three exceptionally good seasons preceding 1891 had so increased surplus stock on hands of the graziers as to close all local avenues for its disposal, and to compel them to look abroad for markets. The good seasons were, however, to be followed by 10 terrible years of drought, and between 1892 and 1902 many millions of pastoral animals perished by starvation. In these years the export trade in meat gained no compensating advantage, for after the first year or two the animals brought to the slaughter-houses were so reduced in quality as to be fit for nothing but conversion into manure. The fleeces, too, were poor in quality and fetched low prices. The effects of the drought upon the stock of New South Wales, which State carries more than half the sheep in the Commonwealth, may be gauged from the following official estimates of losses :—4,200,000 in 1892 ; 4,900,000 in 1895 ; 3,000,000 in 1897 ; 2,500,000 in 1898, 3,750,000 in 1899. In 1902, the year before the drought broke, the flocks diminished from 41,850,000 to 26,650,000, a decline of 15,200 000, or more than one-third. The drought reduced the flocks and herds of the whole Commonwealth to a lower figure than they had ever stood at since 1860, when the country was, for all practical purposes, just being opened up. These years of drought have, however, had one good result. In the old days the Australian graziers trusted entirely to nature to feed their flocks, little attention being paid to the sowing of grasses or the conservation of water. When rain fell all is well, for the grass on the ranges is of the peculiarly nutrative description, and thrives with a minimum of moisture. But there was nothing done to guard against the dry years. The cruel experience through which the country has passed has, however, attracted attention to artificial irrigation and the artificial cultivation of grasses, and it is probable that in the future the stock carrying capacity of the country will be materially increased, whilst the tremendous fluctuations that mark the export statistics of its meat trade will be obviated through the securing of steady supplies. The system of Government inspection in Australia is very perfect, and the Governments of some of the States—Victoria particularly—assist the small exporter considerably by attending to the freezing, bagging and packing of his goods, and will even engage the requisite space from the shipping companies ; ship the goods, and, if desired, pay the freight, recovering it, together with all charges for freezing, bagging, packing, etc., before

delivery of the Bills of Lading to the exporter. In New Zealand and in Canada the Government authorities show the same scrupulous care in inspecting slaughtering and packing houses and ensuring the export of none but sound and wholesome products, as do the Governments of the Australian States, and evince the same desire to assist the exporter in every way possible. The rigorous climate of Canada prejudices the meat trade of that Colony. The livestock industry is confined practically to farms, as the animals must be sheltered during the winter, and it is not practicable to keep large herds on open ranges throughout the year. The Canadian exporter is also handicapped by having to pay heavier freight charges than are imposed upon his competitors in the United States. Nevertheless, there ought to be a great future before the Canadian exporter of meat. The export trade of New Zealand ought also to continue the steady increase that has marked it from its inception. The islands are favoured by an equable climate, and the New Zealand grazier is not exposed to the terrible droughts that prove so ruinous to his brother on the Continent. New Zealand mutton is preferred to Australian in the English market, the flesh of the cross-bred sheep which form the New Zealand stock having a more delicate flavour, and being more tender, than the flesh of the Merino sheep of which the Australian flocks consist almost entirely. The export trade in potted and preserved meat between New Zealand and the United Kingdom has fallen off slightly within the last few years; but it will now revive, and will be marked by greatly increased growth, assisted as it is by a far-sighted activity on the part of the New Zealand Government and by the American scandals.

GAZETTE AND OTHER NOTIFICATIONS.

POST OFFICE.

MONEY ORDERS.

Simla, the 18th June, 1906.

No. 4844-173—In exercise of the power conferred by section 43 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 (VI of 1898), the Governor General in Council is pleased to direct that the undermentioned amendment shall be made in the rules published in the Notification in the Finance and Commerce Department No. 1429-C. S. R., dated the 30th March 1899:

Insert the following after rule 126—

(*c*) Foreign money orders telegraphed to offices of exchange.

126A.—The remitter of a foreign money order drawn on any country except Ceylon with which money orders are exchanged may have the particulars of the money order telegraphed to the Indian Office of exchange concerned, and that office shall, on receipt of the telegraphic advice, issue by post a money order on the country of payment under the rules relating to foreign money orders.

126B.—The fees, the limit of value, and the other conditions laid down in the rules relating to inland telegraphic money orders shall apply in the case of foreign *rupee* money orders telegraphed to offices of exchange.

126C.—The amount for which a single foreign *sterling* money order may be telegraphed to the office of exchange shall not exceed £40, and shall not include any broken sum less than £1.

126D.—The following fees (which include the cost of the telegram) shall be charged for the issue of foreign *sterling* money orders telegraphed to offices of exchange:

(*a*) *For sums not exceeding £5—*

		R	a.	p.	
For the first £1	. .	1	3	0	If advice sent "Urgent"
	. .	0	11	0	If advice sent "Deferred."
For the balance.	If it is £1 .	0	2	0	
	„ „ £2 .	0	5	0	
	„ „ £3 .	0	7	0	
	„ „ £4 .	0	9	0	

(*b*) *For sums exceeding £5 up to £40—*

		R	a.	p.	
For the first £5	. .	1	12	0	If advice sent "Urgent."
	. .	1	4	0	If advice sent "Deferred."
For each complete sum of £5 additional	. . .	0	12	0	

For sums less £5 additional—

	R	a.	p.
If the sum is £1 . .	0	3	0
„ „ „ £2 . .	0	5	0
„ „ „ £3 . .	0	8	0
„ „ „ £4 . .	0	10	0

126-E.—Rules 96, 97, 98, 99 and 103 relating to telegraphic inland money orders shall be equally applicable to foreign *sterling* money orders telegraphed to offices of exchange.

NEW REFERENCE BOOKS.

THROUGH THE NEW COMMONWEALTH.
By WILLIAM REDMOND, M. P. 7½ × 5, 250 pp. . 3*s.* 6*d.*
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(Mr. Redmond gives an account of a recent prolonged visit to Australia in the hope that his account of Australian affairs may interest Irishmen who have friends there. He gives in Appendices speeches in the Commonwealth Parliament on Home Rule.)

PERSONAL REMINISCENCES OF THIRTY YEARS' RESIDENCE IN THE MODEL SETTLEMENT, SHANGHAI, 1870-1900.
By C. M. Dyce. 7½ × 5, 233 pp. . . . . 6*s.*
Chapman and Hall.
(Mr. Dyce took a commercial post in Shanghai in 1870 and gives here a graphic account of life, sport, society and business in the Settlement.)

HINTS TO TRAVELLERS, SCIENTIFIC AND GENERAL.
Edited for the Council of the Royal Geographical Society by E. A. REEVES, F.R.A.S., F.R.G.S. Ninth Edition. Revised and Enlarged. 2 Vols. 7 × 5, 470+286 pp. . . . . 15*s.* net.
The Royal Geographical Society.
(*On surveying*, astronomy, geology, industry and commerce, natural history, etc.).

THE BRITON IN FRANCE.
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Siegle.
(This starts a new series called "the Briton Abroad," giving in handy form conversational vocabularies and phrases (with phonetic pronunciation); "Grammar at a Glance," and short guide as to where to go, what to see, and where to stay.)

PARLIAMENTARY COMPANIES.
By F. N. KEEN. GEE. . . . . 1*s.* net.
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(A lecture delivered before the Chartered Accountants Students' Society of London on March 28.)

THROUGH THE BRITISH EMPIRE IN TEN MINUTES.
By *Colonel Sir* HOWARD VINCENT, K.C.M.G., etc. Fifteenth Edition. In welcome of the Fourth Imperial Conference, with Map. . . 3*d.*
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A Study in National Efficiency. By WILLIAM HARBUTT DAWSON . . . . . 6*s.* net.
Louis Wain's Summer Book, 1906. From P. S. King and Son.

NEW SOUTH WALES STATISTICAL REGISTER FOR 1904 AND PREVIOUS YEARS, PART XIV.
Shipping and Commerce, By T. A. COGHLAN . 1*s.*
From the Government of New South Wales.

REFORM IN PRIMARY EDUCATION.
By Professor J. G. HAGMAN. Translated by Professor R. H. HOAR and RICHMOND BARKER, M.A., Preface by LEON DELBOS, M.A. . 2*s.* 6*d.* net.
From Williams and Norgate.

L'ART DE PLACER ET GÉRER SA FORTUNE.
La librairie Delagrave (15, rue Soufflot), publishes l' Art de placer et gerer sa fortune, de M. Paul Leroy-Beaulieu, membre de l' Institut (un-volume in 18 de 340 pages) 3fr. 50

LES ETATS-UNIS AU XX ESIÉCLE.
By M. PIERRE LEROY-LIEU. First Edition sold out in three months. This is the second edition. Published by Armand Colin, 5, rue de Mézières, a Paris. Prix: 4 francs.

SUGAR IMPORTS.

The following statement shows the quantity of **sugar imported** from the principal non-European sugar-producing countries: also countries of origin of the total imports of sugar (excluding confectionery and molasses) from all foreign countries **into British India in the month** of May 1906.

Principal non-European sugar-producing countries whence imported.	Quantity imported in May 1906.	Quantity imported in the 2 months ending May 1906.
	cwt.	cwt.
Egypt	...	56
Mauritius	237,670	423,408
China	2,042	3,408
Java	16,058	41,636
Straits Settlements . . .	329	1,042

Countries of origin of total imports.	Share of each country in the total imports in May 1906.	Share in the 2 months ending May 1906.
	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom . . .	(*a*) 2	11
Austria-Hungary . . .	315,625	717,250
Belgium	31,153	86,839
Denmark	...	...
France	12,628	21,484
Germany	478,702	821,053
Holland	138	140
Russia	...	...
Spain	(*b*) 3	3
Egypt	11	67
Zanzibar	...	...
British East Africa (Mombassa) .	...	1
Mauritius	237,669	423,406
Réunion	...	8,450
Mexico	...	...
United States	...	...
West Indies	5	32
South America (excluding Argentine Republic and Chile) .	4,914	9,040
Argentine Republic . . .	24	34
Chile	...	...
Falkland Islands	...	...
Aden	...	...
Ceylon	51	73
China	153	286
India	...	...
Japan	...	...
Java	35,406	83,394
Siam	...	...
Straits Settlements . . .	251	610
Australia	..	...
TOTAL .	1,116,735	2,172,173

(*a*) Imported from the United Kingdom, origin unknown.
(*b*) „ „ Spain as ship's stores.

SUGAR IMPORTS.

Quantity of Beet and Cane Sugar imported by sea from foreign countries into each Province of British India for the month of May 1906.

	Bengal.	Eastern Bengal and Assam.	Bombay.	Sind.	Madras.	Burma.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
Beet Sugar	312,179	2	264,488	253,727	651	7,203	838,250
Cane Sugar	54,079	...	162,249	18,857	40,545	2,754	278,484
Total	366,258	2	426,737	272,584	41,196	9,957	1,116,734

COTTON YARN IMPORTS.

Quantity of Cotton Yarn No. 31 and higher Counts, imported by sea from other countries into each Province of British India in the month of May 1906.

	Bengal.	Eastern Bengal and Assam.	Bombay.	Sind.	Madras.	Burma.	Total.
	lb	lb	lb	lb	lb	lb	lb
Mule and water, Nos. 31 to 40	361,316	11,952	317,327	91,800	262,700	20,000	1,065,095
„ 41 to 50	5,500	...	43,445	2,500	25,000	...	76,445
„ above 50	64,808	...	65,722	6,400	22,000	...	158,930
Orange, red, and other colours, Nos. 31 to 40.	396,698	...	147,500	121,592	374,913	25,400	1,066,103
Orange, red, and other colours, Nos. 41 to 50.	...	...	19,400	2,500	...	29,200	51,100
Orange, red, and other colours above 50.	...	...	9,900	...	49,471	19,850	79,221
Total	828,322	11,952	603,294	224,792	734,084	94,450	2,496,894

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.

For the week ending 23rd June 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign—Imports by sea into	Calcutta	lbs.	272,193
	Bombay	„	140,391
	Madras	„	32,040
Indian—Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	366,140
	Bombay	„	7,672,560
	Madras	„	15,000

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	14,503,749
	Bombay	„	4,415,541
	Karachi	„	596,612
	Madras	„	91,168
	Rangoon	„	183,746

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	899,039
	Bombay	„	4,208,948
	Karachi	„	1,631,166
	Madras	„	53,903
	Rangoon	„	589,849

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	905,475
	Bombay	„	2,590,719
	Karachi	„	1,816,160
	Madras	„	27,608
	Rangoon	„	751,401

Piece Goods.

(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta†	cwt.	19,021
	Bombay*	„	4,914
	Karachi	„	14,100
	Madras	„	4,766

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea	cwt.	1,548
	Coastwise	„	30,307
	By rail	„	65,313
Imports into Karachi	by rail	„	2,516
„ „	Calcutta† by rail and river	„	3,877

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta†	cwt.	26,584
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags	No.	5,224,161
	„ cloth	yds.	26,567,600
	Jute	cwt.	17,219
Exports by sea from Chittagong	Jute	„	...

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta	lbs.	3,386,125
Exports by sea from	Calcutta†	„	1,953,918
	Chittagong	„	...

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.‡	44,226
	Karachi by rail	„	1,096,800
	Bombay by rail	„	42,743
	Bombay coastwise	„	17,810
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	5,354
	Bombay	„	1,492
	Karachi	„	752,071

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta	cwt.	117,207
	Chittagong	„	...
	Bombay	„	6,905
	Karachi	„	22,348
	Madras	„	1
	Rangoon	„	472,908

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta† by rail and river	cwt.	63,135
	Bombay by rail	„	16,749
	Karachi by rail	„	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	41,857
	Bombay	„	60,680
	Karachi	„	...

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta† by rail and river	cwt.	46,207
	Bombay by rail	„	14,621
	Karachi by rail	„	47,481
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	3,407
	Bombay	„	30,566
	Karachi	„	57,264

* B. B. and C. I. Railway figures only. B. N. Ry. Sadlinar figures not received.

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 23rd JUNE 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From All other foreign countries.	From Total.
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
Calcutta	...	164,833	285,097	449,930
Bombay	...	...	...	...
Karachi	...	...	...	...
Madras	...	1,948	...	1,948

Exports by sea from Burma to		
Bengal	galls.	...
E. B. & Assam	,,	...
Bombay	,,	...
Sind	,,	...
Madras	,,	...
Indian Ports, Non-Br.	,,	...
Foreign Ports	,,	...

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 23rd JUNE 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	1,014	...	10	507	402	859	2,772
Germany	43,932	...	31,473	27,544	...	...	102,949
Austria-Hungary	38	...	4,630	3,500	500	...	8,668
Other European Countries	...	..	2	...	...	..	2
Java	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mauritius	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Non-European Countries	...	...	119	...	...	1,172	1,291
Total refined							115,682
Total unrefined							79,674
Grand Total cwt.							195,356

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta. [The prices include postage to countries in the Postal Union.]

ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 (2*a*.)
2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a*.)
3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—
   - Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. R3. (12*a*.)
   - Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port. R3. (12*a*.)
4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. R2. (7*a*.)
5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a*.)
6. Accounts of Trade of the French Possession in India. As. 3. (1*a*.)
7. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possession in India. As. 2. (1*a*.)
8. Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India. R4. (6*a*.)
9. Report on the Rail-borne and River-borne Trade of Bengal. R4.
10. Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan. R1⅛.
11. Prices and Wages in India. R1½. (9*a*.)
12. Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India. R4. (12*a*.)
13. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India. R2. (10*a*.)
14. Agricultural Statistics of India. R3½. (12*a*.)
    - Part I.—British India.
    - Part II.—Native States.
15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India. As. 5. (2*a*.)
16. Statistics of Mineral Production in India. As. 2. (1*a*.)

QUARTERLY.

17. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

MONTHLY.

18. Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)
19. Accounts of the External Land Trade of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)
20. Statistics of the Production of Yarn and Woven Goods in the India Cotton Mills. As. 2.

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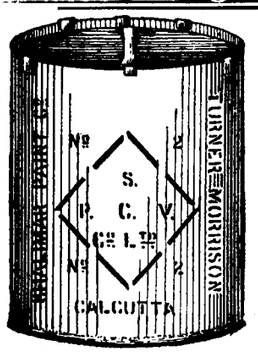
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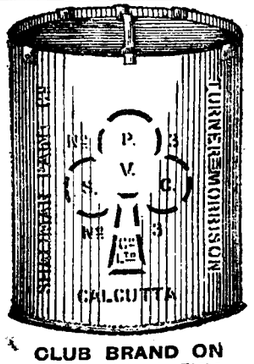
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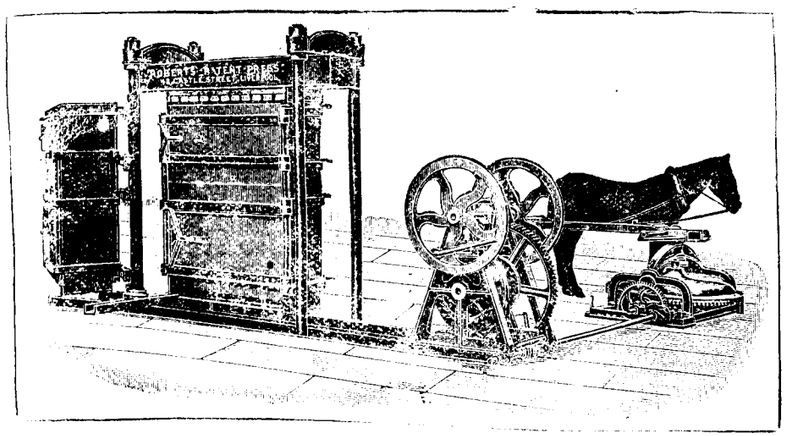
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NOTES.

With effect from the 1st August 1906, the maximum amount for which a single **money order** may be drawn in **India on France** (including Algeria and the Principality of Monaco) will be raised from £20 to £40.

An Imperial ordinance was issued in Tokio on June 8th promulgating the organisation of the **South Manchurian Railway Company**. The shares are limited to the Chinese and Japanese Governments, and to the subjects of *both countries*.

Ceylon tea, both blended and also labelled as such, in packets is now sold at popular prices (about half that was formerly charged for most inferior 'China' tea) **in Stettin.** This fact, says the British Consul, combined with the new reduced duty (formerly 2*l.* 10*s.* 10*d.*, now 12*s.* 8½*d.* per cwt.), should enable a good market to be found for tea from British possessions.

It has been found, says an American Consul, that there is **growing around Brisbane a plant** called by botanists **"murva" that will yield fibre of great value.** Major Boyd, of the Queensland Agricultural Department, retted some "murva" leaves and sent a sample of the fibre to a rope-making firm in Germany for test, and these manufacturers are now prepared to purchase it at from £35 to £40 per ton.

The home papers contain two news items of considerable interest to persons interested in the **silk textile industry**. We are told that considerable progress is being made in the manufacture of silk from wood in Germany (the mill at Sydowsaue now employing 400 hands), and also that a Valence (France) workman has patented a process of great value in the silk industry. It kills the silkworm chrysalis by gases, and thus obviates a long and costly process.

The **market report of the Yokohama Board of Trade**, dated May 15th, indicates a **very dull** state of things in both **cotton and woollen goods.** The **silk trade**, too, had become dull again after a spurt of European demand which had caused a small temporary advance The cold weather is said to have done some damage to the new mulberry leaves. The total settlements from July 1st, 1905, to May 10th, 1906, were 68,750 piculs, against 93,075 piculs for the corresponding period last year; and the Yokohama stock on May 10th was 2,780 piculs against 1,345 piculs last year.

Those connected with coal mining and the coal trade will read with interest of the remarkable increase that has manifested itself in the **use of briquettes** on the Belgian State Railways since they were introduced in 1898. For that year the consumption was 208 tons; in 1899, 3,900 tons; 1900, 20,472 tons; 1901, 67,755 tons; 1902 110,600 tons; 1903, 152,219 tons; and in 1904, 205,175 tons. It will be seen that the consumption in 1904 was 1,000 times greater than in 1898. The manufacture of these briquettes solves the problem of coal dust and low grade coal, for the dust of the worst coal made up in brick form with a percentage of heavy petroleum residuum burns splendidly.

Commenting on the heavy cost of transport in Morocco, the British Vice-Consul at Fez (Mr. J. MacLeod) remarks that in 1899 the average rate of hire for camels used for rough or bulky goods from Laraiche to Fez, 105 miles, was £4 per ton weight, and of mules used for finer and less bulky goods £8 per ton weight. In 1905, the rates on an average were £8 and £16 per ton weight respecively. How crushing these rates are on trade will be more fully realised when it is seen that they work out to from 20 to 40 times per ton per mile of the average cost of transport by sea. It is interesting to compare these rates with those prevailing in Persia, given on page 438, of the *Indian Trade Journal* of June 28th, which work out roughly to a little less per ton mile than the rate for camels in Morocco.

The department of Santa Cruz (Bolivia) and the north and east of Chuquisaca turn out annually some 750,000 lbs. of **raw, unrefined cane sugar,** which, such as it is, is consumed for domestic purposes as much as the foreign article, even when the freights bring the price to from 12 to 25 per cent. higher. The method of manufacturing it is most primitive, the cane being crushed by horizontal stone rollers driven round by an ox harnessed to a pole. The surplus of cane is fermented into alcohol of but indifferent quality. The sugar thus elaborated, if properly refined, would be more acceptable than that imported from abroad and the chief ingredient grows almost wild to within eighteen miles of this city, or at an altitude of 7,000 feet above sea level.

Two parts of **aluminium** and one part of **zinc** form an **alloy**, to which has been given the name **"Alzene,"** says the *Iron Age*. It is **equal in strength to good cast iron and superior to it in** the matter of **elastic limit.** It takes a fine, smooth finish and does not readily oxidize. The colour is white. It melts at a low red heat and is very fluid, running freely to the extremities of the mould and filling small or thin parts. Great care must be exercised in melting it, particularly when mixing the two metals, in order to preserve its smooth working qualities. It is somewhat brittle and hence unsuited to such pieces as require the toughness possessed by brass. The tensile strength is approximately 22,000 lbs. per square inch and 5·3 is the specific gravity.

The following statistics of the **production of coal and coke in the Donetz Basin** during the years 1904 and 1905 are extracted from the report by the British Vice-Consul at Mariupol (Russia) (Mr. W. S. Walton):—

	1904.	1905
	Tons.	Tons.
Bituminous	11,464,839	11,331,451
Anthracite	1,492,258	1,531,935
TOTAL	12,957,097	12,863,386
Coke	1,668,710	1,662,580

The **trade returns of the United Kingdom** for May 1906, when compared with those for the corresponding month of 1905, show increases in the value of the **imports** into, and also in the value of the **exports** from the United Kingdom, both of British produce and of foreign and colonial merchandise. The value of the **imports** in May 1906 was £51,430,457, an increase of £4, 97,490, or 9·8 per cent., as compared with May 1905, whilst the total **exports** amounted to £33,846,582, or an increase

Supplement to Indian Trade Journal, 5th July 1906.

TABLE for converting ANNAS and PIES into DECIMALS of a RUPEE

(*Annas* in vertical column, *pies* in horizontal column)

ANNAS	PIES											
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
0	...	·0052	·0104	·0156	·0208	·0260	·0313	·0365	·0417	·0469	·0521	·0573
1	·0625	·0677	·0729	·0781	·0833	·0885	·0938	·0990	·1042	·1094	·1146	·1198
2	·1250	·1302	·1354	·1406	·1458	1510	·1563	·1615	·1667	·1719	·1771	·1823
3	·1875	·1927	·1979	·2031	·2083	·2135	·2188	·2240	·2292	·2344	·2396	·2448
4	·2500	·2552	·2604	·2656	·2708	·2760	·2813	·2865	·2917	·2969	·3021	·3073
5	·3125	·3177	·3229	·3281	·3333	·3385	·3438	·3490	·3542	·3594	·3646	·3698
6	·3750	·3802	·3854	·3906	·3958	·4010	·4063	·4115	·4167	·4219	·4271	·4323
7	·4375	·4427	·4479	·4531	·4583	·4635	·4688	·4740	·4792	·4844	·4896	·4948
8	·5000	·5052	·5104	·5156	·5208	·5260	5313	·5365	·5417	·5469	·5521	·5573
9	·5625	·5677	·5729	·5781	·5833	·5885	·5938	·5990	·6042	·6094	·6146	6198
10	·6250	·6302	·6354	6406	·6458	·6510	·6563	·6615	·6667	·6719	·6771	·6823
11	·6875	·6927	·6979	·7031	·7083	·7135	·7188	·7240	·7292	·7344	·7396	·7448
12	·7500	·7552	·7604	·7656	·7708	·7760	·7813	·7865	·7917	·7969	·8021	·8073
13	·8125	·8177	·8229	·8281	·8333	·8385	·8438	·8490	·8542	·8594	·8646	·8698
14	·8750	·8802	·8854	·8906	·8958	·9010	·9063	·9115	·9167	·9219	·9271	·9323
15	·9375	·9427	·9479	·9531	·9583	·9635	·9688	·9740	·9792	·9844	·9896	·9948

of £4,788,456. The **exports** of British produce alone show an increase of 4,477,234 or 16·4 per cent., as compared with May 1905, whilst there is an increase of £ 311 222 or 4·6 per cent. in the **exports** of foreign and colonial merchandise.

His Majesty's Consul-General at Smyrna (Mr. H. A. Cumberbatch, C.M.G.) has furnished, under date of 26th May, the following report on the **state of the crops in the vilayet of Smyrna**:—

"With abundant sowings and favourable weather, the prospects of the crops in general, in this 'vilayet', were very bright until about a week ago. In the course of the last few days, however, wet weather has set in and heavy local showers, accompanied in some instances by destructive hail, have been reported from the interior. Apprehensions are entertained that if this weather continues some crops may suffer, particularly barley and opium, which have just commenced to be harvested. It is estimated that 'sultana' raisins will produce a short crop reaching probably 50 to 60 per cent. of last year's crop."

The Department of Agriculture of Washington, U. S. A., has issued a statement declaring that it is convinced that the estimate of the planted **acreage under cotton** in the United States issued on the 4th June, giving the area as about 28,636,000 acres, is near the truth, but the increase of 1,886,000 acres, it should be understood, is not all the increase of 1906. The Census Bureau's final report on the crop of 1905 was about 400,000 bales over the estimate given in the Bureau's statistics on December 4th. Due weight, the statement points out, must be given to the source of information and fully a third of the estimated increase reported last month is to be attributed to a rectification of the work for 1905 to make it harmonize with the Census report of the amount of cotton ginned in the respective States.

The **Alexandria Produce Association,** in its summary of answers received to its monthly **cotton crop inquiries** for May, reports that the month was rather too cool, especially the first fortnight, and the temperature at the end of the month was still irregular. The growth of the cotton plant has been checked, and at present the crop is almost everywhere late throughout the Delta Nevertheless the young plants are healthy, and the majority of cultivators hope that, with a little more warmth, the plants will recover much of their backwardness. Re-sowings, which have been greater than last year, are finished everywhere. Water is sufficient, and no complaints of drought have so far been heard. A few worms have been seen in some districts, but no serious damage has been done. The reports from Upper Egypt are very satisfactory, and only in the Fayoum is there any backwardness.

Accounts in the American Press of some **exceedingly interesting electrical experiments in forcing the growth of vegetables** have apparently given rise to expectation of developments of incalculable value. In a large market garden at Arlington, Massachusetts, not only has the arc lamp been, employed it is said, with success in accelerating growth, but faint currents have been passed through the beds, with the result that their rate of production has proved to be distinctly more rapid than that of other beds under precisely similar treatment, except that the electrical experiment was not applied to them. To electrical students it is the method of inducing the current that will be most interesting, for it is reported that, after heating the soil for some purpose not clearly explained, nothing more is needed than to sink a copper plate at one end of the bed, and a zinc plate at the other, connecting them above ground by a wire, when a current could be measured varying from 0·4 milliampère to 15 milliampères.

In the extract from the proceedings of the Bombay Millowners' Association will be found a complaint made by a member regarding the **difficulties experienced in the free circulation of goods in Manchurian ports**. The Association are instituting enquiries into the matter through the Commercial Attaché at Peking. The complaint has been heard before, and there evidently exists cause for it. It is interesting, however, to read in this connection that four prominent merchants of Shanghai, after making a searching investigation into the present trade conditions in Manchuria, state that it is impossible to substantiate the allegation that the Japanese civil and military authorities are purposely obstructing the industrial and commercial exploitation of the province by other nations. They point out, however, says *Reuter*, that the Japanese possess the advantage of free entrance for their goods at Dalny, and suggest that the Chinese Government should be urged to make a Customs arrangement similar to the adjustment recently concluded for the German territory of Tsing-Tau.

A preliminary report issued by the Geological Survey Department of **Canada** shows that the **mineral production** of the Dominion during 1905 was valued at 63 574,707 dollars, as compared with 6 .073,987 dollars in 1904. As an indication of the enormous increase in the mineral industry of Canada, it may be stated that the production in 1896 was 22,584,513 dollars, and in 1886, 10,221,255 dollars. The largest items in the return for 1905 were the output of gold of a value of 14,486,833 dollars; coal, 17,658,615 dollars; nickel, 7,550,526 dollars; and copper, 7,420,451 dollars. From the placer fields of Yukon, concerning which one hears very little nowadays, gold was extracted amounting to over 8,000,000 dollars or 2,000,000 dollars more

than was obtained from all the other gold fields together. The new cobalt discoveries will have an appreciable effect on Canada's mineral output in the immediate future, and as many Americans have recently acquired claims in that district, it may be assumed that they have a high opinion of the prospects. In 1905, Canada produced cobalt of the value of 100,000 dollars only - a total which should be greatly increased this year.

A correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* from Alexandria, writing on June 6th says that a proposal is made in that month's issue of *Egyptian Cotton* for holding **a cotton show at Alexandria.** It is suggested the show might be under the auspices of the Alexandria General Produce Association, and October and November are regarded as suitable months for the purpose. The principal object would be to exhibit to Egyptian cotton-growers what is being done in other parts of the world in cotton cultivation. Merchants in Alexandria could of course easily obtain representative samples from the United States, India, the Soudan, and so on to form an interesting and instructive exhibition. The British Cotton-growing Association would perhaps participate by providing exhibits from Nigeria, Lagos, and elsewhere. Ginning, spinning, weaving, and agricultural machinery could and indeed ought to be also on exhibit, and manufacturers would show their productions. Opinions are being canvassed on the suggestion. One that naturally suggests itself is that as October and November are tourist months there should be a section of Egyptian exhibits, and one as extensive as any.

Keen marine competition may be expected **in the Pacific,** says *The Japan Gazette*, and Japan will bear an active share in it.

It has been estimated that, with purchases of 167 vessels in the last two years, aggregating 313,000 tons, and newly built 570,000 tons, Japan has, after deducting losses by the war, a net increase of 302 vessels with a total tonnage of 275,000, to which must be added a mercantile fleet, acquired by capture, of about 180,000 tons. Some of these vessels are, of course, not fitted for the modern carrying trade, but it is probably safe to assume that Japan's mercantile marine now shows an increase, compared with what she could command before the war, of 850,000 tons. This is rapidly being organised, and new services are being planned or already operated.

It is said that the Japan river steamers are making great headway on the China rivers, and already control the trade of Hangchow, Soochow, and Huchow, "*vid* the Whanghoo and the Grand Canal, using the internal waterway commerce as a feeder to deep-water shipping." This movement, however, began before the war, and is no sudden development.

Mr. Keyser (H. M.'s Consul at Cadiz) remarks on the opportunity afforded by the prolonged drought for importers of hay and other **food for horses and cattle** in 1905. Some cargoes from France and Canada found ready sale. The hay from the United Kingdom was considered high in price. Possibly it was of too good quality, since farmers are accustomed to feed stock on straw and are unable to afford more expensive fodder. There is no hay made or used in Spain. Straw (broken in small prices at the threshing) is universally used for all horses and cattle. This straw contains a certain amount of sugar.

What is really required, says Mr. Keyser, is the import of some cheap food which will keep animals alive when there is a shortage of local fodder through drought. Such food should be sent in pressed trusses of a size and weight for convenient transport by rail or cart. The duty need be of no concern to the shippers, since it would be chargeable to the purchasers, who in times of drought can usually arrange that it be reduced or waived by the Government.

Mr. Keyser thinks that the foregoing remarks concerning the importation fodder may attract the notice of **growers of wheat in India.** As the cheapness of wheat in Bombay and low freights have enabled cargoes to be delivered in Barcelona, it may, he says, prove profitable to send also to the Cadiz district.

The **exports of textile machinery from the United Kingdom** during May again show a large increase in the aggregate. The total declared value for the month is £576,551, as against £470,646 for May 1905, and £421,424 for May 1904, bringing up the total for the expired portion of the year to 2,730,717 as against £2,082,275 for the corresponding period last year and £1,961,035 for the first five months of 1904. The direction of the shipments during the past month is indicated in the following detailed tabls :—

	1904.	1905.	1906.
	£	£	£
Russia . . .	20,459	22,282	10,224
Germany . . .	93,486	73,190	57,506
Netherlands . .	7,721	19,818	15,278
France . . .	41,915	47,031	55,408
Other countries in Europe . . .	100,813	126,775	167,492
China, including Hong-Kong . . .	1,142	1,842	8,541
Japan . . .	4,444	7,885	16,369
United States of America . .	36,052	32,843	61,981
Countries in South America . .	12,506	7,347	18,054
British South Africa .	259	2,368	...
British India .	80,883	115,699	143,061
Straits Settlements		168	68
Ceylon . . .		374	277
Australia . . .	189	497	1,062
Other Countries .	21,555	12,527	19,230

The prices of opium in the Calcutta market during the week ending 30th June were, per chest, as follows :—

Behar opium—R1.366; 1,363; 1,346; 1,355; 1,355; 1,353; 1,355.

Benares opium—R1.266; 1,263; 1,246; 1,255; 1,255; 1,253; 1,255.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 7th sale of 1906—R1,366; 1,363; 1,346; 1,355; 1,355; 1,35 ; 1,355.

China market, Hongkong (exchange Rs. 158 to R159½ per 100 dollars).

Behar—$ 880; 882 to 882½; 882; 882; 880; 885; 875.

Shanghai (exchange 219 to 220 per 100 Taels) two sales, one on 25th of 635 Taels the other on 27th of 627 Taels.

Benares—One sale in the Hongkong market on 25th of $817½; while two sales, Shanghai, on 25th and 27th of 595 Taels and 587 Taels, respectively.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending 23rd June were—for A class (season 1905-06) R1,345 to 1,360; for B class (season 1904-05) R1,420 to 1,550; class C, old (season 1903-04) R1,700. The latest China prices ascertained were for new classes (A and B) R1,481 to 1,514; old (class C) fetched at Hongkong R1,669 and at Shanghai R1,701.

"D." writes, under date June 9th, to the *Times* and draws attention to a very real **danger** in the **keeping of records**. He says, "As **typewriting** has come into general use, even in copying legal and important documents and records required to be filed and kept for many years, I would like to call attention to the risks of fading after long keeping. I took out some sheets that had been boxed up for some time, and the writing or type had nearly disappeared. It was impossible to read the matter. This may be serious for bankers, solicitors, official departments, etc."

The writer of the note seems to be of opinion that this is due to some defect in the ink used in typing work. This is *not* so certain. The fading or even disappearance of typewritten matter is due less to any defect in the ink, though the ink itself may at times be defective, than to the presence of free chlorine in the paper. With all bleached papers there is the fear that, unless the excess of chlorine be carefully dissipated, figures written typed or printed upon them will fade in time, the time varying directly with the excess of chlorine. If the excess be very great, the printing or writing may indeed vanish altogether. This is the danger that attends the use of cheap or carelessly made printing papers.

A special commercial agent of the United States has directed the attention of the shoe manufacturers in his country to the great opportunity for developing a **trade in footwear with China.** The hand-made native productions are made by cheap labour of course, but no machinery is used, and it is suggested that competition could be successfully pursued. "The shoes worn by the natives are made with leather or cotton cloth soles, above which is a layer of rags or paper or feathers, with cotton cloth next to the foot. The uppers are made of cotton sheetings or shirtings, Italians, satins, or velvets, dyed either black or blue." The prices, retail, are said to vary from coolie shoes at 50*c.* a pair to the best quality at $1.40, Mexican, a pair. Women's shoes are 70*c.* a pair and are worn by the so-called "reformed ladies," who do not compress their feet. An English paper, commenting on this, says, "It appears that Lancashire has already a fair share in this trade through her exports of cotton goods, and the capture of a great new industry is not an easy process in any circumstances. Yet even a remote possibility of entering a market with a population of 400,000,000 or so seems worth considering."

India, however, ought to be able to make a good bid for no inconsiderable portion of this trade. Already the imports of foot-wear into China from India have grown steadily. This may be seen from the following figures, indicating the value of Indian boots and shoes entering the Treaty Ports :— This trade seven years ago amounted to Rs. 150 ; it had increased in the next year to Rs. 355 ; the year following it was valued at Rs. 611 ; the next year at Rs. 844. The yearly values since have been : in 1903-04 Rs. 3,118 ; in 1904-05, Rs. 11,440 ; in 1905-06, Rs. 14,950. It is thus evident that the trade, even though at present small, is most promising. In India, and in Calcutta in particular, the Chinese boot maker has a certain renown for deft, if not always over-honest, work. In China, however, there are, strange to say, few boot makers, whilst the few there are are not good workmen. The Chinese boot is clumsy and defective. Like the Persian *giveh* or cotton shoe, it is an abomination in cold, wet weather, and the Chinaman, like the Persian, is beginning to appreciate and to demand good leather foot covering. It is for India to set about filling that demand with most advantage to herself and to her clients.

Mr. R. W. Sindall, who has been investigating, on behalf of the India Office, the suitability of **Indian fibres for paper-making** purposes, expressed himself as follows in an interview with a representative of *The Paper Mill*, of New York:—"In my opinion, the bamboo of India may some day supplant the spruce wood now being used in the manufacture of pulp for paper-making. I have made a lengthy experiment, and have found that the bamboo is practical in the manufacture of pulp. I believe that capital can be secured, and I would not be surprised if a Company were soon to be formed for the purpose of establishing a pulp and paper mill in Burma. While my investigation was conducted for the Government, the Government itself has no intention of building mills, but is simply desirous of ascertaining whether or not the raw product available in that country is good and can be used in the manufacture of paper. The pulp, I now have in my possession as a result of my experiments, is an excellent white piece of fibre, and compares very favourably with the spruce pulp manufactured in the United States. The rice and straw found there can also be utilised in making pulp, but the native wood, cotton-wood, is not good.

"Water power in India is very scarce, and in the event that a paper mill is established in Burma steam power would have to be resorted to. Petroleum would be used as fuel, as it is obtainable there in large quantities and is reasonably cheap. The greatest item of consideration in competition with American paper manufacturers would be labour. People of India, for the most part, are infernally lazy; in fact it is the women who do most of the work. The native of India can be employed for eight cents per day.

"I also investigated the matter of freight rates and found that pulp can be shipped from Rangoon, the principal seaport in that vicinity, to an English port for $13 per ton. At the present time there are three paper mills in India, all located near Calcutta (*sic*). One has a capacity of 200 tons per week and another 150 tons. The third I did not visit.

"On my way home, I stopped at Shanghai, where I found the native Chinese manufacturing paper by hand. A unique process is employed in making this paper, and from the time they start on a batch to the time it is ready for market one whole year has elapsed. The wood is beaten by hand and piled along the sides of mountains to bleach in the sun."

Prices of Commodities.

The following letter contains Mr. Sauerbeck's usual monthly review:—

3, Moorgate-street-buildings, E.C.,
June 8.

SIR,—The following are the index numbers of the prices of 45 commodities, the average of the 11 years 1867-77 being 100:—

	Average.		Monthly Nos.
1878-87	79	December 1899	73·7
1888-95	68	February 1895	60·0
1890-99	66	July 1896	59·2
1896-1905	68	July 1900	76·2
		December 1901	68·4
1884	76	December 1904	70·3
1896	61	May 1905	71·7
1900	75	December 1905	74·9
1901	70	January 1906	75·2
1902	69	February 1906	75·0
1903	69	March 1906	75·7
1904	70	April 1906	76·5
1905	72	May 1906	77·0

The further rise in the index number is principally due to the high value of jute. Among articles of food, beef and mutton remained firm, while foreign wheat, maize, pork, bacon, sugar, and coffee were slightly easier. Iron was practically unchanged, copper reached £87 per ton, but closed at £85, or about the same as at the end of April, while tin touched the unprecedented figure of £215 per ton, closing at £181¾, against £183½ at the end of April. Cotton, flax, and hemp did not experience much change, wool was somewhat higher, while jute, at £28½ per ton for first marks and £26 for medium descriptions, was dearer than at any time since 1863-65; the period of the great cotton famine.

Taking articles of food and materials separately, the index numbers compare thus (1867-77=100):—

	1878-87 Avge.	'88-95 Avge.	'96-05 Avge.	1895. Feb.	1899. July	1900. Feb.	1905. Dec.	1906. Apl.	1906. May.
Food	84	71	67	63·8	60·0	65·8	68·7	69·5	69·9
Materials	76	66	69	57·0	58·6	81·9	79·4	81·7	83·0

It will be seen that the number for materials exceeds now the level of February 1900, the highest point within recent times. Two very large articles —coal and iron—are, however, still considerably lower than in February 1900, while tin, copper, English wool, and jute are very much higher and cotton, flax, and leather are also dearer.

Silver reached 31⅞*d.* per oz., the highest price since 1896, but closed at 31½*d.*, and has been lower during the present week. The prices and index numbers compare thus (60.84*d.* per oz. being the parity of one gold to 15½ silver=100):—

	Price.	Index No.		Price.	Index No.
Average, 1886-95	43½*d.*	66·2	End December, 1904	28 *d*	43·6
Average, 1896-1905	27¾*d.*	44·6	End March, 1906	25⅛*d*	42·4
Average, 1898	31⅛*d.*	50·5	End December, 1905	31*d.*	49·3
End December 1900	26⅞ *d.*	43·6	End April 1906	30⅛*d*	50·0
Lowest, November 1902	21⅝*d.*	35·6	End May, 1906	31½*d.*	51·2

Yours faithfully,

A. SAUERBECK.

The following **remarks interesting to Indian exporters** and merchants are made by Mr. Consul Finn in his report on the **trade of Chicago**:—

The **imports of tea** showed a falling-off of 2,000 tons in weight and £371,000 in value. The tea imported from the United Kingdom alone shows a continued increase.

The Chinese imports have now fallen below those of Japan, the India and Ceylon teas slowly taking the place of the China.

The United States take about all the tea that Japan does not use, but the amount used per head of the population does not increase. Green teas are still most in demand, the amount of tea consumed in the Southern States being very small. Ceylon and India teas are sold in packages and bulk, as each of the leading wholesale grocers has a brand of his own in tins. There are three or four independent tea companies pushing their brands by extensive advertising which is the only road to success although slow, and must be persisted in for several years even if it be at an apparent loss.

The **direct imports to Chicago from India** show a marked increase, but those of manufactured goods, unfortunately, are still very low.

The direct imports of tea which have been very large for two years fell off by half, while that of burlaps and fibres made a great increase.

The demand for India and Ceylon tea is growing slowly but steadily, chiefly in the large cities, but the greatest care should be taken not to try and force the market by large shipments on speculation, as such a course can only result, as it has in former years, in loss to the shipper.

There is a great **opening** here **for Indian art works**, lace, jewellery, furniture, carpets, etc., but it is doubtful if the Benares brass work would have much sale as it has been exploited here and would also now have to compete with Japanese brass goods.

Many of the Indian goods are practically unknown here, and there are few, if any, genuine carpets or any furniture from that country. As mentioned in another part of this report the sample room offered would be a means of bringing these goods before the public.

The **total imports** to the United States from British India exceeded £12,000,000 of which amount over £10,000,000 was raw material. The exports to India were valued at £1,500,000.

The imports were:—Cocoa, £11,000; coffee, £182,000; cotton, £1,160; jute, £1,600,000; hides £231,000; india rubber, £182,000; paper stock, £1,700; unground spices, £660,000; sugar, £3,440,000; tea, £190,000; tin, £2,400,000.

Exports included:—Furniture, £4,000; tobacco, £170,000; canned beef, £800; mineral oil, £580,000; typewriting machines, £8,500; sewing machines, £3,740; electrical machinery, £22,000; builder's hardware, £36,000; hops, £1,000; nuts, £6,150; cotton manufactures, £35,730; clocks and watches, £24,800; vehicles, £9,600; automobiles, £6,400; bicycles, £1,900; flour, £700; books, £5,500; agricultural implements, £10,300.

The following extracts are from the Bengal Government's "Resolution on the Annual Report on **Emigration from the port of Calcutta** to British and Foreign Colonies for the year 1905."

No administrative measures of any importance were adopted by this Government during the year under review. The Governments of Natal and Jamaica, however, amended the laws in those Colonies relating to Indian immigrants. The amendments made are not of sufficient importance to require specific mention. Information was received from the Emigration Agent for Mauritius that the rate of wages payable in the Colony to indentured adult male immigrants had been raised from Rs. 5 rising in five years to Rs. 7, to Rs. 6 rising in five years to Rs. 8.

Seven emigration agencies were at work during the year, of which six represented British Colonies and one the Dutch Colony of Surinam. The total number of emigrants registered was 15,296, being an increase of 5,010 over the number registered in 1904. The bad harvests and the consequent rise in the price of food-grains in the recruiting districts contributed to this result. As usual, recruitment was most active in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, from which 76·39 per cent. of the emigrants came; Cawnpore, Fyzabad, and Basti supplying the largest number. Fifteen thousand three hundred and fifty-two emigrants were accommodated in sub-depôts during the year, of whom 2,296 were rejected, which was a larger number than in the previous two years. This fact points to the exercise of more care in the medical inspections conducted up-country. Twelve thousand two hundred and ninety-six persons arrived at the Calcutta depôts, but the number was reduced by rejections, releases, and other causes to 9,943. Of these, 9,322 were shipped during the year and 621 were left for subsequent despatch. The figures show an increase in comparison with those for 1904, when 7,451 persons were accommodated in the Calcutta depôts and 7,135 actually took ship to the Colonies. In 1903, the number who embarked was 9,084 and in 1904 it was 10,882.

The demand for labour increased, 8,157 immigrants being requisitioned as against 7,501 in the previous year. This was partly due to the fact that recruitment for Jamaica, which had been suspended in 1904, was resumed in 1905, 790 emigrants being despatched to that Colony. The number of labourers supplied was 8,933 or 776 more than the demand. This year there was less difficulty in securing labour owing to scarcity in the recruiting districts. The Colonies which received the largest number of emigrants were Demerara (2,605) and Trinidad (2,285).

During the year 4,703 immigrants returned to India, bringing with them savings amounting in the aggregate R8,08,141-2-4, or, on an average, to R171-13-1 a head, as compared with Rs. 174-10 a head, in the preceding year. It is noteworthy that the percentage of money saved in Trinidad is

far in excess of anything saved in any other colony. One thousand and seventy-eight adults brought back no savings. As in previous years, the labourers in Natal sent the largest remittances by money order, the total amount so sent being nearly 14 lakhs.

Statement showing the **quantity of rubber extracted** by the Forest Department from plantations of *Ficus Elastica* in **Assam** and of *Hevea Brazilianis* in **Burma** and the average prices obtained :—

Year.	Assam.		Burma (Tenasserim).	
	Quantity obtained. lbs.	Average price per lb.	Quantity obtained lbs.	Average price per lb.
		s. d.		s. d.
1898-99	3,023	3 4½	...	...
1899-1900	4,502	3 7	...	...
1900-01	4,794	3 1	725	2 5
1901-02	8,794	Not sold.	929	2 10 3/4
1902-03	6,462	2 10	405	3 9
1903-04	9,387	3 8	864	4 9 5/16
1904-05	12 368	3 7	1,450	5 8
1905-06	14,010	4 0	...	...

THE INDIAN WHEAT TRADE, 1905-06.

On the average of the last five years, the value of the wheat exported has represented 39·8 per cent of the exports of all food grains and 6·4 per cent. of the total value of Indian merchandise exported.

The wheat crop of 1905-06,—more particularly in the United Provinces, was very seriously injured by frosts when it was approaching maturity; and although the damage was in some cases found to be less than was expected, the effects of the *misfortune* are very clearly marked in the contraction of the exports to less than half the figure attained in the previous year.

It must be understood that the wheat exports of one financial year are drawn mainly from the crop of the previous year. The wheat exported in 1905-06 therefore belongs mainly to the crop of 1904-05; but no review of the wheat trade can be properly intelligible from which particulars of the crop are excluded. For these reasons the following statement, shows much more clearly than any explanation could, the Indian exports for the year 1905-06 in comparison with the crop data for 1904-05, and the average exports in the five years period ending 1904-05 with the average crop data for the five years ending 1903-04. Comparison is also made between the figures for the year under review and those for the last preceding year; and in every case the percentage ratio of increase or decrease is brought out, the average of the earlier period or year being taken as 100. A column is added showing the areas under irrigation, and it may be stated that in 1899-1900 the irrigated area, under wheat, which now stands at 7,420,000 acres, represented 8,120,000 acres.

The Indian Wheat Trade of 1905-06 compared with past years and with the relevant crop data.

	1	2	3	4 Ratio of col. 3 to	
	Average of Previous five years.	Previous year.	Year under review.	Col. 1.	Col. 2.
Area, thousands of acres	23,593	28,414	28,470	120·7	100·2
Outturn, thousands of tons.	7,278	9,641	7,582	104·2	78·6
Irrigated area (*a*)	8,375	9,441	7,420	88·6	78·6
Exports, thousands of tons.	866	2,150	933	108·3	43·6
Exports, thousands of rupees.	7,35,03	17,90,61	8,53,44	116	47·7
Average export value, rupees.	85	83·3	91	107	109·2
Imports, thousands of tons.	8	...	23	287·5	...

N.B.—In respect of area and outturn the "year under review" is 1904-05. In respect of Exports and Imports the "year under review" is 1905-06.
(*a*) For British India only (thousands of acres).

The five years periods include respectively 1899-1900, in which there was a signal failure of the wheat crop, and 1900-01 in which restriction of area and contraction of exports were among the *sequellæ* of the disaster. It is not generally remembered, or indeed known, that some foreign wheat is imported into certain provinces of India every year and that in times of shortage it is taken in considerable quantities even by ports from which grain is commonly shipped. In 1905-06, the imports amounted to some 454,600 cwts. with a value of about 22½ lakhs of rupees. Of this, Australia furnished some 396,000 cwts. and Persian Gulf ports about 59,000 cwts. This total was exceeded only in 1896-97 and in 1900-01 when 601,356 cwts. and 559,351 cwts., respectively, were imported: but in each of the famine years 1877-78 and 1878-79 the imports exceeded 400,000 cwts.

In 1904, India was the largest contributor to the wheat supply of the United Kingdom and furnished 25,493,000 cwts. out of a total of 97,782,500. But in 1905 it fell back into the third place with 22,807,422 cwts., which Russia and Argentina both exceeded. The United States, which in 1903 sent 24,197,895 cwts. to Britain, sent only 6,634,700 in 1905. On the other hand, the British crop, which in 1904 had sunk to about 36,880,216 bushels, rose to 58,902,499 bushels in 1905, the yield per acre increasing from 30·56 bushels to 32·78, and being of good quality.

Since it is well that the inconstancy of the conditions affecting the Indian wheat supply should be clearly understood, the statement of yearly exports given in last year's Review of the trade is here reproduced and brought up to date. It is the more necessary to record these figures by individual years and individual ports of export, because as a basis of average they are vitiated both by the presence of several years of extraordinary character and by Sind's rapid assumption of predominance in the export trade. [*Unit 1,000.*

	From Bengal	From Bombay	From Sind	Total exports	Total value
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	Rs.
1896-97 .	74	1,160	676	1,911	83,64
1897-98 .	76	378	1,939	2,393	1,34,11
1898-99 .	3,458	6,484	9,578	19,520	9,71,97
1899-1900 .	2,385	2,310	5,009	9,704	3,90,95
1900-01 .	24	24	2	50	3,01
1901-02 .	65	83	7,173	7,321	3,25,59
1902-03 .	1, 53	391	8,848	10,292	4,51,54
1903-04 .	4,833	3,691	17,385	25,911	11,08,90
1904-05 .	8,647	5,965	28,381	43,000	17,90,61
1905-06 .	2,297	3,455	12,957	18,750	8,53,44

On comparison of the various statements it will be seen that the exports declined by 1,212 502 tons and 937 lakhs of rupees, as compared with the previous year, the loss being one of 56·4 per cent. in quantity and 52·3 per cent. in value. The difference between these percentages is accounted for by the enhanced value. Practically the whole of the Indian hard wheat went to Spain as a consequence of the temporary repeal of the import duty.

The average declared value of the wheat exported in 1905-06 was Rs. 4-8-10 per cwt. as compared with Rs. 4-2-8 in 1904-05, the difference representing a rise of 9·8%, although the English Gazette price of wheat in 1905 alone rose by barely 4·8%, namely from 28*s.* 4*d.* to 29*s.* 8*d.*

The crop of the current year is a large one. The area sown amounted to 26,226,200 acres and the yield is estimated at 8,560,000 tons as against 7,582,000 tons last year, the increase being one of 978,000 tons or 13%.

During the year there has been further deliberation about the well-worn subject of the improvement of the Indian wheat exported, more particularly with regard to the excessive admixture of dirt. The Government of India has been in correspondence with the Provincial Governments and with the Chambers of Commerce, first with a view to the general elucidation of the question, and more recently with a view to obtaining a declaration by the trade of what admixture or "touch" could be maintained. The view of the Government of India as indicated in the published correspondence would appear to be that much of the dirt in Indian export wheat is artificially introduced in order to take advantage of the traditional contract allowances, and that there would be no difficulty in maintaining a very much lower percentage if a regular demand for the cleaner wheat could be created. With this in view Government proposed to declare, for the information of European buyers, that wheat with a touch of only 2 per cent. could be regularly obtained from India if suitable contracts were made on the basis of that percentage. Before making such a declaration the Chambers of Commerce were consulted; but the replies of some of these bodies indicate a reluctance to depart from the present customs of the trade.

The Chamber of Commerce at Karachi, from which some 70 per cent. of Indian wheat exports are now shipped, has however announced that it strongly supports Government's proposal.

TENDERS INVITED.

Miscellaneous Articles.

Tenders are invited by the Officer Commanding Station Supply, Ferozepore, for the supply of miscellaneous articles, for the Station Bakery, Supply Depôt, etc. Tenders will be opened at the Ferozepore Brigade Office on the 16th July, at 10 A. M. The form of tender may be seen, and further particulars learned, at 5, Clive Street, the Office of the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence.

Tenders—Military Supplies—Call for.

Sealed tenders for the undermentioned supplies will be received by the undersigned at 12 noon on 10th July 1906. Forms of tenders and schedules and all information can be obtained on application to the above office up to the 8th July 1906, except on Sundays and holidays:—

Supplies.	Where required.	Approximate requirements.	Earnest money	Remarks.
		lbs.	Rs.	
Firewood, dry, for warming purposes.	Loralai .	350,000	40	To be completed by 30th October 1906. i.e., in 3 months from 1st August 1906.
Ditto .	Murgha .	100,000	25	
Ditto .	Fort Sandeman.	1,000,000	100	
Ditto .	Mirali Khel	180,000	25	To be supplied daily from 1st September 1906 to 1st August 1907.
Potatoes, Hill and Plain.	Quetta .	600,000	400	

L. G. M. HARCOURT, Captain,
Commanding Station Supply.
Quetta.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

EXCERPTS FROM PROCEEDINGS.

BENGAL.

Customs Duty on Shortages.—At their meeting of the 8th May the Committee considered a letter of 17th April, from the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, replying to their letter of 28th March, urging Government to reconsider their recent decision to assimilate the system followed for many years in this port, of levying customs duty on the contents of packages found short, to the system prevailing in Bombay, Madras, Karachi and Rangoon, and on the other hand to bring the system prevailing in those ports into line with that in operation in Calcutta, as being the most equitable. This letter had been supported by the Chambers of Commerce of Bombay, Madras and Karachi. The letter now under consideration from the Government of India gave reasons in detail for the decision in question, but declined to reconsider it.

It was decided to forward copies of the letter to the Secretary of the Liners' Conference and the Managing Agents of the Asiatic Steam Navigation Company, Limited.

Commercial Education.—At their meeting of 8th May the Committee had before them a letter, of 4th *idem*, from the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, intimating that five candidates appeared for the Final Commercial Class examination held on the 5th April, and subsequent days, but that no candidate came up to the standard required for a certificate.

Chief Judgeship of the Burma Chief Court.—On the 12th May the Committee addressed the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, Simla, in support of the representation made by the Rangoon Chamber of Commerce to the Government of India, in favour of appointing a Barrister to the Chief Judgeship of the Burma Chief Court, to fill the vacancy caused by the transfer of the Hon'ble Sir Harvey Adamson to His Excellency the Viceroy's Council. The Committee pointed out that the Chamber had consistently supported the efforts of the mercantile community in Rangoon ever since the constitution of the Burma Chief Court to secure the appointment by Government of a Barrister of wide practical experience and assured legal attainments to the Chief Judgeship of the Court.

Prevention by Legislation of Fraudulent Watering of Jute.—The Committee have published further correspondence, during the month, with the Secretary to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam on this question, and, in a letter dated 14th May, while expressing their satisfaction that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor recognised that the State was interested in checking any practice, the effect of which would be to injure the resources of the country by diverting trade from it, they traversed certain contentions put forward by Government, on the ground that buyers purchased wet jute with their eyes open and were in a position to protect themselves. They also pointed out that the fear of the proposed legislation bringing Government into conflict with the mass of ryots who cultivated jute would probably be dispelled on reference to the Sub-Divisional Officers of Government, because, so far as the Committee understood the matter, it was not the ryots who adulterated the jute.

Adulteration of Indian Wheat.—On the 6th May, the Committee addressed the Director of Agriculture at some length, in reply to his letter of 28th March, on the subject of the adulteration of Indian wheat and of the measures which had been taken to secure the export of cleaner grain. The Committee were asked to state, after consultation with the local millers, whether it might be safely announced that clean wheat could be supplied regularly from India on a basis of 2 per cent refraction The Committee took the opportunity of placing before Government in some detail the exact circumstances under which the trade in wheat was carried on, explaining that their remarks only referred to wheat exported from Calcutta. After stating that efforts made by Calcutta exporters to clean wheat and to sell it at home on samples had been unsuccessful, as the buyers would not pay for the clean wheat anything like the extra cost incurred in cleaning it, it was explained that while there would be no difficulty in cleaning wheat down to 2 per cent refraction, there would in all probability be no demand for it when cleaned, unless exporters ship their wheat without profit or at a loss. The letter has been published for general information.

Sixth Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire—Inadequate Supply of Rolling-Stock on Indian Railways.—On the 16th May the Committee forwarded to the Secretary of the London Chamber of Commerce the following Resolution to be included in the programme of the approaching Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, to be held in London in July, and at the same time wrote to Sir Ernest Cable—one of their delegates at the Congress—asking him to propose it :—

> WHEREAS the scarcity of rolling-stock on Indian Railway has, since this question was brought before the Fourth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire in 1900, continued to hamper most seriously the trade of India with the Mother Country and the Colonies, and, WHEREAS the difficulties which have in consequence been created have, within the past few months, led the Government of India, as owners of most of the Railways in India, to take a more liberal view of their obligations in the matter of providing the necessary funds for properly equipping the lines with an adequate supply of rolling-stock,
>
> RESOLVED that the Secretary of State for India be requested to urge upon the Government of India the very great importance of continuing a policy under which the required funds will be annually forthcoming to meet the reasonable demands of the several Railway Companies for additional stock, so that the serious disabilities under which the trade of India with the rest of the Empire has been and still is labouring for the want of sufficiency of stock, may be removed.

Copies of the Resolution have also been sent to all ıe Indian Chambers of Commerce, with a request ıat their delegates at the Congress might be asked) support it.

Proposed Broad-Gauge Line between Bharatpur and Agra.—At their meeting of the 22nd May ıe Committee considered a letter of 26th April, om the Secretary, Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, ıclosing copy of a letter of 4th *idem* to the Secrery, Railway Board, urging the linking-up of haratpur and Agra by a broad-gauge line. The ommittee were asked to support the project.

It was decided to reply that after careful conderation, and in view of the fact that the proposed ıe was so far removed from this Province, the ommittee regretted their inability to take any tion in the matter.

Indian Coinage Act.—At their meeting of 22nd ay the Committee considered a letter of 15th May om the Officiating Comptroller-General drawing tention to the powers conferred under section 20 the Indian Coinage Act, III of 1906, on persons ıthorised to act under this section to cut counterit coin. The section did not confer any authority involve any obligation with regard to coins of ıy other class, these being dealt with under section 5. It was thought by Government that this would away with the objection entertained by many ople to cut coin under the provisions of Act XIII of 1870, as these also imposed responsibility r dealing with coins light in weight, or fraudutly diminished or called in by proclamation. The mptroller-General now asked for a list of persons illing to co-operate in clearing the coinage of unterfeit silver by accepting authority under the w regulations. It was pointed out in the course the discussion, that this provision of the Act as simply carrying out the resolution passed at the nference with the Comptroller-General of India the 14th July 1905, at which the Chamber was presented. It was decided to circulate the letter to members asking firms willing to carry out the ovisions of the Bill to send in their names to the cretary.

Time Contracts for Piece-Goods.—This matter came up for discussion at the meeting of the Committee, held on the 22nd May, in connection with a letter of 18th *idem* from the Secretary, Calcutta Import Trade Association, enclosing copy of a communication from the Honorary Secretary, Marwari Chamber of Commerce. The result of the discussion was that it was decided to address a further letter to the Manchester Chamber of Commerce, urging the Board of Directors of that Chamber to expedite their proposals for a settlement of the long debated differences between Importers and the bazar on the subject of late deliveries.

San Francisco Earthquake and Fire.—On the 20th May the Committee received the following communication, under date 21st April, from the Acting Secretary, Department of State, Washington, with reference to their telegram of sympathy of 20th April to the President of the United States :—"The President, deeply touched by the many sympathetic messages which he has received in view of the dire calamity at San Francisco, charges me to express to you his deep appreciation of and thanks for your telegram of 20th instant."

Lower Ganges Bridge Project.—On the 24th May the Committee again addressed the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Public Works Department, on the subject of the Lower Ganges Bridge project, drawing attention to the persistent rumours prevailing, for some time past, that the Bengal and North-Western Railway had obtained, or were likely to obtain, a concession under which they would be given powers to erect a bridge over the Ganges at Godagiri. The Committee again emphasised the fact that the Secretary of State had decided "that wherever and whenever the bridge was constructed it should be carried out by State agency," and expressed a hope that there was no truth in the rumours referred to, and that the deliberate decision of the Secretary of State would not be set aside. The letter was published at the time for general information.

Labour in Factories.—The Committee have dealt with the reference from the Government of Bengal, referred to in the Abstract of Proceedings for April, during the month. The questions raised were as follows :—(1) The advisability of restricting the hours of labour for adult males in factories; and (2) The advisability of requiring a certificate of physical fitness as well as of age in the case of children before they are employed as workers. After communication with the Indian Jute Mills' Association, and with a number of employers of labour in the neighbourhood of Calcutta, the Committee have submitted that no interference with the present hours of labour in Jute and Cotton Mills is rendered necessary by the conditions of labour prevailing on this side of India. Under the "shift" system adopted by the Calcutta Jute Mills the hours of labour of adults average not more than ten per diem, broken by intervals of rest. Replying on the second point the Committee stated that the system of factory inspection on this side

of India rendered it impossible for any child physically unfit to escape detection, and consequently the certificate suggested was considered unnecessary. The Commitee summarised their opinion by stating that there was nothing in Bengal at the present moment in connection with either of the above points calling for special interference on the part of the Government of India.

Liability for Shortage on Sugar Cargo landed at the Docks and delivered at the Jetties.—With reference to the paragraph on this matter in the Abstract of Proceedings for March, the Committee have published during the month, for general information, copies of correspondance with the Vice-Chairman of the Port Commissioners, in which the system which will be introduced and the manner in which claims will be dealt with by the Port Commissioners are clearly indicated.

BOMBAY MILLOWNERS ASSOCIATION.

Read letter from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence enclosing a statement showing the average production per spindle in cotton mills in Native States and British Provinces, and asking the Association to examine the figures and give an opinion as to their correctness. The object of this enquiry was to arrive at some estimate of the production of yarn per spindle in Native States with a view to calculating the consumption of cotton in these States as a check on crop forecasts.

Resolution.—That the Committee are unable to ascertain the correctness of the figures mentioned as there is not sufficient information available for the purpose. For comparison, the average count produced in the yarn, the **number of hours run at each mill,** and the production of equal counts, etc., should first be ascertained; any explanation under existing conditions would, it is felt, be unsatisfactory.

Read letters from Members offering suggestions in connection with Section 9 of the Bombay Boiler Inspection Act; also a letter from the Collector of Bombay on the same subject.

Resolution.—That a Sub-Committee be appointed to examine and report on the matter, consisting of the Chairman, Mr. J. F. Bradbury, Mr. A Leslie and Mr. C. N. Wadia.

Read letter from the Bombay Government acknowledging receipt of the Association's communication on the subject of deduction to be allowed on account of depreciation in the value of Mill buildings in calculating the net profits for the purpose of income-tax assessment. It was stated that the matter was under the consideration of Government.

Resolution.—Await further information.

Read letter from the Southern Mahratta Spinning and Weaving Company, and the Swadeshi Mills Company, regarding the efficacy of Plague inoculation among Mill hands.

Resolution.—That as the information is of interest to millowners generally, the letters should be published in the English and Vernacular papers of Bombay.

Read draft by the Secretary outlining a scheme for the formation of a Roving Commission to enquire into the adulteration and deterioration of cotton forwarded to Bombay.

Resolution.—Address the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and the Cotton Trade Association, inviting an expression of their views and support if feasible, with the object of making a joint representation to Government on the subject.

Read letter from a member regarding the difficulties experienced in the free circulation of goods through Manchurian ports, and suggesting that there are causes at work detrimental to the expansion of our trade, which should be enquired into by the Association.

Resolution.—That the Association address the British Commercial Attaché at Pekin representing the existing state of affairs, and asking that an investigation might be undertaken on behalf of British Indian Trade. Also that letters should be written to certain firms in Bombay, inviting their co-operation in obtaining further information on the subject.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

THE Board of Trade Journal, published on the 14th June, in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations, gives particulars about:—

DOMINION OF CANADA.—Customs Decisions. Respecting Paintings.

EGYPT.—Valuation Tariff for Rangoon Rice.

NETHERLANDS.—Decision respecting the Duty-Free Admission of "Factory Engines."

GERMANY-SWEDEN.—New Treaty of Commerce and Navigation: Schedule of Swedish Import Duties (concluding portion).

FRANCE-TUNIS.—Imports of Beans and of certain Animals from Tunis.

BULGARIA.—Translation of New Tariff. A Correction.

JAPAN.—Forthcoming New Customs Tariff.

We give the following particulars of changes **interesting to Indian Trade:—**

BULGARIA.

Translation of New Tariff—A Correction.

With reference to the translation of the New Customs Tariff of Bulgaria, recently issued by the Board of Trade as a Parliamentary Paper (Cd. 2,862), it has been ascertained that the rate of duty (174 francs per 100 kilogs.) given for cotton shawls, girdles, and turbans, under No. 373 of the Tariff, is incorrectly given owing to a misprint in the original; the correct rate being 175 francs per 100 kilogs. This rate, as stated in the footnote on page 38 of the return, is "conventionalised" by the Commercial Treaty between Bulgaria and Germany.

WEATHER SUMMARY.

Week ending the 30th June 1906.

DURING the period under review, there was nearly general rain in Burma, Orissa, North-East India, United Provinces and in the east of the Punjab, light general rain in the Central Provinces, Chota Nagpur and Bihar, very light local rain in the Peninsula and in the Deccan while a few falls have been reported to have occurred in Central India, South Rajputana and Gujarat. The principal amounts of rainfall were:—Akyab 7·84″, Bareilly 6·38″, Lashio 6·30″, Pachmarhi 4·88″, Jubbulpore 4·66″, Silchar 4·17″, Roorkee 4·12″, Darjeeling 4·03″ Cawnpore 3·98″, Chittagong 3·98″, Port Blair 3·66″, Sutna 3·61″, Pendra 3·25″, Saugor Island 3·23″, Simla 3·17″, Lucknow 3·15″, Dehra Dun 2·83″, Ahmedabad 2·96″, Chakrata 2·68″, Nowgong 2·67″, Dibrugarh 2·37″, Seoni 2·32″, Ranchi 2·31″, Calcutta 1·99″, Bhamo 1·93″, Monywa 1·59″, Maymyo 1·51″, and Surat 1·15″.

The depression that was observed in the neighbourhood of Saugor advanced westward and had passed over Karachi into the Arabian Sea by the end of the last week. This had caused light to moderate rain in the west of Central India, Rajputana, Gujarat and Lower Sind at the beginning of the week when another depression appeared in the north-west angle of the Bay, but this remained near the head of the Bay for three days and then disappeared; during its existence the monsoon current was cut off from North-East India, and in Burma the rainfall was increased and where it was nearly general from the 24th to the end of the week.

In North-East India and Orissa, the rainfall had been generally light and largely confined to the northern and eastern districts, while on the 26th and 27th, owing to the depression at the head of the Bay, only a few scattered falls occurred. Skies were partially clear during the week and temperature was in slight excess except in Bihar.

In the Simla and Mussoorie districts, the Bombay Monsoon gave light rain during the end of the last week; precipitation then began to extend southward on each side of the border between the United Provinces and the Punjab, and throughout the remainder of the period, moderately heavy rain fell in these districts, extending to the greater part of the United Provinces on the 28th. Skies had been completely overcast from the 24th in the border districts and moderately overcast elsewhere in the United Provinces. A local disturbance appeared in the extreme north of India on the 27th and gave thunderstorms and duststorms accompanied with rain at a number of stations.

In the Central Provinces, rainfall diminished rapidly as soon as the depression passed out of the Province, but the Bombay monsoon again gave heavy rain from the 24th to the 26th and light rain on the next two days. The skies had been heavily overcast and the temperature had been in considerable defect.

On the West Coast the Arabian Sea current was fairly active and only very light rain fell. The monsoon had also been rather weak in the Deccan, only isolated falls having occurred. Temperature had been practically normal in the Peninsula and skies generally completely overcast on the West Coast, while moderately clouded over elsewhere.

The rainfall of the period from the 4th May to the 30th June was equal to or in excess of the normal everywhere, except in the Brahmaputra valley, the Indo-Gangetic Plain East, the North-West Dry Area, Baluchistan, the northern subdivisions of the Central India Plateau, the East Coast south and in the sub-divisions represented by the stations of Darbhanga, Lahore, Cuttack, Ranchi, Calicut and Rajkot. The excess was most marked in the west Satpuras and the sub-division of Hyderabad.

TELEGRAM FROM THE VICEROY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Crop prospects: week ending 23rd June last.

IN the **United Provinces of Agra and Oudh** there has been rain throughout, but it was unequal, and generally insufficient in the affected districts. Ploughing and sowing have commenced. Fodder is scarce still. Prices are generally stationary or rising. Departmental relief works have been closed in four districts, and gratuitous relief is being extended. Loans for seed and cattle are being distributed. Good rain has fallen in Bundelkhand, since the end of the week, and prospects have improved. In the **Punjab** the rainfall is general, but more rain is wanted for sowing operations in two districts. General prospects are good in **Rajputana.** Good to light rain has fallen in most States. Preparation for autumn sowings are general. Fodder continues scarce, and the water supply is deficient in parts. Prices have fallen in three States. In **Central India** the rainfall has been partial in Gwalior and Rewah, elsewhere general. More rain has fallen since, and ploughing and sowing operations are in progress. Prices continue high. In **Bombay** good rain has fallen in parts of the Deccan, Konkan and Gujarat, and moderate elsewhere. Sowings continue, and seedlings are in good condition. The water supply has improved. The condition of the cattle is poor still, but green grass is expected to be available shortly. Advances are being made for the purchase

of cattle. The numbers on relief are decreasing owing to the return of the people to field work. Prices continue high. In **Hyderabad** the rainfall has been good, and autumn crops are being sown generally. Prices are falling. Fodder is scarce still. In other provinces the prospects fair to good. Distress is reported in parts of **Bengal and Eastern Bengal** owing to the continued high prices of rice. At test works started in three districts the attendance has been small. Agricultural advances are being distributed. Monsoon weather has continued since the end of the week, with some heavy falls in **Central and Northern India.** The following are the numbers of persons in receipt of relief, in thousands :—**United Provinces of Agra and Oudh,** 169 ; **Punjab,** 13; **Ajmer and Rajputana,** 97; **Central India,** 85 ; **Baroda,** 3; **Bombay,** 104; **Hyderabad,** 2 ; **Eastern Bengal,** 1 ; total 474.

CONSULAR REPORT.

SHANGHAI.

The following extracts from a Consular review of the trade of Shanghai for the years—1901-04—will interest Indian merchants. It is to be regretted that the figures for 1905 were not added :—

In **cotton piece-goods** shirtings of all kinds, except dyed and figured, showed a very large falling-off in 1901 when compared with 1900, but this may be principally accounted for by the heavy stocks carried over from that year on account of the Boxer outbreak. T-cloths, especially Japanese, were in excess of the previous year. British and Indian sheetings fell off, American advancing about 25 per cent. Chintzes, twills, Turkey-red cambrics, handkerchiefs and towels were all short of the imports of 1900. Cotton lastings and cotton flannel both showed considerable increase. British and Indian cotton yarn rose to three and one-and-a-half times respectively over the figures of the year before, and Hong-Kong mill yarn was imported for the first time. In spite of the difficulties caused by the political disturbances in the north, the heavy fall in exchange, disastrous floods on the Yangtse, the financial crisis in the north and the probability of an increase in duties, the piece-goods trade during the year was of a very satisfactory nature.

During the year 1902, cotton goods imports advanced from 72,000,000 to 99,000,000 Haikwan taels, as compared with 1901, improvements being shown under most headings, notably white and grey shirtings, American drills, jeans, handkerchiefs, towels and Indian yarn. The piece-goods market opened firm and several new piece-goods hongs started. Trade with the north was brisk ; indeed everything promised well with the exception of exchange. This fell rapidly after the spring season, which, combined with an outbreak of sickness along the coast, reduced business to a very low ebb. Towards the end of the year trade was materially benefitted by the settling of a large number of orders in view of the probability of a further drop in exchange.

The ensuing year, 1903, shows a falling-off under the heading of cotton goods of nearly 1,000,000*l.* mainly in white and grey shirtings, sheetings and T-cloths. At the commencement of the year the stocks carried over were increased by liberal importation, but the rise in price of American cotton at Liverpool—it advanced from 4½*d.* to 7⅛*d.* during the year—naturally caused a heavy decline in shipments from that centre. Japanese yarn and manufactured cottons increased steadily, the former to the extent of 90 per cent.

In the year 1904 the piece-goods trade was greatly influenced by the range in prices at home, raw cotton falling from 7*d.* to 9*d.*, in January to 3¾*d.* during the course of the year. There was a large increase in the imports, due to heavy reshipments of cotton piece-goods to Japan. Record prices prevailed both in piece-goods and in yarns.

The following table, for which I am indebted to one of the principal firms in Shanghai dealing in these goods, shows the approximate value of the imports into Shanghai during the four years under review of the principal articles in which other nations' productions enter into direct competition with British-made goods, and may prove of interest in showing whether British trade is holding its own or not :—

	Value.			
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
Shirtings, grey, plain—	£	£	£	£
British . .	1,577,227	1,741,740	1,314,010	1,454,214
American . .	...	252,980	72,605	102,939
Indian . .	444	3,471	1,515	3,165
Japanese . .	4,163	3,016	1,396	1,633
Sheetings—				
British . .	170,348	265,460	193,324	271,986
Indian . .	976	23,660	1,676	19,933
Dutch . .	444	1,716	3,524	2,216
American . .	1,121,692	1,719,900	1,218,822	1,072,400
Japanese . .	370	12,818	19,892	42,042
Shirtings, white, plain and Irishes—				
British . .	831,410	1,323,270	764,016	1,266,880
American . .	...	2,857	4,243	129
Dutch . .	...	...	20,895	44,330
T-cloths, grey—				
British . .	164,578	247,130	207,266	167,822
Indian . .	500	6,409	2,851	12,126
Japanese . .	22,833	24,440	20,394	11,454
Dutch . .	...	...	...	1,230
Drills—				
British . .	138,808	263,180	219,602	51,623
Indian . .	355	5,270	2,930	19,805
Dutch . .	10,934	4,615	4,857	4,347
American . .	677,311	691,600	672,068	722,293
Jeans—				
British . .	15,123	113,451	47,242	147,290
Dutch . .	4,884	9,035	14,955	3,432
American . .	34,629	67,262	64,086	65,351

During the year 1901, although the actual quantity of **silk** shipped proved to be greater than that exported in the previous year, yet the trade is said to have been unprofitable for buyers and sellers alike. The losses of the former may be attributed to the heavy decline in exchange, those of the latter to the fluctuations in the tael rates.

The predominant features of the following year, 1902, were a considerable shortage in the silk crop, which was little more than half that of 1901, and a steady rise in prices due to the ever falling exchange and steady consumption. "Gold Kiling" which was quoted at 405 Shanghai taels per picul on January 1, rose to 710 taels on December 31, Shanghai steam filatures rising in nearly the same proportion.

The year 1903 showed a heavy falling-off in the export of silk. The raw silk trade showed a heavy decline in prices, and the white raw silk exported was less than half that shipped in the previous year. "Gold Kiling" fell from 725 taels in January to 610 taels in April. Prices rose somewhat with the advent of the new season's crop, but declined again to 600 taels at the end of the year. The Shanghai silk filatures fared badly.

The silk crop in 1904 was a poor one—the third in succession—and the trade was further hampered by the competition in the European and American markets with the silk from Japan, which this season exceeded any previous production.

Raw cotton is one of the few articles of export which has shown any great increase during the period under review. Although the amount exported in 1901 was less than in the previous year, the following year—1902—shows an increase of over 100 per cent., large shipments of this staple going to Japan. 1903 shows a decline, but this was more than recovered in 1904, more than 1,250,000 cwts. being shipped to Japan alone. In April the abnormally high price of over 18½ Haikwan taels per cwt. was reached ; prices were well maintained until August, when they fell somewhat in anticipation of the new crops.

For the year 1901, as compared with the previous year, black, green, black brick and green brick **tea** all showed a decrease. In September the prices for black tea rose in consequence of large orders from the United States and Canada, and by the end of October the losses incurred by low opening prices were more than covered. To the close the market remained firm, notwithstanding the fact that the quality of the crop was inferior. In green tea prices also opened low, but rose rapidly on account of an expected short crop and the eagerness of buyers to fulfil their requirements. Owing to the high prices qualities were not maintained, and towards the end of the season many of the teas put on the market were unfit for consumption. The export to the United States and Canada reached a very low point, as leaf which would ordinarily have been shipped there was manufactured into hysons for Central Asian consumption.

Prices opened higher in 1902 than in 1901, and were maintained until the end of July, when they fell on account of the poor prices offered in London. This, however, was not for long, and prices rapidly advanced again. There was a very large increase in the export to America, due to the short supply in the previous season and the expected removal of the duty.

Prices again opened high in 1903 in both black and green teas. The quality of the former was not up to that of 1902, but in spite of this prices ruled somewhat higher. The high prices of green teas kept up until the end of August, when they fell somewhat in consequence of reports of an increased yield of the new crop. These reports, however, were not corroborated, and this fact, together with the good prices realised for earlier shipments, restored the market, which continued steady until buying ceased.

In 1904, black and green teas both opened lower than in 1903. The most noticeable feature of the year's trade is the revival of the demand for China Congou in the British market. It is also worthy of mention that much of the black tea shipped to the United Kingdom was destined for Russia, but was shipped in this way to minimise war risks.

The following table shows the exports in cwts. of the various teas during the four years under review :—

	Quantity.			
	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.
Black . . .	212,533	222,063	274,459	217,178
Brick—				
Black . . .	172,646	108,127	189,894	130,896
Green . . .	27,980	12,625	26,220	32,492
Dust . . .	2,085	2,080	2,930	8,692
Green . . .	228,425	297,665	350,295	289,089
Leaf, unfired . .	8,521	12,836	39,128	26,727
Tablet . . .	6,223	3,920	4,708	4,482
Scented . . .	5,646	2,623	7,343	4,680

ROUMANIAN PETROLEUM INDUSTRY.

Lieutenant-Colonel Trotter, C.B., His Britannic Majesty's Consul-General at Galatz Roumania, makes the following remarks on the petroleum industry of the country, which seems to be in a very healthy condition :—

The petroleum industry is steadily developing. The total production of crude oil in 1905 was about

601,700 tons, or double the production of four years ago.

The total export was 214,348 tons as against 160,442 tons in 1904 and 126,227 tons in 1903, so that the export has nearly doubled in two years.

France took 55 per cent. of the total export of 1905, comprising 11,790 tons of crude, 79,766 tons of refined oil, and 27,369 tons of benzine.

Germany took 17 per cent., the United Kingdom 10 per cent. (entirely refined petroleum) and Austria-Hungary 9 per cent. of the total.

Of the exports of petroleum, 60 per cent. is shipped at Constantza and 14 per cent. at Braila.

The late disturbances in the Baku petroleum fields did not appreciably benefit the Roumanian industry.

The capital invested in the Roumanian oil-fields is stated to be as follows :—

	Capital.
	£
Germany (Deutscher and Dresdener Banks and Disconto Gesellschaft)	3,682,300
Roumania	865,500
Netherlands	320,000
France	260,000
United Kingdom	210,000
United States	200,000

A new Roumanian petroleum company, called the "Trajan," has recently been formed with a capital of 200,000*l.*, of which Marmorosch Blank & Co. of Bucharest, the principal promoters, have taken two-fifths. It will absorb the "Helios" and several other companies.

Very large areas of the Roumanian oil-fields are the property of the State, and have hitherto been unworked, but a law has recently passed the Chambers providing for the leasing of these lands to private companies, and containing important provisos with the object of preventing monopolies. Some years ago the Standard Oil Company tried to obtain a concession for working the Government oil-fields together with the right of erecting the necessary pipe-lines to Constantza, but such an outcry was raised in the country against this monopoly falling into the hands of a foreign company, that negotiations were broken off. Other companies have since tried to obtain very large concessions, but without result.

A summary is given below of the new law :—

(*a*) The Government is empowered in respect of State domains to lease, for a period not exceeding 50 years, lots of prospected, together with unprospected, petroleum land of maximum areas of 100 and 1,000 hectares* respectively. Full discretionary powers are invested in the Ministerial Council in the matter of concessions. Where the application is made for the same lot by several persons, or companies, the concession will be granted to the party offering the highest rent.

(*b*) No more than three lots can be leased to one and the same concessionaire, each lot in the extent provided for under section 1, nevertheless with the proviso that whoever applies for the lease shall adduce proofs of possessing the necessary capital.

(*c*) This capital must be at least 2,000,000 fr. for every 100 hectare lot of prospected land and 1,000 hectare lot of unprospected land, and the sum shall be deposited.

(*d*) Amalgamation or assignment is illegal. Secret fusion involves the annulment of all concessions connected with this fusion.

(*e*) In drawing up a tabulated register of lots to be leased, a third of every prospected lot shall be regarded as reserve, and the half of every unprospected lot. All these lands shall constitute the State petroleum reserve for the future.

(*f*) The State petroleum reserve is alienable by concession for 10 years from the date of this Act.

(*g*) The State reserves to itself the exclusive right of working all means of transport for petroleum, etc.

(*h*) The State demands a compensation of at least 10 per cent. on the gross profits of the working.

(*i*) Over and above the aforementioned rent, the State participates in the net profits of the working as follows :—(1) One-third should the net profits fluctuate between 10 and 30 per cent. ; (2) from 30 and more per cent., the share of the State is 50 per cent. of the net profits.

(*k*) The State levies upon concessionaires—in accordance with the Mining Act—a lease-charge of 20 fr. per hectare. In addition, the general taxes are to be paid.

(*l*) In disputes between the State and a concessionaire, Roumanian courts of law are to decide. All concessions of State petroleum land are subject to the Roumanian laws and regulations, and the State assumes no responsibility for the profitableness of land leased.

The conditions are so onerous that it is not likely the privilege offered will be made use of on any considerable scale until the oil-fields in private hands are exhausted.

Before the introduction of the Bill, the Prime Minister, M. Cantacuzene, stated that the Government had decided to bear in mind three important points, *viz.* :—(1st) That the Government should not dispose of all the available oil-fields at once, but must keep some as a reserve. (2nd) That the creation of a monopoly by placing the oil-fields in the hands of one firm only must be avoided. (3rd)

* 1 hectare = 2·47 acres.

That the transport facilities for crude or refined oil either by rail or pipe-lines must remain in the hands of the Government.

The Standard Oil Company has erected a large refinery near Ploesci, capable of dealing with 60,000 wagon-loads per annum. Another refinery, owned by the Disconto-Gesellschaft, also near Ploesci, is capable of dealing with 20,000 wagons of 10 tons each, and the Steana Româna Company has another large refinery at Campina.

GERMAN-INDIAN TRADE.

Consul-General Sir William Ward of Hamburg writes as follows on the subject of the **trade between India and Germany**. Business between Germany and British India in 1905 is stated to have been hampered by many difficulties. The "boycotting" of European manufactures, though it appears to have now almost ceased, is considered here to have done much harm also to German trade in India, whilst native weaving and spinning mills made use of the occasion for competing more seriously with foreign imported textile goods, so that German as well as other European importers are said to have lost many old customers in this way. The abolition of the Indian countervailing duties on foreign sugar and the low sugar prices led last year to very extensive shipments of German and Austrian sugar (in particular also from Hamburg) to India and these shipments have continued during the current year. Last year's import trade to Hamburg of Indian products experienced a decrease both in quantity and value. The falling-off, however, in the imports of indigo is being made up for by more extensive imports of new tanning materials, as well as of food-stuffs. The import trade in bones and bone-flour, as well as in hides, is said to have yielded good profits in 1905 for Hamburg importers. The total value of the imports and exports respectively between Hamburg and India during the past year, as compared with that of each of the three previous years, is shown by the following figures, *viz* :—

Imports from and Exports to India.

Year.	Value.	
	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1902	9,946,764	1,5 .6,383
1903	11,610,673	2,226,188
1904	12,952,305	3,025,755
1905	11,892,562	3,193,124

During the past decade the import trade to Germany from India has increased about 50 per cent., whilst the export trade from this country to India has increased nearly 100 per cent.

The following remarks on the subject of German trade with India, which have been extracted from recent commercial reports made by the German Consular Officers at Calcutta and Bombay may perhaps be read also with some interest in the United Kingdom.

The German Consul General at Calcutta remarks as follows :—"The chief articles in which German exporters at present compete or ought to be able to compete with other nations trading with India are, *viz.*, sugar, salt, butter, condensed milk, beer, wine, iron and steel goods, machinery, tools, cutlery sine, aniline and alizarine dyes, chemicals, drugs, coloured, printed and dyed cotton piece-goods, hosiery, sewing yarn, woollen manufactures, glass, china and earthenware, musical instruments, paper and stationery, toys, umbrellas, scientific instruments, motor cars and bicycles. Special attention, moreover, ought to be given by German exporters to Burmese markets, Burma being a very progressive and flourishing part of the British Indian Empire. One of the chief difficulties for those who want to do business with India in German goods will be found to consist in forming a correct judgment regarding the financial position of an Indian customer and the German exporter will not always be able to find efficient representatives in the principal commercial ports of India for undertaking the collection of the requisite information for him owing to the limited number of firms existing in those places who would be suitable for such purpose. In any case, however, German exporters should be very careful about giving credit to native firms which are unknown to them and German commercial travellers should always bear this in mind. The sending out to India of representatives of German firms and of commercial travellers for the purpose of seeking new markets for German goods there is no doubt to be recommended, but only very capable men should be employed for this work who have acquired a fair knowledge of languages and of Indian habits and customs. All business done in India and more particularly all dealings with the natives of that country are closely connected with the characteristics of the people, and it thus requires a long and minute study of their character before any European trader can expect to deal with the native Indian with any prospect of success."

The German Consular report from **Bombay** contains the following remarks :—"As in all Eastern countries so also in British India the mode of packing goods is a matter of considerable importance. The majority of the Indian natives who can neither read nor write always pay attention when making their purchases in the first place to the external appearance of the goods. Whenever a native has once purchased a certain article he

requires when purchasing the same description of goods again that the same should be packed in precisely the same manner as the first time. If he perceives the slightest variation in the packing he at once suspects that the vendor intends to deceive him in some way, and the consequence is that the native in such case will prefer to buy what he wants from some other firm. It appears that European manufacturers (and traders) frequently overlook this and the result is accordingly that the Indian native either declines to accept the goods or refuses to pay for them. The manufacturer can only protect himself against this happening by supplying goods strictly in accordance with sample and packed precisely in conformity with the instructions sent to him by the purchaser. If from some cause or other the manufacturer finds himself obliged to deviate from these instructions he should first of all come to an understanding with his customer about the change. How inconsiderately the Indian merchant sometimes acts may be illustrated by the fact that goods have been refused because the paper in which they were packed was found not to be throughout of the same colour, whilst on another occasion a reduction in price was insisted upon because the string with which the goods were fastened together was only tied once round some parcels of goods instead of twice, as had been done on a previous occasion when the same description of goods had been supplied."

MINERAL OIL.

Imports.

THE total value of all mineral oils imported in 1905-06 was Rs. 222·9 lakhs or 32 per cent. less than in 1904-05. Of this total, Rs. 178·3 lakhs or just 80 per cent. related to kerosene.

The trade in kerosene has entered on a new phase in 1905-06 as a consequence of the arrangement made between those companies that have hitherto contended for the Eastern markets. It is well therefore to review the imports of the past ten years; and in the interests of brevity this must be done tabularly. The first of the following statements shows the quantities in thousands of gallons received from each principal source in each year. The second statement shows the value of imports in thousands of rupees.

Imports of Kerosene oil by sea from foreign countries, and also coastwise from Burma into British India in the official years 1896-97—1905-06.

I.—Quantities—Unit, 1,000 gallons.

Countries.	1896-97.	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1900-01.	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
Russia	45,484	50,634	50,800	57,688	67,351	84,478	71,125	57,320	40,304	7,617
United States	18,202	23,985	21,006	12,732	5,102	5,768	9,229	6,722	7,477	22,332
Borneo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,372	9,281	5,193
Straits Settlements	164	597	323	42	143	1,023	522	3,783	11,969	10,391
Sumatra	558	7,541	4,444	...	...	...	286	1,348	5,943	5,401
Other Foreign Countries	63	38	52	8	6	198	289	14	1,216	15
Total Foreign Countries	64 471	82.795	76,625	70,470	72.602	91,467	81,451	71,559	76,190	50,949
Coastal from Burma	40	1,709	2,308	4,966	8,269	13,463	17,450	35,206	42 729	47,160

II.—Values—Unit, Rs. 1,000.

Russia	1,97 72	2,05,81	1,99,90	2,34,71	2,80,52	3,14,80	2,63,71	2,38,78	1,62,50	26,50
United States	84,38	97,66	83,55	58,98	28,77	32,18	47,45	41,05	46,34	95,89
Borneo	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,90	28,74	13,17
Straits Settlements	1,00	3,18	1,49	25	1,01	3,93	1,72	14,11	35,75	26,56
Sumatra	2,54	32,90	13,44	...	...	...	71	4,62	18,71	16,08
Other Foreign Countries	30	23	21	6	4	66	1,02	12	5.52	12
Total Foreign Countries	2,85,94	3,39,78	2,98 59	2 94,00	3,10,34	3,51,57	3,14,61	3,07,58	2,97,56	1,78,32
Coastal from Burma	15	6,59	9,07	21,46	33,53	52,22	69,51	1,38,20	1,71,26	1,62,34

The following figures may be accepted as an approximate estimate of the Burma production in the same period :—

1896	. 14,808,195 gallons	1899	. 32,309 531 gallons
1897	. 18,875,530 „	1900	. 36,974,288 „
1898	. 21,634,963 „	1901	. 49,441,734 „
1902	. 54,848,980 gallons	1904	. 115,903,804 gallons
1903	. 85,328,491 „	1905	. 142,063,846 „

The equivalent of kerosene to crude oil is about 50 to 115·9, or 43·2 per cent. nearly.

The prices of kerosene in Calcutta have ranged as follows :—

Prices of kerosene oil in Calcutta.

	AMERICAN.	RUSSIAN			BURMA		BORNEO	SUMATRA
	Chester per case.	Rising Sun case.	Anchor case.	Ram case.	Victoria, 2 tins.	Gold Mohar, 2 tins.	Cobra, 2 tins.	Silver light case.
	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.	R a. p.
Average 1896-1897 .	4 3 3	...	3 15 11	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 1897-1898 .	3 9 0	...	3 8 2	...	...	...	...	...
Do. 1898-1899 .	3 5 2	3 5 0	3 1 2	...	3 1 5	...	...	...
Do. 1899-1900 .	4 2 5	3 10 10	3 7 9	...	3 6 0	...	...	...
Do. 1900-1901 .	4 6 7	4 0 11	...	...	3 11 5	...	...	...
Do. 1901-1902 .	3 15 6	3 2 1	3 1 11	...	2 14 2	...	...	...
Do. 1902-1903 .	3 10 10	3 5 5	3 5 5	3 6 4	3 0 11	...	...	...
Do. 1903-1904 .	4 2 4	3 9 4	3 6 11	3 7 7	3 1 4	...	3 3 8	...
Do. 1904-1905 .	4 0 11½	3 7 0	3 7 0	3 6 11	2 12 5	2 15 0	2 14 3	4 7 10
Prices in 1905-06—								
April 1905. .	4 0 0	3 1 0 to 3 10 0 3 5 6	3 1 0 to 3 10 0 3 5 6	3 1 0 to 3 10 0 3 5 6	2 6 0	2 8 0	2 5 6	5 6 0
May „ . .	4 0 0 to 4 1 0 4 0 6	3 3 0 to 3 4 0 3 3 6	3 3 0 to 3 4 0 3 3 6	3 1 6 to 3 2 0 3 1 9	2 8 0	2 10 0 to 2 12 0 2 11 0	2 8 6	5 6 0
June „ . .	4 0 0	3 3 0 to 3 4 0 3 3 6	3 3 0	3 1 6 to 3 10 0 3 5 9	2 6 0 to 2 7 0 2 6 6	2 9 0 to 2 10 0 2 9 6	2 7 0	5 4 0
July „ . .	4 0 0	3 3 0 to 3 4 0 3 3 6	3 3 0	3 8 0	2 5 0	2 7 0 to 2 8 0 2 7 6	2 5 0	5 4 0
August „ . .	4 0 0	3 3 3 to 3 4 0 3 3 6	3 3 0	3 4 0 to 3 8 0 3 6 0	2 5 0	2 7 0	2 5 0	5 0 0
September „ . .	4 0 0	3 3 0 to 3 6 0 3 4 6	3 3 0	3 6 0 to 3 8 0 3 7 0	2 5 0	2 7 0 to 2 8 0 2 7 6	2 5 0	4 8 0
October „ . .	4 0 0	3 3 0 to 3 9 0 3 6 0	3 3 0	3 8 0	2 6 0	2 8 0 to 2 10 0 2 9 0	2 6 0	4 8 0
November „ . .	4 6 0	4 2 0	4 2 0	4 2 0	3 0 0	3 4 0	3 0 0	4 8 0
December „ . .	4 6 0	4 2 0	4 2 0	3 12 0 to 3 14 0 3 13 0	3 4 0	3 6 0 to 3 8 0 3 7 0	3 4 0	4 8 0
January 1906 .	4 6 0	4 4 0	...	3 14 0	3 4 0	3 8 0	3 5 0	4 8 0
February „ .	4 6 0	4 4 0	...	3 14 0	3 4 0	3 8 0	3 5 0	4 8 0 to 5 0 0 4 12 0
March „ . .	4 8 0 to 4 10 0 4 9 0	4 4 0	...	3 14 0	3 4 0	3 8 0	3 5 0	4 8 0 to 5 0 0 4 12 0
Average „ . .	4 2 9½	3 10 6	3 6 8	3 9 7	2 11 5½	2 14 6½	2 11 9	4 13 8

It will be seen that in 1905-06 the imports of foreign kerosene declined by 33 per cent. in quantity and 40 per cent. in value. On the other hand, the shipments from Burma to India Proper increased by 10 per cent. in both respects.

The decline of imports amounted to 21 million gallons in the case of Russia and 6 millions in the case of Sumatra and Borneo, while an increase of 13 millions occurred in the arrivals from America. Case oil continues to give place to bulk oil importation, and more than half of the above decline in total imports is to be traced to the falling off of $11\frac{1}{2}$ million gallons in arrivals of case oil from Russia alone (this being due to the destruction and anarchy that prevailed in the Russian oil region), an increase of $1\frac{1}{2}$ million from America being offset by a loss of similar amount in the arrivals from Italy.

The prices of American Chester oil, the standard illuminant, have been very steady taken over a period of ten years. The average price per case in 1896-97 was R4-3-3 and in the year under review R4-2-$9\frac{1}{2}$. The monthly averages, however, show considerable fluctuations, the highest being R4-10-0 in March 1906, and the lowest R4 in April, June, July, August, September and October, 1905.

In imports of other mineral oils, mainly for lubricating, there was an increase from 7,441,100 to 10,157,326 gallons, while a further 3,520,316 gallons were received from Burma.

The imports of Fuel oil, this year distinguished for the first time, amounted to 716,306 gallons with a value of R30,201. This description was formerly included under the heading other kinds of mineral oils. The chief sources are Borneo and, as *entrepôt*, the Straits Settlements. The receipts in Bombay fell from 727,370 gallons to 436,774 gallons, while 613,007 gallons were received at Karachi.

OILS.

Exports.

Oils (animal, essential, mineral and vegetable) showed in 1905-06 a decline of 18·4 per. cent. on the exports of the previous year and represented a total value of only R81·78 lakhs as against R100·31 lakhs in 1904-05. The greatest falling-off was in mineral oils, the exports of which fell away by some 2,460,864 gallons and R11,71,636. But that this was due to no lack of activity in the industry is shown by the facts that the shipments of kerosene from Burma to other Indian ports increased by 4,886,777 gallons and R23,77,218 or about 10 per cent. and that the average declared value per gallon in the foreign exports rose from annas 7-9 to annas 8 per gallon. This is to be attributed to the arrangement now established between the various oil interests that have hitherto been in acute conflict in the Eastern markets.

Exports of paraffin wax, which is classed as oil, increased by 4·9 per cent. to R11·68 lakhs, while the trade in candles produced from petroleum increased in quantity by about 79·2 per cent and attained the substantial figure of 6,009,000 lbs with a value of R16·5 lakhs.

Vegetable oils have fallen away by 13·5 per cent. to R53,99,475. Cocoanut with a total value of R22,26,673 declined by R6·91 lakhs, which is more than accounted for in Madras alone. Some 10 per cent. of this is offset by a small increase of castor oil to R17·12 lakhs, but it was augmented by a loss of R 2·18 lakhs in linseed, mustard, til, etc.

HIDES AND SKINS.

Trade in 1905-06 has been attended by several very marked movements in prices; and the hide and leather trades have furnished some of the most marked examples. The very great consumption of leather during the Japanese war and the extensive employment of certain classes of goods in industries that are now active, have depleted stocks and induced an enhancement of the European hide prices ranging generally from about 25 per cent. to 60 per cent. The all-round increase in price is indicated by the fact that Britain's imports of leather in 1905 showed a quantitative decline of 13,553 cwts. with an increase of £29,104 in value. The Indian exports of hides and skins did not share in the rise of value to anything like this extent; but comparison of the quantities and values exported in 1904-05 and in 1905-06 shows that the average value per cwt. of hides rose from R52-4-8 to R55-7-0 or 8·6 per cent. and that of skins fell from R91-1-6 to R90-7-1 or ·7 per cent. At the same time the trade was greatly stimulated and the exports of raw hides rose by 33·1 per cent. in weight and 41·1 per cent. in value. The exports of skins increased in number by 38·4 per cent. over those of the previous year, and in value by 46 per cent. An improvement in average weight is marked by the fact that the total weight increased 47·1 per cent. as compared with the above 38·4 per cent. The number of hides and skins together amounted to $43\frac{1}{5}$ millions with a value of no less than R1,011·9 lakhs. This represents 6·4 per cent. of the entire exports of Indian produce and places the trade among the most important. Of the total 76·6 per cent. were shipped from Calcutta, and of that total the United States took nearly 43 per cent. or R432·46 lakhs, while Germany came second with R216·48 lakhs, and thereafter Italy with R84·67 lakhs, Austria-Hungary with R68·28 lakhs, France with 58·61 lakhs and Spain with R30·06 lakhs. The predominance of the United States (where there has been such a shortage in leather supplies as to create a movement for abolition of the duties) was mainly in skins, of which from Calcutta alone she took 266,598 cwts. out of a total of 347,238 cwts.

Both in France and the United Kingdom the demand for skins has greatly gained in strength—the former country having taken 30,854 cwts. against 14,183 in in the previous year, and the United Kingdom 27,456 cwts. in place of 17,978.

Exports of 5 years.

	Hides.		Skins.	
	No.	R	No.	R
1901-02	7,972,097	2,87,99,134	20,810,676	2,69,67,253
1902-03	8,210,524	3,01,76,046	18,820,523	2,51,93,622
1903-04	8,261,198	3,16,75,395	19,634,429	2,66,86,740
1904-05	8,722,520	3,70,87,322	22,889,526	3,34,58,063
1905-06	11,531,809	5,23,37,942	31,672,298	4,88,50,995

All the auguries are that the "pinch" in leather is likely to be felt for some time to come and an attempt is being made in the home boot trade to exact an uniform 20 per cent. increase of price in order that the expedient of lowering quality may not be resorted to.

Exports.

The unprecedented activity in the leather trade of the world during the twelve months under review has occasioned a remarkable increase in the quantity of hides exported and a notable rise in the average values of both hides and skins. The exports of hides increased from cwts. 123,390 with a value of Rs. 82·52 lakhs to cwts. 201,982 with a value of Rs. 154·8 lakhs. These figures mark an advance of 63·7% in quantity, 87·6% in value and of 14·6% in average value in addition to that of 14% recorded in 1904-05. The only year in which the hide exports of 1905-06 were exceeded was 1900-01, when drought occasioned great mortality among the cattle; but on that occasion the average value per cwt. of hides stood at Rs. 57-10-0 as compared with Rs. 76-10-3 in 1905-06. Quantitatively the export of skins was less than in 1904-05; but the decline of about 1·2% was accompanied by a rise in total value of 3·1%. The average value per cwt. of skins in 1905-06 was Rs. 151-14-3 as compared with Rs. 140-10-6 in 1900-01. It must, however, be borne in mind that these two classes of hides and skins comprise many diverse qualities and, that these vary in relative quantity from year: to year so that it is not permissible to regard these fluctuations in average value with such reliance as is warranted in the case of a single article or a homogeneous and constant group of articles. The exports during the past six years have been:—

	Hides.		Skins.	
	cwt	Rs.	cwt.	Rs.
1900-01	254,755	1,46,80,048	215,148	3,02,61,805
1901 02	134,249	76,70,877	132,193	1,88,69,584
1902-03	107,879	62,84,922	149,299	2,26,96,944
1903-04	102,625	61,45,989	161,869	2,48,42,770
1904-05	123,390	82,52,052	139,214	2,02,65,121
1905-06	201,982	1,54,80,070	137,613	2,09,02,133

Of hides, Madras exported 88% of the total.

In the absence of any protective tariff the United Kingdom continues to take the grater part of the tanned hides and skins; but in the past year America has taken a considerably larger share of the hides, and Britain's percentage in this department has declined from 80 to 77·5% while in skins it has advanced from 90 to 93·6%, this being ascribed to the demand for motor padding and clothing. As illustrating the extent to which transhipment of hides is made from the United Kingdom to America, it may be mentioned that report of the British Consul at Chicago for 1905 records 27,269 tons received from India, 22,960 tons from United Kingdom and 33,611 tons from South America.

COAL.

There were, at the end of the year 1905-06, 47 companies engaged in mining for coal in India, working with a nominal capital of Rs. 2,88,54,500, of which Rs. 2,26,13,248 had been paid up. Forty-six of these companies conducted their operations in Bengal, their nominal capital amounting to Rs. 2,87,04,500; the other company was in Burma. The first coal mine in India was opened in Bengal in 1820. For 20 years this was the only mine at work in India, and there was hardly any progress after that until the construction of railways began, and the East Indian Railway in 1854 passed through coal fields. In the beginning, however, Indian railways not only consumed comparatively little coal, but depended to a large extent for their supplies upon the United Kingdom. With the construction of mills and factories in Western India and in the neighbourhood of Calcutta the demand for Indian coal grew apace. Indian factories now work almost entirely with Indian coal, and Indian railways have reduced their demands for foreign coal to a minimum, whilst Indian coal is being taken yearly in greater quantities by ships trading to Indian ports.

The increase in output from the beginning, and particularly during the last 20 years, has been steady with but few set-backs. The output of Indian coal in 1885 was 1,294,221 tons. In 1904 the production had risen to 8,216,706 tons, and it stood in 1905 at 8,417,739 tons, the increase being one of 5·35 per cent. in 20 years and 2·45 per cent. in the last twelve months.

In 1905-06 the exports of coal and coke exceeded all records in respect of both quantity and value. The largest quantity previously shipped had been 594,832 tons in 1904-05, and the largest value of shipments was Rs. 59·39 lakhs in 1900-01. The record attained in 1905-06 was 837,251 tons with a value of Rs. 65·8 lakhs, which figures exceed those for 1904-05 by 40·7 per cent. in quantity and 41·4 per cent. in value. The average value was Rs. 7·864

per ton against Rs. 7·81 in 1904-05, and Rs. 10·97 in 1900-01.

Ceylon continues in the first place as buyer of Indian coal and its shipments made a further advance of 6,297 tons, bringing its total to 381,051 tons against 374,754 in the previous year. Straits Settlements have made a great stride in the past twelve months and took 235,429 tons against 143,729 in 1904-05.

Exports to Sumatra also continued to increase and show 35,227 tons against 30,802. The trade with Aden, which fell away by one-third in 1904-05, has this year recovered to some extent and stands at 29,312 tons, but in shipments to East Africa the decline is maintained and these are little more than half what they stood at in the previous year.

All but 1,600 tons of the exports went from Calcutta and in addition to that ports foreign exports no less than 2,012,546 tons were shipped to other Indian ports, this representing an increase of about 12·7 per cent. (53 per cent. of the total going to Bombay). Exports of bunker coal for use on steamers rose from 770,589 tons to 851,639.

INDIGO.

DISCUSSION continues regarding the relative merits of natural and synthetic indigo and the possibility that the former can survive. Meantime the laws that are debated continue to operate, and the statistics of the trade almost suggest that before the disputants desist the subject of their difference as a "serious" article of commerce may have disappeared.

	From Calcutta.	From Madras.	From other ports.	Total.	Value.
	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwts.	Cwt.	R
1895-96	111,714	62,425	13,198	187,337	5,35,45,112
1896-97	109,001	43,680	16,842	169,523	4,87,07,570
1897-98	71,364	48,165	14,320	133,849	3,05,74,019
1898-99	81,779	42,760	10,648	135,187	2,97,04,781
1899-1900	58,078	39,853	12,489	111,420	2 60,25,107
1900-01	71,637	18,940	11,914	102,491	2,13 59,808
1901-02	55,038	25,490	9,312	89,750	1,85 22,554
1902-03	29,403	32,242	3,732	65,377	1,20 56,819
1903-04	29,858	24,414	6,138	60,410	1,07,62,026
1904-05	30,029	11,901	7,322	49,252	83,46,073
1905-06	19,062	7,756	4,368	31,186	58,63,777

The total exports from India in 1905-06 amounted to only 31,186 cwts. with a value of R58·63 lakhs. Ten years before they were 187,337 cwts. with a value of R535·45 lakhs. Therefore in ten years there has been a loss of 83·26 % in quantity, and in value a decline of 89·05% the difference between these percentages marking a decline in specific value. In 1895-96, the average value was R285·8 per cwt. In 1905-06 it was R188 per cwt. The loss is one of R97·8 or 34%. In 1904-05 the quantity exported was 49,252 cwts. and the value R83·46 lakhs. On these figures the totals for 1905-06 mark a decline of 36·7 per cent. in quantity and 29·7 per cent. in value. The average value in the earlier year was Rs. 169·6 per cwt., so that there has been a recovery of about 7 per cent. in price. This was the result of a really stronger demand induced in home markets by the contraction of supply, and it was reflected in London where, during the year 1905, a rise of 9*d.* a lb was recorded. This is the first movement that has seemed to suggest the possibility that bottom has been touched so far as concerns those few purposes for which indigo possesses a recognised advantage over the artificial dye. The exports to the United Kingdom fell away no less than 30 per cent., and the Continent also took less han in the previous year. Egypt still retains first place but with a lead so diminished as to bring it behind the figures attained by United Kingdom even last year; while direct exports to Persia have shrunk by 55·9 per cent The United States took only 1,530 cwts. instead of 4,334 in the previous year. Only a negligible revival has appeared in the Japan trade in which the natural article continues to be handicapped in relation to the synthetic dye by the quantitative assessment of both to import duty without regard to the higher tinctorial strength of the latter. The recovery brought the quantity exported to Japan to only 242 cwts, with a value of Rs 47,506.

And while the past year has been marked in Germany by an agreement between the chief manufacturers for the purpose of the more effectual prosecution of the rival industry, in India it has seen such a further contraction of indigo cultivation as appears to indicate an indisposition on the part of planters to await the issue of the academic discussion that has been referred to above. The area under indigo in Bengal, United Provinces, Punjab and Madras in December last was 380,663 acres as against 476,949 in the previous year. In the previous five years the area averaged 833,742 acres and in the previous ten years 1,112,661. Much of the ground that used to be under indigo has now been turned over to cotton, which offers a fairly constant market, and to sundry experimental cultures like rubber, flax, etc. The most interesting of the experiments now in hand is that with the Java-Natal seed. It is stated on good authority that some 2,000 acres have been placed under that crop by various planters, and the results of this year ought to show whether it is possible to maintain the high percentage of indigotine obtained from the earlier samples tested. A very great deal will depend on that issue.

TOBACCO.

Exports.

THE unmanufactured tobacco exported from India consists largely of leaf intended for the *hookah* or *narghili*, and not destined for processes of manufacture. Aden has in past years taken large quantities of this leaf, partly because the port is an *entrepôt* of the trade in fine Arabian Tumbeki, and has therefore afforded an outlet for various qualities. The British duty is prohibitive as regards unmanufactured Indian leaf, but certain conditions that have arisen in the home trade in recent years make it just possible that light coloured grades of this article might be used seeing that more than 2,000,000 lbs. go to Holland every year. The exports of unmanufactured descriptions have grown in quantity by 6·3 per cent. and in value by nearly 12 per cent. In the manufactured class—which consists mainly of cigars—the increase has been a substantial one of about 10 per cent. in quantity and about 12·1 per cent. in value, but both in quantity and value it still falls short of the record of 1902-03.

The figures of the trade during the last three years are :—

	Unmanufactured.		Manufactured.	
	Cwt.	Rs.	Cwt.	Rs.
1903-04 .	101,500	12,86,241	9,207	8,10,438
1904-05 .	109,968	12,56,950	9,497	8,24,320
1905-06 .	116,886	14,07,241	10,543	9,33,196

Imports.

The increase in the importation of cigarettes of the cheaper descriptions is maintained, and that importation continues to be the only progressive feature of the tobacco trade. Ten years ago the imported cigarette was scarcely known to the native community. In 1905-06, in spite of an agitation for preference of the indigenous article, the imports represented some 3,119,047 lbs. or about 1,040 million cigarettes, while the value amounted to Rs. 45 lakhs. This marks an increase of 23·8 per cent. on the large total quantity recorded in 1904-05, and of 167·6 per cent. in the course of the six years since the article was first distinguished statistically. Of the total of Rs. 45 lakhs, Rs. 28·25 lakhs came from the United Kingdom, Rs. 11·4 lakhs from the United States, Rs. 1·5 lakh from Japan, Straits Settlements and the Treaty Ports of China, and only Rs. 3·13 lakhs from Egypt. This last represents the best qualities and the only class of cigarette in which a contraction had taken place. The average value per lb. from each of the sources was.—British Re. 1-8-10, American Re. 1-1-6, Egyptian Rs. 6-4-3 and Eastern 13 annas, the value per 1,000 being roughly three times the value per lb.

The total value of imported tobacco increased by 18 per cent. to Rs. 65·98 lakhs.

COTTON ACREAGE AND CONDITION, U. S. A.

June 1st, 1906.

A CLEARLY defined tendency to increase the area devoted to cotton is says the *Statist* the feature in the cotton-growing States of the American Union in the current spring. This is the result of the marked reduction in yield from last season's planting, of the enlarged spinning demand and of the remunerative prices received for the staple the past season. At the same time the adding to area has been carried on along comparatively conservative lines.

Seed has been put in this spring under fairly favourable conditions; growing conditions have thus far also been quite propitious, though recently there is a decided lack of moisture in the south-west which is certainly injuring wheat. A favourable circumstance not to be overlooked is the more extensive use of fertilizers than ever before. But of course the vicissitudes of the summer and fall are yet to be encountered. Notwithstanding this, so-called estimates of the probable yield are already current. The folly of guessing at the crop thus early is apparent, yet when the guesses come from prominent sources they receive a certain amount of credence. The possibility of an ideal season can be stated. The heaviest average yield per acre on record for the whole Southern States was 240 lbs. in 1898-99, which applied to present area would give a crop of approximately 15,000,000 bales: on the other hand the smallest average production during the decade 1896-97 to 1905-06, inclusive, was 169 in 1903-04, upon which basis the current season's outturn would reach only about 11,000,000 bales. With such extremes we have presented to the imagination a wide field for the exercise of the guessing faculty—a field which we presume will be as usual fully occupied during the summer.

CONCLUSIONS.

From the details by States we sum up our conclusions briefly as follows :—

First, Acreage.—As we have already inferred, there is no reason to question that the tendency in 1906 has been decidedly towards increased acreage. As already said, no other result, in view of the conditions at the time of planting, could have been expected. Remunerative prices for the staple and the need by the world of spinners for increasing supplies from this country (the only country from which any appreciable augmentation in yield can be looked for at present) furnished the necessary incentive to planters. Under such circumstances efforts to restrict area which were put forth this year, as last year, were foredoomed to fail. Additions are general, every cotton-growing State reporting a heavier planting than a year ago. In most States, however, as a rule this year's increases do not fully wipe out the 1905 reductions. But in new sections the gains have in some cases been noteworthy. The greatest percentages of excess have been in Oklahoma, 18 per cent.; Indian Territory, 20 per cent. and Texas, 12 per cent. We do not claim this year, nor have we on any

other similar occasion, claimed absolute accuracy for the State percentages in the subjoined compilation. Such a result could be reached only by an actual census. It is our belief, however, that our figures not only show the direction of the tendency, but are approximately correct. The changes as we have made them up are shown in the appended statement.

States.	Acreage, 1905.	Estimated for 1906.		
		Increase.	Decrease.	Acres, 1906.
Virginia	33,675	5 per cent.	...	35,359
North Carolina	1,079,473	5 per cent.	...	1,133,447
South Carolina	2,339,480	6 per cent.	...	2,479,849
Georgia	4,090,977	7 per cent.	...	4,377,345
Florida	301,536	5 per cent.	...	316,613
Alabama	4,168,000	9 per cent.	...	4,543,120
Mississippi	3,204,185	11 per cent.	...	3,556,646
Louisiana	1,541,373	8 per cent.	...	1,664,683
Texas	7,222,503	12 per cent.	...	8,873,203
Tennessee	740,442	6 per cent.	...	784,868
Arkansas	1,806,985	6 per cent.	...	1,915,404
Indian Territory	860,630	20 per cent.	..	1,032,756
Oklahoma	660,978	18 per cent.	...	779,954
Missouri	58,178	10 per cent.	...	63,993
Total	28,808,415	9·54 per cent.	...	31,557,242

This compilation shows that there is a net increase compared with 1905 of 9·54 per cent., the total acreage reaching 31,557,242 acres in 1906 against 28,808,415 acres in 1905. We add the acreage for previous years for comparison, giving at the foot of the table not only the acreage, but the total crop for each year, with the percentage of increase or decrease in area or production compared with the previous year and the praduct per acre.

Cotton acreage for the years named —(oooos. omitted).

	1905-06.	1904-05.	1903-04.	1902-03.	1901-02.
Virginia	34	37	34	32	32
North Carolina	1,079	1,241	1,118	1,075	1,119
South Carolina	2,339	2,659	2,417	2,324	2,371
Georgia	4,091	4,546	4,170	3,972	4,053
Florida	302	328	318	295	281
Alabama	4,168	4,342	3,911	3,622	3,734
Mississippi	3,204	3,683	3,348	3,219	3,295
Louisiana	1,541	1,732	1,560	1,530	1,545
Texas	7,923	9,106	8,131	7,599	7,834
Arkansas	1,807	2,101	1,964	1,852	1,890
Tennessee	740	841	732	690	727
Indian Territory	861	956	765	637	590
Oklahoma	661	728	469	397	361
Missouri, etc.	58	66	59	56	62
Total acreage	28,808	32,364	28,996	27,300	27,874
Total production	...	13,557	10,124	10,758	10,701
Increase in acreage	(a) 10·99%	11·62%	6·21%	(a) 2·06%	5·05%
Increase in production	...	33·9%	(a) 5·89%	0·53%	2·65%
Product per acre	...	207	169	192	186

(a) Decree.

Second.—With regard to **maturity**, cultivation and condition, the conclusions we reach are as follows :—

(1) In **maturity** this crop is on June 1 about an average one, and therefore on the whole in advance of a year ago. There have been the usual complaints of cold weather and excess of rain, or lack of it, from States at times, but the really adverse influences seem to have been less harmful than in 1905. The frosts of May 8th to 11th were the most important unfavourable factor of this year, but the damage resulting therefrom was largely, if not wholly, confined to the northern part of the belt, particularly North Carolina. Moreover, where the plant was killed or permanently injured almost the full area affected was replanted. Since the passing of the frost period the weather has on the whole been about as desired, giving satisfactory development and a healthy plant quite generally. Very recently a drought in the south-west began to be a feature in the wheat market; but cotton has not suffered to any important extent from that cause.

(2) **Cultivation** has been satisfactorily attended to throughout the cotton region despite the reported scarcity of labour. Wet weather did at times hamper the work in some districts west of the Mississippi River and to a limited extent elsewhere, but conditions during the greater part of May have favoured planters and fields are now well clear of foreign vegetation. As already said, a feature of the current season has been the efforts of planters to enhance productiveness of the soil by a liberal use of commercial fertilizers. Never before have they been so extensively used, and this season in localities where they have heretofore been considered not essential, we find a disposition to give them a trial.

(3) Condition of the plant, as may be gathered from what has been stated, is on June 1 quite favourable as a whole. Stands are good generally and the outlook promising for a satisfactory yield on the area planted provided fair average seasons are experienced during the summer and fall. Evidently unfavorable conditions, particularly a protracted drought, would considerably mar the present favorable situation, and an early killing frost would serve to cut down the yield appreciably.

NEW REFERENCE BOOKS.

PRINCIPES D'ECONOMIE POLITIQUE.
By Gustave Schmollèr, professeur à l' Université de Berlin. Deuxieme, partie t. III. Translated from the German by Leon Polack, professeur d'Université, 1 vol. in 8 de 611 pages, Pàris, Giard et Briére, éditeurs, 16, rue Suffiot, Paris, 1906; broché 10 francs, relié 11 francs. Bibliotheque internationale d'economie politique, public sous la direction de Alfred Bonnet.

COMPTABILITTÉ DES SOCIÉTÉS PAR ACTIONS.
By E. Oberle, Directeur gérant de la Société Francaise pour l' Industrie des Liéges, Paris-Odessa. (Fr. 7o) Editeur: Verlag der modernen kaufmannischen Bibliothek (vorm. Dr. iur Ludwig Huberti) G. M. B. H., Leipzig-R., Eilenburgersta. 10-11 (Allemagne).

INDIAN SEA-BORNE TRADE.

The following table gives the summary of the Sea-borne Trade, import and export, of British India, for the month of May 1906, and for the two months, 1st April to 31st May 1906, as compared with the corresponding period for the years 1904 and 1905.

	Month of May			Two months 1st April to 31st May		
	1904	1905	1906	1904	1905	1906
IMPORTS—						
Merchandise, Private—	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹	₹
Bengal	2,93,85,980	3,17,21,307	3,45,33,714	5,63,18,212	6,11,34,294	6,84,85,039
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	2,44,149	(a)	(a)	4,62,702
Bombay	2,66,57,788	3,04,74,120	3,17,23,192	5,27,30,216	5,44,89,814	5,79,63,018
Sind	46,71,767	77,73,914	88,12,327	1,09,52,633	1,38,29,521	1,77,10,552
Madras	69,34,890	84,32,423	70,28,879	1,20,87,892	1,52,34,259	1,40,65,694
Burma	79,35,444	63,42,937	73,66,773	1,43,84,995	1,25,34,909	1,44,48,295
Total	7,55,85,869	8,47,44,701	8,97,09,034	14,64,73,948	15,72,22,797	17,31,35,300
Ditto, Government Stores	84,40,867	99,35,156	90,99,194	1,48,00,980	2,01,07,460	1,74,12,001
Total Merchandise	8,40,26,736	9,46,79,857	9,88,08,228	16,12,74,928	17,73,30,257	19,05,47,301
Treasure, Private						
Bengal	87,60,553	44,30,763	29,84,908	1,70,59,497	83,22,468	45,17,235
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	...	(a)	(a)	6,083
Bombay	2,44,82,191	91,30,720	1,38,41,998	4,31,45,969	2,21,48,606	2,65,42,086
Sind	6,25,048	7,34,007	2,98,771	9,74,043	9,62,616	3,53,857
Madras	2,15,224	3,64,077	7,36,698	7,83,482	6,17,627	10,16,573
Burma	4,14,875	47,708	46,757	6,07,470	50,203	2,89,790
Total	3,44,97,891	1,47,07,275	1,79,09,132	6,25,70,461	3,21,01,525	3,27,25,624
Ditto, Government	35,875	14,288	1,19,66,904	2,86,544	33,93,361	2,94,73,637
Total Treasure	3,45,33,766	1,47,21,563	2,98,76,036	6,46,57,005	3,54,94,886	6,21,99,261
Grand Total of Imports	11,85,60,502	10,94,01,420	12,86,84,264	22,59,31,933	21,28,25,143	25,27,46,562
EXPORTS—						
Merchandise, Private—						
(*Foreign Merchandise*)—						
Bengal	6,48,958	1,76,796	2,01,551	7,75,246	4,00,040	4,00,479
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	...	(a)	(a)	...
Bombay	20,99,460	23,94,740	24,79,909	42,29,842	42,84,056	50,87,619
Sind	2,46,208	4,46,236	4,50,248	4,91,417	5,74,106	6,33,503
Madras	55,379	68,195	2,73,647	1,43,072	1,39,638	4,20,190
Burma	23,812	63,018	1,10,356	48,561	92,113	1,56,677
Total	30,73,817	31,48,985	35,15,701	56,88,138	54,89,953	66,98,468
(*Indian Merchandise*)—						
Bengal	4,06,81,330	4,23,25,275	4,61,41,575	7,95,36,573	8,38,16,720	9,60,70,783
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	...	(a)	(a)	800
Bombay	4,60,43,965	4,12,27,421	4,29,63,973	9,27,46,503	8,06,18,910	8,40,41,923
Sind	94,37,596	1,12,21,958	1,49,07,510	2,24,54,496	1,83,70,454	2,25,56,622
Madras	1,53,10,177	1,50,41,543	1,70,28,801	2,87,30,298	2,90,27,211	3,41,89,071
Burma	1,40,68,551	1,10,76,902	1,44,49,448	3,22,00,164	3,16,01,416	4,20,33,904
Total	12,55,41,619	12,08,93,099	13,54,91,307	25,53,71,032	24,44,34,709	27,89,13,103
Total Foreign and Indian Merchandise exported—						
Bengal	4,13,30,288	4,25,02,071	4,63,43,126	8,03,11,819	8,42,16,760	9,64,71,262
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	...	(a)	(a)	800
Bombay	4,81,43,425	4,36,22,161	4,54,43,882	9,69,76,345	8,49,02,966	8,91,29,542
Sind	96,83,804	1,16,68,194	1,53,57,748	2,26,48,913	1,99,44,558	2,31,90,125
Madras	1,53,65,556	1,51,09,738	1,73,02,448	2,88,73,370	2,91,66,849	3,46,09,261
Burma	1,40,92,363	1,11,39,920	1,55,59,804	3,22,48,723	3,16,93,529	4,22,10,581
Total	12,86,15,436	12,40,42,084	14,00,07,008	26,10,59,170	24,99,24,662	28,56,11,571
Ditto, Government Stores	2,53,268	95,965	65,870	3,68,340	1,71,057	1,40,046
Total Merchandise	12,88,68,704	12,41,38,049	14,00,72,878	26,14,27,510	25,00,95,719	28,57,51,617
Treasure, Private—						
Bengal	16,826	97,500	9,32,635	5,68,611	2,22,500	29,67,211
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	...	(a)	(a)	...
Bombay	85,95,257	36,51,607	51,15,807	1,52,17,937	76,20,296	1,29,36,291
Sind	67,260	32,601	1,37,550	1,25,335	62,601	2,12,550
Madras	17,50,000	...	2,000	22,50,000	...	3,02,000
Burma	...	500	4,000	...	1,500	6,640
Total	1,04,29,343	37,82,208	61,91,992	1,81,61,883	79,06,897	1,64,24,692
Ditto, Government	...	...	24,000	6,200	5,000	26,250
Total Treasure	1,04,29,343	37,82,208	62,15,992	1,81,68,083	79,11,897	1,64,50,942
Grand Total of Exports	13,92,98,047	12,79,20,257	14,62,88,870	27,95,95,593	25,80,07,616	30,22,02,559
Gross Amount of Import Duty Collected, *including Salt*	63,76,593	57,46,138	60,88,294	1,23,25,063	1,10,34,527	1,18,70,802
Ditto, Export Duty, Collected	11,63,706	8,37,459	10,97,475	25,82,870	24,23,159	29,14,263

(a) Included with Bengal.

RETAIL PRICES.

The following are the Retail Prices of certain food-grains and salt at selected stations for the second-half of May 1906. (Prices are stated in annas, etc., per ser.)

	Rice, common.	Wheat.	Barley.	Jawar.	Bajra.	Ragi.	Gram.	Salt.
BURMA—	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.
Rangoon	1 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 10
Toungoo	1 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 6
EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM—								
Rangpur	1 9	1 5	...	...	...	...	...	1 2
Backerganj	2 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 3
BENGAL—								
Calcutta	2 0	1 5	...	...	...	..	...	1 4
Patna	1 5	1 3	0 11	...	...	...	...	1 0
UNITED PROVINCES—								
Cawnpur	...	1 3	1 0	...	1 2	...	1 1	1 0
Fyzabad	...	1 4	1 0	...	...	...	1 1	1 2
Meerut	...	1 1	0 10	1 3	1 6	...	1 0	0 11
PUNJAB—								
Delhi	,,	1 2	1 0	...	...	...	1 1	1 0
Amritsar		0 11	0 8	1 4	1 1	...	0 10	0 10
Rawal Pindi	...	1 1	0 9	1 2	1 3	...	1 0	0 9
SIND—								
Karachi	...	1 4	...	0 11	1 2	...	1 3	0 9
BOMBAY—								
Belgaum	...	2 3	...	1 5	1 4	...	...	1 0
Ahmadnagar	...	1 7	...	1 1	1 3	...	...	0 11
Bombay	...	1 7	...	1 4	1 4	...	...	1 2
Ahmadabad	...	1 7	...	1 3	1 7	...	...	0 10
CENTRAL PROVINCES—								
Jubbulpore	...	1 2	...	...	...	...	1 1	1 3
Nagpur	1 7	1 3	...	1 3	...	...	1 5	1 3
Raipur	1 5	1 2	...	...	...	...	1 2	1 2
MADRAS—								
Bellary	2 0	...	...	1 3	...	1 2	...	1 1
Madras	2 0	...	...	...	...	1 3	...	0 9
Salem	2 0	...	...	1 4	1 7	1 2	...	1 1

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.

For the week ending 30th June 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign—Imports by sea into	Calcutta lbs.	226,319
	Bombay ,,	126,680
	Madras ,,	458,695
Indian—Exports by sea from	Calcutta ,,	100,800
	Bombay ,,	2,839,300
	Madras ,,	...

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	15,758,146
	Bombay ,,	3,502,386
	Karachi ,,	1,421,291
	Madras ,,	2,749,033
	Rangoon ,,	144,118

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	2,314,453
	Bombay ,,	2,607,682
	Karachi ,,	2,549,096
	Madras ,,	624,394
	Rangoon ,,	570,605

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	2,465,951
	Bombay ,,	2,201,141
	Karachi ,,	1,880,306
	Madras ,,	1,225,423
	Rangoon ,,	760,874

Piece Goods.

(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta* cwt.†	11,234
	Bombay‡ ,,	6,881
	Karachi ,,	13,177
	Madras ,,	4,121

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea cwt.	2,440
	Coastwise ,,	4,119
	By rail ,,	36,095
Imports into Karachi by rail	,,	3,116
,, ,, Calcutta* by rail and river	,,	4,078

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta*	cwt.	38,310
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags No.	5,518,706
	,, cloth yds.	14,178,700
	Jute cwt.	21,613
Exports by sea from Chittagong	Jute ,,	896

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta*	lbs.	4,141,485
Exports by sea from Calcutta	,,	2,943,614
Exports by sea from Chittagong	,,	2,651,062

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta* by rail and river	cwt.	88,110
	Karachi by rail	,,	491,846
	Bombay by sea	,,	1,075
	Bombay coastwise	,,	14,733
	Bombay by rail	,,	26,226
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	,,	360
	Bombay	,,	19,949
	Karachi	,,	927,891

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta	cwt.	48,157
	Chittagong	,,	...
	Bombay	,,	5,382
	Karachi	,,	16,757
	Madras	,,	...
	Rangoon	,,	184,009

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta* by rail and river	cwt.	41,343
	Bombay by sea	,,	...
	Bombay coastwise	,,	161
	Bombay by rail	,,	13,330
	Karachi by rail	,,	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	,,	94,680
	Bombay	,,	48,658
	Karachi	,,	...

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta* by rail and river	cwt.	37,420
	Bombay by rail	,,	12,811
	Karachi by rail	,,	97,203
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	,,	1,005
	Bombay	,,	28,569
	Karachi	,,	58,158

* B. N. Ry. Shalimar figures not received, † E. B. S. Ry. figures not received, ‡ B. B. and C. I. Ry. figures only.

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 30th JUNE 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From All other foreign countries.	Total.
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
Calcutta	...	635,434	...	635,434
Bombay	...	...	...	...
Karachi	...	...	...	...
Madras	...	...	179,786	179,786

Exports by sea from Burma to		
Bengal	galls.	650,374
E. B. & Assam	,,	...
Bombay	,,	...
Sind	,,	...
Madras	,,	585,391
Indian Ports, Non-Br.	,,	...
Foreign Ports	,,	...

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 30th JUNE 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	4,261	...	29	39	1	146	4,476
Germany	69,150	...	24,491	3,000	...	...	96,641
Austria-Hungary	1,743	...	4,930	...	...	...	6,673
Other European Countries	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Java	...	...	...	...	...	1,977	1,977
Mauritius	...	...	44,791	...	...	...	44,791
Other Non-European Countries	2,124	...	...	...	...	...	2,124
Total refined							156,682
Total unrefined							...
Grand Total cwt.							156,682

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta. [The prices include postage to countries in the Postal Union.]

ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 (2*a*.)

2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a*.)

3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—

Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. R3. (12*a*.)

Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port. R3. (12*a*.)

4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. R2. (7*a*.)

5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a*.)

6. Accounts of Trade of the French Possession in India. As. 3. (1*a*.)

7. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possession in India. As. 2. (1*a*.)

8. Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India. R4. (6*a*.)

9. Report on the Rail-borne and River-borne Trade of Bengal. R4.

10. Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan. R1½.

11. Prices and Wages in India. R1½. (9*a*.)

12. Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India. R4. (12*a*.)

13. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India. R2. (10*a*.)

14. Agricultural Statistics of India. R3½. (12*a*.)
Part I.—British India.
Part II.—Native States.

15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India. As. 5. (2*a*.)

16. Statistics of Mineral Production in India. As. 2, (1*a*.)

QUARTERLY.

17. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

MONTHLY.

18. Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

19. Accounts of the External Land Trade of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

20. Statistics of the Production of Yarn and Woven Goods in the India Cotton Mills. As. 2.

[Amount within parenthesis denotes cost of packing and postage.]

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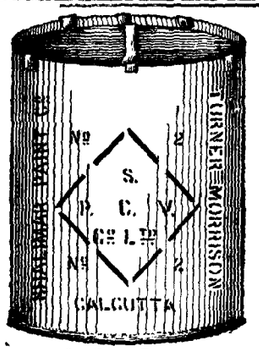
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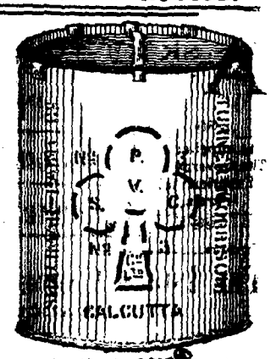
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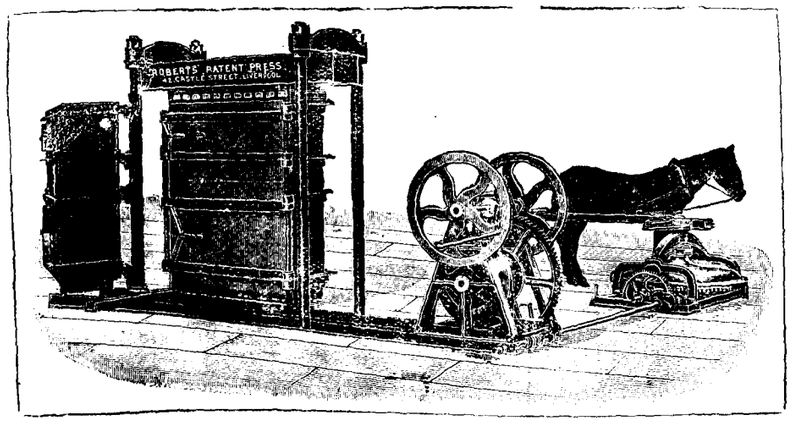
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NOTES.

The Government of India have decided, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, to alter the designation of the "**Gold Standard Reserve**" and to hold a portion of it in silver in India.

It is rumoured that among the proposals which the Chancellor of the Exchequer has been considering for improving the general financial situation is one for the issue of **one-pound notes in** England.

In the Final General Memo. on the **Linseed crop** which was issued on May 31st, the total estimated outturn was correctly given side by side with that for the previous year, but the difference between the two was erroneously stated as a decline instead of an increase.

On the 6th May a **caravan** of 400 camels, laden with cloth, sugar, and other **goods, reached Herat from India** *viâ* the Kain district of Khorasan, and another caravan brought similar merchandise from Russian territory. It is reported that the Indian goods commanded the more ready market of the two.

The British Consul at **Chinkiang** says that the **albumen factory** owned by a Chinese firm did a fair business during the year, the output being 15,536 cwts. of albumen, with prices from 11*l.* 15*s.*

to 4*l.* 4*s.* per cwt, according to quality, and 1,429 cwts. of egg yolk, with price 10*s.* 9*d.* per cwt. Export was chiefly to Germany. Ducks' eggs are solely used in the manufacture.

The **Australian** Commonwealth has concluded a decennial contract with Messrs. Laing of Sunderland for an **accelerated mail service** from Brindisi, which comes into force in February 1908. The steamers will fly the Commonwealth flag and employ white labour. They will call at Port Said, Colombo and Fremantle.

Information, says the *Indian Textile Journal* has been received from the **students** who went in May from **India to Japan** that the authorities of the Tokyo University find it difficult to admit more than two of them every year, and that the terms on which students are admitted to the private factories are not encouraging. The batch of the students which has just reached Tokyo finds it difficult to get room.

The Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence have decided, with the approval of the Board of Trade of the United Kingdom, to despatch a **Commercial Mission to Canada** on the same lines as the missions which have already been undertaken in South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, and other countries. It was arranged that Mr. R. Grigg, the Commissioner appointed, should leave England in pursuance of his mission in the course of a few weeks.

The proposal to establish a **sugar beet factory in Lincolnshire** is said to be making headway, but the suitability of the soil to raise large crops has yet to be ascertained. Free seed has been given to a number of farmers, who are this year devoting part of their land to the sugar beet, and if successful crops result, a sugar factory will be erected. The present experiment is, therefore, extremely important, as on its success will depend the actual beginning of the British sugar-beet industry.

Lord Elgin, opening the **Congress of the Chambers of Commerce** of the Empire, on the 9th July, cordially welcomed two hundred delegates whom he said the Mother-country was proud and gratified to see. He dwelt upon the necessity for steady and persistent effort thereby attaining the common ambition of the United Empire. The Canadian representatives proposed a resolution favouring preferential trade. Sir Ernest Cable of Bengal, in opposing the resolution, said that Indian interests were very different from Canadian and three-fourths of India's export trade was done with foreign countries. He did not object to supporting the resolution if India was excluded. The Bombay delegate supported him.

A letter from the India Office was recently laid before the Board of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce containing the terms of an order which had been issued by the Government of India to the administrations of the various provinces, giving authority to these Governments to undertake the prosecution of offences relating to the **short-reeling of yarns in Indian mills** under certain conditions. These conditions, as already stated in the *Indian Trade Journal*, refer to the preparation of prior statements to enable the Local Government to judge as to the likelihood of successful proceedings, and retain discretionary power for the administrations after review of the circumstances. The matter was remitted to the yarn section for consideration.

When Mr. Lloyd-George, the President of the Board of Trade, received a few weeks ago a deputation from the Manchester and other Chambers of Commerce on the question of the **amendment of the Patent Laws**—more especially on the necessity of annulment of British patents when worked abroad but not worked in England, he undertook to receive a smaller deputation to go into the matter more closely at a later date. The minutes of the Chemical Executive contained the nomination of the following for this interview:—Sir W. H. Holland, M.P., Mr. Ivan Levinstein, Mr. S. W. Royse, Sir Joseph Lawrence, Mr. G. D. Kelley, M.P., and the Secretary. The Executive asked for power to add two others. This was confirmed by the Board.

Saltpetre, together with **Borax,** practically represents the **export of chemicals** from India. The quantity in 1905-06 fell from 348,741 cwts. to 336,429, while the value rose from Rs. 36·25 lakhs to Rs. 38·5 lakhs. The quantitative contraction of 3·5 per cent. in conjunction with a 6·3 per cent. rise in value marks an increase of 10·2 per cent. in the specific value of the article. This only reflects the general tendency in all nitrates as a consequence of the increased consumption and the regulation of the output by the Nitrate Directorate at Iquique.

Borax was exported to the extent of 4,146 cwts. with a value of Rs. ·8 lakh, its average value thus standing some 70 per cent. higher than that of Saltpetre.

The Indian Imports of Drugs and Medicines, which represented Rs. 70·74 in 1904-05, fell back in 1905-06 to Rs. 67·57 lakhs or slightly less than the figure at which they stood in 1903-04. Camphor was received to a total value of Rs. 13·38 lakhs as compared with Rs. 16·17 lakhs in the previous year. This represents a decline of 17 per cent. in value as against a quantitative decline of 40 per cent.; so that the average value per lb. which rose 17 per cent. in 1904-05 rose by a further 37 per cent. in 1905-06. On the other hand, the average value of quinine declined as much as 55 per cent. with the effect that the imports while showing an increase of 112·6 per cent. in quantity marked a fall of 5·5 per cent. in value to Rs. 6·5 lakhs. Proprietary and patent medicines are now distinguished from "other sorts" for the first time and show a value of Rs. 12·54 lakhs. Other sorts represent Rs. 24·79 lakhs only, but this figure in combination with that for proprietary and patent medicines marks an advance on 1904-05.

His Majesty's Consul-General at Galatz (Lieutenant-Colonel Trotter, C.B.) makes a report that ought to interest the jute and gunny industry. It seems that an attempt is about to be made by an Austro-Hungarian firm to utilise the **reeds and rushes** of the Danube delta in the **manufacture of sacks.** It is said that very successful experiments have been made with a view of producing cloth suitable for sacks from these products, and that the firm in question have arranged to spend 40,000*l.* in the construction of a factory either at Galatz or in the delta for the manufacture of this article. Similar experiments have been made in the past, but without satisfactory results.

His Majesty's Consul at Bordeaux reports that an interesting novelty was placed upon the Bordeaux market at the beginning of 1906, in the shape of a **small low-speed essence engine for farm purposes,** such as pumping, straw-cutting or any other farm or domestic requirement for a handy motor; these engines, running at 300 revolutions per minute instead of the 1,500 to 2,000 revolutions of the ordinary French engine, are particularly adapted to use by the peasantry. The 2-horse-power engine of this class can be sold retail in Bordeaux for 800 fr. (32*l.*). It can also be furnished with a self-igniting apparatus in the shape of a small dynamo. Many uses for such a machine could be found in India.

One hears from time to time of the scarcity of labour in the cotton fields of the United States consequent on the labourers preferring to work in the mills, but the H. B. Claflin Company in their *Dry Goods Circular* confirm other reports that in the **American mill industry** too labour is lacking. It is suggested that the starting of new machinery is delayed on this account, and that there will be a great scramble for home-trade goods unless some of the makers for export who are now running out of orders can change to these. Neither for China nor the minor markets is there any considerable business, but prices continue firm on the whole, and Messrs. Claflin remark that it is not easy to talk prices down without over-production.

In addition to the **Joint-stock Companies** registered in the quarter ending the 31st March 1906, shown in the list published in our issue of the 10th May 1906, information has been received of the registration of the following Company in Eastern Bengal and Assam:—

Name.	Situation of registered office.	Object.	Nominal capital.	Paid up capital.
			R	*R*
Pabna Chilpa Pabna Sanjibani Co.	Pabna	Furtherance of indigenous industries and trading in country-made goods and lending money.	2,00,000	...

La Nature of June 2 gives an account of the causes which have probably brought about the a **present scarcity of manganese;** the prices of which have, in a very few months, risen about 50 per cent. Of the total annual output of this mineral, amounting to about 1,050,000 tons in 1904, no less than 420,000 tons were produced from Russian mines, and the political disturbances in that country have led to a great reduction in the stocks. There are two main sources of supply in Russia, the mines of Donetz and those to the south of the Caucasus at Darkveti-Tchiatoura, from which latter the principal export takes place. The mineral is found throughout this region in the tablelands traversed by the river Kyirili and its tributaries, which have excavated deep valleys through the inter-stratified beds of calcareous soil. The manganese is found near the surface and is readily quarried, but its transport to the coast entails great labour and difficulty and is effected on the backs of horses and camels.

The Canadian Engineer under the heading **"Can Iron Grow"** quotes a description of new process for which the Franklin Institute has awarded the Elliot Cresson Gold Medal, and which shows that **iron can be made to grow.** The process is described as consisting in heating and cooling the bar of iron which it is intended to magnify to a "critical" temperature a number of times. The results are spoken of as extraordinary. It is said two bars of iron, cast in one mould, were presented for critical inspection to the Mechanical Science Section of the American Association. One bar remained exactly as cast. The companion bar had been caused to grow gradually in cubical dimensions till it is now 46 per cent. larger than the other, the weight remaining the same as before expansion.

Both bars were machined on one side to show the texture and metallic appearance, and it was difficult to detect any change, except the very apparent difference in size. Important **practical applications**, it is declared, have already been found for this remarkable discovery.

The following is a brief summary of India's **Import trade in Silk** in 1905-06 :—The crops in France, Hungary and the Levant were good, and with the heavy stocks from the 1904 campaign silk prices in April 1905 were low. But towards September they rose greatly as a result of bad reports from Italy and Japan and a revival of demand in America and Russia. The average prices were perceptibly higher than in 1904. The imports into India receded from 1,858,700 lbs. with a value of Rs. 73·41 lakhs (which had marked a rise of 24 per cent. on the figures of the previous year) to 1,645,700 lbs. with a value of Rs. 71·19 lakhs. The fall in total value was, therefore, one of 3 per cent., although the average value rose by 9·4 per cent., that is to say from Rs. 3-15-3 to Rs. 4-5-2 per lb. Of the above total of Rs. 71·19 lakhs, Bombay took Rs. 57·9 lakhs and Burma Rs. 13·1 lakhs. Direct imports from China, at 1,356,912 lbs., were short of the previous year's figures by 107,489 lbs. or 7·3 per cent.; and those from the Straits Settlements, at 180,747 lbs., showed a decline of 46·9 per cent.

The **importation of grain into Barcelona** was enormous during 1905, the quantity having reached over 500,000 tons, a figure quite phenomenal for this port. This is due to almost total loss from drought, etc., of the grain crops throughout Spain during the years 1904 and 1905. Up to the present the weather has been very favourable and the agricultural outlook for the year 1906 is at present good. Of the total quantity of wheat imported in 1905, 67,214 tons arrived in British vessels, 39,343 tons came from India (Bombay and Karachi) and 17,401 tons from Australia (Melbourne). **British India** stands foremost in the **supply** to this port of **hemp, flax** and **jute, oil seeds, spices** and **elastic**, and ranks second in **raw cotton** (12,500 tons; exceeded by the United States of America with 54,000 tons) and **skins and hides** (untanned). In **exports from Barcelona** the United Kingdom receives the largest quantity of marble and stone, and also of cream of tartar, and comes second in skins, hides and animal refuse, cotton goods are also exported largely from this port to British India.

During the year 1905-06, there was as compared with the previous year a slight recovery in the **importation into India of aniline and alizarine dyes** which increased from 10,705,077 lbs. with a value of Rs. 71·45 lakhs, to 11,604,284 lbs. with a value of Rs. 75·70 lakhs. These figures represent a rise of 8·4 per cent. in quantity and 5·9 per cent. in value, the average value per lb. having declined from annas 10 pies 8 to annas 10 pies 5 or 2·3 per cent. lower. These products are of course derived mainly from Germany where, during 1905, they became the subjects of various combinations among the chief manufacturers. One group was formed by the Badische Aniline Fabrik Messrs. Friedr. Bayer & Co., and the Aniline Manufacturing Co. A second consists of Messrs. Meister Lucius and Bruning and Messrs. Casella & Co.; while perhaps the most important in its bearings on India is that of the Badische Anilinn und Soda Fabrik with Messrs. Meister Lucius and Bruning for fixing the price of synthetic indigo and terminating the acute competition that has hitherto prevailed. Bombay continues to be the principal port of entry, about 80 per cent. of the imports being received there. Of **alizarine** the imports increased from 5,875,708 lbs. with a value of Rs. 30·55 lakhs to 6,297,577 lbs. with a value of Rs. 32 lakhs, the average value declining from annas 8 pies 4 to annas 8 pies 2 per lb.

A correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* had an opportunity of visiting the largest factory in Canada making **women's underclothing.** Here the bulk of the materials used were imported. It was a regret of the principal, for instance, that he had to use several million yards per annum of Swiss **embroideries,** not a yard of embroidery being, as yet, made in Canada. The factory is contemplating buying some embroidery machines, but the project will no doubt fail for want of labour if for no other reason. It must be admitted that the Canadian manufacturer has many difficulties to contend with. He complains bitterly, amongst other things, that he has to make a great variety of articles in different styles and sizes. The population of Canada is at present too small to admit of specialisation, and specialisation means economical production. Perhaps the greatest handicap of all is the scarcity of suitable labour. No industry has, as yet, established a tradition. In this factory all new hands have to be taught from the beginning, and the correspondent was told that 200 machines were perpetually idle, which the management would be glad to have running if hands could be obtained. It is necessary to pay high wages in order to retain good workers, and it is no uncommon thing for a seamstress to make $10, or £2, per week. There seems to be an opening here for **Indian** makers of **shikan** and other embroideries, which might find a good market in Canada.

His Majesty's Consul at **Teng Yueh** says that the total value of **imports** fell from £251,249 in 1904 to £222,033 in 1905 making a difference of £29,216. The depression is most marked in the

cotton imports, the value of which was £171,876 in 1904 and only £128,960 in 1905, or £42,916 less than in the preceding year. In 1904, cottons represented 68 per cent. of the total imports, but only 58 per cent. in 1905. All the items, with two trifling exceptions, show a decrease, the principal being British grey shirtings, 9,902 pieces against 22,113 pieces in 1904 (value £6,094 against £12,714); cotton Italians, 11,176 pieces against 15,913 pieces (value £16.244 against £26,239); **Indian cotton yarn,** 2,789,733 lbs. against 3,699,733 lbs. (value £93,341 against £122,000). Commenting on the **value of the Taël** he says "**a tael** is nominally an ounce weight of silver, but as every place in China has at least one set of weights for silver and silver varies considerably in touch, it is always necessary to state clearly in Chinese transactions the kind of tael used. The customs tael is a purely fictitious weight, but it is the same for all the ports in China, the actual duties being paid in one of the taels in use at the port. Thus at Teng Yueh duties are paid at the rate of 100 customs taels equal 105 pure silver Teng Yueh taels. In cases where other silver (pei yin or kung ku) is paid 2 per cent. touch is added, *i.e.*, 100 customs taels equal 107 Kunku Teng Yueh taels equal 107 Kungku Yueh taels.

The *American Manufacturer* describes a device whereby **crude oil is enabled to furnish the source of power for gas engines.** The mechanism and principle involve a horizontal rotating drum with interior spiral ribs, enclosed in an outer casing. The crude oil enters the drum at one end and by rotation and the spiral ribs, is carried slowly and uniformly through it. While the oil is passing through the drum it is exposed to sufficient heat to generate gas, which is drawn off and utilized by the engine in proportion to the amount generated, and the residue is discharged. The heat is supplied by the exhaust of the engine, which passes between the drum and the outer shell and keeps the drum at a certain temperature, just high enough to get all the gas out of the oil. The rotating drum stirs the oil, turns it over and over, carries it in a thin sheet upon the sides of the drum and exposes it to the heat. This is the best method of generating gas from crude oil. By it the gas is generated without an excessive amount of heat, the residue is discharged as soon as the gas is extracted, thereby obviating the necessity of the continuous cleaning heretofore necessary, while it insures a regular uniform supply of gas to the engine. The difference in cost between gasolene and crude oil is considerable, the American paper gives the comparison as 18 to 4 cents, and it is stated that one gallon of crude oil will develop nearly as much power as a corresponding amount of gasolene. This being so, the Californian practice merits close attention from all users of oil motors in this country.

The **Coffee market** showed no marked features in 1905-06. The prices of high-grade coffees declined while those of inferior descriptions hardened slightly; but Indian coffee, with a large production, was pushed for sale and the price fell away. The close of the financial year was marked by the conclusion of an agreement by which the Brazilian Government hopes at once to fix its exchange and to establish the price of its coffee at not less than 55 francs per bag of 60 kilogs.

In India the coffee crop is gathered in November to January and the export season is at its height about the close of the financial year. Half the crop is grown in Mysore, the remainder in Coorg, Madras and Travancore. The area in Burma has contracted steadily in recent years. A less marked contraction appears in the returns for other parts of India, but this is belied by the increasing exports shown in following statement; and the estimation of crop areas in all countries is more or less empirical:—

	Cwt	Rs.
1901-02 . .	255,042	1,25,02,200
1902-03 . .	269,166	1,32,12,628
1903-04 . .	291,254	1,36,73,773
1904-05 . .	329,647	1,66,09,757
1905-06 . .	360,182	1,75,67,240

There has thus been an increase of 9·26 per cent. in quantity; but owing to the lower average price which declined by 3·1 per cent. the rise in total value was one of only 5·76 per cent. The quantity taken by the United Kingdom was 172,384 cwts. as compared with 187,344 cwts. in 1904-05, and represented 48 per cent as against 57 per cent of the total, while 132,233 cwts. or 36·7 per cent. of the total were exported to France as against 96,876 cwts. or 29·39 per cent. in the previous year.

The prices of opium in the Calcutta market during the week ending 7th July were, per chest, as follows:—

Behar opium—R1.352; 1,355; 1,364; 1,362; 1,365; 1,370; 1,370.

Benares opium—R1.252; 1,255; 1,240; 1,240; 1,240; 1,245; 1,245.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 8th sale of 1906—R1,352; 1,355; 1,350; 1,348; 1,350; 1,352; 1,352.

China market. Hongkong (exchange Rs. 158 to R159½ per 100 dollars).

Behar—$ 875; 872; 872 to 877½; 875; 875; 877 to 877½; 877.

Shanghai (exchange 217 to 218 per 100 Taels) one sale on 6th of 628 Taels.

Benares—Three sales in the Hongkong market on 3rd, 5th, and 6th of $810, $802½, and $805, respectively; while one sale, Shanghai, on 6th of 578 Taels.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending 30th June were—for A class (season 1905-06) on 24th and 25th R1,345 to 1,360; and on 26th to 30th R1,355 to 1,370; for B class (season 1904-05) on 24th and 25th, R1,420 to 1,550; and on 26th to 30th, R1,435 to 1,560; class C, old (season 1903-04) on 24th and 25th, R1,700, and on 26th to 30th, R1,640 to 1,700.

The latest China prices ascertained were for new classes (A and B) R1,481 to 1,514; old (class C) fetched at Hongkong R1,669 and at Shanghai R1,701.

In the month of April, the **Indian gold mines** yielded 46,072 ozs. valued at R26,30,664. The outturn as compared with corresponding period of 1905 and 1904 was as follows :—

	1906.	1905.	1904.
Mysore	Ozs.44,979	52,348	50,044
	R25,65,664	30,11,156	28,71,107
Nizam's Territory	Ozs.1,093	1,050	518
	R65,000	60,274	29,278

In February 1901, the Revenue and Agriculture Department sanctioned the issue of a **revised edition of the Manual of Economic Geology,** and its publication, not in separate parts dealing with individual minerals or groups of minerals, as sanctioned in March 1897, but as a complete volume, in an abridged form.

Of the 82 articles comprised in the new edition of the Economic Manual, 19 are ready and 40 others will be finished by September, when Mr. Holland returns from leave. Certain other articles, including those on Gold, Silver and other metalliferous minerals, 11 in all, have been unavoidably delayed by pressure of other work. Some of these are, however, nearly completed, and arrangements will be made to accelerate work and the article on Gold, the most important, ought to be finished within the next two or three months. It is very unlikely, however, that the new edition of the Manual will appear till next year.

The Acting Consul General, **Chongtu,** received a private letter from Ta Chien Lu, dated the 20th April last, to the effect that to the north of that place the Golok tribes had come down as far as Derge, in **large bands,** and were **robbing** every one who went that way. "Word has just come" says the writer, "that a band of 200 have robbed caravans of wool and other merchandise, and also silver. This means that both the Batang and northern trade routes are closed to trade."

The output of **copra** from the port of **Quilimane** may, says His Majesty's Consular Agent, confidently be expected to increase from year to year, as enormous plantations have been made during recent years and many of the estates have just lately come into bearing. The value of copra exported during 1905 amounted to 16,750. The other articles of produce which were shipped in fair quantities are groundnuts, beeswax and rubber. The statistics of export are as follows :—

Articles.	Destination.	Quantity.	Value.
		Tons.	£
Groundnuts	France	610	
	United Kingdom and Colonies	53	
	Germany	171	
	TOTAL	834	5,600
Copra	Portugal	1,819	
	France	329	
	United Kingdom and Colonies	80	
	Germany	5	
	TOTAL	2,233	16,750
Beeswax	France	11	
	Germany	4·5	
	TOTAL	15·5	1,216
Rubber	Germany	14·5	
	France	15	
	TOTAL	29·5	5,600

The quantities of **copra exported from the Tonga Protectorate** during 1904 and 1905 were 5,721 tons, value £67,342 16*s.* 4*d.*; and 7,581 tons, value £87,570 16*s.* 6*d.* The quantity exported during 1905 exceeded that of the previous year by 1,860 tons and this in spite of the great falling-off in the Vavau district, owing to the disastrous hurricane in the beginning of the year. As an example of the effect of a hurricane on the exports of these islands the following comparative statement showing the quantity and value of copra exported from the Vavau group may prove interesting :—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£
1904	2,687	31,670
1905	1,433	17,103

Thus the loss of copra in the Vavau group in 1905 owing to the hurricane was in round numbers 1,200 tons of the value of, say, 14,000*l.*

ENQUIRIES.

HOG OR PIG BRISTLES.

AN inquiry has been received relative to Hog or Pig Bristles. Providing a regular quality of above can be shipped from India c. i. f. Liverpool or London, price being right, considerable trade can be done. Postal or steamer samples desirable. For further particulars address the DirectorGeneral of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street, Calcutta.

MADER—*CALOTROPIS GIGANTEA.*

An enquiry has been received from a correspondent in Ireland as to whether *ribbons* or fibre from the bark of Calotropis Gigantea, Giant Swallow-wort or Mader, can be supplied from India in large quantities, and as to the price per ton at which it could be delivered free Liverpool or London. For further particulars reference must be made to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street, Calcutta.

GRAIN BAGS AND WOOL PACKS.

An enquiry has been received from South Africa for firms manufacturing Grain Bags and Wool Packs. For information apply to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street, Calcutta.

NOTICES.

SAMPLE ROOM FOR INDIAN GOODS IN CAPE TOWN.

BETWEEN July and September of last year the Board of Trade and the Manchester Chamber of Commerce exchanged correspondence regarding the opening of a **Sample Room** for British goods in Cape Town. The Board of Trade's Correspondent in Cape Town, Mr. E J. Cattell, who is also Secretary of the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce, declared himself prepared to receive samples from British manufacturers, in illustration of their catalogues, at their risk, and to exhibit them in the rooms of the Chamber. Mr. Cattell said :—

"If British manufacturers generally would adopt this plan where possible (it is not convenient in all cases), I will take special pains to bring to the notice of the local importers concerned that such samples are actually on exhibition."

Alluding to the catalogues Mr. Cattell remarked :—

"I always make a special point of circulating them among the largest imports of the particular articles concerned, but in many cases such importers frequently give expression to the view that without actual samples they are unable to form an adequate appreciation of the real merits of the several articles."

The correspondence was published in the Manchester Chamber of Commerce *Monthly Record* for September.

In November last an **enquiry** was **addressed** to Mr. Cattell **by this Department** as to whether he was prepared also to **display Indian goods.** To this communication the following reply has now been received :—

Cape Town, 6th June 1906.

To

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE,
Calcutta, India.

DEAR SIR,

Some little time ago I received a letter from you in connection with my communication to the Board of Trade of the 21st June, 1905, and enquiring whether I would be prepared to receive **samples of Indian mannfactures.**

In reply thereto I beg to inform you that it has now been **arranged for a room** to be set apart **in the offices** of the **Cape Town Chamber of Commerce,** for the exhibition of British manufactures, and I shall be pleased to **exhibit and display any manufactures of India** which you may care to send.

I am not prepared to undertake any **responsibility** for the safe-keeping of these samples, neither will the Cape Town Chamber of Commerce, in whose offices they will be displayed. All reasonable care will, however, be exercised.

A charge has been fixed at the rate of 5*s.* per square foot, per annum, **for** the **space occupied.**

I am,

Yours faithfully,

(Sd,) E. J. CATTELL.

There is no need to enlarge on the benefit to be derived by Indian manufacturers and traders from such an exhibition of their goods. Those desirous of taking advantage of the offer ought to communicate direct with Mr. Cattell.

ANDAMAN ISLANDS.

Sale of valuable Timber-Preliminary Notice.

Tenders will shortly be invited for the purchase on a long lease of valuable timber standing in the North and Middle Andaman Islands. The annual output in log from these islands is estimated to be about 25,000 tons of 50 cubic feet, the produce of trees varying from 6 to 12 feet in girth. The method of extraction involves the use of elephants in dragging the logs to the tidal creeks, whence they are floated to natural harbours affording safe anchorage to vessels of considerable size. The forests will be divided into annual felling areas, estimated to contain nearly equal amounts of the timber of the most valuable kinds, and the outturn may be removed either in the log or rough squared or sawn, as the purchase contractor may wish. There are at present no roads, buildings, or mills in the area, which is covered with virgin forest. A Government mail steamer runs weekly to either Rangoon (about 1½ day), Calcutta (about 4 days) or Madras (about 4 days) from Port Blair.

The estimated amount of timber to be removed annually is as follows :—

Red Padauk (Pterocarpus dalbergioides) about 10,000 to 12,000 tons annually.

A rich bright red wood deepening in colour on exposure. Squares usually up to 20 feet in length, siding up to 2 feet. Weight 40 to 60 lbs. (dry) a cubic foot. This timber is largely used in America. It makes handsome furniture panels, parquet flooring and carvings, and takes a beautiful polish. Is generally suitable for purposes to which

mahogany, teak and oak are applied, and it has been largely used for panelling in railway cars and for construction.

Koko (Albizzia Lebbek) about 500 tons annually. Wood greenish grey to chocolate in colour. Makes handsome furniture and carvings plain or polished. Squares up to 20 feet in length, siding up to 2 feet. Weight 45 to 50 lbs. (dry) a cubic foot.

Gurjan (Dipterocarpus turbinatus) about the same quantity as padauk. This wood is suitable for wood paving and for sleepers. Squares up to 20 feet in length, siding up to 1′ 6″. Weight (dry) 45 to 55 lbs a cubic foot.

Pyinma (Lagerstromia hypoleuca) about 200 to 300 tons annually. Colour pale reddish gray. Squares up to 20 feet, siding up to 1′ 6″. Useful for boat-building, planking, etc. Weight (dry) 48 lbs. a cubic foot.

White Chuglam (Terminalia bialata) about 600 to 800 tons annually. Colour light gray with dark markings. Weight 48 to 58 lbs dry). Makes handsome furniture and takes a fine polish. Squares up to 20 feet in length and siding up to 2 feet.

Black Chuglam (Myristica Irya) about 400 tons annually. Colour similar to White Chuglam but darker. Weight 50 lbs (dry). Squares up to 20 feet length, siding up to 2 feet. Suitable for cabinet work.

In addition to the above there are several other less valuable timbers available in varying quantities. All the above timbers float in sea water, and the cost of extraction from forest to harbour is estimated at *from Rs. 14 to Rs. 16 per ton.* No labour is available in the island, but it may be imported from Madras at a moderate cost.

Further information may be obtained from the Inspector-General of Forests to the Government of India.

CONSUMPTION OF TEA IN INDIA.

It is very difficult to arrive at an accurate estimate of the consumption of tea in India from the information at present available. It is of course possible to add together the reported production of a series of years and subtract therefrom the total exports of Indian tea by land and sea for a similar period, and the result will give as regards Indian tea the total balance available for consumption during that period. In the same way as regards foreign tea, the total exports may be subtracted from the total imports: the balance then represents the quantity available for consumption. No doubt some part of the balance of foreign tea may be used for blending, and the blend when exported may be declared as Indian produce; but in this case the foreign tea merely displaces Indian tea and the total amount available for consumption remains the same. For the last five years for which figures are available the average quantity of tea both Indian and foreign left in India amounts to over 6½ million pounds. These figures can be checked to some extent by recorded movements of tea by rail and river in the country, and it would appear that the reported figures of production are not altogether reliable. An attempt has, therefore, been made to estimate the actual consumption of tea in India from the trade statistics only without reference to the reported production. This estimate can, however, only be framed for certain parts of India. For the purposes of recording statistics of rail and river-borne trade the country is divided into a series of blocks consisting of the chief sea ports—Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi, etc.—or of a varying number of districts, usually about half-a-dozen. The trade between each of these blocks and other blocks is recorded, but there is no record of the movement of articles within the block. It is obvious, therefore, that when a district in a block produces tea the consumption of tea within that block cannot be ascertained from the rail-borne trade figures. For this reason the whole of Assam and certain districts in the United Provinces and the Punjab are excluded from the following calculation. As regards Calcutta both the imports into and exports from the town by all routes, *i.e.*, by rail, river, sea and road, are recorded, and it is possible, therefore, to ascertain with reasonable accuracy the amount of tea which is left in Calcutta each year; but large stocks are held in Calcutta of which there is no record, and the figures for the last five years show such wide variations that it is obvious that increases and decreases of stock are on such a scale as to render it impossible to ascertain what amount of tea passes into consumption in Calcutta. Finally, as regards Madras, there are several ports from which tea is exported and at least three of the blocks produce tea. The result is that the calculation can only be made for a very small portion of the Presidency.

For the ordinary mofussil block of districts in which tea is not produced it is reasonable to suppose that the tea which is imported into those districts by rail and by road where a tea district is contiguous (less the quantity re-exported) represents the quantity intended for consumption in those districts. It does not, however, represent the whole of the consumption. For tea sent by post or along with other groceries into a district from, say, Calcutta or Bombay, will not be registered as tea in the trade statistics. Such tea will therefore be included in the consumption assigned to the town from which it is exported and not to the districts in which it is actually consumed.

Subject to these limitations the following figures represent the amount intended for average consumption in the Provinces named :—

	lbs.
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, excluding the Meerut and Rohilkhund divisions	287,738
Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province, excluding the territory between the Sutlej and Jhelum	2,480,664
Central Provinces and Berar	186,919
Rajputana, Central India, Nizam's Territory and Mysore	430,336
Bombay town	2,189,387
Bombay Presidency	885,149
Karachi	298,345
Sind	39,401

As explained above, the totals for Bombay and Karachi include all tea sent upcountry from those towns which, either because it goes by post or because it is included with other articles, is not described on a railway invoice as tea. The total of the figures given above is 6,797,939 lbs. But from this must be deducted the quantity which is exported from the north of India by land, *i.e.*, Sind, the Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province and the United Provinces (almost entirely from the Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province). The average of these exports is 2,502,902 lbs. The balance, therefore, remaining for consumption in India is 4,295,037 lbs. So far as it goes this is probably a fairly accurate estimate of the amount of tea consumed in that part of India with which it deals, but it must be remembered that the total consumption of Assam and Madras and Bengal (including Calcutta) is excluded from this calculation as well as the consumption of districts in the United Provinces and districts in the Punjab which are included in tea producing blocks. It would seem permissible to assume that the consumption per head in these tea districts is at least as great as in the others.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

EXTRACTS FROM PROCEEDINGS.

MADRAS.

Scholarships for the Study of Commercial Subjects :— Read a letter, dated the 8th June from the Government of Madras, inviting an expression of the Chamber's views regarding the grant of scholarships for the encouragement of the Study of Commercial Subjects. **Resolved** that Government be addressed to the effect that the Chamber is in entire accord with the proposal and trusts that the results will be all that the Government hope for.

Counterfeit Coins :—Read a letter, dated the 2nd June, from the Accountant-General, Madras, enclosing copy of a letter from the Comptroller and Auditor General, The Treasury, Calcutta, on the subject of Counterfeit Coins. **Resolved** to address Government to the effect that some of the Members of the Chamber will be willing to co-operate, in clearing the coinage of counterfeit silver and to submit the names of the firms represented on the Chamber who are willing to undertake the work.

Scheme for the Development of the Port of Madras :—Read and **recorded** with approval an Order of the Madras Government, dated the 6th instant, regarding the scheme for the development of the Port of Madras.

Trade Introductions and the Indian Trade Journal :— Read a letter, dated the 21st June, from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, enclosing copies of correspondence with the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, regarding the proposed insertions of trade introductions in the Indian Trade Journal. **Resolved** to inform the Bengal Chamber that this Chamber was in April last in communication with the Bombay Chamber on the subject referred to and informed that Chamber that it was in entire accord with the views expressed, which are also those of the Bengal Chamber and to add that if the Bengal Chamber proposes to take any further action in reply to the Government of India's letter dated the 20th April, this Chamber will be glad to support it.

Uniformity of Indian Weights & Measures :— Read a letter, dated the 22nd June, from the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, with enclosure, on the question of uniformity of Indian Weights and Measures. **Resolved** to inform the Bombay Chamber that this Chamber is in entire accord with the views therein expressed and to furnish copies of the correspondence on the same subject which has recently passed between this Chamber, the United Planters Association of Southern India and the Government of India.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

The *Board of Trade Journal*, published on the 21st June, in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations, gives particulars about :—

Isle of Man.—Reduction of Tea Duty.

New Zealand.—Customs Decision : Corio Tartar.

Transvaal.—Regulation affecting Importation of Animals.

Newfoundland.—Free Entry of Boats and Outfits for Herring Fishing and Curing.

Cyprus.—Tobacco duties increased.

Sweden.—Bast Plaits and Straw Plaits free of duty.

Norway.—Duty free admission of Reaping Machines.

French Indo-China.—Consumption Tax on Matches, Salt and Mineral Oils.

Spain.—Rate of Exchange for Adjustment of Customs Duties payable in Gold.

Italy.—Drawback on Milk Chocolate.

United States of America.—Dutiable charges omitted from entry. Insufficient Protest—"Similitude Clause" not referred to. Re-liquidation at Increased Rate. Invalid Re-appraisement—Dutiable Value. Assessment on Appraised Value. Customs Decisions.

CUBA.—Protests against Appraisements. Customs Decisions.

We give the following particulars of changes **interesting to Indian Trade :—**

ISLE OF MAN.

Tea Duty—Reduction of.

A copy of a General Order (No. 40-1906), dated 1st June, 1906, has been received from the Customs Department notifying that, with the sanction of the Treasury and subject to the necessary covering legislation, the rate of duty on tea removed or imported into the Isle of Man has, by a resolution of the Tynwald Court been reduced, as from the 14th May last, from 6*d.* to 5*d.* per lb.

CYPRUS.

Tobacco Duties—Increased.

The Board of Trade have received a copy of the Cyprus "Taxation Amendment Law" (No. 7 of 1906), which came into force on the 15th March, 1906.

The present Law amends the rates of duty leviable on certain kinds of tobacco imported into, and manufactured in, the Island of Cyprus, as follows :—

Article.	Old rate.		New rate.	
IMPORT DUTY.	s.	cp.	s.	cp.
Manufactured tobacco (not including cigars, cigarettes and snuff per oke (2·8 lbs.) . .	3	0	4	3
Persian Tobacco do. . .	1	3	2	0
EXCISE DUTY.				
Tobacco manufactured in Cyprus (whether manufactured into cigarettes, or otherwise) per oke (2·8 lbs.) . . .	2	4½	3	6½
NOTE.—This excise duty is levied in addition to the import duty.				

NOTE.—A copper piastrè = 1½*d.*

Provision is also made in the Law under notice that the following taxes shall cease to be levied :—

Verghi Temettu (tax on trade profits and incomes) ;

Verghi Irad (tax on house rents, etc.) ;

Bedel-i-Askeri (military exemption tax).

FRENCH INDO-CHINA.

Matches, Salt and Mineral Oils—Consumption Tax on.

The *Journal Officiel de l' Indo-Chine Français* for the 30th April, contains the texts of Decrees fixing the consumption duty on matches, salt, and mineral oils at the following rates :—

		Piastrès.*
Matches of any origin.	Packet of 10 boxes containing at least 70 matches.	0·025
Salt . . .	100 kilogs . .	2·25
		Frs. Cts.
Mineral oils suitable for lighting purposes 100 kilogs.	gross	6 00

*Piastrè-2 frs. 35 cts. at present official rate of exchange.

INDIA.

Cotton Seed, American or West Indian—Importation of unfumigated—prohibited.

IN exercise of the powers conferred by Section 19 of the Sea Customs Act, 1878 (VIII of 1878), the Governor General in Council is pleased to prohibit the bringing by sea or by land into British India of American or West Indian Cotton Seed except such as has been fumigated to the satisfaction of the Customs Collector.

Copper and Tin—Valuation.

No. 5187-90.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 22 of the Sea Customs Act, 1878 (VIII of 1878), the Governor General in Council is pleased to direct that, for the corresponding items of entry No. 15 in the Notification of the Government of India in this Department, No. 7641-78, dated the 23rd December 1905, the following shall be substituted with effect from the 10th July 1906, namely :—

No.	Names of articles.	Per.	TARIFF VALUATION. Previous.		TARIFF VALUATION. Present.		Duty.
15	* * * *		Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	
	Copper braziers and sheets up to ⅛″ thick . .	Cwt.	56	0	63	0	Five per cent.
	* * * *						
	Copper pigs, tiles, ingots, cakes, bricks and slabs .	,,	53	0	58	0	Ditto.
	Copper plate over ⅛″ thick and sheathing . .	,,	60	0	68	0	Ditto.
	* * * *;						
	Tin, block . .	,,	105	0	130	0	Ditto.

WEATHER SUMMARY.

For the week ending the 7th July 1906.

DURING the period under review there was general rain on the Burma coast, nearly general rain in the submontane districts of the United Provinces, Punjab, Rajputana, Gujarat and on the west coast, local rain in Eastern Bengal and Assam. A few scattered showers were reported from the Frontier Province, Kashmir, Central India and the Central Provinces. The principal amounts of rainfall were :—Saugor 10·00″, Kotah 6·97″, Cherra Poonjee 5·66″, Moulmein 4·82″, Akyab 4·52″, Veraval 4·30″, Jubbalpore 4·10″, Ratnagiri 3·93″, Burdwan 3·57″, Slipper Island 3·61″, Sialkot 3·37″, Sutna 3·12″, Chaibassa 2·86″, Tavoy 2·63″, Rajkot 2·48″, Dehra-Dun 2·13″, Sambalpur 2·13″, Darjeeling 2·12″, and Hyderabad (Sind) 1·60″.

The principal feature of the weather of the week was the extensive and heavy rain which fell over Upper India. This was due to a depression which formed over the United Provinces on the 30th June and thence drifted slowly westward to South Rajputana, under its influence, monsoon rains extended into the Punjab and Rajputana about the middle of the week and re-appeared in Gujarat on the 5th, for the first four days the rainfall in the United Provinces, the extreme east of the Punjab, the east of Central India, and the Central Provinces was chiefly associated with the depression, being light and scanty to the north and moderately heavy to the south of it. On the 1st instant the depression began to affect Rajputana, and rain fell over the greater part of it during the next two days. From the 2nd to the 5th almost all of the stations in the Punjab reported some rain and in Gujarat good rain occurred in the middle of the week. Skies were heavily overcast during the greater part of the week in the United Provinces, Central India, the Central Provinces, Rajputana and Gujarat, but in the Punjab and the Frontier Province, they were clear or lightly clouded over. Temperature was in very large defect in the west of the United Provinces and adjacent districts of the Punjab at the beginning of the period but at the close it was in excess. In other areas temperature was normal or in defect.

In Burma, rainfall was light at the beginning of the week but was nearly general afterwards, and in the interior it had increased but was only local. Skies were moderately overcast and temperature which was below normal in Upper Burma and in excess in Lower Burma at the beginning of the week was everywhere in slight excess at the close.

In north-east India and Orissa, there was light to moderate rain for the first three days; but on the 4th only isolated falls occurred and on the next day rather widespread rain in Assam and Orissa. Skies were heavily overcast during the first half of the week and only moderately clouded over during the latter half. Temperature did not differ very much from the normal throughout the period.

Excluding the Central Provinces, rainfall in the Peninsula was confined chiefly to the west coast with rain for several days on parts of the Circars Coast and a few isolated falls in the interior. Skies were moderately overcast throughout the week, and the weather was slightly warmer than usual.

The rainfall of the period from the 1th May to the 7th July was below the average only in the northern districts of north-east India, Chota Nagpur, Orissa, the west coast, the south of Madras and Baluchistan : in all other parts of the country it was either equal to or in excess of the normal. The excess occurred chiefly in the Central Divisions of India.

TELEGRAM FROM THE VICEROY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Crop prospects. Week ending 30th June last

THE **United Provinces of Agra and Oudh** received heavy and well-distributed rain throughout, and general and sufficient rain has fallen in all affected areas. Sowing is proceeding vigorously. Fodder is scarce still, but a plentiful supply of grass expected. Loans for seed and cattle continue, as well as free grants from the Indian Famine Trust. Cholera is disappearing. The number on relief works has fallen off by 40 per cent. In the **Punjab** good rain has fallen in the Delhi Division. In **Rajputana** good rain has fallen in the **Eastern Rajputana States** but more rain is needed in parts. Ploughing and sowing operations are in progress generally. The pasturage and water supply are expected to improve. In **Central India** good rain has fallen in the affected area in Gwalior and sufficient rain has fallen elsewhere. Sowing operations are in progress. Prices are high. In **Bombay** general and beneficial rain but insufficient in parts of three affected districts, in two of which sowing operations have been retarded. Fodder continues scarce, and cattle have not yet improved in condition. The drinking water supply improved but still insufficient in parts, prices continue high. The numbers on relief are decreasing and employment is sufficient. In **Hyderabad** sowings are general, fodder is scarce still, prices are falling. Prices continue high in **Eastern Bengal**, where test relief works have been opened in two districts. Crop prospects good. In other provinces prospects fair or good. The following are the numbers in thousands of persons in receipt of relief :—**United Provinces of Agra and Oudh,** 123; **Punjab,** 12; **Ajmer and Rajputana,** 93; **Central India,** 84; **Baroda,** 3; **Bombay,** 98; **Hyderabad,** 2; **Eastern Bengal,** 2; total 417. Since the end of the week good rain has fallen in the **United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, Bundelkhand and Rajputana.**

CONSULAR REPORT.

NEWCHWANG.

Mr. Consul Fulford in his report on the **trade of Newchwang** for the year 1905 says that notwithstanding many adverse circumstances connected with the war between Japan and Russia which was being waged in our neighbourhood during the greater part of the year, the figures for the trade of Newchwang during 1905 are by for the greatest on record. The total in sterling was 9,358,805*l.* as compared with 5,946,000*l.* in 1904 and 7,253,643*l.* in 1899, the previous record year.

In some respects this large amount of trade may be said to be the consequence of the war as the country was in 1904 denuded of its stock of foreign goods, native products could not be transported from the interior for export, and there was therefore brought about a stagnant state of trade, which was bound to be followed by a reaction so soon as a prospect of brighter times was manifest.

The attention of the world has been keenly attracted to Manchuria by the recent war, and great developments of its trade may be anticipated from facilities for transport to be afforded by the railways and from the opening of international trading marts in the interior.

In last year's report an elaborate analysis of the progress of the trade of this port during the last decade was given. A comparison of the figures for the year 1893, the year before the Japan-China war, with those of the past year is still more striking. In 1893, the total trade was 16,418,604 taels, equivalent at the exchange of 3*s.* 11½*d.* to 3,249,515*l.* Last year it was 62,219,203 taels at 3*s.* 0½*d.*, 9,358,805*l.*

Since the war of 1894-1905 the trade has developed in a wonderful manner. The market in Japan for the bean produce of Manchuria had no doubt a good deal to do with this increase and the direct trade with Japan reached last year the figure of 1,710,000*l.* But other articles of export have also increased, *e.g.*, the silk export both from Newchwang and the southern ports of the Liaotung Peninsula, and Tientsin has drawn largely from the country in the shape of wool, hides, bristles and horsehair.

A peculiar feature of the foreign trade of Newchwang, excepting that of Japan, has been for many years that it has been in the hands of Chinese merchants. The cause for this may have been the fact that the export trade was destined so largely for Chinese ports and consumption. The bean produce has been the mainstay of the trade and has not been sent to foreign countries other than Japan. The Chinese merchants have kept the trade to a great extent to the nature of a barter business. Nearly all their transactions are managed under the system of "transfer money" often described in these reports, and ready money only passes on settling days. The absence of foreign banking facilities has tended to perpetuate this system, and the few European firms here have been chiefly confined to shipping business. Consequently the exports destined for foreign countries have been attracted towards other ports, such as Tientsin, where greater facilities have been furnished.

With the exception of one or two special items, such as kerosene oil, cigarettes, flour and sugar, foreign imports are not pushed on this market by foreigners. The great piece-goods trade has been entirely in the hands of the Chinese who buy in the Shanghai market. There seems no valid reason why this should be the case, and why there should not be direct trade between this port and foreign countries. There is now a prospect of a change in this respect. British and other foreign merchants are awakening to the importance of the question and foreign banking facilities are seen to be required. Several new firms have appeared upon the scene, and godown and wharfage accommodation, much needed, are in course of preparation.

The Japanese, who since the commencement of their trade here have kept the management of it in their own hands show signs of pushing their business in a much more vigorous manner. An exhibition of Japanese goods is to be held in Moukden in September. European and American merchants will, it is to be hoped, follow this example, and a healthy trade rivalry result in a development of the trade of Manchuria which will put in the shade the advance of the last ten years. The resources of the country are undoubted and have been detailed in previous reports. Given the transport facilities now afforded and their extension in prospect, combined with enterprise on the part of the foreign merchants, and the promise of the future should be assured.

Immediate prospects for 1906 are very favourable. A very large quantity of bean produce has been brought from the interior by carts during the winter and is awaiting shipment. The crops of last year were excellent. Despite the enormous imports of last year they were largely cleared away to the interior by the same means and everything points to a prosperous season. And as this has taken place under the unfavourable circumstances attending the close of a great war, we may fully expect further advances when the railway is free to public traffic and all restrictions on the movements of goods are withdrawn, both in the Japanese and Russian spheres of military occupation.

FORMOSA.

Mr. Acting-Consul E. F. Crowe in his Report on the **Trade of North Formosa** for the year 1905 says, the total trade of this district for the year under review amounted to £3,406,208, as against £3,405,452 in 1904 showing a trifling increase of £756. This increase, however, is more marked when put into local currency, being over 670,000 yen, the difference in exchange between 2*s.* 0½*d.* and 2*s.* 1*d.*, at which the customs figures for this year and last year respectively were converted, accounting therefor.

At Tamsui the imports decreased by 135,126, while the exports show a slight increase of 6,568 over 1904.

As regards Kelung, the trade with Japan, which had fallen off during 1904 in consequence of the war, has once more resumed its normal tendency to increase at the expense of foreign trade, and imports which last year showed a decrease of over 55,000, increased in 1905 by the comparatively large sum of 139,621.

Exports have remained practically stationary.

The trade of the four minor ports, Kiukong, Oulung, Tokaku and Lukong (Rokko), though showing a small increase in exports, has diminished on the whole by over 11,000.

In past years the opium imported came almost entirely from British India and Persia, the former being used chiefly in the preparation of the first quality produced by the Monopoly Bureau, while the latter, owing to its cheapness was employed for the second and third qualities; but in 1905 the Persian drug was so high in price that the Formosa Authorities made a trial importation of Turkish opium which apparently suited their requirements, for it is reported that a contract has been entered into with a firm in Turkey for supply of the drug during 1906.

The opium monopoly is one of the Formosa Government's chief sources of revenue, and in spite of the number of licensed smokers having diminished from 169,064 in 1900, when it was estimated that all the smokers had been ascertained to 131,272 in December, 1905, the profits of the Monopoly Bureau have not sensibly diminished, though exact figures cannot be procured. This is due in a great measure to the prevention of smugling which used formerly to be carried on with great success, and to the fact that owing to the high rate of wages now obtainable in the island smokers can afford more of the better quality drug than before. Notwithstanding the oft-repeated threat that no more licences would be granted, it is a significant fact that last March more than 30,000 new licences were issued, of which 7,000 were to persons between the ages of 20 and 30 who can hardly have been smokers under the Chinese régime. It must, however, be admitted that the number of these licences does not afford a very reliable guide to the actual number of smokers, for the licences, which are valid for life and only cost 30 sen (about 7*d.*), get mislaid or become useless owing to a change of address of the owner, and consequently have to be renewed, 15 sen being charged for the renewal.

There was a considerable shortage in the production of camphor last year, due to a certain extent to the fact that the more easily accessible trees have been nearly all cut down, while the head-hunting savages are still powerful enough to prevent camphor workers from advancing very far into the forests. Some camphor districts also shut down because the prices paid by the Monopoly Bureau did not cover expenses. In order to remedy this state of a fairs the Camphor Bureau Authorities decided to increase the price in nearly all the producing districts, and this was done in February of this year 1906.

The average increase for the 10 districts represents about 4s. for camphor and 2s for camphoroil per picul (133·1/3 the largest increase being for the camphor from Shinchiku, for which an additional 13s. will be paid, while 6s. will be added to the former price of oil. It is also reported that the sum to be expended on policing the savage border, which was over 50,000 last year, is to be increased.

I am indebted to the courtesy of one of the local tea firms for the following notes on the tea trade of the year under review:—

ARRIVALS.

Year.	Number.	
	Oolongs.	Pouchongs.
	Half-chests.	Half-chests.
1905-06	480,200	113,000
1904-05	452,000	90,000
Increase	28,200	23,000

Last year's crop was short, so the real increase on an average crop is not large.

The spring crop was below the average, but summer teas were of good quality and were bought at reasonable figures compared with the very high prices paid for undesirable spring and early summer teas. The feature of the season was the very high rate of silver, which made it difficult to place teas in America, the market there not responding as in the previous season.

Shipments to London nearly reached the same figure as last year (which were very large), *viz.*, 10,888 half-chests against 11,120 half chests. There seems no reason why the export should not increase in this direction.

Shipments of Oolongs, *vid* Kelung, again increased, as is shown in the following table:—

Shipments of Oolongs.	Number.	
	1905.	1904.
	Half-chests.	Half-chests.
From—		
Tamsui to Amoy	276,810	299,204
Kelung to America—		
vid Pacific	82,141	41,744
„ Suez	113,050	95,249
Kelung to Japan	8,948	16,624
Total	480,949	452,821

A new feature was the shipment of 9,539 half-chests of Pouchongs, *viâ* Kelung, in Dutch steamers to Java. Hitherto this kind of tea had always been shipped *viâ* Amoy.

The total export of rice again showed a very large increase, more than 14,000 tons over the preceding year, although the amount sent to foreign countries was much less than in 1904; the figures for that year, however, were quite abnormal as large shipments went to Manchuria for the use of the Japanese forces. Nearly all the rice this year has gone to Japan, where there was a good demand, but the exporters seem to make only small profits although the Formosan producer doubtless obtains, satisfactory results.

FUMIGATION OF WEEVILY COTTON SEED.

In order to try and prevent the introduction of cotton boll weevil from America and the West Indian Islands, it has been decreed that no cotton seed shall be permitted to enter India from those countries, unless it has been fumigated to the satisfaction of the Customs Collectors.

Anything is to be welcomed that tends to lessen for the Indian agriculturist the fear of any addition to the already too formidable ranks of the insect pests he has to fight. Nevertheless, very close examination of cotton seed imported from infected regions will be necessary, even when the shipments are certified as "fumigated". The fumigation of cotton seed in bulk is a difficult matter. The lint that adheres to the seed appears to form a barrier very impervious to the ordinary fumigatory agents. In addition to this, the boll weevil seems endowed with special powers of resistance to these fumigants.

Experiments carried out in the United States by the Department of Agriculture have shown that the fumigation of infected cotton seed proved ineffectual, unless very carefully and thoroughly done. At an early stage of the experiments it was found that only two gases, carbon bisulphid and hydrocyanic acid gas, were at all suitable for the work. Of these two, carbon bisulphid is considered to be the better. Both have drawbacks. The first is inflammable and explosive. The second, if used at all carelessly, is most dangerous to human life. Neither, however, lessens the germinating power of the seed treated. Of the two, carbon bisulphid is the cheaper gas, the American experiments showed it to be only half the cost of the hydrocyanic. What is more, the hardy weevils show less resistance to carbon bisulphid than to hydrocyanic gas.

The fumigation experiments were conducted in the following manner:—Weevils in tin boxes, which had been perforated so as to allow the free access of gas, were buried at varying depths in sacks containing 100 pounds of cotton seed. The sacks were enclosed in a specially prepared tight box, which contained a vessel of sulphuric acid, into which the cyanide was lowered through a hole in the lid. After exposure to the fumes for three hours all the weevils were found alive. After an exposure of five hours the weevils on the surface had been killed, but those covered by from three to ten inches of grain were alive; even house flies, creatures of very much lower vital powers than the weevils, lived when protected by a covering of seed from 6 to 12 inches thick, though the application of gas was heavy, ·50 grs. per cubic foot. It was evident that cotton seed showed a peculiar resistance to the uniform diffusion of hydrocyanic gas. Similar experiments carried out with carbon bisulphid resulted in showing that insects covered by 10 inches or more of the seed remained alive, even after an application of 5 pounds per 1,000 cubic feet, and an exposure of 24 hours.

Yet other experiments were made, and seed and grain fumigated under every possible condition. All went to prove the futility of using carbon bisulphid in an unvolatilized form. An experiment was then made with the poison in an artificially volatilized form. By means of special apparatus, a current of air was passed through the liquid carbon bisulphid and the resulting vapour driven through connecting tubing into a section of iron gas pipe, which could be forced through the seed so as to enable it to be fumigated at all depths. The tube was driven to the bottom of the cylinder in which the experiment was made, and gradually withdrawn. The diffusion of the vapour under pressure was very rapid, and the result satisfactory, a smaller quantity of the insecticide killing all the weevils in a shorter time than in the first experiments, even at the greatest depths. The laboratory test was followed by others under trade conditions, the gas being forced into the seed contained in 100 pound sacks. It was found practicable to kill all the weevils contained at any point in the sacks, provided the carbon bisulphide was used at the rate of 8 pounds per 1,000 cubic feet, and left for forty hours.

The following plan for the practical carrying out of this work is proposed:—A tight match-board box should be provided having sides 4 feet high, open on top, and of other dimensions to accommodate 12 or more 100-pound sacks of cotton seed placed upright upon the bottom. Another tier of sacks could be added if desired. Into each one of these sacks about 1 ounce of carbon bisulphid should be forced by an apparatus for volatilizing the liquid and mixing the vapor with air. The apparatus would consist of three essential parts: First an air pump having sufficient storage capacity to enable it to maintain a steady discharge of air for several minutes without continuous pumping. A stopcock would be attached to regulate or prevent the escape of air, as may be desired. Secondly, an ordinary 2-quart bottle, fitted with a tight stopper of good length, having two openings, through which the inlet and outlet pipes pass. These pipes may be of glass or metal and should be as large as can be

used. One pipe, the inlet, reaches nearly to the bottom of the bottle, and is provided at the lower end with a perforated metal cap as large as will pass through the neck of the bottle. This allows the escape of the air in small bubbles and insures rapid evaporation. The second pipe, the outlet, reaches only through the stopper. Upon the outside of the bottle is pasted a paper marked with 1-ounce graduations. The nozzle of the machine is a piece of ordinary $\frac{3}{8}$-inch iron gas pipe about $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet long, but this may be any desired length. It is closed and roundly pointed at the tip, and for about 15 to 18 inches of its length provided with small perforations pointing in all directions, to give free escape to the vapour into all parts of the sack of seed at once.

The connections may be of rubber tubing, but as little rubber as possible should be used for this apparatus, as it is affected by the vapour of the bisulphid, and the couplings will have to be frequently replaced. This, however, will not be a considerable item of expense. With the apparatus just described one operator would be able to accomplish the entire work of disinfection. The amount of carbon bisulphid recommended is about 1 ounce for each 3-bushel sack. It ought to be possible to procure this for less than $\frac{1}{8}$ of an anna per ounce when purchased in 25 or 50-pound lots, making the cost of bisulphid not over that amount per sack. As it requires but from two to three minutes to vapourize 1 ounce of the liquid in the manner described, the expense for labour in application would not amount over $\frac{1}{16}$ of an anna, perhaps less per sack. Fumigation with carbon bisulphid can, therefore, be effectively made at the slight expense of from $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{3}{16}$ of an anna per 100-pound sack.

Application of the bisulphid in this manner reduces the elements of danger to a minimum, as the vapor is almost wholly confined and the slight quantity escaping, mixed with the open air, would not be in either inflammable or explosive proportions. It has been determined that the slight trace of bisulphid vapour in the air would not injure the operator in the slightest degree. The sacks should be left in the box for forty hours after the gas is injected.

SUGAR INDUSTRY IN INDIA.

OPENINGS IN THE UNITED PROVINCES OF AGRA AND OUDH.

In the *Indian Trade Journal* of the 14th of June (page 368) there appeared an article on **openings for sugar industry** in Bengal. A statement similar to the one then published has been prepared for the **United Provinces of Agra and Oudh,** and other statements are being prepared for the other provinces of India.

These statements, furnishing as they do the statistical data which will enable the manufacturer to restrict his investigations to those regions where there exists a proper case for enquiry, ought to prove of considerable assistance to persons disposed to interest themselves in the development of the sugar industry in India. Such persons find their principal difficulties in determining where the best openings are to be found. Such an opening depends in the main upon the abundance of suitable raw material, and the existence of an adequate and convenient market. The following table will give the reader the necessary pointers, and the carrying out of particularised enquiries, and the working out of details remain with himself.

Columns 2, 3, and 4 of the statement show for each district the total area, the area under sugar, and the proportion of the sugar area to the total area. This ratio is brought out because it may afford a rough indication of the suitability of the local conditions to the cultivation of sugar; but of course in any given case it might fail to do so, and for this reason specific verification would be called for.

Columns 5 to 9 give particulars that may afford an indication of the extent of the local market; for so long as beet-sugar can be landed in India as cheaply as at present it will be impossible for the local product to roam very far a-field for buyers. Column 5 gives the population of the district, and column 6 the number of inhabitants per acre or, in other words, the density of the population. This of course is obtained by dividing the figures in column 5 by those in column 2; but it will be found interesting in certain cases to take column 3 (sugar) to set down an equal number of tons of raw sugar as its produce (that being the estimate generally accepted) to reduce that quantity to pounds and to divide by the district population. In this way will be obtained a rough estimate of the number of pounds of local raw sugar available per head of population. Column 7 shows the considerable sugar factories where they exist; while columns 8 and 9 show in each case the neighbouring large towns and their respective populations, seeing that it is to towns and large villages that a sugar factory in a sparsely populated country, must look for the mainstay of its business.

Total area, area under Sugar, and population of each District in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.

District.	Total area of District.	Area under sugar.	Ratio % of col. 3 to col. 2.	Population of District.	Population per acre.	No. of Sugar Factories.	Neighbouring large towns.	
							Name.	Population.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Dehra Dun	763,520	1,083	0·1	178,195	0·23	...	Dehra	28,095
Saharanpur	1,425,920	47,580	3·3	1,045,230	0·73	...	Saharanpur	66,254
							Hardwar	25,597
							Deoband	20,167
Muzaffarnagar	1,056 ,71	79,983	7·6	877,183	0·83	...	Muzaffarnagar	23,444
Meerut	1,511,680	127,767	8·5	1,540,175	1·02	...	Meerut	118,129
Bulandshahr	1,214,134	38,361	3·2	1,138,101	0·94	...	Khurja	29,277
Aligarh	1,252,480	5,109	0·4	1,200,822	0·96	...	Koil	70,434
							Hathras	42,578
Muttra	932,480	2,245	0·2	763,099	0·81	...	Muttra	60,042
							Brindabun	22,717
Agra	1,187,840	1,211	0·1	1,060,528	0·89	...	Agra	188,022
Farukhabad	1,100,160	17,359	1·6	925,812	0·84	...	Farukhabad	67,338
Mainpuri	1,086,080	10,078	0·9	829,357	0·76	...	.....	...
Etawah	1,084,160	9,572	0·9	806,798	0·74	...	Etawah	42,570
Etah	1,107,074	17,036	1·5	863,948	0·78	...	.....	...
Bareli	1,018,318	50,132	4·9	1,090,117	1·07	...	Bareli	131,208
Pijnor	1,194,511	77,832	6·5	779,951	0·65	...	Nagina	21,412
Budaun	1,273,865	17,837	1·4	1,025,753	0·81	...	Budaun	39,031
Moradabad	1,473,866	45,096	3·1	1,191,993	0·81	...	Moradabad	75,128
							Amroha	40,077
							Sambhal	39,715
							Chandausi	25,711
Shahjahanpur	1,117,941	40,168	3·6	921,535	0·82	1	Shahjahanpur	76,458
Pilibit	878,642	40,806	4·6	470,339	0·54	...	Pilibit	33,490
Cawnpore	1,514,368	7,783	0·5	1,258,868	0·83	1	Cawnpore	197,170
Fatehpur	1,043,840	4,507	0·4	686,391	0·66	...	.....	...
Bánda	2,129,152	4	...	631,058	0·29	...	Bánda	22,565
Hamirpur	1,751,680	1,074	0·06	458,542	0·26	...	.....	...
Allahabad	1,813,184	10,931	0·5	1,489,358	0·82	...	Allahabad	172,032
Jhansi	2,295,870	505	0·02	616,759	0·27	...	Jhansi	55,724
Jalaun	1,000,212	63	...	399,726	0·40	...	.....	...
Benares	646,061	15,748	2·4	882,084	1·37	...	Benares	209,331
Mirzapur	3,342,720	(a) 7,563	0·2	1,082,430	0·32	...	Mirzapur (with Bindachal)	79,862
Jaunpur	992,640	40,449	4·1	1,202,920	1·21	...	Jaunpur	42,771
Ghazipur	890,277	25,822	2·9	913,818	1·03	...	Ghazipur	39,429
Balia	790,438	38,917	4·9	987,768	1·25	...	.....	...
Gorakhpur	2,908,275	86,542	3·0	2,957,074	1·02	...	Gorakhpur	64,148
Basti	1,761,792	50,952	2·9	1,846,153	1·05	...	.....	...
Azamgarh	1,407,245	66,241	4·7	1,529,785	1·09	...	.....	...
Almora	3,466,267	...	...	465,893	0·13	...	.....	...
Garhwál	3,602,560	...	...	429,900	0·12	...	.....	...
Naini Tal	1,701,093	3,686	0·2	311,237	0·18	...	.....	...
Lucknow	625,280	2,644	0·4	793,241	1·27	...	Lucknow	264,049
Unao	1,111,385	9,432	0·8	976,639	0·88	...	.....	...
Rae-Bareli	1,121,280	2,738	0·2	1,033,761	0·9	...	.....	...
Sitapur	1,411,840	30,027	2·1	1,175,473	0·83	...	Sitapur	22,557
Hardoi	1,463,040	14,423	1·0	1,092,834	0·75	...	Shahabad	20,036
Kheri	1,895,472	31,652	1·7	905,138	0·48	...	.....	...
Fyzabad	1,089,875	47,049	4·3	1,225,374	1·12	...	Fyzabad	75,085
Gonda	1,806,594	22,615	1·3	1,403,195	0·78	...	.....	...
Bahraich	1,701,354	3,573	0·2	1,051,347	0·62	...	Bahraich	27,304
Sultanpur	1,088,640	20,851	1·9	1,083,904	1·0	...	.....	...
Partabgarh	933,120	11,472	1·2	912,848	0·98	...	.....	...
Barabanki	1,089,966	26,211	2·4	1,179,323	1·08	...	.....	...
Total	69,074,662	1,212,729	1·8	46,889,685	0·68	2	.....	...

(a) Relates to only about half the district for which statistics are available.

THE RICE EXPORT TRADE IN 1905-06.

Exports of rice represent 63·1 per cent of the total value of food grains exported from India and 11·8 per cent of the value of all Indian produce exported.

The following statement shows in thousands of hundred-weights and in value the exports during each of the last five years.

	Cwts.	Value. R
1901-02	34,029	13,91,89,658
1902-03	47,485	18,89,30,879
1903-04	45,002	19,08,28,393
1904-05	49,448	19,60,52,120
1905-06	43,038	18,63,52,202

In 1905-06, the total exports to foreign countries receded by 13 per cent in quantity, but only 4·9 per cent in value. This difference proceeds from a rise of 9·2 per cent in the average declared value. But the exportable surplus of rice depends not merely on the crop of rice produced, but on the relative success or failure of the other food crops throughout the country and on the greater or diminished demand that may arise for rice in substitution for those others. Some gauge of this factor may be found in the shipments of rice from Burma to India proper. These amounted in 1905-06 to 460,000 tons which marks an advance of no less than 159,000 tons or 52·8 per cent on the figures of the previous year; and the greater part of that increase arose since the new crop came in, and with a price a good deal stronger than at the same date in 1905 it would be reasonable to expect that, with a Burma crop not greatly exceeding that of the previous year, the surplus available for export abroad will contract. In the three months January to March 1906 India took no less than 242,000 tons from Burma, most of this going as usual to Bombay and Madras.

Japan retains its position as the largest purchaser of Indian rice; but there has been a fall to 6,593,500 cwt., this being nearly 29 per cent less than in the previous year. The largest quantity taken by Japan in any one month in the past year was 1,493,097 cwts. in February 1906. The other principal customers are Ceylon and the Straits Settlements, each of which in the past two years has taken fairly equal and constant amounts varying between 5,031,000 cwts. to the Straits and 6,803,000 to Ceylon. The latter island takes a considerable proportion of the unhusked rice exported, which in 1905-06 amounted to 829,415 cwt. with a value of R22·6 lakhs. In all, Ceylon took 340,161 tons which is 10·2 per cent more than in 1904-05, while in value the rise from R287 lakhs to R344 lakhs represented an addition of 20 per cent, or an enhancement of average value by about 9 per cent.

The growth of the practice of direct shipment tends to diminish the exports to the Straits as a point of distribution, and in 1905-06 they declined by a further 7·1 per cent to a value of R206 lakhs.

Of Western countries it is somewhat more difficult to speak with confidence regarding recent figures, because the major portion of the large quantities ascribed to Egypt are really sent there "for orders," and may on adjustment (which is now carried out when the information becomes available) be assigned to a number of other heads, so upsetting each of them. The most important occidental buyer of Indian rice is Germany. The quantity taken by the United Kingdom in 1905-06 fell away to 173,695 tons with a value of R149·11 lakhs; while Germany took 248,469 tons with a value of 197 lakhs. The direct shipments to Austria-Hungary declined from 198,231 tons to 122,134 tons with a value of only 87·5 lakhs, while Holland received 125,671 tons with a value of 89 lakhs.

IMPORT TRADE IN PROVISIONS, LIQUORS AND SPICES DURING 1905-06.

Provisions.—The term provisions as applied to foreign merchandise covers a number of heads and several of these are of very comprehensive character, though of relatively small amount. Dried fruits, for instance, which represent a value of R70·6 lakhs and consist mainly of almonds, cover many other fruits imported in smaller quantities. The largest single item under provisions is that of dates, which now represent a total value of some R44·9 lakhs. The trade in salted fish continues to grow and reached a sum of R30·9 lakhs in 1905-06. The steady increase in the imports of foreign biscuits is an example of the acquisition of new tastes by the people of India. So far is the establishment of certain biscuit factories in India from having injured the import business it has probably familiarised the purchasing public with an article formerly unkown and so extended the demand. The comprehensive category of "other sorts" amounted to R69 lakhs which represents a small decline, while the value of the whole class was R2·39 crores against R2·16 crores in 1904-05.

Liquors.—These are divided into three groups, malt-liquors, spirits and wines. In all three classes there was substantial progress in 1905-06.

In respect of beer a general resort to the lighter and cheaper descriptions is marked by the discrepancy between the rates of increase in respect of quantity on the one hand and of value on the other. In quantity the increase to 5,002 593 gals. was one of 8·6 per cent.; but the rise in value amounted only to 4·2 per cent., bringing the total to some of R63 lakhs. The trend of trade also naturally brought with it a relative decline in the position of the United Kingdom as a source of supply, and it now furnishes only 91·2 per cent. of the total, while Germany contributes some 6·7 per cent. and other foreign countries about 2·1 per cent.

But it must be borne in mind that these import figures do not represent the consumption of beer in India, seeing that in 1905-06 Indian breweries pro-

duced 5,994,955 gallons, which is less by 224,806 gallons than in 1904-05 and less by 479,805 gallons than in 1902.

The same factor of indigenous production must be kept in view in respect of spirits. The following statement shows the totals in gallons of all sp rits including liqueurs and methylated and perfumed spirits imported from the several principal countries.

	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
From United Kingdom .	784,981	772,350	855,049
„ France . . .	220,208	252,815	281,399
„ Germany . . .	218,607	195,579	209,478
„ Other countries .	213,934	253,054	315,051
TOTAL .	1,437,730	1,473,730	1,660,977

The quantities of spirits issued from Indian distilleries were 8,439,167 gallons in 1903-04 and 8,744,302 gallons in 1904-05.

The potable spirit imported from "other foreign countries" is chiefly arrack from Ceylon, rum from the Straits and gin from Holland.

The quantities of the principal descriptions of potable spirit imported were (in gallons).

	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
Whisky . .	606,805	589,723	664,010
Brandy . .	363,359	372,723	406,569
Gin . .	78,897	76,131	79,049
Rum . .	66,766	70,609	84,619
Other sorts .	183,570	193,812	187,124
TOTAL .	1,299,370	1,302,998	1,421,371

In the *Gazette of India* of January 27, 1906, Part IV, will be found the text of the Indian Tariff Amendment Act of 1906 which came into force on the 26th February 1906, and which raised the rates of import duty on ordinary spirits from R6 to R7 per proof gallon and on liqueurs and perfumed spirits to a rate corresponding with that on ordinary spirits. The Hon'ble the Finance Minister in introducing the Bill explained that it was designed to place imported spirits on a par with native spirits in the matter of taxation.

For some years there has been a fairly constant decline in the value of wines imported, but in 1905-06 there has been a substantial recovery of some 7·1 per cent in quantity bringing the total to 342·135 gallons. The value on the other hand has risen by 13·6 per cent to some R29·75 lakhs, which marks the converse of that decline in average value which was noticed in the case of beer.

Spices.—There has been a further increase of 2·2 per cent in the quantity of spices imported and an improvement of 5 per cent. in the value, which now reaches R108 lakhs. Of this betelnuts represent R74·33 lakhs, which is 4·2 per cent above the figure of 1904-05. The total quantity received amounts to some 47,191 tons. Of this total some 86·1 per cent are derived from Straits Settlements and 65·7 per cent. are received at Calcutta, 20·9 per cent going to Madras. Of cloves from Zanzibar the total quantity imported was 3,132 tons, with a value of R21·3 lakhs. This marks an increase of 17·5 per cent in quantity but only R2·64 lakhs in value, seeing that the price fell away about 3 per cent from the high level attained in 1904-05.

OPIUM IN 1905-06.

THE Malwa crop continues to contract, and whereas ten years ago it probably amounted to some 40,000 chests of 140 lbs. each, and five years ago to from 30,000 to 35,000, in the last two years it has shrunk first to about 25,000 chests and then to about 18,000. The continuous decline in the exports of Malwa opium to China since 1885 is shown by the following figures derived from an unofficial but reliable source :—

1885 to 1889 average	35,035 chests.
1890 to 1894 „	28,907 „
1895 to 1899 „	22,590 „
1900 to 1904 „	21,108 „
1904	18,823 „
1905	15,043 „

Apart from accidents to the crop, Malwa opium has the trade disability of varying greatly in consistency, weight, strength and price, with the effect that Bengal opium of the standard type is increasingly preferred in China. For example, middling good last year's Malwa might be quoted at R1,430 while 7 or 8 years old might fetch anything between R1,650 and R1,700. The shortage in Malwa and the consequent relative predominance of old stock account for the extraordinarily high price attained in 1904-05 in Bombay, where it rules the market, and for the further increase of 8·6 per cent in 1905-06 as shown below.

This statement gives the export and the prices per chest for each of the last five years :—

	Bengal chests	*Bombay* chests	*Total* chests	*Value* R	*Average price per chest* Bengal R	Bombay R
1901-02 .	48,062	17,541	65,603	8,52,29,854	1,299	1,301
1902-03 .	48,154	19,375	67,531	8,01,69,354	1,144	1,295
1903-04 .	48,218	25,419	73,637	10,47,01,638	1,460	1,349
1904-05 .	47,855	19,006	66,861	10,62,34,442	1,585	1,599
1905-06 .	48,883	14,103	62,936	9,47,17,667	1,438	1,736

The decrease was one of 5·9 per cent in quantity and 10·8 per cent in value. In Bengal the price more than lost what it had gained in the previous year and, with an increased export, fell back to R1,438. The average price of the Calcutta sales was R1,498 for the calendar year and R1,436 for the year from April 1905 to March 1906, the maximum of each of these periods, respectively, being R1,621 in February and R1,533 in June 1905. Exports to Hong-Kong and the Straits Settlements showed increases of 66 chests and 113 chests, respectively, their totals being 37,886 chests and 12,368 chests, while shipments to the Treaty Ports registered a fall of 4,042 chests to a total of 10,121.

IMPORTS OF MACHINERY AND RAILWAY MATERIAL.

The continuous growth in the **importation of machinery** is one of the most healthy features of Indian trade, and has been remarkable in the year 1905-06. In the three years before the cycle of bad seasons arrested the economic growth of the country the figures were as follows :—

	Rs.
1894-95	244·24 lakhs.
1895-96	323·74 „
1896-97	350·9 „

This last figure remained the record till 1904-05, when Rs. 402·7 lakhs was attained. In 1905-06 this has been exceeded by no less than 22·2 per cent, which brings the total value to Rs. 491·97 lakhs, the net increase being Rs. 89·24 lakhs. The year has been exceptional, more especially in respect of the great activity in the textile industries; and although the installation of new cotton and jute plant is proceeding actively, it is doubtful whether the same rate of progress can be maintained in the current year. Bengal imported machinery to the value of Rs. 236 lakhs, which is 20·6 per cent. above the figure for 1904-05. Almost the whole of this increase of Rs. 40·27 lakhs is accounted for by the increase from Rs. 94·25 lakhs to Rs. 125 lakhs in jute machinery, while in Bombay the increase is due to additions to plant in cotton mills. In Bombay the increase has exceeded that in Bengal and amounts to Rs. 54·5 lakhs, or 44·9 per cent. of the value for that port in 1904-05. The total value is Rs. 175·6 lakhs against Rs 121 lakhs in the previous year. The extent to which the extraordinary activity of the year was, however, confined to the two main textile industries is emphasised by the fact that in the Provinces other than Bengal and Bombay the value of machinery imported actually receded from Rs. 85·8 lakhs to Rs. 80·3, the fall being one of 6·4 per cent. The totals of the various classes of machinery imported into all India were as follows :—

	Rs.
Steam-engines and parts . .	1,02,82,000
Textile	2,46,32,000
Electrical	23,06,000
Mining	5,91,000
Other descriptions . . .	1,13,86,000

The expansion in the **imports of Railway material** (State and Private) has been fairly continuous in the last four years. In 1902-03 these imports represented Rs. 536 lakhs; in 1903-04, they rose to Rs. 563·7 lakhs; in 1904-05; there was a slight drop to Rs. 561·5 lakhs; but in 1905-06 this was more than made good by a rise to Rs. 673·73 lakhs in consequence mainly of the getting to work of the Railway Board. These figures include rolling-stock and comprise imports for private lines (Rs. 162·2 lakhs) and for State Railways (Rs. 511·5 lakhs). In official returns imports for State Railways are kept distinct from the movements of private trade; and under these conditions such modification of the figures as necessarily attends the progressive acquisition of lines by the State might well give an impression that the quantity of Railway material imported was diminishing.

CHINESE EMIGRATION AND THE BALANCE OF TRADE.

THE Under-Secretary for the Colonies announced on the 5th of July that our Consular Representatives in China will discontinue the issue of licences to coolies desirous of proceeding to South Africa after the 30th of November next. This announcement adds peculiar interest to an article on "Chinese Emigration and the Balance of Trade" from the pen of a Shanghai correspondent in the *Times, Financial and Commercial Supplement*, of the 18th of June. The writer of the article shows the effect that the advent of steam traffic to the ports of China had on the emigration for which the overpeopled empire has always been noted, and how the sudden increase of Chinese immigrants to their shores caused every country to which these Chinese went to establish defensive legislation in one form or another. Concluding, the writer asks: "Why should an article on emigration find a place in the columns of a financial and commercial paper? The answer is that emigration constitutes an essential element in the commercial solvency of China. Brawn and brains are China's most important article of export, of a greater annual value in her international balances than her exports of silk and tea, and with them she pays for the cotton fabrics of Manchester and Lowell, and for the yarns of Bombay and Osaka. It is not only that the returned emigrants introduce among the millions of the Empire a taste for articles of foreign manufacture; their remittances while abroad and the funds they bring back with them serve to adjust the balance of indebtedness in international exchange, and to allow of a consumption of foreign products considerably in excess of the corresponding value of the exports of Chinese produce—as a return for the loan of some of her superabundant millions China receives free of national cost a large volume of foreign products, for which the foreign producer is paid by the labour of the emigrants. During the past three years the value of the net import of foreign goods and of the export of Chinese produce, and the percentage by which the imports exceeded the exports, were as follows :—

—	Imports.	Exports.	Excess of imports over exports.
	£	£	
1903 .	41,000,000	31,300,000	31 per cent.
1904 .	49,250,000	34,350,000	43 „ „
1905 .	67,250,000	34,200,000	97 „ „

The surplus of imports in the later two years has been covered by remittances for war purposes and is therefore unduly swollen, but the surplus of 1903, a year affected only by commercial influences, may be taken as normal. Here then we see an import trade of £41,000,000, to which must be added $6\frac{1}{4}$ millions for interest on foreign loans and indemnities due to foreign powers, and this liability of 47 millions is to be met by an export trade valued at 31 millions only. Maculay's schoolboy would say that the figures could not balance, and yet China is not bankrupt.

A pamphlet issued by the Statistical Department of the Chinese Customs towards the end of 1904, and noticed in your columns at the time (*The Times, January 17, 1905*), considered the question of the balance of indebtedness between China and foreign countries. In a country in which absolutely the only statistics obtainable are those of the movement of merchandise, it is obviously more difficult than in other more advanced countries to arrive at any satisfactory estimate of invisible assets which have not even a shadowy semblance of visibility. An attempt was, however, made, although, to quote the words of the pamphlet, under some heads, "the best that can be done is to adopt a reasonable working hypothesis, and on it to base a conjecture." The total sum payable by China in the year taken for consideration (1903), including the value of merchandise and treasure, imported, payments for loans and indemnities, and certain estimated invisible liabilities, was put at £56,000,000; to meet this liability the inquiry found that China could provide the following assets :—

	£
Merchandise and treasure exported. .	35,500,000
Other invisible assets . . .	10,850,000
Remittances from and money brought in by Chinese emigrants abroad . .	9,650,000
TOTAL .	56,000,000

Regarding the amount taken for remittances from emigrants the official who made the inquiry writes :—

This figure I take as probably the nearest to the truth that we can get with our present information, and as pretty certainly a minimum estimate. Nothing is included for the large body of Chinese who, even prior to 1904, were in South Africa. Further contract labourers have no savings for the first year or two, as their earnings go to repay the contractors for the cost of transport and advances, and only net savings of the labourers are included; but the payments to the contractors must be returned to China in a constantly recurring stream to provide advances and transport for a fresh supply of labourers.

To this we have now to add the money sent home or brought back by indentured labourers in the Transvaal, which, on the basis of the minimum wage of 1s. a day, will not be less than £1,000,000 a year; and, considering that the estimate of the inquiry is explicitly stated to be a minimum estimate, it will be fair to assume that the amount annually contributed by the earnings of Chinese emigrants abroad toward the balancing of their native country's international indebtedness is upwards of £15,000,000.

It is a common charge against Chinese emigrants that they are unduly thrifty, spend little or nothing beyond the bare cost of subsistence on the coolie-scale of living, and remit or take with them the major part of their earnings, contributing nothing to the prosperity of the country of their sojourn; even their innate habit of gambling does not enrich their hosts, since they are the most clannish of peoples, and the gambling loss of one Chinaman is the gain of another Chinaman. This is, of course, a parochial view. It is true they do not spend their money where they earn it; but the comparatively small sums they bring back in coin, estimated at about a tenth of the whole, are largely spent—of this we have visible evidence in increased purchases of luxuries, to a great extent of foreign providing; while the large sums annually remitted by them in bank bills must the covered by imports. The fruits growers of California, the sugar planters of Sumatra, the mine-owners of the Transvaal pay out their millioncin wages to Chinese who, in the land of their birth, transmute those millions into cotton fabrics from Manchester, cotton yarn from Bombay, kerosene oil from Pennsylvania, or hosiery from Chemnitz, and thereby enable China to face with equanimity the loss of her tea trade if only she can substitute her surplus labour for its product. When the day comes that the *Yellow Peril* shall be so manifest that the barriers will be put up on all sides, foreign countries must expect to see China's purchasing power diminished and foreign trade with her reduced in proportion.

JUTE IN BENGAL.

THE following are extracts from a General "Report on Jute in Bengal for 1904-05" by Mr. Robert S. Finlow :—

The modern jute industry of Bengal may be said to have had its origin in the year 1828, when exportation to Europe commenced. Once having obtained a footing in the European market, the value of this fibre was immediately recognized and the expansion of the trade has, ever since, been constant and rapid, until, at the present time, its annual value may be estimated at something like £14,000,000.

In recent years, there have been complaints from merchants that the quality of the fibre has been deteriorating. In September 1901 the Calcutta Baled Jute Association addressed the Director of Land Records and Agriculture of Bengal on the subject. This was followed in January 1902, by a communication to the same effect from the Dundee Jute Importers' Association to the Secretary of State for India. As a result, field experiments were started at Burdwan Farm in 1902 by the Bengal Agricultural Department under the guidance of the Inspector-General of Agriculture, and have since been continued.

Various causes have been suggested for the deterioration, which it would appear, has taken place. They may be enumerated as follows :—

1. Actual degeneration of the plants grown for the sake of the fibre.
2. Carelessness in preparing the fibre for the market.
3. Exhaustion of lands.
4. The sowing of lands not suited to the growth of jute.
5. Use of inferior seed by the cultivators.
6. The cultivation of kinds of jute, which are unsuitable for the particular locality in which they are grown.

Fraudulent "watering" of the fibre in order to increase its weight before bringing it into the market.

Causes 1 and 2 are dealt with in the report of the Sub-Committee of the Board of Scientific Advice of which a digest is given below. Causes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are at present the subject of investigation and experiment.

Soon after the commencement of the enquiry into the deterioration of jute, it was recognized that it was necessary to supplement and amplify the field work by laboratory experiments. As a result, an investigation was commenced of the problems connected with the cultivation and preparation of jute, dealing more specially with the Chemical and Biological side of the question.

At Pemberandah, two questions were dealt with, as far as was possible in the time, *viz.* :—

(*a*) The amount of water which a sample of jute fibre absorbs from the atmosphere under given conditions.

(*b*) The retting of jute.

Question (*a*) was, of course, taken up in connection with the "fraudulent watering" of jute, a practice which, although it only recently assumed serious proportions, has now become almost universal. Its cause is probably to be attributed largely to the rapidly increasing demand for the fibre, which is gradually outstripping the supply. Assuming this to be the case, two remedies suggest themselves, *viz.* :—

(*a*) Such extension of the jute growing area as would equalize the discrepancy between supply and demand.

(*b*) Repressive legislation.

It was with the view of the possibility of a standard being required for the latter that the work on watered jute was taken up.

In commencing the investigation, it was thought advisable, first of all, to show, by exact figures, how widely the amount of moisture in an obviously "watered" sample of jute differs from that which a genuine "air dry" sample would contain. To demonstrate this it was only necessary to estimate the moisture in a number of different samples (*a*) of "air dry" fibre, (*b*) of fibre which has been watered.

This series of experiments is not finished, the few results given below being all it was possible to obtain in the time available. While not of great value without further confirmation, the figures are sufficiently concordant to indicate that by doing a considerable number of determinations under sufficiently divergent conditions it may be possible to arrive at a figure which could, if necessary, be used as a standard.

The retting of jute is a large question and one of considerable difficulty, involving, as it does, the general principles of the decay of organic matter. The process may be described as one in which decomposition is allowed to proceed just so far, that the less resistant bodies causing the adherence of fibres to the cortex and wood of the plant are disintegrated and dissolved, thus allowing the fibre to be separated easily and completely. If the decomposition is allowed to proceed too far; the fibre begins to be attacked and its value is greatly impaired thereby. Hence the care which is necessary to avoid "over retting."

With a thorough knowledge of the process, we may reasonably hope to be able to exercise more control over it than it is at present possible to do.

So far the time spent in this investigation is too short to draw any really definite conclusions. Briefly it may be said that the retting process carried out in India appears to be the result of bacterial action. Whether it is the result of the work of a single organism has not yet been definitely decided; although the action apparently proceeds along somewhat similar lines to the corresponding process with flax, for which Winogradsky in Europe claims to have isolated a characteristic organism in pure culture.

It was observed in the laboratory that the retting action was considerably hastened by the addition to the water in which the retting took place of traces of Salts of Ammonia and Phosphoric Acid. This result has, however not, been borne out by experiments of the same nature on a larger scale, carried out during the last retting season. The cause of this discrepancy will be made the subject of further investigation.

While the ordinary retting process, as stated above, is probably the result of bacterial action, it has been observed that some moulds and similar fungi have also the power of dissolving the tissue in which the fibres are imbedded. The fibre of

sterile stems of jute which are kept moist but not immersed in water, and innoculated with a pure culture of such growths, was found to separate easily after a day or two. Two of these fungi were isolated and sent to Dr. Bulter, the Cryptogamic Botanist to the Government of India for identification. One a green mould proved to be a hitherto undescribed species of Aspergillus, and the other—a white growth—a Fusarium.

A detailed account of the jute experiments in Bengal for 1904 has been prepared by the Assistant Director of Agriculture of Bengal, Mr. D. N. Mukerji. The experiments in 1905 were carried out by Mr. Smith, the Deputy Director of Agriculture.

In both years practically the same programme was adhered to, *viz.*, that drawn out by Mr. Mollison, the Inspector General of Agriculture in India. The following is the programme :—

To ascertain—(*a*) whether the quality of the fibre varies with the kind of jute sown;

(*b*) at what stage of growth a crop should be harvested to give the best fibre.

(*c*) whether a well-grown crop resulting from suitable manuring gives a better fibre than an inferior crop;

(*d*) to what extent the quality and outturn of fibre are affected by different degrees of spacing;

(*e*) the relative merits of thick and thin sowing;

(*f*) whether the retting process can be improved under such conditions as ordinarily prevail;

(*g*) whether drilling is better than broadcast sowing of seed.

The results obtained in 1904 were indefinite, owing to the difficulty of regulating the spaces and to the unequal nature of the plots. So far as they go they tend to show that four inch spacing gives the greater yield.

The following are the results for 1905 :—

		Fibre. lbs. per acre.
(*a*) 4 inches spacing	yielded	1,318¾
(*b*) 6 ditto	ditto	1,190
(*c*) 8 ditto	ditto	1,025
(*d*) 10 ditto	ditto	796

The samples were equal as regards quality.

The yields were low generally but they leave no doubt as to the heavier yield to be obtained by sowing in lines four inches apart.

Relative merits of thick and thin sowing :—These experiments are designed to ascertain (*a*) whether any improvement in the yield of fibre is effected by repeated thin sowing through several years; and on the other hand (*b*) whether repeated thick sowing causes the yield of the fibre to diminish.

The results obtained so far are conflicting, except that in both 1904 and 1905 the yield from the plot sown thinly with seed from a thinly sown plot the previous year was slightly superior.

N. B.—4 seers (9 lbs.) of seed were sown per acre on "thick sown" plots; 3 seers (6 lbs.) of seed per acre is "thinly sown."

Retting.

(*f*) The Rangpur and Dacca methods of stripping and washing the fibre after retting were compared in 1904. The samples prepared showed no difference as far as market qualities were concerned.

This experiment was omitted in 1905.

(*g*) Drill *versus* broadcast sowing.—This experiment was carried out for the first time in 1905. The following are the results :—

Drilling yielded 816 lbs of fibre per acre.

Broadcast yielded 777 lbs. of fibre per acre.

The slightly better result obtained by drilling will be tested by further experiments.

Experiments at Cuttack.

Last year (1905) several plots were devoted to jute at the Government Experimental Farm at Cuttack.

There are two kinds of land on the farm, one high and almost sandy, the other low—subject to inundation—and heavy. The jute experiments were in the latter.

The seed was sown in the first half of May, which was probably too late.

Most of the plots were poor; but in two cases the plants were from 6 to 9 feet high, and one plot gave a yield of 11½ maunds of fibre per acre. Although the experiments cannot be said to have been very successful, the results are sufficiently encouraging to allow the experiments to be continued next year, when an attempt will be made to sow earlier, with irrigation, if necessary. In this way the crop would have an opportunity to reach sufficient maturity to resist the water-logging to which the experimental area is subject.

It may be well at this point to draw attention to the fact that jute is almost certainly sensitive to excessive moisture in its young stages, although the more mature plants are in most cases capable of thriving in several feet of water.

This is important in conducting experiments with jute in new districts; because trials which otherwise might have a reasonable chance of success may be made to appear hopeless on this account.

Seed Selection.

Last year (1905) small areas of one or two acres at Rajbari, Gouripore (Mymensingh), Rangpur and Jalpaiguri were devoted to preliminary experiments with seed selection. The object aimed at was to obtain mature seed from well grown plants by allowing plenty of room for vigorous growth and by not cutting the crop for fibre in order that the seeds might have time to ripen thoroughly. The plants were thinned out into rows 2 feet apart and their distances from each other in the rows was 18 inches. It has been decided not to thin out quite to this extent in future.

Difficulties were experienced in obtaining labour and also in regard to the supervision of the plots, but altogether about 27½ maunds of seed were obtained from 11 acres. Some of this seed has already been distributed.

In pursuance of this scheme it is proposed this year (1906) to start 30-acre farms at Purneah, Berhampur (Murshidabad), Krishnagar and at Chinsura when more systematic work will be done on a larger scale than was possible in 1905.

Scheme for future work.

In the field the investigations which are now being carried on at the various farms will be persevered with, *viz.*—

(1) The comparison of the fibres produced from different races of jute in order, if possible, to determine which are the most suitable for each district, having in view the two criteria of quality and outturn of fibre.

(2) Manurial experiments.

(3) Seed selection.

(4) Determination of the best stage of growth at which it is advisable to cut the plant.

(5) Spacing experiments.

(6) Retting experiments.

(7) Rotation as an alternative to manuring.

(8) Trial of other fibre producing plants.

In the laboratory.—The following points will receive attention :—

(1) As far as possible, laboratory tests will supplement the field work in comparison of fibres, both as regards strength and chemical composition.

(2) Continuation of the work on watered jute if necessary.

(3) Chemical and Physical investigation of typical jute-growing soils.

(4) Retting of jute.

(5) Comparison of the chemical and physical properties of various fibre plants other than jute.

For the purpose of this work, a laboratory equipped for chemical and bacteriological work, together with a suitable area of land in the vicinity for field experiments is required. No such place is at present available in the jute-growing districts of lower Bengal.

I understand, however, that Dr. Leather, the Agricultural Chemist to the Government of India, is willing to provide temporary accommodation for chemical work in his laboratory at Pusa. I propose, therefore, with the consent of Government to proceed with the laboratory work at Pusa (where a commencement could be made with the work on soils and the chemical and physical examination of fibre) until other accommodation is provided.

GAZETTE NOTIFICATION.

POST OFFICE.

MONEY ORDERS.

The 7th July 1906.

IN exercise of the power conferred by section 46, sub-section (*2*), of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 (VI of 1898), the Governor-General in Council is pleased to direct that the following rule shall be substituted for rule 122 of the rules published in the Notification in the Finance and Commerce Department No. 1429-C.S.R., dated the 30th March 1899, as amended by Notification No. 5239—67-4, dated the 22nd September 1905 in the Department of Commerce and Industry.

122.—The following fees (including the cost of the telegram) shall be charged on Indo-Ceylon telegraphic money orders issued in India, namely :—

(*a*) *For sums not exceeding Rs. 25.*

	Rs.	A.	P.
For the first Rs. 10	1	6	0
For the balance { if it does not exceed Rs. 5	0	1	0
For the balance { if it exceeds Rs. 5	0	2	0

(*b*) *For sums exceeding Rs. 25, but not exceeding Rs. 150.*

For the first Rs. 25	1	8	0
For each complete sum of Rs. 25 additional	0	4	0
For sums less than Rs. 25 additional—			
If the sum does not exceed Rs. 5	0	1	0
„ „ „ 10	0	2	0
„ „ „ 15	0	3	0
If the sum exceeds Rs. 15	0	4	0

(*c*) *For sums exceeding Rs. 150 up to Rs. 600.*

For the first Rs. 150	2	12	0
For each complete sum of Rs. 50 additional	0	8	0
For sums less than Rs. 50 additional—			
If the sum is Rs. 10	0	2	0
„ „ „ 20	0	4	0
„ „ „ 30	0	5	0
„ „ „ 40	0	7	0

NEW REFERENCE BOOKS.

LE DÉVELOPPMENT DE LA FABRIQUE ET LE TRAVAIL A DOMICILE DANS LES INDUSTRIES DE L'HABILLEMENT.
By M. ALBERT AFTALION, Professeur a la Faculté de droit de l' Universite de Lille. Paris, Librarie Larose et L. Tenin, 22, rue Soufflot. 3fr. 50. 1 volume.

THE OFFICIAL YEAR BOOK OF NEW SOUTH WALES, 1904-05.
(Illus.) First Issue. By W. H. HALL, 10 6½, 810 pp. NewSouth Wales: Gullick, Government Printer.

RESUMÉ STATISTIQUE DE L'EMPIRE DU JAPON.
10½ 7½. 163 pp. Tokio: Cabinet Imperial, Bureau de la Statistique Generale.

WALKER'S IDEAL ATLAS OF THE WORLD.
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JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Number and Particulars of Joint Stock Companies Registered in each Province in British India in the month of May 1906.

No.	Name.	Situation of Registered office.	Object.	Capital. Nominal.	Capital. Paid-up.
	I.—Banking, Loan and Insurance.			R	R
	(a) Banking and Loan.				
1	Lahore Bank	Lahore, Panjab	Banking and general trading	2,50,000	...
2	Periakolam Hindu Permanent Fund.	Periakolam, Madura, Madras.	Money-lending (mutual)	1,99,920	...
3	Navanitha Kistnaswami Dravia Sahaya Ela Nidhi.	Ambasamudram, Tinnevelly, Madras.	" "	18,000	...
4	Ramnad Sri Pattabhirama Sahaya Ela Chit Co.	Ramnad, Madura, Madras.	" "	25,000	...
5	Canara Banking Corporation	Udipi, South Canara, Madras.	Banking	90,000	...
6	Trichinopoly Palakkarai Eda Street Sri Navanitha Kistnavilasa Ela Nidhi.	Palakkarai, Trichinopoly, Madras.	Money-lending (mutual)	20,000	...
	Total, Banking	...	.....	6,02,920	...
	(b) Insurance.				
7	All India United Insurance Co.	Bombay, Bombay	Fire Insurance	50,00,000	...
8	Lakhinarayana Provident Co.	Chicacole, Ganjam, Madras.	Life Insurance	10,000	...
9	Rallapeta Provident Co.	Rallapeta, Ganjam, Madras.	" "	6,000	...
10	Sri Sri Sri Balasasekhareswara Provident and Mercantile Co.	Kaligapatam, Ganjam, Madras.	Life Insurance and trading	10,000	...
11	Polatri Provident Institution	Chicacole, Ganjam, Madras.	Life Insurance	5,000	...
12	Sri Dhavaleswaraswami Sahaya Provident Co.	Chicacole, Ganjam, Madras.	" "	10,000	...
13	Sri Lakshmi Amrita Wedding and Provident Co.	Chicacole, Ganjam, Madras.	" "	10,000	...
	Total, Insurance	.....	.....	50,51,000	...
	Total, Banking, Loan and Insurance	.....	.....	56,53,920	...
	II.—Trading.				
	(a) Navigation.				
14	Port Shipping Co.	Bengal	Business of carrying by land and water and of shipowners.	15,00,000	...
15	Bombay Steam Navigation Co.	Bombay, Bombay	Business of shipowners and charterers.	60,00,000	...
	Total, Navigation	.....	.....	75,00,000	...
	(b) Printing, Publishing and Stationery.				
16	The Empire	Bengal	Business of Newspaper, Proprietors and general printing.	3,00,000	...

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES —*concluded.*

No.	Name.	Situation of Registered office.	Object.	Capital. Nominal.	Capital. Paid-up.
	II.—Trading—*contd.*			R	R
	(c) Others.				
17	Kishorganj Trading Co.	Mymensingh, Eastern Bengal and Assam.	General trading	20,000	...
18	Habiganj Jatiya Bhandar Samiti	Sylhet, Eastern Bengal and Assam.	Banking, Agriculture and General trading.	50,000	...
19	Cachar National Union Club	Cachar, Eastern Bengal and Assam.	General trading	20,000	...
20	Bharat Champad	Cachar, Eastern Bengal and Assam.	" "	20,000	...
21	Calcutta Concert Hall Co.	Bengal	Business of Theatre, Music, Concert, etc.	7,500	...
22	National Stores	"	General trading	1,00,000	...
23	Baliaghatta Card Board Manufacturing Co.	"	Manufacturing Straw Board, Card Board, etc.	50,000	...
24	Krishnagar Deshiya Drabyagar	"	Trading in Indian arts, manufacturers, etc	20,000	...
25	Jubilee Workshop	Aligarh, United Provinces.	Trading in leather, rubber, wood, etc.	30,000	...
26	Salem Shevvapet Sri Ramalinga Samdeswari Varthaka Co.	Shevvapet, Salem, Madras.	Trading in cloths, etc.	1,00,000	...
	Total, Others	.....	.....	4,17,500	...
	Total, Trading	.....	.....	82,17,500	...
	III.—Mills and Presses.				
	(a) Cotton Mills.				
27	Desi Cloth Mills Co.	Bengal	Spinning, manufacturing etc., cotton, cotton stuffs and fabrics.	6,00,000	...
28	Godaveri Weaving Factory	Tamerker, Godavari, Madras.	Spinning and weaving cotton, etc.	12,000	...
29	Coimbatore Imperial Cotton Mills Co.	Coimbatore, Madras	Spinning and weaving cotton, etc.	7,00,000	6,910
	Total, Cotton Mills	.....	.....	13,12,000	6,910
	Grand Total	.....	.....	1,51,83,420	6,910

ABSTRACT TABLE OF COMPANIES REGISTERED IN THE MONTH OF MAY 1906.

		Capital (R) Nominal.	Capital (R) Paid-up.
6	Banking and Loan Companies	6,02,920	...
7	Insurance Companies	50,51,000	...
2	Navigation Companies	75,00,000	...
1	Printing and Publishing Company	3,00,000	...
10	Trading Companies (*other than those specified*)	4,17,500	...
3	Cotton Mills	13,12,000	6,910
29	Total	1,51,83,420	6,910

RETAIL PRICES.

The following are the Retail Prices of certain food-grains and salt at selected stations for the first-half of June 1906. (Prices are stated in annas, etc., per ser.)

	Rice, common.	Wheat.	Barley.	Jawar.	Bajra.	Ragi.	Gram.	Salt.
BURMA—	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.
Rangoon	1 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 10
Toungoo	1 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 6
EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM—								
Rangpur	1 11	1 8	...	...	...	...	...	1 2
Backerganj	2 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 3
BENGAL—								
Calcutta	2 0	1 4	...	...	...	...	...	1 0
Patna	1 5	1 4	1 0	...	...	...	...	1 0
UNITED PROVINCES—								
Cawnpore	...	1 4	1 0	...	1 3	...	1 2	1 0
Fyzabad	...	1 4	1 0	...	...	...	1 1	1 2
Meerut	...	1 1	0 10	1 5	1 6	...	1 0	1 0
PUNJAB—								
Delhi	..	1 2	1 0	1 8	1 7	...	1 0	1 0
Amritsar		0 11	0 9	1 4	1 4	...	0 10	0 10
Rawal pindi	...	1 1	0 10	1 2	1 2	...	1 0	0 9
SIND—								
Karachi	...	1 4	...	1 0	1 3	...	1 3	0 9
BOMBAY—								
Belgaum	...	1 10	...	1 5	1 5	...	...	1 0
Ahmadnagar	...	1 7	...	1 1	1 3	...	...	0 11
Bombay	...	1 7	...	1 4	1 4	...	...	1 2
Ahmadabad	...	1 5	...	1 3	1 6	...	...	0 10
CENTRAL PROVINCES—								
Jubbulpore	...	1 2	...	...	...	...	1 2	1 3
Nagpur	1 8	1 3	...	...	...	...	1 4	1 3
Raipur	1 5	1 2	...	...	...	...	1 2	1 2
MADRAS—								
Bellary	2 0	...	...	1 3	...	1 2	...	1 1
Madras	2 0	...	...	...	...	1 3	...	0 9
Salem	2 2	...	...	1 5	1 7	1 2	...	1 1

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.

For the week ending 7th July 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign—Imports by sea into	Calcutta lbs.	181,303
	Bombay „	276,898
	Madras „	8,600
Indian—Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	202,320
	Bombay „	4,519,540
	Madras „	16,000

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	24,097,370
	Bombay „	3,261,232
	Karachi „	602,357
	Madras „	391,094
	Rangoon „	...

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	3,595,155
	Bombay „	3,727,889
	Karachi „	1,498,439
	Madras „	58,730
	Rangoon „	6,291

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	1,640,939
	Bombay „	2,842,790
	Karachi „	655,448
	Madras „	16,298
	Rangoon „	48,261

Piece Goods.

(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta* cwt.	20,433
	Bombay† „	6,711
	Karachi „	12,538
	Madras „	4,388

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea cwt.	1,995
	Coastwise „	7,410
	By rail „	19,341
Imports into Karachi by rail	„	3,488
„ „ Calcutta* by rail and river	„	1,805

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta*	cwt.	47,296
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags No.	2,192,900
	„ cloth yds.	17,353,400
	Jute cwt.	20,716
Exports by sea from Chittagong	Jute „	...

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta	lbs.	5,804,321
Exports by sea from Calcutta	„	4,572,725
Exports by sea from Chittagong	„	...

WHEAT.

Imports into Calcutta* by rail and river		cwt.	48,673
Imports into Karachi by rail		„	532,689
Imports into Bombay	By sea	„	5,525
	Coastwise	„	17,958
	By rail	„	23,188
Exports by sea from Calcutta		„	675
Exports by sea from Bombay		„	17,534
Exports by sea from Karachi		„	905,285

RICE.

Exports by sea from Calcutta	cwt.	57,748
Exports by sea from Chittagong	„	...
Exports by sea from Bombay	„	5,158
Exports by sea from Karachi	„	14,609
Exports by sea from Madras	„	...
Exports by sea from Rangoon	„	624,203

LINSEED.

Imports into Calcutta* by rail and river		cwt.	42,364
Imports into Bombay	By sea	„	56
	Coastwise	„	9
	By rail	„	1,394
Imports into Karachi by rail		„	...
Exports by sea from Calcutta		„	82,863
Exports by sea from Bombay		„	39,998
Exports by sea from Karachi		„	213

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into Calcutta* by rail and river		cwt.	55,033
Imports into Bombay	By sea	„	...
	Coastwise	„	696
	by rail	„	9,489
Imports into Karachi by rail		„	78,946
Exports by sea from Calcutta		„	3,045
Exports by sea from Bombay		„	59,648
Exports by sea from Karachi		„	67,720

* B. N. Ry. Shalimar figures not received. † B., B. and C. I. Ry. figures only.

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 7th JULY 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From All other foreign countries.	Total.
	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.	gallons.
Calcutta	16,666	1,228,308	...	1,244,974
Bombay	...	...	...	...
Karachi	...	...	...	...
Madras	...	...	...	...

Exports by sea from Burma to		
Bengal	gallons.	...
E. B. & Assam	,,	...
Bombay	,,	957,690
Sind	,,	...
Madras	,,	...
Indian Ports, Non-Br.	,,	...
Foreign Ports	,,	...

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 7th JULY 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	502	...	4	37	5	1	549
Germany	8,700	...	28,119	12,550	...	...	49,369
Austria-Hungary	2,250	...	1,507	29,950	...	...	33,707
Other European Countries	...	..	...	...	...	..	...
Java	3,962	...	...	...	..	...	3,962
Mauritius	...	...	23,767	...	...	...	23,767
Other Non-European Countries	...	...	377	...	...	2,344	2,721
Total refined							114,075
Total unrefined							...
Grand Total cwt.							114,075

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta. [The prices include postage to countries in the Postal Union.]

ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 (2*a.*)
2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a.*)
3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—
   - Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. R3. (12*a.*)
   - Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port. R3. (12*a.*)
4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. R2. (7*a.*)
5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a.*)
6. Accounts of Trade of the French Possession in India. As. 3. (1*a.*)
7. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possession in India. As. 2. (1*a.*)
8. Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India. R4. (6*a.*)
9. Report on the Rail-borne and River-borne Trade of Bengal. R1.
10. Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan. R1½.
11. Prices and Wages in India. R1½. (9*a.*)
12. Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India. R1. (12*a.*)
13. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India. R2. (10*a.*)
14. Agricultural Statistics of India. R3½. (12*a.*)
    - Part I.—British India.
    - Part II.—Native States.
15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India. As. 5. (2*a.*)
16. Statistics of Mineral Production in India. As. 2, (1*a.*)

QUARTERLY.

17. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a.*)

MONTHLY.

18. Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of British India. As. 8. (2*a.*)
19. Accounts of the External Land Trade of British India. As. 8. (2*a.*)
20. Statistics of the Production of Yarn and Woven Goods in the India Cotton Mills. As. 2.

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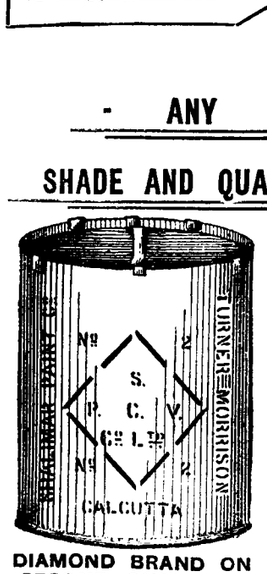
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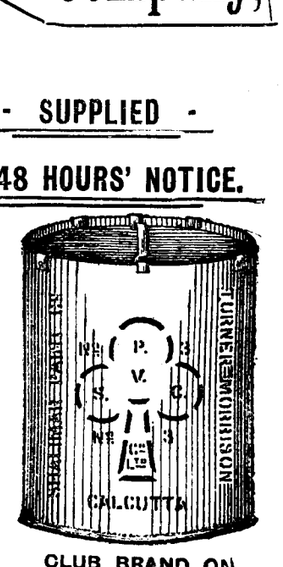


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NOTES.

An **Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition** is to be held in Calcutta next December during the Congress Session.

Reuter's Wellington correspondent says :—The census returns show that the **total white population of New Zealand** numbers 890,000, an increase in the last five years of 117,000.

The American Department of Agriculture has ascertained that some 84,400,000 **wooden sleepers** were purchased by American railways last year. This total represents nearly 3,000,000,000 feet of timber, board measure.

An understanding has been reached by the members of the conference of both Houses of Congress at Washington on the **Railway Rates Bill,** which, it is predicted, will result in a complete agreement. A Joint Committee will complete the work.

The Canadian Minister of Agriculture expects to have ready soon the report upon the **canned industries of Canada,** which are now being inquired into. If any further regulation or inspection is necessary, says an Ottawa telegram in the *Standard,* the Government will see that this is done, so that the British buyer will have a guarantee that what he gets is the best.

Mr. Carruthers, the Premier of New South Wales, has instructed Mr. Coghlan, Acting Agent General in London, to make representations to Lord Elgin regarding **New South Wales tinned meats** similar to those made on behalf of New Zealand. A special inquiry has just been completed by the President of the Board of Health into the system of the tinned meat trade, and his inspection shows that the **methods in use are so stringent** that *no alteration is desirable.*

In the month of May, the **Indian Gold mines** yielded 48,546 ozs. valued at Rs. 27,70,087. The outturn as compared with corresponding period of 1905 and 1904 was as follows :—

		1906.	1905.	1904.
Mysore	Ozs.	47,336	51,271	50,368
	Rs.	27,01,087	29,35,823	28,80,769
Nizam's Territory .	Ozs.	1,210	1079	797
	Rs.	69,000	62,699	46,329

The **export of hides and skins** during the past two years has been as follows :—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Metric tons.	Dol.
1903-04	8,364	6,554,089
1904-05	9,018	6,739,612

The hides and skins are all exported in an untanned condition, and include goat-skins, which are sent principally to the United States; ox-hides to the United States, Germany, and France, and deer-skins to the United States.

Cotton spinners both in England and in the States seem to be having a good time. At the meeting of the Association of Southern Soft Yarn Spinners recently it was "ascertained that all the spinners were sold up as far as they were willing to take orders, that the supply of yarns on hand was nothing, and that the demand seemed to be unlimited." There seems a strong enough position, says the *Manchester Guardian*, and the resolution "to stand firm for higher prices in order to make adequate return to the mills seems redundant." **Labour,** it seems, is badly wanted in the mills, which, after all, can hardly be doing better than those of Lancashire, where twists, it is said, are being regularly turned out at a **net profit** of a penny per pound.

A correspondent of the **Bulletin** of the American Trade Association in Berlin states that leading Rhenish and Westphalian firms are planning a special meeting to be held in Frankfort towards the end of this month for the purpose of considering the best way of **introducing German cotton prints** to the **Chinese and Japanese markets. A** preliminary meeting was held lately at Dusseldorf, where the conviction was very decidedly expressed that the intention of the German Government to send out a commission to study trade prospects in China for German manufacturers was not practical, probably owing to the loss of time before results would be made known to the trade. American manufacturers of cotton prints, who have been themselves agitating for a similar Government Commission, may look forward with interest to the results of the aforementioned meeting, which is closely watched in India.

Presiding on the 28th June last at the meeting of the **River Plate Fresh Meat Company,** Mr. J. A. Wood said he had nothing to say on what had appeared with regard to Chicago, but he would lay special emphasis on the fact that the River Plate Company had always exercised the greatest care in regard to the quality and condition of all products of every kind exported either to the United Kingdom or elsewhere. For many years they had had the great advantage of fully qualified veterinary inspectors appointed by the Provincial Governor of Buenos Ayres always stationed at the works. These men had the full run of the establishment, and carried out their duties in a fearless spirit. He might say that the same system of inspection was applied by the Provincial Governor to all frozen or chilled meat export works in the province of Buenos Ayres.

The methods of the Spiritus-Ring or **Alcohol Trust,** one of the numerous German Kartells, were recently made the subject of a searching enquiry by a Government Commission. On the subject of this Kartell *Commercial Intelligence* writes that at a meeting held recently by the "alcohol consumers," *i. e.,* the firms retailing the stocks held by the Ring to the public, resolution was passed to free themselves from the domination of the Trust in the following terms :— "This meeting considers the conduct of the eight South German alcohol manufactories which are hostile to the Kartell to be a sign of their willingness to re-establish friendly relations between the manufacturers and consumers of alcohol for their mutual benefit. It pledges itself, therefore, in case of a renewal of the Spirit Ring, only to buy alcohol from manufacturers who are not parties to the said Kartell, and this meeting pledges all its members not to enter into any form of contract with the Kartell.

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (*1*) of section 10 and the proviso to section 24 of the **Indian Coinage** Act, 1906 (III of 1906), the Governor General in Council is pleased to direct as follows :—(1) The bronze coins specified in section 8 of the Act shall henceforth be coined and issued at the Mint; (2) The dimensions of such coins shall be as follows : Pice, 25·4 millimetres in diameter; half-pice, 21·15 millimetres in diameter; pie, 17·45 millimetres in diameter; (3) All such coins shall bear on the obverse the likeness of His Majesty King Edward VII and the inscription "Edward VII, King and Emperor" and on the reverse, the designation of the coin in English over the word "India" and the year of coinage, surrounded by a wreath. (4) With effect from the 1st August 1906, copper coins shall cease to be coined at the Mint for issue under the authority of the Governor General in Council.

Some particulars as to the **consumption of rubber** are given in *Commercial Intelligence* which are rather suggestive as to the distribution of certain industries. It appears that about half the rubber used in the world is consumed in the United States, *viz.*, 46,470 tons, and that Great Britain consumes only about one-fifth of this quantity. Even Germany uses one-fifth more rubber than England, although it cannot be believed that businesses such as the manufacture of motor-cars and cycles are as fully developed in Germany as they are in Great Britain. The three countries named are the great rubber-consuming countries, taking between them about 85 per cent. of the total production. France, notwithstanding the fact that she was ahead of all other countries in her motor-car development, uses only about 4,000 tons of rubber per annum. At present prices the rubber bill of the United States must run into some 20 millions sterling per annum.

The **Decimal Association** is making rapid progress in its efforts to promote the adoption of a metric system of weights and measures and coinage in the United Kingdom. Nearly half the members of the House of Commons have promised to support the Bill which it is hoped to introduce shortly, and the Executive Committee of the association have been strongly re-enforced. As a sign that Decimal system is being adopted very largely by manufacturers, we are informed, says *Commercial Intelligence* that large orders are being placed by manufacturers for 30-lb, 20-lb, 10-lb, and 5-lb weights. One order received by Messrs. W. and T. Avery, Limited, of the Soho Foundry, Birmingham, being for over 10 tons of these weights. We ourselves, it adds, have also experienced a steady increase in the sale of our "Conversion Tables" for British and foreign weights and measures. There is nothing else like this book published, and our invariable experience is that exporters who once obtain a copy and make use of it send repeat orders The time saved by its use is enormous.

The Imports of precious stones and pearls, unset as recorded in the trade accounts, probably bear no very close relation to the true imports. It is well known that large quantities of pearls are both imported and exported by post in such a way as to escape record. The values under the heading of precious stones fluctuate very greatly. Whereas in 1904-05 the total dropped by 42·3 per cent. to R87·76 lakhs, it has risen in 1905-06 by nearly 53 per cent. to R134·14 lakhs. Nearly half the increase arose in pearls from Muscat and the Persian Gulf. These advanced from R45 lakhs to R68 lakhs, which is 23·6 per cent. more than the average of the last five years; and the shipments from Arabia alone, which represented R62 lakhs of the total, rose by 55 per cent. There was also a large increase in the imports of jewels from the United Kingdom, and their value advanced by nearly 121, per cent., that is to say, from R22·25 lakhs to R49·15 lakhs. In the case of France, however, there was a continuance of the decline marked in the previous year and her total shrank to R8·88 lakhs.

The Belgian Coal Magazine *La Revue Noire* publishes a carefully compiled set of statistics showing the advantage that each of the various coal supplying countries of Europe drew for itself out of the **late French Coal Strikes.** From these statistics it appears that Great Britain's coal exports to France during March and April last increased by 658,990 tons over the exports for the corresponding period in 1905, which amounted to 913,620 tons. Belgium's coal exports to France for the same period in 1905 were 563,240 tons and Germany's 346,230 tons; this year the figures were raised to 907,850 tons and 691,190 tons, respectively, showing corresponding increases of 344,610 and 344,960 tons. If is clear, then, that Great Britain was in a position to capture far more French trade than either of her great Continental coal rivals, although Germany can point out that she about doubled her ordinary exports to France during the two months, while Great Britain only increased hers a little more than 70 per cent. Still apart from the trade retained by each country, the fact remains that the new Trade captured by Great Britain, *viz.*, 658,990, tons, is almost double the amount captured by Germany.

At a recent meeting of the House of Commons, Committee on the **Income-Tax** Mr. P. Snowden M.P., propounded a scheme combining the principles of graduation and of differentiation. One part of this scheme was that a **super-tax** should be put upon all incomes above £5,000. On incomes between £5,000 and £8,000, for instance, he would put a super-tax of 6*d.* in the case of earned incomes, and 1*s.* in the case of unearned incomes, and that would go on in a graduated scale until incomes of £50,000 are reached, when the super-tax would be 6*s.*

Sir C. Dilke (Chairman).—That means that incomes of £50,000 and over would pay a tax altogether of 7*s.* in the pound ?

Mr. Snowden.—Quite so.

Mr. Hicks-Beach, M.P.—Don't you think such a tax would lead to a considerable portion of capital being sent abroad ?

Mr. Snowden.—Not so much as you would suppose. Land, for instance, could not be removed from this country.

This seems to be going about as far as anything carried into effect in Denmark or New Zealand, or promised in the United States.

An interesting labour question, which is not unknown to us in India, and which has also some bearing on the condition of things in Lancashire, was to have been discussed at the convention of the Southern Soft Yarn Spinners' Association, held at the end of June in Georgia. American millowners have been very much inconvenienced by the pernicious practice of **enticing operatives,** and it seems that there is a disposition to enforce some kind of regulation against it. Much, of course, depends on whether labour is free or contract, and the exact definition of enticement permits of some delicate problems. Those who are starting new mills, the problem is the same, whether it is noticed in India, the United States, or England, might not quite agree with those who represent old establishments as to the point at which competition for labour became reprehensible. Another matter for discussion at the Convention was the possibility of reducing the selling commissions of middlemen. This seems to indicate a belief in the maintenance of higher prices, and it is obvious that if cotton is to remain at 6*d.* or over for the next ten years, commission agents of various kinds should do well if they maintain their usual rates.

Sugar forms one of the staple articles of **export from Peru.** The quantity exported in 1905 was 134,000 tons valued at about £1,500,000. Owing to the drought there has been a deficiency in the crop. In fact the prospects of the sugar growers are not encouraging. There will be little to stimulate a further expansion of the acreage under sugar cultivation until vast irrigation works are undertaken by the Government. Besides irrigation, new machinery is indispensable. When these essential requirements have been met, intensive sugar cultivation can be undertaken in Peru, provided of course that the state of the market in future warrants renewed efforts on the part of those engaged in this most important industry. The cotton crop for 1905 is estimated to have consisted of about 125,000 bales. This is also an article which could be produced on a very large scale if sufficient water could be obtained. The quality of the rice grown in Peru is excellent, but the quantity is insufficient to meet local wants. An important feature of the **Peruvian import trade** is the increase in the consumption of **tea** which not many years ago was little used in this country. The value of the imports in 1903 was £20,673 and in 1904 £19,726.

The French Minister of Public Instruction, M. Brain, has by a recent decision, arranged that all professors and teachers throughout France are in future to employ the following **distinctive abbreviations for the various weights and measures** :—*For denoting length.*—Myriametre, Mm ; kilometre, Km ; hectometre, Hm ; decametre, dam ; metre, m ; decimetre, dm ;c entimetre, Hm ; and millimetre, mm. *For areas.*—Hectare, ha ; are, a ; and centiare, ca or m^2. *For measures of bulk (timber)*—decastere, das ; stere, s or m^3 ; and decistere, ds. *For measures of mass and weight*—tonne, t ; quintal metrique, q ; kilogramme, kg ; hectogrammo, hg ; decagramme, dag ; gramme, g ; decigramme, dg ; centigramme, cg ; and milligramme, mg. *For measures of capacity*—kilolitre, kl ; hectolitre, hl ; decalitre, dal ; litre, l ; decilitre, dl ; centilitre, cl ; and millitre, ml. The use of the capital letters for the three largest denominations of length are intended to prevent confusion, and all the other abbreviations follow on uniform lines. The employment of full stops between the letters is, it will be seen, officially abolished, and k.g. for kilogramme and m.m. for millimetre disappear. English users would lose nothing by agreeing to a similar formation.

Mr. Hester's analysis of the movements of the **American cotton crop** for the nine months ended May 31 gives the following totals :—

	1906.	1905.	1904.
Texas . . .	2,866,848	3,230,913	2,772,911
Other Gulf States .	2,962,457	4,148,407	3,229,756
Atlantic States .	4,564,093	4,884,125	3,682,030
Total in sight, March 31.	10,393,403	12,263,445	9,684,697
Total U. S. crops .		13,565,885	10,011,374

The comparatives movement into sight after May for the past three seasons is shown in the following table :—

	1905.	1904.	1903.
Texas . . .	353,717	103,179	26,542
Other Gulf States	324,341	137,342	283,115
Atlantic States .	624,382	86,158	65,468
Total after March 31 . . .	1,302,440	326,677	375,125

It will be seen that it is the " other Gulf States " that have, so to speak, let the crop down, as they still show a considerable decrease in comparison with the 1903-1904 crop. It is fancied now that the commercial crop will hardly reach 11,000,000 bales.

It is gratifying to note, remarks the *Times,* that the *Iron Age,* one of the most widely known and reliable technical journals, is in accord with us in its estimate of the commercial value of Dr. Haanel's experiments in the **electric smelting of iron ores** at Sault Ste. Marie. The Toronto correspondent of this journal in the issue of June 14 says :—

Of the expectations raised by the experiment it does not appear from this preliminary report that any have been realized, except that a good pig iron can be produced by the process from the magnetite ores of north western Ontario. It is not made clear that even in this respect the process yields results greatly superior to those obtainable in the ordinary blast furnace. As to the reduction of cost that was looked for, it can scarcely be said to have been effected. At all events, $1,069 a ton is not as far below the cost of production in blast furnaces as the process seemed to promise. Perhaps too large an allowance has been made for power, which ought to be procurable at Sault Ste. Marie for $15 per horse-power, nearly twice the Hydro-Electric Power Commission's estimate of the cost of producing it at Niagara Falls. Further, if, contrary to the general understanding, the experiments have failed to demonstrate advantages of the process for steel making, there will be some disappointment.

The feature of the **Japanese foreign trade returns** for the first four months of the year is the large increase in the value of the merchandise exported, and the still larger decrease in the value of the merchandise imported. Manufactured exports show an increase of £834,800, or nearly 28 per cent. including an increase of £106,800, or nearly 50 per cent. in the exports of cotton fabrics as compared with the first four months of 1905. In the exports of semi-manufactured articles the increase is £663,900, or about 14 per cent. notwithstanding a decrease of £231,400, or nearly 20 per cent. in the cotton yarn exports. In the raw material group the exports show an increase of £432,700, or 26 per cent., by far the largest increase here being in copper, which shows a gain of £282,500, or 70 per cent. The falling off in merchandise imports is £2,934,000 (as compared with a total gain of £1,931,500 in exports), the principal decreases being in raw cotton, engines and machinery, railway locomotives and cars, iron and steel (other than rails, bars, and rods), steam vessels, rice and beans, etc. Of imports which show gains in value the most notable are cotton yarns (£151,190, against £15,900), shirtings and cotton prints (£307,900, against £223,300) woollens, paper, rails, bars and rods, sugar, wheatflour, kerosene, and oil-cake. The movement of treasure (bullion and specie) shows a net import of 2,440,900, the net influx of gold being £1,968,600 and of silver £472,300.

Mr. Consul McMillan writing on the **trade of Nice** for 1905 says, " There is little or no improvement to be noted in the matter of the **Backwardness of British firms** commented upon in my report for 1901 in studying the convenience of foreign buyers. British commercial houses still send out any number of circulars, catalogues and price lists which, instead of being in the language of the French customers whom they are presumably intended to attract, are elaborately and uselessly drawn up in English. And British firms make the mistake of **advertising,** if they advertise at all, in local English papers, mostly weeklies, the circulation of which is very small, instead of in the daily French journals which have an immensely larger number of readers. British rasidents in or visitors to the Riviera are, of course, important customers for British firms, but the French inhabitants, if they could be captured, would form a much more extended and therefore a much more profitable clientele. With regard to **tea,** for instance, the consumption of that beverage in the Riviera would be increased an hundredfold, and British trade benefited in proportion if skilful and persistent advertising were to bring home to the thousands and thousands of Frenchmen who read the local *Eclaireur* or *Phare du Littoral* the useful truth that the teas of British India and Ceylon are of superior excellence and purchasable at a reasonable price per kilo."

The prices of opium in the Calcutta market during the week ending 14th July were, per chest, as follows :—

Behar opium—R1,375 ; 1,382 ; 1,380 ; 1,380 ; 1,385 ; 1,387 ; 1,390.

Benares opium—R1,250 ; 1,260 ; 1,257 ; 1,260 ; 1,265 ; 1,265 ; 1,270.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 8th sale of 1906—R1,377 ; 1,385 ; 1,382 ; 1,385 ; 1,390 ; 1,392 ; 1,395.

China market, Hongkong (exchange Rs. 158½ per 100 dollars).

Behar—$ 880 ; 880 ; 880 880 ; 882 ; 882 to 882½ ; 887.

Shanghai (exchange 218 to 218½ per 100 Taels) two sales on 9th and 12th of 636 Taels and 640 Taels respectively.

Benares—Two sales in the Hongkong market on 8th and 12th of $805 and $805 respectively ; while two sales, Shanghai, on 9th and 12th of 586 Taels and 588 Taels respectively.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending 7th July were—for A class (season 1905-06) R1,355 to 1,370 ; for B class (season 1904-05) R1,435 to 1,560 ; class C, old (season 1903-04) R1,640 to 1,700. The latest China prices ascertained were for new classes (A and B) R1,499 to 1,509 ; old (class C) fetched at Hongkong R1,715 and at Shanghai R1,706.

One of the drawbacks of being beholden to nature for a **direct supply of power** is, says a writer in the *Times Engineering Supplement,* that a certain

amount of fickleness is observable in her bounty. So much embarrassed has the Mysore Government been by the reduction in the volume of water at the Cauvery Falls that the generating station there erected is unable to meet the full demand under contracts entered into with the great gold mining companies on the Kolar Field. It used to be the fashion to assert that Great Britain was at a serious disadvantage in having no great amount of water power available; but the minority who contended that our cheap coal was an ample recompense have long since prevailed. Consolation for the absence of falls and rapids is to be found in the reflection that the use of these abroad is not necessarily free, but has a market value which must affect the price of electrical production, or that the flow of water is in such a remote situation as to raise the cost of transmission. The recent controversy as to the technical and commercial feasibility of generation at the Zambesi Falls for supply to the witwatersrand may be appropriately recalled. It is true that long-distance transmission has been found a simple undertaking, but whatever has been done in this direction could long ago have been successfully emulated in this country by generation at the mouth of the coal pits, if the industry had not been kept in swaddling clothes by maternal legislation and regulation.

—+—

The recent sharp fluctuations in the **copper** market have, says a writer in the *Manchester Guardian*, raised some doubts as to the stability of the value of this metal. For very nearly a year copper has steadily increased in value, and there have been but few occasions when any weakness has been developed, but of late the element of uncertainty has shown itself more conspicuously and has done something to shake public confidence in present quotations. The rumours from America, which have been the superficial cause of the weakness, have not been confirmed; but at the same time suspicion has been aroused as to the actual position there. The question suggests itself whether we are now at length getting to the end of the period of rapid expansion in consumption of copper. This period has lasted much longer than was originally anticipated; indeed probably longer than any similar period in the history of the trade, and notwithstanding a tremendous increase in the world's production, it has brought prices up from the fifties to the eighties. It is just as well to bear this matter in mind. No one with the history of the trade before him will deny the probability that sooner or later a period of restricted—or comparatively restricted—consumption will set in; the only question is when? It is just possible that the vagaries of the market during the last week or two are an indication that the upward movement has at last reached its limit.

The **Year Book of Agriculture,** published by the Government of Victoria (Australia), includes an article on the **culture, curing, etc., of tobacco,** accompanied with illustrations. Of the tobacco grown under cheese cloth at the Government Tobacco Farm, the following particulars are given:—

"The practice of growing tobacco under cover is largely adopted in parts of America where hundreds of acres are covered for the purpose. The yield averages 1,000 lbs. per acre, and prices range from 2*s.* to 16*s.* per pound for the leaf. The structure is made 9 feet high, and covered on the top and sides with cheese cloth. The frame can be built of poles 12 feet apart, with battens or galvanised wire stretched across the top to support the cloth. The cost is, approximately, £65 per acre; but this can be reduced considerably where timber is easily available, and the cheese cloth bought in large quantities. The life of such a structure is from two to six years for the frame, according to the class of timber used, and for the cloth two years."

It is estimated that an ounce of seed contains 30,000 seeds, or sufficient to plant ten acres of plug tobacco, and a plant has been known to produce three ounces. One man should be able to attend to four acres of tobacco, if assisted by a boy for two weeks at planting time, and three weeks at harvest time. Planters are not recommended to grow tobacco within thirty miles of the sea, as the plant is liable to assimilate too much salt, which interferes with its combustion.

—+—

Under the heading of Vegetable products are included in the Mexican customs returns all natural vegetable and agricultural products such as coffee, rubber, fibres in the rough, etc. The most important is **henequen fibre,** which represents 50 per cent. of the articles included under this heading. It is **cultivated** in the **Peninsula of Yucatan,** and is exported only through the Port of Progreso. Its destination is the United States, which act as a distributing centre. The quantities and value of the exports of this fibre in the past two years have been:—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Metric tons.	Dol.
1903-04	103,363	31,525,157
1904-05	97,141	29,389,138

Owing to the continued demand for **Mexican coffee** in the United States and Germany, the export is steadily increasing, and as the new plantations which were started some five or six years ago in the southern part of the republic especially in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, are now beginning to bear fruit, the exports can easily be increased without

encroaching upon the supply required for home consumption.

The **exports of coffee** during the past two years have been as follows:—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Metric tons.	Dol.
1903-04	18,461	8,676,239
1904-05	18,985	9,256,872

—+—

In his Prize Day speech at the **Thomason Engineering College, Roorkee,** the Principal referred to the movement for the **expansion** of the College, now in progress. Sir James La Touche, the Lieutenant-Governor, had, he said, taken an almost paternal interest in the College. When money was at last available, he had given with a generous hand, and had formulated a complete and practical scheme of expansion. The main idea of the scheme is to develop the College as a Technical Institute, and at the same time to bring the numbers of the Engineering Classes up to the maximum that the present staff can teach. The latter part of the scheme has been rendered possible owing to the heavy demand for engineers of every grade in India and to the severity of the competition in the entrance examination. There is to be a installation of engines of sufficient power to meet the wants of the College. The workshops will be enlarged to accommodate sections of thirty students, comprising not only engineering students and mechanical apprentice class, but a new class to be called the technical class. The intention is to train men to manage, start, and control small industrial works. Any industry in the power of the college to teach will be taken up, if a sufficient demand is indicated, but a start is being made with the cotton industry, the manufacture of ice, the motor car industry, and all work pertaining to steam and oil engines and electrical installation. The class is reserved for natives of the United Provinces, this being necessary as within the past few weeks the Principal has been inundated with applications from all over India. Sufficient power having been installed, fans will be provided in the College, and a small electric light and telephone installation will afford practice and training for the technical student. Other improvements in the College include additional water supply, increased accommodation, a new laboratory block, and new class rooms.

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At the sitting of the **International Cotton Congress** at Bremen on June 26th there was an interesting discussion on the workings and uses of the **cotton exchanges.** Mr. E. Stansfield (England) urged concentrated action against rules which were unjust and objectionable.

Mr. S. M. Johnson (Bombay) said in India cotton was brought by net weight, was not paid for before being received, and if the quality was wrong it could be returned.

On the motion of M. Jean de Hemptinne (Belgium) the Congress resolved to appoint a committee of three to consult with the committees of cotton exchanges and with planters with a view to adopting a new contract form for the purchase of cotton.

Herr Lang (Switzerland), speaking on cotton supplies, said the best means of securing a sufficient supply of raw cotton was to guarantee a minimum price. By doing this the trade would regulate the manufacture of goods when prices were too low, and would encourage the establishment of a visible and probably also an invisible cotton reserve, which would be of great utility in the regulation of crops from year to year.

Herr Brandts (Germany) suggested the establishment of a limited liability company by the Congress in which each spinner should take up shares to the extent of five pounds per thousand spindles, and should bind himself to order 10 per cent. of his requirements in different grades of cotton from the Company. In this way they would get a capital of £350,000 and an annual turnover of cotton of the value of $7\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds, which would exercise a very steadying influence. An essential part of the work of this company would be to obtain trustworthy information about the condition of cotton crops.

In the discussion the suggestion was made that planters and spinners might establish a reserve of cotton for the purpose of steadying the market and preventing rapid fluctuations in price which had been so harmful. This suggestion was subsequently adopted.

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The first estimate of the season by the U. S. Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Agriculture on the **condition and acreage of the spring wheat crop in the United States** has been published and this with the equivalent information for the winter wheat crop, makes it possible to arrive at some idea of the total indicated wheat yield for the year. The condition of spring wheat on June 1 is estimated by the bureau at 93 on an area of 17,989,000 acres, which, according to the method of calculation adopted by the New York Produce Exchange and generally recognized on this side, indicates a yield of 298,617,000 bushels. At this time last year the condition of the growing crop was estimated at 93·7 and the acreage slightly less than this year, making the indicated yield 299,421,000 bushels. The final crop, however, showed a deterioration to 264,516,000 bushels. The largest spring wheat crop actually harvested was that of 1899, when, according to the Census Bureau, it was 293,185,332 bushels, although that year the Agricultural Department gave it as only 252,597,614. Should the

present spring wheat promise be maintained right up to harvesting time, therefore, this year's crop would be the largest on record. The condition of winter wheat which was given as 91 on May 1, fell to 83 by June 1, thereby reducing the indicated yield from 453,232,000 bushels to 414,722,000 bushels. Even this amount, however, has been but twice exceeded. The total promise for the year is 713,399,000 bushels, which has only been exceeded by one actual harvest that of 748,460,000 in 1901. The June conditions last year indicated a total yield of 727,432,000 bushels, but the actual harvest was only 692,979,489 bushels. The bureau also gives the condition of the oats crop as 86, against 92·9 at this time last year, and the acreage as 27,678,000, against 28,046,746. The indicated yield is accordingly 893,999,000 bushels. Exchange formula for reckoning the indicated yield is based on the average value of a condition of 100 at harvest for a series of years. These averages are, for winter wheat 16·9 bushels per acre, for spring wheat 17·8, and for oats 37·6.

The progress of thrift in the form of **life and old-age insurance** is shown by an *Insurance Supplement* just published by the *Statist* which sets forth the following remarkable contrast between the sums now laid by in that way and those similarly invested ten or twenty years ago :—

Year.	Annual Premium Income.	Population No.	Per head of Population.
	£		£
1906 . .	35,641,141	42,793,000	·833
1896 . .	24,020,610	38,858,000	·618
1886 . .	15,844,978	35,724,000	·443
Inc. (20 yrs.) .	19,796,168	7,069,000	. 390
,, p. c. .	125	19	88

The greater portion of this expansion has resulted from the popularity of the comparatively modern form of assurance known as *endowment assurance*, by which provision is made both for premature death and for old age. Until the eighties endowment assurance was almost confined to provision against death. In what is known as the ordinary section of life assurance—a term invented to distinguish it from industrial assurance—whole-term-of-life policies are becoming more and more unpopular, while endowment assurances are monopolising the whole of the new business. In about twenty years the amount covered by endowment assurances has grown to over £200,000,000. In the short space of sixteen years the growth in the sum covered by endowment assurances of ordinary companies has been £171,000,000. In this period the increased sum covered by whole-term-of-life policies, there has been an addition of nearly £50,000,000, or 30 per cent. to endowment assurances. That there is still much room for the further expansion of life insurance business is shown by the fact that, as the *Statist* puts it, "excluding industrial assurance, which cannot be regarded as a provision against death or for old age, the total number of persons assured in this country is not more than 1,600,000, whereas there are 11,000,000 men who ought to be assured." Perhaps agents and other advocates of insurance are a little too apt to represent it as a universal duty, and in any case we do not quite see how the total of eleven millions is arrived at. Surely a substantial deduction should be made for the class which can afford not to insure and for the class—unhappily much larger—which cannot afford to insure.

The **Prevention of Corruption Bill,** which has passed the House of Lords, came before the House of Commons Grand Committee on trade on the 25th June last. The bill deals with the evil of "secret commissions." Any agent who corruptly accepts, or attempts to obtain, any gift or consideration from another person in relation his principal's business, and any person who corruptly gives or offers any consideration to an agent, is declared guilty of a misdemeanour, and is rendered liable to a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years or to fine not exceeding £500, or to both imprisonment and fine. A good deal of discussion took place on the word "corruptly." Mr. Ridsdale (L. Brighton) moved to leave it out on the ground that it would make it very difficult to prove an offence and would lead to much litigation. The Attorney General (Sir J. Lawson Walton) opposed the amendment. If it were carried, it would involve the recasting of the whole bill. Many gifts were made quite innocently—as a present to a gamekeeper after a day's pheasant shooting, a tip to a railway porter, or the social enormity of tipping a club servant. This bill, however, aimed at gifts which were distinctly criminal in character, as a gift of £50 to the agent of a landowner in order to secure an estate at a lower price, or a present to a buyer's agent to induce him to take goods which might be inferior, in preference to those of a rival manufacturer, or a present to a clerk of works to induce him to pass inferior building material. If a present were given innocently, they could not make the giver a criminal. In the framing of the bill the representatives of nearly all the great agency professions had been consulted, and they had agreed to accept the measure in its present form.

Mr. Barron (E. Leeds) said the Attorney General had practically given the Committee to understand that unless the clause were passed in its present form there would be no bill at all. If the Chambers of Commerce had been consulted, he doubted whether they would have expressed their approval of the bill as it stood. The commercial classes were very anxious that it should be made far stronger. If the word "corruptly" were retained, the bill would fail in its main object. They wanted to impress on the public conscience that many things now done as customs of trade are illegal and corrupt.

The Attorney General, in reply, said the bill was a distinct step in advance. If after it came into operation the mischief went on unchecked, there was nothing to prevent a further measure being passed.

Mr. Ridsdale's amendment was rejected by 20 votes to 9.

The bill was then ordered to be reported to the House.

It seems as if the **oil industry** were at last in a fair way to be successfully established **in New Zealand.** In several places in the colony, but notably at New Plymouth on the west coast of the South Island, there are indications that reservoirs of oil exist at considerable depth from the surface. In the New Plymouth district oil was discovered near the sea coast, some miles from the base of the extinct volcano known as Taranaki, or Mount Egmont. The history of boring operations shows that wells were sunk to a depth of 650 feet; but only a very limited supply of oil was obtained, and, eventually, the somewhat primitive operations were abandoned. After a lapse of about 20 years a company, with which the late Sir Julius Vogel was associated, was formed in England. Oil was found at a depth of 1,000 feet, but the flow was not continuous, and there were so many disappointments owing to the broken nature of the strata and the breakages of the drills that the British capitalist refused to continue in so speculative a venture. The oil found was of a valuable quality, and at the time of the abandonment of the venture the head driller was confident of ultimate success. Further unsuccessful efforts were made to obtain British capital to continue the boring. Eventually a New Zealand syndicate was formed and the services of a borer with American and European experience, were secured. A bore was put down in the vicinity of the abandoned workings to a depth of 905 feet, oil was struck, but water was also present in the bore, and as the water rose and fell with the tide, it was evident that there was a fissure running out to sea. This bore was accordingly plugged down and another site selected a mile away. Here a bore was sunk to a depth of 1,534 feet, but neither oil nor gas was found. Operations were continued in another direction, and a bore put down to 905 feet yielded a flow of ten barrels a day. The continual falling in of a soft layer of "papa" rock, however, soon stopped the flow of oil. In 1896 a fresh bore was put down, and, at a level of 1,976 ft. a considerable flow of oil was struck; but again the water interfered with the flow, and, eventually, the derrick and works were destroyed by an explosion and fire. In 1897 the directors reluctantly abandoned their efforts at this spot. More recently the operations were continued, and, a recently Press Association telegram announced that all difficulties had been overcome and that excellent oil, with a total absence of water, was flowing from the well. The first flow was at the rate of about 30 barrels a day, but there was a great quantity of mud and sand mixed with the oil. On Monday morning, the 7th of May, however, it was found that there was an enormous pressure of gas, and that the oil was flowing at the rate of 400 barrels a day. Mr. Fair declares that it is one of the finest oils he has ever tapped in a varied experience. The bore is down to a depth of 233 feet. The company has secured rights over 5,000 acres of land in the vicinity, and, as the present storage capacity of 10,000 gallons has been almost filled, the well has, for the present, been sealed down. The company, however, intends to erect a refinery, and hopes within 18 months to have six other bores sunk and working. The company's expert anticipates a yield of 4,000 or 5,000 barrels a day from the present bore. It is, no doubt, premature to express any definite opinion upon the importance or permanence of the field; but the prospects certainly seem to be good.

Lac is one of the articles of Indian production for which the **demand** has **grown steadily in recent years** and has become marked in 1905-06 as a consequence of activity in the electrical and certain other industries. Like all destructible articles of relatively high specific value it is a subject of speculation; and this element in the trade is intensified by the facts that the article is of precarious supply, being in fact a forest produce of insect origin and so exposed to influences of weather. The price fluctuates greatly but within narrower limits as the demand defines itself. There has for three years been a marked upward tendency; and in response to the net enhancement the exports have grown largely. The following statement collates the figures relating to shellac and button-lac with those relating to stick and seed lac which belong strictly to the category of raw materials. Neither quantitatively nor in respect of specific value is the raw material comparable with the prepared article; but it is interesting to note (*a*) the total values of the two classes, and (*b*) the quantitative advance or decline in each of the two classes, respectively, as indicating the course of the local industry.

	1903-04.		1904-05.		1905-06.	
	Cwts.	Rs.	Cwts.	Rs.	Cwts.	Rs.
Shellac . .	178,497	2,1 ,30,905	193,305	2,58,93,713	217,593	2,64,53,774
Button-lac .	50,500	40,35,903	34,276	38,70,479	41,851	44,41,287
	228,997	2,07,66,808	227,581	2,97,64,192	259,444	3,08 95,061
Stick and seed lac . .	6,383	4,39,264	11,152	9,41,104	11,004	7,79,613

It will be seen that **exports of shellac increased** in quantity by 12·56 per cent. and in value by 21·63 per cent. while button-lac increased by 22·1 per cent. in quantity and 14·75 per cent. in value. Together the two increased by 14 per cent. in quantity and 3·8 per cent. in value, the fall in average value thus being 8·95 per cent. On the other hand, the raw material declined by 1·3 per cent. in quantity and 17·16 per cent. in value. The highest price for shellac in the year under report was Rs. 140-3-0 per cwt. in February 1906 and the lowest Rs. 88-8-0 per cwt. in June 1905. There appears to be among persons in the trade some misgiving as to whether the high level of recent prices has not induced reckless gathering with consequent danger to succeeding crops.

In the past year the United States has assumed the first place as a buyer of lac from India, her total being now Rs. 149·52 lakhs as against Rs. 94·24 lakhs shipped to the United Kingdom and Rs. 44 lakhs to Germany.

The important points about **Salt in India in recent** years are the successive reductions of salt duty and the growth in consumption. These have been as follows :—

	Duty, British India excluding Burma.	Burma.	Consumption tons.	Increase per cent.
	Rs. a. p.	Re.		
1902-03 .	2 8 0 and 2 0 0	1	1,346,830	3·05
1903-04 .	2 0 0	1	1,381,314	2·56
1904-05 .	2 0 0 and 1 8 0	1	1,437,499	4·07
1905-06 .	1 8 0	1	1,496,186	4·08
1906-07 (2 months) .	...	1	347,010	...

The imports of salt also increased in each of the two years 1903-04 and 1904-05; but in neither of these did the figure reach the level attained in 1901-02 when tons 516,231 were imported. In 1905-06, however, there was a decline of about 4·3 per cent. to 465,875 tons with a value of Rs. 65·92 lakhs. This was due in great part to the political boycott of foreign goods. The price of Liverpool salt ex-warehouse in Calcutta was Rs. 48 per 100 maunds (8,271 lbs.) in April 1905, declined to Rs. 47 in May, hardened till it stood at Rs. 49 to Rs. 51 in July and August, then abruptly broke to Rs. 43 to 45 in September. Since that time it has gradually stiffened with little trade passing and stood at Rs. 53 at the close of the financial year.

FOR INFORMATION.

Flour Bags for the Egyption Army.

THE *Board of Trade Journal* of 8th February 1906 contained a notice regarding a call for tenders for the supply to the Egyptian War Office of 40,000 "Dundee Flour Sacks." The Director General of Commercial Intelligence addressed to the authorities at Cairo an enquiry as to whether the term "Dundee Flour Sacks" was merely a trade description of a class of bags, or indicated that the bags must be made in Dundee. It was also requested that a sample bag of the quality required might be forwarded together with a copy of the relevant specification and contract form in order that the possibility of producing suitable bags in India might be investigated. The reply received was to the effect that it was intended that the bags should be of Dundee manufacture since it was considered that such bags were superior in quality and durability. It was intimated that the contract alluded to in the *Board of Trade Journal* had been concluded and that therefore further supplies would not be wanted for some time. Nevertheless, it was stated that the Egyptian Government would be glad to know that they could obtain suitable bags from India. With a view to determining this point, a copy of the form of specification was supplied to the Commercial Intelligence Department, and it was stated that, so soon as the first delivery was made against the new contract, a specimen bag from that consignment together with one from the old stock would be forwarded. The Egyptian War Office in reply were asked also to furnish precise information as to the regulation size and pattern of the mark to be imprinted on the bags.

These bags have now been received and may be inspected on application to the Director General of Commercial Intelligence at 5, Clive Street, Calcutta.

The following is the form of specification to be observed, dates and quantities being omitted :—

GENERAL conditions for the supply to the Ministry of War of 40,000 Dundee made Flour Bags, stitched inside and dry sewn, size 42″ × 26″, 11 porters by 13 shots, packed in bales of equal quantities, each bale containing such number as the Contractor may wish. The bags to draw an average weight of 2 lbs. : *a.v.* each nett in bales at time of delivery.

Each bag to be marked clearly with a red trefoil on the centre of one side. Delivery to be made into store room Tourah Mills, free of all expenses, except customs Import Dues.

ARTICLE 1.—Tenders must be submitted to the Financial Secretary, War Office, on stamped paper before 12 noon on the 16th March 1906, and should be in sealed envelopes marked "Tender for supply of Dundee made Flour Bags."

Quotations to be made in current Egyptian money per flour bag.

ARTICLE 2.—The Ministry of War is not bound to accept the lowest or any tender, and where a tender includes more than one article, the Ministry of War may accept a tender for part only, unless the Contractor stipulates in his tender for all or none, which must be clearly stated in the tender.

ARTICLE 3.—As soon as the tenderer is notified that his tender is accepted, he will deposit in the War Office Treasury 0 per cent. of the value of the Flour Bags to be supplied as security for the due execution of the Contract, and will sign a form of Contract in the terms of this specification.

The security money must be either in gold (on which no interest will be allowed), or in Egyptian Bonds, reckoned at 15 per cent. less than the current market rate. This security shall be chargeable with all losses, costs, and charges accruing by reason of the insufficient or improper execution of the Contract and such security money will be refunded to the Contractor only after the fulfilment thereof less such losses, costs and charges, if any. Application to this effect should be addressed through the Director of supplies, War Office, Cairo.

ARTICLE 4.—Should the tenderer withdraw his tender, he is liable to the forfeiture of his security money.

ARTICLE 5.—The tenderer must state his address in his offer, so as to be communicated with when necessary.

The accepted tenderer only will be communicated with, and due notice of tender accepted will be published for general information.

ARTICLE 6.—When tenders are made by means of registered post, it is advisable, to ensure their receipt in time, that they be delivered in Cairo the morning previous to that fixed for opening the tenders.

ARTICLE 7.—Correspondence on the subject of any tender should be addressed officially to the Financial Secretary, and not by name, as in the latter case delays may occur.

ARTICLE 8.—The Flour Bags will be subject to the approval of the Sirdar or Officer deputed by him, and may be rejected if considered not to be in accordance with the terms of this specification. The decision of the Sirdar to be final and incontestable.

All the Flour Bags will be held at the Contractor's risk until finally accepted by the Ministry of War.

ARTICLE 9.—In the event of the rejection, non-delivery or delay in the delivery of the whole or any part of the quantities ordered, whether such delay be caused in the original delivery or by subsequent rejection, the Ministry of War, without any formal notice to the Contractor, may (*a*) call upon the Contractor to forthwith furnish or replace the articles so undelivered or rejected, (*b*) purchase elsewhere the articles so undelivered or rejected, any excess cost incurred thereby being at the charge of the Contractor; (*c*) enforce Article 14 of this specification; and in any of such events may inflict on the Contractor a fine not exceeding two per cent. (2%) of the value of the quantities undelivered or rejected for every week or part of a week of delay.

The amount due from the Contractor on account of fines or excess cost on purchases in default will be deducted from bills due to the Contractor or from the security money on this or any other contract with the Egyptian Government. Any sums thus deducted from the security money must be replaced within three days from the date of notification to the Contractor of the deduction being made: if the Contractor fail to do so, the Ministry of War may immediately cancel the Contract and confiscate the security money.

ARTICLE 10.—Payment will be made out of the National Bank of Egypt within a reasonable time, against receipts which will be given to the Contractor by the Officer receiving the Bags.

ARTICLE 11.—Payment will be subject to a proportionate deduction, on account of stamp duty, in accordance with the Regulations.

ARTICLE 12.—The Contract cannot be sub-let or transferred to any other party without the approval in writing of the Ministry of War.

ARTICLE 13.—Any act of corruption, extortion or bribery, or any attempt at any one of these acts, by or on behalf of the Contractor towards an employé or agent of the Government, directly or indirectly will *ipso facto* entail the immediate cancelling of the Contract and the forfeiture of the security money.

ARTICLE 14.—Any failure on the part of the Contractor to carry out the Contract, or any infraction of any of these articles by or on behalf of the Contractor will *ispo facto* entail the immediate cancelling of the Contract and the forfeiture of the security money, and this without any legal formalities whatsoever but merely by a simple notice in writing signed by an Officer of the Administration, such cancelling and forfeiture to take effect twenty-four hours after service of said notice on the Contractor.

ARTICLE 15.—If any difference shall arise between the parties hereto or their respective representatives or any other person interested under these presents in regard to the construction or execution of this agreement or to any act or thing to be done in pursuance hereof or to any other matter or thing relating thereto, the matter in difference shall be referred to the Sirdar, whose decision shall be final and conclusive.

ARTICLE 16.—Intending tenderers, before submitting their tender, must pay into the War Office treasury the sum of L.E. 60 and obtain a temporary receipt from the Cashier, or attach a Bank Guarantee for this amount to their tender. In the former case, the No. of the Cashier's receipt should be stated in the offer.

On termination of the adjudication, the accepted tenderer will have to complete the security money up to 10 per cent., and the non-accepted tenderers will have their security money returned to them.

The Ministry of War will not undertake to return by Post any security. Tenderers must come themselves to the War Office Treasury, or delegate someone to withdraw the money or Bank Guarantee for them.

No tenders will be accepted if not in accordance with these instructions.

TENDER INVITED.

TIMBER SLEEPERS.

SEPARATE tenders are invited for the supply of 6,30,000 sleepers in all for the use of the North Western Railway during 1906 and 1907 as under :—

50,000 sleepers—Delivery to begin by 15th November 1906 and to be completed by 31st December 1906.

580,000 sleepers—Delivery to begin by 1st April 1907 and to be completed by 31st December 1907.

The sleeper should be nine (9) feet six (6) inches long, ten (10) inches wide and five (5) inches deep.

Tenders will be considered for any of the following description of timber :—

Indian—Nepal Sal, Deodar or Burmese Pingado.

Western Australian Hill grown Jarrah—New South Wales mixed hardwood; Queensland mixed hardwoods; Tasmanian mixed hardwoods.

Parties tendering are requested to state the number of sleepers offered of each class of timber, when more than one class is offered; and quote rates for each class as well as the average rate.

Tenders may be for the whole or for any portion of each contract.

In the case of mixed hardwoods the proportions allowable are given in the specifications.

The Australian and Tasmanian sleepers to be Government inspected and marked true to name at the cost of the suppliers and the price quoted should include delivery c.i.f. ex ships' slings as Karachi.

Burmese Pingado sleepers will be inspected and passed by an Engineer Officer of the Burmah Railways before shipment and the price quoted should include delivery ex ships' slings at Karachi.

Nepal Sal and Deodar sleepers will be inspected and passed at any railway station and prices quoted should include delivery into trucks at that station after having been passed by an Engineer Officer of the North Western Railway.

Each tender to be accompanied by a deposit in currency notes of 2 per cent. on the value of the

tender, as earnest money and the cover should be subscribed "Tender for sleepers required by the North Western Railway in 1906 or 1907."

Tenders should be returned duly filled in to the Secretary, Railway Board, as under:—

(1) Tenders for 50,000 sleepers required in 1906 to be returned at Simla by the 24th August 1906.

(2) Tenders for 5,80,000 sleepers required in 1907 to be returned at Calcutta by Monday, 3rd December 1906, on which dates this will be opened at 12 noon.

Forms of tenders and Specifications can be had from the Chief Storekeeper, North Western Railway, Lahore, on payment of Re. 1.

The Railway Board is not bound to accept the lowest or any Tender and the whole or any part of a tender may be accepted or rejected.

By Order,

F. MOYLE,

Offg. Director of Railway Construction.

INDIAN IMPORT AND EXPORT TRADE IN FOREIGN GOODS.

IMPORTS.

Of other manufactured goods (excepting textiles, machinery, etc., already notlced) the following are the most important:—

	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.	Increase or decrease per cent.
	R	R	R	
Apparel, including boots and shoes	1,99,57,571	2,23,99,627	2,21,90,200	− 0·9
Arms and ammunition	24,37,422	28,17,214	21,97,508	−22·
Books and printed matter	28,44,218	31,95,745	32,47,245	+ 1·6
Building materials	28,70,853	35,30,727	45,99,140	+30·3
Carriages and carts	43,53,836	55,02,106	*76,79,091	+39·6
Clocks and watches	17,37,622	19,23,876	18,70,660	− 2·8
Earthenware and porcelain	28,00,038	29,31,813	33,59,852	+14·6
Glass and glassware	99,20,759	1,12,57,101	1,12,51,787	− 0·04
Instruments and apparatus, scientific	42,83,744	48,78,122	24,09,232	− 50·6
Jewellery and gold and silver plate	15,03,958	17,48,150	20,83,111	+19·2
Leather and manufactures of leather	25,19,633	25,21,909	30,60,820	+21·4
Matches	50,61,057	48,95,253	58,83,209	+20·2
Paints and colours and painters' materials	42,68,079	46,91,972	49,32,650	+ 5·1
Paper and pasteboard	52,18,395	64,37,283	70,48,925	+ 9·5
Ships, parts of	27,59,234	24,93,000	10,62,110	− 57·5
Soap	26,55,673	27,23,705	31,90,877	+17·1
Stationery	37,08,048	36,77,860	37,70,417	+ 2·5
Tea chests	13,83,473	20,85,531	19,18,020	− 8·05
Toys and requisites for games	27,29,113	27,73,710	29,11,550	+ 4·9
Umbrellas	24,58,877	18,95,054	19,79,259	+ 4·4
Umbrella-fittings	—	—	14,15,944	

The most notable increase among these twenty-one articles is that of Rs. 21,77,585 or 39·6 per cent. in carriages and carts. This heading includes:—**Motor cars** and Motor cycles Rs. 34·99 lakhs; and **Cycles** Rs. 15·4 lakhs. From 1906-07, Motor cars and Motor cycles, which already exceed in value the total imports of books and printed matter, will be shown separately in the annual returns. In **Books, etc.,** however, the progress is fairly constant. They increased by 1·6 per cent. to Rs. 32·47. **Printing paper** decreased in the same ratio to a total of Rs. 21·32 lakhs with a slight increase in the value per cwt. Other kinds of paper increased from Rs. 21 lakhs to Rs. 26·5 lakhs, but the average value in this case has apparently fallen by some 10·4 per cent. **Building materials** show an increase of Rs. 10·7 lakhs or 30·3 per cent. The trade in **Matches** has revived greatly since the resumption of imports from Japan, and that in **Earthenware** and porcelain shows a healthy growth in each of the last three years, while imports of **leather** and manufactures of leather have risen by 21·4 per cent. to Rs. 30·61 lakhs. In spite of the importation of a large quantity of umbrella fittings for use in manufacture, the receipts of the finished **umbrellas** increased by 4·4 per cent. but are still considerably below the total in 1903-04. Umbrella fittings have hitherto been included in "Hardware" and are now distinguished for the first time. The steady growth in the imports of **soap** is worth noting. There are indications that the natives of India, who wash very frequently, are learning the merits of soap, and the trade is one with great possibilities.

Apparel seems to have called a halt for the moment; and several of the articles which showed the most marked advances last year have receded in 1905-06. This often results from the accumulation of stocks; but the apparent contraction of **Scientific Instruments** and Apparatus by nearly 50·6 per cent. is due to the separate specification of "Electrical," "Surgical," and "Optical" instruments formerly included under this head. If these three items were included, the head "Scientific Instruments" would show an increase of Rs. 64·58 lakhs or 32·4 per cent. The value of Electrical Instruments was Rs. 30·5 lakhs.

In the following list, which shows in thousands of rupees the value of the principal articles of import in the last three years it is interesting to note how the large increase in cotton manufactures, sugar, iron and machinery reflect the well-known features of the year throughout the world and how a decrease in copper coincides with the remarkable rise in the price of that metal—

	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
	R	R	R
1 Cotton manufactures:—			
Grey piece goods	13,26,75	16,38,52	18,93,24
White ,, ,,	6,20,67	8,26,29	8,47,37
Coloured piece goods	7,99,12	9,08,68	9,54,71
Yarn	2,14,21	2,48,76	3,42,55
Other sorts	1,40,31	1,82,43	2,06,42
Total	31,01,06	38,04,68	42,44,29
2 Sugar	5,93,58	6,90,27	7,77,40
3 Iron and steel	6,00,18	6,12,54	6,64,54
4 Machinery and mill work	3,35,26	4,02,72	4,01,93
5 Mineral oil	3,44,93	3,32,50	2,22,90
6 Woolen manufactures	2,15,94	3,07,64	2,42,65
7 Hardware and cutlery	2,32,78	2,37,92	2,27,17
8 Apparel	1,99,58	2,24,00	2,21,90
9 Provisions	2,02,73	2,16,58	2,39,23
10 Silk manufactures	1,83,35	2,11,81	1,90,15
11 Copper	2,16,88	2,10,90	1,43,35
12 Railway material	1,40,20	1,40,97	1,62,23
13 Glass and glassware	99,21	1,12,57	1,12,52
14 Spices	82,20	1,03,24	1,08,30
15 Spirits	99,15	1,00,59	1,08,78
16 Precious stones and pearls	1,52,15	87,76	1,34,14
17 Instruments and apparatus	66,74	74,40	91,54
18 Silk, raw	59,29	73,41	71,19
19 Aniline and alizarine dyes	82,67	71,45	75,70
20 Salt	63,09	71,13	65,92
21 Drugs and medicines	68,12	70,74	67,57
22 Paper and pasteboard	52,18	64,37	70,49
23 Cotton	5,03	63,85	54,03
24 Chemicals	59,02	61,32	68,94
25 Beer	55,91	60,42	62,93
26 Timber	42,47	58,14	81,47
27 Tobacco	49,09	55,63	65,98
28 Horses	52,49	55,48	46,76
29 Carriages and carts	43,54	55,62	76,80
30 Matches	50,61	48,93	58,83
31 Paints and colours and painters' materials	42,69	46,92	49,32
32 Coal	33,78	44,46	32,12
33 Stationery, excluding paper	37,08	36,78	37,70

The large contraction in the imports of foreign **mineral oil** are ascribable to causes detailed in the section relating specially to that article.

RE-EXPORTS.

THE general development of direct communication between various parts of the world tends to diminish the trade of entrepôts. Other things being equal, a continuous decline in India's re-exports would, therefore, be expected under present conditions, and any rise in the re-export figures may be accepted as a very healthy sign. Such a rise—though amounting only to about Rs. 15·43 lakhs or 4·5 per cent. on the previous year's total value, has in fact taken place, and it more than maintains the continuous expansion shown in the two previous years. The following statement records the extent of the trade in each of the last ten years:—

	R		R
1896-97	4,03,96,372	1901-02	3,25,98,163
1897-98	3,75,11,720	1902-03	2,93,56,132
1898-99	3,37,11,965	1903-04	3,32,55,087
1899-1900	3,29,24,912	1904-05	3,37,25,945
1900-01	3,20 85,314	1905-06	3,52,68,622

The steady decline until 1902-03 will be noted together with the recovery since that date. Some allowance might reasonably be made for the rise in the sterling value of the rupee during the earliest years of that period as shown in the statement given in one of the opening paragraphs of this review.

Of the total for 1905-06, the share of the United Kingdom, though marking a slight absolute decrease at Rs. ·63 lakhs declined, relatively from 20·4 per cent. to 19·3 per cent. Persia increased its share to 17·4 per cent., Arabia to 17· per cent., while Turkey in Asia and China stood for 5·2 per cent. and 4·9 per cent. respectively. The Straits Settlements, as might be expected, went back to 4·1 per cent. British East Africa declined to 4·4 per cent. Ceylon remained nearly constant at 4·5 per cent. while Aden increased her proportion to 5 per cent.

The increase pertains most largely to Bombay, whose share has risen from 76 per cent. of the total to 78 per cent. The share of the chief ports of Western India (Bombay and Karachi) has gone up from 88 per cent. to 89 per cent. of the total. The greater part of the increase relates to goods from Western countries; of these cotton goods form the most important class and represent 40 per cent. of the whole. Piecegoods more than recovered the loss of the previous year, and rose from Rs. 119·7 lakhs to Rs. 129·8 lakhs, most of this increase appearing in coloured goods which rose from Rs. 87·75 lakhs to Rs. 97·5. The level of prices was higher so that the quantitative increase was less than that marked by the values; and Persia, Arabia, East Africa and Aden all increased their demand. Yarn, however, at Rs. 6·22 lakhs showed a shrinkage of 31·8 per cent. and of this article Persia took only Rs. 4·27 lakhs in place of Rs. 7·1 in the previous year. Apparel showed a further decline to Rs. 14·65 lakhs, and oils fell by 48 per cent. to Rs. 5·57 lakhs. The value of metals rose from Rs. 14·75 lakhs to Rs. 19·9 lakhs; and refined sugar, under the stimulus of the extraordinarily low prices lately ruling, leapt from Rs. 9·62 lakhs to Rs. 20·2 lakhs. The exports of foreign tea to Persia continued to decline and went to 364,000lbs as against 500,000, the difference here more than accounting for the fall of the total exports of foreign tea from 927,000lbs. to 781,000lbs. Russia took only 30,000 lbs. in place of 150,000 in 1904-05 and the exports of Green Tea fell away from 338,000 to 73,000.

The re-exports westward are of much less dimensions. The United Kingdom takes Rs. 68 lakhs or 19·3 per cent. of the total re-exports as against 20·4 per cent. in 1904-05. The chief commodity is raw wool (mainly from Karáchi). The quantity declined from 5,177,000 lbs. to 5,045,000 lbs. and the value from Rs. 25·90 lakhs to Rs. 25·81 lakhs.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

EXCERPTS FROM PROCEEDINGS,

KARACHI.

No. 16 of 1906.

Form of Certificate under section 23 of the Indian Ships Act, 1884.

Read letter No. M-190, dated 19th June 1906, from the Assistant Commissioner in Sind, forwarding, for the information of the Chamber, form of certificate to be given under section 23 of Act VII of 1884, as amended by Act III of 1902.

Resolution.—To be acknowledged, circulated and recorded.

Landing of decrepit beggars in Singapore.

Read letter, No. M-192, dated 19th June 1906, from the Assistant Commissioner in Sind, forwarding, for the information of the Chamber, copy of an Act published by the Government of Straits Settlements to prevent the landing of decrepit beggars in Singapore.

Resolution.—To be acknowledged, circulated and recorded.

Application for an exchange of publications.

Read letter, dated 20th June 1906, from D. McIver, Esq., Consul for Belgium, stating that he has received a communication from the Chamber of Commerce at Gand (Ghent) in Belgium, asking for an interchange of this Chamber's publications 3 with its own.

Resolution.—The Chamber will be glad to post a copy of the Weekly Price Current and Market Report at cost price. The Belgium Consul to be informed accordingly.

Publication of preliminary Charts by the Marine Survey of India.

Read letter No. 730, dated 19th June 1906, from the Port Officer, Karachi, intimating that certain preliminary Charts by the Marine Survey of India will be published in October next, and that private firms and individuals must apply for copies to Messrs. James Murray and Co., Admiralty Chart Agents, Calcutta, before the 15th July 1906.

Resolution.—To be acknowledged, circulated and recorded.

Levy of octroi on goods arriving for export.

Read letter, dated 4th July 1906, from the Secretary, Punjab Chamber of Commerce stating that complaints have been received by his Committee regarding a charge levied by the Karachi Municipality on goods arriving in Karachi for shipment and requesting to be furnished with the views of this Chamber regarding this charge and also with any information at the disposal of the Chamber in connection therewith.

Resolution.—A copy of the Karachi Municipality's Schedule of Octroi Dues to be forwarded to the Punjab Chamber of Commerce, together with a copy of the Assistant Commissioner in Sind's letter of the 8th June 1904, to the Chamber and the Chamber's reply thereto.

Insufficient storage accommodation in the Import Yard.

Read letter, dated 4th July 1906, from the Secretary, Punjab Chamber of Commerce, forwarding copy of letter addressed by his Chamber to the Karachi Port Trust, on the subject of the want of Port Trust storage accommodation; and inviting this Chamber's support to the suggestion made by his Chamber, that the Port Trust should, pending the completion of the New Import Yard, suspend the heavy demurrage charge at present levied in favour of the usual rent, and should also, if possible, arrange for temporary godown accommodation.

Resolution.—The Punjab Chamber of Commerce to be informed that no difficulties of the nature complained of have been brought to the notice of this Chamber by any of its members. As a direct representation has been made to the Karachi Port Trust, no further action on the part of this Chamber appears necessary at present.

Chemical Analyser for Sind.

Read letter No. G-199, dated 26th June 1906, from the Assistant Commissioner in Sind, intimating, with reference to correspondence ending with the Chamber's letter No. 395, dated 26th July 1905, that the appointment of Chemical Analyser for Sind and Port Health Officer, Karachi, has been sanctioned by Government, and that Captain W. H. Dickinson, I.M.S., has been appointed to it and will take up his new duties shortly.

Resolution.—To be acknowledged, circulated and recorded.

Carrying capacity of the N.-W. Railway.

Read letter, dated 30th June 1906, from the Chairman of the Chamber, referring to the Committee's conference with the Hon'ble Mr. S. Finney, C.I.E., Manager, N.-W. Railway, on the 26th June 1906, and suggesting that Government be addressed on the subject of the probable increase of traffic over the N.-W. Railway during the next ten years (consequent upon irrigational developments, etc.) and asked if adequate provision for the transport of this greatly increased traffic is now being undertaken.

Resolution.—Consideration deferred.

TARIFF CHANGES

AND

CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

THE *Board of Trade Journal* published on the 28th June, in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations, gives particulars about:—

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.—Customs Decisions.

NEW ZEALAND.—Customs Decisions.

SOUTH AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION.—Skimmed Condensed Milk and Secondhand Clothing. Match Splints.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Prohibition of the Importation of Live-stock from Mauritius and India. Rebate of Excise Duty on Colonial Spirits.

SIERRA LEONE.—Articles added to the Free List.

SELANGOR.—Revised Export Duties on Tin.

RUSSIA.—Customs Decisions.

GERMANY-SWEDEN.—Ratification of New Commercial Treaty.

FRANCE.—Importation of Live Redents Prohibited. Copyright Regulations applicable to Gramophone Records, etc.

FRANCE—SAINT PIERRE AND MIQUELON.—Increase of "Octroi de Mer" on Wines and Spirits.

SWITZERLAND-NORWAY.—Provisional Agreement.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.—Customs Decisions.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—Decree respecting the Importation of Cotton seed.

SAN SALVADOR.—Tariff Changes.

We give the following particulars of changes **interesting to Indian Trade:—**

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The Importation of Live-stock from Mauritius and India—Prohibition of.

The *Cape of Good Hope Government Gazette* for 25th May last, contains a proclamation (No. 164 of 1906), dated 21st May 1906, prohibiting in accordance with the provisions of the "Animal Diseases Act," No. 27 of 1893, the importation, either directly or indirectly, of any live-stock into Cape Colony from the Island of Mauritius and India, in consequence of the existence of the disease known as "Surra" in those countries.

It is provided in the Proclamation, however, that *healthy* animals may, under certain conditions, be imported from certain parts of India.

SELANGOR.

Revised Export Duties on Tin.

With reference to the notice published on page 406 of the *Board of Trade Journal* for 1st December 1904, giving the rates of duty imposed under Notification No. 782 of 1904, on tin, tin ore and manufactured tin, exported from Selangor, the Board of Trade have now received a copy of a further Notification (No. 319 of 1906), cancelling, with effect from 1st June 1906, the above-mentioned Notification of 1904, and imposing the following export duties in lieu thereof:—

Articles.	Export Duties.
	Dols. Cts.
Tin—	
When the price of tin exceeds 31 dols. per pikul up to 32 dols. per bhara (*For* each rise of 1 dol. per pikul in the price of tin above 32 dols. and up to 38 dols. per pikul, the export duty is increased 25 *cents.* per *bhara*, and when above 38 dols. per pikul the duty is increased by 50 cents.	10 00
The duty is reckoned on the price telegraphed daily from Singapore.)	
Tin ore—	
The ore exported under such guarantees as the resident may require that it will be smelted in the Colony of the Straits Settlements or in the United Kingdom.	70 % of the duty on tin.
Tin ore exported without such guarantees.	70% of the duty on tin *plus* an additional duty of 30 dols. per pikul.
Manufactured tin	The same as tin.

NOTE.—For weighing tin and tin ore a fee of 2 cents. per pikul is charged.

It is provided in the Notification that on tin won from rock, such that the tin cannot be obtained therefrom without picking, blasting or crushing, the above duty shall be payable subject to such rebate, if any, as the Resident may in particular cases approve, on the joint recommendation of the Senior Warden of Mines and the Government Geologist of the Federated Malay States; provided no such rebate shall exceed 50 per cent. of the above prescribed duty.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The Importation of Cotton Seed—Decree Respecting.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Foreign Office, a translation of an Argentine Presidential Decree prohibiting the importation of cotton seed from regions infected with the cotton weevil (*Authonomus grandis*). All cotton seed introduced into the country is to be carefully disinfected.

The Decree is to take effect from the 8th September next.

JAPAN.

New Customs Tariff-Correction.

The attention of the Board of Trade has been directed to the undermentioned misprints in the

statement of the forthcoming new Customs Tariff of Japan, which was published as a Supplement to the "Journal" for the 14th instant:—

(i) Tariff No. 129.—*Carbonate of magnesia.*—The new rate is 2,730 yen per 100 kin, not per kin.

(ii) Tariff No. 172 (i).—*Light mineral oils* (specific gravity below 0·730).—The reference to foot-note beginning "Conventional duty on paraffin oil" should be inserted against the words "10 per cent. ad valorem" in the third and fifth columns.

WEATHER SUMMARY.

For the week ending the 14th July 1906.

During the period under review, there was general rain on the Burma coast, the west coast, in north-east India, Eastern Bengal and Assam, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces, the west of Central India and Rajputana, local rain in Orissa and Deccan while light falls were reported from the Punjab, Gujarat and Bengal. A few falls were also reported from the interior of the Peninsula. The principal amounts of rainfall were:—Cherra Poonjee 18·84″, Dhubri 6·25″, Calicut 5·10″, Patua 5·07″, Shillong 4·90″, Lucknow 4·90″, Indore 4·37″, Ratnagiri 3·71″, Jalpaiguri 3·65″, Gorakhpur 3·50″, Chittagong 3·34″, Cochin 2·72″, Sambhar 2·70″, Bogra 2·64″, Darjeeling 2·47″, Darbhanga 2·34″, Udaipur 2·34″, Mangalore 2·33″, Akola 2·25″, Kotah 2·22″, Mainpuri 2·17″, Sambalpur 2·12″, Dibrugarh 2·10″, Cawnpore 1·95″, Jubbulpur 1·92″, and Pachmarhi 1·80″.

The monsoon was fairly active throughout the week in the central and north-central portions of the country, but in the Peninsula the Bombay current displayed less than its usual vigour. Pressure became abnormally high at the head of the Bay and over Burma on the 9th, and it was normal or in defect in the South of the Peninsula, and these conditions continued until the 12th: the Bay current was consequently deflected from Burma into north-east India where some heavy falls of rain occurred. In Burma precipitation was very light on the coast throughout the week, while in the interior the rainfall was very sparsely distributed and light. Skies had been moderately overcast and temperature approximately normal.

In north-east India rainfall became general on the 8th and 9th. Pressure gradients then became very steep and until the close of the week, caused heavy rainfall in the northern districts with isolated falls in the southern. There was almost no difference in the temperature from the normal during the whole period. Skies were heavily overcast in the northern parts, while only moderately clouded over in the southern.

In the United Provinces, Central India, the Central Provinces and south-east Rajputana rainfall was fairly general throughout the week and all stations reported more or less rain, the total fall being heavy in the Cawnpore, Indore and Jaipur sub-divisions. In Gujarat rain fell locally on the 8th and 9th, and isolated falls occurred from the 10th to the 12th. In the Punjab the monsoon had been weak and it gave only light rain in the eastern districts, while in the northern rain fell on several days owing to local disturbances. Skies had been clear or lightly clouded over in the Punjab and Upper Sind, but in the United Provinces, Central India, the Central Provinces and south-east Rajputana they had been heavily overcast. Temperature was in slight excess in the Punjab, in slight defect in the United Provinces and normal elsewhere.

In the Peninsula rainfall was only light, but fairly general on the west coast, while in the interior only a few scattered falls occurred daily. Skies had been more or less heavily overcast in the west coast districts and lightly to moderately clouded over in the remainder of the Peninsula. Temperature was in general normal or in excess throughout the week.

The only parts of the country where the rainfall for the period from the 4th May to the 14th July was in defect were the divisions of the North-West Dry Area, Baluchistan, Gujarat and the west coast and the sub-divisions of Burdwan, Lahore, Cuttack, Ranchi and Madura. Rainfall was in largest excess in the sub-divisions of Jaipur and Indore.

TELEGRAM FROM THE VICEROY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Crop prospects: Week ending 7th July last.

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh: Good rain has fallen in all districts. Sowings continue and seeds are germinating well. Fodder is less scarce and the condition of the cattle is improving. Markets are well supplied. Prices are generally stationary. Loans for seed and cattle are still being distributed. There has been a further large decrease in numbers on relief. **Punjab:** The number of famine relief recipients shows a decrease in Rohtak, owing to favourable rain. **Rajputana:** Favourable rain has fallen all over, doing great good to the water supply, fodder and agriculture, and greatly improving the position. A grant has been made by the Indian Famine Trust for the purchase of seed and cattle. **Central India:** Rain sufficient, except in parts of Gwalior. Ploughing and sowing operations are in progress. **Bombay:** Moderate to light rain in affected tracts. More rain is needed in parts of Deccan and Karnatak, where sowing operations have been retarded. Tanks and wells are filling. Fodder is scanty still. Prices continue high. Test relief works have been closed in Dharwar, and the poor house in Bijapur. **Hyderabad:** Sowings delayed in parts, owing to want of rain. Fodder continues scarce in parts. **Eastern Bengal:** Prospects of coming crops good. Prices still high but falling. The distressed classes are being helped with loans, gratuitous relief, and work. **Other Provinces:** Prospects fair or good. The following are the numbers of persons in receipt of relief in thousands:—**United Provinces of Agra and Oudh,** 83: **Punjab,** 10; **Ajmer and Rajputana,** 76; **Central India,** 47; **Baroda,** 2; **Bombay,** 92; **Hyderabad,** 2; **Eastern Bengal,** 7, total 319. Decrease of 96,000 since last week. Since the end of the week good rain has fallen in the **United Provinces of Agra and Oudh and South East Rajputana.**

CONSULAR REPORTS.

ISLAND OF PORTO RICO.

Mr. Consul Churchward in his report on **the Trade and Commerce of Porto Rico for the year 1905,** says that the most notable fact of the year is the **great advance made in the sugar industry,** which, thanks to the free market of the United States, is attracting capital. The moderate boom of last year is being rapidly improved upon and undoubtedly will continue until every acre fit for cane cultivation is so occupied. Two new centrals came into work during the year; five more will be ready for the next crop, while various *bonâ fide* projects are in hand for other factories.

To feed all these schemes every acre suitable in the vicinity of the localities chosen is already engaged and arrangements are rapidly being completed to make the more distant places available for cane supply by connecting them with the factories by means of light railways or branches of the existing railroad system.

Good sugar land now is worth anything from 20*l.* per acre, from which a planter can expect a return of from 15*l.* to 20*l.* per acre, but the sugar manufacture itself can only be profitably undertaken by capitalists.

The **average sugar production** of the island is about 2 tons to the acre, which yield is capable of much improvement through the use of fertiliser and practice of modern methods of cultivation and extraction.

The crop of the year exported, including molasses, was valued at 2,760,417*l.*, an advance on last year of 743,161*l.*

The favourable reception accorded the 1904 crop of **cotton** was responsible for an increased acreage of planting in 1905, but the results have been discouraging.

The crop proved inferior in quality and weak in fibre, owing, it is said, to the use of unsuitable new lands want of fertiliser in the old holdings, and withal general inexpert handling.

Raw Cotton to the value of 34,425*l.* and 4,928*l.* of seed are reported to have been exported during the year to the United States, the greater part of which was in transit to Liverpool.

There are about 6,000 acres devoted to cotton planting in the island at the present date, but this extent is not likely to be increased, for although experiment has shown that suitable land can be had for about 8*l.* per acre capable of producing from 1,200 lbs. to 1,700 lbs. per acre of Sea Island Cotton spare land of any real worth finds more remunerative employment in raising cane for the various new sugar centrals springing up all round.

Mr. Vice-Consul Toro reports as follows of Ponce:—

The year 1905 was a prosperous one for this district principally due to a very high sugar market and a large sugar crop.

The average price of sugar was about 18*s.* per 100 lb. centrifugals of 96° test. Total exports were 309,769 bags centrifugal sugar and 993 hogsheads muscovado sugar, equal to about 42,683 tons, against 33,738 tons in 1904: to this increase of 8,950 tons must be added about 5,000 tons which were sold for local and island consumption, thus giving a total increase of 13,950 tons. Total value of sugar exported was 790,380*l.* against 469,195*l.* in 1904.

As a consequence of the high price of sugar, lands suitable for cane growing rose in value, and some sales were made as high as 50*l.* per acre and, furthermore, some land was leased for cane growing under 5 and 10 years' contract at 3*l.* to 5*l* an acre per annum.

Two new central factories were organised, one of about 4,000 tons, by name "Central Florida" will take off its first crop next year and the other one of about 8,000 tons sugar is under construction and will be ready in 1906.

Both central factories were financed exclusively with local capital between owners of the land and some Ponce merchants.

The large central factories of this district have not published any official reports, but it is said that Guanica Centrale made 25,830 tons of sugar and Centrale Aguirre made 22,300 tons.

The French comany, "Compagnie des Surceries de Porto Rico" made its first crop and gave a dividend of about 4½ per cent on a capital of 180 000*l.*

No clear or definite statement can be obtained about the new system of diffusion of bagasse, an increased extraction seems to have been obtained from canes, but the extra expenses for fuel are reported as extremely high.

Prospects for the 1906 crop in this district are very good, and a large increase in exports is anticipated.

Molasses continue to decrease in this district, as little muscovado sugars are now made. The exports were:—

Year.	Value.
	£
1905	31,501
1904	50,783

The output in gallons including centrifugal molasses was 1,196,489 gallons in 1905 against 1,432,587 gallons in 1904.

Centrifugal molasses for distilling purposes were sold at 1½*d* per gallon for export and large quantites were also used for local distilleries, which produced about 300,000 gallons of rum.

Mr. Vice-Consul Steffens reports as follows of Mayaguez :—

The sugar exported from Mayaguez during the years 1902-05 exclusively to the United States was about :—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£
1905	4,820	79,325
1904	4,310	72 375
1903 . . .	7 160	96,505
1902 . . .	10,190	12-,385

Prices opened at about 4¾*c.* first cost for 96° centrifugals, advancing by degrees to 5⅛ to 5*c.* by middle of the crop, when a gradual decline set in reaching 4*c.* and even 3¾*c.* at the close the campaign.

Owing to the high range of prices, as stated above, the plantings of cane have been very important, in consequence of which there is now considerably more cane to be crushed than the existing factories can possible attend to, although all of them have increased their machinery, some even doubling their capacity.

The exports of molasses were about :—

Year.	Quantity.	Value.
	Gallons.	£
1905	595,213	19,315
1904	480,556	18,100
1903	640,016	24,545
1902	695,206	23,110

THE TERRITORY OF HAWAII.

Mr. Consul Layard in his report on the **Trade and Commerce of the territory of Hawaii** for the year 1904-05 says that the total tonnage of the sugar crop for 1904-05 was 426,248 short tons (380,579 tons avoir.), which is the largest crop in the history of the islands, with the exception of that for 1903, which exceeded it by 11,743 short tons (10,485 tons avoir.).

There are 53 **sugar plantations** in the Hawaiian Islands, situated as follows :—Hawaii, 25 ; Kauai, 11 ; Oahu, 9 ; Maui, 8 ; all having agencies in Honolulu, on Oahu. Of these plantations all have their own factories except eight, which have their cane crushed and manufactured at adjoining factories.

Hawaiian sugar is all exported in the raw state with the exception of the output of one factory, the Honolulu Plantation Company, which does not turn out any raw sugars. In this factory white sugars in granulated and powdered styles are manufactured and shipped to San Francisco, its output being about 20,000 short tons (17,860 tons avoir.) per annum.

The raw sugars are sold under contract to the American Sugar Refinery Company of New York, the Western Sugar Refining Company of San Francisco and the Californian and Hawaiian Sugar Refining Company of San Francisco. The last-mentioned company is controlled by certain Hawaiian sugar-planting companies owning about 82 per cent. of the whole output of the island.

Raw sugars are sold to the refineries above named on the basis of the prices of Cuban centrifugals in New York. This basis during the year 1905 rose from 4·90*c.* duty paid, at which price it stood at the beginning of the year, to 5¼*c.* per lb., which price was touched on January 23rd. Beyond this it did not go. The year's prices on the whole were very satisfactory, although there was a serious decline in values during the last three months of the year. By that time, however, almost all the Hawaiian crop was marketed.

It is estimated that the area from which the 1905 crop was taken was about 110,000 acres and that the area now under cultivation, from which the 1906 and 1907 crops are to be harvested, is about double that in extent.

The total export of **coffee** from these islands for the year ending June 30th, 1905, was 1,543,362lbs., valued at £38,323 of which 1,437,053lbs., valued at £35,660 went to the United States ; the remainder, for the most part, being shipped to the Australian Colonies.

It appears that the 1906 crop will approximate 2,200,000lbs. apart from the quantity required locally. From this it would appear that there is a considerable increase in the production, largely due, no doubt, to the area under cultivation in small patches chiefly by Japanese in the Kona district of the Island of Hawaii, after which the local coffee takes its name.

The first export shipment of **Hawaiian tanned leathers** was made to San Francisco in February, as the result of an inspection of samples by two of the largest boot and shoe manufacturing concerns in the Western States of the United States. Towards the end of October, 1904, small sample strips were sent to various manufacturers in the United States and several firms at once wrote to the local agents for hides. Among the full samples sent forward were uppers, laces and other forms of the local product, mostly for the making of uppers for shoes while valve leather was also forwarded.

Two firms immediately sent orders for all the leather that could be exported and the tannery people got together and exported about 700 dol. worth of goods, mostly of the kangaroo and black sheep variety.

Some time ago samples were also sent to the Japanese Government, in the belief that the local leathers would make up well into army shoes, and a tentative offer was also received from Japan for a shipment for trial.

The tannery was started about the middle of the year 1904 at Kalihi in Honolulu, near the slaughter-house and fertiliser works and has had to increase its tannery capacity twice since opening.

The tannery has not attempted so far to manufacture sole leathers, all the product at present is for uppers and generally for the plain, soft black leather shoes or those of the vici-kid pattern. Local Chinese shoemakers are beginning to patronise the new home industry, some making purchases of leather at the rate of from 400 to 500 dols. a month, whilst the tannery has furnished sheep-skins to some local book-binders for superior law-book binding.

INDIAN EXPORT TRADE IN SEEDS.

The exports of seeds represents 6·7 per cent. of the entire exports of Indian produce. In 1905-06 their value amounted to Rs. 1,060·92 lakhs which marks a decline of 26·4 per cent. as compared with the exports of the previous year.

Total trade.

	Cwts. (Unit 1,000.)	R
1901-02 . . .	22,965	16,77,92,684
1902-03 . . .	22,194	14,88,25,711
1903-04 . . .	24,681	14,51,58,299
1904-05 . . .	26,874	14,41,08,555
1905-06 . . .	17,576	10,60,92,267

These latter had however been the largest on record. The exports of the principal descriptions of seed are shown below, the values of 1905-06 being as follows :—Linseed Rs. 411·55 lakhs, Sesamum Rs. 146·93 lakhs, Rape seed Rs. 121·79 lakhs Cotton seed Rs. 102·18 lakhs, Castor Rs. 78·67 lakhs, Poppy Rs. 60·22 lakhs.

Quantity of each seed (Unit cwt. 1,000.)

	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
Linseed .	7,328	6,328	8,616	11,182	5,789
Rape . .	6,925	3,927	4,343	5,155	1,994
Cotton . .	2,036	3,974	2,677	2,529	3,891
Sesamum .	2,447	3,733	3,513	2,517	1,685
Earthnuts .	1,085	1,036	1,922	1,674	1,374
Castor . .	1,324	1,752	1,567	1,461	1,299
Poppy . .	934	966	1,315	1,363 .	797

Of the total, Bombay shipped Rs. 611·79 lakhs or 57·7 per cent., Calcutta Rs. 232·17 lakhs or 21·9 per cent. and Karachi Rs. 109·65 lakhs or 10·3 per cent. Linseed goes chiefly to the United Kingdom, Germany and France ; Rape seed to Germany and Belgium ; Sesamum and Poppy seed to France and Belgium ; Cotton seed to the United Kingdom, Castor to United Kingdom, and Earthnuts to France.

Of **Linseed** it is roughly estimated that only about 6 per cent. of a normal crop is retained for local consumption and yet the difference shown by the following figures was only about 3 per cent. The crop in 1905 was estimated at only 298,400 tons and the exports amounted to 289 443 tons against 559,100 tons in the previous year, which, however, was a record. The decline in exports was one of 48·2 per cent. and would probably have been greater if the failure in the United Provinces had not been to some extent made good by the increased yield in Hyderabad, Berar and Central Provinces, and if the reported shortage in the Argentine crop had not led to a smart rise in prices. It is estimated that Argentine shipments in 1905 amounted to only 650,000 tons against 908,900 in 1904.

In the case of **Rapeseed** there were no such compensating conditions. Up to the end of January the prospects of the crop had been excellent, with the result that the crops were freely marketed and depleted. Severe frosts in the beginning of February destroyed a great part of the crop in the United Provinces while the phenomenal outturn of the Danubian crop prevented any proportionate rally in prices. The total estimated outturn in India was only 540,400 tons and the exports declined by 61·3 per cent. to 99·684 tons. Towards the close of the financial year, however, a strong position developed as a consequence of reported deficiencies in the Indian crops and the absence of any compensating conditions in competing countries. The average values of Linseed and Rapeseed showed advances of 25·6 per cent. and 15·1 per cent. respectively as compared with those in 1904-05.

The shortage in Rapeseed led to an acute internal demand for **Sesamum** and occasioned great embarrassment to shippers ; and since in this case also the favourable nature of the crop prospects had led to depletion of available stocks, the exports which declined by 28 per cent. in 1904-05 underwent a further contraction of 33 per cent. making a total of 52 per cent. in two years. The average value rose by 26·3 per cent.

The recognition of the richness of **Indian Cotton seed** in oil and of its merits as a material for cattle feed has led to a steady growth in the exports which in 1905-06 rose to 194,567 tons with a value of Rs. 1,02,17,600. The increase in quantity was thus one of 53·87 per cent. and in value 65·8 per cent. which marks a rise of 7·75 per cent. in specific value ; and all indications point to a development of the trade.

Poppy seed declined 41·5 per cent. in quantity and 23·2 per cent. in value and it is very possible this article may be affected by the popularity of cotton seed. The price of **castor seed** continues to rise ; and while the total quantity exported receded by 11·1 per cent. the total value advanced by 13·7 per cent., the increase in average value thus being 28 per cent. Disease among **earthnuts**, and various other factors, have led to continuous abandonment of this crop in favour of others more immediately profitable ; and the exports registered a further decline

of 18 per cent. A large proportion of the exports of earthnuts from India is shipped from the French Port of Pondicherry, and so escapes registration in the trade of British India. In 1904-05 the exports from Pondicherry amounted to 1,284,656 cwt. with a value of Rs. 85·9 lakhs as against 1,276,706 cwt. and Rs. 61·4 lakhs in 1903-04.

NEW JAPANESE TARIFF.

THE American Consul General at Yokohama sent home to his Government the following report upon the New Japanese Customs Tariff :—

A comparison of the bill with the existing law reveals, first and foremost, a plan on the part of Japan to build up the country as a manufacturing power. She extends the conventional tariff to all countries by imperial ordinance. She prepares for retaliatory tariffs against countries discriminating against her vessels and products, and proposes also o prevent importations of bounty-made products of other countries. By extending the free list and modification of existing rates she encourages every form of manufacturing which is considered practicable for the Empire. Coal is to be free of duty; also ship's stores supplied to ships in open ports. Duties paid on imported materials used in the manufacture of certain articles for export (to be subsequently specified) are to be refunded.

This measure is estimated to increase the revenues several million dollars, and is designed as a temporary tariff law until the conventional tariff shall come to an end or be revived by special negotiations. One of the most commendable features of the new law is the effort to exchange specific for *ad valorem* duties. This is a feature especially agreeable to American merchants from several points of view and is considered of much benefit to American goods generally. The new tariff will take the place of the general tariff and the war tax known as the extraordinary import duty, but does not interfere with the consumption tax, which remains as before.

Changes in many of the principal articles and commodities are given below. 100 sen equalling 1 yen or 49·8 cents American (2*s*. 0¾*d*.) 100 kin=133 pounds :

Barley raised from ·40 to ·45 sen per 100 kin.

Wheat raised from ·536 to ·57 sen per 100 kin.

In 1904 the United States exported to Japan wheat to the value of $423,171 gold in round numbers.

Oats raised from ·45 to ·47 sen per 100 kin.

Cotton seed raised from ·135 to ·20 sen per 100 kin.

Fruits and vegetables in tins, including boxing, from an *ad valorem* of 30 per cent. to 7·30 yen per 100 kin.

Tinned goods exported from the United States in 1904 aggregated, in round numbers, $800,851 gold.

Fruits and nuts from 30 to 45 per cent. *ad valorem.*

Fresh fruits from 30 per cent. *ad valorem* to 4 yen per 100 kin.

Dried fruits from 30 per cent. *ad valorem* to 8·10 yen per 100 kin.

Wheat flour is raised from 1·196 to 1·45 yen per 100 kin.

In 1904 the United States exported flour to Japan aggregating, in round numbers, $4,671,505 gold.

Oatmeal is raised from 25 per cent. *ad valorem* to 4·42 yen per 100 kin.

Other flour from 25 to 30 per cent *ad valorem.*

The **rise in the tariff on wheat flour** is one o the most important in its effect upon American trade, as this constitutes one of the large and growing imports into Japan. Seventy-two cents import duty on 133 pounds (100 kin) is a very high rate. A duty of over half a cent a pound will place this article of diet beyond the power of the masses to purchase, and must therefore reduce the consumption of American flour.

The new duty on wheat will be 57 sen per 100 kin, an advance of only 3½ sen. This will give a very comfortable advantage to the milling of wheat in Japan. Manchuria offers a satisfactory solution to the high tariff on flour. Japan has possession of Dalny, and there is no doubt but that she will establish free trade relations between the home land and this leased territory. The railway now owned by the Japanese Government, extending from Dalny north, reaches into the great wheat fields of the Sungari Valley in Manchuria, and also the great wheat plains and hills of Mongolia. now in grass, but susceptible of the highest production of wheat. This same railroad passes through the entire length of the fine grain-growing valley of the Liao. It is no doubt a part of the policy of Japan to make this most productive country the source of food supply for her millions of people at home, and use heo railroad and her own ships to carry it. Tu accomplish this, and to make the investments in mills attractive, she places a high tariff on flour from other countries and subsidized ships. With a railway, the rates on which the Government controls, with subsidized ships for bringing the flour to Japan and a high tariff on foreign flour, investments in the mills at Dalny or Japan will certainly be very good. And as wheat can be put on the cars of the Japanese railway for half the price it is delivered on cars in the United States, there seems to be no reason why the flour for Japan should not be drawn from the fields of Manchuria and Mongolia. Several manufacturers of flouring-mill machinery are already in Japan negotiating for a supply of machinery for mills as soon as this Government measure becomes a law.

Ham and bacon raised from 1·36 to 1·40 yen per 100 kin.

Salted fish raised from 1·42 to 2 yen per 100 kin.

Article 7, section 17, provides that fish gathered by Japanese vessels shall be brought in free. This will exclude American ships bringing salted salmon to Japan, confines the shipping of salmon from Alaska to Japanese sailing vessels, and will operate as a discrimination against American shipping.

Condensed milk has been increased from 1·23 yen per dozen tins to 10 yen per 100 kin. This is one of the growing imports into Japan, and if prices could be maintained at a low level the importation would continue to increase. At present it is imported under the conventional tariff at a very low rate, but the heavy increase under the new tariff will, without doubt, check the importation. I am inclined to the view that this item also is raised with a purpose of encouraging production under Japanese control. There are splendid natural advantages in Japan, Korea, and Manchuria for the development of the dairy industry, and there seems to be a purpose to give this Japanese market to Japanese who will engage in the business within this territory.

While **raw and ginned cotton** remain on the free list there is a general advance in **cotton yarns** and **cotton goods** of every nature, and the new bill changes them from *ad valorem* to specific duties ; but as cottons of almost every kind are specified in the conventional tariff this part of the law will not take effect until after 1910, the date of the expiration of the conventional tariff. The present duty on cotton drills is one and a sixteenth sen per square yard, and 10 per cent. additional *ad valorem* as a consumption tax. The new tariff will be 6·3 sen per square yard, and 10 per cent. consumption tax additional.

GAZETTE AND OTHER NOTIFICATIONS.

Simla, the 14th July 1906.

THREE-AND-A-HALF PER CENT. LOAN.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Right Honourable the Governor-General in Council has resolved to borrow four hundred and fifty lakhs of rupees for the public service in the following manner :—

2. Promissory notes will be issued for the said amount in the form annexed to this notification, being the form of the notes of the *Three-and-a-half Per Cent. Loan of 1900-01*, of which loan the notes to be now issued will form a part. All the conditions which apply to notes of the *Three-and-a-half Per Cent. Loan of 1900-01*, will apply to the notes to be now issued. The interest on the notes of that loan is payable half-yearly on the 30th day of June and the 31st day of December; and the notes are not liable to discharge before the 31st day of December 1920.

Tenders.

3. Tenders for the whole or any part of the said amount of Rs. 4,50,00,000 will be received by the Comptroller-General from this date to noon, standard time,* of Tuesday, the 31st July next. Tenders must be for sums of 100 rupees or multiples of that sum.

4. Each tender must be addressed, in the form annexed to this notification, to the Comptroller-General, Calcutta, and enclosed in a closed cover, superscribed "*Tender for the Three-and-a-half Per Cent. Loan.*" If the tenderer is not resident in India, he must name an agent resident in India to whom an allotment-certificate may be issued, if any part of the loan is allotted to such tenderer.

NOTE (1).—Tenders made in accordance with these instructions will also be received by the Accountants-General at Madras, Bombay, Allahabad and Lahore, on account of the Comptroller-General, Calcutta, on the 30th July and up to noon, standard time,* on the 31st July : provided that—

(*a*) they are delivered personally or by clerk or messenger at the Accountant-General's Office (where a receipt will be given for them) ;

(*b*) they are made on printed forms, to be obtained at the same office or at the local Presidency Bank ;

(*c*) each tender is for not less than Rs. 10,000 ;

(*d*) the deposit is either a promissory note or a Treasury Receipt from the local office of the Presidency Bank ; or a cheque on a local Bank in favour of the Accountant-General ;

(*e*) the amount of the tender is made payable at the place of tender (Madras, Bombay, Allahabad or Lahore as the case may be) or in Calcutta ;

and the Accountant-General will return deposits on non-accepted tenders and will issue allotment-certificates so far as the tende r are payable in Madras, Bombay, Allahabad or Lahore.

5. The rate at which each tender is made must be specified in rupees or rupees and annas ; a tender in which no rate is thus specified, but a subscription is offered in some other terms—as, for example, at the recorded minimum, or at some specified percentage in addition to the recorded minimum, or at the average of the accepted tenders—will be rejected as null and void.

6. The rate at which a tender is made must not contain a fraction of an anna : if a rate containing a fraction of an anna is inserted in any tender, such fraction will be struck out and the tender treated as if the rate did not contain such fraction of an anna.

Deposits.

7. Each tender must be accompanied by a deposit of not less than one-hundredth or, if the tender be for less than five lakhs of rupees, then for not

* Noon, standard time, corresponds to 12-24 P.M., Calcutta time.

less than one fiftieth part of the tender. The deposit must be in one of the following forms: (*a*) a receipt for the amount from the Head Office of the Bank of Bengal, or Madras, or Bombay, or one of their Branches, or from an officer in charge of some Public Treasury, or (*b*) a cheque drawn in favour of the Comptroller-General on a Bank in Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Allahabad, or Lahore, or (*c*) Government Promissory Notes[1] standing in the name of, or endorsed to, the tenderer or the person making the deposit.

[1] *It is particularly requested that such Promissory-Notes may NOT be endorsed to the Comptroller General.*

8. (*a*) Deposits not being promissory notes, will, in the case of accepted tenders, be credited proportionately in part payment of the allotment-certificates issued in respect of the tender, and will bear interest for the purpose] of clause 16 below from the date of the opening of tenders. When a tender is not accepted in full, the deposits, when they are not in the form of promissory notes, will be credited as far as possible proportionately in part payment of the allotment-certificates issued in respect of it. If any allotment-certificate is not fully taken up, the deposit credited in respect of it will be forfeited.

(*b*) Promissory notes deposited in respect of any accepted tender will be held until all the allotment-certificates issued in respect of the tender are paid up, and will, if the allotment-certificates are not fully taken up, be appropriated by the Government and cancelled.

Opening of tenders.

9. The minimum rate at which tenders will be accepted will be recorded under the signature of the Comptroller-General, and, before the tenders are opened, placed upon the table in a sealed envelope, but will not be declared unless some tender is rejected only because it is below the recorded minimum.

10. Tenders will be opened publicly by the Comptroller-General at the Treasury Buildings, Calcutta, at noon, standard time,* on Tuesday, the 31st July next, and those received under the terms of note (1) to clause 4 will be similarly opened by the Accountants-General at Madras, Bombay, Allahabad, and Lahore, at noon, standard time, on the same day; but the contents of the tenders will not be disclosed otherwise than as provided in clause 12.

11. Tenders at rates not below the minimum rate will be accepted in the order of the rates tendered, beginning with the highest rate. The amount allotted at the lowest rate at which tenders are accepted will be divided amongst those who have tendered at this rate in proportion, as nearly as may be found convenient, to the amounts of their tenders: provided that no allotment will be issued if the amount distributable on any tender is less than Rs. 100: preference will, however, be given to small tenders, not exceeding Rs. 2,000 at the lowest accepted rate, such tenders receiving allotments in full as far as possible.

*Noon, standard time, corresponds to 12-24 P.M., Caclutta time.

Allotment-Certificates.

12. To each tenderer (or to his agent) whose tender is accepted in whole or in part, such number of allotment-certificates as may be necessary to make up the aggregate amount allotted to him will be issued by the Comptroller-General[2] as soon at possible after the 31st July and an alphabetical liss of the names of those to whom such allotment-certificates are issued will be posted for general information at the Head Offices of the Banks of Bengal, Madras and Bombay, and at the Branch Offices of the Bank of Bengal at Allahabad and Lahore.

[2] For tenders received by the Accountant-General at Madras, Bombay, Allahabad, or Lahore, a payable at those places, the Accountant-General will issue the allotment-certificates.

13. If the allotment made on any tender is less than Rs. 3,000 then the whole of the allotment-certificates [after credit of the deposit under clause 8(*a*)] will be made payable upon the 5th September.

Otherwise the whole amount of each allotment will be divided into three instalments as follows:—

Instalment I.—As near as convenient to 35 per cent. but not exceeding 35 per cent. payable upon the 15th August:

Instalment II.—As near as convenient to 35 per cent. but not exceeding 35 per cent payable upon the 5th September.

Instalment III.—The balance payable upon the 8th October:

and allotment-certificates will be issued for each intalment separately.

But the whole or any part of any accepted tender may be paid at any time after receipt of the allotment-certificates.

The words "as near as convenient" refer to the necessity for making each instalment an exact multiple of Rs. 100.

14. Any allotment-cretificates will, on application to the Comptroller General, be exchanged for an equivalent amount of allotment-certificates of smaller denominations: provided that if any payment (beyond the deposit) is recorded upon the cancelled certificate, it can be taken against, and recorded upon, only one of the certificates issued in exchange.

15. Payment of any allotment-certificate may be made to the account of the Government in the Head Office of the Bank of Bengal or Madras or Bombay, or in any Branch of these Banks, or into any Public Treasury or Treasuries in India which may be named in the tender in respect of which it was issued. Receipts for such payments will be given by the Banks of Bengal, Madras, and Bombay, or their Branches, or by the officers in charge of the Government Treasuries at which payment is made by enfacement upon the relative certificate.

Issue of Promissory Notes.

16. (*a*) When any allotment-certificate is fully paid up, the holder will, on presenting it duly receipted at the place where it was paid, obtain from the Public Debt Office, Calcutta, promissory notes of such values as he may desire, (each note being in even hundreds and not less than Rs. 100) bearing interest from 31st December 1906, and he will also receive interest at 3½ per cent. per annum from the dates on which he may have made payment till the 30th December 1906.

(*b*) Or he may, at his option, by paying interest at the said rate from 30th June 1906 to the dates on which he may have made payment, obtain promissory notes as above, bearing interest from the 30th June 1906.

FORM OF PROMISSORY NOTE (see Clause 2.)

FORT WILLIAM, THE

Promissory Note No. *Govt. Rupees* *at 3½ per cent of 1900-01.*

The Governor General of India in Council does hereby acknowledge to have received from the sum of Government Rupees One Hundred only as a loan to the Secretary of State in Council for India, and does hereby promise, for and on behalf of the said Secretary of State in Council, to repay the said loan, by paying the said sum of Government Rupees one hundred only to the said , his Executors, or Administrators, or his or their Order, on demand, at the General Treasury, at Fort William, after the expiration of Three Months' Notice of Payment, to be given by the Governor General of India in Council, in the Government Gazette, and to pay the interest accruing on the said sum of Government Rupees One Hundred only from the at the rate of three-and-a-half per cent. per annum, by half-yearly payments at the General Treasury, at Fort William, to the said , his Executors, or Administrators, or his or their Order, until the expiration of three months after such notice of payment as aforesaid, when the amount of interest due will be payable with the principal, and (such notice being considered as equivalent to a tender of payment at the period appointed for the discharge of this note) all further interest shall cease.

The Governor General in Council hereby further engages that Notice of Payment as aforesaid shall not be given before the Thirtieth day of September 1920, and that this Note shall not be discharged before the Thirty-first day of December 1920.

FORM OF TENDER (see Clause 4).

I, *A. B.*, hereby tender for Rupees (X) of *The Three-and-a-half Per Cent. Loan* advertised in the Notification published in the *Gazette of India, Extraordinary*, dated the 14th July 1906, and agree to pay for the same, subject to the conditions notified, at the rate of Rupees (Y) annas (Z) for every hundred rupees allotted to me.

I enclose a *deposit receipt* * for Rupees (XX), and engage, if my offer be accepted, to pay to the account of the Government at the *Bank of* † *or at the* † *Branch of the Bank of* † ; *or into the Public Treasury at* † ; *as the case may be*—

* Or cheque or Government Promissory Notes.

† Here enter the name of Bank Branch Bank or Treasury.

The first instalment, as near as convenient to 35 per cent., but not exceeding 35 per cent., on or before the 15th August 1906.

The second instalment, as near as convenient to 35 per cent., but not exceeding 35 per cent., on or before the 5th September 1906.

The balance on or before the 8th October 1906.

Or, if the amount allotted to me be less than Rs. 3,000, than the whole amount on or before the 5th September 1906.

Any allotment made to me may be communicated to *C.D.* at ‡

‡ Here insert *C. D.'s* address, which must be in India. This paragraph should only be inserted if *A. B.* does not reside in India, or if residing in India, he wishes the allotment communicated to an agent or desires to pay the instalments elsewhere than at the place where the tender is submitted, and wishes the allotment-certificates to be given to an agent at that place.

NOTE.—(*1*) *A separate tender must be made at each rate tendered. The rate tendered should be the whole amount per centum, not the premium or discount: thus "One hundred and two" or "One hundred" or "Ninety-nine" not "Two per cent. premium" or "Par" or "One per cent. discount."*

By order of the Governor General in Council,

O. T. BARROW,

Secretary to the Government of India.

NOTIFICATION BY THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL.

The Comptroller General requests the attention of tenderers to the following arrangements:—

Filling up tenders.

(1) They are requested to use only the printed forms of tender, which will be available at his Office and at the Currency Office on application to the Darwan on duty, at all the Provincial Account Offices, and at the Banks of Bengal, Madras and Bombay, and will also be supplied to the Principal Treasuries.

(2) If the deposit is in the form of Promissory Notes or of Currency Notes, their number should be quoted in detail in the tender.

Presentation of tenders.

(3) For all tenders presented to him in his office upon the last fixed day, or the two days preceding it he will give the bearer a receipt bearing a number and initialled by himself or an assistant specially deputed for the purpose. The Accountants General at Madras, Bombay, Allahabad and Lahore will do likewise in respect of tenders presented to them under note (1) to clause 4 of the Government Notification.

Return of Deposit in case of Non-acceptance.

(4) The reverse of this receipt is a form in which in the event of the tender not being accepted, the tenderer may give to the Comptroller General or Accountant General a receipt for the deposit accompanying it. This form should, on the third day after the opening of the tenders, be filled up, signed with the same signature as the tender, and be presented at the Office of the Comptroller General or Accountant General. The deposit will then be returned to the bearer in exchange for the receipt.

(5) Deposits upon tenders presented personally, as described in No. (3) above, will be returned only in this way, and will not be sent by post or otherwise. Deposits upon other unsuccessful tenders will be returned by Post or by the hands of a clerk.

Accepted Tenders.

(6) The Comptroller General and Accountant General at Madras, Bombay, Allahabad, or Lahore (in the case of tender received by such Accountant General and payable in Madras, Bombay, Allahabad, or Lahore), will issue allotment-certificates to successful tenderers. These certificates will be for the following amounts :—Rs. 100, Rs. 300, Rs. 500, Rs. 1,000, Rs. 2,000, Rs. 5,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 20,000, Rs. 50,000, Rs. 1,00,000, making up the full value accepted; and the deposit on the tender will be divided among them; they will be substantially of the following form :—

This is to certify that, in accordance with the terms of Notification No. 3676-A, dated the 14th July 1906 (Gazette of India, Extraordinary, *dated the 14th July* 1906), *the abovenamed tenderer has engaged to take up Rs.* 2,000 *of the* 3½ *Per Cent. Loan of* 1900-01 *at the rate abovementioned on or before* : *and that on the said payment being completed, he is entitled on endorsing and delivering up this certificate to receive a promissory note or notes of the Government of India for Rs.* 2,000 *bearing interest from*

CALCUTTA :
The 14th July 1906.

J. C. E. BRANSON,
Offg. Comptroller and Auditor General.

TELEGRAPHIC.

List of Government Telegraph Offices reported as opened closed, etc., since compilation of the last list.

OFFICES OPENED.

Name of office.	District.	Date opened.	Remarks.
Kyatpin	Mogok	21st May 06	
Cawnpore Nawabganj	Cawnpore	25th May 06	
Tanai	Waziristan	25th May 06	
Rangoon Seikgyi	Hanthawaddy	26th May 06	
Isakhel	Mianwali	28th May 06	
Addul Mauri	Howrah	1st June 06	
Avinigudda	Kistna	1st June 06	
Jubbulpore Central Post	Jubbulpore	2nd June 06	
Murarai	Birbhum	3rd June 06	
Delhi Darya Ganj	Delhi	6th June 06	
Ratabari	Sylhet	13th June 06	
Santa-Cruz	Thana	17th June 06	
Kot-Radha-Kishen R. S.	Lahore	18th June 06	
Loimwe	Southern Shan States	19th June 06	
Kamarmashani	Mianwali	20th June 06	
Sawabi	Peshawar	17th June 06	
Kado	Amherst	21st June 06	
Burdwan R. S.	Burdwan	22nd June 06	
Pa-an	Thaton	23rd June 06	
Madras Royapettah	Madras	24th June 06	

OFFICES CLOSED.

Name of office.	District.	Date closed.	Remarks.
Nagandioba	Waziristan	25th May 06	
Kokilamukh	Sibsagar	22nd June 06	

OFFICES SANCTIONED BUT NOT YET OPENED.

Name of office.	District.	Date sanctioned.	Remarks.
Niklidampara	Mymensingh	25th May 06	
Hasan Abdal R. S.	Attock	29th May 06	
West Hill	Malabar	12th June 06	
Kasibugga	Ganjam	12th June 06	

OFFICES RAISED TO 1ST OR 2ND CLASS.

Name of office,	District.	Date.	To what class raised.
Hoti Mardan	Peshawar	1st Jan. 06	2nd class.

COMBINED OFFICE CONVERTED INTO DEPARTMENTAL OFFICE.

Name of office.	District.	Date when converted.	Remarks.
Magwe (Burma)	Magwe	10th June 06	

DEPARTMENTAL OFFICES CONVERTED INTO COMBINED OFFICES.

Name of office.	District.	Date when converted	Remarks.
Miubu	Miubu	10th June 06	
Allanmyo	Thayetmyo	16th June 06	

In the issue of the *Indian Trade Journal* for 7th June 1906, it was stated that the spare Baudot instruments held in reserve at Calcutta and Simla were to be sent to Bombay and Madras to be utilised for telegraphic traffic between those two offices. In view, however, of the traffic between Calcutta and Simla being light it has been decided to remove the Baudot instruments entirely from Simla to Madras so as to permit of Calcutta and Madras utilising the system instead.

The following Wireless Telegraph traffic was disposed of on the Andamans circuit during the month of May 1906.

Sent from Port Blair	187	messages containing	4,0·2	words.
Received at „ „	156	„ „	6,859	„
	343	„ „	10,941	„
Exchanged at Slipper Island	80	„ „	2,587	„
GRAND TOTAL	423	„ „	13,528	„

Of these totals 206 messages containing 4,157 words were classed as "Private."

During the month communication with Port Blair was interrupted on 10 days and with Slipper Island on 9 days and on 15 days it was very imperfect due to severe atmospheric disturbances caused by very stormy weather accompanied by much thunder and lightning.

In addition to the above difficulties the aerial on Diamond Island was blown down during a storm on the evening of the 29th May. It was repaired and hoisted at noon on the 30th but was blown down again an hour afterwards and was finally successfully re-erected on the 31st.

The following Wireless Telegraph traffic was disposed of during the 14 days in May 1906 on which communication was maintained at Saugor Island :—

Sent from Saugor Island	42	messages containing	811	words
Received at „ „	220	„ „	3,072	„
TOTAL	262	„ „	2,883	„

Of these totals 86 messages containing 1,477 words were classed as "Private" and 147 messages containing 636 words were "Shipping Reports."

Communication was maintained uninterruptedly during the period, but on the afternoons of 11 out of the 14 days in question working was greatly impeded by atmospheric disturbances.

The following Wireless Telegraph traffic was disposed of on the Andamans circuit during the month of June 1906.

Sent from Port Blair	177	messages containing	4,096	words
Received at „ „	97	„ „	2,420	„
Total	274	„ „	6,516	„
Exchanged at Slipper Island	62	„ „	1,877	„
GRAND TOTAL	336	„ „	8,393	„

Of these totals 142 messages containing 2,840 words were classed as "Private."

The large reduction in the number of words disposed of during the month is due to the fact that in consequence of the state of communication being so imperfect the transmission of long messages was a matter of great difficulty, and therefore, the sending of Reuter's messages had been temporarily suspended.

Communication with Port Blair was imperfect throughout the month owing to atmospheric disturbances and was totally interrupted for two days owing to the same cause.

Communication with Slipper Island was interrupted for 14 days owing to the breakdown of the sending transformer there.

The following Wireless Telegraph traffic was disposed of at Saugor Island during the month of June 1906.

Sent from Saugor Island	60	messages containing	731	words.
Received at „ „	363	„ „	3,296	„
TOTAL	423	„ „	4,027	„

Of these totals 130 messages containing 2,302 words were classed as "Private" and 254 messages containing 1,134 words were Shipping Reports.

There were no interruptions during the month.

CALCUTTA TEA AUCTIONS.

Number of chests of tea sold at the auction sale in Calcutta in 1905-06.

	Flowery Pekoe, Broken Flowery Pekoe, Orange Pekoe, and Broken Orange Pekoe.	Broken Pekoe.	Pekoe.	Souchong, Pekoe Souchong, Pekoe Fannings, and Congou.	Souchong Fannings, Broken Souchong, Broken Pekoe Souchong Dust, Mixed, etc	TOTAL.
Assam	24,250½	23,142½	48,168¼	44,624	12,221	152,406
Cachar	21,288¾	13,585½	39,159	46,676½	15,130	135,840¾
Sylhet	12,341	12,092	29,604	23,489	9,955	87,481
Jalpaiguri	32,713½	16,033	47,611	45,531½	11,533	153,422½
Darjeeling	28,676	8,543½	24,668	22,291¼	1,660	85,838¾
Chittagong	843½	540½	3,307	3,173	683	8,553
Kumaon	408½	114	381½	428	...	1,332
Chota Nagpur	17	35½	73	94	70½	290
Dehra Dun	430	...	73	...	...	503
Nepal	142	...	...	65	216	423
TOTAL	121,117	74,086½	193,044¼	186,372½	51,469½	626,089¾

Average price at which different descriptions of tea were sold at the auction sale in Calcutta in 1905-06.

	Flowery Pekoe, Broken Flowery Pekoe, Orange Pekoe and Broken Orange Pekoe.	Broken Pekoe.	Pekoe.	Souchong, Pekoe Souchong, Pekoe Fannings, and Congou.	Souchong Fannings, Broken Souchong, Broken Pekoe Souchong, Dust, Mixed, etc.	Average of each sale.
1905.	*a. p.*	*a. p.*	*a. p.*	*a. p.*	*a. p.*	*a. p.*
JUNE—						
Sale No. 1	6 3	5 1	5 0½	4 1	3 8	4 10
2	6 6	6 1	5 5	4 4	3 11	5 3
3	7 3½	5 10½	5 5½	4 5	4 1¼	5 5
4	7 9	6 0	5 7	4 1	3 9	5 6
JULY—						
Sale No. 5	8 5½	6 9½	5 9½	4 8	3 1	5 11
6	7 11½	6 4	5 9	4 8	4 9	5 11
7	7 8	6 5¼	5 8¼	4 11	4 1	5 9
8	8 7	8 0	6 6	5 3¾	4 9½	6 8
AUGUST—						
Sale No. 9	8 10	7 8	6 2½	4 9⅓	4 3	6 4
10	7 6	6 11	5 8	4 8	4 2½	5 9
11	8 4	7 9	6 1	5 1½	4 5	6 4
12	7 9	6 7½	5 6½	4 8¼	4 1	5 9
SEPTEMBER—						
Sale No. 13	7 6	6 9	5 9½	4 9½	4 5	5 10
14	6 9	6 6⅝	5 4	4 4½	4 0	5 5
15	6 9	6 9	5 5	4 5	4 1	5 6
16	6 8	6 4½	5 6	4 6	4 4	5 6
17	7 2	5 9½	5 4	4 4⅝	4 2	5 4
OCTOBER—						
Sale No. 18	7 2	6 2	5 3	4 4	4 4	5 5
19	7 7	6 9	5 6	4 6½	4 1	5 8
NOVEMBER—						
Sale No. 20	7 4	6 1	5 0⅓	4 4⅝	4 1	5 4
21	6 9	6 8	5 2	4 2½	3 11	5 4
22	6 10	5 10¾	4 9½	3 11	3 9	5 0
23	7 0	6 0	4 11	4 0½	3 7½	5 1
DECEMBER—						
Sale No. 24	6 10	5 11½	4 11½	3 11½	3 4	5 0
25	7 6	7 5	5 4½	4 4	3 7	5 7
26	7 10	5 11	4 9⅔	3 11	4 0	5 3
27	7 9	6 11	5 0	3 11	3 6	5 5
1906.						
JANUARY—						
Sale No. 28	7 0	6 4½	4 9	3 5½	3 7	5 0
29	6 9	6 7⅓	4 10	3 9½	3 4	5 1
30	6 1	4 8	4 4	3 5½	3 3	4 4
FEBRUARY—						
Sale No. 31	6 2	5 6	4 8	3 6½	2 11	4 6
32	6 4	5 7	4 1⅓	3 0	3 3	4 5
33	5 1	4 6⅓	3 10	2 9	2 5	3 9
34	4 5½	4 11¼	4 2	3 0½	3 9	4 1
MARCH—						
Sale No. 35	4 7	4 10⅔	4 1⅓	3 2¼	2 1¼	3 9
TOTAL	236 9	218 7¹³⁄₁₆	181 8½	146 3¹¹⁄₁₆	133 9	185 0
AVERAGE	7 1	6 3	5 2	4 2	3 10	5 4

Number of chests of tea of different descriptions sold and the average price per lb. realised at the auction sale in Calcutta, 1905-06.

	Number of chests.	Average price.		Number of chests.	Average price.
		a. p.			*a. p.*
Flowery Pekoe, Broken Flowery Pekoe, Orange Pekoe, and Broken Orange Pekoe.	121,117	7 1	Souchong Fannings, Broken Souchong, Broken Pekoe Souchong, Dust, Mixed, etc.	51,469½	3 10
Broken Pekoe	74,086¼	6 3			
Pekoe	193,044¾	5 2			
Souchong, Pekoe Souchong, Pekoe Fannings and Congou.	186,372¼	4 2	GRAND TOTAL	626,089¾	Net average 5 4

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.
For the week ending 14th July 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign—Imports by sea into	Calcutta	lbs.	63,414
	Bombay	„	201,290
	Madras	„	325,400
Indian—Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	196,000
	Bombay	„	8,861,420
	Madras	„	...

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	14,269,218
	Bombay	„	4,551,383
	Karachi	„	1,909,830
	Madras	„	2,035,904
	Rangoon	„	224,485

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	2,800,716
	Bombay	„	2,508,979
	Karachi	„	3,178,909
	Madras	„	282,596
	Rangoon	„	940,406

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	2,876,936
	Bombay	„	3,424,305
	Karachi	„	2,890,540
	Madras	„	1,040,722
	Rangoon	„	1,632,370

Piece Goods.
(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta*	cwt.	13,995
	Bombay†	„	7,062
	Karachi	„	15,398
	Madras	„	3,863

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea	cwt.	1,597
	Coastwise	„	4,333
	By rail	„	11,987
Imports into Karachi	by rail	„	1,585
„ „	Calcutta by rail and river	„	5,745

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta	cwt.	79,059
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags	No.	3,628,000
	„ cloth	yds.	14,713,240
	Jute	cwt.	23,039
Exports by sea from Chittagong	Jute	„	1,604

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta	lbs.	4,877,873
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	5,124,746
	Chittagong	„	2,199,500

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	19,897
	Karachi by rail	„	817,372
Imports into Bombay	By sea	„	2,826
	Coastwise	„	14,300
	By rail	„	29,371
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	57,779
	Bombay	„	3,375
	Karachi	„	1,024,150

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta	cwt.	79,960
	Chittagong	„	...
	Bombay	„	8,840
	Karachi	„	10,000
	Madras	„	...
	Rangoon	„	459,843

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	66,636
	Bombay By sea	„	2
	Bombay Coastwise	„	53
	Bombay By rail	„	16,265
	Karachi by rail	„	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	29,758
	Bombay	„	37,970
	Karachi	„	13

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	34,866
	Bombay By sea	„	...
	Bombay Coastwise	„	893
	Bombay by rail	„	9,548
	Karachi by rail	„	136,524
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	4,504
	Bombay	„	26,574
	Karachi	„	61,086

* E. B. S. Ry. figures not received.

† B., B. and C. I. Ry. figures only.

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 14th JULY 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From All other foreign countries.	Total.
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
Calcutta	...	575,451	881,366	1,456,817
Bombay	...	...	549,175	549,175
Karachi	...	...	...	...
Madras	...	...	...	...

Exports by sea from Burma to	Bengal	galls.	324,316
	E. B. & Assam	,,	...
	Bombay	,,	...
	Sind	,,	...
	Madras	,,	...
	Indian Ports, Non-Br.	,,	...
	Foreign Ports	,,	...

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 14th JULY 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	2,767	...	12	5	...	775	3,559
Germany	40,118	...	5,820	3,629	680	...	50,238
Austria-Hungary	2	...	1,053	3,100	...	...	4,155
Other European Countries	...	..	...	...	...	..	...
Java	49,232	...	...	...	...	8,870	58,102
Mauritius	15,492	...	26,900	...	...	...	42,392
Other Non-European Countries	...	...	598	...	...	...	598
					Total refined		159,044
					Total unrefined		104,629
					Grand Total		

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta [The prices include postage to countries in the Postal Union.]

ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 (2*a*.)
2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a*.)
3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—
   - Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. ₹3. (12*a*.)
   - Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port. ₹3. (12*a*.)
4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. ₹2. (7*a*.)
5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a*.)
6. Accounts of Trade of the French Possession in India. As. 3. (1*a*.)
7. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possession in India. As. 2. (1*a*.)
8. Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India. ₹4. (6*a*.)
9. Report on the Rail-borne and River-borne Trade of Bengal. ₹4.
10. Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan. ₹1½.
11. Prices and Wages in India. ₹1½. (9*a*.)
12. Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India. ₹4. (12*a*.)
13. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India. ₹2. (10*a*.)
14. Agricultural Statistics of India. ₹3½. (12*a*.)
    - Part I.—British India.
    - Part II.—Native States.
15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India. As. 5. (2*a*.)
16. Statistics of Mineral Production in India. As. 2. (1*a*.)

QUARTERLY.

17. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

MONTHLY.

18. Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)
19. Accounts of the External Land Trade of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)
20. Statistics of the Production of Yarn and Woven Goods in the India Cotton Mills. As. 2.

[Amount within parenthesis denotes cost of packing and postage.]

NOTICE.

An Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition will be held in Calcutta next December during the Congress Session.

For Rules, Prospectus, etc., please apply to—

THE HONORARY SECRETARY,
Exhibition Committee,
62, Bowbazar Street.

NOTICE.

The First and Fourth Numbers of the Indian Trade Journal are out of print, and cannot therefore be supplied.

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All figures, blocks, etc., intended for insertion in the advertisement columns of the *Indian Trade Journal* must first be submitted for approval to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence. The type used in the making up of an advertisement, whether display or line, must be of the kind approved by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence.

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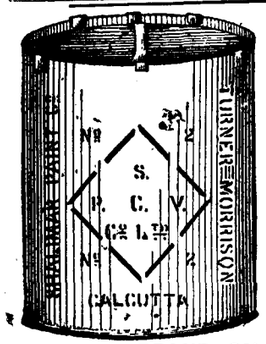
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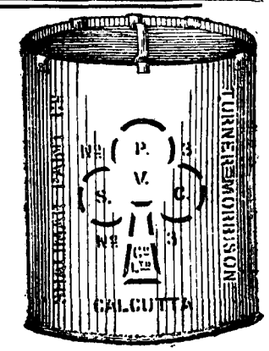
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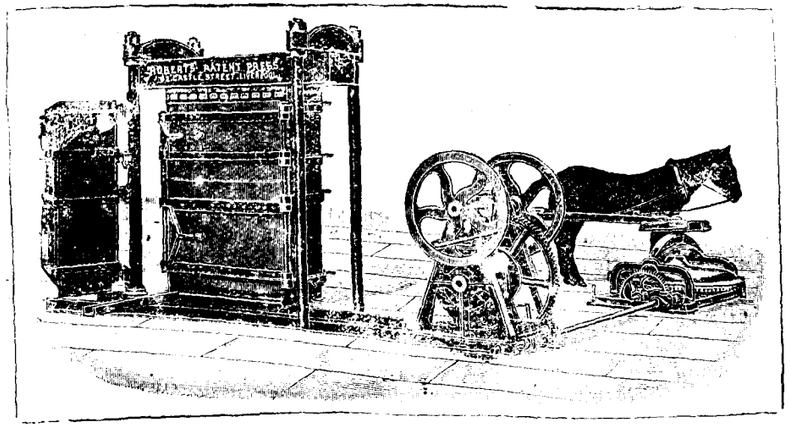
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NOTES.

With effect from the 1st of August, **single** [illegible] **orders** may be drawn in India on France up to *limit* of £40.

The British Consul at Mexico City states that steps are being taken in **Texas** to develop the **growing of the Guayule rubber plant.**

In their gazette, dated the 19th inst. **Mysore** Government publish the rules to the construction and working of tr[illegible] within that province.

With effect from the 1st October next, the prepayment of **customs duty and other charges on parcels** for the United Kingdom will be allowed at *all* head and sub post offices.

It is notified that His Majesty's Secretary of State for India has sanctioned an **extension** on the metre gauge of His Highness the **Gaekwar's Mehsana Railway** from Kheralu to Dabhoi, a distance of 7·73 miles.

The Government of India have sanctioned the formation of a **Standing Committee** for the purpose of **investigating** and advising on **enteric fever** in India and its prophylaxis The first meeting will be held at Simla on the 31st July, in the United Service Institute.

A **prize** of £4,000 is offered by the beet-sugar manufacturers of France **to anyone** who shall first **discover and apply** in France **a new method of utilising sugar in the arts.** It is required that the method shall increase the consumption of French sugar 100,000 pounds per annum.

In the **Ceylon** Legislature on the 18th the Governor stated that after the **South Indian** Railway proposals for a **railway ferry** connection he cabled to the Secretary of State on June 16th that the Mannar extension would be most important to Ceylon's future, and that he entirely favoured the scheme.

Reports show that there is something like **famine in many of the districts of China.** Rice riots are common and granaries and shops are constantly being looted. The authorities are compelling dealers to open their granaries and sell at normal prices and even under such conditions large bodies of troops have to keep the people in check

According to the most recent statistics of the Ministry of Finances, the yearly **production of grape alcohol in Greece** amounts to about 5,500,000 liquid okes, or 1,670,103 gallons. Of this amount 1,000,000 okes, in round numbers, are not consumed for domestic use, but are mixed with cognac and other drinks that are exported, and with the *must*.

Dr. Roux, of the Pasteur Institute, has discovered **a means of preserving butchers' meat** for several days without sacrificing its nutritive or hygienic properties or altering its taste or appearance. This is effected by subcutaneous injections of a special serum at the moment of slaughtering. The Minister of War has given orders for immediately testing the process by official experiments.

On July 22nd a **strike** began amongst the station staffs of the A section of the **East Indian Railway.** Though passenger traffic is disorganised to some extent, the trains are running fairly up to time. As far as the mails, and passengers to and from the larger stations, are concerned, there is little inconvenience, save from some trouble in booking as expeditiously as usual, and a delay in arriving and starting. The goods traffic which was for the moment practically at a standstill has now been resumed.

An American chemist in the City of Mexico says that **sugar** of the very finest grade **can be made from the juice of the maguey plant.** A company has been formed to try the experiment. The *Mexican Investor* reports that about £10,000,000 has been invested in rubber plantations in that country. It says: "We do not hear at present anything regarding progress." It further asserts that there is a great lack of co-operation between the planters; that they do not meet as planters do in other countries to discuss questions of vital importance, take steps toward employing scientific aid, nor do other things which might greatly add to their success.

The Trinity House authorities have now completed the **equipment of all the lighthouses** under their charge with the Kitson system of **petroleum incandescent lighting.** It is claimed that the new illuminant gives three times the amount of illumination that was formerly given by the high candle-power wick lamp and with a very great reduction in the consumption of oil. Even those lighthouses, such as the Lizard, which were equipped with the electric light have had the Kitson system installed, as the latter is found to be a much more useful illuminant during fogs than the electric light. Several of the foreign lighthouses have also been equipped with the same system

The total value of **Calcutta's Foreign trade by sea** during the month of June was 797 lakhs of rupees which, in comparison with June 1905, represents an increase of 26½ lakhs. Imports contributed sixteen lakhs to the increase, and exports 10½ lakhs. The first quarter of the current official year the total value of Calcutta's trade by sea with foreign countries, was valued at over 25 crores: this, compared with the same period of the previous year, amounts to an increase of 217 lakhs. Imports have risen by 56¼ lakhs and exports by 161 lakhs. In imports of general merchandise the increase was as much as 90 lakhs, but imports of treasure were smaller by 33½ lakhs.

Messrs. Edward C. Jones, of San Francisco California, and S. T. Wellman, of Cleveland, Ohio, have been granted a patent on a **Gas-washing apparatus.** According to the *Iron Age*, "the invention consists of the **mixture of the gas with steam** in a vertical tank, and later the separation of the steam from the gas by precipitation. The steam combines with the mechanically suspended impurities in the gas and thus permits of their separation from the gas with the steam, leaving the gas quite dry and pure. Costly centrifugal apparatus is often employed for the elimination of ashes, dust, soot, lampblack, tar, and other impurities from furnace or producer gas. Aside from the expense of such apparatus, it does not completely remove the impurities.

The British Vice-Consul at Kieff (Mr. H. P. Smith) reports that with the desire of furthering the **trade in Russian made sugar in the ports of the Persian Gulf,** the Committee of the Kieff Exchange sent one of their officials on a tour of investigation. This official visited the principal ports, *viz.*, Bunder-Abbas, Lingah, Bushire (here he found the trade almost entirely in the hands of well-known British firms), and Mohammerah and Basra on the Shat-el-Arab. He has suggested Shiraz as being the most suitable for permanent stores for sugar, mostly on account of its being one of the principal centres of Southern Persia, and connected by caravan routes to the best trading districts. The desirability of opening up trade with Baghdad and the rest of Mesopotamia he has also pointed out as being full of promise with the construction of the Baghdad Railway in prospect.

The total quantity of **gold imported into British India** from foreign countries in the month of June 1906 was 120,414 ozs. valued at Rs. 76,17,826. The quantity of gold exported amounted to 52,021 ozs. valued at Rs. 29,77,289. Of the imported gold 101,838 ozs. valued at Rs. 65,25,228 consisted of bullion, whilst of the remainder 17,275 ozs. valued at Rs. 10,16,356 represented sovereigns and other British gold coins. Of the exports 48,387 ozs. valued at Rs. 27,65,189 represented bullion, British gold coin being represented by 2,181 ozs. valued at Rs. 1,27,500. The total imports of silver amounted to 12,926,789 ozs. valued at Rs. 2,60,44,162, of which 9,835,067 ozs. valued at Rs. 2,01,25,451 represented bullion and 25,264 ozs. valued at Rs. 67,374 represented Government of India rupees. The total exports of silver amounted to 951,772 ozs. valued at Rs. 25,36, 474, of which 947,600 ozs. valued at Rs. 25,28,800 represented Government of India rupees; while 2,700 ozs. valued at Rs. 4,500 other coins.

Sir G. Parker (Gravesend) recently asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention had been drawn to allegations of **slavery** carried on in the **islands of St. Thome** and **Principe,** on the **West Coast of Africa;** and what steps he purposed to take to direct the attention of the Portuguese Government to the alleged practices. Sir E. Grey in reply said that the attention of the Portuguese Government had from time to time been called to the conditions under which labour is obtained for the islands of St. Thomé and Principé. Mr. Nightingale, His Majesty's Consul for the Congo, recently paid a visit to the islands referred to for the purpose of inquiring into the matter, and a report from him on the subject is expected shortly. In reply to a subsequent question, Mr. Lloyd-George said:—Cocoa is, no doubt, one of the principal products of the Islands, and is largely purchased by British merchants, but he did not see that any steps can be taken respecting purchases of cocoa by British merchants.

The following table shows the **exports of rice from Saigon** in the second quarter and in the six months ending 30th June 1906 compared with the *corresponding period of the years 1904 and 1905.*

	Second Quarter.			Six months ending 30th June.		
	1904.	1905.	1906.	1904.	1905.	1906.
	Tons.	Tons.	Tons.	Tons	Tons.	Tons.
China . . .	49,917	10,298	61,571	101,250	34,280	73,321
Philippines . .	36,095	49,280	17,220	79,524	90,976	36,791
Japan . . .	23,232	41,917	31,774	35,625	52,536	56,816
Java . . .	...	...	5,304	...	15,405	34,161
Europe . . .	76,220	29,803	44,333	104,041	59,476	63,262
Other Countries .	19,905	8,583	7,179	19,935	10,613	20,512
TOTAL .	205,369	139,881	167,381	340,375	263,286	284,863

An interesting report comes from Chicago to the effect that a rival to the present scene of **packing-house industries** is **to be founded by Sir Thomas Lipton** near Gary, Indiana, U. S. A. Real estate agents are said to be getting options on a large tract of land. This new site, the rumour goes, is to be the headquarters of large independent companies, that will have ample facilities for enlarging their business and entering the markets as active rivals of the present packing houses. One part of the plan is said to be the construction of a canal to the Little Calumet River for the purpose of carrying off refuse. Nothing was known with regard to the project at the London offices of Lipton, Limited, when the last mail left, but this does not indicate that the report is unfounded. The new enterprise might be either an independent venture of Sir Thomas Lipton, or might be in connection with the American retail branch of the business, which is worked by a separate company, the shares of which are not known in England. The English company has its bacon curing factories in America, however, and might thus be concerned in the new proposals.

The **Board of Scientific Advice** have issued the **programmes of work of** the various **Scientific Departments** for 1906-07. The principal ques-

tions to be taken up by the Director of the Imperial Institute and Reporter of Economic Products, are the produce of *ficus elastica*, and the development of rubber planting in India, tanning extracts from barks, improved preparation of agave fibre and manganese ores; by the Meteorological Department the preparation of an atlas showing the normal monthly conditions for the Indian Ocean, and the study of the upper atmosphere by kites and balloons, and of atmospheric electricity and earthquakes; by the Survey Department, it is proposed to compile a paper summarising the geographical position and knowledge of the Himalayas and Tibet; the Botanical Survey will conduct economic investigations regarding Indian cottons and fibre yielding plants; the Agricultural Department will investigate remedies for injurious crop pests, and conduct investigations into the improvement of cotton, wheat, tobacco, tea, indigo and jute; the Forest Department will examine tannin extracts.

In addition to the **Joint-Stock Companies** registered in the quarter ending the 31st March 1906, shown in the list published in our issue of the 10th May 1906 and the company mentioned on page 503 in the issue of the 12th of July, information has been received of the registration in that quarter of the following Company in North-West Frontier Province:—

Name.	Situation of registered office.	Object.	Nominal Capital.	Paid up Capital.
			R	R
"Dera Ismail Khan" Swadeshi Stores Company, Limited.	Dera Ismail Khan.	To acquire gain by establishing shops to deal in country-made goods and articles or by starting any other sort of business, or manufacturing cloth by means of hand-looms and acquire land and build, construct any factories, warehouses or other buildings or works for the purpose.	50,000	,,

Mr. O'Grady, a Labour member, from Leeds, recently asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of the fact that in the East End of London there were approximately 5,000 employers employing approximately 90,000 workpeople who could be classed as **sweaters and sweated**, and that the same condition of things applied relatively to all the large centres of industry, he would consider the advisability of appointing a Royal Commission to investigate the sweating evils with the view of recommending legislation. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman in reply said, "I have already told the honourable gentleman that the Government do not at present propose to appoint a Royal Commission to investigate the sweating system. He must not think that we are indifferent or unsympathetic in regard to the evils of this system, which we recognise as fully as he does. I may tell him that all the steps that can be taken within the existing law to protect the workers from the bad economic and sanitary conditions that beset them are being taken, and the central departments which are concerned with the administration of the Factory and Sanitary Acts are collecting information and putting pressure upon the local authorities to carry out their duties."

According to a United States Consular report on **tobacco-growing in Canada** the farmers of Kent and Essex counties are this year planting more tobacco than ever before. This is due to several causes. The crop last year was very profitable. Many farmers who last year raised sugar beets for the sugar factory at Marine City, Michigan, but who lost that market with the failure of the sugar company, are planting tobacco instead of beets. The Government announceme the establishment of an experimental operation for the year, and believe themselves able to grow better tobacco this year than ever before. Statistics just issued give the value of the tobacco crop of Kent and Essex counties for 1905 at £20 16*s.* per acre, or a total of £137,280 for a total production of 8,580,000 lbs. from 6,600 acres. The average yield was 1,300 lbs. an acre, and the average price was about 4*d.* per lb. The native leaf has obtained a ready sale to Canadian manufacturers. As an example of how profitable tobacco-growing may be made, the crop of John Little, of Harrow, Ontario, is instanced. Mr. Little, on scant six acres, raised last season 11,842lbs. of tobacco, which was purchased by the Empire Tobacco Company at 4¼*d.* per lb., in all £201 4*s.*, or over £33 8*s.* an acre.

The Northwich Rural Council recently had the question of **dust prevention** under consideration. The Chairman, Colonel France Hayhurst, said he had recently examined in the Folkestone district the method by which, after scraping the roads, they employed tar. Dust was absolutely prevented. Mr. Hardie said the **experiments** with **calcium chloride** liquor by the Northwich Urban Council had had marvellous results. The Highway Surveyor stated that a length of the Chester Road had been under treatment with calcium chloride and the effect was wonderful. The road seemed just as good after rain as before. Mr. T. A. Johnson (a chemical engineer) said that Messrs. Brunner, Mond, and Co. had promised to give him the liquor for use on the highway in Lostock Gralam—a long stretch of the Manchester-Chester main road—and he would have merely to obtain the means of paying for the labour. He had found by experiment, before motor-cars came into general use, that one application of calcium chloride was equal to at least six days' ordinary watering

The County Council Surveyor confirmed the report as to the beneficial effect of the treatment. The Chairman said the experiments must be watched closely, for undoubtedly if the dust nuisance could be prevented the community at large would have cause for gratitude.

The *Times* Tokio Correspondent, writing on July 4th, says that there is absolutely no truth in the sensational telegrams reaching London that **Japan is striving to oust British trade and shipping from the Far East** by employing secret Government grants and hostile tariffs. Such rumours are, he says, plainly distortions of three facts. The first is the competition on the Yokohama and Shanghai line between the Nippon Yusen Kaisha and Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, in which, however, the initiative is due to the latter, whose steamers, having been chartered by the Yusen Kaisha to keep up the Japanese Company's Shanghai service during the absence of its ships on transport duty during the war, continued to run after the Yusen Kaisha's vessels had resumed their regular functions. Secondly, the same Japanese company has opened a competition with the North-German Lloyd's Swa-tua-Bangkok line. Thirdly, it is alleged that large quantities of Japanese merchandise are reaching Manchuria duty free *viâ* Dalny, whereas Dalny is still under military control, and although occasional Japanese steamers call, they bring only supplies for Japanese settlers and troops. The Japanese Government declares that it is ready to allow the Chinese to establish a customs station at Dalny as soon as civil administration is renewed and the port is opened to foreign commerce.

The following details regarding the **famine in Russia** are given in the St. Petersburg Journal *Strana* of June 24th:—Since last year there has been famine in 215 districts belonging to 22 governments. A few days ago a telegram of the official telegraphic agency stated that in the governments of Pensa, Samara, Kasan, Ufa, Orenburg, Vaitka, Kostroma, and in parts of the Government of Voronezh, and of the country of the Don Cossacks, both summer and winter crops have been ruined by the drought. In addition to this, the Baltic Provinces, a considerable part of the Caucasus, and portions of the central governments, have suffered very severely from the activity of the troops sent to restore order. The worst reports of all come from the governments of Kasan, Astrakhan, and Kutais. In Kasan the provincial economic council has declared that more than 60 per cent. of the crops are ruined. Three million roubles (£300,000) are required for seed alone, while the amount needed for the relief of the starving population is being investigated by local committees. Even last year scurvy had made its appearance in this government. M. Grombchevsky, the Governor of Astrakhan, has informed the Minister of the Interior that "a complete failure of the harvest in all districts must be expected this summer." The Caucasian newspapers publish a telegram from Kutais which states that the troops have destroyed all provisions in Western Georgia, and that famine is already felt in many places.

The prices of opium in the Calcutta market during the week ending 21st July were, per chest, as follows:—

Behar opium—R1,394; 1,386; 1,395; 1,400; 1,415; 1,420; 1,425.

Benares opium—R1,307; 1,305; 1,310; 1,315; 1,335; 1,340; 1,350.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 8th sale of 1906—R1,407; 1,402; 1,405; 1,416; 1,431; 1,435; 1,443.

China market, Hongkong (exchange Rs. 158⅛ to 159⅛ per 100 dollars).

Behar—$ 890; 890; 892 to 892½; 895 to 897; 902½ to 905; 905; 905.

Shanghai (exchange 218 to 219 per 100 Taels), three sales on 16th, 18th and 19th of 644 Taels, 650 to 654 Taels, and 658 Taels respectively.

Benares—Four sales in the Hongkong market on 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th of $812½, $815, $817½ and $825 respectively; while three sales, Shanghai, on 16th, 18th and 19th, of 592 Taels, 598 to 602 Taels, and 608 Taels respectively.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending 14th July were—for A class (season 1905-06) on 8th and 9th, R1,355 to 1,370 and on 10th to 14th, R1,337 to 1,368; for B class (season 1904-05) on 8th and 9th, R1,435 to 1,560 and on 10th to 14th, R1,450 to 1,544; class C, old (season 1903-04) on 8th and 9th, R1,640 to 1,700, and on 10th to 14th R1,624 to 1,680. The latest China prices ascertained were for new classes (A and B) R1,509 to 1,540; old (class C) fetched at Hongkong R1,707 and at Shanghai R1,706.

Austria-Hungary and Servia appear to be on the eve of another **tariff war.** Austria-Hungary recently demanded, as a condition of resuming negotiations for a new commercial treaty, that Servia should make 71 modifications in her tariff, and that the cannon question should not be prejudiced to the disadvantage of Austria-Hungary. Servia replied last evening agreeing to modify the tariff on condition that while the negotiations proceed Servian cattle, fruit, and other produce shall have a right to enter Austria-Hungary instead of being admitted by driblets as at present. Servia further declines to bind herself as to the cannon. Count Goluchowski informed the Austrian Delegation on July 5th that the Servian answer was so unsatisfactory as to be unacceptable. He feared that a treatyless period would ensue. Servia had made acceptance of Austro-Hungarian tariff demands conditional upon the admission of Servian products

to Austria-Hungary. "When these products are once on our territory," added the Foreign Minister, "Servia will quite simply break her promises under one pretext or another." Count Goluchowski denied that Austria-Hungary made it a *sine qua non* that Servia should buy the Skoda field guns; it was only asked that Austrian guns should not be excluded provided the terms were as favourable as those of other countries. It was not a matter of field guns alone, but of mountain guns, ammunition, small arms, railway material, and salt. Austro-Hungarian demands, added the Foreign Minister, were quite justified, because the Dual Monarchy bought from Servia much more than it sold to Servia and was therefore entitled to demand some kind of compensation.

Mr. J. Wilson, the United States Secretary of Agriculture, has been devoting practically his entire time to completing the organization necessary to put into effective operation the **New Meat Inspection Law.** By President Roosevelt's direction he has issued a statement in which he says that American live stock is the healthiest in the world. The great ranches of the West produce herds in which the percentage of disease is remarkably small, and is being steadily reduced by the Federal Government by approved scientific methods. It is true, he says, that the Department of Agriculture has hitherto lacked the power and money necessary to provide efficient supervision of sanitation and the methods of preparation of canned products. The inspection animals, both before and at the time of slaughter, has always been thorough. The department is now provided with an adequate law and ample money to carry out its provisions. The supervision and inspection will be extended from the pasture to the package. The Federal stamp on a tin will be a guarantee not only of the healthiness of the animal, but also that the product has been prepared in sanitary surroundings and with the addition of no deleterious chemical or preservative. Any meat product bearing the Government stamp will be fit for food. With this law in operation it may be accepted as a fact that for healthiness and purity the prepared or canned product will compare favourably with the fresh meat of the United States, which has always been the finest in the world. The new law is comprehensive, the means for its enforcement ample, and its execution will be thorough. People at home and abroad, concludes the statement, may use United States meats with confidence.

The Government of India, Revenue Department, has issued a **report** by the **Sub-Committee** of the **Board of Scientific Advice** on the **consumption of mineral fertilizers in India.** Notes are given by the Director of Geological Survey on the possible consumption within India of sulphuric acid and the large supply of rich phosphate of lime on Christmas Island, and by the officiating Inspector General of Agriculture on the scope for the use of mineral fertilizers in Indian agriculture; and on these notes the Sub-Committee make the following recommendations:—

The members of the Sub-Committee desire to endorse the opinion that the Agricultural Department, Imperial and Provincial, should undertake experiments to test the results of the use of the principal mineral fertilizers. In particular, they recommend that special attention should be given to the trial of sulphate of ammonia in sugarcane cultivation. This fertilizer is very largely used in Java and Mauritius, both of which countries are importing into India an increasing amount of sugar. The Sub-Committee understand that ammonium sulphate will shortly be manufactured in India, which should result in a cheap available supply for use in the country. Arrangements are already well advanced for the erection of by-product recovery ovens in coke making. When the Tata iron and manufacturing project is in operation, the output of ammonium sulphate will greatly increase. Arrangements are also being made for prospecting the copper sulphide deposits of Chota Nagpur, and if they prove as valuable as is asserted by some authorities it is probable that a large chemical and metallurgical industry may be started, the by-products of which will include sulphuric acid and ammonium sulphate. It is naturally to the interests of India that these should be utilized as far as possible in the country rather than exported, and agricultural departments should make experiments to test their utility in cultivation, patricularly in that of sugar-cane.

The French Consul at Valparaiso reports that the remarkable development of **industrial activity** which was apparent **in Chile** in 1904 did not relax in 1905. A considerable number of companies of all kinds, representing an important amount of capital, have been formed. There was undoubtedly a certain amount of speculation present, but it is undeniable that the country is experiencing a period of prosperity, as is indicated by the progress of external trade and by the steady increase in revenue from the customs duties. The following are the figures showing the customs receipts, those for 1904 being official, and those for 1904 and 1905 estimated by a local journal:—

	1904. Piastres gold.	1905. Piastres gold.	Increase.
Duties on exports .	50,818,210	57,127,423	6,309,213
Duties on imports .	30,474,762	32,240,765	1,766,003
TOTAL .	81,292,972	89,368,188	8,075,216

The estimated figures for January 1906 also show an increase of 1,186,000 piastres on the corresponding month of 1905. This activity appears to extend to all branches of industry in the country

and is not confined to the working of the copper and nitrate mines alone. These two main sources of wealth continue to flourish and show no signs of exhaustion. As regards nitrate, the demand in Europe steadily increases, and the opening of new markets for this product, amongst others that of Japan, give cause for satisfaction. The success of sheep-rearing in the Magellan region and Tierra del Fuego, where this industry is now important, has led to the formation of numerous new companies. Following the example of the Argentine Republic, the undeveloped lands in the central districts of Chile are being turned to the cultivation of cereals, or the raising of cattle, of which the country does not at present produce sufficient for its own needs. The exploitation of the immense forests in Valdivia and Llanguihue provinces, hitherto unutilized owing to lack of communications, is also contemplated. The discovery of auriferous sands in the Magellan territory and Tierra del Fuego has given rise to the formation of companies, whose future, however, is at present only a matter for conjecture. At the same time numerous enterprises are being converted into limited companies, whose future in many cases seems to promise good results.

A correspondent writes:—I read a few remarks recently in the *Indian Trade Journal* regarding the **deterioration of paper.** This is a most important question and deserves the consideration of the whole Mercantile Community. I am afraid many of our best Mercantile establishments never give a thought to the quality of the paper used in their ledgers, cash books and other stationery. If books twenty years old are referred to, in many cases it will be found that the entries are illegible, all owing to lack of care in choosing the quality of paper necessary. It is true, the cheap and numerous qualities of so-called inks now in the market is also responsible for this state of affairs.

The Marwari and other native merchants have realised the importance of the quality of paper necessary, and nearly all their books are made from hand-made paper chiefly from good fibres such as hemp. I am indebted to the publication of a lecture by Mr. Clayton Beadle, a well-known paper expert, for the following interesting remarks:—

> There are two sets of causes to which destruction of paper are chiefly due, to destruction by minute organisms and insects and destruction by deterioration due chiefly to oxidation.
>
> The ancients preserved their paper and books from moths by washing them over with cedar or citron oil, such books were known as *libri cedrati*. The German Government seem to have been the first to institute a thorough system of paper test for Government purposes. The Society of Arts formed a Committee in 1898 to consider the question of deterioration in paper.
>
> The Committee came to the conclusion that ten per cent. should be the maximum quantity of mineral used in papers used for permanent use.
>
> The findings of the Committee were as follows:—
>
> Fibres.—Not less than 70 per cent. of fibres consisting of cotton flax or hemp.
>
> Sizing.—Not more than two per cent. rosin and finished with the normal acidity and pure alum loading.
>
> Loading.—Not more than ten per cent. of pure Mineral matter.
>
> His Majesty's Stationery Office in London have some tests applied to all paper used by Government. The mean breaking strain and mean stretch required are given for each paper, by this means the Stationery Office can ensure papers answering to special requirements."

I would advise those interested in this question to obtain a book C. B. S. Units or Standard Paper Tests by Messrs. Cross and Bevan, the well-known Analytical Chemists in London and Mr. Clayton Beadle and Mr. Sindal, the gentleman who lately visited Burmah on behalf of Government with a view to testing the wood pulp fibres of that country.

These four gentlemen are the leading paper experts in England, and I strongly recommand the book to the attention of Government and the Public.

THE BAGHDAD RAILWAY.

LORD NEWTON on July the 2nd rose in the House of Lords to call attention to the proposed **increase in the Turkish Customs Duties** and to move for papers. He said that it was carefully calculated by the Foreign Office that the increase would result in a gain to the Turkish Government of £750,000, of which 35 per cent. went to bondholders, under the decree of 1903, leaving available for the Turkish Government about £560,000. After a reference to the Macedonian problem, he went on to say that it was an open secret that it was hoped in some quarters these proposed increases of tariff would facilitate the granting of the killometric guarantee for the Baghdad Railway. This railway was a purely German undertaking; and when, in 1903, there were negotiations to enable us to participate in the making of that railway, Lord Lansdowne announced that it was clear the control was to be German instead of international, and therefore we abandoned any idea of co-operation. The railway, he said, had hitherto made very little progress, but the prospect of a line running from the Bosporus to Mecca under German control was a thing we could not regard with indifference. Now was the time for us to endeavour to come to terms not only with Germany but with the Turkish Government. So long as the Turkish Customs duties remained at the present rate, we were in a strong position and

had something to bargain with. If we surrendered without getting some equivalent we should weaken our bargaining power. These proposed increased duties would affect British trade considerably more than that of any other nation, and we ought to obtain commensurate concessions.

Lord Fitzmaurice replied. He said that as had been pointed out, a discussion of the question of the increase of the Turkish Customs immediately touched on the question of Macedonian reform, on the one side, and on the more difficult and delicate question of the Baghdad Railway, on the other side. That was why the subject excited an interest that would not attach to a question of mere dry finance. Broadly speaking, the question of the increase of the Turkish Customs duties had, ever since 1880, been mixed up with the subject of the revision of the commercial treaties with Turkey. But, owing to the delicate character of the questions involved, owing to the political complications which had constantly arisen, and owing to the dilatory habits and methods of the Turkish Government, it had not been found possible to arrive at a general revision of the commercial treaties with Turkey, a matter which affected not only this country, but all the great European powers. Therefore, when the last grave set of questions arose, to be dealt with by His Majesty's late advisers, in Macedonia, the question of the Turkish Customs and all the controversies that surround it stood exactly where they stood a considerable number of years ago, except that growing years had, if anything, aggravated the political situation and that the Turkish Government was becoming more and more anxious to get hold of increased revenues.

The greater part of his speech dealt with the Macedonian question, and its history as connected with the re-organization of Turkish finances. Coming to the Baghdad Railway, after speaking for half an hour he said that Turkish finance was a mass of confusion, and no doubt the Turkish Government would be in a position to use certain revenues which might be liberated; but he could not think that between those revenues and the Baghdad Railway there was anything but a rather distant connexion. Unless the Government were prepared to assume the permanent control of Turkish finance as a whole, how was it possible for them to say that certain revenues—assuming their existence, which was to assume a good deal—would be liberated, and at once used for the particular purpose of constructing the Baghdad Railway? No doubt in theory some revenues might be liberated; and just in proportion as the collection and control by the Commission of the Debt of all the revenues which they collected was successful or not, the revenue liberated would probably be greater or less. But the Turkish Government had many prior claims upon it—for instance, the arrears of pay to all its servants, civil and military; improvements long due which it ought to make at once; there was the suppression of the rebellion in Arabia, and large borrowings on current account which had to be repaid; and they could not say to the Turkish Government, unless they were prepared to travel another long step on the road of interference, "You shall do this, and you shall not do that with your surplus revenue. You shall pay your Civil servants; you shall reduce your army; you shall not construct this railway, but you may construct that one," and so on. But what they could say, and what they were saying, was that the increase of the Customs should not be used for any purpose until the limited yet important object for which they had assumed responsibility was first satisfied—namely, the balancing of the Macedonian Budget. In regard to the Baghdad Railway the Government were not of opinion that its construction was necessarily a British interest in itself, but the construction of it did raise many questions which were of British interest, and affected others; and these were receiving careful consideration. He could not say more on that subject now beyond this, that the Government did not think that to proclaim, as they were apparently invited to proclaim on the house-tops, that they should object to the increase of the Turkish Customs, merely because indirectly such a step might be of some advantage to the construction of the Baghdad Railway, was a course which prudent statesmanship recommended. They would appear in the unaimable position of the dog in the manger: and they would probably incur the hostility of great interests without whose good will this question could not be placed on a permanent or satisfactory basis.

The *Times'* Berlin Correspondent, in a despatch dated the 3rd, reported that the suggestion that the revenues to be derived from the proposed increase in the Turkish Customs duties might conceivably be devoted by the Ottoman Government to the payment of the kilometric guarantee on the Baghdad Railway had been discussed in Germany as well as in England, and Lord Fitzmaurice's declarations in this connexion have had been received with considerable interest. Satisfaction, he said, is expressed at the implied attitude of the British Government, since, in the words of the **National-Zeitung,** "it is a notorious fact that the Baghdad Railway stands and will remain under German control." The Berlin journal concurs in the view that the proposal to increase the Turkish Customs duties is a question independent of the Baghdad Railway scheme, but it takes occasion to reiterate that Germany would welcome the participation of British capital and the exercise of "financial influence" by Great Britain in the enterprise.

The Paris Correspondent of the same paper gives the French view of the question as follows:—I have had an opportunity of ascertaining the disposition prevailing in France on the subject of the Baghdad Railway and I have no doubt that should the question arise, unexpectedly or otherwise, in the near future it would be met by this country more or less with the arguments set forth by my informant. Evidently there is a desire in certain quarters abroad to see the matter promptly taken in hand. The recent meeting of the federation of spinners and manufacturers in Berlin formulated a wish in favour of an Anglo-German *entente* for the continuation of the railway, having in view the importation of cotton from Asia, which would thus be materially facilitated. It was recognized that the only possibility of completing the line was providing such an agreement could be brought about.

The French look upon the question from the standpoint of its practicability. The opinion here is that no financial action can be entered upon unless it be preceded by diplomatic action. French, and it is believed also German, capitalists understand better now than previously the full importance of this diplomatic action. There are at stake British and Russian interests on the one hand and French, German, and Turkish interests on the other. As long as these different interests have not been reconciled, as long as an agreement has not been arrived at the continuation of the Baghdad Railway is looked upon as out of the question. Capitalists are not likely to risk the enormous sums necessary in an enterprise which may be thwarted by so many diplomatic obstacles. As to the concession granted to Germany, it was signed by Abdul Hamid, who may at any moment disappear, while a conviction prevails that with a change of reign the whole situation might be profoundly modified. Financial and diplomatic interests are thus too closely mixed up in this affair, for the financial question to be solved apart from the diplomatic question.

Nothing is likely to be done by the French that is inconsistent with British and Russian interests. In any case nothing would be neglected to bring about an agreement, without which serious danger might be incurred. Many people are of opinion that the English would derive great advantage from the railway, if only for the transport of cotton and the importation of goods from Persia. That advantage, however, would, it is recognized, be only relative. From the financial point of view it is beyond question that the enterprise itself, even if not hampered by any diplomatic action, involves serious uncertainty. As to the branch of the railway already built, there was a kilometric guarantee. These first 200 kilometres as far as the Taurus mountains might constitute a safe investment owing to that guarantee and also to the important traffic in the region traversed. But after the Taurus comes the desert, and perhaps it would be necessary to wait a century before the capital invested could be realized. Moreover, here there is no question of guarantee for interest. The situation is far from being advantageous, and explains the holding back of French capital and the hesitation of German capital.

Germany by herself can do nothing. In the first place, she does not appear to have the available capital, and the risks that would be incurred are too numerous and too considerable. In the second place, if she attempts isolated action she will alienate Russia and England, who would not fail to co-operate against her. France has nothing to do until further notice except to observe an expectant attitude. In the present position of affairs France is not directly concerned, and it may be assumed that, if she undertook anything, it would be only in virtue of an agreement among the different interested Powers.

ENQUIRIES.

GENERAL IMPORT AND EXPORT BUSINESS.

A CORRESPONDENT in Germany desires to establish communications with some first class firm in India doing an import and export business in general merchandise, and who are not already represented by Agents or Correspondents in Germany. For further particulars apply to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street, Calcutta.

SACKS.

A COPENHAGEN firm wishes to be put in communication with firms manufacturing sacks, particularly "sacks with three blue stripes." For particulars apply to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street, Calcutta.

POSSIBLE OPENINGS FOR INDIAN TRADE.

LAST year 131,676 lbs. of **candles** were **imported into Aden,** mostly from France. The most popular size is 6 inches long and weighs 1½ ounces, 8 to the package, and 100 packets to the box. The best brand retails at 36*s.* per box, other grades at 28*s.* and 26*s.* The wholesale importers of candles at Aden are Livierato Freres, Caracanda Freres, Menahem Messa, Mazzucchelli and Perera, Cesar Tian, and Societa Coloniale Italiana. Letters sent to any of these firms, says the American Consul at Aden, might result in some business.

According to the British Vice-Consul at **Uleaborg, Finland,** there is an **opening** there **for the export of hides.** At present they are bought from German firms, either for direct shipment from South America or salted hides are imported yearly, mostly heavy hides, weighing from 77 to 88 lbs. each, a separate price for the two kinds being quoted. There is also a demand for British kips.

The Vice-Consul also suggests that British firms would do well to compete in supplying **tanning material** (now mostly imported from Germany), *viz.*, oak bark, quebracho, valonia, mimosa, algarobilla and sumach.)

There is a slowly growing **demand in America for India and Ceylon tea,** chiefly in the large cities, but care should be taken not to try and force the market by large shipments. A **Bucarest** inquirer desires to get into touch with firms willing to **export tea and coffee to Roumania.**

The names and addresses of sellers of **ants' eggs** are desired by correspondents in **Kobe, Japan.**

A firm in **Kobe, Japan, wishes to open business** relations with manufacturers of or dealers in various qualities of **cotton piece goods.**

A **Kobe, Japan,** firm asks for names of manufacturers or **dealers in chemical manure** (sulphate of ammonia and nitrate of soda).

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

INDIA

'rinting Machinery—Free of Import Duty.

i exercise of the power conferred by section 23 ie Sea Customs Act, VIII of 1878, the Governor General in Council is pleased to exempt from import duty the undermentioned articles used for Printing and Lithographing purposes, namely :

Roller Moulds,
Roller Frames and Stocks,
Roller Composition,
Standing screw and Hot Presses,
Perforating Machines,
Gold Blocking Presses,
Stereo-typing Apparatus,
Metal Furniture,
Paper Folding Machines,
Paging and Numbering Machines,

so far as the said articles are liable to duty under Schedule IV (Import Tariff) of the Indian Tariff Act, VIII of 1894.

THE *Board of Trade Journal* published on the 5th July, in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations, gives particulars about :—

BURMA.—Rules as to Importation, etc., of Carbide of Calcium.
AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.—Customs Decisions.
NEW ZEALAND.—Drawbacks.
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Duty on Catalogues, Price Lists, etc.
GERMANY.—Refund of Duty on Motor Cars.
GERMANY—SPAIN.—Prolongation Commercial Agreement.
SWITZERLAND.—Differential Duties on certain Spanish products. Certificates of Origin required.
SPAIN.—New Customs Tariff.
FRANCE.—Exhibits for the Colonial Exhibition at Paris.
FRANCE—GUADELOUPE.—Temporary Reduction of Duty on Gold
ROUMANIA.—Commercial Convention with Belgium: Tariff Modifications.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.—Customs Decisions. Additional Duty on Excess Quantity or Weight. Protests—Particulars to be stated. Bottles—Charges for Corking, Labelling, etc.
BRAZIL.—Consumption Duties.
ECUADOR.—Additional Charges on Imported Merchandise.
CHINA (MANCHURIA).—Abolition of Import and Export Duties in Japanese Leased Territory.

We give the following particulars of **changes interesting to Indian Trade :—**

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE

Catalogues, Price Lists, etc.—Duty on.

A Customs notice, dated June 2nd, 1906, has been issued by the Collector of Customs at Cape Town, in which it is stated that an impression appears to exist that the duty imposed under the Customs Union Convention of 1906, on catalogues, price lists, etc., may be avoided by having such articles addressed abroad, and posted direct to persons in Cape Colony.

In order, therefore, to remove any such impression it is pointed out for the information of all concerned that such catalogues, price lists, etc., on arrival in Cape Colony, through the medium of the post office, will be charged with a duty of either 25 per cent. *ad valorem*, or 2*d.* per lb., whichever shall be the greater, and moreover, that in each case the usual clearance fee of 6*d.* per packet, etc., will become payable.

It is further pointed out that should the above course be pursued, the addressee would, in all probability, refuse to accept delivery at the cost of the duty and the clearance fee, with the result that such catalogues, price lists, etc., would eventually be destroyed by the Customs Department.

BRAZIL.

Consumption Duties.

The Brazilian *Diario Official* for the 10th April contains a Presidential Decree approving new regulations respecting the "consumption" duties which are leviable in Brazil on certain products, whether imported or of domestic production.

The following is the consumption duty now leviable under this Decree on Tobacco :—

Articles.	Unit.	Rate of Duty.
Tobacco—		Reis.
Cheroots, the price of which does not exceed 50 milreis per thousand . . .	Each.	5
Cheroots, of which the price exceeds 50 but does not exceed 150 milreis per thousand.	"	10
Cheroots, of which the price exceeds 150 but does not exceed 300 milreis per thousand .	"	20
Cheroots, exceeding the price of 300 milreis per thousand	"	100

CHINA (MANCHURIA).

Import and Export Duties in Japanese Leased Territory—Abolition of.

Import and export duties in the Japanese leased territory in Manchuria have been abolished as from 30th June.

WEATHER SUMMARY.

For the week ending the 21st July 1906.

DURING the period under review there was general rain, on the Burma Coast, West Coast, Central Madras and Konkan coasts, in the Central Provinces, Mysore, Central and South India: Heavy rain in Berar, Coorg, in the Bombay Deccan, and Orissa: Light rain in Gujarat, South Rajputana, Bengal, Eastern Bengal and Assam, the United Provinces and the Punjab: Local rain in Bombay, Deccan, Hyderabad, the interior of South India and on the North Madras Coast. Delhi, Peshawar, Indore and Dwaraka also record small amounts. The principal amounts of rainfall were :—Cherra Poonjee 19·21″, Akola 6·08″, Mercara 5·91″, Mormugao 5·20″, Moulmein 5·20″, Mangalore 4·70″, Akyab 4·57″, Kerwar 4·50″, Tavoy 4·37″, Goa 4·36″, Aurangabad 3·94″, Chittagong 3·70″, Jalpaiguri 3·60″, Dhubri 3·25″, Nagpur 3·12″, Mergui 3·10″, Bhamo 3·09″, Ratnagiri 2·78″, Shillong 1·95″, and Calcutta 1·26″.

The trough of low pressure which was against the Himalayas at the close of last week began to move away from the hills and on the 16th it extended out into the Bay: A shallow depression appeared off the North Circars Coast on the 17th but did not develop and became merged in the trough which at the middle of the week was well south of its usual position. At the close of last week the Bombay Monsoon extended to Bengal at the expense of the north-western portion of its field, but the changes of the 15th and 16th allowed the Bay Monsoon to extend up the Gangetic plain and it now penetrated to the East Punjab; the rainfall due to the Bombay current had also increased in the Peninsula.

In Burma light to moderate rain fell daily on the coast, but in the interior the Monsoon was very weak and only light isolated falls occurred. Skies had been moderately overcast throughout the week and temperature normal or in slight excess.

In North-east India while the trough of low pressure was close to the Himalayas rainfall was abundant and widespread, but on the 17th when the depression began to form in the Bay precipitation diminished rapidly and throughout the rest of the week was very light. Skies were completely overcast during the first few days of the week and moderately overcast in the end, while temperature was generally normal or in slight excess.

In the United Provinces and Rajputana there had been a break in the rains and only a few scattered falls were reported from those areas throughout the whole period. In the extreme north of India local disturbances gave rain at many of the stations: in the Punjab light rain fell locally in the middle of the week. Skies had been moderately to heavily overcast in the Central Provinces and Central India, but in the United Provinces, excluding the eastern districts, Rajputana and the Punjab, they were practically clear for half the week. Temperature had been high throughout the period in the Punjab, sometimes being as much as 11° above normal at a number of stations. In the United Provinces, the Central Provinces, Central India and Rajputana it was generally normal or in excess: in the two latter areas the excess was large in the middle of the week.

On the west coast precipitation had been moderately heavy, but in the remainder of the Peninsula only scattered amounts were reported up to the 15th: on the 16th the monsoon strengthened materially and during the rest of the week rainfall was heavier than usual. Skies were completely overcast on the west coast and moderately overcast elsewhere. Temperature was generally normal or in slight excess until the 17th, when owing to the increased rainfall weather became much cooler and temperature continued in defect until the end of the week.

The barometer rose slowly to rapidly on the 21st over the whole area, advancing to the Orissa Coast, where it fell rapidly. Pressure was very low along the Orissa Coast, the defect from the normal reaching over one-third of an inch at Puri and Falsepoint. Winds were beginning to increase in velocity at the head of the Bay, Puri reporting 18, Falsepoint and Saugor Island 16 and Gopalpur 24 miles an hour respectively. Directions were cyclonic round a centre to the east of Puri and Falsepoint. Heavy rain fell in Orissa and Burma and light to moderate rain had been general except in Bihar, the United Provinces and Assam, at the close of the week. Mean temperature rose in Bihar, the United Provinces and Chota Nagpur and fell in Orissa and Madras.

The rainfall for the whole period from the 4th May to the 21st July was equal to or in excess of the normal except over the greater part of North-west India, in Malabar, Orissa, Chota Nagpur and the Sub-division of Burdwan.

TELEGRAM FROM THE VICEROY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Crop prospects: Week ending 14th July last.

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh: General and good rain has fallen in the affected districts, and excepting in two, the crops are doing well everywhere. Prospects are fair and the fodder scarcity is practically over. The condition of the cattle improving. Prices are generally stationary. **Punjab:** The

distress is decreasing in Rohtak owing to favourable rain. **Rajputana:** General and beneficial rain, except in two States. Sowings continue. Pasturage is available, but fodder is insufficient in parts still. The condition of the cattle is improving. The numbers on relief continue to decrease owing to return of people to field work. Cholera has practically ceased. **Central India:** Rainfall general. Further large decrease in numbers on relief. Pasture is still scarce in Gwalior and Bundelkhand. **Bombay:** Plentiful to slight rain has fallen in the affected tracts, but more rain is wanted for sowings in parts of the **Deccan** and **Karnatak.** Tanks and wells are filling. Fodder supply still deficient. Cattle not yet much improved. Prices continue high. Test and relief works have been closed in Kathiawar. **Hyderabad:** Fair rain has fallen. Sowing operations have been resumed, crops are in good condition. **Eastern Bengal:** Crop prospects good to fair. Early paddy is being reaped. Prices are falling slightly. Prospects are favourable in other provinces. The following are the numbers of persons in receipt of relief, in thousands: **United Provinces of Agra and Oudh,** 81; **Punjab,** 8; **Ajmer and Rajputana,** 53; **Central India,** 25; **Baroda,** 2; **Bombay,** 91; **Hyderabad,** 2; **Eastern Bengal,** 4; total 266. There has been a decrease of 53,000 since last week.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

COREA.

MR. ACTING VICE-CONSUL HARRINGTON in his report on the **trade of Corea** for the year 1905 says, the figures for the foreign trade of Corea for the year 1905 show a considerable increase on those of 1904, the record year hitherto. The total net imports and exports amounted to 3,967,355*l.* against 3,444,178*l.*, an increase of 523,177, or 15·2 per cent; the average net foreign trade during the period of five years 1901-05 was 2,966,878*l.*, and the increase during 1905 consequently amounted to 1,000,477*l.*, or 33·7 per cent. The following table shows the distribution of the imports and exports during the last two years:—

Year.	Value.		
	Imports.	Exports.	Total.
	£	£	£
1904	2,736,883	707,795	3,444,178
1905	3,262,541	704,814	3,967,355
Increase or decrase .	+ 526,158	− 2,981	+ 523,177

The figures above given for the exports are net, other exports were gold, 531,528*l.* (an increase of 20,132*l.* on the previous year), and the re-exports 103,336*l.* (an increase of 42,371*l.*).

The above totals, however, give no idea of the real state of business, most of the imports being the result of 1904 orders based on the good trade of 1904 and the favourable outlook for the year under consideration. Actually the year 1905 was very unfavourable; during the latter and more important half of the year trade went from bad to worse and the end of December found the prospects for 1906 as gloomy as those for 1905 had been bright. The principal causes for this condition were currency difficulties and the bad rice crop; contributory reasons, varying from place to place, were found in the war, diminution of capital expenditure on railways, etc., inadequate openings for Japanese immigrants with small capital, and also the political unrest which tended to intensify the other difficulties.

The **currency problem** so dominated the whole commercial situation during the latter part of the year that it is necessary to refer to it at some length.

Apart from ingots, etc., of more precious metal, the original Corean currency was similar to that of China—the copper cash. This coin was not favoured by foreign merchants and the Japanese silver yen from Japan and the Mexican dol. from China soon made their appearance. The yen obtained the supremacy and was in use till towards 1898 when the introduction of the gold standard in Japan resulted in most of the silver yen returning thither for exchange purposes. The lack of a proper currency in Corea, however, led to a large quantity of the silver yen (now no longer current in Japan), being specially re-introduced, this time "chopped" or stamped with the character for "silver." The silver yen remained in use till 1900, when, on the occasion of the troubles in China and the consequent rise in silver, it was exported wholesale to that country. The result was that for the third time since the opening of the treaty ports Corea found herself without an adequate currency. Meanwhile in 1894 the Corean Government had introduced the nickel 5-sen piece. Originally it had not been intended to use the nickel only, a few silver coins were actually minted and according to the Coinage Law of 1897 a gold coin was contemplated. Nothing was done along these lines, however, and the nickel as minted in large quantities became (with its attendant copper coins) the Corean currency of the country. The nickel has the same face value as the Japanese 5-sen nickel coin (1*d.*) and is approximately of the same size and quality, being intrinsically worth only about one-fifth of its face value. The Japanese nickel maintains its value on the same principle as the English shilling, by a legally fixed rate of exchange with a standard gold coin, but the Corean nickel having no higher coin behind it, was itself the standard coin and had to stand or fall by its own merits. Being thus elevated to the fictitious dignity

of a currency the result was inevitable, the nickel fell in value as against other currencies. This fall commenced immediately though the lowest point was not reached for some time, the lowest rate reached (apart from one or two special instances) was 145 per cent discount (*i.e.*, Japanese yen could be exchanged for nickel 2 dol. 45 c.) in 1903. It is a matter of some surprise that, in view of the intrinsic value of the coin, it should not have dropped far lower, and the most satisfactory explanation is to be found in the constant support and credit given to it by the Coreans, especially in the interior. Minted in large quantities by the Government (who made a very great profit thereby) and supplemented by wholesale counterfeits the whole seemed capable of being absorbed by the people. As the Japanese Dai Ichi Bank had introduced their own notes into Corea in 1902, where they were readily accepted by all foreigners and by Coreans acquainted with foreign methods, there were thus two recoginsed currencies giving rise to large exchange operations every day, the large section of the populace who adhered to the nickel exchanging always such Japanese money as came to them, the converse being the case with foreign merchants and others whose business necessitated handling nickels. The nickel being thus always quoted above its intrinsic value was naturally sensitive; always tending to sink towards its natural level, it would rise when a demand set in and its fluctuations at times resembled those of an uncertain stock. During 1903 it varied, in Seoul, between 79 per cent. discount and 130 per cent. on the out-break of the war in February, 1904, the large sums, in Japanese money, earned by the Coreans for supplies and labour for the army, combined with increased distrust on their part of Japanese paper money owing to the initial uncertainties of the war, caused an exceptional demand for nickels, whose exchange rose in Seoul from 130 per cent. discount in January to 50 per cent. in February, while in Chinnampo, further north, the rate varied from 130 to 10 per cent. during the same interval. In fact, those influences, such as the abundance or shortness of money, which in other countries vary the rates of interest, in Corea affected the value of the principal Corean coin, and this nickel coinage was, in some of its phases, more like a commodity than a currency, having a special value on account of its utility as a "medium of exchange." It was these fluctuations, far more than the mere depreciation, which made the coin in question so disliked by merchants and so urgently necessitated a scheme of reform. In addition to the Government minted coins, there were very large quantities of counterfeits some made in Corea, the majority imported from Japan; there were several qualities of these imitations, but the majority were of good metal, the profit even then being very great. Reliable estimates of the quantity of such counterfeits are lacking, but as it is generally supposed to be about half the total amount in circulation, it is at least certain that the figure is very large. In Chemulpo the total amount of counterfeits which had been seized by the customs down to October, 1905, was nearly 165,000 dol. nickel, and as most of the counterfeits were imported on the north and in junks along the coast where the customs had no adequate preventive service the imports at Chemulp represent but a small fraction of the whole, while in the port itself the ingenuity of the smugglers who imported nickels in the sides of iron safes, in wood hollowed out, it matting and in cases of oil suggests that the amount taken by no means represents the whole import. Eventually in November, 1892, an Imperial Japanese ordinance was issued dealing both with the manufacture of the nickels in Japan and their import by Japanese into Corea and, being rigorously enforced, nickel smuggling practically disappeared. Meanwhile the notes of the Bank of Japan made their appearance in considerable quantities for use principally in the ports, and in 1902 the Dai Ichi Bank of Tokio was empowered to issue notes (based on a gold currency) for circulation in Corea only, and so far as foreign merchants were concerned they became the currency in general use. Over 71,000*l.* worth were in circulation by the end of 1902 and this amount had increased to over 344,000*l.* by the end of 1904. At first it seemed likely that these notes would spread everywhere, Coreans near the ports, especially Fusan, seeming well disposed. In the north and centre, however, the nickel held its own amongst the people generally. It is a matter for regret that these notes were not accepted everywhere as this would have obviated most of the currency difficulties. Apart, however, from political influences and prejudices, two factors affected the question. One was the suspicion caused by forged notes; these seem to have been very few indeed, but to a Corean who could pass on counterfeit nickel without loss and to whom even a 5-yen (10*s.* 2*d.*) note was a considerable sum, a forged note was a serious matter and the total loss engendered distrust in a large circle. The other factor was the question of specie. The Corean has all the love of the Chinese for actual coin without his facility of appreciation of a strange paper currency. The notes of the Dai Ichi Bank are redeemable at all their branches in Corea in Japanese currency. It is not known how far these various branches would be willing or able to pay gold if that were specially desired, but in practice it is always Bank of Japan notes which are paid out in exchange, and as the total imports of gold into Corea from 1901 to 1904, inclusive, amounted only to 102 954 yen (10,510*l.*), it was evidently not contemplated to do so in practice. The Bank of Japan notes are, of course, redeemable only in Tokio and, consequently, apart from the small amount of subsidiary coins, there was no Japanese specie in circulation and this fact handicapped the paper currency in the struggle for popular favour. It is a question how far the excessive issue of the nickel, the numerous counterfeits introduced or the use of inferior metal, contributed to the depreciation of the nickel below its face value. No doubt the exchange could have been forced up by limiting the output below

the amount in demand for purposes of circulation, just as the demand for subsidiary coins has sent the new nickel coin above par in one or two places in the interior notwithstanding its fixed rate of exchange with Dai Ichi Bank notes. The maintenance of a high exchange in this way would, however, have been unnatural and, apart from the inconveniences of insufficient currency, the nickel would have been all the more susceptible to the influences for fluctuation, and the only conclusion possible is that the nickel should never have been issued at all except as a token coin for subsidiary purposes.

It may be mentioned that the southern provinces of Corea remained faithful to the copper cash and also took far more readily to the Japanese paper currency. The cash varied during 1901–04 between 174 and 234 per cent. discount (*i.e.*, 1 yen was equivalent to 570 to 770 cash), the average being about 32 per cent. discount (in Fusan).

This, then, was the situation for reform. The Corean mint was closed in September, 1904, and an Imperial ordinance in January, 1905, provided for a scheme of reformation to go into operation in June, 1905. It was reported that a separate central bank would be established under the control of the Dai Ichi Bank for undertaking the reform scheme, but eventually this was managed by the latter bank, which also negotiated a loan of 3,000,000 yen (306,250*l.*) in January, 1905, to the Corean Government to meet the expenses of the currency reform. In actual practice this reform involved the establishment of the Dai Ichi Bank as the Government Central Treasury and the recognition of its notes as legal tender. Exchange operations were commenced in Seoul on July 1, other offices being subsequently opened at Chemulpo, Pyeng Yang, Chinnampo and Kunsan. The nickel was at the time at 14 per cent. discount and as the rate of exchange, for the highest class coins, was only 100 per cent. (*i.e.*, 100 yen being exchangeable for 2 nickel dol.), this favourable fact greatly stimulated operations at the outset, with the result that by October 15, 10,722,162 nickel dol. (550,000*l.*) had been withdrawn from circulation, including 1,411,184 nickel dol. paid into the Treasury. Two circumstances in connection with the exchange operations were from the outset causes of difficulty. The first was the rule for the rating of the coins to be exchanged. These were divided into three classes, the first to be exchanged at the proper rate of two to one (these were the coins of good quality minted by the Government) ; the second class included coins of good but slightly inferior quality, not Government minted, which were to be exchanged at the rate of three to one (*i.e.*, 5 nickel dol. were to receive 1 yen), while the third class included completely bad coins which were to be defaced and returned to the applicants for exchange. Inasmuch as so large a proportion of the coin in circulation was supposed to come under the second class considerable apprehension was created as to the effect on the large number of *bonâ fide* holders of such money. So far, however, only about 1 per cent. of the coins examined have been adjudged to be in the second class, and as there is some reason to think that the percentage of such coins exchanged is some 12 or 15 per cent. of the whole, the rule seems to have been interpreted with considerable liberality. The difficulty arising from the second circumstance is, however, far more serious ; this consists in the fact that so little specie has been given in exchange for the nickel coins withdrawn from circulation. Up to the end of 1905 less than 400,000 yen (41,000*l.*) new silver and nickel subsidiary coins had been issued, and, making allowance for the small amount of silver coins previously circulating and for the remaining nickel and cash coins, this seems a rather small amount. No reason has so far been given of this small issue, whether it is connected with the rise in silver in China towards the end of 1905 or results from other causes, but there seems no doubt that it is the principal factor in the commercial depression in Corea. The lack of small coins, the prejudice against the Dai Ichi Bank notes and the political situation had a detrimental influence on Coreans in a really stable financial condition, and when these found themselves in difficulty there was not much chance of those in real straits escaping.

One of the manifestations of the stringency was found in the failure of the promissory note system. These notes, similar to those in use in China, suffered by the somewhat unbusinesslike methods of the Coreans ; they were bearer notes and in times of crisis they were especially liable to be dishonoured. To restore the credit of the system promissory note regulations were made providing for endorsement, the exclusion of nickel and cash currencies and the formation of note associations, the members of which alone could issue notes under the new regulations.

Another means for assisting the circulation of money was the establishment of warehouse companies whose principal function is the storing of merchandise against the issue of negotiable warehouse certificates ; in addition, they advance money on the security of goods, crops and fields. A capital of 150,000 yen (15,300*l.*) has been allotted to each of these purposes, that for the warehouse companies being provided by the Imperial House.

The **rice crop** in 1905 was considerably below the average, the heavy summer rains caused much damage almost everywhere, and the purchasing powers of the Coreans were consequently much diminished.

The **war** also had a certain **influence on trade** especially as the Baltic Fleet approached Far Eastern waters. This influence was more particularly felt near Fusan.

The gradual diminution of expenditure on railways as the main lines neared completion lessened the amount of money spent, which in the previous year had contributed considerably to the prosperity of a large section of the population.

Another important source of embarrassment was the absence of adequate openings for Japanese immigrants with small capital ; the bad trade and keen competition told heavily on many and, in Chemulpo at least, had it not been for the fact that there was still a considerable amount of capital expenditure in works and house-building which eased the situation there would have been much distress. Curiously enough, it was not the persons with the smallest capital who suffered most ; the lack of opportunities led these to seek personal work, while those rather better off (with, say, 200*l.* to 500*l.*) were often led to open shops or commence trades, and these had by no means an easy time.

The general result of all these influences was that business became thoroughly stagnant. Many of the imports could only be warehoused, as delivery could not be taken. Heavy losses in the aggregate were currently reported and the outlook at the end of the year was far from bright.

The **import figures for 1905** were by far the largest on record. The favourable conditions of 1904 had induced large orders for the following year, but as stated above a considerable quantity of the imports remained in warehouses at the end of the year.

The greatest increase was in the **import of cotton goods** ; of these some 1,167,847*l.* worth entered the country as against 813,644*l.* during the previous year, an increase of 354,203*l.*, or 43·5 per cent; Increases took place in nearly all the items, in particular, British shirtings (grey and white), sheetings and drills and Japanese sheetings, miscellaneous piece-goods and yarn showed a great advance.

Though the total **import of woollen goods** is small, it seems to be increasing steadily, 1905 showing an increase of 62·6 per cent. over the previous year.

Metal goods also show a large increase both in the aggregate amount and in most of the items, ; the total import has risen from 93,275*l.* to 142,164*l.*, an increase of 48,889*l.*, or 52·4 per cent. Some of the principal increases have been in materials for building purposes, such as galvanised iron sheets and other ironwork, while steel and miscellaneous goods, such as hardware, brassware, cutlery, etc., also made great forward strides. It would seem very probable that the increases will be maintained in future as these are all goods necessary for any development of the country.

The general expansion of imports was also maintained in the articles included under the heading of **sundries**, though in several items there was a considerable falling-off. Candles, coal, cotton wadding, flour, grass-cloth, machinery, porcelain, sugar and tobacco all show large increases, while railway plant and rice are responsible for the greatest decrease.

There was a further decrease during 1905 of of 2,981*l.*, or 4 per cent., on the figures of the previous year for the export trade. The exports of Corea have always been subject to great fluctuations due mainly to the factor of the quality of the rice crop.

Though in the early summer the **prospects of the rice crop** were good, and heavy rains and, in some places, consequent inundations later on did much damage. The result was a poor crop and the exports were less even than those of the previous year, when they were small owing to the demand at home from the Japanese military authorities and the good prices obtained. Other influences which checked the exports were the difficulties connected with transport and coolie hire in the interior resulting from the currency situation and the import duty on rice in Japan.

There was an increase in the export of cattle and other live-stock, though the figures are still much below the average. Doubtless exports will gradually increase with Vladivostock open again, but the effects of the cattle disease of 1904 are still felt. Exports of hides decreased very much as a result of the cessation of the epidemic.

There was a considerable increase in the re-export figures—the amount for 1905 being 103,336*l.* against 60,965*l.* in 1904. The principal articles re-exported were coal, clothing, tobacco, liquors of various descriptions, galvanised iron sheets and some cotton goods ; the greater part of these were re-exported from Chemulpo and Chinnampo, the principal destination being Manchuria.

There was also a very large increase in the value of goods despatched coastwise the figures for 1905 being about 968,560*l.* against 918,715*l.* in 1904. A decrease would ordinarily have been expected with the greater security of the sea communication, but this factor was more than counterbalanced by the effect of the Japanese-Corean Agreement of August 13, 1905, regarding coasting trade, which gives privileges under conditions of licenses and customs control to Japanese to trade along the coast and which has naturally affected the open ports in this matter also.

Although the customs returns give only the figures for the direct trade of the various countries, which are very small in the case of **British trade,** conservative estimates compiled from other sources justify the statement that at least 800,000*l.*, or some 25 per cent., of the imports into Corea in 1905 were of British origin. An instance of the great difference between the two methods of calculation is found in the customs reports for Wonsan for 1903 and 1904 where, in addition to the ordinary tables, special returns were drawn up showing the countries of origin. These showed the percentages of imports of British origin to be 29·56 per cent. in 1903 and 36·86 per cent. in 1904 ; the figures on which these calculations are based include foreign goods coming coastwise from other Corean ports, and it is consequently difficult to compare them with the ordinary tables which show British goods to be only 0·12 per cent. of the foreign goods arriving direct at Wonsan from abroad, but as the percentage of imports from the United Kingdom for the whole of Corea is given as only 2·86 per cent. for 1904, it would seem that the estimate of 25 per cent. as the real proportion of British imports for 1904 and 1905 is probably under the mark. For many years after the opening of

Corea to foreign trade imports of British origin were given as over 50 per cent. of the whole, and of the total foreign imports of Corea since 1884 (some 22,000,000*l.*) a reasonable estimate of the British share would be 40 per cent. of the whole (nearly 9,000,000*l.*), and these figures will give an idea of the possible importance of the Corean market in future.

The figures of the British cotton goods import are those ascertainable with the greatest accuracy. Out of a total import of 1,167,847*l.* the British share is estimated at 521,748*l.* or 44·7 per cent. against a total of 284,549*l.* (47·2 per cent. of the whole) in 1904. This British trade is evidently in a healthy condition, though in view of the severity of Japanese competition it is impossible to indulge in prophecies for the future. Owing to the fact that the quality of the rice harvest is so great a factor in the purchasing power of Coreans, advance orders have generally some element of risk and this causes the disadvantages of time and distance to press with special heaviness on British imports; the only suggestion that can be made is to point out the convenience accruing where it is possible to supply the Corean market from stocks held in China. Mention may be made of a Corean Government edict forbidding the wearing of the white clothes hitherto worn by Coreans; the edict has been amended and is in general only very partially obeyed but probably in any case coloured cotton goods will grow in favour. Regarding the competition from Japan which supplies nearly the whole of the remainder of the cotton imports attention may be drawn to the gradual approximation to British quality (accompanied, however, also with some rise in price), improved packing and care in modifying lengths to suit Corea; in the case of sheetings these are being supplied slightly longer and narrower. It may also not be out of place to mention again the importance of durability as the Corean method of washing which involves hammering the garments washed throws considerable strain on the cloth used.

Exact figures for British imports of railway material are not obtainable, but it is certain they fell off considerably. It may be mentioned that the railways (as also the posts and telegraphs) are under Japanese control, and that consequently the sources of supply of many of the articles are decided by authorities in Japan.

In the case of woollen goods a considerable quantity is of British origin, the better quality blankets, some of the broad cloth, Italian cloth and lastings coming from the United Kingdom; in the case of the broad cloth there is an increasing demand especially by Japanese in Corea. Though the total imports are small they are growing and the trade might be of considerable importance if woollens displaced the Corean wadded garments to any extent in the future.

Other British imports include candles, some lighthouse material, spirits, caustic soda and sugar, besides metal goods. In candles there is considerable Belgian and also Japanese competition, while Japanese sugar is rapidly increasing to the detriment of the Hong-Kong product.

In the absence of more exact information as to countries of origin there is some difficulty in indicating with exactness the openings for British trade, but mention may be made of wire nails, obtainable in Corea at 12*s.* 3*d.* per picul (133 lbs.) c.i.f.; window glass, 11*s.* per case (100 square feet) c.i.f.; and perhaps quinine, needles, enamel ware and iron goods.

In dealing with Coreans it may be well to bear in mind the fact that when in funds they will generally desire good quality in articles whose use is governed by national custom or etiquette; thus in the case of clothing, about which they have very definite opinions, there is always a tendency to buy the best. On the other hand, when dealing with articles of recent introduction regarding which there exist no preconceived notions, the cheapest is often bought because there is no cheaper; thus in the item of matches price is generally the all-important consideration as this line of goods is not governed by the Coreans' sense of the fitness of things. The Coreans also have few prejudices against novelties and take readily to articles whose utility is evident. A notable instance is the use of the sewing machine, which is extending in a remarkable manner; if it were possible to place on the market a cheap machine of strong but simple construction British manufacturers might find this country well worthy of attention.

The high **prices of commodities** of last year were maintained in nearly all the items. The principal causes were the large number of Japanese immigrants (who with the garrisons have naturally increased the demand), the good wages generally paid in cases of expenditure of capital and the influence of the war, while mention may be made of the tendency of the Corean farmers to hold out, often too long, in bad years for the good prices of previous seasons; these influences counterbalanced, in the matter of prices, the depressing influences of the bad trade at the end of the year. In the ports especially prices ruled high; the large immigrations raised rents considerably, and the high cost of imported provisions and articles for the use of the various foreign residents was not decreased by the security of the sea routes.

The ***reform of the nickel currency*** has already been dealt with above, and it is only necessary to give supplementary details regarding the Dai Ichi Bank notes which have practically become the currency of Corea. At the end of 1904 there were Dai Ichi Ginko notes in circulation to the value of 344,206*l.*, and at the end of 1905 the amount had grown to 829,454*l.*, an increase of 485,248*l.*; there were in addition over 40,000*l.* worth of new silver and nickel coins issued, making a total issue of some 526,000*l.*

The quantity of notes of the Bank of Japan in Corea is not known accurately, but it must be considerable. These notes are, of course, kept by the Dai Ichi Bank for exchange against their own notes, while there is also a quantity in circulation

The old Corean cash currency continues to circulate in the south, though the amount in use is not known. During 1905 the exchange value of these coins rose; the lowest point reached in 1904 was 48 per cent. discount on the Japanese yen, while in 1905 the lowest figure reached was 25·6 per cent. discount and in November the coin stood at only 2·4 per cent. discount (these rates were those prevailing at Fusan).

The total **import of treasure** during 1905 was 655,332*l.*, composed of paper money, 445,009*l.*; silver, 117,531*l.*; and 92,792*l.* worth of nickel and copper coins and blanks. The export of treasure was 834,909*l.*; this sum was made up of gold, 531,528*l.*; paper money, 259,964*l.*; silver, 31,550*l.*; and cash and copper coin, 11,867*l.*

Though there was a slackening of energy as the main lines drew near completion and the military necessity of the railway communication through Corea became less urgent, very considerable extensions of the mileage open were made. Altogether some 620 miles of railway are working in Corea, with other lines constructing or contemplated.

A railway between Seoul and the port of Wonsan on the east coast is under construction, but the date of completion is uncertain. A line from the port of Kunsan to the Seoul-Fusan line is proposed and also one to the north of Wonsan; these proposals will doubtless be ultimately carried out.

The proposals for the nationalisation of railways in Japan include the whole of the Kei-Fu (Seoul-Fusan) line, and if the scheme is carried out doubtless all the railways in Corea will pass under the control of the Government of Japan.

Chemulpo and Fusan are by far the most important ports in the peninsula; 76·1 per cent. of the foreign imports in 1905 and 62·7 per cent. of the exports passed through these ports. Wonsan and Chinnampo follow in order, and the four ports do the bulk of the direct foreign trade of Corea, no less than 97·5 per cent. of the imports and 87·3 per cent. of the exports appearing in their returns.

The position and prospects of the four leading ports, Chemulpo, Fusan, Chinnampo and Wonsan, point distinctly to considerable expansion in future. About the remaining four ports the prospects are not so clear, but it may, at all events, be said of them (with the exception perhaps of Masampo) that they seem excellently situated for trade in the interior as soon as railway and road communication is improved; even in the case of Masampo (which might suffer by its proximity to Fusan), if the price of land be taken as an indication, the future is regarded with confidence locally.

Considerable attention is being directed towards agriculture in Corea both for the purpose of improving methods and in the matter of Japanese settlers turning farmers. In particular great interest is being taken in the cultivation of cotton. Cotton has been cultivated in Corea for a long time (see No. 317, Miscellaneous Series, 1894), and is now grown in the provinces of Cholla, Chung Cheng, Kyeng Sang, Kyeng Ki, Whang Hai and Pyeng An. Should the cultivation be extended, the export of cotton will prove of advantage to the factories in Japan and may even lead to their establishment in Corea. The disintegrated granite and friable earth of the cotton districts seem suitable to the cultivation of cotton, of which four varieties are known—green stalk, red stalk, large Corean and small Corean; the green stalk is the most distinct variety, being small in fibre, and some six or seven days earlier than the others. The fibre is longer than the Japanese or Chinese and equal to Indian, while the lustre, though equal to Indian Chinese, is inferior to Japanese. It is probable that American upland cotton would make more progress in Corea than in Japan, where the rainfall seems excessive. In that case, and in view of expense of importing American cotton into Japan, the cultivation of cotton in Corea may be of great advantage to the Japanese cotton industry. Mokpo is the centre of most of the initial Japanese work in this direction.

So far as statistical results go there is little to say about mines, but actually there has been considerable activity shown in various ways. The long pending Italian mining concession was granted in March, 1905, while mining regulations (for gold) are under consideration. Copper and coal are produced in considerable quantities and the latter especially may be an important factor in the development of the country owing to the continual tendency of imported coal to rise in price. So far, however, there is little outward interest shown in other minerals in the country.

GERMAN PERFUME INDUSTRY.

American Consul Fuller, of Hanover, says the German perfume industry is now one of the most important and successful in the world, rivalling that of France or England. Some of the biggest factories are in Leipzig, but Berlin, Carlsruhe, and Hamburg are important centres of the trade. There has been a vast increase in the last few years in the diversity of essential oils produced from plants, and 40 varieties of those plants are employed in the German factories, which use as well such products of foreign lands as nutmegs, cinnamon, camphor, balsams, pepper, musk, ambergris, etc. The production of the essential oil is expensive, ranging from about £46 per pound downward, according to the scarcity of the oil in the plant. With fresh flowers the distillation takes place as near the place of picking as possible, as the fresher the products the better. The stills contain about 3,300 pounds of flowers and the necessary amount of water. Great care is taken as to the amount of heat supplied and to its regularity, the process being thoroughly controlled, an excellent product resulting. In the "fat" process the flowers are carefully sorted, and the chlorophyll glands broken. They are then stirred gently for some hours that they may become thoroughly saturated with the slightly warmed fat

with which the flowers have been placed. The fat and flower mixture is then separated in centrifugal machines, so that the fat may be used again with fresh flowers till it is thoroughly saturated with the perfume. Then a layer of cold fat is placed on glass plates and covered with flowers; many of these are stacked together in crates and left for about thirty days, during which the flowers are changed every day. After the thirty days the fat is cut into strings and placed on wire-web frames, which are placed alternately with metal sheets covered with flowers in a press, where they are subjected to a slight current of air. In this way the utmost amount of perfume element is obtained, but the operations require careful attention, for there should be no trace of a herby scent. The essential oils are packed in round iron containers, which are coated with zinc inside and very securely closed. For liquids only, the best sort of alcohol is used and never that obtained from potatoes or corn, etc. For the cheaper class of scent the dilution is often made with vinegar and water, as it is cheap, and the scent lasts a long time. Artificial perfumes are made much more easily now than formerly, and can be secured, ready for use, with a little admixture to add to their durability. Formerly this was an expensive process, necessitating the lixiviated extract from the French fat being mixed with ethereal oils, etc.

JUTE.

On the average of the last three years the **exports of raw Jute** represent some 21·8 per cent. of the total value of Indian raw produce exported.

The growth of this export trade in the last six years is shown in the following statement of quantity and value, the unit in each case being 1,000. The percentage of quantitative increase or decrease is also given; and the rise in price and its accentuation in recent years is indicated by the average declared values which are stated in rupees and decimals of a rupee.

Unit 1,000

Year.	Quantity.	Percentage variation.	Value.	Average value.
	Cwt.		Rs.	Rs.
1900-01 . .	12,414	27·7	10,86,77	8·75
1901-02 . .	14,765	18·8	11,79,73	7·99
1902-03 . .	13,036	11·7	11,12,65	8·53
1903-04 . .	13,721	5·3	11,71,81	8·54
1904-05 . .	12,875	6·2	11,96,56	9·29
1905-06 . .	14,480	12.5	17,12,57	11·83

The largest percentage increase in quantity occurred in 1900-01 when the exports rose by 27·7 per cent., but the largest total exportation, so far recorded, was attained in 1901-02 when the quantity shipped exceeded that exported in 1905-06. Yet the value of last year's shipments exceeded that of 1901-02 by Rs. 5,32,83,918 or more than 45 per cent. It exceeded that for 1904-05 by 43 per cent. and the average value at the same time rose by 27·3 per cent.

The estimated outturn of the Jute crop in each of these six years is given below in thousands of cwt., side by side with the estimated Indian consumption and the estimated balance available for export. These last should be compared with the figures of actual export.

Year.	Estimated outturn.	Estimated Indian Consumption.	Estimated balance available for export.
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
1900-01 .	23,307	9,974	13,333
1901-02 .	26,564	10,473	16,091
1902-03 .	23,489	11,116	12,373
1903-04 .	25,861	11,726	14,135
1904-05 .	26,429	12,405	14,024
1905-06 .	29,943	14,427	15,516

The exportable surplus from a given crop depends upon the local consumption; and it is well to show in this connection the numbers of spindles and of looms in position in each of the last six years.

Year.	Spindles.		Looms.	
	Number.	Per cent. increase.	Number.	Per cent. increase.
1900-01 .	317,348	7·47	15,340	8·65
1901-02 .	331,382	4·42	16,119	5·08
1902-03 .	352,214	6·28	17,189	6·64
1903-04 .	376,718	6·96	18,400	7·04
1904-05 .	409,170	8·61	19,991	8·65
1905-06 .	453,168	10·75	21,986	9·98

In 1884 when the Indian Jute Mills' Association was formed, the number of looms was 6,337.

It is estimated that in the season 1906 it is about 22,750. But the high cost of the raw material has restricted the local consumption so that in the last years it has not kept pace with the increase in the number of spindles.

During the year 1905-06 the prices (per bale of 400 lbs.) on the 1st of each month were as follows:—

1905.	Rs.	a.	1905.	Rs.	a.
April . .	...		November .	43	8
May . .	...		December .	45	8
June . .	...				
July . .	41	0	1906.		
August . .	46	0	January .	47	0
September .	39	0	February .	50	0
October . .	42	0	March .	48	8

Since that time it is stated that as much as Rs. 71 a bale has been paid. The average of the year is Rs. 44-11-7 which is 139 per cent. of the average of the previous five years.

During the year under review 43·5 per cent. of the exports of raw jute from India went to the United Kingdom whence nearly half of that quantity is distributed to other parts of the world. Germany takes 18·1 per cent.; the United States nearly 14 per cent.; France 10·9 per cent.; Austria-Hungary 6 per cent.; Italy 4·1 per cent. and Spain 1·9 per cent. Exports from Madras increased from 1·4 per cent. to 1·7 per cent. of the total.

Allegations of the wetting and sanding of jute for the purpose of increasing its weight continue to be made, and it is asserted that the practice has reached a point injurious to the trade. A Bill has been drafted by the Association and submitted to Government. The principle on which it proceeds is that of holding the mere possession of adulterated jute to be criminal.

THE CASEIN INDUSTRY. A POSSIBILITY FOR INDIA.

The American Consul at St. Etienne calls attention to the important **casein industry** recently established **at Surgeres in the west of France,** the seat of several co-operative dairies. When the cream is taken from the milk to manufacture butter, there remains, besides lactose and mineral elements, a little more that an ounce of casein per quart. Two experienced Germans located at Surgeres have commenced to extract the casein from the skimmed milk. The orders for it from Germany came in so fast that the premises had to be enlarged. The daily production for last year was 2,000 kilos 39·3 cwt., representing 22,000,000 quarts of skimmed milk, furnished by 10 dairies, bringing to these latter a profit of £4,000 a year. Nearly all the casein is exported to Germany, where it is employed in the manufacture of high-toned paper, playing cards, and, when transformed into a special kind of gum, it is used in the stiffening of textiles. In the dyeing industry it replaces albumen to fix the mineral colours, and in commerce furnishes colours composed of casein, hydrate of lime and colouring matter. The elementary principle of producing casein is simple. To the liquid contained in large reservoirs very active rennet is added, which coagulates the albuminoid matter. The curd thus obtained is pressed, powdered and dried in an oven, giving a very hard substance, yellowish white in colour, with a slight odour of cheese. This casein is treated by repeated washings, dissolutions and precipitations until it becomes of transparent whiteness and almost inodorous. Specially prepared and pulverized casein constitutes an excellent nutritious food of easy digestion. Over 20,000 kilos 393·4 cwt. of this kind of aliment have been sold monthly by the manufactory of Surgeres. But it is chiefly in the manufacture of artificial ivory called galalith, as an excellent subsititute for celluloid, that casein finds its use. Galalith, or milk stone, is of German invention and is obtained by hardening the casein by means of formaldehyde. The combination of these two bodies gives a hard substance, but as easy to work as wood. More brilliant and more solid, although a little heavier than celluloid, galalith possesses two important advantages over the latter. It is non-inflammable and cheaper than its rival, which being composed of camphor and gun cotton, is both costly and dangerous. With the milk stone is also manufactured a host of objects rendered attractive not only by their cheapness, but also by their polish and solidity, such as pen-holders, combs, piano keys, buttons, cigar holders, knife handles, etc. Being a non-conductor of electricity, galalith is extensively employed in all industries, based on electric energy. This is an industry that could with ease and advantage be established in certain parts of India, in certain tracts of Eastern Bengal, for example, where cattle are very numerous, where there is very seldom any anxiety about fodder, and where organisation and the judicious use of capital would bring a very great reward. The energies of the promoters need not be confined to the casein industry, one or two other chemical or agricultural industries might be conducted at the same time. A few thousand acres might, for instance, be devoted to the cultivation of ramie, and china grass be placed upon the market with advantage, whilst the production of pulverised casein and the low rate at which it would be possible to procure the common *dâls*, (*cajanus indicus*, and *lens esenlenta*) which forms the main constituent of infants' and invalids, foods, open up great possibilities of establishing a paying patent food industry. Skimmed milk alone being used in the manufacture of casein, would permit of **butter** and **ghee** making being carried on, and if well conducted, there is much money in these, whilst at the same time the Indian paper making industry would benefit from being able to procure cheap casein for making high-toned paper. Indeed there is no reason why the same company that runs the casein works should not also conduct a paper mill, and make it pay, using for much of its paper bamboo pulp, growing its own bamboos, or importing them from the Terai region and the Himalayan valleys. As neither very big nor straight bamboos would be required, the material would be secured at the very lowest rate.

OSTRICH FARMING FOR INDIA.

Mr. R. P. Rabie, of Cape Colony, writing to the *Transvaal Agricultural Journal*, gives some interesting information about ostrich farming.

The demand for ostrich feathers is constant and strong and the reward of the ostrich farmer at the Cape and in Egypt has been great. It is not generally known that within very recent times wild ostriches existed in Seistan. There is no reason why the industry should not be introduced into

certain parts of India. The trial has never been made, but if it were made there is a very strong probability of it meeting with success. Ostrich farms could be started in places such as certain tracts on the edge of the Indian desert, in Sind, and in Baluchistan, which are at present poor and unproductive, because of barren soils and scant and irregular rains. It would be hard to exaggerate the benefits that would result from the introduction of the new industry. The tracts named would suit the birds. The farming could be undertaken by either European or native capitalists, who would have no difficulty in engaging the services of trained men at the same time that they purchased their ostrich chicks and eggs, or men might be sent from India to acquire practical knowledge on South African or Egyptian ostrich farms. A few square miles, ten or twenty, of semi-desert land, could be rented or bought cheap in the regions indicated. The expensive part of the project would consist in the housing and payment of a manager and station hands, and the provision of suitable fencing, and pens for the birds. Their feeding would not cost much, and eggs could be hatched in incubators.

Between forty and fifty years ago, when the first wild ostriches were caught, an ostrich chick could be sold readily for £10 out of the nest; and as ten to twelve chicks are commonly found in a nest, the amount realised must have been substantial. Now-a-days, whilst ordinary birds can be bought for £3 to £10 each, good ones realise from £20 to £100 for a bird, for the feathers of one good cock are worth more than the feathers of two or three ordinary birds. Really first-class feathers realise practically twice as much as medium kinds.

The first plucking of the chicks is at six and a half months; then, at nine and a half to ten months, the stumps and some of the drab feathers are also pulled. Some cocks over thirty years of age still give good plucking, but hens usually die before that age. Young birds, before they are twenty months old, should not on any account be allowed to run with full-grown cocks. The birds must have salt. At the Cape this is supplied by the common salt bush.

At the public ostrich feather sales held in London June 8th, Messrs. Hale and Son report that the weight of feathers offered was 81,000 lbs. (against 77,400 lbs. in April last), including 4,387 cases Cape, seven cases from Australia, and seventy-eight cases Egyptian, of which about 4,325 cases Cape, six cases from Australia, and sixty-one cases Egyptian sold.

There was a good demand generally, but owing to bigger supply competition was scarcely so keen as at the previous auctions. Wing feathers, of which there was an exceptionally good and large selection, sold principally at a decline of about 10 per cent., which, however, was not always marked on the better qualities. The decline was most noticeable on defective and broken, which were 10 to 15 per cent. lower. White declined, on the average, about 10 per cent., broken and defective being 10 to 15 per cent. lower. White and light femina sold the same as white. Dark femina rather lower. Byocks on the whole steady to rather lower. Spandonas were scarce and very firm. White boos were irregular, being steady to 5 per cent. lower. Femina boos and drab boos rather easier, except light femina which were full up. Back butts unchanged. Long and medium black were very firm, medium and medium and short unchanged. Long and medium drab, specially good lines, firm, medium and medium and short steady. Floss irregular, steady to 10 per cent. decline on short.

Egyptian feathers. Only a small quantity of unimportant parcels catalogued, of which part sold at above changes.

The quantity sold realised £1,910,000.

Prices realised were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	
White primes and bloods, superior cut or light quills	18	0	0	at	20	0	0	per lb
White 1sts	12	0	0	„	18	0	0	„
Do. 2nds	9	0	0	„	13	0	0	„
Do. 3rds	6	0	0	„	12	0	0	„
Do. broken and tipless	12	0	0	„	17	0	0	„
Do. staldy and inferior	3	0	0	„	8	0	0	„
White Femina tipped	4	10	0	„	17	0	0	„
Femina, light 1sts and 2nds good	8	10	0	„	16	0	0	„
Do. „ ordinary or defective	3	0	0	„	8	0	0	„
Do. dark, ordinary to good	3	0	0	„	7	0	0	„
Do. 3rds or defective	2	0	0	„	11	0	0	„
Byocks	4	0	0	„	13	0	0	„
Black, long and medium	2	0	0	„	6	0	0	„
Do. do. dull and soft	1	10	0	„	3	0	0	„
Do. medium good to fine	2	10	0	„	3	15	0	„
Do. ordinary	1	5	0	„	2	0	0	„
Do. medium and short	0	8	0	„	1	10	0	„
Do. inferior and very short	0	3	0	„	0	10	0	„
Drab, long and medium	1	0	0	„	4	5	0	„
Do. medium good to fine	1	5	0	„	2	2	6	„
Do. do. ordinary	0	7	6	„	1	0	0	„
Do. medium and short	0	6	3	„	0	10	0	„
Do. do. inferior or very short	0	1	0	„	0	5	0	„
Floss, black and drab medium	0	17	6	„	2	10	0	„
Do. do. do. short	0	7	6	„	0	17	6	„
Spadonas, white and light	2	0	0	„	6	10	0	„
Do. femina	1	0	0	„	3	0	0	„
Do. drab	0	1	6	„	1	5	0	„
Boos, white	1	5	0	„	5	0	0	„
Do. femina	1	5	0	„	3	16	0	„
Do. do. black butts	0	5	0	„	1	5	0	„
Do. do. and drab	0	3	0	„	1	7	6	„

EGYPTIAN COTTON INDUSTRY.

WHILE stating his inability to give accurate figures as to the area under **cotton in Egypt**, Lord Cromer, in a Blue Book just issued, maintains that Sir Vincent Corbett is correct when stating that, although of recent years the areas under cotton had been steadily increasing, the total of the crop had remained stationary, or had even gone back.

Dismissing the theory that the deterioration of the Egyptian cotton is in a large measure due to

the effect of the Assuan reservoir, he turns to other causes to account for the present diminution in quantity and deterioration of quality, These causes may be said to be four in number: (1) insect pests; (2) the effect of the rotations; (3) over-watering; (4) over-cropping.

With insect pests, the ravages of the "cotton worm" were alone answerable for a terrible falling away in the pickings. It is estimated that the value of the cotton destroyed by the worm in 1904 was not less than £2,000,000. "On one property," states Mr. Machell in his report, "of 350 acres of cotton, no less than 2,465,738 infected leaves, or about 7,045 infected leaves per acre, were collected and destroyed. One each of these leaves were about 300 eggs. If we suppose that 200 hatched out, we have 1,409,000 worms as the first brood upon a single acre. Each of these in due course pupates, and as the operation is repeated in July and again in August, some idea may be formed of what happens when nothing is done."

Such serious diseases require stringent means to remedy them, and forced labour was resorted to in order to save the cotton crop of 1905 from the ravages of the worm. Although the compulsion was permitted by law, as the people got to understand that it was in their own interests to co-operate, the measure in this case seems to have met with universal approval, and some 315,000 acres belonging to 32,610 different owners were thus cleared of the worm, so that the saving in districts badly attacked cannot have been less than two kantars (1 kantar = 99½ lbs.) per acre, and was often more. The total crop worked out as follows: —

	Rs.
1904-5	6,352,000 kantars.
1903-4	6,509,000 „
1901-2	6,379,000 „
1899-1900	6,510,000 „
1897-98	6,543,000 „

In order to prevent the deterioration in the quality of the cotton, an area of land belonging to the Domains Administrative was set apart for the production of as pure a strain of seed as possible, the seed for the sowing of which had previously been subjected to a system of hand picking. During the growth of the crop all plants not true to the variety which it was intended to produce were removed. From this some 12,500 bushels of seed were produced, which, distributed to well-known planters in suitable districts, was estimated to be sufficient for 10,000 acres during this crop, and this for the following campaign should supply reliable and improved seed for 100,000 acres.

Efforts are being made to get the inhabitants about Kassala to plant cotton, but many seem too lazy to either weed or water their crops. It may, however, be expected that in 1906, when part of the land round Kassala will be brought under irrigation, there will be a very great increase in this industry.

Referring to the Leidab estate, where Mr. Leigh Hunt has a few Negroes from the United States, it is stated by Major Sir Henry Hill that the venture is still in the experimental stage, but that Mr. Leigh Hunt appears to be doing some excellent work.

IMPORTED COTTON PIECE-GOODS. CLASSIFICATION OF.

THE Government of India have recently had under consideration the question of the proper classification, for fiscal purposes, of imported cotton goods. These goods may be assessed to customs duty either as "apparel" under Article 17 of Schedule IV of the Indian Tariff Act, 1894 (VIII of 1894), or as "piece-goods" or "all other manufactured cotton goods not otherwise described" under Article 30, or under other less important heads of the Tariff Schedule. The existing orders on the subject are contained in various letters issued by the Finance and Commerce Department, but the Government of India are now satisfied that these orders do not afford a satisfactory means of determining under which head of the Schedule any particular article should be classed. The orders of 1896 prescribed a basis of distinction between "apparel" and "piece-goods", which appears to be opposed to the usage of the trade; and the instructions conveyed in 1902 formulated a definition of "piece-goods" which was accepted as of general application until the beginning of 1904, when it was explained that the definition should be regarded as applying solely to a particular class of cottcn prints. These instructions, which are in some respects indefinite and conflicting, have resulted in considerable diversity of practice in the treatment, for fiscal purposes, of certain classes of cotton fabrics at the various ports; and the Government of India are of opinion that instructions, which will be sufficiently explicit and precise to prevent such divergencies in future, are required both in the interests of the trade and of the Government.

After consultation with the maritime Local Governments, the Chambers of Commerce, and other Commercial associations, the Government of India have decided that a new system of classification should be adopted in supersession of that described above. The basis of this system will be a comprehensive and authoritative list of "cotton piece-goods," the commercial acceptation of that term having been taken as the determining factor in its preparation. The list appended includes, so far as the Government of India have been able to ascertain, all articles manufactured from cotton which are recognised as "piece-goods" by the usage of the trade at the various ports, and these will hereafter be excluded from the category of "apparel", irrespectively of the manner in which they are made up or of the purposes for which they are intended to be employed.

It is, however, recognized that, owing to frequent changes in manufacture and to the constant introduction of new styles and descriptions of piecegoods, the list in question cannot continue to be complete

for any length of time, and the Government of India have therefore directed the Director General of Commercial Intelligence to revise it at the end of each year simultaneously with the revision of the tariff valuations in Schedule IV of the Indian Tariff Act. Doubtful cases arising between revisions will be disposed of by the customs authorities in accordance with the list actually in force, but such cases should be submitted to the Director General of Commercial Intelligence for consideration at the following revision. The Chambers of Commerce, the Trades' Associations, and the Bombay Millowners' Association will be consulted on each occasion in order that agreement with commercial usage prevailing at the time may be preserved. The first revision will be undertaken at the end of the present year, and the opportunity will then be taken to remove any discrepancies or anomalies that may have crept into the list as now published.

All "piece-goods" enumerated in the appended list will in future be assessed to duty under Article 30 of Schedule IV of the Indian Tariff Act; and a Customs officer dealing with any imported article made of cotton—not being hosiery—which is not specifically included in that list will have to consider whether it should be treated as "apparel" under Article 17, or as "other manufactured cotton goods not otherwise described" under Article 30 of the Schedule. In determining whether an article is in fact an article of apparel, the following definition of that term may usefully be referred to :—

> "Articles of clothing for personal use or wear, which have been so cut, shaped, sewn, or otherwise treated as to be ready for use or wear without further manipulation, or without further manipulation save of an unimportant character."

All articles of cotton, which are neither "piece-goods" nor "apparel" as defined in the foregoing paragraphs, and which are not specifically included in any other head of the Tariff Schedules, will in general be assessed to import duty under Article 30 as "other manufactured cotton goods not otherwise described."

The list of "cotton piece-goods" referred to above is, it may be added, intended to assist Customs officers in the practical administration of the Tariff Act only; and inclusion in that list does not necessarily import the requirement of stamping of length under section 10 (2) (*f*) of the Indian Merchandise Marks Act, 1889 (IV of 1889), unless the article is also included in the list of piece-goods published with Government of India Notification. No. 1430, dated the 6th April 1891. The orders issued in Finance and Commerce Department letter, No. 3924-S. R., dated the 15th September 1896, in regard to the levy of customs duty on cotton goods embroidered with silk or wool will also remain in force.

These orders are to the effect that although the law (Section 21 of the Sea Customs Act) prescribes the levy of the higher rate of duty on cotton goods ornamented with silk or wool, the lower rate applicable to cotton goods will be levied when the articles inserted in the fabric are inserted simply for decorative effect and are not so interwoven as to form substantial portion of the fabric.

1. American cloth.
2. Art muslins.
3. Basket cloth.
4. Batistes.
5. Blankets (cotton).
6. Blinds and Hollands.
7. Book-binding cloth.
8. Brilliants.
9. Brocades (cotton).
10. Broche.
11. Buckram.
12. Calicoes.
13. Cambrics.
14. Cambridge shirtings.
15. Cantoons.
16. Canvas.
17. Canvas, French, elastic.
18. Cashmeres (cotton).
19. Cellular cloth.
20. Checks, spots and stripes.
21. Chiffons (cotton).
22. Chinese dyed cloths.
23. Chintz.
24. Chintzes, glazed.
25. Choonris.
26. Chadars.
27. Coatings (cotton).
28. Corded cloth.
29. Corduroy.
30. Cotton Flakes.
31. Cotton Rugs.
32. Counterpanes.
33. Crapes (cotton).
34. Crepons.
35. Cretonnes.
36. Crimps.
37. Damask, cotton table.
38. Dawanies.
39. Delanties.
40. Delametti.
41. Denims.
42. Dhotis.
43. Diagonals (cotton).
44. Diapars (cotton).
45. Dimitties.
46. Domestics.
47. Doosatie.
48. Dupettas.
49. Dorias.
50. Dress, plain or printed (cotton).
51. Drills, plain striped or checked.
52. Duck.
53. Dungari.
54. Dusters (when joined by the warp).
55. Embroidered allovers.
56. Embroidered flounces.
57. Fancies.
58. Fents.
59. Flannel.
60. Flannelette.
61. Galateas.
62. Gambroons.
63. Gauze (cotton).
64. Ghagras.
65. Ginghams.
66. Glass cloths (when joined by the warp).
67. Grenadines (cotton).
68. Gumchas.
69. Hair-cords.
70. Handkerchiefs (in woven pieces).
71. Harvards.
72. Hollands.
73. Italians (cotton).
74. Jaconets.
75. Jeans.
76. Khaki Regattas.
77. Lace curtain cloth.
78. Lace stripes.
79. Lappets.
80. Lastings.
81. Lawns.
82. Lenos.
83. Linenette.
84. Linings, plain, striped or mercerised.
85. Longcloths.
86. Lungis.
87. Lustres.
88. Madapollams.
89. Madras cloth.
90. Marcella.
91. Matte shirtings.
92. Matting.
93. Mattress cloth.
94. Meltons.
95. Mercerised cloth.
96. Merinos.
97. Merins.
98. Mexicans.
99. Moir Cambric lining.
100. Moleskins.
101. Molleton cloth.
102. Morias.
103. Moreens (cotton).
104. Mulls, all kinds.
105. Muslins, all kinds.
106. Nainsooks.
107. Net, Brussels.
108. Net, curtain.
109. Net, mosquito.
110. Nun's veiling (cotton).
111. Oatmeal cloth.
112. Oxford shirtings.
113. Pillow, cotton slip for.
114. Piques.
115. Plushette.
116. Pompadour.
117. Pongees (cotton).
118. Prayer mats.
119. Printed crepelle.
120. Prints.
121. Printers,
122. Printers, dyed.
123. Putsoes.
124. Quiltings (cotton).
125. Radium cloth.
126. Regattas.
127. Rep cloth (cotton).
128. Sail cloth.
129. Saris.
130. Sarongs.
131. Sateens, plain or printed
132. Satinette.
133. Satin stripes (cotton).
134. Scarves.
135. Serges (cotton).
136. Shawls (cotton).
137. Shirting, Bolton.
138. Shirting, plain or twilled.
139. Shirtings, bleached or unbleached, and dyed.
140. Shirtings, printed cambric.
141. Silecia.
142. Silket stripes.
143. Silkette.
144. Spanish stripes (cotton).
145. Sussi cloth.
146. Suitings (cotton).
147. Swansdown calico.
148. Tambours.
149. Tameins (unfinished)
150. Tanjibs.
151. Tapestries (cotton).
152. Tarlatans.
153. T. cloths.
154. Ticks, mattress.
155. Ticks, blind.
156. Towels (in woven pieces).
157. Trouserings (cotton).
158. Turbans (cotton).
159. Turkey Red cloth.
160. Turkey twills.
161. Tussor cloth (cotton).
162. Tussores, mercerised.
163. Tweeds.
164. Twills.
165. Umbrella cloth (cotton).
166. Undershirts (cotton).
167. Unions (½ cotton ½ wool).
168. Valencias.
169. Velvets (cotton).
170. Velveteen.
171. Venetian cloth.
172. Vestings or waistcoatings (cotton).
173. Voiles (cotton).
174. Wadding.
175. Zephyrs.

COTTON CULTIVATION IN GERMAN COLONIES.

THE following particulars of the progress, up to the spring of this year, of cotton cultivation in the German Colonies are taken from the *Tropenpflanzer*, the organ of the Kolonial-Wirts-chaftliche Komitee.

TOGO.—Cotton cultivation suffered in 1905 from an unusually dry season, but in spite of this a larger quantity was exported than in the previous year, the total being 257,500 lbs., value about 150,000 marks. Prospects for the 1906 crop have improved in consequence of good rains. The area cultivated has been considerably extended. On the Upper Volta the natives are taking more and more to cotton cultivation, and on the rivers Mono, Oti and Volta experiments are being carried on under irrigation. The imperial station at Kete-Kratschi has planted this year about 70 hectares with cotton. An improvement has been effected in the quality of Togo cotton, 3 pfenning above the price of middling American having, it is said, been obtained for the product of various districts, and 8 pfenning more than middling American for Nuatschä. In order to ensure a certain return to the natives for their product, the committee have guaranteed an average price of 30 pfenning per lb. for cleaned cotton.

GERMAN EAST AFRICA.—The preparation of the cotton crop was delayed by the rebellion. Early shipments of the 1905-06 crop amounted to 650 bales of 500 lbs. each, value over 200,000 marks. Following on the experiments made in the colony, it has been decided to concentrate further efforts in certain districts where the soil and climate have been found suitable. In the north, the Saadani district appears to offer the best prospects, the best Mitafifi cotton in the Colony having been produced there. The plains to the north of the Mombo are reported to be capable, with irrigation, of producing first-class cotton. Muanza on Lake Victoria is also considered a promising district and favourable developments have been made in Nera. In the south, the districts of Mohorro, Kilwa and Lindi offer more favourable conditions than the northern territory.

CAMEROONS.—The German Government have obtained 30 centner of seed from Togo and distributed it among several districts in the Cameroons. The construction of the Duala-Manengubaberge railway is thought likely to have an important effect on cotton cultivation in this district, and an expedition is to be sent to Bamum, to instruct the natives. Good results are reported from Adamaua.

NEW GUINEA.—In spite of unsuccessful results, further attempts at cotton cultivation are to be made this time with kidney cotton.

GERMAN SOUTH WEST AFRICA.—An expedition is to be sent to the northern portion of German South-West Africa, to examine the possibilities of growing cotton in the districts served by the Otavi railway, and also, with the aid of irrigation, in Ovamboland.

GAZETTE NOTIFICATION.

POST OFFICE.

The 19th July 1906.

Resolution—By the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry.

The Governor General in Council is pleased to sanction the following additions to and alterations in the Rules for the guidance of Depositors in the Post Office Savings Bank published with the Resolution of the Government of India in this Department No. 509, dated the 11th March 1905 :

(*a*) *For* the note under Rule 22 the following note shall be substituted :

NOTE.—"In the case of an account opened at a Sub or Branch Post Office the Pass Book will be sent to the Head Office as soon as possible after the 15th June, when the Pass Book is presented for entry of interest under Rule 31. The depositor will obtain a receipt in exchange for his Pass Book, and he must give up this receipt when his Pass Book is returned to him."

(*b*) To Rule 24, the following paragraph shall be added :

"A depositor whose account stands at a Head Office may deposit money at any of the Sub-Offices under that Head Office which are Savings Banks, and a depositor whose account stands at a Sub-Office may deposit money at the Head Office of the Sub-Office or at any of the Sub-Offices of that Head Office which are Savings Banks. Similarly, a depositor at a Branch Office may deposit money at the Office to which it is subordinate and, if such office is a Sub-Office, he may also deposit money at the Head Office of such Sub-Office. With these exceptions a depositor may deposit money only at the Post Office at which his account stands."

(*c*) For the note below Rule 29 the following note shall be substituted:

NOTE.—"In the case of an application to withdraw from (*a*) a minor's Account, (*b*) a security deposit Account, (*c*) any of the conjoint accounts specified in Rule 44, payment cannot, in any circumstances, be made until a Warrant of Payment is received from the Head Office."

(*d*) The following note shall be substituted for Note 2 below Rule 30:

NOTE 2.—"Interest on the account of a deceased depositor ceases to accrue from the first day of the month in which notice is issued to the person or persons recognized by the Postmaster General as entitled to receive the balance of the account. No interest will be allowed on money deposited after his death in the account of a deceased depositor."

(*e*) The following shall be substituted for the last sentence of Rule 32:

"The Pass Book will be returned to the Depositor who should present it as soon as possible at the Post Office to which his account has been transferred, with a fresh specimen of his signature."

(*f*) The following note shall be inserted as Note 3 below Rule 32:

NOTE 3.—"The Pass Book of a Depositor in a Sub or Branch Post Office will first be sent to the Head Office to have the orders authorising the transfer entered in it."

(*g*) The note below Rule 34 shall be constituted a separate rule numbered 34-A.

(*h*) For the first two lines of Rule 44 the following shall be substituted:

"The following special conditions govern the opening of the conjoint accounts specified below and their transactions:—"

EXPLOSIVES.

The 20th July 1906.

No. 5631—17.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 17 of the Indian Explosives Act, 1884 (IV of 1884), the Governor General in Council is pleased to make the following amendments in the Rules published with the Notification of the Government of India in the Department of Commerce and Industry, No. 5484—4-10(Explosives), dated the 2nd October 1905, namely:

In section III for the word "exception" the word "exceptions" shall be substituted, and the following clause shall be added, namely:

(*b*) Picric Acid thoroughly mixed with not less than three times its own weight of—

(i) anhydrous sulphate of soda,

(ii) crystallized sulphate of soda, when packed in hermetically closed packages, or

(iii) potash alum,

shall be exempt from being deemed to be an explosive within the meaning of the said Act.

W. L. HARVEY,

Secretary to the Government of India.

REDUCTION OF PILOTAGE CHARGES AND PORT DUES AT CHITTAGONG.

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Sale No. 1	6 3	3 10	3 8	5 0	4 11	4 1	...	...	...	...
2	5 6	4 5	4 4	5 11	5 3	...	...	...	...	...
3	6 6	4 3	4 3	6 0	5 9	4 0	...	...	...	...
4	6 5	4 7	4 6	6 1	5 11	4 9	...	...	...	...
JULY—										
Sale No. 5	6 11	4 8	4 5	6 5	5 10	...	...	...	...	...
6	7 1	5 0	4 11	6 10	5 10	5 9	...	4 9	...	...
7	7 2	5 1	4 8	7 7	5 11	5 5	3 11	4 9	...	...
8	8 4	5 4	4 11	9 0	5 11	5 0	...	...	...	...
AUGUST—										
Sale No. 9	7 5	5 2	4 8	8 4	5 7	5 6	...	...	...	...
10	7 8	5 2	4 10	7 7	5 10	4 11	3 7	4 6	4 4	...
11	7 8	5 5	4 10	7 2	6 1	5 10	...	...	...	...
12	7 2	5 3	4 7	6 7	5 9	4 11	3 8	...	...	...
SEPTEMBER—										
Sale No. 13	7 0	5 2	4 8	6 8	5 7	5 0	...	...	...	...
14	6 6	4 11	4 8	6 6	4 8	5 1	...	4 4	...	...
15	6 4	4 10	4 5	6 11	5 0	5 1	...	...	4 3	...
16	6 4	4 8	4 5	6 4	5 2	...	...	...	4 3	...
17	6 2	4 7	5 6	5 8	5 2	4 11	...	...	...	...
OCTOBER—										
Sale No. 18	6 4	5 0	4 6	7 1	5 5	.	3 4	4 4	...	...
19	6 6	4 10	4 9	6 10	5 3	5 0	...	...	...	...
NOVEMBER—										
Sale No. 20	6 3	4 9	4 3	6 11	5 0	4 3	...	...	...	...
21	6 5	4 7	4 6	6 4	5 3	3 5	...	...	...	...
22	6 2	4 8	4 1	5 11	5 4	4 6	...	4 4	...	...
23	6 4	4 7	4 1	6 3	5 4	3 9	...	4 5	...	...
DECEMBER—										
Sale No. 24	5 10	5 2	4 3	6 9	5 1	3 9	...	4 2	...	...
25	5 10	4 5	3 11	9 3	5 4	3 7	...	...	...	...
26	5 10	4 6	4 0	7 6	5 4	3 5	2 10	...	...	...
27	6 3	4 5	4 0	7 8	5 2	3 3	2 3	4 2	...	...
1906.										
JANUARY—										
Sale No. 28	6 0	4 6	4 2	5 6	5 7	5 1	3 5	...	...	2 11
29	6 5	4 3	3 10	5 0	5 5	4 4	...	...	...	...
30	6 3	4 1	3 10	3 1	5 6	2 11	...	3 10	...	...
FEBRUARY—										
Sale No. 31	5 9	4 1	3 5	3 7	5 2	3 10	...	...	...	...
32	5 7	4 0	3 6	3 2	4 8	...	...	...	...	...
33	4 10	3 8	4 1	...	4 5	3 1	2 7	...	...	...
34	4 9	3 10	3 0	2 3	2 5	...	...	...	...	...
MARCH—										
Sale No. 35	5 7	4 3	3 2	1 11	3 2	...	...	...	...	...
Average	6 5	4 7	4 3	6 2	5 3	4 5	3 2	4 4	4 3	2 11

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.

For the week ending 21st July 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign—Imports by sea into	Calcutta lbs.	58,519
	Bombay „	27,426
	Madras „	164,600
Indian—Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	166,204
	Bombay „	6,433,120
	Madras „	...

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	16,494,887
	Bombay „	4,330,258
	Karachi „	720,090
	Madras „	1,017,634
	Rangoon „	201,963

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	2,122,254
	Bombay „	3,092,189
	Karachi „	1,941,396
	Madras „	232,513
	Rangoon „	242,483

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	950,748
	Bombay „	1,223,753
	Karachi „	3,127,526
	Madras „	412,241
	Rangoon „	879,939

Piece Goods.

(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta cwt.	17,961
	Bombay* „	5,932
	Karachi „	13,025
	Madras „	4,233

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea cwt.	170
	Coastwise „	4,449
	By rail „	23,635
I ports into Karachi	by rail „	4,341
„ „	Calcutta by rail and river „	2,901

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta		cwt.	87,957
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags	No.	6,486,810
	„ cloth	yds.	18,304,460
	Jute	cwt.	19,375
Chittagong	Jute	„	3,33

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta†		lbs.	6,611,049
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	4,862,676
	Chittagong	„	1,216,700

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river		cwt.	7,700
	Karachi by rail		„	599,966
	Bombay	By sea	„	1,853
		Coastwise	„	6,440
		By rail	„	36,235
Exports by sea from	Calcutta		„	8,248
	Bombay		„	2,226
	Karachi		„	844,728

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta	cwt.	118,078
	Chittagong	„	...
	Bombay	„	5,282
	Karachi	„	17,506
	Madras	„	...
	Rangoon	„	224,587

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river		cwt.	37,220
	Bombay	By sea	„	62
		Coastwise	„	88
		By rail	„	21,751
	Karachi by rail		„	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta		„	157,853
	Bombay		„	29,483
	Karachi		„	146

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river		cwt.	24,255
	Bombay	By sea	„	...
		Coastwise	„	1,072
		By rail	„	14,811
	Karachi by rail		„	55,099
Exports by sea from	Calcutta		„	494
	Bombay		„	9,007
	Karachi		„	51,799

* B. B. and C. I. Ry. figures only.

† E. B. S. Ry. figures incomplete.

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 21st JULY 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From All other foreign countries.	Total.
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
Calcutta	16,666	50,151	...	66,817
Bombay	...	...	659,476	659,476
Karachi	...	374,019	...	374,019
Madras	...	4,637	...	4,637

Exports by sea from Burma to		
Bengal	galls.	410,612
E. B. & Assam	„	441,728
Bombay	„	538,497
Sind	„	279,305
Madras	„	583,408
Indian Ports, Non-Br.	„	162,422
Foreign Ports	„	...

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 21st JULY 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	44	...	11	29	...	256	340
Germany	22,950	...	6,164	7,408	...	1,477	37,999
Austria-Hungary	5	...	...	5	...	...	10
Other European Countries	...	...	...	...	...	200	200
Java	24,877	...	...	...	...	4,009	28,886
Mauritius	...	...	...	3,962	...	...	3,962
Other Non-European Countries	...	...	594	...	...	...	594
					Total refined		71,991
					Total unrefined		10,794
					Grand Total cwt.		82,785

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Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta. [The prices include postage to countries in the Postal Union.]

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   - Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. R3. (12*a.*)
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15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India. As. 5. (2*a.*)

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16. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a.*)

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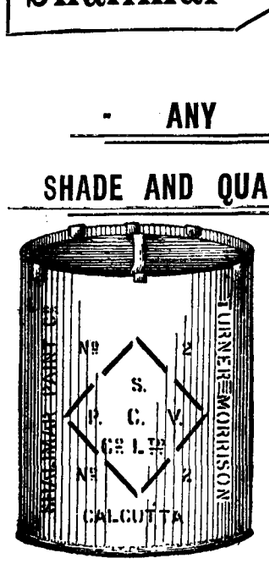
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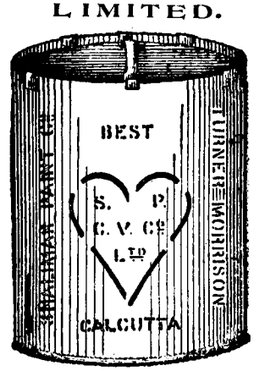
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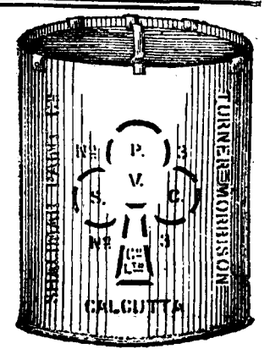
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NOTES.

The number of **fine woolled sheep** now **in Siberia** does not probably exceed 50,000. It is yet doubtful whether these flocks will withstand the intensely cold and long winter, while there are reports that mosquitoes actually cause many deaths among the sheep.

The British Vice-Consul at Constantza, **Roumania,** mentions the **successful sales by Italy and Austria-Hungary of Turkey-red, black, and other coloured yarn,** and recommends visitors to this summer's exhibition at Bucharest to pay attention to this and other similar points.

Ceylon tea, for local consumption, is not imported **at Tientsin** in any large quantity, but the inception and growth of the import of this article should be watched. Of this tea no special mention is made in the Customs tables for 1903; 200 cwts. were imported in 1904 and 2,281 cwts. in 1905.

His Majesty's Commissioner on the Danube (Lieutenant-Colonel H. Trotter, C.B.) reports **that the European Commission** of the **Danube has** adopted from the 1st June of the present year the provisions of Article 5 of the Board of Trade's instructions to surveyors regarding the **measurement of enclosed spaces** above the upper deck of ships visiting the Danube.

In addition to the **Bill** which will be introduced on 10th August in the Legislative Council to amend the **Indian Excise** Act, a Bill will be introduced to amend the **Agricultural Loans Act** and the **Land Improvement Loans Act** with a view to relaxing the present control of the Government of India. This matter is more or less formal and no other business is likely to be brought up at the meeting.

Mr. K. G. Gupta, Member of the Board of Revenue, is being placed on special duty by the Bengal Government to make enquiries as regards the possibility of **improving** and **developing the fisheries in Bengal.** The sea fisheries can be greatly developed, while, in its river system, Bengal has vast sources of fish supply. Efforts will certainly be made to conserve and develop the fisheries of Bengal on modern and scientific lines.

The new **Government Contract** with the **B. B. and C. I. Railway** has now been settled. The new capital will be two millions sterling, the Government guaranteeing 3 per cent. The shareholders will also get one-tenth of the surplus profits after 200 lakhs has been deducted. This latter sum represents the interest on the Government share of the capital. The company can be bought by the Government after 25 years or after subsequent periods of 5 years.

It is stated in the British Press that an agreement for the **regulating of salt prices and output** has virtually been completed between the Salt Union, Limited, and every outside salt manufacturer in the United Kingdom. The agreement is said to be even more important to the trade than the agreement under which the British Salt-makers' Association was formed. Since that Association ceased to exist, there has been a price war in many places.

For the **packing of grapes ground cork** forms a costly item, and a **good substitute** at a lower price is ardently desired. The cost of cork for each barrel works out about 0·95 cent. of a peseta. A renewed trial of moss as a substitute has been made, but whether it will be acceptable to the trade has still to be determined. Perhaps, says Mr. Murison, Vice-Consul at Almeri, the papermaker may some day be able to provide substitutes both for the staves and the cork.

The Federal Court in Manchester upholds the **ruling** made by the **Custom-house** officials some time since to the effect that the **mixing of various sorts of wools** for the purpose of securing a lower rate duty on entrance here entails the imposition of double duties. Several importers of wool had the grades mixed, and maintained the right to pay duty on the whole importation on the lower grade, and when the Customs authorities practically fined them for doing so by charging double duty they appealed with the result stated.

Another big German petroleum company for the exploitation of the **Roumanian oil fields** is in process of organisation under the auspices of the Dresdener Bank and the Schaffhausen Bankverein. The new concern will be the outcome of a consolidation of the Kingdom of Roumania Oil Company, the Moreni Company, and the International Boring Company of Germany, a concern which owns a large interest in the Moreni Company. All these consolidations have the common purpose of freeing Germany from dependence on the Standard Oil Company.

The British Newswriter at Herat states, under date 31st May 1906, that in consequence of large orders for **Herat wool** which have been received from Kandahar and India, as well as from Armenian and Russian merchants in Meshed, Panjdeh and Turbat-i-Haidari, the **price** of wool is **rising rapidly.** The Panjdeh merchants have assured the Afghan flock-owners in Murghab, Lungar, Kadi, and Badghis that they are prepared to buy wool and sheep-skins at favourable rates, and that the Russian Government will also grant some concession in the customs duty. A letter from **Kandahar,** dated the 16th June 1906, says that the **export to Russian territories** of wool and flock, etc., has, for the present, **been stopped** by His Highness the Amir.

The **trade returns for the United Kingdom** for June, 1906, when compared with those for the corresponding month of 1905, show increases in the value of the **Imports** into, and also in the value of the **Exports** from the United Kingdom, both of British produce and of Foreign and Colonial merchandise. The value of the **Imports** in June, 1906, was £47,892,709, an increase of £4,335,302, or 9·9 per cent., as compared with June 1905, whilst the total **Exports** amounted to £37,891,216 or an increase of £5,506,655. The **Exports** of British produce alone show an increase of £4,653,790, or 17·9 per cent., as compared with June, 1905, whilst there is an increase of £852,865 or 13·3 per cent. in the **Exports** of foreign and colonial merchandise.

The **Select Committee** of the House of Commons **on Butter** on the 9th of July, under the presidency of Sir Edward Strachey, concluded the consideration of their **report,** which was laid in dummy on the table of the House of Commons that night. The **Press Association** understands that the principal recommendation of the report is that **butter factories** should be placed under the same law as margarine factories so far as **inspection** is concerned. At present there is no power of inspecting premises where butter is made or dealt with for the public markets, and the Committee found that there has been a good deal of "faking" and adulteration, which it is necessary to check. It is hoped by means of inspection to put an end to such practices and to trace where **foreign fats** are used for the manufacture of butter.

The **Quantity of Beet and Cane sugar imported by sea** from foreign countries into each province of British India for the month of June 1906 is shown in the following table :—

	Bengal.	Eastern Bengal and Assam.	Bombay.	Sind.	Madras.	Burma.	Total.
	Cwt	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Beet sugar.	193,809	...	140,228	236,021*	1,015*	4,414	575,487*
Cane sugar	95,452	...	66,867	534	153	5,293	168,999
Total .	289,261	...	207,095	236,555	1,168	10,407	744,486

* The figures are subject to revision.

Another **famine** is threatened in the interior of **Japan**. According to a telegram reaching the *Tokyo Asahi* from Gifu, the rice crop has totally failed in the three villages of Kiyomigawa, Shokawa and Shirakawa, in Ono district, Hida province. During the past winter, owing to the absence of food-stuffs, the inhabitants of these villages had to subsist on the roots and bark of trees, being prevented by the heavy snowfalls experienced from communication with outside towns. In consequence of the poor nourishment obtained from this kind of food, nearly all the inhabitants of the villages, numbering about 2,500, felt sick, and are now unable to work. To make matters worse, the hard frosts experienced in January this year played havoc with sericulture, the mulberry plants being a total failure.

The **Southern Maharatta Railway** authorities in India seem desirous of experimenting with a **rail motor coach** for light traffic, as is being done by the adjoining railways in the south. The idea has been taken from English practice, but the Company's Consulting Engineer in London does not seem to favour the proposal, as the use of the motor coach on English railways has much to do with the question of meeting tramway competition (a condition which does not obtain in India). Moreover, the Board of Trade will not allow a vehicle to be "pushed" by an engine, and much time is lost in the operation of turning an engine round the train at the end of each trip. The Administration in India are accordingly advised to first try an ordinary bogie car, properly arranged in respect to seating and luggage, drawn by one of the small engines available.

Other countries besides India are suffering in their production of **natural indigo** from the **competition of the synthetic product.** In commenting on the trade and commerce of Java during 1905, the British Consul at Batavia remarks that the planting of indigo in that island was still further diminished owing to the great increase in production of the synthetic article, in fact, he states that many of the lands on which indigo has hitherto been cultivated have now been turned into sugar plantations. Japan and Russia, the two largest consumers of Java indigo, have not taken anything like the quantities which they did in previous years. There is still a considerable quantity used locally for the native dyeing industry, but the future is not looked to hopefully, as it is the general idea that unless an increased demand sets in before long the Java cultivation of indigo will be reduced to a minimum.

There is a little **gold-washing** carried on in **Chota Nagpur.** The return afforded by the industry is, however, very small. The Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum says that one worker can, in a day, win only 1 anna 6 pies worth of gold. There are in that Division some 260 people who interest themselves in the search for the metal. They, however, do not depend entirely on the result of the work, having other means of livelihood. The industry is carried on in the Karkari and Subarnarekha rivers. Washing is conducted immediately after the rains, the gold being sold to a local trader. In Ranchi gold-washing is not done systematically, and is resorted to by only a few females in each village. In Singhbhum there are about 150 persons in 9 villages, who make a precarious addition to their incomes by washing gold. Gold-washing is also carried on on a very small scale in the Malabar District of the Madras Presidency.

At the end of last year it was proposed by the **Argentine** Finance Minister to make a **change in the currency system,** and to adopt the "Argentino" or franc as the new unit, in place of the old paper dollar of 100 cents. or of the 44 cent. gold dollar. Five gold coins were to be coined by the national mint, of the value of 100, 50, 20, 10 and 5 "Argentinos" respectively; and five nickel coins, of the value of 50, 25, 10, 5 and 2½ centesimos respectively. There was to be no limit to the coining of gold. but the coining of nickel and silver were not to exceed ten "Argentinos" per inhabitant. The project, if sanctioned, was to come into force in three years' time; but three months after sanction all contracts were

to have the equivalent mentioned in "Argentinos." His Majesty's Consul at Buenos Ayres now reports the announcement by President Alcorta in his speech at the opening of the Cortes, that the gold dollar would be retained as the standard of currency, thus implying that the present Administration intend to drop the project.

Commercial Intelligence expresses the hope that those officials of the Indian Government who are supervising the report of the **Indian Stores Committee** will not delay the report until Parliament is up. "If," says the journal, "the Committee contents itself with reaffirming the necessity for giving Indian manufacturers equal opportunity of tendering for Government stores with British firms at home, there will be no room for criticism. Indian manufacturers have had such an opportunity for twenty years. If, however, the Government's suggestion of providing a preference for local firms by intimidating officials who order British stores is favourably reported upon by the Committee, we think it would be highly desirable to have the attention of Parliament drawn to the matter. "Preference by intimidation" amounts to boycott, and it is neither in the interest of the Indian Government, the firms "on the India Office list," nor of exporters generally that the "Swadeshi" movement in one of its worst forms should receive such high endorsement."

The **new mail contract** between the **Commonwealth Government** and Sir James Laing and Sons, of Sunderland, is now published in Melbourne. The contract will be in force for a period of ten years. The time of transit from Brindisi to Adelaide will be 636 hours under the present contract, which it replaces in February 1908. The price agreed upon is £125,000, with an increase for acceleration on a basis of actual increased expenditure. Steamers will call at Port Said, Colombo, and Fremantle, and will arrive at Adelaide on Saturdays and leave there homewards on Fridays. Increased railway facilities will be provided to ensure earlier delivery of mails at Sydney and Brisbane. The minimum tonnage of the steamers is to be 11,000, and the speed 15 knots. They will fly the Commonwealth flag, and employ white labour. Five tenders were received, and the one accepted was the lowest. A clause (says Reuter) is included allowing termination of the agreement if the Commonwealth shipping legislation diminishes the Company's earnings or increases its expenses.

In his report for 1905, the British Vice-Consul at **Constantza** (Mr. G. A. Pogson) tenders the following **advice to shipowners as regards charter parties.** "Difficulties might be avoided by more careful wording, as for instance, 'Stevedoring by charterers to be done for 1*d.* per quarter' should be worded to include not only trimming but also use of stages, etc. The quarter should also be defined as Imperial quarter or the general weight by which grain is usually sold, *viz.*, 400 lbs. per quarter for barley, 480 lbs. for wheat and maize, and 424 lbs. for oil seeds, whereas an Imperial quarter of barley does not weigh more than 350 to 360 lbs." Mr. Pogson also remarks that a little more use of the Constantza Vice-Consulate by masters presenting their bills for examination before signing them, might do away with the many undue charges hitherto imposed. As an instance and a guide to owners, he inserts in his report copies of two bills successfully disputed at the Consulate, one showing an attempted overcharge of 280 per cent., and the other showing an attempted overcharge of 670 per cent.

The **Quantity of cotton yarn** No. 31 and higher counts **imported by sea** from other countries **into each province of British India** in the month of June 1906 may be seen from the following statement:—

	Bengal.	Eastern Bengal and Assam.	Bombay.	Sind.	Madras.	Burma.	Total.
	lb	lb	lb	lb	lb	lb	lb
Mule and water No. 31 to 40 .	...	...	242,243	54,000	...	7,600	303,843
No. 41 to 50 .	...	...	50,815	10,900	...	...	61,715
Above 50 . .	...	...	54,806	10,874	...	...	65,680
Orange, red, and other colours Nos. 31 to 40 .	...	...	139,080	128,570	...	51,000	318,650
Nos. 41 to 50 .	...	...	15,400	...	...	32,400	47,800
Above 50 . .	...	...	2,500	...	...	21,800	24,300
TOTAL .	...	...	504,844	204,344	...	112,800	821,988

At the present the **Rhine** may, says His Majesty's Consul-General at Frankfurt-on-Main (Mr. F. Oppenheimer), be said to be **navigable** only to Mannheim, which town has, in consequence, become the greatest inland port in Germany, with a lively transloading traffic to Southern Germany and Switzerland. Recently the Town Council of Basel voted 75,000 francs as a compensation for 15 further trial trips to a firm of towing carriers on the Lower Rhine. With the success of the enterprise, says Mr. Oppenheimer, the Rhine would become an important **connection between the coast and the Lake of Constance,** and this would naturally open up an important economic area in Southern Germany, Alsace-Lorraine and Switzerland. An understanding concerning the various incidents of this new waterway has already been prepared between Baden and Alsace-Lorraine, and the town of Strassburg has undertaken to bear its due share of the cost. The Rhenish-Westphalian Coal Syndicate and the Kohlen-Kontor at Mulheim have promised considerable contributions, amounting, it is said, to 900,000 marks, free of any conditions. It is also generally believed that Bavaria has abandoned its opposition.

A movement is on foot amongst **English importers of Indian wheat** for the drawing up and general adoption of a **new form of contract** which shall **require** the wheat to be shipped in a **much cleaner condition** than is usual at present. Three large Liverpool importers—Messrs. Samuel Sanday and Co., Ross T. Smyth and Co., and Robert Procter and Sons have written to the Millers' Association of London suggesting a conference between millers and shippers, to formulate a contract fair to all parties. They point out that if millers would insist upon buying Indian wheat on a clean basis the grower would ultimately be compelled to deliver it clean. The condition in which wheat is shipped from Karachi and other Indian ports is notoriously bad, and at present the tendency seems to be for it to become worse. This involves much unnecessary expense in handling and in freight charges on dirt, and at the Manchester Docks, for example, Karachi wheat cannot be discharged into the grain elevator, lest the weevils and dirt in which it abounds should affect the clean Russian, American, and Argentine grain that is dealt with there. The Indian Government is alive to the importance of effecting a reform.

A correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* writes:—It is a surprising fact that although a great number of attempts have been made to apply **positive picking mechanism to looms,** no entirely successful results have yet been obtained. With looms weaving heavy fabrics at a comparatively slow rate of speed the nearest approach to success has been obtained. It is, however, when an attempt is made to introduce positive picking mechanism to fast-running looms that the devices generally fail. A further attempt to solve the problem has recently been made, and a loom fitted with the **improved device** has been running at Bury. It has not, however, been applied to a fast running loom, but it is stated that the success obtained on a heavy loom has induced the inventor to contemplate making the experiment. **The device** consists essentially of a series of blades supported by the sley and capable of moving upwards in a vertical direction. The blades are quite separate from one another, and are raised by the employment of a spiral shaft which runs through the sley and is rotated first in one direction and then in the other. The wave-like motion of the blades thus produced impels the shuttle, which is constructed in a special manner, to and fro through the warp threads.

An **Oldham** correspondent assures the *Manchester Guardian* that the **spinning trade** is not in so robust a condition as some people suppose. He says:—"The recent stocktakings at the cotton spinning mills in the Oldham and Rochdale districts have in many instances turned out unsatisfactorily. Here and there the profits have been less by £500 on the six months than was expected from the ordinary method of working out the profit, from week to week. The excessive loss on cotton causes the reduced profit, and in one or two cases there was actually a debit balance. The increased invisible loss is from 2 to 3 per cent., and one hears of the cotton loss working out at about 15 per cent. or, say, an increase of 3 per cent. It has been found that American cotton contained more dirt and damp than usual, which has brought about the disappointing returns. It is said that this state of things has not been wholly confined to the American section of the trade, but that claims have been made on account of damp in Egyptian cotton; yet spinners dolefully remark that not much satisfaction is got out of Liverpool arbitrations, the result generally being about one-third of the claim. No doubt spinners are tempted to make the claims as high as possible, with the view of securing something like a legitimate award."

The **prices of opium** in the **Calcutta market** during the week ending 28th July were, per chest, as follows:—

Behar opium—Rs. 1,445; 1,445; 1,460; 1,450; 1,450; 1,450; 1,450.

Benares opium—Rs. 1,340; 1,340; 1,350; 1,325; 1,325; 1,335; 1,335.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 8th sale of 1906—Rs. 1,460; 1,460; 1,471; 1,450; 1,450; 1,460; 1,460.

China market, Hongkong (exchange Rs. 158 to 158½ per 100 dollars).

Behar—$ 920 to 925; 930 to 932½; 935; 930; 930; 930; 930.

Shanghai (no exchange quotations received)—Two sales on 22nd and 24th of 675 taels and 682 taels respectively.

Benares—Four sales on 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th of $840 to 845, 850, 857½ and 852½ respectively; while two sales, Shanghai, on 22nd and 24th, of 625 Taels and 632 Taels respectively.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending 21st July were—for A class (season 1905-06) R1,337 to 1,368; for B class (season 1904-05) R1,450 to 1,544; class C, old (season 1903-04) R1,624 to 1,680. The latest China prices ascertained were for new classes (A and B) R1,520 to 1,540; old (class C) fetched at Hongkong R1,707 and at Shanghai R1,695.

The fourth series of **Colonial wool sales** for the present year opened in London on July 10th. The Australian wool year ended on the 30th ultimo, and Messrs. Dalgety's cable shows that the increase in the shipments exceeds our highest estimate and amounts to 275,000 bales. The total exports from Australia during the wool-year just closed were 1,455,000 bales, whilst those from New Zealand were 414,000 bales, and the total increase from both sources amounts to about two and a half times as much as the total offerings for the sales which begin to-day. It has been held by the bulls that this enormous increase would be easily absorbed, but there are already signs that supplies are more than equal to the demand at the present level of prices. At the Antwerp sales, out of about 8,000 bales offered less than 2,000 bales were sold at prices which ranged up to 25 centimes per kilometre below those obtained at the previous auctions. Messrs. Dalgety's cablegram does not show how much of the total increase in the Australian shipments belongs to Australia and how much to New Zealand, but an authority considers that the Australian increase amounts to 237,000 bales, whilst the New Zealand exports exceed those of the previous year by no less than 38,000 bales, which is far more than the highest estimate. With the prospect of an Australian increase during the current wool-year of 300,000 bales, it is evident that there will be enough wool to go round unless consumption increases much more rapidly than at present appears at all probable.

The Colonial Office has issued the following, dated July 7:—Viscount St. Aldwyn has delivered his award as umpire in the **arbitration** between the **Tanjong-Pagar Dock Company** and the **Government of the Straits Settlements,** to determine the amount payable by the Colonial Government in consequence of their acquisition of the company's undertaking. The effect of the award is that the following sums are payable by the Government:—

1. $27,929,177 as compensation for the taking over of the company's undertaking, inclusive of $351,354·31 cents. for 907,532 square feet of land taken for the extension of the railway to the docks.
2. £220 10*s.* in respect of an annuity to the late secretary to the company, who died before the arbitration proceedings were concluded.
3. £6,919 4*s.* 5*d.* as compensation to the members of the consulting committee.
4. $418,937 as an allowance for cost of re-investment and for recoupment of loss of interest pending re-investment.
5. $37,865 to cover expenses of liquidation of the company. Reuter's Singapore correspondent telegraphed on July 7:—

"The announcement of the Tanjong-Pagar Dock award has been received locally with satisfaction. The award works out at $755 per $100 share. It is believed that the Government will be the gainers by the transaction. The total loan now necessary is five and a quarter millions sterling."

Local opinion must have changed greatly since the arbitration proceedings closed, for certain of the Dock Company's claims were severely criticised.

The Governor of the Straits Settlements on Friday announced an intended loan of £2,000,000 of which 1½ millions would be applied to the Singapore Harbour works, and half-a-million to Singapore river improvements.

The jury of freemen of the Goldsmiths' Company appointed to try the **accuracy,** both in weight and in fineness, of the **gold coins** manufactured at the **Colonial mints** of Sydney, Melbourne, and Perth, and of the gold and silver coins manufactured at the Royal Mint in London, on Thursday evening returned, as usual, highly satisfactory verdicts in respect of the coins submitted to them in accordance with the provisions of the Coinage Act, 1870. These verdicts are remarkable, not only as showing the marvellous accuracy of the coins under trial, but also as evidence of the skill displayed by the jurors in detecting the most infinitesimal amount of variation from the normal standard, and of the delicacy of the instruments employed for that purpose. To show how closely the coinage approaches perfection, it may be mentioned that at the trial last year the jury found that the coins taken from the Perth Mint, when melted into an ingot and assayed, only varied from the standard of fineness by minus six hundred thousandths (or —·00006); those from the Melbourne Mint by plus two ten thousandths (or +·0002); those from the Sydney Mint by plus fourteen hundred thousandths (or +·00014); and those from the Royal Mint by plus four hundred thousandths (or +·0004); difference in the four ingots being so trifling as to be incapable of realization by any but an expert.

The gold coined at the Royal Mint during the year 1905-06 amounted to £5,600,000, or £2,200,000 less than during the preceding year. The Colonial mints show an increase of nearly half a million, the amounts being £2,730,000 at Sydney, £3,847,000 at Melbourne, and £4,983,791 at Perth, or an aggregate of £11,566,791, against £11,104,007 in 1904-05.

The trial which in olden days took place in the presence of the Sovereign, and up to a comparatively recent date, before the Lord Chancellor and other great officers of State, has, since the Order in Council of June 29, 1871, been presided over by the King's Remembrancer. The proceedings this year began on June 12 with the trial of the Colonial mints. The trial of the Royal Mint began on July 4 and concluded on Thursday night.

The following official statement shows the **exports of cotton goods** (domestic manufacture) **from the United States** to the undermentioned countries during the month ended 31st May 1905 and 1906:—

Yarns and Textiles.

To	Month ended 31st May. 1905.	1906.
COLOURED AND UNCOLOURED CLOTHS—	Yards.	Yards.
United Kingdom	261,318	473,421
France	—	—
Germany	18,144	8,736
Other Europe	127,297	129,065
British North America	792,818	1,076,414
Central America and British Honduras	2,006,037	2,538,124
Mexico	375,968	177,639
Cuba	2,086,387	970,367
Other West Indies and Bermuda	2,126,514	2,163,097
Argentina	448,825	229,024
Brazil	876,569	323,313
Chile	1,597,562	489,020
Colombia	433,376	1,263,828
Venezuela	489,672	577,960
Other South America	890,917	445,155
Chinese Empire	51,456,621	30,702,112
British East Indies	703,200	51,232
Hong-Kong	54,498	37,357
Japan	182,986	29,187
British Australasia	680,091	1,159,588
Philippine Islands	1,234,316	758,918
Other Asia and Oceania	2,759,486	3,113,627
British Africa	293,396	570,159
All other Africa	132,847	11,304
Total quantity Yards.	70,028,845	47,298,647
Total Value Dols.	4,491,583	3,040,640
OTHER COTTON GOODS—	Dollars.	Dollars.
United Kingdom	59,752	248,719
Belgium	7,861	8,241
France	2,375	2,255
Germany	50,776	67,770
Netherlands	6,988	9,386
Other Europe	10,698	6,917
British North America	220,858	251,046
Central America and British Honduras	46,623	55,772
Mexico	59,006	44,876
Cuba	38,516	39,776
Other West Indies and Bermuda	20,800	22,312
Argentina	56,949	18,427
Brazil	11,711	1,334
Chile	1,309	1,807
Colombia	1,887	3,538
Venezuela	2,487	2,037
Other South America	5,092	6,737
Chinese Empire	36,638	5,082
British East Indies	552	572
Hong-Kong	2,959	4,133
British Australasia	47,972	41,527
Philippine Islands	5,528	106,160
Other Asia and Oceania	33,502	56,178
British Africa	26,972	14,111
All other Africa	2,813	761
Other countries	120	516
Total value Dols.	760,744	1,019,990
Grand Total value of all cotton goods exported Dols.	5,252,827	4,060,630

The **Crop Reporting** Board of the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Agriculture of the United States from the reports of its correspondents and agents finds as follows:—

Maize:—Preliminary returns to the Board show the acreage of maize planted to be about 95,535,000 acres, an increase of about 1,524,000 acres, or 1·62 per cent. on the area planted last year. The average condition of the growing crop on July 1 was 87·5 as compared with 87·3 on July 1, 1905, 86·4 on July 1, 1904, and a ten-year average of 86·4.

Winter Wheat.—The average condition of winter wheat on July 1 was 85·6, as compared with 83·0 last month, 82·7 on July 1 last year, 78·7 at the corresponding date in 19·4, and a ten-year average of 79·4.

Spring Wheat:—The average condition of spring wheat on July 1 was 91·4 as compared with 93·0 last month, 91·0 on July 1, 1905, 93·7 on July 1, 1904, and a ten-year average of 88·2.

The average condition of spring and winter wheat combined on July 1 was 87·8, as compared with 85·8 on July 1, 1905, 84·5 on July 1, 1904, and 80·0 at the corresponding date of 1903.

The amount of wheat remaining in the hands of farmers on July 1 is estimated at about 46,058,000 bushels, equivalent to about 6·7 per cent. of the crop of last year. Last year at the same date the amount still held was estimated at about 24,257,000 bushels, equivalent to about 4·4 per cent. of the crop of 1904.

Oats.—The average condition of oats on July 1 was 84 per cent., as compared with 86·0 per cent. last month., 92·1 per cent. on July 1, 1905, 89·8 per cent. on July 1, 1904, and a ten-year average of 89·4 per cent.

Barley.—The average condition of Barley on July 1 was 92·5, against 93·5 last month, 91·5 on July 1 last year, 88·5 on July 1, 1904, and a ten-year average of 88·2.

Winter Rye.—The average condition of winter rye on July 1 was 91·3, against 90 last month. 92·7 on July 1, 1905, and 88 at the corresponding date of 1904.

Mr. Heinzer, the New York Produce Exchange statistician, on the basis of the Government crop report, estimates the yield of winter wheat at 14·5 bushels per acre and a total crop of 429,534,000 bushels; the yield of spring wheat at 16·3 bushels per acre and a total crop of 293,221,000 bushels; the maize crop at 28·3 bushels per acre and the total crop 2,703,641 bushels; the oats crop at 31·6 bushels per acre and the total yield 874,625,000 bushels; the rye crop at 16·6 bushels per acre and the total yield 18,730,000 bushels; the barley crop at 28·9 bushels per acre and the total yield 147,592,000 bushels.

A Correspondent writing in the *Times* remarks that the recent agitation in connection with the **employment of Chinese coolies in the Transvaal** has led to a certain amount of comparison with an analogous system of labour, under which Indian coolies are used in our West Indian and

other tropical Colonies. It may, therefore, be interesting to show how in one of the remotest British Possessions these coolies are successfully assisting in the work of Imperial development. In the Fiji Islands it seems as if they are about to replace the natives and become the permanent population. The native Fijian is slowly dying out, notwithstanding the vigorous efforts that are being made to keep him alive, and unless others are found to take his place, the islands stand in danger of becoming depopulated. The census of 1901 gives the number of Fijians at 94,397 and the Indians at 17,105. Since then the Fiji Blue-book for 1904, the latest authority to hand, puts the former at 90,063, a shrinkage of 4,334, and the latter at 22,790, an increase of 5,685 in the three years. For some little time past the health of the natives has been better, and for 1905 the Fijians probably stand at nearly the same figure, namely, about 90,000, whilst the Indians have increased to 25,000. Indian immigration into Fiji only began in 1879, and at first the coolie was unpopular, as his physique did not compare favourably with that of the Fijians, but he soon proved himself the better man, and it looks as if he had come to stop. The method under which he is introduced is practically identical with that employed in most of the other Crown Colonies, namely the indenture system. The immigrant arrives under an agreement to remain in the Colony for a period of ten years for the first five of which he is bound to labour for an employer, who has paid for his introduction, and for his return home. He begins with a shilling a day, and has in addition lodgings and medical attendance. For the remaining five years he is at liberty to do as he likes, and can either reindenture himself, for which he would get a bounty, or go out as a domestic servant; or he can take up land, and at the expiration of ten years he is entitled to his free passage home. But most of them settle on the land and remain permanently in the Colony. The Annual Report for 1904 stated that on December 31st of that year there were 22,790 Indian immigrants in the Colony. Of these it may be reckoned that about 10,000 had completed the terms of their indentures and had principally taken up land, having the following acreage and crops under cultivation:—Sugarcane, 4,755 acres; bananas, 717; maize, 270; rice, 3,003; tobacco, 10; dhall, 103; other products, 292—total acreage, 9170. These settlers also possessed 291 horses, 4,229 head of cattle, 2,717 goats, and 10,215 poultry. The figures are well within the mark, as some of the statistics from small and scattered villages had not been recorded. The districts of Navua and Rewa are the most favoured by the Indians. In the former they held 3,000 acres, and are considerable cultivators of sugarcane, of which they sold 53,135 tons to the central mill of the Fiji Sugar Company (Limited) and received in payment £24,996 14*s*. This mill only commenced purchasing cane from the Indians in 1894, when they bought 2,676 tons for £1,128. In the ten years, therefore, the production has increased by 50,459 tons, with an additional money value of £23,868. In the Rewa districts during 1904 there were 1,381 acres under sugarcane, which produced a crop of 26,290 tons, realizing £12,602. The total value of this staple for the two districts was therefore £37,598. The other crops, such as rice, bananas, etc., computed at a low average output, may be put down as worth £30,000; the live stock at £26,689; and savings also to the amount of £16,152 were held by the various banks. In addition to this a great quantity of jewelry (the traditional method of investment by Indians), and a large amount of buried money and loose cash is in the possession of these settlers, which at the very lowest may be reckoned at £30,000, and the value of their landed property is not less than £100,000. It would appear, then, that from all sources the Indians in Fiji possess some £240,430, or, reckoning their present numbers with the 1905 influx at 25,000, an average potential wealth of £9 12*s*. 4*d*. a piece.

The comparative figures, 18[illegible] the **export and import trade passing** through **Chagai** for May 1906 and 1905 stand as under:—

	1906.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Afghanistan	5,786	40,744	...	34,958
Persia	33,251	29,973	3,278	...
Baluchistan	68,319	59,521	8,798	...
Total	1,07,356	1,30,238	12,076	34,958

The accounts show a net decrease of Rs. 22,882.

A meeting of merchants and representatives of firms engaged in the East Indian trade was held on the 10th July, at the "Baltic" Sales Room, St. Mary-axe, for the purpose of forming an association. The President moved a resolution stating that it was expedient in the interests of British trade in India and the Far East that **an association** should be formed **to consider, promote, and protect the interests of the members** in their **dealings with the East Indies,** to promote or oppose legislative and other measures affecting the well-being of the association, and to collect and circulate statistics and other information relating to trade, commerce, and shipping, so far as it might be of benefit and interest to the members; also to register the organization as a limited liability company under the name of the East India Merchants' Association. In a short speech he enlarged on the commercial advantages to be derived from such an organization as was proposed. The resolution was adopted. Sir H. Seymour King, M.P., was elected president and Mr. W. Lindley, Honorary Treasurer. A council of 15 members was elected, and a set of rules was adopted. One of the rules was to the effect that a private register should be kept by the secretary of fraudulent dealers and manufacturers.

INDIA'S TRADE WITH THE WORLD.

Trade with Countries.

The following shows the trade of India with the various countries of the world in merchandise, imported and exported for five years (in Rupees with 0000 omitted)—

	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
Europe	130,70,51	131,15,12	157,37,21	169,00,76	171,42,98
Africa and adjacent island	11,49,58	14,15,50	8,79,80	8,09,20	8,17,69
Asia	49,47,53	48,32,60	55,70,30	59,57,09	62,39.01
America	11,60,62	12,04,57	13,38,43	14,93,19	19,45,48
Australia	2,70,06	1,92,53	2,52,55	2,02,57	3,30,13
Total	205,98,30	207,60,39	237,78,29	254,17,81	264,75,28

The trade with Africa was exaggerated up to 1902-03 in consequence of large shipments of produce consigned to Port Said, to await orders for delivery, being credited to Egypt. The apparent falling off in the trade with Africa is not, therefore, real. When the new system of registering imports by country of consignment and exports by country of destination is properly established the trade with America will perhaps appear to have unduly increased, for at present a small share of the trade with that Continent is credited to Europe and Asia. There has been a slight relative set-back in the trade with Europe, which fell from 66·5 per cent. of the whole to 64·8 per cent. The trade with Asia (23·6 per cent.) was practically the same during the four preceding years (23·4 per cent.). The total trade with America, of which 78·5 per cent. was with the United States, increased by about 30 per cent. In the case of Europe the exports thereto were only slightly lower than the imports therefrom (Imports—Rs. 8,592 lakhs, Exports—Rs. 8,551 lakhs). In the case of the other Continents, however, the export trade very largely exceeds the import trade: exports to Africa were twice as much as the imports therefrom, to Asia four and a half times, to America eight times—in 1904-05 it was nine times—, and to Australasia, about three times.

The following statement shows India's trade with each principal country for the last four years:—

	1902-03.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
1. United Kingdom	84,66,27	96,30,58	106,17,59	109,45.45
2. China	18,19,23	20,03,66	21,62,93	23 26,58
3. Germany	12,33,76	17,73,97	18,03,84	19,11,24
4. United States	9,74,80	10,33,52	11,21,73	15,27,13
5. France	10,54,95	11,47,54	11,36,47	11,30,48
6. Japan	6,70,48	9,74,06	10,91,84	11,23,50
7. Belgium	8,05,72	10,97,50	11,91,95	10,98,62
8. Straits Settlements	10,09,71	9,87,22	9,51,00	8,95,45
9. Austria-Hungary	5,77,09	7,03,01	8,70,63	8,92,17
10. Ceylon	5,24,51	5,41,19	5,73,50	6,36,32
11. Italy	4,25,47	5,93,88	5,54,18	5,94,94
12. Mauritius	3,13,20	3,85,85	3,19,55	3,26,09
13. Australia	1,57,78	2,13,39	2,19,32	2,91,30
14. Java	85,07	1,62,04	2,47,01	2,32,96
15. Holland	1,42 80	2,60,36	3,01,76	2,38,14
16. Egypt	8,02,05	1,92,91	1,93,58	1,95,53
17. Russia	3,09,64	3,28,73	2,25,57	87,44

In determining from the figures as they appear in the accounts, the trading interests of certain countries with India, and in making comparisons, much care is necessary: for in the case of imported goods, the countries containing the ports from which the goods were shipped direct to India are credited with the trade as are also the countries containing the ports at which goods were transhipped, except when goods are shipped on a through bill-of-lading, in which case the country containing the port at which the Bill was granted is credited with the trade. In the case of exported goods, the countries containing the ports at which the goods are discharged, whether destined for that country or not, are credited with the trade. Taking the figures as they stand, the share of the United Kingdom, which is a long way ahead of the other countries, in 1905-06 was much the same as in 1904-05 (41·8 per cent. in the earlier year and 41·3 in the latter). India's trade with Russia fell away very considerably, from Rs. 225·57 lakhs in 1904-05 to Rs. 87·44 lakhs in 1905-06 or a fall of 61·3 per cent. In the list of countries enumerated above, Russia stands 17th, but even 17th would not be her position if countries with a larger trade than hers were also specified but which from want of room are not.

Sources of Imported Merchandise.

The Sources of Imported Merchandise are, in the trade accounts of India, assumed to be those countries from which the goods were shipped in such vessels as landed them in India. In the case of transhipment cargo, the port of such transhipment therefore appears as the port of origin unless a through bill of landing was granted at the port of original shipment. When such through bill of lading has been granted, the country of first shipment is assigned as the country of origin. Arrangements have now been made and will shortly come into force by which the true countries of origin will be more correctly ascertained; but it will be necessary for some years to conduct retrospective comparisons on the basis of the old system. According to that old system, the value of the imports was distributed among the various principal countries in the proportions indicated below:—

	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
	o/o	o/o	o/o	o/o	o/o
1. United Kingdom	64·5	66·3	64·9	65·2	66·7
2. Belgium	3·7	3·9	3·9	3·6	4·3
3. Germany	3·7	2·7	3·4	3·9	4·2
4. Austria-Hungary	4·8	3·2	2·6	4·1	3·9
5. Straits Settlements	2·9	2·9	2·9	3·2	2·4
6. United States	1·4	1·5	1·5	1·1	2·2
7. Mauritius	2·4	2·5	3·1	2·1	2
8. Java	0·5	0·7	1·4	2·1	1·8
9. China	2·2	2·8	2·3	2	1·7
10. France	1·7	1·8	1·9	1·9	1·7
11. Japan	·87	1	1·5	1·2	1·2
12. Italy	1·2	1	1·1	1·3	1·1
13. Russia	3·9	3·4	2·9	1·7	0·27

The United Kingdom has increased its predominance. Belgium appears to hold second place with 4·3%; but it is well known that large quantities of German goods, being shipped from Belgian and Dutch ports, are erroneously credited to these countries. There can, therefore, be no doubt that Germany really occupies the second place. Austria-Hungary, in spite of her enormous shipments of sugar, has ceded the second place, which she held by virtue of the diffusion of Germany's total; but the decline was only relative. Java and Mauritius, as the representatives of cane sugar, have nearly maintained their position, having indeed had the sugar trade pretty well to themselves about July 1905; while the United States have doubled their share. Russia has, for the present, practically dropped out of the table; but Japan has retained her percentage of the increased total. The importance of China's direct shipment has diminished, and there has also been a fall in imports from the Straits Settlements which, as a port of transhipment, does much to confuse the statistical records of the East.

Imports of Government Stores are not included in these figures. These are large, amounting to R902·7 lakhs in 1905-06 as against R773 lakhs in 1904-05; and the share of the United Kingdom in this part of the trade, while showing a relative decline from 94% to 90% of the total, marked an absolute increase of 11·4%, *i.e.*, from R728·1 to R811·16 lakhs.

Material for State Railways forms a considerable part of the total; and this and the other stores, with unimportant exceptions, in reality represent commercial operations. The following figures therefore show the share of the United Kingdom in the total import trade including Government Stores.

1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
67%	68·9%	67·3%	67·4%	68·6%

General Distribution of the Export Trade.

The value of the exports of Indian produce and manufactures in the last five years was distributed in the ratios stated below among the principal countries with which the trade is carried on.

	Countries.	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
1	United Kingdom	25·1	25·2	27·1	27·5	25·3
2	China	14·5	12·6	11·9	12·6	13·5
3	Germany	8·4	8	9·9	9·2	8·9
4	United States	6·9	6·7	6	6·3	8·2
5	Japan	5·7	4·6	5·6	6·3	6·3
6	France	7·3	7·2	6·6	6·2	5·9
7	Belgium	3·9	3·9	5·1	5·4	4·0
8	Straits Settlements	5·2	6	4·8	4·1	3·9
9	Ceylon	3·7	3·5	3	3·2	3·5
10	Italy	2·4	2·7	3·3	2·7	2·9
11	Austria-Hungary	2	2·5	3·2	3	2·8
12	Egypt	4·4	6·1	·9	·8	2·2

Egypt, which in 1902-03 was sixth in the list, fell to the last place in 1903-04 in consequence of the change made in crediting to the countries of final destination, instead of to Egypt, the large shipments of produce, principally rice and wheat, originally consigned to Port Said to await orders for delivery. This last position she has retained for three consecutive years. It is probable also that the position of China, which has been steadily second, will be affected considerably when the exports now being recorded with reference to country of destination, come to be scrutinised; for both Singapore and Hong-Kong are transhipment ports for the Eastern trade. The relative position of the countries remained practically unchanged in 1905-06.

The United Kingdom of course, continued to be a long way ahead of any other country, but its proportion to the total export trade fell from 27·5 per cent. to 25·3 per cent., a relative decline of 2·2 per cent. Italy and Austria-Hungary changed places owing to a proportionately larger increase in the exports to the former country.

Balance of Trade.

The excess of exports over imports, including treasure as well as merchandise, for each of the last six years was (in Rs.)

Year.	Including Government transactions.	Excluding Government transactions.
1900-01	16,47,46,000	22,10,20,000
1901-02	26,98,43,000	31,76,01,000
1902-03	27,85,62,000	33,58,17,000
1903-04	37,44,27,000	44,34,24,000
1904-05	30,21,62,000	35,77,13,000
1905-06	33,54,09,000	44,16,01,000

In the same period the drawings of the Secretary of State in Council bills have been—

Year.	£	Exchange, pence.	Rs.
1900-01	13,300,276	15·973	=19,98,38,000
1901-02	18,539,071	15·987	=27,83,02,000
1902-03	18,499,947	16·002	=27,74,67,000
1903-04	23,859,303	16·049	=35,67,95,000
1904-05	24,425,558	16·045	=36,53,57,000
1905-06	31,566,972	16·042	=47,22,65,000

The excess of exports, including Government transactions, rose from Rs. 3,021·62 lakhs in 1904-05 to Rs. 3,354·09 lakhs in 1905-06, or an increase of Rs. 667·53 lakhs, being almost as much above the 1904-05 surplus as the latter was below that for 1903-04. In striking the balance of India's trade, it must be remembered that the figures quoted above represent only the registered trade and that only at British Indian ports. Some adjustments have therefore to be made on account of the unregistered trade and the trade of the French and Portuguese Settlements in India. The unregistered trade consists largely of trade carried on (chiefly by native craft from ports in the Native States on the West Coast of India) with Persia, Arabia, and Ceylon; and it is supposed that the exports therefrom greatly exceed the imports thereto. The value of the large re-exports of pearls from Bombay is also not registered as the pearls are sent away from India by letter post, and the trade is therefore not recorded. The trade of the French Settlements has been in the five years ending 1904-05 (the Statistics for 1905-06 have not yet been received) :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Excess of Exports.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1900-01	14,86,630	54,89,488	40,02,858
1901-02	13,61,496	1,39,35,776	1,25,74,280
1902-03	17,36,236	1,19,40,994	1,02,04,758
1903-04	37,37,708	96,75,216	59,37,508
1904-05	17,13,449	1,42,10,414	1,24,96,965

The trade of the Portuguese Settlements for the five years ending 1903-04 (the Statistics for 1904-05 and 1905-06 not having been yet received) has been :—

Year.	Imports.	Exports.	Excess of Imports.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1899-1900	1,49,503	49,594	99,909
1900-01	1,47,053	48,994	98,059
1901-02	2,67,399	36,000	2,31,399
1902-03	2,15,718	1,58,147	57,571
1903-04	1,44,216	2,42,510	—98,294

It should also not be overlooked that the exports of Government Stores in some years—as for instance at the time of the South African War and the Somaliland expedition—unduly swell the total exports from India; they are also imperfectly recorded for there is not obligation on the part of the officials concerned in the export of those stores to pass them through the Customs.

ENQUIRIES.

SEEDS—INDIAN—EXPORTERS.

An equiry has been received from a firm of wholesale seed merchants and general importers in Melbourne for the names of reliable firms of exporters of Indian seeds, and for quotations c. i. f. and e, or f. o. b. Melbourne.

Full particulars may be learned on application to the Office of the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street, Calcutta

BROKEN TILES AND EARTHENWARE.

A firm of manufacturers of tiles, etc., in England, enquires for the names of importers of broken tiles and earthenware in Indian cities. Apply in the first instance to the Office of the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street, Calcutta.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

BENGAL.

Standardization of Weights and Measures.—At their meeting of 5th June, the committee considered letter of 19th May from the Secretary, Upper India Chamber of Commerce, Cawnpore, drawing attention, by means of a tabulated statement, to the great lack of uniformity in weights and measures in use in the United Provinces. The Committee of the Upper India Chamber of Commerce were of opinion that no radical change could be brought about unless the Indian Railway administrations were prepared to take the lead by introducing fixed units for the calculation of freight, and considered it was only by the introduction of English weights and measures that the object in view could be achieved, as the same want of uniformity prevailed throughout India. The Committee were asked whether they would support a representation to Government on the subject, and their views were invited on the question generally.

In reply to this communication the Committee of the Upper India Chamber were informed that the matter had already been dealt with to some extent in this Province as the views of the Chamber on the question of standardization of weights and measures in rural areas and in Municipalities had been submitted to the Government of Bengal in July 1905, in the Committee's letter of 27th July 1905, of which a copy was forwarded to the Upper India Chamber for information. In this letter the Committee had suggested a permissive standardization based on the tola of 180 grains instead of the proposal to legalise different standards in different Municipalities. It was also pointed out to the Upper India Chamber that all railways in India have a fixed standard under the Railway Conference regulations, which laid down that the maund of 82·29 lbs. divided into 40 seers shall be the standard weight on all railways.

The Committee were not prepared to say whether they would be able to join in a representation to Government, without knowing the exact lines on which the representation would be made.

Registration of Partnerships.—At their meeting of 5th June, the Committee considered letter of 22nd May, from the Under-Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, referring to the Conference held on the 24th March 1905 by the Honourable the Legal Member with representatives of the Chamber, and enquiring whether any progress had been made towards the solution of the difficulty connected with the Hindu joint family system as affecting the draft bill. The matter had been in

abeyance owing to the illness of the Honourable Mr. Nalin Behari Sircar, but the Secretary had been in communication with other leading Bengali and Marwari gentlemen who had undertaken to send in statements of their views with regard to the provisions of the bill in this particular connection.

It was decided to write a letter to the Government of India explaining the position.

Government of India Crop Forecasts.—At their meeting of the 5th June, the Committee considered letter of 26th May, from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, intimating, in reply to to an enquiry made by the Secretary that all general memoranda on crops, as distinct from Provincial forecasts, would be published in future in the *Indian Trade Journal*, and that their issue in leaflet form would be discontinued. The forecasts would also be displayed on the door of the Office of the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence. The Committee have since addressed the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, with regard to this decision, pointing out the great inconvenience which would result from the introduction of the new system and expressing the hope that the old system would be reverted to. It had been the custom of the Chamber for many years past to reprint these leaflets and circulate them with the Weekly Price Current to their constituents and also to the Chambers of Commerce abroad, and in the view of the Committee all information of this kind should be placed at the disposal of the mercantile community and also of the public generally, without charge, in the manner in which it can be most quickly and widely disseminated. The Committee have not yet received any reply to this representation.

Jute Adulteration Bill.—At their meeting of the 5th June the Committee had the following letters before them :—

(*a*) Letter of 23rd May from the Secretary to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, forwarding copies of his letter of same date to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Eastern Bengal and Assam, and stating that the legislation proposed would effect many interests and require careful attention. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor enquired if the Chamber would inform him how far the proposal to levy a cess was supported by manufacturers and exporters.

(*b*) Letter of 29th May, from the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, intimating that legislation could not be undertaken during the present season, but that Commissioners of Divisions and certain selected Associations were being consulted, and when their opinions had been received and considered the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam would also be consulted as to the introduction of a common Bill for the purpose in view.

It was decided to reply to the first of these letters pointing out that, as Government had already been informed, the draft bill had received the support of the three Associations connected with jute, which represented not only manufacturers but also exporters of the raw material and of the manufactured article. The Committee would not have submitted the bill had they not been satisfied that it represented the general feeling, and they did not think it was possible to obtain any fuller expression of the views of the mercantile community interested in the trade than had already been given.

Local Purchase of Government Stores.—At their meeting of the 5th June, to the Committee had before them copy of letter of 1st June from the Secretary, Calcutta Trades' Association, to the Secretary, Stores Committee, replying to an enquiry from Government as to whether information could be furnished proving that articles could be purchased in India at a price bearing a reasonable comparison with that of articles of a similar quality purchased in England. A very important point had been raised in this letter, *viz.* the question of import duty, which clearly affected the price. The Committee of the Trades Association enquired in what way Government proposed to deal with the import duty on imported stores purchased in this country as they believed that all stores imported by the Government of India were admitted into the country duty free. In face of this the Committee of the Trades' Association were nevertheless able to quote cases of stores supplied cheaper in the country, which had paid import duty, than Government stores imported free.

The Committee have drawn the attention of the Committee of the Engineering and Iron Trades' Association to the point in question.

Assessment of Income Tax.—At their meeting of the 5th June, the Committee considered letter of 26th May, from the Secretary, Madras Chamber of Commerce, forwarding copy of correspondence with the Madras Government on the action of the Income-tax Assessors in imposing in certain cases an arbitrary percentage on the year's turn over instead of determining the actual profits on examination of the books. The Committee were asked if similar instances had been brought to their notice, and if so, whether they would be prepared to join in a representation to the Government of India on the subject. The case in point had been submitted to the Government of Madras, but they had stated it was impossible to dispense with such procedure until all parties assessed maintained complete, trustworthy, and intelligible accounts, and had declined to reverse the decision of the Collector.

In considering this matter the Committee felt that when the Income tax Assessors found accounts incomplete and unreliable and profits could not be at once ascertained there was no alternative but an arbitrary assessment.

As no complaints had been received by the Committee with regard to the Calcutta Income-tax Office they did not see their way to support the Madras Chamber in the matter, and the latter had been informed accordingly.

Consolidated Jute Forecasts.—In consequence of the formation of the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, in which most of the important jute-growing districts are included, the question was raised as to whether each Province should issue its own independent forecast of the jute crop, or whether a consolidated forecast incorporating figures for both Provinces should be published. The Committee were consulted on the matter by the Director of Agriculture, Bengal, and after a reference to the Associations representing the different branches of the jute trade and to firms interested in the trade, they ascertained that there was a unanimous opinion in favour of a consolidated forecast to be published simultaneously, both at Dacca and in Calcutta. The preliminary forecast of the jute crop for 1906, for both Provinces, was accordingly published simultaneously at Dacca and Calcutta on Saturday the 14th July at 12 o'clock standard time, 12-24 P.M. local time.

Indian Coinage Act.—Referring to the Note in the last abstract of proceedings, the Committee have submitted to Government a list of members of the Chamber who have intimated their willingness to co-operate in clearing the coinage of counterfeit silver by accepting authority to cut counterfeit coin

Import Duty on Steel Discs—Assessment of Import Duty on Circular Steel Plates or Discs.—With reference to the note in the abstract of proceedings for April, in which it was intimated that the Committee had supported the representation made by the Karachi Chamber in favour of an alteration in the Import Tariff Schedule, the Committee have been informed by the Government of India that they are unable to accept the suggestion.

Rates for Urgent and Ordinary Telegrams.—Referring to the paragraph on this subject in the abstract of proceedings for March, the Committee have been informed by the Director-General of Telegraphs that while the Government of India recognise that an anomaly exists in the charges for Inland Telegrams, when messages exceed 16 words, which at some future time it will be necessary to remedy, they are unable to make any reduction in the charge for additional words at present, or to hold out hopes that it will be possible to do so at an early date.

Postage Rates to France and Germany.—An announcement by the British Post Office, appearing in the *Indian Trade Journal*, intimates that letters from Great Britain addressed to France and Germany, weighing more than half an ounce, but not more than 15 grammes, are not surcharged if only stamped with $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ The Committee have supported a representation made by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce in favour of introducing a similar ruling in this country in connection with the postage on letters to France and Germany.

BOMBAY CHAMBER.

READ letter, dated 2nd June 1906, from Messrs Ferbenfabriken Bayer & Co., Ltd., calling attention to the following announcement in the *Indian Trade Journal's* issue of 24th May 1906, namely that :—

> "**Metric Weights** are now used in the British Post Office. The Secretary to the Post Office has informed the Decimal Association that letters addressed to France and Germany weighing more than $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., but not more than 15 grammes, if only stamped $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ are not surcharged."

The firm also forwarded a letter from the Presidency Post-Master, Bombay, in which it was stated that the Metric System had not been adopted by the Indian Postal Department.

RESOLUTION.—The matter to be brought to the notice of the Director-General, Post Offices, India, with a request that a similar privilege might be conceded in favour of the postage charges between India and the above named countries. Copies of the Committee's letter to be forwarded to the other Chambers of Commerce in India and to the Department of Commerce and Industry. Messrs. Farbenfabriken Bayer & Co. to be advised of the action taken.

(The Bengal Chamber replied promising to support the Committee's recommendation.)

READ letter, dated 19th May 1906, from the Upper India Chamber of Commerce, calling attention to the **lack of uniformity in the Weights and Measures in general use in this country.**

RESOLUTION.—The Upper India Chamber of Commerce to be informed that the question has been before the Bombay Chamber for many years, and that the Committee fully sympathised with the proposal, but were sensible of the many difficulties which must beset the introduction of any uniform system for all India. State that the Committee concur with the Upper India Chamber in feeling that the best way to effect any such change would be for the various Railway Administrations to take the lead by adopting a standard unit of weight, and that the Bombay Chamber would be prepared to support a representation to Government, advocating the adoption of the English Pound as the unit of weight throughout the Railway Administrations in India. Add that as a permanent measure the Committee were strongly in favour of introducing the Decimal System into this country, but they realized that the country was not yet ripe for such a change, and that it would be unprofitable to urge its adoption in India until it had generally been accepted throughout the British Empire.

READ letter, dated 28th May 1906, from the Madras Chamber of Commerce, forwarding copies of correspondence with the Local Government with reference to the action of the **Income Tax assessors** in imposing in certain cases an arbitrary percentage in the year's turnover instead of determining the actual profits in the usual manner, after examining

the assessees' books. The Madras Chamber enquired whether the Bombay Chamber would be prepared to join in a representation to the Government of India on the subject.

RESOLUTION.—The Madras Chamber to be informed that the subject has received the best consideration of the Committee, who, however, regretted that they did not at present see their way to supporting a representation to Government on the question. Add that while realizing the possibility of individual cases of hardship, they felt that under existing conditions in this country, it would not be feasible to introduce a general change in Government procedure in this matter as long as accounts, as kept by the people, could not be relied on for purposes of exact deduction.

READ letter, dated 8th June 1906, from the Manager, New Zealand Insurance Company, calling attention to the **practice of watering Cotton before being pressed in bales,** and suggesting that this might be the cause of the alleged spontaneous combustion in the recent cotton fires. Also communication from the Bombay Cotton Trade Association.

RESOLUTION.—The New Zealand Insurance Company to be informed that while the watering of cotton has become a more general practice of late, the Committee could not believe that this in itself was the cause of spontaneous combustion. Add that thousands of bales pressed under similar conditions to those burnt at Colaba had been stored at the local Mills and shipped abroad from time to time, yet no instance had been reported of spontaneous combustion either in the Mill godowns or in the holds of steamers where the conditions would seem more favourable to such a result. In these circumstances the Committee felt that as far as the fires were concerned, no good purpose would be served by addressing Government in the matter.

Read letter, dated 7th June 1906, from the Bombay Cotton Trade Association, Limited, calling attention to the recent fires at Colaba and the **inadequate Water Supply,** and requesting the Chamber to bring the matter before Government with the object of pointing out the urgent necessity of steps being taken to increase the Water Supply in Bombay.

Resolution.—Government to be addressed pointing out that the insufficiency of water in Bombay has been a matter of common knowledge for many years, and that this constitutes a serious danger to health and may result in an outbreak of an epidemic. That the supply at Tansa Lake is quite sufficient for the requirements of this city, but that the present 48″ main is too small to convey the required amount. Suggest, therefore, that this main should be duplicated, that full pressure of water should always be available to enable the Fire Brigades to cope with fires; that the Municipality be permitted to raise the necessary loan of 60 lakhs for the duplication of the Tansa Main; and ask Government to assist the Municipality in this respect by allowing them to raise the money by loans for 60 years as has been done by the Improvement Trust and the Port Trust, and as was also allowed in the case of the original loan for the Tansa Water Works.

Read letter, dated 21st June 1906, from the Bombay Millowners' Association, submitting a **Scheme for the formation of a Roving Commission to enquire into the adulteration of Indian Cotton** forwarded to Bombay for export and local use.

Resolution.—To be informed that the Committee have carefully considered the proposal, but consider that before any definite action could be taken it would be advisable for the scheme to be discussed in detail by a Sub-Committee consisting of representatives of the Chamber, the Millowners' Association and the Cotton Trade Association.

Read letter, dated 4th June 1906, from the Bombay Government, stating that H. E. the Governor in Council desired to appoint a Committte to consider and report what new arrangements, if any, should be made for the **transaction of Custom House business in view of the Scheme for new Docks** now being carried out by the Port Trustees; and asking the Chamber to intimate the name of the person whom they proposed as their representative on the said Committee.

Resolution.—Government to be informed that the Hon'ble Mr. H. E. E. Procter has been nominated to represent the Chamber on the Committee in question.

Read letter, dated 8th June 1906, from the Director-General of Telegraphs with reference to the Chamber's representation about the anomaly in the **Charges for Urgent and Ordinary Telegrams** when messages exceeded sixteen words. The Director stated that the matter had been carefully considered by the Government of India, and while they recognised that an anomaly existed which, at some future time, it would be necessary to remedy, they regretted their inability to make any reduction in the charge for additional words at present, or to hold out hopes that it would be possible to do so at an early date.

Resolution.—To be recorded.

Read letter, dated 15th June 1906, from the Commissioner of Customs, Salt, Opium and Abkari, acknowledging receipt of the Chamber's letter of 14th May 1906 on the subject of the **draft Rules for the importation and bonding of Foreign Salt at Bombay** and stating that it had been decided that reweighments of salt should be conducted by the Government Staff at the cost of Government, and that sweepings should be destroyed periodically by the Warehouse Officers after reference to the Collector.

Resolution.—The Commissioner to be thanked and Messrs. Turner Morrison and Co. informed of the reply received by the Chamber.

UPPER INDIA.

The Decimal Association.

The Decimal Association and the Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, have addressed the Director

General of the Post Office in India asking that the system obtaining in England, whereby letters addressed to France and Germany stamped for a weight of half an ounce are not surcharged even though this weight is exceeded by 15 grammes, shall be extended to India. The Bombay Chamber has asked for the support of this Chamber and the Director General of the Post Office has been informed that the Committee are in accord with the Bombay Chamber's views on this subject.

Commercial Mission to South Eastern Persia.

The Committee have passed and forwarded to Mr. Gleadowe Newcomen, late President of the Commercial Mission to South Eastern Persia, a Resolution expressing the Chamber's appreciation of the manner in which he carried out his duties as leader of the Mission.

Copies of Mr. Newcomen's Report can be obtained by members and others on application to the Secretary of the Chamber on payment of one Rupee only per copy.

Indo-Persian Trade.

The Government of India have informed the Chamber that in response to an enquiry addressed to him, His Britannic Majesty's Chargè d'Affaires at Tehran has expressed the opinion that under the conditions at present prevailing in Persia, it would be futile to endeavour to secure recognition of the commercial principle that acceptance of a Bill of Exchange involves payment on due date. His Britannic Majesty's Chargè d'Affaires recommends careful enquiries being made by Indian exporters regarding the standing of traders in Persia with whom it is proposed to do business.

The Scale of Charges for Inland Telegrams.

The Director General of Telegraphs has replied to the Chamber's representation on the subject of the scale of charges for Inland Deferred Telegrams, that, while it is recognized that an anomaly exists which may require to be removed later on, he is not prepared to recommend any change at present.

KARACHI.

Use of Metric Weights in the Indian Postal Department.

READ letter No. 144-s-F. P., dated 12th July 1906, from the Director-General of the Post Office of India, acknowledging this Chamber's letter of 22nd June 1906 supporting the representation of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce that the concession made by the British Post Office in regard to postal charges on letters addressed to France and Germany may be extended to India. The Director-General states in reply, that the matter will be considered.

RESOLUTION.—To be recorded.

Contamination of European Sugar in the process of purification.

READ letter, dated 9th July 1906, from the I. and R. Austro-Hungarian Consular Agent, Karachi, forwarding for the information of the Chamber, a translation of an Official Statement describing the process of manufacturing and refining Beet Sugar, forwarded to him by the Austro-Hungarian Consul General in Calcutta.

RESOLUTION.—To be acknowledged and recorded.

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh Crop Reports.

READ letter, No. 1813-XI-473, dated 16th July 1906, from the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, United Provinces, stating in reply to the Chamber letter No. 421, dated 30th May 1906, that in future an attempt will be made to give in the first forecast an arithmetical estimate of the area under wheat, but that the estimate must, however, be rough as exact area figures are not available till the month of April. As regards the Chamber's suggestion that all forecasts should be published at one central city such as Calcutta, the Director suggests that the Chamber should address the Government of India on the subject.

RESOLUTION.—To be acknowledged, circulated and recorded. The Director-General of Commercial Intelligence to be asked if it is not possible to fix dates on which crop forecasts will be published and to issue the forecasts in uniform statements on these dates from one centre instead of from various provincial capitals as at present. The Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Poona, to be asked if separate and more detailed crop forecasts can be issued for Sind.

Carrying capacity of the North-Western Railway.

READ letter, dated 30th June 1906, from the Chairman of the Chamber, referring to the Committee's conference with the Honourable Mr. S. Finney, C.I.E., Manager, North-Western Railway, on the 26th June 1906, and suggesting that Government be addressed on the subject of the probable increase of traffic over the North-Western Railway during the next ten years (consequent upon irrigational developments, etc.,) and asked if adequate provision for the transport of this greatly increased traffic is now being undertaken. (Consideration deferred from last meeting.)

RESOLUTION.—The Railway Board to be addressed regarding the present carrying powers of the North-Western Railway and probable requirements in the near future.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

The Board of Trade Journal published on the 12th July, in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations, gives particulars about :—

BELGIUM—SAN SALVADOR.—Proposed Commercial Convention.

FRANCE.—Proposed Modifications of the French Tariff.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Duty on Catalogues.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—Regulations respecting the Importation of Morphine.

SWEDEN.—Revised Tariff.

FRANCE.—Denunciation **Modus Vivendi** with Spain.

SPAIN.—Maximum Tariff to be applied to Swiss Goods.

AUSTRIA—HUNGARY—SWITZERLAND.—Prolongation of Period for ratification of New Commercial Treaty.

AUSTRIA—HUNGARY—SERVIA.—Commercial Relations between the above Countries.

TURKEY-SERVIA.—New Commercial Treaty.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.—Food Analysis. Contemplated Revision of Methods.

HAYTI.—Tariff Classification Tin Basins.

SAN SALVADOR.—Customs Decisions.

We give the following particulars of **changes interesting to Indian Trade** :—

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

The Importation of Morphine—Regulations respecting.

The attention of the Board of Trade has been drawn by the Colonial Office to the fact that considerable quantities of morphia have been shipped to the Straits Settlements in contravention of the provisions of the Morphine Ordinance, 1904 (No. 14 of 1904), which regulates the importation, sale, and use of morphine in the Colony.

Under this Ordinance, which repeals the Morphine Ordinance No. 15 of 1903, it is provided that :—

"No person shall import morphine into any Settlement for the purpose of landing the same in the Colony, or shall export morphine from any Settlement to another Settlement or to any place in the Federated Malay States, except with the permission in writing of the Principal Civil Medical Officer, or in his absence from any Settlement, of a Government Medical Officer, authorized in writing by him, and in accordance with the conditions prescribed in such permission."

Every person who imports, or attempts to import, any morphine in contravention of the above conditions shall be liable on conviction before a Police Court, to a fine not exceeding 1,000 dols., or to imprisonment of either description not exceeding 6 months, or to both such punishments, or for a second or subsequent offence, on conviction before a Bench Court, to a fine not exceeding 2,000 dols., or imprisonment of either description for any term not exceeding 12 months.

All morphine and syringes with respect of which any offence has been committed against the above-mentioned Ordinance, together with the vessels and packages in which such morphine, or syringe may be found, may be seized by any Police or Revenue Officer and may be forfeited by order of a Police Court, and upon such forfeiture shall be delivered to the Principal Civil Officer.

The Ordinance provides that "morphine" shall include morphia and all salts of morphine, and any alkaloid or salt of an alkaloid of opium, and any solution thereof.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Food Analysis—Methods—Contemplated Revision of.

With reference to previous notices in the "Journal" on the subject of "pure Food" legislation in the United States, the Board of Trade are now in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of a Circular issued by the United States Department of Agriculture containing particulars of changes in the methods for the analysis of foods, with special reference to the detection of adulteration, which have been authorised since 1901, the date when the last general regulations on this subject were provisionally adopted.

In view of the general revision of the methods of examination which is in contemplation, the Circular invites persons interested to call attention, as promptly as possible, to any inaccuracies or inconsistencies in the present regulations which may have come to their notice.

WEATHER SUMMARY.

For the week ending the 28th July 1906.

DURING the period under review there was heavy rain in Chota Nagpur, Gujarat, Ahmedabad and in the western half of the Central Provinces, light to moderate rain in north-east India, Orissa and Eastern Bengal and Assam, moderate to heavy rain in the Central Provinces, the west of Central India, the extreme east of the Punjab and the United Provinces, light general rain in Burma, the West Coast including Bombay Deccan and Hyderabad while local rain occurred in the extreme north, south Rajputana, Bengal and in the Hill Stations of Upper India. The principal amounts of rainfall were :—Ahmedabad 8·79″, Moulmein 7·59″, Chanda 7·29″, Dehra Dun 7·07″, Raipur 6·46″, Pendra 6·12″, Bhamo 6·09″, Mercara 5·26″, Darjeeling 4·98″, Pachmarhi 4·85″, Akyab 4·84″, Chaibassa 4·80″, Seoni 4·69″, Roorkee 4·57″, Ranchi 4·56″, Hoshangabad 4·54″, Ratnagiri 4·01″, Calicut 3·79″, Goa 3·75″, Burdwan 3·41″, Mergui 3·30″, Udaipur 3·20″, Calcutta 3·18″, Chittagong 3·07″, Cherra Poonjee 2·78″, Mount Abu 2·47″ and Delhi 2·23″.

The important feature of the weather during the past week had been the formation and movement of two depressions. The first formed off the Orissa coast and then travelled in a west-north-westerly direction reaching the neighbourhood of Seoni on the 23rd, it had however practically disappeared by next day. This storm caused heavy rain in the Central Provinces, and abundant rain in Gujarat and part of Rajputana. The second depression formed in the north-east angle of the Bay on the 25th and by the morning of the 26th it had passed inland to the west of Jessore. Under its influence the Bombay current gave heavy rain in Chota Nagpur and south-west Bengal, and the Bay current light rain in the rest of north-east India.

In Burma moderately heavy rain fell daily on the coast and light local rain in the interior. Skies were moderately to heavily overcast and temperature did not differ much from the normal throughout the week.

In north-east India, while the first depression, forming off the Orissa coast passed inland precipitation became general, though light, in Bengal, Orissa and Chota Nagpur, with local rain in Eastern Bengal. Weather became again practically dry by the 24th except in Assam owing to the disturbed conditions at the head of the Bay, but with the development and subsequent movement of this depression the area of rainfall rapidly increased and by the 26th it included the whole of north-east India except parts of Assam and Bihar. Skies were moderately overcast throughout the period except that in Assam they were practically clear on the 25th, while temperature had been generally above normal.

In the United Provinces, the weather was dry with a few isolated falls of rain each day until the 26th, on which date the trough of low pressure was close to the hills and rainfall was well distributed except in the east Submontane districts. In the Punjab rain fell at all stations except Multan, but it was generally light and in the Frontier Provinces, excluding the hill stations, weather was dry throughout the week. Temperature had been in moderate excess and skies had generally been lightly overcast.

In Central India precipitation was very light in the east, but in the west it was abundant. The Central Provinces received heavy rain from the depression that passed through the Provinces but with its disappearance on the 24th rainfall rapidly diminished and was light and local for the rest of the week Skies were heavily overcast and temperature approximately normal.

In Rajputana and Gujarat all the reporting stations had had rain; in the latter area it was much heavier than usual, but in the former rainfall was light except in the Udaipur and Mount Abu districts where it was heavy. A single fall was also reported from Hyderabad (Sind). Skies were heavily overcast and temperature below normal in Gujarat, while in Rajputana there was a moderate amount of cloud and weather was considerably warmer than usual.

On the West Coast, in the Bombay Deccan and Mysore the Monsoon gave considerably more rain than usual at this time, and in Hyderabad and the Madras Deccan there had been light rain, but on the East Coast south of Masulipatam and in the Madura Sub-division the weather had been practically dry. Temperature was below normal during the greater part of the week, and skies were moderately to heavily overcast.

The rainfall for the whole period from the 4th May to the 28th July was practically equal to the normal over the greater part of the country and was in excess in the west of Central India, the West Satpuras, the east of the Deccan and on the Circars coast. It was below normal only in the Madura Sub-division of South India, Orissa, Chota Nagpur and the region to the north-west of a line passing through Rajkot, Ajmer and Dehra Dun.

TELEGRAM FROM THE VICEROY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Crop prospects: Week ending 21st July last.

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh: There has been general rain, but more rain is urgently wanted in three affected districts. Fodder is sufficient and the cattle are healthy. Prices are rising. Cholera is increasing in two tahsils of Hamirpur, otherwise the public health is good. There has been an increase in the number on gratuitous relief, due to the removal of dependants on relief works to their homes. **Punjab**: Rain has been in considerable defect over the greater part of the province, and there is a general demand for more. Fodder is sufficient and the cattle are in good condition. **Rajputana**: There has been general but light rain in several States. Agricultural operations are satisfactory except in those States. The condition of the cattle is improving and pasturage is available. **Central India**: Rainfall is general and famine conditions have practically disappeared. **Bombay**: Rainfall has been general and beneficial. Seedlings are flourishing. Drinking water supply sufficient. The condition of the cattle is improving slowly. Prices continue high. There has been a large decrease in the numbers on relief. **Hyderabad**: Rainfall general. Crops in good condition. Relief works being closed. **Eastern Bengal**: Crop prospects good to fair, but more rain is wanted in several districts. Distress nearly over in Faridpur. Prospects are favourable in other provinces. **The number of persons in receipt of relief** in thousands is as follows :—**United Provinces of Agra and Oudh**, 86; **Punjab**, 9; **Ajmer**

and Rajputana, 45; **Central India,** 20; **Baroda,** 2; **Bombay,** 64; **Hyderabad,** 1; **Eastern Bengal,** 20; total 247. A decrease of 20,000. Since the end of the week there has been well distributed rain in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, light rain over the Punjab generally, and good rain in Central and Western India.

CONSULAR REPORT.

BAGHDAD.

MAJOR RAMSAY, acting British Consul-General, in his Report on the Trade of Baghdad for the year 1905, says that cargo comes up the river in three ways: (1) By two steamers of the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company; (2) by six steamers belonging to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan; (3) by local sailing vessels. The steamers of the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company are the most popular means of transport, and consequently it seems clear that the returns of cargo carried by them are not likely to show fluctuations in trade; increases and decreases in the total trade of Baghdad would be more felt by owners of the other means of transport. In the same way comparisons of fluctuations in the quantities of specified articles are likely to be even more misleading; it might easily happen that in one year the steamers of the Euphrates and Tigris Steam Navigation Company carried (say) 50 per cent. of the sugar trade and 20 per cent. of the trade in piece-goods, and that in another year the proportions were reversed. Complaints are common regarding the insufficiency of river transport. Nearly all the foreign trade of Baghdad passes through Busrah.

Drafts on London varied as shown below:—Sight drafts for 100*l.* from 108$\frac{1}{8}$ to 110$\frac{3}{4}$ liras; four months' drafts for 100*l.* from 107$\frac{5}{8}$ to 109$\frac{1}{2}$ liras; sight drafts on Bombay varied from 72$\frac{1}{4}$ to 74 liras for Rs. 1,000 rs.

The prevailing rates of ocean freight, as reported to me by two of the British firms here, are quoted below:—

From—	Rate of Freight per Ton. From— £ s.	To— £ s. d.
London to Busrah	1 10	2 0 0*
Manchester to Busrah	...	1 15 0*
Marseilles to Busrah	1 10	2 0 0
Busrah to London, general cargo	...	1 12 6
Busrah to London, grain	...	1 2 6†
Busrah to Marseilles	...	1 10 0

* And 10 per cent. per ton † 18 cwts.

From—	Rate of Freight per Ton. From— £ s. d.	To— £ s. d.
London to Busrah	1 12 6	1 17 0
Manchester to Busrah	1 12 6	1 17 0
Marseilles to Busrah	1 10 0	1 17 0
Busrah to London, general cargo	1 10 0	1 16 6
Busrah to London, grain	...	1 2 6
Busrah to Marseilles	1 10 0	1 17 6

The above rates include transhipping charges at Busrah.

The same firms have quoted the following rates as those which prevailed for river freight.

From—	Rate of Freight per Ton. From— £ s.	To— £ s.
Baghdad to Busrah, through cargo	0 10	1 10
Baghdad to Busrah, local cargo	0 12	2 10
Busrah to Baghdad	1 10	2 10

From—	Rate of Freight per Ton. From— £ s.	To— £ s.
Baghdad to Busrah	0 9	2 0
Busrah to Baghdad	1 0	2 14

It is said that there is an increasing tendency to send cargo to Europe *viâ* Bombay, as the facilities for despatch by this route are greater than those offered by the direct lines of steamers.

Mesopotamia and Persia took some time to recover from the effects of the epidemic of 1904, and at the end of the latter year there were large stocks of cotton goods in the country. During the latter half of 1905 trade revived and large orders are said to have been placed in Manchester. During the earlier part of the year the trade in Manchester goods was hampered by high prices in Manchester and by the unfavourable rate of exchange between sovereigns and krans. A smaller quantity than usual of Russian piece-goods are said to have come to Kermanshah and Hamadan in Persia.

Swedish iron of good brands is said to be in demand. There has been very little trade in copper. The local market was over-stocked with this metal, and prices ruled too low to admit of importation.

During the early part of the year the price of sugar in the producing countries ruled high, but later in the year prices fell and a strong demand sprung up in Persia, when local prices rose to 4*s* per maund of 17·70 lbs. Sugar from Baghdad is said to have gone as far as Teheran, which place, together with a considerable tract to the west of it, is usually supplied with Russian sugar. The supply comes roughly from France three-fifths, Belgium one-fifth and Egypt one-fifth; a little also comes from Austria-Hungary.

Granulated and crystal sugar was imported almost entirely from Bombay.

Matches are imported from Sweden The local authorities threw obstacles in the way of the trade by claiming to treat safety matches in the same way as kerosene oil. A reference to Constantinople was made and an order was issued that matches are not to be treated as explosives in future.

Arab wool was deficient both in quality and in quantity. The price varied from about 14*s*. 6*d*. to about 18*s*. 6*d*. per maund of 34·375 lbs. The rise in price was owing to a strong demand in London and Marseilles, and it remained in force till all stocks had been cleared.

The prices of Ahwaz and Karadi wools varied from about 14*s*. to 17*s*. per maund of 34·375 lbs. Complaints are made that some of this wool was very badly cleaned and mixed with sand; 400 bales are said to have been bought by the Government of Japan. The total export is understood to have been about 30,000 bales, of which half went to London and the balance to Marseilles, Bremen, Boston, Philadelphia, Hamburg and Yokohama; the importance of the markets being in the order mentioned.

The crop of galls was below the average but there was a strong local demand as well as a demand at Hamadan, in Persia, for greens and whites, especially for whites. The prices varied from about 12*l*. to 17*l*. 10*s*. per kantar of 640·5 lbs.

The wheat crop was plentiful and prices ranged from 6*l*. 15*s*. to 7*l*. 17*s*. per taghar of 39 cwts.; 55,000 bags are said to have been shipped to London.

The barley crop was a poor one and the prices ranged from about 4*l*. 10*s*. to 5*l*. 9*s*. per taghar of 39 cwts. Shipments to London amounted to about 21,000 bags.

The demand for Persian and Syrian carpets was brisk and a considerable trade was done at remunerative prices. The bulk of the carpets went to Constantinople, Beyrouth, New York and Suez.

There was a considerable demand for cow-hides from Marseilles and Germany. Prices varied during the year from 5*s*. 2*d*. to 8*s*. 6*d*. per maund of 15 lbs.

Large quantities of goat-skins with hair were sent to Marseilles and London. Prices varied from 1*s*. 4*d*. to 1*s*. 10*d*. per skin of from 2 to 3$\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

The supply of lamb-skins with wool was large; a great number were sent to Trieste. The prices varied from 1*s*. 7*d*. to 1*s*. 10*d*. per skin.

The demand for tanned goat-skins was short early in the year, but improved later. Prices are quoted as varying from 10*d*. to 1*s*. 3*d*. per skin and as varying from 2*s*. 2*d*. to 2*s*. 9*d*. per oke of 2·83 lbs.

Large quantities of tanned sheep-skins were sent to London, Trieste and Hamburg. Early in the year prices were from 11*d*. to 1*s*. per skin, but they rose to 1*s*. 3*d*. per skin later in the year.

Prices for opium were high. Only five cases are believed to have been shipped to London and about 300 cases to China. The Baghdad value ranged from about 90 to 115 Turkish liras per case.

About 3,500 packages of gum tragacanth are said to have been shipped to London and 1,000 packages to Marseilles. The price varied as much as from 16*s*. to 3*l*. per maund of 34·375 lbs., according to the quality and care in selection.

The date crop was a very large one. The price of Zehdi dates averaged 8*s*. per 220 lbs. The price of Courci dates varied from 7*l*. 11*s*. 6*d*. to 8*l*. 8*s*. 4*d*. per taghar of 39·45 cwts.

Ghee was very scarce. The price ranged from 1*l*. 12*s*. to 2*l*. 7*s*. per maund of 55 lbs. Suez is the chief market for ghee, and after that Constantinople and Alexandria are the places which import the largest quantities.

The sesame seed crop was fair. It sold at about 15*l*. 3*s*. per taghar of 39·45 cwts.

He makes the suggestion that, when possible, advertisements should be sent in French rather than in English. A knowledge of English is very rare in Turkish Arabia, whereas French is talked by a large number of the natives of Baghdad.

BAHRAIN.

CAPTAIN PRIDEAUX, British Political Agent in the Bahrain Islands, states that the trade of Bahrain has increased during the past year beyond all expectation, the imports having risen from 1,48,84,129rs. (992,275*l*.) to 2,43,01,519rs. (1,620,169*l*.) and the exports from 1,35,07,491rs. (900,499*l*.) to 2,04,50,643 rs. (1,363,409*l*.). The total volume therefore shows an increase of 57$\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the preceding year's, which itself had never been exceeded previously. This result is the more remarkable, firstly because in the early part of the year a good deal of nervousness was exhibited by British Indian and Persian merchants consequent upon the strained relations manifested for a short time between the Government of India and the Chief of Bahrain, and secondly in consequence of the epidemic of disease—on this occasion, plague—which for the third year in succession attacked the towns of Manama and Muharraq, causing a further loss of some 400 lives and temporarily driving several

thousands of townspeople away to other parts of the Gulf.

The epidemic, which commenced in May 1905, was fortunately not of long duration as it failed to maintain itself in the hot weather, and the islands were declared free of disease in June 1905.

Apart from the evidence of statistics the general prosperity of the mercantile community is apparent from the number of new and substantial buildings which are in course of construction, the high prices at which lands and houses have changed hands in the towns and the increasing influx of merchants from Linga, Basra, Hasa and Bushire. An increase of confidence and security pervades all classes, including even the agriculturists whose lot is probably the worst in Bahrain, and it is confidently anticipated that the future will show no relapse from this state. Prophecies are even being freely hazarded that the trade of Bahrain will soon equal that of Muscat, which port at present does the largest business in this corner of the world.

The British India Steam Navigation Company have this year had a monopoly of the carriage of cargo in steamers, the Bombay and Persian Steam Navigation Company being the only other shipping line whose vessels have visited the port. The latter have carried pilgrims to Jedda and back.

The following remarks attempt to account for the more noticeable variations in the trade of particular items, comparing the present year's operations with those of 1904 :—

The horse trade is a purely transit one. The decrease both in imports and exports was due to the unsettled condition of Central and Eastern Arabia, and the consequent home demand for purposes of warfare.

The decrease in imports of coir and coir rope was due to the large stock on hand at the close of the preceding year. The selling price at the same time was considerably raised in consequence of the increase in rates at Malabar.

The decreased import of piece-goods was due to the high prices ruling in Europe in the early part of the year.

The increase both in imports and exports of dates was due to the fact that in Hasa and Katif the date crop was exceptionally good, while in Bahrain it was below the average. There was, in addition, a strong demand from the Red Sea ports. For want of steamers a considerable quantity was on hand at the end of the year.

The imports of wheat were much benefited by the low prices prevailing in Persia and the continued suppression of the embargo.

The decrease in imports of barley was due to the requirements of Hasa being this year carried direct from Basra to Ojair, instead of through Bahrain.

The increase in imports of rice was due to the foresight of merchants who, receiving bad reports from India of the prospects of the new crops, imported some 45,000 cwts. of the old crop at the end of the year for account of 1906. The transaction is said to be unprecedented.

The decrease in imports of kerosene oil was due partly to the large stock on hand from 1904 and partly to the high prices ruling in consequence of the disturbed state of the Russian oil districts.

The increase both in imports and exports of pearls was due partly to the fishing season having been the best of the last three years, both in quantity and quality of pearls and in regard to the demand in Europe, and partly because the leading pearl merchants of Katar and Turkish ports have this year entered more keenly into competition with merchants in Bahrain itself and in consequence have shipped their purchases from the local divers direct from this port to India.

The decrease in exports of shells was due to the slightness of demand in Europe. There was a considerable stock from past years on hand at the close of the year. At the same time the pearl-boatmen themselves displayed little inclination to collect shells for sale in consequence of the very good pearling.

The decreased import of timber and wood was probably due to the political tension at the season for this business. Great inconvenience in consequence resulted to the general public.

The increased import of specie was for the purchase of pearls. The enormous export consisted mainly of Turkish liras to Hasa and of liras, dollars and rupees to Katif for the purchase of dates.

65 British steamships visited Bahrain on the voyage up the Gulf and 35 steamships called on the return journey. Clearance certificates are only applied for and granted in a few instances, as the Political Agent is not officially required to perform all the duties of a Harbour Master or Consul. Two special steamers of the Bombay Persian Steam Navigation Company brought pilgrims back from Jedda in March and April 1905, and three steamers of the same company took away some 1,200 pilgrims in November and December.

No foreign steamers entered the port during 1905.

The Maria Theresa dollar opened the year at 137 rs. per cent., its highest point, and closed at the same rate on December 31, 1905. The value varied but little during the year, the lowest rate being 130 rs. per cent.

Freights to and from India were from 10 to 12 rs. per ton throughout the year. The rate for shells to the United Kingdom was 2*l.* per ton.

HONG-KONG.

The following table shows the principal articles of import in the year 1905 in vessels of European construction, compared with similar returns for 1904 :—

Articles.	1904.	1905.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Tons.	Tons.		
Beans . .	750	2,113	1,363	...
Bones . .	400	...	...	400
Coal . .	1,152,454	1,083,987	...	68,467
Cotton yarn and cotton . .	19,350	32,949	13,599	...
Flour . .	115,921	54,508	...	61,413
Hemp . .	19,382	26,784	7,402	...
Kerosine (bulk) .	56,965	43,411	..	13,554
„ (case) .	100,692	74,506	...	26,186
Lead . .	3,563	800	...	2,763
Opium . .	2,955	2,983	28	...
Liquid fuel .	9,727	850	...	8,877
Rattan . .	5,080	3,430	...	1,650
Rice . .	823,339	566,171	...	257,168
Sandalwood .	3,300	3,386	86	...
Sulphur . .	187	...	...	187
Sugar . .	205,696	311,787	106,091	...
Tea . .	...	900	900	...
Timber . .	66,200	66,324	124	...
General . .	1,564,678	1,594,862	30,187	...
TOTAL .	4,150,639	3,863,751	159,777	440,665
Transit .	3,151,926	3,415,418	263,492	...
GRAND TOTAL	7,302,565	7,285,169	423,269	440,665
		Nett .	...	17,396

During 1905 **supplies of all sugars** were greater than during 1904, and in sympathy with other markets local prices continued to decline throughout the year. There was, however, a good demand for refined sugar in China, resulting in a profitable business for the two local refineries, but demand from other markets fell off owing to their being overstocked with European sugars.

As was anticipated at the end of 1904 the cotton spinning industry worked under very satisfactory conditions during the whole of 1905, and the comparatively low price of cotton, combined with an active demand for yarn, allowed of good profits being realised all through the twelve months.

There was some falling-off in the repairing and docking of ships at Hong-Kong, probably due to increased competition from other places.

Forty-three steam launches and other vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 3,695 were built during the year.

A new industry under European direction—that of silvering mirrors—was started at Causeway Bay.

RAMIE CULTIVATION.

Enquiries have recently been received as to the methods to be followed in the cultivation of ramie.

The most suitable soil for growing ramie is one that is loamy and sandy. The black cotton soils of India would suit the plant. Clay soils could be improved by the admixture of lime, loam and sand. Salt impregnated soils are of no use. On whatever soil ramie be grown it is of the first importance that the fields should be well drained. Water logging will destroy the crop.

The ramie plant will absorb any amount of moisture from the air, but though it will endure long drought without injury, the roots will be killed in a few days by a swampy condition of the soil. In countries, where the rainfall is insufficient, or where it alternates with long periods of drought, irrigation must be resorted to, and in such cases crops fine and equal can be depended upon.

For the successful cultivation of ramie, a medium, damp, equal climate is best. If the temperature is too low, the growth will be slow, and if there are too great changes in temperature from heat to cold, or from a damp to a dry air, the quality of the fibre produced will be unequal; in other words, to produce fine fibre, equal in quality, regular growth must be insured. As four crops, however, can be got in the twelve months, in India though the fibres may be unequal over the year, the fibre of each single crop ought to be fairly equal in quality.

The ramie crop is one easily propagated. The seed ought to be sown in the beginning of the rains, or in the winter, under shelter, so as to protect the seedlings when they come up. When a few inches high they ought to be planted out, care being taken to separate the roots, without breaking them, when moving plants from the seed bed. An acre of land ought to cost about Rs. 20 to 25 to plant up.

The ramie plant can be cultivated by means of seeds, cuttings, roots or suckers. The cultivation by means of seeds takes too long to be recommended as a practical method for planters, unless for what may be called the first, or mother, crop, and the best way is to grow it by means of roots or suckers. The root of the ramie plant throws out suckers in the same way as do strawberries. On planting these they grow into independent plants in the course of two or three months, when they themselves also throw off a number of suckers, so that a few mother plants furnish in a comparatively short time, the material for a plantation. The early lateral shoots may be also cut off and planted as cuttings. When one shoot of a ramie plant is cut another replaces it. With average care in the cultivation of fields, keeping them manured—not too heavily — and free from weeds, the hoe or *Khodali* or the *doura* (grubber) being used to loosen the top soil, the crop from one original planting ought to last good for from 16 to 20 years. The plants die down in winter, but the first shower of rain brings them up again, and on good soil they grow to from 10 to 12 feet in height.

In preparing the soil it is necessary to plough it, before planting, to the depth of a foot, and in this loosened soil the suckers should be planted to the depth of five or six inches, and at a distance of at least a yard to 5 feet apart. Every year the soil

ought to be dug up deeply on other side of the row of plants, so as to give the roots air, and to prevent their matting with those of adjoining plants. While this is being done a number of suckers will be turned up, which can be used for the renewal or extension of the plantation. Properly worked after this fashion a ramie plantation, instead of having a life of from 16 to 20 years, could be made productive for an incalculably long time.

Six months after the ramie roots are planted, the stems are ready to be gathered. Under ordinary conditions, four crops of ramie stems may be counted upon every year, and under extraordinarily favourable conditions, that is, where irrigation of the soil can be regular, six crops a year can be obtained.

The most recent and careful experiments, quoted by Mrs. E. Harte on the authority of Herr Boeken, give for a Cuban plantation an estimate of 45 stems to every plant, that is on an average 180 stems per plant per year, or, with 10,000 plants to the hectare: (the hectare representing 2·470 statute acres or 10,000 square metres) 1,8·0,000 stems as the crop per year per hectare. The weight of this crop is estimated at 90,000 kilograms or 1,770·5 cwt., and calculating that the stems yield 5 per cent. of fibre, a hectare of land should yield 4½ tons of dry fibre, which would be equal to about 2 tons per English acre. This at £20 a ton would give a gross production of £40 an acre. Deducting 50 per cent. for the costs of working and treatment, £20 per acre would be the net value of the fibre produced, or £10 a ton, which would, however, find an easy market at £20 a ton. The production would probably be lower for India, but the cost of production would be lower also.

Mr. John C. Johnstone, who has had many years' practical experience of the subject in India, has put forward the following figures as a rough estimate for planting an area of 3,000 acres, and of the return for five years, assuming that the fibre is sold at £15 a ton, and output is only one ton per acre. **The estimate is for a plantation started with roots.**

Years.	Area planted up each year.	Outlay each year.	Outturn per acre per annum.	Outturn. Total probable tons per annum.	Value at £15 per ton.
	Acres.	£	Tons.	Tons.	£
First	200	3,159	⅛ of a ton.	130	1,950
Second	200	4,819	One ton.	330	4,950
Third	400	7,207	Do.	666	9,990
Fourth	1,000	13,867	Do.	1,466	21,990
Fifth	1,200	24,620	Do.	2,600	39,000
Sixth	Conservation of 3,000 acres.	26,448	Do.	3,000	45,000
	TOTAL	£80,120			
	Net Profits	42,760			
	GRAND TOTAL	£122,880			£122,880

But the planting is only the first step. The decorticating of ramie is just as important. It can be done either by machinery, or by hand. In India where labour is so cheap it would be better done by hand, as in China. Hand-stripped China grass—which is only ramie carefully stripped and debarked on the fields—will in the opinion of some experts, among whom is Mrs. Harte, always command a higher price in the market than any machine-decorticated fibre.

Ramie stems, are, when matured, cut down, and the outer bark is at once stripped off. This outer bark, which can be easily stripped off, is found to consist of two layers, namely, a thin, outer, closely adherent, brown pellicle, and an inner, thicker, white "bast" layer. It is this "bast" layer which is composed of ramie fibre. When it is stripped from the woody stem in the green state it is full of sticky gum. The object is now to separate the bast layer as much as possible from its soluble gums and from its outer brown pellicle.

The Chinaman does this by sitting in or near running water, while he rubs off the outer brown pellicle with a blunt bamboo knife, and strips off the bast layer, washing away the soluble gums at the same time. The long strips of fibre are then dried, baled and exported, and obtain a price per ton in Europe out of all proportion to the cost of cultivation and manipulation, In the case where the ramie stems are decorticated by machinery, they are sent, within three days of being gathered, to a central decorticating station, or in large plantations to the mill on the estate. The canes are first passed through corrugated iron rollers, which break up the woody stem and pith, leaving long strips of the bark more or less free from wood; these are then passed into a machine, the principle of which is approximately the same in all which have been invented, namely, that revolving steel blades pare off the outer brown bark of the ribbons, very much in the same way as the surface of a cloth is cut by a revolving cutting machine, and they are finally brushed clean of all adhering particles of pellicle. The other processes, degumming, conversion into filasse, etc. are scientific, and would be best carried out at special factories. There is a point of great importance to note with regard to decorticating by hand-labour. It is necessary that the bales should consist of fibre degummed as much alike as possible. It is very inconvenient for the degumming works to get a bale of ramie, one-half of which has been properly decorticated by good hand-labour, and the other only half decorticated. If the ramie has a good deal of the outer pellicle left on it, it must be treated specially before it was degummed, whereas properly decorticated ramie can be degummed straight away without any preliminary treatment. It is very necessary, therefore, that ramie should be decorticated equally. Hand-labour is very good when it is good, but it is likely to be irregular. The Chinese decorticating is the best in the world, owing to the fact that it is the custom all over China, where ramie is grown, for the payment for decorticating to be the perquisite of the wives and children. Hence the diligence with which they work. In India it will be necessary to offer special inducement to labourers to get them to do the decorticating thoroughly, or else to secure very efficient supervision.

GOLD AND SILVER.

THE value of the Imports, Exports, and Net Imports of Gold and of Silver in the last five years, in thousands of Rupees, was as follows:—

	Imports.	Exports.	Net imports.	Production.
GOLD—				
1901-02	8,30,75	6,3 ,99	1,93 76	2,86,99
1902-03	13,19,24	4,42,78	8,76,46	3,05 87
1903-04	20,14,7	10,21,62	9,93,17	3,51,30
1904-05	21,81,20	12,10,61	9,70,59	3,55,59
1905-06	14,74,90	14,29,10	45,80	3,58,76

	Imports.	Exports.	Net Imports.
SILVER—			
1901-02	12,29,38	5,10,10	7,19,28
1902-03	12,18,65	5,22,98	6,95,67
1903-04	18,37,82	4,82,77	13,55,05
1904-05	17,69,62	4,32,27	13,37,35
1905-06	16,90,20	1,17,90	15,72,30

It must not however be supposed that, in respect of gold, the foregoing figures represent India's **absorption** of the metal. To ascertain the absorption the Indian production of gold must be added to the above Net Imports. The gold produced in India is sent to England for assay and thus swells the exports and diminishes the net imports calculated in the ordinary way. But if no imported gold were exported, it would be necessary to consider the total imports as absorbed. For this reason the production figures of the last five years are added to the above statement. It will be seen that the **imports** of gold declined from Rs. 2,181 lakhs to Rs. 1,475 lakhs while the **exports** increased from Rs. 1,210 lakhs to Rs. 1,429 lakhs. These movements are characteristic of the year with its strong demand for gold in Japan and America, and they were contributed to by the new arrangement under which gold destined for the Gold Reserve Fund (hereafter to be known as the Gold Standard Fund) is shipped directly from the country of production to London.

The net imports of gold thus dropped from Rs. 970·59 lakhs to Rs. 45·8 lakhs. Including the production with a value of Rs. 358·76 lakhs, the net addition to the stock of gold still amounted to to Rs. 404·56 lakhs.

In relation to the records of **imports of silver,** it should be borne in mind that during those years in which the value of silver was declining but while the mints in India remained open for free coinage, the value of the metal when converted into rupees was recorded as its value upon importation. The statistics relating to years since the closing of the mints assign to the metal its true market value, so that silver of the value of Rs. 1,000 in these statistics represents a much larger quantity of the metal than was indicated by Rs. 1,000 in the statistics of ten years ago. This however scarcely affects the figures of the last five years which are here recorded. It will be seen that the imports of silver, though they have slightly declined remain at a level which would a few years ago have been regarded with misgivings by those sceptical about the Government's currency policy. The exports have subsided to R117·9 lakhs —a figure so low as to find no parallel since 1885-86 —and the net imports reached the entirely unprecedented total of R1,572·3 lakhs. Stated in ounces the net imports and production of gold and the net imports of silver in the last five years have been as follows:—

Year.	Production of gold.	Net Imports of gold.	Net Imports of silver.
1901-02	524,461	274,506	39,005,192
1902-03	534,763	1,416,618	43,274,305
1903-04	613,755	1,566,237	78,575,469
1904-05	619,571	1,516,991	74,956,262
1905-06	625,037	—65,473	84,317,765

The value of the true increment of gold in 1905-06 was, as has been said, R404·56 lakhs, or, say, £2,697,050, all of which was bullion. It did not include sovereigns and half sovereigns as was the case last year, because the exports of such in 1905-06 exceeded the imports by R4,66,74,824 or £3,111,655 bullion. The exports of gold by Government amounted to £6,000,000 and included the large additions to the Gold Standard Fund resulting from the heavy coinage of silver.

GAZETTE AND OTHER NOTIFICATIONS.

Indian Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition, 1906.

IT is proposed to hold the Annual Indian Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition this year at Calcutta early next December at the site of the Old Tramway Depot and on the extensive grounds adjoining the General Hospital which have been acquired by the Bengal Government and kindly lent for the purpose of the Exhibition.

The Indian Industrial Exhibitions held annually since 1901 have served greatly to popularise and encourage Indian arts and industries and their usefulness has been recognised by all sections of the press and the public.

The first of these Exhibitions was organized and held in Calcutta in connection with the Indian National Congress in December 1901 and has since then been held at Ahmedabad in 1902, at Madras

in 1903, at Bombay in 1904 and at Benares in 1905. The Exhibition of 1906 will be similarly held in connection with the forthcoming Calcutta Session of the Congress.

The management and organization of the Exhibition has been entrusted to a Committee representative of all sections of the community, the members of which need not in any way identify themselves with the politics of the Congress. The accounts of the Exhibition and the Congress have been kept separate since the Madras Exhibition of 1903 and this practice will be observed as regards the keeping of accounts of the forthcoming Exhibition.

The organization of the Exhibition is likely to prove costly but large guarantees have been given by many leading men of Bengal.

The Government of Bengal fully recognizing the industrial and educational value of such Exhibitions has very kindly offered to give special facilities for for the exhibition of all such articles from its Agricultural, Art, Forest, Sanitary and other departments as may prove useful or instructive to the public and also to help in other ways the organisation of the Exhibition.

However, an undertaking of this nature can only succeed with the active co operation of all sections of the community and we hope that all will join hands to make the Exhibition a success and worthy of this great city.

Although the scope of the Exhibition is confined to articles of indigenous growth and manufacture yet arrangements will be made for the exhibit of machinery and appliances of foreign manufacture which are likely to help and develop Indian industries.

An Arcade (chowk bazar) will be a special feature of the Exhibition where Exhibitors will be allowed to keep a stock of their Exhibits for ready sale.

A provisional Executive Committee have been formed with powers to add to their number.

All communications to be addressed to the Hony. Secretary and all remittances to the Hony. Treasurer at the "Exhibition Office," 62, Bowbazar Street, Calcutta.

RAILWAY BOARD.

Simla, the 23rd July 1906.

The Railway Board have sanctioned a survey by the agency of the Rohilkhand and Kumaon Railway Company of a line of railway on the metre gauge from Pilibhit station on the Lucknow-Bareilly State Railway to Shahjahanpur station on the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway, a distance of about 56 miles.

RAILWAYS.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 2 of the Indian Railway Board Act, 1905 (IV of 1905), as in force in British India and as locally applied by Foreign Department Notification No. 1097-F., dated the 24th March 1905, the Governor General in Council is pleased to invest the Railway Board with all the powers or functions of the Governor-General in Council under section 50, sub-section (*d*) of the Indian Railways Act, 1890 (IX of 1890) with respect to all railways, in the matter of agreements for the joint working of railway stations subject to the condition that the Railway Board shall, in the exercise of the said powers or functions act in accordance with the general rules or orders on the subject passed from time to time by the Government of India.

MERCHANT SHIPPING.

The form of agreement for the engagement of lascars in India contains no provision for the particulars in respect of the load line of ships which are required to be inserted in the agreement in accordance with section 35 (*2*) of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1880 (VII of 1880), as amended by the Deck and Load Lines Act, XVII of 1891. The Governor-General in Council is therefore pleased to direct under section 27 (*1*) of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1893 (V of 1883), that the following headings shall be inserted in the form of agreement prescribed in Finance and Commerce Department Resolution No. 1096-S.R., dated the 25th February 1903 :—

(To be inserted below the columns headed "Name of Ship, "Official Number," etc., etc.)

Distance in feet and inches between the centre of the disc showing the maximum load line in salt water, and the upper edge of the lines indicating the position of the ship's decks above the centre.

First deck above it.		Second deck above it.	
Feet	inches	Feet	inches

POSTAL.

Free "Abstract of Postal Information."

The Post Office has published, for issue *free* to the public desiring it, an "*Abstract of postal information*" containing, in a handy and compact form, a summary of postage rates and other charges, with the principal rules of the Department relating to the several classes of postal business.

The *Abstract* is published in English and also in the chief vernacular of the district; and is neatly printed, in two colours, in the style of a leaflet suitable for preservation and ready reference.

Any one desiring a copy of the publication can get one *free* at the local post office so long as copies are available; or, the postmaster will send a copy by post, *without charge of any kind*, on receipt of an application which may be made either on a form provided for the purpose or otherwise. In the latter case, all that is required is the applicant's name and full postal address on one side of a piece of paper and an indication on the other side that a copy of the "leaflet Abstract is wanted."

RETAIL PRICES.

The following are the Retail Prices of certain food-grains and salt at selected stations for the second-half of June 1906. (Prices are stated in annas, etc., per ser.)

	Rice, common	Wheat	Barley	Jawar	Bajra	Ragi	Gram	Salt
BURMA—	*a. p.*	*a. p.*	*a. p.*	*a. p.*	*a. p.*	*a. p.*	*a. p.*	*a. p.*
Rangoon	1 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 10
Toungoo	1 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 6
EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM—								
Rangpur	2 0	1 8	...	...	...	...	...	1 4
Backerganj	2 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 3
BENGAL—								
Calcutta	2 0	1 4	...	...	...	...	...	1 0
Patna	1 5	1 4	1 0	...	...	...	...	1 1
UNITED PROVINCES—								
Cawnpore	...	1 3	1 0	...	1 3	...	1 1	1 0
Fyzabad	...	1 4	1 0	...	...	...	1 1	1 2
Meerut	...	1 1	0 11	1 6	1 6	...	1 0	1 0
PUNJAB—								
Delhi	..	1 2	1 0	1 7	1 5	...	1 0	1 0
Amritsar		0 11	0 9	1 6	1 8	...	0 10	0 10
Rawal pindi	...	1 1	0 10	1 5	1 3	...	0 11	0 9
SIND—								
Karachi	...	1 4	...	1 0	1 3	...	1 3	0 9
BOMBAY—								
Belgaum	...	1 10	...	1 6	1 6	...	...	1 1
Ahmadnagar	...	1 8	...	1 4	1 6	...	...	0 11
Bombay	...	1 7	...	1 4	1 4	...	...	1 2
Ahmedabad	...	1 6	...	1 2	1 6	...	...	0 10
CENTRAL PROVINCES—								
Jubbulpore	...	1 3	...	...	...	...	1 2	1 3
Nagpur	1 7	1 3	...	1 2	...	...	1 5	1 3
Raipur	1 5	1 2	...	...	...	...	1 2	1 2
MADRAS—								
Bellary	2 0	...	...	1 3	...	1 2	...	1 1
Madras	2 0	...	...	...	...	1 4	...	0 9
Salem	2 2	...	...	1 5	1 7	1 3	...	1 1

INDIAN SEA-BORNE TRADE.

THE following table gives the summary of the Sea-borne Trade, import and export, of British India, for the month of June 1906, and for the three months, 1st April to 30th June 1906, as compared with the corresponding period for the years 1904 and 1905.

	MONTH OF JUNE			THREE MONTHS 1ST APRIL TO 30TH JUNE		
	1904	1905	1906	1904	1905	1906
IMPORTS—						
MERCHANDISE, PRIVATE—						
Bengal	₹ 2,61,74,995	₹ 3,06,86,299	₹ 3,14,71,861	₹ 8,24,93,207	₹ 9,18,20,593	₹ 9,99,56,900
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	1,57,272	(a)	(a)	6,19,974
Bombay	2,11,27,574	2,31,07,201	2,56,11,351	7,38,57,790	7,75,97,015	8,35,74,369
Sind	66,18,712	61,46,508	70,92,301	1,75,71,345	1,99,76,029	2,48,02,853
Madras	54,06,315	70,68,991	74,06,033	1,74,94,207	2,23,03,250	2,14,71,727
Burma	68,05,981	59,49,199	63,43,235	2,11,90,976	1,84,84,108	2,07,91,530
TOTAL	6,61,33,577	7,29,58,198	7,80,82,053	21,26,07,525	23,01,80,995	25,12,17,353
DITTO, GOVERNMENT STORES	47,73,825	62,28,434	94,21,188	1,95,74,805	2,63,35,894	2,68,33,189
TOTAL MERCHANDISE	7,09,07,402	7,91,86,632	8,75,03,241	23,21,82,330	25,65,16,889	27,80,50,542
TREASURE, PRIVATE						
Bengal	95,17,829	31,10,106	35,52,767	2,65,77,326	1,14,32,574	80,70,002
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	...	(a)	(a)	6,083
Bombay	2,00,20,406	1,31,92,936	1,25,39,704	6,31,66,375	3,53,41,542	3,90,81,790
Sind	3,31,339	3,11,983	4,27,306	13,05,382	12,74,599	7,11,163
Madras	7,26,362	4,52,733	4,23,099	15,09,844	10,70,360	14,39,672
Burma	1,54,905	1,63,795	248	7,61,775	2,20,003	2,90,038
TOTAL	3,07,50,241	1,72,37,553	1,69,43,124	9,33,20,702	4,93,39,078	4,96,68,748
DITTO, GOVERNMENT	84,57,879	22,18,604	1,67,18,864	1,05,44,423	56,11,965	4,61,94,501
TOTAL TREASURE	3,92,08,120	1,94,56,157	3,36,61,988	10,38,65,125	5,49,51,043	9,58,61,249
GRAND TOTAL OF IMPORTS	11,01,15,522	9,86,42,789	12,11,65,229	33,60,47,455	31,14,67,932	37,39,11,791
EXPORTS—						
MERCHANDISE, PRIVATE—						
(*Foreign Merchandise*)—						
Bengal	1,32,554	1,01,031	1,22,946	9,07,800	5,01,071	5,23,425
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	...	(a)	(a)	...
Bombay	16,89,819	21,85,484	20,12,023	59,19,661	64,69,540	70,99,922
Sind	2,84,331	2,00,341	4,22,640	7,75,748	7,74,447	10,56,143
Madras	35,575	1,17,450	1,93,061	1,78,647	2,57,088	6,13,251
Burma	23,956	37,317	39,578	72,517	1,29,430	2,00,505
TOTAL	21,66,235	26,41,623	27,90,248	78,54,373	81,31,576	94,93,246
(*Indian Merchandise*)—						
Bengal	4,52,15,939	4,42,56,246	4,43,64,158	12,47,52,512	12,80,72,966	14,03,51,384
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	6,26,537	(a)	(a)	6,27,337
Bombay	2,92,05,534	3,52,76,788	3,35,28,552	12,19,52,037	11,58,95,698	11,75,70,475
Sind	1,51,89,052	2,03,61,951	1,84,49,299	3,73,46,548	3,97,32,403	4,10,05,921
Madras	1,37,42,418	1,39,50,679	1,58,01,500	4,24,72,716	4,29,77,890	4,99,90,571
Burma	89,34,512	77,90,024	89,38,332	4,11,34,674	3,93,91,440	5,05,87,986
TOTAL	11,22,87,455	12,16,35,688	12,17,98,378	36,76,58,487	36,60,70,397	40,05,33,674
Total Foreign and Indian Merchandise exported—						
Bengal	4,53,48,493	4,43,57,277	4,44,87,104	12,56,60,312	12,85,74,037	14,08,74,809
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	6,26,537	(a)	(a)	6,27,337
Bombay	3,08,95,353	3,74,62,272	3,55,40,575	12,78,71,698	12,23,65,238	12,46,70,397
Sind	1,54,73,383	2,05,62,292	1,88,71,939	3,81,22,296	4,05,06,850	4,20,62,064
Madras	1,37,77,993	1,40,68,129	1,59,94,561	4,26,51,363	4,32,34,978	5,06,03,822
Burma	89,58,468	78,27,341	89,77,910	4,12,07,191	3,95,20,870	5,11,88,491
TOTAL	11,44,53,690	12,42,77,311	12,44,98,626	37,55,12,860	37,42,01,973	41,00,2 ,920
DITTO, GOVERNMENT STORES	2,50,382	1,40, 36	52,900	6,18,722	3,11,393	1,92,946
TOTAL MERCHANDISE	11,47,04,072	12,44,17,647	12,45,51,526	37,61,31,582	37,45,13,366	41,02,19,866
TREASURE, PRIVATE—						
Bengal	30,000	17,410	3,85,000	5,98,611	2,39,910	33,52,211
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	...	(a)	(a)	...
Bombay	84,84,173	36,76,157	49,16,463	2,37,02,110	1,12,96,453	1,78,52,754
Sind	64,900	77,625	79,400	1,90,235	1,40,226	2,91,950
Madras	1,50,000	...	...	24,00,000	...	3,02,000
Burma	...	25,500	1,25,500	...	27,000	1,32,140
TOTAL	87,29,073	37,96,692	55,06,363	2,68,90,956	1,17,03,589	2,19,31,055
DITTO, GOVERNMENT	...	2,500	7,400	6,200	7,500	33,650
TOTAL TREASURE	87,29,073	37,99,192	55,13,763	2,68,97,156	1,17,11,089	2,19,64,705
GRAND TOTAL OF EXPORTS	12,34,33,145	12,82,16,839	13,00,65,289	40,30,28,738	38,62,24,455	43,21,84,571
GROSS AMOUNT OF IMPORT DUTY COLLECTED, *including Salt*	53,28,201	54,92,052	53,66,323	1,76,53,264	1,65,26,579	1,72,37,272
DITTO, EXPORT DUTY COLLECTED	7,11,267	6,30,041	6,00,277	32,94,137	30,53,200	35,14,540

(a) Included with Bengal.

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.

For the week ending 28th July 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign—Imports by sea into	Calcutta	lbs.	257,317
	Bombay	„	238,612
	Madras	„	16,130
Indian—Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	272,900
	Bombay	„	4,338,176
	Madras	„	1,200

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	26,537,523
	Bombay	„	1,682,006
	Karachi	„	73,919
	Madras	„	75,485
	Rangoon	„	205,341

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	2,825,366
	Bombay	„	1,965,045
	Karachi	„	258,709
	Madras	„	14,784
	Rangoon	„	399,623

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	2,767,677
	Bombay	„	2,942,924
	Karachi	„	84,071
	Madras	„	14,377
	Rangoon	„	817,143

Piece Goods.

(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta	cwt.	14,643
	Bombay*	„	4,769
	Karachi	„	11,266
	Madras	„	3,643

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea	cwt.	2,258
	Coastwise	„	3,384
	By rail	„	17,275
Imports into Karachi	by rail	„	3,050
„ „	Calcutta by rail and river	„	5,569

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta	cwt.	147,802
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags	No.	7,278,449
	„ cloth	yds.	26,212,550
	Jute	cwt.	53,603
Exports by sea from Chittagong	Jute	„	6,429

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta†	lbs.	5,237,953
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	5,441,369
	Chittagong	„	960,673

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	14,382
	Karachi by rail	„	763,229
	Bombay by sea	„	1,013
	Bombay coastwise	„	10,320
	Bombay by rail	„	22,607
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	332
	Bombay	„	19,265
	Karachi	„	885,631

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta	cwt.	109,112
	Chittagong	„	...
	Bombay	„	6,903
	Karachi	„	40,664
	Madras	„	...
	Rangoon	„	210,400

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	51,279
	Bombay by sea	„	...
	Bombay coastwise	„	333
	Bombay by rail	„	21,224
	Karachi by rail	„	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	9,263
	Bombay	„	46,005
	Karachi	„	16

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	22,574
	Bombay by sea	„	...
	Bombay coastwise	„	143
	Bombay by rail	„	20,556
	Karachi by rail	„	16,001
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	3,896
	Bombay	„	8,724
	Karachi	„	61,996

* B. B. and C. I. Ry. figures only.

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 28th JULY 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From All other foreign countries.	Total.
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
Calcutta	...	1,228,308	1,061,945	2,290,253
Bombay	...	1,652,239	...	1,652,239
Karachi	...	...	318,696	318,696
Madras	...	...	...	...

Exports by sea from Burma to	Bengal	galls.	1,408,175
	E. B. & Assam	,,	...
	Bombay	,,	...
	Sind	,,	...
	Madras	,,	...
	Indian Ports, Non-Br.	,,	...
	Foreign Ports	,,	10

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 28th JULY 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	4,024	...	13	...	16	14	4,067
Germany	760	...	7,691	17,450	...	...	25,841
Austria-Hungary	81	...	...	24	40	...	145
Other European Countries	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Java	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mauritius	2,692	...	27,232	3,968	...	...	33,892
Other Non-European Countries	...	...	61	...	...	...	61
					Total refined		64,006
					Total unrefined		34,897
					Grand Total cwt.		98,903

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta. [The prices include postage to countries in the Postal Union.]

ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 (2*a*.)

2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a*.)

3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—

Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. R3. (12*a*.)

Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port. R3. (12*a*.)

4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. R2. (7*a*.)

5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a*.)

6. Accounts of Trade of the French Possession in India. As. 3. (1*a*.)

7. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possession in India. As. 2. (1*a*.)

8. Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India. R4. (6*a*.)

9. Report on the Rail-borne and River-borne Trade of Bengal. R4.

10. Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan. R1½.

11 Prices and Wages in India. R1½. (9*a*.)

12. Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India. R4. (12*a*.)

13. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India. R2. (10*a*.)

14. Agricultural Statistics of India. R3½. (12*a*.)
Part I.—*British India.*
Part II.—*Native States.*

15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India. As. 5. (2*a*.)

QUARTERLY.

16. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

MONTHLY.

17. Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

18. Accounts of the External Land Trade of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

19. Statistics of the Production of Yarn and Woven Goods in the India Cotton Mills. As. 2.

[Amount within parenthesis denotes cost of packing and postage.]

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All figures, blocks, etc., intended for insertion in the advertisement columns of the *Indian Trade Journal* must first be submitted for approval to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence. The type used in the making up of an advertisement, whether display or line, must be of the kind approved by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence.

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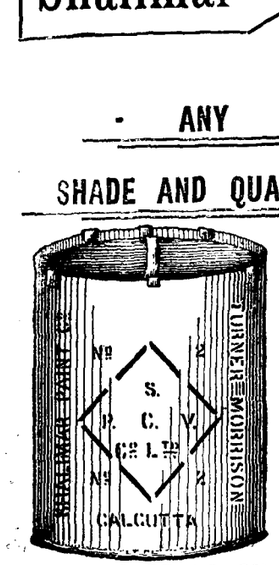
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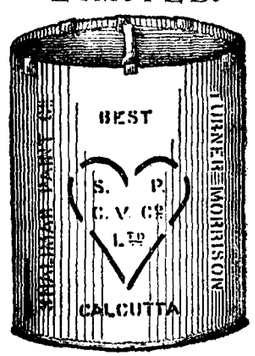
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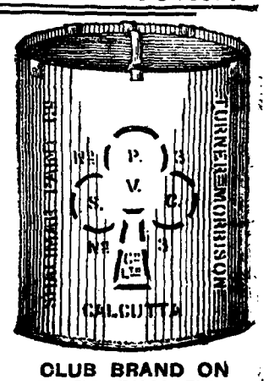
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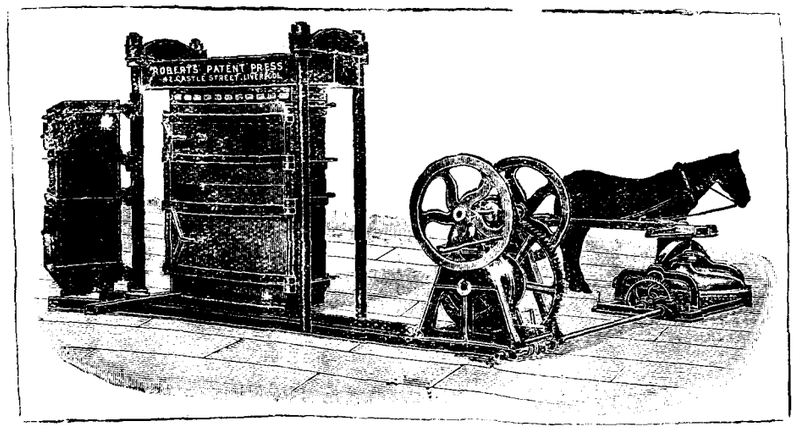
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NOTES.

A Commission has been appointed by the **Dutch** Minister of Finance to advise him in regard to a *technical* **revision of the Customs Tariff**, and to prepare a Bill on the subject for submission to the States General.

The minimum **rate of accepted tenders** for the **recent 3½ per cent. Government loan** of 4¼ crores of rupees, was Rs. 97-3-0. Tenders at that rate received 98·11 per cent. The average rate at which the loan was issued was Rs. 97-5-6·74.

The *New York Herald's* Washington correspondent telegraphs, says a New York telegram in the *Tribune*, that the **Department of Justice** is enlarging its campaign against the **Standard Oil Company** in the effort to effect its dissolution under the Anti-Trust Law.

The *second* **Scottish Hardware and Allied Trades' Exhibition** and Market will be held at St. Andrew's Halls, Glasgow, from 4th October to the 11th October next; and of the House Furnishers' Trade Exhibition and Market, to be held at Bingley Hall, Birmingham, from 13th to 20th September next.

The Government of India have recently issued an order through the Railway Board to all the railways in India to submit returns each quarter after October next of the number of **gold coins** taken at the Booking Offices of each respective railway. Steps are now being taken to ascertain the number of sovereigns and half-sovereigns in general circulation, and so arrive at some idea as to the amount of gold which is annually absorbed in various ways.

News from **Manchuria** states that the new **narrow-gauge railway** from Mukden to Hsin Min Tun (the terminus of the Imperial Railways of North China) has been opened by the Japanese. It is also reported that some fifteen of **Moscow's** largest **cotton manufacturers** have combined to establish a central **depot for textile goods at Harbin** similar somewhat to that successfully inaugurated two years ago at Omsk, in Western Siberia, by the same combination, and that they will be in a position to begin business next spring.

A short time ago a new **artificial silk factory** was established at Coventry. It is now reported that the development of the business has been extremely rapid. So extensive has the trade become that arrangements have been made to rebuild the present factory, with extensions which will make it three times its present size. It is stated that the output will be increased six-fold. Broad fabrics woven from the product have been sold, and the makers, Messrs. Courtauld and Co., Limited, have further contracts in hand for the same class of goods.

The *Indian Trade Journal* of April 5th, page 3, contained a note on the **shortage of sugar** in certain parts of **north-east Persia**, and the indents that were being made on Yezd and other places for Indian produce. In this connection it is interesting to see that reports from Birjand state that there were **very** few caravans, coming in there, to the middle of June, from Meshed with Russian goods. Russian sugar and matches were then unobtainable in the Birjand bazar, and were being supplanted by sulphur matches (Rupee brand), and Marseilles or Indian sugar from Bandar Abbas.

According to the *Manufacturers' Record* (Baltimore), the experiments in which experts in the United States have for some time past been engaged with a view to the **manufacture of paper from cotton-stalks**, have resulted successfully, and establishments will be erected in some of the cotton-growing districts for utilising this by-product. All grades of paper, of strong texture and softish finish, can, it is said, be manufactured from the cotton-stalks. It is considered that with the removal of the cotton-stalks from the fields in the early autumn the devastating **influence** of the **boll weevil** will be reduced to a minimum.

The development in the **copper-producing districts of Mexico** is very remarkable. In 1901 there were 478 copper properties which produced copper to the value of 11,177,755 dols.; in 1904-05 the number of properties had increased to 808 and the value to 29,803,421 dols. The exports are chiefly in the form of refined copper, the value of the ore being small in comparison, on the average about one-sixth. The exports of lead show some increase comparing 1903-04 with 1904-05. The only other considerable mineral product is antimony, the exports of which were valued in 1903-04 at 1,038,201 dols., but in 1904-05 at only 786,230 dols.

His Majesty's Consul-General at **Smyrna** (Mr. H. A. Cumberbatch, C.M.G.), reports under date 23rd June, that although the **unseasonable wet weather** has continued, it has not assumed a general character, but has rather taken the form of local showers, rarely copious or destructive. The **damage** thus caused is reported to have been confined to **vines** and **barley**, further reducing the already deficient yield of the former and lowering the marketable value of the latter by partially discolouring the grain. The yield of figs is estimated to fall short by 25 to 30 per cent. of that of 1905, which, however, was a record year. Opium, on the other hand, is likely to be in excess of last year's crop. Good returns are expected from the olive crop.

The Commercial Attaché to His Majesty's Embassy at **Tokio** (Mr. E. F. Crowe) reports that an **International Exhibition** will be held at Tokio from the 20th March next year to the 20th June, or possibly to the 20th September following. This exhibition will be about half the size of the Osaka Exhibition of 1903, and must not be confused with the larger show which it is said will be held in Tokio about 1910 or 1911. The space in the main building allotted to foreign exhibits is taken up, but Mr. Crowe says that space can be obtained outside free of charge. Buildings of approved material and design could be erected there at a cost of about 4· to 5· per tsubo (3·9 square yards). As time is short, Mr. Crowe recommends intending exhibitors to appoint an agent in Japan who could attend to all details.

The Vice-President's report addressed to the **French Cotton Association** states that the **colonies capable of producing marketable cotton** are

(1) the Sudan, for current American and Indian sorts; (2) Dahomey, for Peruvian, Brazilian, and Levant; (3) Madagascar, for short-staple American to long-staple Sea Island; (4) Algeria, for American and Egyptian kinds. Each colony should grow the most suitable kind and not the highest-priced; and, while increasing acreage, should establish proportionate central ginning and compressing establishments. Ginned cotton should be sent out in at least four or five ton lots of equal quality. The latest reports give the Sudan crop as 20 tons and that of Dahomey as 40 tons. In 1903 the Tahiti crop was 15 tons, against an average of 43 tons for the 1898-1905, and 204 tons for the 1888-1897 period.

The **exports of textile machinery from England** continue to increase, as will be seen from the following figures, which are for the six months ended June 30:—In 1904 the value of these exports for the above period was £2,389,348; in 1905, £2,487,209; and in 1906, £3,152,131. The countries which absorbed more this year than last are India, United States, France, Germany, and Japan. Russia is the only country which has taken less this year as compared with 1905. The engineering trade in Lancashire for cotton mills appears to be busier than ever, and many of the engineering firms are much behind with deliveries, with the result that some factories, owing to delay in delivering steam engines, are unable to start work. Some cotton manufacturing firms are said to be able to start work. Some cotton manufacturing firms are said to be offering a premium for early delivery of looms.

The following **communication** has been addressed to the **Eastern Banks by the India Office**:—"With regard to the announcement made by the Secretary of State for India in Council in December last of his willingness to **purchase**, until further notice, **sovereigns in transit from Australia**, I am directed to inform you that he has decided at present, and until further notice, to withdraw his offer to make such purchase. If, however, you have already arranged for shipments of gold from Australia to this country, with a view to applying for transfers on India, under the terms of the announcement, an application from you for transfers against such shipments will be considered. It is the intention of the Secretary of State for India in Council, as at present advised, to renew, in due course, the offer to purchase sovereigns in transit from Australia, and when this is done you will be informed."

The total value of the **production and industries of New South Wales** for 1905 was £46,692,000, representing £31 11*s.* 6*d.* per head of the population, as compared with £39,382,000 in 1904. The pastoral industry returned £17,113,000. The return of all the primary industries, including wool, amounted to £12,103,000, this being the largest value ever returned for any year, though the quantity was exceeded in eight previous years. Mining and agriculture returned over £6,500,000 each, dairying £3,123,000, forestry and fisheries £1,190,000, and other industries £1,228,000. The number of manufactories and works was 3,700, employing 72,175 hands, as compared with 3,632 manufactories and works, employing 68,036 hands, in 1904. The wages paid amounted to £5,191,350, as compared with £5,012,758 in 1904. The value of the goods manufactured and work done amounted to £30,028,150, as compared with £27,159,230 in 1904.

Mr. Consul Pigott in his report on the **trade of Surinam**, Dutch Guiana, for 1905 says that the cultivation of bananas for export has been commenced, and on May 19, 1906, an agreement was signed between the Colonial Government and the United Fruit Company, of Boston, U. S. A., by which it is agreed that the Company shall buy all the fruit produced (up to a certain standard) on 3,000 hectares (7,413 acres) to be planted within the next three years. A considerable quantity of Para rubber has been put in and appears to be doing well. A large area has been planted with sisal hemp, and appears to be doing well. The rice industry continues to increase. It is, however, almost entirely in the hands of small land-holders, principally British Indian immigrants. The total amount produced in 1905 is estimated at 1,149 tons, against 875,442 and 304 tons in the three previous years. The imports of foreign rice during the year amounted to 4,650 tons, valued at £38,760.

It is interesting to see how in the Portuguese African territories the **Gold value of silver** has appreciated. Mr. Consul General at Lourenso Marques says that the stagnation of trade there, during 1905, was due partly to this cause. The change in the relative values of the two precious metals was not confined to Portuguese Africa. It was observed in South America. The Pernambuco Consular report states that "a prominent feature of the year was the sudden, rapid and phenominal rise in exchange, which from 1*s.* 1*d.* in January steadily rose to 1*s.* 6*d.* in August and averaged over 1*s.* 4*d.* for the year, as against 1*s.* for 1904. Such serious fluctuations in the currency must of necessity disorganise and dislocate commerce, and it is undoubtedly to this abnormal and unlooked for rise that the general depression reigning in Pernambuco must be chiefly attributed." A similar difficulty is being faced by traders in the River Plate to-day where exchange has risen steadily, and where the Caja has to meet a steady drain on the stocks of gold.

The Sydney correspondent of *Commercial Intelligence* remarks that, though the **Federal** Government

wishes to arrange a **commercial treaty with Japan** "serious legal difficulties intervene, one being that the treaty, as prepared by the Japanese, requires a mutual freedom of access to each country by the people of the other country. This is, of course, impossible under the existing Alien Immigration Laws of the Commonwealth. The Australian Prime Minister is, however, having all the treaties and laws bearing on the proposal carefully examined." It is suggested that Argentina and Brazil may run Australia close in the supply of food stuffs to Japan. "Not only has the Japanese Government granted a subsidy to a Japanese South American line, but the immigration of Japanese workers to South America is also to be encouraged, especially to Brazil, where a Japanese bank is to be established. In view of this latter movement the steamers may arrange to visit Santos and Rio Janeiro, as well as Buenos Ayres. This means that the whole of the surplus food supplies of South America will be at the command of Japan."

The Government of Cape Colony propose to adopt certain Regulations with a view of **safeguarding the Colony** against the **introduction** of any **contagious** or infectious disease, through the **importation of second-hand clothing**. The proposed regulations provide that every consignment of second-hand clothing, no matter where its destination, must be declared as such at port of entry, and a certified statement submitted showing exactly of what articles it consists and their place of origin. Every consignment intended for disposal in Cape Colony must be accompanied by a certificate furnished by a responsible authority at the Port of shipment, or the place of origin of the package, certifying that the garments mentioned therein have been efficiently disinfected to the satisfaction of the authority issuing the certificate, together with a certificate or other evidence that since then the package has not been opened or its contents in any way added to or tampered with. Failing the production of these certificates, the whole of the consignment will be subjected to such disinfection at the port of entry in the Colony as may be required by the Government. Consigments for destinations beyond the Colony, if unaccompanied by certificates of disinfection, may be landed under such guarantees as the Controller of Customs may require.

At a meeting in London on the 19th July of the West India Committee, Sir Daniel Morris, the Imperial Commissioner, gave an interesting account of the present position and prospects of the **Sea Island cotton industry** in the West Indies. He said that the recent revival of cotton industry in the West Indies. He said that the recent revival of cotton-planting in those islands was due to the action of the Imperial Department of Agriculture. Sea Island cotton was selected for the experiment because the plant was formerly a native of the West Indies, and was therefore peculiarly adapted to the local conditions. In 1903, while on a visit to the United States, he obtained £500 worth of cotton-seed from one of the best estates in the Sea Islands, and thus was laid the foundation an important new industry in the West Indies. As showing the steady **growth of cotton-planting in the Islands**, it was stated that in 1902 the value of the lint and seed was just under £10,000, in 1903 it was nearly £12,000, in 1904 nearly £32,000, and in 1905 over £63,000. The returns for the year 1906 were not yet completed, but the value of the lint and seed produced during the quarter ending March 31 last was nearly £42,000 or two-thirds of that for the year 1905. The total value of the industry to date might, therefore, be placed at nearly £160,000.

The aggregate **Gold production of the Rand** for the whole of 1905 showed that the value of gold secured was £19,991,658, in contrast with £15,539,219 in 1904. The June 1906 result shows a record £1,937,024. The June daily output was at the rate to give a value of about £23,240,000 for the year. Actual figures are given in the table below.

	No. of Mines.	No. of Stamps.	Tons Milled and yield per Ton. Tons.	Yield.	Value. £
1904	...	...	8,058,295	38-6	15,539,219
1905	...	...	11,163,143	35-9	19,991,658
1906	...	...	...	...	...
January	63	6,920	1,008,929	34-3	1,746,905
February	63	7,063	923,918	35-9	1,653,539
March	64	7,025	1,039,479	34-4	1,804,321
April	63	7,090	1,019,621	34-9	1,786,030
May	...	...	...	...	1,877,225
June	...	...	...	...	1,937,024

An Alexandria Correspondent of *The Manchester Guardian* with regard to the **Egyptian cotton crop** outlook writes under date July 6 :—"The summary of answers received by the Alexandria Produce Association for June shows that the temperature during June was warm and normal, the plants benefiting considerably thereby. On this head the only complaints are from the North Behera, where of late the nights have been rather cool. The present condition appears to be satisfactory, and everywhere the plants present a healthy and vigorous appearance. The backwardness previously existing has been to a great extent made good, and in most places has completely disappeared. The eggs of the cotton worm have been found in many fields in almost every province, but they are not general, and in my case the picking of affected leaves at the instigation of the Government has very effectively destroyed the eggs. There is therefore no damage done so far by worms. Water is sufficient and, indeed, plentiful, save in some isolated and distant localities where, as happens every year, a more plentiful supply would be welcomed. The reports from Upper Egypt and Fayoum are good. There is a slight backwardness as compared with last year, but the plant is doing well; water is abundant, and there are no worms. Contrary to the first reports, it is found that the acreage is a good deal less in the Minieh Province, but it is to some extent compensated by the increase elsewhere, and notably in the Beni-Souef Province.

The **prices of opium** in the Calcutta market during the week ending 4th August were, per chest as follows :—

Behar opium—Rs. 1,455; 1,460; 1,470; 1,470; 1,495; 1,490; 1,480.

Benares opium—Rs. 1,330; 1,340; 1,350; 1,350; 1,370; 1,370; 1,360.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 8th sale of 1906.—Rs. 1,454; 1,460; 1,470; 1,470; 1,495; 1,490; 1,480.

China market, Hong-kong (exchange Rs. 158 to 158½ per 100 dollars).

Behar.—$925; 925 to 930; 930, 932, 937; 935, 940, 942; 955, 957½, 962; 960; 960.

Shanghai (exchange Rs. 217 to 218 per 100 Taels)—Four sales on July 30th, August 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of Taels 668, 675, 687, and 693, respectively.

Benares—Four sales on July 30th and 31st and August 1st and 2nd of $850, 855 to 857, 857 to 860 and 875 to 880 respectively; while four sales, Shanghai, on July 30th, August 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of Taels 618, 625, 637, and 643 respectively.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending 28th July were—for A class (season 1905-06) on July 22nd and 23rd Rs. 1,337 to 1,368 and on July 24th to 28th Rs. 1,340 to 1,380, for B class (season 1904-05) on July 22nd and 23rd Rs. 1,450 to 1,544 and on July 24th to 28th Rs. 1,470 to 1,610; class C, old (season 1903-04) on July 22nd and 23rd Rs. 1,624 to 1,680 and on July 24th to 28th Rs. 1,690 to 1,761. The latest China prices ascertained were for new classes (A and B) Rs. 1,520 to 1,543; old (class B) fetched at Hongkong Rs. 1,701 and at Shanghai Rs. 1,695.

The attendance at the **midsummer leather fair at Leeds** was large. The tone was firm. Buyers would not place large orders at present rates, and holders had no desire to enter into contracts that would bind them too far ahead. Therefore very few heavy transactions took place. Tanners reported that they were well supplied with orders, but that their trade was unremunerative on account of the high prices of raw hides. Boot manufacturers appear to be in a worse position than ever, as the cost of production is steadily increasing, and they find it difficult to obtain a corresponding advance on the finished article. English hands, 6 lbs. to 12 lbs., were in brisk request, and changed hands freely at full recent rates. A few transactions took place at a slight advance. Sellers had no difficulty in disposing of dressing hides at full recent prices, and some lots commanded 1*d.* per lb. advance. The supply of best quality kips was limited, and inquiries did not meet with a ready response. This was also the case with regard to offal. Waxed kip butts were not in much request; box and satin were most in favour. During the previous few weeks there had been a marked falling off in American supplies. Stocks are low, and all quotations show a tendency to advance. Both light and medium butts have been fairly active, and prices are frequently better, but otherwise the demand is only moderate, as consumers are sufficient for current requirements. Values are steady all round, and it is expected that the aggregate trade for the present month will be a good average. Hides continue to harden, the tone being generally strong, with a good inquiry. The *Times* Leicester Correspondent says that the boot and shoe trade is fairly active for the season of the year, and the sales of leather are on a good scale.

In the *Indian Trade Journal* of the 5th April, pages 30 and 31, was given a statement analysing the import trade in boots and shoes in Calcutta. The following statement shows the value of **boots and shoes** imported into **Bombay and Madras** grouped according to the countries of origin.

Countries of origin.		Value.	Remarks.
Bombay.		Rs.	
United Kingdom—Rangoon.	From	7,00,000	In Bombay boots and shoes are imported practically entirely by retail dealers, the proportion of the imports by native dealers being as 10 to 1 as compared with European dealers.
	To	7,50 000	
Austria—Rangoon	From	1,25,000	
	To	1,50,000	
Italy—Rangoon	From	30,000	
	To	35,000	
Germany—Rangoon	From	20 000	
	To	25 000	
Spain—Rangoon	From	20,000	
	To	25,000	
Japan—Rangoon	From	11,000	
	To	12,000	
United States, Rangoon	From	4,000	
	To	6,000	
Total ,,	From	9,10,000	
	To	10,03,000	
Madras.			
United Kingdom		1,09,539	The trade is entirely in the hands of retail dealers, European firms importing about 70 per cent. of the total.
France		104	
Germany		76	
Austria		2,990	
America		5,455	
Japan		681	
Penang		6	
Singapore		7	
Ceylon		4	
Total		1,18,862	

The prices of the various classes of boots and shoes imported into Bombay and Madras were :—

Description of boots and shoes.		Prices per pair.		
Bombay.		*s.*	*d.*	
Gent's brown lace boots, ranging	From	6	4	C. I. F. prices.
	To	8	6	
Gent's brown Oxford shoes, ranging	From	5	7	
	To	7	6	
Gent's black lace boots ranging	From	5	4	
	To	8	0	
,, ,, Oxford shoes ,,	From	5	8	
	To	7	2	
,, Patent leather shoes ,,	From	4	7	
	To	6	2	
,, ,, Court ,, ,,	From	4	4	
	To	4	11	
Ladies' brown ,,	From	4	6	
	To	7	0	
,, Patent and kid shoes ,,	From	4	0	
	To	5	0	
Children's ,, ,,	From	0	11	
	To	2	1	
Japan cloth and straw slippers,	From	0	2½	
	To	0	4	
Madras.				
Gent's boots and shoes, low and medium, ranging	From	0	9	Manufacturer's prices.
Ladies' shoes, ran	To	7	0	

"Although the crops of the United Kingdom do not count for much when taking into account the world's supply and demand, it should not be overlooked," says the *Statist* in an article on the Trade outlook, that the **wheat production of this country is expected to be about 10 per cent. smaller than that of last year.** Further, the French crop is likely to be somewhat smaller than in 1905. The German crop may be about the same as last year. In Hungary the outlook is good, but the larger crop in Hungary is expected to be neutralised by a deficiency in Austria. In Roumania the crop will probably be small, and in Russia serious deficiency is looked for. Consequently, there is likely to be a good demand for wheat for other countries, and should America realise a large crop, as expected, no difficulty will arise in securing a market for it. In measuring the quantity of wheat that America will have available for export, it is necessary to bear in mind that the American wheat crop of last year was much more abundant than that of the previous year and that the stock of wheat in farmers' hands on July 1 last was calculated to reach 46,000,000 bushels, in contrast with 24,000,000 bushels last year, while the visible supply of wheat was 26,000,000 bushels, in contrast with 14,000,000 bushels last year. Consequently, America starts the year from July 1, 1906, with an increased stock of 33,000,000 bushels of wheat. And with this position the crop of 1906 promises to be the largest but one ever gathered. The estimated yield of winter wheat is placed at 429,000,000 bushels, in contrast with last year's crop of 692,979,000 bushels, and with a crop of 552,399,000 bushels in 1904. In 1901 only was the crop greater than that expected to be gathered this year. Then the yield was about 748,000,000 bushels. Including the unsold stocks of wheat over from last year's crop, America should in the coming year have little difficulty in exporting at least 175,000,000 bushels of wheat, and may, if necessary, be able to export some 200,000,000 bushels of wheat. Thus, as far as the volume of export is governed by the size of the wheat crop, the exports of the coming year should be very large."

Messrs. Hubbard Brothers and Co. in their **cotton circular** of July 3 refer to the bearish feeling of the trade, although the Bureau estimate, published by the *Manchester Guardian* which gave 83·3 as the June condition, was lower than general expectation. The circular describes the decline in condition from May to June as "considerable," but the difference is only between 84·6 and 83·3. The probable world's consumption is estimated by them at 11,500,000 bales, and on an acreage of 29 millions "the crop outlook would," they say, "be in the neighbourhood of the estimated consumption."

Despite some adverse reports from Southern Texas, where it has been rather dry for a week, and from the Carolinas, where rains are said to have been excessive, and from Georgia, where the stands are said to be in many cases poor, the general condition of the crop is good, says a New York despatch of July 6th. That is the opinion of some of the best informed people in the trade, and it must be the opinion, it would seem, of any one who takes the trouble to read the various statements pro and con. If July and August are anything like as favourable for the plant as the conditions have been, on the whole, thus far, the conclusion seems unavoidable that the next crop will be far larger than the last one. It may indeed, in such circumstances, reach a total which few as yet venture to predict. In parts of Georgia and the Carolinas, grass is said to be rather troublesome, but a short period of fine weather would suffice to rid the fields of this encumbrance. Conditions in the section east of the Mississippi are plainly better than they were recently. The Georgia State Agricultural Bureau is sending out some rather lurid accounts, but they are taken with a large grain of slat here, because State boards of agriculture are apt to dwell too much on any adverse features of the crop outlook and to minimise the good. The South is to all appearances heavily short of the market, and some of the growing reports about the crop are no doubt dictated by self-interest. But after making due allowance both for the pessimistic and the optimistic, the conclusion of the unbiassed observer must be that the crop taken as a whole is in a promising condition.

The following statement shows the quantity of **sugar imported** from the principal non-European sugar-producing countries; also countries of origin of the total imports of sugar (excluding confectionery and molasses) from all foreign countries **into British India in the month** of June 1906.

Principal non-European sugar-producing countries whence imported.	Quantity imported in June 1906.	Quantity imported in the 3 months ending June 1906.
	cwt.	cwt.
Egypt	...	56
Mauritius	85,160	508,568
China	3,391	6,799
Java	64,910	106,546
Straits Settlements	367	1,499

Countries of origin of total imports.	Share of each country in the total imports in June 1906.	Share in the 3 months ending June 1906.
	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	(*a*) 26	37
Austria-Hungary	211,441	928,691
Belgium	3,986	89,925
Denmark	...	...
France	1,601	23,085*
Germany	359,275	1,180,328*
Holland	67	207
Italy	4	4
Russia	...	...
Spain	...	3
Egypt	2	69
Zanzibar	13	13*
British East Africa (Mombassa)	...	1
Portuguese ,, (Delagoa Bay)	4	4
Mauritius	85,160	508,566
Réunion	...	8,450
Mexico	...	
United States	...	...
West Indies	128	160
South America (excluding Argentine Republic and Chile)	5,064	14,104
Argentine Republic	4	38
Chile	...	...
Falkland Islands	...	...
Aden	...	...
Arabia	5	5
Ceylon	24	97*
China	446	732
India	...	...
Japan	3	3
Java	78,002	161,396
Siam	...	...
Straits Settlements	124	734
Australia	7	7
TOTAL	744,486	2,916,659*

(*a*) Imported from the United Kingdom, origin unknown.

* The figures are subject to revision.

The following **remarks of intrests to Indian Merchants and Manufacturers** appear in the Consular Report in the trade of **Lourenco Marques** for last year :—

The trade in **boots and shoes** is considerable and increasing and appears to be gradually passing to Portugal. It may be taken that 75 per cent. of the trade is for the Kaffir market; the natives prefer the light brown or yellow leather boot, even if of the flimsiest description to the heavier article sent from the United Kingdom.

The imports of **candles** show a decrease of 25 per cent. as compared with 1904. The share of the United Kingdom, however, shows a falling-off of 47 per cent., while the proportion from Germany has increased by nearly 40 per cent. since the latter year.

The quantity of **soap** imported has increased continuously from 188,000 lbs. in 1902 to 618,000 lbs. in 1905; nine-tenths of the total quantity is classed as common soap and comes from Portugal. Of the 60,000 lbs. of toilet soap, Germany sent 30,000 lbs. and the United Kingdom 16,000 lbs., about the same comparative proportions as during 1904.

The figures for **candles for the Transit Trade** for 1905 show an increase of some 4,000,000 lbs. Of the total amount sent through, the United Kingdom furnished 70 per cent., the United States of America 20 per cent. and Germany 5 per cent.

Cotton cloth shows another remarkable increase. The United Kingdom and possessions again send all the white and a little over two-thirds of the coloured, Germany supplying the remainder. In 1904 Germany supplied half the coloured and the United Kingdom not quite all the remainder.

Cotton waste shows a large increase in Germany's proportions of the total amount.

There was a large increase in **flour.** The United Kingdom sends nearly two-thirds of the total amount. In 1904, the United States of America sent five-eighths of the total.

More than double the quantity of **rice** passed through this port in 1905 as compared with 1904. This remarkable increase may be ascribed in large measure to the requirements of the Chinese labourers on the Witwatersrand mines.

The **Inhambane** vice-consular report says :—

Another industry which it will be to the interests of the Portuguese Government to assist by offering every inducement to foreign capital is the **sugar industry.**

A mill has already been erected by a British firm, and in the year under review some 800 tons were milled from the 400 acres at present under cane. Nearly all this sugar is sent to Lisbon, a bounty of £7 per ton being given on all sugar produced in Portuguese Possessions. The industry is still more or less in the experimental stage, but the success which has already been obtained is a clear proof of the possibilities of the district. Suitable land is

easily procurable and there is an abundance of labour at the cheap rate of 100 reis (say 5*d.*) per day.

The following particulars of the **trade of the Straits Settlements** (exclusive of treasure) during the years 1904 and 1905 are taken from the official return of Imports and Exports for the year 1905:—

Imports.

	1904.			1905.		
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca	Singapore.	Penang	Malacca
	Thousands of £	Thousands of £	Thousands of £	Thousands of £	Thousands of £	Thousands of £
Live animals, food and drink and narcotics	9,418	2,658	261	9,933	2,745	303
RAW MATERIALS—						
Textile	217	1	...	152	1	...
Metal	3,870	3,812	...	3,993	4,276	...
Other	4,585	494	27	4,482	588	27
MANUFACTURED ARTICLES—						
Textile	3,154	852	16	3,547	871	21
Other	1,438	403	40	1,446	403	38
Metal	804	209	47	749	216	25
TOTAL	23,486	8,429	391	24,332	9,100	14

Exports.

	1904.			1905.		
	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca	Singapore.	Penang.	Malacca
	Thousands of £	Thousands of £	Thousands of £	Thousands of £	Thousands of £	Thousands of £
Live animals, food and drink and narcotics	7,974	1,976	261	8,652	2,491	283
RAW MATERIALS—						
Textile	200	...	...	148	...	...
Metal	4,016	3,298	...	3,986	4,298	3
Other	3,891	466	37	3,970	556	57
MANUFACTURED ARTICLES—						
Textile	1,933	96	1	2,108	211	4
Metal	314	16	...	367	43	4
Other	841	95	5	927	217	8
TOTAL	19,169	5,947	304	20,158	7,816	359

The following statistics are taken from the report on the trade of the **Federated Malay States** for the year 1905, prepared by the Registrar of Imports and Exports at Singapore (Mr. A. Stuart):—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1904.	1905.	1904.	1905.
	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.	Dollars.
Live animals, food, drinks and narcotics	26,863,000	29,878,000	4,468,000	5,686,000
Raw articles	2,217,000	2,339,000	69,028,000	72,105,000
Manufactured articles	6,569,000	10,268,000	187,000	441,000
Sundries	1,213,000	680,000	14,000	18,000
TOTAL MERCHANDISE	36,862,000	43,165,000	43,165,000	78,250,000

Some interest has lately been taken in **Japanese trading developments in Manchuria**, and the *Japan Times* states, on the authority of the *Tokyo Asahi*, that a union of five cotton companies in the Kansai district has formed a guild for the exportation of goods to Manchuria, and has applied to the Japanese Government for assistance. It is said that the United companies propose to export at least 12,000 bales (valued at 1,200,000 yen) every year, "and keep up the export even though they incur some loss in the business." The "parties concerned," which seems to include the selling agents, are said to have approached the Ministers of Finance and of Communications with the following requests:—

(1) The Government to guarantee a maximum loan of 6,000,000 yen at the rate of interest of 4 per cent. per annum, to be advanced on documentary drafts payable in four months. The loan to be advanced in gold in Japan and repaid in silver at the place of payment of the drafts, according to exchange quotations on the day of payment of the drafts.

(2) Goods mentioned in the drafts to be delivered under certain limitations, even before they are paid for when a security has been furnished, according to circumstances.

(3) The Chinese Eastern Railway to carry the exports free of charge or at half rates for one year hence.

(4) The marine freightage also to be reduced to one-half for one year hence. The Japanese Government is said to have decided to make advances, without limitation of the amount, not only on cotton textiles, but on matches, cement, beer, marine products, timber, cotton yarns, and other goods to be exported to Manchuria, at the rate of 4½ per cent. per annum. In case a single concern or company has effected an export of more than 5,000,000 yens a year, the Government will refund ½ per cent. of the interest mentioned. As regards freightage, the Government will carry out negotiations with the War Office in connection with the Chinese Eastern Railway, and also with the N. Y. K. and Osaka Shosen, Kaisha.

FRONTIER TRADE.

THE bulk of India's Foreign trade is, and always must be, sea-borne, the value of the trade across the land frontiers of India being equal to only 5 per cent. of the trade carried by sea. Although the Foreign land trade is relatively small, one of its chief features is its steady progress. It has now attained fairly substantial dimensions the grand total value of merchandise and treasure imported and exported having been Rs. 16,84,01,939 in 1905-06, compared with Rs. 15,31,94,907 in 1904-05. In 1878-79 the first year for which there are complete statistics, the trade was only Rs. 90,33,123; and since that time it has almost doubled. It must, however, be recognised that the valuation of frontier trade is difficult and defective.

The following statement is interesting as comparing the value of the trade in 1905-06 with the average annual value in the five preceding quinquennial periods:

Average.	Imports. Rs.	Exports. Rs.	Total. Rs.
1880-81 to 1884-85	5,24,04,656	5,17,28,273	10,41,32,929
1885-86 to 1889-90	4,49,38,384	5,95,82,674	10,45,21,058
1890-91 to 1894-95	4,29,06,151	4,05,14,663	8,34,20,814
1895-96 to 1899-1900	5,87,54,796	4,99,30,583	10,86,85,379
1900-01 to 1904-05	7,63,30,044	6,33,66,488	13,96,96,532
1905-06	9,39,78,927	7,35,33,362	16,75,12,289

With the exception of the small trade *vid* the branch line from Sialkot to Jammu in Kashmir, goods are not carried by railway across the frontier. It may, however, be assumed that the movements of merchandise are recorded with sufficient accuracy for analysis. Taking merchandise only, the geographical distribution of the trade by frontiers and principal countries, proceeding from west to east is as follows (in thousand of rupees):—

		1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
N.-W. Frontier.	Afghanistan—Southern and Western.	68,54	53,48	63,02	76,53	85,63
	Northern and Eastern.	61,00	63,99	70,56	87,29	83,43
	Dir, Swat and Bajaur.	1,02,65	96,06	89,08	1,04,55	1,02,96
	Kashmir	2,57,67	2,08,32	2,41,45	2,30,26	2,77,10
N. and N.-E. Frontier.	Tibet	29,72	31,43	20,62	22,39	37,52
	Nepal	4,09,20	3,84,30	3,92,69	3,99,65	4,87,15
E. Frontier	Western China.	68,51	43,73	45 04	49,92	50,26
	North Shan States.	70,65	78,00	85,20	98,70	1,01,90
	South Shan States.	68,89	63,53	70,74	89,08	99,87
	Kareuni	21,58	25,65	32,86	27,41	31,13
	North Siam	34,27	25,93	33,38	39,64	31,67

The Quetta-Nushki Railway has now been opened and it is reasonable to hope that with the greater facilities afforded by the daily service of trains since April last trade will improve. There has been a steady though small increase in both imports and exports during the last five years.

The value of the trade with Seistan was Rs. 7½ lakhs in 1905-06 compared with Rs. 5½ lakhs in 1904-05. The principal imports were silk manufactures valued at Rs. 1,76,778 and precious stones and pearls unset valued at Rs. 46,500. The principal exports were cotton manufactures, Rs. 1,79,343 and indigo Rs. 1,40,282.

Afghanistan.—India's trade with Afghanistan as a whole has increased from Rs. 163·82 lakhs in 1904-05 to Rs. 169·06 lakhs in 1905-06, or by 3 per cent., the exports representing Rs. 104·59 lakhs or 61 per cent of the total, with Rs. 64·46 of imports.

Fruits and nuts with value of Rs. 7·52 lakhs in 1905-06, compared with Rs. 7·95 lakhs in 1904-05, are conspicuous among the imports from Kabul. Animals (living), drugs and medicines, ghi, and raw wool follow in the order mentioned and range individually from Rs. 2·5 lakhs to Rs. 1·25 lakhs. The total imports fell away by 15 per cent. to Rs. 22 lakhs. There was an inappreciable increase in the exports to Kabul at Rs. 61·48 lakhs, the principal articles being cotton piece-goods, which, however, fell from Rs. 38·36 lakhs to Rs. 36·48 lakhs—a decline of Rs. 1·38 lakhs. Next in importance to cotton piece-goods, but a long way behind, in tea, 6,071 cwts. with a value of Rs. 4,31,720. Of this 3,612 cwts. with a value of only Rs. 1,24,176 was Indian, from which it appears that the price of foreign tea at Kabul is more than twice that of Indian tea. The only other articles of any importance are cotton yarn (mostly foreign) valued at Rs. 3·22 lakhs, and manufactured leather valued at Rs. 2·42 lakhs. More than half the imports (Rs 42 lakhs) from Kandahar consisted of raw wool, which rose from Rs. 18·77 lakhs to Rs. 23·48 lakhs. Next came fruits and nuts with a value of Rs. 12·36 lakhs which is much the same as last year, and ghi which fell Rs. 1·44 lakhs from Rs. 2·63 lakhs. The exports to Kandahar in 1905-06 rose to Rs. 43·11 lakhs from Rs. 36·31 lakhs in the previous year, the principal articles being foreign and Indian cotton piece-goods valued at Rs. 13·42 lakhs and Rs. 13·06 lakh, respectively, the former having risen Rs. 3⅓ lakhs and the latter having fallen Rs. 1½ lakhs, while the specific value in each case increased by 31 per cent. and 10 per cent.

Dir, Swat and Bajaur.—The imports from Dir, Swat and Bajaur were the same as in 1904-05, namely, Rs. 39 lakhs. Ghi with an increase of about Rs. 1 lakh represented Rs. 18·75 lakhs or about one-half of the total. The imports of grain had a value of Rs. 5 lakhs and consisted principally of husked rice at Rs. 6 lakhs and unhusked rice at Rs. 1·65 lakhs. Hides and skins declined from Rs. 6·1 lakhs to Rs. 4·1 lakhs, and timber advanced from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2·75 lakhs. While the imports thus remained stationary, the exports receded to Rs. 64·02 lakhs from 65·88 lakhs. The principal articles of export were cotton piece-goods 35 lakhs (foreign Rs. 25 lakhs and Indian 10 lakhs), twist and yarn 6·8 lakhs (foreign 4·59 and Indian 2·2 lakhs), salt 4·63 lakhs, raw cotton 3 lakhs, sugar

2·09 lakhs. Metals, spices, tobacco, indigo and tea ranged in value from 2 to 1 lakhs each, indigo and metals advancing, while spices, tea and tobacco receded. Indian tea decreased from 181,552 lbs.valued at Rs. 64,812 to 159,264 lbs. valued at Rs. 49,009; but foreign tea increased from 79,408 lbs. with a value of Rs. 82,195 to 1,05,280 lbs. with a value of Rs. 90,142. A little more than three-fourths of the tea exported was green tea.

Kashmir.—Both the import and export trade with Kashmir improved in 1905-06. Imports increased from Rs. 12·18 lakhs to Rs. 159·33 lakhs (equivalent to an increase of 32 per cent.) and exports from Rs 110·07 lakhs to Rs. 126·76 lakhs, (equivalent to an increase of 14 per cent. Appended are the principal articles of import from Kashmir with their value for the last three years :—

	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Silk . . .	11,11,080	15,12,884	22,93,950
Ghi . . .	31,32,444	30,02,974	29,80,649
Timber . . .	30,20,622	19,31,577	24,14,877
Drugs and Medicines	6,82,013	8,63,825	19,44,843
Charas . . .	1,19,160	2,84,760	14,18,900
Hides and skins .	12,27,780	13,53,225	16,52,839
Woollen piece-goods .	9,34,655	10,75,047	10,81,770
Shawls . . .	500	1,000	18,780
Fruits and nuts .	4,97,279	7,48,883	8,52,724
Grain . . .	4,77,737	4,58,901	8,21,284
Wheat . . .	82,145	2,19,720	4,38,941
Rain corps other than rice . . .	60,147	53,798	1,12,253

Silk, which is of excellent quality and produced in the State filatures has, it will be seen, increased 53 per cent. in value but only 43 per cent. in quantity, the actual quantities imported were 231,280 lbs in 1904-05 and 330,848 lbs. in 1905-06. While wheat and rain crops other than rice almost doubled in quantity, they more than doubled in value, the average price per cwt. of the former rising from Rs. 213-10 to Rs. 3-9-9, and of the latter from Rs. 2-1-3 to Rs. 2-6-6. There was a large increase in the imports of timber and of hides and skin, both in quantity and in value. In the case of timber the increase in quantity was 27 per cent. and in value 26 per cent. Hides and skins increased 3 per cent. in quantity and 30 per cent. in value. Fruits and nuts increased 9 per cent. in quantity and 14 per cent. in value. The imports of ghi fell in quantity but remained constant in value, the average price per cwt. having risen to Rs. 45 from Rs. 43. The price of woollen piece-goods fell from Rs. 190 to Rs. 186 per cwt. The imports of charas which comes principally from Central Asia and which is subject to a high excise duty showed a rise very marked in quantity and even more noticeable in value.

In the following statement are enumerated the principal articles of export to Kashmir :—

	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cotton piece-goods .	48,55,525	43,79,041	52,94,524
Sugar . .	12,05,148	11,72,436	14,11,951
Cotton yarn . .	4,75,170	5,16,989	8,01,506
Tea . . .	3,57,434	5,26,486	7,28,302
Salt . . .	9,45,432	9,32,601	6,33,269
Metals . . .	6,62,039	4,86,287	9,33,893

Cotton piece-goods, by far the largest item of export, increased 16 per cent. in quantity (44,611 cwts. in 1904-05 to 51,034 cwts. in 1905-06) and 21 per cent. in value (Rs. 43·79 to Rs. 52·94 lakhs), whilst cotton yarns increased 43 per cent. in quantity (7,038 cwts. to 10,245 cwts.) and 60 per cent. in value (Rs. 5·17 lakhs to Rs. 8·02 lakhs). More than four-fifths of the former and 96 per cent. of the latter were of foreign manufacture. Tea exports increased 8 per cent. in quantity (from 1,484,448 lbs. to 1,664,768 lbs.) and 40 per cent. in value (Rs. 5·26 lakhs to Rs. 7·28 lakhs), the price of foreign tea being Rs. 0-6-11 per lb. compared with Indian tea at Rs. 0-10-7 per lb. Sugar increased 2·5 per cent. in quantity (114,825 cwts.) to 117,220 cwts.) and 27 per cent. in value (Rs. 11·72 lakhs to Rs. 14·12 lakhs). The only principal article that fell was salt, which declined 20 per cent. in quantity (266,376 cwts. to 214,385 cwts.) and 33 per cent. in value (Rs. 9·33 lakhs to Rs. 6·33 lakhs).

Ladakh.—Ladakh is a junction for trade between India and Western Tibet on the one hand and Yarkand and Kashgar on the other. Trade with it, which is registered separately from the trade with Kashmir, is small, its value amounting to only Rs. 6·86 (Rs. 5·78 lakhs imports and exports only Rs. 1·08 lakhs). Both imports and exports declined in 1905-06—imports 50 per cent. and exports 66 per cent. In imports, charas was the only article of importance, its value being 80 per cent. of the total value, and this fell away from 2,276 cwts. valued at Rs. 9·29 lakhs, to 1,086 cwts. valued at Rs. 4·21 lakhs. There has been a remarkable increase in the imports of raw silk from Ladakh; in 1904-05 it was only 56 cwts. valued at Rs. 26,600, and in 1905-06 the quantity rose to 172 cwts. and the value to Rs. 82,000. Cotton piece-goods form the principal item of export, for their value was more than three-fourths of the total value of exports, but a decline occurred both in quantity and in value, the fall in the former case being 67 per cent. and in the latter 65 per cent. Practically all the piece-goods were of foreign manufacture.

Northern and North-eastern Frontier.

Nepal and Tibet are the only two principal states or countries along this frontier which can be said to have any trade of importance with India.

Nepal.—The trade with Nepal increased from Rs. 399·65 lakhs in 1904-05 (imports Rs. 253·99 lakhs and exports Rs. 145·66 lakhs) to Rs. 487·15 lakhs in 1905-06 (imports Rs. 332·88 lakhs and exports Rs. 154·27 lakhs). In the latter year it amounted to 33 per cent. of the total frontier trade of India compared with 30 per cent. in 1904-05. The fluctuations in the past three years are set forth in the appended list of the principal articles of imports :—

	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Grain and pulse .	1,29,56,132	1,28,27,242	1,73,33,936
Rice . . .	75,48,735	73,07,271	96,38,652
Paddy . . .	39,55,682	40,66,437	57,22,659
Wheat . . .	1,96,368	1,97,605	3,36,361
Animals, living .	21,79,400	27,88,745	30,24,550
Cattle . . .	12,36,282	15,45,314	18,26,302
Oilseeds . .	25,36,055	25,45,789	23,50,612
Linseed . . .	11,46,444	10,63,707	6,67,341
Rape and mustard .	13,76,151	14,71,791	16,01,544
Ghi . . .	15,41,796	15,82,240	22,06,776
Jute, raw . .	7,49,577	9,01,154	21,39,964
Hides and skins .	9,38,140	9,39,008	11 88,202
Spices . . .	12,04,471	9,02,706	10,33,007

Of the total imports from Nepal, grain (principally rice, husked and unhusked) accounted for 52 per cent. The imports of this article rose from 3,594,291 cwts. valued at Rs. 128·27 lakhs, in 1904-05 to 4,463,201 cwts. valued at Rs. 173·34 lakhs in 1905-06, this representing an increase of 26 per cent. in quantity and 35 per cent. in value. More than half the cattle imported into India across the land frontiers came from Nepal into Bengal, the number imported in 1905-06 being 43,976 with a value of Rs. 18,26,302, giving an average price per head of Rs. 41½. Another another article of importance, the imports of which have been steadily growing, is raw jute. Nepal in fact is the only country from which India imports any jute. In 1905-06 the quantity rose to 236,214 cwts. from 150,173 cwts. the year previous or an increase of 57 per cent., while the value more than doubled having increased from Rs. 9·01 lakhs in 1904-05 to Rs. 21·4 lakhs in 1905-06. The average value of raw jute imported from Nepal was Rs. 9 per cwt. in 1905-06 compared with an average price of Rs. 6 per cwt. in the previous year. Oilseeds valued at Rs. 232 lakhs (mustard and rape Rs. 1,602 lakhs, and linseed Rs. 667 lakhs) was the only principal article of which the imports fell away in 1905-06. Besides the articles enumerated above there are several of which the value exceeds a lakh of rupees, the principal of these being : railway materials (Rs. 7·76 lakhs), timber (Rs. 5·33 lakhs) and dyes (Rs. 4·94 lakhs). Railway materials have risen from half a lakh in 1904-05 to over Rs. 73 lakhs.

The following are the principal articles of export to Nepal :—

	1903-04	1904-05	1905-06
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cotton piece-goods .	50,19,722	57,68,943	60,07,841
„ twist and yarn .	14,70,921	15,06,067	17,47,875
Metals	14,79,186	15,98,341	14,06,444
Salt	10,60,566	11,37,118	12,38,600
Spices	6,61,897	6,48,580	7,99,292
Sugar	5,71,555	5,96,666	7,29,602

Cotton piece-goods with twist and yarn (six-sevenths of which was of foreign manufacture) accounted for half India's exports to Nepal. The former increased by 10 per cent in quantity and 5 per cent. in value. Metals is the only item that fell both in quantity and in value, the decline being 3 per cent. in the former and 7 per cent. in the latter.

Sikkim and Bhutan.—The trade with both Sikkim and Bhutan advanced in 1905-06. The imports from the former reached Rs. 4·08 lakhs (principally grain 1·12 lakhs and fruits, etc., Rs. ·74 lakhs) in place of 23·5 lakhs 1904-05. The imports from Bhutan amounted to 12·41 lakhs and of these the most important were timber, Rs. 6·6 lakhs, and fruits, etc., Rs. 2·76 lakhs. The export to Sikkim (Rs. 43 lakhs) consisted principally of grain, Rs. 1·29 lakhs, cotton piece-goods and yarn (chiefly the former and of Indian manufacture) Rs. 94,000 and salt Rs. 31,000. The exports to Bhutan amounted to Rs. 1·92 lakhs and of these the most important were cotton piece-goods and yarn (chiefly the former and of foreign manufacture) with a value of Rs 56,000, silk manufactures Rs. 31,000, and spices Rs. 26,000.

Tibet.—The effect of the treaty of Lhassa of September 1904 on the Indo-Tibetan trade has not yet been felt to any appreciable extent better equipped trade agencies have been established at Gyangtse and Gantok. Chumbi traders, lately returned from Lhassa, state that there are now more Indian goods in Lhassa than has ever been the case in the past. Prices have fallen considerably, but supplies on the road between Gyangtse and Lhassa are said to be unusually dear.

The imports from Tibet in 1905-06 rose to Rs.19·19 lakhs from Rs. 11·95 lakhs in the year previous. More than half the imports consisted of raw wool which increased 100 per cent. in quantity (from 21,940 cwts. to 42,741 cwts.) and 120 per cent. in value (from Rs. 5·86 lakhs to Rs. 11·3 lakhs). Other principal articles were borax Rs. 1·93 lakhs, salt 1·68 lakhs and horses, ponies and mules about a lakh. Exports increased in about the same proportion as imports (from Rs. 10·43 lakhs in 1904-05 to Rs. 18·33 lakhs in 1905-06), the principal articles as is usual in transfrontier trade, cotton piece-goods with a value of Rs. 5·05 lakhs and yarn with a value of Rs. 22,356. Other principal articles of export were, in the order in which they are named: grain Rs. 2·39 lakhs (about half being husked rice), coral Rs. 2·28 lakhs, woollen manufactures 1·88 lakhs, and metals Rs. 85,000.

Other States.—The two most important among the remaining States are Manipur and Hill Tipperah. The imports from Manipur were valued at Rs. 3·17 lakhs in 1905-06 compared with Rs. 3·74 lakhs in 1904-05, the principal articles being cattle Rs. 1·06 and husked rice Rs. 1·18 lakhs. The exports to Manipur, which in 1904-05 were Rs. 2·68 lakhs, declined in 1905-06 to Rs. 2·12 lakhs. They consisted principally of spices Rs. 73·297, cotton piece-goods Rs. 44,458 (about equally divided between Foreign and Indian, salt Rs. 18,370, and oil Rs.15·551. The imports from Hill Tipperah advanced from Rs. 5·39 lakhs to Rs. 7·02 lakhs and were composed principally of timber Rs. 2·78, bamboos

Rs. 1·53, and raw cotton Rs. 144 lakhs. The exports to Hill Tipperah also advanced, from Rs. 1·95 to Rs. 2·47 lakhs, and were composed of a number of small items, the three principal being dry fish, Rs. 23,604; tobacco, Rs. 22,388, and grain and pulse Rs. 21,678.

Eastern Frontier.

Western China.—While the import trade with Western China, which really means the trade of Bhamo with Tongyueh in Yunnan, advanced from Rs. 13·14 lakhs in 1904-05 to Rs. 17·25 lakhs in 1905-06, the increase being one of 30 per cent. The export trade received a small set back, having declined to Rs. 33·01 lakhs from Rs. 36·78 lakhs, a fall of 8 per cent. Among the imports, the largest increase was in opium which rose from Rs. 14,975 to Rs. 3·62 lakhs. The other principal items which increased were: raw silk from Rs. 4·52 lakhs to Rs. 5·42 lakhs, hides of cattle from Rs. 1 74 lakhs to Rs. 2·16 lakhs, orpiment from Rs. 97·290 to Rs. 1·21 lakhs. Animals (living) declined from Rs. 2·39 lakhs to Rs. 1·81 lakhs, and lac from Rs. 1·03 lakhs to Rs. 26,672. More than half the exports (58 per cent.) consisted of cotton yarn, all of Indian manufacture, which fell from Rs. 23·74 lakhs to Rs. 19·09 lakhs. Cotton piece-goods, however, increased by 72 per cent., from Rs. 2·22 lakhs to Rs. 3·8 lakhs. The other principal items of exports were: raw cotton 3·5, jadestone 1·22, provisions 1·65, and salt 1·24 lakhs. Exports of petroleum increased 120 per cent. having risen from Rs. 29,896 to Rs. 64,211.

Shan States (North and South).—These States are British territory under local chiefs; but for convenience of registration they are treated as foreign countries and two-thirds of trade across the Eastern frontier is with them. The trade as a whole increased 7 per cent. in 1905-06, the imports having increased by Rs. 39,000 although there was a decline of Rs. 3·72 lakhs. in the imports from the Northern States. The exports increased by more than Rs. 13 lakhs, about equally shared between the Northern and Southern States. The principal items of import in 1905-06 from the Northern States (total value Rs. 50·49 lakhs) were: letpet (pickled tea) Rs. 22·51 lakhs (in 1904-05 Rs. 24·8 lakhs), tea (leaf) Rs. 10·8 lakhs, teak Rs. 3 76 lakhs (in 1904-05 Rs. 8·15 lakhs), husked rice Rs. 1·87 lakhs, and lac Rs. 1·57 lakhs. The exports (total value Rs. 51·42 lakhs) consisted of cotton piece-goods (almost entirely foreign) Rs. 9·97 lakhs compared with Rs. 12·53 lakhs in 1904-05 yarn Rs. 9·51 lakhs (mostly foreign) compared with Rs. 5·98 in 1904-05, provisions Rs. 8·09 lakhs (seven-eights of which was fish), salt Rs. 2·95 lakhs, iron Rs. 2·55 lakhs, opium Rs. 2·53 lakhs, and animals living Rs. 2 lakhs. The imports from the Southern Shan States (total value Rs. 4·703 lakhs,) were composed of horses, ponies and mules Rs 3·23 lakhs, cattle Rs. 7·09 lakhs, teak Rs. 8·85 lakhs, lac Rs 6·56 lakhs, potatoes Rs. 1·95 lakhs, other fruits, vegetables and nuts Rs. 3·21 lakhs and hides and skins Rs. 1·23 lakhs (in 1904-05 they were only Rs. 24,000). The exports to the South Shan States (Rs. 52·84 lakhs) were made up of cotton piece-goods (mostly foreign) Rs. 19·38 lakhs, provisions (principally fish) Rs. 4·94 lakhs, manufactured silks Rs. 4·02 lakhs, betelnuts 3 lakhs, apparel Rs. 2·63 lakhs, cotton yarn Rs. 2·59 lakhs (mostly Indian), and metals Rs. 2·24 lakhs (of which iron constituted Rs. 1½ lakhs).

North and South Siam.—India's trade with North Siam is more than three and-a-half times her trade with South Siam. Her imports from North Siam in 1905-06 fell 28 per cent., that is to say, from Rs. 28·93 lakhs to Rs. 20·75 lakhs. They consisted mainly of teak Rs. 12·28 lakhs, cattle Rs. 3·84 lakhs (with a decline from Rs. 10·94 lakhs in the previous year), and other kinds of animals which, however, rose from Rs. 2·96 lakhs in 1904-05 to Rs. 4·06 lakhs in 1905-06. Exports to North Siam (Rs. 10·91 lakhs) were composed of cotton piece-goods (almost all foreign manufacture) Rs. 2·31 lakhs yarn Rs. 1·71 lakhs (which like piece-goods was almost all of foreign manufacture), apparel Rs. 1·3 lakhs, and manufactured silk Rs. 1·12 lakhs. The imports from South Siam (Rs. 5·64 lakhs) were made up almost entirely of manufactured silk Rs. 2·88 lakhs and animals living Rs. 2·71 lakhs. The exports of South Siam had a value of only Rs. 3·43 lakhs but are to be compared with Rs. 2·1 lakhs in 1904-05. The only item that exceeded half a lakh of rupees was manufactured silk valued at Rs. 66,000.

Karennee.—The exports to Karennee are trifling but they advanced in 1905-06 to Rs. 4·17 lakhs from Rs. 2·37 lakhs in 1904-05, the two principal items being animals, living, which increased from half a lakh in 1904-05 to Rs. 1·78 lakhs in 1905-06, and jewellery and precious stones and pearls unset, which rose from only Rs. 4,000 in 1904-05 to Rs. 81,000 in 1905-06. The imports (Rs. 26·95 lakhs) consisted almost entirely of teak valued at Rs. 26·35 lakhs.

The general character of the trade with countries across the Indian frontiers will be observed from the appended list of principal articles of imports and exports. The values are stated in thousands of rupees:—

IMPORTS.

	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
Cattle	33,29	39,59	33,60
Other animals	38,38	35,16	31,70
Drugs and medicines, including charas	20,72	25,85	31,57
Fibrous products (chiefly jute)	12,12	13,32	26,65
Fruits, vegetables, and nuts	31,01	37,23	41,52
Grain and pulse (largely rice)	1,49,78	1,47,63	1,96,57
Hides and skins	35,13	35,90	41,01
Ghi (clarified butter)	64,05	71,94	75,86
Pickled tea	22,06	24,88	22,52
Seeds (chiefly linseed and rape-seed)	32,22	28,52	26,79
Silk	22,80	24,71	36,56
Spices	17,17	12,18	13,65
Wood and timber, chiefly teak	1,22,35	94,94	99,32
Wool, raw	27,10	30,89	42,45
Woollen goods	11,11	12,52	13,62

EXPORTS.

	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
Cotton, raw	7,60	11,03	8,93
Cotton yarn:			
Foreign	28,28	31,25	39,88
Indian	33,30	34,80	29,88
Cotton goods:			
Foreign	1,50,31	1,87,86	2,02,70
Indian	63,34	64,91	61,39
Grain and pulse	17,39	16,67	18,86
Metals, mainly brass, copper, and iron	30,42	32,11	31,87
Oils	13,50	14,18	16,94
Provisions	19,43	21,97	24,57
Salt	31,46	33,03	31,22
Silk goods	8,22	8,97	8,12
Spices	14,04	17,06	17,53
Sugar	27,04	26,67	33,10
Tea	10,69	12,40	14,24
Tobacco	12,10	13,03	14,28

The relative importance of the trade of each frontier province with the countries on the other side of its border is indicated by the following figures (in thousands of rupees):—

	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
Sind and Baluchistan	1,02,18	75,30	88,47	1,04,90	1,12,02
N.-W. Frontier Province	4,80,76	2,07,59	2,43,78	2,92,77	2,98,56
Panjab		2,19,09	2,18,86	2,61,42	2,31,02
United Provinces	1,63,20	1,64,75	1,70,52	1,64,75	1,94,65
Bengal	3,18,79	2,82,86	2,67,02	2,86,04	3,81,44
Assam	13,63	11,69	20,51	18,64	19,88
Burma	3,57,36	3,09,75	3,69,93	4,03,42	4,37,55

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

EXCERPTS FROM PROCEEDINGS.

BOMBAY MILLOWNERS' ASSOCIATION.

READ letters from the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Cotton Trade Association regarding the scheme outlined by the Secretary for the formation of a Roving Commission to enquire into the adulteration and deterioration of cotton forwarded to Bombay for export and local consumption. Also a communication from the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Surat, regarding the admixture of cotton in the field.

RESOLUTION.—That a Sub-Committee, consisting of the Chairman, Mr. N. B. Saklatwalla and Mr. Narandas Purshotumdas, be appointed to meet representatives of the Chamber and Cotton Trade Association to discuss the scheme in detail.

READ letter from the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, forwarding copy of their communication to the Upper India Chamber, and asking for an expression of the views of the Association regarding the subject of uniformity in the Weights and Measures in general use in this country.

RESOLUTION.—The Chamber to be informed that the Committee agree to the adoption of the pound as a unit of measure if feasible, but they consider its general use would be difficult of attainment as the people throughout the country think and carry out their commercial transactions in seers and maunds.

READ letter from the Chairman regarding the supply of Hydro-electric power to mills.

RESOLUTION.—Government to be addressed that the Committee understand that a license has been applied for by Messrs. Tata & Sons on behalf of the Hydro-electric project, and that the Bombay Electric Supply and Tramway Company have lodged a protest against granting the said license. Add that the Committee respectfully beg that before Government come to any decision regarding the future source of electric supply for industrial purposes they may be given an opportunity of expressing their views on this important subject.

READ report of the Sub-Committee appointed to consider the proposed amendment of Section 9 of the Bombay Boiler Inspection Act.

RESOLUTION.—The Collector to be informed that the Committee have given the subject their careful consideration, and that they approve of the suggestions put forward by him in his letter of the 15th March 1906; but that the various methods should all be permissible in providing effective disconnection, as the adoption of any one method may not be applicable in every case, whereas a certain latitude in the choice of means would cover all boilers. Add, that the Committee would be obliged if favoured with a draft of the proposed amendments in Section 9, before the amended Act was forwarded to Government for sanction.

Note.—This matter was referred to in the *Indian Trade Journal* of the 10th May, page 191.

READ letter from the Government of Bombay forwarding, for information, copy of a Notification by the Government of India prescribing, so far as this Presidency is concerned, the revised Form A (Cotton Duties), in substitution of the Form A, prescribed by the Notification of that Government, dated 17th March 1906.

RESOLUTION.—To be circulated to members and recorded.

READ letter from the Collector of Customs, Bombay, forwarding tabulated statement showing the number of hours that each mill was working.

RESOLUTION—To invite the attention of all Mills working over 13 hours to the above official statement, and request the said Mills to favour the Association with some explanation of the long hours referred to.

RANGOON.

CONSIDERED letter No. 2492-T., dated the 7th June 1906, from the Director-General of Telegraphs, Calcutta, asking that some of the messages mutilated in transmission from Europe might be submitted to him to enable him to localise the fault with a view to improve the service.

RESOLVED that the information asked for be furnished.

The following was recorded:—

Political Department No. 527/1C—6, dated the 18th June 1906, from the Local Government, stating for the information of the Chamber that the result of the first year's working having been satisfactory, the Government of

India have sanctioned the permanent continuance of the system of giving drawbacks at Bhamo on goods which are declared at Rangoon for export to Tengyueh and which have paid duty in Rangoon, and forwarding a copy of the rules under which this system is worked together with a set of the forms.

To be circulated to the Import Sub-Committee for information and favour of remarks.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

The *Board of Trade Journal* published on the 19th July, in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations, gives particulars about:—

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.—Customs Decision: "Overland Cloth."

RUSSIA.—Free Importation of Fish Tins and Tinned Fish.

FRANCE.—Decree Relative to the Ear-Marking of Cattle, etc.

FRANCE-SWITZERLAND.—Further Prolongation of France-Swiss Provisional Commercial Arrangement. Modifications in French Customs Tariff consequent on approaching Termination of Franco-Swiss Arrangement.

FRANCE-SPAIN.—Commercial Relations between France and Spain.

SWITZERLAND.—Special Duty on Sulphuric Ether. Differential Duties on certain Spanish Products.

SPAIN.—New Customs Tariff.

ROUMANIA.—Tariff Alterations.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.—Modifications of Customs and Consular Regulations.

MEXICO.—Duty-free Admission of certain Articles into Qintana Roo—Extension of Period. Stamp in connection with Customs Permits, etc.

ECUADOR.—Translation of the Customs Tariff of Ecuador. A correction. Abolition of certain Monopolies: Duties on Articles Affected.

URUGUAY.—Revision of Customs Valuation Tariff.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—Customs Regulations. Imports of Industrial Alcohol subject to Internal Duty. Duty on Lottery Tickets.

SAN SALVADOR.—New Stamp Duty on Imports.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.—Proposed Regulations affecting Importation of Second-hand Clothing.

NETHERLANDS.—Commission Appointed to Revise Customs Tariff. Proposed.

We give the following particulars of **changes interesting to Indian Trade:—**

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.

Customs Decisions. "Overland Cloth."

The "Commonwealth of Australia Gazette" for 26th May last contains a Notice, dated 17th May 1906, stating that "overland cloth" (also known as "Japan Hessian cloth"), which is made of jute and capable of being used as a substitute for leather cloth, is chargeable with the same duty as that leviable on leather cloth, *viz.*, 5 per cent. *ad valorem* on importation into the Commonwealth.

ROUMANIA.

Tariff Alterations.

A Roumania Law was passed on the 24th May 1906, and is already in force, modifying certain articles of the Roumanian Customs Tariff.

These modifications, which are for the most part of slight importance. The following is the only item of interest to India:—

Article.	Rate of Duty.	
	Fixed by Tariff.	Fixed by the present Law.
Vegetable oils and greases, not specially mentioned, boiled or not, including oleine (vegetable or animal)	Lei. b. 100 kilogs. 30 00	Lei. b. No change.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

Customs Regulations.

The Argentine Minister of Finance promulgated on 2nd June a Decree containing regulations under the Customs Law for the current year. The following are of interest to India:—

Penalty for Importing Merchandise as "Parcels."—Three months after the date of promulgation of the Decree, penalties will be imposed on merchandise introduced as "parcels" (thereby escaping the payment of the regular stamp and Customs charges) which is not destined solely for the private use of the person to whom it is sent.

Weight of Flour Bags.—Articles 69 and 70 impose penalties for incorrect statements as to the weight of the bags or other coverings used for flour.

INDIA.

Passenger's Baggage—Exemption from Customs Duty—New Rules.

The following rules, which will be printed on all baggage declaration forms, will supersede the previous rules and executive orders on the subject, and will come into force at all Customs Ports on the 1st October 1906.

(1) The *bonâ fide* baggage of a passenger is exempt from duty when it accompanies him; does not form part of the cargo; and is not included in the manifest.

(2) *Bonâ fide* baggage shall include wearing apparel and personal effects provided that the articles are not for sale and are imported for the personal use of the passenger or for the use of members of his family travelling with him; but it shall not include the following articles on which duty must be paid in all cases:

(*a*) Arms, ammunition and all other articles enumerated in Schedule II of the Tariff Import Schedule.

(*b*) Alcoholic liquor, exceeding two quarts, perfumed spirit exceeding one quart, and all other articles enumerated in Schedule III.

(*c*) Cigars and cigarettes exceeding 100 in number, whether in opened or unopened boxes, and other tobacco exceeding 1 lb. in weight.

(*d*) *Pianos, pianolas, carriages, motor cars and* motor cycles.

(*e*) Articles for household use such as furniture, pictures, carpets, glass, crockery, cutlery, and silver and plated ware, except such articles (other than furniture or carpets) as shall appear to the Customs authorities to be imported in a moderate quantity and to be required for the personal use of the passenger whilst travelling or immediately upon his arrival at his destination.

(3) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Rule 1, *bonâ fide* baggage landed at any Customs Port within one month before or after the arrival of a passenger in India may, subject to the exceptions specified in Rule 2, be passed free at the discretion of the Collector of Customs.

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 4th AUGUST 1906.

DURING the period under review there was nearly general rain in the eastern half of the United Provinces, the Central Sub-Himalayas, Eastern Bengal and Assam, Bihar, North-east India and Orissa, general moderately heavy rain in Burma, light to moderate nearly general rain in the United Provinces, the east Punjab, light rain on the West Coast, the east of Central India, the Central Provinces, South India and Konkan Coast, while few light falls occurred in Bengal, Chota Nagpur, Rajputana, South Deccan and in the remainder of the Peninsula. The principal amounts of rainfall were:— Cherra Poonjee 16·33″, Chittagong 9·71″, Simla 6·63″, Tavoy 4·75″, Jalpaiguri 4·50″, Purnea 4·24″, Darjeeling 4·18″, Mymensingh 3·74″, Silchar 3·50″, Shillong 3·35″, Allahabad 3·31″, Dinajpur 3·20″, Dehra Dun 3·03″, Cochin 2·85″, Bahraich 2·83″, Sutna 2·74″, Akyab 2·68″, Patna 2·60″, Calicut 2·47″, Lucknow 2·40″, Mangalore 2·28″, Bhamo 2·21″, Negapatam 1·85″, and Murree 1·81″.

The chief feature of the weather was the heavy rainfall over the plains and hills of Northern India. The depression which was slowly drifting into Bihar at the close of the last week gave heavy rain in South-west Bengal and Chota Nagpur and widespread rain in the rest of North-east India. After the disappearance of the depression pressure became very high at the head of the Bay and the trough of low pressure was close to the Himalayas: owing to this distribution rainfall was largely diverted to the Gangetic plain and North-east India.

On the Burma Coast light to moderate rain fell on the 29th and 30th and during the rest of the week, it was light and local, while in the interior of Burma, all stations except Mandalay and Monywa reported some rain. Skies were moderately overcast and temperature normal or in slight excess.

Under the influence of the depression at the close of the last week and owing to the high pressure at the head of the Bay during the middle of the period nearly general rain fell daily in North-east India, and the week's supply was considerably above normal. In Orissa the rainfall was comparatively light. Skies were heavily overcast and temperature was on the average approximately normal.

In the United Provinces and the east of Central India light to moderate rainfall occurred daily, while skies were heavily overcast throughout the week and temperature was in defect. Rainfall was fairly abundant in the submontane and eastern districts of the Punjab, but in the remaining districts weather was practically dry and much warmer than usual. Skies were clear in the western and central parts, but elsewhere they were lightly overcast.

In the Central Provinces the precipitation was very light and local. Weather was dry, except for occasional light falls in the west of Central India, in Rajputana and Gujarat. Skies were moderately to heavily overcast and temperature was approximately normal.

On the West Coast precipitation, though light was well distributed; on the 29th, 31st and 1st, the Monsoon gave rain on the south of the Madras Coast, but in the remainder of the Peninsula weather was generally dry, only isolated falls occurring. Temperature was in slight excess, and on the West Coast skies were thickly clouded, but elsewhere they were only moderately overcast.

Moderate to heavy rain fell in Assam and North and East Bengal throughout the week and light but general rain in Bihar and Chota Nagpur. Mean temperature rose in Bihar and East Bengal by 3° or 4°, but generally decreased elsewhere. The sky was overcast in Assam, North and East Bengal and South Bihar, the rest of the reporting area being lightly to moderatley clouded.

The rainfall of the whole period from the 4th May to the 4th August had been normal in Burma, North-east India, with the exception of Chota Nagpur, the United Provinces, Central India and the submontane districts of the Punjab, but had been in defect in the remainder of the Punjab, in Rajputana, Sind and West Gujarat. It had been normal or in excess in the Central Provinces and the whole of the Peninsula, excepting Orissa, where, as in Chota Nagpur, rainfall had been below the average.

TELEGRAM FROM THE VICEROY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Crop prospects for the week ending 28th July last.

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh : Good rain has fallen throughout the Province. Standing crops are doing well, and prospects are good. Fodder is sufficient. **Punjab :** Good rain has fallen in the east of the Province. Distress is decreasing. **Rajputana :** Rain has been nearly general. Crops are doing well. Cattle have improved. Pasturage is sufficient. **Central India :** Rainfall general. Crops in good condition. Pasturage sufficient. **Bombay :** Rainfall general and beneficial. Sowings nearing completion and seedlings generally in good condition. Grain stocks adequate. Fodder is scarce still. **Eastern Bengal :** Crop prospects good to fair. Scarcity continues in two districts. Prospects are favourable in other provinces. The **number** of persons in receipt of relief in thousands was as follows :—**United Provinces of Agra and Oudh** 88 ; **Punjab** 9 ; **Ajmere and Rajputana** 40 ; **Central India** 18 ; **Baroda** 2 ; **Bombay** 89 ; **Eastern Bengal** 12 ; total 258.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

HANGCHOW.

Mr. Acting-Consul J. L. Smith in his report on the **trade of Hangchow** for 1905, says that the only articles of import showing **increases** are **opium** (Benares and Patna), **iron** (nail, rod and bars), **soap** and **coal.** The latter is, however, the only one with a considerable excess over last year, 3,467 tons, for which the activity of the mints and cotton mill, where foreign machinery is used, appears to be responsible. The coal used is almost entirely of Japanese origin.

As regards **opium,** it should be remarked that it is only in the particular varieties above mentioned that an increase appears, the total import of the various kinds showing a decrease of 462 cwts.

The **export of green tea** has diminished by 6,101 piculs (7,264 cwts.) and tea dust by 131 piculs (157 cwts.) ; unfired leaf increased by 1,462 piculs (1,739 cwts.).

The local cotton mill, which is conducted on foreign lines, has had the best year on record, making a profit of some 250,000 taels (£37,609). The total output of yarn was 3,100,000 lbs. (7,750 bales), being an excess of 220,000 lbs. (550 bales) over 1904. The raw cotton is almost entirely produced locally, and, as elsewhere noticed, the crop was considered a very fair one ; the price paid for the raw material averaged 18·80 taels per picul (133⅓ lbs.) as against 19·20 taels in 1904, and as the yarn commanded a higher price, 79·50 taels (£11 19*s.* 2*d.*) per bale as against 78 taels in 1904, considerable benefit accrued to the mill. The chief difficulty with which it was confronted was an increase of over 100 per cent. in the price of coal.

Seventy per cent. of the yarn was sold in the province and 30 per cent. in the riverine ports. The steam flour mill, which was recently opened here, was closed at the China New Year and no further work has been done. For want of money to buy new machinery the quality of the flour produced could not be improved ; as this could not be sold profitably the firm had to cease work.

The **export of cotton seed** increased by 9,450 piculs (11,249 cwts.). Little use has been made of the plant put up some years ago for expressing **oil from the cotton seeds ;** this only has a capacity for crushing some 50 piculs (59½ cwts.) a day, and a loss of some £3 a day was found in the working of this department of the mill. The seed, which amounts to some 200 piculs (238 cwts.) a day, is accordingly sold for exportation, the chief purchasers being Japanese. The price charged is 90*c.* (1*s.* 9½*d.*) per picul. The total amount exported in 1905 was 22,760 piculs (27,094 cwts.) as against 13,310 piculs (15,845 cwts.) in 1904.

A new cotton mill on foreign lines is to be erected at Kashing ; the site for it has been prepared and it will probably be completed before the end of the year.

The export of copper cash in 1905 amounted in value to 3,960,540 taels (£595,731) as compared with 91,733 taels (£13,139) in 1904. Two mints—the output from which was insignificant—were previously in operation here, but the coining of debased money was found to be so lucrative an occupation that a third one was established in May—a fact which the local authorities failed to report to those in the metropolis.

From this time onwards work at the mints appeared to be unceasing, and enormous quantities of 1*c.* pieces were turned out. These cents (1*c.* equal to 10 cash) were nominally intended to offer a more convenient medium of exchange than the single square-holed cash of the old type, which they were supposed to replace. As however, 1*c.* or 10 new cash are equal intrinsically to 2 7/10 of the old cash, and the people were called upon to take the former as equivalent to 10 of the latter great hardship resulted. The new coins were at first issued at 85 to the Mexican dollar, but the rate fell to 115 and 120 to the dollar, and many shops declined to receive payments except on a silver basis.

The forcing of this debased token money upon the people, combined with its over-production, created serious financial embarrassment during the year, the loss telling most heavily on the lower classes, who had no option but to accept payments and wages in these coins. A further hardship was entailed by the fact that the provincial government which produces the coins itself refuses to accept them in payment of taxes or revenue, in spite of a previous official recognition of them as legal tender.

Towards the end of the year it was seen that such a state of affairs could not continue, and a tardy attempt to remedy it was made by prohibiting the import of the coins at other ports, thus putting a stop to their export from here. This, however, only applied to the foreign customs, and other means of distributing them were quickly devised. Later orders were received to reduce the output of the mints, and early in 1906 they ceased work altogether.

Palm leaf fans, Japanese matches and sugar (white and refined) are other articles which show the heaviest falls. The **import of sugar,** which had shown a steady increase every year since the port was opened, fell by 12,588 piculs (14,985 cwts.), but the total return, 167,210 piculs (199,060 cwts.) is still a considerable advance on any previous year except 1904.

KOWEIT.

The total value of the **trade of Koweit for the year 1905-06** amounted to Rs. 59,73,231, showing an increase of Rs. 35,65,894 over the figures of the previous year. The increase was due more to the securing of accurate statistics of the Imports by country sailing boats, which amounted in value to Rs. 20,00,000 and which practically did not appear in the previous year's returns, than to any real growth in trade.

The total value of imports amounted to Rs. 48,18,929 and that of exports to Rs. 11,54,322, showing the former were about four times as great as the latter. From this it will be seen how adverse to the port is the balance of trade. As regards items of ordinary import merchandise, the increase marked by the year is accounted for by the fact that owing to the greater security of Koweit and the country immediately round it, the Bedouins do the bulk of their marketing there. The Maria Theresa dollar, which is the principal medium of exchange on the Arab coast, rose 15 per cent. in rupee value. The exchange of dollars throughout the year varied from Rs. 133 to Rs. 152 per hundred dollars. The rise in value of the dollar will account in some degree for the increase in the value of trade. There was no corresponding decrease observeable in general prices.

Imports by country sailing boats, as already seen, amounted to the very respectable total of Rs. 20,00,000. The most important article of the previous year's export under these heads, wood for boat building, showed a very considerable decrease in the year under report. The boats had been delayed and were only coming in in the middle of April last. The principal items under the head of imports by country sailing boats were :—

	Rs.	
Wheat	2½	lakhs.
Barley	2	,,
Wet dates	3½	,,
Tobacco	4½	,,
Rice	4	,,

About two-thirds of the tobacco is consumed locally or taken away by the Bedouins, and out of the 17 lakhs covered by these articles, 8 lakhs represents simply transit trade. Two new items occur in the last Koweit trade returns. These are fish-maws and bones, the second of these is quite new, and promises to develop into an export of some importance. The export trade by local borne bugalow traffic showed an increase of Rs. 4,50,000, being due to Rs. 1,20,000 worth of wet dates being included in this year's returns. Numbers of steam vessels entering and clearing from Koweit during the year amounted to 50 representing a tonnage of 51,893. These were nearly all steamers.

The following figures show movements of trade particularly interesting to India :—

Imports.

Principal articles and principal countries from which imported.	1904-05. Quantity.	1904-05. Value in	1905-06. Quantity.	1905-06. Value in	Remarks.
COFFEE.	Cwts.	Rs.	Cwts.	Rs.	
India	1,873	73,435	2,975	1,84,512	
America	937	36,717	1,101	66,060	
TEA.					
India	lb78,375	28,215	lb66,125	26,450	
PIECE GOODS.					
India	Value	2,46,046	Value	4,14,400	
America	,,	1,23,024	,,	92,016	
TWIST AND YARNS.					
India	Value	4,539	Value	3,250	
RICE.	Tons.		Tons.		
India	1,975	2,31,030	2,360	3,29,310	
SUGAR.	Cwts.		Cwts.		
India	2,730	20,993	3,893	46,752	
Germany	8,190	60,187	11,736	1,41,432	

Exports.

DRY FISH AND FISHMAWS.					
India (dry fish)	Value	360	Value	540	
India (fishmaws)	...	...	,,	0	
BONES.			tons. cwts.		
India	...	...	2 17	192	

BOTTLES.

THE following figures show the imports of glass bottles into India during the last six years :—

Year.	Cwt.	Rs.
1900-01	45,353	4,66,932
1901-02	49,006	5,28,116
1902-03	69,862	6,88,641
1903-04	69,695	6,42,445
1904-05	70,591	6,39,436
1905-06	67,319	6,23,055

Of these imports of glass bottles the British Empire furnishes 76·6 per cent., measured according to value, whilst the share of the United Kingdom is 68·9 per cent. Germany participates in the trade to the extent of some 22·7 per cent. of the value, and has steadily improved her position in the last six years. In 1900 German goods were valued at less than half a lakh. Last year they were worth 1½ lakhs. All other sources of supply fall a long way behind. This may be gathered from the fact that though the Straits Settlements stand next after Germany on the list of sources of supply, India pays to the Singapore agents only 6·6 per cent. of the total sums spent on imported bottles. No bottles are made in the Straits Settlements, and their share merely represents transit trade. What the countries of origin of the bottles coming from there are, it is impossible to tell.

Though Germany has recently improved her position so very considerably, there has been but little falling off in the imports from other foreign countries, whilst Japan has come into the trade in the last three years. France, though a great maker of bottles, is unrepresented. Austria-Hungary, who was not represented last year, has sent but small and irregular shipments. India's taking of Belgian bottles has fallen somewhat, as have, in the last two years, India's takings from the United Kingdom. The decreases have, however, been slight, and the Indian demand during the last five years has been very steady.

India herself does little, almost nothing, towards filling her own wants in this direction. Glass factories have, it is true, been established at various times in various parts of the country; but they have nearly all failed. There is to-day only one glass factory important enough to be included in the statistical returns, only one factory, that is, where more than 50 hands find continuous daily employment. This is situate a few miles from Dehra Dun, in the United Provinces, at the foot of the mountain road leading up to the sanitarium of Mussoorie. Neither this factory, nor any other of the very small glass factories, some 5 of which exist in Madras, Bombay, and the Punjab, furnishes any report of outturn, and it is impossible to arrive at a reliable estimate of the quantity or value of the bottles manufactured in India. The reason why the various attempts to establish bottle-making in India have failed is to be found in the difficulties that attend the supply of labour. Local labour is, in the main, insufficient in quantity, and unsuitable in quality. In this trade highly skilled labour is required. It cannot be procured out here. The imported labour has proved too expensive, and too little to be relied upon. The competition of the cheap imported bottle has made the entertainment of dear imported labourer impossible. Even where it, for a time, seemed as though the concern could meet their demands, the men became dissatisfied, and left. Jealousing the natives with whom they worked, the glass blowers and moulders refrained from teaching them anything of the secrets of the trade, behaving in this respect very unlike the Lancashire operatives who started the power spinning and weaving industries in this country.

It is interesting to see the influence that the labour problem had on the French bottle trade, which was revolutionised by it. The story is told in the *Journal of the Society of Arts*.

In the year 1892, Claude Boucher was forced to close the doors of his bottle factory at Cognac, on account of continuous strikes and exactions of his *employés*. He then set himself to invent a machine for the manufacture of bottles, which would permit him to resume the industry without having to depend upon the human blower. After years of effort, he succeeded in inventing a machine which rests upon an oblong pedestal, and consists of a primary mould in which the shape of the bottle is roughly made, of a cup-shaped mould, which permits a part of the glass which it contains to solidify, a finishing mould, a mould for the neck and mouth, a pipe bringing compressed air to the latter mould, and various levers which permit the opening and closing of these moulds, for opening the valve which supplies the compressed air. The reservoir for the latter is placed some distance away, and is sufficiently large to supply several machines, in one instance as many as twenty. The American Consul at La Rochelle, says that the liquid glass is transferred from the furnace to the machine in the same manner as formerly by a blower. When a sufficient quantity of molten glass has fallen into the measuring mould, the workman cuts the rope of liquid glass with shears. He immediately applies the compressor, and permits the compressed air to exercise its pressure from above, which causes the liquid to descend into the neck of the mould forming at once the mouth and neck of the bottle. Immediately he reverses this mould, permitting the rest of the liquid mass to flow away from the parts already formed; then opens the mould, and the bottle is seen suspended by the mouth and the upper part of the neck alone; the glass still being very liquid elongates, and by contact with the oxygen in the open air, a sort of spontaneous combustion is produced, which gives to the glass its brilliancy. When this primitive bottle, bag-like in appearance, has elongated sufficiently, it is enclosed in the various moulds necessary to give the desired consistency to the lower part of the bottle, where the temperature of the glass is considerably higher than in the upper part. It is here that the cup mould comes into play, and compressed air under pressure is introduced. Finally the bottle is enclosed in the finishing mould, where the strongest air pressure in permitted to play in its cavity, and presses the liquid glass against the walls of the mould with such force as to smooth out all unevenness or roughness on the surface. The distribution of the air to all parts of the interior is such that the bottle's thickness is practically uniform in every part of its body. The bottom is next shaped, and the newly manufactured bottle, perfect in form, is put away in a furnace to be cooled, under conditions which will produce in the glass the greatest possible tensile strength. For more than seven years this machine has been in operation, and it has, says the Consul, already passed out of the realm of the experimental into that of the practical. At the present time there are twenty machines in operation at the Cognac factory. The furnace which supplies them contains 300 tons of molten glass. They are capable of producing from 35,000 to 36,000 bottles in twenty-four hours, that is each machine can produce 1,800 bottles in twenty-four hours, and each workman, during his eight hours of labour, produces 600 bottles. The largest number of bottles produced in any one month has been over 800,000. The firm of Martell and Co. use 3,000,000 of these machine-made bottles every year, from this factory. In different parts of France the daily production of bottles by these machines amounts to 250,000 bottles, while in foreign countries the quantity is said to be slightly in excess. The advantages claimed for this system are as follows :—(1) The question of strikes has ceased to be a bugbear to the manufacturer: the operation of the machine is so simple that inexperienced men are thoroughly competent at the end of a week. (2) The great economy in the production of bottles, which is from 60 to 70 per cent. less in cost than by the old method of blowing by mouth. (3) The bottles are better made, the glass being more evenly distributed in various parts. In a brandy house at Cognac it was estimated that there was formerly a loss of thirty bottles per thousand by breakage of mouth-blown bottles; by the mechanically blown bottles the number is less than three per thousand. (4) Besides greater strength the bottle has a perfect regularity of form and capacity, qualities which are lacking with the ordinary method. (5) A notable advantage from the point of view of hygiene. The mortality of glass-blowers from tuberculosis is recognised to be very great, while as a means of transmitting contagious diseases, the passing of blowers' pipes from mouth to mouth was most effective. Further, there are said to be certain diseases of the chest which may be attributed directly to glass blowing when found in men engaged in this occupation. The Consul adds that it would appear from what he has seen and learned at Cognac, that the production of bottles, flasks, etc., will be more and more effected by mechanical means.

RINDERPEST AND ANTHRAX IN EASTERN BENGAL.

THE Committee of the Surma Valley Association, which met at Silchar on the 16th July, were engaged in debating the subject of cattle disease in Eastern Bengal, which has recently assumed proportions that threaten to hurt alike the agriculturist and the hide trade.

The Committee considered a letter dated June 9th from the Chief Secretary to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam in reply to their letter of May 23rd, forwarding copy of the resolution passed on the above subject. The letter declared that His Honour entirely agreed in the opinion that the Government should make a systematic attempt to check the diseases, which annually carry off such large numbers of cattle; and for some time past correspondence had been proceeding with a view to the organisation of a Veterinary Department in this Province. As is the case in other provinces, Local Boards will be expected to assist in maintaining the staff of such a Department. It is hoped that a scheme will very shortly be introduced But capable Veterinary Assistants and Veterinary Surgeons cannot be had for the asking; Sir Bampfylde Fuller fears that they will have to wait for the most part until men can be trained. As regards the immediate present, to entrust inoculation to untrained or hastily trained men would be to invite such a mishap as occurred in another province—a few years back when a large number of cattle were killed by the operation. His Honour has, however, asked the Director, Department of Land Records and Agriculture, Eastern Bengal and Assam, whether he can manage temporarily to borrow the services of two or three inoculators from some other Province.

The Secretary having laid on the table some statistics recently collected by him at the suggestion of the Chairman, from which it appears that the deaths of cattle and buffaloes in the Surma Valley would amount, since the new year, to fully 200,000 head.

The Committee decided to suggest to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor the advisability of establishing a Provincial Veterinary Department.

The Chairman, being requested to address the Chief Secretary to the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, wrote accordingly that he would again bring to the notice of Government great urgency of the matter. From statistics collected by the Committee it would appear that over 200,000 cattle and buffaloes have died from rinderpest alone, during the past year, in the Surma Valley, and there is at present no sign of any abatement in the virulence of the disease. To combat this, inoculators have from time to time been brought up from the Veterinary College, Calcutta, and one inoculator was deputed to Cachar, but has since been withdrawn.

The above has proved, however, quite inadequate, and the Committee suggest that the only effectual means of grappling with the disease, is the establishing of a Veterinary College in the Province, for preference at Dacca, with the depôt for the manufac-

ture and distribution of the serum. "My Committee," writes the secretary, "fully realize the difficulties that must exist in the foundation of a fully equipped Veterinary College in this new Province. But would most strongly urge that a commencement be made at the earliest possible date by the appointment of a Superintendent with the requisite senior Veterinary officers and the commencement of the necessary buildings. My Committee are of opinion that if their course be pursued and subordinate Native officers engaged whenever available, that an efficient Veterinary Department will be in existence within a reasonable time. Undoubtedly good results will accrue from the engagement of skilled inoculators by each Local Board, but we are of opinion that this will at least be but a palliative, and would therefore respectfully urge the immediate formation of the nucleus of a Veterinary Department, as the only effectual means of stamping out diseases amongst cattle in the Province."

REVIEW.

INVESTIGATION OF COAL OCCURRENCES.

THE last issue (Vol. XXXIV, Part I) of the Records of the **Geological Survey of India** contains a paper by Mr. Pilgrim, B. Sc., Deputy Superintendent, on the *Coal Occurrences in the Foot-hills of Bhutan*. The following extracts will show that the investigation yielded no very encouraging results :—

"The coal seams, which it was my primary object to investigate, are situated in a small tributary nullah, running East North-East to West South-West, leading in to the Kala Pani at a point about two miles from its debouchment into the plains. The Kala Pani, marked in many places on the maps as the Demakoosum Naddi, leaves the hills at Lat. 26° 55', Long. 91° 55', just a little west of the 102nd boundary pillar on the Bhutan Frontier and joins the Nunai Naddi at Bhutia Chang tea garden some 10 miles away. The Nunai after uniting with the Bor runs into the Brahmaputra at Gauhati . . . . The coal has been well exposed, for a distance of about a furlong, by a big landslip, which has been in progress during the last six years, and a section of some 500 feet in thickness is displayed on the hillside. . . . . The coal strata are of Gondwana age, that is to say, the same as the Darjeeling coal and also that found by LaTouche in the Aka hills and by Godwin-Austen in the Daphla hills. Like all these, therefore, its formation belongs to the same period as that of the Bengal Coal Fields . . . The coal is interbedded with a soft crumbly sandstone, which falls away at the slightest touch. The Coal itself has also been reduced by crushing to such a flaky condition that it is exceedingly friable, and it is impossible to dig it out except in the form of dust. Nor is this soft friable condition of both the coal and the sandstone in contract with it, to be explained on the assumption that it is near the outcrop. For in the first place owing to the landslip, the coal which I had an opportunity to examine was not an ordinary weathered outcrop but a comparatively fresh surface, which previous to the landslip had been protected by many feet of overlying soil. In the second place it is clear that the *powdery condition* is due to the coal having been subjected to *intense pressure*. Hence *this condition will prevail throughout the seam*, and no matter how far one penetrates beneath *the surface will there not be any hope of improvement*. As a consequence of the insecure nature both of the coal and of the sandstones which would form the roof and floor of the seams, it would be necessary to incur considerable expense in the working by having to use heavy timbering throughout . . . The powdery nature of this coal caused by its intense crushing is a feature which it shares in common with that of the Darjeeling area explored in detail by P. N. Bose in 1890 and with that of the Aka and Daphla hills. We may therefore regard it as practically certain that it will prove to be a constant character of all the Gondwana coal of the Sub-Himalayas . . . . Some one hundred maunds of coal were dug out by the Bhutanese from half-a-dozen promising places, and a sample maund of this, taken down to Calcutta, gave the following result on analysis :—

Moisture	1·82
Volatile matter	19·06
Fixed carbon	54·87
Ash	24·25
	100.00

"The ash is of a very pale grey colour, which indicates the absence of sulphur, and the coal cakes strongly.

"In the furnace the combustion at first, when used beneath a cold boiler, was slow. When 50 lbs. of steam had been raised by Assam coal and then the Kala Pani coal placed on the glowing bed, steam rose rapidly to 100 lbs. and blew off. The coal caked exceedingly well and hardly any fell through the furnace bars. It will be seen that the ash is very high and therefore the the coal cannot be considered of good quality. The small amount of volatile matter is a character which it owes to the crushing it has undergone.

"The Kala Pani coal is fairly accessible. A railway extension from Dhubri to Dibrugarh is at present under construction, and in the event of the coal being worked on a large scale, the Eastern Bengal State Railway would be prepared to carry a branch track of some ten miles to within 1½ miles of the coal, which could be run down by tramway along the hillside above the naddi.

"Labour, however, does not appear to be plentiful. None of it is indigenous. The indentured coolies in the tea gardens earn from 3 to 3· annas per day.

"It seems, however, improbable considering the nature of the beds, their high inclination, and the quality and smallness of the seams, that the cost of mining could be other than high, and this would prevent it from being able to compete successfully at Dhubri with the Upper Assam coal.

"To consider now the question as to whether prospecting operations in the neighbourhood would be warranted.

"Owing to the denseness of the jungle and the difficulty of the ground I was not able to observe any coal outcrops outside the limit of about 400 yards. I heard, however, after I had left the immediate locality, of the existence of coal some 12 miles farther to the west along the strike, in the Bor Naddi. Only here the coal is eight miles from the plains.

"I received a large sample of this, which on analysis gave the following result :—

Moisture	1·28
Volatile matter	20·78
Fixed carbon	38·62
Ash	39·32

"The coal cakes strongly and the ash is grey coloured.

"It appears therefore that the coal is inferior in quality to that of the Kala Pani and is also much more inaccessible. . . . . It seems probable therefore that the coal exists more or less along this strike, that is to say, over a distance of some 16 miles. . . . . .

"I should be unwilling therefore to assert that careful prospecting within the 16 miles of country referred to above would not disclose more promising outcrops. When, however, one remembers that seams of five times the thickness in the Darjeeling area have not proved workable, one would hesitate to expect much in an area, where the outcrops and conditions so far observed are still more unfavourable. I should therefore feel disinclined to recommend any capital being sunk in prospecting operations, which would certainly be expensive and would probably be useless."

In the same issue a paper by Mr. C. M. P. Wright, M.I.M.M., gives particulars regarding the *Coal Outcrops in the Kotli Tehsil of the Jammu State*, and states his reasons for the conclusion "that the coal of the Dandli field is not of good quality nor of any thickness : it is irregular throughout : the seams are usually highly inclined and in places contorted : coupling with these objectionable features the long distance from the North-Western Railway and entire absence of local demand, the field either in part or as a whole offers no inducement to exploitation."

SILVER FOR GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.

REGARDING the recent resolution of the Government of India on this subject, the *Statistic* makes the following remarks :—

The Government of India has this week announced that the "Gold Reserve Fund" shall henceforth be called the "Gold Standard Reserve," and that a portion of it shall be held in silver in India. At the present time the "Gold Reserve Fund" is held mainly in London in securities. On March 31st the amount of the securities to the credit of the "Gold Reserve Fund" was no less than £10,393,575, of which £7,641,209 consisted of Consols, £1,252,136 of Two-and-Three-Quarters per cent. War Loan, and £1,500,000 of Treasury Bills. Since the end of March purchases of silver have been on a large scale, and the Gold Reserve Fund now reaches to a much larger sum than £10,400,000. Apparently the seigniorage profit that has been made this year from the coinage of rupees is to be turned into silver rupees, and held in India as a kind of emergency reserve. Doubtless this new departure is destined to protect India against the possibility of a short supply of silver at a moment when such short supply would be a very unpleasant matter for the country. During the past were there were times when the possibility of silver being cornered seemed near. But the existence of a large stock of Mexican dollars in Mexico saved the situation, and enabled the Indian Government to purchase all the silver it needed without having to pay an unduly large price. Still, the possibility was sufficieutly near to induce the Indian Government to buy silver in recent months on a very large scale in order to insure a supply sufficient to meet the demand for currency in India in the active season of the year. In February last the total stock of coined and uncoined silver in the currency department was only 1,063 lakhs, whereas at the present time it is no less than 2,413 lakhs. The accumulations of this vast amount of silver in recent months has somewhat puzzled the silver market, especially as it was accompanied by continued purchases of the metal. The object of the purchases is now apparent. The Indian Government intends in future to hold a much larger stock of silver at all times than it has in the past. Probably it will gradually accumulate a surplus stock of about 10 crores of rupees, upon which it will draw only in times of emergency, when its otherwise large purchases would cause undue advance in the price of the metal. For some time past the Indian Government has endeavoured to spread its purchases of silver regularly over the whole twelve months in order not to cause an excessive demand in periods of active trade, and an unduly small demand at other times. The possession of a large reserve stock of rupees will enable the Government to carry out this policy still more thoroughly, for should the demand for rupees at any time become excessive, it would be able to draw upon its stock of the metal in the Gold Standard Reserve, and will thus avoid the necessity for purchasing larger amounts than can readily be obtained. The significance of the new departure is apparent. The Government considers the gold standard to be so assured that it no longer desires to accumaulate gold or gold securities, at any rate for the present, and, on the other hand, wishes the have a reserve supply of the white metal against to possibility of shortage.

A DANGEROUS WOOD.

A SENSATIONAL statement, says the *Tribune*, was made to the Management Commitee of the General Federation of Trade Unions at the Annual Conference at Southampton yesterday by Mr. D. Isherwood, Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Shuttle-makers. It appears that some months ago a new kind of **wood** for the **making of shuttles** was introduced into the Lancashire workshops. After a few days the men who had the handling of it began to show signs of sickness and, to the dismay of the officials of the Union, several of them died. (This was noticed at the time in the *Indian Trade Journal*). A large number of workers were soon on the sick list and playing havoc with the provident funds. A meeting of the members was called when the sixth death had taken place and it was decided to investigate the new timber. The matter was placed in the hands of Professor R. J. Harvey-Gibson, (Professor of Botany and Dean of the Faculty of Science in the University of Liverpool), and that gentleman has just reported the result of his work.

The Professor carefully examined the samples of wood and the saw-dust resulting from the manufacture of shuttles. He had had experiments made on animals to determine, if possible, whether it contained anything injurious to life. So far as he could tell, the wood was that of a tree known to the natives of the French Congo as ngula. It was not a box-wood of any kind. It would be mentioned that the ordinary shuttles are made of boxwood, and are used in connection with weaving industry.

"The particular wood under notice," said Mr. Harvey-Gibson, "was sometimes called West African satinwood. It contained a considerable amount of alkaloid, probably artum or an allied product. This substance is soluble in common salt solutions, and would be easily absorbed by a perspiring skin, or through the lungs. Doses injected into animals produce death in a very short time. Cardiac tracing showed that the animals died of syncope, and that the alkaloid was cardiac poison of a very active character. I have no doubt in my own mind," continued the professor, "that the diseases from which your workmen have been suffering are due to absorption of these poisons from the wood, and that its continued use will be at very considerable risk not only to health but to life."

The subject was merely broached to the Management Committee of the Federation, and it is understood that the whole matter will be thoroughly looked into. In an interview with a representative of the *Tribune*, Mr. Isherwood said so far as he could ascertain the only reason for the employers using the wood was on account of its cheapness. His members were determined not to have anything more to do with the new wood. They were going to protest, and if necessary strike. He said the amount of sickness amongst the members was appalling, and heads of families had died off "like flies." He went on to say that Lancashire was the only place in which shuttles were manufactured. They supplied Germany, Russia, and India, and a strike would bring every cotton mill in this and other countries to a standstill in three months.

"Whatever happens," he said, "we shall positively refuse to touch the poisonous material. But before extreme action is taken the matter will be brought before the notice of the whole of the trades involved."

Asked what the first symptoms of illness were, Mr. Isherwood said: "the men first complained of headache, sleepiness, running of the nose and eyes, chronic sneezing, giddiness, faintness, and shortness of breath." A startling fact is, continued the shuttle-makers' secretary, that whenever a death occurred the medical certificate attributed it to "cardiac asthma" or "cardiac incompetence."

GAZETTE AND OTHER NOTIFICATIONS.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

In a resolution on the working of Co-operative Credit Societies in the United Provinces, the local Government observes that in the year 1904-05 there were 223 societies, but of these the report for that year dealt with only 159, the returns of the remaining sixty-four not having been received. Of the latter many were said to be in a moribund condition and presumably have since been wound up. This year's returns are compared with those of the 159 societies dealt with in last year's report.

Before the 31st March 1906, 358 societies had been registered, but some were registered only shortly before the close of the year under report and these are not included in the statements showing the year's working. These statements include the figures of the following societies :—

	Assets.	*No. of Members.*
	Rs.	
8 central banks with 105 affiliated societies	34,975	1,669
Moradabad district bank, with 94 affiliated societies	55,290	1,958
Kassia bank	15,569	Not given.
Benares Silk Weavers' Co-operative Central Association, with 30 affiliated societies.	16,888	800
123 village banks . . .	76,263	10,234
12 seed societies . . .	2,091	138
Total .	2,01,073	14,799

Of the 123 village banks, only forty-nine had been registered. In addition there were banks in the Jhansi and Farrukhabad districts of which the returns were not received in time to be incorporated in the report. The societies had been in existence for such varying periods that it would be useless to enter into a minute examination of the financial results of the year's working.

The assets of the societies dealt with in last year's report amounted to Rs. 75,603. This year's report shows assets of Rs. 2,01,073, of which Rs. 7,450 were advanced by the Registrar from the funds placed at his disposal by Government. Rupees, 4,500 were advanced as loans under Act XII of 1864 on the usual terms for agricultural advances, Rs. 10,000 were lent by the Cawnpore Woollen Mills, and Rs. 5,000 lent by Mr. Hamilton (now Sir Daniel Hamilton) of Calcutta. The balance of Rs. 1,74,123 represents the capital raised locally, entrance fees, deposits and profits.

The excess of assets over liabilities is Rs. 15,429, but this does not all represent profit on working; it includes the entrance fees in this and previous years, which represent probably over Rs. 4,000; but, omitting this, the amount is a substantial one considering how short a time many of the societies have been in existence. The report gives little information as to the extent to which loans were repaid by members when they became due, nor is it stated whether the interest is paid punctually on the dates fixed. From the statements it appears that, while the loans outstanding aggregate Rs. 1,48,965, only Rs. 43,816 were repaid within the year, the bulk of which was repaid by members of the older village banks. Interest amounting to Rs. 4,760 was collected from members during the year, but Rs. 6,051 was due on outstanding loans at the March. Much of this no doubt represent interest on the more recent loans and was not payable when the year closed, but the figures for some of the older institutions suggest that the demand for interest had not been paid when it became due.

Progress has been made in weeding out and closing the accounts of those village banks which showed little hope of ultimate success, and very few village banks of the original type were started during the year. Of the original village banks only forty-nine have been registered as such, though many were affiliated with central societies where these have been started.

Central or district banks have now been started in thirteen districts (in some cases since the close of the year), and there are village banks in nineteen other districts.

The experience of the past year suggests that development in the future will be mainly on the lines of the central or district banks with affiliated societies gradually spreading as branches or agencies throughout the locality served by the central bank.

It is very satisfactory that in the case of several societies (the report mentions five central banks with 154 affiliated societies) the members have agreed as a condition of their membership to compulsory deposits, depending either on the rent they pay to the land-holder or on the number of ploughs they own, payable at harvest time. This will not only in time add largely to the available capital but will give each member a personal interest in the prosperity of the bank and will induce him to keep a watch over its operations.

The report shows among the liabilities of the societies deposits amounting to Rs. 11,986. A considerable portion of this sum, however, represents loans made by members with the object of providing the necessary capital for financing the society. Deposits properly so called are still insignificant.

The report shows that considerable progress has been made during the year, that the value of the joint responsibility and co-operation is appreciated, and that the security thereby afforded will attract capital at moderate rates of interest. The points that require attention are the prompt recovery of loans and interest, especially the latter, the careful and correct maintenance of accounts, the encouragement of voluntary deposits, and the restriction of operations to the capital available.

NEW REFERENCE BOOKS.

BARGAINS WITH MONEY LENDERS.
By Hugh H. L. Bellot, M.A. Second edition, enlarged.
From Stevens and Haynes.

VOLKER EUROPAS, Der Krieg der Zukunft.
From Rich-Bong, Berlin.

NATURAL COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHY.
By Dr. E. Konig. Translated, with additions, by E. J. Wall, F.R.P.S, ... 2*s.* net.
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IRISH RAILWAYS, THEIR RETARDED DEVELOPMENT AND INFLUENCE ON INDUSTRY.
From The Irish Reforms Association, Dublin.

THE SIXTH FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC ANNUAL OF JAPAN.
From the Government Printing House, Tokio.

COTTON MANUFACTURING.
Part II. Combing, Drawing, Roller Covering, and Fly Frames.
By E. F. Possett. Illustrated. . . . . 21*s.* net
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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON.
Drapers' Company Research Memoirs. Studies in National Deterioration. I. On relation of Fertility to Social Status, By David Heron, M.A. 3*s*

NATURAL-COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHY.
By Dr. E. Konig. Translated from the German, with additions by E. J. Wall, F.R.P.S. 8¾×6, 94 pp. . . . . 2*s.*
Dawbarn and Ward.

THE SCIENCE OF COMMON LIFE.
By J. B. Coppock, Principal of the Kendal Science School, 7¼×4¾, 273 pp. . . . 3*s.* 6*d.*
Sonnenschein.
("A theoretical and practical text-book for students in secondary, domestic economy, and rural schools;" being a course of experimental Chemistry and Physics adapted for such students, and for the requirements of the Board of Education.)

BLAST FURNACE CALCULATIONS, and Tables for Furnace Managers and Engineers.
By J. L. Stevenson 6¾×4¼, 44 pp . . . 5*s.* net.
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THE LEGAL PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF BARGAINS WITH MONEY LENDERS.
By H. H. L. Bellot, Second Edition, enlarged 10×6, 566 pp.
Stevenson and Haynes.

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE WEATHER.
By W. Marriott, F. R. Met. Soc., Assistant Secretary . . . . . 6*d.*
Stanford.

MANUAL OF COLLOQUIAL TIBETAN.
By C. A. Bell, 7½×5, 451 pp.
Calcutta: Baptist Mission Press.

THE LABOUR SYSTEM OF ASSAM.
By Hypatia Bradlaugh Bonner. Revised Edition . . . . . 1*d.*
Humanitarian League.

FORESTRY. 11TH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSIONER OF MINNESOTA for the year 1905. 8¾×6, 142 pp. St. Paul, Minn.:
Pioneer Press Company.

THE UNIVERSAL DIRECTORY OF RAILWAY OFFICIALS, 1906.
Compiled under the direction of S. Richardson Blundstone. 8½×5¾, 579 pp. The Directory Publishing Co. Subscription price . . . . 7*s.* 6*d.*
After publication.

A DIGEST OF THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT.
By E. J. Macgillivray, LL B., 8¾×5¾ 92 pp.
Butterworth.

FIRST STEPS IN MUSLIM JURISPRUDENCE.
Consisting of excerpts from Bakurat-al-sa'd of Ibn Abu Zayd, with Arabic Text, English Translation. Notes and Short Introduction. By A. D. Russell, Chief Magistrate of the Colony of Gambia, M.A, LL.B., and Abdullah Al-Ma' Mun Suhrawardy, M.A., M.R.A.S. 8¾×5¾, 121 pp. . . . . 7*s.* 6*d.* net.
Luac.
(For students beginning Arabic with a view to Indian or Egyptain service; but more especially for service in West Africa, where the rite of Malik holds almost exclusive sway. There appears to be no handbook at present which exactly meets this case.)

THE FUNDAMENTAL FALLACIES OF FREE TRADE.
By L. S. Amery. 7½×4¾, 112 pp.
National Review Office.
(Four addresses delivered at the Compatriots' Club.)

TOTAL GROSS INDIAN SEA AND LAND CUSTOMS REVENUE (EXCLUDING SALT REVENUE).

(In thousands of Rupees.)

	In the four months April to July, of									
	1897-98.	1898-99.	1899-1900.	1900-01.	1901-02.	1902-03.	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.	1906-07.
SEA CUSTOMS.										
Imports.										
Special Import Duties.										
Arms, ammunition, and military stores	1,06	93	85	78	92	1,05	92	1,32	1,04	1,19
Liquors—										
Ale, beer, porter, cider and other fermented liquors	68	67	68	65	69	74	87	96	90	97
Spirits and liqueurs	18,94	20,48	21,74	20,82	21,39	22,01	24,57	24,66	25,97	22,14
Wines	1,12	1,13	1,12	1,09	1,11	1,23	1,16	1,12	1,18	1,13
Opium	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Petroleum	14,88	13,10	12,14	14,67	19,19	19,03	16,62	15,19	13,96	14,23
Sugar (countervailing duties, 1899)	—	—	1,11	6,05	12,24	13,48	1,67	5	...	...
Sugar (countervailing duties, 1902)	—	—	—	—	—	2,12	11	3	...	...
General Import Duties.										
Articles of food and drink (excluding sugar)	3,68	3,35	3,84	4,11	3,61	3,79	3,83	4,22	5,39	5,51
Sugar (ordinary duties)	5,85	4,82	4,15	7,91	9,78	8,54	7,52	9,49	5,35	15,95
Chemicals, drugs, medicines and narcotics, and dyeing and tanning materials	3,31	3,27	3,59	3,26	3,70	3,96	4,50	4,10	4,29	4,72
Cotton manufactures—										
Piece goods, grey	13,10	14,63	16,55	14,02	16,38	18,22	16,75	16,59	20,26	21,94
„ white	5,37	5,78	6,85	5,88	10,94	6,23	6,56	8,74	9,97	7,86
„ coloured	3,85	5,52	7,71	5,69	6,80	6,69	8,13	8,95	9,28	9,49
Other goods	30	37	64	51	58	38	63	96	1,08	1,11
Metals and manufactures of—										
Silver, bullion and coin	13,80	13,34	10,53	4,22	9,62	16,57	12,61	14,14	13,49	12,41
Other metals and manufactures of metals	6,98	6,66	5,46	7,26	7,65	10,87	9,93	12,56	9,50	10,04
Oils (excluding petroleum)	72	64	45	44	50	54	34	30	36	70
Manufactured articles	12,19	13,19	15,24	14,60	17,63	17,14	19,50	21,90	22,94	23,98
Raw materials and unmanufactured articles	2,45	2,45	2,19	2,45	2,82	2,69	2,61	3,03	3,64	3,19
Total Imports	1,08,39	1,10,34	1,14,85	1,14,42	1,45,56	1,55,29	1,38,84	1,48,32	1,48,61	1,56,57
Excise Duty on cotton goods	3,35	4,69	4,58	3,52	4,70	5,43	5,93	5,90	6,48	6,50
Export Duties—										
Rice and Rice-flour	16,73	34,17	31,74	28,13	27,27	40,05	38,77	41,53	36,80	40,59
Land Customs and Miscellaneous	2,35	2,31	2,56	2,65	2,73	2,91	3,11	3,25	2,85	3,19
GRAND TOTAL	1,30,72	1,51,51	1,53,73	1,48,72	1,80,26	2,03,68	1,86,65	1,99,00	1,94,74	2,06,85
Provincial distribution of Imports and Exports.										
Bengal — Imports	38,32	42,23	45,79	48,11	53,60	55,44	48,52	50,59	51,45	55,35
Bengal — Exports	2,38	6,28	5,75	6,78	4,30	4,96	4,86	5,67	7,02	4,52
Eastern Bengal and Assam — Imports	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
Eastern Bengal and Assam — Exports	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...
Bombay — Imports	45,25	42,88	43,08	36,41	53,83	62,08	51,78	58,29	57,71	58,90
Bombay — Exports	75	1,29	52	1,27	95	1,38	71	95	63	53
Sind — Imports	6,70	7,61	7,29	10,47	15,42	16,35	12,10	11,47	12,77	15,79
Sind — Exports	26	54	37	17	76	45	29	53	40	1,02
Madras — Imports	10,41	8,43	9,63	9,98	11,74	11,73	13,60	12,87	12,99	11,82
Madras — Exports	3,40	1,57	2,24	1,01	1,91	2,32	2,82	2,53	1,59	2,32
Burma — Imports	7,61	9,19	9,06	9,45	10,97	9,69	12,84	15,10	13,69	14,59
Burma — Exports	9,94	24,49	22,86	18,90	19,35	30,94	30,09	31,85	27,16	32,20

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Number and Particulars of Joint Stock Companies Registered in each Province in British India in the month of June 1906.

No.	Class and Name.	Situation of Registered office.	Object.	Capital. Nominal.	Capital. Paid-up.
				₹	₹
	I.—Banking, Loan and Insurance.				
	(a) Banking and Loan.				
1	Pioneer Investment Co.	Lahore, Panjab	Lending money, dealing in shares, receiving deposits, etc.	2,50,000	...
2	Kapur Commercial Agency	„ „	Money lending and commission agency.	1,00,000	...
3	Swadeshi Bank	Bombay, Bombay	Banking	1,00,000	...
4	Tirupatur Lakshmi Vilasa Nidhi	Tirupatur, Salem, Madras.	Money lending (mutual)	30,000	2,492
5	Coimbatore Sri Krishna Vilasa Nidhi	Coimbatore, Madras	„ „ „	1,00,000	6,680
6	Adikarippatti Venkatachalapati Sahaya Saswata Nidhi.	Adikarippatti, Madura, Madras.	„ „ „	1,99,920	...
7	Amravati Agricultural Saswata Nidhi	Kolumum Varada Rajapuram, Coimbatore, Madras.	„ „ „	99,960	...
8	Canara Hindu Permanent Fund	Mangalore, Madras	„ „ „	1,00,000	...
	Total, Banking and Loan	.....	.....	9,79,880	9,172
	(b) Insurance.				
9	Indian Provident Co.	Intur, Guntur, Madras	Life Insurance	1,000	...
10	Family Provident Co.	Adupada, Ganjam, Madras.	„ „	10,000	...
11	Royal Life Assurance Co.	Masulipatam, Kistna, Madras.	„ „	140	...
12	Sri Madana Gopala Varaprasada Provident Co.	Atsanta, Kistna, Madras.	„ „	500	...
13	Southern India Life Assurance Co.	Vizagapatam, Madras	„ „	20,000	...
14	Vedulla Valasa Provident Institution	Vedullavalasa, Vizagapatam, Madras.	Life Insurance and marriage endowment.	10,000	...
	Total, Insurance	.....	.....	41,640	...
	Total, Banking, Loan and Insurance	.....	.....	10,21,520	9,172
	II.—Trading.				
	(a) Co-operative Associations.				
15	East Indian Railway Co-operative Stores Society.	Bengal	Dealing in oilman stores, wine, spirits, etc.	5,000	...
16	Central Indian Co-operative Stores and Manufacturing Co.	Delhi, Punjab	Manufacture of and trade in Indian goods.	1,00,000	...
	Total, Co-operative Associations	.....	.....	1,05,000	...
	(b) Printing, Publishing and Stationery.				
17	Myles Standish and Co.	Rangoon, Burma	Printing, Publishing, etc.	1,25,000	...
18	Bombay Gazette	Bombay, Bombay	„ „	2,50,000	...
	Total, Printing, Publishing and Stationery.	.....	.....	3,75,000	...

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES —*concluded.*

No.	Class and Name.	Situation of Registered office.	Object.	Capital. Nominal.	Capital. Paid-up.
	II.—Trading—*contd.* (c) *Others.*			R	R
19	Shet Rustomjee Divecha and Co.	Ahmedabad, Bombay	Carrying on the agency of a mill.	3,200	...
	Total, Trading	.....	.....	4,83,200	...
	III.—Mills and Presses. (a) *Cotton Mills.*				
20	Gonesh Cloth Mills Co.	Bengal	Spinning and weaving cotton, etc.	5,00,000	...
21	Madras Mercantile and Industrial Corporation	Madras, Madras	Ditto ditto.	25,00,000	...
	Total, Cotton Mills	.....	.....	30,00,000	...
	(b) *Other Mills.*				
22	Dattatraya Oil Mill Co.	Khandesh, Shirpur, Bombay.	Expressing oil	35,000	...
	Total, Mills and Presses	.....	.....	30,35,000	...
	IV.—Planting.				
23	Burma Para Rubber Co.	Rangoon, Burma	Rubber cultivation	4,00,000	...
24	Indian Cotton Cultivation Co	Bengal	Cotton ,,	10,000	...
	Total, Planting	.....	.....	4,10,000	...
	V.—Mining and Quarrying. (a) *Coal.*				
25	North-West Coal Co.	Bengal	Mining coal	3,25,000	..
	VI.—Others.				
26	National Indian Trustee Association	Lahore, Punjab	Acting as Executors, Administrators, Receivers, Guardians, Managers, Agents and Trustees for Wards, Clients and Charities of Investment, etc.	5,00,000	...
	Grand Total	.....	.....	57,74,720	9,172

ABSTRACT TABLE OF COMPANIES REGISTERED IN THE MONTH OF JUNE 1906.

No.		Capital (Rs.) Nominal.	Capital (Rs.) Paid-up.
8	Banking and Loan Companies	9,79,880	9,172
6	Insurance Companies	41,640	...
2	Co-operative Associations	1,05,000	...
2	Printing and Publishing Companies	3,75,000	...
1	Trading Company (*other than those specified*)	3,200	...
2	Cotton Mills	30,00,000	...
1	Oil Mill	35,000	...
1	Rubber Cultivation Company	4,00,000	...
1	Cotton Cultivation Company	10,000	...
1	Coal Mining Company	3,25,000	...
1	Company (*other than those specified*)	5,00,000	...
26	Total	57,74,720	9,172

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.
For the week ending 4th August 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign— Imports by sea into	Calcutta lbs.	186,987
	Bombay ,,	308,291
	Madras ,,	215,500
Indian— Exports by sea from	Calcutta ,,	116,540
	Bombay ,,	2,137,390
	Madras ,,	...

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	21,024,953
	Bombay ,,	3,734,571
	Karachi ,,	97,355
	Madras ,,	571,359
	Rangoon ,,	38,534

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	3,111,350
	Bombay ,,	3,403,560
	Karachi ,,	347,903
	Madras ,,	136,332
	Rangoon ,,	498,386

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	3,110,985
	Bombay ,,	3,383,050
	Karachi ,,	294,408
	Madras ,,	597,021
	Rangoon ,,	752,223

Piece Goods.
(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta cwt.	19,502
	Bombay* ,,	5,851
	Karachi ,,	11,532
	Madras ,,	3,922

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea cwt.	732
	Coastwise ,,	8,696
	By rail ,,	18,219
Imports into Karachi by rail	,,	843
,, ,, Calcutta by rail and river	,,	4,334

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta		cwt.	258,311
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags	No.	4,675,129
	,, cloth	yds.	7,617,700
	Jute	cwt.	106,450
Chittagong—Jute		,,	1,075

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta		lbs.	6,783,643
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	,,	5,724,891
	Chittagong	,,	...

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	55,679
	Karachi by rail	,,	951,994
	Bombay By sea	,,	6,466
	Bombay Coastwise	,,	10,556
	Bombay By rail	,,	36,993
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	,,	158
	Bombay	,,	5,797
	Karachi	,,	761,080

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta	cwt.	57,414
	Chittagong	,,	...
	Bombay	,,	6,576
	Karachi	,,	17,169
	Madras	,,	...
	Rangoon	,,	139,033

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	64,112
	Bombay By sea	,,	...
	Bombay Coastwise	,,	196
	Bombay By rail	,,	13,912
	Karachi by rail	,,	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	,,	18,020
	Bombay	,,	27,520
	Karachi	,,	...

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	30,592
	Bombay By sea	,,	...
	Bombay Coastwise	,,	...
	Bombay By rail	,,	17,992
	Karachi by rail	,,	21,990
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	,,	1,395
	Bombay	,,	30,491
	Karachi	,,	51,160

* B., B. and C. I. Ry. figures only.

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 4th AUGUST 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From All other foreign countries.	Total.
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
Calcutta	40,249	41,390	...	81,639
Bombay	...	...	...	...
Karachi	...	...	...	...
Madras	...	...	...	...

Exports by sea from Burma to		
Bengal	galls.	1,690
E. B. & Assam	,,	...
Bombay	,,	...
Sind	,,	...
Madras	,,	...
Indian Ports, Non-Br.	,,	...
Foreign Ports	,,	...

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 4th AUGUST 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	1	...	61	...	1	739	802
Germany	...	...	9,603	...	1,000	...	10,603
Austria-Hungary	...	...	2,999	9,900	...	...	12,899
Other European Countries	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Java	...	...	12,989	...	...	3,940	16,929
Mauritius	...	...	17,841	1,209	...	...	19,050
Other Non-European Countries	...	...	101,383	...	...	18	101,401
					Total refined		161,684
					Total unrefined		...
					Grand Total cwt.		161,684

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta. [The prices include postage to countries in the Postal Union.]

ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 (2*a*.)

2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a*.)

3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—

   Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. R3. (12*a*.)

   Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port. R3. (12*a*.)

4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. R2. (7*a*.)

5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a*.)

6. Accounts of Trade of the French Possession in India. As. 3. (1*a*.)

7. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possession in India. As. 2. (1*a*.)

8. Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India. R4. (6*a*.)

9. Report on the Rail-borne and River-borne Trade of Bengal. R4.

10. Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan. R1½.

11 Prices and Wages in India. R1½. (9*a*.)

12. Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India. R4. (12*a*.)

13. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India. R2. (10*a*.)

14. Agricultural Statistics of India. R3½. (12*a*.)
   Part I.—British India.
   Part II.—Native States.

15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India As. 5. (2*a*.)

QUARTERLY.

16. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

MONTHLY.

17. Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

18. Accounts of the External Land Trade of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

19. Statistics of the Production of Yarn and Woven Goods in the India Cotton Mills. As. 2.

[Amount within parenthesis *denotes cost* of packing and postage.]

NOTICE.

An Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition will be held in Calcutta next December during the Congress Session.

For Rules, Prospectus, etc., please apply to—

THE HONORARY SECRETARY,
Exhibition Committee,
62, Bowbazar Street.

NOTICE.

Certain Numbers of the "Indian Trade Journal" are out of print, and cannot therefore be supplied. Back numbers still in stock may be had at a cost of Re. 1 for any number more than one week old.

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All figures, blocks, etc., intended for insertion in the advertisement columns of the *Indian Trade Journal* must first be submitted for approval to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence. The type used in the making up of an advertisement, whether display or line, must be of the kind approved by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence.

No advertisements or retail trade will be accepted.

Reuter's Telegram Company, Ld., are advertisement agents for the *Indian Trade Journal*, and all correspondence regarding advertisements ought to be addressed to them, or to the agents appointed by them. Requests for enrolment on the subscription list and all subscriptions must be addressed to the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta.

Contributors and Advertisers in the United Kingdom can remit either through a Bank, or through the Post Office. Postal orders for Indian currency can be procured at all Post Offices of the First Class in the United Kingdom.

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Engineers and Contractors

Architects and Builders,

CAN GIVE PROMPT DELIVERY OF

ENGLISH ROLLED STEEL JOISTS,
TEES, ANGLES, BARS AND PLATES.

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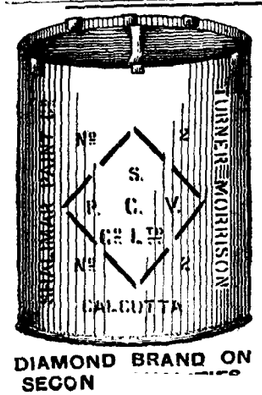
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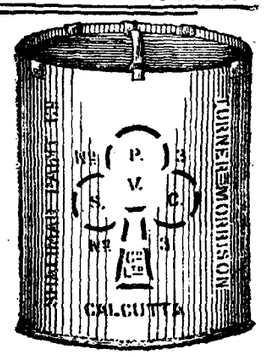
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VOL. II. No. 20.] CALCUTTA, THURSDAY, 16th AUGUST 1906. [ANNAS 4.

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NOTES.

It is stated in Melbourne there is every prospect that proposals for the **amendment of the Australian tariff** will be brought forward in the Federal Parliament.

The **Hejaz Railway** has reached Dhat-el-Haj half way between Damascus and Medina. An Irade authorises an extension of the period of the concession for the **Aidin Railway** and the prolongation of the line.

It is notified that **complaints** made by the public **against the Telegraph Department** may now be sent free through the post under the conditions applicable to the free transmission of similar complaints against the Post Office.

The **total wheat crop** of the **United States** promises to be in the neighbourhood of 722,755,000 bushels, or some 30,000,000 bushels more than last year and larger than any crop ever harvested, with the one exception of the "record breaking" crop of 1901.

In the Commonwealth House of representatives on the 25th of July, Mr. Thomas's amendment to the **Australian Mail Contract Bill** in favour of

a Commonwealth-owned line was rejected by 40 votes to 14. Mr. Watson and several of the labour party voted against the amendment. Notice has been given of several other amendments.

The minutes of the African Section of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce recorded that a sample of **rubber** sent to the Chamber by the Governor of **Sierra Leone** had been submitted to expert examination on the part of two firms, brokers and manufacturers. These had both reported in very favourable terms, stating that the sample was of excellent value and likely to prove very satisfactory if procurable in merchantable quantities.

The Foreign Office makes public information to the effect that the Japanese military administration at Newchwang has issued a notification stating that it is no longer necessary for persons desiring to proceed to the **interior of Manchuria** to procure permission to do so, but that, as conditions in the interior are not settled, it is preferable that travellers should, for their own safety, make application for passes to the authorities if they go to places at a distance from towns on the railway.

The total **production of fluorspar in the United States** in 1905, as reported by the United States Geological Survey, was 57,385 net tons (of 2,000 lbs.), valued at 362,488 dollars, most of which came from the mines in Illinois and Kentucky. This compares with 36,452 net tons, valued at 234,755 dollars, in 1904. The companies report such active demand for fluorspar, particularly for use in open hearth steel furnaces, that the production for 1906 is likely to exceed greatly that for 1905.

The **curtailment of production by Jute Mills** was proposed sometime ago. By Monday the 13th the deputation from the Executive Committee of the Jute Manufacturers' Association, who have been going round the mill agencies, succeeded in getting all the mills, with the exception of six, to agree to reduce their production of heavy goods by twenty per cent. Some agreed to effect the reduction by shutting down the requisite number of working hours per week, and others by stopping one-fifth part of their looms.

Sir Norman Lockyer has drawn attention, à propos of the San Francisco disaster, to the **risks introduced by electricity** when installed in buildings for lighting and heating purposes, pointing out that the damage by earthquake was small compared with that by fire. He says that for the first time electricity in the city has played an important part in an earthquake disaster. The gigantic electrical current carried by wires throughout the city had the natural effect of causing many fires in various parts owing to short-circuiting, as a result of the earthquake.

The Governor of **St. Helena,** in his report for 1905, remarks with regard to the deposits of **manganese ore** which have been known to exist in the island, that in December of the year under review a mining prospector succeeded in finding large deposits of good quality ore. As to the expenses of working the ore, the report says that in St. Helena labour could be obtained at from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per day, and it would not be necessary to bag the ore, as it could be placed on board ships anchored quite close to the works.

The new **United States Meat Inspection Law** will have one **curious** and unexpected **effect.** After September 1, Americans who desire to eat *paté de foie gras*, German sausages, and other meat products manufactured abroad will have to go down to New York or some other seaport in order to buy them. The law prohibits the admission into inter-State commerce of meats that have not been inspected at the time of slaughter. That means that, although tinned delicacies from Europe can be brought to America, they cannot be sent out of the State in which they are landed.

Nearly all the **cotton mills in New England** have now fallen in line, and have **increased the wages of their hands** by the 5 per cent. advance first granted some time ago by Fall River. Over 150,000 operatives are receiving the increase. Though this is the case, the want of skilled hands is said to be very great in many quarters, and some mills which have orders far in advance and are running overtime find themselves hampered by a lack of workpeople. Apart from this circumstance, New England trade and industries generally are reported to be in a flourishing condition.

The **Porte's Note** of the 17th July concerning the 3 per cent. **increase in the Customs duty** was considered unsatisfactory in diplomatic quarters in Constantinople. Reuter reports from Constantinople that the proposals regarding petroleum storage were not considered acceptable, and the Embassies were not content with the modified Customs regulations. In view of the insufficiency of the 3 per cent. increase to cover completely the deficit in the Macedonian Budget, the necessity was being urged of the provision of other revenue by the Treasury to meet all eventualities.

It was reported later that an Agreement was on the point of being concluded between the Turkish Ministry of Finance and the Public Debt Administration, committing to the care of the latter the management of the receipts from the 3 per cent. increase in the Customs duties, on the same basis on which the Debt Administration is entrusted with the collection of certain tithes, and of the sheep tax, assigned to the service of the Kilometric guarantees. This arrangement was one of the principal conditions laid down by the British Government for its consent to the increase in the Customs, and its acceptance by the Porte was regarded as an important score for British diplomacy.

Reports received from **Australia** as to the **pastoral outlook** in the Commonwealth continue to be of a most favourable character. Heavy rains had fallen in the best portions of South Australia, and all over Victoria and New South Wales early in June. Sheep were all in excellent condition, and pastoralists wrote that they expect their sheep to cut heavy fleeces of deep, sound-stapled combing wool. Feed is so abundant that pastoralists are limiting their sales of surplus stock, although prices for all classes of sheep are very high. The new season bids fair to be a fortnight or three weeks earlier than usual, and owners will make every effort to market their clips before any serious fall in value takes place.

Frequent enquiries are addressed to the British Consulate at **Hangchow** in regard to the **best means of placing goods** on the local market, accompanied by requests for the addresses of local merchants willing to undertake agencies. The Acting British Consul considers that it is inadvisable for firms in a distant country to deal with native traders in China without the assistance of a foreign intermediary on the spot to ensure payment, etc., and recommends that a foreign, *i.e.*, non-Chinese, agent should be appointed in Shanghai—there being, with the exception of a small Japanese firm, no foreign general merchants established in Hangchow. Such agents, through their own business connection, could then make arrangements for distributing goods among the local native traders.

The Japanese Department of Agriculture and Commerce publishes an estimate of the **silk crop for this season in Japan.** The climatic conditions in the spring having been favourable, an usually large number of egg-cards was expected, but in fact the total reached only 2,263,080, being 217,817 (or 8·8 per cent.) less than last year's figure. Nevertheless it turned out that each card had 7·81 *to* of eggs against an average of 7·12 *to* last year, and thus the yield of cocoons was 1,770,186 *koku*, being an increase of 4,648 *koku*. But after this estimate was made the silk-worms in the two prefectures of Aichi and Gifu are said to have been much injured by some sickness which occurred among them, so that the actual result of the crop may be different from the Department's forecast. At any rate, the figures given are 1,765,533 *koku* for last year and 1,770,186 *koku* for this.

Mr. Frank Muthall, of the *Buenos Aires Standard*, writes as follows to the *Times* :—

Sir,—A letter treating on **Argentine trade,** signed by Mr. W. H. Dillon, appeared in the *Financial and Commercial Supplement* of the 23rd of July; perhaps the following remarks may interest Mr. W. H. Dillon.

The safest and most rapid way of approaching the Argentine Government would be to present a united petition on the part of British shipowners and British Argentine railway companies, backed up by the British Government, to the Argentine Government asking for the revisal of the present Argentine Shipping laws.

It has always been a puzzle to me that this step has not been taken long ago, as to-day British shippers have not only to fight against demurrage in the Argentine ports, but also against the rapidly increasing competition of German Shipping Companies.

The following figures show the state of the **Indian silver market** since the 8th of August :—

Date.	Actual price of Silver per ounce.	Variation in price of silver, the price on 1st June 1893 being taken as 100.	Rate of exchange in Calcutta (demand bills)	Variation in rate of exchange, the rate on 1st June 1893 being taken as 100.
	d.		*s.* *d.*	
8th August 1905 .	30 1/8	79·8	1 4 1/32	109·61
9th " " .	30 3/16	79·97	1 4 1/32	109·61
10th " " .	...	...	1 4 1/32	109·61
11th " " .	...	...	...	...
12th " " .	30 5/16	80·3	...	...
13th " " .	30 5/16	80·3	1 4 1/16	109·83
14th " " .	...	...	1 4 1/16	109·83

A Correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* writing from **Johannesburg**, says that the **depression in the city** is profound. "A tragic gloom overhangs it and daily the outlook becomes blacker. Liquidations are of everyday occurrence; an exodus is taking place, and the city seems marked for destruction. The simple fact is that with the Chinese labour system in full operation there is no need for

Rs. 1,442, 1,443, and 1,454, respectively; and of the 9th sale on 8th, 9th, 10th, and 11th August were of Rs. 1,470; 1,485; 1,471; and 1,466, respectively.

China market, Hongkong (exchange Rs. 157½ to 158 per 100 dollars).

Behar—$ 960; 960; 962 to 970; 970; 977 and 977½; 975; 975; 975.

Shanghai (exchange Rs. 217 per 100 taels), one sale on 8th of 700 taels.

Benares—Two sales in the Hongkong market on 7th and 8th of $885 to 890 and $900 to 925, respectively; while one sale Shanghai, on 8th of 675 taels.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending 4th August were—for A class (season 1905-06) ₹1,340 to 1,380; for B class (season 1904-05) ₹1,470 to 1,610; class C, old (season 1903-04) ₹1,690 to 1,761. The latest China prices ascertained were for new classes (A and B) ₹1,510 to 1,543; old (class C) fetched at Hongkong ₹1,701 and at Shanghai ₹1,705.

An official announcement appeared in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* of 9th June, to the effect that the **Australian "Trade Marks Act, 1905"** (see *Indian Trade Journal* of April 12 last, page 69), would come into operation on the 2nd July, 1906. A copy of the Statutory Rules, giving the Provisional Regulations under the Act, has been received, and may be seen in the Office of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street, Calcutta. These Regulations are divided into parts as follows:—

Part I.—Preliminary.
- Division 1.—General Provisions.
- Division 2.—Agents.

Part II.—Registration of Trade Marks
- Division 1.—Applications.
- Division 2.—Procedure on Applications.
- Division 3.—Opposition.
- Division 4.—Renewal of Registration.

Part III.—Appeals.
- Division 1.—Appeal to Law Officer.
- Division 2.—Appeal to the Court.

Part IV.—Assignments and Transmissions.
Part V.—The Register of Trade Marks.
- Division 1.—General.
- Division 2.—Correction of Register by Registrar.
- Division 3.—Rectification of the Register by the Court.

Part VI.—Standardization Trade Marks.
Part VII.—Workers' Trade Marks.
Part VIII.—The Commonwealth Trade Mark.
Part IX.—Miscellaneous.

THE United States *Department of Commerce and Labour* has issued a grey book entitled "*The Commercial Orient in 1905.*" In this the position of **British India** is reviewed as follows:—Commerce shows a marked growth in the movement from India to the United States, but a very small increase in exports from the United States to India and a very small share in its imports. The total imports of India in 1905 amounted to 314 million dollars, an increase of 40 million dollars over the preceding year. The values of the principal articles imported in 1905, in round numbers, were as follows:—Cotton goods, 123 million dollars; iron and steel in its various forms, 42 millions; kerosene, 10 millions; chemicals, drugs, and dyes (largely patent medicines), 9 millions; copper, 7 millions; provisions, 7 millions; and clothing 7½ millions. The above figures are exclusive of imports of Government stores, amounting to about 25 millions.

"Two-thirds of the total imports into India are of a class of which the United States is the world's largest producer, yet Indian statistics show that the total imports from the United States in 1905 were but $4,819,000 against $5,795,000 in 1890, a reduction of nearly 1 million in fifteen years. The same official report shows that in these fifteen years the value of Indian imports from Germany increased nearly 10 million dollars; from Austria—Hungary, 12 millions; from Belgium, 8½ millions; from Russia, 7 millions; and from the United Kingdom, 27 millions. The total imports from all Europe increased during the fifteen years more than 70 millions. and from Continental Europe alone over 43 millions, while those from the United States, according to the same report, decreased nearly 1 million dollars. A small part of the exports of central Europe to India is sugar, but aside from this the articles composing the growth are of a class largely produced in the United States.

"The only articles from the United States whose importations into India in 1905 are shown to have approximated $100,000 in value each were: Cars and carts, $90,000; clocks and watches, $106,000; raw cotton, $61,000; cotton piece-goods, $320,000; drugs and medicines, $283,000; liquors, $86,000; hardware and cutlery, $269,000; typewriters, appliances, and scientific apparatus, $99,000; machinery and millwork, $230,000; iron and steel, $314,000; kerosene, $1,500,000; and other mineral oils, $550,000.

William P. Thomson and Co., Chartered Accountants of Liverpool, have forwarded under date of July 2 to newspapers of that city the following communication regarding **patents and trade marks in China:—**

About six weeks ago a statement appeared in numerous papers copied from the *North China Daily News*, that the Shangpoo intended to open the Chinese Bureau for the registration of trade marks on the first day of the 5th moon, namely the twenty-second of June of this year. Our agents immediately made an inquiry at the branch office of the Bureau at Shanghai for the registration of trade marks, and received the following letter.

Branch office of the Bureau for Registration of Trade Marks, Shanghai, May 24, 1906.

Dear Sirs, — I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 22nd instant, with request for any information as to the reliability of the statement made in the *North China Daily News* with reference to the opening date of the Bureau in Pekin, and in reply to say that this office has not received any communication from the Board of Commerce on this subject. The notice in the paper has been copied from the *Sinwanpao*, who has given this information for some time already, on what authority I do not know.

It is extremely uncertain when either the Patent or the Trade Mark Bureau will be open in China, as the Chinese Government are still very conservative. It is expected, however, that the Trade Marks Office will be opened prior to the Patent Office, and some time this year, and a large number of applications for trade marks by English firms have already been filed at Shanghai waiting the formal opening of the office.

The proposal to change the **statistical cotton year or season**, which now runs from September 1 to August 31, inclusive, so that it shall run from August 1 to July 31, inclusive, has been influentially supported in the United States, and seems likely to be adopted. The change has been advocated on the ground that the cotton crop of the United States is maturing earlier year by year as a result of improved methods of cultivation, the planting of earlier varieties, and the increasing use of artificial fertilisers, and there is consequently less and less coincidence of the commercial crop and the actual crop. Of this season's American crop, for instance, 470,000 bales were ginned last August, and were therefore counted into the crop of 1904-05 and of the coming or 1906-07 crop a certain proportion will be ginned next month and be counted into the commercial crop of 1905-06. The Executive Committee of the Southern Cotton Association resolved more than a year ago that a change was desirable. The Washington Conference of Spinners and Planters last May unanimously passed a similar resolution and the American Cotton Manufacturers' Association of Charlotte, North Carolina, declared itself in favour of the reform at its Seville Convention in June and has since been corresponding on the subject with the officials of the various Cotton Exchanges throughout the country. The *Cotton Journal* of Atlanta has published some of the correspondence, from which it appears that Mr. Wilson, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, will do what he can to assist the reform, and that the Superintendent of the New York Cotton Exchange also favours the change. Mr. Hester, Secretary of the New Orleans Cotton Exchange, has long been convinced of the need for a revision of the cotton calendar, and proposes himself to break the ice by publishing two crop statements this year—one for the twelve months ending July 31 and another for the twelve months ending August 31. Moreover, this excellent and indefatigable statistician is prepared to compile statements of the crops for the last five or six years on the new basis, so that the chief objection to the change—the difficulty of comparisons with past crops—may be removed. For our own part, we should welcome a change which would reduce the confusion between the "commercial" crop and the actual growth of cotton, although, after so may crops each of which has been described by the "bulls" in America as being a month or six weeks later than its predecessor, this unanimous confession that the crops have actually outstripped the calendar is a little amusing.

NOTICES.

BOOKS OF REFERENCE.

THE following publications have been received and may be consulted by any desirous of studying them at the office of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street:—

Australia, Western.—Statistical Register, 1905, Parts I and II.
Austria-Hungary.—Auswartigen Handel, April 1906.
Do. —Statistisches Jahrbuch des K. K. Ackerban ministerium fur das Jahr, 1905.
Bulgaria.—Mouvement de la Population pendant l'annee, 1901, II eme partie.
Canada.—Weekly Reporter on Trade and Commerce, 16th July 1906.
Do. —Monthly Reporter on Trade and Commerce, April 1906.
Ceylon.—Customs Returns, June 1906.
China.—Returns of Trade and Trade Reports, 1905, Part III, Vol. I.
France.—Bulletin de Statistique et de Legislation Comparée June 1906.
Mexico.—Resumen de la Importacion y de la Exportacion, Marzo de 1906.
Netherlands.—Monthly Trade Accounts, June 1906.
Queensland.—Agricultural Journal, July 1906.
Spain.—Resumenes Mensuales de la Estadistica del Commercio Exterior, May 1906.
Do. —Modificaciones y adiciones a los Aranceles de aduanas de 23 de Marzo de 1906.
United Kingdom.—Imperial Institute Bulletin, Vol. IV., No. 2 of 1906.
United States.—Department of Agriculture:—
Experiment Station Record, June 1906.
Bureau of Soils—Bulletin No. 33.
" of Animal Industry—Bulletin No. 83.
" " " No. 85.
Crop Reporter, July 1906.

INDIAN TRADE JOURNAL QUARTERLY VOLUMES.

FOR facility in early reference, an **Index** to the *Journal* is published every **quarter** and the numbers of the *Journal* published in each quarter are treated as one Volume. The first quarter

ended with June and the first Index was published some weeks ago. Volume II must be regarded as beginning with the number of the 5th July, while the numbers of the issues will be continuous. This is therefore Vol. II No. 20 and is the seventh number in Vol. II.

AGAVE FIBRE.

Machinery for decortication and treatment. The Director General of Commercial Intelligence to the Government of India, 5, Clive Street, Calcutta, will be glad to receive from makers of appliances for treating Agave fibre, particulars and approximate prices of their machinery.

COTTON GOODS IN 1905-06.

IMPORTS.

IN 1905-06 imports were on an unprecedented scale, and reflected the general activity of the textile industry except in Russia. The attenuation of stocks in China, the establishment of peace in the Further East, and a marked development in the purchasing power of India coincided with greatly increased production of the raw material in America and Egypt and a return of prices to more advantageous levels. In this connection reference may be made to particulars given in those sections of this review which relate to imports and exports of raw cotton.

The aggregate value of the imports of cotton yarn and of woven and other cotton goods in the last five years (stated in millions of Rupees) has been :—

	Yarns.	Woven and other goods	Total.	Proportion to total imports of merchandise.
1901-02	26·47	302·48	328·95	40 per cent.
1902-03	22·97	281·49	304·46	39 ,,
1903-04	21·42	288·69	310·11	37 ,,
1904-05	24·88	355·59	380·47	39 ,,
1905-06	34·25	390·18	424·43	41 ,,

The increase in total value of cotton goods was thus 11·6 per cent. or Rs. 43·96 millions.

In yarns the increase of value was Rs. 9·37 millions or 37·7 per cent.; while in quantity the increase, as will be seen below, amounted to 15,201,000 lbs. or 49·7 per cent., the decline in specific value thus being one of 7·99 per cent.:

1900-01	34·8 lbs.	1903-04	28·0 lbs.
1901-02	38·3 ,,	1904-05	30·58 ,,
1902-03	33·7 ,,	1905-06	45·78 ,,

Yarns from the United Kingdom, which represent 93·5 per cent. of the whole, increased from 28,021,000 lbs., to 42,801,000 lbs., the rise being one of 52·7 per cent.; and, since the British exports of yarn in 1905 showed an advance of 25·7 per cent. on those of 1904, it may be considered that India took her full share. The imports of dyed and of undyed yarn continue to be of nearly equal value. Of the former, with a total of 23,000,000 lbs., about 89 per cent. is of British origin, while Italy increased her contribution to 1,000,000 lbs. and Austria-Hungary receded to about 600,000 lbs. The imports of 40s mule increased from 6,349,000 lbs. with a value of Rs. 43·55 lakhs to 10,673,000 lbs. with a value of Rs. 68·26 lakhs.

IMPORTED YARN.

	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
Nos. 1 to 25	4,330,483	2,524,081	3,475,714
,, 26 to 40	16,588,042	19,995,875	33,696,627
Above 40	4,822,593	5,041,582	5,821,636
TOTAL	25,791,118	27,561,538	42,993,977

INDIAN YARN.

	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
Nos. 1 to 25	536,856,691	531,444,743	634,688,020
,, 26 to 40	40,960,069	45,653,619	45,091,084
Above 40	942,315	1,277,913	1,139,477
TOTAL	578,759,075	578,381,275	680,918,581

It is well to compare the imports of coarse, medium, and fine yarns as given above with the production of similar yarns by **Indian mills.** In doing so it should be noted that the local manufacturers have increased their output by 17·73 per cent.; but whereas they hold the market for counts 1 to 25 and foreign countries make no progress in that class, so the strong demand for indigenous low count yarns monopolises the Indian spinners' energies and all the expansion in the better classes of goods is represented by imports.

The imports of Cotton Fabrics increased in value from Rs.35,55,92,000 to Rs.39,01,77,000 which represents 37·9 per cent. of the total imports of private merchandise. The increase is one of 9·7 per cent. bringing the total increase in two years to 35 per cent. Some descriptions of cotton goods are not stated in yards. It is, therefore, convenient in ascertaining the change of specific value to confine the calculation to piece-goods. In this last class the imports reached the entirely unprecedented level of 2,463·24 million yards with a value of Rs.3,695·35 lakhs. The increase was 174·85 million yards or 7·6 per cent. in quantity, and Rs.321·87 lakhs or 9·5 per cent. in value; the specific value being therefore 1·35 per cent. higher, assuming that the quantitative relations of the various classes remained approximately constant. The specific value of grey goods in fact rose by 3·7 per cent.; that of white goods advanced by 5·7 per cent., while coloured goods declined by 4·3 per cent.

The following statement shows in millions of yards the relative importance of these three classes in the course of the last sixteen years; and it will be noted that whereas, during the period exhibited, the demand for **grey goods** did not keep pace with the development in white and coloured goods, the

former contributed by far the greater part of the increase in 1905-06:

	Grey. (unbleached.)	White. (bleached.)	Coloured printed or dyed.	Percentage of grey in total.
Average, 1889-90 to 1893-94	1,223·47	368·63	374·17	62
Average, 1894-95 to 1898-99	1,209·77	418·59	351·49	61
Average, 1899-1900 to 1903-04	1,204·53	369·69	430·57	57
1904-05	1,210·16	584·3	493·92	53
1905-06	1,348·84	572·75	541·65	54 8

The advance in that department was 11·4 per cent., coloured goods following with 9·7 per cent., while bleached goods showed a decline of nearly 2 per cent. Considering the large contributions now made by the Indian mills to the supply of grey goods, their unprecedented activity in that particular line in the year under report, and the revival in the hand-loom industry whose output is believed to be double that of the Indian mills, the increase in the imports of these textiles most largely used by the poorer classes must be regarded as a mark of prosperity among the masses. It is noticeable that Bengal, where there are two cotton-weaving mills, took 998,408,333 yards or 74 per cent. of the total of imported grey goods in 1905-06.

The principal descriptions of imported goods belonging to the three classes are shown in the following statement in millions of yards:

	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
1. Shirtings:			
Grey	466·06	517·64	605 79
White	65 35	129·02	109·62
Coloured	65·19	63·19	80·41
2. Chadars, dhutis, saris, and scarves—			
Grey	454·58	529·72	565·77
White	54·65	56·56	59·03
Coloured	67·12	64·58	73·51
3. Jaconets—			
Grey	93·34	85·58	103·05
White	18	30·7	24 9
Coloured	5·02	4·36	5·35
4. Mulls—			
Grey	25·16	27·46	17·52
White	102·11	134.89	103·71
Coloured	1·96	3·13	1·88
5. Drills, jeans, sheetings—			
Grey	20·87	18·77	28·39
White (drills and jeans)	4·18	7·79	9·4
Coloured (drills)	5·63	5·09	7·34
6. Unspecified descriptions—			
Grey	·33	·56	·45
White	17·93	22	17·22
Coloured	93·54	105·55	109·12

The principal advances are in grey shirtings, dhutis, and jaconets. In mulls there is a slight contraction. The following statement shows, in millions of yards, other descriptions which are imported in considerable quantities. The only really noticeable gain is in white Nainsooks which showed a decline in the previous year. This alternation of advance and decline in individual years is familiar in trade statistics:

	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
Grey—			
Madapollams	12·1	17·94	18·85
T-cloths and domestics	12·29	12	8·8
Printers	·38	·49	·22
White—			
Nainsooks	181·85	177.23	229·13
Cambrics, twills, muslins, lawns	14·15	16·5	11·39
Checks, spots, stripes	6·49	7·56	5·42
Long cloths	1·61	2·05	2·88
Coloured—			
Prints and chintz	171·28	181·55	184·88
Cambrics, twills, muslins	71·52	66·46	79·16

The production of the **Indian weaving mills** consists chiefly of unbleached shirtings, dhutis, T-cloths, domestics, and chadars, and it increased by 5,100,000 lbs. or 3 per cent. The yardage, which is stated only for bleached or unbleached goods but not for coloured or figured, increased by 15,200,000 yards, the total for this class being 562,900,000 yards and the weight 133,700,000 lbs. out of a total of 163,900,000 lbs. for all classes of woven goods.

The extent to which the cotton piecegoods of the three main classes are derived from the United Kingdom is indicated below in millions of yards:

	1903-04.		1904-05.		1905-06.	
	Total	from United Kingdom	Total	from United Kingdom	Total	from United Kingdom
Unbleached goods	1,085·11	1,077·22	1,210·16	1,205·19	1,348·88	1,337·01
Bleached ,,	466·34	458 86	584·3	574 51	572·75	561·85
Coloured ,,	481·27	461·68	493 92	471·92	541·65	516 33

Britain therefore supplies 99·12 per cent. of the grey goods, 98·09 per cent. of the bleached goods and 95·32 per cent. of the coloured goods.

Besides these there are certain subsidiary classes of goods imported, the principal descriptions and the value of the trade, in thousands of Rupees, being :—

	1903-04.	1904-05.	1905-06.
Handkerchiefs and shawls in the piece	26,29	25,00	34,96
Hosiery	50,19	67,45	63,02
Sewing thread	21,99	22,78	25,61
Other manufactures	41,84	67,20	82,82

The progress in this department thus amounted to Rs. 24 lakhs or 13·2 per cent. on the figures of the previous year. The United Kingdom supplies 88·5 per cent. of the handkerchiefs and shawls, and 85·7 per cent. of the sewing thread. But of the total it does only 45 per cent., seeing that the considerable class of hosiery is practically absorbed by Japan, Italy, Germany, Austria, Belgium and Spain. Of these, Japan further strengthened her position with a total value of Rs. 16·9 lakhs in 1905-06, while Rs. 1·35 lakhs of hosiery from Hongkong and the Straits Settlements was also probably Japanese.

EXPORTS.

These showed **extraordinary expansion** in response to the restoration of peace in the Far East, the opening of markets rendered bare by a series of unfavourable years, and a return of prices, both of the raw material and of the finished articles, to favourable levels. The following are the quantities and values of yarns and piece-goods exported in the last five years :—

	Yarn.		Piece-goods.	
	(unit 1,000 lbs.)	Rs.	(unit 1,000 yds.)	Rs.
1901-02 .	272,468	9,31,66,944	72,625	1,42,54,982
1902-03 .	248,539	8,54,00,344	69,535	1,32,75,431
1903-04 .	252,474	8,84,15,431	75,815	1,48,30,434
1904-05 .	247,855	9,81,56,814	87,456	1,65,14,451
1905-06 .	297,634	12,38,76,874	91,975	1,86,58,721

It will be seen that in both classes of goods the figures attained in 1905-06 are unprecedented. **Yarn** represents nearly 85·87 per cent. of the total value and has shown an increase of no less than 26·2 per cent. in 1905-06, which corresponds approximately with the estimated rate of increase in the exports of cotton goods from the United Kingdom in 1905. The quantitative increase in the exports of Indian yarn was about 20 per cent. so that the rise in specific value was one of 5·1 per cent. The exports to China, which represented some 94·3 per cent. of the total value, showed an increase of Rs. 296 lakhs, thus constituting 104·6 per cent. of the total increase of the year and marking an addition of 29·93 per cent. to the figure of the previous year. The figures for the Straits Settlements show a slight contraction at 6,490,200 lbs. or 2·2 per cent. of the total. This is no doubt a result of the exceptionally healthy state of the trade and consequent increase of shipment direct to ultimate destinations.

The trade to the **Levant,** which had developed well two years ago, has been neglected in favour of the larger markets and has shrunk to some 689,700 lbs. while Egypt took only 836,800 lbs. and European Turkey 63,089 lbs.

The exports of **piece-goods** increased by Rs. 21·44 lakhs or about 12·98 per cent. This is a lower rate of expansion than that shown by yarns, but the fact is due to no deficiency of demand but to the incapacity of the Indian weaving mills to increase their output commensurately. The quantitative increase was one of 5·17 per cent. so that the increase in specific value amounted to 7·43 per cent.

The exports of Grey goods amounted to 55,822,652 yards with a value of Rs. 789 lakhs. This represents 42·27 per cent. of the total value of piece-goods and marks an increase of 56 per cent. in quantity and 10·6 per cent. in value with a rise of 4·8 per cent. in specific value.

Coloured goods again increased 14·6 per cent. in value to Rs. 106·7 lakhs and in quantity by 3·8 per cent. to 35,760,000 yards.

The shipments of Grey goods to China alone advanced by no less than 24·3 per cent. in quantity and 21·2 per cent. in value, the total being 12,824,000 yards and Rs. 18·87 lakhs. But the main markets for Indian cloth are found in East Africa, Aden, Red Sea ports, Abyssinia, the Persian Gulf, Ceylon, and the Straits ; while dyed and printed cloths go, mainly from Madras, to the two last and the Philippines. Madras also sends handkerchiefs and shawls to the diminished value of Rs. 8·51 lakhs almost wholly to the United Kingdom.

The **production** of yarn and cloth in the Indian mills in thousands of pounds was :

Yarn.	*Bombay.*	*Elsewhere.*	*Total.*
1901-02 . .	415,028	157,910	572,938
1902-03 . .	419,526	156,168	475,695
1903-04 . .	414,932	163,827	578,759
1904-05 . .	422,249	156,132	578,381
1905-06 . .	491,609	189,310	680,919
Cloth.			
1901-02 . .	98,546	21,105	119,651
1902-03 . .	100,466	22,110	122,576
1903-04 . .	112,717	25,327	138,044
1904-05 . .	130,998	27,749	158,747
1905-06 . .	131,898	31,982	163,880

Additions to spindles have amounted in all to 37,454 of which 7,359 are in Bombay, 22,823 were in Bengal, and 6,222 in Madras. In **looms** the additions were 4,976 of which 4,474 were in Bombay. And since it may be assumed that every spindle and loom has worked to its utmost output during the exceptional year under review it is possible to compute for the first time that the average capacity per spindle and per loom respectively under Indian conditions is 131·77 lbs. of yarn, or 3,221·29 lbs. of cloth per annum.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

EXCERPTS FROM PROCEEDINGS.

KARACHI.

Proper classification of imported cotton goods. READ Customs Circular No. IV of 1905 embodying a Resolution by the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry, No. 5443-5449-8 of 13th July 1906, publishing for the guidance of Customs Officers, a properly classified list of imported cotton goods. RESOLUTION—To be circulated and recorded.

Commercial Education. READ letter No. 3686, dated 27th July 1906, from the Director of Public Instruction, Poona, forwarding a letter from the Government of India, No. 311 of 16th May 1906, and requesting an expression of the Chamber's opinion as to the desirability of Government awarding one or two scholarships annually for advanced commercial studies tenable for three years and worth, say, £150 a year each, with the object of encouraging the pursuit of commercial education. The Director invites special attention to paragraph 5 of the letter from the Government of India and to the suggestion that scholarships might be given to those classes of natives "who trade on their own account on some not inconsiderable scale. RESOLUTION—The Director of Public Instruction, Poona, to be informed that in the opinion of the Committee scholarships such as proposed would be of but little use in Sind where there does not appear to be any demand at present for advanced commercial education of the character contemplated.

Cultivation of Egyptian Cotton in Sind. READ letter No. 2078, dated 25th July 1906, from the Assistant Commissioner in Sind, forwarding for the information of the Chamber copy of a letter dated 18th June 1906, from the Secretary of the British Cotton Growing Association, Manchester, reporting the sale of 7 bales of Abassi Egyptian Cotton grown in Sind at 8½*d.* per lb.

(*b*) READ letter No. 7175, dated 25th July 1906, from the Under-Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Bombay, forwarding in compliance with the Chamber's telegram of 14th July 1906, a copy of the Press Note issued by Government on the subject of the cultivation of Egyptain Cotton in Sind, and stating that copies of the Resolution, extracts from which were embodied in that Note, were not sent to Editors of newspapers and public bodies. RESOLUTION—(*a*) To be acknowledged, circulated and recorded. (*b*) To be acknowledged, circulated and recorded.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

THE *Board of Trade Journal* published on the 26th July, in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations, gives particulars about :—

DOMINION OF CANADA.—Customs Tariff Amendments.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.—Importation of Microbes for Inoculating Rabbits.

CYPRUS.—Importation Explosives.

EGYPT.—Valuation Tariff for Iron and Steel Manufactures. Valuation Tariff for Exports.

GERMANY.—New Cigarette Tax Law. Regulations relating to Cigarette Tax.

NETHERLANDS.—Import Duty on certain Goods containing Sugar.

FRANCE.—Government authorised to suspend certain Customs Duties. Importation of Preserved Sardines, Vegetables, and Plums : Country of Origin to be indicated.

SWITZERLAND.—Concession as to the Breadth of Zanella and Serge.

PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA.—Decree prohibiting the Importation of certain animals from East African Ports.

SPAIN.—Exemption of certain Molasses from Internal Tax.

ROUMANIA.—Importation of Greek Merchandise prohibited. Tariff Alterations. Export Tariff. Free Importation of certain Articles.

BRAZIL (STATE OF MINAS GERAES).—Abolition of State Import Duties.

CHINA (MANCHURIA).—Forthcoming Opening of Dalny as a Free Port.

We give the following particulars of **Changes interesting to Indian Trade** :—

EGYPT.

Iron and Steel Manufactures—Valuation Tariff for.

The Egyptian *Journal Officiel* for the 2nd July contains the following revised **Valuation Tariff** for use in assessing duty on imported iron and steel manufactures. The Tariff came into force on the 1st July, and is to remain in operation until the 31st October next, or until denunciation :—

Articles.	Valuation per killog.* Former. Millièmes.†	New. Milliemes.†
Iron and steel plates, ordinary, without mark (‡), ⅛ in., thick and upwards.	7	7
British ; and similar goods from all other countries, Belgian or German; and similar goods from all other; countries.	6¼	6 6/10
Iron and steel bars and angles, T and U, without mark (‡).	6¼	6¼
British ; and similar goods from all othercountries, Belgian or German ; and similar goods from all other countries.	5¾	6
Iron Bars, Swedish	10	10
Iron, pig	3 1/10	3 7/10
Iron hoops	7	7 9/10
„ with holes	7 3/10	7 5/10
Steel hoops	7 3/10	7 4/10
„ with holes	7 3/10	7 4/10
Galvanised sheets (B. G. 18 to 26) .	14	14¼
„ corrugated sheets (B. G. 18 to 26).	12	13
Ordinary cast-iron pipes and fittings	*ad val.*	*ad val.*
Studs (Benwill's), new . . .	25	25
„ old	20	20
Studs, small	24	24
Nails (French), 15 by 35 to 24 by 200	9 4/10	9 5/10
Iron and steel girders	5 7/10	6
British ; and similar goods from all other countries Belgian or German ; and similar goods from all other countries.	5 8/10	5 9/10

* Duty is levied on these valuations at the rate of 8 per cent.

The English ton is taken as equivalent to 1,016 kilogs.

† 1,000 millièmes £E1 £1. 0*s.* 6*d.*

‡ The duties on iron and steel wares bearing special marks are leviable *ad valorem* The following are not regarded as special marks :—Siemens Martin, S. M., Thomas, the names of manufacturers without crown-bands, or with a single crown band, provided they do not indicate a special quality, as also all other marks of which notice is given by the importers and which are accepted beforehand by the customs.

Iron tubes for gas, water and steam, and fittings therefor, and iron tubes for boilers, are assessed at various rates in accordance with certain trade lists from which discounts are allowed.

The same issue of the *Journal Officiel* contains a valuation tariff for the purpose of assessing export duties on various articles of Egyptian produce. This tariff, which came into force on the 1st July, and is to remain in operation until the 30th September, or until denunciation, contains valuations for a number of miscellaneous articles such as sesame, flax, tow, wool, ivory, wax, hides and skins of various sorts, horns and hoofs, cotton seed, oil, etc.

PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA.

The Importation of certain Animals from East African Ports—Decree prohibiting.

THE Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that a Decree of the Governor of Lourenco Marques has been issued prohibiting—

1. The importation into any part of the province of camels, dromedaries, horses, asses, oxen, sheep, and goats from the ports of East Africa situated between Rovuma and Port Said, or of any animals of the kinds mentioned which may have passed through those ports; and

2. The transport of animals now in the province from places north of the Save River to ports south thereof.

JAPAN.

Imports—Certificates of Origin.

THROUGH the courtesy of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the *Indian Trade Journal* has received a circular containing a letter from the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade in which it is stated that, according to the regulations for the enforcement of the Customs Duties Law, the benefits of the Conventional Tariff can only be secured when the import application is accompanied by a certificate of origin. After October 1 extensions of time will be granted for the presentation of these certificates. The rule is not a new one, and consignees who do not comply with the requirements of the customs expose themselves to the risk of great inconvenience and loss.

TURKEY.

Hides and Skins—Imports—Certificates of Origin—Information to be given.

HIDES and skins imported into the Turkish Empire, must be accompanied by the certificates of origin.

It is notified that in future the entry of foreign hides and skins will not be permitted unless, in addition to showing the places of production and transit, these certificates show clearly that the places at which the skins are produced and cured are free from epidemic and contagious cattle disease, and in cases where disease exists in a place, the name and nature of such disease must be shown. (For further particulars, see p. 703).

CROP FORECASTS.

COTTON.

First General Memorandum on the Indian COTTON crop of the season 1906-07.

THE territories dealt with in this memorandum represent, on the average of the five years ending 1904-05, a total of 12,906,800 acres under cotton, this being equal to 77·1 % of the entire Indian cotton area. The Memorandum, however, relates mainly to the early crop, and records areas only.

Territories commonly representing together about 32 % of the total area under cotton in all India, this year report an area greater by 1,134,000 acres than last year, which constitutes an increase of 22·5 % on the acreage returned by the same territories at the same date last season. This increase is derived mainly from Hyderabad.

Other territories, representing an aggregate 41 % of the total area under cotton, report an area less by 437,000 acres, the decrease representing about 6·7 % on the acreage reported by these territories at the same time last year.

No report has been received from Central India, which commonly carries about 656,000 acres of cotton or 3·9 of the whole.

The **net result** is a total area of 12,283,000 acres as against 11,587,000 at the same date last year, the increase being one of 696,000 acres or about 6 %.

It is notable that of this Net Increase only 11,000 acres are contributed by British India, while 685,000 acres are derived from Native States which last year showed a decline in contrast with an increase in British territories.

No attempt is made at this season to estimate the probable outturn; but from all quarters the reports regarding the condition and prospects of the crop are quite favourable, although further rain is wanted in Bombay Deccan, while United Provinces and Central Provinces and Berar indicate that a spell of bright weather is to be desired.

Estimate of the area under cotton made in August.

	1906-07	1905-06
	Acres	Acres
Bombay (Deccan) (*a*)	1,700,000	1,453,000
Madras (*b*)	94,000	95,000
Central Provinces and Berar	4,420,000	4,696,000
Punjab (*a*)	1,537,000	1,684,000
North-West Frontier	59,000	37,000
United Provinces	1,500,000	1,350,000
Ajmer-Merwara	12,000	14,000
Bengal	61,000	52,000
Eastern Bengal and Assam	57,000	61,000
Burma	189,000	182,000
Hyderabad	2,461,000	1,809,000
Mysore	2,000	10,000
Rajputana (*c*)	191,000	144,000
Central India	Report not received	
TOTAL	12,283,000	11,587,000

(*a*) Including Native States.
(*b*) For *raiyatwari* area only. The area sown in villages other than raiyatwari is reported to be 11,500 acres.
(*c*) For 15 States from which reports have been received.

The following is a summary of the provincial reports. The figures in brackets, following the name of each province, indicate what percentage of the entire reported cotton area of India is ordinarily cultivated in that province.

The **Bombay** report relates only to the early crop of the **Deccan** (***8·1***%) which up to 1st August showed 1,700,000 acres sown, representing an increase of 17 per cent over the estimate made at the same date last year. Sowings commenced earlier than usual under favourable early rains. The crop is flourishing in Khandesh which this year carries 83% of the Deccani crop. Elsewhere the condition is so far good, but further rain is needed.

Madras (***9·2***%).—The total area sown up to the end of July in raiyatwari villages is reported to be 94,200 acres, which is about 1 per cent. less than the area at the corresponding date of last year, but 1½ per cent above the average of the preceding five years. Villages other than raiyatwari report a total area of 11,500 acres, but the returns are incomplete. The crop is generally in fair condition.

Central Provinces and Berar (***23·6***%) report a total area of 4,420,000 acres as compared with 4,696,000 acres reported at this date last year—a decrease of about 6 per cent. Continued wet weather somewhat damaged cotton seedlings and hindered weeding operations. Otherwise the sowing season was favourable owing to ample and well distributed rainfall in June and July, and germination was generally good though some re-sowing was necessary in places. With some sunshine the plants will grow rapidly, and a break in the rains seems to have already set in. At present prospects are excellent.

Panjab (***7·3***%) reports 1,464,000 acres (irrigated 1,128,500 acres) as compared with 1,605,000 acres at the same date last year and 1,836,000 acres finally returned in that year. The shrinkage occurs almost wholly in the irrigated area. The steady expansion apparent in the last five years has received a serious check. The decrease is due to the heavy loss sustained in 1905-06 through the ravages of boll-worm. The crop of that year was practically a total failure from this cause in the Central and South-West Panjab, and large reductions are apparent in all the districts affected. Other crops have been substituted wherever possible. Supplementary sowings may however be expected in the Delhi Division. The standing crop is generally in good condition. Grasshoppers did widespread damage, and considerable areas had to be re sown. The prospects of the crop depend largely on the absence of boll-worm, and it is impossible to express an opinion on this point at the present stage. The area reported up to date from Native States in the Panjab is 73,000 acres as compared with 79,000 acres last year.

North-West Frontier Province (***0·2***%) reports 59,000 acres. This is the same as was finally returned last year, though the area reported at this date in 1905 was 37,000 acres. The rainfall during the months of March to June was on the whole good and timely, enabling the cultivators to sow in good time, especially in Dera Ismail Khan where the area sown shows a satisfactory improvement.

United Provinces (***6·6***%). The total area sown is estimated at about 1,500,000 acres which exceeds by 11 per cent the last year's area amounting to 1,350,000 acres. The estimate is conjectural, but all information to hand points to a substantial increase in acreage. Germination has been good: weeding properly done, and prospects were excellent up to the time when district reports were received. There has since been very heavy rain in some of the important cotton tracts, which may cause some injury if not followed by a spell of fine weather.

Ajmer-Merwara (***0·3***%).—The area sown with early cotton up to date is reported to be 12,000 acres as compared with 14,000 acres last year. The condition of the crop is good and prospects are favourable for the present.

Bengal (***0·6***%) reports a total area of 61,000 acres sown up to date with both early and late cotton, as compared with 52,000 acres at this date last year. The sowing of the late crop however has only begun. The weather has so far been favourable and the crop is promising well. In Sambalpur some damage is reported to have been done by caterpillars.

Eastern Bengal and Assam (***0·3***%).—The area sown is reported to be 57,000 acres as com-

pared with 61,000 acres last year. The decrease of 4,000 acres is almost entirely in the Chittagong Hill Tracts where the area of jungle cleared by the hillmen is reported to be less than usual owing to the scarcity of food grains. Sowings were late on account of scanty rainfall. Otherwise the season has been favourable, and prospects are fair to good.

Burma (***0·9 %***) reports the total area sown to be 189,000 acres as compared with 182,000 acres for last year—an increase of 3·8 per cent. Rain was generally deficient at the commencement of the season and sowings were consequently late. Prospects are on the whole good.

Hyderabad (***13·3%***) reports the total area sown with early (*kharif*) cotton to be 2,461,000 acres as compared with 1,809,000 acres for last year—an increase of 36 per cent. The monsoon set in early and sowings have generally been in time. The condition of the crop is generally good; and if the rains continue favourable, a very good crop may be expected.

Mysore (***0·4*** °/₀) reports 2,000 acres sown up to date as compared with the normal area at this date of about 10,000 acres. There have as yet been no sowings in many places for want of timely rain.

Rajputana (***2·4***°/₀).—Reports have not been received from five States with an average total area under cotton of 208,000 acres. In the fifteen States, from which returns have been received, the reported area sown up to date is 191,000 acres as compared with 144,000 acres at the corresponding date of last year.

Returns have not been received from **Central India** (***3·9*** °/₀), where the average total area cultivated with cotton is about 656,000 acres.

FREDERIC NOEL-PATON,
Director-General of Commercial Intelligence.

WEATHER SUMMARY.

For the week ending the 11th August 1906.

DURING the period under review there was nearly general rain in Burma and light to moderate rain in Eastern Bengal, Assam, North-East India, Orissa, Submontane districts of the United Provinces, South Rajputana, Gujarat, the Submontane Punjab, Kashmir, Central India, West Coast, Konkan Coast, and Madras Coast, while slight showers were reported from north coast of Madras, interior of South India, east of Central India and local falls in Bengal, Behar, south-eastern half of Rajputana and South Deccan. The principal rainfall amounts were :—Cherra Poonjee 26·17″, Simla 12·57″, Jalpaiguri 10·75″, Dehra Dun 10·55″, Dhubri 8·75″, Chakrata 8·72″, Akyab 7·46″, Vizagapatam 7·06″, Darjeeling 6·31″, Bogra 6·01″, Burdwan 5·89″, Rawalpindi 5·80″, Silchar 5·67″, Dibrugarh 5·62″, Darbhanga 5·59″, Roorkee 5·59″, Ambala 5·58″, Bareilly 4·93″, Ootacamund 4·77″, Sibsagar 4·76″, Tavoy 4·69″, Trichinopoly 4·50″, Barisal 4·03″, Tezpur″ 3·72″, Mount Abu 3·89″, Benares 3·57″, Murree 3·39″, Mymensing 3·34″, Gaya 3·26″, Ranchi 3·22″, Berhampore 3·03″, Thayetmyo 2·84″, Jhansi 2·82″, Cawnpore 2·56″, Chittagong 2·47″, Gorakhpur 2·27″, Cocanada 2·26″, Mandalay 2·21″, Rangoon 2·20″, Narayanganj 2·16″, Cuddapah 1·81″, Masulipatam 1·70″, Bahraich 1·62″, Meerut 1·61″, Raipur 1·66″, Diamond Island 1·54″, Hanumkonda 1·42″, Purnea 1·49″, Salem 1·40″, Nellore 1·35″, Kodaikanal 1·24″, Minbu 1·22″, Lucknow 1·20″, Bangalore 1·17″, Tinnevelly 1·17″, Allahabad 1·15″, Pabna 1·5″, Nowgong 1·5″, Shillong 1·5″. The trough of low pressure was close to the Himalayas and the barometer was relatively low in the South-West Punjab on the 5th August, concentrating the rainfall due to the Bombay current in the East Punjab and the Submontane districts of the United Provinces, while it improved slightly the following day, diminishing in the United Provinces and increasing in Bihar and the southern half of the Peninsula the rainfall from the Bombay current and during this time the Bay monsoon maintained its average strength and gave general rain in Burma. A marked diminution was observed on the 7th August in the ridge of high pressure extending from Orissa into the Central Provinces, showing the pressure difference between Orissa and the extreme north about a seventh of an inch greater than usual. Later on this pressure having disappeared in these latter places, winds from the Bay began to blow into Bihar and east of the United Provinces and in conjunction with those from the Bombay side, gave widespread rain, the rainfall from the Bay monsoon being generally light and owing to the high pressure now extending from Central Burma across the Bay to the North Circars Coast, conditions for widespread rain in Burma were unfavourable on the 9th August, but in Assam things took a different turn on the 10th and there was heavy rain, the high pressure at the head of the Bay diminishing the rainfall in Burma the next day. But in Burma throughout the period the skies were more or less overcast and constant changes were observed in the movements of the clouds varying the hygromatic conditions of both Upper and Lower Burma. During all this time the temperature was very fickle and remained always abnormal; variations on either side of the maximum temperature were noticed, at one time falling 7° and at another time rising 3½°.

The chief feature of the weather during the week under report was the rainfall caused by the Bombay current maintaining its power regularly and giving on the 10th August much rain in the Punjab, Central India, and south of Madras. The places affected more or less by the current and the consequent rainfall are appended below :—Punjab, Submontane districts of the United Provinces, Bihar, southern half of the Peninsula, Chota-Nagpur, the extreme north of India, North Madras Coast, south of Madras, Central India, Gujarat and South-East Rajputana.

Throughout the whole period the Bay current maintained its average strength giving general rain in Burma sometime on the 5th, while the Arabian Sea current was weaker than usual in the Peninsula.

In North-East India light to moderate rainfall was reported from most stations. Skies were completely to moderately overcast though clouds decreased more or less. In Bengal, Orissa, and Chota Nagpur, the temperature was almost alternately in defect, and in excess of the maximum, rising 5½° at Hazaribagh and falling 5½° at Silchar. Again, the conditions of skies and air in the United Provinces, Punjab, Frontier Provinces, Gujarat and Rajputana changed from day to day showing a slightly warmer weather than usual in the Punjab, Rajputana and Central Provinces on the 9th August, while it became damper in the Punjab on the 11th. In the Peninsula the skies were on the whole moderately clouded and the temperature continued almost normal or slightly in excess or defect in certain places, *e.g.*, Madras, interior of South India, Nizam's Dominions, Mysore and Bombay Deccan.

The rainfall of the whole period from the 4th May to the 9th August has been normal in Burma and North-East India, except in Chota Nagpur, and normal or in slight excess in the United Provinces and the Peninsula, except in Orissa. It has been in defect in Chota Nagpur, Orissa, the east of Central India, Rajputana, the west half of Gujarat, Sind, the North-West Frontier Province and the Punjab, except the Simla, Ambala and Delhi districts.

TELEGRAM FROM THE VICEROY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Crop prospects: Week ending 4th August last

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh: Heavy rain has fallen and a break is now needed. Crops are doing well. Cholera still prevails at Hamirpur. There has been an increase in the numbers on relief, due to extension of gratuitous relief. **Punjab:** Sufficient rain has fallen in the south-east of the province. All relief works have been closed. **Rajputana:** Light to good rain has fallen. Prospects are favourable on the whole, but more rain is needed in some States. Prices are falling. Cattle have improved. Pasturage is available. **Central India:** Rainfall general. Crops in good condition. **Bombay:** Good to slight rain has fallen The standing crops are doing well. The sown area is above the normal in parts. Water supply sufficient. The condition of the cattle is improving. Relief works have been closed in Kolhapur. **Eastern Bengal:** Crop prospects are good generally, but there is scarcity in five districts, where prices are rising still. The condition of the people is improving. Prospects are favourable in other provinces. The numbers of persons in receipt of relief in thousands is as follows :—**United Provinces of Agra and Oudh**, 95; **Punjab**, 8; **Ajmer and Rajputana**, 57; **Central India**, 18; **Baroda**, 2; and **Bombay**, 81; **Eastern Bengal**, 15; total 266. The **rainfall forecast** for August and September is summarised as follows :—The tendency of the past week for rainfall, due to Bombay current, to be scanty, and to occur unusually far to the east, appears to be passing away, and an early improvement, both in quantity and uniformity of distribution, is to be expected. On the whole there appears no reason to anticipate either large excess or large defect in the rainfall of August or September. In August, however, slight deficiency is more likely than excess.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

JAPAN.

MR. CROWE, Commercial Attaché to H. M.'s Embassy at Tokio, in his Report on the **Trade of Japan** for the year 1905, states that the year 1905 was, generally speaking, one of great prosperity for merchants and manufacturers alike. The Government's demands for the war were so large that not only were the native factories kept exceptionally busy, but unprecedented purchases had also to be made from the foreign sources of supply. There was consequently less curtailment of the people's spending power than might have been expected during the year, marked as it was by increased taxes and bad crops.

The **war's strengthening effect** on Japan's industrial capacity was even more noticeable during 1905 than in the year previous. In various ways quite a large proportion of the money raised abroad by means of foreign loans was spent in Japan, and the working capital of the Empire still further increased by extensive purchases in Europe and America of Japanese domestic bonds. These were formerly held by Japanese banks and capitalists, whose funds were liberated for use in the Empire, and this in great measure accounts for the exceptionally easy conditions of the local money market, which, contrary to expectation, prevailed during the period under review. In one way or another, directly or indirectly, every factory in the country benefited from the enormous demands for materials required for the war, and as a result the manufacturing capacity increased in every direction, profits being largely used for extensions of plant and buildings. This great industrial activity gave makers an experience and confidence in their own ability which, says Mr. Crowe, will tend to make them far keener and **more efficient competitors** of the foreign importer than ever before, and this not only in Japan but also in those new markets the development of which should be the sequel of the late war. Japan's industries enjoy the immense advantage of low wages. She is no doubt behind her Western rivals in capital, equipment and experience, but she is making rapid progress. Foreign capital is now ready

to assist her, merchants of various countries are eagerly offering her the latest machinery and the most improved appliances, and she is the more ready to avail herself of the world's experience in that she is not confronted with the necessity, which has to be faced by her rivals, of having to discard previous costly equipment.

In the new markets which the war has opened at her door she has in her favour proximity of situation and a closer touch with the people's requirements, while with the additional advantage of political control in Corea and in the case of Manchuria of temporary military occupation, she is bound to prove a most formidable rival in the coming struggle for the new trade.

The volume of **Japan's foreign trade** in 1905, as shown by the customs returns, totalled £82,694,809, representing an increase as against the previous year of £12,201,017 or 17 per cent. Imports are higher by £11,969,011 or 31 per cent. and exports by £232,006 or 0·7 per cent.

In **imports** the largest increases are shown in cotton, which is higher by nearly £4,000,000, cotton and woollen manufactures, metals, locomotives and machinery, leather, oil cake, manures, drugs and chemicals, and paper, but, with the exception of rice, petroleum, coal and blankets, the expansion extends over practically the whole list of enumerated articles.

In some cases the increases are directly due to the war, in others, where the connection is not so evident, they are indirectly traceable to the same cause, for many factories were diverted from their usual trades to the supply of war material, and thus imports of the article originally manufactured, and in some cases of a substitute, became profitable. For instance, the Government's demand for sulphuric acid deprived the phosphate factories of their usual supplies, which led to increased imports of sulphate ammonia and other nitrogenous fertilisers.

Now, therefore, that the war is happily concluded, importers must not be surprised if there is a decrease in their turnover during the next two years as compared with the years 1904-1905. The advance in exports exhibited by the customs returns as compared with the year preceding the war, namely, £3,269,848 or 11 per cent., does not give the full measure of Japan's progress during the period covered, for large quantities of home-manufactured commodities shipped for the seat of war in Government transports do not figure in the customs returns.

Considering the war's heavy toll on the labour market, even were the expansion no greater than that recorded in the said returns, it could not but be regarded as highly satisfactory.

Just as the customs do not show the full amount of the exports in their returns, so the real sum of Japan's purchases abroad must exceed the recorded imports, as they do not include the war supplies imported for shipment to Coria and Manchuria, which did not require further manufacture in Japan.

The large **excess of imports over exports,** due to a great extent to the increased requirements of the war occurred entirely in the first nine months of the year, the last three months exhibiting an actual decline in imports as against the corresponding period of 1904.

The proportion of **gold reserve** to the amount of notes in circulation at the close of the past year was 36 per cent. as against 29 per cent. at the end of 1904 the figures at the close of 1905 being :—Gold Reserve, Currency Yen, 115,595,000, sterling £11,800,000. Note isue, Currency Yen 312,791,000, sterling £31,931,000.

The **foreign loans** contracted daring the year arrested the drain of gold which was so marked a feature of 1904. There was actually a small inflow of the yellow metal, and there must still be a considerable sum to Japan's credit abroad. At the same time it must be borne in mind that the heavy foreign borrowing which has marked the war period has involved for Japan a large increase of " invisible imports " for many years to come. Quite apart from the redemption of the foreign loans, which according to the scheme passed by the Diet, are to be paid off in 35 years, the liability abroad involved by the service of interest on these loans and on the considerable foreign holding of the domestic bonds amounts to a very high figure.

Since the beginning of the war, loans to the face value of £107,000,000 have been issued abroad. Formerly some £900,000 sufficed for the service of the Government's foreign debt. The amount now required, for interest alone, including that on the domestic bonds held abroad, cannot be much under £8,000,000 or nearly one-quarter of the total value of her exports last year. When to this is added the return on the foreign capital which is now entering Japan through private channels, the need for the rapid expansion of her exports will be seen to be a very pressing one.

The value of **imports from the Britsh Empire** £22,137,000, shows an increase of £64,71,000 or 41 per cent. its share in Japan's custom amounting to 44 per cent. as against 41 per cent. in 1904. As a customer the Empire has dropped to third place with a decline of £1,544,000 or 22 per cent.

Of the total increase in Japan's imports, the United Kingdom has had a very respectable share—£4,122,000 or 34 per cent.—its sales to Japan forming 23 per cent. of that country's total imports as compared with 20 per cent. in 1904. The geographical situation of the United Kingdom's chief competitor, America, has given her goods the advantage of greater security of transport during the war. Indeed, so out of favour was the Suez route for shipments to Japan of materials which might be considered contraband that no small portion of British trade with this country was done round Cape Horn and even *viâ* America. That the United Kingdom, notwithstanding this drawback, should have retained its position as Japan's chief source of supply is a very promising sign. Iron and steel manufactures, machinery (locomotives excepted), woollen cloths and cottons all show large increases. As regards exports, there has been some decline, for which silk tissues are chiefly responsible.

There was an increase in Japan's purchases from **India**, amounting to £2,267,000 or 32 per cent., but this was entirely to the account of cotton, for rice exhibited a substantial falling-off.

Two hundred and forty-eight thousand nine hundred and sixty-one tons of **raw cotton,** valued at £11,153,000 were imported in 1905 as compared with 151,174 tons at £7,296,000 in 1904, an increase of 97,787 tons and £3,857,000. Of this big increase, however, a large proportion was carried over at the end of the year, and it was estimated that there would be sufficient to meet the requirements for the first quarter of 1906. During the earlier part of the year the market was fairly steady, values keeping at about 25 yen to 26 yen 50 sen for American (middling), 24 to 25 yen for Broach, 26 yen 50 sen to 27 yen for Chinese (best quality), but in the latter half prices went up and reached at the close of the year 33 yen 50 sen for Chinese (best quality).

The subjoined table shows the principal countries sharing in the trade :—

Year.	Value.				
	India.	China.	United States.	Egypt.	Total Import.
	£	£	£	£	£
1905 .	5,467,000	1,713,000	3,590,000	300,000	11,153,000
1904 .	2,930,000	3,170,000	926,000	253,000	7,296,000
1903 .	3,940,000	1,647,000	1,110,000	244,000	7,096,000

In the trade reports for the past few years attention has been drawn to the ***continued decrease in cotton yarns,*** which in former years had been one of the principal items of import from the United Kingdom; 1905, however, shows once more a large increase, the figures being 2,980,033 lbs., valued at £174,000 compared with 716,949 lbs. at £35,000. But as the native mills, whose production was restricted in consequence of the war, are increasing their number of spindles by some 150,000, this revival of the old trade can only be temporary, and by 1907 the import of foreign spun yarns will once more become a very small item. Of the yarns imported in 1905 no less than 1,706,000 lbs. were gassed yarns spun from Egyptian cotton, leaving only a small proportion of white yarns spun from American fibre.

ZANZIBAR.

Mr. Vice-Consul Sinclair, in his report on the trade and commerce of **Zanzibar,** says that, had it not been for an unfortunate outbreak of bubonic plague, the year 1905 would have been an exceptionally good one for Zanzibar from a trade point of view.

The declared value of **imports** from foreign countries for 1905 was £1,109,956 as against £1,239,692 in 1904, but if the movement of specie—which, though it no doubt forms a criterion of trade prosperity, can nevertheless hardly be regarded in the same light as other articles—be left out of account, there is a decrease of only £12,452.

No coal from British **India** was imported, the British India Steam Navigation Company's vessels no longer coaling there.

Case oil to the value of £7,151 came from the United States of America, 30,500 cases from Russia and 70,500 cases from Sumatra. The Asiatic Petroleum Company, who import all except the American oil, also imported 72,000 units of bulk oil.

The imports of cotton and woollen goods, principally the former, included under the heading of piece-goods, rose from £306,406 in 1904 to £330,029 in 1905, although there was a decrease of £12,000 in the value of the unbleached cloth known as Americani. The value of *kangas* imported from the United Kingdom was £40,781 as against £29,183 in 1904, and from the Netherlands £29,422 as against £27,400. The import of *kaniki* from the United Kingdom also shows an increase, £28,018 as against £22,729 in 1904. *Kaniki* to the value of £13,409 came from British **India.** Of the white shirting £12,648 came from the United Kingdom and £4,522 from **British India.**

Cheap blankets came from the Netherlands and Germany, and practically the whole of the grey shirting from British **India.**

The **total imports** of piece-goods from the **United Kingdom** rose from £76,358 in 1904 to £108,201 in 1905, and from **British India** from £101,292 to £110,663.

Rice valued at £153,550 was imported in 1905 as against £140,401 in 1904. It is difficult to ascertain exactly how much of this is transhipped to ports on the mainland, but probably about 25 per cent. is disposed of in this way. Practically the whole of it came from **British India** and was shipped from Rangoon, £107,784; Bombay, £24,086; Karachi, £18,953.

Probably the greater part of that from the two latter ports in reality emanated originally from Rangoon. This rice, which is known as " **Halwa,**" comes in gunny bags weighing 160 lbs., and the average price during the year was 10*s.* 8*d.*

A superior rice, grown in the Bombay Presidency, and known as *Gampti* is also imported and is packed in 175-lb. bags, and sold at from £1-1*s.* to £1-2*s.* per bag.

Rice forms the staple food of the population, both Arab, British Indian and Swahili, except for the poorer natives, who live away from the town and maintain themselves principally on the root

of the "Mahogo" a species of cassava, bananas and cocoanuts.

The effects of plague were naturally more severely felt in the **export trade**, which dropped from £1,211,149 in 1904 to £120,650, or, excluding specie, a diminution of £133,300. The decreases are chiefly noticeable in groceries and rice, which are usually exported to German East Africa in large quantities, and in hides and skins, rubber and ivory, much of which comes from that country and is transhipped to Europe and America.

It is, however, probable that some of the trade lost to Zanzibar went to the British East Africa Protectorate; petroleum, for instance, being shipped to German ports from Mombasa when dhow traffic was suspended from Zanzibar.

The 1904-05 season's crop of cloves was the largest of which any official record exists, amounting to 227·178 cwts. (755,543 frasilas).

The Island of Pemba produced the greater part of this 675,683 frasilas as against 79,860 frasilas from Zanzibar.

As might have been expected, the following season, 1905-06, was a poor one for Pemba; Zanzibar, however, furnished more than the average crop, but owing to a large quantity of this season's cloves being unsold at the end of 1905, the figures given below do not include them.

The price, which at the beginning of 1905, was, for Zanzibar cloves, 11*s.* 4*d.* per frasila, remained steady until May, when it rose to 12*s.* 8*d.*, reached 15*s.* 4*d.* in July and 18*s.* 8*d.* in August; prices declined to 16*s.* 4*d.* in September and closed in December at about 16*s.* The average for the year was for Zanzibar cloves 14*s.* 5½*d.* and for Pemba cloves 13*s.* 5½*d.* per frasila. The fluctuations were principally caused by the operations of speculative syndicates in the United Kingdom and in India.

Of the total value of £237,073 exported in 1905, £13,223 went to India, showing notable increase over the figures for 1904, which were £98,454.

The local output of **copra** increased by 31,750 cwts., but that imported from the German coast for transhipment showed a decrease of 4,750 cwts The price, which during 1904 was exceptionally high (3*s.* 11*d.*), declined to an average of 3*s.* 7*d.* Nearly the whole of the copra exported went to Marseilles.

The decrease in imports from British India from £463,583 in 1904 to £347,719 in 1905 is almost wholly accounted for by specie (£114,173), and it may be regarded as certain that but for the interruption caused by plague imports from India would have shown a large increase; to this cause the decreases which appear in the trade with British and German East Africa are also attributable. The specie again is due both to the large difference shown under "other British possessions," and also part of the increase which appears under "Southern ports," though larger shipments of matama and vanilla contributed to this.

An American company, registered in the United States under the name of the Zanzibar Railroad Company, has been formed with the object, firstly of buildinga **light Railway** from the town to the north end of the island, in which direction lie the principal clove and cocoanut plantations. The company anticipate that they will obtain the whole of the transport of the produce from these plantations, as well as a considerable native passenger traffic.

As regards **shipping,** the drop in British tonnage from 163,593 to 106,068 tons is principally caused by the discontinuance by the British India Steam Navigation Company of their line from **India** to Durban *viâ* Mombasa and Zanzibar, which was found, owing to the competition of foreign subsidised lines, to be unremunerative.

Nothing has as yet been accomplished with regard to the establishment of a direct homeward British line, and meantime the whole of the export freight and passenger traffic continues to be in foreign hands. It would seem that the East Coast route is increasing in popularity with South Africans, numbers of applicants for passages to Europe having been refused in the spring for want of space by the Deutsche Ost-Afrika Line and the Austrian Lloyd Company's steamers.

The former of these two companies maintains fortnightly and the latter a monthly service with Europe; the Messageries Maritime Company also provides a monthly service both ways.

The following are the average steamship rates **freight** per ton, weight or measurement, to and from the principal ports in communication with Zanzibar, but it must be understood that, as different articles of export are charged varying rates, they can only be taken as approximate:—

—	Freight Rates per Ton.	
	£	*s.*
London to Zanzibar	1	15*
Zanzibar to London	2	7
Zanzibar to Bombay	1	0
Zanzibar to Aden	1	0
Zanzibar to Trieste	2	0
Zanzibar to and from Hamburg or Genoa	2	5
Zanzibar to Marseilles	2	0
Zanzibar to Beira	1	7
Zanzibar to Delagoa Bay	1	15
Zanzibar to Seychelles	1	0
Zanzibar to Mombasa	0	8
Zanzibar to Dar-es-salam	0	8
Zanzibar to New York	3	7

* Plus 10 per cent. primage.

The law of British India with respect to **trade-marks** is in force in this Protectorate, and they can therefore be protected in Zanzibar (1) if they are registered in the United Kingdom in the register of trade-marks kept under the Patents, designs and Trade MarksAct of 1883; or (2) if they have been properly registered in any British possession or in any foreign State to which that Act has been made applicable.

The foreign States include Belgium, Brazil, France, Guatemala, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Servia, Spain, Switzerland and Tunis.

A register is kept at the Agency and Consulate-General in which trade-marks, accompanied by a notarial certificate for their protection in accordance with the above defined conditions, can be registered.

Inventions can be protected under the Inventions and Designs Act, 1888, of India, which is also in force in this Protectorate. It should, however, be borne in mind that until the surrender of foreign jurisdiction the registration here of either trade-marks or inventions might not protect them from infringement by persons not justiciable to the British Courts.

MADAGASCAR.

Mr. Consul Porter in his Report on the **Trade of Madagascar** says that the year 1905 was not a prosperous one for trade. The commercial depression which characterised the past few years continued with but little intermission, and there are no indications of material improvement in the import trade, the only favourable feature being the constantly increasing value of the country's exports.

The **statistics** for the period under review, however, compare favourably with those of the previous year, showing an expansion of 17½ per cent., imports having increased by £191,161 and exports by £127,860. The former is almost entirely due to the value of piece-goods exceeding by £247,522 that of the previous year's imports. During 1904, however, the quantity of cotton goods brought into the country was unusually small, the combined averages for 1904 and 1905 being inferior to any such combined annual returns since 1900. Imports also in 1905 were greatly in excess of the market's requirements, sales have been effected with difficulty, and at the close of the year merchants had unusually heavy stocks of cloth on hand. The tonnage of goods imported during the year was 17,372 tons less than in 1904, the respective totals being 52,000 and 69,373 tons.

According to the official statistic **British trade** with Madagascar for 1905 increased by 23 per cent., when compared with the previous year, exports showing an augmentation of £36,067 and imports a diminution of £13,070. With the exception of coal shipments, which declined from 16,846 tons in 1904 to 5,240 tons in 1905, and of metals and metal wares, which, during the same period, fell from 388 to 186 tons, the value of such few articles as are imported from the United Kingdom showed a comparative increase, but the whole British import trade with Madagascar is insignificant and the prospects of its improvement are not encouraging.

There was more inquiry for British provisions owing undoubtedly to the considerable number of British miners who visited this country during the year, and imports of oilman's stores both from the United Kingdom and the colonies show an increase of over 50 per cent.

Imports of printed cottons of British manufacture increased from £2,330 in 1904 to £5,720 in 1905.

The reduced rates of **inland transport** now enable rice which is grown in the central provinces to find a market on the east coast, and the increasing quantities thus sent eastwards have given an impetus to cultivation in the district of Antananarivo. Not only have imports of rice from Saigon decreased from 26,000 tons in 1901 to 4,000 tons in 1905, but during the latter year Madagascar has exported 1,500 tons of native-grown rice to Reunion and the Comoro Islands. The price of good white rice in Antananarivo is £5 per ton and in Tamatave £7 5*s.* per ton.

The **export of hides** has greatly developed during the past three years, having increased from 715 tons in 1902 to 3,047 tons in 1905. The greater number comes from the central provinces, where the prices are:—

In	Price per 100 Kilos*	
	£	*s.*
Antananarivo (dry salted)	4	0
Fianarantsoa („)	2	2

*1 cwt. 3 qrs. 24 lbs

NOTE.—If prepared with arsenic, £1 per 100 kilos extra.

The first section of the railway which is to connect the east coast with the capital was completed in December 1905. The portion of the line thus opened for traffic is 148 kilomₛ. (92 miles) in length, being from the eastern terminus at Brickaville to the town of Moramanga, distant 67 miles from Antananarivo. The passenger service consists of two trains weekly in each direction. Transport between Tamatave and the eastern terminus of the line is in the hands of a French company, while between railhead and Antananarivo a **service of Government motor cars** provides for the conveyance of passengers and mails, merchandise being conveyed by hand carts owned by private contractors. The automobile service has greatly improved during 1905, and modern cars of 15 horse-power, accommodating 13 passengers, have superseded the older type of vehicle hitherto employed. The journey between Tamatave and Antananarivo occupies three days, the first being passed on the waterways of the east coast, the second on the railway and the third in motor car.

SHANGHAI.

It must, says Mr. A. G. Major, in his report on the **trade of Shanghai,** be borne in mind that all values, which are taken from the returns of the

Imperial Maritime Customs, are there recorded in silver, and that therefore these values, especially when contrasted with those of other years, should be carefully looked at when comparing them with their sterling equivalents. The Haikwan tael, which is the standard adopted by the customs, represents merely 1 oz. weight of pure silver; and the fluctuations of silver are often so great, during the course of even a few days, as to render all expressions of values in sterling at the end of a period of 12 months exceedingly arbitrary and probably entirely inaccurate.

The following list gives the average sterling rates of the Haikwan tael during the last five years; and it is on these rates that the customs figures are converted into sterling :—

Year.	Exchange. s.	d.
1901	2	$11\frac{9}{16}$
1902	2	$7\frac{1}{5}$
1903	2	$7\frac{5}{8}$
1904	2	$10\frac{3}{8}$
1905	3	$0\frac{1}{16}$

The year under review has been an exceptional one, the trade and general conditions of the port having been influenced by several unusual causes.

Comparing the trade in foreign imports during 1905 with that of the previous year it may be noted that increases are shown in the values of the imports from the **United Kingdom** (24,000,000 Haikwan taels), India (2,500,000 Haikwan taels), Hong-Kong and Australia (500,000 Haikwan taels each), the United States (34,000,000 Haikwan taels), Japan (19,000,000 Haikwan taels), Russia (2,750,000 Haikwan taels) and the Dutch Indies (500,000 Haikwan taels), making a total increase in the foreign import trade of some 60,000,000 taels.

The value of the **exports of native produce** abroad in the year under review shows a falling-off, when compared with that in 1904, of some 20,000,000 Haikwan taels, principally in the trade with Japan (10,000,000 Haikwan taels), the Continent of Europe, excluding Russia (7,000,000 Haikwan taels), the United States (3,250,000 Haikwan tales), Turkey, Persia, etc. (1,500,000 Haikwan taels), and the United Kingdom and India together about 500,000 Haikwan taels. There is no great increase or decrease recorded in the trade of any of the other countries.

The amount of **piece-goods imported** during the year is very largely in excess of that imported in 1904 in practically every individual article. British cotton goods especially show a large increase in shirtings, sheetings, drills and T-cloths. In spite of the boycott American goods of all classes show an increase. As with the rest of the trade of the port, that in piece-goods has suffered considerably from the war, in consequence of the blocking of the Manchurian and Siberian ports, the boycott, which has affected merchants of all nationalities, the typhoon—most of the goods destroyed and damaged were piece-goods, the fluctuations of exchange and the disturbance of the money market, through the indiscriminate coinage of copper cash and the consequent effect on native exchange between Shanghai and the northern ports.

Indian trade with the port during the year was valued at 34,755,306 Haikwan taels, comprising Imports 32,345,194 and Exports 2,410,112.

SHIMONOSEKI.

MR. CONSUL GRIFFITHS in his report on the **trade of Shimonoseki** says that there was a large import of rice at the beginning of 1905, in anticipation of the new duty of 0·641 yen per 100 kin (1*s.* 3½*d.* per 133⅓ lbs.) to be imposed from July 1 of that year. Of the import, over 60 per cent. came from Rangoon and about 20 per cent. from French India.

Raw sugar, to meet the requirements of the Diari Sugar Refinery, was largely imported during the years 1904 and 1905. The figures for 1904 show an increase of 11,954 tons in quantity and £120,799 in value over those for 1903 while the returns for 1905 show a still further increase of 9,091 tons in quantity and £135,290 in value. The import, nearly all of which comes from Java, is likely to increase largely in the future. The establishment of a local refinery at Diari, about 5 miles from Moji, to which reference was made in the report on the trade of this district for 1903, is entirely responsible for this change which has taken place in the local sugar trade. This refinery, with a capital of 3,000,000 yen (£300,000), commenced work in August 1904, but until June 1905, the manufacture of refined sugar was more or less experimental, and the daily output was only 50 tons. From July 1905, to the end of that year, however, the daily output was 100 tons, while from the beginning of the present year (1906) it has been 150 tons. Additional machinery is being erected and will be ready for use in June next, when it is expected the daily output will amount to 350 tons.

The **export of cotton yarns** in 1904 shows a decrease of 2,980,913 lbs., valued at £30,572, as compared with 1903, whilst in 1905 there was an increase over 1904 of 2,709,139 lbs. valued at £95,690. Of the total export in 1905, £400,033 in value went to China, £6,604 to Corea and £1,955 to Hongkong.

The **export of coal** from this district to foreign countries during the years 1903-05, as well as the average export for the last four years, was as follows :—

Year.	Quantity. Tons	Value. £
1903	2,470,966	1,123,782
1904	2,179,315	761,704
1905	1,888,107	583,430
Average last four years	...	1,019,927

The following table shows the amount exported to various foreign countries during the three years 1903-05 :—

Country.	Quantity. 1905. Tons.	1904. Tons.	1903. Tons.
China	357,955	409,002	694,700
Hongkong	496,388	587,258	708,858
Straits Settlements	78,035	190,667	201,537
Dutch Indies	9,100	55,390	3,499
Philippines	22,623	34,650	48,069
Asiatic Russia	...	...	7,737
Dalny and Port Arthur	...	...	196,304
Saigon	6,850	...	7,285
Corea	31,606	28,636	4,996
British India (including Ceylon)	61,833	58,290	33,236
French India	...	12,320	...
United States	...	11,913	...
Total	1,064,390	1,468,626	1,904,271
For ships' use	823,717	710,689	566,695
Grand total	1,888,107	2,179,315	2,470,966

The decrease in the export of coal to foreign countries in 1904 was principally due to the increased demand for coal for ships' use at home consumption, and the consequent shortage of stocks available for foreign export, as well as to the fact that owing to the war with Russia no coal could be shipped to Dalny or Port Arthur, whereas, in 1903, nearly 200,000 tons were exported to those two ports The effect of the war on the local coal market was, however, practically not felt until the middle of March 1905, when stocks were found to be running short. Prices then advanced so rapidly that by the middle of June the rise was 60 per cent. over the early part of the year. The scarcity of coal supplies at Moji in March 1905, and subsequently, may be attributed principally to a greatly increased demand for coal for home for consumption in the various factories and for use on board the transports and numerous chartered ships, to the insufficiency of rolling-stock on the Kiushiu Railway, a large part of it having been requisitioned by the Government for military use in Manchuria, and to the calling out of the reserves with the effect of diminishing the labour supply. These were the inevitable results of the war, but the scarcity was still further accentuated at the end of July by heavy floods, which caused considerable damage to the mines in the northern districts of Kiushiu.

GREEN TEA STANDARDS AND A LESSON.

MR. BLECHYNDEN, representative of the Indian Tea Cess Committee in the United States, in his report on the work done in the year ending with March last, makes remarks regarding Indian Green Teas, and the necessity for careful and scientific manufacture which call for attention.

There is, he says, a lamentably apparent want of standard in the manufacture of this tea, and this want is shown not only in the variety in make, but also in colour. While the former can to some extent be attributed to the changing condition of the leaf during the manufacturing season, the latter ought to be strictly under control. The distributing houses now interested in these teas complain that their salesmen have to explain away differences in deliveries each time they get a repeat order. As salesmen in this country are very independent of the house employing them, carrying their own trade where they will, it is a serious matter to incur their hostility. They "make" a certain number of towns during their trips and get much of their trips and get much of their remuneration in the form of commission. Consequently they are opposed to an article which delays them in carrying through their programme of visits. This feeling reacts upon the tea buyer of the house they represent, and while he may be satisfied that Indian green tea gives him the best value, he will pass it by and other teas which can always be matched and which consequently cause no trouble when repeat orders come in. The price of the tea is not so important a factor as regular supplies equal to standards. While writing this report I have learned of one of our friends, through whom we distributed samples, having bought a line of 500 half chests. As soon as this tea is distributed and a further supply is required the same old trouble will arise and the market will be thoroughly searched until something approaching the required standard will be found, but under the haphazard system of manufacture now in force in India, it will be practically impossible to duplicate the present purchase. Contrasted with the ease with which lines of Japan or of China tea can be followed exactly through an entire season, this is a great discouragement to the expansion of this branch of the Indian trade. There would be no difficulty in marketing five or six million pounds of Indian green tea in the United States at fairly stable prices, provided the conditions required were observed. These conditions are : teas manufactured to standards for leaf and colour and placed on this market through certain fixed channels, through which the entire crop of India green tea should be passed. Such a system would prevent unnecessary competition and cutting prices and the certainty of regular supplies would encourage firms, now reasonably dubious on this head, taking up a tea they recognize as superior. The system followed in recent years by the Japan native tea merchant has injured the Japan business very considerably. They support the market as long as American orders are unfulfilled, after which they make a clean sweep of what remains and consign on their own account underselling those who have bought in the earlier part of the season. This and other causes have brought about a condition which would make many tea houses welcome a so und sub-

stitute which they could purchase and handle without fear of sudden senseless fluctuations. The making of the market for India green teas is entirely in the hands of India tea producers. It only requires a system of blending to produce long lines, and reasonable combination in placing on the market.

If scientific manufacture, judicious blending, and the establishment of reliable standard lines, on which consumers could depend, can be counted on with confidence to make and keep the American market for Indian tea, it is equally certain that want of standardisation and scientific working will ensure the losing of any market that has been secured. It must never be forgotten that vagaries in quality, the absolute lack of all dependable standards, was as much responsible for the decay of the indigo industry as was the advent of the synthetic product. Had indigo makers worked to a standard, and had indigo buyers been able to depend on getting each time the standard article asked for, chemical indigo would have had a very much harder fight than it has had to win a victory over the natural dye. Want of standardisation has also done infinite harm to the Malwa opium trade.

SOUTH INDIAN PLANTERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

THE South Indian Planters' Association, which is holding its session at Bangalore, discussed among other matters the question of **legislation** having for its object the control of **the manufacture and sale of fertilizers.** Dr. Lehmann, who explained the matter to the assembled planters, said the question was one of considerable importance. He had studied it closely, both before coming out to India and since his arrival in this country. He held the opinion that, as the largest users of artificial manures, planters ought to know what they were getting. The trade in India was at present in the hands of respectable firms, and there was no likelihood of fraud. The trade, however, was, he said, bound to extend, and rapidly, owing to the education that the riots were receiving through the Department of Agriculture and through the teaching of the many Agricultural Societies that were springing up in all parts of the country. With a largely extended trade, there was possibility of fraudulent methods creeping in owing to unreliable manufacturers and dealers entering the field. He explained the composition of various kinds of fertilizers, and went on to say that it was an expensive matter for planters to analyse fertilizers, whereas with manufactures the analysis of manures was easy and inexpensive. It was highly desirable that planters should have a guarantee as to what fertilizers contained, not from one or two firms only who were willing to supply an analysis, but, as a matter of right, from all manufacturers. He considered it was especially necessary that the riot, even less favourably placed in this respect than the planter, should be protected from adulteration and fraud. In his opinion, the only way in which this could be secured was by Government exercising control over the makers and vendors of fertilizers. He suggested that the Indian Government, if, as it ought, it introduce such a law, could do no better than to found it upon the fertilizer law obtaining in the United States of America. This law was, he said, very complete and most easily worked. It was first introduced in the State of Connecticut, purely as a State law, not a law for the whole country. All dealers in fertilizers are registered. They send the authorities a list of the brands they wish to sell The Government appoint chemists to control the factories. Every fertilizer dealer puts his name on packages of his composition. The controlling authority would collect samples of fertilizers. These were analysed and the results published. Any dealer who sells or offers, who is not registered, or offers or sells a brand that is not registered or does not affix a proper label or, if the sample is not up to guarantee, is liable to prosecution. Only persons who defied the law were prosecuted. The police had nothing to do with this Act. It worked well in the United States. He regretted that the Government of India could not see its way to initiating such legislation and that the Government of Madras had come to a similar conclusion.

Mr. Sly, Inspector General of Agriculture, addressed the meeting after Dr. Lehmann, and explained the attitude of the Government of India in the matter. He remarked that, as far as he was aware, South India was the only place in the country where artificial fertilizers were used to any large extent. The Government of India were willing to consider unbiassed any proposal by the Association or anybody. But a perfect case must be made out. They must not interfere in any way with trade. Lastly, he wanted information as to whether the demand for artificial fertilizers was increasing or decreasing. In conclusion he repeated that if the planters wanted legislation they must make out a strong case. He would not say Government were entirely opposed to it.

Dr. Leather, the next speaker, in opening said, the first point he wished to accentuate, was that manufacturers as well as users needed protection. Speaking of the possible future development of the artificial manure trade in India, he said the present trade was small, but the development in the Department of Agriculture recently formed in India was bound to make rapid strides as it had done in other countries. Farm-yard manure was not available in sufficient quantities in India and it seemed to him the trade in artificial manures must develop. How rapidly he could not say. Mr. Sly had put his case very tersely, but when the ryot used oil cakes he knew what he was using; so if he wanted to buy artificial manure he ought to know what it contained.

The representatives of certain fertilizer manufacturers spoke briefly. The majority, though in favour of legislation, were of the opinion that the time had not arrived yet for such measures. They were generally of opinion that the trade would expand to the ryot. At present they thought Government should take up the educational part of analysing at their own expense.

The Hon'ble Mr. Hodgson, Planting Member of the Madras Council, said the subject had been discussed by the Association for many years, and they were unanimous that control of some sort was needed. He was sure they would get it some day. From what he had heard, he had not much hope of the Government of India doing anything now. They want the planters to take care of themselves. They could do it in a way. The improvement of agriculture would sooner or later bring about a larger employment of artificial manures. It was a matter of time. Surely it is better to take the matter in hand at an earlier stage and legislate instead of waiting. A resolution was adopted ultimately in which regret was expressed at the disapproval by the Government of India of the institution of any enquiry into the question of legislation regarding the sale of artificial manures.

OTTOMAN EMPIRE.

Certificates to accompany Imported Hides and Skins.

THE Government of India have received from the Secretary of State a copy of a representation made by the Turkish Ambassador in London to the Foreign Office regarding the form of certificate required for hides and skins imported into the Ottoman Empire. Attached to the said representation is a copy of a report by the Sanitary Administration at Constantinople, which states that the certificates that accompany such hides and skins, while declaring the place of origin, often do not indicate the sanitary conditions there existing. Some documents, while declaring that the localities in question are free from epidemic disease, do not state whether this term is applied to the diseases of animals. Others again state only that anthrax does not exist in the district or that the hides do not contain the germs of disease, or they note merely that the provisions of the conferences of Paris and Venice have been complied with.

The consequence of these defects in the certificates is that the Turkish Sanitary Administration cannot authorise the importation of the goods; and commerce is thereby prejudiced. And since it appears that such certificates are issued by the consular and other officials of various countries in China and the East as well as at ports in Austria-Hungary, the Turkish Government has requested that the requirements indicated above may be brought to the notice of the proper authorities in order that certificates of origin relating to hides and skins destined for importation into the Ottoman Empire may state not only the locality in which they were produced or cured, but also whether that locality is free from epizootic as well as epidemic and contagious disease. In cases where such disease exists it is required that its nature and name should be plainly indicated.

THE ASSAM OIL COMPANY.

THE eighth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in the Assam Oil Company, Limited, was held on Wednesday, 18th July, at Winchester House, E.C., Lord Ribblesdale presiding. The Secretary (Mr. Evan A. Jack) read the notice convening the meeting. The President then said: —

Turning to the balance-sheet you will see that the capital expenditure this year has been heavy, it runs into £34,204. Mr. Turner, in the able speech which he made to you at our meeting last year, prepared you for an expenditure in all of something like £65,000. At the time he spoke we had spent about £24,000 and to get all the work done that we have in hand I expect will take another £30,000, and although it never does to be optimistic about the expenditure of capital, I have a more or less confident hope that when we have spent this sum of £65,000 on the work which we are now at, our capital expenditure will be closed until profitable results may justify further capital expenditure. As to the distribution, £23,500 roughly goes to the drillery, and £10,600 to the refinery. Of this amount of £23,500 the drillery absorbed £12,300 for fresh plant from England, and as regards £11,200 on plant which we bought in India, and on local work which had to be done out there. Then a large proportion of this heavy expenditure has been for what is known as stocking up.

If you will look at the report, the first thing I will refer to is the drillery. In the paragraph referring to this matter we talk about satisfactory progress, and I daresay you will like to have something more definite and descriptive than such a vague term as "satisfactory progress." I will try and tell you more about that. In an oil business one must look ahead. Hitherto we have confined our work almost entirely to one area of our ground, which, as you know, we have proved to be oil-bearing, but the best of wells in the world run out, although I am glad to say, on a pretty fair experience that Sir Boverton Redwood tells us that our wells seem to be so far an exception to this common experience. Be that as it may, we have been extending our activities very considerably, and last year Mr. Turner told you that we had applied for what is termed a "prospecting license." The Government, since we met you last year, has granted us this prospecting license over a district about twelve miles long and two miles broad, running parallel with our present oil-bearing land. On it we are now putting down a test well, about a mile to the west of our yielding well, and the strata we have so far gone through is so similar to that met with in our own field which we have proved to be oil-bearing that we have very good

hope of striking oil in this new prospecting licensed oil area. If we strike oil, the Secretary, who is a very cautious bird, tells me that our fortunes will be made. That is a very large order, but there is no doubt if we do strike oil that it will alter our position very much. Then we have sunk a well about quarter of a mile south of our other wells. We knew that if we were to find oil here we must go considerably deeper than we had done before, but we hoped that if we went this depth we could get it and in both these speculations we have been proved to be right. We have got the oil in this well, and at a considerable depth, and I think the significance of this is great, because it proves that we have greatly increased the area of our proved territory. We are also putting down a couple of bores to the east of our main wells, and another about a mile to the west to further and actively test our territory. I attach great importance to this, but I have nothing further to tell you about that at the present time.

The next paragraph in the report which calls for comment is that which states that "the production of the old wells has been maintained, and the conditions of the main oil field show a great improvement over previous years."

What I would lay great stress upon is that we are not only getting 10 per cent. more on raw material out of our wells, but by better process the same amount of raw material is producing 30 per. cent. higher than they have been all through 1905. The only unsatisfactory part of the report is the fact that we are not able to give you a dividend. We have made a profit of £10,000 odd; we are writing off something over £7,000 for depreciation and the balance we are carrying forward, and this gives us a balance in the profit and loss account to start the next financial year with of £6,710.

GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES IN BENGAL.

In a resolution on the working of Co-operative Credit Societies in Bengal the local Government observes that the year 1905-06 opened with 67 unregistered societies. Eight of these were situated in districts which have been transferred to the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. Five societies (Majnamutta, Chakdhi, Dalsingserai, Baktiarpur and Baltara) ceased to exist owing to various circumstances. Two more—Chenny and Lcopoongtooly—were amalgamated with the Rampur Society. Of the remaining 52 societies, 19 were registered during the year, 38 new societies were also registered during the year, and at its close 90 societies in all—registered and unregistered—stood on the list as against 67 in the preceding year.

The number of members of the societies amounted to 4,617 as against 3,280 in 1904-05, and the number of loans granted rose from 1,737 in 1904-05, to 2,595 in the year under review. The members of the different societies varied from 10 to 357, and the amount of capital from Rs. 100 to Rs. 2,000.

The unequal distribution of loans was one of the points to which attention was drawn in paragraph 5 of the Government Resolution on the Report for 1904-05. In that year the loans varied from Re. 1 to Rs. 101. In the year under review, the unevenness of the distribution of loans was even more marked, being from Re. 1 to Rs. 265 in the rural societies, and from Rs. 5 to Rs. 550 in the case of the urban societies. The Registrar notes that variation is bound to continue till it is found by experience that the poorer members are as prompt as their well-to-do brethren in repaying the loans granted to them, as the question of security must influence the committees in granting loans. Moreover, in urban societies, which are practically "Limited Companies," the distribution varies according to the number of shares held by each member.

The societies were financed either by loans (with or without interest) from Government and from private parties and by deposits made by the members. Rupees 3,210 were granted to registered societies free of interest for three years in accordance with paragraph 26 of the Resolution of the Government of India, dated the 29th April 1904, on deposits of equal amounts being made by the members. Rupees 5,457 were lent by Government on interest at 6¼ per cent. to societies in Government estates, and Rs. 15,829 were advanced by other parties. Of the latter amount, Rs. 10,355 went towards financing the registered societies, and the balance of Rs. 5,474 to help the unregistered societies. The details of these are given on the margin. The deposits made by the members amounted to Rs. 8,614 as against Rs. 3,181 in 1904-05.

	Rs.
Mr. Hamilton's Fund	2,605
Mr. G. D. Pyne	2,000
Kailasheswari Fund	1,500
Domepara Ward's Estate	1,500
Bettiah Raj	150
Mission Fund	600
	10,355
Hatwa Raj	1,700
Darbhanga Raj	1,920
Babu K. P. N. Singh	913
Babu Golab Chand	786
Magistrate's Charitable Fund	450
Madhubani Babus	305
Bettiah Raj	300
	5,474

The rate of interest which the societies charged on loans granted to members was generally 12½ per cent. as in last year, but Mr. Gourlay shows in paragraph 6 of his report that in some cases it is better for a society to charge 18¾ per cent. on lending out money borrowed locally, than to borrow money from outside sources and lend it out at a lower rate.

The societies worked on the whole at a profit. The total assets amounted to Rs. 47,786-6-10, and their liabilities to Rs. 44,276-4-7½, thus leaving a profit of Rs. 3,510-2-2½ as against Rs. 1,955-1-6½ in the preceding year.

These results indicate that the scheme is progressing steadily, but much depends on the zeal and sympathy of local officers. It has succeeded most in the districts of the Bihar, Orissa and Chota-Nagpur Divisions and in the district of Midnapore.

Mr. Gourlay thus describes the causes of this success:—

"With few exceptions, all the societies which are at present working are founded on the credit which the individual member has within his village. That such a credit, founded on a character for honesty, exists is well known to all who are familiar with village life. The majority of the village transactions are done without a word in writing, and such debts are seldom repudiated. This credit, however, seldom extends beyond the limits of the village, and in many cases not even beyond the limits of the *tola*, or hamlet, in which the individual resides. It is this existing village credit which has to be organised, and when the villagers understand this, unlimited liability has no terrors for them; they accept the principle without question.

"The secret of financing agriculture in India is not in creating anything new but in organising the credit which already exists."

The scheme is being extended gradually on sound lines and this will yield better results in the end than the establishment of a large number of societies in communities where the principle of co-operation is not properly understood. Of the two obstacles which hinder progress in these tracts, *viz.*, the want of capital and the absence of men able to explain the principles to guide the villagers, the latter is the most serious, though it is hoped that in the large Christian communities of Chota Nagpur the requisite instruction may in time be furnished by the Missionaries and their assistants. As to capital, it is not too much to expect that others will follow the example of Rai Camaleswari Prasad Singh Bahadur, of Monghyr, and such is now being done by local *mahajans* in parts of Midnapore.

The Government of India in their Circular Order No. 7—30-4, dated the 29th May 1906, desired that the cases in which disputes about the recovery of loans from members were referred to the Registrar or were the subject of arbitration should be noticed in the report. The Registrar reports that there were no such cases during the year. The Lieutenant-Governor agrees with Mr. Cobden-Ramsay and the Board that to allow loans to be recovered on the decision of the Registrar, as a public demand, would be likely to encourage careless granting of loans and to cause apathy among the Committees who manage the societies.

An effort was made during the year to establish grain societies and *golas* for seed grains, but the schemes have made little progress.

PATENT OFFICE NOTICES.

All communications relating to applications for leave to file specifications and for registration of designs under the Inventions and Designs Act, 1888 (V of 1888), or in continuation of such applications should be addressed to the Patents Secretary, 2, Bankshall Street, Calcutta.

The Office of the Secretary under the Inventions and Designs Act, 1888, will in future be open for the transaction of business from 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. on all days except Sundays and gazetted holidays.

The Government of India are advised that, as trade marks are not "designs" within the meaning of the Act, they cannot be registered under Part II.

The fees payable under the fourth and sixth schedules are now collected in cash and applicants are warned that they must be responsible for any delay in cashing cheques.

Cheques and money orders will only be accepted if made payable *at Calcutta* to the Secretary under the Inventions and Designs Act.

Copies of the weekly notifications, and of the quarterly lists of applications and specifications filed in the Secretary's Office are now on sale to the public at one anna and eight annas a copy, respectively. A consolidated index for the year 1905, entitled "Inventions and Designs in 1905," is also on sale, price one rupee. It contains a chronological list, subject-matter and name indexes of exclusive privileges for inventions, which have been obtained or applied for in that year, together with lists of designs applications.

Attention is requested to the rules made by the Government on the 10th October 1895 in regard to the preparation of applications, specifications and drawings.

All applications made under the Inventions and Designs Act, V of 1888, will from this date (December 19th, 1896) lie in the visitors' room of the Patents Office for ten days from the date of the *Gazette of India* in which their filing may have been notified: or, if the 10th day is a holiday, till the evening of the office day next following.

At the time of delivering or sending an application for leave to file a specification, the applicant shall cause a duplicate copy of the application to be delivered or sent therewith to the Secretary.

The Inventions and Designs Act (V of 1888), with the notifications and rules issued under its provisions and the notices of the office of Inventions and Designs, to which is added an explanatory memorandum for the guidance of persons applying for protection of Inventions and Designs. Royal 8vo. volumes, paper cover, 13 annas or 1s. 1d. Postage extra. To be had of the Superintendent, Government Printing, 8, Hastings Street, Calcutta, or of the Superintendent, Patents Branch, Department of Commerce and Industry, 2, Bankshall Street, Calcutta.

NEW REFERENCE BOOKS.

THE ELECTRICAL NATURE OF MATTER AND RADIOACTIVITY.
By Harry C. Jones. 8½ × 5½, 212 pp. . . 7s. 6d. net.
Constable.

(Papers, revised, which have appeared in a scientific journal, by the Professor of Physical Chemistry in the Jno. Hopkins University.)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY. Bulletin No. 21. THE GEOLOGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES OF THE NORSEMAN DISTRICT, DUNDAS GOLD FIELD.
By W. D. Campbell. With maps. Perth.
Curtis.

RETAIL PRICES.

The following are the Retail Prices of certain food-grains and salt at selected stations for the First half of July 1906. (Prices are stated in annas and pies per ser.)

	Rice, common	Wheat	Barley	Jawar	Bajra	Ragi	Gram	Salt
BURMA—	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.
Rangoon	1 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 10
Toungoo	1 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 6
EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM—								
Rangpur	2 1	1 8	...	...	...	...	...	1 4
Backerganj	2 1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 3
BENGAL—								
Calcutta	2 0	1 4	...	...	...	...	...	1 0
Patna	1 5	1 4	1 1	...	...	...	...	1 1
UNITED PROVINCES—								
Cawnpore	...	1 4	1 0	...	...	...	1 1	1 0
Fyzabad	...	1 4	1 0	...	...	...	1 1	1 2
Meerut	...	1 2	0 11	1 1	1 6	...	1 1	1 0
PUNJAB—								
Delhi	..	1 3	1 0	1 3	1 5	...	1 0	1 0
Amritsar	...	1 0	0 9	1 0	1 6	...	0 11	0 10
Ráwalpindi	...	1 1	0 9	1 1	1 0	...	0 11	0 10
SIND—								
Karáchi	...	1 4	...	1 0	1 3	...	1 3	0 9
BOMBAY—								
Belgaum	...	1 10	...	1 7	1 6	...	...	1 1
Ahmadnagar	...	1 8	...	1 4	1 6	...	...	0 11
Bombay	...	1 7	...	1 4	1 4	...	...	1 1
Ahmadabad	...	1 6	...	1 2	1 6	...	...	0 10
CENTRAL PROVINCES—								
Jubbulpore	...	1 2	...	...	...	...	1 2	1 3
Nagpur	1 7	1 3	...	1 1	...	...	1 5	1 3
Raipur	1 5	1 2	...	...	...	...	1 3	1 2
MADRAS—								
Bellary	2 0	...	...	1 3	...	1 2	...	1 1
Madras	2 1	...	...	...	...	1 4	...	0 9
Salem	2 2	...	...	1 5	1 7	1 3	...	1 1

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.

For the week ending 11th August 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign—Imports by sea into	Calcutta	lbs.	70,656
	Bombay	„	133,574
	Madras	„	557,700
Indian—Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	325,820
	Bombay	„	7,199,635
	Madras	„	2,000

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	18,550,464
	Bombay	„	50,772,191
	Karachi	„	425,445
	Madras	„	2,444,207
	Rangoon	„	180,404

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	5,413,497
	Bombay	„	2,968,439
	Karachi	„	530,417
	Madras	„	359,477
	Rangoon	„	999,268

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	2,886,816
	Bombay	„	3,416,461
	Karachi	„	387,555
	Madras	„	391,205
	Rangoon	„	1,216,937

Piece Goods.

(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta	cwt.	16,373
	Bombay*	„	5,835
	Karachi	„	11,584
	Madras	„	3,562

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea	cwt.	2,132
	Coastwise	„	8,038
	By rail	„	13,359
Imports into Karachi	by rail	„	636
„ „	Calcutta by rail and river	„	3,454

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta	cwt.	416,451
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags	No.	7,931,550
	cloth	yds.	14,659,580
	Jute	cwt.	172,813
Exports by sea from Chittagong	Jute	„	11,039

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta	lbs.	4,595,104
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	5,408,906
	Chittagong	„	189,302

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	41,223
	Karachi by rail	„	860,200
	Bombay by sea	„	832
	Bombay Coastwise	„	12,033
	Bombay By rail	„	41,258
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	1,163
	Bombay	„	9,521
	Karachi	„	744,362

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta	cwt.	46,263
	Chittagong	„	...
	Bombay	„	4,818
	Karachi	„	17,041
	Madras	„	4
	Rangoon	„	289,509

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	51,398
	Bombay By sea	„	200
	Bombay Coastwise	„	163
	Bombay By rail	„	15,359
	Karachi by rail	„	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	12,018
	Bombay	„	37,035
	Karachi	„	37

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	17,579
	Bombay By sea	„	...
	Bombay Coastwise	„	...
	Bombay By rail	„	10,433
	Karachi by rail	„	96,338
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	4,349
	Bombay	„	10,218
	Karachi	„	64,938

* B., B. and C. I. Ry. figures only.

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 11th AUGUST 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From All other foreign countries.	Total.
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
Calcutta	...	57,323	...	57,323
Bombay	...	...	...	...
Karachi	...	...	...	...
Madras	...	...	...	...

Exports by sea from Burma to		
Bengal	galls.	1,433,552
E. B. & Assam	,,	...
Bombay	,,	...
Sind	,,	...
Madras	,,	...
Indian Ports, Non-Br.	,,	...
Foreign Ports	,,	...

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 11th AUGUST 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	6	...	...	2,000	13	44	2,063
Germany	73,410	...	13,502	26,460	...	1,752	114,924
Austria-Hungary	...	...	...	4,800	...	...	4,800
Other European Countries	...	..	...	...	...	200	200
Java	51,196	...	...	10,001	...	26,116	87,313
Mauritius	...	...	54,271	6,501	...	...	60,772
Other Non-European Countries	...	...	477	298	...	...	775
Total refined							270,847
Total unrefined							161,993
Grand Total cwt.							432,840

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta. [The prices include postage to countries in the Postal Union.]

ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 (2*a*.)

2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a*.)

3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—

Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. R3. (12*a*.)

Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port. R3. (12*a*.)

4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. R2. (7*a*.)

5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a*.)

6. Accounts of Trade of the French Possession in India. As. 3. (1*a*.)

7. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possession in India. As. 2. (1*a*.)

8. Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India. R4. (6*a*.)

9. Report on the Rail-borne and River-borne Trade of Bengal. R4.

10. Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan. R1½.

11 Prices and Wages in India. R1½. (9*a*.)

12. Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India. R4. (12*a*.)

13. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India. R2. (10*a*.)

14. Agricultural Statistics of India. R3½. (12*a*.)
Part I.—British India.
Part II.—Native States.

15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India. As. 5. (2*a*.)

QUARTERLY.

16. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

MONTHLY.

17. Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

18. Accounts of the External Land Trade of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

19. Statistics of the Production of Yarn and Woven Goods in the India Cotton Mills. As. 2.

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All figures, blocks, etc., intended for insertion in the advertisement columns of the *Indian Trade Journal* must first be submitted for approval to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence. The type used in the making up of an advertisement, whether display or line, must be of the kind approved by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence.

No advertisements of retail trade will be accepted.

Reuter's Telegram Company, Ld., are advertisement agents for the *Indian Trade Journal*, and all correspondence regarding advertisements ought to be addressed to them, or to the agents appointed by them. Requests for enrolment on the subscription list and all subscriptions must be addressed to the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta.

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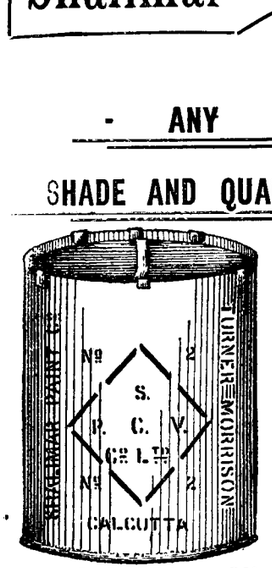
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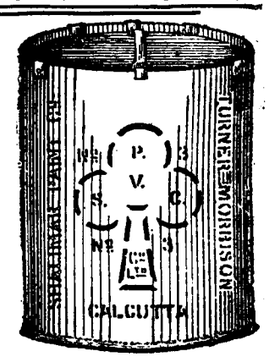
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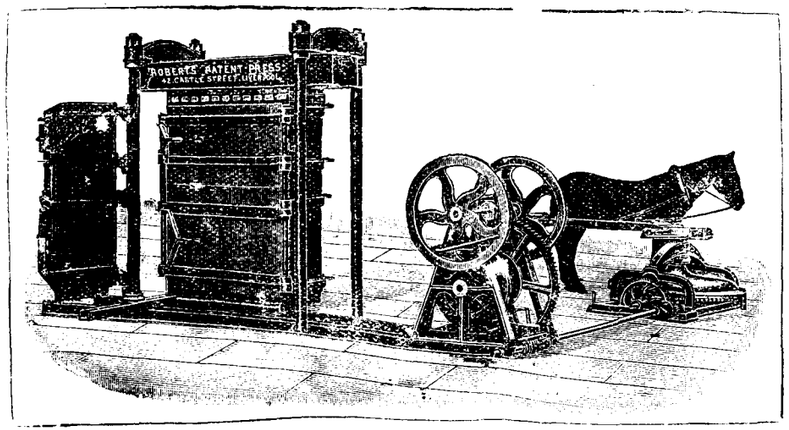
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PUBLISHED WEEKLY. REGISTERED.

The Indian Trade Journal.

Issued by the Commercial Intelligence Department of India.

VOL. II. No. 21.] CALCUTTA, THURSDAY, 23rd AUGUST 1906. [ANNAS 4.

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NOTES.

A **new spinning mill,** owned by the Sarangpur Cotton Manufacturing Company, started work in **Ahmedabad** on the 10th of August.

A Parisian engineer, M. Monod, **has prepared** plans for the construction of **a tunnel through Mont Blanc.** The cost is estimated at £2,000,000.

Poland is now able to supply its market with **home-made jute fabrics.** There are about 1,000 looms and 10,000 spindles in the three Polish jute factories.

The **beet sugar industry of Italy has grown** very materially in the last 10 years, and now consists of 33 mills and 5 refineries, and gives employment to some 12,000 hands during the season, which lasts about three months, and permanent employment besides to 5,000 men as workmen, clerks and general employés.

According to the report of H. M. Consul-General at Port-au-prince (Mr. A. G. Vansittart), the export of "pita" or **aloe fibre** from **Hayti** is making considerable progress, 1,209,428 lbs. being exported during 1905, against 63,825 lbs. in 1904. Nearly the whole comes from Port-de-paix, and is shipped to the United States.

Information has been received from **Cyprus** that the Board of Agriculture will have some 7,000 okes (about 8 tons) of **sponges for sale** on the 15th November next, by which date tenders are invited. Samples can be obtained on application to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, Nicosia, Cyprus, on payment of 45 shillings per oke.

Hitherto **Japanese-made window glass** has been of a very inferior quality, but there is a proposal on foot to start a big **glass factory** at **Osaka** with an initial capital of about £100,000, and Belgian workmen are to be engaged. French, Belgian, Japanese, and British capital is interested in this venture, which, it is said, is receiving every possible assistance from the Japanese.

Mr. Robbin, the Premier of Manitoba **(Canada)**, estimates that the **surplus of wheat available for export** from the North-West Provinces at the close of the harvest will reach 100,000,000 bushels. He says that it will take the railways a year to carry this quantity down to the coast. It was announced that twenty thousand extra farm hands would be required to harvest the crop. Cutting began in the first week in August.

In the *Indian Trade Journal* of the 9th August, page 665, there appeared an extract in which the use of **poisonous wood** for the **manufacture** of **shuttles** was reported. It is worth noting in this connection that **box wood** is found in considerable quantities in Asia Minor, Albania and the Caucasus. An important trade in it was done at one time, but it declined recently in consequence of failure of foreign demand.

In accordance with the agreement between the Kwangtung Government and the Russian Military head-quarters in **Manchuria, passports** issued by either party enable the bearer to pass through territories held by both armies. Application should be made either to the Kwangtung Government, the seat of which is Port Arthur, or to the Russian Military head-quarters, in accordance with the direction being taken by applicant.

It is stated that two or three **Chicago firms** are likely to open branch packing establishments in the Australian Commonwealth, unless precluded from so doing by anti-Trust legislation. The **Australian tinned food industries** are profiting largely by the Chicago revelations and a considerable increase of business is anticipated, especially if the British Army Council should permit shipments to be made direct to stations where the goods are required for consumption, instead of being sent to the Woolwich Supply depot.

According to the *Hong Kong Press* of 25th June, the President of the **Kawasaki Dockyard Company** is said to have stated to an interviewer that the Company **desires to obtain shipbuilding orders** from China, Siam, and all the other Oriental countries; with this view it is purchasing about 10,000 tsubo (tsubo 3·95 square yards) of land at Shanghai and Pootung for the use of shipping at Shanghai and on the Yangtze. At first only repairs will be undertaken there, but eventually a dockyard on a large scale will be developed.

The Secretary of State for India having called for a report in regard to the hours of **labour of women** and young people engaged in the **Bombay cotton mills**, Mr. Weir, M.P., asked would he include in that inquiry women and young girls engaged as bricklayers' and stonemasons' labourers at Ahmedabad and other places in the Bombay Presidency.

Mr. Morley replied: The inquiry is confined to labour coming under the Indian Factories Act, and I do not propose to instruct the Government of India to enlarge its scope, but I will call their attention to the subject of my honourable friend's question.

The Press Association correspondent at Barbados, writing on July 17th, says:—Coasting vessels report that an **oil fire** has been burning for several days in the **Gulf of Mexico,** near the Texan coast. The flames cover an area of about ten square miles, and are **supposed to be fed by an oil spring at the bottom of the Gulf.** How the fire originated is a mystery, no accurate account being obtainable, but possibly a missing vessel at Lloyd's may solve the problem. The scene presented is grand and awe-inspiring, especially when viewed at night, the sea around being brilliantly illuminated for many miles

The **Madras** Government consider that the **best means of utilizing** in the Madras Presidency any **money** that the **British Cotton-growing Association** are willing to offer, would be for the purpose of paying an expert whose whole time would be devoted for the present to the study of the existing varieties of cotton grown by the ryots, and to the determination of the varieties which are from a commercial point of view the best suited for cultivation in the several districts of the Presidency. Accordingly the Board of Revenue has been asked to secure a suitable expert, if obtainable in India, and if so, on what terms he could be engaged.

The programme of the **Engineering Section** at the meeting of the **British Association** at York on 1st August presents several interesting features. Professor Ewing presided. Sir John Wolfe-Barry contributed a paper on "Standardisation in British Engineering Practice"; Messrs. S. H. Davies and F. G. Fryer dealt with "The Removal of Dust and Smoke from Chimney Gases"; Professor W. E. Dalby presented "Some Recent Experimental Results with Internal Combustion Engines"; Mr. A. J. Martin again brought forward his scheme for affording a supply of gas for light, heat, and power and Mr. D. Mackenzie brought up the subject of waterproofing roads as a solution of the dust problem.

The **export of corn** from **Persian Gulf Ports and Arabistan** is temporarily permitted. The export from Khorasan and Seistan is forbidden with the exception of a fixed quantity of corn to Sarakhs, Robat and Mirjawar. The export of corn is permitted by law but is liable to be forbidden when there is a prospect of famine In practice the prohibition to export corn is chiefly in the hands of the local Governors who thereby fill their own pockets and by paying the Grand Vizier and other powerful officials at Tehran prevent the embargo from being taken off. The Persian Government have undertaken in future to give due warning before placing an embargo on the export of grain at any particular port.

A consular report on **Zanzibar** containing the familiar complaint about absence of direct **steamship facilities** was published almost simultaneously with the announcement that Sir James Laing and Sons, Limited, of Sunderland, had decided to establish a direct line to British East Africa. Messrs. Laing are presumably relying on the prospective railway and industrial developments in that region of Africa to which reference was made in a note last week. The British East African line, as the new service will be designated, will maintain for the present regular monthly sailings from Middlesborough and London to Mombasa and Zanzibar, *viâ* Port Said and Suez. The first vessel of the line had sailed before the last mail left. The next, was listed to leave the Tees on August 17, and London a week later.

Special efforts have recently been made to encourage the increase of the **textile industry** in **Southern Italy.** Grants of land and motor power are being made almost free, an exemption from duties and taxes allowed for 10 years to manufacturers who will establish new industries, or enlarge existing ones, in Naples. As a result of this, many important works are coming into existence. In Naples two important companies for the manufacture of textiles, the Lombarda-Napoletana and the Ligure-Napoletana, now give employment to three thousand operatives. In Bari a new cotton mill is being built, and several other new factories planned, says the Vice-Consular Report for 1905. In Salerno, at Vietri-on-sea, a new cotton mill of 2 500 spindles, with machines of the most modern construction, has been established.

In the month of June, the **Indian Gold mines** yielded 47,519 ozs. valued at Rs. 27,11,597. The outturn as compared with corresponding period of 1905 and 1904 was as follows:—

	1906.	1905.	1904.
Mysore	Ozs. 46,336	Ozs. 51,576	Ozs. 50,831
	Rs. 23,44,097	Rs. 29,64,533	Rs. 29,08,955
Nizam's Territory	Ozs. 1,183	Ozs. 1,164	Ozs. 806
	Rs. 67,500	Rs. 65,260	Rs. 47,097

The quantity extracted in the three months, April June, was 142,139 ozs. valued at Rs. 81,12,348.

The following pathetic paragraph forms the beginning of Mr. Acting-Consul Smith's report from **Hangchow**:—"Judging by the appearance of the **foreign settlements,** established here some 10 years ago, all the hopes of commercial gain raised by the opening of Hangchow to the world's trade would appear to have been blighted. The only buildings of which the Japanese settlement boasts are a police station, two warehouses—one unused except in the silk season—and, owing to the proximity of a Chinese village, a street or two of native houses. The remainder of both settlements, comprising more than four-fifths of their total area, continues to be a dreary marshy plain, which affords good shooting ground for snipe and other game to the local sportsman within a few hundred yards of his door, as well as a most excellent harbour for innumerable snakes."

The **preliminary memorandum** on the **ground-nut crop** in the **Bombay Presidency** for the season 1906-07 is issued:—

On an average of the 5 years ending 1904-05 the area under **ground-nut in British territory in**

the Bombay Presidency included in this forecast has represented some 19·2 per cent. of the total area under the crop in British India. The reported area, according to information up to August 5th, 58,000 acres, is about 15 per cent. below last year, but 76 per cent. in excess of the decennial average of corresponding forecasts (the decrease is entirely confined to the Nasik District, where there is a deficiency of 76 per cent. compared with the abnormally high figure of last year). Rain for sowing somewhat deficient in South Deccan, where the crop is principally grown. Elsewhere sowings commenced at normal dates. The crop is so far good; but deficiency of water-supply is felt in places.

Mr. A. **Sauerbeck** publishes the following index-numbers of the **prices of forty-five commodities**, the average of the eleven years 1867-1877 being 100 :—

Average.		Monthly Numbers.			
1878-1887	79	December,	1889		73·7
1886-1895	68	February,	1895		60·0
1890-1899	66	July,	1900		59·2
1896-1905	68	July,	1896		76·2
.....		December,	1901		63·4
1884	76	June,	1905		72·0
1896	61	December,	1901		74·9
1900	75	January,	1906		75·2
1901	70	February	1906		75·0
1902	69	March,	1906		75·7
1903	69	April,	1906		76·5
1904	70	May,	1906		77·0
1905	72	June,	1906		76·9

The annual return of deposits received and paid during the year ended December 31, 1905, by the **British Post Office Savings Banks** has been published as a House of Commons paper (230). It shows that the deposits on January 1, 1905, were £148,339,353; £42,300,616 was received in cash from depositors during the year, and £42,096,036 was paid to them (including £90,524 warrants issued but not cashed); interest on deposits amounted to on last day of the year £152,111,139. The securities held against this sum included £60,715,140 of Consols, £8,906,620 of old. Two-and-a-half per cents., £19,292,969 of Local Loans stock, £5,385,539 of Guaranteed Land (Irish) stock, and £1,000,000 of Exchequer bonds (1,911). There were also held, annuities operating to replace stock to the value of £9,731,511, and annuities operating to replace cash still outstanding to the value of £36,354,590.

The auditors of the **Liverpool Corporation Electric Tramways** undertakings have just issued their **report** upon the accounts for the year 1905. The car receipts for the year amounted to £550,083, an increase on the previous year of £9,233, and the passengers carried numbered 119,123,614, an increase over the previous year of no fewer than 2,480,981. Notwithstanding this great additional traffic the mileage run has been reduced to 12.066,963, a decrease of 99,456 miles as compared with the year 1904. The passenger receipts per mile averaged 10·940*d.* as against 10·669*d.* for 1904. The revenue account produced a surplus of £175,677, leaving, after payment of sinking fund and interest charges, a net surplus of £75,959. Of this two-thirds was placed to the reserve fund and the balance in relief of rates. The amount set aside for renewals and depreciation, £88,814, is equal to 7·68 per cent. on the capital sum expended on the undertaking. The reserve fund stands at £214,298.

India's Imports of Drugs and Medicines, which represented Rs. 70·74 lakhs in 1904-05, fell back in 1905-06 to Rs. 67·57 lakhs or slightly less than the figure at which they stood in 1903-04. **Camphor** was received to a total value of Rs. 13·38 lakhs as compared with Rs. 16·17 lakhs in the previous year. This represents a decline of 17 per cent. in value as against a quantitative decline of 40 per cent.; so that the average value per lb. which rose 17 per cent. in 1904 05 rose by a further 37 per cent. in 1905-06. On the other hand, the average value of quinine declined as much as 55 per cent. with the effect that the imports while showing an increase of 112·6 per cent. in quantity marked a fall of 5·5 per cent. in value to Rs. 6·5 lakhs. "Proprietary and Patent medicines" are now distinguished from "Other sorts" for the first time and show a value of Rs. 12·54 lakhs. Other sorts represent Rs. 24·79 lakhs only, but this figure in combination with that for Proprietary and Patent medicines marks an advance on 1904-05.

The "Nordoberfrankischer (**Bavaria**) Union of **Printers** and **Dyers**" has notified its decision to **raise the prices of dyeing and printing** cotton and woollen yarn, as also of piece-goods. The continuous advance in the price of coal, the increase in the cost of labour, and the greatly **increased price of dyestuffs,** due to **the recently formed ring of colour makers,** are given as the reasons. The new prices will come into effect on the 1st October next. A similar step is foreshadowed by the action of the Dyeing Association of Saxony-Thuringia, which has given notice of its intended withdrawal from its agreement with the manufacturers. The dyeing prices hitherto ruling are no longer considered sufficient, and notice of an advance was considered probable last year at the close of the strike of the workpeople employed by the associated dyers. The increased cost of labour and the great advance in the prices of dyestuffs are in this case also given as the reasons for terminating the agreement. A new agreement will probably be made on the basis of increased dyeing prices.

The Home Secretary has appointed a **Committee to inquire** into the probable economic **effect** of a **limit of eight hours** to the working day of **coal miners.** The Chairman of the Committee is W. Russell Rea, Esq., M.P., and the members are :—

Sir Andrew Agnew, Bart,
S. H. Cox, Esq., Professor of Mining, Royal College of Science,
J. W. Crombie, Esq., M.P.,
Sir Robert Giffen, K.C.B., F.R.S.
The Right Hon. Lord Glantawe, and
R. A. S. Redmanne, Esq., Professor of Mining, Birmingham University.

The Committee are authorised to extend their inquiry to metalliferous mines if they should think it necessary.

The Secretary to the Committee is John J. Wills, Esq., of the Commercial, Labour, and Statistical Department of the Board of Trade, to whom correspondence on the subject may be addressed.

A correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* writes from New York under date July 26th that the **crop situation in the United States** is not without some drawbacks, but the general outlook seems to be favourable. The heavy rains in Georgia and the Carolinas, so far from having done any serious harm, are said to have been on the whole beneficial. Reports from Texas indicate that the movement of the crop from that State will be earlier than usual. Some of the private reports put the Texas condition in the nineties. Already new cotton is beginning to arrive at many of its towns, and there are those who so far as to say that the August movement will be larger than usual, while that of September, judging from present appearances, is not unlikely to be heavy. This is looking pretty far ahead, to be sure, but the conditions in the vast cotton belt, take them for all in all, are so favourable that estimates of the crop in many cases make it the largest on record with the exception of that of two years ago. And the believers in lower prices maintain that there is every prospect of abundant supplies.

The Brazil coffee crop for the season of 1905-06 which closed on June 30 provided for shipment and consumption at the ports named a total number of bags as follows. Last season's figures are also given for comparison :—

Year.	Rio.	Santos.	Bahia.	Victoria.	Total.
1905-06	3,240,858	6,986,214	216,218	397,352	10,840 642
1904-05	2,547,363	7,423,002	163,789	405,487	10,539,641

Among Santos receipts are included 3,314 bags received coastwise, but not added to stock during the year in order to avoid making allowance for local consumption at the city of Santos. Victoria figures represent shipments cleared, details of receipts not being available.

It is reported that a *modus vivendi* has been arrived at between the President of the Republic and the members of the Taubate Conventon, whereby the "fixing of exchange" will be shelved for the present and the present and the "valorization of coffee" taken in hand at once. The loan £15,000,000 is to be contracted, in instalments by the three states interested, without the intervention of the Federal Government.

The reports on the results of the measures adopted in 1905 for the **selection and distribution** of **cotton seed** in the **Madras** Presidency show that the crops obtained from the seed supplied by the Government are generally admitted to have been better than those raised from the seed ordinarily used by the ryots and so the Government consider that the experiments were on the whole successful. The Government consider that the instructions issued by the Board of Revenue for the continuance of the experiments should be extended on similar lines to the utmost extent practicable. They approve that in order to get over the difficulty arising from the poorer ryots being unable to make cash payments for seed, the seed may be supplied on credit on condition of its return, with a small addition, at harvest. They also cordially approve of the policy of offering rewards for pure crops, and desire that it should be continued without abatement. To encourage ryots to purchase seed the Government consider that a more effective means than the distribution of leaflets would be to send men round the villages with samples of *kappas* raised from Government seed to explain to the ryots the advantages of good seed and tell them where it can be procured.

The total **area** under **Cinchona** cultivation in **India** in the year 1905-06 was 5,808·77 acres Of this 2,992·84 acres, planted with 2,421,924 mature and 3,893,900 immature trees, represented Government effort. Private plantations measured 2,815·93 acres in area, and consisted of 1,930,935 mature and 1.008,487 immature plants, The Government plantations are situated only near Darjeeling, and in the Nilgiris, whilst private plantations exist in several places in the Madras Presidency and in the Native States of Travancore and Mysore. The species of tree most commonly planted was the *C. Succirubra*, various hybrids being next in number, whilst the *Calisaya* and *Ledgeriana* were also evidently thought well of.

The **irrigation** operations of the Karif Season of 1906 up to 30th June 1906 in the **Punjab** show that the total area irrigated was 1,531,687 acres (the following being the chief crops—**Sugarcane,** rice, cotton, indigo, maize, jowar and chari, and miscellaneous) as compared with 1,889,244 acres irrigated last year up to June 1905. The irrigation operations of the same season of 1906 up to 30th June 1906 in the North-West Frontier Province show that the total area irrigated covered 28,361 acres, for the following chief crops :—Sugarcane, rice, cotton, indigo, maize and jowar, miscellaneous as compared with 25,540 acres irrigated last year up to June 1905. The above operations relate to areas irrigated from Government canals only.

The following figures show the state of the **Indian silver market** since the 15th of August :—

Date.	Actual price of silver per ounce.	Variation in price of silver, the price on 1st June 1893 being taken as 100.	Rate of exchange in Calcutta (demand bills).	Variation in rate of exchange, the rate on 1st June 1893 being taken as 100.
			s.	
15th August 1906	30⅜	81·13	1 4 1/16	109·83
16th „ „	30⅛	81·13	1 4 1/16	109 83
17th „ „	30 9/16	80·96	1 4 1/16	109·83
18th „ „	...	...	1 4 1/16	109·83
19th „ „	30 13/16	81·62	...	...
20th „ „	30⅞	81·79	1 4 1/16	109·83
21st „ „	...	...	1 4 1/16	109·83

The value of the **imports of chemicals into India** increased from Rs. 61·3 lakhs to Rs. 68·9 lakhs. The heading "Chemicals for paper making" which represented Rs. 7·74 lakhs in 1904-05 has been abolished, and the following new sub-heads have been introduced in the customs schedule. *Bleaching materials*, Rs. 2·21 lakhs; *Calcium carbide*, Rs. 1 lakh; *Cyanide of potassium*, Rs. 2·25 lakhs; *Disinfectants*, Rs. 2·11 lakhs; *Soda, caustic*, Rs. 5·46 lakhs; *Soda, other sorts*, Rs. 92,000. This last head does not include *Bicarbonate of soda* which has long been shown separately and which amounted to Rs. 3·99 lakhs.

Chemicals lumped together in the class "*Other sorts*" still represent some 58 per cent. of the total trade, though this class has been considerably reduced by the creation of the new sub-heads.

Saltpetre, together with **Borax**, practically represents the **exports of chemicals** from **India**. The quantity fell from 348,741 cwts to 336,429 cwts, while the value rose from Rs. 36·25 lakhs to Rs. 38·5 lakhs. The quantitative contraction of 3·5 per cent. in conjunction with a 6·3 per cent. rise in value, marks an increase of 10·2 per cent. in the specific value of the article. This only reflects the general tendency in all nitrates as a consequence of the increased consumption and the regulation of the output by the Nitrate Directorate at Iquique. **Borax** was exported to the extent of 4,146 cwts. with a value of Rs. 8 lakhs, its average value thus standing some 70 per cent. higher than that of Saltpetre.

In May, 1904, a Frieburg Company began to supply the gas works of Germany with "blei-wolle" (**lead wool**) as a **substitute** for **melted lead in making joints** for hub and spigot cast iron **gas mains**. The "blei-wolle" is lead which has been shredded to about the size of heavy thread, collected into bundles of convenient length and of a size in proportion to the joint to be filled, twisted somewhat and caulked cold into the joint against a backing of hemp or tarred yarn, as usual. In the lead wool joint the strands of lead are packed as they are put in, thus keeping the yarn under compression and filling the joint perfectly full of lead for its entire depth. To accomplish this end a strand of lead wool is inserted in precisely the same way that the yarn has been put in and caulked with the three caulking tools in order. These tools do not have square ends, but are dull pointed, with V-shaped ends which tend to spread the lead against the pipe. Then another layer is inserted, caulked and so on until the joint is filled. The caulking solidified the lead and yet leaves it free to adjust itself so that when the joint is deflected the lead and yarn adjust themselves and still fill the space. In caulking the lead should be forced from the spigot toward the hub by the tool rather than spreading equally. Lead wool has been manufactured in this country for some time by the Lead Wool Company of Snodland, Kent, and it has more recently been introduced into the United States.

The **prices of opium** in the Calcutta market during the week ending 18th August 1906 were, per chest, as follows :—

Behar opium—Rs. 1,515; 1,515; 1,518; 1,514; 1,513; 1,494; 1,496.

Benares opium—Rs. 1,385; 1,385; 1,388; 1,384; 1,383; 1,364; 1,366.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 9th sale of 1906.—Rs. 1,465; 1,465; 1,468; 1,464; 1,463; 1,444; 1,446.

China market, Hong-kong (exchange Rs. 157½ to 159 per 100 dollars).

Behar.—$975; 972; 970; 970; 955; 955; 955.

Shanghai (exchange Rs. 218 to 219 per 100 Taels)—Two sales on 14th and 16th of 690 Taels and 683 Taels, respectively.

Benares—One sale in the Hongkong market on 14th of $920; while two sales, Shanghai, on 14th and 16th of 660 Taels and 653 Taels respectively.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending 11th August were—for A class (season 1905-06) on 5th and 6th, Rs. 1,340 to 1,380 and on 7th to 11th, Rs. 1,350 to 1,410, for B class (season 1904-05) on 5th and 6th, Rs. 1,470 to 1,610 and on 7th to 11th, Rs. 1,460 to 1,622; class C, old (season 1903-04) on 5th and 6th, Rs. 1,690 to 1,761 and on 7th to 11th, Rs. 1,675 to 1,721. The latest China prices ascertained were for new classes (A and B) Rs. 1,510 to 1,543; old (class C) fetched at Hongkong Rs. 1,717 and at Shanghai Rs. 1,705.

A bulletin upon the production of zinc issued by the Geological Survey of the United States gives the total **production of spelter in the United States** in the last five years as follows :—

Year.	Short tons.
1901	148,822
1902	156,927
1903	159,219
1904	186,702
1905	203,849

Production for 1905 is thus classified :—

Countries.	Short tons.
Eastern and South States	24,513
Illinois	46,706
Kansas	114 287
Missouri	11,844
Colorado	6,599

The principal increase during the year has been in the Eastern and Southern group, chiefly West Virginia. The total value of shipments from the Missouri-Kansas district was $11,584.970 for zinc ore and for lead ore, $1,946,685. Imports of zinc ore rose from $50,082 in 1904 to $61,611 in 1905, while exports of zinc and zinc ore for the same years were $2,118,229 and $1,690,700, respectively.

There was a greatly stimulated market for spelter during 1905, with prices at a fair level. Thus there was a corresponding increase in domestic production and importation and a decrease in exportation.

The **revival of cottage industries in France** has been one of the results of the development of electric-power distributing enterprises, and a correspondent writes as follows to the *Manchester Guardian* calling attention to the striking manner in which this evolution is illustrated at the Tourcoing Exhibition. "In the industrial section there is a gallery divided into stands, in each of which is working a 'family workshop,' differing only in kind from its neighbours. Baking, ironwork, wood work, sewing, weaving, etc., are all being done silently by electricity. There is calm and tranquillity in the life of the worker—he is at home free, less anxious, less perhaps of a 'social unit,' but more of a man. Will the weaver of the future get back again to his home? Will he tend his loom in a large healthy dwelling, surrounded with verdure, fresh air, and sunshine? These are questions suggested by what has already been taken. In the Rhone Valley thousands of machines are already worked by electricity at the homes of the operatives. In Normandy the whole of the village of Caux is organised in the same way for the making of cotton goods. In the Orne, in the neighbourhood of Flers, a cotton district, the home industry is being increased by the transmission of electricity, and measures are being taken for the distribution of power and light from Alencon to Mans, and up to the coasts of the bay of Mont St. Michel. In the neighbourhood of Lille, at Harbourdin, a workshop has been erected with artisans' dwellings around it, each situated in the centre of an orchard. In each dwelling is a machine, similar to the one in the large workshop, running as fast and as easy to regulate, and put in operation simply by pushing a handle."

American canned meat exports.—The Bureau of Statistics, Washington, releases for publication the following tables showing the quantities of canned pork and the value of other canned meat exported to the principal countries in June, 1905 and 1906, and for the full fiscal years 1905 and 1906 :—

EXPORTS OF CANNED PORK.

	June.		Fiscal year.	
Countries.	1905. lbs.	1906. lbs.	1905. lbs.	1906. lbs.
Belgium	27,531	45,473	206,891	968,972
France	8,447	28,427	146,547	129,429
Netherlands	11,100	5,764	142,700	138,999
United Kingdom	377,358	489,637	8,972,370	9,939,254
All other	49,691	112,761	785,731	1,523,146
Total	474,127	674,062	10,254,239	12,699,800

EXPORTS OF ALL OTHER MEAT PRODUCTS.

	June.		Fiscal year.	
Countries.	1905. $	1906. $	1905. $	1906. $
Germany	4,598	...	46,671	29,696
Malta, Gozo, etc.	399	...	23,260	7,131
United Kingdom	73,400	62,519	1,085,240	815,149
Mexico	8,311	2,957	81,657	84,294
Canada	6,764	13,985	116,446	102,455
Chinese Empire	273	78	105,988	4,932
British South Africa	11,311	2,948	141,615	139,209
All other	25,109	26,210	373,807	410,641
Total	130,165	108,697	1,974,693	1,593,497

The American Consul at Kobe, writing to the Department of Commerce at Washington, U. S. A., says that **raw cotton** forms the largest single item of **imports into Japan**, its manufacture being also the most important industry. He continues :—"Japan having seen that Great Britain, though not a cotton-producing country, spins and weaves that staple for about 50 per cent. of the people of the world, and having seen the similarity of many of the conditions in the Kobe district, is now fostering her textile industries, so that now American and other cottons are transformed by cheap labour into fabrics which not only go towards supplying the home demand but in certain lines are also largely exported. The quality of the cotton is mostly middling and inferior, of which the greater part comes from British India, America and China, in the order named, while Egypt supplies the relatively small amount required for the higher-grade yarns. Yarn for home consumption is composed almost entirely of American cotton, but in that for export it

is mixed with others to the extent of from 10 to 20 per cent. With reference to the future development of the cotton spinning industry, there is a noticeable tendency toward the absorption of the smaller mills by the larger ones, and also toward the utilisation of water power for the generation of electricity as a substitute for steam. There is little doubt but that the importation of raw cotton into this country will increase largely in the near future on account of the efforts being made to extend Japanese trade in cotton yarns and woven goods to the Asiatic Continent, especially if the relatively high price for yarn and low price for cotton is maintained."

An Albany telegram, dated July 22nd, to the New York *Journal of Commerce* says:—The disastrous effects upon the **life insurance business of America** of the sensational disclosures made during the investigation of that business last fall by the special legislative committee is shown in the annual report of the State Insurance Department on life, casualty, credit and mortgage guarantee, insurance, made public to-night by Superintendent Otto Kelsey of that depertment.

According to the report, the companies doing business in this State issued 83,396 less policies in 1905 than in 1904, the amount of insurance written last year showing a decrease of $151,724,854. Moreover, 76,934 more policies terminated in 1905 than in 1904, and $98,548,766 more insurance. The policies terminated in 1905 are scheduled as follows:—

	Number.	Amount. $
Deaths	50,290	123,952,831
Maturity	12,263	28,201,579
Expiry	94,203	171,800,963
Surrender	82,636	191,416,929
Lapse	215,854	452,759,491
Change	4,926	57,538,123
Not taken	96,987	170,831,828
TOTAL	657,159	1,196,501,744

Superintendent Kelsey states the figures without comment or explanation of supposed causes.

"The new York State companies," he says, "issued 597,379 policies, insuring $966,848,898, and terminated 430,250 policies insuring $785,982,331. The companies of other States issued 420,338 policies, insuring $766,252,613, and terminated 226,909 policies, insuring $410,519,413. The aggregate of the above is 1,017,717 policies issued, insuring $1,733,101,511, and 657,159 policies terminated, insuring $1,116,501,744.

"The assets of the New York State Life Companies show an increase of $104,505,100, of companies of other States $1,060,326,507, an increase of $992,142,127. The aggregate of premium notes and loans shows an increase of $1,065,934 during 1905, while deferred and uncollected premiums have increased $1,850,700.

Total life policies in force are reported as 4,949,722 for 1904 5,306,101 for 1905. Total insurance in force $10,028,090,981 for 1904, $10,553,839,955 for 1905."

In their **Liverpool wool circular** issued at the beginning of August Messrs. Ronald and Rodger comment on the **decline in value of Asiatic** and other **foreign wools** at the fourth series of Liverpool auctions, held during the last week of July. They say:—"The new arrivals of East India reached the large total of 36,100 bales, and importers had 1,330 bales left out of the 2,277 bales withdrawn in May. With a few second-hand parcels, 37,995 bales were catalogued and 23,800 bales changed hands, leaving merchants with 14,195 bales. The home trade secured 15,000 bales, France 4,300 bales, and America 4,500 bales. There was a fair attendance of home and foreign buyers, but the large quantity available and the frequency of stiff limits of price put on by shippers tended to restrict competition. Compared with May currency, we quote the decline on good whites as 7½ to 10 per cent., good yellows 5 to 10 per cent., piecy yellows and fine greys, etc., 10 to 15 per cent., middling and coarse whites, as well as greys, were quite 10 per cent., dirty parcels even 15 to 20 per cent. cheaper, and native skin and goat hair receded proportionately." It is clear from this that the weakening of colonial wool values revealed at the last London auctions has been fully reflected and even accentuated in the Liverpool sales of foreign wool.

In their latest circular Messrs. Helmuth, Schwartze and Co. give some valuable statistics as to the **deliveries of wool** to the trade this year compared with last year. During the wool year 1905-06, which ended on June 30 last, the exports from Australasia increased by 275,000 bales. The increase in the total wool deliveries to the trade so far this year amounts to 216,000 bales last year, while the home trade has taken 50,000 bales more, and the United States have taken 37,000 bales less than in the corresponding period. The Continent has taken 203,000 bales more than in the corresponding period. Many "experts" expressed the opinion that the United States would require more colonial wool this year than it did last. It is evident, however, that dealers and users there overestimated their requirements last year. They bought very sparingly at the last London auctions, before the mail left for out of 97,000 bales sold they took only 4,000 bales, against 57,000 secured by the home trade and 36,000 by the Continent. "Trans-Atlantic buyers have been conspicuous by their absence from our country fairs during the present season," says the *Manchester Guardian*, "and their purchases of home-grown wools so far have been quite insignificant. No doubt this falling off in the demand for America has had much to do with the decline in values. Japan, again, only took about 8,000 bales last season direct from Australia, compared with 26,000 during the previous season. The difference amounts to 18,000 bales, and these, of course, will have to be consumed in other markets. No survey of the present state of affairs in the wool trade would be complete which did not include a consideration of the position in Russia. In normal times that country takes a large quantity of good scoured wool from the London auctions. It is not likely that there will be much demand from that quarter whilst the present political unrest and financial breakdown continue. Notwithstanding the fall that has taken place in values, there is nothing in the outlook just now to encourage speculation in the raw material. Supplies should prove quite equal to the demand until the new clip begins to arrive in large quantities."

NOTICES.

BOOKS OF REFERENCE.

The following publications have been received and may be consulted by any desirous of studying them at the office of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street, where they will be displayed in the Ante Room till Saturday, 1st September.

Canada—Weekly Report on Trade and Commerce—23rd July 1906.
Ceylon—Report of the Chamber of Commerce—half-year ended 30th June, 1906.
Egypt—Quarterly return of Navigation in the 1st quarter of 1906.
Germany—Answartegen Handel Deatschlands—June 1906.
Straits Settlements—Return of Imports and Exports for the quarter ending 31st March 1906.
Sweden—Monthly Trade Accounts, June 1906.
United States:—American Statistical Association—Quaterly publications, No. 74, June 1906.
Department of Commerce and Labor.
Bulletin of the Bureau of Labor. No. 64, May 1
Bureau of Manufacture—Monthly Consular and Trade Reports, May 1906.
Bureau of Statistics—Monthly Summary of Commerce and Finance of the U. S., May 1906.

PARLIAMENTARY PUBLICATIONS.

Coal.—Diplomatic reports for 1904-05 (H. C. 260/06.)
Colonial Reports.—Annual Series. No. 87—Weihaiwei, Report for 1905 (cd. 26-4.—33/06.)
Customs.—Report of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs for the year ended 31st March 1906. (cd. 3079/06.)
East India.—(Loans Raised in India)—half-year ending 31st March 1906 (H. C. 210/06.)
Naval Savings Banks Account, 1904-05.—(H. C. 246/06.)
Emigration and Immigration.—Statistical Tables, U. K., 1905 (H. C. 149/06.)

AGENTS WANTED.

Refrigerating Plant, Steam Engines, Boiler and Tank Work, Sugar Plant, Woodworking Machinery, etc.

Wanted in South America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, India and the East generally, by a large firm of engineers manufacturing the above.

Wanted agents in the British Colonies and South America for an extracting apparatus, and also a drying machine for making glue powder, drying difficult drying solutions, etc.

ENQUIRY.

ALOE FIBRE.

An enquiry is made for the names of English and German firms in England and Hamburg dealing in Aloe Fibre. Address the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street, Calcutta.

INDIA'S METAL TRADE IN 1905-06.

Imports of metals and manufactures of metals.

Hardware and Cutlery.—From the following statement it will appear that the imports of Hardware and Cutlery have declined by about 4·5 per cent.

	1903-04. Rs.	1904-05. Rs.	1905-06. Rs.
Cutlery	12,55,499	14,95,436	14,05,068
Agricultural implements	7,38,185	7,85,577	8,28,810
Other implements and tools	11,16,793	11,33 090	13,23,570
Enamelled ironware	18,13,211	17,00,785	13,23,463
Sewing machines	10,08,458	10,06,625	10,86,045
Unspecified hardware	1,73,46,157	1,76,70,954	1,67,50 521
TOTAL	2,32,78,303	2,37,92,467	2,27,17,477

Of the total, the United Kingdom increased its percentage to 68·8 but showed an absolute falling off of about 1 lakh. Germany marked an absolute increase of about the same amount; but since Belgium showed a decline of some Rs. 98,000 it may be taken that a considerable part of these particular differences is due to greater accuracy in classification as to country of origin. It is probable, however, that a substantial quantity of the Hardware and Cutlery still ascribed to Belgium really emanates from Germany. The two countries together have increased their absolute share of the total by some Rs. 22,000 and now represent 19·4 per cent. of the total as against 18·6 in the previous year. The most notable declines are in Austria-Hungary, which has fallen away to 5·6 per cent. of the total, and in Russia, whose participation has almost ceased for the present. In enamelled ware Austria used to be supreme; but in 1905-06 her share receded from 62 per cent. to 40 per cent., while Germany's has advanced from 31 per cent. to 54 per cent. The total under "Unspecified Hardware" has been diminished by the new classification under which umbrella fittings imported for use in manufacture, with a value of Rs. 14·15 lakhs, are transferred to

the heading "Umbrellas." Lampware, which has also been distinguished this year for the first time, is found to contribute Rs. 16·86 lakhs to the total of unspecified hardware, which now represents seven-tenths of the grand total.

Metals.—The imports of metals continued to increase, the quantity in 1905-06 having risen from 504,160 to 549,863 tons, while the total value declined from Rs. 931·9 lakhs to Rs. 904·6 lakhs. It is unusual to find in so large and composite an item a quantitative increase of 9 per cent. accompanied by a decrease of 2·9 per cent. in value; and the explanation is to be found both in the cheapening of the metals most largely used and the restriction of the imports of certain metals of relatively high specific value the prices of which have been exceptionally strong; as, for instance, copper in which the decline amounts to no less than Rs. 67·5 lakhs. This metal represented in 1905-06 only 15·8 per cent. of the total value of metals imported, as against 22·6 per cent. in 1904-05, while iron and steel have gone up from 65·8 per cent. to 73·4 per cent. of the total value.

Copper.—In 1904-05, the imports of copper showed an incipient decline, doubtless on the satisfaction of the more urgent requirements and in response to the elevation of price. In the year 1905-06 this decline has become marked and has amounted to 36·5 per cent. of the quantity and 32 per cent. of the value. Both wrought and unwrought descriptions share in the decline. Unwrought fell to 22,661 cwts. or Rs. 12·66 lakhs, the contraction in quantity being one of 67·8 per cent. and in value 65·5 per cent. The average value was Rs. 55·8 per cwt. Wrought copper, which represents 91 per cent. of the whole copper imports, fell 30·4 per cent. in quantity and 25 per cent. in value, the actual receipts amounting to 247,295 cwts. with a value of Rs. 130 lakhs. The general contraction is a phenomenon of the extraordinarily high level of copper prices throughout the world. These prices at the close of the financial year ruled higher than at any time since 1888; but whereas in that year the rise was operated by speculators in France, the present high levels may be accepted as due to a real industrial demand of exceptional intensity. The abnormal consumption of copper during recent years has depleted stocks; buyers have been working as far as possible from hand to mouth in expectation of a fall; and now the extraordinary activity of the engineering industries has carried prices to an extreme level.

Iron and Steel.—The year 1905-06 was one of exceptional activity and of improved prices in the Iron and Steel trades. The revival was first felt in America where business generally has been extraordinarily prosperous; and it gradually took effect in the United Kingdom and in India after midsummer, when the development of the engineering industries and the increase in ship-building intensified demand. The extent of the expansion during 1905 may be gauged by the following statistics of the production of pig-iron in the three principal producing countries:—

	1904. Tons.	1905. Tons.
United States	16,497,033	23,000,000
Germany	10,103,941	11,000,000
United Kingdom	8,562,658	9,200,000
	36,163,632	43,200,000

In the United Kingdom the average price of Cleveland warrants was 49*s.* 6*d.* in 1905 against 43*s.* 3*d.* in 1904.

In 1905-06 the price of Iron Bars on April 6th 1905, was Rs. 4-4-0 per cwt. It gradually declined to Rs. 3-14 at 20th July, rose to Rs. 4-7 at 22nd February 1906, and on 15th March stood at Rs. 4-4.

The following gives the total values of the Imports of Iron and of Steel distinctly and conjointly in each of the last five years:—

	Iron. Rs.	Steel. Rs.	Total. Rs.
1901-02	2,90,32,539	1,96,06,657	4,86,39,196
1902-03	3,03,04,888	2,05,60,343	5,08,65,231
1903-04	3,38,07,892	2,62,10,257	6,00,18,149
1904-05	3,78,51,121	2,34,03,379	6,12,54,500
1905-06	3,41,08,736	3,23,45,509	6,64,54,245

It will be seen that while the total of Iron was exceeded in 1904-05, the fall being one of 7·5 per cent. there has been an increase of 54·7 per cent. in Steel.

This is in accord with the general trend of trade throughout the world; and though the United Kingdom is dwarfed by the United States and by Germany in the production of Steel, the Board of Trade returns show that she imported of hematite pig-iron 20·5 per cent. more in 1905 than in 1904.

The monthly importations of Iron and of Steel, respectively, in 1905-06 compare as follows with the monthly averages for each of these metals during the previous two years. This marks the recent development.

		Iron. Value.	Iron. Percentage ratio to average monthly value of two previous years.	Steel. Value.	Steel. Percentage ratio to average monthly value of two previous years.
Average monthly values of imports during 1903-04 and 1904-05.		29,85,792		23,22,870	
Imports in					
April	1905	20,32,085	68·07	22,20,043	95·6
May	,,	24,06,009	80·6	29,60,432	127·4
June	,,	22,23,362	74·4	21,87,787	94·1
July	,,	23,63,372	79·1	26,51,178	114·1
August	,,	25.33.758	84·8	25,87,708	111·4
September	,,	22,99,061	77·01	21,69,687	93·4
October	,,	23,66 140	79·2	20,78,478	89·5
November	,,	35,26,458	118·1	26,62,104	114·6
December	,,	32,91,335	110·2	25,31,785	109
January	1906	42,08,487	140·9	31,00,346	133·5
February	,,	32,48,946	108·8	36,13,911	155·6
March	,,	36,09,723	120·9	35,82,050	154·2

The year saw the establishment of several combinations among producers of special grades of goods, as for example steel rails and galvanised sheets. The effect of the former was to raise the average price from £4·1 to about £6 while in the latter the enhancement was one of about £2·15 per ton. Imports of galvanised sheets into India in 1905-06 have decreased by 31·1 per cent., *i. e.*, to 1,345,143 cwts, with a value of Rs. 117·9 lakhs.

A calculation of the average value per cwt. of Iron or Steel imported has only a limited value, for the descriptions of goods comprised under these heads vary so greatly that fluctuations in the relative quantities of the various descriptions affect the average value of the total as much as a general movement in the level of prices. Comparison, however, shows that in Iron there was a fall of average value by 2·5 per cent., *i.e.*, from Rs. 7-6-4 to Rs. 7-3-5, while in steel there was a rise of 2·64 per cent., *i.e.*, from Rs. 5-8-6 to Rs. 5-10-10 per cwt.

From the statement below it will be seen that there was an absolute contraction in the receipts from the United Kingdom which supplied only 53·9 per cent. of the total quantity and 61·5 per cent. of the total value as against 60·5 per cent. and 67·6 per cent. in 1904-05.

	United Kingdom. Iron. tons.	United Kingdom. Steel. tons.	United Kingdom. Total. tons.	Germany and Belgium. Iron. tons.	Germany and Belgium. Steel tons.	Germany and Belgium. Total. tons.
Bars	10,713	9,278	19,991	27,635	88,116	115,751
Sheets and plates	681	37,842	38,723	3,155	33,720	36,875
,, ,, galvanised	66,953	...	66,953	301	...	301
Sheets and plates, tinned	17,862	...	17,862	11	...	11
Hoop	2,489	15,408	17,897	1,884	2,589	4,473
Angle, bolt, and rod	875	...	875	4,783	...	4,783
Angle, channel, and spring	...	12,168	12,168	...	10,718	10,718
Beams, pillars, girders, and bridgework	6,231	20,231	26,462	1,207	28,350	29,557
Pipes and tubes	23,337	...	23,337	504	...	504
Nails, screws, rivets, and washers	3,437	...	3,437	6,767	...	6,767
Other sorts	43,444	9,966	53,410	3,893	11,401	15,294
Total for 1905-06	176,222	104,893	281,115	50,140	174,894	225,034
Total for 1904-05	200,002	83,021	283,023	44,046	118,485	162,531

It will be observed also that while the United Kingdom improved her position absolutely in respect of steel alone, Germany and Belgium registered an advance in both departments. The tin plate trade has been subject to a good many disturbing influences in the past year, on the one hand the great rise in the price of tin, and on the other hand the enormously increased production of plates with accumulation of stocks. The imports of this class of goods fell away 5 per cent. to a value of about Rs. 36·9 lakhs. A further decline in the value of pipes and tubes used in connection with the oil industry brought the total to one of Rs. 38·2 lakhs.

Lead.—Imports of Lead have risen slightly to a value of about Rs. 19 lakhs, the average value having declined from Rs. 13-11-8 to Rs. 13-3-3 per cent. The United Kingdom supplied sheets for tea chests to the value of Rs. 10·66 lakhs against Rs. 12·89 in the previous year, while the imports in this class from other countries rose from about Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 58,000; the average value was in the first case Rs. 16-4-11 per cwt. and in the second Rs. 12-12-4

Tin.—Tin is associated with copper in the constitution of materials used in certain industries that are now exceptionally active; and the two metals often share common vicissitudes of demand and price. This association received formal recognition from the circumstance that the two metals fell conjointly within the operations of the famous *secretan* operations of 1888. It has recently been well marked in the course of the two trades not only throughout the world but in India in particular Professor James Douglas in the American Engineering and Mining Journal recently showed that the demand for copper bears a fairly constant relation to the demand for pig iron. It would probably be equally easy to establish the existence of a relation between tin and copper; each of the metals was formerly the subject of continual speculation; and it is possible that holders, like those of other commodities in abnormal demand, do nothing to minimise the conditions that make for the rise. But there is good reason to believe that those conditions have a very real existence. As in the case of copper so in the case of tin, the prices now ruling are the highest since 1888. And in each case it seems fairly clear that consumption has entirely outstripped production, but the conditions and their effects are more pronounced in the case of tin. The American *Journal of Commerce* of the 9th April quoted £174 per ton as having been recently paid in London as compared with £170 in 1888, and it hinted that the advance might proceed to £200. An article in the Times *Financial and Commercial Supplement* of 14th May reproduced most of the facts, figures, and opinions in the New York paper but adds that on 12th May £204-10*s.* was actually paid. This represents an advance of over 110 per cent. on the £97-10*s.* recorded at the end of 1901, and of about 51 per cent. on the price of twelve months ago. Whereas the consumption in 1888 was only from 60,000 to 63,000 tons, in 1905 it was from 90,000 to 93,000 tons, and this in spite of great economies adopted in the methods of tinning and soldering.

About half of the world's tin is derived from the Malay Archipelago; and practically the whole of India's imports during 1905-06 came from that source. But while the quantity imported in 1905-06 declined some 46 per cent. the value fell only 37·5 per cent., that is to say, from Rs. 39·4 lakhs to Rs. 24·9 lakhs. The *Journal of Commerce* (New York) of 9th April and 7th May and the *Times Supplement* of 14th May should be consulted for figures regarding output, consumption, etc., which it is impossible to reproduce here.

Machinery.—The continuous growth in the importation of machinery is one of the most healthy features of Indian trade, and has been remarkable in the year 1905-06. In the three years before the cycle of bad seasons arrested the economic growth of the country the figures were as follows: 1894-95, Rs. 244·24 lakhs; 1895-96, Rs. 323·74 lakhs; 1896-97, Rs. 350·9 lakhs. This last figure remained the record till 1904-05, when Rs. 402·7 lakhs was attained. In 1905-06 this has been exceeded by no less than 22·2 per cent. which brings the total value to Rs. 491·97 lakhs, the net increase being Rs. 89·24 lakhs. The year has been exceptional, more especially in respect of the great activity in the textile industries; and although the installation of new cotton and jute plant is proceeding actively, it is doubtful whether the same rate of progress can be maintained in the current year. Bengal imported machinery to the value of Rs. 236 lakhs which is 20·6 per cent. above the figure for 1904-05. Almost the whole of this increase of Rs. 40·27 lakhs is accounted for by the increase from Rs. 94·25 lakhs to nearly Rs. 125 lakhs in jute machinery, while in Bombay the increase is due to additions to plant in cotton mills. In Bombay the increase has exceeded that in Bengal and amounts to Rs. 54·5 lakhs or 44·9 per cent. of the value for that port in 1904-05. The total value is Rs. 175·6 lakhs against Rs. 121 lakhs in the previous year. The extent to which the extraordinary activity of the year was, however, confined to the two main textile industries is emphasised by the fact that in the provinces other than Bengal and Bombay the value of machinery imported actually receded from Rs. 85·8 lakhs to Rs. 803', the fall being one of 6·4 per cent. The totals of the various classes of machinery imported into all India were as follows:—

	Rs.
Steam-engines and parts	1,02,82,000
Textile	2,46,32,000
Electrical	23,06,000
Mining	5,91,000
Other descriptions	1,13,86,000

Railway Material.—The expansion in the imports of Railway material (State and private) has been fairly continuous in the last four years. In 1902-03 these imports represented Rs. 536 lakhs, in 1903-04 they rose to Rs. 563·7 lakhs, in 1904-05 there was a slight drop to Rs. 561·5 lakhs, but in 1905-06 this was more than made good by a rise to Rs. 673·73 lakhs in consequence mainly of the getting to work of the Railway Board. These figures include rolling stock and comprise imports for private lines (Rs. 162·2 lakhs) and for State Railways (Rs. 511·5 lakhs) In official returns imports for State Railways are kept distinct from the movements of private trade; and under these conditions such modification of the figures as necessarily attends the progressive acquisition of lines by the state might well give an impression that the quantity of Railway material imported was diminishing.

EXPORTS OF METALS.

Manganese Ore represents nearly 82 per cent. of the value of all exported metals and manufactures thereof other than hardware, the balance consisting of manufactures of brass, copper, and iron. The trade, which has virtually come into existence in the last ten years and had grown to 180,945 tons in 1904-05, received a great impulse from the failure of the Russian supplies as a consequence of the political disturbances which affected the mines at Donetz as well as those on the Caucasus. Before those disturbances Russia exported some 420,000 tons; but during a great part of the year under review the trade was virtually closed. The exports from India accordingly rose to 316,694 tons, marking an increase of more than 75 per cent., while the value rose by 79 per cent. to Rs. 43 lakhs. The rise in average value here indicated is only from Rs. 13-4 11 to Rs. 13-10-0 per ton or about 2·4 per cent.; but there can be little doubt that the real gain was considerably greater and that the profits at present being made must be large, seeing that the price of manganese in Europe has risen by about 50 per cent. The exports go mainly to America, the United Kingdom, and the Continent of Europe; and the present activity in the steel industry, synchronising with the restriction of the Russian output, makes an extraordinarily happy combination for the Indian seller.

CROP FORECASTS.

SESAMUM.

First General Memorandum on the SESAMUM (til or jinjili) crop of the season 1906-07.

In the five years ending 1904-05 the total recorded area under Sesamum in all India was 4,916,700 acres; and of that total 70 per cent. lay in the provinces dealt with in this memorandum.

The proportions in which the said provinces contributed to that total were as follows:—

Bombay	7·7 %	Central Provinces	16·8%
Sind	2·05%	Berar	2·6%
Madras	17·2 %	Panjab	4·3%
United Provinces	Unmixed crop 6·04%		
	Mixed crop 13·4 %		

The ground on which Sesamum is sown interspersed with other crops is included in the figures here reported. In the retrospective average for the United Provinces as given above Sesamum grown conjointly with other crops is distinguished from Sesamum grown alone; but the United Provinces do not at this season attempt any estimate of areas.

The other provinces, which commonly carry about 2,491,500 acres or 50·6 per cent of the total, report an area of 1,589,200 acres against 1,694,900 last year, the contraction being one of 105,700 acres or 6·2 per cent.

In many places however the sowing of the early crop is incomplete and the late crop has not been taken in hand. In Madras, Berar, Panjab, and Sind the figures up to the present fall short considerably of those of last year, as a consequence of untimely or ill-distributed rainfall. The largest shrinkage in any one province and the major part of the total contraction occurs in Madras; but this is more than balanced by the expansion in Bombay. The condition and prospects of the crop are reported to be fairly good in Madras, in Central Provinces and Berar, in Bombay and in the United Provinces; but in the Panjab the weather has been unfavourable, while both there and in parts of the Karnatak and South Deccan more rain is wanted.

The following is a summary of the provincial reports. The figures in brackets, following the name of each province, indicate what percentage of the total area under Sesamum in British India is ordinarily cultivated in that province.

Bombay (*7·7* %) reports the total area sown up to 5th August in British districts and Native States to be 524,000 acres as compared with 340,000 acres at the corresponding date of last year—an increase of 54 per cent. Favourable early rains have induced extensive sowings of the early crop. The late crop is still being sown. The condition of the crop is good, but rain is needed in places in Karnátak and South Deccan.

Sind (*2·05* %) reports 57,000 acres, which is 31 per cent. below the area reported at this date last year. Sowings, however, still continue, and the standing crop is so far good.

Central Provinces and Berar (*19·4*%):—The present estimate for both early and late crop in the Central Provinces is 686,000 acres, which is slightly below that of last year (689,000 acres). In Berar the estimate of 62,000 acres falls short of the 106,000 acres of last year by nearly 42 per cent. The combined estimate of the two provinces shows a net decrease of 6 per cent. Sowings are, however, still in progress. Continuous rain somewhat hindered sowing operations in the northern districts. Germination was defective in some of the central and southern districts where seedlings had been washed away by floods. Resowing is expected in places at the first break. Prospects are so far fairly good.

Madras (*17·2*%) reports the total area sown in the raiyatwari villages up to the end of July as 159,300 acres as compared with 341,200 acres at the corresponding date of last year, this representing a decrease of 53 per cent., which is attributed to want of seasonable rainfall. Villages other than raiyatwari report a total area of about 8,200 acres, but the returns are incomplete. The crop is reported to be generally in fair condition.

United Provinces (*19·4*%):—Statistics of the area sown are not at present available; but the weather conditions at sowing time were favourable. The crop is reported to have germinated well, and weeding has been properly done. Prospects are so far good, but depend on future weather conditions.

Panjab (*4·3*%) reports 100,900 acres sown up to the end of July, as compared with 135,700 acres at the corresponding date of last year, and 146,400 acres finally reported that year. Sowings were, however, still in progress in most districts when these estimates were prepared; and some improvement may be expected before the second forecast. The cultivation of sesamum depends largely on the monsoon which has been unfavourable up to the present except in the south-east Panjab and in the submontane districts.

FREDERICK NOËL-PATON,
Director-General of Commercial Intelligence.

SUGARCANE.

First General Memorandum on the SUGARCANE crop of the season 1906-07.

Of the total reported sugar crop of British India the five Provinces now reported on commonly produce 94°/₀ in the following proportions :—

United Provinces	49·05°/₀	Bengal . .	19·02°/₀
Panjab . .	13·7°/₀	Eastern Bengal and Assam.	11·2°/₀
North-West Frontier Province .			1·04°/₀

These percentages are calculated on the averages of the five years ending 1904-05, in which period the average total area of the reported sugar crop was 2,258,900 acres.

The returns embodied in this Memorandum represent the **aggregate area of the present crop** as being **2,276,000 acres.** This marks an **increase of 9·8°/₀** on the 2,072,800 acres finally reported in 1905-06 and a return to the average level of five years ending 1904-05. It must, however, be borne in mind that the computation of areas under sugar in India is peculiarly difficult because of the patchy nature of the planting, and that estimates at this season are necessarily more or less conjectural.

The condition and prospects of the crop on the areas stated are reported to be generally favourable.

The following is a summary of the provincial reports. The figures in brackets, following the name of each province, indicate what percentage of the entire sugarcane area in British India is ordinarily cultivated in that province.

United Provinces (*49* %).—The total area planted is roughly estimated at about 1,400,000 acres compared with 1,229,000 acres last year—an increase of about 14 per cent. This estimate is, however, conjectural and subject to revision when area returns are received in December, but there is no doubt that the acreage has extended materially. Irrigation was generally sufficient, and the crop germinated freely. Damage by insects and hot winds has been reported from places. The monsoon broke in time in the fourth week of June, and the falls of rain have so far been ample and beneficial. Prospects of the crop are at present good, and if the season continues favourable, a full normal yield is anticipated.

Bengal (*19*%).—The area actually planted is reported to be 428,000 acres as compared with 420,600 acres last year,—an increase of nearly 2 per cent. Rainfall was very favourable early in the season. In April and May the fall was below normal ; but, on the whole, the season up to the present has not been unfavourable to the crop.

Eastern Bengal and Assam (*11·2*%) reports the total area actually planted to be 217,100 acres, giving a fall of 3·4% below the 224,800 acres of last year. These figures exclude the hill districts for which statistics are not available. The crop is reported to have suffered from deficient rain in Jalpaiguri, Rangpur, and Chittagong, and from unseasonable and heavy rain in Rajshahi and Maimansingh. On the whole, the season has not been unfavourable.

Panjab (*13·7*%).—The area planted is estimated at 204,700 acres (irrigated 140,100 acres) and is to be compared with 172,800 acres last year. In the last year, however, the area had been reduced from 325,500 acres by the wholesale destruction of seed-canes by frost. Having regard to the favourable rainfall conditions in February and March and to the high price of raw sugar, the fact that the recovery marked by this year's figures is one of only 18·5°/₀ indicates that the material and moral effect of that disaster must have been very grave. It is probable, however, that actual measurements may show an area more closely approximating to the average (332,000 acres). The crop is on the whole in good condition. Recent rain in east Panjab and in the submontane tracts has been beneficial; but central Panjab still needs rain.

North-West Frontier Province (*1*%) reports an area of 26,200 acres as compared with 25,600 acres finally reported last year, or an increase of 2·3 per cent., which is due to favourable season.

FREDERICK NOËL-PATON,
Director-General of Commercial Intelligence.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

EXCERPTS FROM PROCEEDINGS,

BENGAL.

Meeting with the Railway Board.—On the 13th July the Committee by the courtesy of Sir Frederick R. Upcott, K.C.V.O., C.S.I., were able to hold a conference with the Railway Board, at which several matters of interest were discussed, including the Lower Ganges Bridge Project, Minima rates, and Risk-notes. The proceedings were of a private and informal nature.

Bengal Pilot Service.—The Committee have had under consideration during the month the revised regulations for the admission of local candidates to the Bengal Pilot Service, published under notification No. 66 Marine of the 16th June 1906. The Committee have communicated their approval of the regulations generally ; suggesting at the same time some slight modifications in the rules. They have, in addressing Government, expressed a hope that when they are brought into force the provisions will be strictly adhered to.

District Jute Forecasts.—The question of the wider dissemination of District Jute Forecasts sent into the Chamber by the different District Officers has been under the consideration of the Committee during the month and they have been in communication with the Director of Agriculture with regard to it. The suggestions made by the Director have been referred to the Committees of the Indian Jute Mills Association, the Calcutta Baled Jute Association, and the Jute Fabrics Shippers' Association, and a decision will be arrived at on receiving the views of these bodies.

Fire Risks on Goods lying at the Jetties awaiting removal.—At their meeting of 31st July the Committee had before them letter of 25th idem from the Secretary, Calcutta Import Trade Association, relating to correspondence with the Port Commissioners on the subject of fire risks on goods lying at the jetties awaiting removal. The Committee noted from this letter that the Committee of the Import Trade Association had been somewhat disquieted at a statement made by Counsel in an opinion obtained by the Port Commissioners that " no question of liability between the Commissioners and Importers could possibly arise as no duty was cast upon the Commissioners by their Act to take these goods for the consignees from the Jetties to the Docks." The Committee of the Import Trade Association, after remarking that the policy of the Port Trust was to keep the import trade at the Jetties, expressed the hope that this opinion would not induce the Port Commissioners at any time to depart from this system of working. The Committee of the Chamber in reply to this letter stated that the opinion of Counsel referred to did not in any way alter or increase the rights of the Port Commissioners in dealing with traffic, but was merely a statement explanatory of the already existing law as embodied in the Port Act. There did not appear to the Committee to be the slightest probability of the import trade being removed from the Jetties especially as the Jetties were being extended avowedly for the purpose of giving greater facilities to that particular trade.

Sixth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire.—At their meeting of 31st July the Committee had before them letter of 13th idem from Sir Ernest Cable, reporting on the proceedings at the above Congress. The debate on preferential tariffs lasted 1½ days. The representatives of the Bengal, Bombay, and Upper India Chambers of Commerce upheld the Government of India's despatch on this question. Coconada and Rangoon were neutral, while the representative of the Madras Chamber supported the policy of a preferential tariff. The debate resulted in a substantial majority in favour of the policy of preferential tariffs throughout the Empire, which His Majesty's Government were asked to investigate.

The resolution of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce with regard to inadequate supply of rolling-stock was carried unanimously.

Commercial Education.—On the 7th July the Committee were informed by the Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, that of the five candidates who appeared for the special examination on the 19th April in shorthand-writing only one had been declared qualified by the examiner. Six candidates were examined in type-writing but none qualified.

The Committee replied during the month to a reference from the Director of Public Instruction, on the subject of a proposal by the Government of India to award scholarships of the value of £150, with a tenure of three years, to enable suitable students to proceed to England and avail themselves of the facilities for commercial education provided at Universities such as Manchester and Birmingham. The Committee considered that this offer should be gratefully accepted, but they pointed out that the standard of the experimental commercial class in the Presidency College was not in their opinion sufficiently high to warrant the selection from among students trained there of young men to hold the proposed scholarships. They agreed that Graduates only should be regarded as eligible, but they suggested that a special examination, partly written and partly oral, should be undergone by candidates. Such an examination in their view would provide a better guarantee that talent rather than influence would operate in the selection of the recipients of these scholarships.

Statements of Jute Imports into Calcutta.—After consultation with the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association, the Calcutta Baled Jute Association, and the Jute Fabrics Shippers' Association, the Committee have decided that the monthly statements of Jute imported into Calcutta, issued by the Chamber, shall in future commence with July instead of August as at present, in order to bring it more into actual line with the Jute season.

National Association of Manufacturers of the U. S. A.—The Committee have assented to a request from the Executive Committee of the above Association to allow the Bengal Chamber of Commerce to be placed on the list of organisations to whose Secretary members of the above Association, or their representatives, may be introduced when they visit Calcutta. The Association is one of the most representative in the United States.

Certificates of Origin for Japan.—The Committee have circulated to members during the month copies of correspondence with the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade, and the Acting Consul for Japan, Bombay, on the subject of Certificates of Origin the goods shipped to Japan, the Imperial Japanese Customs having issued a notice drawing attention to the necessity of these documents being produced with all shipments. Full details as to the requirements of the Japanese Government were given in the circulars.

Short Reeling of Yarns.—On the 14th April the Government of India published a resolution on the subject of short reeling of yarns, in which it was notified that in compliance with instructions from the Secretary of State for India it had been decided that the local Government should in certain classes of cases and subject to certain conditions be authorised to undertake prosecutions under Sections 6 and 7 of the Indian Merchandise Marks Act. The instructions attached to the Resolution had been framed on the lines of the regulations issued by the Board of Trade to provide for the conduct of prosecutions in similar cases in the United Kingdom.

The Committee in commenting on these instructions, which throw the onus of initiating such prosecutions on private individuals, expressed the opinion that they should be undertaken by Government only and at Government expense, but that in the event of private parties wishing to prosecute they should be called upon to find very substantial security for costs.

Scarcity in Eastern Bengal.—The correspondence which has taken place with the British Indian Association and the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam, on the subject of the scarcity prevailing in the latter province, has been published for the information of members at full length. The reference to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor elicited the fact that while distress undoubtedly existed in some villages there where few signs apparent of the conditions usually associated with famine, and His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor believed that the action taken by Government to relieve the distress was sufficient, without recourse to a public appeal in Calcutta.

RANGOON.

Considered letter No. 1124, dated the 21st June 1906, from the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, forwarding copies of correspondence with the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and the Government of India, with regard to the proposed insertions of **trade introductions** in the *Indian Trade Journal* and asking for the views of this Chamber in the matter.

Resolved that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce be informed that this Chamber has had no previous intimation on the subject; that the Committee's views are in accord with those expressed by them and the other Chambers of Commerce in India, and that they prefer the continuance of the present practice of forwarding all such enquiries to the Chamber for disposal.

Considered Demi-Official letter No. 1523-1M—15, from His Honour Sir H. T. White to the Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, enclosing copy of a letter from **Lady Minto** on the subject of providing **trained Nurses from Europe** for service in the Provinces of Northern India and Burma.

Resolved that the Committee regret they cannot see their way to contribute or recommend the Mercantile Community of Rangoon to contribute to the Indian Nursing Association consequent amongst other reasons upon the chief control being centered in India. The Committee note that no proposals concerning the constitution of the Indian Nursing Association have been submitted and that no indication has been furnished as to the proportion of total Endowment Fund that might be allotted to Burma or alternatively of the proportionate benefits that might accrue to Burma under such Endowment Fund.

While not in any way committing their successors in office the Committee feel assured that a local Nursing Association established and maintained under suitable auspices would meet with the support of the European Mercantile Community of Burma.

Considered letter, dated the 4th June 1906, from the Yokohama Foreign Board of Trade forwarding for information copy of a notice from the **Imperial Japanese Customs** in regard to the presentation of Certificates of Origin with the Import application in order to secure the benefits of the Conventional Tariff.

Resolved that the papers be circulated to the general body of Members for information.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

THE *Board of Trade Journal* published on the 2nd August, in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations, gives particulars about:—

DOMINION OF CANADA.—Foreign Currency Equivalents.

SOUTH AFRICA.—*Cape of Good Hope.*—Customs Amendment and Tariff Act, 1906. Operation of Customs Tariff, etc. *Natal.*—Customs Union and Customs Duties Act, 1906. Rebate of duty on soap etc., used for Wool-washing. Customs regulations. Customs Union Tariff and Regulations thereunder.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE.—Uniforms Ordinance, 1906. Firearms Ordinance.

MALTA.—Customs Amendment. Goods not in Manifest. Lodgment of Duty against release of Spirits.

RUSSIA.—Import Duty on Cork Manufactures.

GERMANY—Customs Decisions. Phylloxera Regulations.

FRANCE.—Modification of Duty on "Oriental" Carpets.

FRANCE—SWITZERLAND.—Prolongation of Provisional Arrangement.

FRANCE AND NEW CALEDONIA—*New Hebrides*—Customs Treatment of certain products of the new Hebrides.

ITALY.—Classification of Nickelled Tinplates. Exemption from Internal Tax of Motor Cars, etc., temporarily imported.

GREECE.—Increase of duty on certain articles.

EGYPT.—Commercial Convention with Greece.

BULGARIA.—Classification of Soaps.—Revised Regulations.

ROUMANIA.—Certificates of Origin required for certain Articles.

TRIPOLI.—Exportation of Cereals from Benghazi District prohibited.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.—Pure Food Legislation. Analyses of Food Products, Fertilisers, Drugs, Tanning Materials, etc. Customs Decisions. Port of Delivery.

BRAZIL.—Tariff Concessions to the United States.

JAPAN.—Tariff Classification of Crude Mineral Oil.

We give the following particulars of **changes interesting to Indian Trade:—**

FRANCE.

Duty on "Oriental" Carpets—Modification of.

The French *Journal Officiel* for the 21st July contain the text of a law providing that carpets made with knotted or twisted pile, of any origin, and imitations thereof, are to be dutiable at the rate of 5 frs. 50 cts. per square metre (4.9*d.* per square foot) under the "minimum" tariff. The measurement is to include the borders and fringes. The carpets affected by this modification include so-called "Oriental" carpets.

FRANCE AND NEW CALENDONIA—NEW HEBRIDES.

Customs Treatment of certain products of the New Hebrides.

A recent French Customs Circular contains a copy of a Presidential Decree fixing, as follows, the quantities of certain articles, the produce of French establishments in the New Hebrides, which may be imported into France and New Caledonia between the 1st July, 1906, and the 30th June, 1907, at reduced rates of duty, under the conditions established by the Decree of the 12th November, 1901:—

Articles.	*Rate of Duty.*	Quantities allowed to be imported at reduced rate.
		Kilogs.
Coffee .	Minimum rates under the tariff of France, less 78 France per 100 kilogs.	250,000
Cocoa . } Vanilla . }	Half minimum rates under the tariff of France.	3,000 / 4,000

JAPAN.

Crude Mineral Oil—Tariff Classification of.

The Board of Trade are in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that under the new Japanese Tariff,* which is to come into force on 1st October next, *crude mineral oil, not distilled*, will be dutiable under No. 176 of the Tariff, at the rate of 20 per cent. *ad valorem.* Distilled mineral oil will be dutiable under No. 172, at various rates, according to the specific gravity of the oil.

* A complete translation of this Tariff was published as a Supplement to the *Board of Trade Journal* for the 14th June.

AUSTRALIA.

Cotton Tweeds—Increased Duty.

The following **notice** was issued from the Commonwealth Department of Trade and Customs, Melbourne, Australia, on June 16 last:—

"Whereas **cotton tweeds** are imported into the Commonwealth, and whereas I am of opinion that cotton tweeds can be used as substitutes for coatings, vestings, and trouserings, which dutiable goods, and for the purposes for which coatings, vestings, and trouserings can be used: Now, therefore, I do hereby, in pursuance of the power conferred upon me by section 139 of the Customs Act, 1901, direct that cotton tweeds shall, on importation, be charged with the duty chargeable on coatings, vestings, and trouserings——William John Lyne, Minister for Trade and Customs."

By this decision the duty on cotton tweeds is raised from 5 per cent. to 15 per cent. *ad valorem.*

GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

LUCKNOW ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS.

THE *United Provinces Gazette* of the 18th August contains the draft order made by the Lieutenant-Governor of the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, authorizing the British Eastern Electric Power Company, Limited, to construct an **electric tramway** within the **Cantonment of Lucknow.** The order may be seen in the Office of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street.

MYSORE MINING REGULATIONS AMENDMENT.

The *Mysore Gazette* of the 16th August contains rules for the **Regulation to consolidate** and **amend the law relating to Mines in Mysore.** The Gazette contain these rules, which are very lengthy, may be seen in the Office of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street.

WEATHER SUMMARY.

For the week ending the 18th August 1906.

DURING the period under review there was light general rain on the Burma coast and in the Punjab hills, light to moderate general rain in North-East India, the Submontane districts of the Punjab and the United Provinces and Bihar, nearly general rain in Southern India and the Bombay Deccan, light to moderate local rain in Bengal, Chota Nagpur, Orissa, the Konkan coast, the South Deccan, the Nizam's dominion, the interior of South India and on the Circars coast while a few falls were reported from South Rajputana, Guzarat and the Central Provinces. The principal rainfall amounts were :— Cherra Poonjee 6·33″, Gorakhpur 6·10″, Durbhanga 5·45″, Dhubri 5·30″, Chittagong 4·75″, Darjeeling 4·71″, Mymensingh 4·71″, Sibsagar 3·90″, Dinajpur 3·70″, Barisal 3·16″, Jalpaiguri 3·03″, Chitaldroog 2·85″, Lashio 2·60″, Bangalore 2·59″, Cawnpore 2·59″ Jessore 2·49″, Chakrata 2·45″, Dehra Dun 2·45″ Malegaon 2·32″, Gaya 2·22″, Burdwan 2·18″, Simla 2·12″, Pachmarhi 2·12″, Pamban 1·85″, Hyderabad 1·48″, and Akyab 1·21″.

Pressure was unusually high at the head of the Bay during the week and the trough of low pressure remained close to the hills. Rainfall due to the Bombay current was accordingly concentrated chiefly in Chota Nagpur, Bihar, United Provinces and the Submontane Punjab. On the other hand the Bay current gave widespread rain in the remainder of North-East India and scanty rain in Burma. During the middle of the period a low pressure area appeared over the South of the Peninsula, and was followed by a large increase of precipitation in that area.

The pressure distribution gave very scanty rain on the coast of Burma, while it was limited to isolated falls in the interior. Skies were moderately overcast, and temperature was in excess during the period.

The high pressure at the head of the Bay gave widespread rain throughout the week in North-East India, varying from light to heavy: rain fell on several days and was normal for this time of year. Temperature was in slight defect and skies were generally completely overcast.

In the United Provinces and the east of Central India precipitation for the first day of the week was fairly general, but on the 13th, it diminished rapidly and was confined to the Submontane districts for the rest of the period. An almost complete break in the rains prevailed throughout the week over Central India and the Central Provinces and only occasional falls occurred. Skies were heavily overcast in the Submonate districts, but elsewhere they were moderately overcast. Temperature was in defect in the United Provinces and normal or in excess in the other two areas.

Throughout the week the monsoon extended freely into the Submontane Punjab, and rainfall was of daily occurrence, but it did not extend far beyond this area: at Lahore only a fall of a quarter of an inch occurred and in the South-Western districts weather was dry. On the 15th precipitation was also reported from the Frontier Province and parts of Kashmir. Practically there was no rain in Rajputana except at Mount Abu, and in Gujarat it was very light. Skies were generally moderately to heavily overcast in the Submontane Punjab, Rajputana and Central India, and elsewhere they were lightly overcast or clear. Temperature was in defect in the first area, and in the remainder of North-West India it was normal or in slight excess.

The monsoon was very weak except during the latter half of the period in South India. On the West Coast and in the Bombay Deccan the total fall for the week was very small. During the latter half of the week rain fell more or less continuously in South India and on the 15th an area of low pressure appeared over that region and the adjacent seas, followed by widespread and moderately heavy rain in the Southern districts of Madras. Temperature was generally in defect in the South-Eastern districts and in excess elsewhere, while skies were moderately clouded.

Moderate to heavy rain fell in Assam, North Bengal, South-West Bengal and North Bihar and light to moderate rain was general in East Bengal. Mean temperature rose in East Bengal and Orissa and fell in North Bengal and Bihar. The sky was overcast in Assam, North Bengal and Bihar. Humidity increased in South-West Bengal, but elsewhere showed a tendency to diminish.

The rainfall of the whole monsoon period up to the 18th August had been practically normal or in excess over nearly the whole of India and Burma, the excess being most marked in North Bihar where it amounts to 35 per cent. of the normal fall. Rain had been in defect in Orissa, Chota Nagpur, the east of Central India and in North-West India generally, with the exception of the East Punjab. The defect is most marked in North-West India and amounts to 60 per cent. of the normal fall in the rainfall division of the North-West Dry Area.

TELEGRAPH FROM THE VICEROY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Crop prospects : for the week ending the 11th August last.

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh: Heavy rain has fallen, and a break is now needed. Fodder is sufficient and prices are falling. **Rajputana:** Slight to good rain has fallen. Crops are in good condition generally, but more rain is still wanted in some states. Relief works have been closed in Bharatpur and Mewar. **Central India:** Rainfall has been general. Crop prospects are good. **Bombay:** Moderate to slight rain has fallen. The crops are in good condition, but are in need of more rain in parts of the Deccan and Karnatak. The area sown is above normal in the Deccan. The condition of the cattle is improving. Green grass is available everywhere. Food stocks are sufficient; trade is active. Prices continue high in the Deccan and Karnatak. The numbers on relief are falling. **Eastern Bengal:** Crops are in good condition generally. Scarcity continues in four districts. Prices are high and rising. Prospects are favourable in other provinces. The following are the numbers of persons in receipt of relief in thousands. **United provinces of Agra and Oudh,** 105; **Ajmer and Rajputana,** 38; **Central India,** 16; **Bombay,** 76; **Eastern Bengal,** 12; total 247.

COTTON SPINNING.

Comparative Efficiency of Labour in India and in England.

FOLLOWING certain enquiries made by this Office regarding the comparative productivity of Indian and of British labour in the textile industry an interesting correspondence has taken place in an Indian contemporary. In that correspondence figures were quoted from a paper read some months ago before the Manchester Association of Engineers; but no reference was made to certain relevant and useful notes which appeared in the *Manchester Guardian* of the 14th March and 21st May (page 10).

The correspondence in our contemporary was opened by "Mill Manager," who stated the number of hands per 1,000 spindles in Manchester as 4·2. When challenged by Mr. Manmohandas Ramji (an Indian millowner who speaks with the authority of very great experience) as to whether reelers were included in this estimate, he replied that they were and that if reelers were omitted the number of hands per 1,000 spindles in a mule mill in England would be from 2·5 to 2·75.

Now, the *Manchester Guardian*, in its article of the 14th March gave 2·5 hands as the number engaged on 1,000 spindles. In its notes of the 21st May it stated that an Indian correspondent, who had been puzzled by the enormous difference between this estimate and the number employed in India, had suggested that it did not include labour of all kinds connected with a mill; and the *Manchester Guardian* then gave a list of the classes of labour included, in order to show that the estimate was comprehensive. The said list, however, contained no mention of reelers, whose inclusion in "Mill Manager's" estimate has recently been the subject of controversy in Bombay, and that they are not included is shown by the mention of "5 crop packers." In the sentence preceding that list, the *Manchester Guardian* said "with ring spinning frames instead of mules the average number of operatives would probably be nearer 3 per 1,000 spindles than 2½."

It remains therefore that the estimate of the *Manchester Guardian* tallies with "Mill Manager's" estimate of 2·5 to 2·75 hands exclusive of reelers. The difference between that estimate and "Mill Manager's" total of, say, 4 hands is 1·5 hands, and this therefore represents the number of reelers per 1,000 spindles in Lancashire. But since the latter do not augment the productivity of the spindle (the process of reeling being one outside that of spinning), they must be excluded at this stage from any calculation of the single factor *productivity*.

"Mill Manager" gives the production of yarn per hand in Manchester as 7,736 lbs. per annum; and this multiplied by 2·5 hands gives a total yearly production of 19,340 lbs. per 1,000 spindles. For the purpose of a subsequent comparison with the Indian monthly production, it may here be noted that this figure is equal to a production of 1·6 lbs. per mensem.

Against this we have to set an estimate recently given in private correspondence by an eminent trade authority in Manchester after special enquiries. The estimate so given is "about ½ lb. per week," say, lbs. 2 per mensem. On the whole therefore an estimate of lbs. 2 per mensem will be liberal.

But if this yarn were reeled as in India, it would appear as the production of 4 hands per 1,000 spindles; and to obtain a true comparison of what may be called the spindle hand productivity of the industry in the two countries we must either deduct the reelers from the Indian figures or restore the reelers to the English figures from which they were deducted for the purpose of determining the bare productivity of the 1,000 spindles. The former is impracticable, for in respect of India there is no such estimate of the average number of reelers as can be verified. We must therefore adopt the latter of the alternatives and restore the reelers to the Lancashire figure of 2½, and consider that 4 hands would be required in Lancashire to turn out the production of 1,000 spindles (lbs. 2 per mensem) in a reeled condition.

We have now to determine the number of hands employed in India on 1,000 spindles. The official returns of labour employed in textile mills in India do not by themselves enable us to do this; for in them no distinction is made between hands in the spinning and in the weaving sections. A comparison has, however, been made of the total number of spindles and of hands employed in those mills in India which do spinning only.

Excluding young persons and children the ratio is 24 per 1,000 spindles: including these classes the ratio is 30. This latter figure tallies with that used by "Mill Manager" and accepted by Mr. Manmohandas Ramji, though it is known that some undoubted authorities consider it to be about 10 per cent. too low. The ratio of the 4 hands employed in Lancashire per 1,000 spindles to the 30 hands employed in India is thus only 13⅓ per cent.

But on the other hand the production of yarn per 1,000 spindles in Lancashire is pound for pound only about 17·4 per cent. of the production per 1,000 in India. For in an article published in the "*Indian Trade Journal*" of 12th April (page 55) it was shown that lbs. 11·5 might be accepted as the maximum. If therefore with a constant number of spindles, 30 hands in India produce 11·5 lbs. while 4 in Lancashire produce 2 lbs. the efficiency of an Indian hand is to that of a Lancashire hand as 1 is to 1·3. This calculation, however, takes no account of the wide differences in the kinds of yarn spun in the two countries, in the nature of the raw material employed, and in the number of "preparation" machines therefore employed. These are obvious and serious defects; but the factors spoken of cannot be estimated. For these reasons, it is probably not very profitable to calculate the comparative wages bills per 1,000 spindles in the two countries, seeing that the significance of a wages bill depends entirely on its relation to total cost of production on the one side and to the price received for the product on the other. And the calculation of such a ratio, except as regards individual companies in which all the data can be conclusively verified, is always largely conjectural and a subject of controversy. "Mill Manager" has given Rs. 80 as the equivalent of the average wage in Lancashire and Rs. 13 as the average wage in India; and Mr. Manmohan Das has accepted these figures. Applying them therefore to the data shown above, we find that in Lancashire 4 hands at Rs. 80, with total wages Rs. 320, produce 2 lbs. of yarn, while 30 hands in India drawing in all Rs. 390 in wages produce 11·5 lbs. of lower counts. The wages bill in Lancashire would therefore seem to be to the wages bill in India as 1 to 1·23 while we have shown above that the efficiency of the Indian hand is to that in Lancashire as 1 to 1·3. and the wages cost per lb of yarn in India is about 21 per cent. of the wages cost in Lancashire. This is of course curious, but for practical purposes it can teach little in view of the large gaps and defects in the data.

A correspondent in the *Manchester Guardian* of the 2nd of August says:— It is asked by some doubters whether there is really so much difference between the earnings possible at the new mills and at the old ones as to make minders so ready to lend their money. Let us take an example. Recently a minder left a mill containing "oldish" mules of 970 spindles in one length. He got a place at a new mill on mules of twist he produced at the latter place—886 lbs. of Egyptian twist yarn. After paying his piecers—one 18*s.* and the other 11*s.*-6*d.*—he had left for himself £3 9*s.* 4*d.* Now on the weekly output would have been quite 200 lbs. or 250 lbs. less. Hence the difference in the earning capacity of one and the other. Not only are the spindles so many more in one case, but the speed is much greater. For instance, whilst three "draws" or "stretches" would be accomplished in 52, 53, or 54 seconds—the variation is accounted for by circumstances—at the new mill, the time at the older mill would be respectively, 57, 58, or 59 seconds. These times are for 60's twist. Hence the difference in earnings. Hence the temptation to be at the new mills at all costs. And though the majority of the directors at many of the new mills know nothing about cotton, about spinning, or about machinery, they know that an operative will fight hard to get the bigger wage, and that they "play upon" this knowledge goes without saying.

PROSPECTING LICENSES AND MINING LEASES.

In 1905 there were 189 prospecting and exploring licenses and mining leases granted in British India. The following are some details of grants in various provinces:—

Baluchistan:—One prospecting license and four mining leases for coal and chromite.

Bengal (Darjeeling and Mourbhanj only):—One prospecting license for iron in Mourbhanj, and for any minerals, metals, precious stones, especially copper ore in Darjeeling.

Bombay:—Five exploring licenses for gold, manganese and other minerals, twelve prospecting licenses for manganese, manganese ore, aluminium, bauxite, read ochre, copper, cinnabar, quicksilver and gold and one mining lease for coal and manganese.

Burma:—Sixteen exploring licenses for tourma line, coal, petroleum, gold, precious stones and other minerals, twenty-five prospecting licenses for coal, tourmaline, petroleum, iron, tin, gold, silver, copper, lead, zinc, rubies, precious stones and other minerals and two mining leases for gold, precious stones and marble.

Central Provinces:—Seventeen exploring licenses for manganese bauxite, gold, silver, copper, lead, tin, zinc, platinum, coal, antimony, aluminium, mineral oil and minerals of all descriptions, thirty-one prospecting licenses for manganese, asbestos, coal, gold, silver, copper, lead, arsenic, antimony, platinum, zinc, tin, cobalt and other minerals and five mining leases for manganese, ironstone and coal.

Eastern Bengal and Assam:—One prospecting license for coal and oil in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

Madras:—Six exploring licenses for gold, coal, mineral oil and minerals of every description, thirty-one prospecting licenses for gold, manganese, coal, mineral ores, mineral oils, corundum, copper and mica and seventeen mining leases for mica and corundum.

Punjab:—Five prospecting licenses for coal in the districts of Attock and Shahpur and one mining lease for coal in the district of Shahpur.

United Provinces:—Two prospecting licenses for copper ore in the Almora division, and five prospecting licenses for copper ore and asbestos in the Garhwal division.

CHROME-TANNING, MADRAS.

The following is a summary of the report on the industrial experiments with chrome-tanning in Madras in the year ending with March 1906. The chrome-tanning industrial experiments in Madras in the year ending March 1906 make the following remarks:—

The total cost of working the department has been R8,511-15-10 or slightly over R700 a month. The total expenditure amounted to R49,435-6-4 and the total sales to R29,700-3-9 as against R4,779-5-6, the total sales in 1904-05, whence it will be seen that the output rose from R400 a month to about R2,500 a month. At the outset the chrome leather industry was taken up for introducing the leather for Kavalais, but unfortunately there was no progress in this direction. In 1904-05, 87 Kavalais were sold and in 1905-06, 131, being an increase of only 50 per cent., although the total sales increased by more than 600 per cent. Nearly all the Kavalais sold have been purchased by officers in charge of jails, experimental farms and Government gardens, by the Court of Wards and by the Commissariat Department. Only a few were purchased by rich landholders and so far none by the ordinary ryot. Experience shows that the leather is well adapted to Kavalais, but that the price is too much for the ordinary ryot to pay. The success of the leather for boots, shoes and saddles has been unexpectedly great and where the trade has been pushed, the sales are steady and continuous. The natural colour of the leather is a pale green or light lavendar blue and for boots, shoes and harness it has to be dyed. In this direction the use of aniline dyes has been proved to be most successful. Excellent black leather, brown leather of a variety of shades and any coloured leather for which there is a demand are now turned out. A good many books have been bound of chromed leather most successfully which shows that it is very useful wherever a strong and durable binding is required. Besides the three larger attempts at private enterprise, a certain number of natives took up the business on a small scale, but as yet none of them achieved any noteworthy success. The cost of manufacture of chrome leather is a little greater than that of bark-tanned leather, but to turn out presentable chrome-tanned leather a superior class of hide or skin is required. In the districts of Coimbatore and Cuddapah the number of Kavalais in use is very great, and if they were universally made of chrome leather, it will result in a very material increase in the number of hides available for export. During the year chrome leather was exhibited at most of the exhibitions and gold and silver medals have been secured. It has been demonstrated that most excellent chrome leather can be made in the country and that it is eminently suited to local requirements. The goods do not possess the finish of imported material, but they are very much cheaper and lack nothing in respect to strength and durability. The difficulties are mainly of a commercial character and so long the manufacture of leather into finished goods is needed there is very little prospect to carry the industry at a profit. The prices for various articles are practically fixed and it will not be till the chrome leather industry attains much larger dimensions than at present that it will be possible to turn out raw material at the same price or at nearly the same price as that at which the bark-tanned country leather is now produced.

EGYPT'S TRADE DURING THE FIRST-HALF OF 1906.

With the publication of the customs returns for June, it is possible for us to examine the trade of the country during the first six months of the current year, and to compare the same with the turnover in 1905.

In dealing last August with the question of trade during the first-half of 1905, we had to record a shrinkage when compared with the same period in 1904. This decrease, for which the enormous expansion in the country's trade during the earlier months of 1904 was responsible, has now been entirely wiped away and a new record created, *viz.*, a total turnover of over L. E. 21,000,000.

The following table gives the figures from the 1st January to the 30th June during the past four years.

	1903. L. E.	1904. L. E.	1905. L. E.	1906. L. E.
Imports . .	7,545,545	8,680,095	9,427,286	10,513,579
Exports . .	9,090,862	11,055,749	9,609,952	11,154,660
Total .	16,636,377	19,735,844	19,037,238	21,668,239

A glance at the above returns shows the phenomenal growth of trade during the past six months. Roughly speaking, the gain was one of a million in imports, and a million-and-a-half in exports, the actual figures being L. E. 1,086,293 or 11·5 per cent. in purchases, and L. E. 1,544,708 or 16 per cent. in sales.

Cotton.—Although the number of cantars of cotton shipped abroad during the period under revision was 3,021,003 against 3,153,765 last year, the following figures, showing the price per cantar at the end of each month from January to June during 1905 and 1906, clearly explain the increase of L. E. 1,928,420 in the export value.

Price of Spot Cotton at end of

	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.
1906 .	S 16⅛	18⅛	19⅜	21	21	19⅜
1905 .	„ 12	13¼	13⅝	13¾	14⅜	14⅜

In passing, we may just mention that from the 1st September 1905, when the present cotton season commenced, to the 29th June, the arrivals in Alexandria were 5,870,826 cantars against 6,199,801 last season. The stocks in hand on the latter date were 568,873 cantars, whereas they were 1,010,134 cantars at the end of June 1905.

In view of the Continental competition to British cotton goods here, we think the following table may possibly be of some interest to members.

Number of Cantars Exported to

1st Jan. to 30th June.	England.	France.	Germany.	Italy.	America.	Other Countries.
1906 .	1,429,227	263,184	312,588	122,737	263,329	689,938
1905 .	1,496,308	310,983	294,985	105,330	257,456	688,703

Cotton Seed.—The total cotton seed returns for the half year amounted to 1,497,726 ardebs valued at L. E. 863,285, against 1,581,445 ardebs (L. E. 759,203) last year. There has thus been a loss of 83,719 ardebs, but an increase in value of L. E. 104,082. Germany has now become a buyer in this market, she having taken 98,500 ardebs in the six months in question, whereas her purchases last year during the same period were *nil*. The shipments to France have fallen from 66,771 ardebs to 34,646 ardebs.

Onions.—Compared with 1905, the exports during the first six months of 1906 decreased by over 30,000 tons, the figures for the two years being 111,442 tons (L. E. 390,050) and 80,094 tons (L. E. 215,770) respectively. It will be seen that the average price per ton has dropped nearly L. E. 1 this year.

Rice.—The increase in the exports of rice since the 1st January was one of nearly 2,000,000 kilograms, the value of the shipments being L. E. 71,565 against L. E. 63,736 in 1905.

FOREIGN TRADE OF CHINA.

Among **Imports Kerosine oil** maintains its position, the importation, 153,471,831 gallons, having been only 3,419,404 gallons less than the already much increased import of 1904. To the totals of 1904 and 1905, American oil contributed 43 and 52 per cent.; Russian, 21 and 8 per cent.; Sumatra, 35 and 32 per cent., respectively; while Borneo (including Langkat) rose from insignificant proportions to 7 per cent. of the whole. The reduction in Russian oil is explainable by the wholesale destruction of the producing plant in the Baku region, and to this cause is attributable the failure of the boycott to affect the importation of the American product.

The following are some of the main **Exports. Tea** accounts for much of the reduced value of exports, the value of shipments in 1904 being Hk. tls. 30,201,964, and in 1905 Hk. tls. 25,445,652, the reduction being occasioned both by diminished quantities and lower prices. Black leaf was less by 152,000 piculs, the export in 1905, *viz.*, 597,045 piculs, being valued at an average price of Hk. tls. 21·30, in 1904. The cold wet spring ruined the flavour of the first crop and reduced the quantity, and when the better quality of the later pickings gave prospects of an improved market, adverse exchange operated to keep silver prices low. Green leaf was pronounced to be generally the worst for years, and though the exports, 242,128 piculs, maintained the figures of 1904, the average price was Hk. tls. 34·25, against Hk. tls. 39·25 in 1904. Brick tea, black and green together, increased from 447,695 to 518,498 piculs, which still is 100,000 piculs below the *ante-bellum* export of 1903.

Silk and its products contributed to the total export trade of the year a sum of Hk. tls. 70,393,833, being 31 per cent. of all exports; this sum was nearly 8 million taels less than in 1904, and silk and tea together account for the whole of the reduction in the value of the export trade. In native reelings of white raw silk the export fell from 34,238 piculs (Shanghai 30,482 piculs; Canton, 3,733 piculs) in 1904 to 24,270 piculs (Shanghai, 21,430 piculs; Canton, 2,839 piculs) in 1905; and in filature reelings, from 47,287 piculs (Shanghai, 12,754 piculs; Canton, 34,521 piculs) in 1904 to 45,347 piculs (Shanghai, 12,791 piculs; Canton, 32,378 piculs) in 1905. Yellow silk was but little altered, while wild

silk fell from 33,527 to 25,584 piculs. It will be seen that the loss has fallen chiefly on the Shanghai trade, accounted for by the effect of the inclement spring on the silkworm and the mulberry on which it feeds and by the yearly increasing demand for home weaving. Disease continues to affect the Chinese silkworm, and producers in China will do well to take steps to remedy it.

Raw cotton resumed a lower and more normal level, with shipments of 789,273 piculs, valued at an average of Hk. tls. 15·25 against Hk. tls. 20·20, the inflated value of 1904; the decrease in the value of the export is therefore greater in proportion than the decrease in quantity, and amounts to nearly 13 million taels. The crop was affected in both quantity and quality by floods, and the market was particularly influenced by exchange, since the crop of 1905 was gathered during the autumn rise in the price of silver.

Foreign Trade by Countries.

The following table shows the value of the imports (not deducting re-exports to foreign countries) into and the exports from all the treaty ports from and to the principal foreign countries in the years 1904 and 1905:—

From and To—	1904. Imports (including re-exports).	1904. Exports.	1905. Imports (including re-exports).	1905. Exports.
	Hk. Taels.	Hk. Taels.	Hk. Taels.	Hk. Taels.
United Kingdom .	57,220,955	15,269,963	86,472,343	18,064,270
Hong-Kong* .	141,085,010	86,858,017	148,071,198	81,452,643
India . .	32,219,712	2,386,781	34,798,437	2,720,340
Singapore and Straits .	4,061,919	3,667,151	4,061,088	3,803,481
Australia, New Zealand, etc. .	494,856	218,290	1,538,747	71,928
South Africa and Mauritius .	2,243	98,279	13,523	15,252
Canada . .	2,162,174	531,561	2,357,658	406,391
British Empire	237,246,869	109,030,042	277,342,994	106,574,505
Japan† . .	50,164,056	37,986,858	61,315,248	35,464,963
Europe (except Russia) .	23,512,933	44,512,544	31,595,674	36,013,088
United States of America . .	29,180,946	27,087,975	76,916,838	27,030,772
Russian Empire‡ .	4,467,476	5,056,362	2,017,012	9,432,117
Macao . . .	2,894,593	5,058,741	2,921,923	4,823,693
French Indo-China	1,754,750	2,953,718	1,653,572	2,324,692
Corea . . .	879,320	1,390,695	1,753,701	2,185,927
Other Countries .	7,343,720	6,409,748	5,677,570	4,038,440
Total .	357,444,663	239,486,683	461,194,532	227,888,197

*The imports from Hong-Kong come originally from, and the exports to that Colony are further carried on to, the United Kingdom, America, Australia, India, Straits Settlements, and the Coast Ports of China.
†Including Formosa.
‡Including Siberia.

The Tea Export Trade.

The report also gives particulars of the export of tea direct to foreign countries. The total quantity thus exported for the last four years is stated to have been as follows:—

—	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.
	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.	Piculs.
Black . . .	687,288	749,116	749,092	597,045
Green . . .	253,757	301,620	241,146	242,128
Dust . . .	973	657	8,856	6,768
Brick . . .	570,037	618,458	447,695	518,498
Tablet . . .	7,156	7,679	4,250	4,859
Total . Piculs	1,519,211	1,677,530	1,451,249	1,369,293
All kinds overland to Siberia and Russia from Hankow *viâ* the Han River and Fancheng . .	31,334	5,631	2,706	2,728
Grand otal { Piculs	1,550,545	1,683,161	1,453,955	1,372,026
Grand otal { Lbs.	206,739,000	224,421,466	193,860,666	182,936,800

The following table shows the countries of destination of all kinds of tea exported in the last two years—1904 and 1905:—

Exported to—	1904.	1905.
	Piculs.	Piculs.
British Empire—		
United Kingdom . . .	367,110	356,853
Hong-Kong . . .	115,393	83,659
India . . .	9,333	9,918
Singapore and Straits . .	4,314	5,692
Australia and New Zealand .	8,082	1,959
South Africa and Mauritius . . .	1,673	1,237
Canada	12,354	9,624
Total British Empire .	518,259	468,942
Russian Empire—		
European Ports . . .	94,452	152,242
Overland *viâ* Tientsin and Kaikuta . . .	327,184	395,298
Pacific ports . . .	2,520	53,059
Overland from Hankow .	2,706	2,728
Total Russian Empire .	426,862	603,327
United States of America . .	226,009	182,123
Europe (except Russia and United Kingdom)	211,846	60,075
Other countries . . .	70,979	57,559
Total { Piculs	1,453,955	1,372,026
Total { Lbs.	193,860,666	182,936,800

Cow and Buffalo Hides were exported in much smaller quantities, an indication rather of agricultural prosperity, since, in China, no cattle are raised for a foreign market, and beef is not an article of diet with the Chinese.

CONSULAR REPORT.

KERMAN.

LIEUT.-COLONEL W. STEWART, His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Kerman, in his report on the trade of the Kerman Consular District for the year 1905-06, states that since the visit of the British Commercial Mission to South-East Persia in 1904-05 the Russian efforts in organising their trade in Kerman and its adjacent districts have been more vigorous than they had hitherto been. In June 1905, a Russian trader from Isfahan visited Kerman, and having entered into an agreement with the Kerman merchants (Parsis and local Persian merchants), obtained certain orders for the purchase of Russian manufactured goods. This visit of the Russian trader from Isfahan was followed by the Commercial Mission of Prince Amatuni, who arrived in Kerman from Yezd in January 1906. While in Kerman and at Bam the Prince was engaged in investigations regarding the trade of the country. From Bam Prince Amatuni went to Bunder Abbas, thence visiting Bushire. The Russian Consul at Kerman also established Russian trade agencies in Kerman, Bam and Rafsinjan during the year under report.

Owing to recent troubles in Russia the goods mentioned in the agreement between the Russian trader from Isfahan, and the Kermani traders were not received at Bunder Abbas in November 1905, as was stipulated, but arrived later. It is reported that Russian manufactured chintzes and other woollen cloths to the value of about 24,000 tomans (about 60,000 rs.) were brought to Bunder Abbas by Russian steamers and sent to Kerman to the Parsis and local Persian merchants of Kerman and Yezd. A Russian steamer service company is also reported to have been established in the Persian Gulf, with their agents in Bunder Abbas, styled the Russian trade and steamer agents in the Persian Gulf.

It is said that the chintzes brought by the Russian steamers and delivered at Bunder Abbas were not of the same quality as the samples mentioned in the agreement, and the merchants here complained of the matter to the Russian Consul, but the result is not known.

Some 400 cases of Russian loaf sugar from Bunder Abbas and some 400 tins of kerosene oil from Meshed, with a quantity of Russian tea were also imported into Kerman during the year under report. The Russian tea was not liked by the Persians, and the trader who imported it is said to regret his enterprise.

The carpet trade of Kerman, which is entirely in the hands of the Tabrizi Turk merchants, who export to Constantinople and America, has been more prosperous during the year under report than it had been in the previous one. It happened twice during this year that there being a great demand for carpets in Constantinople and America the value of the Kerman and Afshar carpets rose, and the carpet merchants of Kerman profited handsomely by the occasion.

A carpet merchant, Agha Muhammed Hadi Tehrani, of Kerman, who took his caravan of carpets a second time to India, *viâ* the Nushki-Seistan trade route, appears, says the Consul, to have failed in his enterprise. There appears to be no very great opening for a Persian carpet trade in India.

The British trade of Kerman is chiefly in the hands of Hindu agents of the Shikarpur firms. A few Parsi firms here also import broad and cashmir cloths, etc., from Bombay, but do no export business.

A young Parsi from Bombay came and opened a shop of fancy goods in one of the caravanserais in the town during the year under report. In a few months time he disposed of all his stock and returned to India.

No statistics are obtainable from the Kerman customs office, and it is impossible consequently to give an account of the imports into and exports from Kerman.

The following figures, however, obtained by the Hindu merchants of Kerman, may be taken as approximate.

Imports into Kerman from British India during the year 1905-06.

Articles.		Quantity.	Approximate value.
			£
Loaf sugar	Cases	20,000	5,00,000
Sugar	Bags	15,000	3,37,500
Kerosine oil	Cases	3,000	22,500
Cotton fabrics	Bundles	2,000	2,60,000
Java white tea, called Lamsa	Tins	2,500	1,62,500
Indian black tea	„	500	45,000
Turmeric	Bags	500	13,000
Alum	„	1,600	22,000
Black pepper	„	600	42,000
Dried ginger	„	300	9,600
Candles	Cases	4,000	90,000
Cinnamon	„	200	9,000
Cocoanut	Bags	500	10,500
Vermilion dye	„	200	67,500
Iron	Máns*	10,000	7,500
Steel	Barrels	100	1,600
Copper	Cwts.	1,000	62,000
Bronze	„	100	4,900
Tin	„	100	7,500
Cardamoms	Bags	10	1,500
Dried lemons	„	200	4,800
Indigo	„	500	75,000
Chilwari hurrocks cloth	Pieces	10,000	80,000
Sheetings	„	30,000	1,65,000
Nainsook	„	20,000	1,25,000
Red, Turkey	„	10,000	11,000
Mulmal	„	500	2,000
Mercury	Casks	10	750
Tamerind	Bags	100	1,100
Matches	Cases	1,000	30,000
TOTAL	...	...	21,70,750

*Kerman of 6·5 lbs.

Exports from Kerman into British India during the year 1905-06.

Articles.		Quantity.	Approximate value.
			Rs.
Caraway seeds	Máns*	14,000	5,000
Madder	„ *	10,000	5,000
Pistachio seeds	„ *	10,000	10,250
Almonds	„ *	10,000	7,500
Opium to Bunder Abbas for Persian Gulf ports	„ *	100	5,000
Saffron	Tolas	4,000	1,000
Gum tragacanth	Máns*	5,000	7,500
Canavez silk from Meshed	Pieces	20,000	5,00,000
TOTAL	...	...	5,41,250

*Kerman of 6·5 lbs.

GERMANY'S CERAMIC INDUSTRY AND TRADE.

CONSUL-GENERAL SIR WILLIAM WARD, in the course of Memorandum on German Ceramic Industries and German Trade in Ceramic Products, says, the extent of German industry and trade in the various descriptions of ceramic ware, including bricks, etc., has largely increased during the past 30 years, and it appears likely to develop further during the near future. One or the other branch of ceramic industry is now to be met with in almost every part of Germany. Common clays which can be utilised for brick-making, and also those which can be used for the manufacture of common earthenware goods, are of frequent occurrence. The rather superior kinds, and amongst them those kinds which turn white after burning, are likewise not unfrequent. Highly refractory clays are of more rare occurrence; there are, however, several districts, notably in Silesia, Hesse and in Rhenish Prussia, where there are very extensive deposits of these last-mentioned clays. One particular highly refractory clay, which is used in the production of grey and brown stoneware, is found in Silesia.

Kaolin, the clay which, as is well known, is used for the manufacture of porcelain, is also found in several parts of Germany. There are 13 kaolin works in Prussia, 8 in Saxony, 7 in Bavaria and several more in Thuringia and other parts of the German Empire. The feldspar, however, which is required for admixture with kaolin for producing porcelain, has to be imported from other countries, *viz.*, mainly from Sweden and Norway.

There are no very recent statistics available for obtaining a correct idea of the annual extent of the production of the various branches of German ceramic industry. The latest statistical returns obtainable are those furnished about five years ago (at the time of the preparation of the new German customs tariff) to their Government by the German manufacturers; and it is, therefore, possible that the figures supplied may have been, in some instances, over-stated in order to give more importance to the respective branches of industry, and, in some instances, under-stated by other manufacturers who were afraid that their figures might be used as a basis for increased taxation.

According to these returns the total value of the various productions of ceramic industry, exclusive of those of brick-making, in Germany in 1897 was 5,575,099*l.* As will be seen from the following figures, the total value of porcelain ware alone amounted to 2,511,600*l.*; so that the total value of all ceramic productions of the more ordinary description, *viz.*, stoneware, earthenware, tiles, etc., amounted to 3,063,499*l.*:—

Articles.	Quantity.	Value.
	Tons.	£
Porcelain ware	78,148	2,511,600
Earthenware	66,267	1,339,906
Stoneware	58,858	165,078
Tiles	114,377	476,334
All other descriptions of pottery, etc.	...	1,082,186
TOTAL	...	5,575,099

The returns drawn up by the German Pottery Trade Association (as published in the German official catalogue of the Paris Exhibition of 1900) show that the total number of ceramic works, exclusive of those for brick-making, established in Germany in 1898 was 939, whilst the total number of workmen employed in them was 71,883. Amongst these works there were, *viz.*:—

	Number of—	
	Factories.	Hands employed.
Porcelain factories (without mentioning factories for merely painting and finishing porcelain ware)	187	34,030
Earthenware factories	43	13,341
Store factories	343	872
Pottery works	116	1,503
Stoneware factories	27	1,746
Factories of tiles	18	1,021

The total number of brick-making works in Germany in 1898 is not given, but the total number, according to the last official census of 1895, was 16,431, and the total number of hands employed therein 219,860. Amongst these brick-making works about 7,500 employed each not more than 5 persons; about 8,000 employed between 6 and 50 hands; and the remainder, *viz.*, about 850, employed 52 hands and more.

A comparison of the preceding figures with those given by the official census for 1882 shows, that whilst the total number of hands employed in the German ceramic works (exclusive of brickmaking works) in 1898 largely exceeded the total number employed in 1882, the total number of the works had considerably diminished in 1898. This circumstance proves that the German porcelain and pottery manufacturers had come gradually to the conclusion that, in order to cope in a profitable manner with the increasing demand as well as in order to meet foreign competition successfully, it appeared judicious to concentrate their efforts by reducing the number of smaller works and carrying on the work in factories established, wherever possible, on a large scale.

Though there are no official or other trustworthy statistics available for showing the total value of the production of the various descriptions of ceramic ware in Germany in any year subsequent to 1897, the official returns of the exports and imports of ceramic ware respectively to and from Germany which have already been published for the year 1905 (and which are given in the two Tables A and B) render it possible to form a rough estimate of production during the past year. For, considering that in 1897, as above cited, the total value of the ceramic ware produced in Germany was 5,575,099*l.* and of the exports in that year 2,875,900*l.*, thus leaving for consumption in Germany itself (exclusive of imported foreign ceramic ware) 2,699,199*l.*, it may be concluded that the total production of Germany in 1905 must have been nearly twice as great as in 1897, that is to say, that it must have exceeded 8,000,000*l.* in value. For, as will be seen from the following table, not only have the exports to foreign countries increased since 1897 by about 2,000,000*l.*, viz., from 2,875,900*l.* to 4,985,298*l.* in the year 1905, whilst during the same period the annual total value of the imports has remained almost unchanged, but it is evident that the German domestic consumption of ceramic ware produced in Germany itself must likewise have experienced a not inconsiderable increase during the past eight years, owing to the increased number and wealth of the population during this period.

The total volume and value of ceramic ware of all descriptions exported from and imported to Germany during each of the last two years was respectively as follows :—

	1904.		1905.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Cwts.	£	Cwts.	£
Exports .	8,534,624	4,838,246	7,875,506	4,985,298
Imports .	3,758,576	360,162	4,335,766	385,638

Apart from bricks, roofing tiles, earthenware pipes and unglazed stoneware, fireproof pipes and stoves, there was a more or less considerable increase in the exports of the various descriptions of German ceramic ware in 1905 as compared with the preceding year.

As regards the imports to Germany of which the total value was very much less than that of the exports, whilst the total volume was about half as great, there was last year a falling-off in the importations of glazed and unglazed earthenware vessels of architectural ornaments, of glazed earthenware pipes, reports, terra-cotta ware, white stoves and stoneware, and also of white porcelain, as well as of coloured or painted porcelain table services, whilst a few articles experienced an increase.

The German ceramic industry was in 1905 able to find a sufficient number of foreign markets for disposing of very nearly 5,000,000*l.* worth of its output (including that of brick-making), that is to say, of a larger quantity than Germany required for her own domestic wants. There can be no doubt that this remarkable development in the export trade of German ceramic ware to foreign countries has been largely due to the constant efforts made towards increasing the quality of the goods produced. The increase in quality which has indeed taken place in German ceramic ware during recent years is attested by the fact, based on official statistics, that the average export value, which was about 12*s.* per cwt. in 1891, rose to 18*s.* per cwt. in 1900.

Apart from the opportunities which are offered in Germany by other technical schools of a more general character for acquiring a theoretical knowledge of ceramic industry in its various branches there are at present four special technical schools for this industry, *viz.*, at Höhr, at Bunzlau, at Lauban and Landshut. According to a detailed report on these schools furnished by Dr. Rose, lately British Consul at Stuttgardt,* they are all situated in the midst of the industries which they are intended to promote. Their aim is to afford a thorough combined theoretical and practical workshop instruction, and to train young persons for future positions as owners, managers, foremen painters, or modellers in the various branches of ceramic industries. The schools are maintained by a subsidy and under the supervision of the Governments of the German States in which they are situated. Dr. Rose states that though at first indifference, not to say opposition, was shown by the manufacturers and others towards the establishment of these schools, and it was (in the case of two of them at least) mainly the Government and municipal authorities who primarily recognised the advantages arising from such special technical instruction, this indifference has now ceased, and manufacturers are glad to send their apprentices and journeymen to the schools, and in one instance even the manufacturers themselves have attended some of the lectures.

* Foreign Office Miscellaneous Series No. 615, July 1904.

SIXTH CONGRESS OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF THE EMPIRE.

THE Sixth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, convened by the London Chamber of Commerce (incorporated), was held in the Hall of the Worshipful Company of Grocers, Princes Street, London, E.C. (by kind permission of the Master, Wardens, and Court of Assistants of the Worshipful Company of Grocers), on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, July 10th, 11th and 12th, 1906.

The proceedings were opened by the Honorary President, the Right Honb'le The EARL OF ELGIN AND KINCARDINE, K.G., G.C.S.I. G.C.I.E. (His. Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies), the chair being subsequently taken by the President, Mr. THOMAS F. BLACKWELL, D.L.,J.P. (President of the London Chamber of Commerce), and in his absence, by Mr. CHARLES CHARLETON (Chairman of the Council of the London Chamber of Commerce).

Altogether 182 associations were represented at the Congress : 89 in India and the Colonies, 88 in the United Kingdom, and 5 in English Communities in Europe, the delegates numbering something like 500.

The following were the resolutions adopted :—

Commercial Relations between the Mother Country, Her Colonies and Dependencies.

"Whereas in the resolution of the fifth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, held in Montreal in August, 1903, it was stated that the bonds of the British Empire would be materially strengthened by a mutually beneficial commercial policy ;

Whereas it is the opinion of this Congress that it is in the interest of the component parts of the Empire that steps should be taken towards consummating such an arrangement ;

"Whereas there are in the United Kingdom, her Colonies and Dependencies, natural resources and industries which, if developed, would be sufficient to provide the British Empire with its food supply and all other necessaries and requirements of life ;

"Therefore **resolved,** that the Congress urges upon his Majesty's Governments in the United Kingdom and in the various Colonies and Dependencies, the granting of preferential treatment in their respective markets on a reciprocal basis, each to the other, believing that thereby the bonds of union will be strengthened, and the British Empire largely freed from dependence on foreign countries for food and other supplies.

And that this Congress further urges upon the Governments of the Empire that they treat this matter as of present practical importance, and that each organization represented at this Congress pledges itself to press their respective Governments to take such action at the Colonial Conference of 1907 as will give effect to the principle advocated in this resolution."

(On a show of hands the above resolution was carried by an overwhelming majority. A vote by Chambers resulted as follows : For, 105 ; against, 41, neutral, 21.)

Imperial Council.

"That this Congress urges upon His Majesty's Government, and upon the Governments of the Colonies, the appointment of an Advisory Imperial Council to consider questions of Imperial interest, especially, those tending to promote international trade."

Defence of the Empire.

"That this Congress hereby affirms the principle that it is the duty of the self-governing Colonies to participate in the cost of the Defence of the Empire, but that the Colonies claim the privilege of keeping their own initiative as to the nature and mode of help which they may agree to offer."

Postal Rate on Imperial Publications.

"It is **resolved,** that in the opinion of this Congress the circulation and freer interchange of newspapers and periodicals published in the different parts of the Empire is not only a promoter of trade but helps toward that association of ideas and of interest which makes for unity, without which there can be no national existence.

"Therefore, his Majesty's Government is urged to adopt such rates of postage on this class of mail matter as will encourage the circulation of British newspapers and periodicals in all parts of the Empire."

Parcel Post Rates.

"That in view of the great desirability of fostering trade between the Mother Country and the Colonies, this Congress will recommend to the Colonies, Colonial post offices of the Empire that a uniform rate of parcel post charges should be established throughout the Empire—the same as has already been adopted between Great Britain and New Zealand."

Universal Penny Postage.

"That this Congress supports the proposal for universal penny postage."

Cable Communication.

"Whereas cable news reports for Canada are gathered and distributed mainly through foreign sources, thereby receiving a colouring which is detrimental to the existence of the spirit of Imperial and Colonial unity ;

"Whereas the same conditions to a greater or lesser extent may now or at any time prevail in connection with the cable news service to other parts of the Empire ;

"And whereas the Canadian Parliament has recently made public (*vide* Sessional Paper No. 67) a proposal for the establishment of a complete Imperial Intelligence Service, and the attention of members of this Congress has been directed there to ;

"Therefore **resolved,** that the Imperial Government is hereby prayed to devise means whereby cable and telegraphic news to and from all parts of the British Empire shall be furnished entirely through Imperial channels."

"Having regard to the constant interruptions of cable communication with and between our West Indian Colonies, and to the extreme importance of an all British cable,

"Be it **resolved** that the Imperial Government be asked to assist the colonies in providing an all-British and reliable means of cable communication through Canada, with and between our West Indian Colonies."

Fast Steamship Services.

"**Rosolved,** that this Congress hereby re-affirms the following resolution, adopted at the last Congress held in Montreal in August, 1903: "That this Congress considers it of the utmost importance to the interests of the Empire that the United Kingdom and her Colonies should adopt a policy under which lines of steamships will be secured and retained for—

"'(1) The provision of first mail services on the several routes; and

"'The development and control of trade between the Mother Country and her possessions and between the Colonies themselves."'

Commercial Travellers' Taxes.

"That this Congress is of opinion that the taxes at present levied by certain Colonies on commercial travellers, being the sole representatives of houses established in other parts of the British Empire, operate as a restraint on the development of inter-imperial trade and cause considerable embarrassment and annoyance; that the Congress is therefore of opinion that such taxes should be abolished; and that a memorial on the subject should be addressed to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies, and to the Premier of each self-governing British Colony."

Consular Service.

"**Resolved,** that in the opinion of this Congress it is urgently necessary in the interests of the trade and commerce of the British Empire that the British Consular Service should be reorganized and strengthened on lines calculated to make it more effective for the promotion of the commerce of the British Empire, and that while the present Consular Service of the Empire is to be commended, this Congress is of opinion that an effort should be made to have it supplemented by the establishment of Inter-Colonial commercial agents."

British Commercial Agents.

"That inasmuch as foreign and competing nationalities are numerously represented throughout the British Colonies and Possessions, but the British Government and British traders have no British Consular representatives throughout their own possessions:

"That inasmuch as foreign competition is thereby considerably increased to the disadvantage of British traders, His Majesty's Government be urged to remedy this anomalous position at the earliest possible moment."

Emigration.

"**Resolved,** that it is of the highest Imperial importance that British emigrants should settle in British countries, and that this Conference records its conviction that the Governments concerned should exercise the greatest care in seeing that accurate information, and only such, is desseminated for the promotion of this emigration."

British Capital in the Colonies.

"Whereas there are in the British Colonies and Dependencies great undeveloped resources and many openings for the highly remunerative employment of capital, and

"Whereas financial investment constitutes a strong bond of union,"

"**Resolved,** that it is desirable to encourage the investment of British capital within the British Dominions."

Light Dues.

"**Resolved,** that in the opinion of this Congress the lighting of the coasts of the United Kingdom and the Colonies is an Imperial duty, for the efficient performance of which full departmental responsibility should be assumed by the State and respective Colonial Governments, and the cost defrayed out of moneys provided by the Home and Colonial Parliaments and Legislative Councils, and not, as now, by charges on merchant shipping."

(The above resolution was carried, with the proviso that it was limited to the United Kingdom.)

Shipping Bounties.

"That this Congress is of opinion that His Majesty's Government and the Colonies should take some effective steps to bring about the abolition of shipping bounties, or to counteract their effect."

Merchandise Marks.

"Whereas a practice has arisen amongst foreign manufacturers of marking their goods with English names or phrases of a nature to lead to the false supposition that they are British goods.

"It is **resolved,** that representation be made to the Foreign Office with a view to secure the effectual application to this reprehensible practice of the provisions of the Convention of Madrid 'Industrial property', of April 14th, 1891; and further that the Foreign Office be requested to embody a clause in all official Commercial Treaties which may in the future be negotiated, with a view to securing the application of the said Convention."

"It is also **resolved,** that the Colonial Governments be requested to introduce such legislation as shall effectually prohibit the entry into their respective territories of goods not of British origin, and bearing names or phrases of the character referred to."

Surtaxe D'Entrepot.

"That the Foreign Office be requested to address representations to the French Government with a view to obtaining that goods coming on a through bill of lading *viâ* a British port from a British Colony or Dependency which has no direct service with France be considered by the French Customs as coming direct, and admitted free of the *surtaxe d'entrepôt*, *i.e.*, of the special tax which is imposed, in addition to the customs duties, upon goods of extra-European origin coming into France through a European port other than a French port."

Surtax on Rum.

"Whereas the surtax of 4*d.* per gallon impos edb the British Government on spirits manufactured in the British Colonies is felt to be a distinct injustice, inasmuch as it is excessive compensation for any loss sustained by the home distiller as a result of the operation of the Excise regulations of the United Kingdom, and thus forms a distinct protection to the home distiller as against the Colonial producer.

"Be it **resolved** that this Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire desires that the necessary steps be taken to bring about an impartial inquiry into the cost of Excise restrictions of the home distiller, with a view to the proper adjustment of the surtax in question."

Most-Favoured-Nation Treatment for British Colonies.

"That the Congress desires to express its approval of the resolution adopted by the last Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, also unanimously approved by the meeting of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, held in Paris, September, 1900, to the effect that His Majesty's Government should take immediate steps in conjunction with the Governments of the Colonies interested, in order to obtain for British Colonies most-favoured-nation treatment from those countries which have granted most-favoured-nation treatment to the United Kingdom."

Decimal System of Weights, Measures and Currency.

"That whereas with the pregress of industry and the development of trade throughout the world, the establishment of uniform systems of weights and measures and currency becomes more and more desirable and necessary."

"Therefore be it **resolved,** that this Sixth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire recommends the appointment by the Imperial Government of a Royal Commission, who shall investigate and, if possible, recommend uniform systems of weights and measures and currency to be adopted throughout the British Empire."

Codification of Commercial Law.

"That in view of the opinion repeatedly expressed both by this Congress and previous meetings, and by the Associated Chambers of Commerce of the Untied Kingdom, the time has, in the opinion of this Congress, arrived when it is desirable that His Majesty's Government should convene a conference, to which should be invited representatives of British Colonies, to consider or determine measures for the immediate assimilation, and where feasible the codification, of the mercantile law in His Majesty's Dominions."

Patents, Copyright and Insolvency.

"That whereas it is desirable for the promotion of trade and the safety of commercial interests within the British Empire that the laws governing important features of commercial life should be harmonious and reciprocal."

"Therefore be it **Resolved,** that this Sixth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire recommends that immediate steps be taken through a joint conference of Government representatives or otherwise, to establish within the Empire uniform and equitable laws respecting patents, copyright, and insolvency, and in so doing to provide in the case of artistic copyright that the same protection be given to British works of art in the Colonies as is given in Great Britain to Colonial works of art."

Realization of Small Estates.

"**Resolved,** that legislation is necesary with the object of simplifying the procedure and reducing the cost of realization of small estates."

Canadian Bankruptcy Law.

"That the unification of the law relating to bankruptcy by the enactment of a uniform law throughout the Dominion be pressed on the Government of Canada as a measure that will give greater confidence to those who carry on trade between this country and Canada."

Commercial Education.

"This Congress views with satisfaction the growth of the commercial education movement throughout the Empire under the auspices of the London and other Chambers of Commerce, and urges upon the Colonial and Indian Chambers the importance of opening local centres with the support and encouragement of their respective educational authorities. Also, that a deputation

from this Congress be appointed to wait upon the Minister of Education for the purpose of urging upon his consideration :—(1) The introduction of commercial subjects into the regulations for secondary day schools as an alternative special course) (commercial) to that in science ; (2) the payment of grants to day and evening schools for the efficient teaching of commercial subjects (as a special course) equal to the grants now paid to these schools for special courses in science ; (3) the recognition of the certificates of Chambers of Commerce, directly or through University and other colleges, by the Board of Education in the same manner in which those of the City and Guilds of London Institute are now recognized for students and teachers. "

Arbitration.

"That this Congress strongly favours the promotion of arbitration for the effective settlement of (A) international disputes, where practicable ; (B) commercial disputes and differences, involving questions of fact or law ; (C) labour disputes between employers and employed in regard to wages and conditions of employment and the like ; and urges upon all Chambers of Commerce and Commercial Associations represented at this Congress to provide as far as possible machinery for the settlement of disputes under categories (B) and (C), and that the importance of international arbitration (A) be urged upon His Majesty's Government for diplomatic action at every opportunity. "

Colonial Duties on Catalogues.

" That in the opinion of this Congress it is highly desirable that His Majesty's Government should take immediate steps to persuade Colonial Governments imposing a tax on printed trade catalogues, circulars, etc., entering such Colonies from the United Kingdom to repeal such tax, on the ground that it seriously interferes with British trade with such Colonies."

Registration of Firms.

" That it is most desirable that there should be in each part of the Empire a register of firms containing the names of all responsible partners. "

Colonial Survey.

"That this Congress urges on his Majesty's Government the immediate necessity of a survey of our Colonial possessions on a scale of not less than four miles to the inch, and with this to be combined a scientific investigation into the natural resources of each of these possessions."

Transport.

" That this Congress urges upon his Majesty's Government the great importance of increasing the means of transport in the Crown Colonies and Dependencies, especially in Nigeria, by the construction of railways and roads, and the improvement of waterways, in order that the resources of those countries may be more rapidly developed."

Canadian Railways.

" **Resolved,** that the railways of Canada—extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific—those existing and those projected, together with their auxiliary steamship lines, are in the opinion of this Congress for the general advantage not merely of Canada, but of the Empire, and should receive Imperial consideration in any proposed plan of Imperial Federation and Defence, and in any proposed scheme of directing British emigration to British territory rather than to foreign countries ; not merely on the ground that they furnish rapid and effective modes of transportation of troops and munitions of war, but also in that they form the chief land links in the chain of British commerce, give access to the future granary of the Empire, are essential to the future food supply of Great Britain, and form the shortest binding tie between our Dominions and also our allies beyond the seas."

Rebates.

That this Congress records its protest against the injurious effect upon British trade caused by the payment of rebates of freight by steamship companies trading between the various Colonies and Dependencies and the Mother Country, and earnestly recommends that legislation should be introduced into the several Parliaments of the Empire making such rebates illegal ;

" That in the opinion of this Congress the higher tariffs of sea freight from the United Kingdom, as compared with those from the United States, are detrimental to the trade of the British Empire."

International Exhibitions.

" **Resolved,** that in the opinion of this Congress the time has come when it is desirable in the interest of the trade and commerce of the United Kingdom and that of her Colonies and Dependencies to form an Association on the lines of the French Foreign Exhibitions Association to deal systematically with international exhibitions both at home and abroad, so as by aiding exhibitors to utilize to the utmost the opportunities they afford, and that steps be taken to initiate the necessary organization."

Surtax in Venezuela.

" Whereas the Republic of Venezuela has for many years past imposed a surtax of 30 per cent. on all goods shipped from the British West Indies to that country, in contravention of existing treaties, which surtax has had and still continues to have the effect of seriously hampering legitimate trade, and of placing those Colonies, especially Trinidad, at a great disadvantage as compared with competing markets ; and

" Whereas this matter has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Colonial Office and Foreign Office, without any redress being obtained ;

" It is **Resolved,** that this Congress commends this matter to the careful attention of His Majesty's Government, and prays that such steps may be taken as may do away with the injustice complained of and place the British Colonies in the West Indies on the same footing as countries abroad. "

Inadequate Supply of Rolling Stock on Indian Railways

" Whereas the scarcity of rolling stock on Indian railways has, since this question was brought before the Fourth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire in 1900, continued to hamper most seriously the trade of India with the Mother Country and the Colonies ; and

" Whereas the difficulties which have in consequence been created have within the past few months led the Government of India, as owners of most of the railways in India, to take a more liberal view of their obligations in the matter of providing the necessary funds for properly equipping the lines with an adequate supply of rolling stock ;

" **Resolved,** that the Secretary of State for India be requested to urge upon the Government of India the very great importance of continuing a policy under which the required funds will be annually forthcoming to meet the reasonable demands of the several railway companies for additional stock, so that the serious disabilities under which the trade of India with the rest of the Empire has been, and still is labouring for the want of a sufficiency of stock, may be removed."

Other Resolutions.

A resolution congratulating the Right Hon'ble Joseph Chamberlain on his birthday was adopted and votes of thanks to the President (Mr. Thos. F. Blackwell), Mr. Charles Charleton (Chairman of the Council), and the Secretary (Mr. Kenric B. Murray), and Staff, and to the Master, Wardens and Court of the Worshipful Company of Grocers, were also passed.

ASSOCIATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, UNITED KINGDOM.

Official Programme of Autumnal Meeting.

A Special Meeting of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom will be held at the Merchant Venturers' Technical College, Unity Street, Bristol, on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 11th and 12th, 1906. The Chair will be taken each day at 10 o'clock precisely by SIR WILLIAM H. HOLLAND, M.P. (President). We print below the Official Programme of resolutions to be submitted to the meeting. (*N.B.—Resolutions similar to those marked with an asterisk have been passed at several previous meetings.*)

1. Census of Production (*London*).

That this Association approves in principle of the Census of Production Bill introduced in the Session of 1906 by the President of the Board of Trade, as affording a means of obtaining information regarding home production and consumption, as distinct from imports and exports, without which it is not possible to arrive at a reliable estimate as to the relative progress of the trade of the United Kingdom.

2. Merchandise Marks Act (*Coventry*).

There being no power in any Government Authority to take the initiative in enforcing the provisions of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887, and as the Act is being continually and flagrantly broken to the detriment of honest traders and the public generally, this Association is of opinion that inspectors ought to be appointed whose sole duty it shall be to enforce compliance with the law, and that the policing of the Act shall no longer be left to the public. That a copy of this resolution be submitted to the President of the Board of Trade, and that he be asked to receive a deputation on the subject.

3. Deposits with Bankers (*Plymouth*).

That this Association is of opinion that bankers should be required by law to send notices at stated intervals to holders of deposit notes of the amounts remaining on deposits. That the Executive Council be asked to take steps to endeavour to promote the necessary legislation.

4. Income Tax (*Croydon*).

That this meeting having had under its consideration the Report of the Departmental Committee on Income Tax, regrets that nothing was done by the Committee with a view to removing any of the numerous anomalies in the law and practice as they now exist which are so fruitful in dissatisfaction and injustice, and is of opinion that the time has arrived when the whole of the Income Tax Acts should be reconsidered and codified.

5. Portuguese Tariff (*Liverpool*).

That this Association, seeing the friendly relations existing between this country and Portugal, notwithstanding which the subjects of the Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, Russia, and Germany are granted trade preferences by Portugal not extended to subjects of this country, requests his Majesty's Government to lose no time in negotiating a new Commercial Treaty or Convention with Portugal securing to British subjects at least equal trade privileges to those accorded by Portugal to the subjects of other countries.

6. Ministry of Commerce (*London*).

That this Association regrets that it has not been possible during the present Session to give effect to the expressed desire of the Chambers of Commerce that a Ministry of Commerce should be estab-

lished with a status equal to that accorded to other Departments of the State, and urges upon his Majesty's Government the great importance of early action being taken with this object.

7. Registration of Designs (*Birmingham*).

That having regard to the hardship inflicted on British manufacturers by the operation of the laws of continental countries relating to the registration of designs which give no protection to designs not worked in such countries, this Association is of opinion that steps should be taken with the view of securing such an amendment of the Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks Acts, 1883 to 1901, as will make it compulsory for designs registered in the United Kingdom to be worked in the country and that the President of the Board of Trade be asked to receive a deputation from this Association on the subject.

8. Codes on Collision and salvage (*Liverpool*).

(1) That this Association is of opinion that the Draft Codes on Collision and Salvage agreed to by the Brussels Diplomatic Conference of October, 1905, satisfactorily embody both the general principles and the particular provisions already approved by the Association.

(2) That it is of the first importance that his Majesty's Government should introduce legislation with the least possible delay in order to achieve this first step in the direction of making rules of maritime law in all countries uniform.

9. Marine Insurance Stamp Duty (*Liverpool*).

(1) That in the opinion of this Association it is inexpedient and unjust that the practice of marine insurance, which is essential to the security and development of maritime commerce, should be discouraged by an impost of a burdensome and restrictive character.

(2) That the present duties, *viz.*:—threepence per cent. on voyage policies and on time policies not exceeding sixmonths, and sixpence per cent. on time policies exceeding sixmonths and not exceeding twelve months, are felt to be burdensome and detrimental to commerce, and are unduly restrictive to the practice of marine insurance. That in the case of re-insurance the duty is paid for the same interest and risks twice over, or oftener.

(3) That no policy on property other than the marine insurance policy is subjected to a higher duty than a penny for each policy, irrespective of the premium paid or the amount insured.

(4) That the disadvantage thus attaching to marine insurance is experienced by British underwriters in an especial degree owing to an increasing competition with foreign underwriters, who are less burdened in this respect, and in some cases not burdened at all. That this competition would be materially lessened by an alteration of the present *ad valorem* duty on marine insurance policies to a uniform duty of a penny, as in the case of fire insurance policies, and that any loss of revenue by the step would be much less than apprehended, as marine insurance would be placed at home rather than abroad.

10. Port Sanitary Authorities (*Southampton*).

That this Association is of opinion that the Treasury should contribute towards the expenses, at present born by the Port Sanitary Authorities, for the prevention of the spreading of contagious diseases in the United Kingdom.

11. Disfranchisement of Limited Companies (*London.*)

That the increasing growth of representation without taxation, and taxation without representation, in our electoral system, form a serious danger to the State, and demand the immediate and careful attention of His Majesty's Government, as instanced by :—

(1) The increasing habit of the people to live in flats, whereby they obtain the full franchise without liability for either rates or taxes.

(2) The total disfranchisement of the owners of business carried on by limited companies which are required to pay the rates and taxes largely made for them by non-rate and non-tax payers.

12. Company Law Amendment (*London*).

That this Association affirms its previous resolutions with regard to the need for the amendment of the Companies Acts, in order to remedy the serious evils which have arisen in connection therewith.

13. Passenger Travelling Facilities (*Cardiff*).

That the Council of this Association be requested to approach the great Railway Companies of the United Kingdom with the object of inducing them to consent to the issue of 1,000 mile travelling coupons, on the same terms and under the same conditions as is now done by the North Eastern Railway Company.

14. Prevention of Corruption (*London*).

That this Association again affirms its approval of the Bill for the Prevention of Corruption, having regard to the prevalence of illicit commissions in trade and the need for legislation on the subject.

15. Transfer of Government Securities (*Liverpool*).

That the Government be requested to give greater facilities for transferring Consols, by adopting the method of transfer common to public companies generally.

16. Preferential Trade within the Empire (*South of Scotland*).

That this meeting approves of the resolution come to at the Sixth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, held in London in July, in which preferential trade within the Empire was asked for, as binding the Empire together by ties of commerce as well as by sentiment, and as leading on to the desirable end of free trade between every part of the British Empire.

17. Half penny Local Letter Postage (*Torquay*).

That in the opinion of this Association it is desirable that provision should be made for half-penny closed letters for local delivery, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Postmaster-General.

18. Telephone Facilities (*Cardiff*).

That it having been brought to the notice of the Association that the Post Office Authorities are refusing to quote an inclusive rate for the use of Post Office telephones, the Executive Council be requested to make representations to the Postmaster-General urging him to continue the facilities hitherto in force.

19. Telephonic Communication with the Continent (*Paris, British Chamber*).

That the telephone lines between London and Paris are inadequate for commercial requirements, and that the fee for conversation should be reduced to four shillings, or five francs, for three minutes—half the present charge.

20. Anglo-French Postage (*Paris, British Chamber*).

That in view of the fact that the interior postage rates for ordinary letters in the United Kingdom and France are now one penny and ten centimes, respectively, there is no justification for a rate of twopence-halfpenny, or twenty-five centimes, between the two countries, and that this latter rate should be reduced; that his Majesty's Government be therefore petitioned to negotiate for the reduction of the Anglo-French ordinary letter rate to twopence, or twenty centimes, per fifteen grammes.

*21. Anglo-French Telegrams (*Paris, British Chamber*).

That the present tariff for Anglo-French telegrams is excessive and unwarranted, and that it be reduced to one penny per word, thus giving the full inland rate to each country.

*22. Postage with Canada (*South of Scotland*).

Whereas it has been shown that trade between the United States and Canada is progressing very rapidly, consequent upon Canada being flooded with American literature, and specially with American trade advertisements born of cheap postal communication.

And whereas the Postmaster General of Canada has offered to give the same facilities to British postal matter.

Be it **resolved**, to memorialize the British Postmaster General, in the interests of trade and the Empire, to accept at once the offer of the Canadian Postmaster, so that British merchants and manufacturers may have the same trade opportunities in Canada which are at present enjoyed by the merchants and manufacturers of the United States.

* 23. Municipal Trading (*Liverpool*).

That it is most desirable that action should be taken by the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom to induce the Government to consider the necessity of adopting the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee of the House of Lords and the House of Commons on Municipal Trading, July 23rd, 1903.

* 24. Light Dues on Shipping (*Liverpool*).

That in the opinion of this Association the lighting of the coasts of the United Kingdom is a national duty, for the efficient performance of which full departmental responsibility should be assumed by the State, and the cost defrayed out of moneys provided by Parliament, instead of, as now, by charges on merchant shipping.

25. Board of Trade Shipping Regulations (*Liverpool*).

That in the opinion of this Association the Board of Trade shipping regulations should, as far as possible, be enforced against foreign ships equally with British ships, and that steps be taken to communicate this resolution to His Majesty's Government.

AMERICAN COTTON.

THE **final report** of the **American** Census Bureau shows that the **cotton crop** of 1905 was 10,697,013 bales, including 279,836 round bales, compressed as half-bales, 112,539 bales of Sea Island cotton, and 230,497 bales of linters. There were also included in the total 40,112 bales which ginners reported as remaining to be ginned. The gross weight of the 1905 bales is 503·8 lbs., which is slightly different from that of last season. The above figures represent the crop of 1905, and differ somewhat from the commercial crop, which includes the cotton carried over from 1904 to be sold in 1905. The commercial crop is estimated at between 10,800,000 and 10,900,000 bales. The census figures may safely be assumed to be a very close approximation of the total yield of cotton 1905. The production of cotton has therefore been in round numbers 10,700,000 of current gross weight, equivalent to 10,770,000 bales of 500 lbs. each as against 13,584,457 bales of 500 lbs. each in 1904. The average price of cotton per lb. during the years 1901-05 was as follows:—9½*d.*, 8*d.*, 8½*d.*, 12*d.*, 9*d.* In May of last

year the annual meeting of the Inter-State Cotton Seed Crushers' Association took place in New Orleans, and was attended by a large number of oil-mill managers, brokers, and dealers interested in the manufacture and handling of cotton-seed products. Certain modifications were made in the rules governing the export trade, such as the extension of the time limit allowed for the inspection of railway waggons from 20 to 30 days still further facilitating the export business through the port of New Orleans. Negotiations have also been entered into with some of the European exchanges with a view to the adoption by them of the New Orleans Board of Trade classification of cotton-seed meal and cake, such classification to be taken as a basis of settlement in case of dispute as to quality. Arrangements have been made to analyse all cotton-seed meal by qualified inspectors, who then issue their certificate of value, instead of the former practice of fixing the value of the meal by its appearance.

RUSSIA SHORT OF WOOL.

In its review of the **cotton prospects** of the year from the point of view of and put under cotton cultivation, the *Commercial and Industrial Gazette* says that the amount of cotton sown in Turkestan is not known exactly. Nevertheless, it is known that the area is greater than last year, and the opening of the new Orenburg-Taschkent Railway will enable grain to be brought to Taschkent more easily than now, and consequently cotton cultivation will be encouraged. That **Russia** should be a **good market for wool this year** is evident from the state of the wool harvest. The cutting of the wool is finished, with result that this year's yield is less than that of last by 30 per cent.; in the first place due to the great reduction in the numbers of wool-bearing animals, which shortage was intensified during last year by the agrarian disorders, during which, as has already been reported, many animals were destroyed. We may judge of the reduced quantity of wool gathered by the quantity offered lately at the Troitsky market in Kharkoff, amounting this year to about 70,000 or 75,000 poods, whereas in previous years the quantity varied between 175,000 and 200,000 poods. As to the quality, it has been gathered pretty clean, light and strong in the fibre but generally irregular in colour. In some places the yield of clean wool is about 35 per cent. to 38 per cent., that is to say, from 3 per cent. to 5 per cent. more than the usual but in others it is but 30 per cent., or even only 25 per cent. Some of it is coarse, but this causes no anxiety, as large quantities of such are required for cheviots, etc. Firm markets are looked for, and the demand does not slacken. The Rostoff market has already taken up 30,000 poods and has not finished yet. The prices got on the Kharkoff market are not yet known, but they are not inferior to the enhanced values got at Rostoff.

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WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.
For the week ending 18th August 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign—Imports by sea into	Calcutta lbs.	. . .	209,359
	Bombay „	. . .	221,473
	Madras „	. . .	135,900
Indian—Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	. . .	423,800
	Bombay „	. . .	9,715,900
	Madras „	. . .	...

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	. .	15,852,016
	Bombay „	. . .	1,913,388
	Karachi „	. . .	2,031,657
	Madras „	. . .	4,030,727
	Rangoon* „	. . .	...

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	. .	3,565,306
	Bombay „	. . .	1,926,950
	Karachi „	. . .	4,357,671
	Madras „	. . .	611,651
	Rangoon* „	. . .	...

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	. .	2,821,908
	Bombay „	. . .	926,186
	Karachi „	. . .	4,378,431
	Madras „	. . .	1,004,164
	Rangoon* „	. . .	...

Piece Goods.
(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta cwt.	. .	18,828
	Bombay † „	. .	5,724
	Karachi „	. .	11,452
	Madras „	. .	4,468

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea cwt.	. .	988
	Coastwise „	. .	7,522
	By rail „	. .	22,431
Imports into Karachi	by rail „	. .	608
„ „	Calcutta by rail and river „	. .	2,760

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta cwt.	. .	549,006
Exports by sea from	Calcutta—Gunny bags No.	. .	5,997,500
	„ cloth yds.	. .	23,565,150
	Jute cwt.	. .	180,955
	Chittagong—Jute „	. .	37,689

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta lbs.	. .	4,343,699
Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	. .	4,529,121
	Chittagong „	. .	3,795,171

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river cwt.	.	50,312
	Karachi by rail „	. .	296,768
	Bombay—By sea „	. .	5,091
	Coastwise „	. .	34,466
	By rail „	. .	38,082
Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	. .	9,670
	Bombay „	. .	5,795
	Karachi „	. .	359,093

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta cwt.	. .	56,588
	Chittagong „	. .	...
	Bombay „	. .	8,454
	Karachi „	. .	36,329
	Madras „	. .	...
	Rangoon* „	. .	...

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river cwt.	.	32,081
	Bombay—By sea „	.	121
	Coastwise „	.	61
	By rail „	.	18,079
	Karachi by rail „	.	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	.	71,201
	Bombay „	.	11,126
	Karachi „	.	36

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river cwt.	.	24,043
	Bombay—By sea „	.	...
	Coastwise „	.	58
	By rail „	.	14,953
	Karachi by rail „	.	98,331
Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	.	4,007
	Bombay „	.	11,439
	Karachi „	.	53,508

* Figures for Burma not received. † B. B. and C. I. Ry. figures only.

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 18th AUGUST 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From All other foreign countries.	Total.
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
Calcutta	...	643,486	1,843	645,329
Bombay	...	...	...	...
Karachi	...	...	...	...
Madras	...	...	480,604	480,604

Exports by sea from Burma* to	Calcutta	galls.	...
	E. B. & Assam	,,	...
	Bombay	,,	...
	Karachi	,,	...
	Madras	,,	...
	Indian Ports, Non-Br.	,,	...
	Foreign Ports	,,	...

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 18th AUGUST 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.*	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	1,108	...	12	2,031	4	...	3,155
Germany	42,649	...	4,050	1,000	...	...	47,699
Austria-Hungary	...	...	...	2,600	...	...	2,600
Other European Countries	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Java	89,325	...	10,032	14,000	...	...	113,357
Mauritius	2,248	...	28,928	4,279	...	...	35,455
Other Non-European Countries	...	...	1,233	...	...	...	1,233
Total refined							203,499
Total unrefined							44,318
Grand Total cwt.							247.817

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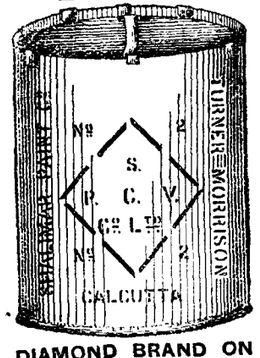
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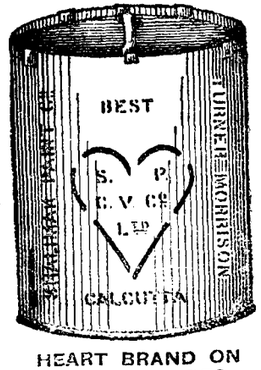
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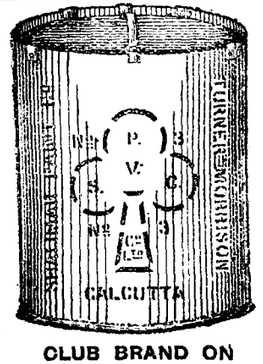


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SECRETARY TO GOVT. REVENUE DEPARTMENT 27 AUG 1906

SECRETARY TO GOVT. REVENUE DEPARTMENT 2 SEP 1906

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NOTES.

It is stated in Paris that after October 1 the **Customs duty** on certain goods entering **Japan** will be increased to a considerable extent.

The winner of the International **Shorthand Speed** Competition at Baltimore, U. S. A., was Mr. Sidney H. Godfrey, who achieved the remarkable record of 250 words per minute.

Sanction has been accorded to the construction of a **branch** railway on the 5' 6" gauge from Kamptee station on the **Bengal-Nagpur Railway** to Ramtek, including a siding to serve the Kandra and Munsar manganese mines, a total length of 17·27 miles. The branch will form an integral part of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

The statement showing the areas leased for **irrigation** up to end of June 1906 in **Bengal** shows that the approximate area of total land irrigated during the year up to the end of the month cover 116,003 acres; of this, 687 acres for the Orissa circle, 6,584 acres for the South-western circle, 108,367 acres for the Sone circle, 365 acres for the Gandak circle.

The report of H. M. Customs Commissioners for the year ended March 31, 1906, shows a large increase in the number of importations of **tea rejected** as unfit for consumption in the **United Kingdom.** For the past three years the number of tea samples analysed, passed, and rejected was :—

Year.	Analysed.	Passed	Rejected.
1904	2,345	2,203	142
1905	3,259	2,967	292
1906	2,906	2,407	499

The **percentage of rejections** was 6 per cent. in 1904, 8·9 per cent. in 1905, and 17·2 per cent. in 1906. The goods represented by these samples must either be exported to foreign markets or used in the manufacture of caffeine. The defective shipments consist of teas adulterated with exhausted tea, or "mixed with other substances" even less desirable. The Customs Department mercifully refrains from disclosing the origin of these rubbishy teas, though it prints a table showing that Holland is the only country regularly sending impure butter to England.

The meeting of Ambassadors held on Thursday, August 2nd, to consider the British memorandum regarding the 3 per cent. **increase** in the **Turkish Customs duties** showed that unanimity prevailed among their Excellencies on the subject. No resolutions, however, were adopted pending the issue of an exchange of views among the various Cabinets. It is understood that the powers are now practically agreed on a course of action, and a communication will probably soon be made to the Porte.

The tonnage of **Vessels entered** at ports in the **United Kingdom** from foreign countries and British possessions, with cargoes, during the seven months ended 31st July, 1906, amounted to 23,791,123 tons, and the tonnage cleared to 30,959,191 tons, as against 22,642,416 tons entered and 28,246,325 tons cleared during the corresponding period of 1905. With regard to the coasting trade, the tonnage entered with cargoes during the seven months ended 31st July, 1906, amounted to 18,985,967 tons and the tonnage cleared to 18,731,259 tons, as against 18,742,683 tons entered and 18,523,600 tons cleared during the corresponding period of 1905.

H. M. Consul at Guayaquil (Mr. A. Cartwright) reports, date 18th June :—"The **Coffee export** of 1905 from **Ecuador** gave a total of 4,795,100 lbs.; the amount of home consumption is not known. The exports were chiefly to the neighbouring Republic of Chile, and prices range from 36*s.* to 43*s.* per 100 lbs. Spanish, cost and freight, etc., which I consider to have been higher than could have been obtained in any other market. California bought very little indeed of the 1905 crop, but is now eagerly enquiring after the new crop, which is about to commence. This promises to be a very good one, and should be in earlier than usual. Indeed, some supplies have already come to hand."

Mr. Charles C. Druedling, of Philadelphia, in the *American Journal of Pharmacy*, remarks that what is known in the market as **chamois skin** is really an oil-tanned sheep or lamb-skin lining. The supply of skins from the chamois animal is very limited. Enough could not be obtained in a year to supply the United States for more than a single day. He made special enquiry on a recent visit to Switzerland about the annual production of the chamois skin and ascertained that from 5,000 to 6,000 skins would be a fair average yearly number. This skin is heavier than the skin of the sheep or lamb, also much coarser. For strength and durability the chamois skin is peferable, but for ordinary use and appearance the oil-tanned sheepskin lining would, in most instances, be preferred.

The **United Kingdom trade** returns for July, 1906, when compared with those for the corresponding month of 1905, show increases in the value of the **Imports** into, and also in the value of the **Exports** from the United Kingdom, both of British produce and of Foreign and Colonial merchandise. The value of the **Imports** in July, 1906, was £48,609,674, an increase of 3,867,836 or 8·6 per cent. as compared with July, 1905, whilst the total **Exports** amounted to £39,502,287, or an increase of £5,907,758. The **Exports** of British produce alone show an increase of £5,621,911 or 20·2 per cent., as compared with July, 1905, whilst there is an increase of £285,847, or 5·0 per cent., in the **Exports** of Foreign and Colonial merchandise.

It was announced on August 10th at the **United States** Treasury Department at Washington that the **purchase of silver bullion for subsidiary coinage** would be resumed. Purchases will be made every Wednesday, beginning on Wednesday, the 15th August. About 100,000 ounces of silver will be required weekly. These will be the first Government purchases since November 1, 1893, when the purchasing clause of the Sherman Act was repealed. It is understood that, anticipating that its reappearance as a purchaser might temporarily disturb the market to an undue extent, the Treasury Department has already obtained control of considerable amounts for future delivery, so as to be in a position to drop out of the market for several months if desirable.

Egyptian cotton had, say English reports, been the bright feature in the past season. The **imports** to August 10th this season to **Manchester** had been 211,000 bales, against 178,000 bales, an increase of 33,000 bales. The total shipments of Egyptian cotton to Liverpool and Manchester were 448,000 bales, out of which Manchester had had 211,000 bales. In the item of 448,000 bales shipped from Egypt to Liverpool and Manchester during the past season was included that proportion which came to Manchester and Liverpool transhipment to America. The cities had had a considerable share of that this season. As a bale of Egyptian cotton is half as heavy again as a bale of American cotton, the increase of 33,000 bales of Egyptian was really equivalent to an increase of 50,000 bales of American.

The report on the working of the **Lahore Museum** for the year 1905-06 is an interesting account of progress in all directions. The buildings have been greatly improved; many additions have made to the collection of antiquities; great progress has been made in the classification and arrangement of the exhibits; and the institution continues to grow in popularity with the general public. It is observed particularly that advantage has been taken to utilise the educational opportunities afforded by the Museum for the instruction of scholars under the control of their teachers. In his review, the Lieutenant-Governor notices with particular interest the extension of the efforts for the popularisation of the methods of such crafts as metal working and weaving, and the instructive comparison of Indian and Japanese processes for the production of enamels.

The total quantity of **gold imported into British India** from foreign countries in the month of July 1906 was 117,958 ozs. valued at R73,26,104. The quantity of gold amounted to 50,925 ozs. valued at R29,14,259. Of the imported gold 77,971 ozs. valued at R49,92,318 consisted of bullion, whilst of the remainder 36,867 ozs. valued at R21,52,030, represented sovereigns and other British gold coins. Of the exports, 48,936 ozs. valued at R27,98,119 represented bullion, *British gold coin being represented by* 1,661 ozs. valued at R97,500. The total imports of silver amounted to 13,430,883 ozs. valued at R2,67,36,899, of which 7,794,219 ozs. valued at R1,62,49,555 represented bullion and 58,115 ozs. of the value of R1,55,081 represented Government of India rupees. The total exports of silver amounted to 777,685 ozs. valued at R20,68,784, of which 771,958 ozs. valued at R20,58,556 represented Government of India rupees.

An American consular report from Singapore, in a review of the existing **railway system of the Federated Malay States,** states that the lines open for traffic extend at present to 396 miles. The total length of the main trunk line, Johore Bahru to Prai, now under construction by the Federated Malay States Railways in Province Wellesley for the Johore Government, will be 472½ miles when completed. At the present moment, exclusive of the construction in Johore territory, there are 33 miles odd under construction south of Tampin, 21 miles of which are ready for opening. Other lines are contemplated running northerly through Pahang, for which preliminary surveys have already been made, and routes have been explored through Kalantan, a province of southern Siam, to Kota Bahru at the mouth of Kalantan River on the coast of the China Sea.

Consular reports just issued from the United States Department of Commerce quote a despatch from Paris with reference to **Government trading in France.** In this it is stated :—"The cost of manufacturing the Government monopolies of tobacco and matches leaves such small profit as to amount to less than that received from the English Customhouse for the duty levied on the tobacco imported into the United Kingdom. Were the State reduced to selling only the matches made in the Government factories, there would be no profit at all. The best matches sold in France are imported, and are bought by the Government at 30 per cent. less than they can be made for in its own factories. The only railway the State possesses cost 935,000,000 francs. At the time of the purchase it was stated it would pay about 4 per cent. It has never yet paid its working expenses, and the deficit every year is generally about 26,000,000 francs equal to £1,000,000."

Some changes in the **grading of hemp,** including an additional grade and a system of grading by points, are being discussed in **New Zealand.** On this subject Messrs. Carr, Pountney and Co., of Auckland, write to the local *Trade Review* as follows :—

We are of opinion that an additional grade is not wanted.

We are also of opinion that the system of grading by points is objectionable; it gives rise to constant discontent and friction.

Hemp is in our opinion "Rejected," "Common," "Fair," "Good Fair," "Fine," or "Superior." The introduction of points is undesirable, but if the *majority* of buyers and sellers desire points, our recommendation is as follows :—

Rejected	50 points and under.
Common	51 to 60 points.
Fair	61 to 70 „
Good Fair	71 to 80 „
Fine	81 to 90 „
Superior	91 to 100 „

Says the *Manchester Guardian* :—" An American Consul, writing on the subject of the **Bombay mills**, has lately referred to Lancashire and the British Cotton-growing Association. His contention is that it is not to the interest of Lancashire to improve Indian cotton, and that we had better keep quiet about it. The point is that India can make coarse goods out of her own cotton, and that as her staple improves the quality of her manufactures will improve to the detriment of Lancashire, who will lose the trade. Possibly there may be some tendency of the kind, but the British Cotton-growing Association is quite ready to face it. There will be no insuperable difficulty in obtaining long-staple cotton when India is ready to spin and weave it and it is difficult to see why, for instance, she should be at any considerable disadvantage in obtaining supplies from Egypt. Lancashire's trade in fine goods has been built up by many slow and arduous processes, and one of the most important of these is the education of her weavers. Lancashire and the world generally wants more good cotton, and those who are working to this end will not be discouraged by any remote chance of increasing competition. We thrive on competition."

Commercial Intelligence is of opinion that **Dundee jute manufacturers** should keep a watchful eye upon the Indian Department of Trade and Commerce. " Last spring " it says the Egyptian War Office invited tenders for 40,000 " Dundee flour sacks," and the Indian Department promptly enquired whether the term was merely a trade description of a class of bags, or indicated that the bags must be made in Dundee. A sample bag of the quality required, together with a copy of the relevant specification and form of tender, was also requested " in order that the possibility of producing suitable bags in India might be investigated." The reply received was to the effect that it was intended that the bags should be of Dundee manufacture, since it was considered that such bags were superior in quality and durability. The Department, however, has received the particulars of the bags it desired, and intends to see whether the Indian mills cannot compete for future supplies. The practical efforts of the Department to assist Indian industry have their praiseworthy side, but we should have thought the Department might have endeavoured to create fresh competition against foreign manufacturers before trying to cut into Dundee's business."

The Italian Government has recently been trying to extend the **cultivation** of **Oriental** qualities of **tobacco in Italy** in the Lecce Province, where soil, temperature, and other local circumstances favour its cultivation in an exceptional degree. In his report on the trade of the province just issued, Mr. Consul Cocoto (3672, Annual Series) says that special concessions have now been made by the Tobacco Administration to persons and groups of persons undertaking to cultivate, prepare, and export Oriental qualities of tobacco. The Tobacco Administration offered to provide seed and such technical advice as local circumstances might require, with the result that during 1905, in addition to 33,000,000 plants of various grades of Oriental tobacco cultivated for account of the Italian tobacco monopoly, seven land owners, or groups, collectively applied for, and obtained permission to cultivate 460 acres during the present year, this being a very large increase on the quantity raised under similar circumstances during 1905. Senor Candioto, the Director of the Tobacco Department, considers there is a brilliant future for Oriental tobacco cultivation in the province and hopes that groups of capitalists will be formed to cultivate larger tracts of land than any individual would consider himself capable of handling.

The **prices of opium** in the Calcutta market during the week ending 25th August 1906 were, per chest, as follows :—

Behar opium.—Rs. 1,485; 1,477; 1,485; 1,491; 1,494; 1,500; 1,500.

Benares opium.—Rs. 1,360; 1,452; 1,360; 1,365; 1,370; 1,375; 1,375.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 9th sale of 1906.—Rs. 1,435; 1,427; 1,435; 1,441; 1,444; 1,449; 1,449.

China market, Hongkong (exchange Rs. 159 to 160 per 100 dollars).

Behar.—$955; 955; 950 to 955; 955; 955; 952½; 952½.

Shanghai (exchange Rs. 219 to 220 per 100 Taels).—Three sales on 20th, 22nd and 23rd of 675 Taels, 680 Taels, and 684 Taels, respectively.

Benares.—One sale in the Hongkong market on 21st of $890 to 910; while three sales, Shanghai, on 20th, 22nd and 23rd of 635 Taels, 640 Tael and 640 Taels, respectively.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending 18th August were—for A class (season 1905-06) Rs. 1,350 to 1,410; for B class (season 1904-05) Rs. 1,460 to 1,622; class C, old (season 1903-04) Rs. 1,675 to 1,721. The latest China prices ascertained were for new classes (A and B) Rs. 1,522 to 1,543; old (class C) fetched a Hongkong Rs. 1,717 and at Shanghai Rs. 1,719.

It has been decided that additional facilities should be provided at Calcutta for enabling the captains of ships in port to ascertain the instrumental **errors** of their **barometers.** A number of the vessels which come into port are visited by a clerk of the Meteorological Office, Alipore, who, by permission of the captain, makes extracts from the log concerning the weather experienced and tests the ship's barometer, for use in departmental investigations relating to the meteorology of the Indian Ocean. This work has hitherto been done mainly in the interests of the scientific work of the Department, but the error (if any) in the barometer as finally ascertained in the meteorological office has usually been communicated to the vessel by post. This procedure has in some cases led to undue delay; and the clerk will now be instructed to give information as to the error of the barometer before he leaves the vessel. In order that the captains of those vessels which have not been visited by the clerk may be in a position to determine the errors of their barometers, it has been decided to send daily to the press the reading which would have been given at 8 hours by an accurate barometer under conditions approximating to those actually experienced. This will be accompanied by a brief statement of the method of applying any necessary corrections. A comparison of the reading given by the ship's barometer at 8 hours with the published reading of the standard instrument will give the instrumental error in the ship's barometer.

The Commercial Attaché at the British Embassy in Tokio observes in his report on the trade of Japan that the consumption of **Japan tea** has been decreasing of late. The high rates ruling in Japan are partly the cause of this, as the growths of Ceylon and India have been enabled thereby to take the place of the native growths to a considerable extent, and it is doubtful whether the ground thus lost can be recovered unless much lower prices are maintained in future.

The Government tea subsidy of 70,000 yen, the Attaché continues, does not appear to have been renewed. The subject, however, is still being agitated and causes much concern to foreign merchants, who regard the subsidy in the light of an unfair preference. The strong efforts put forth by the native merchants to do business in America without the intervention of foreigners, paradoxical though it may appear, are another cause of the diminished consumption of Japan teas. By antagonising the large distributing firms in the United States and Canada, they produce an effect opposite to that which is desired by the Japanese.

It must be remembered that those firms who buy on the Japan market have held the trade for years, and have erected valuable plant in the country. So long as they were not interfered with, it was to their interest to extend the consumption of Japan teas; but now they use their influence to divert consumption to teas grown in countries, where their business is not liable to interference, and as their travellers cover the whole of the ground of the consuming districts, and constitute a powerful factor in guiding the taste of the small dealers and the public, the consumption of Japan teas suffers in consequence.

A few years ago stringent orders were issued by the Government of **French Guinea** forbidding the **exportation** of **adulterated rubber.** As far as the colony was concerned the measure had an excellent effect, and the price of Conakry rubber rose rapidly, and it was accepted with confidence by the European markets. When the Service of Agriculture was taken over by the Government-General it became, says a British diplomatic and consular report for 1904-05 on French West Africa, a question as to whether similar measures could be taken for French West Africa as a whole, so as to improve the position of all the rubber exported from the Government-General. This, however, proved to be a difficult matter, as measures which answered admirably in one colony did not suit the conditions of others; and even in Guinea itself the conditions had changed owing to the opening for traffic of the Senegal-Niger Railway. The rubber caravans of Upper Guinea and the adjacent portions of the Soudan, which use to go to Conakry, were induced by the severity of the regulations there to go instead to Bamako, whence the rubber was sent by train and steamer to Senegal and Europe. If this state of things had continued, only the rubber from the Futa Jallon and Labé regions would have gone to Conakry, and the railway would have been deprived of one of its chief sources of revenue. The question was carefully studied for nearly two years, in the course of which the Inspector of Agriculture visited all the European rubber markets, with the result that in February 1905, an ordinance was published applicable to the whole of French West Africa. It consists of five articles whose object is to secure the following results :—(1) The suppression of adulteration ; (2) the preservation of existing rubber plants ; (3) the creation of new plantations ; and (4) the creation of schools of instruction in the methods of cultivating and gathering rubber.

"The news that the Hungarian Minister is considering the cancellation of the **exclusive contract** now held by the **Cunard Line** for **carrying Hungarian emigrants** to the United States is attracting much attention in shipping circles," says the *New York Journal of Commerce.* "The German lines have ever since its inception been jealous of the Cunard Line's Mediterranean and Adriatic business, and a number of efforts have in recent years been made to force the Cunard people out, and there is some expectation that the new move may result in a renewal of the steamship war. There is also reason to believe that the Hungarian Government will not cancel the Cunard Line contract unless terms satisfactory to that line are made by the Continental lines, which would probably mean buying up the Cunard steamers that are now operated in the Mediterranean and Adriatic trade.

The Cunard Line is at the present time a " free lance " in the steamship world; it is not cutting rates, but has withdrawn from all agreements in order to be in a position to take any measures

its management may deem necessary for the protection of its business. It will in the coming season for the first time enter the winter tourist trade, dispatching its new steamer, the *Caronia*, for two tours of the Mediterranean. The White Star Line is also to have a number of Mediterranean tours with some of its finest steamers, so that the Hamburg-American Line, that heretofore had a monopoly of this particularly profitable business, will find increased competition the coming season, and this may be regarded as an additional reason for the desire of the Continental lines to turn aside British inroads in the Mediterranean business.

The entrance of the new Cunard 25-knot turbines is being awaited by shipping interests here as a critical point in the steamship business, in that it is known that the Cunard people are considering making a Continental as well as a British port on the other side, probably Cherbourg and Dover or Southampton. There has during recent years been a gradual but nevertheless noticeable change in the routes of transatlantic tourists, and the United Kingdom no longer statistics the average excursionist who is now ambitious to take in the Continent as well as the United Kingdom. Reports from the other side a short time ago were quite positive that the new Cunarders would make Dover their British port. The accident to the Deutschland and the decision of the Hamburg-American Line to withdraw from that port as a result of the unsatisfactory state of the harbour works may change the decision in this matter and Plymouth or Southampton may be selected. It is considered hardly probable, however, that the new boats will be placed in the Liverpool-Queenstown service."

A correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian* reports from New York under date August 6th regarding **cotton** :—"It can only be said that the **situation** remains much as it was a week ago and that the **outlook** is still **favourable.** No doubt there have been excessive and continued rains in parts of the eastern section of the belt, and some of the reports from the section west of the Mississippi have been, from one cause or another, not altogether favourable. But taking the belt as a whole, the outlook is so good that if there are no serious drawbacks during the month of August it is safe to say the crop will be a very large one. Any one who studies the reports for and against which come from the south, from interested people on both sides of the market, and from presumably unbiased sources must, after making due allowance for the Southern operator and the farmer who are 'short' of the market, and for the others who are 'long' making due allowance also for reports coming from various newspapers and commission-houses, reach the conclusion that the conditions are very similar to those which prevailed two years ago, on the eve of the largest crop in the history of cotton culture. This may not preclude the possibility of a sudden upturn in prices at the expense of the short interest such as occurred two years ago, a flurry due to occasional crop 'scares' and to the overloading of the short interest, but the conviction is spreading and deepening that the indications point to perhaps the second largest crop ever raised in this country." Messrs. Neill Brothers, of London, have issued a **cotton** circular, in which they sum up the news of the **American crop** as "The best we ever remember." The reports from both Mr. Henry Neill and Mr. J. W. Soady are very favourable, and so far confirm the most sanguine expectations. On the interesting questions of consumption Messrs. Neill say :—

> A valued and well-informed correspondent, who is in substantial agreement with our estimate of mill stocks, has lately called our attention to the probability that in England the number of bales consumed has been swollen by the inferior spinning quality of this year's cotton ; but if we are a little too small in our idea of actual consumption in England, we may just as probably be a little too large for the Continent, which has taken an extra supply of other growth than American. Thus we think it would not be well to vary our hypothetical 11,750,000 bales as the probable actual consumption of American cotton for the year ending 31st instant, although it is not a point upon which anyone can safely dogmatise.

As to the rains that have been lately made the favourite argument of the bulls Messrs. Neill suggest that drought is the most formidable danger to cotton crops, and that we are now assured against this for some time.

The report of the **customs** Commissioners of the **United Kingdom,** for the year ending March last, says as regards the **coal duty :—**

The net increase in 1905-06, as compared with 1904-05, of £131,199, or 6·39 per cent. is partly due to a decrease in the quantity of exported coal on which rebate of the duty was allowed because its value did not exceed 6*s.* the ton, free on board. This decrease was caused by a recovery in the prices on small coal.

As regards the tonnage of **coal exported :—**

The exports and bunkers of 1905-06 exceeded those of 1904-05 by 2,690,079 tons. A portion of this increase is due to the strikes in the coal districts of France at the beginning of 1906, the exports to that country having been 2,115,428 tons in the three months ended March, 1906, as compared with 1,658,648 tons in the corresponding period of 1905.

As regards the **sugar duties** which show a slight increase equal to 1·17 per cent,, the Commissioners

remark that the output of beet and cane in 1905-06 was the largest on record. They go on to say :—

Early in 1905 it was reported that Continental beet sowings were in excess of those of the preceding year, and standard sugar —"88 per cent. beet" —which had risen to 16*s.* the cwt. in January 1905, fell to 14*s.* 6*d.* the cwt. at the close of March, the new crop being offered at 11*s.* 6*d.* In July the collapse of speculative operations set free large quantities of sugar, and refiners were able to obtain ample supplies at low prices until the plentiful new season's crop became available in October. In the remainder of the financial year prices were moderate and consumption was active.

The effect of the holding back of **tea duty** on the revenue has already been referred to, but the following observations on the subject will be of interest :—

The postponement in the payment of the duty on tea which has been a feature of the concluding months of the past few financial years continued during the first quarter of the year 1905-06 as the reduction in the rate did not take effect until July 1; dealers were thus enabled to dispose of their stocks on hand which had paid the 8*d.* duty, and the "invisible supply" of tea in the country appears to have been practically exhausted, while the quantity of tea in bond, which was 67,000,000 lbs. in June, 1904, was 20,000,000 lbs. at the end of June, 1905. In the first quarter of the financial year only 33,886,600 lbs. were cleared, or over 30,000,000 lbs. in excess of the quarterly average. Thus no less than 30,000,000 lbs. of tea which under normal circumstances would have contributed 8*d.* per lb. to the Exchequer paid duty at 6*d.* the lb., representing a difference of £250,000.

With the co-operation of the Commissioners of Inland Revenue special facilities were afforded to enable tea to be delivered out of official custody on July 1. The provisions of the law requiring tea removed under bond to be actually deposited in, or produced to the Revenue officer at, the bonded warehouse at the place of destination were, temporarily suspended, and production was allowed at quays, railway stations, and other public places. The arrangements made were highly appreciated by the trade, and did not cause any risk to the revenue.

The President of the **British Association,** in his address on **Economic Science** and **Statistics,** remarked that it was a sad reflection that, while so much care and labour were spent in accumulating and printing statistical tables, so few of them were of any real importance, and so few were intelligible, even to one who studied them carefully. We needed, he declared, a central thinking department in Government departments, partly in their routine work, partly for the dissemination of information on an immense amount of valuable facts; but whenever a scientific inquirer endeavoured to describe accurately some social or industrial development, or wished to bring to the test of statistics the effect of some proposed reform, whether in taxation, regularity of employment, care of young children, or whatever it might be, some essential information was found lacking, for the reason that it had been no one's business to collect it.

NOTICES.

BOOKS OF REFERENCE.

The following publications have been received and may be consulted by any desirous of studying them at the office of the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street, where they will be displayed in the Ante Room till Saturday, 1st September.

Parliamentary Publications.

IMPERIAL REVENUE.—Collection and Expenditure. Great Britain and Ireland. Return relating to—for the year ending the 31st day of March, 1906. (256-06.) POST OFFICE.—Fifty Second Report of the Postmaster-General on the Post Office for 1905-06. (Cd. 3114-06.) TREATY SERIES No. 9 of 1906 Convention between the United Kingdom and China respecting Tibet signed at Peking, April 27, 1906 (To which is annexed the Convention between the United Kingdom and Tibet, signed at Lhasa, September 7, 1904.) (Cd. 3088-06.) UNITED KINGDOM.—Monthly Accounts relating to Trade and Navigation of the—for the month of July, 1906. (44-vi-06.) Do.—Annual Statement of the Navigation and Shipping of the—for the year 1905. (Cd. 3093-06.)

QUETTA—SUPPLIES,—TENDERS INVITED.

Sealed tenders (1st) for meat, (2nd) for ration articles for British Troops other than meat and for forage for animals required daily for issue to No. 1 and 9 M. Battery, R. G. A., on the line of march from Quetta to Umbablla between 1st December 1906 to 14th February 1907, will be received by the Officer, Commanding Station Supply, Quetta, on Friday, the 28th September 1906.

Applications for tender forms must reach the above Officer by the 15th September 1906 accompanied by one rupee for each set of tender forms required.

MOTOR WAGONS—PARTICULARS OF.

Drawings, photographs specifications, etc., of motor wagons have been received in the office of the Director General, Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive St., where they may be consulted, till Saturday, the 8th September. The firms who submitted them are those named below :—

(1) Clarkson, Ld., Chelmsford.

(2) John I. Thornycroft & Co., Ld., London.

(3) The Wolseley Tool & Motor Car Co. Ld., London.

(4) The Lacre Motor Car Co., Ld., London.

(5) Adams Manufacturing Co., Ld., London.

(6) The St. Pancras Iron Work Co., Ld., London.

(7) Dougill's Engineering, Ld., Leeds.

(8) The Scotish Motor Engineering Co., Ld., Edinburgh.

ENQUIRIES.

WANTED CIGARETTE-MAKING MACHINE.

An enquiry has been received for machinery for a cigarette-making factory. Correspondence should be directed to the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, Eastern Bengal and Assam.

YARNS FOR HOSIERY AND KNITTING.

The Commercial Attaché to H. M. Embassy at Tokio (Mr. E. F. Crowe) has been asked by a Japanese gentleman tc be placed in communication with manufacturers of yarns for hosiery and knitting. Communications should be addressed to the Commercial Attaché to H, M. Embassy in Japan, 172, Yamashitacho, Yokohama.

STEEL COMPOUNDS—MINERALS USED IN MAKING.

An inquiry has been received in this office from Paris concerning minerals used in the manufacture of steel compounds, especially manganese, chrome, molybdenite and wolfram. The minerals are wanted in large quantities. Replies ought to show prices F. O. B. at an Indian Port, or C. I. F. Marseilles. It is stated that if price and quality are suitable a large direct trade is possible. For information apply to the Office of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street, Calcutta.

MOTOR WAGONS FOR INDIA.

The future of the automobile in relation to the **movement of produce** in India is a subject of considerable interest. Under the existing system the cattle of the cultivator till the soil at the sowing season, draw water from the well during the growth of the crop, and when that crop is ready haul or carry it to the nearest market, press or railway station.

No type of general-utility motor capable (like certain of the agricultural engines of the Western world) of ploughing, pumping, or locomotion at will, seems yet to have been devised, though many motor wagons have gear for hoisting; and it will certainly be very long before the motor takes the place of the bullock in the establishment of the Indian cultivator. The bullock will remain to irrigate and till ; and his competition in the transportation of produce will be very hard to combat. In fact it never will be killed for general purposes ; and thus it may be assumed that for ordinary transport of produce from field to rail, the rates in India will never be really profitable to the motor.

India is mainly an agricultural country ; and its seasonal conditions are such that the great mass of its produce falls to be moved at one season. The consequent congestion is such that quick transport of produce to the nearest **railway** becomes of enormous importance and it would be worth paying a very special rate for. There are times when, with rolling stock taxed to its utmost, it would be an enormous advantage that produce, instead of coming down in dribblets, all along the line should be placed beside the rails in a large quantity at a given time and place. For when this is not done it is necessary either to let rolling stock stand unused while goods accumulate, or to drop a wagon here and a couple there, with infinite trouble and delay in the distribution and collection of the vehicles. It must be understood that the proposal here made does not aim at bringing down larger aggregate quantities of produce to rail-side; for in the busy season the trafficman's difficulty is that there is more produce at his many stations than he can move. But his inability to move it does not necessarily arise from its quantity so much as from its disposition. The same quantity placed beside his line at a few appointed places and at appointed times would be dealt with easily.

The requisite condition is one that motor traffic can fulfil with much greater certainty than can be expected from bullock carts; and it is in the service of this requirement that the rôle of the motor wagon will be found in India. Indeed so much is its rôle identified with the interests of the railway companies that these latter will probably be the first to enlist it seriously as an auxiliary enabling them to get the best use out of their rolling stock in the busy season. When there was in a tract of country a large quantity of produce to be railed the "out-agent" of the railway would communicate to headquarters an estimate of the quantity and of the mileage to be traversed, the number of motors necessary with the assistance of the local carts to bring down the stated quantity over the stated milage within an appointed time would be brought into action at the selected station, and on the date when completion of the work was due the requisite rolling stock would arrive and be loaded without delay. The motor wagons will have to be such as can be carried on trucks from one point of the railway to another ; but in many cases, though they may serve more than one station, they will probably work their way from place to place through the country. They must be simple in construction and have their mechanism well protected from dust; while in view of the high temperatures to be encountered they must be specially well equipped with radiators.

Another function to which the motor wagon lends itself is that of scout for railway extension. At present one of the risks attending the laying down of a **feeder railway** resides in the uncertainty as to the exact alignment that will ultimately yield the largest traffic returns. Until a line has been in existence for some time it is hard to tell what may be the scale of the crop expansion it will induce, or in which direction the greatest development will take place. It very often happens that actual experience proves the selected line of country to be less advantageous than another would have been ; but when a railway, however light, has been established it rarely pays to move it. It is, on the other hand, easy to transfer a flotilla of motor wagons from one road to another. All that is required is a little strengthening of culverts and a little cobbling of the roadway ; and when they have been working successfully for a year or two in a new tract, it ought to be fairly easy to decide in which direction a feeder line would best pay.

But before the carriage of goods in bulk by motor can become generally practicable in India it will be necessary either to strengthen many of the ordinary culverts, as we have said, or that such a type of car be adopted as will **distribute the weight** over a number of points. We were led by some interesting notices of the six-wheeled chassis used in a well-known type of motor train, to address an enquiry to the makers, and have received full particulars (together with a blue tracing to scale) showing the construction of the chassis in question. The construction is both ingenious and simple. It appears to have stood the test of actual experience in Europe, and looks as if it might go far to obviate the difficulties that attend the passage of heavy bodies over rough roads and weak culverts. The plans and other documents relating to this form of chassis will be shown to merchants calling at the Office of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street, Calcutta.

There has been a good deal of discussion about the best fuel for motor wagons in India, and the relaxation of the Indian regulations for transport of motor spirit by rail has been noticed with satisfaction in the home press. But the handling of a highly volatile substance must always be relatively costly in a country of high temperatures ; and sufficient regard is not commonly had to the question of the relative ease with which the respective fuels can be procured in up-country districts. In order to illustrate this matter we have prepared and now append a list of the places in India at which **kerosene oil installations and depôts** now exist. These places number 570, and are most numerous in those tracts where the productivity of the land is greatest. At many of them two or more depôts of rival companies exist. So that kerosene is now available wherever there are considerable quantities of produce to be moved. The names of the places are grouped in the list with regard to the Railway blocks in which they are situated, and figures are given showing the quantity of produce carried from each such block to the chief ports in 1905-06. When this list is examined it will be admitted that the case for a motor burning kerosene either as a steam fuel or as an explosive is on this issue a very strong one. And it is hoped that this reflection may incite the makers of automobiles to greater efforts towards the development of such a machine as we have indicated.

The following list shows the **bulk oil depots** situated on various parts of India :—

Eastern Bengal and Assam.

Lower Assam block.
Kampur.

Surma valley block.
Badarpur.
Balaganj.
Bhanga.
Habiganj.
Karimganj.
Mudna.
Sherpur.
Silchar.

Backergunj block.
Goalundo.
Jhalakati.
Madaripur.
Parerhat.

Rajshahi block.
Bogra.
Dinajpur.
Domar.
Jalpaiguri.
Looksan.
Nator.
Nawabganj.
Pabna.
Rangpur.
Sara Ghat.
Sirajganj.

Eastern Bengal and Assam—*continued.*

Dacca block.
Agartala.
Bhairab Bazar.
Janjira.
Kamalaghat.
Lohajang.
Narainganj.
Tarpasa.

Tipperah block.
Akhaura.
Brahmanbaria.
Chandpur.
Chanmohani.
Comilla.
Daulatganj.
Feni.
Hajiganj.
Nayanpur
Tarapur.

Chittagong Port block.
Chittagong.

Bengal.

Bihar block.
Arrah.
Pairagnia.
Barauni Junction.
Bettiah.
Bhagalpur.

Bengal - *continued.*

Bihar block—continued.
Chapra.
Colgong.
Dalsing Sarai.
Danapur.
Darbhanga.
Futwah.
Gya.
Jonakpur Road.
Jehanabad.
Kamtaul.
Kasba.
Kissenganj.
Lackhisarai.
Mokameh Ghat.
Monghyr.
Motihari.
Muzaffarpur.
Nirmali.
Patna.
Rajmahal.
Raxaul.
Sahebganj.
Samastipur.
Sarai.
Sasaram.
Siliguri.
Sitamarhi.
Sonan.
Tegra.

Chota Nagpur block.
Daltongonj.
Giridih.
Purulia.

Western Bengal block.
Asansol.
Azimganj.
Baidyabati.
Barakar.
Burdwan.
Berhampur Court.
Ghattal.
Jeaganj.
Midnapur.
Rampur Hat.
Raniganj.
Sainthia.
Tarkessur.

Orissa block.
Balasore.
Bhadrak.
Chandbally.
Cuttack.
Jharsaguda.
Sambalpur.

Eastern Bengal block.
Budge Budge.
Sogoola.
Khulna.
Kooshtea.
Krishnagar.
Magra Hat.
Ranaghat.

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.

Meerut block.
Debra Dun.
Hathras.
Meerut.
Mussoorie.
Muzaffarnagar
Saharanpur.
Sardhana.

Agra block.
Agra.
Etawah.
Muttra City.
Shikohabad.

Allahabad block.
Allahabad.
Atarra.
Banda.l
Cawnpore.
Chirgaon.
Jasra.
Jhansi.
Karwi.
Kulpahar.
Kunch.
Lalitpur.
Mahgaon.
Mahoba.
Malwa.
Manikpur.
Mau Ranipur.
Moth.
Orai.
Rajapur.
Rath.
Rora.

Benares block.
Ballia.
Bankata.
Basti.
Benares.
Bhatpur.
Bridmanganj.
Ghazipur.
Gorakpur.
Jaunpur.
Mau Junction.
Mirzapur.
Shohratganj.
Tahsil Deoria.
Uska Bazar.

Rohilkhand block.
Bareilly.
Moradabad.
Rampur.
Shahjahanpur.
Seshara.

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh—*continued.*

Oudh block.
Bahraich.
Bara Banki.
Fyzabad.
Gonda.
Lucknow.
Sanoda.

Punjab.

Delhi City block.
Delhi.

The rest of Cis-Sutlej Territory block.
Ferozepur.
Hansi.
Kalka.
Ludhiana.
Narela.
Patiala.
Rewari.
Sirsa.
Umballa.

Territory between Sutlej and Jhelum block.
Amritsar.
Jullundur.
Lahore.

Territory between Jhelum and Indus block.
Rawalpindi.

Peshawar and Kohat block.
Peshawar.

The Trans-Indus port ion block.
Thal.

Sind and British Baluchistan.

Sind and British Baluchistan, excluding Karachi block.
Harnai.
Quetta.
Shikarpur.
Sukkar.

Karachi Port block.
Karachi.

Central Provinces and Berar.

Jubbulpore block.
Bamora.
Bina.
Damoh.
Deori.
Ganeshganj.
Jubbulpur.
Katni.
Khorai.
Pattaria.
Sailia.
Saugor.

Central Provinces and Berar—*continued.*

Nerbudda block.
Banapara.
Bankhedi.
Charkhera.
Gadarwarda.
Gotegaon.
Harda.
Hoshungabad.
Itarsi.
Narsingpur.
Piparia.
Semri.
Sohagpur.
Timarni.

Nimar block.
Bir.
Burhanpur.
Khandwa.
Mortakka.
Sanawad.

Nagpur block.
Bori.
Chhindwara.
Degaon.
Gondia.
Hinganghat.
Kamptee.
Nagpur.
Pulgaon.
Seoni.
Sonegaon.
Tumsar Road.
Wardha.
Warora.

Chhattisgarh block.
Bilaspur.
Dongargarh.
Raipur.
Rajnandgaon.

Berar block.
Akola.
Amraoti.
Badnera.
Chandur.
Dhamangaon.
Khamgaon.
Kuram.
Malkapur.
Murtizapur.
Shegaon.

Bombay Presidency.

Bombay Port block.
Bombay.

Gujarat and Kathiawar block.
Ahmedabad.
Amalsad.
Anand.
Anklesvar.
Bardoli.
Baroda.

Bombay Presidency —*continued.*

Gujarat and Kathiawar block—continued.
Bhavnagar.
Bilimora.
Bodeli.
Botad.
Broach.
Pulsar.
Cambay.
Dabhoda.
Dabhoi.
Damau Road.
Decsa.
Dholera.
Dhrangadra.
Dohad.
Dungri.
Godhra.
Idar Road
Jamnagar.
Junagad.
Kadi.
Kothera.
Mehmadabad.
Mehsana.
Nadiad.
Naosari (same as Navsari).
Navsari.
Palanpur.
Pabj.
Pardi.
Patan.
Petlad.
Parbandar.
Rajkot.
Rajula.
Ranpur.
Sabarmati.
Surat.
Umardeshi.
Umreth.
Vernama.
Vasad.
Veraval.
Viramgam.
Visnagar.
Vyara.
Wadhwan City.

Konkan block.
Asangaon.
Badlapur.
Bassein Road.
Bhayndar.
Bhilad.
Boisar.
Dahanu.
Gholbad.
Kalyan.
Nagathna.
Palghar.
Panvel.
Sanjan.
Shrivardhan.
Sopara.
Thana.

Bombay Presidency —*continued.*

Konkan block—continued.
Uran.
Virar.
Wasind.

North Deccan block.
Amalner.
Bhadli.
Bhusawal.
Bodwad.
Chalisgaon.
Deolali.
Dhulia.
Dondaiche.
Evandol Road.
Ghoti.
Igatpuri.
Jalgaon.
Jamdha.
Kajgaon.
Khedgaon.
Khervadi.
Lusalgaon.
Nandgaon.
Nandurbar.
Nasik.
Niphad.
Odha.
Pachora.
Raver.
Sindkheda.
Warangaon.
Yeola.

East Deccan block.
Ahmednagar.
Alimati.
Badami.
Pagalkot.
Barsi Town.
Belapur.
Bijapur.
Dudni.
Hotgi.
Indi Road.
Jeur.
Karabgaon.
Katgeri.
Kem.
Lachyan.
Mohol.
Pimpri.
Pomalvadi.
Pahuri.
Sangola.
Sholapur.
Telgi.
Vambori.
Visapur.

West Deccan block.
Arvi Road.
Chinchwad.

Bombay Presidency —*concluded.*

West Deccan block —continued.
Dhond.
Diksal.
Jejuri.
Khandala.
Koregaon.
Kundal Road.
Lanauli.
Lonand.
Masur.
Nira.
Poona.
Rahimatpur.
Satara.
Satara Road.
Shenoli.
Takari.
Talegaon.
Tasgaon Road.
Walhe.
Wathar.
Yeot.

Southern Mahratta country block.
Alur.
Anlawar.
Annigeri.
Atnani.
Belgaum.
Byadgi.
Chikodi.
Chinchli.
Dharwar.
Dhupdhal.
Gadag.
Gokak Road.
Hatkanagale.
Haveri.
Hubli.
Khanapur.
Kolhapur.
Kudchi.
Miraj.
Nipani.
Pachhapur.
Raibag.
Ranibennur.
Ratnagiri.
Rukadi.
Sangli.
Sankeshwar.
Shedbal.
Shirol Road.
Vengurla.

Goa block.
Murgao.
Murmagao.
Panjim Goa.

Madras Presidency.

Madras Seaports.

Madras Port block.
Madras.

Pondicherry block.
Karikal.
Pondicherry.

Cuddalore block.
Cuddalore.

Negapatam block.
Negapatam.

Tuticorin block.
Tuticorin.

Calicut block.
Calicut.

Cocanada block.
Cocanada.

Northern Circars block.
Berhampur.
Nanpada.
Vizianagram.

Deltas block.
Tezwada.
Chirala.
Ongole.
Nidadavolu.
Rajahmundry.

Deccan Districts block.
Bellary.
Cuddapah.
Guntakal.
Hospet.
Kurnool.
Nandyal.
Tadpatri.

North Carnatic block.
Chingleput.
Conjeeveram.
Katpadi.
Nellore.

South Carnatic block.
Chidambaram.
Kumbaconam.
Mayavaram.
Panruti.
Pattukottai.
Tanjore.
Tiruvallur.
Tiruvannamalai.
Villupuram.

Madras Presidency —*continued.*

Central Districts block.
Coimbatore.
Erode.
Karur.
Salem.
Suramangalam.
Tirupattur.
Tiruppur.
Trichinopoly.

Southern Districts block.
Dindigul.
Madura.
Paramakudy.
Satur.
Tinnevelly.

Malabar block.
Cannanore.
Palghat.
Shoranur.
Tellicherry.
Tirur.

Cochin block.
Cochin.
Ernaculam.
Mattancherry.

Travancore block.
Alleppey.
Munnar.
Quilon.
Trevandrum.

Rajputana and Central India.
Abu Road.
Ajmer.
Akodia.
Alwar.
Bajranggarh.
Bamnia.
Baran.
Barnagar.
Barwaha.
Basoda.
Beawar.
Bercha.
Bharatpur.
Bhilsa.
Bhind.
Bhopal.
Bikaner.
Chambal.
Chanderia.

Rajputana and Central India—*continued.*
Chitorgarh.
Dalanda.
Datia.
Dhodhar.
Dig.
Evinpura Road.
Falna.
Fatehabad.
Gangvar.
Goona.
Gulabganj.
Gwalior.
Hamirghar.
Harkiakhal.
Harpalpur.
Hirania.
Indore.
Jeora.
Jeypore.
Jodhpur.
Kapasin.
Karkeli.
Kesarpura.
Kishengurh.
Kuchman Road.
Maksi.
Malhargarh.
Mandsaur.
Manli.
Mhow.
Morar Road.
Morena.
Nagda.
Namli.
Nawai.
Neemuch.
Nimbahera.
Nusseerabad.
Pindwara.
Piplia.
Raoti.
Rewah.
Rohia.
Runija.
Rupaheli.
Rutlam.
Salamatpur.
Sambhar.
Sehara.
Shujaulpur.
Sipri.
Sunwar.
Sutna.
Udaipur.
Ujjain.

Nizam's Territory.
Aurangabad.
Bhongir.
Chittapur.
Daulatabad.
Dharmabad.
Gulbarga.
Hyderabad.
Indur.
Jalna.
Jangaon.
Karkheli.
Koalla.
Kopbal.
Lasur.
Mirzapali.
Nanded.
Purbhani.
Purna.

Nizam's Territory —*continued.*
Raichur.
Sailu.
Secunderabad.
Seram.
Shahabad.
Tandur.
Yadgiri.

Mysore.
Arsikeri.
Banavar.
Birur.
Davengere.
Harihar.
Kadur.
Shivani.
Shimoga.

—:—

Out of 639 stations the exact trade blocks in which the following 52 stations are situated cannot be at present ascertained :—

Algaon.
Alibag.
Arpalpur.
Betwar.
Bhiwada.
Bhirnigar.
Bhiwandy.
Biswa.
Botarood.
Bunapur.
Chiploon.
Chorai.
Dabol.
Darookhana.
Devcarka.
Divenganj.
Dobhar.
Gunni.
Jaigad.
Jehur.
Kalaniidha.
Kana Mangrole.
Karwarr.
Kantch Road.
Kelvi Mahim.
Kerjet,
Kirkian.
Koodu.
Kumta.
Maisur.
Malpe.
Mangalore.
Masawad.
Mhiwa.
Miagaum.
Murad.
Nadurar.
Naidangi.
Nalasopura.
Nanpurbar.
Peim.
Poineer.
Prantej.
Rewdana.
Sambhapura.
Shidpur.
Tilwala.
Ussangaon.
Vokerabad.
Waliar.
Warungal.

The **Movements of produce** in general from the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh and the Panjab to the chief seaport towns during 1905-06, are shown in the following table :—

From	IMPORTS INTO Calcutta. 1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.	Bombay Port. 1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh—	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Cotton, raw	87,638	51,323	333,198	172,823	644,982	113,641	55,622	760,014	198,605	1,127,882
Grain and Pulse	1,955,842	581,298	644,982	455,935	3,638,057	301,712	46,852	40,885	13,465	402,914
Jute, raw	2,571	28	17,819	31,415	51,833	310	843	6,248	4,493	11,894
Oilseeds	545,706	489,136	380,386	428,798	2,244,026	422,743	168,755	121,289	120,075	832,862
Sugar	4,502	7,109	6,293	2,970	20,874	1,417	2,597	1,165	3,580	8,759
Panjab—										
Cotton, raw	43,947	6,613	21,153	64,603	136,316	112,071	37,958	178,375	143,476	471,880
Grain and Pulse	329,093	177,948	73,622	252,709	833,372	818,162	669,287	553,462	210,711	2,251,622
Jute, raw	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Oilseeds	224,542	96,061	180,476	113,513	614,592	52,285	3,898	735	9,722	66,640
Sugar	...	...	...	...	...	9	3	6	11	29

From	IMPORTS INTO Karachi. 1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.	Madras Ports. 1st Quarter.	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total.
United Provinces of Agra and Oudh—	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.	Mds.
Cotton, raw	226	...	8,526	...	8,752	...	1	...	...	1
Grain and Pulse	498,443	11,911	6,852	6,494	523,700	4,633	...	13,136	739	18,508
Jute, raw	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Oilseeds	4,443	1,032	3	...	5,478	...	...	...	1,232	1,232
Sugar	794	160	1,217	2,986	5,157	...	...	...	..	...
Panjab—										
Cotton, raw	188,366	56,814	147,240	191,462	583,882	...	...	...	...	...
Grain Pulse	7,714,338	5,853,922	3,039,411	832,378	17,440,049	36,155	47,529	20,772	15,101	119,557
Jute, raw	...	3	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
Oilseeds	519,461	110,016	142,150	1,248,521	2,020,148	...	...	...	...	...
Sugar	61	15	92	44	212	...	...	...	...	...

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

EXCERPTS FROM PROCEEDINGS.
BOMBAY.

Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee during the month of July 1906.

READ letter, dated 30th April 1906, from the Bombay Government, asking for an expression of the views of the Chamber on certain proposals submitted by the Resident, Aden, for the improvement of the existing light-houses at Perim and for the **construction of a new light between Perim and Aden.**

RESOLUTION.—Government to be informed that the subject has received the careful consideration of the Committee, who, after consulting the various Shipping Companies, are of opinion—

(*a*) that the Perim high light should be altered to a powerful group flashing light;

(*b*) that the Obstruction Point light should remain as it is;

(*c*) that the Balfe Point light should be increased in power and given greater distinction;

(*d*) that a new light between Aden and Perim is desirable, placed perferably at Ras-al-ara.

READ letter, dated 9th July 1906, from Messrs. Volkart Brothers calling attention to the difficulties experienced by dealers in obtaining **refund of town duty on sugar re-exported,** the bags of which do not bear the same countermarks as shown on the manifests, and suggesting that the Chamber bring the matter to the notice of the Municipality and ask that body to agree to grant refund of town duty according to the chief mark without taking note of the countermark of various firms.

RESOLUTION.—The Municipal Commissioner to be addressed in support of Messrs. Volkart Brothers' proposal.

The attention of the Committee was drawn during the month to the unsatisfactory decisions of **Marine Surveyors** in declaring "sweat" as "sea water damage" in sugar imported into India.

RESOLUTION.—The matter to be brought to the notice of the Underwriters' Associations, who should be asked to again approach the London Institute of Underwriters in the hopes of getting the latter to agree to the proposals made in 1904, regarding registration by the Bombay Chamber of Marine Surveyors in Bombay.

READ letter from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, forwarding a copy of the **tender for the various Mail Services** called for by the Post Master General, United Kingdom.

RESOLUTION.—Members to be notified that the tender is available for inspection in the rooms of the Chamber.

READ letters from the Bombay Cotton Trade Association, the Millowners' Association, and the Madras Chamber of Commerce, stating that they were in accord with the views of this Chamber regarding the proposal to adopt the **British Pound as the Unit of Weight** throughout India. Also communication from the Bengal Chamber forwarding copies of correspondence on the question of the standardisation of weights and measures in rural areas and in Municipalities.

RESOLUTION.—To be recorded.

(See Proceedings, June 1906.)

READ letter, dated 17th May 1906, from the Deputy Director of Agriculture, Bombay Presidency, regarding **the admixture of Cotton and Cotton seeds.** Also communication from the Cotton Trade Association, Ltd., on the same subject.

RESOLUTION.—The Deputy Director of Agriculture to be informed that while it is natural that the Agricultural Department's attention should be drawn chiefly to the various descriptions of kappas at the Gins and the resulting mixture of seed, as also to the sowing of this mixed seed, the attention of the Chamber and of the Mercantile Community in general has been mainly directed to the admixture of the various fibres, firstly at the Gins, and secondly the further mixture of various descriptions which takes place at the presses. That as regards the sowing of mixed seed the Mercantile Community of this City know very little of what goes on in the fields and any influence which they can exert can scarcely make itself felt at such distant points, and it is for this reason that the Committee feel that where the mercantile influence ceases, the village authorities and the Agricultural Department should step in to check the sowing of mixed seed and initiate and carry out to a successful issue purer methods of cultivation. Further the Committee consider that it would be quite impossible for any one to say definitely whether a mixed lot of cotton is the growth from mixed seeds, as distinct from cotton that has been mixed when passing through the Gins or Presses. The following are some of the markets where cotton is freely mixed, *viz.*, Malkapur, Akola, Shegaon, Khangaon, Murtizapur, Karanja, Khandwa, Broach (mixed with Khandeish), Indore, Parbani, Barsi, Hubli, Gadag, and in fact in all stations where cotton is considered of superior quality and of higher value. In conclusion the Deputy Director be informed that no review of the quality of the cotton coming from the various districts into the Bombay market is prepared for inclusion in the annual reports of the Millowners' and Cotton Trade Associations, as the subject is so extensive and so varied that it would be impossible to deal with it in a concise annual report, but the Committee would endeavour to submit annually a Memorandum of any special cases that might occur during the year.

(See Proceedings, April 1906.)

READ letter, dated 16th July, 1906, from the Manager, New Zealand Insurance Company, requesting the Committee to consider the advisability of asking the Port Trust to invest in **fire floats** such as they have at Calcutta.

RESOLUTION.—The Port Trust to be addressed as suggested, as it appeared to the Committee that a powerful fire float would have been of the greatest assistance in the late disastrous fires at Colaba; that one capable of discharging 1,250 gallons a minute from eight jets would be of considerable service in protecting about half of the Godowns and Cotton Green, in a locality where the Port Trustees have a direct interest as ground landlords; and that these fire floats would further be of very material assistance for all risks in the Docks and the Harbour front generally. That in view of the universally acknowledged necessity of largely increasing the present water-supply of Bombay, especially for purposes of fire protection, the Committee hope that the suggestion put forward would receive consideration as at least a possible means of improving the Fire service on the Harbour front.

(See Proceedings, June 1906.)

READ memo. from the Chairman, suggesting that **a telegram of sympathy** be sent to Lord Curzon in connection with Lady Curzon's death.

RESOLUTION.—The following telegram to be despatched:—"Members, Bombay Chamber of Commerce, offer their sincere and heartfelt sympathy in your great bereavement."

READ letter, dated 9th June, 1906, from the Railway Board, acknowledging receipt of the Chamber's communication of the 4th April 1906, regarding the desirability of **linking up Bharatpur and Agra by a broad guage line** in anticipation of the construction of the Nagda-Muttra Railway and stating in reply that the Railway Board fully appreciate the possible desirability for this broad guage connection, but at the present time were unable to commit themselves to a more definite opinion.

RESOLUTION.—The letter of the Railway Board to be recorded, and a further letter to be addressed to them in continuation of the Chamber's letter above referred to, calling attention to the desirability of **linking up Muttra with Aligarh with a broad gauge line,** as Aligarh is one of the largest trading towns in the United Provinces, and has considerable traffic with Bombay, and is also one of the natural objectives of the new broad gauge line from Nagda.

In addition the connection from Muttra to Aligarh would place the important trade centres of Chandausi, Bareilly and Moradabad, in direct communication without break of guage with Central India and the Bombay Presidency. That without this connection Goods and Passengers between the B. B. & C. I. and the New Nagda-Muttra and the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railways and the stations on the East Indian line in the vicinity of Hathras, would have to be transhipped at Muttra, and again at Hathras, thus causing great inconvenience and delay in all traffic. Further the distance from Bombay to Aligarh by the existing broad gauge route is 901 miles, whereas by the Nagda-Muttra-Aligarh Railway it would be only 803 miles, showing a considerable reduction in the through distance, with its consequent manifold advantages to the public. That in these circumstances the Committee trusted that Government would give the matter their favourable consideration and see their way to arrange for the construction of the link between Muttra and Aligarh at an early date.

(See Proceedings, March 1906.)

KARACHI.

Carrying Capacity of the North-Western Railway.—READ letter No. R. T., dated 13th August 1906, from the Secretary, Railway Board, acknowledging the Chamber's letter No. 568 of 8th August 1906, regarding the carrying capacity of the North-Western Railway, and stating that the same will in due course be placed before the Railway Board. RESOLUTION.—To be recorded

Crop Forecasts.—READ letter, dated 13th August 1906, No. 3723, from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, replying to the Chamber's letter No. 550, of 28th July 1906, suggesting certain improvements in the corp forecasts and their publication at one centre. RESOLUTION.—Consideration deferred.

Question of taking over by Government the work of compiling statistical returns which is now done by the Chamber.—READ letter No. S.311, dated 8th August 1906, from the Chief Collector of Customs in Sind, intimating that Government have asked him to report upon the question of taking over the work of compiling statistical returns which is now done by the Chamber and requesting to be furnished with information regarding cost of compilation, printing, etc., of the Chamber Daily Trade Return and the Weekly Price Current and Market Report. The Chief Collector also requests that a day be appointed to discuss the matter personally. RESOLUTION.—The Chief Collector of Customs to be informed that after the fullest consideration, the Committee of the Chamber are opposed to the proposals of Government, and prefer to compile their own statistics and returns as now issued by the Chamber to its members; and the Committee would beg reference to their letter No. 798, of 30th December last, on this subject In these circumstances it does not appear necessary to furnish the figures of cost of the Chamber's publications asked for. But should a personal interview still be desired, the Committee would be pleased to meet the Chief Collector of Customs at the conclusion of their next meeting, say at 4 P.M., on the 4th proximo.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

The Board of Trade Journal published on the 9th August, in the section relating to Tariff Changes and

Customs Regulations, gives particulars about—

SOUTHERN RHODESIA.—Prohibition of Importation of Second-hand Clothing.

SEYCHELLES.—Export Duty on Guano and Phosphates.

NETHERLANDS.—Tariff Classification.

FRANCE.—Forthcoming Reduction of "Refining Tax" on Sugared Products.

SPAIN.—Translation of New Customs Tariff.

ITALY-ETHIOPIA.—New Commercial Treaty.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.—Commercial Treaty with Switzerland Ratified.

ROUMANIA.—Import Duties under the Commercial Convention between Roumania and Turkey. Requirements as to Certificates of Origin.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.—Insufficiency of Protest. Act prohibiting the Importation of Falsely Marked Articles of Gold or Silver. New Collection District. Withdrawal of Merchandise from Bonded Warehouse. Customs Decisions.

CUBA.—Increase of Duty on Starch—Reduction of Duty on Glucose. Duty-free Admission of Printing Paper. Tariff Classification of Paper made from Wood Pulp, and Bags thereof.

We give the following particulars of **changes interesting to Indian Trade :—**

—:—

SEYCHELLES.

Guano and Phosphates—export duty on.

The Board of Trade have received from the Governor of Seychelles a copy of "The Guano and Phosphates Export Duty Ordinance, 1906" (No. 8 of 1906), which was passed on 29th June, 1906.

The present Ordinance repeals the Ordinance No. 15 of 1898, which imposed an export duty of 1 rupee per ton on guano, and at the same time provides for the imposition of a duty of 1 rupee per ton, or part of a ton, upon all guano, coral saturated with guano (known as "platin"), and all phosphate rock exported from the colony of Seychelles.

Such duty is to be paid to the Treasurer and Collector of Customs, and no vessel containing any of the above-mentioned substances shall receive a clearance until such duty has been paid.

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FRANCE.

"Refining Tax" on Sugared Products—Forthcoming Reduction of.

With reference to the notice which appeared at p. 173 of the "Journal" for the 26th April last, announcing the forthcoming reduction of the French "refining tax" on sugar from 2 frs. to 1 fr. per 100 kilogs. of refined sugar, the Board of Trade are now in receipt, through the Foreign Office, of information to the effect that a corresponding reduction will be made in the rates of the "refining tax" applicable to *sugared products*. From the 1st September next, therefore, the "refining tax", which is levied on imported sugar and sugared products as well as on those production, will be leviable at the following rates :—

		Frs.	Cts.
Refined sugar and other sugars assimilated thereto	100 kilogs.	1	00
Sugar candy	"	1	07
Molasses, other than for distillation, of a saccharine richness of—			
50 per cent. or less	"	0	60
More than 50 per cent.	"	1	00
Syrups, bonbons, and candied fruits	"	1	00
Preserves (*confitures*) and sweet biscuits	"	0	50
Sweetened condensed milk	" (according to the proportion of sugar.) or	1	00
Chocolate containing 55 per cent. of cocoa	100 kilogs.	0	57

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SPAIN.

New Customs Tariff—Translation of.

With reference to the translation of the new Customs Tariff of Spain which has recently been issued as a Parliamentary Paper (Cd. 3,066), it is to be noted that the official edition of the Royal Decree of the 23rd June, modifying the tariff as originally promulgated, has now been received at the Board of Trade, through the Foreign Office, and differs in some respects from the Decree as published in the *Gaceta de Madrid*, upon which the translation contained in the Return was based.

The following statement shows the modifications which have to be made in the Return in accordance with the revised particulars contained in the official edition of the Decree, together with a few other corrections which have been discovered since the publication of the Return :—

Page.	Tariff No.	Nature of correction to be made.
6	...	The footnote** (to No. 60) should read—Tare allowance : cases, **10** (*not* 20) per cent. &c., &c.
14	170	Delete the words "*sheets, balls, shot*" in the second column.
16	205 & 206	The unit on which the duties are levied under these Nos. is the **kilogramme** (not 100 kilogs.) The English equivalents of the new rates are therefore No. 205, £1. 0*s*. 4*d*. per cwt., No. 206, 18*s*. 3½*d*. per cwt.
16	213	Insert the letter *g* in the fifth column, indicating that the duty is levied on the *gross* weight of the goods.
16	...	The footnote ¶ (to No. 226) should read "The importation of all kinds of **matches** (not phosphorus) &c. &c."

Pages.	Tariff No.	Nature of correction to be made.
31	528	For the words "*greater than 1 cm.*" in the second column, substitute the words "*1 cm. or more.*"
32	550 & 565	Insert the letter *g* in the fifth column, indicating that the duties are levied on the *gross* weight of the goods.

UNITED STATES.

Customs Decisions.

The following is the substance of some Decisions affecting the application of the United States Customs Tariff, which have recently been issued by the Treasury Department at Washington :—

Articles.	Paragraph of the Tariff under which dutiable.	Rate of Duty. Dols Cts.
Bagging of jute or hemp, which falls within the conditions of paragraph 344 *as to count of* threads per sq inch and weight per sq. yard (not exceeding 16 threads to the sq. inch and weighing not less than 15 ozs. per sq. yard)., ordinarily used for bagging "Sea Island" cotton, dutiable as bagging "suitable for covering cotton"	344	sq. yd.-0 00,⅛

Sawn lumber—"Board measure".—The standard unit for the measurement of lumber is one foot board measure : the dimension thereof is 12 by 12 inches surface measurement and 1 inch in thickness. In ascertaining the quantity of lumber this unit is to be applied, *addition or subtraction being made proportionately as the lumber is over or under 1 inch in thickness.*

—:—

INDIA.

Cotton Piece-goods List—Unions.

The Governor General in Council is pleased to direct that entry No. 167 : Unions (½ cotton ½ wool) should be deleted from the "List of Cotton Piece-goods" appended to the Resolution in the Department of Commerce and Industry, Nos. 5443-5449-8, dated the 13th July 1906. (The List was published in the *Indian Trade Journal* of July 26th, pages 593-595.)

WEATHER SUMMARY.

For the week ending the 25th August 1906.

DURING the period under review there was nearly general rain on the Burma Coast, on the West Coast, in the Deccan and on the northern half of the Madras Coast, nearly general light rain in Orissa, Chota Nagpur and Eastern Bengal, light to moderate nearly general rainfall in Gujarat, North Punjab, Frontier Province, Mysore, Nizam's dominion and Assam, moderately heavy rainfall in the Submontane districts of the United Provinces, Central India and the Central Provinces, excluding the eastern districts, local rain in the interior of Southern India, Bihar and in deltaic Bengal while a few light falls have occurred in Kashmir and Rajputana. The principal amounts of rainfall were :—Mangalore 5·57″, Moulmein 5·24″, Simla 5·23″, Tavoy 5·16″, Mymensingh 4·28″, Mergui 4·05″, Ratnagiri 3·93″, Jalpaiguri 3·85″, Ahmednagar 3·80″, Mormugao 3·70″, Gulbarga 3·55″, Cherra Poonjee 3·27″, Chakrata 3·24″, Dehra Dun 2·96″, Goa 2·95″, Chanda 2·77″, Bombay 2·65″, Negapatam 2·52″, Benares 2·40″, Purnea 2·24″, Masulipatam 2·20″, Bijapur 2·10″, Lucknow 1·76″ and Allahabad 1·71″.

The important features in the weather during the week were the changes in the pressure distribution. The relatively high pressure at the head of the Bay gradually disappeared, while at the same time pressure became in large excess along the base of the Himalayas and in defect in the south of the country. Owing to these changes the trough of low pressure moved away from the Himalayas and at the middle of the week extended from the North Madras Coast to Sind, thus allowing the Bay monsoon to extend up the Gangetic plain to the extreme north of the country. The changes were also accompained by a fresh advance of the monsoon and on the 23rd rainfall was not only widespread and locally heavy in the Peninsula, but had reappeared in Rajputana and Central India.

In Burma, the rainfall was very light during the first half of the week, but after the disappearance of the high pressure at the head of the Bay precipitation increased and during the second half, it was widespread. Temperature was in excess and skies moderately overcast.

In North-east India and Orissa precipitation diminished considerably on the 19th and during the remainder of the week about a half of the stations reported some rain each day. Only occasional falls occurred in Orissa and the total fall in South-west Bengal, and Chota Nagpur was much less than usual. Temperature was in slight excess in South west Bengal, Chota Nagpur and Orissa, but elsewhere it was in defect. Skies were moderately to heavily overcast.

In the United Provinces the rainfall was very scanty in the beginning and was chiefly confined to the submontane districts; afterwards owing to the position of the trough of low pressure the Bay monsoon was extending freely up the Gangetic plain and gave moderately heavy rain. The floods in parts

of the United Provinces were serious. Extensive inundation had been experienced in Bahraich, Gonda and Gorakhpur. The abnormal rain in Garhwal was reported to have caused a loss of life and a considerable damage to the land and property in the Belguami Tahsil of Hardoi district. One hundred and twenty-three villages had suffered from seasonal flooding. Damage had also been caused in Unao, Safipur, Dalmau and Ballia and floods in the Rapti and Gograkhadirs of Gorakhpur were reported to be very severe. The break in the rains in Central India came to an end on the 21st and during the next two days rain fell at all the stations except Neemuch. In the Central Provinces monsoon rainfall re-appeared at the middle of the week and all of the stations had reported rain, the total fall being light in the east and normal in the other parts. Skies were moderately over-cast and temperature was in considerable excess.

In North-west India, weather was dry on the first day, but on the 20th rainfall extended over the greater part of the Submontane Punjub, probably owing to a local disturbance, precipitation was fairly general, though light, in the extreme north, on the next two days. By this time the pressure distribution became more favourable for Rajputana and Gujarat, and light rain was reported from a few stations; on the 23rd however it increased rapidly and was nearly general in the former area, while a third of the stations in Gujarat reported light rain. Skies were lightly overcast or clear in the greater part of North-west India and weather was much warmer than usual except in the submontane districts.

The monsoon was fairly active over the whole of the Peninsula and the total rainfall for the period was in large excess at every station excepting Tinnevelly. Skies were lightly to moderately overcast at the middle of the week, but at the end they were heavily overcast. Temperature was in excess during the greater part of the period except in the south-eastern districts, but by the 23rd it was generally in defect.

The floods in parts of Bengal were very serious. Behar, and particularly the Darbhanga district had been devastated; in Purnea things were just as bad, and in the Dooars the floods were likewise reported to have worked much havoc to roads, railways and bridges. The distress owing to floods among the ryots is very great. In Calcutta the rain had temporarily dried up and for nearly a week there were few scattered falls. There was also heavy rain in the Darjeeling hills and the submontane tracts.

Rainfall is not equally distributed over India and this inequality is very marked in several places. Thus in the Simla hills, over 70 inches of rain fell since the 1st May or 29 inches more than is usually registered. The normal fall for the whole year is 63½ inches; and these figures are more striking when compared with Murree, which received less than its usual rainfall. In the plains of the Punjab, too, there is a deficiency. Again in Bengal, a recent crop report showed that more rain was wanted in parts of the Presidency, Burdwan and Orissa divisions, while there had been floods in some other parts. The Darjeeling hills, the submontane tracts and almost all the reporting stations of the Brahmaputra Valley showed much heavier rainfall than normal. Cherrapunjee had a rainfall of over 360 inches against the customary 300. The Central India plateau was also short of its normal supply except at Indore but the Deccan had been fairly well served by the monsoon. On the whole, the rains had been good up to date.

TELEGRAM FROM THE VICEROY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Crop prospects: For the week ending 18th August last.

United Provinces: There was a beneficial break in the affected districts of **Bundelkhand.** Prices are falling. Gratuitous relief is being extended in **Jalaun** to meet some privation noticed among children. **Rajputana:** more rain is urgently needed everywhere; crops are withering on the dry lands. The break is causing anxiety in **Marwara:** relief works have been closed in **Karauli.** Prices are falling. **Central India:** Fairly general rain has fallen. Crops are in good condition. The probable outturn is fair. **Bombay:** Beneficial rain has fallen, but more rain is needed in several districts, especially for rice. The Cotton area is generally above normal. The condition of agricultural stock is improving. Prices show a tendency to fall. The demand for labour is increasing and the numbers on relief are falling. **Eastern Bengal:** High floods in most districts. Crop prospects uncertain in flooded areas, fair elsewhere. Prices high and rising. Scarcity continues in three districts. The numbers on relief are falling. Prospects are favourable in other provinces. The following are the numbers of persons in receipt of relief in thousands: **United Provinces** 112; **Ajmer** and **Rajputana** 38; **Central India** 12; **Bombay** 75; **Eastern Bengal** 2; total 239. Since the end of the week good rain has fallen in the **Deccan,** and some rain in **Rajputana.**

JUTE CULTIVATION IN NEPAL.

THE imports of **Jute** from **Nepal** have been growing steadily. In the year 1896-97 the imports were 36,410 cwt. valued at Rs. 2,23,014. In the year 1905-06 the quantity imported had risen to 236,214 cwt. and the value to Rs. 21,39,964. This trade is one that is certain to increase considerably. No statistics of the area under jute are registered by the Nepalese Government, since Land Revenue is charged on all land under the plough. It is stated, however, that the area devoted to Jute in the current season will exceed that of the last year, and the outturn, unless the crop has suffered from excessive rain, will be at least as good in the year 1906-07 as it was in the year 1905-06. The reason for the recent increase in the cultivation of Jute in Nepal is twofold. In the first place the demand for Jute, and its value, have increased very considerably. In the second place the cultivation of Jute until a year or two ago was a state monopoly. Since the abandonment of this monopoly the riots have brought very great areas under jute cultivation.

PRODUCTION OF INDIARUBBER.

"THERE is," said Professor Wyndham Dunston, LL.D., in a recent address before the British Association at York, "no more important group of questions demanding attention from the chemist at the present time than those connected with the **production of indiarubber** or caoutchouc. An enormous increase in the demand for indiarubber has taken place in the last few years, and last year the production was not less than 60,000 tons. Until recently the supply of rubber came chiefly from two sources—the forests of Brazil, which contain the tree known as *Hevea brasiliensis*, furnishing the Para rubber of commerce, which commands the highest price, and the forests of Africa, where climbing plants, generally of the Landolphia class, also furnish rubber. The increased demand for caoutchouc has led to the extensive planting of the Para rubber tree, especially in Ceylon and in the Federated Malay States. Systematic cultivation and improved methods of preparation are responsible for the fact that the product of the cultivated tree, which begins to furnish satisfactory rubber when six or seven years old, is now commanding a higher price than the product of the wild tree in Brazil. It is estimated that within the next seven years the exports of cultivated indiarubber from Ceylon and the Federated Malay States will reach between ten and fifteen million pounds annually, and that after fifteen years they may exceed the exports of the so-called wild rubber from Brazil.

The services which chemistry can render to the elucidation of the problems of rubber production and utilisation are very numerous. Methods of treatment depending on a knowledge of the other constituents of the latex have led to the production of rubber in a purer condition. Much still remains to be elucidated by chemical means as to the nature of the remarkable coagulation of the latex. As is well known, the latex is a watery fluid resembling milk in appearance which contains the rubber, or as I think more probable, the immediate precursor of rubber, together with proteids and other minor constituents. The constituent furnishing rubber is in suspension, and rises like cream when the latex is at rest. On the addition of an acid, or sometimes of alkali, or even on more exposure, coagulation takes place and the rubber separates as a solid, the other constituents for the most part remaining dissolved in the aqueous liquid or "serum." The first view taken of the nature of the coagulation process was that, like the coagulation of milk by acids, it is dependent upon a process of proteid coagulation, the separated proteids carrying down the rubber during precipitation.

This explanation cannot, however, be considered complete by the chemist, and there are peculiarities connected with the coagulation of the associated proteids. The experimental investigation of the question on the chemical side is beset with many difficulties which are increased if access cannot be had to fresh latex. A number of experiments were made at the Imperial Institute with latex forwarded from India. The difficulties contended with in preventing coagulation during transit were great, but in the case of the latex derived from certain plants these were to some extent surmounted and the results obtained, especially with reference to the behaviour of certain solvents towards the latex, led to the conclusion that "coagulation" can take place after removal of the proteids, and that in all probability it is the result of polymerisation of a liquid which is held in suspension in the latex and on polymerisation changes into the solid colloid which we know as caoutchouc.

I have very briefly drawn attention to the present position of our knowledge of the chemistry of caoutchouc in illustration of the interest which attaches to the examination of vegetable products, and also because of the immense importance of the problem from the practical and commercial standpoint. Chemistry in this case holds the premier position in reference to this subject, and to a large extent may be said to hold the key to the future of the rubber industry in all its phases. The discovery of better methods of coagulation, preparation, and purification will be effected through chemical investigation, as will also the determination of the manner of utilising the various other plants which furnish rubber-like latices. That the physical properties of raw rubber, on which its technical value depends, are to be correlated with the chemical composition of the material there can be no doubt. The chemical analysis of raw rubber, as at present conducted is, however, not always to be taken by itself as a trustworthy criterion of quality, and more refined processes of analysis are now needed. Although the finest caoutchouc for technical purposes is only yielded by some half-dozen plants, under whose names these varieties of caoutchouc pass, there can scarcely be a doubt that the elastic substance in each case possesses a very similar, if not identical, chemical structure. Nearly all the latices and similar fluids furnished by plants contains more or less caoutchouc. Even opium, which is the dried juice of the capsule of the poppy, contains caoutchouc, whilst the opium yielded by certain Indian species contains a notable proportion. Chemistry must determine the means by which caoutchouc can best be separated from these relatively poor latices. In view of the increasing production of the nearly pure caoutchouc which is

furnished by *Hevea brasiliensis, Funtumia elastica, Castilloa elastica, Ficus elastica,* and a few other plants which occur, or can be cultivated in several of our tropical possessions, the question is not a pressing one at the moment.

Moreover, it cannot be doubted that chemical science will sooner or later be able to take a definite step towards the production of caoutchouc by chemical means has, indeed, virtually been accomplished in its formation from isoprene. The exact nature of this change has still to be determined. When this has been done, it will only remain to cheapen the cost of production to make the manufacture of synthetic rubber a purely practical problem. I should be the last to discourage the great extension of rubber planting which is now taking place. It is warranted by the present demand for the material. It has also to be remembered that the actual cost of producing raw rubber, which is at present about one shilling per pound, will probably be reduced, and the market price of rubber may eventually be so considerably lowered that as with quinine, the synthetic production could not be profitably carried on. That is a question which involves many factors at present unknown, and only time can decide. Chemists may, however, confidently predict that before the British Association again meets at York the synthetic production of rubber will be a fully accomplished fact."

THE AMERICAN WHEAT CROP

THE following extract from the weekly review of the grain trade, appearing in the *Corn Trade News* of the 7th of August is worth the special attention of Indian wheat exporters :—

We must admit that the extreme weakness in America has come upon us as a surprise, the best explanation of the phenomenon, perhaps, being that the **winter wheat crop** is proving to be much larger than our early advices led us to expect. Certainly this view is well supported by the aggregate western receipts of the past two or three weeks, as will be shown in a subsequent table, but it cannot be deemed as conclusive, for it will be recollected that a year ago a rather misleading inference was drawn from the comparatively free movement of wheat and the early sales of "Hard winters" for Liverpool—the total western receipts this past week amounted to only 1,500,000 bushels more than they did in the corresponding week of last season. Going back to the beginning of the season, 5½ weeks ago, we have prepared a table showing the comparative movement in each of the past 11 seasons ; both from the farmers to Western Depêts and from the ports to foreign countries :—

AMERICAN RECEIPTS AND SHIPMENTS.

During the first 5½ weeks of this and preceding 10 seasons.

Year.	WESTERN RECEIPTS.			TOTAL SHIPMENTS FROM U. S. A. IN SUBSEQUENT 12 MONTHS.
	WINTER.	SPRING.	TOTAL.	
	Bus.	Bus.	Bus.	Bus.
1906.	14,756,000	16,550,000	31,306,000	.....
1905.	14,232,000	9,274,000	23,506,000	98,000,000
1904.	8,363,000	7,934 000	16,297,000	43,000,000
1903.	8,438,000	7,283,000	15,721,000	120,000,000
1902.	16,254,000	13,268,000	29,522,000	202,000,000
1901.	15,342,000	16,464,000	31,806,000	234,000,000
1900.	14,576,000	10,505,000	25,081,000	215,000,000
1899.	11,594,000	16,200,000	27,794,000	186,000,000
1898.	6,556,000	3,843,000	10,399,000	223,000,000
1897.	7,717,000	9,980,000	17,697,000	217,000,000
1896.	5,526,000	12,546,000	18,072,000	145,000,000

It would be foolish to ignore the plain significance of this statement, which points to liberal export movement of wheat from the States during the current season, but there are still some uncertainties to be reckoned with ; *firstly*, the Spring wheat crop is, after all, the main contributor to the export trade and, indeed, in recent years has been almost the sole contributor, and this crop is not yet secured and no trustworthy estimate can be made of its extent for some little time longer ; *secondly*, there is the part which the Pacific Coast is going to play as an exporter this year ; last season Oregon and Washington exported large quantities of wheat and flour which this year may not be forthcoming so readily. Considering all these circumstances and that, moreover, we have already allowed for the United States shipping 160,000,000 bushels in the current season, compared with 98,000,000, last season, it does seem to an onlooker that the effect of these heavy receipts of Winter wheat has already been sufficiently discounted. Of course, if the remainder of the harvest season in the northwest of the United States and Canada and in Western Europe be favoured with a continuance of the present favourable weather then the present depression might very probably be prolonged and prices give way even further.

THE TRADE BALANCE OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE New York *Financial and Commercial Chronicle* goes closely into the question of the trade balance of the United States asking if it is really as large as it seems. The paper, declaring that it finds it difficult to explain satisfactorily the disposition of the huge balances that occur year after year, says :—

" We do not intend to-day to go into a discussion of the general subject of what the sum annually due by us in the various ways mentioned may be, for we can throw no new light on that aspect of the controversy. It appears to us, however, that there is no one point connected with the trade returns that is being quite widely overlooked. Is there not a decided probability that the recorded totals of exports, rising in magnitude with every succeeding year, are too favourable to this country ? No doubt the general public imagines that these statistics, showing the results down to the last dollar, are absolutely accurate and exact and that no element of doubt or uncertainty can or does enter into the same. But unfortunately that is not the case. To those cognizant of the difficulties which beset Government officials in the collection of these returns, it is obvious that the results are far from exact, that, indeed, they are to a considerable extent based on estimates, often on conjecture, and hence that it is not at all possible to speak with absolute certainty regarding the same.

" This being so, a little reflection will convince the reader, we are sure, that without the least connivance on the part of Government officials, a tendency exists to overstate the value of the exports and to understate the value of the imports. This circumstance alone would make it certain that the apparent trade balance—the recorded excess of exports over imports —is certain at all times to overtop the mark. The imports are likely to be undervalued because duties are in so many cases levied on the value of the goods and no importer is desirous of paying more for duties than he is obliged to pay. Probably the undervaluation is now smaller than at any previous period in the country's history owing to the severe penalties imposed for undervaluation and the strict examination and supervision exercised by customs officials. Indeed, it is contended by many that the import figures are as nearly accurate as it is possible to make them. The shipper abroad, it is well enough to say, is compelled to prepare an invoice of all goods destined for this country and to swear to it before the American Consul in the country from which the importations to the United States are made. Furthermore, when the goods reach this country they are examined by a corps of appraisers who are familiar with prices abroad and who are especially selected for their knowledge of values and grades of goods. These appraisers put a price on the goods imported, and any attempt, therefore, to understate to any serious extent the invoice price is sure to be detected. Of course a certain amount of smuggling is all the time going on notwithstanding the utmost vigilance, and the importer may be relied upon to see that the customs officials do not value the imported goods too high. Accordingly, though the deviation from the true values may not be very great, yet, as a general proposition, it may be truthfully asserted that the import figures will err on the side of being too low.

"In the case of the exports the situation is entirely different. Here there are many incentives and inducements for the shipper or consignor to report the results larger than they should be and the Government officials are powerless to prevent it. For many classes of goods, particularly articles of manufacture, prices in the United States are higher than anywhere else in the world. Yet we export considerable amounts of such goods. It is obvious that these goods do not go out at the home prices, but at some figure considerably lower. Indeed, the fact is notorious that in many lines of trade the foreign purchaser is able to buy here very much more cheaply than the domestic purchaser. So much so is this the case that the practice, as everyone knows, is often sharply criticised and not infrequently severely condemned. Does the exporter under such circumstances undertake to state the price actually received by him plus the cost of freight to the point of export, which would give the true export value, or is he apt to report market price at home ? Obviously it is not to his interest to let it be known how much less he is asking for the goods shipped abroad than what he is demanding for the same goods at home. But even where there is not marked disparity between the home price and the price to the foreign purchaser, there is a natural disinclination on the part of an exporter or consignor to let his competitors at home know (for they may be competing with him in the foreign market) at what price he is letting his goods go out. Hence the goods are likely to be billed at the home price rather than at the selling price." Thereafter the writer discusses at length the various considerations that lead to inaccuracy in declarations of value, and concludes by saying that in reckoning, or explaining the large excess of American exports over imports allowance must be made for very obvious overstatements of export figures.

PETROLEUM IN JAPAN.

Petroleum was discovered in **Japan** at a very early date, and the collection of it for use was commenced in early times. Natural outcrops of petroleum occur in several places, and in many parts they are abundant. Natural gas is also found, and in some places, *e. g.*, near Sango (Echigo), is utilised for lighting purposes. Mr. I. A. Stigand has gone into the question in the *Society of Arts Journal.* The production of petroleum is practically limited to the province of Echigo, although small quantities are

obtained in the province of Ugo—near Akita and Hirayama, and in the province of Shinano—in the vicinity of Nagano; while in the province of Totomi, on the East Coast, there is a small oilfield (the oilfield of Sugegaya) near the town of Sugara, which produces the most oil after Echigo. Also some petroleum is collected on a small scale and by primitive methods in Hokkaido, where there are many surface indications. But the statistics show that by far the greater amount of petroleum is produced in Echigo; *e. g.*, in 1898 the production was as follows in the different provinces :—

	Koku.
Echigo	318,622
Totomi	2,783
Other provinces . . .	1,000
	322,405

In 1900—

	Koku.
Echigo	833,766
Totomi	2,715
Other provinces . . .	17
	836,498

A koku is equal to 180·3907 litres, or 39·7033 gallons.

Formerly the oil was obtained by means of dug wells, and even now these wells are to a great extent in use. The industry did not reach any great importance until the discovery of the Higashiyama oilfield in 1888, and at this time bored wells were introduced and American principles adopted.

On the successful opening of the oilfields of Kamada and Nagamine, to the north-north-east of Kashiwasaki, in 1899 respectively, a great impetus was given to the industry, and these fields are still the most important in Japan. Shortly after the discovery of these oilfields, Japan attracted the attention of the Standard Oil Company, who formed the International Petroleum Company, with a capital of a million pounds, to carry on the industry in Japan. A refinery has been erected by them at Naoetsu, and they have several oilfields to the east of and in the district of Naoetsu.

All the other companies working petroleum in Japan are Japanese. There are a great number of these companies, but the largest and most important is the Japan Petroleum Company, whose refinery is situated at Kashiwasaki (Nippon Sekiya Kabuiska Kaisha). Many of the smaller companies only use dug wells.

The chief oilfields are the "Higashiyama" and the "Nishiyama". The former lies about six miles to the east-north-east of Nagaoka, and includes the districts of Urase, Hire, and Katsubo, which are continuous, forming one field. The latter (Nishiyama) is situated about six miles north-north-east of Kashiwasaki, and includes the districts of Nagamine and Kamada, which, the former extending to the latter in a north-easterly direction, form one field including also some borings on the coast, a short distance to the west of Nagamine, *viz.*, at Miyagawa.

There are numerous other localities and small fields where borings have been made or wells dug, notably at Nitsu, near for the most part only in small groups of, or isolated, wells, and in many of these the production has been falling, the oil becoming exhausted, and many have been abandoned, especially after the successful openings of the Kamada and Nagamine fields.

LIQUID AIR.

The production of liquid air in large quantities, amounting to thousands of gallons per diem at, it is stated, one-sixth the present market price, with the probability of ultimately reducing the cost of production to a fraction over 1*d.* per gallon, is an interesting development to the engineering profession, inasmuch as the result is arrived at purely by mechanical means, without an atom of added chemicals or other adventitious aid. The apparatus employed to bring about this conversion of the atmosphere into liquid form is the invention of Mr. Knudsen, a Dane, who, supported by British capital and enterprise, patented the perfected machine so recently as last year. The closing week of July saw the public inauguration of the first unit of the plant, the production being only limited by the power applied. In this process of manufacturing liquid air atmospheric air is first of all purified and freed from dust and it is then compressed in a three-stage air compressor to 2,500lb. to the square inch. In the first low-pressure cylinder it is compressed to 90lb. pressure; in the second, intermediate, to 550lb.; and in the third high-pressure cylinder the pressure is 2,500lb. to the square inch. The air is cooled between the stages of compression to the temperature of the cooling water. After compression to 2,500lb. to the square inch the air enters a moisture separator, which removes the moisture, as well as oil and other impurities which might have vaporized and passed over in the process of compression. The air next enters one of the two final moisture separators, where it passes through a number of copper coils still under 2,500lb. pressure. Surrounding these coils cold air from the liquefier passes in the opposite direction which lowers the temperature sufficiently to freeze any traces of moisture on the inside of the coils, leaving absolutely pure dry air to be liquified. The purified dry high-pressure air then enters the outer coils (seven in number), where it passes through the three outer ones first. At the bottom of the apparatus there is a receptacle connecting the three coils with the four others; this receptacle serves the purpose of separating the carbonic acid gas. After the air leaves the four coils it enters at the top of the centre part of the liquefier, when, under 2,500lb. pressure, it passes through a number of very fine copper tubes to the bottom, where all the tubes are connected to a number of high pressure expansion valves, and here the pressure of the air is reduced from 2,500lb. per square inch to 125lb. to the square inch; it then returns over the small tubes, cooling the high-pressure of the air in the same to such an extent that it liquefies partly in the tubes and partly in the expansion valves. On expansion the air which liquefies runs by gravity into a receptacle whence it can be drawn off.

The air which does not liquefy on expansion, by an ingenious arrangement is caused to return over the small copper tubes, which are enclosed in a large copper vessel and connected with a pipe at the top leading to a turbine, where the air under 125lb. pressure is again expanded as near as possible to atmospheric pressure doing work in the turbine and thereby cooling itself many times more than before entering the turbine under pressure. This cooling product in the form of exhaust air from the turbine re-enters the liquefiers at the top of the apparatus circulating in the opposite direction to the high pressure air, within the coils. This air first passes over the four copper coils, in a downward direction, and then returns in the upward direction over the three first large coils of the liquefier. From there it circulates as previously explained over one of the two moisture separators, and then to the conduct pipe to the low pressure cylinder of the air compressor, together with the atmospheric air drawn from the dust separator. The power which is saved by expanding air in the turbine is utilized for operating a small air compressor, and the air itself is utilized for cooling the high pressure air.

A few of the commercial uses for liquid air may be referred to. The oxygen gas produced by separating the nitrogen from the liquid air is claimed to be purer than by the old method, and can be supplied in the approximately 120 cubic feet of oxygen gas, which at the present time has a retail commercial value of 3*d.* per cubic foot. The new price is $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per cubic foot. Liquid air, as an explosive for coal mines, has already been tested, and can be used with perfect safety in mines where fire damp or other explosive gases exist. It is also considerably cheaper than most other safety explosives. Liquid oxygen in the steel and iron industry can be used for the welding of steel pipes, boiler shells and plates for shipbuilding, instead of riveting. That oxygen and nitrogen can be separated from liquid air and sold retail at 5*s.* per gallon is sufficient to prove to all chemists the enormous commercial possibilities in their industry. The use of nitrogen for agricultural purposes opens yet another field. The maturing of liquors will also be helped by liquid air, as also the preservation and purification of milk. The use of liquid air as a motive power has been demonstrated to be not only possible but quite practicable for small powers for a number of different purposes. Finally, the British Government have already carried out a number of experiments with a view to the utilization of liquid air for various purposes.

IRRIGATION IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

In their Triennial Revenue Report, on irrigation in the United Provinces for the period ending 31st March 1905, the local Government say:—During the past triennium the total capital outlay amounted to Rs. 55,14,863, an annual average of Rs. 18,38,288 of the total expenditure, Rs. 6,72,386 was incurred on Minor Works, and Rs. 48,42,477 on Major Productive and Protective Works. This outlay represents direct and indirect charges, amounting to Rs. 52,00,081 and Rs. 3,14,782 respectively. The total capital outlay to the end of the year now amounts to the large sum of Rs. 9,68,95,619, equivalent to £6,459,708 sterling, of the direct outlay (Rs. 906,52,525) Rs. 8,66,69,444 were met from Imperial and Rs. 39,83,081 from Provincial funds. Several very important schemes were devised and carried out, notably the Mat Branch Extension of the Upper Ganges Canal. Many distributary channels were regraded; several new major distributaries were constructed and also many new minor channels. New inspection houses and additional quarters have been provided for officers and subordinates; some flour mills have also been erected at important centres on the canals. Work was commenced on the construction of the Ken canal, and on the Dhurwan Wier, both important Protective Works, good progress was made, especially as regards the Ken canal. During the three years 1902-03 to 1904-05, the total length of channels in operations, increased from 12,919 miles to 13,553 miles, an extension of 634 miles. The greatest advance is shown in 1903-04, when the Mat Branch extension was opened for irrigation. The net revenue earned by all classes of canals, during the three years, amounted to Rs. 1,94,14,527 and the net profit, to over Rs. 93 lakhs. The accumulated net profit now amounts to Rs. 4,06,10,413 which is equivalent to £2,707,361 sterling, and represents a return of 42 per cent. on the capital outlay to the end of the year 1904-05. The area irrigated in the three years by all canals (except those in the Tarai and Bhabar) amounted to 7,195,539 acres, or on an average 2,398,513 acres annually. The average yearly area irrigated is less than that of the last two triennial periods The total estimated value of the crops raised by the aid of canal water amounted to nearly 25 crores of rupees, representing an average value of Rs. 35 per acre irrigated. The total direct assessments of the three years, amounted to Rs. 2,43,25,765, of this Rs. 2,22,95,693 was on account of occupier's rate: the indirect revenue amounted to Rs. 44,99,539 making a total of Rs. 2,88,25,304 or an average annual assessment of Rs. 96,08,435. These results compare favourably with corresponding figures for previous periods, and the average annual assessments are considerably higher than those for the last nine years.

SHIPPING, PLAGUE RULES.

THE following circular has been issued by the Home Department :—

"The provisions of Chapter II, section III' of the Paris Sanitary Convention of 1903' apply to vessels arriving at ports which are free from plague and not to vessels arriving at ports which are already infected. Under the terms of the Convention, therefore, the imposition of rat destruction on vessels arriving at an infected port is optional, and as the measure would ordinarily be of no advantage to such a port, it should not, in the opinion of the Government of India, be compulsory. They leave it accordingly to the discretion of local Governments to impose the measure or not as they think best.

In the case of infected ships arriving at a port which is free from plague the Convention prescribes that the rats on board must be destroyed [Art. 21 (6)], and this measure, together with measures for preventing rats from reaching the shore (which should be taken before the commencement of the operations for their destruction on board), is clearly desirable in the interests of the port. I am accordingly to ask that the necessary steps may be taken for the adoption of both these measures.

In the case of vessels leaving infected ports the acceptance of the Convention renders it necessary that steps should in all cases be taken to prevent the ingress of rats on board ships [Art. 47 (2)], and, after a careful consideration of all the circumstances, the Government of India have decided that in all important ports not only should the access of rats to outward-bound vessels be prevented but that at least one Clayton apparatus should be provided in all such ports for the convenience of such vessels as desire to use it. They are further of opinion that the destruction of rats on such vessels should be encouraged, and that the local authorities should offer every facility for their destruction on the receipt of applications from the owners or agents of ships.

The most effective method of destroying rats which has as yet been suggested is by the use of gaseous sulphurous acid, and the Clayton apparatus appears to be the best generator for the purpose at present on the market. A series of experiments recently carried out with this apparatus show that it is at once the cheapest and the most effective of its kind and that it injures only a few articles of cargo."

TRANS-FRONTIER TRADE THROUGH CHAGAI.

The Assistant Political Agent for Chagai, under date 31st July 1906, submits the following comparative statement of the export and import trade for the month of June in 1906 and 1905 :—

—	IMPORT.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1906.	1905.		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Afghanistan .	18,607	13,200	5,407	...
Persia .	...	9,280	...	9,280
Baluchistan .	65,013	23,115	41,898	...

—	EXPORT.		Increase.	Decrease.
	1906.	1905.		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Afghanistan .	...	...	...	...
Persia .	8,191	...	8,401	...
Baluchistan .	21,058	20,201	857	

There has thus been a net increase of Rs. 47,373 over the trade in the corresponding month of the last year.

DISTRIBUTION OF CHINA'S TRADE.

A CORRESPONDENT in Shanghai writes as follows to the *Times* :—

"A study of the distribution of the trade of the Chinese Empire is complicated by the intrusion of **Hong-Kong** into the problem. This British colony, formerly limited to a small island separated by a mile from the Chinese mainland, is now, by the inclusion in 1899 of the leased territory of Kowloon, marching with Chinese territory, as much a commercial port of commercial China as is Shanghai. But, covered as it is by the British flag, it must be treated in statistics as foreign to China, and the Chinese Customs returns ascribe to it all the trade passing through its warehouses. American, Russian, and Sumatran kerosene, Japanese matches, German chemical products, French wines, Swiss watches, and Belgian iron once landed in Hong-Kong are lost to statistical study. The Chinese Customs are prohibited from going behind the port of provenance, as shown by the bill of lading, by the restrictions of extra-territoriality ; without powers of compulsion no **statistics of origin** are worth the paper they are printed on, and in China compulsion can be exercised on the subjects of 17 Treaty Powers only through the Consuls of those 17 Powers, whose aims in commercial matters are not always in concordance. One example of the divergence in aim will suffice. The German Government is naturally desirous that German goods shipped at Antwerp shall be credited to Germany ; it does not follow that the importer in China is equally desirous that the world should know whence he gets his goods, and the Belgian Government is not anxious to belittle the importance of its principal shipping port.

Difficulties regarding Hong-Kong.

The difficulty with regard to Hong-Kong is increased by the fact that it publishes no trade statistics. By this omission two ends are attained—the freedom of this freest of free ports is secured to the extent of allowing the Hong-Kong merchant to buy and sell as if political boundaries did not exist, and the attention of the world is focussed on its published statistics of shipping. With these this "Mugby Junction" among ports stands proudly forward as the second port in the world, disregarding the demonstrable fact that its trade—its buying and selling of goods—is about half that of Shanghai ; and with these shipping figures it shows that shipping under the British flag contributes more than a half to the tonnage entering and clearing. This, however, does not help us to an understanding of the composition of the trade of China, even of that part handled by Hong-Kong.

Statisticians and editors, free-traders and fair traders, British and non-British, are all driven to use the figures given by the Chinese Customs, and all triumphantly quote, to prove the point of the moment, figures which include in British trade non-British goods which have assumed a semblance of nationality by passing through the British colony of Hong-Kong. The importance of the error may be gauged when it is known that the value of the trade ascribed to Hong-Kong in the five years 1899—1903 was 40½ per cent. of the whole foreign trade of China. The figures based upon this error show that in 1904 the British Empire provided 66½ per cent. of China's imports and took 45½ per cent. of her exports. This is a comforting statement, and calculated to make John Bull turn over on his pillow and think, good easy man, that all is for the best in this best of all possible worlds. But let us analyse the figures a little.

Analysis of Chinese Customs.

First let us take the figures published by the Chinese Customs. In 1904 to a total of 357 million taels of imports the British Empire contributed 237 million taels, and of 239 million taels of exports it took 109 million taels, being 66½ and 45½ per cent., respectively ; the share of the non-British world was 120 and 128 million taels, respectively. Of the total trade, 594 million taels, the British share was 346 and the non-British 248 million taels. (The tael may be taken at 3*s.*, but between 1899 and 1904 it varied between 2*s.* 7*d.* and 3*s.*) These are the proportions from which we start, but by taking the published statistics of other countries, we are able to check the Chinese Customs figures in the way shown below, assuming in all cases that Hong-Kong is to be considered an integral part of commercial China, and converting values at the rates of silver exchange current in each year.

First we may eliminate the Russian Empire, since the figures are not affected by the intrusion of Hong-Kong, and more especially since its trade is mainly a land traffic conducted across the thousands of miles of common frontier. In this traffic we are struck by the large volume of trade which contributes no revenue to the Imperial Exchequer of China, whatever may happen at the points at which the frontier is crossed. For the five years 1899—1903, before the Russo-Japanese war, the Chinese Customs statistics show an average importation of Russian goods amounting to 2·9 million taels a year, of which none crossed the land frontier, and an average exportation of Chinese produce (almost entirely tea) to Russia amounting to 12·8 million taels a year, of which an average of 4·6 million taels crossed the land frontier. For the same five years the Russian statistics give an average exportation of Russian goods to China amounting to 8·4 million taels, and an average import of Chinese produce valued at 36·4 million taels. Disregarding any difference in the systems of valuation, we have shown here 5·5 million taels worth of Russian products and 23·6 million taels worth of Chinese produce, of which no cognisance is taken by the Chinese Imperial Customs, and which are an unexpected addition to the non-British trade of China.

Coming now to the British Empire, we are confronted with a difficulty on the very threshold. A portion of the trade which passes through Hong-Kong is purely Chinese—Chinese produce in transit from one Chinese port to another Chinese port—which thereby forms a part of China's foreign trade, both export and import, but which contributes to the upkeep of Hong-Kong only insignificant transshipping charges. This arises from two causes. Hong-Kong is a terminus for many of the shipping lines plying to the southern ports of China, and transhipment becomes, therefore, a necessity. Besides this, goods imported from a foreign port, such as is Hong-Kong, acquire certain privileges and exemptions denied to the home trade, and instances are common of goods being shipped from a West River port to Hong-Kong, remaining in the steamer, and then carried back and "imported" at a port further up river—further inland—as *quasi*-foreign goods, entitled to all privileges as such. There is, moreover, a certain trade in the supply of provisions, building materials, etc., for the 300,000 population of Hong-Kong itself. Into this Chinese traffic with Hong-Kong I have not yet, however, had time to go, though I may take the subject in hand later.

Real British Trade with China.

The British Empire, exclusive of Hong-Kong, in the five years 1899—1903, actually sent to China,

inclusive of Hong-Kong, an average of 160·7 million taels, made up as follows :—

United Kingdom	66·8	millions.
India and Ceylon	76·0	„
Straits Settlements	12·8	„
Australia	4·4	„
Other British Colonies	0·7	„

In the same five five years the British Empire received from China, including Hong-Kong, an average of 69·4 million taels of Chinese produce, made up as follows :—

United Kingdom	23·0	millions.
India and Ceylon	12·0	„
Straits Settlements	20·3	„
Australia	3·8	„
Other British Colonies	1·3	„

In 1904 the corresponding values were 207·4 million taels for British produce shipped to China, and 58·3 million taels of Chinese produce imported :—

—	Imported into China.	Exported from China.
United Kingdom	94·0 millions	22·5 millions
India and Ceylon	91·7 „	10·7 „
Straits Settlements	11·7 „	20·6 „
Australia	6·5 „	3·2 „
Other British Colonies	0·5 „	1·3 „

Shipments in 1904 from the United Kingdom consisted in a large proportion of cotton cloth, valued at 52 million taels (£7,823,580) ; and next in importance, but a long way after, woollens valued at £1,301,106, iron valued at £717,906, coal valued at £629,112, machinery valued at £317,928 ; even British-made tobacco shipped to a tobacco-growing country was valued at £135,815. Of Chinese produce imported into the United Kingdom, the first in importance is tea, of which the value was £854,267. To show the extent to which China has lost the English tea market, it may be noted that four-sevenths of this import was re-exported, leaving only £361,369 retained in the United Kingdom, and that this last sum is only 3·8 per cent. of the total value, £9,408,973, of tea imported from all sources. Following tea comes silk, valued at £466,000, and silk waste, from which England has created an industry, valued at £321,255. Then come bristles, £239,308, strawbraid £202,266, feathers £59,742, hides £60,168, horsehair £45,275, the greater part of which was subsequently re-exported ; and sheep's and camels' wool £127,651, goats' hair £37,376, the bulk of which was retained in the United Kingdom. India took from China chiefly tea and silk and, from the Hong-Kong refineries, sugar. Of Indian shipments to China, 42 per cent. in value consisted of opium, with which there is no competition from any part of the world, except China herself, and 46 per cent. of cotton yarn, which has entirely displaced English spinnings, and which now competes with the product of Chinese and Japanese mills. Shipments from the Straits Settlements consisted of tropical produce, and imports almost entirely of special Chinese articles for the large Chinese population of that region.

Real Non-British Trade with China.

In the five years 1899—1903 the non-British world outside of Russia sent to China, including Hong-Kong, goods to an annual average value of 138·1 million taels, made up as follows :—

Germany	18·2	millions.
Other European countries	11·4	„
United States	36·3	„
Japan	60·6	„
Other non-European countries	11·6	„

In the same five years these non-British countries received from China an average of 162·8 million taels of Chinese produce, as follows :—

Germany	9·1	millions.
Other European countries	79·9	„
United States	34·6	„
Japan	34·0	„
Other non-European countries	5·2	„

(Including France, chiefly silk, 51·8 millions, and Italy chiefly silk, 20·1 millions.)

For 1904 the corresponding values were about 150 million taels of products shipped to China, and about 196 million taels of Chinese produce imported, including—

—	Imported into China.	Exported from China.
Germany	23·2 millions	11·8 millions
United States	36·1 „	47·0 „
Japan	71·0 „	45·3 „

Germany sent chiefly dyestuff, needles, sugar, and woollens, and received chiefly hides, bristles, and feathers. The United States sent chiefly cotton fabrics, kerosene oil, and flour, and received chiefly tea, silk, and strawbraid. Japan sent cotton yarn and fabrics, matches, copper, and a long list of sundries, and received raw cotton, beans, and bean-cake. France and Italy received large values in raw silk, but have otherwise little trade with China, and in silk they have what almost amounts to a monopoly, with little competition from other countries.

Summary of Actual Trade.

To summarize the results of going behind Hong-Kong and getting at the true components of the trade of China, we find that in the five years 1899—1903 the average values of imports into China according to the Chinese Customs returns, and according to the true origin, compare as follows, in taels :—

—	Chinese statistics.	True statistics.
British Empire	199·7 millions	160·7 millions.
Russian Empire	2·9 „	8·4 „
Other countries	84·5 „	138·1 „
	287·1 „	307·2 „

In the same five years the average values of exports from China compare as follows :—

—	Chinese statistics.	True statistics.
British Empire	92·5 millions	60·4 millions
Russian Empire	12·8 „	36·4 „
Other countries	85·3 „	162·8 „
	190·6 „	259·6 „

In this last statement the Chinese Customs figures for China's exports require some re-adjustment. The values given to imports into the non-Chinese countries are, generally speaking, c. i. f. (the value at the moment of entering those countries), probably in all cases, except in the United States. In China, on the other hand, the values given to those same goods on leaving the country were, before 1904, based on local market prices, to which, it has been calculated, an average of 13 per cent. must be added for export duty and other charges, to get the f.o.b. value. There are, besides, the charges for freight, insurance, etc., on the exports, but, adding only 15 per cent. for these, the comparison stands as follows :—

—	Chinese statistics.	True statistics.
British Empire	106·4 millions	60·4 millions
Russian Empire	14·7 „	36·4 „
Other countries	98·1 „	162·8 „
	219·2 „	259·6 „

Approximately True Distribution.

It is hopeless to try to reconcile figures based upon a score of different national systems of valuation, and with fiscal years closing on at least three different dates of the calendar year; but these figures will at least give us proportions, and from them we may derive the following percentages :—

—	Imports.		Exports.	
	Chinese statistics.	True statistics.	Chinese statistics.	True statistics.
	%	%	%	%
British Empire	69·6	52·3	48·5	23·3
Russian Empire	1·0	2·7	6·7	14·0
Other countries	29·4	45·0	44·8	62·7
	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

Here, then, after much explanation and more calculation, we are able to see the true proportions of the foreign trade of China, based upon the figures of the five years 1899—1903, up to the time, that is, when the normal proportion was disturbed by the war. We see that the British Empire, instead of 70 per cent, supplied actually 52 per cent. of China's consumption, and, instead of 48 per cent., took only 23 per cent. of her produce. While this correction is to be made for the Empire, the figures for the United Kingdom have to be increased. For the average of the five years the Chinese returns give 47·0 million taels imported from Great Britain, while the British returns give 66·8 million taels shipped to China; in 1904 the actual shipments to China increased to 94·0 million taels. In this the United Kingdom may find some solace.

GAZETTE NOTIFICATIONS.

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC.

POST OFFICE.

GENERAL MATTERS.

Simla, the 20th August, 1906.

No. 6536—165.—In exercise of the powers conferred by the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 (VI of 1898), the Governor-General in Council is pleased to direct that the following shall be added to the *Explanation* appended to Rule 64 of the Rules published with the Notification of the Government of India in the Finance and Commerce Department, No. 1429-C. S. R., dated the 30th March 1899, as amended by the like Notification No. 4082-S. R., dated the 6th July 1903, namely :—

"In the case of the other documents specified the document must be sent in execution of a *bonâ fide* order to send the document itself."

TELEGRAPHS.

The 21st August 1906.

No. 6575—131.—In exercise of the powers conferred by section 7 of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 (XIII of 1885), the Governor-General in Council is pleased to direct that, with effect from the 1st October 1906, the following rules shall be substituted for the rules bearing the same numbers, published with the Notification of the Government of India in the Public Works Department, No. 298 (Telegraphs), dated the 22nd September 1904, namely :—

111. *Addressed to more than one Telegraph Office.*—A telegram addressed to several persons, or to the same person, in localities where delivery is to be effected by *different offices is charged for* as so many separate telegrams and shall be written on separate telegram forms. Telegrams addressed to stations which are local telegraph offices within the free delivery radius of the Central Office are, however, treated as laid down in Rule 110. Press telegrams addressed to more than one Telegraph Office, are invariably treated as in Rule 110. (See Rule 128.)

158. *Plain Language* is that which offers an intelligible sense in one or more of the languages authorised for international telegraphic correspondence. The following are the languages authorised for Foreign telegrams in plain language subject to the conditions of Rule 168 :—

Annamite.	English.	Illyrian.	Portuguese.
Arabic.	Finnish.	Italian.	Roumanian.
American.	Flemish.	Japanese.	Russian.
Bohemian.	French.	Latin.	Ruthenian.
Bulgarian.	German.	Malay.	Servian.
Croatian.	Greek.	Norwegian.	Siamese.
Danish.	Hebrew.	Persian.	Slavonic.
Dutch.	Hungarian.	Polish.	Spanish.
		Swedish.	
		Turkish.	

Telegrams from India to Ceylon and *vice versâ* may be in the vernacular languages of India or Ceylon, or in any of the above languages.

In Private telegrams in any language other than plain English or the Vernacular languages of India or Ceylon the Sender shall certify at the foot of the form (or at the back if more convenient) that the message does not contain combinations or alterations of words contrary to the usage of the language. (See Rule 221.)

163. Combinations which do not fulfil the conditions of Rules 161 and 162 are considered as belonging to Letter cipher language, Rule 164 (*1*), and charged accordingly. Compounds composed of two or more words in plain language, contrary to the usage of the language, are on no account admitted. (See also Rule 221, *et. seq.*)

In Private telegrams worded in Code language, the Sender shall certify at the foot of the form (or at the back if more convenient) that the code words are not combinations of two or more words in plain language contrary to the usage of the language.

211. *Plain language.*—In telegrams, of which the text is written entirely in Plain language, each single word, and each authorised combination of words is counted respectively for as many words as the number of times it *contains* 15 characters according to the Morse alphabet, *plus* one word for the excess, if any.

In Private telegrams in any language other than plain English or the Vernacular languages of India or Ceylon, the Sender shall certify at the foot of the form (or at the back if more convenient) that the message does not contain combinations or alterations of words contrary to the usage of the language. See Rule 221.)

W. L. HARVEY,
Secretary to the Government of India.

COMPRESSED GASES—CARRIAGE BY RAILWAYS.

It has been pointed out that in order to prevent a hard and brittle steel resulting, 99 per centum of iron should be present in the composition of *cylinders used for the packing of* certain compressed gases; that the proportion of carbonic acid gas per lb. of water capacity must not, in the case of cylinders intended for the tropics, exceed $\frac{3}{5}$rd lb. and that compressed carbonic acid gas may be allowed, as an exception to the other compressed gases, to be carried under the more liberal rules for the conveyance of articles in Class A of Appendix A, Part II, of the open line General Rules. It has further been suggested that this substance may be allowed to be carried in the rear brake-van of passenger trains subject to a limit of two cylinders per van. In exercise of the powers conferred by the notification of the Government of India the Railway Board sanction, under section 47, sub-section (*4*), of the Indian Railways Act, 1890 (IX of 1890), as in force in British India, or as locally applied, the adoption by the administrations of the railways, concerned, whether in British India, in foreign territory, or in Native States, to which the General Rules for working open lines of railway, promulgated with the Government of India, Public Works Department, circular No. 6 Railway, dated the 12th March 1895, apply, of the accompanying amendments in rule 14, Chapter III, Part II, of the General Rules referred to, as amended by the Railway Board's circulars Nos. R. T. 173 and R. T $\frac{262\text{ A.}}{6}$, dated, respectively, *the 30th August 1905* and 12th March 1906.

[Enclosure to the Railway Board's circular No R. T. $\frac{262\text{ B.}}{7}$, dated the 22nd August 1906.]

Amendments in rule 14, Chapter III, Part II, of the General Rules for working open lines of railway which were promulgated with the Government of India, Public Works Department, circular No. 6 Railway, dated the 12th March 1895, as amended by the Railway Board's Circulars Nos. R. T. 173 and R. T. 262 A.—6, dated, respectively, the 30th August 1905 and 12th March 1906.

After the word " manufacture " in the fifth line of condition No. 2, and in the sub-clause of the Form of Certificate in condition No. 7 for the Packing of Gas, compressed, in rule 14, Chapter III, Part II, *add* the words " and 99 per cent. of iron "; and *for* the words " $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of Carbon Dioxide " in condition No. 5, *substitute* the words " $\frac{2}{3}$ lb. of Carbon Dioxide."

After the Form of Certificate in condition No. 7, *add* the following as an exception :—

" *Exception.*—Compressed carbonic acid gas may be allowed, as an exception to the other compressed gases, to be carried under the more liberal rules for the conveyance of articles in class A of Appendix A, Part II, of the open line General Rules and it may also be carried in the rear brake-van of passenger trains subject to a limit of two cylinders per van."

IMPORTS OF YARNS.

In the note on the imports by Sea of cotton yarns into India in June, which appeared on page 612 of No. 18 of the Indian Trade Journal of the 2nd August, read in Columns Bengal and Madras the following :—

	Bengal.	Madras.
	M.	M.
Mule and water Nos. 31 to 40 .	106,605	640,200
41 to 50 .	45,500	46 500
Above 50 .	43,290	57,500
Orange, red, and other colours—		
Nos. 31 to 40 .	588,237	419,000
41 to 50 .	...	...
Above 50 .	8,200	29,400

The total imports will then be lbs. 2,806,420 and not lbs. 821,988.

Quantity of **Cotton Yarn** No. 31 and Higher Counts, **Imported by sea** from other countries into each province of British India in the month of July 1906.

	Bengal.	Eastern Bengal and Assam.	Bombay.	Sind.	Madras.	Burma.	TOTAL.
	lb	lb	lb	lb	lb	lb	lb
Mule and water Nos. 31 to 40 . . .	128,825	...	355,403	28,950	251,130	25,200	789,508
41 to 50 . . .	53,740	...	84,791	...	25,000	...	163,531
Above 50 . . .	138,680	..	89,188	...	41,000	...	268,868
Orange, red, and other colours Nos. 31 to 40 .	342,867	...	101,112	83,849	228,100	71,000	826,928
41 to 50 .	...	...	18,000	...	...	53,000	71,000
Above 50 .	..	...	16,040	...	21,800	6,650	44,490
TOTAL .	664,112	...	664,534	112,799	567,030	155,850	2,164,325

Quantity of **Beet and Cane Sugar imported by sea** from foreign countries into each province of British India for the month of July 1906.

	Bengal.	Eastern Bengal and Assam.	Bombay.	Sind.	Madras.	Burma.	Total.
	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.	Cwt.
Beet Sugar . . .	79,382	...	57,270	78,672	736	1,741	217,801
Cane Sugar . . .	143,966	...	227,415	9,138	48	17,084	397,651
	223,348	...	284,685	87,810	784	18,825	615,452

INDIAN SEA-BORNE TRADE.

THE following table gives the summary of the Sea-borne Trade, import and export, of British India, for the month of July 1906, and for the four months, 1st April to 31st July 1906, as compared with the corresponding period for the years 1904 and 1905.

	Month of July			Four months 1st April to 30th July		
	1904	1905	1906	1904	1905	1906
IMPORTS—						
MERCHANDISE, PRIVATE—	R	R	R	R	R	R
Bengal	3,08,53,798	3,00,66,614	3,32,12,783	11,33,47,005	12,18,87,207	13,31,69,583
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	2,71,913	(a)	(a)	8,91,887
Bombay	2,07,23,174	2,22,36,215	2,49,03,235	9,45,80,964	9,98,33,230	10,84,77,604
Sind	43,49,241	58,09,014	54,07,060	2,19,20,586	2,57,85,043	3,04,09,913
Madras	70,29,169	57,24,377	56,97,782	2,45,23,376	2,80,27,627	2,71,69,509
Burma	68,34,418	54,31,494	79,65,104	2,80,25,394	2,39,15,602	2,87,56,634
TOTAL	6,97,89,800	6,92,67,714	7,74,57,877	28,23,97,325	29,94,48,709	32,86,75,130
DITTO, GOVERNMENT STORES	65,08,778	89,91,911	68,70,463	2,60,83,583	3,53,27,805	3,37,03,652
TOTAL MERCHANDISE	7,62,98,578	7,82,59,625	8,43,28,340	30,84,80,908	33,47,76,514	36,23,78,782
TREASURE, PRIVATE						
Bengal	55,84,529	76,78,322	19,77,120	3,21,61,855	1,91,10,896	1,00,47,1?2
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	17,327	(a)	(a)	23,410
Bombay	1,62,62,719	1,36,44,694	79,81,611	7,94,29,094	4,89,86,236	4,70,63,401
Sind	2,62,149	1,59,513	5,00,149	15,67,531	14,34,112	12,81,312
Madras	1,95,569	3,84,493	4,29,601	17,05,413	14,54,853	18,69,273
Burma	2,78,519	1,08,300	1,57,155	10,40,294	3,28,303	4,47,193
TOTAL	2,25,83,485	2,19,75,322	1,10,62,963	11,59,04,187	7,13,14,400	6,07,31,711
DITTO, GOVERNMENT	4,59,061	23,99,596	2,30,00,040	1,10,03,484	80,11,561	6,91,92,541
TOTAL TREASURE	2,30,42,546	2,43,74,918	3,40,63,003	12,69,07,671	7,93,25,961	12,99,24,252
GRAND TOTAL OF IMPORTS	9,93,41,124	10,26,34,543	11,83,91,343	43,53,88,579	41,41,02,475	49,23,03,034
EXPORTS—						
MERCHANDISE, PRIVATE—						
(*Foreign Merchandise*)—						
Bengal	1,29,747	2,24,241	1,57,874	10,37,547	7,25,312	6,81,299
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	...	(a)	(a)	...
Bombay	19,77,730	20,04,954	18,46,231	78,97,391	84,74,494	89,46,153
Sind	4,08,041	1,29,087	2,46,550	11,83,789	9,03,534	13,02,693
Madras	56,942	52,966	1,57,256	2,34,589	3,10,054	7,70,507
Burma	49,518	25,168	53,596	1,22,035	1,68,526	2,50,709
TOTAL	26,20,978	24,36,416	24,61,507	1,04,75,351	1,05,81,920	1,19,51,361
(*Indian Merchandise*)—						
Bengal	4,40,73,032	4,37,47,862	4,17,25,988	16,88,25,544	17,18,20,828	18,20,77,372
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	19,72,738	(a)	(a)	26,00,075
Bombay	2,65,43,692	3,92,80,157	3,18,72,175	14,84,95,729	15,51,75,855	14,94,42,650
Sind	1,68,49,973	1,48,61,448	1,96,85,903	5,41,96,521	5,45,93,851	6,06,90,664
Madras	1,19,97,062	1,11,99,893	1,12,90,576	5,44,69,778	5,41,77,783	6,12,81,147
Burma	1,05,65,888	93,73,174	77,38,787	5,17,00,562	4,27,50,686	5,87,97,926
TOTAL	11,00,29,647	11,84,62,534	11,42,86,167	47,76,88,134	48,45,19,003	51,48,89,834
Total Foreign and Indian Merchandise exported—						
Bengal	4,42,02,779	4,39,72,103	4,18,83,862	16,98,63,091	17,25,46,140	18,27,58,671
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)	19,72,738	(a)	(a)	26,00,075
Bombay	2,85,21,422	4,12,85,111	3,37,18,406	15,63,93,120	16,36,50,349	15,83,28,803
Sind	1,72,?8,014	1,49,90,535	1,99,32,453	5,53,80,310	5,54,97,385	6,19,93,357
Madras	1,20,53,004	1,12,52,859	1,14,47,832	5,47,04,367	5,44,87,837	6,20,51,654
Burma	106,15,406	93,98,342	77,92,383	5,18,22,597	4,89,19,212	5,90,48,635
TOTAL	11,26,50,625	12,08,98,950	11,67,47,674	48,81,63,485	49,51,00,923	52,68,41,195
DITTO, GOVERNMENT STORES	2,33,128	1,84,426	1,46,471	8,51,850	4,95,819	3,39,417
TOTAL MERCHANDISE	11,28,83,753	12,10,83,376	11,68,94,145	48,90,15,335	49,55,96,742	52,71,80,612
TREASURE, PRIVATE—						
Bengal	2,171	1,38,945	3,22,500	6,00,782	3,78,855	36,74,711
Eastern Bengal and Assam	(a)	(a)		(a)	(a)	...
Bombay	98,74,805	37,36,328	44,70,167	3,35,76,915	1,50,32,781	2,23,22,921
Sind	1,62,600	1,85,125	1,70,356	3,52,835	3,25,351	4,62,306
Madras	...	180	...	24,00,000	180	3,02,000
Burma	30,600	1,12,500	20,000	30,600	1,39,500	1,52,140
TOTAL	1,00,70,176	41,73,078	49,83,023	3,69,61,132	1,58,76,667	2,69,14,078
DITTO, GOVERNMENT	4,78,680	1,50,60,000	...	4,84,880	1,50,67,500	33,650
TOTAL TREASURE	1,05,48,856	1,92,33,078	49,83,023	3,74,46,012	3,09,44,167	2,69,47,728
GRAND TOTAL OF EXPORTS	12,34,32,609	14,03,16,454	12,18,77,168	52,64,61,347	52,65,40,909	55,41,28,340
GROSS AMOUNT OF IMPORT DUTY COLLECTED, *including Salt*	51,70,678	46,67,206	50,96,767	2,28,23,942	2,11,93,785	2,23,34,056
DITTO, EXPORT DUTY COLLECTED	8,58,510	6,26,698	5,46,441	41,52,647	36,79,898	40,60,981

(a) Included with Bengal.

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.

For the week ending 25th August 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign—Imports by sea into	Calcutta lbs.	146,275
	Bombay „	175,040
	Madras „	407,975
Indian—Exports by sea from	Calcutta „	286,100
	Bombay „	6,823,240
	Madras „	26,000

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	27,306,846
	Bombay „	4,579,874
	Karachi „	241,914
	Madras „	3,224,408
	Rangoon* „	...

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	4,258,970
	Bombay „	2,517,862
	Karachi „	922,309
	Madras „	691,532
	Rangoon* „	...

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta yds.	2,817,868
	Bombay „	5,121,073
	Karachi „	694,852
	Madras „	1,200,815
	Rangoon* „	...

Piece Goods.

(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta cwt.	22,305
	Bombay† „	6,098
	Karachi „	12,699
	Madras „	4,518

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea cwt.	...
	Coastwise „	2,172
	By rail „	15,084
Imports into Karachi	by rail „	395
Calcutta	by rail and river „	7,064

Jute.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta	cwt.	473,515
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags No.	7,671,570
	„ cloth yds.	34,776,590
	Jute cwt.	397,844
Chittagong	—Jute „	1,329

Tea.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta	lbs.	4,051,613
Exports by sea from Calcutta	„	4,398,533
Chittagong	„	1,700,000

Wheat.

Imports into Calcutta	by rail and river cwt.	57,849
	Karachi by rail „	266,238
Bombay	By sea „	31
	Coastwise „	64,816
	By rail „	23,741
Exports by sea from Calcutta	„	4,000
Bombay	„	3,592
Karachi	„	225,608

Rice.

Exports by sea from Calcutta	cwt.	47,176
Chittagong	„	...
Bombay	„	11,862
Karachi	„	17,929
Madras	„	324
Rangoon*	„	...

Linseed.

Imports into Calcutta	by rail and river cwt.	45,702
Bombay	By sea „	...
	Coastwise „	326
	By rail „	11,796
Karachi	by rail „	...
Exports by sea from Calcutta	„	40,990
Bombay	„	31,615
Karachi	„	8

Rape and Mustard Seed.

Imports into Calcutta	by rail and river cwt.	28,379
Bombay	By sea „	...
	Coastwise „	...
	By rail „	17,346
Karachi	by rail „	18,000
Exports by sea from Calcutta	„	1,854
Bombay	„	22,007
Karachi	„	31,102

* Burma Figures not received. † B. B. and C. I. Ry. figures only.

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 25th AUGUST 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From All other foreign countries.	Total.
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
Calcutta	...	1,432,881	1,324,006	2,756,887
Bombay	...	...	...	...
Karachi	...	...	...	...
Madras	...	...	...	...

Exports by sea from Burma* to		
Bengal	galls.	...
E. B. & Assam	,,	...
Bombay	,,	...
Sind	,,	...
Madras	,,	...
Indian Ports, Non-Br.	,,	...
Foreign Ports	,,	...

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 25th AUGUST 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.*	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	1,269	...	...	...	...	...	1,269
Germany	34,592	...	4,083	5,734	1,000	...	45,409
Austria-Hungary	...	...	208	...	500	...	708
Other European Countries	2	,,	...	223	...	...	225
Java	13,015	...	48,956	...	...	...	61,971
Mauritius	...	...	8,441	275	...	...	8,716
Other Non-European Countries	...	...	77	...	...	...	77
Total refined							118,375
Total unrefined							50,262
Grand Total cwt.							168,637

* Burma Figures not received.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta. [The prices include postage to countries in the Postal Union.]

ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 (2*a*.)

2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a*.)

3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—

Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. R3. (12*a*.)

Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port. R3. (12*a*.)

4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. R2. (7*a*.)

5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a*.)

6. Accounts of Trade of the French Possession in India. As. 3. (1*a*.)

7. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possession in India. As. 2. (1*a*.)

8. Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India. R4. (6*a*.)

9. Report on the Rail-borne and River-borne Trade of Bengal. R4.

10. Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan. R1½.

11 Prices and Wages in India. R1½. (9*a*.)

12. Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India. R4. (12*a*.)

13. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India. R2. (10*a*.)

14. Agricultural Statistics of India. R3½. (12*a*.)
Part I.—British India.
Part II.—Native States.

15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India. As. 5. (2*a*.)

QUARTERLY.

16. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

MONTHLY.

17. Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

18. Accounts of the External Land Trade of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

19. Statistics of the Production of Yarn and Woven Goods in the India Cotton Mills. As. 2.

[Amount within parenthesis denotes cost of packing and postage.]

NOTICE.

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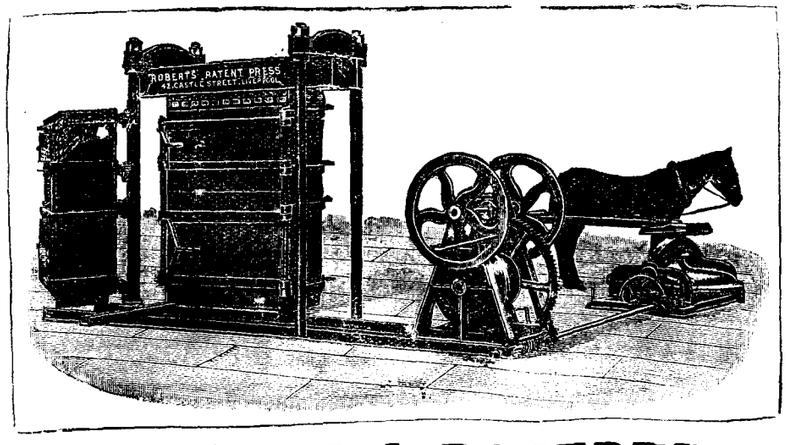
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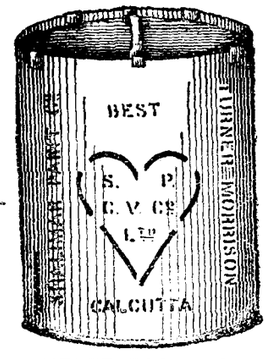
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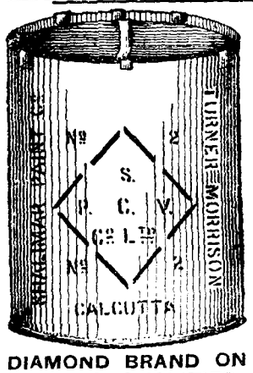
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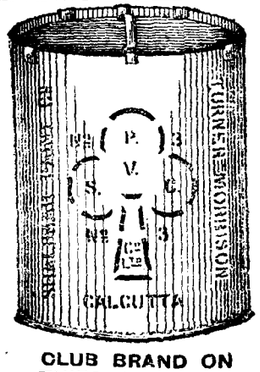


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NOTES.

In the *Gazette of India* of the 1st instant are published the **rules** for the **working** of the **Co-operative Credit Societies** in the **North-West Frontier Province.** The Gazette may be seen in the office of the Director General, Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street.

According to statistics published in the *Journal des Debats*, there were 24,038 professional **distillers** and 753,865 private distillers **in France** in 1905. The total **production** of **alcohol**, which was 2,181,362 hectolitres (about 48 million gallons) in 1904, rose to 2,530,116 hectolitres (about 55½ million gallons) in 1905, an increase of 348,754 hectolitres (about 7⅔ million gallons).

The quantity of salt of every description cleared in India during the quarter April, May and June 1906, amounted to 33,10,896 maunds, as compared with 23,66,672 maunds in the previous quarter, and 29,25,770 maunds in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The net amount of duty levied thereon was R45,57,288, as against R32,87,095 in the previous quarter, and R40,89,115 in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

His Majesty's Consul at **Guayaquil** (Mr. A. Cartwright) refers to a new business commenced at Guayaquil in 1903, *viz.*, the trade in **alligator skins.** In that year the first exports, in all 15 tons, were shipped. In 1904 the business had increased to 92 tons, and in 1905 to 115 tons. There is only one firm engaged in the business, which is established in Guayaquil and Samborandon. There ought to be considerable possibilities for an equally extensive trade in Indian crocodile skins.

The **Excise** (Amendment) **Bill** and the **Land Improvement and Agriculturists Loans** (Amendment) **Bill** were passed into law in the Viceregal Legislative Council on the 31st ultimo. The only object of the latter was to give Local Governments wider discretion in the matter of Agricultural advances.

The Paris *Eclair* publishes the following telegram from Rome :—The Minister of Foreign Affairs has received a despatch announcing the official acceptance by the Emperor Menelek of the **Franco-Anglo-Italian Convention regarding Abyssinian railways.** The Emperor's acceptance of the Convention was simultaneously notified in Paris and London. The text of the Convention, with the signature of the Emperor, will be communicated to Parliament. At the same time the Italian Government will publish a Green-book which will contain important documents.

In continuation of the remarks in the last number of the *Indian Trade Journal* about the uses to which motor wagons can be put, it is interesting to read a report in a home paper of an experiment in **harvesting by motor at night.** " Powerful acetylene lamps from two reaping and binding machines glowed into the heart of the wheat as the motor was started. Off it went at four miles an hour over the wet stubble, (there was a thunderstorm raging at the time) the sheaves shooting out in the track of the procession as it passed on. Wet wheat, of course, is never reaped and bound, and the experiment was cut short so as to spoil as little as possible. After the reaping the machine drew a three-furrow plough, and then ran across to a threshing machine, and worked that. It also drew a heavy wagon, and finally was shackled to a pump, on an alarm of " fire " being raised."

Attention is drawn by the *Journal des Debats* to the **English efforts to open up the river Juba,** which separates **British East Africa** from **Italian Somaliland.** A flotilla of two steamboats and six lighters is reported to have crossed the bar at the mouth of the river towards the end of May, and after taking on board a miscellaneous cargo at Gobwin to have ascended the stream to a distance of 300 miles, the journey into Abyssinia being completed by caravan. The *Journal des Debats* anticipates that the route thus followed will involv- competition with the Harar-Jibuti railway.

The Silk Association, Lyons, has just published a report concerning the **anticipated yield of silk worms for 1906.** Statistics have been gathered in 748 communes, and the estimated crop amounts to 7,500,000 kilos, against 8,000,000 kilos for 1905. The falling off in the supply of raw material may cause some embarassment to the manufacturers, as a chief difficulty is the obtaining of supplies of raw silk. Japan's manufacturing development has to be reckoned with in considering her power of supply and Chinese supplies seem more difficult to obtain each succeeding year. All this, of course, makes for the strength of the market. Silk ribbons and chiffons continue to be in strong request, and the demand is expected to continue for at least another season.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* learns from Constantinople that the Irade which has just been issued with regard to the proposed extension of the **Smyrna railway** prolongs the concession to the British promoters for another 15 years, but reserves the question of extending the railway for further consideration. The British Ambassador is said to have expressed dissatisfaction with these dilatory tactics and to have asked for a concession to extend the line of railway from Aidin to beyond Egerdir and for navigation rights on the adjoining lakes. In addition to these demands, permission is also asked to construct branch lines to the north of Dinair and to the south of that place as far as the Gulf of Adalia. The Porte is said to have refused to grant these concessions upon the ground that they run counter to the interests of the Baghdad railway.

The **Crop** Estimating Board of the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Agriculture, **United States,** reports that the condition of maize on August 1st was 88·1, as compared with 87·5 last month, 89·0 on August 1st, 1905, 87·3 on the same date in 1904, and a ten-year August average of 84·0. The States which show the highest average condition are Lowa, 95·96 ; Pennsylvania and Virginia, 95·91 ; Minnesota, 95·80 ;

Albana and Mississippi, 92·91, and Georgia, 92·89. Preliminary returns indicate a winter wheat crop of about 493,434,000 bushels, or an average of 16·7 bushels per acre, as compared with 14·3 bushels last year and 12·4 bushels in 1904 as finally estimated. The average condition of spring wheat on August 1st was 86·9, as compared with 91·4 last month, 89·2 on Aug. 1st, 1905, 87·5 on the corresponding date in 1904, and a ten-year August average of 82·6. The condition in Minnesota was 85, Iowa 92, South Dakota 90, North Dakota 88, and Washington 75.

According to the *Japan Herald* the **Fushun coal mine** in **Manchuria,** which is to form a part of the Japanese Government investment in the South Manchurian Railway, is believed to be one of the richest coal fields in the world. It is not an easy matter to even approximate the value of the **deposits,** but some idea of its **value** can be formed from the fact that the strata extends from 100 to 120 feet in depth, running about 10 miles in breadth. The quality of the coal is said to compare favourably with the best output of the Buzen and Chikuzen coal mines. There is also every facility for **transportation,** both by rail and by the Liao river. The price at which the coal is to be sold is not announced, but the **cost** of the article in the Shanghai market is estimated at 8·90 yen. This calculation is based on the following estimates :—1·20 yen for output per ton ; 2·70 yen for freight charges to Dairen ; 3·50 yen for freight from Dairen to Shanghai ; 1·50 yen for miscellaneous expenses. It is stated that the Japanese Government is considering the restriction of the daily output to about 3,000 tons, so as not to affect the mining enterprises at home by over-production.

Yen—2*s.* 0½*d.*

The fact that **railway cars** built wholly of **steel** are making way in America is worth noticing. There appear to be many advantages to be gained by the abandonment of wood and the substitution of steel in this class of construction. According to *Commercial Intelligence*, the weight of the new steel passenger car is, roughly, 55 tons for a length of 74 ft. 6 in., which does not seem to be an extravagant tonnage. Of course, any change from wood to steel will come about gradually, as was the case with shipping, but the prospect indicates the possibility of a promising future for the steel-plate trade. The production of steel has grown so enormously during the past five or six years that it is comforting to believe that an entirely new market may be opened up to manufacturers. We have as yet no figures as to the relative cost of wood and steel railway cars, but it does not seem impossible that the change maybe economical, as it has so frequently been in other directions where wood has been replaced by steel. It is claimed that the steel car cannot be telescoped in a collision, but only time and accident can prove this assertion.

The **Canadian Government** is still further extending the organisation of **Marconi stations** which it has established for **communication with ships** and from point to point along the coast. There are now eight Marconi stations established to and at the entrance of the St. Lawrence, as well as stations at Point Armour, Chateau Bay, Belle Isle, Battle Harbour, Vension Island, Seal Islands, Domino, and Indian Harbour on the Labrador coast, St. John in New Brunswick, Cape Sable in Nova Scotia, and Cape Race in Newfoundland. One of the new stations is to be at Father Point and one at Seven Islands, in the province of Quebec. The station at Cape Race, which is an important point at the south of Newfoundland, is being enlarged. Contracts for the work have been given to the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company of Canada, which has constructed and works all the Canadian Government stations. When the two new stations at Father Point and Seven Islands are completed, there will be a continuous Marconi system from Quebec right up to Labrador on one side, and to Cape Race on the other.

Messrs. Neill Brothers, of London, who recently issued a circular in which they expressed a very favourable opinion of the **American cotton crop** prospects, have now issued a memorandum slightly modifying the circular. It may be remembered that their correspondent, Mr. J. W. Soady, was quoted as one who thought very well of the crop, and they have now received a letter from him dated July 30th, at Shreveport, from which the following passages may be taken :— " The crop has made rapid progress during the month, but we think it has somewhat deteriorated of late owing to continuous showers, causing the plant to grow too much to weed, and rendering it sappy and tender. It has also resulted in breeding innumerable pests, especially the boll weevil * * With a continuance of showery weather much damage may result, and we rather look for a calamity howl to come early in August." Mr. Soady suggests, however, that early varieties of cotton have been planted, and that a large proportion of the crop is now out of danger from the weevil. Evidently Mr. Soady does not wish to commit himself too decidedly to a big crop, but there is nothing in his communication to arouse keen anxiety.

An **International Maritime Exhibition,** will be held at **Bordeaux** in France in May 1907. Though principally maritime, it will comprise all branches of industry and commerce.

The **Irrigation operations** of the **Rabi crop** (wheat, barley, mixed grain and other crops) of 1905-06 in the **Panjab** show that the total area irrigated was 4,321,699 acres as compared with 3,627,773 acres in the previous year, thereby showing an increase of 693,926 acres; of this 3,868,911 acres represent the area irrigated from the Major Works as compared with 3,307,346 acres irrigated in 1904-05, while 452,788 acres represent the area from Minor Works as compared with 320,427, acres in 1904-05. The irrigation operations of the same crop for the same season on the Lower Swat and Kabul River canals in the **North-West Frontier Province** show that the total area irrigated was 110,280 acres as compared with 114,357 acres in the previous year, thereby showing a decrease of 4,077 acres. The Rabi crop in the latter Province include wheat, barley, gram, rape and miscellaneous kind of crops. The above operations relate to areas irrigated from Government canals only.

At the last meeting of the Glasgow Chamber of Commerce the directors resolved to request the Government to legalise the **transfer of Consols** by the adoption of the method of transfer and issue of certificates common to public companies generally. Although the transfer fee of Consols is not immoderate, being 4*s.* for £100 of scrip and 11*s.* 6*d.* for any sum over £100, the transaction cannot be carried through without the attendance of buyer and seller at the Bank of England. This puts a difficulty in the way of provincial investors which militates against the diffusion of the stock in the country. According to the promoters of the memorial, the Treasury, suspicious of a loss of revenue (which could in any case be almost covered by a graduated registration charge), is the stumbling-block in the way of the change. As far as the general interests of the nation are concerned, it is suggested that this attitude is an extreme instance of penny-wise-pound-foolish policy. It is unsatisfactory that outside of the limited facilities provided as an overflow pipe to the Post Office Savings Bank, the small investor, who is not under the tutelage of trustees, should so rarely think of entrusting some of his savings to the funds. It might pay the country in enhanced credit to advertise the advantages of Consols as of the army and navy, and to make it as easy to invest in the first as to enlist in either of the others.

It is generally believed in Tokio that **Dr. Goto** who first came into prominence by his administration of Formosa, will accept the **Presidency** of the **South Manchurian Railway.** Reuter's correspondent adds:—"The liberal principles displayed by Dr. Goto in his administration of Formosa, will, when applied to his new sphere of action, go far to dispel any apprehension felt abroad of a discrimination being made between Japanese and foreigners. Elaborate instructions have been issued by the Governmnnt to the South Manchurian Railway Company. The instructions lay down that the capital of the Company shall be fixed at £20,000,000, half of which will be owned by the Government and the other half by Japanese and Chinese subjects. The present gauge of the railway is to be converted to standard gauge within three years. The line is to be double between Tairen and Suchiatun. A subsidy of six per cent. for fifteen years is guaranteed, subject to repayment when the Company becomes a paying concern. The Government reserves the right to order a special discount on freight on specified goods and also retains the exclusive use of lines in time of emergency. The Antung-Mukden line will be included in the Company's system."

Holidays and rains have again interfered with the **Shanghai trade**, but in their report of July 5th, Messrs. Noël Murray, & Co. say that "orders from both the West and the North began to come in with some freedom and found a market only too willing to entertain business."

At first a few thousand bales were taken at the low prices recently current, but soon holders gained heart and asked for an advance, and it is estimated that of the later purchases of the, some say 25,000 bales, American goods that have been sold by second-hand holders, prices show an advance of from two to three *mace*. The demand at first seemed to be for drills for the Hankow market, but this was soon followed by purchases of sheetings for Chefoo and Kisochow, and Tientsin followed suit. Although the market in Newchwang is said to have improved no orders have been received from thence; on the contrary, it is reported goods were bought there for reshipment to this market and have been resold here for other markets at a handsome profit. In English makes the inquiry has continued very dull, though the payments for goods due at the close of the half year were on a fairly free scale, but we fancy a larger amount of renewals of drafts had to be arranged. Exchange keeps uncomfortably high, and is the cause of a great want of confidence in the market.

The small demand from first hands for Manchester goods was still being supplied by the auctions. Prices for these had been so irregular that it was difficult to say whether the general movement was up or down.

A correspondent of the *Buenos Ayres Standard* has addressed to the editor an enquiry regarding **wool** and **sheep statistics** that has provoked some interesting comment. It appears that the official statistics as to the number of sheep and other animals in the **Argentine** are so notoriously defective that the Minister of Agriculture is endeavouring to obtain a vote from Congress that will enable him to take a fresh census. At the last one, in 1905, the sheep were recorded at 120,000,000, but it is affirmed that the *Standard* proved this "estimate" to be a gross exaggeration, and, making the calculation on the production and export of wool the number of 70,000,000 was suggested.

> Since then there has been a considerable diminution of the flocks, partly from the conversion of pasture to arable land and partly from the enormous development of the meat freezing industry. This diminution was proved by the falling off in the exports of wool, and to such an extent that a high authority in these matters expressed the opinion about two years ago that the number of sheep had been reduced to 52,000,000. Probably this was a low estimate, and latterly the number has increased very much in consequence of the extension of sheep farming in the Southern territories, so that it is possible that when the census is taken it will be found that Argentina again possesses nearly 70,000,000 of sheep.

This is very near some recent estimates of the number in Australia, though there, too, it is believed that there have been exaggerations since the latest official statistics. At the end of 1904 the number in the Commonwealth was 65,825,784 and in New Zealand 18,280,806.

The **prices of opium** in the Calcutta market during the week ending 1st September 1906 were, per chest, as follows:—

Behar opium—Rs. 1,494; 1,497; 1,493; 1,505; 1,500; 1,496; 1,495.

Benares opium—Rs. 1,360; 1,362; 1,360; 1,372; 1,365; 1,360; 1,360.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 9th sale of 1906 were Rs. 1,444; 1,447; 1,443; 1,456; 1,450; 1,446; 1,444.

China market, Hongkong (exchange—Rs. 160 to 161 per 100 dollars).

Behar—$952\frac{1}{2}$; $947\frac{1}{2}$; 950, and 960; $947\frac{1}{2}$; $952\frac{1}{2}$ and 955; $952\frac{1}{2}$; $952\frac{1}{2}$; $952\frac{1}{2}$.

Shanghai (exchange Rs. $219\frac{1}{2}$ per 100 Taels)—Two sales on August 27th and 28th of 686 Taels and 680 to 684 Taels respectively.

Benares—Two sales in the Hong Kong market on August 27th and 29th of $885 to 895 and 895 respectively; while two sales, Shanghai, on August 27th and 28th of 638 Taels and 645 to 650 taels respectively.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending 25th August were—for A class (season 1905-06) on 19th and 20th Rs. 1,350 to 1,410 and on 21st to 25th, Rs. 1,385 to 1,415; for B class (season 1904-05) on 19th and 20th, Rs. 1,460 to 1,622 and on 21st to 25th Rs. 1,450 to 1,600; class C, old (season 1903-04), on 19th and 20th Rs. 1,675 to 1,721 and on 21st to 25th Rs. 1,661 to 1,700. The latest China prices ascertained were for new classes (A and B) Rs. 1,514 to 1,522; old (class C) fetched at Hong Kong Rs. 1,699 and at Shanghai Rs. 1,719.

Although the use of **spirit for industrial purposes** in **Great Britain** has been so retarded by out-of-date regulations, it appears that in the last few years **British distillers** have regained the home market, and the importation of German plain spirit for methylating has dwindled to the vanishing point. None was imported last year, and only 8,315 gallons in the preceding year, whereas in 1903-04 and 1902-03 the importation of Germany was 333,930 gallons and 1,196,167 gallons respectively. The average values of the imports have also shown wide variations in the last five years, being returned at 9·30*d.*, 6·87*d.*, 8·56*d.* 14·25*d.*, and 18·41*d.* in the successive years. These variations are mainly governed by the quantity of potatoes available in Eastern Europe for conversion into spirits. Plentiful supplies produced low prices from 1901 to 1903, consequently spirits of this kind displaced home-made spirits to a greater extent than in either 1904 or 1905, when supplies were shorter and prices correspondingly higher.

Some idea of the enormous **business** transacted by the **London Post Office** appears from the bare fact that the number of postal packages delivered during the year was 4,686,200,000, or an average of 108·2 per person per year. It is interesting to learn that further progress has been made in the use of **motor vans** for the conveyance of **parcel mails** in regard both to the number and the efficiency of the services. The following services are at present being performed by motor vans under contract:—

> London and Brighton; London and Redhill; London and Epping; Manchester and Liverpool; Birmingham and Warwick; Birmingham and Worcester; Northampton and Hitchin; Leeds and York; Newcastle and Sunderland; Darlington and Richmond; Redhill and Dorking; Epping and Bishop Stortford; Hereford and Glasbury; Wallingford and Thame; together with a number of services in London. It is hoped to establish several additional services during the current year, the most important of which are—
>
> (1) London and Hastings, with a branch from Tunbridge Wells to Eastbourne; (2) London and Colchester, with a branch from Chelmsford to Southend-on-Sea; (3) London and Hitchin; (4) Leeds and Huddersfield.

In **New Zealand** there are indications that, owing to the late and wet season, there will be a considerable **shortage** in this **year's grain supply.** By the end of April there was very little of the previous season's wheat left in the colony, and the gross yield for the present season is estimated by competent authorities at 6,300,000 bushels. Owing to the

failure of the potato crop, an increased flour supply will be needed in the colony and, as there will also be an increased demand for seed, the quantity of wheat available for export this year will not be very great. Owing to the poor season the supply of oats available for export will also be less than usual. The last official report of **France** which deals with the **state of the crops** on July 1st, although less encouraging than that of May 31st, is still very satisfactory so far as cereals are concerned. Private advices, however, hardly confirm the less favourable official appreciation. This is, no doubt, due (1) to the favourable weather which has prevailed since the last official report was published; and (2) to the fact that the official report ignores the widely-varying productive capacity of the different favourable conditions, and will be practically finished by about August 15th. In the South the quality is good, but crops are light. But in the great wheat-growing regions—the centre, west, and north—the harvest is most satisfactory. Oats have suffered slightly from drought in some parts. The vines in the districts where the best vintages are cultivated are looking remarkably well.

With reference to the complaints of British shipowners and others as to a **dearth of officers** for **merchant ships**, and to the statement by the President of the Board of Trade that there was a probability of alien officers being employed, the Merchant Service Guild have addressed a communication to the Board of Trade in which they say that they understand that the Liverpool Steamship Owners' Association have now adopted, or are about to adopt, a proposal that apprentices be "entitled" to a fourth mate's certificate after two years, and a third mate's certificate after three years' service. The Guild feel that the regulations as to qualifying time have been already relaxed far too much, and enter their strongest protest against the extraordinary proposition that young apprentices should now be given Board of Trade certificates without examination and without, therefore, the slightest guarantee as to their proficiency in rules and regulations appertaining to the safety of life at sea, and to the generally important duties of a ship's officer. They contend that there is no dearth of officers where reasonable inducements are held out, and that the dearth of which the shipowners are now complaining is of their own creation, because they require third or fourth officers, under 30 years of age, holding master's certificates, and offer them possibly £6 pr. month as wages, or in coasting vessels 35*s.* per week, finding their own food—thus placing them in worse position than common labourers ashore. The proper course for the shipowners is to accept junior officers with the lowest Board of Trade certificate and then give them promotion, and enable them to get in their qualifying time for the higher certificates. They would then be training their own officers far better, and giving them a much better chance of getting on.

The report on the **Working** of the **Indian Merchandise Marks Act** for 1905-06 shows that the number of cases dealt with in Bengal fell from 493 to 291 or by 41 per cent. The decrease is partly due to the decline in the number of cases of improper marking of glass chimneys. In 1904 05 penalties were imposed in 60 cases as against 3 in the year under report. Similarly, in the previous year, there were 26 cases in which foreign-made goods were penalised for bearing portraits of the English Royal Family without a counter indication, with the consequence that only 3 cases have occurred in the year under report. The total amount of penalties aggregated R5,168 10-0. All the cases, with the exception of the two instances of counterfeit trade marks, were detected by the Appraising Staff. In Madras the total number of cases was 121, as against 117 cases in the preceding year. In all the cases a small penalty was exacted, and the goods were passed after the defects had been remedied. The total number of cases disposed of in Bombay was 428 against 409 in 1904-05, showing a small increase of 19 cases. There were 70 cases involving minor technical breaches of the law, in which no formal reports were made, the necessary orders being passed on the bills of entry. Ten thousand three hundred and forty-three packages of general merchandise, 3,813 bundles of steel sheets, 1,234 bundles of steel bars, 122 bales of paper, 60 drums of turpentine, and 80 bags of linseed oil were detained during the year under report. In Sind the penalties inflicted during the year amounted to R926-8-0. In Burmah, 65 cases were dealt with during the year, of which 60 occurred at Rangoon and 5 at Moulmein, as compared with 28 at Rangoon and 3 at Moulmein in the previous year. The total amount of penalties was R569. With two exceptions all the cases were detected by the Appraising Staff.

The **pastoral outlook** in **Australia** was never brighter than it is this season. Writing to the *Manchester Guardian* on July 10th, a New South Wales correspondent says that his properties looked then more like what they generally are in the middle of September than in the middle of winter. For many weeks heavy rain had fallen all over the States; green feed was abundant, and the lambing was a big one. As to the clip of wool the correspondent writes as follows:—"The wool will be well grown this year, and all my clips will, I feel sure, be really good, because the season has been favourable and the sheep have had good feed throughout the year." The writer intends to market his wool as rapidly as possible, and hopes it will reach London in time for the November auctions. He expresses surprise at the statements made by Sir John Madden and Sir John Cockburn as to the number of sheep now being depastured in Australia. Instead of there being 105,000,000 sheep in the Commonwealth, official figures give the numbers as rather under 75.000.000.

From South Australia we learn from a leading pastoralist that on some of the stations in the Far North, especially on the Eastern Plains (where the lambs came before the rain), the percentage is disappointing, and only about 70 per cent. have been marked. In what is known as the Lower North, where the finest pastoral properties in the State are situated, the lambing has been almost a record one. From Bungaree to Canowie, and from Booyoolee to the Booborowies, it is expected that very nearly 100 per cent. will be marked. Bradford men, who buy most of the wool grown on these properties, will be glad to hear that the wool promises to be deep and sound in the staple and in good condition.

There is no better barometer of prosperity amongst pastoralists in Australia than the prices they are prepared to give for stud sheep. At the sales which followed this year's sheep show at Sydney very high prices were realised, and this too for sheep grown by comparatively small and obscure breeders. We give but one example. One breeder offered 25 rams, one of which sold for 475 guineas and two others for 380 guineas and 310 guineas respectively; whilst the cost of 25 rams averaged £147 12*s.* 7*d.* Buyers were present from South Africa, including three Boers who were operating on an important scale, so that the trade within a few years may expect much more and much better wool from that country. One leading breeder writes that he has sold several large batches of his stud sheep to buyers from South Africa during the last few weeks including one ram at 200 guineas, a special champion ewe for 50 guineas, and ten other rams at 12 guineas each, whilst he obtained from 10 guineas down to six guineas each for 250 ewes. As to the home market, it appears that values do not improve at Bradford either for wool or tops. Holders for the most part present a firm front to consumers, but where business is done it is generally at lower prices. In some quarters it is thought that prices may rally temporarily during next month, though top-makers are now willing to sell forward for the early months of next year at a good penny per pound below present quotations.

The report to the Board of Trade on the work of the **Imperial Institute** at South Kensington during the year 1905, by Professor Wyndham Dunstan, the Director, has just been issued as Blue-Book.

In a covering letter to the President of the Board of Trade, Mr. H. Llewellyn-Smith draws attention to the present position and prospects of the Imperial Institute. He notes that at the time of the transfer to the Board of Trade the principal branches of activity of the institute (in addition to the provision made for the fellows) were the scientific and technical department, the collections of economic products of the Empire, and the Commercial Intelligence Department. Of these, the last-mentioned has been now combined with and absorbed into the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade, the head-quarters of which are in the City of London. The other two main branches are carried on in the Imperial Institute building at South Kensington, and, as will be gathered from Professor Dunstan's report, they have greatly increased in importance and efficiency in the past three years. It is clear to the Board of Trade that the work performed at the Imperial Institute, and especially in the scientific and technical department, is of a kind for which there is a great and increasing demand in the interests of various parts of the Empire. Considerable anxiety has, therefore, been recently caused by the cessation at the beginning of 1906 of the grant of £2,000 a year previously made by the commissioners of the 1851 Exhibition towards the expenses of this department. The loss of this grant has made it necessary to trench to a considerable extent, during the current year, upon the accumulated balance of funds in order to avoid a serious and immediate reduction in the efficiency of the department, while it has naturally made it impossible to meet the legitimate demands for expansion. It is obvious that this state of things could not permanently continue, and negotiations have accordingly taken place between the Board of Trade, Colonial Office, and Treasury, with a view to the adoption of some scheme for putting the scientific and technical department on a satisfactory financial footing. Mr. Llewellyan-Smith is glad to be able to report that, while these negotiations are not yet completed, sufficient progress has been made to make it practically certain that the loss caused by the withdrawal of the commissioners' grant will at least be made good by contributions partly from the Treasury, partly from the Governments of the Crown Colonies and Protectorates which chiefly avail themselves of the services of the department, while there is good reason for hoping that a sufficient fund will be forthcoming, not only to replace the lost grant, but to enable the department to meet the increasing demands for its services. In view of the fact that a large proportion of the funds for the support of the scientific and technical department will under this scheme be contributed by the Governments of the Crown Colonies and Protectorates, it seems desirable that the management of the funds so contributed should be largely controlled by the Colonial Office. Arrangements for this purpose are now under consideration between the departments, having due regard to the provisions of the Act of 1902, and also to the special position occupied by the Government of India.

The Insurance Department of the State of **New York** recently called for sworn statements from the **Insurance Companies** doing business in that State relating to their **losses in San Francisco fire.** The statements were furnished, and the *Times* has compiled from them the following table, which shows the gross insurances effected and the losses

estimated to have been incurred by the **British offices** and their subsidiary American companies :—

	Gross insurance involved.	Actual Amount of loss (after deducting re-insurances and salvage).
Alliance	3,526,220	1,758,886
Atlas	4,830,000	1,778,157
British America	890,600	388,100
Western	1,070,300	591,700
Caledonian and Cal.-American	5,457,727	1,521,064
Commercial Union and Palatine	7,802,722	4,116,281
Law Union	2,205,290	1,368,460
Liverpool and London and Globe	4,850,000	3,998,000
London Assurance	7,668,471	4,016,471
London and Lancashire and Orient		
North British	4,021,913	3,012,500
Northern	4,238,646	2 063,926
Norwich Union	2,716,097	750,(30
Phœnix and Pelican	5,000,948	2,808,313
Royal and Queen	9,044,050	5,787,776
Royal Exchange	5,518,342	2,639,564
Scottish Union and National	2,013,185	1,300,000
Sun	3,122,091	1,651,666
Union	4,238,775	2,345,420
Total	87,877,698	46,125,835

It is obvious, however, says the *Economist*, commenting on these figures, that though the companies have no doubt done their best to estimate their losses, these figures must be largely in the nature of conjecture, since multitudes of claims have yet to be adjudicated upon, and many difficult points to be settled. The British offices, almost without exception, it is noted, have intimated to the New York Insurance Department that they propose to pay their losses out of home funds, and to leave their fire reserves in the United States intact. Considering that their outstanding liabilities in America have been largely curtailed by the San Francisco conflagration, it might have been thought the companies would utilise some portion of their funds there for the purpose of meeting the claims upon them. It was probably decided, however, that, in view of the magnitude of these claims, the amount that could be so obtained would be, comparatively speaking, so small that it would not be worth while going through the formalities requisite to obtain the release of the funds which are held by trustees for the company and for the American policy-holders.

The following statement shows the quantity of **sugar imported** from the principal **non-European sugar-producing countries ; also countries of origin** of the **total imports of sugar** (excluding confectionery and molasses) from all foreign countries into British India in the month of July 1906.

Principal non-European sugar-producing countries whence imported.	Quantity imported in July 1906.	Quantity imported in the 4 months ending July 1906.
	cwt.	cwt.
Egypt	...	56
Mauritius	98,680	607,248
China	4,610	11,409
Java	159,770	266,316
Straits Settlements	14,312	15,721

Countries of origin of total imports.	Share of each country in the total imports in July 1906.	Share in the 4 months ending July 1906.
	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	(a) 36	73
Austria-Hungary	83,283	1,011,979
Belgium	227	90,152
Denmark	...	...
France	1	23,086
Germany	134,264	1,314,592
Holland	3	210
Italy	...	4
Russia	...	...
Spain	...	3
Egypt	...	69
Zanzibar	...	13
British East Africa (Mombassa)	...	1
Portuguese „ (Delagoa Bay)	...	4
Mauritius	109,004	617,570
Réunion	101,021	109,471
Mexico	...	...
United States	...	...
West Indies	1,137	1,297
South America (excluding Argentine Republic and Chile)	1,116	15,220
Argentine Republic	64	102
Chile	...	...
Falkland Islands	...	...
Aden	(b) 8	8
Arabia	...	5
Ceylon	10	107
China	96	828
India	...	...
Japan	(c) 1	4
Java	184,952	346,348
Siam	...	...
Straits Settlements	221	955
Australia	(d) 2	9
Total	615,451	3,532,110

(a) Imported from the United Kingdom, origin unknown.
(b) „ „ Aden as ship's stores „ „
(c) „ „ Japan „ „ „ „
(d) „ „ Australia „ „ „ „

The **output of gold** from the **Transvaal mines** in the month of July constitutes another record, the total being 15,818 ounces in excess of that of June 1906, which was the previous highest output. The total production from the mines of the Rand and the outside districts in July was 491,793 ounces of fine gold, valued at £2,089,004, which compared with 475,975 ounces, of the value of £2,021,813 in June, 1906, and 419,505 ounces valued at £1,781,944 in July, 1905. The following is a statement of the value of gold recovered in each month since May, 1901 :—

	1906.	1905.	1904.
January	1,820,739	1,568,508	1,226 846
February	1,731,664	1,545,371	1,229,726
March	1,884,815	1,698,340	1,309,329
April	1,865,785	1,695,550	1,299,576
May	1,959,062	1,768,734	1,335,826
June	2,021,813	1,751,412	1,309,231
July	2,089,000	1,781,944	1,307,621
August	...	1,820,496	1,326,468
October	...	1,765,047	1,383,167
November	...	1,804,253	1,427,947
December	...	1,833,295	1,538,800
Addenda	...	...	33,766
Total	13,372,882	20,802,074	16,054,809

	1903.	1902.	1901.
January	846,489	298,786	...
February	834,739	345,782	...
March	923,739	442,301	...
April	967,936	607,980	...
May	994,505	588,746	31,271
June	1,012,322	606,495	84,014
July	1,068,917	633,674	110,269
August	1,155,039	691,322	135,654
October	1,208,669	770,706	141,848
November	1,188,571	795,922	165,986
December	1,215,111	832,652	224,692
Addenda	...	13,777	...
Total	12,589,248	7,253,665	1,014,688

The additional returns show a decrease of 441 ounces from Bonanza, while the following are some of the more important increases :—Geldenhuis Deep 455 ounces, Knights 464 ounces, Lancaster 461 ounces, New Kleinfontein 435 ounces, New Modderfontein Newfontein 1,421 ounces, New Rietfontein 445 ounces, and Van Ryn 1,021 ounces. The Native Labour Return states that during July 6,760 Kaffirs were distributed to the mines by the Native Labour Association, while 7,322 left through expiry of contracts and other wastage, making a net loss for the month of 562. The number of natives employed at the end of July was 76,995.

Mr. Cecil Wood, Superintendent of Farms, Madras, submits the following report on the growth of the seed of the Uppam and Karunganni varieties of **cotton** in the **Tinnevelly district** :—

"In spite of the unfavourable nature of the cotton growing season, the rainfall during the flushing season being very scanty and the summer yield being in places practically *nil*, the seed distributed by the Government in the Tinnevelly district was fully appreciated by all the ryots into whose hands it came. One of my subordinates has visited the villages round Koilpatti and Sattur and has interviewed the men to whom the seed last year was distributed, and he reports that in all cases the ryots admitted the undoubted superiority of what in one village they called 'office seed.' Comparing it with the seed supplied by the Porakars, who take little trouble over selection of seed cotton, the qualities most appreciated were the strong and uniform germinating power, the fixity of type and the uniformity of price. The regular germination saved them what is quite part of the routine of cotton cultivation, the subsequent filling in of blanks Indeed so much better in this respect was the farm. seed that in many cases the crop had to be thinned since it was sown at the ordinary seed rate of the district, a rate which allows for a large percentage of dead seeds. Again the seed purchased locally is often mixed with bad seed which though it may not cause actual blanks, yet produces a plant which will yield little or inferior lint and so may do more harm than dead seed which could have been replaced at once. Thirdly, the fluctuations in price are very confusing to the small cultivator and the fact that he can calculate exactly how much money he will want evidently suits his limited means. On these lines then, the distribution may be said to have been completely successful. The lingering suspicions of the ryots appear to have been overcome and on all sides demands were heard for seed this year. Many of the ryots in fact stated that they 'depended' on the purchase of selected seed again this season. Many also asked that they might be allowed to purchase it on credit, the amount being recoverable from the harvest, this being their usual way of obtaining their supplies of seed. Looking at it from a broader point of view, and from the point of view of future policy, I should like to put before the Board what may be considered a rather serious danger. We have here an instance of direct State interference upsetting the laws of supply and demand and therefore economically unsound. Sufficient stress does not appear to me to have been laid on the ultimate goal of all such schemes which is surely to help the ryot to help himself. The ryot got the seed : that was all. Apparently no instructions were given along with it ; how it was obtained, and by what simple means ; nor was the importance of keeping his seed pure impressed upon him for we hear of some of them mixing the farm Karunganni with Uppam seed of their own. The whole scheme appears to be tending not so much to raise the status and stimulate the intelligence of the cultivating classes, but rather, by tending to make them dependent on us for their supply of seed to lower their standard of intelligence. If, on the other hand, they fully grasped the principle inculcated and once they were fully assured of the advantages thereof, a demand for pure and

seed would rapidly spring up which the vendors would soon have to meet by taking more pains in cleaning and preserving their seed cotton. As to the means by which these conditions are to be attained, I fear I am not in a position to make any suggestions at present: my object in putting these remarks before the Board being merely to call attention to what seems to me the somewhat mistaken methods at present adopted."

NOTICE.

BOOKS OF REFERENCE.

THE following publications have been received and may be consulted by any one desirous of studying them at the Office of the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street, where they will be displayed in the Ante Room till Saturday, 8th September.

Parliamentary Publications.

Australia, Western—Statistical Register for 1905. Part I, Do Victoria-Statistical Register for 1905 Parts I to V; Canad—Weekly Report of Trade and Commerce 30th July 1906; China—Returns of Trade and Trade Reports, 1905, Part III, Vol. III; China-Report of the Committee of the Hong-Kong General Chamber of Commerce for the year ending 31st December 1905; Constantinople Bulletin mensuel de la Chambre de Commerce Francaise de Constantinople, Juillet, 1906; Greece—Bulletin Trimestriel du Commerce Special de la Grice, ler Frimestre, 1906; Spain—Resumenes Mensuales de la Estadistica del Commercio Exterior de Espana, Junio, 1906; Straits Settlements—Annual Report on the Marine Department and Trade of the—for the year 1905; United States—Analysis of the Foreign Commerce of the United States, 1895—1905. Year Book of the United States Department of Agriculture, 1905. Bureau of Annual Industry Bulletin No. 84, Bureau of Plant Industry, Bulletin No. 100 Part IV, Bureau of Entomology, Bulletin No. 58, Part I, Bureau of Entomology, Technical Series No. 12, Part I, Bureau of Soils, Bulletin No. 34, Office of Public Roads—Circular No. 47 and 48, List of Books by Agricultural College and Experiment men.

ENQUIRY.

Cajon nut—Anacardium Occidentale.

AN enquiry has been received from a gentleman who wishes to get in touch with dealers in Cajon Nut, *Anacardium Occidentale*. For particulars apply to the Office of the Director General of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street.

FRUIT—TRANSPORTATION.

INDIA produces many excellent fruits and considerable progress has been made in recent years in the delivery of these fruits in the larger markets. But in a country of high temperatures and many bacteria, where too great humidity prevails at some seasons, the transportation of a peculiarly perishable commodity such as fruit presents great difficulties, and the grower has often to choose between plucking his produce before maturity or incurring heavy loss through decay in transit. The plantain grows so generally throughout India and is sold so cheaply that its transportation from one part of the country to another would not pay and the absence of cold-storage facilities either on the railways or at the Indian ports at present precludes exportation on a considerable scale. But it seems very possible that the cultivation of such fruits as oranges, peaches, grapes, and figs for the larger Indian towns might, with improved methods, become a valuable second string to the planter's bow and would afford such possibilities of development as might lead to the ultimate creation of an export trade.

But the Indian planter has to contend with many disabilities resulting from the quality of the labour available for the plucking and transportation of the **fruit,** and an article in the new Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture gives some useful guidance as to the **specific dangers** attending any carelessness in the **gathering and carriage** of this form of produce. The article succeeds several on similar subjects which have appeared in earlier issues of the same publication, and it gives many interesting particulars about the methods of cold storage employed in the great fruit trade of America. But though the time has not yet come for the emulation of these particular methods in this country, we quote certain passages that may be of real service to growers under the conditions here existing.

The reader should distinguish between the losses that result from the continued ripening of the fruit and the deterioration from decay which the fruit may have contracted while growing or after it is picked. Either of these factors, or both of them working together, may be responsible for transportation troubles.

Many of the diseases that attack the growing fruit continue to develop in transit.

The monilia or brown-rot of the **peach,** a serious transportation trouble, may attack the fruit before or after it is picked. The peach is especially susceptible in warm, moist seasons, when the early varieties may decay badly on the trees. The disease grows with astonishing rapidity, a small point of infection developing into a spot as large as a quarter of a dollar in twenty-four hours in warm weather. Delaying the shipping of the fruit a few hours, or shipping it without thorough icing and ventilation in transit, is invariably followed by a large amount of decay. This rot is most severe in the comparatively warm, moist air in the top tiers of packages in a refrigerator car. There may be none of the trouble in the cooler, bottom tiers of packages.

This condition in the different parts of a car leads to the conclusion that the monilia and the overripeness can both be controlled in transit when all of the fruit is cooled as quickly as the bottom tiers of packages.

The **diseases** that affect the fruit **after picking** cause the most serious losses in transit. The molds of various kinds, such as Penicillium, Mucor, Aspergillus, and Botrytus, probably cause more losses in transit and in fruits in cold storage than all other diseases combined. The blue molds (Penicillium) produce the principal rots in apples and pears in storage and in transit, and in oranges and lemons in transit. These molds do not usually penetrate the uninjured surface of thick-skinned fruits like the orange, the lemon, the apple, or the pear. The delicate fruits, like the strawberry, are more easily attacked by a mold like Botrytus. The molds attack all fruits more readily when their vital processes are at low ebb from overripeness or from any other cause, but they gain entrance to a fruit commonly when a spore comes in contact with a broken part of the skin, the disease growing rapidly if there is sufficient moisture with a temperature high enough to start it.

These diseases grow luxuriantly in warm, moist air. The limits of temperature in which they will grow are not well understood. Some of the blue molds probably grow at the freezing point of water, though slowly at a temperature below 40°F. If the fruit remains in the orchard in warm weather after picking, the molds develop rapidly in injured fruit.

Another type of injury is due to packing the fruit so loosely that it moves in the package in transit, or to severe pressing or to rubbing the fruit in any way. This injury is apparent on arrival in market. It frequently shows in brown, discoloured spots on the Yellow Newtown apple or on the Wickson plum when the latter comes in contact with the package. It is primarily a packing difficulty that may be overcome by wrapping the fruit and by packing it more carefully.

The care with which a fruit is handled in the orchard or plantation and in the packing house is one of the important factors in determining the shipping quality. It is the one factor above all others that keeps the thick-skinned fruits, like the **orange** or the apple, immune from the attacks of the common molds. These fruits do not often decay as long as the skin is whole, unless they are weakened by overripeness or by other adverse conditions. **The least abrasion or cut** in the skin gives the molds a foothold, and once started the decay is likely to continue under the most favourable transportation conditions.

It is well known that decay in fruit in transit and in storage generally develops from a wound on the surface, though few persons know how common these injuries are. The commonest injuries are caused by the punctures of insects, by the stem of one fruit penetrating another, by cuts from the finger nails of the handler, by dropping the fruit on a sharp surface, by ruptures caused by the rapid growth of the fruit, by windstorms, or by cutting the surface in some way.

None of the thick-skinned fruits is injured in handling more than the **orange.** The orange is not picked like an apple or a pear by separating it from the fruit spur. The fruit is attached firmly to the branch, from which it must be cut off with shears or clippers to prevent tearing the skin around the stem. In a variety like the Washington Navel, having a distinct cavity at the base, the picker often sticks the clippers into the edge of the cavity beyond the stem, especially if a sharp-pointed pair of shears is used. If the stem is cut too short, the skin may be shaved with the clippers, or if too long, the stem may puncture another orange with which it comes in contact. If the fruit is packed in a house equipped with machinery, the chances for bruising are further increased.

Until recently, when the attention of the grower and packer was directed to these injuries, it was difficult to find a box in which 10 per cent. of the fruit had not been mechanically bruised. The injury from clipper cuts alone may vary from 5 to 50 per cent. In addition, the oranges may have been injured by stem punctures or by the finger-nails of the picker, and still more bruising occurs in the field in dropping the fruit roughly into boxes, bags, or baskets, by filling boxes too full, or by throwing the packages carelessly on or off the wagon.

Few experienced fruit handlers realize how much the fruit is injured in the orchards, plantations, and packing houses. The fruit shipper is likely to seek an explanation of the losses in transit in factors other than the condition of the fruit when it is shipped. This phase of the fruit business is one that needs to be made more prominent and which requires a determined effort to improve. An efficient labour foreman who appreciates the nature of these troubles can reduce to a minimum such bruises as result from the dropping of an apple or a peach or from the clipping of an orange. The writer has seen an average injury of 20 per cent. of the oranges in a grove in which more than 100 men were employed reduced to 5 per cent. in a few days by the persistent efforts of a competent foreman, with an additional cost of less than one-half cent. a box or the more careful picking.

A cold, dry, pure air is ideal for the preservation of fruits of most kinds. Cold air checks the ripening processes and retards the growth of diseases. Dry air may prevent the development of rots, and pure air preserves the delicate quality of the fruit. The ripening must be checked soon after the fruit is picked to prevent premature deterioration. Ripening proceeds much more rapidly when a fruit is severed from the tree, so that it comes nearer the point of deterioration in a few hours or days than it would have been if left hanging on the tree in the same temperature for a much longer period. In cold storage the rots

develop and most fruits ripen if the temperature remains much above 32°F. for any length of time. The molds grow if the room is moist; the flavor deteriorates if the air is impure. If the temperature throughout the room is not uniform, the stored products ripen unevenly. If the products are not piled so that the air can circulate freely about the packages, the ripening may proceed and the rots develop before the fruit is cooled.

The successful transportation of perishable fruit is a complex problem. It depends on the conditions under which the fruit is grown, the care in handling it, the conditions in transit, and the relation of these factors to the ripening of the fruit and to the development of decay. The losses in transit are the result of conditions the responsibility for which may be shared by the grower, the shipper, and the transportation company. A large proportion of the losses from decay is the inevitable result of handling a highly perishable type of product. Many of the losses are primarily orchard and packing-house troubles, which can be overcome by improving the methods of orchard culture and of handling the fruit. A well-grown, perfect fruit is a fundamental requirement in successful transportation. Every fruit that is bruised does not necessarily decay in transit, but if a mold spore comes in contact with an abrasion in the skin, decay is the inevitable result if there are moisture and heat enough to start it into growth. The rots develop rapidly in transit when the temperature is not low enough to check their growth. Most of the decays develop during the first few days of the trip, while the car is warm and moist. They might be reduced to a minimum if the fruit could be cooled more promptly after it is picked, either before or after loading in car.

The losses from overripeness are equally complex. The fruit ripens rapidly as soon as it is picked and the ripening needs to be checked quickly at this time by a cold temperature. The grower may hasten the ripening by delivering the fruit to the car in a warm condition and by delaying the shipment after the fruit is picked. Once in the car the fruit continues to ripen until it is thoroughly refrigerated throughout. The losses of this nature are not wholly due to the grower, the handler, or the transportation company, but may be due to causes for which each shares the responsibility.

The same issue contains articles on *New Fruit Productions of the Department*, *Fruit and its uses as Food*, *The Principal Insect Enemies of the Peach*, *New Opportunities in Subtropical Fruit Growing*, *Promising New Fruits*, *Progress in Fruit-Growing in 1905*.

MOTOR WAGONS FOR INDIA.

It has been found difficult to locate exactly all the places at which **Kerosene Depots** exist. A considerable number of them lie back off the lines of railway; and though it is all to the advantage of motor wagons that supplies should be available at both ends of their route, the present state of Indian cartography does not always facilitate the identification of an outlying village that may be important enough in local trade. The matter is complicated also by the divergencies of practice in the spelling of vernacular names.

The following statement shows the total movement of merchandise from each of the internal railway blocks in the year 1904-05, and will afford some indication of the amount of traffic in which a motor service might expect to share. The figures for 1905-06 are not yet available, and although the constitution of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam has entailed change in certain blocks, the amount of produce coming down to rails is not thereby affected and the old blocks are therefore shown.

Quantity (in tons) of merchandise exported by rail and river from each internal block in 1904-05.—

Assam.

	Tons.
Upper Assam	128,551
Lower "	107,298
Sylhet	256,164
Cachar	16,740
Total	508,753

Bengal.

	Tons.
Bihar	911,279
Western Bengal	3,830,506
Eastern "	1,052,065
Northern "	489,456
Dacca	357,455
Chota Nagpur	3,641,625
Orissa	116,073
Calcutta	1,488,717
Total	11,887,481

United Provinces of Agra and Oudh.

	Tons.
Meerut	585,631
Agra	352,142
Allahabad	402,251
Benares	423,548
Rohilkhand	394,750
Oudh	618,591
Total	2,776,913

Punjab.

	Tons.
Delhi City	145,328
The rest of Cis-Sutlej Territory	943,665
Territory between Sutlej and Jhelum	1,029,920
Territory between Jhelum and Indus	323,245
Peshawar and Kohat	65,722
Trans-Indus portion	4,484
Total	2,512,364

Sind.

	Tons.
Sind	431,616
Karachi	459,658
Total	891,274

Central Provinces and Berar.

	Tons.
Jubbulpore	148,081
Nerbudda	150,730
Nimar	66,100
Nagpur	361,004
Chattisgarh	304,717
Berar	218,067
Total	1,248,699

Bombay Presidency.

	Tons.
Bombay Port	864,628
Gujarat and Kathiawar	312,663
Konkan	284,969
North Deccan	149,641
East Deccan	230,206
West Deccan	88,596
Southern Mahratta Territory	164,019
Goa	42,890
Total	2,137,612

Madras Presidency.

	Tons.
Madras	369,223
Pondicherry	5,794
Cuddalore	72,844
Negapatam	64,161
Tuticorin	72,380
Calicut	77,446
Cocanada	25,250
Vizagapatam	5,321
Northern Circars	187,306
Deltas	236,400
Deccan	173,811
North Carnatic	344,056
South "	212,944
Central Districts	198,059
Southern "	98,961
Malabar	92,644
The Hills	1,590
Cochin	14,942
Travancore	2,447
Total	2,255,579
Rajputana and Central India	687,460
Nizam's Territory	577,753
Mysore	125,031

The drawings of the 6 wheeled chassies mentioned in the previous article on this subject, were furnished by the makers, Messrs. Ed. Surcrouft et Cie 125-127, Rue de Bellevue—Billancourt (Seine) Paris.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

The *Board of Trade Journal* published on the 16th August, in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations, gives particulars about :—

Greece.—Proposed Alteration of Customs Regulations.

British India.—Classification of Imported Cotton Goods.

Dominion of Canada.—Marking of Articles of Gold and Silver.

South Africa.—Customs Regulations. Form of Certificate. Custom Decisions.

Cape of Good Hope.—Customs Regulations.

Transvaal.—Export Duty on Angora Rams and Ewes.

France.—Vanilla imported from French Establishments in Oceania—New Commercial Convention with Switzerland—Present Rates of Duty provisionally maintained.

France-Algeria.—Prohibition of Export of female Sheep.

Spain.—Surtax on certain Swiss Goods. Examination of Goods similar to those of Swiss Origin.

Greece.—Tariff Modifications.

Morocco.—Algeciras Conference—Forthcoming Alterations in Tariff, etc.

Nicaragua.—Export Duties on Wood.

Costa Rica.—Further Reduction of Duty on Liquefied Carbonic Acid Gas. Import Duties on School Satchels, etc.

Ecuador.—Encouragement of Industries.

We give the following particulars of changes interesting to Indian Trade :—

GREECE.

Tariff Modifications.

With reference to the notice on the subject of certain modifications in the Greek Tariff, the Board of Trade have now received, through the Foreign Office, a copy of the Bill, together with a translation of the sections introducing the new rates of import duty.

The following is a statement of certain articles affected interesting to India and of the former and the new duties leviable thereon :—

(Note.—Additions to the Tariff are printed in *italic* type).

Tariff No.	Tariff Classification.	Rate of Duty. Former.	New.
		Drachmas. Per 100 okes.	Drachmas. Per 100 okes.
23 (*a*)	Rice, husked, glazed or not.	20 00*	17 00
(*b*)	Rice, unhusked	00†	10 00
33 (*a*)	Coffee, not roasted, in the natural condition.		
(*b*)	Coffee, roasted, ground or not, mixed or not with other substances, chicory root, roasted or ground or not, acorns, figs, and, in general all vegetable substances, whether simply roasted or ground.	100 00	100 00
43 (*c*)	Cocoanut oil used for soap manufacture.	Free.	(Cancelled).
47 (*b*)	*Cocoanuts and earthnuts*	Free.	20 00

* Rice, glazed; "Carolina Diamanti" of Italy, of Japan and of Java; and unglazed of Genoa.

† Rice of Hamburg, glazed; rice of England, unglazed; and rice not specially mentioned.

JAPAN.

Open Ports in.

A despatch has been received at the Foreign Office from His Majesty's Ambassador at Tokio (Sir C. MacDonald, G.C.M.G.), forwarding the complete text (in English) of the principal law on this subject (Ordnance No. 342 of 1899), with additions and emendations up to the 29th March last. The following is a list of the ports opened in 1899 or subsequently as reported up to date :—

"*Article* I.—The following ports are made open ports in addition to the hitherto existing open ports :—

Shimizu,		in the Province of	Suruga.
Taketoyo,	"	"	Owari.
Yokkaichi,	"	"	Ise.
Shimonoseki,	"	"	Nagato.
Moji,	"	"	Buzen.
Wakamatsu*	"	"	Chikuzen.
Hakata,	"	"	Chikuzen.
Karatsu,	"	"	Hizen.
Suminoye,†	"	"	Hizen.
Kuchinotsu,	"	"	Hizen.

* Subject to conditions in Art. II

† " " " IIa

Misumi, in the Province of Higo.
Izuhara, „ „ Tsushima.
Sasuna, „ „ Tsushima.
Shishimi, „ „ Tsushima.
Naha, in the Loochoo Islands.
Hamada, in the Province of Iwami.
Sakai, „ „ Hoki.
Miyazu, „ „ Tango.
Tsuruga, „ „ Echizen.
Nanao (South Bay), in the Province of Noto.
Fushiki, in the Province of Etchu.
Awomori,‡ „ „ Mutsu.
Otaru, „ „ Shiribeshi.
Kushiro, „ „ Kushiro.
Muroran,‡ „ „ Iburi.

"*Article* II.—At the port of Wakamatsu the following goods only may be imported :—

Fresh eggs.

Rice, unhulled rice, barley, wheat, oats, Indian corn and beans.

Iron ore.

Pig iron.

Manure.

"*Article* IIA.—At the port of Suminoye only the export of commodities is permitted.

"*Article* IIB.—The following articles only may be imported at the port of Awomori and the port of Muroran :—

Sugar.

Beverages and commestibles (confined to the articles included in Group No. 2 of Class No. 1, in the Import Tariff Table attached to the Customs Tariff Law of 1897).

Rails and bolts, nuts, chairs, dog-spikes and fish-plates for rails.

Implements and tools, of farmers and mechanics, and parts thereof.

Oils and waxes (confined to those articles included in Group No. 10 of Class No. 1 of the Import Tariff Table attached to the Customs Tariff Law of 1897).

Articles exempted from duty (confined to the articles in Class No. 2 of the Import Tariff Table attached to the Customs Tariff Law of 1897).

"*Article* III.—When the imports and exports together at any of the ports mentioned in Article I, for any two years in succession do not reach the value of 50,000 yen, such port shall be closed.

"When in cases where in consequence of the development of communications new ports are established in the vicinity of any of the ports enumerated in Article I, the further maintenance of any such port as an open port is considered unnecessary, it may be closed notwithstanding the provisions of the preceding clause.

"The date of the closing shall be notified three months beforehand by the Minister of Finance.

On and after 1st October next the list of articles which may be imported at Awomori and Muroran will be extended, and will then read as follows :—

Grains and seeds.

Beverages and comestibles (articles included in Group 3 of the Import Tariff attached to the new Customs Tariff Law).

Sugar, confectionery and sweetmeats (articles included in Group 4 of the said Tariff).

Furs.

Hides and skins (articles included in Group 6, No. 66, of the above-mentioned Tariff).

Oils, fats and waxes.

Iron—
T, angle and the like.
Rails and fish-plates for rails.

Bolts, nuts, washers, rivets and dogspikes (all made of iron).

Materials for bridging and building (made of metal).

Mechanics' tools, and agricultural implements and parts thereof.

Locomotives, locomotive tenders and parts thereof.

Railway passenger cars, freight wagons and parts thereof.

Duty-free articles.

Articles exempted from import duty (articles included in Article 7 of Customs Tariff Law).

‡ Subject to conditions in Art IIB.

WEATHER SUMMARY.

For the week ending the 1st September 1906.

DURING the period under review there was light to moderate nearly general rain in Burma, the Frontier Province, Gujarat, Sind, South Rajputana, North-East India and Orissa, nearly general rain in the Punjab, the Central Provinces, the Peninsula (from moderate to heavy on the West Coast) and North Madras, light local rain in Central India, Bihar, Deltaic Bengal, Assam, Kashmir, Rajputana, Deccan, the interior of South India and the Circars Coast, while a few scattered falls occurred in the United Provinces. The principal amounts of rainfall were :—Dwaraka 6·18″, Nagpur 6·57″, Tavoy 6·50″, Ahmedabad 5·93″, Indore 5·90″, Seoni 5·65″, Mount Abu 5·33″, Mercara 4·85″, Bombay 4·69″, Moulmein 4·34″, Cherat 4·32″, Barisal 4·03″, Sialkot 3·72″, Slipper Island 3·68″, Pachmarhi 3·46″, Amraoti 3·40″, Akyab 3·31″, Khandwa 3·28″, Veraval 3·27″, Mermugao 3·23″, Rajkot 3·08″, Ratnagiri 3·00″, Karwar 2·65″, Chitaldroog 2·39″, Lahore 2·32″ and Ootacamund 2·11″.

Within the trough of low pressure, which extended from Orissa to Sind at the end of the last week, two depressions formed, one in Orissa and the other in Gujarat, the latter gave heavy rain in parts of Gujarat, the other developed and then moved in a west-north-westerly direction, its centre reaching the neighbourhood of Saugor on the morning of the 30th. This depression gave widespead rain in Chota Nagpur, Orissa, the Central Provinces, the North Deccan and North Madras, and in places the rainfall was heavy.

In Burma the rainfall during the week was heavy in Tenasserim and on the Pegu and Arakan Coasts it was fairly abundant, but in the interior rainfall was light: every station however reported some rain. Temperature was normal and skies were moderately overcast.

The development and subsequent movement of the depression gave widespread rain in deltaic Bengal, Orissa and Chota Nagpur which was at times moderately heavy; but in the rest of north-east India rainfall was very light and scattered. Skies were only moderately overcast and temperature was normal.

In the United Provinces only a few isolated falls occurred throughout the period owing to the position of the trough of low pressure and under the influence of the depression which formed in Orissa rain fell daily in the Central Provinces and in parts the total fall was heavy. In Central India the rainfall was very light except on the last few days when heavy precipitation occurred in the south-western part. Temperature was in excess in the United Provinces and Central India throughout the week; in the Central Provinces it was in excess during the first few days but it afterwards fell owing to the heavy rain and was in large defect at the close of the week. Skies were completely overcast in the United Provinces and moderately clouded elsewhere on the 30th.

In the Punjab and the Frontier Province almost every station reported rain during the week, the rainfall being heaviest in the northern districts. The depression which existed in Gujarat for several days caused widespread rain there and in Sind, while in Rajputana rain was reported from all stations, the smallest amounts being from Kotah, Jaipur and Sambhar. Skies were heavily overcast in Gujarat, and lightly to moderately elsewhere. At the beginning of the week temperature was in large defect in the greater part of the Punjab in the Frontier Province and in Upper Sind, but by the 30th it was in excess except in the submontane districts; in Rajputana the weather was also much hotter than usual.

In the western half of the Peninsula and in North Madras, the monsoon was very active and rainfall was considerably above the normal for the week; but in the Nizam's dominions and in Madras excluding the Circars and Malabar Coasts the rainfall for the period was less than usual. Skies were heavily overcast except on the last few days and temperature was in defect.

The total rainfall for the week was in excess over the west of the Peninsula, including Mysore, Bijapur, Gujarat, the Central Provinces, Orissa, the west of Central India and a large part of North-West India. The total rainfall of the season was in defect over practically the whole of North-West India, the east of Central India, Orissa and Chota Nagpur. It was in excess in North Bihar, the Punjab hills, the North Madras Coast, the West Satpuras and Mysore and practically normal elsewhere.

TELEGRAM FROM THE VICEROY TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Crop prospects : For the week ending 1st September last.

United Provinces : Prospects are good in affected districts. More rain is needed in two. Markets are well supplied and prices are falling, but the effects of privation are still apparent in Jalaun. The condition of the people is good elsewhere. **Rajputana :** Good rain has fallen almost everywhere. Crops are thriving generally except in parts of some States. Relief works have been closed in Alwar and Kishangarh. The condition of the cattle is fair. **Central India :** Rain has been partial, and more rain is needed in parts of Gwalior. Crop prospects are good. Pasturage is sufficient. **Bombay :** Good rain has fallen and crops are in good condition generally. Prices show a tendency to fall. The people are leaving the relief works far field work. Relief works have been closed in Nasik. Test relief works have been opened in the Native State of Jamkhandi. **Eastern Bengal :** Floods are gradually subsiding, but still continue high. Crop prospects are fair except in flooded areas, where they are uncertain. Scarcity continues in five districts. Prices continue high, and have risen in the affected areas. Prospects are favourable in other provinces. The following are the numbers of persons in receipt of relief, in thousands :—**United Provinces,** 121 ; **Ajmer and Rajputana,** 34 ; **Central India,** 10 ; **Bombay,** 72 ; **Eastern Bengal,** 5 ; total, 242. Since the end of the week good rain has fallen in the Deccan, Gujarat and South Rajputana.

CONSULAR REPORTS.

NINGPO.

MR. ACTING-CONSUL PRATT in his report on the Trade of Ningpo for the year 1905 states that the gross value of the trade for 1905 amounted to 2,927,685*l.*, a decrease of nearly 160,000*l.*, as compared with 1904, which, however, appears to have been a record year. Imports amounted to 2,002,360*l.* and exports to 925,325*l.*; 5 per cent. of the imports were Chinese goods and the remainder, valued at 1,499,205*l.*, were foreign goods. While there is thus a fairly large foreign trade at Ningpo, the volume of the direct trade with foreign countries is small, and would be insignificant were it not for the import of sugar from Hong-Kong and Iloilo. For practically all other foreign goods Shanghai acts as the distributing centre for Ningpo. This is due to the fact that in some cases, such as kerosine oil, this the more convenient way of carrying on the trade; and that in other cases, such as piece-goods, local dealers prefer to send their agents to purchase in the larger market of Shanghai, where there is a greater selection to choose from.

Direct imports from foreign countries amounted to 434,904*l.* Of this total over 350,000*l.* worth came from Hong-Kong, and about 250,000*l.* worth consisted of refined sugar from Hong-Kong and brown sugar from Iloilo. The following table summaries the value of imports and exports for the year 1905 :—

	Value.
	£
I. Foreign goods—	
(*a*) Imports from foreign countries .	434,904
(*b*) „ „ Chinese ports . .	1,064,301
TOTAL .	1,499,205
II. Native goods	503,155
GRAND TOTAL .	2,002,360

NOTE.—The value of the Haikuan tael has been taken as 3*s.* $0\frac{1}{16}$*d.* for 1905 and 2*s.* $10\frac{3}{4}$*d.* for 1904.

	Value.
	£
Exports to Foreign countries	71
Chinese ports	924,554
TOTAL .	925,325

From these figures it follows that 85 per cent. of the total trade of Ningpo is coastwise trade, practically the whole of which is carried in the two steamers which keep up daily communication between Ningpo and Shanghai.

The import of **kerosine oil** shows a decrease of nearly 275,000 gallons, the figures being 2,871,600 gallons in 1905 as against 3,146,415 gallons in 1904. I believe the following statistics of the import in 1905 to be nearer the truth than the figures given in Annex II, which have been drawn from the customs returns :—

	Quantity.
	Gallons.
American . . .	870,000
Russian .	300,000
Sumatra . . .	1,450,000
Burma	33,000
Borneo	200,000
Approximate total .	2,853,000

Thus, while Sumatra oil easily heads the list, it will be seen that the import of Russian oil has not declined to such insignificant proportions as has been commonly supposed.

A very profitable business was done in refined **sugar** from Hong-Kong. The market opened firm and prices advanced 2 mace (about 6*d.*) per cwt. till September. From October to December prices fell 5 mace (about 1*s* 2*d.*) per cwt., owing to the rumours of the competition of beet sugar. Large sales, however, continued to be made owing to the facilities as regards credit always accorded by dealers to up-country buyers at the end of the year.

Small quantities of Japanese refined sugar appeared on the market for the first time, but it is unlikely that it will ever seriously compete with the Hong-Kong product.

The trade in brown sugar shows an increase in volume, but the severe competition between Iloilo and Fokien resulted in low prices and a loss all round.

The high rate of exchange ruling in 1905 stimulated the import of opium and piece-goods, more cargo being disposed of profitably at cheaper rates.

The import of Benares and Patna **opium** was practically doubled, while Malwa advanced from 168,664lbs. in 1904 to 216,932lbs. in 1905.

British yarn also shows a slight increase, but Indian and Japanese yarn have fallen away considerably owing to the competition of the Chinese staple. This may be expected to continue. There is already one cotton mill in Ningpo whose annual output of yarn is about 4,500.000 lbs.; and another mill, now in course of erection, will begin operations before the end of 1906. It is thetefore probable that in course of time Indian and Japanese yarn will cease to be imported.

The **export** of both **tea** and **cotton**, the most important products of this district, were adversely affected by the wet season in 1905, and the total value of exports fell from 1,145,996*l.* in 1904 to 925,325*l.* in 1905.

The export of **raw cotton** shows a decline of over 4,700,000 lbs., the figures being 11,820,000 lbs. in 1905 as against 16,542,800 lbs. in 1904. An excellent crop had been expected but unfortunately heavy rains came on just at the critical period and the crop was all but ruined. Part of the decreased export is no doubt due to the fact that considerable quantities of the raw article are consumed by the local cotton mill instead of being exported.

The export of **tea** has declined from 15,300,000lbs. in 1903 to 13,000,000lbs. in 1904 and to 11,600,000 lbs. in 1905. As a result of the abnormally high export in 1903 the American market in 1904 was over-stocked, and buyers did not want the 1905 crop. A little of it went forward early in 1905 merely to open the market, but then by mutual consent no more was shipped for two months. These causes, combined with a short crop, resulted in a diminished export and an unprofitable year.

A **cotton mill** is in process of erection, and will be completed before the end of 1906. It has room for 20,000 spindles, but will commence with 10,000. The machinery was purchased in Manchester by a Japanese expert sent to the United Kingdom for that purpose, and many Japanese are to be employed on the staff. This mill hopes to compete with the T'ung Chiu Yuan Cotton Mill, whose large profits it should be observed, are chiefly due to the fact that their yarn is sent into the interior under special Huchaos issued by the Fantai, whereby they escape paying duty to the foreign customs.

Early in 1905 a **flour mill**, run in connection with the T'ung Chiu Yuan Cotton Mill, was opened. The flour turned out was of good quality, but, owing to bad business management, no profits were made. Instead, therefore, of extending the flour mill—as was originally intended—it is now proposed to set up a cloth weaving factory, but no active steps have yet been taken towards the realisation of this scheme.

Another project which is more likely to bear immediate fruit is the installation of **electric light** in Ningpo. The Chinese are anxious to have it in spite of two abortive attempts which have already been made. At present it is doubtful whether a concession will be obtained by a British firm or whether the work will be undertaken by the Japanese who are interested in the new cotton mill.

KIUNGCHOW.

MR. ACTING-CONSUL SAVAGE in his Report on the Trade of Kiungchow (Hoihow) for the Year 1905 says that the total figure of the trade for 1905 is the highest on record. The gross value of the trade was 1,036,810*l.*, an increase of 317,730*l.*, or 40 per cent. over last year's total, and nearly 53 per cent. higher than the average of the previous five years 1899-1903.

A small percentage of this excess is due to the average value of the Haikuan tael having risen by about 2*d.* Otherwise the increase of 1,864,000 Haikuan taels is in every respect a genuine proof of growing trade and prosperity ; for, owing to good harvests, the import of rice, which in bad years swells the figure of the import trade, was less than half the average amount imported yearly for the last six years.

The following table will serve to show the figures for the year under review as compared with those of 1904, itself all but a record year :—

	1904.		1905.	
	Currency.	Sterling.	Currency.	Sterling.
	H. taels.	£	H. taels.	£
Imports .	2, 550,631	365,323	3,187,670	479,430
Exports .	2,469,878	353,757	3,697,151	557,330
Total .	5,020,509	719,080	6,884,821	1,036,810

Nine-tenths of the trade of Kiungchow is with Hong-Kong, which accounts largely for what falling-off is noticeable in the import of goods of American origin. The boycott itself met with no particular enthusiasm in Hainan, and it was only towards the end of the year that the efforts of outside agitators began to bear fruit here ; but in the Hong-Kong market American produce was not so plentiful as at other times, and supplies were naturally procured from other countries so as to avoid overloading the market with goods, the demand for which was subject to Chinese prejudice.

Among the foreign imports **opium** shows an increase of well over 100 per cent. over 1904. Benares accounts for 121 chests as against 5 chests and Patna for 952 chests as against 445 chests in 1904. This trade appears to be gradually returning to the legitimate channels, thanks to keener vigilance on the part of the authorities in the vicinity of Kuang-chou Wan ; though the greater prosperity arising from a good year all round is probably a direct cause of the larger import of the foreign drug, as it is of the increase in the total volume of the trade.

Cottons have improved in a number of lines, but the feature of the year is the large **increase in Indian T-cloths** at the expense of both the British and the Japanese article. That there should be a falling-off in Japanese cottons was rather to be expected as a result of the war, yet Japanese cotton cloths, crape, blankets and towels have considerably improved. The remaining items which show a noticeable increase are lenos and balzarines, Turkey-reds, lastings (plain and figured), Hong-Kong dyed shirtings, fancy woven cottons, Indian cotton yarn and cotton thread. There was some falling-off of shirtings, chintzes, cotton flannel and velvets, as well as of the British 32-inch T-cloths and Japanese T-clorhs generally, as noted above.

There was a larger demand than in 1904 for blankets and rugs and long ells, but Spanish stripes fell off a good deal. Apart from the total import of woollens being about 25 per cent. higher than during 1904, there is nothing in particular to note as to this class of goods.

Metals also show a slight increase, although several of the most important items were not up to last year's figure. A larger import of tin plates is accounted for by the establishment at Hoihow of a **native cannery**, which is going to pack lichees and pineapples in tins for export during the coming season. A considerable stock of tins has already been manufactured locally, and, to judge by appearances, they are little if at all inferior to those turned out by the large foreign canneries, though the process is perhaps somewhat primitive and laborious.

Among the sundry imports, matches show the greatest advance. They are, as usual, all Japanese and are fairly good. Their low price, too, which works out at about 10 boxes of 65 lights each for 1*d.*, makes them popular.

Ginseng, much of which is American, fell off somewhat; but medicines, native and foreign, increased by about 15 per cent.

There was a big drop in the import of American **kerosene oil**, which fell from 889,700 to 545,100 gallons. Russian oil has also declined from 128,495 to 64,450 gallons and Sumatran from 259,046 to 132,680 gallons. Two other oils, however, made up some of the deficiency; Borneo oil makes its first appearance with 124,000 gallons and **Burman oil**, which unfortunately did not come to stay, rose from 42,000 gallons in 1904 to 163,790 gallons. These two oils are of a rather low grade and inclined to be smokey, but they are far cheaper than either American or Russian oil. I understand that an arrangement has been concluded between the rival oil compaines whereby the import of Burman oil into China is to cease, in consideration of its being allowed to enjoy the possession of its home market unbindered by the competition of American oil.

Of the remaining imports hemp, bar soap and Japanese umbrellas show a substantial progress, while Chinese books, shoes and boots have sensibly declined as compared with 1904.

The British share of the import trade is clearly far greater than it was last year. At a reasonable estimate it should be between 52 and 55 per cent., and may be more. Taking for instance the principal imports only, and including, of course, the produce of British colonies, the following values are arrived at:—

Articles.	Value.
	£
Opium	113,000
Cottons and yarn	125,000
Oil, Burma	3,700
Woollens	3,900*
Miscellaneous piece-good	2,000*
Metals	1,500*
Total	249,100

* About.

Or, roughly, 52 per cent. of the total amount of the imports, not including any share of the sundries and unenumerated goods, almost all of which are brought from Hong-Kong and undoubtedly include a quantity of British produce which must be fairly considerable, but cannot be accurately estimated.

Among the **exports sugar** heads the list. Its value, 204,000*l.*, accounts for just over two-fifths of the total exports. The cane is grown extensively throughout the island. It is harvested and pressed in the fall of the year, and the sugar is kept over for export during the following season. The year 1904 yielded a full crop, as typhoons left the island unmolested. Climatic conditions having been favourable again during 1905, it is to be hoped that next year's returns will show similar results.

Another two-fifths of the export trade consisted of pigs, cattle and goats. No less than 75,107 animals, including some 8,000 head of cattle and goats, left the port, their destination being nominally Hong-Kong; but there is a demand for cattle in the Philippines, and it is probable that a large proportion of the local supply finds a market there.

No great expansion of the trade in the export of cattle is to be expected as long as the prejudice of the Chinese authorities against killing cattle for food or rearing them for export remains unshaken. To them cattle are indispensable for agricultura purposes, and it is therefore sinful to kill them or sell them abroad. As a matter of fact the water buffalo, whose flesh is coarse and tough, is used most extensively for ploughing the fields, as it is endowed with great power and endurance. It is not required for export purposes. The short-horned domestic cattle of these latitudes are reared in large numbers in certain districts of Hainan; but, owing to want of communications and the opposition of the authorities, they are not exported to any great extent.

The export of eggs, which fell very low in 1904, rose again to 13,289,000. This figure is far below the total exported in 1901, which was well over 25,000,000, but the local value of this article has, meanwhile, nearly doubled itself, so it is natural that the export should have diminished.

One of the most valuable articles of export is **grass-cloth,** which is much used by the Chinese for clothing is hot weather. The local cloth is mostly manufactured from the **fibre** of the **wild pineapple** (*Bromelia Penguin*) and is highly esteemed, though greatly inferior to the Kongmoon grass-cloth.

Under the **appellation of hemp** a good deal of this fibre is exported from here to Swatow. It comes from Hai-An, in the Leichow Peninsular, opposite the island.

Coarse **rhea fibre** is also imported in some quantity from Central China for making fishing nets.

Betel nuts, another valuable production of the island, show an increase of about 1,300 cwts. and a large increase in value. This is also noticeable in native medicines, *viz.*, powdered deer horn, dried lizards and other kindred articles.

There is a noticeable falling-off in some of the exports such as gunny and straw bags, straw mats, galangal, hides and sesamum seed; but the more valuable commodities have either improved considerably or maintained their average output.

The trade of Hainan is largely dependent upon the weather, and fluctuates therefore from year to year according to the success or failure of the crops. It is, nevertheless, growing steadily, but slowly, hindered as it is by want of harbours and means of communication, as well as by the demands of the authorities, which leaves hardly a single trade or means of livelihood unhampered by special taxes.

Banking facilities are also wanting; but at any rate the currency of the district is fairly satisfactory, thanks to supplies of silver dollars being brought with them by thrifty emigrants returning home from the Straits and other places.

OSTRICH FARMING.

With reference to an article on Ostrich Farming for India which appeared in the Journal of 26th July (page. 591) the following extracts from a paper entitled **Ostrich Farming in Arizona** which appears in the Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture just received, may prove of interest. From the opening paragraphs of that paper it appears that there were in October 1905 some 2,200 ostriches in farms in the United States. More than half of these are descended from a single pair owned in Arizona in 1891. Salt River Valley, Arizona, is believed to be the best locality in the United States for Ostrich farming. The latitude is the same as that of Rawal Pindi. The following extracts speak for themselves.

In fact, more than half the ostriches now in the United States are the progeny of a single pair owned in Arizona in 1891. Great progress has been made in the last five years, and there are now (October 1905) 2,200 ostriches on farms in the United States. Of these, 1,540 (including chicks of 1905) are in Arizona, and the remainder in California, Florida, and Arkansas.

Salt River Valley, Azizona, is thought by many to be the best location in the United States for ostrich farming. Climatic conditions are favourable to the health of the birds, yield and quality of feathers, and the production of alfalfa for feed the year round. The latitude of Phœnix city is 33·5 North, or the same as Rawal Pindi, the longitude being 112 West.

Ostriches come to maturity when about 4 years of age. The female matures from six months to a year before the male, but she will seldom lay a fertile egg until she is $3\frac{1}{2}$ years old. The nest is a round hole in the ground which the male scoops out with his feet. At first the female may not take to the nest, but may lay her first eggs on the ground, whereupon the male will roll them into the nest. Generally, after the male has put 3 or 4 eggs into the nest, the female will lay there. In about thirty days she will lay 12 to 16 eggs, and will be ready to commence incubation.

Incubation under domestication is carried on in two ways by natural and by artificial means. Some growers prefer the former method, others the latter. Either has been found to yield satisfactory results with fertile eggs. About forty-two days of very careful attention are required for good results.

In natural incubation the male takes a prominent part, covering the eggs fifteen or sixteen hours out of the twenty-four. He will usually go on the nest about 5 o'clock in the evening and remain there till 8 or 8-30 the next morning, the female taking her turn during the day. It is thought that the colour of the sexes has had something to do with developing these instincts. The male, being black, is not so easily seen at night, and the female, being drab or nearly the colour of sand, can not be so readily seen in daylight. The male usually begins sitting three or four days before the hen stops laying. If the weather is cold during the laying period the male may often be found covering the eggs at intervals during the night to prevent them from becoming chilled. The birds are also very watchful in the warmest season to prevent the eggs from becoming overheated by the sun. Often, in the heat of the day, one or the other of the old birds may be found sitting on its ankle joints with both wings extended to shade the eggs from the sun. The careful ostrich farmer should make this work unnecessary by providing artificial shade during the hot season. The birds sit very much closer to the nest during the first half of the incubation period, the internal heat of the eggs making this less necessary during the last half. As is usually the case with all eggs in a dry climate, the shell of the ostrich egg becomes dry and hard, and very difficult for the young for the chick to break. When the time arrives for the liberation of the young, they will be heard to chirp and to move in the shell. The parent bird seems to understand the situation, and will often crack the shell with its breast bone, sometimes taking the young bird by the head and drawing it out of the shell. Sometimes three or four days elapse between the hatching of the first and the last eggs in the nest. During this time one or the other parent bird takes care of the chicks while the other is attentive to the nest. Owing to liability of injury to the young birds by reason of the anxiety of the parent birds, it is a good plan after the first eggs have hatched to remove the remaining eggs to an incubator.

The chicks should never be allowed to become damp or cold, and they should not be fed for th first three or four days, but they may be allowed to pick up sand and gravel. Dry feed is preferable for the first week. Cracked wheat and moistened bran are excellent, but the chicks should never be given feed which has begun to sour. The enclosure should always be kept clean. At the end of the first week green alfalfa cut very fine may be fed, but not too freely at first. It should not be allowed to become dry, as fresh feed should be the ostrich farmer's watchword at all times.

Young ostriches, like young chickens, should be housed and protected from cool drafts until they are two or three months old, the length of time depending somewhat on the climate conditions.

The ostrich is plucked the first time when six months old, and should be plucked about every eight months thereafter during its lifetime. The only feathers removed are those of the wing and the tail. The process of plucking consists in cutting the tail feathers and one row of the largest quill feathers in the wing with pruning shears, and drawing by hand those of the remaining two or three rows in the wing. Two months later the quills of the cut feathers may be removed.

At plucking time the ostriches are driven in from the pasture and placed in a small pen surrounded by a tight board fence 5 or 6 feet high. The plucking box is about 4 feet high, 20 inches wide, and 3½ feet long, open at one end and closed with a door at the other. An ostrich is caught and a hood placed over its head. An old black stocking makes a very satisfactory hood. The hooded bird is very easily handled. It is placed in the plucking box with its head next to the closed door. The plucker stands behind the bird while removing the feathers. This is necessary, because the ostrich can kick or strike very hard, but it always strikes out in front and never behind, so that the plucker is perfectly safe if he stands in the rear.

When removing the feathers from the ostrich, the pluckers usually tie in a bunch the feathers of each length as they are taken from each bird. When through plucking, they have a grading table with enough compartments in it to hold all the grades and lengths of feathers, which are many. The size of each compartment is about 4 inches wide and 4 inches deep, and the length varies from 4 to 30 inches. In sorting, the feathers of the male are kept separate from those of the female. The former are the more valuable. Manufacturers in this country usually request that the feathers be graded as nearly as possible as they are in the London market, where nearly all the feathers of the world are marketed. A London report shows the following classification. White, femina, bayocks, black, drabs, floss, spadones, and boos, with numerous sub-divisions or grades.

The value of the American feathers depends on the London market. In an American factory they will bring 15 per cent. more than the London price, plus the freight charges. In October 1905, "white primes" and "blood feathers" the most valuable sold in London for £30 sterling ($146) per pound. It takes about 90 of these feathers to weigh a pound. The "white primes" and "blood feathers" are taken from the males, as well as most of the "white firsts," though occasionally a female bird will have what the feather men call a "first white." The black feathers are plucked from the male birds and the drab from the females. "Spadones" are chick feathers, the first plucking. "Boos" are tail feathers. "Bayocks" come mostly from the male birds. The shortest drab feathers, which are frequently used in making feather dusters, are worth about $4 per pound. An average ostrich will yield 1½ pounds of feathers annually.

The United States is one of the largest consumers of ostrich feathers in the world. During the fiscal year 1903-04 there was imported in this country $2,292,515 worth of "raw" or "unmanufactured" feathers. The feathers produced in America are fully as good as those coming from Africa, and it is claimed that they are broader and finer looking, though some manufacturers contend that they are not as strong and tough as the wild feathers. There seems to be no reason why ostrich farming may not be developed sufficiently in Arizona and California alone to supply all the feathers consumed in America.

Ostriches are called "chicks" until 6 months old, or as long as they have their first crop of feathers. From then until 1 year old they are called "young birds," and from 1 to 4 years old they are known as "plucking" or "feather" birds. It is difficult to determine the age of an ostrich when it is more than 3 years old. Douglas, in Ostrich Farming in South Africa, says :—

The distinguishing marks of the different ages are somewhat as follows, though it must be borne in mind that a very forward bird will have many of the marks of the age below :

At six and a half months old the quill feathers will be ready to cut; some of the body feathers will have begun to change ; some of the cocks will show yellow in front of the legs.

At twelve months old the second growth of quill feathers should be showing ; some of the cocks should begin to show black feathers; all cocks should show white on legs and bill.

At two years old all the "chicken" feathers should have gone from the back, and cocks should show quite black or nearly so. Most of the little white belly feathers should have been replaced by blacks or drabs, according to sex.

At three years old there should not be a single "chicken" feather to be found on the body ; the last place from which they disappear is where the neck joins the body. Every vestige of the white belly feathers has gone. The bird's plumage has reached perfection. Some of the cocks will be red in front of the leg and on the bill.

At four years old the birds have reached maturity; the breeding organs are fully developed ; the cocks in season will have the back sinews of the leg pink, the front of the leg and the bill scarlet; and much of the fineness of the feet, the leg, and the lines of the body will have gone.

At five years old and upwards the only distinguishing marks we know are a generally coarser look of the limbs and body and an increased coarseness of the scaling in front of the legs and feet."

Lands used for ostrich farms in Arizona are worth from $40 to $125 per acre. As irrigation is absolutely necessary for farming here, the land value depends mainly on location and water rights. The annual cost of water is from 50 cents. to $2·50 per acre, depending partly on the cost of bringing the water from the river to the land and partly on whether the canals are owned by a corporation or by the owners of the land. The land used for growing alfalfa is usually a sandy loam.

Young ostriches are usually kept in troops of 25 to 50. When they are 1 year old the males should be separated from the females. When they are 3½ years old the birds should be paired off, each pair being placed in a separate inclosure, which, in case the birds are to graze on alfalfa or other green feed, should be large enough to furnish them sufficient food. If they are fed on dry feed the inclosure need only be large enough to allow plenty of exercise.

The usual way to fence an ostrich farm is to use a woven wire for the outside fences about 5½ feet high and with meshes small enough to keep out wolves and dogs. The fences used to divide the farm into small paddocks may be made about 5 feet high and need not extend nearer than 18 inches to the ground. Paddocks for chicks should be inclosed with woven wire, which should extend to the ground, but need not be so high.

Ostriches are easily moved from one field to another by one person going ahead, calling them, and toling them on with grain while another follows on a horse. The birds are very timid and do not like to be driven unless some one goes ahead of them.

After ostriches are over 1 year old no one should go among them without a brush or stick in the hand, as at times they will want to fight, and a person going among them is liable to injury unless he has something with which to drive or frighten them away.

One of the very best feeds for ostriches is alfalfa. One acre of good alfalfa in Arizona will maintain 4 ostriches without their receiving any additional feed. When pastured or fed on green alfalfa they are always healthy. The writer has known troops of more than 100 to be kept on alfalfa for three or four years without a death. Ostriches thrive well on any tender green forage, and they prefer the kind they have been taught to eat. Birds fed on hay, when turned out, often refuse to eat grass until they become very hungry.

For dry feed, alfalfa or clever hay cut up, mixed with bran and moistened is excellent. An ostrich will consume about 3 pounds of hay and 1 pound of bran daily. They would have gravel and broken bone at all times. Occasionally an ostrich will get a piece of bone lodged in its throat. In such case, if the bone cannot be worked up or down by external manipulation, the throat may be cut, the bone removed, and the incision sewed up. It will heal very quickly.

Ostriches may be fed any kind of grain-corn, wheat, barley, oats, or peas. Some farmers feed a little grain while the birds are nesting. Ordinarily, however, if ostriches are in good flesh and have plenty of good green feed they need no grain. Besides, if fed much grain they are liable to become cross and hard to manage.

Although African writers assert that ostriches will live for years without water, Arizona farmers find that they drink water freely every day if it is supplied to them.

Nothing is positively known as to how long an ostrich will live. Some writers claim that it will live one hundred years. Ostriches which are known to have been in captivity for forty years are still breeding and producing feathers. It is the experience of Arizona farmers that among birds having good nutritious green feed deaths seldom occur except as the result of accident. A dog or other small animal will sometimes frighten ostriches and cause them to run into the fence, which may result in a broken leg. When this happens the bird may as well be killed, as few if any ever recover from such an injury.

The question most frequently asked by visitors to an ostrich farm is, "what is an ostrich worth?" The somewhat curt reply usually given is, "The birds are not for sale at any price." The day has not yet arrived when the American grower is ready to part with his birds as the grower of other animals does. The value of the ostrich has only begun to be appreciated. Practically the only inducement that will bring an ostrich farmer to the point where he will sell birds is lack of available pasture for them. Ostrich farmers may name the estimated value of their birds, but there are few who will sell the birds at the prices named. Chicks 6 month old may be set down as worth $100 each ; 1-year old birds, $150 ; 2-years old, $200 to $250 ; birds 3 years of age, $300 to $350, and birds 4-years old, the age at which they pair, $800 or more per pair.

"Does ostrich farming pay?" This question is asked by almost everyone who visits an ostrich farm. When an acre of alfalfa will furnish a home for 4 birds, with food enough to maintain them ; when an ostrich will yield annually 1½ pounds of feathers, with an average value of $20 a pound, and from 36 to 90 eggs, which may be used for incubation, or may furnish egg food at the rate of 3½ pounds to the egg if the owner does not wish to increase his troop, readers may be left to decide for themselves as to the profitableness of the industry.

JAIL INDUSTRIES.

A LETTER has been issued from the Home Department on the subject of the **industries** which are carried on in **jails** in India with special reference to their competition with similar industries carried on by private enterprise.

Twenty years have elapsed, says the letter, since the orders now in force were framed. Meanwhile, circumstances have changed in many respects and in particular there has been a remarkable growth of industries carried on by private capital with a promise of still further developments in the future. The Government of India therefore consider that the time is ripe for a reconsideration of the general position and for a full inquiry into the manner in which existing jail industries are carried on.

The principles which have been laid down as regulating the policy of Government in the matter are the following :—(1) Extramural labour cannot be the principal mode of employment of long-term

prisoners, who must therefore be employed intramurally. (2) In central jails there must be well regulated forms of industrial employment on a large scale. (3) Jail industries must not compete injuriously with private capitalists in the neighbourhood. (4) Jails must not be converted into steam factories. The use of steam machinery is not prohibited but all extensions of substantial magnitude must be submitted to the Government of India for sanction. (5) Jail industries must be admitted as far as possible to the requirements of the public consuming departments and these departments must be compelled to take articles of jail manufacture as long as they can be supplied of the same quality and price as in the open market. Special industries, such as carpet-making may, however, be exceptions to this rule. (6) The price of jail-made articles must follow as closely as possible the market rates. Where such rates cannot be ascertained the price must include the price of raw material, the wages of jail labour, percentage for wear and tear of plant, a percentage on account of profits (fixed at 10 per cent. in the case of articles supplied to Government, 15 per cent. for retail dealers and 25 per cent. for private consumers), and an excise duty of 3½ per cent. in the case of cotton goods. (7) Multifarious employments must be avoided. (8) The penal element must be fully maintained.

With regard to certain of these principles the Government of India have no desire to re-open the discussions of 1882—1886. Productive work of some kind is universally recognised as better for the prisoners than purposeless labour. If the work is productive, the articles produced must be disposed of by sale to the public or to the department of the Government. There is less interference with private enterprise when Government itself is the consumer. Jails can therefore legitimately supply the consuming departments of Government.

It follows that competition to some extent with private enterprise is unavoidable, and to that extent is, in the opinion of the Government of India, legitimate. In formulating, however, the third of the principles enumerated in paragraph 2, *viz.*, that jails industries must not compete injuriously with private capitalists, the Government of India are aware of the difficulty of satisfactorily defining the tern "injurious."

There is no reason why Government should maintain an unprofitable jail industry. On the other hand there might be a danger, if jails were out of the field, that prices might be put up against Government. The cost of substituting one industry for another would also be considerable. It must be remembered, too, that convicts must be employed on some form of productive industry and the articles produced must be sold. The consuming departments of Government must take the produce of the jails whether or not manufacturers can produce similar articles more cheaply. It might be affirmed frankly that Government contracts must go to jails when possible. In that case consuming departments would be bound to take jail manufactures whenever the quality was suitable and the price would be of minor importance. And the obvious objection to the adoption of this course is that it might drive private enterprise from the field of Government contracts altogether and might result in an increased expenditure. The jail department might be asked to tender first and then tenders might be called for in the open market. If the jail tender were the lowest it would be successful. If it were found during a reasonably long period that the jails could not produce at the same price as private contractors, the jail would have to turn to other forms of industry.

The jail industries in Madras, Bombay, etc., are to be examined with a view to determining whether and to what extent they are seriously injurious to private enterprise.

If it is established that the competition of jail industries causes serious injuries to any outside industry, it will be necessary to consider what steps should be taken to remedy the injustice. To prohibit the sale to the public of articles now manufactured would involve considerable changes in existing jail industries. A further question arises as to how jails should dispose of surplus stocks or limit their outturn. The Government of India recognise that there would be practical difficulties in arranging this. On the other hand, if it is decided that sale to the public should not be prohibited, it might be advisable to impose certain restrictions. It might be laid down very clearly that jails do not exist for the purposes of making a profit. It might be arranged that jails should not sell directly to the public, but should dispose of their surplus stock to wholesale dealers. Depots for the sale of jail manufactures might be prohibited and it might be ruled that Municipalities and District or Local Boards are not departments of Government, and not required to purchase jail manufactures. The Government of India desire to be favoured with an expression of opinion on this subject.

In reporting on the extent to which jails industries compete with private enterprise, an exception may be made in the case of the carpet industry. There is reason to believe that the survival of this industry in India on artistic lines is mainly due to the influence of the jails. A further point upon which the Government of India would be glad to receive information is the possibility of utilizing the jails for experimenting with native industries which are dying out or for introducing new handicrafts.

As regards the use of steam machinery, the Government consider that it is not necessary that a jail should purposely handicap itself by the use of obsolete or inferior machinery.

GAZETTE NOTIFICAT ONS.

Quarantine Notification.

Dated Rangoon, the 23rd August 1906.

With reference to General Department Notification No. 75, dated the 16th March 1906, it is hereby notified that Brisbane, in Queensland, has ceased to be an infected port for the purposes of the rules relating to precautions against plague and to the medical inspection, isolation, observation, and surveillance of persons suffering from, or suspected of being infected with, plague in the ports of Rangoon, Moulmein, Akyab, Bassein, Tavoy, Mergui and Kyaukpyu, published in this department Notifications Nos. 207, 208, 209 and 210, dated the 7th October 1897, Nos. 128 and 129, dated the 20th July 1899, and No. 60, dated the 16th February 1905.

By order,

W. F. Rice,

Secy. to the Govt. of Burma.

BENGAL CIVIL VETERINARY DEPARTMENT.

Veterinary College—Annual Report, 1905-06.

The total number of students at the end of the year under report was 106 as against 85 in the previous year. But for the insufficient accommodation in the hostel, there would have been more students. The results of the final and the annual class examinations of the college were not so satisfactory as in the preceding year, the percentages of the successful students in each of the classes A, B and C being 57, 82 and 47, respectively, as compared with 78, 95 and 80 in the previous year. The unsatisfactory result is chiefly attributed to the inadequacy of the teaching staff of the college, and to some extent to the inferior educational qualifications of the students admitted. Steps were taken to remove both these causes. Two meetings were held at Belgachia to consider the adoption of sites, the laying out of the ground and the construction of the buildings. The total number of animals treated in veterinary hospitals and dispensaries in Bengal was 29,312, of which 9,941 were horses, 15,252 cattle and 4,119 other animals as against 7,929, 15,001 and 3,123 during the preceding year. The general increase in the number of patients treated at the dispensaries indicates the growing popularity of the scientific mode of treatment. The increase was most marked in the case of the Dumraon, Burdwan, Larpur (Saran), and Palamou dispensaries. There were altogether 530 cases of deaths from glanders and farcy as against 430 in the previous year; of this 473 occurred in Calcutta and its neighbourhood as against 413 in the preceding year. The total number of deaths from cattle disease was 12·374 as against 12,276 of the preceding year, of these the largest number of deaths (9,023) was caused by rinderpest. The districts which suffered most from the disease were Burdwan, Darjeeling, Shahabad, the Sontal Parganas, Balasore, Ranchi, Palamou, Manbhum and Sambalpur. Cattle inoculation is gradually gaining ground, the number of inoculations during the year being 22,613 as against 13,276 during the previous year. The Pusa and the Sripur farms continued to be the only two cattle-breeding farms in the Province, managed and supervised by Government. Captain Trydell is of the opinion that one of the best means of improving the breed of indigenous cattle would be to pay greater attention to the feed and upkeep of the cows and heifers of the country, and to afford greater facilities for grazing. Ten fairs and shows were held as against nine in the preceding year. Out of the Imperial grant of Rs. 1,500 for distribution in prizes, only Rs. 693 were spent. The Lieutenant-Governor approves of Captain Trydell's suggestions that for the present prizes should be awarded only at the new small fairs with the object of encouraging them to become well established.

The total number of veterinary hospitals and dispensaries working during the year in the province was 21 as against 17 during the previous year, the total number of veterinary assistants employed under Government and local bodies was 63, including 14 in Eastern Bengal and Assam, as compared with 54 during the previous years. All the dispensaries were inspected and were found to work satisfactorily. The only dispensaries which have been unfavourably reported on are those at Howrah and Patna.

LIST OF GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH OFFICES REPORTED AS OPENED, CLOSED, ETC., SINCE COMPILATION OF THE LAST LIST.

Offices opened.

Name of Office.	District.	Date opened.	Remarks.
Damra . . .	Goalpara .	1-7-06	
Sriperumbudur .	Chingleput .	1-7-06	
Shwegon . .	Thaton .	3-7-06	
Balarampur (Manbhum).	Manbhum .	4-7-06	
Rajapalaiyam . .	Tinnevelly .	5-7-06	
Satyamangalam-Coimbatore.	Coimbatore .	8-7-06	
Soro (Balasore) .	Balasore .	10-7-06	
Naini . . .	Allahabad .	15-7-06	
Anjangaon-Surji .	Amraoti .	16-7-06	
Dasuya . . .	Hoshiarpur .	28-7-06	
Mukerian . .	Hoshiarpur .	29-7-06	
Calcutta Bara-Bazar Post Office.	Calcutta .	1-8-06	
Niklidampara . .	Mymensingh .	1-8-06	

Offices closed.

Nil.

Offices sanctioned but not yet opened.

Name of Office.	District.	Date sanctioned.	Remarks.
Giddar Baha	Ferozepur	21-5-06	
Lalmonirhat	Rangpur	22-6-06	
Sita	Larkana	26-6-06	
Nagode	Nagode	26-6-06	
Husain Nika	Zhob	26-6-06	
Badhlada	Hissar	6-7-06	
Kheralu	N. Gujarat	9-7-06	
Ramree	Kyaukpyu	21-7-06	
Mekliganj	Cooch Bihar	25-7-06	

Offices raised to 1st or 2nd Class.

Name of Office.	District.	Date.	Raised to
Sibsagar	Sibsagar	27-6-06	2nd class.
Ranipettai	North Arcot	30-6-06	Do.
Gurgaon	Gurgaon	5-7-06	Do.
Rajkot	Kathiawar	13-7-06	1st class.
Goalpara	Goalpara	28-7-06	2nd class.

Combined Offices converted into Departmental Offices.

Name of Office.	District.	Date when converted.	Remarks.
Kharagpur	Midnapur	1-5-06	

Departmental Offices converted into Combined Offices.

Nil.

The **Telephone Exchange** (worked by the Telegraph Department) in the Lahore Telegraph Office is open to the public from May 1906.

The **Wireless Telegraph** traffic disposed of on the Andamans circuit during the month of July 1906 was as follows:—

Sent from Port Blair	265	messages containing	6,400 words.
Received at "	230	" "	5,641 "
Total	495	" "	12,041 "
Exchanged at Slipper Islands	69	" "	2,084 "
Grand total	564	" "	14,125 "

Of these totals 280 messages containing 5,201 words were classed as "Private." No Press traffic was exchanged during the month as, owing to the damaged state of the transformers at Port Blair it was considered advisable to work them as little as possible.

There were no interruptions during the month, but atmospheric disturbances were experienced throughout the period.

The Pilot Steam Vessel *Fraser* being in Calcutta from the 1st to the 17th July 1906 the Wireless Telegraph traffic disposed of during 14 days only at Saugor Island was as follows:—

Sent from Saugor Island	31	messages containing	424 words.
Received at "	168	" "	1,479 "
	199		1,903

Of these totals 50 messages containing 855 words were classed as Private and 128 messages containing 576 words were "Shipping Reports." There were no interruptions to communication during the 14 days the *Fraser* was at the Sandheads but communication was imperfect on 4 of these days owing to atmospheric disturbances.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES.

In their review of the report on the working of **co-operative credit societies** in the **Punjab** for the year ending 31st March 1906, the local Government remarks that with the general progress made during the year the Lieutenant-Governor has every reason to be satisfied. The number of societies now registered is 151, and from the information given by the Registrar it is clear that the bulk of these registrations are the outcome not of official pressure, but of official encouragement only. It is true that more than two-thirds of the societies were registered within two months of the close of the year under report, but the Lieutenant Governor understands that, although the registration was effected with considerable rapidity, the societies so registered had in reality been under discussion, and in some cases in actual existence, for some months previously. The class of society most commonly started in the province has hitherto been that in which fixed deposits are supplemented by grain subscription, but it is satisfactory to note that encouragement is given to all classes of societies which can be brought under the Act of 1904, and it is only by giving free scope to experiment in this matter that we can hope to hit upon the form of association which will best suit each community and each part of the province.

At the suggestion of the Government of India five districts were selected in 1904 for the initiation of the scheme of official encouragement contemplated by the Act, but the bulk of the success hitherto has been in districts other than those then selected, and the Registrar suggest that the system of selected districts should be abolished. To this proposal, so far as it implies permission to encourage societies in non-selected districts where special opportunities for their encouragement exist owing to the personal knowledge of them by the Registrar himself, or the presence of enthusiastic and intelligent officials, or any other reason, Lieutenant-Governor has no objection to offer, but he does not think that districts once selected by Government should be neglected by the Registrar and the district officer (as Rawalpindi and Ambála have hitherto been neglected) until the Government has sanctioned their removal from the list of selected districts. In selecting districts the Government was influenced partly by the desire to commence the experiment where it was likely to succeed, but partly also by the wish to see associations of the desired character arise in districts where the poverty and backwardness of the people rendered such associations especially necessary. It is for this reason that, although attention should undoubtedly be paid to the central districts where the line of resistance is weakest, efforts should at the same time continue to be made in the less hopeful areas to the east and the west of province, where the people are less prosperous and less fitted by habits and surroundings for combinations such as it is desired to encourage under the Act.

In the case of one society in the Jullundur district where the members proposed to raise their capital purely by subscription among themselves, and where consequently they had nothing to gain by unlimited liability, the Local Government on the application of the society made use of the powers given by section 7 of the Act to permit of the liability being limited. No rules under the Act were passed during the year under review, but executive rules regarding the grant of loans to societies were issued in May and rules under section 27 of the Act regarding the passing of bye-laws and regarding arbitration proceedings were notified in June 1906. The proposal alluded to by the Registrar that the Collector should be empowered by rule to recover as an arrear of land revenue the amount due to a society as determined by a decision of the Registrar or by arbitration was, it is true, negatived by the Government of India as opposed to the policy of the Act, but should arbitration be found later on to fail in securing the objects for which it was intended, the Government of India will be ready to reconsider the matter.

The Financial Commissioner was asked in May 1905 to suggest a form of annual repert, and there are deficiencies in the report now under review which show that the determination of a prescribed form of report should be no longer delayed. There is nothing in the present report to show what is the usual *nexus* or bond of union—whether tribal, vicinal or otherwise—between the members of the societies: nor the form of security usually adopted for loans: nor the usual term of such loans: nor the results of the official audit under section 21 of the Act: nor the extent to which use has been made of the advance offered by Sir D. M. Hamilton for the financing of Co-operative Credit Societies. It is possible that at the conference of Registrars, which is to be held this autumn, some general proposals for a form of report may be suggested, but in any case the Lieutenant-Governor would be glad if before the next report is prepared suggestions for a prescribed form are submitted for his approval.

6. The suggestion made in paragraph 4 of the report that the Registrar should be allowed to authorize local Postmasters to open accounts for rural societies will be referred to the Postmaster-General, Punjab, for consideration. The proposals alluded to by the Registrar in his report regarding the dates to which yearly accounts should be made up and the addition of an Extra Assistant Commissioner to his staff have not yet reached Government. To the latter proposal the Lieutenant-Governor will be glad to give full consideration, but he thinks that whether it is found necessary or not to strengthen the central staff full use should be made of existing district agencies, and in this connection it is notable that Mr. Wilberforce only once in his report mentions the receipt of assistance from Deputy Commissioners. The Lieutenant-Governor is aware that this does not mean that no such assistance was given, and he is also aware that most Deputy Commissioners have little time for assisting in detail, but he considers it essential for the good working of the scheme that Deputy Commissioners should take an active interest in it, and, where action is being taken, should encourage their subordinates whether these be the Revenue Assistants or some other officials, to give due help to the Registrar in the difficult and tedious work of explaining the general system to the people and discussing plans with them. To the officials who have in the year under report given their assistance the thanks of Government are due, especially to M. Peroze Din in Gurdáspur and Mirza Sultán Ahmed in Mianwáli; and the Lieutenant-Governor also recognizes the great value of the work done by a large body of non-officials including more especially Naráyan Singh and Gulab Singh, zaildárs of the Gurdáspur district, and Maulvi Ghulám Jiláni, Bábu Uttam Singh and Pal Singh in the Jullundur district, as well as the continued help afforded by Miyán Hira Singh of Panjawar in Hoshiárpur. The Lieutenant-Governor also agrees with the Financial Commissioner in his cordial appreciation of the manner in which Mr. Wilberforce has supervised and guided the important movement now under consideration.

In paragraph 7 of his report Mr. Wilberforce alludes briefly to the advantages of encouraging co-operative buying and selling. In this connection the Lieutenant-Governor, without wishing to add unnecessarily to Mr. Wilberforce's duties, considers that while looking on his functions under Act X of 1904 as his primary concern, the Registrar would do well to take the unique opportunities afforded to him by the exercise of those functions in doing what he can to encourage useful forms of co-operation other than those contemplated by the Act. There are villages in which the co-operative sale of grain or of dairy produce might be feasible and villages where co-operative purchase machines or manure might be worked for the benefit of the villagers. There are simple forms for the co-operative insurance of cattle which are known in Europe and might be applicable in the Punjab: and similar arrangements might be possible for insurance against hail, or drought, or the loss of grain by the burning of ricks. The discussion of these and similar suggestions with the people may lead to the initiation of schemes of great importance, and time spent in their discussion and consideration is likely to be time well spent in the interests of the province.

RETAIL PRICES.

The following are the Retail Prices of certain food-grains and salt at selected stations for the second half of July 1906. (Prices are stated in annas and pies per ser.)

	Rice, common	Wheat	Barley	Jawar	Bajra	Ragi	Gram	Salt
BURMA—	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.
Rangoon	1 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 10
Toungoo	1 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 6
EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM—								
Rangpur	2 3	1 8	...	...	...	...	...	1 4
Backerganj	2 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 3
BENGAL—								
Calcutta	2 0	1 5	...	...	...	...	...	1 0
Patna	1 8	1 4	0 11	...	...	...	...	1 2
UNITED PROVINCES—								
Cawnpore	...	1 4	1 0	...	...	...	1 1	1 0
Fyzabad	...	1 4	1 0	...	...	...	1 1	1 2
Meerut	...	1 2	0 11	0 11	1 5	...	1 1	1 0
PUNJAB—								
Delhi	..	1 3	1 0	1 2	1 5	...	1 0	1 0
Amritsar	...	1 0	0 9	1 0	1 6	...	0 10	0 10
Ráwalpindi	...	1 2	0 9	1 1	1 0	...	1 0	0 10
SIND—								
Karáchi	...	1 4	...	1 1	1 3	...	1 2	0 9
BOMBAY—								
Belgaum	...	1 10	...	1 4	1 6	...	...	1 1
Ahmadnagar	...	1 7	...	1 4	1 4	...	...	0 11
Bombay	...	1 7	...	1 4	1 4	...	...	1 1
Ahmadabad	...	1 6	...	1 0	1 4	...	...	0 10
CENTRAL PROVINCES—								
Jubbulpore	...	1 2	...	...	...	...	1 2	1 2
Nagpur	1 7	1 3	...	1 1	...	...	1 5	1 3
Raipur	1 4	1 2	...	...	...	...	1 3	1 2
MADRAS—								
Bellary	2 0	...	...	1 3	...	1 2	...	1 0
Madras	2 2	...	...	...	...	1 5	...	0 9
Salem	2 2	...	...	1 5	1 7	1 3	...	1 1

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.

For the week ending 1st September 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign—Imports by sea into	Calcutta	lbs.	287,709
	Bombay	„	75,311
	Madras	„	16,200
Indian—Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	321,400
	Bombay	„	1,435,010
	Madras	„	1,200

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	28,614,509
	Bombay	„	4,037,556
	Karachi	„	948,241
	Madras	„	755,689
	Rangoon	„	169,920

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	3,390,661
	Bombay	„	4,171,574
	Karachi	„	1,251,561
	Madras	„	105,955
	Rangoon	„	753,252

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	4,178,138
	Bombay	„	3,533,588
	Karachi	„	2,014,596
	Madras	„	176,052
	Rangoon*	„	55,133

Piece Goods.

(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta	cwt.	53,512
	Bombay*	„	8,240
	Karachi	„	11,773
	Madras	„	4,574

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea	cwt.	15
	Coastwise	„	2,912
	By rail	„	9,909
Imports into Karachi by rail		„	1,437
„ „ Calcutta by rail and river		„	5,080

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta		cwt.	544,293
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags	No.	4,916,350
	„ cloth	yds.	36,610,000
	Jute	cwt.	310,270
Exports by sea from Chittagong	Jute	„	41,361

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in Calcutta		lbs.	7,207,245
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	5,721,575
	Chittagong	„	2,565,640

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	96,602
	Karachi by rail	„	16,549
	Bombay by sea	„	3,717
	Bombay coastwise	„	66,170
	Bombay by rail	„	17,911
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	1,447
	Bombay	„	1,887
	Karachi	„	150,446

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta	cwt.	49,338
	Chittagong	„	...
	Bombay	„	30,139
	Karachi	„	34,333
	Madras	„	36
	Rangoon	„	162,627

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	30,440
	Bombay by sea	„	146
	Bombay coastwise	„	105
	Bombay by rail	„	12,746
	Karachi by rail	„	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	96,444
	Bombay	„	71,752
	Karachi	„	121

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	33,005
	Bombay by sea	„	...
	Bombay coastwise	„	...
	Bombay by rail	„	19,214
	Karachi by rail	„	8,005
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	59
	Bombay	„	16,631
	Karachi	„	31,861

* B., B. and C. I. Ry. figures only.

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 1st SEPTEMBER 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From All other foreign countries.	Total.
		galls.		galls.
Calcutta	...	41,580	...	41,580
Bombay	...	...	...	...
Karachi	...	114,637	...	114,637
Madras	...	...	...	...

Exports by sea from Burma to—		
Bengal	galls.	439,383
E. B. & Assam	,,	...
Bombay	,,	1,636,070
Sind	,,	1,600,982
Madras	,,	157,232
Indian Ports, Non-Br.	,,	...
Foreign Ports	,,	...

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 1st SEPTEMBER 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	511	...	59	2,000	3	...	2,573
Germany	36,274	...	7,912	4,300	300	...	48,786
Austria-Hungary	...	...	2,004	9,110	...	...	11,114
Other European Countries	...	..	...	...	...	...	...
Java	49,840	...	23,410	56,095	...	...	129,345
Mauritius	...	...	10,221	...	...	...	10,221
Other Non-European Countries	...	...	30	...	...	60	90
					Total refined		202,129
					Total unrefined		67,126
					Grand Total cwt.		279,255

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta.
[The prices include postage to countries in the Postal Union.]

ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 (2*a*.)

2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a*.)

3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—
   Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. R3. (12*a*.)
   Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port. R3. (12*a*.)

4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. R2. (7*a*.)

5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a*.)

6. Accounts of Trade of the French Possession in India. As. 3. (1*a*.)

7. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possession in India. As. 2. (1*a*.)

8. Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India. R4. (6*a*.)

9. Report on the Rail-borne and River-borne Trade of Bengal. R4.

10. Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan. R1½.

11. Prices and Wages in India. R1½. (9*a*.)

12. Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India. R4. (12*a*.)

13. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India. R2. (10*a*.)

14. Agricultural Statistics of India. R3½. (12*a*.)
   Part I.—British India.
   Part II.—Native States.

15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India. As. 5. (2*a*.)

QUARTERLY.

16. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

MONTHLY.

17. Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

18. Accounts of the External Land Trade of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

19. Statistics of the Production of Yarn and Woven Goods in the India Cotton Mills. As. 2.

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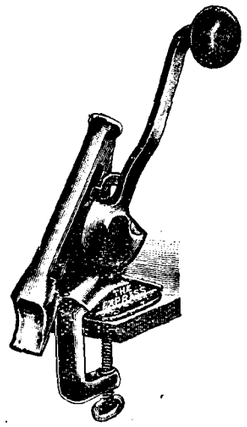
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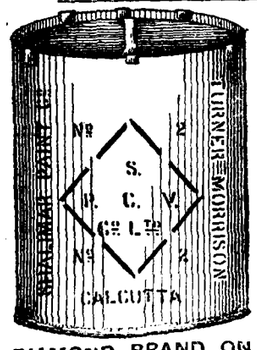
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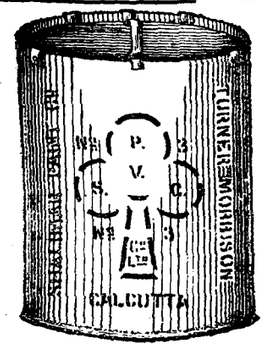


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The Indian Trade Journal.

Issued by the Commercial Intelligence Department of India.

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NOTES.

The **Silk Association of America** is taking steps to establish a **conditioning-house** of a type similar to those at Lyons and Milan, and, like these, on a co-operative system of ownership.

An official return shows that 4,358 **new companies** were registered in the **United Kingdom** during 1905. The total nominal share capital was £119,179,333 and the paid-up capital £21,237,987.

The *Punjab Gazette* of 6th September publishes draft rules, under the Indian Petroleum Act, for the possession and transport of **petroleum** in the Punjab for the information of all persons likely to be affected thereby.

The *Gazette of India* of 8th September 1906 publishes the general **rules** for **open lines of railway** in British India administered by the Government, and for the time being used for the public carriage of passengers, animals or goods.

The Government of India has granted permission for the opening of a **cotton-ginning factory** at the Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills Company of Rajnandgaon at Kawardha in the Central Provinces as also a cotton-ginning, weaving and spinning factory at Gwalior.

It is reported that the Lohani traders from Ghazni are purchasing articles on the **Kabul Market** for export to Peshawar. Some merchandise is also coming in from Bokhara, but only in small quantities. There is a greater **demand for English** than for Russian or Persian **goods** in the Kabul market at present.

Statistics published in the French *Journal Official*, show that during the first seven months of the year the value of the **imports into France** was 3,093,515,000 francs, as compared with 2,801,172,000 francs in the corresponding period of 1905, and of the **exports** 2,856,534,000 francs, as compared with 2,676,639,000 francs.

The *Burma Gazette*, of the 1st instant, publishes the draft order, authorising the construction, maintenance and use of a system of **tramways** as also the rules for regulating the use of motor-vehicles in streets and public places in **Rangoon** town. The same *Gazette* publishes the draft rules under the Indian Petroleum Act, for the importation, possession and transport of petroleum in Burma.

In the counties Mayo, Sligo, and Roscommon, all congested areas of **Ireland**, the **potato crop**, on which the peasantry mainly rely for their support, is a total **failure**. Incessant rain and blight contributed to the destruction of the crop, and the prospects of the farmers are described as gloomy in the extreme. The Government is to be asked to start relief works.

It is hereby notified for general information that the Railway Board have sanctioned a survey for a **light railway** on the 5′ 6″ gauge **from Dhak station** on the **Sind Sagar** Section of the North-Western Railway **to the foot of the hills** near Katha in the Shapur District of the Punjab, a distance of about 10 miles. The survey has been placed under the control of the Manager, North-Western Railway, and will be known as the Dhak branch survey.

A cotton mill is in process of erection at **Ningpo, Japan**, and will be completed before the end of **1906**. It has room for 20,000 spindles, but will commence with 10,000. The machinery was purchased in Manchester by a Japanese expert, sent to the United Kingdom for that purpose, and many Japanese are to be employed on the staff. This mill hopes to compete with the T'ung Chin Yuan Cotton Mill, whose large profits are chiefly due to the fact that their yarn is sent into the interior under special Huchaos issued by the Fantai, whereby they escape paying duty to the foreign customs.

In the resolution published in the *Gazette of India* of September 8th regarding the reorganization of the **Geological Survey Department**, the Government of India remarked that not only was a material increase in the pay of the various grades required, but also a considerable addition to the strength of the existing establishment. The rapid expansion of the **economic side of the work** is regarded as vitally important in order that all possible facilities should be given to assist the development upon a sound basis of mining industries in India. The reorganization scheme has received the sanction of the Secretary of State.

Reuter's Agency learns that another **Anglo French Commission** is about to be despatched to **West Africa** in connection with the further delimitation of boundaries of the two powers between the Niger and Lake Chad. The work of the Commissioners is to redelimit the frontier on the north of the Northern Nigerian Protectorate, which the British Commission under Colonel Elliot fixed two years ago. In consequence of the new Anglo-French Convention of April 8, by which a great deal has been ceded to France, the frontier then fixed has been so altered that the former survey is of little use except geographically. It is expected that the new survey will proceed rapidly since it can join on with the fixed limits of the former survey.

In the latest issue of the *Engineering Magazine*, Dr. C. E. Lucke concludes an article on the **gas turbine** as follows:—"After a review of the whole situation, it appears that theoretically there is nothing impossible in the problem. Such difficulties as exist are purely practical and of no mean order of magnitude. So great are the difficulties encountered by those who have experimented, and so great are those that are foreseen by practical men, whose lives are devoted to overcoming difficulties, that those who are engaged in trying to perfect such a machine as this are warned of the certainty that their efforts will be fruitless for a long time at least, that much money will be spent with no tangible results, and that the practical gas turbine is a long way off."

His Majesty's Consul at Guayaquil (Mr. A. Cartwright) reports that two **sack-sewing factories** have been started in **Ecuador**, one in Guayaquil and the other in Manta. These are only for the sewing of the sacks, as the jute cloth, hessians, etc., are imported (almost exclusively from the United Kingdom). The economy consists in the difference of import duties, ready-made sacks paying 10c. per kilo., plus 100 per cent., whereas the material to make them pays only 2c. plus 100 per cent. The consequence of this has been a considerable decrease in the importation of ready-made sacks and an increase in the material for them.

The North American Society of the River Plate held a reception in Buenos Ayres, **Argentine Republic**, on August, 16, in honour of Mr. Root, United States Secretary of State. Fifteen hundred persons were present. Mr. Root spoke on the great prospects of the **development of the country** by the investment of United States capital. He said that, since Mr. Blaine 20 years ago founded the Bureau of South American Republics, conditions had changed the United States from a debtor nation, compelled to borrow in order to build railroads, to a creditor nation, with a large surplus available to help other countries to attain the same position. Argentina was a country of great potentialities, offering security and remunerative returns for foreign capital, whereby it would be able to pay its debts, develop its rich resources, and become, like the United States, a creditor nation and a help to the smaller Latin States.

A letter in the *Times* contains in interesting note on **Agricultural Banks in France.** The "Credit Agricole" makes steady progress. The official report for 1905 shows that branches have been opened in 12 new districts, making a total of 66; and that 19,605,666*f.* were advanced, being 5,430,401*f.* more than in the preceding year. Of the loans repayable by the State (partially renewable) only 478,000*f.* have been renewed, and 126,250*f.* having been repaid by eight of the banks, the sum advanced by Government is reduced to 19,479,416*f.* The aggregate capital of the 66 banks is 7,086,086*f.*, of which 6,446,596*f.* is paid up. The total available funds thus amount to 26,288,601*f.*, exclusive of the deposits, 3,363,066*f.* Bills were discounted to a value of 44,337,360*f.*, 19,515,527*f.* above figures for previous 12 months. The annual working expenses represented 0·28 per cent. of the capital, and the reserve fund has been increased from 362,589*f.* to 651,297*f.*

Much interest is being taken in the formation of a private company to develop the **coalfield** which experts have just located at **Ballycastle** in the north of **Antrim.** The coalfield, it is now announced, contains three seams of coal and two of blackband ironstone. Their existence has been proved by the extensive borings that have been carried out during the past two years. The first two seams of coal are each 3ft. thick, and both are described as first-rate house coals, while the main seam, which is from 4ft. 6in. to 5ft., is said to be a fine steam coal. The promoters have almost completed the sinking of two shafts, so that the colliery will soon be ready for operations, and these, it is hoped, will be begun before the end of the year, when plant will have been erected for the raising of a daily output of 1,000 tons. Steps are also to be taken for the erection of furnaces to smelt the ironstone produced. If the experts are right and there are 60,000,000 tons of coal in the concession, and 180,000 tons of ironstone the industrial prospects before the district are very bright. Ireland imports four million tons of coal a year, the yearly native output having been hitherto only about 80,000 tons.

The **foreign commerce** of the **United States** has during the last decade increased out of proportion to its population. Completed figures for the fiscal year 1906 presented by the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labour show that while the population has grown since 1896 but 20 per cent. imports have grown 57 per cent. and exports 109 per cent. The classes of imports which show the greatest gains are manufactures and manufacturers' materials. Manufactures imported show an increase of 42 per cent. and manufacturers' materials imported show an increase of 95 per cent. On the export side agricultural products and manufactures show the largest gains. Agricultural products exported show an increase during the decade of 70 per cent., and manufactures an increase of 163 per cent. The actual gains in the decade are —in imports 447 million dollars and in exports 861 million dollars; in manufacturers' materials imported, 288 million dollars; in agricultural products exported 400 million dollars; and in manufactures exported, 374 million dollars.

In the Resolution regarding the **sale of Government Quinine** in Eastern Bengal and Assam, the Lieutenant Governor decides to introduce anew system throughout the Province. In each of the fourteen districts of Eastern Bengal a depôt will be established under the control of the Civil Surgeon. Allowances will be given to Civil Surgeon's clerks, and allotments made to cover incidental expenditure. Quinine will be received at these depôts from the Alipore Central Jail and distributed to retailers at Re. 1-3 per package, money order commission being paid by the retailer. All other distribution charges will be borne by Government. Calculating money order commission at half an anna on the average per package, the retailer's profit (the sale proceeds being Re. 1-9-6) will thus be six annas, against one-and-a-

half anna at present. The Lieutenant-Governor anticipates that this large increase in the retailer's profit will automatically stimulate the distribution of quinine, and that, as the system becomes generally known, the number of retailer's will increase. The arrangements now sanctioned should come into force from the 1st November 1906.

The **West Africa** Committee of the **British Cotton-Growing Association** met at the offices in Manchester on Friday August 17th, Mr. W. Howarth presiding. It was decided to send out additional ginning and baling plants to **Lagos and Northern and Southern Nigeria,** with a view to dealing with the **increased cotton crop** next season, which it is confidently expected will be about twice as large as that for the present year. The Association's manager in Lagos, met the Committee, and was heartily congratulated on the work so far accomplished. He expressed the opinion that next year the crop from Lagos would be considerably over 10,000 bales, and the natives were well satisfied with the price which was paid to them, and found it to their advantage to cultivate cotton along with their other products. Experiments are being made with a view to improving the quality, so as to make the cotton more suitable for the needs of Lancashire mills, and it was pointed out that the cotton shipped this season had been of a much better quality than previously.

With the object of giving the industrial firms of Britain an opportunity to co-operate in an endeavour to increase their over-sea markets, the mail steamer *Cambroman* of the Dominion Line, is being chartered by the **Floating Exhibition** Syndicate (Limited) for a 12 months' tour round the world. The vessel is at present being fitted out in such a way that samples of the leading industries of the country can be displayed to the best advantage. It is believed by those who have embarked upon this enterprising scheme that the floating exhibition will provide a means by which exporting houses may consolidate interests abroad and give a general fillip to their over-seas trade. It is proposed that the steamer will start on her voyage in a month's time, the first port of call being Montreal. The tour will embrace 40 of the leading ports of the British Empire, China, Japan, and South America. At each port the exhibition will be "opened" by a prominent official, and the members of the local chambers of commerce, the leading traders, and others will be invited to visit the steamer. In Liverpool the enterprise is looked upon as an interesting experiment which may lead to an improvement in trade to those firms who take part in the exhibition.

A law has just been passed in Austria-Hungary **making illegal** the use of **artificial colouring matters** likely to be injurious to health in articles intended for **human food** or wearing apparel. All colouring matters containing antimony, arsenic, barium, lead cadmium, chromium, copper, mercury, uranium, tin, and zinc are mentioned as especially injurious. The use of various dyes which have previously been employed to colour beer, butter, preserves, etc., must be discontinued, and it is forbidden to use certain compounds in the preparation of pots or pans to be used in preparing foodstuffs. Similar limitations are provided in the case of cosmetics intended for the hair, skin, or teeth, and paints, picture-books, and toys for children are also safeguarded. No fabric or other article intended for wearing must be prepared or offered for sale if it contains more than the slightest trace of arsenic, and no cloth containing more than 15 per cent. of antimony per 100 cubic c. m. Further, no compounds of lead are permissible on cloth, yarn, or anything intended as an article of clothing. Altogether the new Act is very wide-reaching, and may considerably affect the dyeing and other industries. It is not so much on account of their poisonous nature that the use of the coal-tar colours in foods is forbidden as because they give to the article treated a fictitious appearance of purity.

The following extract from the latest issue of the *West India Committee Circular*, referring to the **benefits** derived from the adoption of **steam ploughing** in two such dissimilar islands as Trinidad and Antigua, will prove of interest.

"On the Caroni estate in Trinidad a considerable area of canes grown on land ploughed by steam has been cut this year, and the average yield of plant canes per acre has been 34 tons, as compared with 23 tons from land cultivated under the old system. The total cost of cultivation of the steam-ploughed lands, after allowing for wages and expenses of English ploughmen, and for 10 per cent. depreciation on the cost of the ploughs, proved to be somewhat less than under the old methods, so that the result is an increase of 50 per cent. in the yield of canes per acre without any increase in expenditure. In Antigua steam ploughs are now at work on Belvidere and Gunthorpe's, the two new central factory estates. On the former estate they are ploughing a piece of land which would otherwise be practically untillable in its present condition with either ox-ploughs or manual labour, and they are not only ploughing the land but pulverizlent work on land which hitherto defied the old fashioned methods of tillage. This is all very satisfactory, and with these results before the planters there is a probability of an extension of the system of steam ploughing in the West Indies."

Commenting on the **Persian situation,** the *Statist* remarks:—"Whatever be the result of the concession which has been made, the fact that the Shah has found it necessary to grant parliamentary institutions shows how contact with Europe slowly but certainly penetrates through Eastern countries, and brings about the most unexpected results. It has to be recollected that Persia is in close contact with both Russia and India. That contact has now continued for a long time, and it is natural that it should make an impression upon the Persian people. Of late, no doubt, the impression so made has been greatly heightened by the movement in Russia in favour of parliamentary institutions. A little while ago the world was quite convinced that Russia was utterly unfit for parliamentary institutions. Now a representative institution has been granted, and even the present Minister professes his intention to maintain all the concessions made in October last. The Russian movement doubtless has greatly hastened the effect of the long-continued intercourse with this country and with India. Moreover, it is not to be doubted that the disasters suffered both by land and sea by Russia at the hands of Japan have made a great impression in Persia, as well as elsewhere throughout the East, and indeed has driven home the lesson that in the civilisation, the institutions and the knowledge of Europe lies the secret of the regeneration of the East. All this has a very powerful effect on the money markets of the civilised world.

In the month of July, the **Indian gold mines** yielded 46,979 ozs, valued at R26,82,010. The outturn as compared with corresponding period of 1905 and 1904 was as follows:—

	1906.	1905.	1904.
Mysore	ozs. 45,826	ozs. 51,646	ozs. 50,597
	R26,15 510	R29,66,693	R28,99.747
Nizam's Territory	ozs. 1,153	ozs. 1.105	ozs. 807
	R66,500	R63,755	R46,201

The quantity extracted in the four months April to July, was 189,116 ozs. valued at R1,07,94,358.

Canadian advices in New York on the 20th of August report that the North-Western Grain Dealers' Association estimate the **yield of the Canadian crops** as follows:—

	Bushels.
Wheat	77,207,000
Oats	75.72[illegible]000
Barley	16,981,000
Linseed	690,000

The Canadian Bank of Commerce has also issued an estimate, giving the yield of wheat at 91,814,000 bushels, oats 80,855,000 bushels.

The **rivalry** between **Japanese** and **European shipping companies** in the **Far East** appears to have acquired already an extraordinary degree of keenness. *Commercial Intelligence* remarks:—"The war between Messrs. Butterfield and Swire and the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, is the outcome of conditions similar to those prevailing on other routes, where an acute stage of competition may be precipitated at any moment. On the Swatau-Bangkok line the Nippon Yusen Kaisha have thrown down the challenge with chartered steamers to the Norddeutscher Lloyd, for whom Messrs. Butterfield and Swire are the agents, and also on the Shanghai-Yokohama line, on which Messrs. Butterfield and Swire have placed the three steamers which were chartered to the Nippon Yusen Kaisha for this run during the war; the Australian line, where there has been an arrangement hitherto subsisting between the three other companies running, *viz.*, the Noddeutscher Lloyd, the China Navigation Company, and the Eastern and Australia Company; and lastly on the Yangtze, where the Nippon Yusen Kaisha have for some time had the service formerly operated by Messrs. George McBain. On the eve of hostilities, the managing director of the Japanese company made a statement on the matter which is full of ill-feeling. Mr. Iwanaga, the gentleman in question, speaks menacingly of the "Nippon Yusen Kaisha's capacity," and of inducing its enemies "to pay respect to the Japanese mercantile flag." He even conceives it to be the duty of his company to check the arrogance of foreign steamers to the east of Suez."

Mr. W. L. Douglas, ex-Governor of Massachusetts and one of the largest boot and shoe manufacturers in the **United States,** in a recent speech gave some very interesting information regarding the **duties on hides and leathers** and incidentally predicted that if these were removed the export business of that country in boots and shoes would within a few years increase to the amount of $100,000,000 a year. During the course of his speech, which has been published in full by the Reform Club, Mr. Douglas said:—"In 1897, after 25 years of free hides, a duty of 15 per cent. was put on cattle hides, other hides and skins being left the war duty levied from 1861 to 1872, was put on despite the protests of boot and shoe manufacturers. There is a good reason for believing that the duty on hides is of no particular benefit either to small or large duty was levied for their especial benefit. It is essential that we import large quantities of foreign hides. Our imports for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1905, were valued at $14,949,628. We do not produce enough to make our own boots and shoes. About 25 per cent. of all leather made in this country is made from imported hides. Could these and sole leather come in free of duty we could not only make cheaper shoes for ourselves, but we could increase our export business many fold. For, strange to say, we now export more than $8,000,000 worth of shoes a year, handicapped as we are by what we contend are onerous, unnecessary, and unjust duties."

The **fall in the value of wool** at the last **London auctions** had caused something like consternation in the Australian markets, as the drop was not

expected until the new clip began to arrive in much larger quantities. The *Manchester Guardian* commenting on this says:—"The trade would do well to take note of recent reports, for although consumption at Bradford and on the Continent may be maintained at its present high level, there seems to be not the least doubt that the supplies from Australia will exceed those of any previous year by at least 100,000 to 150,000 bales. This, it should be remembered, will bring up the total exports from Australia in the short space of three years from just under 100,000 bales to about 1,750,000 bales. At Bradford values do not change much, but the tendency is still downwards. Forties tops, which two months ago were worth over 19*d.*, can now be bought at 17½*d.*, and for future delivery at 17*d.* At all the country fairs the prices for home grown wools continue to crumble, and prospects altogether are not very favourable to holders. Next month the fifth series of London auctions for this year will commence, and almost simultaneously the colonial markets will open with the usual big sale in Adelaide. It was thought in some quarters that the quantity available for sale in London would not exceed a total of 70,000 bales, but including the stock in hand and new arrivals there are already 60,000 bales, and no doubt there will be quite enough to satisfy the wants of the trade until more liberal supplies of the new clip reach this country and the Continent.

A Japanese paper has published the result of an interview with Mr. Yamanobe, the president of the Osaka Cotton Spinning Company, who has been making a business tour in Manchuria and Korea. He believes that the **possibilities of trade in cotton goods with Manchuria** are almost boundless, but that the demand for yarn will decrease as the hand-loom industry decays. The following passage is interesting:—

> During our stay in Manchuria a commission of foreign merchants in Shanghai arrived, and the commission seems to have been convinced that Japanese shirtings are a powerful rival to foreign cotton. The price of Japanese shirting is about 4·50 yen per piece of 40 yards, against American calico, which is valued from 6·50 yen to 7·50 yen, while the quality of the two is almost alike. Under these circumstances the success of our goods in the contest with American goods is already beyond doubt. Japanese goods enjoy a further advantage. They are admitted duty free at Tairen, while American goods have to pay an import duty of about 4 yen per bale at Newchawang. This privilege of the Japanese will be removed sooner or later, as a Chinese custom-house is to be shortly established, but I feel assured that the balance is in our favour.

Referring to this, the New York *Journal of Commerce* remarks that Mr. Yamanobe is palpably in error, as the price he names for American shirting is far too high. The actual price is considerably lower than that of the Japanese shirting, and "it is absurd to assume that Japan can pay freights on American raw cotton, which must be assumed to balance the cost of landing the finished product in Shanghai at least, and then beat us in our own business of transforming this cotton into drills and sheetings."

Some observations on the **competition,** especially that of Germany, **against British trade in Egypt** have recently appeared in a useful issue by the Chamber of Commerce at Alexandria, and these have been widely quoted. It may be interesting, says the *Times*, to note that as regards the British engineering trade in Egypt, the furtherance of this is being carried out on a basis which is quite new. In South Africa, Australia, and in India, British engineering firms have been content to carry on their trade either on their sole initiative or through agents. In Egypt, however, we see the principle of co-operation applied, and, so far as can be judged, in a satisfactory and successful way. For instance, there are at least two large and well-known organizations engaged in promoting British engineering interests in Egypt. One is the British Engineering Company of Egypt, which consists of an amalgamation, for this particular purpose only, of the following firms:—Gwynnes (Limited), Babcock and Wilcox (Limited), Dick, Kerr, and Co. (Limited), and J. Gibb and Co. (Limited), Callendar's Cable and Construction Co. (Limited). Another organization of a similar nature, but apparently on a larger scale, is the Egyptian Engineering Co. (Limited), established at Charch Kasrel-Nil, Cairo. This is an alliance of 24 British engineering firms, 'who," as it is put, "between them cover all the ground of mechanical and structural engineering in Egypt and the Sudan." It may be inferred from these two organizations alone that British engineering is likely adequately to be represented in the Egyptian and contiguous markets.

The London News Agency is authorised to state that all the main details have now been determined in connection with the important project of a large and representative **British South African Products Exhibition in London in February next,** and later on in provincial centres. This scheme, which is receiving the united and financial support of all the Governments of the South African colonies, owes its inception to a Dutch progressive member of the Legislative Assembly of Cape Colony. The management will in reality, as will the sole financing of the scheme, be a State matter, consisting of an executive composed of a representative from each colony, with the originator of the undertaking. The financial combination of the various Governments in support of the exhibition will render unnecessary any appeal for public funds in any other form.

The exhibition will be opened on February 13th next, and remain open until March 18th in London, and afterwards will be removed to the great industrial centres of the country in succession, so that the widest possible opportunity may be secured to the public of the United Kingdom of realising the resources of South Africa in respect of such products as fruit, wines, tobacco, wool, ostrich feathers, mohair, tea, sugar, bark for tanning, rubber, cotton, wax, and the natural mineral waters of Caledon and other famous South African mineral springs. The idea is, to try and create a market for the middle and poorer classes, and put South African fruit and other colonial products within the reach of everyone, as Sir Alfred Jones has done with the banana from the West Indies.

The **prices of opium** in the Calcutta market during the week ending 8th September 1906 were per chest, as follows:—

Behar opium—Rs. 1,494; 1,500; 1,450; 1,453; 1,441; 1,431; 1,432.

Benares opium.—Rs. 1,350; 1,350; 1,330; 1,325; 1,330; 1,320; 1,320.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 9th and 10th sales of 1906:—9th sale, Rs. 1,444; 1,450; 1,432; and 10th sale, Rs. 1,437; 1,441; 1,433; 1,434.

China market, Hong-Kong (exchange Rs. 161 to 164 per 100 dollars).

Behar.—$950; 947½, to 950; 945; 945; 945; 945; 945.

Shanghai (exchange Rs. 220½ to 222 per 100 Taels)—One sale on 6th of 660 Taels.

Benares.—One sale in the Hong-Kong market on 3rd of $880 to 890; while one sale, Shanghai, on 6th of 617 Taels.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending 1st September were—for A class (season 1905-06) on 26th and 27th August Rs. 1,385 to 1.415 and on 28th August to 1st September Rs. 1,310 to 1,405; for B class (season 1904-05) on 26th and 27th August Rs. 1450 to 1,600 and on 28th August to 1st September Rs. 1,430 to 1,600; class C, old (season 1903-04) on 26th and 27th August Rs. 1,661 to 1,700 and on 28th August to 1st September Rs. 1,640 to 1,700. The latest China prices ascertained were for new classes (A and B) Rs. 1,514 to 1,533; old (class C) fetched at Hong-Kong Rs. 1,699 and at Shanghai Rs. 1,741.

Note—In the entry under head "Benares opium" sales of the 20th August 1906, read:—from Rs.1,452 to Rs. 1,352 and not Rs. 1,452 only.

NOTICE.

BOOKS OF REFERENCE.

The following publications have been received and may be consulted by any one desirous of studying them at the Office of the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, 5, Clive Street, where they will be displayed in the Ante Room till Saturday, 22nd September.

Parliamentary Publications.

Imperial Institute—Report to the Board of Trade on the work of the Imperial Institute at South Kensington during the year 1905. (Cd. 3116-06.) Merchant Shipping (Loss of Life) Return 1891 to 1905 (Cd. 3139-06).

Foreign Publications.

Austria Hugary—Statistik des Auswartigen Handels, in Jahre 1905, Volume I, parts 1 and 2. Belgium—Bulletin Mensuel de Commerce Special de la Belgique, July 1906; Resume de la Statistique du Commerce et de la navigation 19 me and 20 me siecles, 1906. Egypt—Bulletin Mensuel du Commerce Exterieur de l'Egypt, Juilet 1906. France Bulletin de Statistique et de Legislation Comparé—Jiullet 1906. Mexico—Resumen de la Importation Y de la Exportacion Abril de 1906; Boletin de Estadistica Fiscal Julio de 1905. United States Monthly Consular and Trade Reports, June 1906.

ENQUIRY.

Jute-Agencies in Australia.

A firm in Melbourne, interested in the wholesale jute trade, both as buyers and as sellers, would like to be introduced to any firms in India requiring Agents in Australia. For particulars apply to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, 5 Clive Street, Calcutta.

GOLD AND SILVER CURRENCY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IN INDIA.

THE *Economist*, in a recent article on the Gold and Silver currency of the **United Kingdom**, wrote as follows :—

"In order that the Mint authorities might be enabled to arrive at a better estimate of the amount of silver coin necessary to supply our daily needs, an inquiry was instituted last year with a view to arriving at an estimate of the amount of the silver currency held by bankers and in circulation, and of obtaining such data as would afford a basis for estimating the average annual rate of increase. With this object, the assistance of the Central Association of Bankers was invoked and readily afforded, and 220 banks throughout the country were requested to fill up a return giving the amount of silver coin held by them on June 30, 1905. The Deputy-Master states that "in the case of 48 banks it was found that no cash business was transacted, and in 66 others the amounts held were so small as to render any further reference to them unnecessary." The remaining returns showed that on the date mentioned the banks held £5,275,894 in silver coin, geographically distributed thus :—

	£
London	1,490,926
England	2,389,601
Wales	153,016
Scotland	735,530
Ireland	506,821
	5,275,894

An enquiry instituted by the Institute of Bankers in 1892 led to the conclusion that the banks of the United Kingdom then held silver coin to the aggregate amount of £4,548,775, so that their holdings would appear to have increased in 13 years by £727,119.

Proceeding next to estimate the amount of silver in circulation, the Deputy-Master writes :— "Professor Graham estimated the amount of silver coin in circulation in 1857 at £12,000,000, and the annual increase to the silver currency at £250,000. Professor Stanley Jevons in 1868 assigned £14,000,000 as a not improbable amount remaining in use after allowing for loss, destruction and exportation. In 1892 Mr. Martin estimated the amount in circulation at £21,000,000, and the average annual increase for the 25 years ending December 31, 1891, at £280,000, the net increase to the currency for the same period being £6,992,930, the average increase in the last 11 years of this period having more than doubled that of the first 14 years. This high rate was maintained in 1892 and 1893, the net increase to the silver currency for these years amounting to the large figure of £1,026,525. In 1891 Sir Charles Fremantle showed the net increase to the currency in the United Kingdom for the 11 years 1880—1890 inclusive to be £4,828,951, and the annual average increase £439,000. This rate of increase was not maintained in the 11 years ending December 31, 1904, the net increase for these 11 years being only £2,474,429, and the annual average increase barely £225,000. From these figures it would appear that if Mr. Martin's estimate in 1892 is accepted, and allowance for loss, destruction, and exportation made, the silver coin in circulation on December 31, 1904, may be taken at £24,000,000. The following table gives the results as estimated from time to time :—

Year.	Population.	Estimated amount of silver coin remaining in circulation.	Amount of Silver per Head of Population.
		£	s. d.
1904 .	43,006,000	24,000,000	11 2
1891 .	37,888,000	21,000,000	11 1
1868 .	30,689,000	14,000,000	9 1
1857 .	28,188,000	12,000,000	8 6

With these figures may be compared certain statistics showing the monetary position in **India** during the quinquennium ending 1905-06.

The coinage in the two Government mints at Calcutta and Bombay for the last five years is stated below. During the three years, 1894-95 to 1896-97, following the closure of the mints, the coinage of rupees ceased entirely. In the two succeeding years about nine million rupees were coined for Native States to replace their local currencies, but there was no new coinage. In these five years 19·3 million rupees, chiefly of the 1835 issue, were withdrawn from circulation, and by the winter of 1900 the stock of rupees in the currency reserve had fallen so low that direct replenishment by new coinage became a necessity, and the some process has continued down to the present time. [It should be noted that the half-rupee is not a subsidiary coin, but is legal tender for any sum, like the rupee.]

	Number of pieces.				
	Rupees.	Half rupees.	Quarter rupees.	One-eighth rupees.	Total.
1901-02	49,520,460	...	2,004,085	10,610,010	62,134,555
1902-03	112,742,680	...	2,471,513	4,434,305	119,628,503
1903-04	161,717,556	...	7,060,180	14,631,518	183,409,254
1904-05	108,784,913	...	10,026,130	19,303,364	138,114,407
1905-06	195,987,621	1,646,058	6,299,742	13,030,928	216,964,349
	Value in Sterling.				
1901-02	3,301,364	...	33,401	88,417	3,423,182
1902-03	7,514,845	...	41,192	36,953	7,592,990
1903-04	10,781,170	...	117,670	121,929	11,020,769
1904-05	7,252,328	...	167,102	160,861	7,580,291
1905-06	13,065,841	54,869	104,996	108,591	13,334,297

The foregoing figures include the value of old rupees received into the mints for recoinage.

In addition to the coinage of silver for circulation in India, the mints also coined British dollars for circulation in Honkong as also in the Straits Settlements until 1903, when, owing to a change in the currency policy of the Government of the latter Colony, a new dollar was introduced there, the coinage of which has been undertaken at the Bombay mint since September 1903. Since April 1905 the coinage of the Straits fifty cent pieces has been undertaken in the Bombay mint.

The British dollar is 416 grains Troy in weight and of 900 millesimal fineness and the new Straits dollar is of the same weight and fineness. The fifty cent piece weighs 209·52 grains and is of 800 millesimal fineness. With the expiry in December 1903 of the special agreement with the banks for the coinage of British dollars, the number coined fell to 3,955,647 in 1903-04 and 648,847 in 1904-05, while the coinage in these two years of Straits dollars was 15,009,891 and 20,364,664 pieces respectively. No dollars were coined in 1905-06.

There are no data from which to make an estimate of the quantity of **gold** annually employed in industry except that it may be said that all the uncoined gold imported is manufactured into plate and ornaments. All the gold produced in the **Indian** mines is exported to London for assay.

Until the closure of the Indian mints in June 1893, practically all the silver imported into India—none is produced in the country—was coined either in the mints of the Government or in those of the Native States. Much of the coin was withdrawn annually from circulation to be hoarded or converted into ornaments, but there are no data except the imports of silver during the period since the closure of the Government mints, on which to frame an estimate of the quantity actually so withdrawn. The import trade in silver was materially influenced for a period by speculation arising out of the special and transitory conditions which followed the closure of the mints, and again by the two famines of 1896-97 and 1899-1900. During the four years, 1901-02 to 1904-05, there were no disturbing influences affecting operations by the public, for the large imports for the dollar coinage were balanced by the exports of the coined dollars and the average annual value during this period of the net imports, which amounted to 4⅔ *million* £, was probably fairly representative of what is required for industrial purposes, as silver for the rupee coinage is imported direct by the Government. In 1905-06 there was no coinage of dollars and in their place only fifty cent pieces of the value of £24,384 were exported. Consequently there was a great falling-off in the total exports. The value of the net imports on private account during this year amounted to 3⅓ million £. Since the rupee became a token coin, the value of which as bullion is less than its nominal value, the practice ceased of melting down rupees for the manufacture of ornaments and plate, but the composition of the great existing hoards of silver is still largely a matter of conjecture.

The annual values of imports and exports of coined and uncoined **gold** are seen from the following table :—

	Imports. £	Exports. £	Net Imports. £
1901-02 .	5,538,356	4,246,596	1,291,760
1902-03 .	8,794,912	2,951,868	5,843,044
1903-04 .	13,431,913	6,810,806	6,621,107
1904-05 .	14,541,319	8,070,728	6,470,591
1905-06 .	9,832,648	9,527,322	305,326

The exports of coined gold consist almost entirely of sovereigns, as does all but a small fraction of the imports, except in 1900-01, when nearly one-fifth consisted of foreign coins. Imported sovereigns numbered approximately eight and two-thirds millions in each of the two years 1903-04 and 1904-05 and about four millions in 1905-06.

The imports and exports in 1905-06 were principally from and to the countries mentioned below (quantity in ounces) :—

	Imports.		Exports.	
	Coined.	Uncoined.	Coined.	Uncoined.
United Kingdom	103,919	848,925	1,528,877	634,055
Australia . .	645,871	396,632	...	...
China . .	47,508	86,663	16,669	...
Ceylon . .	2,106	4,811	886	...
Straits Settlements . .	1,283	1,290	21,050	..
Other Countries	255,748	1,663	260,318	37

No gold coin or bullion was imported from the United States of America during 1905-06.

The very large exports of gold in the years 1903-04, 1904-05, and 1905-06 are due to the measures taken by the Government to reduce an inconveniently large gold reserve by importing silver for coinage into rupees and paying for the metal by the exportation of gold. In 1904-05, £4,500,000 was thus exported to London for the purchase of silver, and £1,100,000 was also remitted in sovereigns for investment on behalf of the Gold Reserve Fund. The exports of gold by Government in 1905-06 amounted to £6,000,000 and included the large additions to the Gold Standard Fund resulting from the heavy coinage of silver.

The annual values of imports and exports of coined and uncoined **silver** have been :—

	Imports. £	Exports. £	Net imports. £
1901-02 .	8,195,867	3,400,644	4,795,223
1902-03 .	8,124,325	3,486,557	4,637,768
1903-04 .	12,252,158	3,218,447	9,033,711
1904-05 .	11,797,464	2,881,816	8,915 648
1905-06 .	11,268,028	786,015	10,482,013

The principal imports of silver are from the United Kingdom and, to a much smaller extent, from Australia and China. During the two years 1903-04 and 1904-05, however, imports from the Straits Settlements for the dollar coinage were four times the value of the imports from Australia. In 1905-06 the imports from the Straits were nominal, £21,500 only, and from Australia £413,450.

The weight and value of **gold** produced in the Indian mines was—

	Standard gold in kilogrammes.	Gross (market) value in £.
1901 . . .	16,555	1,931,345
1902 . . .	16,103	1,970,739
1903 . . .	18,776	2,303,360
1904 . . .	19,243	2,366,099
1905 . . .	19,616	2,417,112

It is impossible to say what is the estimated stock of **gold** coin and bullion now in the country since the statistics of imports and exports previous to 1835-36 are incomplete. That the stock must have been large is certain, for the hoarding of the precious metals has always been a striking characteristic of the people of India. The registration of the imports by quantities began in 1887-88, and from that year to 1905-06 the net imports have been 10,915,053 ounces. No gold ore is imported. The rupee value of the net imports, since 1835-36, converted at the average rate of exchange in each year, is calculated to be £172,897,871. The quantity of gold retained in India is, however, greater than this by the amount produced in the Indian mines, for although this is all exported, the value of the net imports, as stated above, has been calculated by deducting from the imports of foreign gold the exports of both foreign and Indian gold. The quantity produced, since 1885, is 6,247,871 ounces, valued at £23,637,152. There is no record of the production for earlier years, but it is a negligible quantity.

It is easier to estimate the stock of **silver** coin (national and foreign) and bullion now in the country. No foreign coin of course circulates in British India. The circulation of the coin of the Government of India (rupees) is estimated to have been, before the coinage of 1900-01, between eighty and ninety millions sterling in value; the coinage of the last six years added to the circulation a value of £53·35 millions, but during the same period there were net exports of rupees representing a withdrawal from the circulation of £2·57 millions. There is practically no stock of silver bullion in the country, except the stocks awaiting sale in the hands of importers and dealers and such quantities (which are probably small) as may be buried in hoards. Until the closure of the mints in June 1893 most of the bullion imported was passed through the mints, and since then the metal imported is largely and without delay manufactured into ornaments, a small proportion being passed into the mints of the Native States. Since 1893, when the British Indian mints were closed to free coinage, most of the native rupees in several States have been converted in the British mints into British rupees, which have now been adopted as the currency of those States, and consequently the coinage of bullion in the mints of the Native States has been reduced to very small dimensions; but in 1904 owing to large operations in Hyderabad the value of the coinage rose to £587,400, the quantity of silver used being eight times as great as in 1903 and two and a half times the average quantity of the preceding ten years. The returns for 1905, as far as available, show the value of the coinage to be £434,615.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

EXCERPTS FROM PROCEEDINGS.

KARACHI.

Meeting held on the 4th September 1906.

Proper classification of imported Cotton piece-goods.—Read letter No. 7663, dated 10th August 1906, from the Under Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Bombay, forwarding, with reference to previous correspondence, copy of the Resolution of the Government of India, No. 5443-5444-3, dated 13th July 1906, regarding the differentiation between "piece-goods" and "apparel" for the purpose of Schedule IV of the Indian Tariff Act of 1894. **Resolution.**—To be acknowledged, circulated, and recorded.

Bombay-Sind Connection Railway.—Read letter, dated 17th August 1906, from the Honorary Secretary, Cutchi Union, Bombay, enquiring whether any reply has been received from the Government of Bombay to this Chamber's communication on the subject of the alignment of the Bombay-Sind Connection Railway. The Honorary Secretary, Cutchi Union, also forwards copies of a memorial submitted by the Cutchi public of Bombay to the Secretary of State for India, and states that it is intended to convene a public meeting shortly for the purpose of submitting another memorial to the Secretary of State for India, praying that the line may be carried through Cutch. **Resolution.**—The Honorary Secretary, Cutchi Union, to be informed that no definite reply to the Karachi Chamber's representations has been received from Government up to the present.

Conversion of Sterling values into rupees under section 30 of the Customs Act.—Read letter No. 8250, dated 24th August 1906, from the Chief Collector of Customs in Sind, forwarding, for an expression of the Chamber's opinion, copy of para. 48 of the Indian Trade Statistics Committee's Report as to the percentage to be added for landing charges at this port when assessing duty. **Resolution.**—The Committee have no objections to offer to the Chief Collector of Custom's proposed rate of exchange, *viz.* £10 to be taken as the equivalent of Rs. 151-8-0.

Crop Forecasts.—Read letter No. 3723, dated 13th August 1906, from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, replying to the Chamber's letter No. 550, of 28th July 1906, suggesting certain improvements in the crop forecasts and advocating their publication at one centre. **Resolution.**—The Committee are pleased to note the steps being taken to improve the crop forecasts and suggest that those for the United Provinces be made in the same form as those of the Punjab.

Proposals for facilitating the disposal of Egyptian Cotton grown in Sind.—Read letter No. 2487, dated 29th August 1906, from the Assistant Commissioner in Sind, forwarding extracts from correspondence between the Director of Land Records and Agriculture, the Commissioner in Sind, and the Government of Bombay, and requesting the Chamber's opinion as to the suitability of the measures discussed therein for the disposal of the next Sind Egyptian cotton crop. **Resolution.**—The Committee concur generally with the views of the Commissioner in Sind. They are of opinion that Government assistance need not go beyond the transportation of the crop to a central market and the sale of the same there by auction on advertised dates—should the cultivator desire to take advantage of such procedure.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

The *Board of Trade Journal* published on the 23rd August, in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations, gives particulars about :—

FRANCE.—Proposed "Consumption Duty" on Mineral Waters.

BRITISH INDIA.—Imported Cotton Seed to be Fumigated. Tariff Valuations.

SOUTH AFRICA.—Customs Decisions.

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE.—Export Valuations.

MAURITIUS.—Removal of prohibition of Live Stock, etc., from Réunion.

RUSSIA.—Excise Duty on Vaseline and Paraffin.

SWEDEN-RUSSIA.—Commercial Agreement.

NETHERLANDS.—Regulations respecting Medicines containing Sugar. Import Duty on Desiccated Milk containing Sugar. Law Regulating the Levying of *ad valorem* Import Duties.

GERMANY.—Customs Decisions.

FRANCE.—Modifications of the "General" Tariff.

ITALY.—Alcohol Surtax on Wines Imported from non-Treaty Countries. Tariff Modifications.

ROUMANIA.—Law respecting Standard for Gold and Silver wares.

CUBA.—Free Admission of "Short Horn" Cattle.

PERU.—Receipts for Customs Duties paid. Requirements of the Customs as to detailed manifests.

We give the following particulars of **changes interesting** to Indian Trade :—

BRITISH CENTRAL AFRICA PROTECTORATE.

Export Valuations.

The Board of Trade have received, through the Colonial Office, a copy of a notice issued by the Commissioner for the British Central Africa Protectorate, under date of 1st May 1906, stating that the following valuations will be placed on the undermentioned articles for export purposes on and after 1st May 1906 :—

Coffee	5*d.* per lb.
Tea	6*d.* „
Beeswax	1*d.* „
Chillies	4*d.* „
Cotton (unginned)	1*d.* „
„ (ginned)	5*d.* „
Ginger (raw)	3½*d* „
Ground nuts	1½*d* „
Strophanthus	2*s.* 6*d.* per lb.
Hippopotamus teeth	2*s.* per lb.
Ivory	7*s.* 6*d.* per lb.
Maize	50*s.* per ton.
Oil seeds	4*d.* per lb.
Rubber	4*s.* 3*d.* per lb.
Tobacco	4*d.* per lb.
Tin, ingot	100*l.* per ton.
Copper, ingot	50*l.* „
Copper, ore (treated)	25*l.* „
„ (untreated)	10*l.* „

WEATHER SUMMARY.

For the week ending the 8th September 1906.

DURING the period under review there was general rain on the Burma Coast, varying from light to heavy, light to moderate general rain in deltaic Bengal, Chota Nagpur and Orissa, nearly general light to moderate rain in Rajputana, Gujarat (East), the West Coast, the Deccan, the United Provinces, the submontane Punjab and the Circars and Konkan Coasts, while a few scattered falls occurred in the interior of South India. The principal amounts of rainfall were :—Akyab 5·26″, Khandwa 5·26″, Mount Abu 4·93″, Tavoy 4·57″, Moulmein 4·24″, Jubbulpur 3·64″, Raichur 3·05″, Rangoon 2·82″, Deesa 2·73″, Rawalpindi 2·73″, Cawnpore 2·67″, Delhi 2·52″, Mergui 2·50″, Balasore 2·43″, Monywa 2·42″, Berhampore 2·33″, Mangalore 2·17″, Patna 2·15″, Hanumkonda 2·11″, Bhuj 2·05″, Kotah 2·02″, Mercara 1·95″, Darjeeling 1·86″, Indore 1·78″, and Barisal 1·60″.

Good and widespread rain occurred over the greater part of India and Burma during the week under review. The weather had been influenced by two depressions. The first, which had formed off the Orissa Coast, moved into South Rajputana and became merged in the permanent low pressure area in North-West India. It caused some heavy rain in East Gujarat and South Rajputana, but with its disappearance rainfall due to the Bombay current diminished and was very scanty until the second depression appeared off the Orissa Coast on the 4th. This disturbance, however, remained shallow and on the 6th had reached the vicinity of Sambalpur; it was accompanied by a large increase in precipitation over the greater part of India.

In Burma rainfall was fairly heavy on the coast and widespread in the interior, the total amount for the week being in excess of the normal except in the north. The temperature changes were small and skies were moderately overcast.

In North-East India and Orissa the weather was practically dry in the first day of the week except for light rain in Assam; but with the formation of the depression off the Orissa Coast precipitation reappeared in deltaic Bengal, Chota Nagpur and Orissa and continued throughout the rest of the period. In the remainder of this division the rainfall was very scanty, and except in Orissa the total fall for the period was much less than usual. Temperature did not differ very much from the normal, and skies were lightly to moderately overcast.

The break in the rains in the United Provinces continued until the 4th, on which date the position of the trough of low pressure allowed the winds from the Bay to extend up the Gangetic plain and on the 5th widespread rainfall occurred: on the next day however rainfall had again diminished. There was not much change in the departure of the temperature from normal.

In Central India and the Central Provinces rainfall diminished rapidly after the first depression passed out of these areas, and on the 2nd and 3rd weather was dry. Next day owing to the position of the trough of low pressure and the appearance of a depression off the Orissa Coast precipitation again began in the Central Provinces and continued for the rest of the week, extending into Central India. On the 6th skies were heavily clouded in Central India and Central Provinces. Temperature was defective in the beginning, but by the 3rd it was normal and did not change very much during the rest of the week.

Under the influence of the depression at the end of the last week heavy rain fell in parts of East Gujarat and South Rajputana on the 2nd. There was also light rain in parts of both Rajputana and Gujarat on the 3rd and 4th, but during the remaining next days weather was dry in the latter area, and there was light rainfall in the south-eastern half of Rajputana. In the Punjab and the Frontier Province every station except Peshawar and Multan had reported rain, the total fall for the week being in excess of the normal in the Lahore and Ludhiana sub-divisions. Skies were moderately to heavily overcast in Rajputana and Gujarat, and they were generally clear or lightly overcast in the Punjab. Temperature was over 10° in defect in the central parts of the Punjab at the end of the last week, but by the 3rd it had recovered and was normal for the remaining days of the week: in Gujarat weather was slightly cooler than usual, and in the rest of North-West India temperature was approximately normal.

The monsoon was weak in the Peninsula until the 4th when the current strengthened owing to the depression off the Orissa Coast, and during the remaining days of the week rainfall, though generally light, was widespread except in the south-eastern districts. Temperature was normal except on the 5th and 6th when it was in defect, and skies, which were moderately clouded at the beginning of the week, were heavily overcast at the end.

The week's fall was heavier than usual on the Burma Coast, in the dry zone of Burma, in the Punjab, in the North-West dry area, in Central India, in the west of the Central Provinces, in Gujarat, in Malabar, Hyderabad, parts of the Deccan and Orissa. The rainfall of the monsoon season to date was equal to or in excess of the normal over the greater part of the country. It was in defect in Baluchistan, the North-West dry area, and the sub-divisions of Lahore Jaipur, Jhansi, Ranchi and Cuttack.

THE following telegram dated the 10th September was despatched to the Secretary of State regarding crop prospects:—**Crop** in prospects in the week ending 1st September last **United Provinces:** Crops are doing well generally, in the affected districts but more rain is needed, especially in Agra Division, where a prolonged break in the rains is causing anxiety. Cattle are healthy, fodder is sufficient, and prices are falling generally. **Rajputana:** good rain has fallen in some states. The crops are doing well generally. Prices show a tendency to fall, but are still high. **Central India:** the rainfall has been general, but more rain is wanted in parts of Gwalior. Crops are fair to good. **Bombay:** Good rain has fallen and tanks and wells are nearly full. The crops are in good condition generally. The area shown is above or equal to the normal. Prices show a tendency to fall. The numbers on relief are decreasing and relief works have been closed in Sangla, and reopened in Kolhapur. **Eastern Bengal:** Floods are subsiding. Crop prospects are fair generally. The scarcity continues in five districts. The numbers on relief are decreasing. Prices continue very high in Bengal. Distress prevails in Darbhanga, owing to the excessive rain and floods. Poor-houses have been opened for the relief of destitute persons. Prices are very high and rising. Prospects are favourable in other provinces. The following is the number of persons in receipt of relief in thousands:—United Provinces 123, Ajmer and Rajputana 29, Central India 9, Bombay 69, Eastern Bengal 3, Total 233.

CONSULAR REPORT.

MASKAT.

THE total value of the **trade of Maskat** for the year 1905-1906 according to the figures furnished by the Superintendent of the Sultan's customs is returned at R82,49,930 as against R82,11,540 of the year 1904-1905, showing a slight increase of R38,390. The imports show an increase of R1,92,280 on the figures of 1904-1905, while the exports give a decrease of R1,53,890.

The following items contribute for increase on the **import** side:—

Silk and silk goods, rice, and twist and yarn from India, wheat and other grains and ghee from Persia and piece-goods from America, whilst arms and ammunition from Europe show a great falling off owing to prices having ruled low during the year

and the stock on hand of the previous year having been considerable. Coffee, sugar, specie and miscellaneous articles each show a decline. On the whole India, Persia, America and the United Kingdom gained while other countries lost.

There is no direct trade with Europe except in arms and ammunition and, to a very small extent, in oilman's stores. From 800 to 1,000 bales of American sheeting are imported from New York *viâ* Aden.

Exports.—The year 1904-1905 showed a decrease of R7,01,880, and 1905-1906 gives a further decrease of R1,53,890. The chief reason for this was a plague of locusts in the interior of Oman which almost totally destroyed the lime crop and reduced the export of dry limes very largely. Export of pearls and mother-o'-pearl also shows a decrease.

The most important item of the export of this country is the date produce, the yield of which was in 1905-1906 less than that of preceding year, but the rise in prices compensated the producer for the small amount exported.

The percentages of the total trade of Maskat as regards the various nations are as follows:—

America	7·09 per cent.	United Kingdom	12·69 per cent.
France	0·50 „	Zanzibar	0·20 „
India	70·39 „	Other Countries	2·37 „
Persia	5·85 „		
Turkey in Asia	0·91 „		

The exchange of dollars throughout the year under review has been steadily rising from R133 per $100 to R154 per $100. The following is the monthly average rate of exchange for the year.

		Rs.	
April	1905	133	per $ 100
May	„	137½	„
June	„	136¾	„
July	„	138¼	„
August	„	139½	„
September	„	140¼	„
October	„	142½	„
November	„	142	„
December	„	145	„
January	1906	147	„
February	„	150	„
March	„	152½	„

Shipping.—The number of vessels that entered and cleared from the Maskat harbour is 707 representing a tonnage of 580,324 as against 732 with tonnage of 398,556 of the year 1904-1905, thus giving a decrease of 25 vessels but an increase of 181,768 tonnage for the year under review.

The percentages of the total tonnage of the vessels of different nationalities that entered the Maskat harbour are as follows:—

British	92·22	Turkish	1·41
French	2·06	Persian	0·33
Maskat	1·82	Other Countries	0·36
Russian	1·80		

SIAM.

Chiengmai, Lakhan and Chingrai.

The report on the **trade and commerce** of the **consular** district of **Chiengmai** refers only to trade with Burma. The only exports of any importance to Burma *viâ* Raheng were cattle (£1,766) and treasure (£4,415) and which show a decrease of £4,681 in value as against 1904 and of £10,800 as against the average of the last five years. Imports by the same route also show a large decrease. It seems probable that trade with Burma by this route will come to an end which appears to be principally due to the opening of the State Railway from Bangkok to Pakuampho and which has already increased the trade between Bangkok and the eastern part of the district. It is presumed that when the railway reaches Lakhan the trade of Burma *viâ* Raheng will be confined to the export of cattle, ponies, mules and elephants.

Exports by other routes are valued at £207,574 which show an increase of £2,736 as compared with the five years' average and a decrease of £27,246 as against 1904. Including the exports *viâ* Raheng the total value of exports in 1905 was £213,795, being £31,927 less than in 1904 and £8,064 less than the five years' average. The decrease in the export of teak was largely responsible for the considerable fall in the value of exports for 1905, as against 1904.

The amount of teak exported was 8,163 tons as against 9,447 in 1904 and an average of 16,058, tons for the last five years. The value shows a decrease of £13,050 as against 1904, and of £34,962 as against the last five years' average. The decrease is principally due to stricter conservancy of the teak forests by the Siamese Forest Department and partly to increasing scarcity of teak trees and difficulty of working the forest on the Salween side. Four British and one Danish firms practically monopolise the teak industry of the whole district. It will be seen that in 1901, the total quantity of teak exported was 30,024 tons valued at £188,103 while in 1905 the export was 8,163 tons valued at £67,873; from this it appears that £6·26 and £8·31 were the respective values per ton, thus giving an increase of £2·05 per ton in 1905 over 1901.

The other principal exports, *i.e.*, treasure, cattle, elephants, silk manufactures and others also show a decrease in value as compared with 1904 and an increase as compared with the quinquennial average.

Imports *viâ* Raheng show a decrease of £611 as against 1904 and of £12,605 as compared with the five years' average. Imports by other routes show also a decrease of £6,235 as against 1904 and an increase of £32,905 over the quinquennial average and taking the total value of imports from Burma by all routes in 1905 there is a decrease of £6,846 as against 1904, and an increase of £20,300 as compared with the five years' average. Every article of import *viâ* Raheng shows a falling off as compared with the average.

The decrease in imports by other routes as compared with 1904 is more than accounted for by the falling off in the import of treasure. The amount imported was still large (£80,838) and considerably above the average. Most of the other imports, notably cotton and silk manufactures and miscellaneous imports, show an increase.

The Siamese *tical* is gradually increasing in favour, and superseding the Indian rupee as a medium of exchange, though in certain places the latter is preferred. Again the Siamese currency notes are almost a failure, but most likely the projected introduction of the Gold coinage will meet a better fate. The Siamese Government has fixed 16 *ticals* as equivalent to £1 sterling which again is equal to ₹15 (Indian) ; so that ₹100 (Indian) at Bangkok would cost 108 *ticals* including 1 per cent. for freight. In 1905 the average rate of exchange was 116 *ticals* to ₹100 and in 1904 it was 122 *ticals* to ₹100, showing an increase in the relative value of the *tical*. Unless the Chinese traders (they being the only bankers outside Bangkok) reduce their price for Indian rupees, merchants and others will continue exporting their rupees from Bangkok.

The British firms at Chiengmai generally give drafts for large amounts on Rangoon or Bangkok, but there is a difficulty about remitting small sums from Chiengmai to Burmah, or *vice versâ* owing to postal defects regarding the money order system.

The Siamese State Railway to the north was opened as far as Pakumpho in November 1905, which, whilst it had reduced the journey from Bangkok to Chiengmai by 5 or 6 days, the freight charges had in no way been diminished, but appear on the contrary to be increased. In fact the freight on goods from Bangkok to Chiengmai may be roughly calculated at 25 per cent. on their cost in Bangkok. The road from *Raheng* to Lampure requires to be taken in hand for repairs in the first instance, as the railway, which is 70 miles east of Raheng, conveys both goods and mails from Bangkok and Burmah *viâ* Raheng, after which they are taken overland. Owing to the bad state and non-existence of roads and bridges, the mails take 14 days in transit, over a distance of 180 miles. Communication by river is very slow and expensive. The journey of 300 miles occupies twenty days under favourable circumstances. In the dry season, travelling on the river becomes more difficult and tedious owing to the large dams built in the river for fishing purposes.

The importance of Lakhon is due almost entirely to its being the headquarters of the teak industry of the district. The general trade with Bangkok seems to be very much inferior to that of Chiengmai. The great obstacle in the trade with Bankok lies in the nature of the Lakhon river. The recent opening of the railway from Bangkok to Poknampo did not appear to be a source of much benefit to Lakhon traders, as a branch of the line to Raheng seems to produce ; for it will save the entire boat journey from Bangkok and thus the communication will be much easier. The route from Bangkok to Lakhon, though cheapened by the opening of the railway from Bangkok to Poknampo, would be scarcely of any advantage to Moulmein traders in spite of the superiority of Moulmein and Rangoon to Bangkok as markets for the purchase of foreign goods and the exemption from 3 per cent. import duty imposed at Bangkok.

Excellent teak is grown in large quantities on the upper waters of the Chiengrai river (Mekok). The difficulty of exporting teak is not only very great, but also much expensive. It would be more practicable to drag the timber overland into the watershed of one of the rivers flowing southward through Siam, but in order to make it profitable, a very much longer lease would appear to be essential. There is much excellent timber other than teak in the Province.

CHILE IN 1905.

No. 3698 of the Annual Series of Diplomatic and Consular Reports (Cd. 2682—223) furnishes a report on the **trade of Chile** for 1905, and also a supplementary report on the import trade for 1904, prepared by Mr. Acting Consul-General Rowley.

According to the commercial statistics of this country for the year 1905, which have just been published, the gross trade of the Republic amounted to $453,805,610 (£34,035,420 15*s.*), whereas the revenue during 1904 only figured $373,149,864 (£27,986,239 15*s.*), hence there was an increase of $80,655,746 (£6,049,181) over 1904, of which increase $31,444,338 (£2,358,325) corresponded to imports and $49,211,408 (£3,690,855) to exports.

Of the total import trade of $188,596,418 the United Kingdom contributed 37.71 per cent., Germany 25.23 per cent., the United States 10 per cent., France 7.5 per cent., and Australia 4 per cent., the remaining 15.56 per cent., being made up between other countries.

In the import trade the United Kingdom showed an increase of $13,771,641, Germany $5,131,048, United States $4,870,022, France $3,295,910, Australia $3,700,751, and India $420,920.

Of the whole export trade valued at $265,209,102, the United Kingdom took 38.20. per cent., Germany 27.58 per cent., the United States 16.14 per cent., or say in dollars 101,321,794 73,154,739, and 42,804,991 respectively.

As will be seen by the above figures, the commercial prosperity of 1904 has been exceeded by the year now under review. It is impossible yet to pronounce positively on the stability of the different enterprises which took shape two years ago, but the majority seem to have been successfully piloted through their earlier stages and are reaching the position of paying concerns. The steady range of high prices ruling for nitrate, copper, and wool has strengthened those interested in these industries and encouraged them to further ventures.

In this they have been assisted by the Government giving facilities for obtaining possession of the unexplored nitrate grounds in the province of Antofagasta, and also granting concessions of pastoral and agricultural land the south of Chile.

The port of Antofagasta became so congested with traffic early in the year that steamers were lying there for months waiting to unload their cargo, which consisted mainly of machinery for the new nitrate establishments. The growing importance of the place drew labourers from all parts of Chile, attracted by the high wages, which, however, were counterbalanced by the rise in price of provisions.

Various plans for extending the facilities for dealing with business at Valparaiso and other places are mentioned.

Several steamship lines were preparing to put more vessels on to the trade with the great Chilian port, now reduced, temporarily, to a heap of ruins.

The returns of shipping supplied by the captain of the port show that 1,103 ships of 1,748,891 tons register entered the port of Valparaiso during 1905, as compared with 1,060 ships of 1,720,787 tons in 1904. There was consequently an increase of 43 ships and in tonnage of 28,104 tons.

In the foreign trade (steam), British and German shipping increased by 7 steamers and 29,065 tons, and 3 steamers and 17,450 tons, respectively; but in sailing vessels decreased by 16 vessels and 17,735 tons, and 3 vessels and 6,750 tons, respectively.

In the coast trade (steam), British shipping increased by 11 steamers, but showed a decrease in tonnage of 231 tons, and German shipping showed a decrease of 2 steamers, but an increase in tonnage of 476 tons.

In sailing vessels, British and German tonnage decreased by 667 and 626 tons, respectively.

The export of nitrate expanded considerably, the total being 35,910,332 quintals, an increase of 3,372,545 quintals on 1904.

YARKAND (CENTRAL ASIAN) TRADE.

THE important feature for the year 1905-06 is the marked decrease in the volume of trade, in both exports and imports. The principal factor in this is the falling-off, amounting to over one-half, in the quantity and value of "charas," imported. "Charas" has for long been the principal article of barter in exchange for European cotton goods, coral and tea, and the heavy decrease in these commodities is said to be directly due to the enhanced import duty on "charas." This has dealt a crushing blow to trade with Yarkand.

Nearly all the merchandise registered as being exported to Ladak finds its way to Yarkand and hence the marked decline in exports is undoubtedly due in large measure to the enhanced "charas" duty. "Charas," as imported into the whole of the Punjab, shows a total increase of Rs. 4,42,000 in value with a decline of 768 mds. in weight. But "charas" as passing through the Sultanpur post for Kulu shows a decrease both in value and in weight as per following figures:—

1904-05.		1905-06.	
Rs.	Mds.	Rs.	Mds.
9,29,100	3,097	4,21,060	1,478

The year 1904-05 showed a marked increase in value over 1903-04, *i.e.*, Rs. 4,79,050, although the weight fell by 588 mds. A brisk rise in the value of imports of raw silk was also noted. The percentage of external trade of the Punjab with Ladak represents 4·33 as imports and 1·2 as exports.

A general decrease is also marked in the Tibetan trade. The import of raw wool steadily diminishes. The value of borax imported has similarly declined. The reason assigned is the great mortality amongst sheep and goats which has reduced both the quantity of wool and pasham available, and the means of transport, as both borax and wool are brought from Tibet on sheep and goats. Such of the merchandise from Western Tibet as passed through Kulu is exchanged at Patsee, Plinga and Leh. The Punjab can absorb all the wool and probably all the borax that Tibet can supply, and apparently Tibet can supply as much borax as can be collected. Increased trade lies in popularising Indian and European goods amongst the Tibetans. The advantages of the Central Asian trade route through Kulu are so obvious that there must be force in the reasons that induce traders to prefer the Kashmir Road. The bounty of five per cent. *ad valorem* granted by the Durbar is an attractive advantage and this, coupled with the fact that very good arrangements are made in Kashmir territory regarding supplies and shelter, induces traders to prefer the Kashmir rather than the Kulu route for the conveyance of goods to Yarkand.

SHIPMENT OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT.

New Board of Trade Instructions.

THE Board of Trade (U. K.) have just issued the following new instructions relating to the carriage of dangerous goods and explosives in ships :—

(1) Petroleum spirit gives off vapour freely at ordinary temperatures, and this vapour will form an explosive or inflammable mixture with air according to the proportions in which it is present.

(2) In order that the transport by sea of this substance may be carried on with reasonable safety, it is recommended that :—

(*a*) Only iron or steel ships should be used for the carriage of petroleum spirit. The bulkheads dividing the cargo holds from other spaces should be perfectly watertight without openings, and where there are bilge sluices in the bulkheads these should be kept closed

as long as any petroleum spirit is on board the vessel. The holds should not be ventilated by removing the hatches during the voyage, but proper ventilators should be fitted extending to the bottom of the hold, and these should have large cowl heads, the openings being covered with fine brass wire gauze.

(*b*) Wooden barrels should not be used for the conveyance of petroleum spirit below deck.

(*c*) Special precautions should be taken against smoking and the use of lights or fire of any kind while the cargo is being loaded or unloaded, or while the hatches are off, or any deck openings are uncovered, and it should be remembered that the risk from the inflammable nature of the cargo does not cease when the loading is completed, but continues during the subsequent voyage of the vessel.

(3) These recommendations should be followed in all cases with the following exceptions :—

(*a*) Surveyors at present need not interfere with the shipment below deck of petroleum spirit in wooden ships, provided that there is no cabin, forecastle, or store accessible to the crew below deck, and provided that the petroleum spirit is carried in metal packages of a suitable character, such as steel barrels or drums, or in substantial tin cans packed in cases.

(*b*) Surveyors at presnt need not interfere with the shipment of wooden barrels below deck in the cases of iron or steel ships which have been specially fitted or adapted for the carriage of petroleum spirit in the manner prescribed in paragraph (2) (*a*), provided that the hold is separated from the engines and boilers by a cross bunker or other space.

(*c*) Surveyors need not at present interfere with the shipment of wooden barrels below deck in wooden ships if the following conditions are complied with :—(1) The whole of the space below deck, including the crew space, to be securely battened down, without ventilators or any other openings, and to be as nearly as possible hermetically sealed. This will necessitate the provision of crew's quarters on the upper deck. (2) No inflammable substance, other than petroleum oil, and no chemical, may be carried with the petroleum spirit. Where other cargo is carried, it shall be so stowed as not to be capable of damaging the petroleum barrels. (3) The barrels must be in good condition and must be freshly and efficiently coated with glue on the inside, and repainted on the outside, on each occasion before being used. A certificate that this has been done must be handed to the master of the vessel and kept by him with the ship's papers.

(*d*) No objection need be raised to the carriage on deck of petroleum spirit in wooden barrels or steel drums, provided the receptacles are staunch and sound, and provided they are so stowed as not to interfere with the navigation of the ship or make the vessel unseaworthy. With proper precautions as to stowage and keeping the barrels and drums clear of the passengers' promenade or deck space, no objection need be raised to the carriage coastwise of a deck load of petroleum spirit in a passenger vessel, provided it is not an emigrant ship within the meaning of the Merchant Shipping Act. Conspicuous notices should in such cases be posted up as to the danger of smoking or striking matches near the deck cargo.

(4) These instructions refer to petroleum within the meaning of the Petroleum Acts, and therefore include any liquid which is produced by distillation from petroleum, shale, or coal, and flashes at a temperature of less than 73 deg. F., as ascertained by the first schedule to the Petroleum Act, 1879, such as benzoline, gasoline, petrol, naphtha, benzol, benzine, lythene, etc.

INDIA'S COTTON INDUSTRY.

MR. S. M. JOHNSON, President of the Upper India Chamber of Commerce, recently made some remarks on "**India's Cotton Industry**" from which the following extracts are taken :—

The greatest disability which affects Indian industries is the poor quality of Indian labour. It is one which perhaps in the course of time will undergo alleviation, but the process must necessarily be a slow one, and unless we realise how great a disability it is and strive to remove it, the process must be slower than it need be. Until our labouring classes learn to value thrift, to value labour, and to value time, they can never hope to compete with Western nations. I have mentioned these three attributes because I think they may be considered as summarising all that we care to find in labour. A man who is thrifty will always strive to improve himself as a wage earner ; if he values labour he will strive to excel whatever his occupation, and if he values time he will strive to do as much as he can in the hours at his command.

These virtues you must all know are conspicuous only by their absence among labourers in India. Go where you will—search where you may—you will find everywhere the same complaint, and that is the poor quality of labour, and it is poor because the labouring man is not thrifty—he only values money for whatever it can give him at the moment without a glance at the future he does not value work for work's sake—to him it is unfortunately a matter of complete indifference whether his work is bad or good ; he does not value time because his practice is not to do as much as possible in a given time, but as little as possible.

With disabilities such as these can Indian industries ever hope to compete with those of Western nations ? I am afraid not. If we are ever able to compete, it will be due to some circumstance, some factor which is so predominant that even the poor quality of our labour will not entirely outweigh the great benefit accruing therefrom.

To illustrate the position I will take the case of a cotton weaver in Lancashire. A power-loom weaver there works single-handed from four to six looms, and will turn out from each an average of 78 lbs. of coarse cloth in a week of 55 working hours or 468 lbs. in all for a six-loom worker. A power-loom weaver in India looks after, as a rule (at all events, in the part of India I am familiar with), only one loom, and all he can turn out of a similar cloth in a week is at the best 70 lbs. A hand-loom weaver on an improved hand-loom can weave barely 60 lbs. of very coarse cloth in a week; his out-turn as compared with a power-loom weaver is 70 lbs. But comparing either with an English weaver I ask you to consider the wide difference ; it is that a weaver in Lancashire can do the work of at least six Indian power-loom weavers and nine hand-loom weavers.

As to competition, it is not the Indian labourer who competes with the English worker; it is precisely the opposite which is true. If under present conditions, and working 72 hours a week, an Indian worker can turn out at the very best only 70 lbs. of cloth, while the European, working 54 hours, can turn out 468 lbs., what truth is there in the plea that the Indian competes with the European.

It costs in Lancashire the equivalent of 14 pies to make a pound of coarse cloth such as is worn by the lower classes in India. This figure does not include the cost of the cotton or the yarn, but simply the cost of making the cloth, and all processes previous thereto, including such items as wages, stores, and coal. In India a similar cloth would cost at least 17 pies, but the cotton or yarn in these cloths is so much cheaper in India than in England that the higher cost of production in India is more than made up in the price of the raw material.

If you take the cost of freight to India, landing, and agency charges, and all other expenses, and also exclude Excise duty, you need only add at the outside 20 per cent. on to prime cost, and in the case I have given you that would mean under 17 pies against 17 pies, so that but for the raw material European countries could at the present moment land cotton goods in any part of India cheaper than they could be made on the spot.

THE CANADIAN COTTON INDUSTRY.

THE following table represents the entire **Canadian cotton industry** as it exists at present :—

	Capital. £	Looms.	Spindles.
Dominion Textile Co., Ltd., Montreal, with mills at Montreal (3); Halifax and Windsor, N. S.; Moncton, N.B. Montmorency and Magog, Quebec, Kingston. Ont. . . .	2,000,000	8,280	386,826
Canadian Coloured Cotton Mills Co., Ltd., with mills at Merriton (2); Cornwall (2); Hamilton, Ont., Milltown, N. B. .	540,000	3,290	115,914
Hamilton Cotton Co., Ltd. .	40,000	120	7,650
Hamilton Imperial Cotton Co., Ltd.	150,000	125	9,000
Cornwall and York Cotton Mills Co., Ltd., St. John, N.B. .	100,000	430	27,000
Gibson Cotton Mills Co., Ltd., Marysville, N. B. . .	10,000	700	29,000
Montreal Cotton Co., Ltd , with mill at Valleyfield, Quebec .	600,000	4,530	182,756
Cosmos Cotton Co., Ltd., Yarmouth, N. S. . . .	120,000	100	11,060
TOTAL .	3,560,000	17,575	751,146

It will be seen that there are Canadian cotton mills in fifteen different towns, ranging from Halifax to Hamilton, a distance of over a thousand miles. This fact goes to show that the cotton industry of Canada has, so far, been unable to create a tradition in any particular part of the dominion. The lack of such a tradition is perhaps the greatest of the many **difficulties** with which the industry has to contend. Operatives, both male and female, have almost invariably to be taught everything from the beginning, and though the scale of wages is at least 50 per cent. higher than in Lancashire, strikes are so frequent as to be practically a permanent feature of the industry. The more highly skilled operatives and the mill managers are usually imported either from Great Britain or the United States. The industry is, again, heavily handicapped in having no well organised subsidiary industries. Each company, and to a large extent each mill, does its own bleaching and finishing, as well as its own dyeing and printing, so far as its own dyeing and printing, so far as its product is manufactured for these processes. Nor has Canada with, perhaps, the exception of the Maritime Provinces, a climate favourable to cotton spinning and weaving. It is stated again and again in the literature distributed to attract the emigrant that the extremes of heat and cold which prevail in Canada can be more easily borne than in Great Britain, owing to the pronounced dryness of the Canadian atmosphere. This part, at any rate, of the literature is founded on absolute fact. Nova Scotia and New Brunswick form an exception, as their climate, from the proximity of the ocean, is damper

than that of the greater portion of the Dominion. Of the twenty-one mills enumerated it will be noticed that seven, or one-third, are in either Nova Scotia or New Brunswick.

The **proportion of domestic to imported cotton piece-goods trade** of Canada varies, of course, with the nature of the establishment. Striking an average, it will not be very far from the mark to say that 25 per cent. is domestic and 75 per cent. imported. In some of the large department stores doing a high class business the domestic article will probably amount to as little as 5 per cent. whilst in others doing a pronouncedly popular business one-half of the cotton piece-goods sold will possibly be of domestic origin. And "right here," to use a trans-Atlantic idiom, we have another of the difficulties with which the Canadian cotton manufacturer has to contend. The Canadian market being somewhat restricted, he has to produce a large assortment of designs and colourings, for any one of which he can only hope to receive a comparatively small order, which, of course, means uneconomic working. Nor are the Canadian wholesalers particularly anxious to handle the domestic article. This presents little of the almost infinite variety offered by the British and New England manufacturers. Thus it comes that the styles of Canadian piece-goods tend to attain a familiarity with the public which breeds, if not contempt, at any rate a certain prejudice. And, again, as more than one wholesale merchant admitted to me, a larger profit can be realised on the imported than on the domestic article, for the simple reason that the prices and values of the latter are better known.

The opinion prevalent throughout the wholesale dry goods trade is that the domestic manufacturers have received quite enough protection already, and that if with the existing protection they cannot prosper their activity is not a legitimate one. It will, no doubt, surprise many people to learn that ever since the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Canadian cottons have been exported to China. In recent years the basis of this trade has been extended to a number of colonial and other foreign markets. The total cotton exports (piece-goods) of Canada to all countries and of those to China for the past six years are as follows :—

	To all countries.		To China.	
	Yards.	Value.	Yards.	Value.
		£		£
1900	5,355,000	61,800	3,328,000	30,200
1901	4,454,000	66,900	1,850,000	17,000
1902	4,613,000	75,600	618,000	6,200
1903	4,641,000	71,600	2,646,000	24,400
1904	5,338,000	106,300	716,000	7,900
1905	13,086,000	214,800	9,241,000	116,000

It will be noticed that this trade is characterised by grate fluctuations. It would be interesting to know at what profit it is carried on, if, indeed, at any profit at all; but trustworthy information on this point is not easily obtained. The figures are taken from the annual statement of trade and navigation published by the Dominion Government.—*Manchester Guardian.*

STANDARDIZATION IN ENGINEERING.

In a paper on "Standardization in British Engineering Practice," read at the British Association meeting on August 3rd by Sir John Wolfe Barry, F.R.S., the author gave a historical summary of the successive steps which led up to the formation of the Engineering Standards Committee in 1901, and described in some detail the present organization of this body. As now constituted and supported by the five leading technical institutions it consists of 36 committees, with an aggregate of 260 members, drawn from both the professional and manufacturing sides of the engineering industry. The number of subjects dealt with has increased from the original matter of the standardization of iron and steel sections to no less than 30 different subjects, entailing the preparation of about 75 different specifications and reports. The whole work is controlled by what is known as the main committee, which is composed of the representatives of the five institutions referred to above, and to this committee falls the entire organization of the work, the raising of the necessary funds, the controlling of the expenditure, the arranging of the subjects to be dealt with by the various sectional and sub-committees, and the passing of all reports prior to publication. Under the main committee there are 12 sectional committees appointed by the main committee, and 24 sub-committees appointed by the sectional committees. As regards funds, the Government has provided £3,000 a year towards the expenditure of the committee since 1904, and has agreed to continue the grant on a reduced scale up to the end of the financial year 1908-09. The Indian Government has made a grant of £1,000 towards the funds of the committee. The five institutions already named, and the leading manufacturing and railway companies interested in the work of the committee, have also contributed liberally towards the expenses of the investigations and reports, which have recently been published in volume form.

In closing this introductory portion of his paper, Sir John Wolfe Barry stated that although in this country we are not so liberal in the support accorded to scientific investigations as some foreign Governments are, yet the financial support accorded to the committee, as also the recent extension of their grant to the National Physical Laboratory form a worthy illustration of how the financial support of an enlightened Government can be used to foster movements which redound to the good of the community at large. Details of the method of procedure adopted by the committee were next given by the author, and emphasis was laid upon the fact that so far as possible care was taken to avoid the danger of crippling invention or of perpetuating forms of processes which might in time become obsolete.

Accordingly it was recognized in the first motion made at the Institution of Civil Engineers that there must be provision for a continuance of the existence of the body which might be formed to take the matter in hand. It was not enough to standardize the most approved forms and processes of manufacture, but it was urgently necessary to provide for future improvements.

To carry out this view the main and sectional committees continue in existence after their reports have been made, and an opportunity is afforded once a year to the sectional committees of revising the specifications issued by them, so as to ensure that the standard specifications are kept thoroughly apace with the progress made from time to time in engineering science, so that there should be no stereotyping of design or practice.

The standardization of shape and form and the standardization of material were next dealt with, and in the concluding section of his paper Sir John Wolfe Barry enumerated some of the advantages arising from standardization, both to manufacturers and engineers.

With a view to the introduction of standardization in its most efficient and stable form, the committee have decided to establish at the National Physical Laboratory at Bushey a series of gauges and templates to which all the templates throughout the country can be referred, and from time to time checked. Thus they have already established a standard series of templates for bull-headed and flat-bottomed railway rails, tramway rails, and pipe flanges, and are hoping to add at no very distant date standard gauges for screws, both with the ordinary Whitworth pitch and the finer pitch referred to in the paper. All these standards are made with the greatest possible accuracy, and are most carefully verified by measuring instruments at the laboratory before acceptance. It is confidently hoped that, by establishing a mechanical High Court of appeal, unification and accuracy may be promoted throughout the country.

Mention might also be made of the research work which the National Physical Laboratory have accomplished at the request of the sectional committee on electrical plant with regard to insulating materials generally, the temperature rise in the field coils of electrical machinery, etc.

Sir William Preece opened the discussion upon the paper and illustrated the money value of standardization by instances drawn from the manufacture of electrical plant in this country. Of the 472 electrical installations now running in this country only one-fifth are provided with standard types of motive or generating machinery, and the capital cost of the plant in the remaining 378 installations has been enormously increased by the multiplicity of types employed.

Sir William White strongly supported the work of the standardization committee upon which he serves, and gave details of his own early efforts at the Admiralty to promote uniformity and standardization in shipbuilding materials. The essential condition for useful work in standardization was, in his opinion, a knowledge of what was required combined with the power of enforcing its use, and by the co-operation of engineers and manufacturers upon the engineering standards committee this essential of success was attained. As regarded Sir William Preece's assertion that standardization was now required in the electrical engineering industry he could not altogether agree, and he considered this was an instance in which too early standardization of plant and machinery would check legitimate invention and progress.

Professor Dalby, Mr. Charles Hawksley, and Lieutenant Attwood, R.N., also joined in the discussion upon this paper.

AUSTRALASIAN WOOL MARKETS.

Dalgety and Co. (Limited) publish the following summary of their annual statistics for the season from July 1, 1905, to June 30, 1906 :—

Sales of wool in the Australasian markets for the past twelve months total 1,354,865 bales, which realized £18,304,012, as compared with 1,092,651 bales, which grossed £13,825,269 in the previous season, so that the increase for Australasia from local sales of wool has amounted to £4,478,473.

The total exportable production from Australia and New Zealand has amounted to 1,869,455 bales, which, if taken at £13 10*s.* 3*d.* per bale, gives a value of £25,261,011 ; this is exclusive of 30,000 bales, manufactured into cloth, etc., in the colonies, worth, say, £495,375. Thus the total production is estimated to have yielded upwards of 25 millions sterling. The previous year's output of 1,595,734 bales was valued at 20 millions sterling, so that there has been an increase in revenue of 5 millions sterling.

As closely as the figures can be obtained from the Customs returns, the net production of each State has been as under :—

	Bales.
New South Wales	816,000
Victoria	267,500
Queensland	176,000
South Australia	119,000
West Australia	42,500
Tasmania	33,500
New Zealand	415,000
	1,869,500

Sheep numbers made up from figures taken from the most recent returns are as follows :—

	1905.
New South Wales	39,949,207
Victoria	11,455,115
Queensland	12,535,231
South Australia	6,524,300
West Australia	3,140,360
Tasmania	1,556,460
Australian States	74,705,673
New Zealand	19,130,875
Australasia	93,836,548

A large increase in the flocks is expected to take place during the present year.

Throughout the past twelve months prices have been on the average about 10 per cent. higher

GAZETTE AND OTHER NOTIFICATIONS.

LIST OF GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH OFFICES REPORTED AS OPENED, CLOSED, ETC., SINCE COMPILATION OF THE LAST LIST.

Offices opened.

Name of Office.	District.	Date opened.	Remarks.
Satwari . . .	Jammu .	12-12-05	
Ramnagar (Champaran).	Champaran .	1-8-06	
Nagpur Sadar Bazar .	Nagpur .	1-8-06	
Prithimpassa . .	Sylhet . .	1-8-06	
Vijayapuram(Tanjore)	Tanjore . .	1-8-06	
Hasan-Abdal R. S. .	Attock . .	3-8-06	
Lalmanirhat . .	Rangpur .	6-8-06	
Gorifa . . .	24-Perganas .	8-8-06	
Jalgaon (Buldana) .	Buldana .	11-8-06	
Nandi (Burdwan) .	Burdwan .	18-8-06	
Bankipore Railway Station.	Patna . .	19-8-06	
Charanpur . .	Burdwan .	21-8-06	
Gushkara . .	Burdwan .	23-8-06	
Sita . . .	Larkana .	26-8-06	

Office closed.

Name of Office.	District.	Date closed.	Remarks.
Kara . .	Allahabad .	24-8-06	

Offices sanctioned but not yet opened.

Name of Office.	District.	Date sanctioned.	Remarks.
Allahabad Katra Post	Allahabad .	1-8-06	
Padma . . .	Hazaribagh .	4-8-06	
Phultola (Sylhet) .	Sylhet . .	4-8-06	
Kot Chandpur .	Jessore .	8-8-06	
Sargodha City .	Shahpur .	17-8-06	
Gooty . . .	Anantapur .	17-8-06	

Offices sanctioned but not yet opened.

Name of Office.	District.	Date sanctioned.	Remarks.
Tadpatri . .	Anantapur .	17-8-06	
Sindkheda (Khandesh)	Khandesh .	17-8-06	
Mahilpur . . .	Hoshiarpur .	23-8-06	
Lucknow Aminabad .	Lucknow .	23-8-06	
Melvisharam . .	North Arcot .	23-8-06	
Barahapjan . .	Lakhimpur .	24-8-06	
Nagalur . . .	Salem . .	28-8-06	

Offices raised to 1st or 2nd Class.

Name of Office.	District.	Date.	Raised to
Hamirpur (U. P.) .	Hamirpur .	28-7-06	2nd class.
Kharadur . .	Karachi .	1-8-06	Do.
Mogok . . .	Ruby Mines .	1-8-06	Do.

Combined Offices converted into Departmental Offices.

Nil.

Departmental Offices converted into Combined Offices.

Nil.

In the statement sent with this Office No. 1110, dated the 22nd of August 1906, under the heading "Offices raised to 1st or 2nd class" please strike out "Goalpara" with particulars.

The Telephone Exchange (worked by the Telegraph Department) in the Agra Telegraph Office is open to the public from 13th August 1906.

SHIPPING—BURMA.

With reference to General Department Notification No. 161, dated the 12th June 1906, it is hereby notified that Jeddah, in Arabia, has ceased to be an infected port to the purpose of the rules relating to precautions against plague and to the medical inspection, isolation, observation, and surveillance of persons suffering from, or suspected to being infected with, plague in the ports of Rangoon, Moulmein, Akyab, Bassein, Tavoy, Mergui and Kyaukpyu, published in this department notifications Nos. 207, 208, 209 and 210, dated the 7th October 1897, Nos. 128 and 129, dated the 20 July 1899, and No. 60, dated the 16th February 1905.

NEW REFERENCE BOOKS.

PEAKER, Fredk.
British Citizenship. Its Rights and its Duties. With a Preface by Sir John Lawson Walton. Cr. 8vo. . . . . 2*s.*

PRATT, Edwin, A.
The Transition in Agriculture. Cr. 8vo. . . 5*s.* net.

ROOT, J. W.
Colonial Tariffs. 8vo. . . . . 7*s.* 6*d.* net

ROWNTREE, J. and SHERWELL, A.
The Taxation of the Liquor Trade. Vol. I. Public-Houses, Hotels, Restaurants, Theatres, Railway Bars, and Clubs. 8vo. . . . 10*s.* 6*d.* net.

RONTREE, B. S.
Poverty, a study of Town Life. Introduction. 2nd Edition with additions (Stiff paper covers). Cr. 8vo. . . . . 1*s.* net.

RYAN, John A.
A Living Wage. Its Ethical and Economical Aspects, with an Introduction. By Richard T. Ely. Cr. 8vo. . . . 4*s.* 6*d.* net.

SALEEBY, C. W.
Individualism and Collectivisms. Four Lectures. Introduction and Appendix by Members of the British Constitutional Association. Cr. 8vo. . 2*s.* net

SHERMAN, Waldo H.
Civics. Studies in American Citizenship. Cr. 8vo. . . . . 4*s.* net.

SMART, WILLIAM.
The Return to Protection. Being a Re-statement of the Case for Free Trade. 2nd Edition. 8vo. . . . . 3*s.* 6*d.* net.

STATESMAN'S YEAR BOOK, The.
Statistical and Historical Annual of the States of the World for the year 1906. Edited by J. Scott Keltie with the assistance of J. P. A. Renwick. 43rd Annual Publication. Revised after Official Returns. fcap. 8vo. . . 10*s.* 6*d.* net

TAYLOR, Henry O.
An Introduction to the Study of Agricultural economics. . . . . 5*s.* net.

[*The above to be had from Messrs. Macmillan and Bowes, 1, Trinity Street, Cambridge.*]

BUILDING SOCIETIES.
By *Sir* Edward Brabbrook . . . . 1*s.* net.
From P. S. King and Son.

SHOULD OUR RAILWAYS BE NATIONALISED?
By W. Cunningham. Fourth and enlarged edition . . . . . 2*s.* 6*d.*
From A. Romanes and Son, Dunfermline.

SOME FOUNDERS OF THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY.
Men to be Remembered. By J. Fenwick Allen 5*s.* net.
From Sherratt and Hughes.

LONDON STATISTICS, 1905-06 . . . . 5*s*
From P. S. King and Son.

THE INSURANCE REGISTER, 1906 . . . 1*s.*
From C. and E. Layton.

INDIAN RECORDS SERIES.
Old Fort William in Bengal. A selection of official documents dealing with its history. Edited by the Late C. R. Wilson, M.A. Two Vols. . . . . 24*s.* net.
From John Murray.

EXPORTS OF BOOTS AND SHOES TO CHINESE TREATY PORTS.

In the *Indian Trade Journal* of the 5th July 1906, page 469, there were quoted certain figures, showing the Export Trade in Boots and Shoes to the Chinese Treaty Ports. It is necessary to correct these figures, which were taken from the Annual Volume of Statistics of Indian Seaborne Trade. Owing to a misprint in that work, the trade in boots and shoes between India and Java and India and China were in part transposed and this error was transferred to the *Indian Trade Journal*. The following are the correct figures representing this trade between the three chief Indian ports and the Chinese Treaty Ports.

Statement showing the quantities and values of Boots and Shoes exported by sea from British India to Treaty Ports in China during the past seven years from 1899-1900 to 1905-06.

	1899-1900		1900-01		1901-02		1902-03		1903-04		1904-05		1905-06	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
From Bengal— To Shanghai .	450	2,700	654	2,734	3,792	19,715	1,003	5,401	1,440	7,865	1,825	10,265	3,150	14,750
„ Amoy .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	300	60	375	..	...
„ Hankow .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72	432	100	600	...	...
„ Tientsien .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31	186	...	...
Total exports from Bengal .	450	2,700	654	2,734	3,792	19,715	1,003	5,401	1,562	8,597	2,016	11,426	3,150	14,750
From Burma— To Amoy .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	200
Total exports from Burma .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	200
From Bombay— To Shanghai .	(*a*)	(*a*)	(*a*)	(*a*)	(*a*)	(*a*)	(*a*)	(*a*)	11	25	7	14	...	...
Total Exports from Bombay .	12	6	...	...	24	109	38	36	11	25	7	14	...	...
Total Exports from British India . .	462	2,706	654	2,734	3,816	19,824	1,041	5,437	1,573	8,622	2,023	11,440	3,200	14,950

N. B.—There were no exports from the Provinces of Madras and Sind.
(*a*) Figures for individual Treaty Ports are not available.

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES.

Number and Particulars of Joint Stock Companies registered in each Province in British India in the month of July 1906.

No.	Class and Name	Situation of Registered Office.	Object.	Capital. Nominal.	Capital. Paid-up.
	I.—Banking, Loan and Insurance—				
	(a) Banking and Loan—			R	R
1	Hindustan Bank	Multan, Punjab	Banking and Agency	2,50,000	...
2	Marwar Bank	Hissar „	Banking	10,00,000	...
3	Tirumangalam Sri Subramania Swami Chit.	Madura, Madras	Money-lending (mutual)	1,00,000	...
4	Minakshipuram Permanent Fund	Tinnevelly „	„ „ „	75,000	...
5	Tiru Uthara Kosa Mangai Sri Mangaleswara Swami Ela Chit	Madura „	„ „ „	25,000	...
6	Chalapuram Bank	South Malabar, Madras.	Banking	40,000	...
	Total, Banking and Loan	.....	.....	14,90,000	...
	(b) Insurance—				
7	Sri Victoria Memorial Mutual Benefit Society	Kistna, Madras	Life Insurance	210	...
8	Sri Sri Sri Sitaram Provident Co.	Vizagapatam, Madras	„ „ and Marriage Endowment.	10,000	...
9	Victoria Life Assurance Co.	Kistna, Madras	Life Insurance	1,600	...
10	Jaganmitra Life Assurance Co.	Vizagapatam, Madras	„ „ Marriage Endowment, Education, Annuities, etc.	20,000	...
11	Sun and Moon Illuminating Co.	Ganjam, Madras	Life Insurance	14,000	...
	Total, Insurance	.....	.....	45,810	...
	Total, Banking, Loan and Insurance	.....	.....	15,35,810	...
	II.—Trading—				
12	Kushtia Desiya Bhandar	Bengal	Dealing in articles of Indian or Japanese art and manufacture.	20,000	...
13	Bengal Pottery Works	„	Manufacture of terracotta, porcelain and earthenwares.	20,000	...
14	Bengal Distilleries Co.	„	Business of distillers, importers and spirit merchants.	1,00,000	...
15	Shripad Ramchandr and Co.	Poona, Bombay	Commission Agency	20,000	...
16	Photographic Stores Co.	Bombay	Business of artists and photographic stores.	50,000	...
17	Swadeshi Knitting Factory	Tannuku, Madras	Sale of country-made goods	5,000	...
18	Swadeshi Stores	Godaveri, „	Trade in indigenous articles, etc.	10,000	...
	Total, Trading	.....	.....	2,25,000	...

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES—*concluded.*

No.	Class and Name.	Situation of Registered Office.	Object.	Capital. Nominal.	Capital. Paid-up.
	III.—Mills and Presses—			R	R
	(a) Cotton Mills—				
19	Tripura Company	Bengal	Business of spinners, weavers, etc., of cotton, jute, hemp, etc.	15,00,000	...
20	Bharat Hitaishi Spinning and Weaving Co.	„	Business of manufacture, dying, etc. of cotton, cotton stuffs, etc.	10,00,000	...
21	Barsi Spinning and Weaving Mills	Bombay	Spinning and weaving cotton, flax, etc.	10,00,000	...
22	Akola and Central India Spinning, Weaving and Manufacturing Co.	„	Ditto	7,50,000	...
	Total, Cotton Mills	.....	.....	42,50,000	...
	(b) Jute Mills—				
23	Belvedere Jute Mills	Bengal	Spinning, weaving, manufacturing, etc., jute.	14,00,000	...
	(c) Mills for Wool Silk, Hemp—				
24	Sharada Mills Co.	Delhi, Punjab	Spinning, weaving, manufacturing wool, etc.	5,00,000	...
	(d) Cotton and Jute Screws and Presses—				
25	Punjab Brothers Co.	Multan, Punjab	Ginning, pressing, etc., wool, hemp, etc.	2,50,000	...
	Total, Mills and Presses	.....	.....	64,00,000	...
	IV.—Planting—				
26	Western India Cotton Growing Syndicate	Bombay	Growing cotton and other fibrous substances.	52,000	...
	V.—Sugar Manufacture—				
27	Maharajgunge Desi Sugar Works	Bengal	Manufacturing, refining, etc., sugar, molasses, and dealing in wines and liquors, etc.	3,00,000	...
	Grand Total	.....	.....	85,12,810	...

ABSTRACT TABLE OF COMPANIES REGISTERED IN THE MONTH OF JULY 1906.

No.		Capital (Rs.) Nominal.	Capital (Rs.) Paid up.
6	Banking and Loan Companies	14,90,000	...
5	Insurance Companies	45,810	...
7	Trading Companies	2,25,000	...
4	Cotton Mills	42,50,000	...
1	Jute Mill	14,00,000	...
1	Mill for wool, silk, hemp, etc.	5,00,000	...
1	Cotton and jute screw and press	2,50,000	...
1	Cotton Planting Company	52,000	...
1	Sugar Manufacturing Company	3,00,000	...
27	Total	85,12,810	...

TOTAL GROSS INDIAN SEA AND LAND CUSTOMS REVENUE (EXCLUDING SALT REVENUE).

(In thousands of Rupees.)

	In the five months, April to August, of									
	1897-98	1898-99	1899-1900	1900-01	1901-02	1902-03	1903-04	1904-05	1905-06	1906-07
SEA CUSTOMS										
IMPORTS										
Special Import Duties										
Arms, ammunition, and military stores	1,30	1,21	1,12	1,02	1,13	1,30	1,19	1,60	1,35	1,53
Liquors—										
Ale, beer, porter, cider and other fermented liquors	81	80	84	80	86	88	1,09	1,18	1,12	1,19
Spirits and liqueurs	23,45	25,55	26,91	26,31	26,52	26,95	30,00	30,48	32,18	28,26
Wines	1,34	1,38	1,37	1,32	1,34	1,47	1,37	1,31	1,45	1,38
Opium	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	1
Petroleum	18,20	17,81	15,69	17,83	22,69	22,06	18,79	19,59	16,33	14,94
Sugar (countervailing duties, 1899)	—	—	1,36	7,96	14,23	14,06	1,92	6	1	...
Sugar (countervailing duties, 1902)	—	—	—	—	—	2,81	12	4	...	...
General Import Duties										
Articles of food and drink (excluding sugar)	4,79	4,29	4,73	5,14	4,56	4,63	4,78	5,33	6,74	6,70
Sugar (ordinary duties)	7,05	5,73	5,22	9,98	11,41	10,38	9,48	11,34	8,30	20,16
Chemicals, drugs, medicines and narcotics, and dyeing and tanning materials	3,96	4,09	4,47	4,04	4,63	4,72	5,47	5,14	5,45	5,80
Cotton manufactures—										
Piece goods, grey	16,09	18,74	21,38	18,40	20,12	21,90	20,66	21,94	26,26	28,31
" white	6,58	7,43	8,52	7,70	13,07	7,33	8,11	11,47	12,25	10,08
" coloured	4,74	7,10	10,13	7,63	8,93	8,32	10,63	11,98	12,46	12,27
Other goods	41	52	93	82	94	63	1,04	1,74	1,90	1,96
Metals and manufactures of—										
Silver, bullion and coin	15,97	15,68	12,45	4,63	12,39	19,25	14,88	19,44	14,88	17,83
Other metals and manufactures of metals	8,47	8,07	6,61	8,77	9,32	13,03	11,84	15,30	12,21	12,75
Oils (excluding petroleum)	95	78	56	56	67	67	41	40	46	86
Manufactured articles	15,56	17,21	20,31	20,01	23,48	21,95	25,08	29,25	30,62	31,67
Raw materials and unmanufactured articles	3,41	3,04	2,57	3,40	3,84	3,42	3,32	4,13	4,71	4,27
TOTAL IMPORTS	1,33,09	1,39,44	1,45,18	1,46,33	1,80,20	1,85,75	1,70,19	1,91,73	1,88,70	1,99,97
EXCISE DUTY ON COTTON GOODS	4,24	5,57	5,61	4,32	6,36	7,01	7,65	7,87	9,10	8,81
EXPORT DUTIES—										
Rice and Rice-flour	19,53	42,41	38,52	33,72	33,40	45,96	47,47	51,20	44,62	45,41
LAND CUSTOMS AND MISCELLANEOUS	2,97	2,84	3,05	3,34	3,35	3,59	3,69	4,04	3,35	3,79
GRAND TOTAL	1,59,83	1,90,26	1,92,36	1,87,71	2,23,31	2,42,31	2,29,00	2,54,84	2,45,77	2,57,98
Provincial distribution of Imports and Exports										
Bengal Imports	48,13	55,62	60,15	61,55	67,06	68,62	61,15	67,53	68,78	71,20
Bengal Exports	2,62	7,48	7,09	8,37	5,29	5,67	5,79	7,04	8,87	5,17
Eastern Bengal and Assam Imports	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
Eastern Bengal and Assam Exports	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	...
Bombay Imports	53,90	52,27	51,97	45,69	65,87	72,40	62,46	74,23	70,51	74,75
Bombay Exports	92	1,45	62	1,41	98	1,49	82	1,09	70	68
Sind Imports	8,11	8,99	9,23	13,91	18,64	18,24	14,24	14,71	15,66	19,19
Sind Exports	28	61	44	19	84	55	34	63	47	1,34
Madras Imports	13,03	10,57	12,50	12,92	14,96	14,56	16,31	16,35	16,30	15,63
Madras Exports	4,06	2,06	2,84	1,28	2,32	2,87	3,77	3,34	1,97	2,96
Burma Imports	9,92	11,99	11,33	12,26	13,67	11,93	16,03	18,91	17,45	19,02
Burma Exports	11,65	30,81	27,53	22,47	23,97	35,38	36,75	39,10	22,61	35,26

RETAIL PRICES.

The following are the Retail Prices of certain food-grains and salt at selected stations for the first half of August 1906. (Prices are stated in annas and pies per ser.)

	Rice, common	Wheat	Barley	Jawar	Bajra	Ragi	Gram	Salt
BURMA—	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.
Rangoon	1 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 10
Toungoo	1 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 6
EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM—								
Rangpur	2 8	1 11	...	...	...	...	...	1 4
Backerganj	2 2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 3
BENGAL—								
Calcutta	2 1	1 5	...	...	...	...	...	1 0
Patna	1 8	1 3	0 11	...	...	...	...	1 2
UNITED PROVINCES—								
Cawnpore	...	1 3	1 0	...	...	...	1 1	1 0
Fyzabad	...	1 4	1 0	...	...	...	1 1	1 2
Meerut	...	1 2	0 11	0 10	1 5	...	1 0	1 0
PUNJAB—								
Delhi	..	1 2	1 0	1 1	1 4	...	1 0	1 0
Amritsar	...	1 0	0 9	0 10	...	...	0 10	0 10
Ráwalpindi	...	1 1	0 9	1 1	1 0	...	1 0	0 10
SIND—								
Karáchi	...	1 4	...	1 2	1 3	...	1 3	0 9
BOMBAY—								
Belgaum	...	1 9	...	1 4	1 5	...	...	1 1
Ahmadnagar	...	1 7	...	1 4	1 4	...	...	0 11
Bombay	...	1 7	...	1 5	1 4	...	...	1 1
Ahmadabad	...	1 5	...	1 0	1 3	...	...	0 10
CENTRAL PROVINCES—								
Jubbulpore	...	1 2	...	...	...	...	1 2	1 2
Nagpur	1 7	1 3	...	1 1	...	...	1 5	1 3
Raipur	1 3	1 2	...	...	...	...	1 3	1 4
MADRAS—								
Bellary	2 0	...	...	1 2	...	1 2	...	1 0
Madras	2 2	...	...	...	...	1 4	...	0 9
Salem	2 2	...	...	1 4	1 6	1 3	...	1 1

GCP

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.

For the week ending 8th September 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign—Imports by sea into	Calcutta	lbs.	96,673
	Bombay	„	197,977
	Madras	„	380,800
Indian—Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	328,900
	Bombay	„	7,880,240
	Madras	„	...

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	20,267,378
	Bombay	„	3,976,989
	Karachi	„	1,075,536
	Madras	„	4,869,857
	Rangoon	„	245,120

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	5,279,044
	Bombay	„	2,807,431
	Karachi	„	1,586,602
	Madras	„	834,589
	Rangoon	„	960,158

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	3,530,840
	Bombay	„	3,242,580
	Karachi	„	3,532,854
	Madras	„	1,523,858
	Rangoon	„	1,856,571

Piece Goods.

(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta	cwt.	43,688
	Bombay*	„	10,216
	Karachi	„	16,967
	Madras	„	6,278

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea	cwt.	322
	Coastwise	„	2,897
	By rail	„	10,861
Imports into Karachi	by rail	„	...
„ „	Calcutta by rail and river	„	3,327

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta	cwt.	658,968
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags	No.	5,820,844
	„ cloth	yds.	17,516,600
	Jute	cwt.	432,409
Exports by sea from Chittagong	Jute	„	26,721

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta	lbs.	5,237,645
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	4,617,788
	Chittagong	„	273,350

WHEAT.

Imports into Calcutta	by rail and river	cwt.	137,471
Imports into Bombay	Karachi by rail	„	133,617
	By sea	„	1,417
	Coastwise	„	8,953
	By rail	„	23,478
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	1,074
	Bombay	„	12,403
	Karachi	„	184,385

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta	cwt.	25,022
	Chittagong	„	...
	Bombay	„	15,240
	Karachi	„	12,728
	Madras	„	33
	Rangoon	„	391,920

LINSEED.

Imports into Calcutta	by rail and river	cwt.	29,571
Imports into Bombay	By sea	„	18
	Coastwise	„	188
	By rail	„	10,277
Karachi by rail		„	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	44,445
	Bombay	„	86,491
	Karachi	„	30

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into Calcutta	by rail and river	cwt.	36,037
Imports into Bombay	By sea	„	...
	Coastwise	„	7
	By rail	„	11,956
Karachi by rail		„	30,720
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	745
	Bombay	„	16,622
	Karachi	„	30,163

* B., B. and C. I. Ry. figures only.

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 8th SEPTEMBER 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From All other foreign countries.	Total.
		galls.		galls.
Calcutta	...	41,050	298,982	340,032
Bombay	...	...	...	...
Karachi	...	375,773	...	375,773
Madras	...	...	...	...

Exports by sea from Burma to	Bengal	galls.	426,500
	E. B. & Assam	„	...
	Bombay	„	...
	Sind	„	...
	Madras	„	...
	Indian Ports, Non-Br.	„	...
	Foreign Ports	„	...

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 8th SEPTEMBER 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	513	...	27	3,037	5	...	3,582
Germany	...	...	2,070	16,850	...	...	18,920
Austria-Hungary	509	...	...	18,840	...	...	19,349
Other European Countries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Java	109,188	...	42	27,560	...	16,813	153,603
Mauritius	...	...	14,296	10,768	...	...	25,064
Other Non-European Countries	2,000	...	...	...	...	...	2,000
						Total refined	222,518
						Total unrefined	75,595
						Grand Total cwt	298,113

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta. [The prices include postage to countries in the Postal Union.]

ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 (2*a.*)

2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a.*)

3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—

   Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. R3. (12*a.*)

   Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port. R3. (12*a.*)

4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. R2. (7*a.*)

5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a.*)

6. Accounts of Trade of the French Possession in India. As. 3. (1*a.*)

7. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possession in India. As. 2. (1*a.*)

8. Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India. R4. (6*a.*)

9. Report on the Rail-borne and River-borne Trade of Bengal. R4.

10. Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan. R1½.

11. Prices and Wages in India. R1½. (9*a.*)

12. Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India. R4. (12*a.*)

13. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India. R2. (10*a.*)

14. Agricultural Statistics of India. R3½. (12*a.*)
    Part I.—British India.
    Part II.—Native States.

15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India. As. 5. (2*a.*)

QUARTERLY.

16. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a.*)

MONTHLY.

17. Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of British India. As. 8. (2*a.*)

18. Accounts of the External Land Trade of British India. As. 8. (2*a.*)

19. Statistics of the Production of Yarn and Woven Goods in the India Cotton Mills. As. 2.

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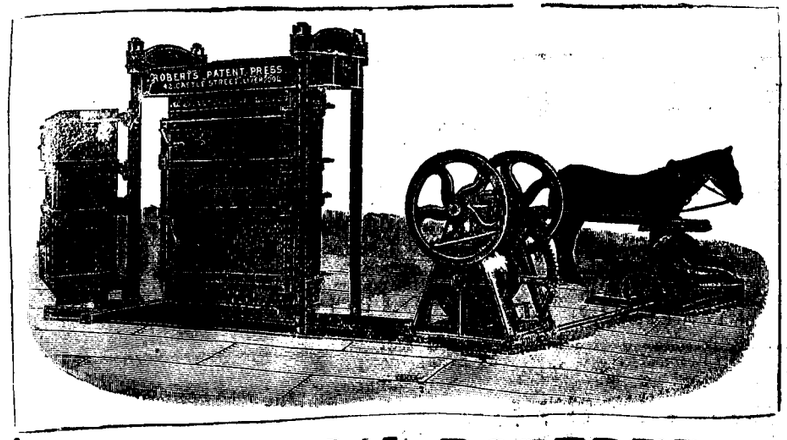
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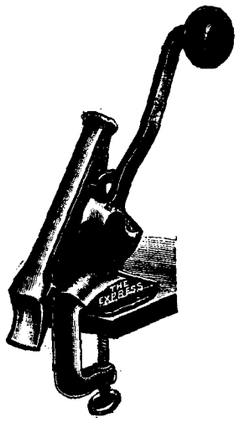
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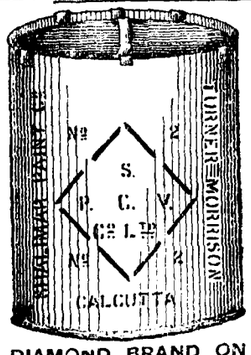
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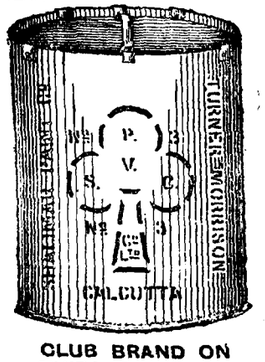
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NOTES.

The **trade in skins and hides from Siberia** is growing, and the Americans are pushing the business. Last year 12,120 tons were shipped from Riga against 11,530 tons in 1904.

The last **South Australian vintage** yielded 2,655,947 gallons as compared with 2,045,478 gallons in the previous year. The wine stocked at the end of June amounted to 5,800,298 gallons.

The **needle industry of Redditch has lately** been experiencing a more active demand from the chief foreign and colonial markets. Hand sewing needles of the medium and higher qualities are selling well for export. Full time is generally being worked.

Cigar manufacturers in **Cuba** fear that the revolution will make a good **tobacco crop** impossible. The seed-beds should be laid between the middle of August and the middle of September, but nothing has yet been done, and there is no prospect of planting at present.

The first Federal grand jury returned ten indictments against the **Standard Oil Company** before

the United States Circuit Court. The indictments contain 6,420 counts, all of which are in connection with the granting of rebates by railway companies, which are not, however, mentioned by name.

Castor oil and **ground nut** oil from **Southern Rhodesia** have been favourably reported upon by the Imperial Institute. Properly filtered, the castor oil would be worth about £26 to £28 per ton, and the ground nut oil, which is "probably superior to the highest grade oil met with in this country," is worth about £40 per ton.

It is hereby notified that such **articles** as legal documents, policies of insurance, promissory notes or ordinary bills for collection will not be accepted for **transmission by post** as a **V.-P. postal** article unless the sender declares that the document is sent in execution of a *bonâ fide* order received by him to send the document itself.

The extension of the **Beirut Railway** from Hamah to Aleppo has been completed, and direct communication is established with Beirut. The line joins the Damascus-Beirut railway at Rayak. The distance between Rayak and Aleppo is 332 kilometres. The inauguration will take place in September, and the line will be opened to traffic towards the end of October.

Japan's consent to the establishment of a **Custom House at Dalny,** says Reuter's Pekin correspondent, is apparently conditional on Russia's consent to the establishment of Custom Houses on the Manchurian border. Russia, however, appears unwilling to bind herself to any particular arrangements as regards Manchuria. If Dalny remains a free port it will greatly damage Newchwang which has hitherto been the base for all British-American trade in Manchuria.

Experimental **borings** in the southern portion of **Brazil** for the **location of coal seams** and other mineral wealth have been far more successful than was at first anticipated. Dr. Francisco Paulo E. Oliveira, in charge of the commission, reported to the Minister of Public Works that the borings at Tuberao showed at 64·80 metres(metre 39·37 inches) depth a coal strata 4·065 metres thick—3·260 metres of almost pure coal, 0·180 metre of coal and schist combined, and 0·655 metre of schist.

In his report upon the operations of the Paper **Currency Department** for 1905-06 the Head Commissioner remarks that it is satisfactory to find that the annual average active circulation which was 23,49 lakhs in 1902-03, has increased from 26,34 lakhs in 1903-04 to 28,11 lakhs in 1904-05 and 30,52 lakhs 1905-06. The progress has been rapid and regular and contrasts favourably with the slower and rather variable advances made during the preceding eight years.

A large increase has taken place in the circula tion of the five-rupee note. The circulation o these notes on 31st March 1906 was about 17 pe cent. and about 29 per cent. more than what i was on 31st March 1905 and 31st March 190 respectively. As these small-value notes are no held in any large quantities in the balances o treasuries or Presidency Banks, the increase repre sents an expansion of their active circulation amon the public. This increase must be due to a grea extent to the legislation of March 1903 making five rupee notes of any circle, except Rangoon, lega tender throughout India, except Burma, and encash able accordingly.

The representative of Dr. Heroult, of La Praz France, who took part in the Canadian electri smelting experiments at Sault Ste. Marie, ha announced that an **electric smelting plant** is t be fitted up at Band, California, complete and read for operation six months from now. It will consis of one 2,000 h.p. electric furnace, with a guarantee output of 20 tons of 2,240 lbs. of pig iron per day and if successful will be followed with a plan capable of smelting from 600 to 800 tons a day the greater part of which will be converted int soft steel for structural purposes. It is said tha the ore can be mined at 1*s.* 3*d.* per ton, and will cos delivered at the furnace, between 3*s.* 4*d.* and 4*s.* 2*d* per ton. The same gentleman expects to erect a plant in Mexico by this time next year.

The quantity of **salt** educed in the manufactur of saltpetre during the year and removed on pay ment of duty from all the refineries in the provinc was 16,262 maunds against 15,594 maunds in th previous year, showing an increase of 688 maund The increase was due to ordinary fluctuations in th trade. The quantity of salt of every descriptio cleared during the first quarter of 1906-07 in Benga was 33,10,896 maunds as against 23,66,672 maund and 29,25,770 maunds in the corresponding quarter o the previous year. The duty levied thereon wa Rs. 45,57,288 as against Rs. 32,87,095 in the pre vious quarter, and Rs. 40,89,115 in the correspond ing quarter of the previous year. The quantit of saltpetre salt excised in the refineries of th Lower Provinces was 4,955 maunds as against 6,67

maunds in the previous quarter and 5,458 maunds in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. The shipments of Liverpool salt for the port of Calcutta was 49,835 tons. During the quarter the prices of Liverpool *panga*, Bombay *karkatch* and Salif crushed rose and fell again, while those of Aden crushed fell and rose. The prices of Hamburg *karkatch* rose, while those of Muscat *karkatch* fell. There were no imports of Madras salt during the quarter.

The most important, administrative event in the **Salt Department of Bengal** for 1905-06 was the abolition of the salt *rawana* system which came into effect from 1st April 1906. The abolition of this system of passes *en route* was sanctioned on the ground that without counterbalancing advantages it hampered trade, interfered with distribution of salt and restricted consumption by raising prices. The Government loss of revenue, which was derived from fees and stamps on applications for *rawanas* amounted to about Rs. 31,000 a year. The quantities of salt imported by sea from different countries into Bengal during the year were 10,818,934 maunds against 11,465,094 maunds in the previous year, showing a decrease of 5·6 per cent.; on the other hand, 3,67,695 maunds of salt were imported from Port Said during the year against *nil* in the last two years. The importation of Madras salt showed a further decrease of about 50 per cent. which is ascribed to want of freight. The financial results of the year as compared with those in 1904-05 show a decrease of nearly Rs.70 lakhs, or 31·2 per cent. in the receipts and of Rs. 1,12,005, or 22·7 in the charges. The decrease in receipts is accounted for chiefly by the reduction of duty. The total quantity of salt consumed in the province was 94,93,618 maunds. This is exclusive of 5,80,292 maunds, the net export by land, but inclusive of 16,262 maunds educed from saltpetre. Of the total quantity, the saliferous tracts of this province took 15,92,503 maunds or 16·8 per cent. and the rest of the province 79,01,115 maunds or 83·2 per cent. The resulting rate of consumption per head in the saliferous tracts was 6 seers. or 12·3 lbs., and in the rest of the province 7 seers. 2 chittaks or 14·6 lbs. The rates of consumption per head of population in the Bombay and Madras Presidence during 1904-05 were 11·68 maunds and 17·1 lbs., respectively.

A **South Wales** authority, discussing the peculiar interest which the Welsh **coal owners** have in the question of **liquid fuel,** says it is generally recognised that oil has two conspicuous advantages. First and chiefly, convenience of handling; and secondly, that it requires less labour in firing up. Between three and four thousand tons of oil were pumped out of a steamer into the storage tanks at a South Wales port, and water ballast pumped into the vessel, within 24 hours, a fact which demonstrated in striking fashion the case with which oil fuel can be handled. Then, again, in the engine room the enormous labour of stoking is saved in oil ships, the feeding being practically automatic; there is less labour and a reduction in the wages bill. The problem of coaling ships at sea would be almost solved if oil were the fuel instead of coal, because the passing of a hose pipe from the tanker to the man-of-war and the setting of pumps to work would secure the quick refilling of the tanks with little risk. Besides the work could be carried out in conditions where coaling is absolutely impracticable. Oil, it has been declared, would be cheaper as a fuel, as well as be more easily handled, and could be applied under conditions where coal would be absolutely barred.

Nicaragua as a **gold mining** country has yet to make its name, but it has already given indication that it possesses a very tangible future. The Exploration Company, which is better known in connection with its South African, Mexican, and Alaska investment, has acquired interests in the country, while "Brother Jonathan" has naturally obtained a large stretch of land for exploitation. From recent reports to hand it is possible to glean that large quantities of gold must have been obtained by the Spaniards who worked the chutes down to the water level and, of course, thereupon abandoned them. Ancient workings are found in almost every part of the country, which as yet has not been thoroughly prospected. The climate in Nicaragua is generally healthy and the heat is never at any American danger of material fever, but if ordinary precautions are taken no trouble need be anticipated from this dread disease. The country, of course, lacks transport facilities, but this drawback is being gradually remedied. During the next few years it is anticipated that Nicaragua will largely augment the world's gold output.

A correspondent in the *Oil Paint and Drug Reporter* points out that the statement that for power purposes the **efficiency** of **alcohol** and **gasoline** is practically the same gallon for gallon is entirely erroneous. He contends that fuel quality or heating capacity is a matter of heat units. The analytical showing is as follows :—

	95 per cent. grain alcohol.	Heat units B. T. U.	Naptha.	Heats units B. T. U.
Carbon . .	49·44	6,922	86 00	12,040
Hydrogen . .	12·44	7,713	14·00	8,820
Oxygen . .	33·12	...	...	...
Water . . .	5·00	...	...	...
TOTAL .	100·00	14,635	100 00	20,860

The above table shows that gasoline gives 20,860 heat units per pound, against 14,635 for alcohol of

95 degrees. Now a gallon of alcohol of 95 degrees weighs 6,802 lbs., while gasoline 122,031 heat units per gallon, against 99,547 for alcohol. This being true it follows that in order to be an economic competitor, alcohol must be sold very much cheaper than gasoline. Raising the other important point in the fuel-value of denatured alcohol, namely, cost on the statement that the fluid will be sold at 24½ cents a gallon would be quite as economical. Gasoline, however, now sells at 15 cents a gallon, and denatured alcohol, to really compete with gasoline on the double basis of fuel-value and cost, should sell at 12½ cents. a gallon.

A total **American wheat crop** of 725 million bushels is now generally regarded as probable, which means that there will be an export surplus of 175 million bushels without touching the surplus of old wheat carried forward, which is larger than it has been for the past four years. Such a surplus as 175 million bushels may be considered sufficient to ensure comparatively low prices during the coming season, and would compare as follows with the exports from the United States in the six previous seasons :—

American wheat and flour exports for years ending June 30.

	Bushels.
1906-07	175,000,000*
1905-06	97,500,000
1904-05	43,500,000
1903-04	120,000,000
1902-03	202,000,000
1901-02	234,000,000
1900-01	215,000,000

* Estimated.

Lately a French patent, No. 300,173 and 4, has secured by Lagache, claiming that by the action of carbonic acid the lime present in the chloride of lime solution precipitates, allowing the use of the clear solution of hydochloric acid for **bleaching.** According to reports in the *Chemiker Zeitung* the results obtained by this new process are very favourable. Cross and Bevan report exceedingly favourable results with electrolytic bleaching liquids (Journ. Chem. Ind., 1887, p. 170); these have been retested by Pictet and also by Beadle (Chapters on Paper-Making. i, 56-57). Cross and Bevan state that they found in Hermite's process (no longer in use) that the electrolytically gained bleaching liquid from chloride of magnesia with reference to the therein contained chlorine, possesses almost double the strength of those bleaching liquids prepared in chloride of lime solutions. After Hunter proved that Hermite's process is by no means economical, it may appear that Hobling's views ("Fabrication of Bleaching Materials", p. 156) are correct in showing that Cross and Bevan's statements are evidently exaggerated, notwithstanding the interesting essay by Beadle, in which he tries to support their views. Other authors like Haeussermann (Dingler's Pol. Journal, CCCXV, vol. 30) place 30 kg. electrolytic chlorine equal to 100 kg. chloride of lime, consequently 30 : 35.

The following are **Mr. Sauerbeck's index-numbers** of the **prices** of forty-five commodities, given on August 3rd the average of the eleven years 1867-1877 being 100 :—

	Average.		Monthly Numbers.
1878-1887 . .	79	December, 1889 .	73·7
1886-1895 . .	68	February, 1895 .	60·0
1890-1899 . .	66	July, 1896 .	59·2
1896-1905 . .	68	July, 1900 .	76·2
		December, 1901 .	68·4
1884 . .	76	July, 1905 .	72·5
1896 . .	61	December, 1905 .	74·9
1900 . .	75	February, 1906 .	74·9
1901 . .	70	March, 1906 .	75·7
1902 . .	69	April, 1906 .	76·5
1903 . .	69	May, 1906 .	77·0
1904 . .	70	June, 1906 .	76·9
1905 . .	72	July, 1906 .	76·4

The index-number shows a further moderate reduction. Among articles of food, flour, barley, maize and tea ruled slighly lower, while sugar and coffee were somewhat dearer. For animal food products there was scarcely any change. In the case of materials, iron and copper were a little firmer, but tin declined from £176¾ to £170¾ per ton. Cotton and Jute were easier and foreign wool fell 5·10 per cent. No alterations occurred for sundry materials in the aggregate.

Taking articles of food and materials separately, the index numbers compare thus (1867-1877= 100) :—

	1878-1887. Average.	1886-1895. Average.	1806-1905. Average.
Food . .	84	71	67
Materials . .	76	66	69

	1895. Feb.	1896. July.	1900. Feb.	1900. July.	1905. Dec	1906. June.	1906. July.
Food .	63·8	60·0	65·8	71·2	68·7	69·1	68·7
Materials .	57·0	58·6	81·9	79·8	79·4	82·7	82·0

Silver.—The prices and index-numbers compare thus (68·84*d.* per oz. being the parity of 1 gold to 15½ silver=100) :—

	Price.		Index-Number.
Average, 1886-1895 . . .	40¼*d.*	=	66·2
Average, 1896-1905 . . .	27⅛*d.*	=	44·6
Average, 1896	30¾*d.*	=	50·5
End December, 1900 . . .	29 9/16*d.*	=	48·6
Lowest, November, 1902 . .	21 11/16*d.*	=	35·6
End December, 1904 . . .	28⅜*d.*	=	46·6
End Marc,h 1905 . . .	25 13/16*d.*	=	42·4
End December, 1905 . . .	30*d.*	=	49·3
End June, 1906	30 3/16*d.*	=	49·6
End July, 1906	30 1/16*d.*	=	49·4

A **Manchester Textile market** report, dated August 29th, says there has been very little life in the market. The uncertainty of the raw cotton situation leads shippers of cloth to abstain from operating except for actual requirements. It is thought that in due course manufacturers will want business, and rates will then favour buyers. It remains to be seen who will have to give way—either exporter or seller. Favourable news continues to come through from the American cotton belt. The weather in certain districts has not been altogether favourable but, speaking broadly, the plant seems to be making good progress. In cloth for export a little better enquiry for some markets has shown itself. A few odd lots have been sold for Calcutta and Bombay, but the sales for our Dependency at the moment are quite unimportant. The prospects for India are healthy, the rainfall being very satisfactory. Rather better advices have come through from Shanghai, and China offers are more frequent. Buyers, however, are not prepared to pay the prices which manufacturers hold for. Printing cloths have been in some request for the South American markets, but offers, as a rule, do not meet with the views of manufacturers. Burnley printing cloths have again moved slowly, and in the commoner kinds some slight pressure for fresh contracts has shown itself. T-cloths and Mexicans continue deeply sold, but little is being done in the way of booking fresh orders. Fine goods, such as mull-dhooties, are hardly saleable at the moment, the bids not being of a character to be entertained by producers. In the home trade houses a healthy feeling prevails, and the outlook for the autumn trade continues bright.

The **statistical summary of vessels totally lost, condemned,** etc., now published by Lloyd's Register, shows that during 1905 the gross reduction in the effective mercantile marine of the world amounted to 883 vessels, of 792,354 tons, excluding all vessels of less than 100 tons. Of this total, 382 vessels, of 527,978 tons, were steamers, and 501, of 264,876 tons, were sailing vessels. Strandings and kindred casualties which are comprised under the term "wrecked" are much the most prolific cause of disaster. To such casualties are attributable 41·6 per cent. of the losses of sailing vessels. The next most common termination of a vessel's career, is by condemnation, breaking up, etc., 22·3 per cent. of the steamers and 27·3 of the sailing vessels removed from the merchant fleets of the world being accounted for in this manner. Of the remaining causes of loss, collision is the most general for steamers (9·7 per cent.); while for sailing vessels cases of vessels reported to be missing and of abandonment at sea come next in order of frequency (between 8 and 9 per cent). Cases of abandoned, foundered, and missing vessels are no doubt frequently more or less similar in the circumstances of loss. If these be taken collectively, they comprehend 20·4 per cent. of the steamers, and 22·2 per cent. of the sailing vessels removed from the mercantile marine during 1905. Lloyd's return is compiled in such a manner as to enable a comparison to be made between the percentages of loss suffered by each of the principal merchant navies in the world. Great as the absolute annual loss of vessels belonging to the United Kingdom appears to be, it is seen to form a very moderate percentage of the mercantile marine of the country, and to compare favourably with the average of the losses sustained by other leading maritime countries. The merchant navies which exceed a total of 1,00,000 tons are those of the United Kingdom, the British Colonies, the United States of America, France, Germany, Italy, and Norway. The percentage of steamers lost by the United Kingdom during 1905 was 1·34 while the average percentage for the other six countries was 1·35; as regards sailing vessels the percentages were 3·37 for the United Kingdom and 4·114 for the other six countries. These figures show that steamers have a much greater immunity from disaster than have sailing vessels. The average of the yearly percentages of losses during the five years 1901-1905 for vessels owned in the United Kingdom was 1·60 per cent., as compared with 2·99 per cent. for vessels owned by the other six countries together.

The **movements of the precious metals** continue very interesting in consideration of the cost of credit and the discussions on bank reserves in the United Kingdom. The imports of gold show a moderate increase for the month as against the corresponding month in the two previous years, the total amount received in July being £2,752,357 or about a quarter of a million sterling more than in July last year and nearly three-quarters of a million sterling above July 1904. The chief source of supply has, of course, been South Africa, which has contributed upwards of 2 millions, or about half a million sterling more than in July 1905, and upwards of double the amount in July 1904. The Australasian contribution, though only small compared with that of South Africa, also shows an increase. The United States, Mexico, and Canada are again conspicuous by their failure to supply us with any of the product of their auriferous mines, and for Russia also a blank is recorded. The total recorded export of gold during July is £1,544,820, so that apparently we have retained from the month's receipts £1,207,537 as an addition to our stock, or for consumption in the arts and manufactures for which the yellow monetary metal is a material. Of the gold exports for the month about one half has been sent to the United States, and we have also sent to British India—likewise a gold-producing country—nearly twice as much as we have received thence. Of the total amount of gold received during the expired seven months of the year, £25,789,348 we have exported £19,106,163, leaving in our hands in some form gold to the amount of £6,683,185. The imports of silver are valued at £1,419,001 for the month, and the exports at £1,478,484. Of the white metal exported, £1,016,675 represents the shipments to India, to which market alone we have sent during the seven months silver to the value of £10,678,544 out of a total value of £11,756,732 received during the same period from all sources.

The **prices of opium** in the Calcutta market during the week ending 15th September 1906 were per chest, as follows:—

Behar opium—Rs.1,434; 1,420; 1,420; 1,419; 1,442; 1,451; 1,450.

Benares opium.—Rs. 1,330; 1,320; 1,320; 1,315; 1,330; 1,330; 1,330.

Time bargains for Behar opium of the 10th sale of 1906:—Rs. 1,434; 1,420; 1,420; 1,419; 1,442; 1,451; 1,450.

China market, Hong-Kong (exchange Rs. 164½ to 165 per 100 dollars).

$930; 930; 930; 900 to 925; 902½; 905, 915 to 217; 915, 922 to 922½; 922.

Shanghai (exchange Rs. 224 to 225 per 100 Taels) three sales on 11th, 12th and 13th of 670 Taels, 652, to 662 Taels, and 663 to 675, Taels, respectively.

Benares.—Three sales in the Hong-Kong market on 12th, 13th and 14th of $845; $842½, 845 to 855 and $855; while three sales, Shanghai, on 11th 12th and 13th of 620 Taels, 605 to 610 Taels, and 612 to 620 Taels respectively.

The daily prices of opium in the Bombay market for the week ending 8th September were—for A class (season 1905-06) Rs. 1,310 to 1,405; for B class (season 1904-05) Rs. 1,430 to 1,600; class C, old (season 1903-04) Rs. 1,640 to 1,700. The latest China prices ascertained were for new classes (A and B) Rs. 1,523 to 1,533; old (class C) fetched at Hong-Kong Rs. 1,736 and at Shanghai Rs. 1,741.

THE HON. MR. FINLAY.

Mr. James Fairbairn Finlay, M.A., C.S.I., who has been appointed Honourable Member in charge of Commerce and Industry, in succession to the Honourable Mr. Hewett, was born in 1852. Educated at Edinburgh Academy and University; he was appointed after examination to the Indian Civil Service in 1873; arrived in India, 17th November, 1875; and served in the Punjab as Assistant Commissioner; transferred to Financial Department of Government of India, May, 1881, and served in the North-West Province and Oudh as Officiating Assistant and Deputy Accountant-General; Assistant Comptroller General, July, 1882. He was after that Officiating Accountant-General, Bengal, June, 1886; Deputy Auditor-General, November, 1887; Under-Secretary to Government of India, Financial Department, November, 1887; Officiating Accountant-General, North-West Province and Oudh, December, 1887, Deputy Secretary to Government of India, Financial Department, April, 1889; Secretary, May, 1892. He was decorated with the C.S.I. May, 1896. In April 1902 he was a temporary member of Governor-General's Council. He retired from the Indian Civil Service, May 1903; and was appointed Member of the Council of India, May 1903.

FINAL JUTE FORECAST 1906.
Consolidated Forecast for the two Provinces of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam.

Year.	Estimated acreage under jute.	Estimated outturn in bales.
1905	3,128,300 (*a*)	8,088,093 (*a*)
1906	3,336,400 (*b*)	8,736,220 (*b*)

(*a*) Revised figures.

(*b*) These figures do not include the figures for Cooch Bihar, Nipal, Madras and Upper India. The Cooch Bihar State has failed to communicate figures for the current season. Last year's figures were as fololws:—

	Bales.
Cooch Bihar	52,800
Nipal	64,302
From Upper India *vid* E.I. Railways	26,269
From stations outside Bengal *vid* B.N. Railway	4,257

A considerable increase may be expected in the figures for the current year.

A small area of jute has been cultivated in North Bihar this year. A few thousand bales only may be expected from this source.

NOTICE.
General Utility Motor.

A Calcutta Firm has furnished particulars of a general utility motor intended to perform the various functions referred to on pages 768 and 802 of the Journal, and these particulars will be shewn to anyone calling at the Office of the Director-General, Commercial Intelligence, 5 Clive Street.

ENQUIRY,
Egypt.—Indian Wheat.

The Egyptian War Ministry invite tenders for the supply of 5,000 ardebs of Indian wheat to be delivered into the Government Stores at Suakin. Tenders, accompanied by a sample of the wheat, must be submitted to the Financial Secretary, War Office, Cairo, on stamped paper before noon on the 16th October next, and should be sent in sealed envelopes marked "Tender for supply of Indian Wheat at Suakin." The wheat is to be of 1906 crop, of good quality, dry, free from all foreign substances, and must not contain more than 4 per cent. of barley. Quotations are to be made in current Egyptian money per ardeb of 135 kilos. A deposit of £E. 200 is required to qualify any tender.

Military supplies—Calls for Tenders.

SEALED tenders for supplies required for daily issue to Nos. 1 and 9, Military Batteries, Royal Garrison Artillery, on the line of March from Quetta to Umballa *via* Loralai, Dera Ghazikhan and Multan between 1st December 1906 and 14th February 1907 will be received by the Officer Commanding Station Supply Quetta on Friday the 28th Septemher 1906.

II. Forms of tender and particulars as regards stages, dates of arrival at each, and other information can be obtained from the Officer Commanding Station Supply, Quetta.

LIFT IRRIGATION.

THE little volume on the subject of Lift Irrigation by Mr. Alfred Chatterton of Madras is full of excellent matter and is likely to be of real service. It is made up of articles which have appeared from time to time in various Indian periodicals but which gain very considerably in value by being collated. Some repetition there almost necessarily is in a series of articles so brought together, but the rarity of such repetition in the present case evidences not only the methodical manner in which the ground is quartered but the wealth of facts to be surveyed. It is perhaps in this wealth of specific fact that Mr. Chatterton's volume presents its most distinctive merit. Whether he is discussing the general laws that govern the flow and level of a subterranean water supply, the principles on which such sources should be tapped, the methods of raising and distributing water, the efficiency of the various engines and pumps available, the cost of fuel, supervision and repairs, on the power developed by windmills of diverse types with varying wind velocities, he furnishes all the relevant facts; and while refraining from the sort of generalisation that vitiates many books of a similar class, he does not fail to point out the reasonable deductions to be drawn from the figures stated. Indeed his wealth of fact forbids any resort to the reviewer's ordinary expedient of quotation; and our criticism we would offer is very much of the nature of a compliment; namely that a book so rich in definite and valuable data ought to have been accompained by a very full index. Even without that index however the book forms a useful contribution to the literature of a very important subject and if it finds its way into the hands of all those officers and other persons throughout the country who ought to be familiar with its contents we may hope before long to see a new edition accompanied by such an index as we have suggested.

The following extracts from Mr. Chatterton's introduction indicates the scope of the work but is far from suggesting the capacity with which it is handled:—

During the last two years about 40 oil engines and centrifugal pumps have been installed in Madras for irrigation work and the number is now very rapidly increasing. The earlier installations gave some trouble, but with increased experience that can now be avoided, and all the installations in private hands have yielded such satisfactory financial results, that their number is steadily increasing and there is every prospect that, in a year or two, there will be a considerable boom in this direction. It is very difficult to get accurate records of work done and results achieved where the engines and pumps belong to private owners, and one has to be content with the general terms in which they express their satisfaction and the readiness with which they are prepared to incur further outlay when such expenditure is obviously desirable. Two very important conclusions have been arrived at:—

(1) That even with very small oil engines and pumps the cost of lifting water is less than one-half the cost of lifting water by means of cattle.

(2) That in the selected instances dealt with the provision of more powerful pumping appliances has been followed by deepening the wells or in other ways improving the source of supply, with the result that the available quantity of water has been very largely increased.

Previous to the installation of an oil engine and pump at Melrosapuram it is doubtful if there were any wells in this country worked with more than six *kavalais* or *mhotes*, and on this assumption it would be safe to say that there was no well yielding more than 120,000 gallons of water a day for irrigation, but now under oil engines and pumps we have a considerable number of wells yielding from 10,000 to 30,000 gallons of water per hour can be sunk.

Although great improvements can be effected by the adoption of oil engines and pumps in lift irrigation, it must not be forgotten that when everything has been done in this direction that can be done, still the great bulk of the irrigation under wells in this Presidency will either remain as it is or have to be undertaken by some mechanical method which can deal with much smaller quantities of water than is feasible with centrifugal pumps. Except in regard to capital outlay the windmill with a wheel from 12 to 16 feet in diameter forms an almost ideal motor for use on the wells which are to be found in the greater part of this Presidency. In most places there is sufficient wind and the wind blows with sufficient certainty to be relied upon for irrigation without having to provide inconveniently large storage reservoirs. It is not likely that much can be done to improve the wind engine, but our experience with pumps leads to the conclusion that the ideal irrigation pump has yet to be designed. The time has not yet arrived when it will be safe to advise the wholesale introduction of windmills among the ryots, but the fact that they can be obtained with a capacity for lifting water equal to that of one, two or three *mhotes*, renders them extremely suited to the wells of this country, and there is but little doubt that over considerable areas where the wind movements are sufficiently strong, windmills will ultimately be as common in India as they now are in the western States of America. It is, therefore, eminently desirable that experiments with windmills should be continued and that the failure of first attempts should not discourage further efforts.

Next to the *mhote* the *piccotah* worked by men is the most important machine for lifting water in use in this country. Where the sub-soil water is but a few feet below the surface it is almost universally employed, but it is not worked with advantage when the lift exceeds from 12 to 16 feet. *Piccotah*

irrigation is very extensively pursued in most of the coast districts and generally in places where it is perfectly practicable to sink any number of wells capable of yielding sufficient water for the employment of centrifugal pumps It is quite certain that, at the present time, *piccotah* irrigation is limited, not by the amount of water available, but by the supply of labour to work the piccotah. This is probably also true, to some extent, of *mhote* irrigation which is limited by the number of cattle which can be conveniently spared for such work. The gradual expansion of water-lifting by mechanical means, whether it be by the oil engine and centrifugal pump, by the windmill and reciprocating pump, or by various water-lifting devices driven by electrically distributed power, is, therefore, to be welcomed as a material contribution to the development of the agricultural resources of the country, since there is no doubt that they will help to increase the supplies of water available for irrigation. Incidentally—and yet this by itself is a matter of great importance. The gradual extension of the employment of mechanical contrivances will greatly increase the efficiency of labour in this country. Already rice-hulling is, to some extent, done by modern machinery and of late number of sugar-cane-crushing mills have been installed of such a size as to necessitate the employment of oil engines to drive them. The results which have been obtained with these show a great saving in the cost of cane crushing and a considerable increase in the percentage of juice extracted as compared with the small iron mills driven by country bullocks.

The improvement of Indian agriculture is on all sides recognised as a matter of vital importance and there is a tendency among our agricultural experts out here to dwell too much upon the results which are likely to follow by the establishment of agricultural schools and experimental farms. The lack of capital on the part of the agriculturist is the greatest obstacle that at present exists to the improvement of Indian agriculture, and when that capital is forthcoming the bulk of it can be spent to the best advantage by the agricultural engineer. The Government of Madras, by the application of the Agricultural Improvement Loans Act, has rendered it possible for wealthy ryots to obtain capital to develop their land at moderate rates of interest, but the working of the Act is somewhat cumbrous and its provisions regarding the security which has to be furnished for loans often render it impossible for ryots to avail themselves of it. In many cases the profits which can be realised from the application of water to land are so great that it is desirable that some convenient scheme should be devised whereby ryots should be able to obtain the advantages of water-lifting machinery more readily than they can do so at present. Frequently the minute sub-division of the land and the impossibility of getting landowners to co-operate presents almost insuperable difficulties, but in not a few cases if the machinery were supplied on the hire-purchase system it would prove a satisfactory solution.

CYPRUS AS ENTREPOT FOR THE LEVANT.

An article on this subject appeared in the *Journal* of the 5th April last. It quoted figures to show that the trade of India with the Levant is already considerable, and explained that the main impediment to very large expansion is to be found in the difficulty, under the Turkish Courts, of obtaining payment or otherwise enforcing the conditions of a contract relating to goods that have been landed in Turkey. It was pointed out that this difficulty might be solved by establishing, within easy reach of the maritime markets of Asia Minor and Anatolia, an entreport where goods could be warehoused under the jurisdiction of British Courts and shipped to Turkish markets in such small consignments as the state of individual credit might warrant. It was further shown that the construction of a sheltered port and warehouses at Famagusta and the existence of a weekly mail service between Port Said and that port marked it out as an entrepôt of very great possibilities to the Indian trader.

The article in question dealt with the various aspects of the matter in some detail and concluded with an intimation that the Director General of Commercial Intelligence was prepared to render active assistance in procuring co-operation between merchants interested in the various branches of the Levant trade. The circumstance that the article referred to appeared in the first number of this Journal possibly prevented its commanding on its own merits that attention to which the importance of the subject entitled it; and it is certain that six months ago the cotton spinners of India were so fully engaged elsewhere as to have no eyes for a market that had acquired a somewhat evil name.

It is possible that circumstances have somewhat, changed in recent months, and we think it well to direct attention once more to the subject. Letters just received from Cyprus state that although the fresh mail contract has not yet been signed, the service is maintained by the Limassol Steamship Company whose steamers call at Famagusta every Friday evening or Saturday morning. It is also stated that the Imperial Ottoman Bank has opened at Famagusta a branch which is worked as a dependency of the agency at Larnaca. This will probably do much to facilitate business for the bank in question has extensive and intimate relations with the various Turkish markets.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

The *Board of Trade Journal* published on the 30th August, in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations, gives particulars about :—

British India.—Additions to Free List.

North-Western Rhodesia (Barotziland).—Wastage Allowance for Beer, Ale, Spirits and Wine.

Sarawak.—Export Duties.

Jamaica.—Petroleum Law, 1906.

Bermuda.—Revised Customs Tariff.

Netherlands.—Tariff Decision. Regulations respecting the Importation of Animals from the United Kingdom.

Switzerland.—Requirements as to Certificates of Origin.

Italy.—Tariff Modifications.

Conventional Congo Basin (Western Zone).—Exchange of *Notes* respecting Customs Regimé.

Roumania.—Regulations respecting the Importation of Vines and Grapes.

Turkey.—Exportation of certain Animals from Scutari Prohibited.

United States of America.—Stamping of Consular Invoices and Documents. Importation of Animals for Breeding Purposes. New Port of Delivery for "Immediate Transportation." *Pro Formâ* and Consular Invoices. Differences of Value of Goods. Customs Decisions.

Chile.—Customs Decisions. Consular Fees for Invoices relating to Consignments of Coin.

Columbia.—Duty Free Admission of Sugar Refining Machinery.

Japan.—Time of Application of New Customs Tariff. Tariff Classifications under Forthcoming New Customs Tariff.

We give the following particulars of changes interesting to Indian Trade :—

SARAWAK.

Export Duties.

The Government of Sarawak have issued an additional list of duties leviable on articles exported from the Territory of Sarawak.

The following statement shows the changes contained in the list now received :—

Articles.		Rates of Export Duty.	
		Dols.	cts.
Birds' nests, white	per catty	2	0
" " black (from Niah)	"	0	15
Birds nests, white (all other kinds)	" "	0	25
Damar, Darat or Laut	per pikul	0	15
Gutta, *Jelutong*	"	0	50
" Jangkar	*ad val.*	10%	
" All other kind	per pikul	8	0
Indiarubber	"	12	0
Pepper, black	"	1	25
" white	"	1	50

ITALY.

Tariff Modifications.

The following are some of the modifications of tariff in Italy :—

[Lira (100 centesimi) = 9·6*d.*; 100 kilogs. = 220·46 lbs.] Additions to the Tariff are printed in *italic* type.

Tariff No.	Articles.	Rate of Duty. Former.	Present.
		Lire Per	cts. 100 kilogs	Lire. cts. Per 100 kilogs.
63	Medicinal woods, barks, leaves, lichens, flowers, herbs, fruits and seeds, not specially mentioned—			
(*a*)	Not powdered . . .	2	00	3 00
	Powdered . . .			30 00
67 (*b*)	Cinchona bark—			
	Not powdered . .	Free		Free.
	Powdered . . .			20 00
69 *bis*	Cocoa butter . . .	10	00	30 00
71 *bis*	Vegetable tar . .	8 2	00 00	2 00
96	Tissues of linen and of hemp—			
167 *bis*	Tissues, galloons, laces, tulles, knitted goods, trimmings and the like, of gold or silver, real or imitation.—			
(*a*)	With threads of gold or silver, real or with gilt or silvered threads . .	Various rates		15 00
(*b*)	Other			12 00

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Consular Invoices and other Documents—*Stamping of.*

Section 10 of a recent Act of the United States Congress provides that "whenever a consular officer of the United States is required or finds it necessary to perform any consular or notarial act he shall prepare and deliver to the party or parties at whose instance such act is performed a suitable and appropriate document as prescribed in the Consular Regulations, and affix thereto and duly cancel an adhesive stamp or stamps of the denomination or denominations equivalent of the fee prescribed for such consular or notarial act; and no such act shall be legally valid within the jurisdiction of the

Government of the United States unless such stamp or stamps is or are affixed and cancelled."

Exporters to the United States should therefore be careful to have their Consular invoices properly stamped, as no invoice will be accepted without the stamp. Entry may, however, be made on a *pro formâ* invoice with the imperfect invoice attached, and bond given for the production of a legal Consular invoice,

WEATHER SUMMARY.

For the week ending the 15th September 1906.

DURING the period under review there was nearly general rain in the United Provinces, the Central Provinces, Central India and the Burma coast, light to moderate nearly general rain in Orissa, Eastern Bengal and Assam, Chota Nagpur, Bihar, the Punjab and Rajputana, light nearly general rainfall in the Peninsula, while a few falls occurred in the interior of South India, on the Madras Coast, in Gujarat and in the Bombay Deccan. The principal amounts of rainfall were:—Nowgong 6·66″, Narayanganj 5·13″, Kotah 4·81″, Jalpaiguri 4·52″, Balasore 4·18″, Pendra 4·17″, Gauhati 3·97″, Dehra Dun 3·75″, Moulmein 3·68″, Akyab 3·64″, Meerut 3·46″, Jhansi 3·44″, Neemuch 3·35″, Diamond Island 3·34″, Sutna 3·33″, Pachmarhi 2·98″, Tezpur 2·88″, Hazaribagh 2·52″, Sirsa, 2·41″, Dibrugarh 2·31″, Simla 2·31″, Saugor 2·27″, Rawalpindi 2·21″, Cawnpore 2·21″, Mainpuri 2·16″, Minbu 2·02″, Mount Abu 1·97″, Madura 1·90″, Delhi 1·86″ and Murree 1·79″.

At the beginning of the week the trough of low pressure was nearer to the hills than usual, and within it the barometer was lowest at Allahabad with a shallow depression at the head of the Bay: the latter moved into Chota Nagpur on the 12th and then on the 13th travelled in a west-north-westerly direction to the neighbourhood of Sutna and on the 14th in a north-westerly direction. Rainfall for the period was therefore heavy in Bundelkhand and widespread in the United Provinces, while at the middle of the period it had extended over the greater part of the Punjab and Rajputana. A break in the rains prevailed over the Peninsula, any rainfall which was received being confined to the West Coast.

In Burma the Bay monsoon was fairly active, and rainfall was abundant except in the north. Skies were moderately overcast, and temperature did not differ by more than 4° from the normal.

The shallow depression which existed at the head of the Bay from the 9th to 11th gave favourable rain in deltaic Bengal, Chota Nagpur, and Orissa where the precipitation was in excess of the normal for the week, but in the remainder of north-east India it was less than usual. Skies were generally moderately overcast, and temperature was normal or in defect in deltaic Bengal, Orissa, and Chota Nagpur; elsewhere in north-east India it was in excess.

There occurred excellent rain in the United Provinces from the 9th to the 11th when heavy rain fell also in Central India east; under the influence of the depression which advanced to Sutna precipitation was continued on the 13th. In Central India west, weather was dry in the beginning when very light precipitation occurred at a few stations in the Central Provinces. Afterwards the monsoon strengthened and gave plenty of rain in Central India west and light rain over a large part of the Central Provinces. Skies were moderately overcast in the United Provinces and heavily overcast in the other two areas. Temperature was in slight excess at the beginning of the period in the United Provinces and normal in Central India, and the Central Provinces, but at the close it was generally in defect and the greatest deficiency occurring during the week was 7° at nowgong on the 11th.

Weather was disturbed during part of the week in Kashmir, and this combined with the monsoon to produce rather heavy precipitation in the North-west Punjab with widespread rain in the remainder of the province and in the Frontier Province. All the stations had reported rain, the smallest amounts being 3 cents. at Peshawar and the largest 6·23 cents. at Rawalpindi. In Rajputna also the week's rainfall was well distributed and much more than is usual at this time of the year. In Gujarat the monsoon gave very little rain during the week, but some had been recorded at every station. Skies were moderately to heavily overcast in the east Punjab, Rajputana and Gujarat, but in the south-west Punjab they were generally clear until the 13th when they became moderately clouded. Temperature was in excess in Sind throughout the period, in defect in Gujrat and normal in Rajputana, while in the Punjab it was in excess during the first part of the week and in considerable defect at the end.

Slight rain fell on the west coast, but in the remainder of the Peninsula the weather was dry except for a few isolated falls. Temperature was approximately normal in the Deccan and in slight excess elsewhere. Skies were only lightly overcast in the interior of the Peninsula during the greater part of the week and moderately overcast in the rest of the Peninsula.

The rainfall of the whole monsoon period to date was practically normal over by far the greater part of the country. It was in slight to moderate excess in the West Satpuras and the sub-divisions of Simla, Indore and Mysore and was in defect only in Baluchistan, Sind and the sub-divisions of Jaipur and Cuttack.

The Simla rainfall now exceeds one hundred inches, the actual totals being from May 1st to September 15th, 85·76 inches; and from January 1st to September 15th, 100·67 inches. The Simla rainfall records begin with 1862, and since that year the largest totals recorded between May 1st and September 30th were, in 1862, 80·80 inches, and in 1894, 79·68 inches. The heaviest fall in any one year was 109·71 inches in 1894, and this appears likely to be exceeded this year, as the storm which is at present giving heavy rain is hardly over yet.

THE following telegram, dated the 17th of September, was despatched to the Secretary of State regarding crop prospects. Crop prospects for the ending week the 8th September last.

United Provinces: Good rain has fallen in affected districts, and prospects are much improved. Crops are flourishing. Early crops are being harvested. All relief operations have been closed in Cawnpore. All relief works will be closed on the 15th instant, and gratuitous relief gradually reduced next month.

Rajputana: Rainfall has been general. Prospects have improved everywhere. Crops are doing well. Prices have fallen generally, but are still high. Relief works have been closed in three states.

Central India: Rainfall general. Crops are in good condition generally Early harvest has begun in parts.

Bombay: Good rain has fallen. Crops are doing well. The condition of cattle is improving. Prices are falling. The numbers on relief are decreasing steadily.

Eastern Bengal: Floods are subsiding. Crop prospects are fair generally. Scarcity continues in four districts. The numbers on relief are decreasing. Prices are still very high, in spite of large imports of rice from Burma and Calcutta. Large numbers of persons are receiving gratuitous relief in Darbhanga, where great distress has been caused by the floods. Prices continue high.

Prospects are unfavourable in other provinces.

The following are the numbers of persons in receipt of relief in thousands:—United Provinces 134; Ajmer and Rajputana 25; Central India 7; Bombay 63; Eastern Bengal 2; Total 231.

Since the end of the week there has been excellent rain throughout the United Provinces, Central India, Rajputana and Punjab.

CONSULAR REPORT.

RIGA.

IN the course of his report on the trade of Riga for 1905, Mr. Consul Woodhouse remarks;—In the year 1905 the trade of Riga suffered in common with that of many other Russian towns. The strikes and the disorders which arose had not only the effect of paralysing business, but they damaged credit both at home and abroad. At the close of the year all was chaos, and gravest anticipations were entertained as to the future. Later on, however, matters showed signs of mending, and merchants and manufacturers began to entertain the hope that trade and industry would soon spring into life again. And, indeed, there is every reason to believe that such will be the case. One thing is certain; there is little to be apprehended from strikes. The Russian workman has learnt a lesson. He has seen the folly of chasing a "will-o-the-wisp" and is beginning to exercise a little common sense. In the recent struggle he has gained nothing, his pocket has been cleared out by the League, and he has to pay more for the ordinary necessaries of life.

According to the returns issued by the Riga Exchange Committee, the total quantity of coal imported into Russia in 1905 was 3,516,476 tons, or 444,506 tons more than in 1904. At the same time the importation of British coal fell from 2,386,794 to 2,344,365 tons, a difference of 42,429 tons, while Germany and Austria-Hungary supplied 393,960 tons more than in the previous year, the respective figures being 1,005,483 tons in 1905, and 611,523 tons in 1904. But the bulk of this coal went to Poland, 797,095 tons entering the country by Ssosnowice alone. The importation of coal into Riga fell off in 1905 owing to the strikes and consequent cessation of work, and also to the partial stoppage of supplies in November and December, but this deficit has since been made good, and the demand for British coal continues as before. According to reports which come in from all sides the outlook for 1906 is promising, and British shippers may expect to do a large business.

The estimated total value of the exports from Riga in 1905 is put down at £13,955,256, the highest level the shipments from these ports have ever attained, and this in face of the difficulties which beset the trade and commerce of Russia during the greater part of the year, The disorganised condition of the railways, particularly those connected with the Siberian lines, proved a great stumbling block to the grain trade. Supplies from the eastern provinces, instead of being weeks, were often months on the way, so that it was no light matter to get shipments together. Still the total amount of business done was even larger than in 1904. Of wheat the exports are returned at 117,422 tons, a trifle less than in the preceding year, but of oats the shipments show an increase from 19,645 to 56,282 tons. Barley again fell off, 3,063 tons only being shipped. In rye there was an increase, but the quantity exported did not exceed 4,570 tons. A large increase is noticiable in the shipments of linseed, both of sowing and crushing seed, and the quality is reported to have been very fair.

The flax crop of 1905 was at first reported to be equal to that of 1904, but it turned out there was a deficiency in the Hofs districts, in some of which the yield was not more than 5 per cent. of the average. Bad sprouting seed is said to have been the cause of this shortage. As regards the quality of the flax, both Livonian and Courland proved to be particularly good. Notwithstanding the shortage of the crop, the business done during the year was very large. There were the usual incomprehensible fluctuations of prices. They started low in the early part of the year and gradually advanced until the new crop came in, when, although the

1905 flax was better than that of 1904 and its quantity limited, spinners abroad held back from buying and prices weakened. And right through the autumn up to December there was the same tendency, but, as the end of the year approached, a firmer tone set in, and sales were effected at full prices.

In 1903 the prices of sawn goods again ruled against the Riga shippers, although there was every reason why they ought to have improved considerably, at any rate for late summer and autumn business. Quite early in the season it became common knowledge that the year's log supply from these forests would hardly exceed half the normal quantity, and that in other wood-producing countries the outturn from the forests would be restricted. With this before them, therefore, the Riga saw mill-owners might have obtained higher prices if only they had displayed a little firmness, but the continual strikes and political disturbances, and the general uncertainty as to the money market in Russia, seemed to deprive them of their nerve, and instead of holding out a little and allowing prices to recover, they vied with each other in realising their goods, and went on selling and shipping; this policy was is now being proved. At the opening of the present season of 1906 prices advanced 20 per cent. all round; demand is brisk everywhere and available stocks at shipping ports very small.

The shipping returns give the total tonnage of vessels of all nationalities entered at the port of Riga in 1905 at 1,204,882 net registered tons or 51,444 tons less than in 1904. In British shipping there was an increase of 22 vessels and 6,096 tons, but it still retained the first place on the list with no improvement on those of 1904. The Baltic and Black Sea Canal is once more under discussion. This time it is an American syndicate that is moving in the matter, and the new idea is to dredge right through to a minimum depth of eight feet and to establish a light river service for goods and produce.

THE BRITISH LINEN TRADE.

CONTRARY to the recently expressed opinion of experts in the **linen trade,** says a correspondent in the *Manchester Guardian* of August 21st, that prices are still going upward in every department. Recently prices were regarded as settling down, and much-worried buyers thought they had at last reached a point when business could be done on something like a settled basis. Now they are on the rack again. Notwithstanding this there is no falling-off in orders coming forward; indeed it would seem as if each spurt in prices added fresh vigour to what is already regarded as the most extraordinary demand experienced for years. This is most remarkable in bleached goods. We have now had two "white" years, and experts promise another one that will eclipse all predecessors. Three important features in the present demand for linens are the amounts of material recently taken up by Japan, by America, and by the outfitting contractors for steamers and hotels. These sources have materially contributed to the expansion of demand, irrespective of increased quotations.

The conditions that tend towards an oversold state of the yarn market are accentuated by the steady increase of weaving plant, and at the moment supply of raw material has no influence whatever on the upward trend of yarn prices. Owing to its geographical position, Japan has closer commercial intercourse with the United States than with any other Power, and amongst other items linen goods are an article of trade. At present most of the goods sent from America to Japan are for converting into fancy goods of embroidery or openwork designs. Our American friends display far more ingenuity in finding new uses for linens than we seem capable of ourselves, and it is to this in no small degree that we owe the present large demand from the States. Of course climate has also something to do with this expansion of demand. Year by year linen as an article of clothing as well as of household furnishing is coming more largely into favour. The demand for light-weight linen fabrics is now remarkable. For some years there has been a gradual decline in the request for the old-fashioned extra-heavy linens, but it is only of recent date that light weights have been so much used. Now the demand for these is so pronounced that manufacturers have practically turned their attention away from heavy goods altogether, especially in bleaching cloth. Of course in the various ranges of house-keeping goods weight is considered most important, but even here the public are beginning to see that extra weight in linens is not always an advantage. In linen sheer and lawn cloths it is next to impossible to place new business for delivery earlier than twelve months ahead. Within recent memory stocks of such goods were so heavy that manufacturers had to turn their machinery on to regular-weight bleaching linens. Owing to the facility with which linen material lends itself to "art" and embroidery purposes, it has been in particular request. In fact, this particular demand has expanded so rapidly that manufacturers who make a speciality of embroidery linens are seldom without large engagements. Recently some of these cloths have been applied to house decorative purposes with the happiest results.

Shirting linens, especially the commoner varieties, are extremely active in demand, although prices have advanced far beyond astonishment at the extraordinary activity in this range of linens, the prices of some of which represent an advance of 20 per cent. since last December. The most active demand for these comes from the United States. No feature of the present activity has been more pronounced than the demand for wide bleached linens. So persistent are the orders for these that manufacturers have had to increase considerably their weaving plant having suitable reed space.

LIFE INSURANCE.

The **report of the Select Committee** of the **House of Lords** on **Life Insurance Companies** was issued on Saturday, 11th August. The Committee was appointed to inquire what steps should be taken, by deposit of funds or otherwise, to provide adequate security for British policy-holders in life insurance companies which have their chief office outside the United Kingdom, but carry on business in this country. The report is as follows:—

The Committee find that there is an almost unanimous opinion amongst the leading British actuaries and life insurance managers against compelling foreign life insurance companies which do business in this country to deposit funds as a security for their British policy-holders. The principal objections raised by the witnesses to making it compulsory on foreign companies to deposit in this country funds (beyond the sum of £20,000) under the Life Insurance Companies Act of 1870 for the special benefit of their British policy-holders seem to be:—

(1) That such a system would be contrary to the principles with regard to insurance companies which have hitherto prevailed in Great Britain.

(2) That it would violate the principle that the whole of the funds of an insurance company should be available for the claims of all policy-holders alike.

(3) That if any regulations of this kind were adopted it would undoubtedly lead to reprisals on the part of foreign Governments.

(4) That if any such deposit of funds were made compulsory on foreign life insurance companies, it might lead the public to suppose that the solvency of such companies was guaranteed by the British Government.

(5) That any such deposit might seem to imply a statutory basis of valuation, the tendency of which, it has been pointed out, would be likely to weaken rather than to strengthen reserves.

(6) That any such deposit of securities would appear to give an unfair advantage to British subjects holding policies in a foreign company, whilst under such limited State supervision it is doubtful whether the policy-holders would be as well protected as they are by the control through publicity and freedom which exists with regard to British companies.

In view, therefore, of the evidence which they have heard the Committee do not consider that, in the interests of British policy-holders, it is desirable to compel foreign companies to deposit funds in this country.

But the Committee, although they cannot recommend that any obligations should be placed on foreign companies to which British companies are not also liable, are of opinion that foreign companies, which do business in this country, should be placed as far as possible in the same position as the British companies with which they compete. They should in fact be made as far as possible to comply in all respects with the requirements of the Life Insurance Companies Act of 1870. The Life Insurance Companies Act of 1870 seems on the whole to give general satisfaction inasmuch as it insures a full measure of publicity in the accounts of all British insurance companies, and gives ample legal remedies to policy-holders. In some respects, however, in view of the great increase of insurance business the Committee are of opinion that certain amendments are desirable.

The deposit of £20,000 with the Accountant General of the Court of Chancery which the Act of 1870 makes obligatory on any new company whether foreign or British, has undoubtedly had the effect of preventing the formation of mushroom companies. But under the Act a company is permitted to withdraw this sum as soon as the premiums amount to £40,000. The Committee are aware that this sum of £20,000 would be of little use to meet the liabilities of the larger companies which do business in this country. But they feel that if this amount were deposited and could not be withdrawn by any company, it would afford an absolute guarantee to policy-holders in foreign companies of being able always to proceed if necessary against such companies in the courts of this country. The Committee therefore recommend that every company which carries on business in Great Britain should be required to maintain this deposit of £20,000 permanently, so long as any policies continue outstanding in this country.

Some of the foreign and colonial companies which carry on business in the United Kingdom at the present time have made a voluntary deposit with British trustees of securities to a value considerably greater than £20,000 for the purpose of meeting any claims made on them by their policy-holders in this country. Although the Committee, as they have already pointed out, cannot recommend that such a deposit of funds should be made compulsory on foreign and colonial companies, they yet feel that the appointment of British trustees to act for such companies is highly desirable, not only in the interests of British policy-holders, but also in the interests of the companies themselves.

The Committee believe that experience has proved that the best means of guarding the interest of policy holders in all insurance companies is by insisting on the fullest openness in the accounts of such companies. They therefore recommend that all insurance companies, whether British or foreign, should be required to furnish the Board of Trade with the full revenue accounts, balance-sheets and valuation statements of their business, showing at the same time the expenses of management.

The Committee are also of opinion that in all such returns the amount of the foreign business and of the business actually transacted in this country

should be carefully distinguished. But they do not consider that it would be necessary for each company to make a sparate valuation for its British and foreign business respectively, because they consider that the total assurance fund of every company should be liable for all policies alike.

The Committee consider it would be very desirable to provide for a statement in the returns made by all insurance companies, both British and foreign, of the market value of the securities held by them. This regulation is in force in other countries. The Committee believe that if it were adopted in this country, the public would obtain each year more complete and satisfactory information with regard to the actual value of a company's investments than it is sometimes possible to obtain under the schedule of the Act as it is now framed.

SUGAR INDUSTRY IN INDIA.

PART III.

THE principal difficulty of persons interested in the development of the Sugar Industry in India is that of ascertaining where the best openings for the enterprise are to be found. The chief factor depends on the abundance of suitable raw material and the existence of an adequate and convenient market.

There are many difficulties in obtaining information regarding the quality of the sugarcane available in certain districts as the preparation of returns would entail considerable labour and expert knowledge. The selection of districts in which a market was to be found would also present considerable difficulties.

A Government office is always in a better position to furnish particulars to the manufacturer in his investigations. For this purpose the appended statements have been prepared in continuation of articles already appeared in the *Indian Trade Journal* of 14th June (page 368) and 12th July (page 515)1906, respectively.

Attention is drawn to columns 2, 3 and 4 showing for each district the total area, the area under sugar and the proportion of the sugar area to the total area. Columns 5 to 9 give particulars, affording an indication of the extent of the local market. Column 5 gives the populations of the district, and column 6 the number of inhabitants per acre, or in other words, the denisity of the population.

This, of course, is obtained by dividing the figures in column 5 by those in column 2; but it will be found interesting in certain cases to take column 3 (sugar-area) to set down an equal number of tons of raw sugar as its produce (that being the estimate generally accepted), to reduce that quantity to pounds and to divide by the district population. In this way will be obtained a rough estimate of the number of pounds of local raw sugar available per head of population. Column 7 shows the considerable sugar factories where they exist; while columns 8 and 9 show in each case the neighbouring large towns and their respective populations seeing that it is to towns and large villages that a sugar factory in a sparsely populated country must look for the mainstay of its business.

It will be observed from the figures of Delhi-Jullundur, Lahore and Amritsar that there prevails a good demand with a plentiful supply of raw material. Take Jullundur as an example—Jullundur with 27,797 acres under sugar and a population of 917,587. Twenty-seven thousand seven hundred and ninety-seven tons equal 62,265,280 lbs. so that in Jullundur there exists a potential supply of nearly 68 lbs. of raw sugar per head of the population, whilst there is no factory in the district.

There apparently seems to exist a specially good opening at Meerut (*vide* Journal of the 12th July). Meerut with 127,767 acres under sugar and a population of 1,540,175 shows a potential supply of 120 lbs. of raw sugar per head of the population, whilst there is no factory in the district.

The following statement shows average exports and imports of sugar, from and to Meerut, Delhi, Jullundur, Lahore, and Amritsar from 1900-1901 to 1904-1905, by rail, etc., from 1900-1901 to 1904-1905:—

Whence imported or whither exported.	IMPORTS.		
	Refined.	Unrefined.	Total.
MEERUT.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
Other Provinces	60,945	27,782	88,727
Other divisions of U. P.	9,240	374,742	383,982
DELHI.			
Other Provinces	17,702	49,706	67,408
Other blocks of the Punjab	755	919	1,674
JULUNDUR, LAHORE AND AMRITSAR. (Territory between Sutlej and Jhelum).			
Other Provinces	...	...	...
Other blocks of the Punjab	434,064	362,353	769,417
	2,225	69,973	72,198
	EXPORTS.		
	Refined.	Unrefined.	Total.
MEERUT.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
Other Provinces	48,419	1,446,130	1,494,549
Other Divisions of U. P.	1,427	197,482	198,909
DELHI.			
Other Provinces	510	137,582	138,092
Other blocks of the Punjab	1,234	19,535	20,769
JULUNDUR, LAHORE AND AMRITSAR. (Territory between Sutlej and Jhelum).			
Other Provinces	466	27,515	27,981
Other blocks of the Punjab	13,206	155,574	168,780

Total area, area under sugar, and population of each district in Madras.

DISTRICT.	Total area of District.	Area under sugar (a).	Ratio % of col. 3 to col. 2.	Population of District.	Population per acre.	No. of Sugar Factories.	NEIGHBOURING LARGE TOWNS. Name.	Population.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Ganjam	5,356,224	1,739	0·03	2,010,256	·38	1	Berhampur	25,729
Vizagapatam	11,022,714	6,754	0·06	2,933,650	·27	...	Vizagapatam	40,892
							Vizianagram	37,270
Godavari	3,585,602	6,265	0·2	2,301,759	·64	1	Cocanada	48,096
							Rajahmundry	36,408
							Ellore	33,521
Kistna	3,784,842	2,578	0·07	3,651,790	·29	...	Masulipatam	39,507
							Guntur	30,833
Guntur	3,670,373	440	0·01				Bezwada	24,224
Nellore	5,097,300	846	0·02				Nellore	32,040
Karnul	4,849,767	4,653	0·1	872,055	·18	...	Karnul	25,376
Bellary	3,656,230	8,094	0·2	947,214	·26	...	Bellary	58,247
							Adoni	30,416
Anantapur	3,556,083	2,722	0·08	788,254	·22	...	.....	...
Cuddapah	5,582,739	7,325	0·1	1,291,267	·23	...	.....	...
North Arcot	4,721,849	8,986	0·2	2,207,712	·47	3	Vellore	43,537
Chingleput	1,971,041	1,122	0·06	1,312,122	·67	...	Conjeeveram	46,164
							Gudiyattam	21,335
Madras	17,210	...	...	509,346	29·6	...	Madras	509,346
South Arcot	3,339,520	7,537	0·2	2,349,894	·70	2	Cuddalore	52,216
Salem	4,818,982	5,008	0·1	2,204,974	·46	...	Salem	70,621
Coimbatore	5,030,790	8,531	0·2	2,201,752	·44	1	Coimbatore	53,080
Trichinopoly	2,324,804	6,245	0·3	1,444,770	·62	...	Trichinopoly	104,721
							Srirangam	23,039
Tanjore	2,375,386	2,752	0·1	2,245,029	·95	...	Kumbakonam	59,673
							Tanjore	57,840
							Negapatam	57,190
							Mayavaram	24,276
							Mannargudi	20,449
Madura	5,168,896	17,601	0·3	2,831,280	·51	...	Madura	105,984
							Dindigul	25,182
							Aruppukottai	23,633
							Bodinayakkanur	22,209
Tinnevelly	3,448,922	48,404	1·4	2,059,607	·60	3	Tinnevelly	40,469
							Palamcottah	39,545
							Tuticorin	28,048
							Srivilliputtur	26,382
							Tiruchendur	26,056
							Rajapalaiyam	25,360
Nilgiris	612,557	...	...	111,437	·18	...	.....	...
Malabar	3,708,692	4,054	0·1	2,790,281	·75	...	Calicut	76,981
							Palghat	44,177
							Tellicherry	27,883
							Cannanore	27,881
South Canara	2,573,389	1,418	0·06	1,134,713	·44	...	Mangalore	44,108
TOTAL	90,673,912	153,074	0·2	38,199,162	·42	11	.....	...

(a) Relates to about two-thirds of the province for which crop statistics are available.

Total area, area under sugar, and population of each District in Bombay and Sind.

District.	Total area of District (exclusive of Native States).	Area under sugar.	Ratio % of col. 3 to col. 2.	Population of District.	Population per acre.	No. of Sugar Factories.	Neighbouring large towns.	
							Name.	Population.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bombay.								
Ahmadabad	2,442,358	1,493	0·06	795,967	0·33	...	Ahmedabad	185,889
Kaira	1,021,379	312	0·03	716,332	0·70	...	Nadiad	31,435
Panch Mahals	1,028,147	51	0·005	261,020	0·25	..	Godhra	20,915
Broach	939,683	63	0·007	291,763	0·31	...	Broach	42,896
Surat	1,056,378	3,562	0·3	637,017	0·60	...	Surat	119,306
Khandesh	6,445,427	1,474	0·02	1,427,382	0·22	...	Dhulia	24,726
Nasik	3,747,949	6,207	0·2	816,504	0·22	...	Nasik	21,490
Ahmadnagar	4,220,388	2,138	0·05	837,695	0·20	...	Ahmadnagar	42,032
Poona	3,423,981	9,101	0·3	995,330	0·29	...	Poona	153,320
Sholapur	2,909,891	1,928	0·07	720,977	0·25	...	Sholapur Pandharpur	72,288 32,405
Satara	3,092,601	12,846	0·4	1,146,559	0·37	...	Satara	26,022
Belgium	2,976,213	10,545	0·4	993,976	0·33	...	Belgaum	36,878
Bijapur	3,628,835	748	0·02	735,435	0·20	...	Bijapur	23,811
Dharwar	2,946,281	2,140	0·07	1,113,298	0·38	...	Dharwar Hubli	31,276 60,214
Tanna	2,285,120	562	0·02	811,433	0·36	1	Bandra Bombay	22,075 776,006
Kolaba	1,368,014	22	0·002	605,566	0·44	...	.....	..
Ratnagiri	2,554,556	(a)294	0·01	1,167,927	0·46	...	.....	...
Kanara	2,525,151	2,935	0·1	454,490	0·18	..	.....	...
Total	48,612,352	56,421	0·1	14,528,671	0·30	1	.....	...
Sind.								
Karachi	7,661,753	980	0·01	446,513	0·06	...	Karachi	116,663
Hyderabad	5,086,577	1,024	0·02	963,210	0·19	...	Hyderabad	69,378
Sukkur	3,455,202	318	0·009	523,345	0·15	...	Shikarpur Sukkur	49,491 31,316
Larkana	3,230,717	163	0·005	656,083	0·20	...	.....	...
Upper Sind Frontier	1,688,309	35	0·002	232,045	0·14	...	.....	...
Thar and Parkar	8,921,639	175	0·002	389,714	0·04	...	.....	...
Total	30,044,197	2,695	0·009	3,210,910	0·11	...	.....	...

(a) Relates to about a fifth of the district for which crop statistics are available.

Total area, area under sugar, and population of each district in the Punjab.

District.	Total area of district.	Area under sugar.	Ratio % of col. 3 to col. 2.	Population of district.	Population per acre.	No. of sugar factories.	Neighbouring large towns.	
							Name.	Population.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Hissar	3,337,113	294	...	781,717	0·23	...	Bhiwani	35,917
Rohtak	1,150,080	24,434	2·10	630,672	0·55	...	Rohtak	20,323
Gurgaon	1,269,760	7,557	0·60	746,208	0·59	...	Gurgoan	27,295
Delhi	825,600	17,575	2·10	689,039	0·83	...	Delhi	208,575
Karnal	2,017,920	19,553	1·0	883,225	0·44	...	Panipat Karnal	26,914 23,559
Ambala	1,184,680	15,870	1·30	815,880	0·69	...	Ambala	78,638
Simla	64,600	...	...	40,351	0·62	...	.....	...
Kangra	6,385,920	4,829	0·08	768,124	0·12	...	.....	..
Hoshiarpur	1,436,160	24,021	1·70	989,782	0·69	...	.....	...
Jalandhar	915,825	27,797	3·04	917,587	1·002	...	Jalandhar	67,735
Ludhiana	931,215	9,692	1·04	673,097	0·72	...	Ludhiana	48,649
Ferozepur	2,743,190	1,507	0·05	958,072	0 35	...	Ferozepur	49,341
Multan	3,908,738	1,141	0·03	710,626	0·18	...	Multan	87,394
Jhang	4,177,233	31,631	0·80	791,861	0·19	...	Jhang-Maghiana	24,382
Lyallpur								
Montgomery	3,009,023	411	0·01	463,586	0·15	...	.....	...
Lahore	2,370,590	6,554	0·30	1,162,109	0·49	...	Lahore Kasur	202,964 22,022
Amritsar	1,024,640	16,545	1·60	1,023,828	1·0	...	Amritsar	162,429
Gurdaspur	1,208,960	51,590	4·30	940,334	0·78	1	Batala	27,365
Sialkot	1,274,240	34,919	2·70	1,083,909	0·85	...	Sialkot	57,956
Gujrat	1,312,640	6,694	0·50	750,548	0·57	...	.....	...
Gujranwalla	2,044,049	20,492	1·00	756,797	0·37	...	Gujranwala	29,224
Shahpur	3,234,537	2,641	0·08	524,259	0·16	...	.....	...
Jhelum	1,800,320	233	0·01	1,524,553	0·27	...	Rawalpindi	87,688
Rawalpindi	1,286,400	116	..					
Attock	2,574,080	1,557	0·06					
Mianwali	4,998,844	103	...	424,588	0·08	...	.....	...
Dera Ghazi Khan	3,407,945	83	...	471,149	0·14	...	Dera Ghazi Khan	23,731
Muzaffargarh	2,326,342	5,392	0·20	405,656	0·17	...	.....	...
Total	62,220,644	333,231	0·50	22,431,732	0·36	1	.....	...

Total area, area under sugar, and population of each district in the North-West Frontier Province.

District.	Total area of district.	Area under sugar.	Ratio % of col. 3 to col. 2.	Population of district.	Population per acre.	No. of sugar factories.	Neighbouring large towns.	
							Name.	Population.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Hazara	1,915,818	1,094	0·06	560,288	0·29	...	.....	...
Peshawar	1,667,392	18,414	1·10	788,707	0·47	...	Peshawar	95,147
Kohat	1,670,208	46	...	217,865	0·13	...	Kohat	30,762
Bannu	1,070,093	6,387	0·60	231,485	0·22	...	.....	...
Dera Ismail Khan	2,174,047	62	...	252,379	0·12	...	Dera Ismail Khan	31,737
Total	8,497,558	26,003	0·30	2,050,724	0·24	...	.....	...

BRITISH FIRE INSURANCE COMPANIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

A CORRESPONDENT writes in the *Times' Financial Supplement* on Fire Insurance in the United States, using the San Francisco Fire as a text.

"It is to be feared," he says, "that even yet investors in the shares of British fire offices do not sufficiently realize the hazards to which a large United States business may expose their property.

Since the twentieth century opened there have been in the United States the following conflagrations:—

		Destruction
Jacksonville, Florida .	May 3rd, 1901	£2,000,000
Baltimore, Maryland .	Feb. 7th, 1904	£14,000,000
San Francisco, California	Apl. 18th, 1906	£50,000,000
TOTAL .		£66,000,000

I have not taken into account several fires, such as that at Rochester, New York, in 1904, which in any other country than the United States would have been deemed to be serious conflagrations. Now these extraordinary losses, coming on the top of an ordinary national loss ratio per individual of at least four times that of any other highly civilized country, call for careful consideration and attention from those who may have to pay for a part of them.

Having glanced at some of the losses let us see what premiums have been received in the same period, or, better still, say for the ten years ended December 31st, 1905. All insurance being based on laws of average, a reasonably long term should be taken, to give a fair basis for an opinion.

Fire premiums received in the United States, by Native and Foreign Offices, for the ten years ended December 31st, 1905, with the underwriting profit earned thereon.

	Premiums.	Losses paid.	Underwriting profit after allowing for expenses and increased liabilities.
United States Cos.	£232,848,000	£128,629,000	£4,544,000
Foreign . .	£89,328,000	£52,277,000	£2,476,000
TOTAL .	£322,176,000	£180,906,000	£7,020,000

During the ten years named, 35 foreign companies did business in the United States, of which 19 were British and 16 came from other quarters of the globe. Of the British offices, four lost money and 15 made a profit. Of the foreign offices proper, seven lost by their operations.

The net insurance loss by the San Francisco catastrophy has been officially estimated at £26,500,000. Of this amount £15,000,000 falls upon the United States companies and £11,500,000 upon the foreign offices. The British net loss (including that of American subsidiary companies) is estimated by the companies themselves at £9,200,000. In the case of some of the British companies it will apparently take more than 20 years' probable profits to recoup San Francisco losses. Yet in those 20 years how many great conflagrations may be looked for? It is not much more than 30 years since the Chicago and Boston fires, the amounts of which added to the £66,000,000 already mentioned, would swell the conflagration figures to over one hundred millions, and hopelessly swamp the record. Why should the future be reasonably expected to differ much from the past? Increased congested areas in greater cities are likely to make the experience worse. For ten years, at any rate, no British fire office has made a single penny in the United States, but has lost money there more or less largely, taking San Francisco into the account. Yet, under a "pushful" policy, some British offices have now a fire premium income from the United States which is as large, or larger, than that derived from the whole of their other business.

He then proceeds to dilate upon the Lock-up of Funds necessitated by the legislative enactments of various States which insist on the deposit of very heavy funds to secure policy-holders, and on what he styles the "grave risks arising from the legal restrictions and disabilities imposed on British offices by legislation in various states comprised in the union," and on the lack of uniformity in such legislation. The position of companies is rendered still more perilous owing to the extraordinary system of differential taxation that prevails.

Commenting on official extravagance. he says:—

"The main source of expense in the United States is undoubtedly the amounts paid to officials and special agents for salaries and travelling, and the expensive style of stationery, sundries, and office accommodation provided. Fire insurance offices are to be found in the United States, which contain needle baths for the convenience of head officials, while there is at least one, not more than a thousand miles from New York, where the costly marble-lined and nickel-plated lavatory accommodation provided for the staff cost the shareholders about a thirtieth part of their entire outlay on a substantial office building, the result being as pretty a piece of absurd and irrational extravagance as can be imagined. No wonder the public think that they are being 'sharked,' as they term it, by the insurance companies, when they see and hear of such things. The companies do not do them at home in England, and British shareholders four thousand miles away know nothing of them, though they may foot the bill. The writer well remembers the exclamation long since of an important Scotch fire manager to a brother manager, also a Scot, both on a trip to the United States departments of his company. After hearing of the salaries they got and the amount of the annual expense accounts allowed them, he said:—'Eh, mon, its astonishin, they get mair than we dae.' What would that worthy manager have thought of present day salaries and expenses, or what would he have said of insurance inspectors keeping their automobiles—yet many of them do."

"Lastly," he adds, a there is the question of climate, building construction, and race, as they affect the fire hazard. The American climate generally is very dry and electrical, and appears to favour the spread of fires to an extent quite unknown in Europe. Then United States towns often contain very high buildings, and buildings largely constructed of timber, which greatly increase fire dangers. For example, more than one-third of San Francisco must have been of timber construction, and the same thing may be said of the majority, perhaps, of United States towns, particularly the smaller ones. Lastly, the people themselves are always in a hurry, and are extremely reckless." He concludes by saying that as no British office has made anything in the United States in the last ten years, and as the conditions under which they work are so eminently unsatisfactory and hazardous, the time has come when shareholders should demand reform, and insist on business in the United States being kept down to reasonable proportions as compared with business from the rest of the world. That policies should be given for reduced amounts, that more stringent earthquake and fire clauses should be invested upon, and that a close watch ought to be kept upon outlay arising from salaries, expenses and office luxuries, whilst any discriminatory or unjust legislation should be at once made the signal for withdrawal from the offending state.

A GENERAL SUPPLY OF GAS FOR LIGHT, HEAT, AND POWER PRODUCTION.

MR. A. J. MARTIN, M.I.C.E. read the following paper before the British Association at York:—

"The question of a cheap and abundant supply of energy is one of vital importance. During the present Session a large number of Bills for the supply of electrical energy to London have been before Parliament, and a Select Committee of the House of Commons has recently presented a special report on the subject. Though not seeing their way to give the London Country Council the powers which they asked for, the Committee consider that the provision of cheap electrical power for London is so important and pressing that they do not view with favour the possibility of the question being indefinitely hung up."

"While attention has been concentrated upon electricity as a medium for the supply of light, heat, and power, the claims of gas have been to some extent overlooked, although its field of usefulness coincides very closely with that of electricity.

"The late Sir William Siemens used to insist strenuously that gas should be used for all purposes in place of coal, the burning of which is in its raw state he denounced as 'a barbarous practice.' The substitution of gas for coal has been greatly impeded by the circumstance that it was first introduced solely as an illuminant, in which light it is still generally regarded. This conception of gas continues to dominate the methods of manufacture and distribution, to the great detriment of users of heat and power.

"The main obstacle to the general use of gas for purposes other than lighting is its cost, which varies from 11*d.* per 1,000 cubic feet (at Widnes) to upwards of illuminating value to which it has to conform, the large capital involved, the disproportionate cost of manufacture on a small scale, and the high prices paid for coal, consequent on the cost of carriage from the collieries. These causes together swell the cost of the gas consumed in this country every year by many millions of pounds. Illuminating standards are now in many cases being relaxed, but not to such an extent as to give the consumer the full benefit to which he istentitled. The effect of high capital charges and that of working on a small scale are automatically reduced with every increase in consumption, and the greater part of the cost of carrying coal may be saved by manufacturing gas at the mouth, and piping it, under pressure, to the Metropolis. It is well known among engineers that a pipe line is the cheapest means for transporting anything which can be made to flow. This has long been recognised in the case of water. which no one would think of conveying by rail, except on an emergency, such as recently occurred at Lincoln. Water is piped to Coolgardie, a distance of 352 miles, and petroleum over 400 miles to New York Harbour. The advantage of generating power at the collieries on a large scale and transmitting it to the areas of supply, has been pointed out by the Royal Commission on Coal Supplies, but in this country proposals of this kind have been directed chiefly to the conveyance of electrical energy from the coalfields. A proposal to supply the metropolis in this way was laid before the Select Committee, who dismissed it as not suitable.

"Gas has many advantages over electricity for transmission purposes. It can be conveyed at less cost and at a much higher efficiency; it can be stored cheaply and without loss, and used at any desired rate, and it requires no conversions, as in the case of high-tension electricity. Moreover, even where electricity is required, it will generally be cheaper to convert the coal into gas and pipe it for use in gas-engines than to generate current direct from coal.

"Down to very recently the conveyance of gas under high pressures to long distances would have been regarded as impracticable owing to various difficulties arising from condensation and leakage and to other considerations. Of late years, however, both natural gas and coal gas have been piped in America to great distances (extending in the case of natural gas to 200 miles) with marked sucess, and further projects of the kind are under way.

In this country, in the absence of natural gas either of fuel gas, such as Mond gas or water gas, or coal gas of reduced illuminating power might be used. The latter could probably be sold in London at something like 1s. per thousand cubic feet, at which price it would displace the greater part of the coal now used for heating and power purposes. The larger cities and towns in Lancashire and Yorkshire and other districts within easy reach of coal fields, might also with advantage lay down pipe-lines of their own, but smaller and more remote places could only do so in combination—preferably through a Board formed on the model of the Metropolitan Water Board—of representatives of the various corporations and companies interested.

The inauguration of a general supply of cheap gas would have far-reaching consequences. The smoke nuisance, with its appalling death-roll, would be done away with, and the annoyance and damage to property from smoky fogs brought to an end. A cheap and abundant supply of sulphate of ammonia would come to the aid of our distressed agricultural interests. The most far-reaching effect of cheap gas, however, would probably be in stimulating the establishment of manufacturing plants in rural districts, thus helping to relieve the congestion in our overcrowded towns. No single factor has played so great a part in determining the distribution of industries as the existence of natural sources of power, and with gas at such prices as it could be supplied at from the collieries, gas-power would be even cheaper than water-power.

Last, but in the long run not least, in importance is the part which the substitution of gas for raw coal would play in postponing the exhaustion of our coal-fields.

GAZETTE AND OTHER NOTIFICATIONS.

LIST OF GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH OFFICES REPORTED AS OPENED, CLOSED, ETC., SINCE COMPILATION OF THE LAST LIST.

Offices opened.

Name of Office.	District.	Date opened.	Remarks.
Ramree	Kyaukpyu	31-8-06	
Pakal	North-Arcot	1-9-06	
Singribarihat	Darrang	1-9-06	
Hatigarh (Darrang)	Darrang	2-9-06	

Office closed.

Name of Office.	District.	Date closed.	Remarks.
Puliarai	Travancore	1-9-06	

Offices sanctioned but not yet opened.

Name of Office.	District.	Date sanctioned.	Remarks.
Mirpur-Sakro	Karachi	5-9-06	
Tiruvur	Kistna	5-9-06	
Kaikalur	Kistna	5-9-06	
Valluru (Kistna)	Kistna	5-9-06	
Kollur (Guntur)	Guntur	5-9-06	
Repalle	Guntur	5-9-06	
Gurzalla	Guntur	5-9-06	

Office raised to 1st or 2nd Class.

Name of Office.	District.	Date.	Raised to
Kandhla	Muzaffarnagar	3-9-06	2nd class.

Combined Offices converted into Departmental Offices.

Nil.

Departmental Offices converted into Combined Offices.

Nil.

The Wireless Telegraph traffic disposed of on Saugor Island circuit during the month of August 1906 was as follows :—

Sent	58	messages containing	944 words.
Received	362	„ „	3,049 „
Total	420	„ „	3,993 „

Of these totals 138 messages containing 2,321 words were classed as "Private" and 252 messages containing 1,108 words were "Shipping Reports."

There were no interruptions to communication during the period under report, but communication was imperfect on portions of twelve days owing to atmospheric disturbances and to the apparatus being slightly damaged by the flooding of the cabin of the "Fraser." Owing to return of P. S. V. Fraser to Calcutta on afternoon of 27th there was no traffic during the last four days in the month.

The Wireless Telegraph traffic disposed of on the Andamans circuit during the month of August 1906 was as follows :—

Sent from Port Blair	269	messages containing	6,253 words.
Received at „ „	296	„ „	13,873 „
Total	565	„ „	20,126 „
Exchanged at Slipper Island	78	„ „	2,250 „
Grand total	643	„ „	22,376 „

Of these totals 292 messages containing 5,662 words were classed as "Private."

There were no interruptions to communication during the month under report, but atmospheric disturbances were experienced throughout the period.

Office opened.

Name of Office.	District.	Date opened.	Remarks.
Athni	Belgaum	9-9-06	

Office closed.

Nil.

Offices sanctioned but not yet opened.

Name of Office.	District.	Date sanctioned.	Remarks.
Calcutta Bengal Bank	Calcutta	6-9-06	
Sompeth	Ganjam	10-9-06	

Offices raised to 1st or 2nd class.

Name of Office.	District.	Date.	Raised to
Dungagali	Hazara	23-8-06	2nd class
Dera Ghazi Khan City	Dera Ghazi Khan.	1-9-06	Do.

Combined offices converted into Departmental Offices.

Nil.

Departmental offices converted into Combined Offices.

Nil.

POST OFFICE.

The 14th September 1906.

Resolution.—By the Government of India, Department of Commerce and Industry.

Nos. 7232—7236—154.—The Governor-General in Council is pleased to sanction the following alteration in the Rules for the guidance of depositors in the Post Office Savings Banks, published with the Resolution in this Department, No. 509, dated the 15th March 1905 :

For Rule 43, and the note appended to it the following shall be substituted :

43. No account may be allowed for money—

(1) which is the property of Government, or

(2) which has been received for credit of Government, or

(3) which has been drawn from the treasury for expenditure on account of Government, or

(4) which is raised by taxation, either local or municipal, or

(5) which is collected or received or held in trust by any public officer or court in accordance with any law, provided that the money is the property of Government.

Note 1.—Nothing in this rule prevents the opening of a public account for money which is not the property of Government by the Managers of funds held in trust for the relief of the poor, for the provision of education or medical relief, or for the advancement of any other object of general public utility, irrespective of whether such Managers are public officers or not.

Note 2.—Nothing in this rule prevents the opening of an account for a judicial deposit in accordance with a special order passed by a court of law in a particular case—directing the investment of the money in the Post Office Savings Bank. Such an account, when admitted, is subject in every respect to the rules and limitations which govern ordinary private accounts.

Order.—Ordered that a copy of the Resolution be forwarded to the Finance Department: the Director General of the Post Office; the Comptroller and Auditor General; and the Comptroller, Post Office.

Ordered also that the Resolution be published in the *Gazette of India* for general information.

W. L. Harvey,
Secretary to the Government of India.

NEW REFERENCE BOOKS.

RHODES'S STEAMSHIP GUIDE, 1906-07.
Edited by Thomas Rhodes. . . . . 2s.
From George Philip and Son.

BOURNE'S HANDY ASSURANCE MANUAL, 1906.
Edited by F. Harcourt Kitchin . . . 1s.
From Effingham Wilson.

THE HACENDADO MEXICANO'S YEARLY SUGAR REPORT, 1905-06.
This, the seventh annual edition, is as usual replete with information about Mexican sugar. It contains an "official list" of cane growers and sugar manufacturers in Mexico, Central America, Porto Rico, Cuba, Argentina, Peru, Hawaii, and Java.
To be procured from Apartado 2010, Mexico City.

DIRECTORY OF LOUISANA SUGAR PLANTERS FOR 1906.
Compiled by the *Sugar Planters' Journal*, 520, Poydras Street, New Orleans, U. S. A. 8 pp., royal 8vo. . . . . 1s.

DER DEUTSCH-AMERIKANISCHE HANDELSVERTRAG UND DIE KUBANISCHE ZUCKERPRODUCTION.
(The German-American Treaty and the Cuban Sugar production), by Professor Julius Wolf (Breslau). Gastav Fischer, Jena. Mks. 3. Paper covers. The Author, who is a professor of Political Economy in the University of Breslau, has already published several works dealing with "Sugar economy." In his latest work he attempts to show that the U. S. A. treaty with Cuba is a violation of the most-favoured-clause in the German American Treaty, and wishes to impress on the German Government the necessity of protesting against it. The action of the German Government has hitherto been considered by U. S. A. Government as so much "bluff," and the author thinks that serious action may force the U. S. A. to revoke the Cuban preferential Sugar Treaty. Professor Wolf criticises the recent pronouncements of Prof. Herzfeld, Prof. E. von Lippmann and Sigmund Stein) claiming the superiority of beet over cane, and declares that in the coming contest cane sugar will be the victor. Included in the work are a large number of tables giving statistics of sugar production, consumption, export, import, yields, prices, etc., and the whole forms a most interesting study of the "Political economy of sugar."

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.

For the week ending 15th September 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign—Imports by sea into	Calcutta	lbs.	137,200
	Bombay	„	173,911
	Madras	„	12,300
Indian—Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	393,062
	Bombay	„	2,286,955
	Madras	„	2

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	17,627,463
	Bombay	„	2,497,234
	Karachi	„	1,332,763
	Madras	„	184,054
	Rangoon	„	124,920

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	2,768,061
	Bombay	„	2,066,744
	Karachi	„	2,275,423
	Madras	„	36,690
	Rangoon	„	855,863

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	2,601,682
	Bombay	„	3,373,649
	Karachi	„	2,837,507
	Madras	„	27,625
	Rangoon	„	573,051

Piece Goods.

(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta	cwt.	37,953
	Bombay*	„	11,994
	Karachi	„	13,665
	Madras	„	6,865

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea	cwt.	3,159
	Coastwise	„	4,081
	By rail	„	6,577
Imports into Karachi	by rail	„	...
„ „	Calcutta by rail and river	„	7,443

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta	cwt.	736,566
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags	No.	9,394,774
	„ cloth	yds.	25,000,300
	Jute	cwt.	489,988
Exports by sea from Chittagong	Jute	„	65,593

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta	lbs.	7,283,578
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	5,642,938
	Chittagong	„	...

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	130,761
	Karachi by rail	„	345,513
	Bombay By sea	„	990
	Bombay Coastwise	„	29,630
	Bombay By rail	„	14,703
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	37
	Bombay	„	22,992
	Karachi	„	144,093

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta	cwt.	33,047
	Chittagong	„	...
	Bombay	„	4,472
	Karachi	„	10,421
	Madras	„	1,434
	Rangoon	„	276,435

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta By rail and river	cwt.	27,134
	Bombay By sea	„	92
	Bombay Coastwise	„	902
	Bombay By rail	„	18,461
	Karachi by rail	„	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	33,654
	Bombay	„	58,802
	Karachi	„	27

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.	31,923
	Bombay By sea	„	...
	Bombay Coastwise	„	...
	Bombay By rail	„	6,595
	Karachi by rail	„	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	2,631
	Bombay	„	40,766
	Karachi	„	22,069

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 15th SEPTEMBER 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From All other foreign countries.	Total.
	galls.	galls.	galls.	galls.
Calcutta	40,249	40,550	...	80,799
Bombay	...	...	...	...
Karachi	...	...	...	...
Madras	...	...	...	...

Exports by sea from Burma to	Bengal	galls.	204,276
	E. B. & Assam	„	...
	Bombay	„	...
	Sind	„	...
	Madras	„	...
	Indian Ports, Non-Br.	„	...
	Foreign Ports	„	16

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 15th SEPTEMBER 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	3,424	...	26	5,003	1	...	8,454
Germany	20,985	...	3,797	...	500	...	25,282
Austria-Hungary	...	...	300	4,800	454	...	5,554
Other European Countries	...	...	...	...	100	...	100
Java	95,393	...	1,006	54,292	...	...	150,691
Mauritius	7,530	...	5,236	8,543	...	...	21,309
Other Non-European Countries	...	...	59	...	...	1,767	1,826
					Total refined		213,216
					Total unrefined		72,960
					Grand Total cwt		286,176

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta.
[The prices include postage to countries in the Postal Union.]

ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 (2*a.*)

2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a.*)

3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—

   Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. R3. (12*a.*)

   Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port. R3. (12*a.*)

4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. R2. (7*a.*)

5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a.*)

6. Accounts of Trade of the French Possession in India. As. 3. (1*a.*)

7. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possession in India. As. 2. (1*a.*)

8. Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India. R4. (6*a.*)

9. Report on the Rail-borne and River-borne Trade of Bengal. R4.

10. Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim and Bhutan. R1⅛.

11. Prices and Wages in India. R1½. (9*a.*)

12. Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India. R4. (12*a.*)

13. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India. R2. (10*a.*)

14. Agricultural Statistics of India. R3½. (12*a.*)
    Part I.—British India.
    Part II.—Native States.

15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India. As. 5. (2*a.*)

QUARTERLY.

16. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a.*)

MONTHLY.

17. Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of British India. As. 8. (2*a.*)

18. Accounts of the External Land Trade of British India. As. 8. (2*a.*)

19. Statistics of the Production of Yarn and Woven Goods in the India Cotton Mills. As. 2.

[Amount within parenthesis denotes cost of packing and postage.]

NOTICE.

Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition 1906 to be held in Calcutta in December 1906. The time for receiving applications for Exhibition and sale stalls has been extended to the 15th of October 1906.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

All figures, blocks, etc., intended for insertion in the advertisement columns of the *Indian Trade Journal* must first be submitted for approval to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence. The type used in the making up of an advertisement, whether display or line, must be of the kind approved by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence.

No advertisements of retail trade will be accepted.

Reuter's Telegram Company, Ld., are advertisement agents for the *Indian Trade Journal*, and all correspondence regarding advertisements ought to be addressed to them, or to the agents appointed by them. Requests for enrolment on the subscription list and all subscriptions must be addressed to the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta.

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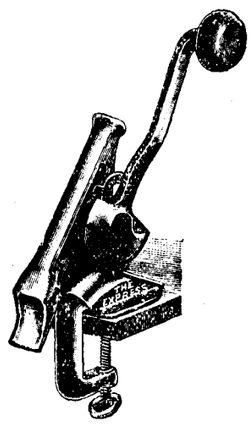
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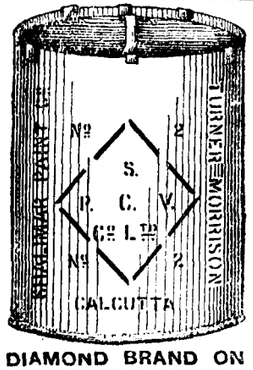
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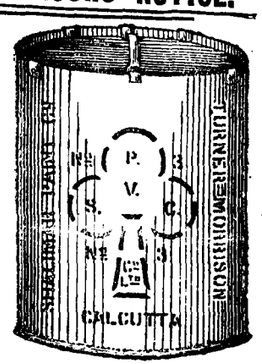
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SECRETARIAT TOCCUMENTS
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NOTES.

A **Convention regarding the postal service** has been signed between Great Britain, Germany and Belgium on the one hand, and Holland on the other. The new convention come into force in December, 1907.

The Winnipeg *Free Press* estimates the **wheat yield** of the Canadian north-west, at 90,250,000 bushels, an average of 19 bushels per acre. It estimates that the hot winds of the week August 20 to 27 have reduced the yield one bushel per acre.

Parcel Postage rates for very **many foreign countries** will be reduced with effect from the 1st October 1906. The revised rate will be shown in the next issue of the *Indian Postal Guide* (October 1906) which will be on sale at all post offices.—Price four annas.

A Glasgow business house received a communication from Bagdad, Asiatic Turkey, dated August 6th, "The **European mail** due here on July 26th has not reached **Bagdad**, as the post carrier's camel is said to have escaped whilst he was sleeping, and it is supposed it perished in the desert. Consequently the mail is lost."

In his preliminary report for 1906, His Majesty's Consul at Dâral-Baida, **Morocco** (Mr. A. Maclean), remarks that large quantities of **hides and skins** have been exported, and this trade is attracting to the country Germans and Frenchmen who have previously been employed in the same line of business in other parts of Africa and Arabia.

The Shangpu, or **Chinese Ministry of Commerce,** has issued a circular **note** to the Viceroys, Governors, and Directors-General of railways of the various provinces of the Empire, urging upon them the **necessity of encouraging home industries,** especially in regard to the purchase of iron and steel from the Hanyang Ironworks, opposite Hankow.

British trade in Japan is being injured by "dumping" on the part of foreign competitors. Articles from the United States, Belgium, and Germany are sold at prices which defy competition. For instance, American flour is sold in Nagasaki cheaper than at the place of production, while American watches—like the "Ingersoll"—costing in the States 1*s*, can, in Nagasaki, be bought for 3*s*. These are two examples out of many.

In a Resolution issuing to-day Government have approved the appointment of a committee to consider the **Re-organisation** and work of the **Indian Telegraph Department.** Sir Lewis Tupper is to be President. Messrs. L.A.S. Porter, I.C.S.; Leach, Telegraph Department; Maxwell, I.C.S.; Lees, Telegraph Department; Kellner, Public Works Department; are| members. Mr. Rainy, I.C.S., is to be Secretary.

It is notified for general information that the Railway Board have sanctioned a **survey** being undertaken for a line of **railway** on the 5′ 6″ gauge from **Cawnpore** Station on the East Indian Railway *viâ* Ghatampur, Sumerpur, and Maudha **to Banda** Station on the Indian Midland Section of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway with a branch from Maudha *viâ* Maskera and Rath to Harpalpur Station on the Indian Midland Section of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, a distance of about 147 miles. The survey has been placed under the control of the Government of Bombay and will be known as the Cawnpore-Banda Railway Survey.

The *New York Herald* publishes the following telegram from Rio de Janeiro: A Bill has been introduced in the Brazilian Congress providing that countries annually taking four million bags of **Brazilian coffee** duty-free shall receive 20 per cent. reduction on the existing export tariff. States annually importing three million bags of Brazilian sugar will benefit by a similar reduction of 10 per cent. On the other hand, countries which impose duties on coffee will have to pay an additional 10 per cent. in customs duties on their imports into Brazil. The measure is favourable to the United States.

A telegram dated San Francisco, Monday, the 27th August, says the Japanese Government has entered into a compact with the Diamond Match Company to form an **international match trust,** taking in the English firm of Bryant and May. Japan has been nursing the match industry, and now supplies all her own requirements, and also controls the trade in China, Australia, parts of the East Indies, and the Philippine Islands. Japan wants to acquire the latest machinery, hence the proposed union with the American trust and Bryant and May.

The contract for digging the foundation for the new Singer Building, the forty-two story **skyscraper** in Broadway at Liberty Street, Corner Manhattan, has been awarded to the Foundation Company of New York. The Singer Building will approximate 650 feet in height, and will have a tower forty-two stories in height, or twice as high as the Trinity Building, or approximately 120 feet higher than the Park Row Building. The foundations for this building will be carried down to bed rock, which is an average depth of 80 feet below the Broadway curb. The Foundation Company has a corps of engineers preparing for immediate work on the construction of the foundation.

The second **International Congress** on the **improvement** of the **sanitary conditions** of life was opened on September 4th in the University at Geneva. M. Richet, Chief of the Federal Department of the Interior, on behalf of the Federal Council welcomed the delegates, declaring that Switzerland was proud to receive those who devoted their energies to the solution of humanitarian questions. Dr. Gartel, the delegate from the French Government, on behalf of the Permanent Commission, gave a welcome to the delegates from the 28 foreign States who were represented there. In the evening a brilliant reception was given by the town of Geneva at the Maison Eymard in honour of the delegates.

The **British Indians** resident in **Natal** have presented a petition to the Earl of Elgin, Colonial Secretary, protesting against the proposed disfranchisement of Indians at municipal elections in the Colony. This has been done under the Municipal Corporations Consolidation Bill recently passed by the Natal Parliament. The British Indians contend that there are 15,000 "free" and not indentured Indians in the Colony, most of whom reside in Durban and are merchants or connected with mercantile concerns. They contend that to disfranchise this respectable class is a quite uncalled for degradation, and gives the Indians less rights than they would have in their own land.

The Board of Education make the following announcement:—At Bethnal-green Museum there is now on view in the central hall of the building, which it entirely occupies, a large portion of the **Asiatic collection of Lord Curzon** of Kedleston, made by him in the course of his travels in the East during the last 20 years, and notably during the seven years from 1898 to 1905 when he was Viceroy and Governor-General of India. This collection illustrates chiefly the art of India, Burma, Nepal, and Tibet, but specimens are also included of the art productions of Turkey, Persia, Afghanistan Siam, and China. It thus embraces in a single survey the majority of the countries on the mainland of Asia, and presents a comprehensive picture of some at least of the principal artistic manufactures of the East, as well as many interesting personal mementoes of Lord Curzon's term of office in India.

As a result of prolonged experiments, certain German chemists have hit upon a **method of keeping fish alive out of water** the fish so treated living for a considerable period. Starting from the basic fact that fish out of water remained alive for a certain time, these chemists made a special study of the principal kinds of fish, as a result of which they came to the conclusion that fish could live in air so long as their gills remained properly wet, it being unnecessary for them to be immersed in water. The invention puts this theory into practice. The fish are placed in wooden cases, divided into compartments according to their size. At the bottom of each compartment are placed pieces of cloth about ½ an inch thick, steeped in water. The evaporation of this water keeps the atmosphere sufficiently humid, and the gills moist, and a reservoir outside the box furnishes the necessary oxygen. Fish have been kept alive in this fashion for three and four days. The discovery is an important one, and will go a long way towards solving the problem of the fresh fish supply of inland towns.

His Majesty's Consul at Dantzig (Colonel A. M. Brookfield) reports, with regard to the **amber industry**, that the year 1905 was a fairly good one for the producers and sellers of this article, and the supply of raw amber was, as usual, unable to keep pace with the demand. For the manufactured articles of the best kind, on the other hand, the demand fell away, and has been doing so for some time past. Of amberoid about the same quantity was turned out as in the preceding year, and there was again a good demand for amber acid and amber oil. With regard to melted amber for use in the varnish trade, while the demand from abroad increased, the total demand considerably diminished, owing to the fact that those engaged in the German varnish trade have found that the use of copal in the place of amber answers their purpose better. The British Vice-Consul at Konigsberg (Mr. O. Birth) reports that the output of amber there was 160 tons smaller than in 1903 or 1904, and the supply did not meet the demand. There was at the same time an increase of 35 tons in the amount exported.

The establishment of a monthly **steamship service** by Germans between **Hamburg** and the **Persian Gulf** is causing some disquietude in the city, says the London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*. British ships have hitherto had almost a monopoly of this trade, the only competition being a few calls at irregular intervals from French and Russian I understand, and long struggle may be expected. The chief exports to the Gulf are in the order of their importance, Manchester cotton goods, French sugar, copper and iron, and coal for bunkering steamers. It is known that a German syndicate has designs on one of the Gulf ports, and should a concession be secured we may expect to see the same policy carried out there that Germans have accomplished so successfully on the East African coast—the squeezing out of British lines. For a century we have policed the Persian Gulf and maintained it as a flank guard to our Indian Empire, and it is unlikely that we shall without a struggle hand over its commercial possibilities to others. I understand that the Foreign Office has already been approached on the matter.

The following is a summary of the report issued by the Weather Department of the Washington Bureau of Agriculture, United States of America, for the week ending August 27 in the **Cotton Belt**:—In Texas rainfall has exceeded the normal in the north-western, western, and a few central districts but has been deficient elsewhere. In the north-west and northern sections there has been a decided fall in the temperature at the close of the week. In Oklahoma it has been unseasonably cool, with showers on two days. Arkansas reports showers daily in some sections and the greater part of the State receiving too much rain. Excessive rains have done damage in North Carolina and continue in the central counties. In South Carolina there have been showers almost daily, heaviest in the central and southern parts. Alabama reports light rains, with no precipitation in many districts. The rainfall in the

eastern and south-western parts of Mississippi has been deficient, but excessive in the southern division. Light and scattered rains, generally deficient, are reported from Louisiana, while in Tennessee they are also generally light and conditions are favourable.

Some very rich specimens of **tin ore** have recently been obtained at Solomon's Temple farm, adjoining the **Transvaal** Consolidated Lands Company's property, and the matter has been arousing general interest. This farm, which is several thousand acres in extent, has been taken up by Pietermaritzburg gentlemen, who are forming a company with the name of the Solomon's Temple Mines, Limited. The Honourable Mr. Baynes is largely interested in the venture, which has a capital of £60,000. This capital has been privately subscribed. Prospecting work, according to *South African Mines* has revealed the presence of a considerable body of finely disseminated cassiterite and bearing a marked resemblance to the ores worked in Cornish mines. Several shafts and cuttings have been sunk and carried in on the ore body. From one extreme of the shaft to the other is about 600 feet, and the cassiterite exposed is reported to be of excellent width and value. Assays of specimens which have been brought to town have given very high values, some being over 50 per cent. and one or two over 60 per cent. It is intended to ship 25 tons of ore to England.

The great scarcity of **rapeseed**, according to the London market reports dated the 29th August, is beginning to tell seriously on the **price of oil**, and it is difficult to understand why this result was not foreseen six months ago. It was then perfectly obvious that the supply of seed would be much less this year than for many years past, but the market remained quiescent for over three months. It is now five years since rape oil was at its present value and then the whole of the oil markets were equally affected, and hence the value did not appear extravagant. On August 29th both linseed and cotton-seed oil were at moderate prices, while rape oil is nearly 50 per cent. dearer than either. No rape-seed reached us from Russia during July, and practically none from the various outside sources of supply, while India sent only 11,000 quarters. The total receipts up to the present time are considerably less than half the weight received in 1904 when the price of the oil ranged between £21 and £24 per ton. Hence the present value of £30 per ton is not out of proportion to the statistical position, and it seems quite within the probabilities that the quotation may yet move upwards. The tendency to use cotton oil instead of rape oil for the mixture which is in favour for cycle lamps is likely to be accentuated now that the difference in price is so great.

The great prosperity of the **Burma Oil Company** has led to a re-arrangement in the remuneration of Messrs. Finlay, Fleming and Company, of Rangoon, the managing agents, which is to be submitted to the shareholders for their approval. Hitherto Messrs. Finlay have received a commission on the gross sales of the Company's products, and their net remuneration from all sources for the four years ending with 1905 amounted to no less a sum than £133,000, *viz.*, £21,000 in 1902, £30,000 in 1903, £41,000 in 1904 and £41,000 in 1905. The new scheme proposes that the agent shall be appointed for a period of five years, from 1st January 1906, and that in place of a commission of 5 per cent. on the gross sales made by themselves directly and 2½ per cent. on profits. The arrangement will, on the basis of 1905, show a saving to the Company of about £16,000 per annum and the Directors pay a handsome tribute to Messrs. Finlay for the manner in which they have met them in this matter. The shareholders of the Russian Oil Companies, which have had a chequered career, must regard with envy the handsome returns secured by those who have invested their money in the Burma venture, whose prospects are enhanced by the reduction in expenditure involved in the new arrangement.

In a report on trade conditions in Brazil by a Special Agent of the United States Government, recently presented to Congress, mention is made of **Labour saving machinery for coffee plantations.** Particular attention is drawn to the need of the coffee planters. Machines for the treatment of the coffee after it is harvested have already reached a high degree of perfection, but the cultivation and picking are still largely done by hand labour. The recent low market prices of coffee have emphasised the necessity of reducing the cost of production, and labour saving machines would command a ready sale. The State of Sao Paulo is about to offer prizes for the invention of such machines. These will take the form of a cash premium of considerable amount, a trophy to be held until some superior invention claims it and the granting of exclusive selling rights for several years. The device most needed is for **picking coffee**, as this would be the key to the whole situation. Machinery could long ago have been introduced into the cultivation and winnowing of the coffee were it not for the present necessity of keeping a large number of employés at work the entire year so as to have abundant labour at hand during the few months of the picking season. A satisfactory picker would make the fortune of its inventor. Cultivators and winnowers would be the next step, and the prizes offered will cover these machines as well.

The **Treasury of the United Kingdom** have issued an interesting report showing the **aggregate gross receipts** derived from **duties, taxes,** and **imports,** under the principal heads of revenue the aggregate net receipts, the charges of collection, and the produce after deducting these charges, for each of the ten years ending 31st March 1906.

In 1896-97 the customs duties, which cost £934,399 to collect, produced £20,622,061. By 1900-01 the amount received from this source had risen to £25,656,615, while the cost of collection had dropped to £925,510. Last year (1905-06) £33,711,999 was received from this source, while the charges for collection rose to £1,034,849. The Inland Revenue net receipts in 1896-97 totalled £70,769,210, to collect which amount had cost £2,044,952. By 1900-01 the revenue from the source had risen to £90,998,889, and last year the figure of £92,585,541 was reached, while the charges for collection amounted to £2,390,000. The postal and telegraph service in 1896-97 produced £3,730,696 at an expenditure of £11,300,197. In 1900-01 it required an expenditure of £13,900,440 to bring in a profit of £3,501,077. In 1905-06 £4,493,371 net was earned with an outlay of £16,643,047. In comparing these figures regard must be paid to the fact that from May 1906, the duty on tea was decreased from 6*d.* to 5*d.* per pound, and that the duty on stripped tobacco was reduced by 2½*d.* from May 1st.

A correspondent writes as follows to the *Manchester Guardian* :—There are several novel features which deserve attention in a new **tape-weaving machine** now on exhibition in this city. Its inventor, Mr. Felix Hamel, of Tamworth, is the grandson of the originator of the well-known India twill tape. It is made by the firm of Hettersley's, of Keighley. Amongst its new features of importance, as compared with the cumbrous wood frame of the ordinary tape loom, with its tick-tack, jack-in-the-box swivelling shuttles and its clumsy bobbins of uneven wraps, is the perfectly made wrap, on its metal-flanged narrow beams, every thread uniformly tensioned. The threads are passed round small bars held by spiral springs, each losing as the shed opens. The weft tension arrangement of double levers governs the weft yarn to perfection. The ventor has recognised that if the weaver's loom-tending capacity is to be largely increased there must be an efficient arrangement for stopping the loom if a wrap thread breaks. This wrap stop is another novelty in design. Most wrap stops of the drop-pin variety, on breakage of thread, allow the drop pin to fall below the level of the other pins. The missing pin is thus taken out of sight of the operator. Here the wrap threads run separately over small indicator lifters, which are kept down in position by the downward pressure of the wrap threads. When a thread breaks the liberated indicator rises, signalling the position of the missing thread with precise accuracy. On its rising its heel falls actuating a vibrator, and stops the one shuttle. In the common tape loom stopage for one broken thread involves the stopage of the reduction of sixty shuttles. The stoppage on failure of the supply of weft to any one shuttle is effected just as expeditiously, the loom stopping on the actual pick. In the new loom the weft is laid with the shuttle eye close up to the fell of the cloth, giving an easily identifiable improvement in the face of the fabric. The limit of the pattern on the common tape in the ordinary loom is stated as being 12½ per cent. of the selling price. With the new loom this is said to be reduced to well under 1 per cent. It is computed that there are 300,000 tape shuttles at work in this country, mostly in the Midlands.

The following remarks with reference to the **mineral wealth of Hunan** are extracted from the report for 1905 of the Acting Commissioner of Customs at Changsha, issued by the Imperial Chinese Maritime Customs :—"The mineral wealth of Hunan is believed to be very great, and although but few serious attempts have been made to extract these natural riches by modern methods, owing, mostly, to the opposition of the Hunanese to foreign exploitation in their province, enough has been learned from the results of native mining enterprises to warrant a conviction that given up-to-date appliance and expert direction, the supply of coal as well as of several kinds of metals would prove to be well nigh inexhaustible. There are known to be hundreds of coal mines scattered throughout the province, but all are worked in the same primitive manner; and as soon as a certain depth has been reached, the shafts, or rather 'manholes' have to be abandoned for want of ventilation or because of the presence of water. There are also known to be rich deposits of gold, lead, antimony, zinc, etc., but these like the coal are still practically untouched, for the primitive surface scratching of native miners have hardly more than sufficed to prove the fact that untold wealth awaits the advent of scientific enterprise. The opening up of Hunan's mines is only a question of time and it may be safely assumed that, once the movement begins, it will go forward with a rush, finding employment for the surplus labour which is now streaming to South Africa and the Straits, and at the same time quickening and swelling the volume of every branch of trade. This is the day of small things at Changsha, and even now it is to establish themselves and can afford to wait, extending their field of action as new ports are opened, will be in a position to take full toll of the valuable trade which before long will assuredly prevail throughout the entire province. As a proof that this is no mere figure of speech, I may say that at the present time the Chinese authorities are, of their own accord taking steps for the throwing open to foreign trade of the two largest marts in the province—Hsiang-tian, Yuan River, which, like the Hsiang, flows into the Tungting Lake. Sites for Custom-houses have already been selected or purchased, and suitable port regulations drawn up for submission to the Central Government, whose

approval of them, I am led to believe, is the only thing wanting before these two important places are added to the number of open ports."

The Constantinople correspondent of the *Temps* gives fuller details than have hitherto been published on the state of the negotiations between the British Embassy and the Ottoman Government as to the demands made by the **Smyrna-Aidin Railway Company.** The question has been under discussion for the last five years. The company asked (1) for a prolongation of its concession; (2) for an extension of 100 kilometres, half of which, starting from Dinair, the present terminus, would end at Buldur, and the other half, also starting from Dinair, would come out on Lake Egerdir; (3) navigation on Lake Egerdir; and (4) the right of preference in case the Government were one day to concede the construction of a line extending to the Gulf of Adalia. The Trade promulgated about a month ago granted prolongation of the concession for 15 years and the extension indicated, but fixed the terminus point of the branch line at Egerdir 20 kilometers from the lake, refusing the privilege of navigation on the lake. It declared that there was no intention of granting to any one a concession for a line towards the Gulf of Adalia. The company thereupon proposed that the Ottoman Government should at all events authorize free navigation on the lake. The region beyond the lake is traversed by German and French lines, so that it can count only on free navigation upon the lake to feed its line. As for the right of preference up to Adalia, the company says that, since the Government has no intention of making any such concession, it would cost it nothing to sign a clause recognizing a right of preference to the Aidin Company. The matter had been before the Government for a fortnight when the last mail left. According to the correspondent of the *Temps*, neither the British Government nor the company is eager to undertake this extension, but an important matter of principle is at stake. The Ottoman Government has affirmed that it makes no distinction between Germans and Englishmen as regards concession. The British Government regards this partiality as a glagrant—injustice towards a company which has not cost Turkey a penny, but which, apart from the fact that it has been of great use in the region traversed, has come to the rescue of the Government at moments of financial embarrassment.

The following telegram, dated the 24th September, was despatched to the Secretary of State, regarding crop prospects:—**Crop prospects** for the week ending, 15th September last. **United Provinces:** Heavy and Beneficial rain has fallen in all affected districts filling tanks and wells. Prospects [illegible] the whole. The condition of the people is improving. Two flooded tahsils of Gorakhpur declared scarcity, and there relief is being given. Prices have fallen generally. The numbers on relief are falling. **Rajputana:** Rainfall has been general and crops are thriving. The autumn harvest is now assured. Prices have fallen but are still generally above the normal. Relief works have been closed in Ajmer, in one tahsil of Merwara, and in Jaipur. **Central India:** Rainfall has been general and sufficient. Crop prospects are fair to good. **Bombay:** Rainfall moderate to good. Crops in good condition generally. The condition of the cattle is improving. Water supply is sufficient. Prices are falling. There has been a large decrease in numbers on relief. Relief works have been closed in two districts. **Eastern Bengal:** Crop prospects fair to good. Scarcity continues in five districts. Prices are falling, but are still very high. **Bengal:** Distress continues in Darbhanga, owing to floods. Gratuitous relief is being largely given. Prices continue high. Prospects are favourable in other provinces. The following are the numbers of persons in receipt of relief in thousands:—United Provinces 122, Ajmer and Rajputana 16, Centra India 4, Bombay, 51, Eastern Bengal 3, Total 196.

[For Weekly Weather Summary see page 915.]

A Manchester **Monthly Review of the Cotton Trade** says:— August has been an uneventful month except that prices of cotton have steadily declined. The price of middling American was 5·98*d.* on August 1st, and it rose to 5·99*d.* on the 2nd. This was the highest of the month, and a gradual decline brought it to 5·29*d.* on the 24th, and though it recovered to 5·55*d.* on the 28th there was a further decline, and on the 30th it was 5·39*d.*, or nearly $\frac{5}{8}$*d.* less than at the beginning of the month. The decline was due in some degree to the Bureau report of August 3rd, which gave the average condition for July 25th as 82·9 per cent., as compared with 83·3 a month before, 74·9 a year before, and a ten-year average of 82·4. Since the publication of this report the news from the cotton belt has been generally favourable, though the bulls have done their best with an interesting factor in the situation, and sanguine estimates point to a crop equal to that of 1904-05. Whatever it may be, we seem to be assured of a full consumption in Lancashire for some time to come. Spinners and manufacturers are not increasing their engagements, but they have a fair amount of work before them, and an inquiry that would certainly be turned into a considerable business if it were necessary to sell. Probably both spinners and manufacturers have improved their margins during the last few weeks, but, as little has been sold, the advantage is hardly a substantial one. Buyers have been very cautious, and the trend of prices seems so far to have justified them. It is probable that there will be yet a good deal of waiting for developments, though any assurance of a continuance of present cotton prices would soon stimulate buyers. It is noted that those manufacturers who buy their yarn are stiffer in price than those who both spin and weave, and this suggests that the spinning trade generally is doing well. Holidays both in Manchester and in the producing centres have accentuated the quietness of the month. Egyptian cotton remains remarkably firm, and its decline is very slow. Fully good fair was 10$\frac{15}{16}$*d.* on August 1st, and is 10*d.* on August 30th. Appended is a table showing the fluctuations in futures and spot cotton, the quotations of American being given in decimals. The lowest price for futures was touched on August 23rd and 24th, and the highest on August 2nd and 3rd:—

	August 1st, opening.	Lowest.	Highest.	August 30th, Close.
	d.	*d.*	*d.*	*d.*
August	5·73	5·02	5·73	5·07
August-Sept.	5·65	4·97	5·67	5·00
Sept.-Oct.	5·60	4·90-1	5·62	4·90-1
Oct.-Nov.	5·56	4·88	5·58-9	4·90
Nov.-Dec.	5·56	4·88	5·58	4·90
Dec.-Jan.	5·56	4·90	5·58	4·91-2
Jan.-Feb.	5·57	4·90	5·59	4·93
Feb.-March	...	4·92	5·61	4·95
March-April	5·60	4·95	5·63	4·97
April-May	5·61	4·95	5·64	4·98-9
Mid. American spot	5·98	5·29	5·99	5·39
F. G. F. Egypt spot	10$\frac{5}{16}$	10	10$\frac{5}{8}$	10

The correspondent at Shanghai of *Commercial Intelligence* has sent the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce **return of piece-goods** in stock on June 30th. This half-yearly return is made in correction of the estimates that continue to be founded upon the previous one, and recent advices have intimated that the delay of several prominent houses in sending in their stocks had made its postponement necessary. Possibly, therefore, the *Commercial Intelligence* figures may be subject to some slight modifications, but they are sufficient to confirm the existence of very heavy stocks of almost all kinds. "A rough estimate," says the correspondent, "places the value of the American goods in stock at four millions sterling," and he goes on to say that "more than 50 per cent. of the goods held in stock in Shanghai could have been cleared had Manchuria been open to foreign trade." Messrs. Ilbert and Co. who write in a rather improved tone about the **Shanghai market,** have the following in their circular of July 19th:—"We learn that a combination of twenty-three of the principal dealers in American *goods have formed themselves together* to stop buying any further supplies from America, under the penalty of a fine of 10,000 taels from every offender amongst them, this action being taken by them in protest to a new clause recently inserted in mill contracts, stipulating that goods contracted for exports cannot be resold in America, and also in order to obtain more specific terms regarding actual shipment than those they have been obliged to submit to in the past few seasons". We have heard of "independence" on the part of Lancashire manufacturers, who sell large quantities at low prices for export, might find home trade buyers ready to give the exporters a small buying commission in order to obtain the same rates. Writing on July 19th, Messrs. Noel, Murray, & Company report that the **Shanghai market** has continued to improve, though "the actual fresh business from first hands is still quite infinitesimal, and importers have to console themselves merely with the fact that the dealers are moving their former purchases with much more freedom." The section of the Shanghai-Nanking railway from Shanghai to Wusieh, a distance of eighty miles, was opened on July 16th. Referring to this, Messrs. Noel, Murray say:—"As is well known, this road has been built under the auspices of the British-China Corporation, and the eulogies passed on the work by some of the native officials were well merited. The violent prejudices that were in such strong evidence thirty years ago when the first road between this and Woosung was inaugurated, have entirely disappeared, and the cry for railways is heard on all sides now. But unfortunately there is in China a so-called progressive and patriotic party that objects to the work being done by aliens, and consequently, as the representative of the British section of the corporation so plainly put it in his speech on the occasion, it is a question 'on the solution of which vast issues depend.' It is suggested that the alternatives are the introduction of foreign capital for the improvement of communication or an indefinite postponement until China can finance and execute the work herself. The creation of surplus capital in China, however, must naturally be stimulated by railway development, and 'China's wisest policy is to secure as much as possible of this vitalising force."

ENQUIRY.

General Produce Export Business.

A correspondent on the Malabar Coast of India, a planter of pepper, and cocoanuts, and a dealer in general produce peculiar to that part of the country, desires to establish communication with some first class firm in England or Germany. References supplied. For further particulars apply to the Government, Bureau of Commercial Intelligence, 5, C[illegible]

WIND-MILLS AND WIND-POWER.

In the August number of *Cassier's Magazine* occurs an article on **Wind Power**—a subject of special interest to a large agricultural country like India, in many parts of which the best method of obtaining motive power at a low cost, particularly for irrigation, is one of considerable importance. Still greater interest attaches to the article, if, Mr. Alfred Chatterton's excellent monograph on lift irrigation, noticed in the *Trade Journal* of the 20th September, be read with it. The author of the article treats his theme as if it were a comparatively new one. As a matter of fact, however, wind-mills, not widely differing from those of the present day, have been known for ages. The Saracens utilised them, and, according to Anderson, they were in vogue in Spain, France and Germany in 1299, the secret of their construction—and it was an important secret in those days—having been brought from the Near East by the Crusader Knights of St. John.

There is little new to learn concerning the principles that govern the construction of wind-mills. As for the cause of their failure to come into more general use than they have, it is not far to seek. Their relative failure is due to the limitations under which they, of necessity, labour, the irregularity and uncertainty of the wind, and the consequent loss of trade, following on the impossibility of working against time under any condition of weather. But the chief factor in the decay of the wind-mill has been the advent of the oil engine. This is certain and comparatively cheap. It is the old story of the sailing ship and the steamer over again. The wind-mill has, however, great possibilities in certain tracts of India, however, where punctuality in working is not absolutely essential. In the dry areas, where the water-level is low, especially might the wind-mill claim with advantage a larger share of interested attention than it has hitherto attracted. In a few places in India what are known as "American" wind-mills may be seen working. They have been put up by Europeans. In still rarer cases in the Punjab, in the United Provinces, and in the Deccan more primitively built and designed wind-mills have been put up by natives for their own use. Most of these have been inspired by Europeans, or have been copied by natives from European types. In India the people have employed and originated every type of water-wheel for themselves, but the wind-mill is not native to the soil. There is no reason, however, why the wind-mill should not grow in favour. There are few days in each month when there is not a wind of some sort, and the uses to which the wind-mill could be put are many. One of the uses of the modern wind-mill is to store up large volumes of water to be used as occasion may require, and many of them are now fitted with reservoirs for that purpose. For years past the utility of wind-mills for various farm purposes has been recognised in America, and such is the demand that "home made" ones are not uncommon in many parts of the United States, and the consequent knowledge of their parts has lead to some useful discoveries.

In has been ascertained that the velocity of the wind increases in inverse ratio to its distance from the earth, and, according to a recent calculation, if the velocity at a height of 50 feet is 1·0 at 25 feet it will be only 0·9, but at 100 feet it will be 1·2. Hence the advantage of erecting wind-mills on high towers. Thus erected, a nicely balanced wind-mill will commence to run with a wind pressure of three to four miles an hour. With a 5-mile breeze it will pump a fair amount of water. A 10-mile wind will very largely increase the output, for doubling the velocity means quadrupling the pressure. The water raised by a 16-mile breeze is generally about 50 per cent. greater than that secured by a 10-mile wind. Up to twenty miles the additional increase is small, and beyond that it ceases owing to the governor coming into play. In many countries wind directions are uncertain and calms are frequent, but in most parts of India, owing to the comparative regularity of the North-east and South-west trade winds, a working breeze can be depended on during the greater part of the year, and hence this country would seem to be far better adapted for the utilization of wind power than the number of wind-mill installations it contains would imply.

There are two kinds of wind-mills in general use: the ancient type, with four to six "sweeps", and the modern annular wind-wheel. The former, with its close-fitting canvas sails, gives more power, but it does not lend itself readily to adjustment, and the efforts to cure this defect by means of shuttered-"sweeps" have not been quite successful. The annular machine, which works at a low wind pressure and is easily adjusted, is the most favoured, and would probably be the simplest kind for use in this country. The ancient type is cheaper, however, and some years ago the Danish Government had a series of experiments conducted to determine the best form for ordinary use. It was ascertained that such a mill has only four "sweeps" or arms, the sail surface being approximately rectangular, with a width of one-fourth to one-fifth of the radius, and a length of about three-quarters of the radius. The effective energy of such a wheel should be 0·04 foot-pound per square foot of sail surface with a wind velocity of 3·28 feet per second, and will increase with cube of the speed of the wind.

As regards the annular or disc wind-mill, some instructive trials were carried out by the Royal Agricultural Society in 1903, and a few particulars of the mill that won the prize will be of interest. The diameter of the wheel was sixteen feet. It had eighteen blades with a sale area of 131·32 square feet. The blades were 1 foot 11¼ inches wide at the outer end, 11¼ inches wide at the inner end, and 4 feet 10⅝ inches long. The vanes were curved hollow to the wind, to radii of 2 feet 3½ inches and 1 foot 6 inches at the outer and inner ends, respectively. The versed-sine of the arc at the outer end was 2 inches and that at the inner

1 inch; the cords of these arcs were weathered to the plane of motion at an angle of 35 degrees at the tip and 40 degrees at the inner end. This mill was fitted with a double-acting pump capable of raising two gallons per (double) stroke, and the wheel made five revolutions to one stroke of the pump. With a 12-mill wind the horse-power of the water lifted was 0·573, the efficiency of the pump being 97·61 per cent. The work done was, therefore, 2·39 foot-pounds per second per square foot of sail surface, representing a utilization of about 16 per cent. of the total horse-power contained in the cylinder of wind intercepted by the mill. The ratio of the peripheral velocity of the wheel to the speed of the wind was as 1·05 to 1. If experiments were carried out in various provinces, having for their object the comparison of the "sweep" type and annular type of wind-mills, they would prove instructive in enabling one to decide as to which type of mill is best adapted for use in different regions in India. The big four-armed "sweep" mill would without doubt be found cheaper to erect and would prove better for heavy work in a region of strong winds, but the annular machine, with its many vanes and delicate poise, would be best for light steady work, such as raising water, in a country of light airs.

Various types of governor have been projected for these annular wind-mills. The systems may be divided broadly into two classes, *viz.*, the hinged vane and the canting wheel. In the former type the vanes of the wheel are hinged in such a manner that they can give to the wind pressure when it exceeds a certain amount, and more or less present, their edges to it, and thus allow a greater proportion to pass through the wheel without doing work. The resistance to opening is controlled by a weight or springs, or occasionally by a centrifugal governor.

The canting-wheel method of governing is usually carried out in the following manner :— Normally the wheel is kept facing the wind by the action of a tail vane, but the axis of wheel, instead of being placed on the centre line of the turntable or head, is fixed a little to one side, so that there is always a tendency for the wheel to throw out of the wind. The leverage of the tail vane is, however, made sufficient to overcome this, but instead of being rigidly fixed, it is hinged to the head, and its right-angle position, relative to the wheel, is maintained by the action of a weight or spring. If the wind exceeds a certain pressure, the weight or spring yields to it and the right-angle position is no longer preserved, with the result that the wheel turns more or less obliquely to the wind and receives its force with diminished effect.

This form of governor, although it may appear crude at first sight, gives surprisingly good results, and made a better showing during the trials than the more complicated hinged vane type. For mills of over 20 feet diameter the latter is, probably, more suitable; in fact, the former could not be applied to very large wheels, as their steerage is effected by a revolving fantail, similar to that employed in the old-style tower mill.

The hinged vane governor has the advantage that the weather angle of the blades can be altered while the mill is running, and the speed of the machinery adjusted to meet requirements.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDIA.

EXCERPTS FROM PROCEEDINGS, KARACHI.

Working of the Indian Merchandise Marks Act during the year 1905-1906.—Laid on the table a comparative statement from the *Sind Official Gazette* showing the value of the Foreign Import Trade and the number of cases dealt with under the Indian Merchandise Marks Act in each Presidency and Port of British India during the official years 1904-1905 and 1905-1906. Also read the Government of India Resolution No. 6890, in the Department of Commerce and Industry, dated 31st August 1906, publishing reports on the working of the Indian Merchandise Marks Act throughout India during the year 1905-1906. **Resolution.**—To be recorded.

City of Bordeaux International Maritime Exhibition.—Read Government of India Resolution No. 6851-71-14, in the Department of Commerce and Industry, dated 31st August 1906, publishing for general information, papers relative to the International Maritime Exhibition, which will be held at Bordeaux in France in May 1907. The Exhibition, although principally maritime, will comprise all branches of industry and commerce. **Resolution.**—To be circulated and recorded.

Form of certificate for hides and skins imported into the Ottoman Empire.—Read letter, dated 31st August 1906, from the Chief Collector of Customs in Sind, forwarding, for the information of the Chamber, copy of a letter No. 3937, dated 24th August 1906, from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, together with copies of accompaniments received therewith regarding the form of certificate to accompany hides and skins imported into the Ottoman Empire. **Resolution.**—To be acknowledged, circulated and recorded.

Question whether it is necessary to amend the Indian law in order to secure that a certain proportion of a lascar crew shall understand English.—Read letter No. 8305, dated 25th August 1906, from the Chief Collector of Customs in Sind, stating that in a Bill now before Parliament there is a clause providing that seamen engaged on British ships must know sufficient English to understand orders, the object being to secure safety and to prevent danger and confusion in an emergency through seamen not being able to understand the orders

given: that this provision is, however, expressly made not to apply to lascars, and that the Government of India are, at the instance of the Board of Trade, making enquiries in order to ascertain whether the practice now followed on ships on which lascars are employed is really sufficient to secure that the lascars will understand orders given in an emergency: that the Government have also under consideration whether it is necessary to amend the Indian law in order to secure that a certain proportion of a lascar crew shall understand English, or that the ships' officers shall be able to give orders in the language which the lascars understand. The Chief Collector requests the Chamber's opinion on the subject, after circulating the letters among members, especially those interested in shipping.

Also read the Chamber's reply, dated 11th September 1906, stating that in the opinion of the Committee, no amendment of the Indian law is necessary, as experience proves that orders given to lascar crews are readily understood, being usually issued through the serangs, who understand sufficient nautical English, whilst ships' officers know sufficient lascar language to avoid the possibility of any danger or confusion in an emergency. **Resolution.**—To be recorded.

Difficulties that arise in the shipment of skins in bales from Karachi.—Read letter, dated 12th September 1906, pointing out the difficulties that arise in the shipment of skins in bales from the port of Karachi, resulting in the diversion of traffic from Amritsar both to Bombay and Calcutta. It is stated that there being no special godowns for skins at Keamari, and in the event of the Railway and Port Trust godowns being full, these goods have to be unloaded in the open with a considerable danger of the skins becoming wet and at a risk of a serious loss, in addition the skins have to be unloaded and again reloaded, thus involving extra expense; that there is a charge for warehousing both in the Railway and Port Trust godowns and a payment for octroi dues. It is estimated that these additional expenses are about 1 shilling per ton, and that in Bombay goods are unloaded direct from the trucks into the transit sheds where the steamers load, thus saving the cost of reloading, the goods being allowed to remain in the transit sheds for 7 days free of rent. The Chamber is requested to give the matter its serious consideration, with a view to steps being taken to remove the difficulties complained of. **Resolution.**—Deferred pending the promised further communication. The Bengal and Bombay Chambers to be asked to kindly afford information regarding the customary port charges (including warehouse rent) on hides and skins received in those Ports for shipment. Also for copies of any special rules or regulations applying to these classes of exports.

UPPER INDIA.

Sixth Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire.—News has been received that the Hon'ble Mr. A. McRobert, the President of the Chamber, and one of the Chamber's delegates to the Sixth Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire, had the honour of being included amongst those delegates selected for presentation to His Majesty the King.

Minima rates on Indian Railways.—In connection with the various communications sent to the press by the Agent of the East Indian Railway Company, on the subject of the statutory minima rates of freight imposed on Indian Railways, the Committee have addressed the Railway Board suggesting that diagrams or figures similar to those issued by the East Indian Railway Company should be called for, indicating the trend of goods traffic between Northern India and the port of Bombay.

Labour Question.—Mr. S. H. Fremantle, who it will be remembered reported some time ago on the general question of the supply of labour in the United Provinces, was deputed lately by the local Government to conduct a special enquiry into the advisability or otherwise of regulating by legislation the hours of work for adult males in Mills and Factories and of amending in certain respects the law relating to the employment of children. The local Government in view of Mr. Fremantle's report are of opinion that excessive working hours in textile Factories are not likely to be curtailed except by legislative interference. With regard to the proposed compulsory education for half-timers, His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor thinks this hardly advisable. This Chamber has been asked for an expression of opinion on these points and also on certain questions relating to the issue of certificates of physical fitness for children. The Committee have asked for the views of those members of the Chamber who are employers of labour; and their recommendations will be forwarded to Government in due course.

MADRAS.

Hours of labour and the employment of children in factories.—Read and recorded an order of the Madras Government, dated the 26th July 1906, regarding a letter from the Government of India in the Department of Commerce and Industry (Factories) Nos. 644—653, dated the 26th January 1906, suggesting certain procedure to combat successfully the difficulties experienced in enforcing the provisions of Section 7 of the Indian Factories Act relating to the employment of children.

Government interference with private trade.—Read letter, dated the 11th instant, from the South Indian Export Coy., Ld., on the subject of Government interference with private trade in connection with the supply of oil engines and pumps by the Experimental Pumping Department of the Board of Revenue. Resolved that the Board of Revenue be addressed on the subject of the experimental pumping installations at present under the control of Mr. Chatterton, stating that it has been represented to the Chamber that the matter

is being taken beyond the stage of departmental experiments, and that an agency has practically been created for the sale and supervision of a particular make of oil engine and pump to ryots. That the Chamber, if it has been correctly informed, would be glad of an assurance that the Department concerned will not specify any particular make of engine or pump, but that care will be taken to give all importers of such machinery an equal opportunity to supply.

A market for cutch.—Read letter, dated the 13th instant, from the District Forest Officer, West Kurnool District, stating that he is in a position to manufacture a considerable quantity of cutch annually and asking particulars as regards markets and prices. Resolved to reply that hitherto there has been no market for cutch in Madras, apparently the whole trade being concentrated in Calcutta and Rangoon, but that his letter has been circulated to the members of the Chamber with a view to any of them addressing him direct in the matter.

Railway rates for coal.—Read letter, dated the 11th instant, from the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, regarding the reduced railway rates for coal, which have been introduced on the East Indian, Bengal-Nagpur and Great Indian Peninsula Railways for consignments to Bombay, but not on the Madras Railway for consignments to Madras and *via*. Resolved to address the Madras and South Indian Railways on the subject, explaining fully the Chamber's opinions and the grounds on which it bases its claim for a similar reduction of rates on the railways in South India.

TARIFF CHANGES AND CUSTOMS NOTIFICATIONS.

THE *Board of Trade Journal* published on the 6th August, in the section relating to Tariff Changes and Customs Regulations, gives particulars about:—

UNITED KINGDOM-NICARAGUA.—New Commercial Treaty.
BRITISH INDIA.—Passengers' Baggage.
NEWFOUNDLAND.—Reduced Import Duty on Wheels. Exemption of French Fishing Vessels from Light Dues.
NATAL.—Regulations under Plant Diseases Act.
SOUTHERN RHODESIA.—Customs Union Tariff. Customs Regulations.
NEW ZEALAND.—Customs Decisions.
CYPRUS.—Free Importation of Manures. Export Duties on Wine, Spirits, and Vinegar.
EGYPT.—Valuation Tariff for Petroleum.
FRANCE.—Customs Decision.
SPAIN-SWITZERLAND.—Provisional Commercial Agreement.
SPAIN-UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.—Reciprocity Arrangement.
ITALY.—Tariff Modifications. Duty on Gold or Silver Tissues, Laces, etc.—A Correction. Abolition of certain Export Duties.—Drawback on Cart Grease.
GREECE.—Differential Duties on Roumanian Products.
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.—Goods in Bond.—Weight on Withdrawal—Premature Protest.
CUBA.—Customs Decision respecting Gauge of Iron or Steel Wire.
HAITI.—Increase of Export Duty on Coffee Residues and Refuse.
COST RICA.—Duty-free Admission of certain Machinery.
BRAZIL (STATE OF BAHIA).—Abolition of Export Duty on Fruit.
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—Regulations to give effect to the Customs Law.
CHINA-MANCHURIA.—Opening of Dalny as a Free Port.—Trade between Dalny and Open Ports in Japan.

We give the following particulars of **changes interesting to Indian** trade.

ITALY.

Tariff Modifications.

The following are some of the Tariff Modifications of Italy:—

[Lira (100 centesimi)—9·6*d.*; 100 kilogs.—220·46 lbs.] Additions to the Tariff are printed in *italic* type.

Tariff No.	Articles.	Rate of Duty. Former.	Present.
		Lire. cts. Per 100 kilogs.	Lire. cts. Per 100 kilogs.
290	Bran	3 50	2 00
293	Feculae	2 00	6 00
338 *bis.*	Paraffin candles . . .	15 00*	20 00

NOTE.—Candles of stearine mixed with paraffin in a proportion exceeding 30 per cent. are regarded as paraffin candles.

* By assimilation to stearine candles.

WEATHER SUMMARY.

For the week ending the 22nd September 1906.

DURING the period under review there was light to moderate nearly general rain on the West Coast, in the Deccan, the interior of South India, the south of Nizam's Dominions and in the north-western districts of the United Provinces, light to moderate local rain in Burma, Assam, the Madras Coast, the submontane and Central Punjab, the Frontier Province and in Kashmir, light local rain in Bengal, Eastern Bengal and Assam, the extreme south

of Rajputana, Gujarat, north-east India and in Orissa, while a few falls occurred in Chota Nagpur, Central India and in the Central Provinces. The principal amounts of rainfall were:—Cuddapah 6·83″, Barisal 4·00″, Madras 3·71″, Mergui 3·45″, Silchar 3·38″, Madura 3·13″, Sibsagar 2·70″. Diamond Island 2·56″, Cherat 2·45″, Mandalay 2·30″, Chakrata 2·25″, Lashio 2·23″, Shillong 2·11″, Sonemarg 2·10″, Nellore 2·00″, Dinajpur 1·74″, Moulmein 1·69″, Bangalore 1·58″, Bombay 1·55″, Tinnevelly 1·54″, Umballa 1·52″, and Jessore 1·48″.

The notable feature of the weather during the period had been the withdrawal of the monsoon from Upper India. The depression which travelled in a north-westerly direction from Sutna in the last week, finally broke up in the hills near Sialkot on the 16th. This disturbance caused heavy and widespread rain in the west of the United Provinces, in the Punjab and in Kashmir which continued from the end of the last week to the first few days of the week under review; with its disappearance skies became clear over Upper India.

In Burma the monsoon was week on the 16th, only light rainfall occurring on the coast and isolated falls in the interior. With the withdrawal of the monsoon from Upper India the rainfall increased considerably on the coast on the 17th and by next day had extended into the interior. During the remaining days of the week it was well distributed and the total fall was greater than is usual at this time of year. Skies were generally lightly to moderately overcast in the beginning and moderately to heavily overcast in the end. Temperature was generally normal or in excess.

In north-east India and Orissa precipitation was widespread, but the total fall was much below the normal for the week. Skies were moderately overcast in Eastern Bengal and Assam, and only lightly clouded elsewhere. Temperature was generally normal or in excess.

On the 16th light rain occurred only in the extreme north-west of the United Provinces, and for the remainder of the week weather was dry not only in the United Provinces but also in Central India and the Central Provinces. With the disappearance of the depression skies became clear rapidly. The rainfall was followed by unusually low temperatures; with the clearing of the skies temperature rose slowly, and was approximately normal by the middle of the week.

The depression also produced heavy rain in the Punjab, light to moderate rain in the Frontier Province and Rajputana and light rain in Gujarat; while in Kashmir there was heavy rain at the lower stations and heavy snow at Dras and on the higher ranges. As soon as the depression filled up, fine clear weather set in except in South Rajputana and Gujarat where light rainfall continued until the 19th. The disturbance caused very low temperature in the Punjab and Kashmir and frost was reported from Gulmarg and Sonemarg, while at Lahore the maximum temperature fell to 74½°, or 25° below normal. At the middle of the week temperature had recovered and was practically normal.

The monsoon was weak in the Peninsula throughout the period and the rainfall was scanty except in the South-eastern districts. Skies were generally lightly overcast in the Deccan and on the Konkan coast, while in the rest of the Peninsula they were moderately overcast. Temperature had been normal or in slight excess except in the south-eastern districts.

The rainfall for the whole monsoon period was practically normal everywhere, except in Baluchistan and the subdivisions of Jaipur, Ranchi and Cuttack where it was in defect; and in the west Satpuras and the subdivisions of Simla, Indore and Mysore where it was in excess. Excluding Baluchistan where the rainfall of the monsoon period was insignificant, Jaipur shows the largest percentage of defect, while the largest actual deficiency is 13·63 inches in Cuttack.

[For telegram to the Secretary of State see page 910.]

CONSULAR REPORTS.

BUNDER ABBAS.

In his report on the Trade and Commerce of Bunder Abbas and Lingah for the year 1905, Lieutenant W. Shakespear, His Majesty's Consul, says:—"During 1905 the trade of Bunder Abbas has shown signs of some recovery from the severe depression of last year. The figures, however, are scarcely as encouraging as might, not unreasonably, have been expected. 1904 was a good year as far as crops and the conditions of the country were concerned, and yet the year was the worst on record from a trade point of view; 1905 has been equally fortunate, rain has been plentiful and all the internal prosperous conditions of the previous year, likely to lead to a free exchange of commodities, were maintained. It might have been anticipated, therefore, that there would be a sharp recovery from the exceptional depression of 1904, a hope which was further supported by the large volume of trade which suddenly began to pass through the port in the earlier part of the year under review, and by large actual improvement in exports. Imports, however, failed to reach the figures of value for 1903, though there is some consolation in the fact that the imports and exports now more nearly approach each other in value, allowing of business by exchange of articles rather than entirely on a cash basis.

The figures for 1905 are £399,699 worth of imports against £317,808 for 1904, an increase of 25·76 per cent., and against the previous quinquennial average of £385,585, a rise of 3·66 per cent. Exports for 1905 show £155,762 against £122,165 for 1904, an increase of 27·50 per cent., and against £123,083 the previous quinquennial average, a rise of 26·55 per cent. The figures throughout have been compiled from the official statistics of the Persian customs department. The United Kingdom and India supply 33·3 and 39·5 per cent., respectively, or 72·8 per cent. of the total imports, showing a slight increase on the previous year for the United Kingdom, but a decrease for India, on the relative percentages of both years' totals. The exports taken are 5·05 and 76·8 per cent. respectively, or 81·85 per cent. of the total exported; a decrease for the United Kingdom and a slight increase for India on the previous year's relative percentages of total. The next best countries are Russia with 4·7 per cent. of the imports and Turkey (including Turkish Arabia) with 4·8 per cent. of the exports.

The tariff of February, 1903, and the reglement douanier or regulations framed under the provisions of the commercial treaty of the same date (which, however, did not come into force until September 1904), are now better understood by merchants after a fair interval of working. The same complaints are, however, still made regarding the many formalities and petty fees which were noticed in the report for 1904. The warning repeated in the various reports for the Persian Gulf for the past few years as to compliance with the customs regulations and the necessity for shippers to help their consignees in matters such as the details of invoices, marking of gross and net weights, early despatch of shipping documents, etc., do not yet seem to be entirely understood, for instances have come to my knowledge where an unfortunate consignee had to pay a very large sum on a big consignment as warehouse dues simply because he received the bill of lading two days after the period of grace granted by the customs department had expired and he was unable to take delivery without the bill of lading, and in another a consignee ran a grave risk of being labelled a smuggler for declaring his consignment as shown on the bill of lading without waiting for the invoice in order to save the demurrage which a delay for this document would have entailed.

I would earnestly request all firms shipping to Bunder Abbas to study with all the care possible the "Report of the British Indian Commercial Mission to South-Eastern Persia," by Mr. Gleadowe Newcomen. It will be of immense service in showing the difficulties arising from local conditions and how these may, to a great extent, be met by a little forethought. The arrangements for landing and storing cargo still continue unsatisfactory, no improvements having been made in either the pier or the customs warehouses. The lighterage is bad, but thefts and pilfering have happily almost entirely ceased.

Under the heading of openings for British trade I cannot do better than again refer merchants to Mr. Newcomen's report, where the prospective shipper will find discussed in detail the state of the various trades which offer remunerative opportunities and which do not.

The exports of raw cotton and wool have risen considerably, and over 7,000 tons of red oxide of iron were shipped from Hormuz Island. The supply of this mineral on the island is almost unlimited, it is also said to be of good quality and is very easily accessible.

It will be seen from the following table that Russia and Germany have made a steady headway, whilst India and France have lost a certain proportion of their previous shares:—

IMPORTS.

Country.	Percentage of each Country's share to Total Imports.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.
India	38·1	47·4	39·5
United Kingdom	33·7	31·2	33·3
Total	71·8	78·6	72·8
Russia	0·9	2·8	4·7
Austria-Hungary	4·8	3·9	3·7
Germany	0·1	1·1	3·5
China	4·5	1·5	3·1
France	10·9	6·8	2·7
Java	2·2	1·4	2·2
Grand total	95·2	96·1	92·7

EXPORTS.

Country.	Percentage of each Country's share to Total Exports.		
	1903.	1904.	1905.
India	52·2	75·1	76·8
United Kingdom	5·4	6·1	5
Total	57·6	81·2	81·8
Turkey and Turkish Arabia	5·1	3·7	4·8
China and Hong-Kong	28	3·3	3·5
Grand total	90·7	88·2	90·1

NOTE.—Austria-Hungary, Germany, France and Java take no exports, and Russia only a very small proportion, which now amounts to only 0·8 per cent. of the total.

The tea trade shows considerable recovery during the year, but it has by no means attained the position it occupied in former years. The only possible explanation is that tea which formerly found its way to the Northern Persian markets through Bunder Abbas now passes *viâ* the Black Sea and Caspian ports with the advantage of reduced freights over Russian railways. It is also said that tea purchased in Calcutta is shipped to Russia, where it is reblended and repacked, and then exported for the Northern Persian markets as "Russian" tea.

The falling-off in Russian oil is no doubt due to the troubles which took place at the oil-fields in the Caucasus during 1905.

In the sugar trade the remarkable decline in the French article continues, being largely replaced by Russian and German sugar. Russian and Mauritius soft sugars were also largely imported, and Egyptian loaf sugar seems to be in good demand.

Bunder Abbas has at last been connected with the rest of the world by a cable and land line across Kishm Island to the telegraph station at Henjam, and the opening of the line to the public is eagerly awaited by the trading community.

No improvement has taken place in the caravan routes to the interior except that caravans do not appear to be looted quite so frequently as was usual in former years. The rates ruling were as follows :—

To—	Per—	Rate.
		Tomans.
Meshed by camels	100 Meshedi máns (735 lbs.)	35
Kerman „	100 Tabrizi máns (635 lbs.)	13
Kerman by donkeys		16
Yezd	200 Tabrizi máns (1,300lbs.)	45
Yezd by camel		32

NOTE.—For conversion to values take 37 tomans = R100 = £6 13*s.* 4*d.*

Exchange has fluctuated a good deal during the year. In May it was as high as 420 krans, but this had come down to 380 krans by December as against R100. The calculations throughout this report have been made on a basis of 400 krans to R100 (equivalent to £6 13*s.* 4*d.*). The exchange during 1906 has been still lower, due to shortage of the Persian silver coinage.

There has been a considerable falling-off in the amount of specie imported from India, due no doubt to the increase in export commodities, whilst the export of specie remains about the same as in 1904. There have, however, been large shipments of specie from other Persian ports to Bunder Abbas, a fact which partly accounts for the small amount imported from India.

Freights were much the same as during 1904 ruling about £1 10*s.* for general cargo and £1 15*s.* for carpets and valuable articles to London, whilst to Bombay they were respectively about 12*s.* and 15*s.*

The shipping statement appended gives the details of vessels entering and clearing the port. The lines running to this port are now :—

Line.	Service.
British India Steam Navigation Company.	Weekly.
Bucknall's Steamship Lines	From and to London and Marseilles.
Anglo-Algerian Steamship Company	
West Hartlepool Steamship Company	
Bombay-Persia Steam Navigation Company.	From and to India.
Odessa Trading Company	„ „ Odessa.

Total Value of Imports into Bunder Abbas from Principal Countries during the Years 1904-05.

Country.	Value. 1904.	Value. 1905.	Remarks.
	£	£	
United Kingdom	99,134	133,110	Piece-goods.
India	150,580	157,946	Increase in tea, sugar, piece-goods; decrease in flour, cereals, specie.
France	21,612	10,872	Diminution almost entirely in loaf sugar.
Germany	3,677	14,137	Loaf sugar.
Austria-Hungary	12,602	14,912	
United States	124	12	
Russia	8,816	18,998	Increase in loaf and soft sugars, piece-goods; decrease in oil.
Turkey and Turkish Arabia.	520	995	
China	4,874	12,508	Entirely tea.
Belgium	2,611	3,070	
Japan	684	1,380	
Italy	62	5	
Netherlands	1	17	
Java	4,526	8,954	,,
Mauritius	528	3,840	Soft sugar.
Egypt	375	1,493	Loaf ,,
Sweden	139	695	
Switzerland	7	25	
Arabia	254	293	
Muscat	961	620	
Bahrein	13	6	
Zanzibar	29	...	
Hong-Kong	2	...	
Ceylon	100	...	
Aden	25	...	
Arab Coast	225	...	
Singapore	...	497	
Koweit	...	41	
Persian ports	5,327	15,278	
TOTAL	317,808	399,699	

Total Value of Exports from Bunder Abbas to Principal Countries during the Years 1904-05.

Country.	Value. 1904.	Value. 1905.	Remarks.
	£	£	
United Kingdom	7,493	7,860	Chiefly due to demand for cotton (raw), gum, wool (raw).
India	91,820	119,673	
Russia	962	1,203	
China	4,017	5	Opium now shown as to Hong Kong.
Turkey and Turkish Arabia	4,605	7,501	Carpets and tobacco.
Switzerland	1,537	407	
Arabia	5,521	3,844	
Muscat	1,801	1,099	
Bahrein	924	2,250	Provisions Chiefly.
Arab Coast	1,451	781	
Koweit	135	108	
Aden	...	23	
Egypt	...	1,291	
Hong-Kong	...	5,467	Opium formerly shown as to China.
Zanzibar	...	130	
Persian ports	1,899	4,120	
Total	122,165	155,7	

Lingah.

The trade of Lingah has not hitherto been reported upon separately, having formerly been included as one of the ports of the Bushire Consular district. On this account it may be useful to give a few of the more important figures for past years

Up to four years ago Lingah was a great emporium of trade, which eventually found its way, by transhipment into native craft as well as steamers, to a large number of the minor Persian ports as far north as Bushire and to the ports on the Arabian side of the Gulf along the whole extent of coastline from near Muscat up to Bahrein. A very large proportion of the valuable trade, as will be apparent from the following tables, consisted of pearls. I have, therefore, separated the value of pearls from the remainder in order that the actual trade of the port (of which a large amount still consists in transhipment) might be made more evident :—

IMPORTS.

Year.	Value. Total trade.	Value. Pearls.	Value. Other trade.	Percentage of Pearls to Total.
	£	£	£	
1899	611,625	237,000	374,625	38·7
1900	501,435	183,333	318,102	36·5
1901	657,209	269,333	387,876	40·9
1902	895,429	480,000	415,429	53·6
1903	684,521	327,000	357,521	47·7
1904	324,237	39,220	285,017	12·1
1905*	102,900	4,755	98,145	4·6

EXPORTS.

Year.	Value. Total trade.	Value. Pearls.	Value. Other trade	Percentage of Pearls to Total.
	£	£	£	
1899	551,578	226,660	325,318	41
1900	470,198	183,333	286,865	38·9
1901	602,981	267,567	335,414	44·3
1902	881,577	546,667	334,910	62
1903	653 112	327,000	326,112	50·1
1904	248,956	41,587	207,369	16·7
1905*	66,564	39,724	26,840	59·8

Comparison with Averages of Previous Six Years.

Description.		Imports. Average, Six Years 1899-1904.	Imports. 1905.*	Exports. Average, Six Years 1899-1904.	Exports. 1905.*
Total	Value £	612,469	102,900	568,134	66,564
Pearls	,, £	255,981	4,755	265,469	39,724
Other trade	,, £	356,428	98,145	302,665	26,840
Pearls to total	Per cent.	41·6	4·5	46·7	59·8

* The figures for 1905 are the only absolutely accurate ones, those for previous years having been obtained more or less by guesswork. Moreover Persian coastal trade is included in the earlier figures but not in those for 1905.

The above tables should be studied together with the statement in the appendix giving statistics which do not appear in the import or export tables. It will then be apparent that (excluding pearls) no less than 42·2 per cent. of the imports are again re-exported.

The point which the above tables bring out so vividly and which calls most for explanation is the startling decline in the trade within the last few years. The reasons are :—

(1) The figures for previous years were not accurate and may have been over-estimated.

(2) The unsympathetic attitude of the Persian customs department when it took over the Lingah customs in 1902, whereby a very large amount of the transhipment trade for the Oman ports was driven direct into those ports. Merchants and shipping companies found that there was a paying trade on the Arab coast with none of the restrictions and formalities required by the Persian customs, and as a result many merchants migrated with their whole business to Debai and Bahrein. In the case of pearls, on which there is an export duty, large quantities were formerly brought from the fisheries and shipped from Lingah; under the present regime this article would have to remain in the custom-house as goods for transhipment, if intended for export elsewhere, a proceeding which the owners regard with some suspicion. If "imported" as becomes technically necessary if the owner desires to keep personal possession, they have again to be "exported," upon which the duty must be paid. Consequently with a regular mail service to Debai and Bahrein, dealers now prefer to ship direct from those ports which are not under the severe management of the Belgian customs staff.

(3) The same remarks apply to the trade in cereals which formerly came to Lingah and now goes direct to the Oman ports.

(4) It is also found to be exceedingly paying business to discharge cargo such as coffee, tea, arms, aniline dyes, which are either subject to very heavy duties or are entirely prohibited, at the Oman ports for the express purpose of being smuggled into Persia across the Gulf by native boats to the small ports along the northern shore, where the customs posts under Persian subordinates do not exercise the keen vigilance of the superior Belgian staff. A proof, if one is required, is to hand in the import of coffee into Lingah for 1905 only amounting to 40½ cwts., whilst the town itself, a very fair one with a population of some 10,000 to 12,000 souls, largely Arab and coffee drinking, must consume tons of this commodity, not to mention the quantity consumed in the surrounding districts.

The causes of the decline in the trade of the port having been commented upon, we may examine how the trade of the year 1905, for which only are accurate figures available, now really stands. The imports amount to 102,900*l.* (inclusive of pearls) and are distributed as follows :—From India, 64·5 per cent.; United Kingdom, 14·4 per cent.; and Oman

ports, 12·1 per cent. (of which 4·5 per cent. is entirely pearls), the next country being Austria Hungary with 2·4 per cent.

The exports are taken chiefly by the following countries:—India, 62·9 per cent. (of which 59·8 per cent. is pearls entirely); Oman ports, 19·6 per cent.; and Turkey, 9·2 per cent. In face of these figures it will be seen that there is little rival trade to be noticed.

The principal articles of import are cotton piece-goods, rice and tobacco; and of export pearls, carpets and dried fruits.

The figures for previous years, though not to be taken as accurate, certainly do give an idea of what the trade has been. Now, however, it is exceedingly doubtful whether the figures for 1906 will even approach those of 1905.

For 1905 no figures for local Persian trade (*i.e.*, from and to Lingah and the Persian coastal ports) are available.

There is little to be said under the head of customs matters beyond referring those who have or propose to have dealings with Lingah to the many warnings repeated in the Bushire and Bunder Abbas reports to comply as nearly as is possible with the many and seemingly trifling details required by the department; it is the only method by which much annoyance and loss can be avoided.

In Lingah there does not appear much opening for British trade, as there is practically no market beyond the port itself. The wants of the inhabitants of the country lying in the vicinity are few, and those few appear to be supplied either through Bunder Abbas or by goods smuggled as already described above.

There are some sulphur mines near Lingah which might be found profitable, and the trade in shells (for mother-of-pearl) might be worth cultivating. This trade is at present almost entirely in the hands of the German company, who have a representative at the port.

The port is not the debouching point of caravan routes from any populous or great cities as is the case of Bushire and Bunder Abbas, and since it is fast losing its original character of a transhipment port there seems little chance of its trade even maintaining its present importance.

The shipping statements appended give the number and tonnage of the vessels which have entered the port. The anchorage is more convenient and closer to shore than at Bunder Abbas or Bushire, where steamers have to lie as far as 3 miles out. The lighterage, storage of goods, hamal-bashi system (already described in Bushire reports) are all capable of considerable improvement, which, however, in the present retrograde condition of trade in the port, is too much to hope for.

The port has no telegraph connection, and telegrams can only be sent from Henjam at present, a process which requires a boat and about two days' time in fair weather. It is to be hoped that the telegraph office at Bunder Abbas will soon be opened when no doubt Lingah telegrams will be despatched to that place overland for transmission.

Lingah has very little inland trade, the only towns, or rather villages, of any size which it supplies being Bastak, Lar, Awaz and Hormuz. The rates for the past year varied a good deal sometimes as much as 30 per cent., from 38 krans per 100 máns on donkeys for Bastak to 20 krans per 100 máns. Camel for the same journey would be about 5 krans cheaper per 100 máns than donkeys. Hire is highest from May to November, owing to heat and want of water on the roads. For Lar the rate is 50 krans per 100 máns on donkeys, with camels 5 krans per 100 máns less; this is during the hot weather. After November the rate will fall 10 krans or more on each kind of transport.

For conversion to English measures, 100 máns equals about 920 lbs. and 57 krans equal £1.

There is no exchange with sovereigns in the port. The following are the rates against Indian rupees and the Maria Theresa dollars:—Exchange varied from R100 equals 385 krans equals 71½ dollars at the beginning of the year to R100 equals 375 krans equals 67 dollars at the year's close. though about June 392 krans were obtainable for a short time.

Freights to London ruled:—For shells, per ton weight, from £1 10*s.* to £2, and by measurement about £1 8*s.*; for gums, from £1 11*s.* to £1 15*s.* per ton; for seeds, about £2 per ton.

Freights for Hamburg ruled:—For shells, per ton either weight or measurement, about £1 12*s.* 6*d.*; for gums, £1 8*s.* to £1 12*s.* per ton; for seeds, £2 per ton weight.

Freights to India were about R10 per ton for all classes of goods.

POWER FOR FACTORIES.

CAPITAL COSTS.

Mr. H. E. Wimperis, Assoc.M.Inst.C.E., writes as follows in the *Times* on this subject:—"Not the least complex problem which a manufacturer has to face is that of the source from which it will be most advantageous for him to derive the necessary power for working his machinery. In the case of new works, the manufacturer starts with a "clean slate," and matters are a good deal simplified owing to the fact that it is not then necessary to consider the question whether the advantages offered by newer processes of generation are sufficiently marked to warrant the scrapping of existing plant. In the case of either new or old works the problem is very greatly affected by the cost of coal in the locality, the nature of the load to be dealt with, the kind of neighbourhood (as bearing upon the amount of vibration allowable), the cost of labour, and other similar considerations. If arrangements can be made to take electric current from a neighbouring power station many of these factors disappear, but such power can only be obtained on the most advantageous terms when an undertaking is given in respect of the number of units required and the nature of the demand at different hours of the day.

In the widest case the manufacturer may have the following alternatives before him:—

1. Power station worked with reciprocating steam engines and boilers.
2. Power station worked with steam turbines and boilers.
3. Hydraulic power from waterfalls.
4. Pressure producers and gas engines.
5. Suction producers and gas engines.
6. Town gas and gas engines.
7. Mond gas laid on and gas engines.
8. Blast or coke furnace gas laid on and gas engines.
9. Electric current laid on.
10. Oil engine plant (for small outputs).

This list appears to afford an extensive choice, but for most works the 3rd, 7th and 8th alternatives are not available, and the choice between the 4th and 5th is mainly one of the size of the comtemplated power station, as suction plants are only made up to about 500-h.p. in size. When, however, all the above alternatives are equally available, the problem must largely turn on the special terms which it may be possible to make with the outside supply companies; in certain instances it may happen that it is desired to improve the load factor, on the outside station and that power of the requisite kind may be had very cheaply. As an instance of very cheap power from an outside source, it is sufficient to refer to the rate of ½*d.* per unit which recently formed the basis of a contract at Newcastle.

In this article the writer deals with the capital cost of *different* kinds of plant which might be put into a power station in any given works, leaving the question of running costs to be discussed in a subsequent article. The most recent important discussion on capital costs was that which followed the paper read by Messrs. Merz and Maclellan at the Institution of Electrical Engineers in July of 1904. In that paper the following informative and useful comparison of the relative importance of capital and working costs was given—*viz.*, that a reduction in the capital outlay of £1 per kw. was of greater effect than a reduction of the coal bill of 6 per cent., taking the load factor at 30 per cent. and still more so for lower power factors. This suffices to show the very great importance of considering carefully the capital costs involved in alternative schemes and the advisability, in any case, of keeping down the cost of buildings. Objection may be made to this, that, as a result unsightly erections would be built, but it should be remembered that the stations in which large building costs have been concerned are not generally of such attractiveness as to warrant the monetary outlay.

It is quite impossible to give figures for the capital costs for either steam or gas plants which will be beyond criticism, owing to the very large number of types now in use and to the fact that, if a purchaser does not exercise discernment, cheapness may be obtained at the cost of real worth. The following figures are, however, offered as being sufficiently correct to be a guide in average cases where the output is between 200 and 1,000-h.p. They do not include the cost of buildings, but they do allow for the cost of assemblage:—

Gas producer, gas engine, and electric generator about £18 per kw. Slow speed reciprocating steam engines and boilers, about £18 per kw. Turbine or high speed reciprocating steam engines and boilers, about £15 per kw. Many other such comparisons have, from time to time, been made, and one writer in the American Press goes so far as to put the cost of the steam turbine nearly half as high again as that of the reciprocating steam engine but conditions in the States differ from those here.

From the above figures it will be seen that the gas plant is about £3 per kw. more expensive than the best steam engine plant, and, on the basis of Mr. Merz's comparison, the former would have to show a greater fuel economy by at least 18 per cent. before it could compete with the latter in respect of total running costs, including capital charges. Whether this greater fuel economy can be achieved will be determined later. Allowing £2 or £3 per kw. for buildings, it will be seen that the whole station need not exceed £20 per kw. and by way of comparison, it may be mentioned that the well-known large generating station at Carville is stated to have cost per kw. little more than half this. If interest and depreciation be taken at 10 per cent., the annual capital charge on a station costing £20 per kw. would be only £2 per kw. installed."

LEATHER AND THE MOTOR INDUSRTY.

A correspondent writes to the *Times*:—Probably one of the most prominent features of the leather trade during the past few years has been the rapid strides of progress made by the motor leather section. Not only has the demand for all the different classes of material doubled, and even trebled, in that period, but the most pleasing fact in connexion with it is that the selling values have also risen in full proportion to the enhanced cost of tanning and finishing which has been so noticeable of late.

Demand for upholstering leathers.

Naturally, with the great quantity of new cars that are weekly being turned out and in ever-increasing numbers, the leather for upholstering purposes has to be forthcoming in equal ratio. For the fashionable and highest grade cars, morocco, in dark-green usually, but also in scarlet and other

bright colours, is largely employed. For other cars intended for hard running, leathers made from split hides and finished in similar shades are mainly used. So great has this section grown that the leading carriers have been fully employed with their ever-recurring orders, and although the majority of them have doubled their staffs of workmen—not an easy task in so "close" a trade as the currier's trade—they could still employ more if they could conveniently find and place them.

Increased prices.

In common with all other sections, the motor leather trade has had to bear a greatly increased cost of production, but an agreeable exception here is to be found in the fact that advances in selling prices have been comparatively easy to secure, the question of a few pounds sterling on the cost of the entire outfit of an expensive car not being considered at all seriously. Thus it happens that split hides of first quality, large and spready, have during the past year advanced from 2*s.* to 3*s.*, 45*s.* for prime hides down to 35*s.* and 36*s.* for smaller ones. These figures include an advance, as stated above, but as compared with those in force in January 1905, they show a gain of from 4*s.* to 5*s.* each.

Leather tires and tire covers.

The greatest item in the up-keep of a car is generally admitted to be incurred on tires, and the tanner has not been slow to recognize this fact and to endeavour to turn it to profitable account. Rubber is still very largely used, but, in view of the great cost, a covering, or protector, has to be employed, and that is where the leather article comes in very usefully. This covering has to be made from very prime and stout sole leather, and both vegetable and chrome tannages are employed in its preparation. There are a great number of tires and coverings upon the market, but so far there appears to be not one which is entirely satisfactory from all points of view. The precautions that have to be taken against skidding prove very detrimental to the rubber tire, as the metal studs set in the leather become so heated by friction. There is, therefore, a great fortune awaiting the inventor of a more convenient and less expensive tire, whether of leather or other more suitable material. So far rubber and leather have the preference on practical grounds, which accounts for the enormous output of tanned sole leather now being dealt with. One of the most successful kinds of leather tires on the market, which deserves to be better known, is that produced from pig or hog skin. It possesses the advantage of being an excellent non-skidding tire and extremely hard and durable. Unfortunately the supply of hog skins is at present a very small one, considering the varied uses for them. Motor clothing is also in great request, and since so many ladies are now keen motorists the range is widened considerably.

THE IMPORTANCE OF COLONIAL OIL FIELDS.

Russia and Galicia, and even Roumania, are "out of it" when it comes to supplying liquid fuel for the Navy, and obviously there is no future source of supply that is likely to surpass our Colonies. Trinidad, Barbadoes, Nigeria, are all coming to the front, and any British enterprise which goes into this Colonial oil business should endeavour to secure sources of supply in the Antipodes.

The latest discovery has been made in British Guiana. Mr. Dardle, while sinking an artisan well on the island of Dakenaam, at the mouth of the Essequibo River, has come across natural gas. The strongest gushes, experienced at a depth of 110 ft. 6 in., forced water and sand 17 ft. into the air. When ignited the gas burned freely for about five hours, and an attempt to extinguish it failed until it had burned itself out. The flame was a bluish one, and rose to a height of 10 ft., and at times even higher. Oil floated on the surface of the pool round the pipe, and although it was drained off with the water, fresh quantities continued to rise through and around the tube, while lumps of tar came up in globules.

Of course, with this question of liquid fuel is linked the important one of the sufficiency of future supplies of fuel for internal combustion engines when mechanical traction is established; indeed, the new liquid fuel era opens up illimitable possibilities in connection with the business of oil production in all parts of the world.

The oil fields of the Empire make a big subject, but, even in its undeveloped state, it is one of the most interesting connected with oil, and we are strongly of the opinion that, when practically tested, it will result in great benefits to the industry and give a satisfactory financial return on a liberal investment of capital.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES, BURMA REPORT, 1905-06.

Co-operative Credit Societies were started in Burma in December 1904. There were at the end of March 1905 four societies with a subscribed capital of R5,600 and a membership of 188, whereas at the end of March 1906 there were 21 societies with a capital of R68,581 and a membership of 1,865. Money due to the societies—principal and interest—has been punctually paid. The general result of the year's working is to show that the societies are greatly welcomed by the people, and that they work well and easily. They are recognised as a boon and as giving promise of great things. The people act thoroughly honestly towards their societies and all are interested to protect them. The only difficulty is funds. The great want of Burma is more capital and the amount of capital required is large far beyond any thing that the province can supply. It would amount to a crore or more for

rural societies. Government has given already R50,000 of which R29,210 has been used so far and R20,790 is available for next year. This has been advanced without interest for three years and after that at 4 per cent. with one-tenth to be repaid each year. A scheme for the establishment of a guaranteed Bank was framed to finance the societies. It would make its own profit, and at the same time be of very great value to the country. A bank advancing not to individuals on mortgage, but to Co-operative Societies would not be open to the objections and difficulties that could be set a bank after the system of the Bank of Egypt in Burma. It would not only provide money but help to build up a system that would revolutionise agriculture. It would encourage self-help, co-operations and thrift. The programme for 1906-07 is more for the development of existing societies than the formation of new ones. In his review on the report of the Co-operative Credit Societies, the Financial Commissioner of Burma remarked that it would clearly have been satisfactory if societies could have been established without such a large proportion of the money being advanced by Government. But that 21 rural societies should have been successfully started without friction or mishap in a country where many people suggested that the faculty for co-operation was rare or did not exist, is a notable accomplishment, and if progress can only be maintained so that the system may become firmly and generally established it will undoubtedly be an invaluable boon to the country.

THE WORLD'S IRON ORE SUPPLY.

Discussion which has been going on simultaneously in England and the United States on the question of the world's future iron ore supply. This has disclosed an unexpected degree of pessimism in the views of business men. There are, however, other equally authoritative opinions which are distinctly optimistic. Mr. John Birkinbine, one of the highest American authorities, is included among these optimists, and his contribution to the recent discussion, in which he stated the foundations of his faith, is well worthy of notice.

The prophecies of the exhaustion of iron ore depend for their fulfilment, he says, on a practical continuance of existing conditions, such as the relative location of iron ore producing mines, iron ore consuming plants, coal deposits and coke ovens, moderate changes in labour conditions; on the absence of further improvement in labour-saving and transportation facilities; on manufacturing and industrial centres being mainly limited to those now recognized; and on little, if any, progress in metallurgical processes. Moreover, such prophecie omit the possibilities of other metals or alloys being produced at a cost competing with iron at or near present prices. Little of the earth's crust has been studied in sufficient detail to make any reliable and full estimate of deposits neither can the areas known to contain the mineral be considered as having all their reserves demonstrated, as necessity for such demonstration has been wanting.

It is well known, he continues, in apposition to Professor Shaler's view, that some iron ore deposits are remote from present or immediately prospective transportation facilities, or are distant from fuel, besides being lean. "But when we remember how the discovery of the iron ores of the Lake Superior regions have been the incentive to gridiron that section with railways and to build an enormous inland marine, equipped with loading and unloading facilities second to none, distance becomes comparatively unimportant when ores are conveyed by boat for less than a mill per ton-mile, and where long railway haulf can be provided at 3 mills per ton mile. Under such circumstances ores can be carried to fuels or fuels to ores or the two can meet at desirable points at costs which need not be prohibitive." He illustrates this argument by citing the use of Swedish, Spanish, African, and other foreign ores by European and American furnaces, adding that in the existing stage of mining and mechanical development, and with the study which has been devoted to labour-saving appliances, transportation, methods of beneficiating ores, etc., the leanness of ores and present distances from consuming centres are not to be given too much importance.

Another consideration which he puts forward is that the convenience of using ores rich in iron, and the facilities for obtaining such material by purchase according to requirements, have encouraged the transportation of desirable mineral over long distances to furnaces in the neighbourhood of which relatively inferior ores lie unused. "The freight added to the selling price of these more desirable ores in some instances brings the cost of producing pig metal above what may be expected by using relatively inferior local ores. Iron ores from Minnesota reach eastern blast furnaces with freight charges representing a cost of 4 cents or more per unit of metal, to which must be added the selling price of the ore, commissions, etc., and interest charges for winter storage. Four cents per unit will go a long way towards mining or beneficiating some ores convenient to blast furnaces which are generally overlooked in estimating reserves."

Mr. Birkinbine next turns to the estimates made by various authorities of the world's iron ore reserves. He points out that some of them differentiate these reserves on the basis of present blast furnace practice. Thus in the estimates made by Professor Tornebohm for the Swedish Government, Great Britain is credited with as much as the United States and Germany with double that quantity of iron ore for future use; but the Swedish professor assumes a yield of from 45 to 67 per cent. in the case of the United States, 50 to 70 per cent. in the case of Sweden, 25 to 40 per cent. in the case of Great Britain, and 35 to 40 per cent. in the case of Germany. "In other words, the estimated 1,100,000,000 tons for the United States is all

treated as of a grade superior to the richest of the British or German mineral."

Taking Tornebohm's figures, Mr. Chas. Leith estimates that "the world's total supply of iron ore now known, which he gives as 10,000,000,000 tons, will be exhausted in about 50 years," and "if the total be correct, about one-quarter of the world's known reserves have been used to the present time." Taking the average percentages of metallic iron allotted to the iron ore of the various countries by Tornebohm, Mr. Leith gets the following results :—

	Tons of Metallic Iron.
United States	603,160,600
Great Britain	295,000,000
Germany	825,000,000
Spain	249,375,000
Russia and Finland	637,500,000
Sweden	611,538,460

Germany is thus given pre-eminence.

But Mr. Birkinbine repudiates the estimate of 1,100,000,000 tons of iron ore for the United States, that amount being less than what has been credited to the Lake Superior region alone. He accepts 1,500,000,000 as a better estimate of the Lake Superior ore reserve, and his seventeen years' experience as a representative of the United States Geological Survey, he hints, would tempt him to give a much higher estimate, of the whole country's reserves than that of Professor Tornebohm.

Tornebohm's estimate, moreover, "does not apparently recognise the known deposits of iron ore in Newfoundland, Canada, Mexico, Cuba, or South America. He makes small allowance for Asia, with known iron ore deposits in China, Japan, India, and in the Pacific Islands. Nor does he give sufficient credit to the Geological reports of Australasia, nor allow for ore reported as existing in quantity in the great continent of Africa." Again if the estimates are regarded as covering reserves of exploited regions only, the "calculations may be subject to large allowance." Mr. Birkinbine quotes a number of discoveries of unexpected deposits in such regions.

Mention is also made of "electric smelting" as among the advents of the future. This process, he considers, may yet be important, "especially in the treatment of ores whose composition or physical condition is, in the present status of knowledge, undesirable for use in the blast furnace, and experiments with iron sands by the United States Geological Survey offer a possible reserve of iron ore of considerable importance." Likewise, "the fact that a number of ores considered unattractive by blast furnace managers can be made available" has received attention. Some of these are over sulphurous. But roasting pyritiferous ores has been followed for many years; more complete desulphurisation and the nodulising of comminuted sulphurous ores is practised on a commercial scale; a large separators to reduce the silica or phosphorous contents; and practical demonstration has shown that titaniferous iron ore, when properly fluxed, can be economically smelted. The field for such beneficiating and treatment is large, and premises a considerable addition to the iron ore reserves."

NEW REFERENCE BOOKS.

MODERN DAIRY FARMING.
A Practical Handbook on the Management of the Milch Cow and the profitable Utilization of milk. By H. L. PUXLEY. 7½ × 5, 238 pp. . . . . 3s. 6d.
Upcott Gill.

MODERN BUILDINGS, THEIR PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION, AND EQUIPMENT.
By G. A. T. MIDDLETON, A. R. I., B.A., Vol. III. 11¾ × 9, 200 pp. . . . . 10s. 6d. net.
The Caxton Publishing Co.
(With numerous plans and illustrations. Mr. MIDDLETON has written much on architectural subjects.)

HANDY NEWSPAPER LIST, 1906.
7½ × 5¼, 155 pp. . . . . 6d.
Layton.

BRITAIN, WAKE UP!
By TOM NEILL. With a Commendatory Letter from Mr. CHAMBERLAIN. 7¾ × 5¼, 301 pp . . 1s. net.
Exeter: Besley and Dalgleish.
(Mr. NEILL, who is Honorary Secretary of the Devonshire Branch of the Tariff Reform League, has written a detailed reply to a pamphlet entitled "England's Ruin" Mr. CHAMBERLAIN expresses the opinion that the book "will provide for all serious inquirers a full account of both sides of the greatest and most urgent political problem of the day.")

SHOULD OUR RAILWAYS BE NATIONALIZED?
By W. CUNNINGHAM. (Fourth, and Enlarged, Edition.) 8¾ × 5¼. 295 pp. . . . . 2s. 6d.
Dunfermline: Romances.

THE TOKYO IMPERIAL UNIVERSITY CALENDAR, 2565-66 (1905-06).
7½ × 5¼, 51 pp.
Tokio: Maruya.

A HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE BRITISH COLONIES.
By C. P. LUCAS, C.B., Vol. I. The Mediterranean and Eastern Colonies. Second Edition, revised and brought up to date by R. E. STUBBS. 7½ × 5, 304 pp. . . . . 5s.
Oxford: Clarendon Press. London: Frowde.

THE LAW OF TRADE MARK REGISTRATION UNDER THE TRADE MARKS ACTS, 1905.
By L. B SEBASTIAN, B.C.L., Author of the Law of Trade Marks, etc., 10 × 6¼, 228 pp. . . . 7s. 6d
Stevens and Sons.

HOW TO BECOME A QUALIFIED ACCOUNTANT.
By R. A. WITTY. 7½ × 5, 120 pp. . . . . 2s. net.
Sir Isaac Pitman.

MODERN SOAPS, AND CANDLES.
By L. L. Lamborn. xx + 688 pp. . . . . 30s. net.
New York: Van Nostran. London: Lockwood.
("A practical manual of modern methods" by an American chemist and member of the New York Bar.)

THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA.
An Account of the Country, its People, its Institutions, and its Resources. By F. LORAINE PETRE. 8¾ × 5¼, 352 pp. . . . . 8s. 6d. net.
Stanford.
(Mr. LORAINE PETRE has written a descriptive volume on the conditions and prospects, the resources and Government of a little-known State which is beginning to attract the attention of investors.)

THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS IN ENGLAND AND WALES.
List of members, 1906. Royal Charter and Byelaws, 7¼ × 5, 520 pp. . . . . 2s.
Gee.

RETAIL PRICES.

The following are the Retail Prices of certain food-grains and salt at selected stations for the second half of August 1906. (Prices are stated in annas and pies per ser.)

	Rice, common	Wheat	Barley	Jawar	Bajra	Ragi	Gram	Salt
BURMA—	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.	a. p.
Rangoon	1 3	...	...	...	...	...	...	0 10
Toungoo	1 5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 6
EASTERN BENGAL AND ASSAM—								
Rangpur	4 0	3 7	...	...	...	...	...	1 4
Backerganj	2 4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 3
BENGAL—								
Calcutta	2 3	1 7	...	...	...	...	...	1 0
Patna	2 0	1 6	1 3	...	...	...	...	1 2
UNITED PROVINCES—								
Cawnpore	...	1 3	1 0	...	1 1	...	1 1	1 0
Fyzabad	...	1 4	1 0	...	...	...	1 2	1 2
Meerut	...	1 2	0 11	0 10	1 5	...	1 1	1 0
PUNJAB—								
Delhi	..	1 2	0 11	0 11	1 2	...	1 0	1 0
Amritsar	...	1 0	0 9	0 9	...	...	0 11	0 9
Ráwalpindi	...	1 1	0 9	1 1	1 0	...	0 11	0 10
SIND—								
Karáchi	...	1 4	...	1 1	1 3	...	1 3	0 9
BOMBAY—								
Belgaum	...	1 8	...	1 2	1 4	...	...	1 1
Ahmadnagar	...	1 6	...	1 2	1 3	...	...	0 11
Bombay	...	1 7	...	1 5	1 4	...	...	1 1
Ahmadabad	...	1 5	...	1 0	1 3	...	...	0 10
CENTRAL PROVINCES—								
Jubbulpore	...	1 2	...	...	...	...	1 2	1 2
Nagpur	1 8	1 3	...	1 2	...	...	1 5	1 3
Raipur	1 10	1 3	...	...	...	...	1 3	1 4
MADRAS—								
Bellary	2 0	...	...	1 0	...	1 0	...	1 0
Madras	2 2	...	...	...	...	1 4	...	0 9
Salem	2 0	...	...	1 4	1 5	1 2	...	1 1

WEEKLY TRADE MOVEMENTS.

For the week ending 22nd September 1906.

COTTON GOODS.

Twist and Yarn.

Foreign—Imports by sea into	Calcutta	lbs.	375,355
	Bombay	„	346,533
	Madras	„	319,400
Indian—Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	392,000
	Bombay	„	4,259,520
	Madras	„	1,600

Grey Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	20,987,846
	Bombay	„	2,917,925
	Karachi	„	1,544,679
	Madras	„	3,667,145
	Rangoon	„	280,768

White Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	6,388,040
	Bombay	„	1,408,594
	Karachi	„	3,171,441
	Madras	„	802,524
	Rangoon	„	814,716

Other Piece Goods.

Imports by sea from Foreign ports into	Calcutta	yds.	3,659,679
	Bombay	„	3,635,579
	Karachi	„	3,518,142
	Madras	„	1,627,572
	Rangoon	„	1,691,680

Piece Goods.

(Indian and Foreign.)

Despatches by rail from	Calcutta	cwt.*	7,282
	Bombay †	„	10,360
	Karachi	„	20,959
	Madras	„	7,729

Raw Cotton.

Imports into Bombay	By sea	cwt.	6,449
	Coastwise	„	1,700
	By rail	„	10,865
Imports into Karachi	by rail	„	899
„ „	Calcutta by rail and river*	„	600

JUTE.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta	cwt.*	553,861
Exports by sea from Calcutta	Gunny bags	No.	4,967,450
	„ cloth	yds.	25,163,800
	Jute	cwt.	567,361
Exports by sea from Chittagong	Jute	„	101,257

TEA.

Arrivals by all routes in	Calcutta	lbs.*	6,940,017
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	6,501,491
	Chittagong	„	1,906,620

WHEAT.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.*	...
	Karachi by rail	„	102,757
	Bombay by sea	„	245
	Bombay coastwise	„	51,773
	Bombay by rail	„	28,248
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	1,369
	Bombay	„	26,957
	Karachi	„	170,726

RICE.

Exports by sea from	Calcutta	cwt.	33,954
	Chittagong	„	...
	Bombay	„	9,080
	Karachi	„	59,640
	Madras	„	1,434
	Rangoon	„	72,385

LINSEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.*	2,200
	Bombay by sea	„	282
	Bombay coastwise	„	274
	Bombay by rail	„	15,860
	Karachi by rail	„	...
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	56,170
	Bombay	„	60,558
	Karachi	„	...

RAPE AND MUSTARD SEED.

Imports into	Calcutta by rail and river	cwt.*	1,664
	Bombay by sea	„	...
	Bombay coastwise	„	
	Bombay by rail	„	5,947
	Karachi by rail	„	52,100
Exports by sea from	Calcutta	„	20
	Bombay	„	21,213
	Karachi	„	16,616

* B. N. Ry., E. I. Ry. and Port Commissioners' figures not received. † B., B. and C. I. Ry. figures only.

KEROSENE OIL, WEEK ENDING 22nd SEPTEMBER 1906.

Imports by sea into—	From Russia.	From America.	From all other foreign countries.	Total.
	galls.	galls.	galls	galls.
Calcutta	...	123,110	508,317	631,427
Bombay	...	303,043	...	303,043
Karachi	...	...	...	...
Madras	...	...	...	...

Exports by sea from Burma to	Bengal	galls.	423,766
	E. B. & Assam	„	...
	Bombay	„	...
	Sind	„	...
	Madras	„	577,686
	Indian Ports, Non-Br.	„	...
	Foreign Ports	„	...

IMPORTS OF SUGAR, WEEK ENDING 22nd SEPTEMBER 1906.

Country of Shipment.	Refined sugar imported into Calcutta.	Chittagong.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Madras.	Rangoon.	Total.
	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.	cwt.
United Kingdom	1,257	...	4	5	7	56	1,329
Germany	10,902	...	5,301	...	...	...	16,203
Austria-Hungary	...	...	200	500	500	...	1,200
Other European Countries	...	..	...	386	...	...	386
Java	79,824	...	3,180	12,114	...	8,033	103,151
Mauritius	...	...	18,732	15,855	...	...	34,587
Other Non-European Countries	...	...	...	...	...	4,770	4,770
					Total refined		161,626
					Total unrefined		70,583
					Grand Total cwt		232,209

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS.

Statistical Publications obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta.
[The prices include postage to countries in the Postal Union.]

ANNUAL.

1. Review of the Trade of India. As. 8 (2*a*.)

2. Accounts relating to the Sea-borne Trade and Navigation of the British India by the Calendar Year. As. 8. (2*a*.)

3. Annual Statement of the Trade and Navigation of British India :—

   Vol. I—Abstract and detailed Tables of Imports and Exports. ₹3. (12*a*.)

   Vol. II—Abstract and detailed Tables of Trade and Shipping with each country and at each port. ₹3. (12*a*.)

4. Annual Statement of the Coasting Trade and Navigation of British India. ₹2. (7*a*.)

5. Accounts of Aden. As. 10. (1*a*.)

6. Accounts of Trade of the French Possession in India. As. 3. (1*a*.)

7. Accounts of the Trade of the Portuguese Possession in India. As. 2. (1*a*.)

8. Accounts of the Trade carried by Rail and River in India. ₹4. (6*a*.)

9. Report on the Rail-borne and River-borne Trade of Bengal. ₹4.

10. Report on the Trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet Sikkim and Bhutan. ₹1½.

11. Prices and Wages in India. ₹1½. (9*a*.)

12. Financial and Commercial Statistics of British India. ₹4. (12*a*.)

13. Judicial and Administrative Statistics of British India. ₹2. (10*a*.)

14. Agricultural Statistics of India. ₹3½. (12*a*.)
    Part I.—British India.
    Part II.—Native States.

15. Area and yield of certain principal crops in India. As. 5. (2*a*.)

QUARTERLY.

16. Accounts of Trade carried by Rail and River in India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

MONTHLY.

17. Accounts of the Trade and Navigation of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

18. Accounts of the External Land Trade of British India. As. 8. (2*a*.)

19. Statistics of the Production of Yarn and Woven Goods in the India Cotton Mills. As. 2.

[Amount within parenthesis denotes cost of packing and postage.]

NOTICE.

Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition 1906 to be held in Calcutta in December 1906. The time for receiving applications for Exhibition and sale stalls has been extended to the 15th of October 1906.

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS.

All figures, blocks, etc., intended for insertion in the advertisement columns of the *Indian Trade Journal* must first be submitted for approval to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence. The type used in the making up of an advertisement, whether display or line, must be of the kind approved by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence.

No advertisements of retail trade will be accepted.

Reuter's Telegram Company, Ld., are advertisement agents for the *Indian Trade Journal*, and all correspondence regarding advertisements ought to be addressed to them, or to the agents appointed by them. Requests for enrolment on the subscription list and all subscriptions must be addressed to the Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta.

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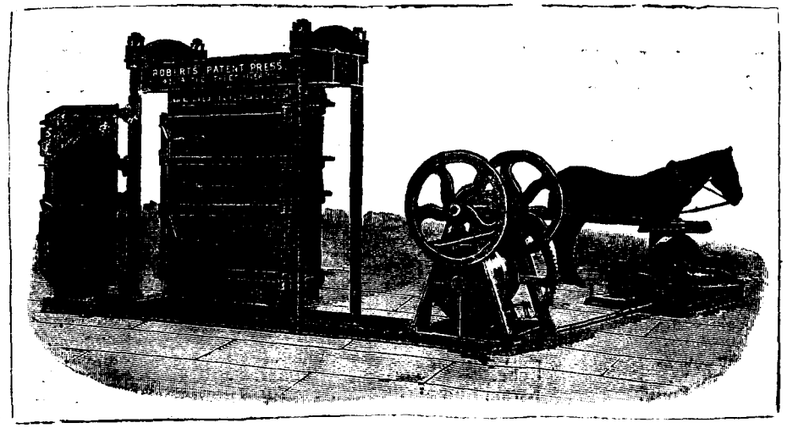
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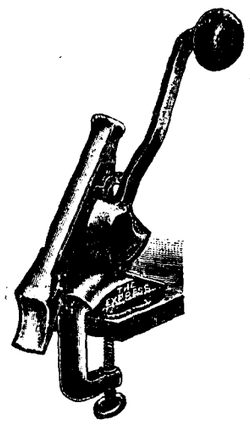
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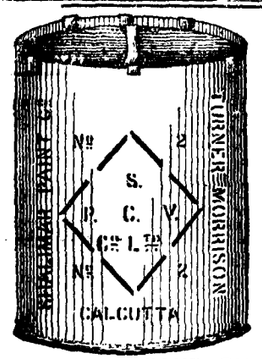
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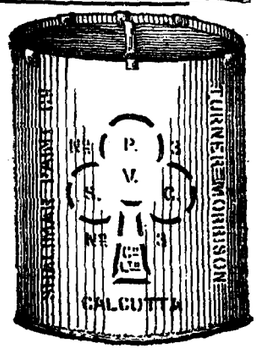
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