

COMMERCIAL NOTES.

Colombo, 10th June, 1874.

EXCHANGE.

The Banks have made no alteration in their drawing rate on London pending the departure of the homeward mail. There is nothing doing privately in Commercial Bills.

EXPORTS.

Coffee.—A considerable amount of business in crop 1874-75 has been done to-day at 100s f. o. b., and the sales not only comprise some most favourably known marks but also realises of late delivery crops 1874-75, which were originally sold only so far back as last week. For spot coffee and early delivery there is still enquiry, though telegrams received yesterday cancelled uncompleted portions of orders. We quote per parchment of good quality at from 19s to 19s 6d per bushel according to size of lot, and sales of native picked and dried have been made at 79s 3d per cwt.

By wire the London market is reported strong, at 18s for plantation, and 8s for native.

Cotton.—The last quotation from Tuticorin is Rs. 105, at which small sales had been made.

IMPORTS.

Rice.—Supplies of new rice are abundant at the moment, and there is a good business doing at 6d. 6d. European holders of Bengal rice are holding firmly for higher rates.

SHIPPING IN GALLE HARBOUR.

Arrival, 1874.	Ship's Name.	Master.	From
May 11	Doorga Bala	Serang	Akyab
12	Scander Shah	A. Ali	do
13	Futchool Maun	T. Ali	do
14	Ava	Flouris	Marselles
15	Serenib	Varian	Batavia
16	Roma	Ribighini	Calcutta
17	Amoy	Arrowsmith	Calcutta
18	Zambesi	Cates	Bombay
19	Chancellor	Reynolds	Rangoon
20	Tanjore	Torbek	Suez
21	Hylaspe	Renoldson	Calcutta
22	Asia	Gray	Bombay
23	Burmah	Sanders	Calcutta
24	Hoogly	Varagot	Hongkong
25	Iravaddy	Bourdon	Marselles
26	Meimam	Gouvan	Calcutta
27	Lecap	Gardou	Glasgow
28	Miranda	Blackburn	Calcutta
29	Estica	Maline	Rio de Janeiro
30	Veneta	Angove	Bombay
31	Cesare Beccaria	Pasterina	Shi Jia
32	Lombardy	Gillon	Suez
33	Abyone	Gio. H. Swan	Newcastle N. S. W.
34	Choice	S. Harrison	Mauritius
35	Catherine Scott	McCaskill	Mauritius
36	Bethania	Bethner	Tyne
37	Cashmere	Cotton	Bombay
38	Claiden	Middleton	Rio Janeiro
39	Khiva	Arrowsmith	Calcutta
40	Avon	Rennie	Algoa Bay
41	Tigre	Leconte	Hongkong
42	Alfaca	Ball stro	Cariff
43	Faroest	Vising	Port Natal
44	Barrad	Arrowsmith	Bombay
45	Cathy	Dundas	do
46	Australia	Murray	Suez
47	Shavool Hameed	Malim	Maldivs
48	Abdur Rahman	Alie	do
49	Jura	Sarratt	Calcutta
50	Hampton	Blackburn	Batavia
51	Dahlia	Crawford	do

DEPARTURES FROM GALLE.

Departure, 1874.	Ship's Name.	Master.	To
May 11	Bokham	Anderson	Suez
12	Avon	Arrowsmith	Bombay
13	Ava	Flouris	Calcutta
14	Serenib	Varian	Colombo
15	Roma	Ribighini	Genoa
16	Amoy	Rigod	Marselles
17	Dover Court	Munro	Calcutta
18	Amoy	Arrowsmith	Rangoon
19	Chancellor	Reynolds	Port Said
20	Corfu	Symons	Concomada
21	Zambesi	Cates	China
22	Tanjore	Torbek	Calcutta
23	Nubia	Peris	Australia
24	Hydasp	Renoldson	Suez
25	Asia	Gray	Calcutta
26	Burmah	Sanders	Bombay
27	Veneta	Angove	Vizagapatam.
28	Witch	Gray	China
29	Yvark Bat	Maclean	Bombay
30	Sambudi	Varian	Hamaboda
31	Amoy	Arrowsmith	Calcutta
32	Thomas Steph	Richards	Calcutta
33	Northumbria	Arrowsmith	Calcutta
34	Legasi	Gadguy	Calcutta
35	Veneta	Angove	Hongkong
36	Lombardy	Gillon	Calcutta
37	Amsterdam	Kewen	Batavia
38	Cashmere	Cotton	Calcutta
39	Gwalior	Haweswood	Bombay
40	Eatopna	Hubbak	Japan
41	Mahum Mullah	Ally	Calcutta
42	Tigre	Leconte	Marselles
43	Choice	Harrison	Concomada
44	Vareget	Arrowsmith	Calcutta
45	Avon	Rennie	Algoa
46	Barrad	Arrowsmith	Australia
47	Luchnager	Kelly	Calcutta
48	Australia	Murray	Calcutta
49	Cathy	Dundas	Hongkong

VESSELS SEEKING.

"Oranville" discharging.
"Clymington" do.
"Oleander" do.
"Lechager" do.

STEAMER NOTES.

These, a "Oranville" has been busy all day taking in cargo and mails, and if the weather holds moderately fine to-morrow, she will get away to-morrow evening.

STEAMERS ADVERTISED TO SAIL FROM ENGLAND FOR INDIA AND CHINA, via SUEZ CANAL.

Name.	From	Tons.	Bound for	To Sail.
Lancaster	London	3,075	Calcutta, &c.	May 14
Alexander	Liverpool	1,549	Penang, &c.	May 14
Bombay	Southampton	3,000	Batavia, &c.	May 15
Conrad	Southampton	3,000	Batavia, &c.	May 15
De Galle	London	1,430	Kurrachee, &c.	May 16
Paraguay	London	1,444	Calcutta, &c.	May 20
Emmer	Liverpool	1,122	Singapore, &c.	May 20
Glasgow	Liverpool	2,121	Calcutta, &c.	May 22
Queen Anne	London	1,300	Calcutta, &c.	May 22
Craigforth	London	4,400	Calcutta, &c.	May 22
Fenella	London	1,005	Singapore, &c.	May 25
Glasgow	London	2,380	Bombay, &c.	May 25
Strathclyde	London	1,951	Calcutta, &c.	May 25
City of	Liverpool	2,650	China, &c.	May 25
Pharos	Liverpool	1,527	Bombay, &c.	May 30
Burg	Liverpool	1,400	Manila, &c.	May 30
Buenaventura	Liverpool	1,800	Penang, &c.	May 30
Colley of Lorne	London	1,300	Bombay, &c.	May 30
King Arthur	Liverpool	1,400	Calcutta, &c.	May 30
Edinburgh	London	3,332	Bombay, &c.	May 30
Strathclyde	Liverpool	1,951	Bombay, &c.	May 30

GALLE.

ARRIVAL.

June 9th.—A. Taylor, from Calcutta and Madras, Passengers: Mr. MacRae and servant.

DEPARTURE.

June 9th.—A. Taylor, for Calcutta.
do do.—A. Taylor, for Amsterdam. Passengers as on arrival.

PASSENGERS BY THE GALLE COACH.

June 9th.—Rev. Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. Keith and ayah and Mrs. Staples from Galle.
do do.—Rev. Mr. Crawford, Mrs. Crawford and, ayah to Galle.

METEOROLOGICAL.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATORY, COLOMBO.

June 9th. Wind, Barometer, Temperature, Rainfall.
10.30 A.M. 29.95 In. 84° 0 in
Surface of water in Lake below spill level 10.33 inches.

OUTSTATION WEATHER REPORTS.

Galle.—Calm and cloudy, thermometer 82.
Kandy.—Calm and cloudy, thermometer 82.
Mannar.—Calm and cloudy, thermometer 86.
Nuwara-Eliya.—Cloudy, thermometer 63, barometer 24.00.
Tambor.—Calm and rather cloudy, thermometer 84.
Jaffna.—Cloudy, thermometer 84.

TELEGRAPHIC.

Indo-European Manager.—Latest data received from the United Kingdom (on messages addressed to Colombo) via Suez, up to noon of to-day is the 9th June, 5-10 P. M.

ARRIVE ROUTE.

Lines right to Madras, Bombay and Calcutta.

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THE DAILY CEYLON TIMES and the CEYLON TIMES OVERLAND SUMMARY are filed for reference in the Intelligence Department of the Colonial Court in the International Exhibition, Kensington.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

It is requested that business communications be not addressed to the Editor, but to the MANAGER, CEYLON TIMES, COLOMBO. All correspondence sent to the Editor of THE CEYLON TIMES must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer.



The Ceylon Times.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 1874.

It is now generally admitted that Draining is an essential part of coffee cultivation, and it would probably surprise some of the present generation of planters to learn that it was not always so considered. Such, however is the fact. There were amongst the leading planters of twenty years ago some who did not see any need of drains, and who, when at length, their eyes were opened to the fact of "wash," contended that drains would not prevent it. Even when it was shown that wash could be effectually prevented by well constructed drains, these were supposed to be applicable only to certain localities, and systematic drainage was held to be impracticable. So persistent was the opposition to this work, that when the universal applicability of systematic drainage had been fully proved, its general introduction was still resisted on the ground that if the cost of construction were not prohibitory that of upkeep would be. These objections and difficulties have at last been forgotten or overcome, and systematic drainage, in some form or other, is now practised on nearly every estate in the island. The diversity of practice, however, is so great as to show that even yet drainage has not been reduced to rule, nor dealt with scientifically. One planter makes his drains so steep as to draw off, not only the superfluous surface water, but the precious moisture imbibed by the soil; another, so shallow as scarcely to intercept the surface wash. One cuts his drains with gradients steep enough to clear themselves, that is, to carry away any soil that lodges in them; another adopts gradients so slow that water will scarcely flow in them. One adheres rigidly to one gradient through the whole length of each drain, whilst another changes the gradient without regard to any principle except his own convenience. One discharges his drains into his coffee, and seems quite satisfied to collect the surface water in his drains till it has acquired destructive force, and then to shunt it in a torrent into his coffee; another conducts his drains most sedulously to the natural ravines and keeps their contents in close custody till a safe and harmless discharge can be effected.

In order to determine amidst such diversity of practice which is right, it will be necessary to consider what is the special object to be attained. If the object were to get rid as quickly as possible of the water that falls upon the ground, lest it should soak in and reach the roots, and to drain away as effectually as possible any water that might have succeeded in penetrating below the surface, those who make deep drains at steep gradients hit the mark! Assuming, however, that with some very rare exceptions the object to be attained is to deal only with such surface water as will not soak into the soil, to collect it before it can acquire volume and momentum enough to give it destructive force, and to convey it away as slowly and as harmlessly as possible, then deep drains and steep gradients are clearly wrong. When rain falls on a dry surface soil it is at first rapidly absorbed, but as soon as the surface is saturated, its absorbing capacity is checked and depends on the rapidity with which the water can sink down. Hence if rain be heavy or continuous, the absorptive power of the surface soon proves insufficient, and the superfluous water collects on the surface and forms little trickles which coalesce and form first rills and eventually streams and torrents which carry away all loose soil, and often cut deeply into the mother bank. All that thus flows over the surface is lost to the soil, except such as may sink into the earth from the drains during its passage. The func-

tion of the drain is to collect the surface water before it acquires destructive force,—to stop its downward rush, and to convey it away slowly and safely. No matter how great the volume of water in a drain may be, its flow will be harmless if it be slow. On the other hand, the smallest quantity of water will be destructive to the drain, if the gradient be such as to give velocity to the flow. It may, therefore, be concluded that all drains to prevent wash should be constructed with very slow gradients. This is a primary law. It may further be laid down as a principle that the slower they are the better, provided they will draw. The slower the flow is, the longer time will the water be detained to soak into the soil. It follows that the shallower the drains are the better, provided they are deep enough to intercept the rills of water and have capacity enough to hold the quantity required. Every increase of depth, beyond what is necessary to give the required capacity, lowers the level of the soakage, and tends to draw out of the soil the moisture that has sunk into it.

Hence capacity should be attained as much as possible by breadth. The broader the drain, the greater will be the soaking surface, and the more of its contents will sink into the soil. It will also be proportionately less liable to choke. A small stone rolling into a drain will obstruct it effectually, but would be comparatively harmless on the flat bottom of a broad drain.

The conditions to be fulfilled by drains, require: 1st that they should be at the lowest practicable gradients, in order that the flow of water in them may be harmless; 2nd, that they should have the least depth compatible with the requisite capacity, in order that they may not draw out the water the soil has already imbibed; 3rd, that they should be as broad as the nature of the surface and other considerations will allow, in order that they may have flat bottoms not easily choked and ample surface for allowing their contents to sink into the soil.

The application of these principles will not be difficult if the conditions of each particular case be carefully considered. The requisite capacity will depend on the nature of the surface, and on the distance of the drains from each other,—and on their length. The actual annual rainfall does not materially affect the question of capacity, as the most destructive kind of rainfall, and that which has mainly to be provided against, is that of heavy thunder showers, which require more capacity of drain than the most continuous steady downpour. In providing for the thunder storms, the extreme case will be met. The character of the surface will determine to a very great extent the requisite capacity of drains. If the surface be loose and friable mould it will absorb a greater quantity of water, and imbibe it far more quickly than would a hard crust of baked subsoil, denuded of all loose mould. The former is the condition which efficient drainage tends to produce, whilst the latter is the inevitable effect of wash, hence the somewhat paradoxical fact that effective drainage, by improving the absorbing power of the surface increases the moisture of the soil, both directly and indirectly. Moreover, land that is thoroughly and systematically drained, may have its surface trampled and loosened, with advantage to the soil itself as well as to its absorbing power; and where the surface is thus made permeable, all ordinary rainfall should be made to soak into the soil, and the function of the drains would thus be almost confined to preventive action except in the extreme case of thunder storms.

The rules for practical construction of drains, and the application of the foregoing principles will be treated of hereafter.

UNLIKE most Colonial post offices the Postal Department in Ceylon is so economically worked that it generally turns out to be a source of revenue rather than of loss to the Government. In 1872, the Post Office showed a surplus of nearly seven hundred pounds; which is a large profit upon a Revenue of £25,287. This would be highly satisfactory, if we were assured that the saving had been effected without trenching upon the efficiency of the Department; but regarding this Ceylon, where the postal lines branch out into rather complex ramifications, mistake must be of constant occurrence, unless there exists a firm check in the Post Master General's Office to detect and punish all carelessness and incompetency on the part of subordinate officials; and we have reason to believe that the Central Post Office at Colombo is the weakest point in the Ceylon postal system. It is confessedly under-officed, and yet we hear of no steps being taken to augment its staff. The English mails to Colombo are not very heavy compared with the bags that find their way to the Post Offices in the Indian Presidency towns, and yet it takes more than treble the time to sort and deliver an English mail that would be required in Calcutta or Bombay. As a case in point, we may mention that we seldom receive our own modest mail bag within an hour and a half or two hours after the mail coach has arrived, and we are consoled to think that our experience is rather favourable than the reverse. It is little satisfaction to the community to be told that it must play patience in order that the Department may show a surplus at the year's end. Experience has also shown us that it is unsafe to trust to the Colombo Post Office's published dates for posting newspapers, and that if packets are not sent in long before the advertised time of closing the boxes, there are heavy odds that they miss a mail. The question then arises, if the Colombo Post Office under the very eyes of the Post Master General is so inefficiently conducted, what can we expect from the district Post Offices? To give the latter their due, there are many smaller towns with which Colombo might be glad to negotiate an exchange. We do not know what system of check the Central Office exercises over its branches, but we should be inclined to suppose that it is mainly grounded upon a pious hope that Providence will somehow or other keep things straight. At all events the Post Master General's Office seems to be as much paralysed by the presentation of a complaint, as Mr. Tite Barnacle's Circumlocution Department was wont to be when anyone "wanted to know, you know." The Post Office does not even take the ordinary

measures to shield itself against complaints that might prove ill-founded. In all the Indian postal towns where a newspaper is published, the Post Master gives receipts for the numbers of covers posted, specifying the time when these were received. When, therefore, any complaint regarding late or irregular delivery is preferred to the Post Master General, he can easily ascertain whether the fault rests with the Post Office or with the publisher. Such a concession is both a safeguard to the Department and a convenience to the Press, which fully deserves it on account of the large amount of revenue that it brings both directly and indirectly to the Post Office. But the Colombo Post Office is too short of hands to supply such a check, or in fact to do anything else efficiently, even to impose a legible stamp upon the covers that pass through it. We trust the Acting Postmaster General has done his duty and pointed out to Government the present unsatisfactory condition of his department, and suggested such reforms as will enable an adequate supervision to be exercised over the branches and complaints to be investigated and duly punished. In the time required to examine a postal complaint and fine the offender is less than it takes in Ceylon to receive an acknowledgment of its receipt from the Post Master General. It would perhaps be idle to hold up the system followed in the adjacent continent as a model for Ceylon, but at all events we are justified in insisting, in the interests of the public, that the Department shall not be made a source of revenue to Government, until it has been placed upon a much more efficient footing than it can be said to be on at present.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We hear the Straits Settlements are to be formed into a separate military command. It is to be hoped that the Colonists will appreciate this honour.

THE Reform Club has shown its dislike of the Home Rules by blackballing one of them who applied for admission. The unlucky candidate was Mr. John Dunbar, the member for New Ross, an old Bombay barrister and the owner of coffee estates in this island. Mr. Dunbar's rejection must have been all the more annoying to him that he was the only one "pilled" of all the M. P.'s who went to the ballot on that day. It has been threatened that a considerable number of the Irish members would secede from the Reform in the event of Mr. Dunbar being refused admission.

THE latest experiment in the construction of ships capable of withstanding modern ordnance is the sea-going monitor *Infatigable*. The *Infatigable* has been described by her designer as a rectangular armoured castle, 110ft. in length and 75ft. in breadth, protected by 24 inches total thickness of iron. This armoured castle, which rises to 10ft. above the water-line of the vessel carrying it, will enclose nothing within the protection of its walls besides the engines and boilers, the two turrets with their four guns and hydraulic loading gear, and the magazines. All armour-plating carried is confined to this castle and to the turrets which will rise above its walls. The ship proper, being entirely unarmoured, will be divided into no less than 127 water-tight compartments, and as some of these compartments must have more than one opening into them, there will necessarily be somewhere about 150 water-tight doors. The castle will be carried at the water line along the unarmoured sides of the ship, and a more secure place will be found below for more perishable stores. The superstructure will be built up along the centre line of the deck forward and aft of the armoured castle, and will afford roomy and thoroughly ventilated mess and sleeping accommodation for the officers and crew—superior, in fact, to anything of the kind that can be found on board the finest of our unarmoured frigates. The turrets will rise up on either side of the ship within the citadel walls, and the superstructure is only built up along a fore and aft line of the deck, their four guns can be fired together at an enemy right ahead or right astern, or on either beam, or in pairs towards every point of the compass.

FROM the China papers received this morning we find that the news is still conflicting, about the Japanese expedition to Formosa. Yokohama papers all write as though it were a foregone conclusion that the expedition will be carried through ships. Perhaps a fresh report which comes from Corea may supply a key to the difficulty. It is said the Coreans have murdered the crew of a Japanese junk lately wrecked on the coast. If this is the case, there may be hesitation whether the expedition shall not be diverted northwards; but it is believed that the Formosan affair will be carried through first.

THE German war department has ordered that the fortifications on the eastern frontier shall be completed in the course of the present year. The plans and estimates for the new works were approved some months ago, but certain modifications have since been decided upon. At Posen the fortifications are to be on a much larger scale than was originally contemplated, and it is said that the works at Wlhelshaven on the Rhine will also be greatly extended. At Kiel, besides the fortifications of Friedrichsberg, two forts will be erected at Oe-jen-jen and Kougren, on the right bank of the bay of Kiel. The harbour works of the bay were much injured by the spring tides this year, and steps are to be taken to protect them against inundations. The dyke at Friedrichsberg will be provided for this purpose with a stone front, and the dredging works in the dock at Eilrik are to be pushed forward as quickly as possible. A cording to the *Ostsee Zeitung*, the two monitors *Rhein* and *Amstel*, built for service on the Rhine by the Weser Ship-building Company, have now been fully equipped. They will shortly be sent by the North Sea to Rotterdam, and thence up the Rhine to Coblenz. They are very low in the water, so as to present the smallest possible surface for the aim of an enemy's guns. Two 12-centimetre guns are placed in the centre turret, and to each vessel will be attached fifty infantry soldiers besides the crew.

We have rather unfavourable news from Wynaad. During the month of May rain fell continuously, with but rare intermissions. Unfortunately for the planters, just at the time the little blossoms opened up, the rain poured incessantly for four days. It is therefore believed and feared that the crop this year will be rather unfavourable. Fever, diarrhoea, and other sickness are very prevalent in Wynaad at present; consequently the public health is very unsatisfactory, the mortality being also very considerable.

We have on several occasions alluded to the International Congress of Orientalists to be held in London during the present year. It has now been decided that the Congress shall extend over six consecutive days, from the 14th to the 19th of September. The object of the Congress is to bring together those in-

terested in the study of literature, arts, sciences, and ethnography of the East, and advancing their knowledge, by the reading of papers and formal discussion. Six sections have been formed, and the following presidents have been elected:—1. Aryan Section—President, Professor Max Müller; 2. Sinitic Section—President, Sir Henry Rawlinson, K.C.B.; 3. Tatarian Section—President, Sir Rutherford Alcock, K.C.B.; 4. Hamitic Section—President, Dr. Birch, L.I.D.; 5. Archaeological Section—President, Mr. M. E. Grant Duff, M.P.; 6. Ethnological Section—President Professor Owen, C.B. Dr. Birch will act as president of the congress. A large number of gentlemen interested in the literature, history and antiquities of the East have enrolled themselves as members of the congress. We mention only a few names:—The Duke of Argyll, Arch-leacon Bickersteth, Joseph Bonomi, B. Shop Callaway, Professor Cowell, W. H. Dixon, E. B. Eastwick, M.P., Sir Birtle Friere, A. H. Layard, W. R. Lister, Dr. Roet, Dr. Ri u, the Dean of Westminster, Sir Ch. r s T. E. v. y, and Professor W. W. R. H. Some of our Ceylon readers, who may be intending to visit England at the time indicated, will be pleased to learn that tickets conferring the right of membership can be obtained for the sum of 10s. by applying to Professor Douglas, British Museum.

PLANTING NOTES.

MADOOSEMA, JUNE 5.

Rainfall.—So far as the season has advanced we have not nearly had the usual amount of rain. Since the first of this month, however, the clouds have been banking up and showers have fallen, although very discretely, along the whole range. Those who profess to be weather-wis, predict a fall of rain this month—and may it come, say all of us.

Planting Operations.—Pelling is still going on, and new nurseries are being laid down. Prospects of Crop.—Not so bright as when last you heard from this district. A late crop always turns out a short one—by this, I do not mean that we have "short crops"—anything but it; we shall only be a little short of our estimates. The fact is, from appearances a month or six weeks ago, we thought we had "The Bumper Crop," we hear talked of periodically; instead of which, we find that we shall not have more than a poor crop, per acre, and I should not wonder if some of us were even below that! Appearances for next year are better than they were this time last year, so we may calculate upon a good crop then, provided late disease will keep away, which I am sorry to say has again put in an appearance; after we had thought we had seen the last of it.

Labour Supply.—Coolies from the Coast have been arriving during the last month, and in rather larger gangs than has been the case for the last three or four years. This may be attributed to scarcity of rice on the Coast, or to the reduction in its cost on estates, perhaps (if there be any truth in what I hear) to the increase in Ceylon's price of rice, now that the Batticaloa road is finished, as low as we can wait sustaining

