

KENYA COFFEE NEWS

Review of Some Recent Developments Aimed at Increased Demand and Opening of New Markets in Empire Coffee Campaign

Special Correspondence

NAIROBI, May 1, 1934.

IN a review of the Kenya coffee industry by *The East African Standard* it is reported that the Empire Coffee producers, through the Coffee section of the British Empire Producers' Organization is seeking to coordinate the liaison work between producers and other interests concerned with the coffee trade. The proposed Coffee Section's initial financing—£200—is small and the Kenya Coffee Board has recommended the contribution of £65—its pro rata share. The Board's London representative will represent the Board in London, where the main offices will be maintained and where other Empire growers will have representatives.

EMPIRE COFFEE CAMPAIGN

The section proposes to interest itself in matters of coffee production and marketing—to the end of effecting a greater demand for Empire coffee—to encourage Empire growers. It is probable that Tanganyika and Uganda will also join in the scheme.

Planters' Day under the auspices of the Board will be held on July 25-6, with a Coffee Conference on July 27. Invitations to be present are being sent to Tanganyika and Uganda—the purpose being to make interterritorial cooperation a fact.

A Coffee Trade Association is proposed, with probable inclusion of liaison members to confer with growers.

Investigation is going on respecting the South African market where, unfortunately, other—but inferior—coffees have been sold as originating in Kenya.

Grading of coffees may be provided for on the lines of East Indian product. An effort will also be made to improve cup quality through recommendation of better preparation by housewives and restaurants—much complaint having been heard on the part of travelers.

Mr. E. P. Burman has resigned as Secretary of the Board, being replaced by M. G. P. Saben—for a considerable time private secretary of Mr. Bull, the Board's London representative.—I. N.

EAST AFRICA CONSIDERS

TEA RESTRICTION SCHEME

Special Correspondence

LONDON, May 20, 1934.—The suggestion by the International Tea Committee that East Africa be included in the present tea restriction scheme has been endorsed by the East African tea planters. This proposal—together with a like scheme for sugar—is now being considered by a conference of East African Governors, meeting at Nairobi—attended by the Executives of Uganda, Tanganyika and Kenya and the acting British Resident of Zanzibar.—MINING LANE.

NETHERLANDS INDIA TEA, 1933

Annual Report of Thee-Expert Bureau Giving Production Figures of Java and Sumatra Is Optimistic on Future

Special Correspondence

BATAVIA, May 2, 1934.

THE report covering the production—represented by exports—of tea in Java and Sumatra during 1933, compared with the five preceding years, has been made public by the Thee-Expert Bureau, of this city. It is, in kilos, as follows:

Java, 1933—59,397,169; 1932—64,187,511; 1931—65,922,105; 1930—61,419,000; 1929—62,040,000; and 1928—60,970,000; Sumatra, 1933—12,464,734; 1934—77,480,639; 1931—77,982,740; 1930—71,579,000; 1929—72,150,000; 1928—69,670,000.

PRAISES TEA RESTRICTION

Summarizing the trade during the past year, Mr. T. W. Jones, of the Bureau, says, in part, that the year 1933 will go down in the history of the tea trade as marking a new era and one in which the interests of the three large producing countries proved that cooperation is to their advantage. The feeling of antagonism was largely dispersed and a mutual understanding and appreciation of each other's difficulties paved the way for drawing up a workable scheme of restriction—and one that would as far as possible give satisfaction to all concerned.

Tea prices, the report states, steadily strengthened on the announcement of the new restriction scheme from April 1. This naturally promotes a more optimistic feeling—a feeling, however, that must be tempered with caution that prices be not permitted to go too high, as the consuming public is still suffering from deficiency of buying power. Above all, increased consumption is the great desideratum to be aimed at.—A. B.

EXPORTS OF TEA FROM SHANGHAI

Staff Correspondence

SHANGHAI, April 10, 1934.—Exports of tea from Shanghai during the month of March, 1934, were, 5,373 piculs and 25 cattles; transshipment through the same port, 479 piculs, 61 cattles—a total of 5,852 piculs, 86 cattles. These figures, from the Shanghai Bureau of Inspection & Testing of Commercial Commodities, are divided—Shanghai export and transshipment—into: green tea—4,278 piculs, 79 cattles; black—928 piculs, 33 cattles; brick—1 picul, 70 cattles; other kinds—644 piculs, 4 cattles. In round piculs, Africa bought 3,173; France, 660; United States, 369; Turkey, Persia, Egypt, etc., 251; and Canada, 118.—I. S.

TEA EXPORTS FROM CEYLON

Special Correspondence

COLOMBO, May 1, 1934.—Exports of tea from Ceylon, January, February and March, 1934, according to The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, were: black, 47,087,402 lbs.; green, 160,149; same period, 1933, were: 60,835,115 and 161,573.—GALLE FACE.