

“It is estimated that at least 2,000,000*l.* sterling is now invested in the tobacco industry in the Deli districts.

“The tobacco when ready for shipment is all sent to Clambia on the Langkat river, to the Deli river, or the Sirdang river (as the case may be), and is despatched thence viâ Penang or Singapore to Amsterdam, which is the tobacco mart for the continent of Europe. The United States have also bought the Deli tobacco in the Amsterdam market in late years. Very little of the tobacco goes to England. The leaf remains so moist that the English import duty would press it heavily in comparison with other tobaccos, and this circumstance operates as a check on the import of tobacco from Sumatra into England as compared with tobacco from Java. The principal purchasers are German manufacturers and Dutch middlemen. The latter retail the tobacco over the continent, and supply the several Régies, amongst others the Austrian, Italian, and French. The Americans confine their purchases to dark-leaved, heavy tobacco, requiring 100 leaves or less to the lb.

“It is worth remarking that the whole of the carrying trade in connection with the Deli tobaccos is in the hands of Messrs. Holt's line, the rate of freight from Deli to Amsterdam being about 3*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* per ton. The shipping season may be said to last from January to June.

“The tobacco crop of 1884 is estimated to yield about 20,000 bales in excess of that of 1883, but the crop in 1883 was a short one owing to unfavourable weather. The 1884 crop is the best one ever obtained, both as

regards quantity and quality. Roughly speaking, the Deli tobacco in the Amsterdam market fetches 1s. 4d. per lb. English, and the profits realized may be judged from the dividends given by the most flourishing companies; the shares of the Deli Company being now quoted at 500 per cent. premium. Of course there are exceptions where unsuitable soils have been met with, and losses have been sustained of no inconsiderable amount. These losses have occurred principally on Sirdang lands, where the tobacco grown is reputed not equal to that produced in the other two districts. This comparative defect is disclosed in the burning, the Sirdang tobacco yielding a brown instead of a white ash, and being probably therefore lacking in potash.

“The forests when cleared for the tobacco plantations afford splendid timber, and this is utilized for constructing drying-sheds and coolies’ quarters, but a good deal of the wood which might be exported for building or fuel is wasted for want of conveyance and burnt on the ground. As a compensation there can be no doubt that this burnt timber, or rather the ashes of it, supply an excellent manure.

“The labour employed may be distributed under three classes. There are, firstly, Malays and Batak tribesmen, who fell heavy timber, do general clearance, and build sheds; then come the Klings from the Madras districts, who occupy themselves with drainage and road-making; and lastly, we have the Chinese for planting, sorting, and preparation of the weed. The planting is conducted on a co-operative system. Coolies have their fields allotted

to them, and plant at their own risk under supervision. Their payment depends on the yield. Reckoning from the estimated out-turn of last year's crop, and that one coolie will raise seven piculs of tobacco in the season, we arrive at the figure 23,000 as representing the total number of Chinese engaged at Deli in tobacco cultivation, to which number 7000 extra hands must be added, employed in pursuits incidental to the industry. 3000 additional Chinese coolies are reported to have been engaged for the coming year. The strength of the Kling community may be taken at about 3000. The Chinamen go into their clearings and begin work during January and February: those not actually in service on the tobacco estates earning money as shopkeepers, pedlars, or gardeners, many of the latter being old hands who, under advances, have taken to planting patches of tobacco on their own account, for which they find a ready sale in Penang. The Klings are also to be met with as drivers of carts and carriages.

“An industrious coolie would, on an average, net in the course of a year 100 to 150 Dutch florins, and on this sum he pays to the Dutch Government 2 per cent. by way of income tax. The coolie, however, arrives in the country with a debt of from 100 fl. to 150 fl., and thus as a rule is not clear and able to leave with a balance in hand till the end of the second year. The coolie is engaged for a year, but he generally re-engages, and takes his departure in the beginning of the third year.

“The Dutch Government regulations with regard to the maintenance of a medical man by every estate and

to the erection of hospitals for sick coolies are stringent; and, on the whole, the coolie-lines, considering their temporary nature, are adequate, so that the lot of the coolie in Deli may be regarded as a favourable one, even when compared with places where he is under British control.

“The importing of British Indians, as is well known, is not tolerated, though many have found their way into the country under the stimulus of high wages, the latter running from 7 dol. to 10 dol. a month, according to capacity.”

The following report by Consul Eckstein on the export of Sumatran tobacco to the United States, and Dutch dealings in the same in 1882 will be of interest.

Consul Eckstein says “it is not quite three years since a few dealers in tobacco and manufacturers of cigars in the United States had first their attention attracted to Sumatra tobacco, with a view of introducing and using it for cigar-wrappers.

“From this port shipments of the article began to be made during the latter half of the year 1880, and, considering that this trade has only so recently taken its rise, and that by this time it has already assumed rather important proportions, I felt called upon to prepare the present report, giving some information concerning the same.

“In order to show, as nearly correct as possible, the course this trade has taken from its commencement to the present time, I made up the following statement, which exhibits the quantity and value of such tobacco shipped from Amsterdam to the United States during each quarter since such shipments first began to be made, viz.:—

| Quarters ending— | | | | | | Quantities. | Value. |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|----|-------------|---------|
| | | | | | | Bales. | \$ |
| September 30, 1880 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 311 | 37,694 |
| December 31, 1880 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 454 | 52,113 |
| Total | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 765 | 89,807 |
| March 31, 1881 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | None. | None. |
| June 30, 1881 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 558 | 56,958 |
| September 30, 1881 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,162 | 128,474 |
| December 31, 1881 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,059 | 114,758 |
| Total | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,779 | 300,190 |
| March 31, 1882 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 496 | 52,203 |
| June 30, 1882 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,464 | 140,184 |
| September 30, 1882 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,245 | 254,372 |
| December 31, 1882 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,785 | 333,254 |
| Total | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6,990 | 780,013 |

“ From this statement it will be observed that the export of the article to the United States is constantly and very largely increasing; and when it is further taken into account that certain quantities of it were invoiced and shipped from Rotterdam and Bremen as well, it may safely be stated that about 9000 bales of Sumatra tobacco entered our markets in 1882.

“ What has created, increased, and what sustains this trade appears to be:

“ 1st. That certain qualities of Sumatra tobacco in certain dark colours have been found to be peculiarly and advantageously adaptable for cigar-wrappers, and are gaining more and more in favour with manufacturers of cigars in the United States; and

“2nd. The ever-increasing crops of the article, thus also increasing the supply of the particular sorts especially suitable for the American market.

“The recent animation in this trade has undoubtedly furthermore been stimulated by the removal of the 10 per cent. discriminating duty, formerly payable thereon, being a product of the East Indies, exported from the west of the Cape of Good Hope.

“This will be clearly evident when I state that many shipments, aggregating large quantities of this tobacco, purchased or ordered for months last past, were purposely delayed until late in December, so as not to arrive until after the law abolishing the discriminating duty had gone into effect.

“This unlooked-for introduction and now so considerable export of this staple into the United States has begun to be viewed with great disfavour by cultivators or growers of ‘seed-leaf’ tobacco in the United States.

“They apprehend, as I am informed, that the imports of Sumatra tobacco into our country will increase still further in the near future, and seem to consider this would prove greatly detrimental to their interests.

“I am hardly in position or prepared to express an opinion as to how well grounded or justified their fears really are, and, moreover, am inclined to believe that the interested parties are the better judges of this matter, but so far as I can possibly make myself serviceable by giving information which may assist them in reaching correct conclusions on the subject I deem it my duty to do, and do cheerfully.

“Such information may possibly also be of some value to

Congress in its present consideration of our tariff when the article of 'leaf-tobacco' is reached.

"Thus I would report that up to the present the production of the article has increased from year to year without any intermission from the beginning of its cultivation in Sumatra in 1865, when it amounted to only 189 bales.

"In this connection I would respectfully refer and call attention to my report on 'The tobacco trade of the Netherlands in 1881,' dated March 7, 1882, and printed in the volume of monthly consular commercial reports No. 18, of April last, as it contains a statement showing the crops of Sumatra tobacco each year from 1865 to 1880, inclusive, and the average prices realized from its sale.

"The crop of 1881 is represented to have footed up 82,356 bales, valued (approximately) at 5,791,880 dol., being an increase over the crop of the previous year (1880) of 17,433 bales as to quantity, and of 1,260,000 dol. as to the approximate value thereof.

"From the foregoing it will be seen that about one-ninth of the whole crop of 1881 has been exported to the United States.

"The entire crop, excepting about 1700 bales remaining in the hands of the original importers or consignees here, on December 31, 1882, was disposed of at an advance of about 1 cent, United States currency, in the average price as compared with that realized in 1881 for the crop of 1880; or, in other words, the total crop of 1880 brought on the average about $45\frac{3}{4}$ cents, whereas the crop of 1881 averaged about $46\frac{3}{4}$ cents, United States currency, per half-kilogram.

"This refers to the prices originally obtained at the

various sales throughout the year by the importers or consignees, first hands.

“As regards the prices for the particular sorts which during the year found their way to the United States, and which are usually purchased from quite a number of firms in the wholesale tobacco trade through the mediation of brokers, they differed all the way from about 45 cents to 95 cents, United States currency, for the half-kilogram.

“Thinking it might prove interesting, if not important, to parties in the United States in any way concerned in this matter, to be informed as to the extent and quality of the crop of 1882, I made inquiries relating to it, and ascertained as follows, viz.:—‘That whilst it is impossible to state, at this early day, with accuracy the yield of the crop, it is generally considered and expected to have been again in excess over the previous one, and that it amounts to about 90,000 bales.’

“Its quality is represented by the planters to be very good, as far as they are able to judge; but this can, of course, only be determined later on, after the tobacco has gone through the process of fermentation.

“The first parcels of this new crop will arrive here about the month of March next, and will be offered for sale about a month or six months thereafter.

“In concluding this report, I would remark that the year 1882 has been a most favourable one for tobacco planters in Sumatra and for those interested in tobacco plantations there, and so have those connected with the trade here realized handsomely by the year's operations.

“I am, therefore, induced to state that so long as the

present general demand for the article continues there will be neither lack of capital nor labour, so long as either can contribute to an increase in its production, and it would seem to be more a question as to the extent of acreage in Sumatra adapted for its cultivation, as only once in four or five years a crop can be raised on the same soil without danger of producing a very inferior quality of tobacco."

Turkey.—The Turkish empire has long been known as producing some of the finest tobaccos in the world. In the sanjac of Drama, which forms the vice-consular district of Cavalla, tobacco is the staple article of production and industry, and some 75,000 acres were devoted to its culture in 1873. The whole crop of 1871 was reckoned at 11,200,000 lb., the exports having been 7,600,000 lb., value 37,825*l.* The tobacco of this district, though derived entirely from one species, is divided into two classes, known as *Drama* and *Yenidji*. The former leaf is larger, stouter, and more potent, and generally of deep reddish-brown colour; the latter is smaller, slighter, less narcotic, with a peculiarly delicate aroma, and the best is of a rich yellow colour, whence its name "golden-leaf." The *Drama* kind is principally grown in the western portion of the district, and is the class supplied to European markets. The differences in the two kinds seem to be due solely to the soil.

The plantations in the Drama district proper occupy both plain and hill-side. The produce of the former is much the more considerable, and superior. The best leaves, distinguished by a stronger and more substantial texture, and a dark-red hue, go to Constantinople; the

inferior and lighter-coloured find a sale in Russia. The mountain product is much inferior in quality and is sent chiefly to Europe. When the leaves are petiolate, or furnished with stems, they are made up in *manoks* ("hands") of 10-15, and termed *bashi-baghli* ("head-tied"); when the leaves are sessile, or devoid of stems, they are simply pressed together in small numbers, and called *bassma*. The whole produce of this locality varies from 2,100,000 to 2,450,000 lb. yearly. The growth obtained in the Vale of Pravista is known as *Demirli*. It is inferior, unsubstantial, and dark-coloured, and usually made up as *bashi-baghli*. The annual production is about 2 million lb.; the exports to England were 1,600,000 lb. in 1871. Cavalla affords yearly about 300,000 lb. of inferior quality, chiefly as *bashi-baghli*, and mostly consumed locally. The shipping port for all these places is Cavalla.

The district of Sarishaban produces on the average about 2,000,000 lb. annually, but the crop of 1871 reached 2,800,000 lb. About $\frac{7}{8}$ is as *bashi-baghli*. That grown on the plain and hills is termed *ghynbek*, and forms the bulk; that from the slopes, about 500,000 lb. a year, is the best, and is known as *ghubek*. All is packed up in small *boghchas* (parcels), of 30-50 lb., which are distinguished as *béyaz*, from the white cotton wrappers used for the best sort, and *kenavir*, from the canvas coverings of the inferior kinds. The best goes to Constantinople, secondary to Smyrna and other home markets, and the worst to Europe. The district of Yenidji, near the Gulf of Lagos, affords some 3,500,000 lb. per annum, chiefly as *bassma*, and bearing a very general resemblance to the

produce of Sarishaban. The best goes to Constantinople and Russia. Ghiumirgina (Ghumurdjina, or Komuldsina) grows about 300,000 lb. yearly of dark-coloured *bassma*, of the *Drama* class, which is used locally; and Sultan-Yeri gives 400,000 lb. of still darker *bashi-baghli*. The produce of these districts is shipped at Lagos (Karagatch) or Cavalla.

The most delicate and valued of all the tobaccos raised in this portion of European Turkey is the celebrated "golden leaf" from the caza of Yenidji, on the Vardar (Nestus) river. After it, in declining order, come the products of Drama, Persoccian, Sarishaban, Cavalla, and Pravista. Of the whole Drama and Yenidji produce, it is estimated that Austro-Hungary takes 40 per cent. Italy buys annually about 150,000–200,000 *kilo*. France, Germany, and Switzerland receive very little. Russia is a large customer. Before the war, considerable quantities were sent to the countries on the Lower Danube. England imports every year some 10,000 bales, or 400,000 *okes* (of 2·83 lb.) of Pravista tobacco. The *refusa*, or waste leaves, &c., is sent everywhere for making into cigarettes, most largely perhaps to Egypt. A kind of tobacco known as *ayiasoulouk* is grown in considerable quantities in the opium districts, almost exclusively for export to Europe, the natives having a strong prejudice against it.

The necessity for manuring is well understood by the Turks. They dress the seed-beds with goat- and sheep-dung, and manure the fields during winter with horse- and cattle-dung. In the spring, sheep and goats are folded on the land. The soil of tobacco lands will be

found quite impregnated with ammonia and nitrate of potash, both absorbed by the plant; the former is thought to influence the aroma, and the latter may be seen in crystals on the surface of the dried leaf. In order to keep the leaves small and delicate, the planting is performed very close, the usual distances being 5 inches apart, and 9 inches between the rows.

The district of Latakia, in the northern part of Syria, has long been celebrated for its tobacco, which is the chief product of the mountainous part. There are several kinds:—(1) *Abu Riha* or *Dgebeli*, found in its best state among the mountains of the Nesseries (Ansaries), which possesses a peculiar and much-admired aroma, derived from its being exposed, from November to April, to the smoke of fires of *ozer* (*Quercus Ilex*, or *Q. Cerris*); (2) *Dgidar*, including a number of kinds, of medium strength, and in great favour locally on account of its low price; (3) *Scheik-el-Bent*, almost equal to *Abu-Riha*, and often substituted for it.

The plain of Koura is remarkable for its tobaccos, which are rather strong, but much admired. The villages of Lebail and Serai produce better tobacco than Koura. The district of Gebail (Gebel) in Kesrasan (Castravan) affords the best and dearest tobacco in Syria; it is very brittle, and its ash is quite white. The country south of Lebanon yields very ordinary qualities, known as *Salili*, *Tanoné*, and *Takibé*, or generically as *Berraoni*; these are mixed with stronger kinds for use. The best of the *Abu-Riha* is yielded by the plant called *Karn-el-Gazel*; the second quality is termed *Bonati*.

The exports of tobacco from Alexandretta in 1879

were:—To Egypt, 91 tons, value 6380*l.*; Turkey, 24 tons, 1920*l.*; England, 51 tons, 2550*l.*; France, 1 ton, 80*l.* The exports from Aleppo in 1878 were 30 tons, value 1200*l.*, to Great Britain. The yield of the crop in Thessaly was 1,116,000 *okes* (of 2·83 lb.) in 1877, 210,000 in 1878, and 890,000 in 1879. The crop of Prevesa in 1878 was 4000 *okes*, value 215*l.* The exports from Dedeagatch were about 260 bales, value 1000*l.*, in 1878; and 600 bales, value 2400*l.*, in 1879. Considerable quantities are grown around Sinope. Tobacco is one of the principal products of the district of Samsoun, and is of good quality. The average yield is 7,000,000 lb. yearly. It is grown near the sea-shore, and not eastward of Yomurah, at Matchka and Trebizonde, and especially at Akché-Abad. But the aggregate crop in these localities is hardly $\frac{1}{3}$ of the quantity produced at Samsoun, and the quality is far inferior. The Samsoun product is usually purchased largely on account of the French Government. The exports from Samsoun in 1878 were:—To Turkey, 2,680,000 *kilo.*, value 160,800*l.*; France, 583,500 *kilo.*, 28,008*l.*; Russia, 575,000 *kilo.*, 57,500*l.*; Germany, 400,000 *kilo.*, 7200*l.*; Austria, 327,220 *kilo.*, 31,266*l.*; Great Britain, 87,567 *kilo.*, 1576*l.*; total, 4,653,287 *kilo.*, 286,350*l.* The exports of Turkey-produced tobacco from Trebizonde in 1879 were:—To Turkey, 14,864 cwt., value 44,592*l.*; Russia, 866 cwt., 2598*l.*; Great Britain, 490 cwt., 1470*l.*; Austria and Germany, 204 cwt., 612*l.*; total, 16,424 cwt., 49,272*l.*

In 1884, Damascus imported 1313 sacks of tumbeki, value 1674*l.*, from Bagdad. In the same year Erzeroum imported 9000 *okes*, value 1090*l.*, from Persia.

The leaf grown by the Herki Kurds and other cultivators in and around the district of Shemdina is highly prized in Persia. In 1884, the first year of their operations, the employés of the tobacco Régie only succeeded in registering a yield of 25,000 *okes*, but this amount represents less than a fifth of the estimated produce of the vilayet. It is believed, however, that 8000–10,000*l.* Turkish worth of Shemdina tobacco annually crosses the frontier into Persia.

Trebizonde exports in 1884 were 20,167 cwt., value 56,849*l.* Inferior qualities are sent to Europe, good ones remain in Turkey, and the best go to Egypt.

The shipments from Samsoun in 1884 were as follows:—

| | cwt. | Price. | | | £ |
|---------------------|--------|--------|----|----|---------|
| | | £ | s. | d. | |
| To Turkey | 29,210 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 116,840 |
| Austria | 8,540 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 42,700 |
| France | 5,756 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 11,512 |
| Egypt | 4,176 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 16,704 |
| Germany | 3,579 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 5,096 |
| Russia | 1,730 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 10,380 |
| Great Britain | 832 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1,002 |
| Holland | 712 | 1 | 12 | 0 | 1,140 |
| Greece | 416 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1,248 |
| | 54,951 | | | | 206,622 |

United States.—The United States of America occupy the foremost rank among tobacco-growing countries. The areas and productions have been as follows:—1875, 559,049 acres, 379,347,000 lb.; 1876, 540,457 acres, 381,002,000 lb.; 1877, 720,344 acres, 489,000,000 lb.; 1878, 542,850 acres, 392,546,700 lb. The crop of 1875 (in millions of lb.) was thus contributed:—Kentucky, 130; Virginia, 57; Missouri, 40; Tennessee, 35; Maryland, 22; Pennsylvania, 16; N. Carolina, 14 $\frac{3}{4}$; Ohio,

13½; Indiana, 12¾; Connecticut, 10; Massachusetts, 8½; Illinois, 8. The average yields (in lb. per acre) of the various districts in 1875 were:—Connecticut, 1600; Pennsylvania, 1600; New Hampshire, 1600; Massachusetts, 1350; Missouri, 850; Arkansas, 822; New York, 800; Florida, 750; Ohio, 700; W. Virginia, 680; Maryland, 675; Tennessee, 675; Kansas, 670; Texas, 650; Kentucky, 630; Virginia, 630; Illinois, 550; Georgia, 550; N. Carolina, 500; Indiana, 500; Wisconsin, 500; Alabama, 465; Mississippi, 317. The exports from New York in 1878 were:—37,484 hogsheads, 2561 bales, and 2,218,200 lb. manufactured, to Great Britain; 15,570 hh., 207 bales, and 14,800 lb. manufactured, to France; 35,700 hh., 78,331 bales, and 147,400 lb. manufactured, to N. Europe; 23,150 hh., 6058 bales, and 120,000 lb. manufactured, to other Europe; 4628 hh., 14,360 bales, and 4,780,200 lb. manufactured, to S. America, E. and W. Indies, &c. Baltimore exported 66,039 hh. in 1878. The shipments from New Orleans in 1877–8 were:—1226 hh. to Great Britain, 743 to France, 4552 to N. Europe, 3222 to S. Europe, Mexico, &c., and 4500 coastwise. Philadelphia, in 1879, exported 9,564,171 lb. of leaf tobacco, 52,000 cigars, and 515 lb. of snuff. The total American export of unmanufactured leaf in 1879 was 322,280,000 lb.

The census bulletin on this branch of industry, recently issued, is of a very interesting nature. The tobacco product in the United States is divided into classes, types and grades, the basis of a class being its adaptation to any specific purpose; of a type, to certain qualities or properties in the leaf, such as colour, strength, elasticity, body