

notable features in Ceylon agricultural progress for the year, and eighteen supplements dealing in detail with the work of the separate divisions of the Ceylon botanical department. The following notes taken from Dr. Willis's own résumé will serve to indicate the chief lines of work, but the full reports should be consulted for details.

Plant diseases have been kept well in hand, and an important outcome of the work of the past few years has been the appointment of a Sanitary Legislation Commission to frame suggestions for dealing with outbreaks of pests and diseases by compulsory legislation.

The garden at Badulla has been closed, and that at Heneratgoda is to be transformed gradually into an Experiment Station. Green manuring, with *Leguminosae* etc. among tea, cacao, coconuts and other crops has attracted great interest from the planters, owing to the work at the experiment stations, and is likely to become an important feature in Ceylon agriculture.

The experimental cultivation of ground-nuts having been successful a large number of planters are trying the crop, and also natives under the auspices of the local agricultural society.

Cacao spraying as a preventive of canker on pods has been very successful at the Peradeniya Experiment Station. In 1902 when taken over, 96 per cent of the trees were cankered and the crop only about $\frac{1}{2}$ cwt. per acre. Formerly it was 3 cwt. As the result of vigorous measures the cankered trees have been reduced to 5 per cent., and the crop increased to over 2 cwt. per acre. A new experiment station has been opened in the „dry“ zone, and is the first clearing by Europeans in the north central part of the island. Cotton has been given most attention, and sea island cotton has proved the most successful. Rubber and other products are also being tried with good prospects of success.

The care of rubber plantations affected with canker, and planting of Sandbanks at the mouth of one of the rivers are amongst the more important pieces of external work undertaken by the department. In general, 1904 was a prosperous year for Ceylon agriculture, in spite of some depression in tea. Rubber is the most profitable crop and extension in rubber planting is going on rapidly. The area in rubber is now probably about 25000 acres. Samples of *Castilloa* rubber have obtained very high valuations and it is considered likely to succeed in some districts. *Casuarina montana* has done well at Hakgala (6000 feet) and is recommended for fuel, light, shade and timber at similar situations. The export of black tea (152, 534, 503 Pd.) was by far the largest on record. The area under tea however is not extending, and some has been interplanted with rubber, and the production seems unlikely to increase much further although more scientific cultivation and manuring may augment the crop in some localities. W. G. Freeman.

Personalnachrichten.

An Stelle des verstorbenen Herrn Prof. Dr. L. Errera wurde zu einem der Präsidenten des Organisations-Comités für den Internationalen botanischen Congress, welcher in 1910 in Brüssel tagen wird, Graf Ch. de Kerchove de Deutergthem ernannt. Der andere Präsident ist Herr Dr. Th. Durand, Director des Botanischen Gartens in Brüssel.

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