

SHANGHAI TEA EXPORTS

Green Tea Shipments Show a Little Increased, While Black Tea and Brick Tea Exports Decreased

Staff Correspondence

SHANGHAI, May 2, 1934.

ACCORDING to statistics issued by the Shanghai Bureau of Inspection & Testing of Commercial Commodities, Ministry of Industries, the total of teas tested for exportation from Shanghai, including transshipments, from January 1 to March 31 this year was 72,623.67 Kungtan, of which 25,131.75 Kungtan were Shanghai exports and 47,491 Kungtan were transshipments. In comparison with the total exports of 77,769.66 Kungtan of teas in the corresponding period of last year, there was a decrease of over 5,000 Kungtan.

ANALYSIS OF EXPORTS

When compared with the respective kinds of teas the total of green tea exports was 21,046.20 Kungtan, an increase of about 900 Kungtan; while that of black tea exports was only 4,825.86 Kungtan, a decrease of about 500 Kungtan. The total exports of brick teas were 45,021.28 Kungtan, showing the biggest decrease of about 3,500 Kungtan. The decrease of other kinds, also, amounted to 1,800 Kungtan. A comparison according to destinations shows a large decrease in the exports to Russia, United States, France and Africa; with a small increase to England.

Shanghai tea exports, in Kungtan, (1934); green, 20,700.34; black, 3,045.75; others, 1,385.69; total, 25,131.75; (1933): green, 20,067.48; black, 2,981.56; others, 3,430.70; total, 26,479.74.

Shanghai tea transshipments, in Kungtan, (1934): green, 345.86; black, 1,780.14; others, 45-365.92; total, 47,491.92; (1933), green, 113.61; black, 2,337.46; others, 48,838.85; total, 51,289.92.—D. T. C.

* One Kungtan, or new standard picul, equals 1.6535 piculs.

LONDON TEA MARKET REPORT

Staff Correspondence

LONDON, May 31, 1934.—Although demand was not so active during the month, the closing sale before the Whitsuntide holidays registered a better feeling, and the market closed with little change on the month for tea for price which is quoted at 13 pence per pound, compared to 8 pence per pound at same period last year.

The average price of all tea dropped to 13.80 pence per pound. Looking over Estates' average prices, particularly the Indian section, one is struck with the uniform low averages in comparison with the price of common tea. All grades are selling at practically the same price, with only a fraction of a penny difference between plain broken pekoe souchong and tippy broken orange pekoes. The reason is twofold (1): The end of the season poor quality, (2) The rise in the retail price of tea has brought about a heavier demand for the lowest price packets.

The quantity entered for Home consumption during the month ending 30th April was 34¼ million

pounds which compares with 43 million pounds for same month 1933.

Total Home consumption and exports for the 4 months ending 30th April were 145 million pounds as against 159 million pounds in 1933, a decrease of 10 per cent.

Total imports of tea for the 4 months ending 30th April show a decrease of 29 million pounds on same period 1933 and 23½ million pounds on 1932.—E.S.S.

INDIAN TEA EXPORTS AND PRICES

Report Covering the Past Year by Heath & Co. (Calcutta), Ltd., Analyzes the Results Under Restriction

Special Correspondence

CALCUTTA, April 15, 1934.

IN their review of the Calcutta tea season, 1933-34, Heath & Co., (Calcutta) Ltd., state that during this twelvemonth there is practically no tea garden that has not at least covered its expenses, with appreciable profits to many—this in the face of losses generally in the preceding year. Reduced producer-country stocks are more in line with consumer requirements—and prices are generally higher. The April-December, 1933, production of Northern India was 318,911,000 lbs.; 1932, 368,963,000 lbs.—a reduction of 50,052,000 lbs. With this, a natural improvement in quality is reported. Shipments, April 1, 1933, to March 20, 1934, were 269,068,130 lbs.; 1932-33, 324,412,288 lbs.; and 1931-32, 297,215,864—not including Indian port takings.

The price of tea, says the review, now may be said to have reached an economic level although it is doubtful whether current prices are justified by the present position and future outlook. As to the future, it is held that it may be faced with confidence—as the present general scheme is being closely watched by those responsible. For an increased demand the surest incentive is a market on a reasonable level of price and free from disturbing fluctuations.—HOWRAH.

COLLECTIVE TEA PROPAGANDA PLAN

Special Correspondence

COLOMBO, May 15, 1934.—The cordial good will of Government officials of the Netherlands East Indies was evidenced to Mr. G. Huxley, Chief Commissioner of the Ceylon Tea Propaganda Board, on his recent visit to Java to confer on the proposal to carry through a collective tea campaign in behalf of Indian, Ceylon and Netherlands East Indies tea—this to include the expansion of the present propaganda work through a concentrated and combined campaign in the United States. On his trip to Batavia Mr. Huxley was accompanied by Mr. R. L. Barnes, Ceylon Tea Commissioner for Australia. Mr. Huxley has left for London and will be present at further conferences to be held there and in Amsterdam in the sense of joint propaganda and related topics. Mr. Barnes plans to visit Egypt and Palestine to study the tea consumption situation.—GALLE FACE.