

tions which do not net 12 per cent, and many bring in five times this amount. Today it costs here, I am told, about 3 cents of our money to raise a pound of cocoa, whereas it sells in Guayaquil for about 14 cents, making a clear profit to the farmer of 11 cents (gold) a pound, and paying him a profit of about 400 per cent. This year Ecuador will raise about forty million pounds of cocoa beans, which will be shipped to Europe and the United States. The crop is not a difficult one to raise, and when an orchard is once bearing it is good for a big income for from twenty to thirty years. Until I came here I had no idea as to how cocoa was grown. I had heard of the cocoa bean and supposed it came from a vine or bush. The truth is, the beans, which when ground up make our chocolate, grow on trees from twenty to thirty feet high. The tree is much like an immense lilac bush. It is ragged and gnarly, and its fruit, which is bigger than the pomelo or grape fruit, grows on the stem or trunk and close to the branches. It is of the shape of an immense lemon, and of about the same color, and the seeds within it are the chocolate beans of commerce. Each ball of fruit contains from twenty-eight to thirty brown beans about as big as lima beans. These are washed out of the pulp that surrounds them and dried and then shipped to the chocolate factories all over the world. There is a chance for men who have capital, and who are not afraid of the miasma of the tropics, to make money here in raising chocolate.

As for me, I would not advise any one to come to Guayaquil or tropical Ecuador to engage in anything. My experience is such that if Mount Chimborazo was one solid lump of chocolate and it was offered me as a reward for staying here for ten years I would not take it. Nearly every American who comes here gets the fever, and I am told that 90 per cent of all Americans who have tried to live here have died. 'suopjeurjd uooos jo sjoqd aq' of sy however, wild lands can be gotten very cheaply. I was told yesterday of a hacienda containing enough land for 15,000,000 trees which could for \$14,000, and good lands can be gotten for from \$10 an acre up. Cultivated orchards are worth about 60 cents a tree, and as you can easily grow over 500 trees to the acre, each of which will yield you from one to two pounds of chocolate a year, you see how valuable the yielding orchards are. The only way to make the business pay would be to grow your own orchard. This is a matter of about five years. The first thing is to clear the ground by cutting down everything and burning it. Next bananas are set out about ten feet apart in order that they may grow up and shade the young cocoa trees. Between each two bananas a hill of cocoa beans is planted, so that the hills are about ten feet apart. Three beans are put in each hill. They soon sprout. At first they look like little orange trees. They grow rapidly and at three years they begin to produce fruit. After once planting all the cultivation necessary is to keep down the underbrush and cut off the vegetation which springs up. Such a thing as hoeing and plowing a crop as we do is not known in the tropical parts of Ecuador. Nevertheless a great amount of labor is required and the lack of suitable help is a serious drawback. Most of the planters take advantage of the debt laws and keep a number of poor people in debt to them. One millionaire hacienda owner, whom I visited last week, has, I was told, workmen on his pay rolls who owe him a quarter of a million dollars and he complained bitterly to me that he could not get enough men to work his estates. I doubt not he would gladly have loaned another hundred thousand for the debt slaves which such an investment would

have brought him. The laborers, you know, are, as a rule, the native Indians. They are thriftless, but hard workers. They are accustomed to being in debt and manage to keep themselves so.

A great deal of money is invested in Ecuador in coffee and sugar plantations. Six estates were set out in sugar about twenty odd years ago at a cost of \$1,000,000, and there are a number of others with smaller capitals. The machinery used is chiefly American. I have visited a number of coffee groves and I am told that the Guayaquil coffee trunks high in the markets. Great quantities are shipped from here to Europe, the exports last year amounting to over one million dollars in gold. The United States bought about one-fifth of this product, and it was probably sold by our retailers as old government Java. It is indeed excellent coffee. I like that I have had here as well as any I have ever tasted, though it is made and served in a way that any American housekeeper would say would ruin it. This is the process for making it: The coffee, fresh roasted, is ground very fine, and then put into a little bag and hot water poured on it by the teaspoonful at a time. Only enough water is used to get out the strength of the coffee and the fluid at the end is as black as ink and of the consistency of thin syrup. This is put in a bottle, tightly corked up, and when any one of the family wants a cup of coffee a tablespoonful or so is poured into a cup, which is then filled up with hot milk or water. The result is coffee, full of aroma and delicious to taste. At the restaurants and cafes they serve such coffee, and the coffee bottle is more in use here than the wine bottle in France.

FARNK G. CARPENTER.

RETURNED ELDERS.

Elder William Crane of Draper, who went on a mission to Great Britain in January, 1896, has returned home and was among those who called at the "News" office during the week. The first eighteen months he labored in the Norwich conference and the remainder of the time in the Welsh conference.

Elder John Watts of Rexburg, Idaho, who departed for the Southern States February 12th, 1895, has also returned home. He labored in Florida all of the time. There are forty Mormon missionaries in that state and they are meeting with pronounced success in their labors.

Elder Judson I. Tolman of Marion, Idaho, who has been laboring as a missionary in West Virginia and Kentucky for the greater part of the past three years, is home again and reports the prospects for Gospel work in those states as being most promising.

Elder Biron D. Wilcox, who has been doing missionary work in the Southern States since June, 1895, is also home from his labors, which were likewise confined to West Virginia and Kentucky. He reports that the Elders are making many friends and more converts than heretofore.

Similar report of good work and better outlook for the future is brought from Alabama and Mississippi by Elder Charles L. Haight of Oakley, Cassia county, Idaho, who departed on his mission March 23, 1895.

Elder A. W. Ensign of Brigham City, who has been in the East Tennessee conference since 1896, brings encouraging news from that section regarding the work of the Elders. He was a caller at the "News" office during the week.

Elder Thomas Martin of Tooele City, left Utah for Kentucky on April 13, 1895, and returned on the 5th inst. He reports having met with satisfactory success in his labors, being received kindly by the people.

Elder Thomas Bailey, of Nephi, Juab county, spent the last two years in Great Britain. He says there were double the usual number of baptisms in the Nottingham conference the last year, and that the outlook for the future is brighter than for a long time.

Elder Henry Bartholomew of American Falls, Idaho, went to West Virginia in May, 1895, and came home on April 1st. His work as a missionary was principally among the Sunday schools. In the East Kentucky conference he recently organized a considerable number of them, and declares that they are performing a splendid work.

Elder John B. Green of American Fork, has returned from a mission to South Carolina. He states that he met many kind and hospitable people in that state, and that converts are being steadily made.

Elders John C. Heath of Spanish Fork, and W. J. Shipley of American Fork, are home from missions to North Carolina. They labored in that state since the spring of 1895, and bring excellent reports of the work being done there by the Latter-day Saint missionaries.

Elder Levi A. Phillips, of Lehi, has spent the last three years, as a missionary in South Carolina. He says there are about 800 Latter-day Saint converts in that state now, and that their ranks are being rapidly added to, the Elders meeting with very good success in the spread of truth.

The "News" received a call Thursday from Elder Lorenzo T. Hatch of Franklin, Idaho, who has just returned from a mission to Samoa. He left home for his field in June of last year, and labored during the period of his absence on the island of Tutuila. The work in the mission is in excellent condition. Elder Hatch was honorably released from his mission on account of loss of voice. For a number of years his voice has been weak, and he thinks the climate aggravated the evil. He persisted against the trouble for several months, and was finally compelled to accept a release.

Elder Thomas England of Plain City, Utah, called at the "News" editorial rooms this afternoon, having recently returned from a mission to Great Britain, for which part of the world he left home April 21st, 1896. He labored in the Cheltenham conference all of the time and brought home a party of Saints with him.

Elder Lorenzo Stohl, of Brigham City, returned from North Carolina on the 3rd inst., and reports having most thoroughly enjoyed himself as a missionary in that state during the past three years. During that time he made many friends and baptized sixty-five persons into the Church and organized a number of Sunday schools.

Two Japanese visited A. H. Geffney, an inspector of the United States immigration bureau, at Immigration Commissioner North's office in the Appraiser's building, San Francisco last Thursday, and told him that his life would be in danger if he continued to interfere with the landing of Japanese at that port. Geffney is the Japanese interpreter for the bureau, and the Japanese blamed him for the detention and deportation of their countrymen.