the green-tea manufacturers make no distinction ; they prepare all the tea they can, throughout the season, box or basket it up, and when the season is over, they set off for Canton with their produce ; at least all those who do not wish to sell their tea on the spot The different merchants go in quest of it there. It now indiscriminately undergoes the second process ; that is, the different crops all are mixed up together. No old leaves can be mixed in the green, as in the black teas ; for the long rolling in the pan crushes them, and the fan blows them away, so that only the young leaves are left.”—[Report on the Manufacture of Tea, and the Tea Plantations in Assam, by C. A. Bruce, presented to the Tea Committee, 10th June 1839.]

Tea was introduced into Europe in the year 1610, by the Dutch East India Company. It is generally said that it was first imported from Holland into England in 1666, by the Lords Arlington and Ossory. But that it was used in coffee-houses before this period, appears from an act of par­liament passed in 1660, in which a duty of eightpence was laid on every gallon of the infusion sold in these places; and from the following entry which appears in the Diary of Mr Pepys, secretary to the Admiralty,—“ September 25, 1661 :

I sent for a cup of tea (a Chinese drink), of which I never drunk before.” In 1664, the East India Company bought

2 lbs. 2 oz. as a present to his majesty ; and in 1667 they issued their first order to their agent at Bantam, to send home 100 lbs. of the best tea he could get. It continued to be sold in London for 60s. per lb. till 1707, though it did not cost more than 2s. 6d. or 3s. 6d. at Batavia. In 1689, instead of charging a duty on the decoction from the leaves, a duty of 5s. per lb. was laid on the tea itself. In 1715 green tea began to be used, and as great quantities were then imported, the price was proportionally lowered. In 1790 the quantity of tea retained for home consumption in Great Britain and Ireland was 1,643,095 lbs., and the duty amounted to L.580,362. Since that period the trade in tea has rapidly continued to increase till it has arrived at its present astonishing magnitude. Till 1833 the East In­dia Company enjoyed a monopoly of the trade in tea, but by the act 3 and 4 William IV., c. 93, the trade was thrown open.

Sugar and tea are the most productive to the chancellor of the exchequer, of all the exciseable imports. These two articles alone yielded in 1836 a net revenue of L.8,858,700. In 1836 the net revenue from tea was L.4,184,165, and the quantity retained for home consumption was 49,142,236 pounds ; in 1837 the net revenue was L.3,223,840, and the quantity retained for home consumption 30,625,206 pounds. The ease with which it can be levied has always been a great temptation to lay a heavy duty on this commodity ; and the consequence has been, that this, which may now be termed a necessary of life, has been burdened to the utmost limit of productiveness, and sometimes considerably beyond it. Previously to the 1st of July 1837, the duty, which had varied greatly from time to time, was, for Bohea, 1s. 6d. per pound ; Congou, Twankay, &c. 2s. 2d. ; and Souchong, Hyson, 3s. From that date a uniform duty of 2s. Id. is charged on all sorts. Thus it appears, from the table of sales by the East India Company, that the duty on Bohea is nearly 300 per cent., the price of the pound of Bohea be­ing 92/10d., and the tax upon it 2s. 1d. On the other sorts the tax is about 100 per cent. It may fairly be anticipat­ed, that a considerable reduction of duty on this healthful beverage would promote the comfort and sobriety of the community, without diminishing the amount of the revenue, in consequence of the increase of consumption which would necessarily follow.

When imported into the United States in American ves­sels it is duty free ; but a duty of ten cents, or 5d. per pound, is laid on what is imported in foreign vessels.

*An Account of the Quantities and Prices of the several sorts of Tea sold in England by the East India company, in the year* 1837 (*May to December).*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **JUNE SALE, 1837.** | | | **SEPTEMBER SALE,**  **1837.** | | | **DECEMBER SALE, 1837.** | | |
| **Quantity of each kind of Tea Sold.** | **Average Price at which each kind was Sold.** | | **Quantity of each kind of Tea Sold.** | **Average Price at which each kind was Sold.** | | **Quantity of each kind of Tea Sold.** | **Average Price at which each kind was Sold.** | |
| Company’s | ***lbs.*** | *s.* | *d.* | ***lbs.*** | ***s.*** | ***d.*** | ***lbs.*** | ***s.*** | ***d.*** |
| Bohea | ... |  | ... | ***...*** |  |  | 524,963 2 | | 102/10 |
| Ditto | 475,059 1 | | 107/10 | 34,573 | 2 | 46/10 | 467,861 | 2 | 103/10 |
| Congou.... | 397,179 2 | | 42/10 | 300,348 | 2 | 78/10 | 234,823∣3 | | 0 |
| Ditto | 573,700 1 | | 68/10 | 1.056,735 | 1 | 68/10 | 2,362,232 2 | | 04/10 |
| Ditto | 744,009 1 | | 04/10 | 1,420,495 | 1 | 37/10 | 531,715 1 | | 109/10 |
| Souchong. | 31,893 2 | | 02/10 | 18,986 | 1 | 105/10 | 29,07212 | | 44/10 |
| Ditto | 8,244 l | | 35/10 | 11,558 |  | 06/10 | **...** |  |  |
| Twankay.. | 198,050 1 | | 2 |  |  |  | 52 2 | | 15/10 |
| Hyson | 2,742 3 | | **4** | 3,238 | 3 | 06/10 | 3,215 5 | | 11/10 |
| Ditto | 13.489 2 | | 19/10 | 81,194 | 2 | 49/10 | 75,110 | 2 | 78/10 |
| Ditto | 66,040 | **1** | 109/10 | 46,503 | 2 | 48/10 |  |
| Total | 2,510,905 |  | ... | 3.063,630 |  | ... | 4,229,043 |  | ... |
| Refused.. | 1,506,000 |  | ... | 922,000 |  |  | **...** |  | ... |

*Title exhibiting the Quantity and Value of the Tea exported from canton by the East India company, by private English Traders, and by the Americans, from* 1820 *to* 1834.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **East India Company.** | | **Private Traders.** | | **Total for Britain.** | | **American Trade.** | |
| **Quantity, Ibs.** | **Value.** | **Quantity, lbs.** | **Value.** | **Quantity, lbs.** | **Value.** | **Quantity, lbs.** | **Value.** |
| 1820-21 | 28,807,733 | L.1,677,682 | 2,592,266 | L.196,204 | 31,399,999 | L. 1,873,886 | 7,890,267 | L.447,649 |
| 1821-22 | 26,010,800 | 1,555,182 | 2,776,800 | 220,443 | 28,787,600 | 1,775,625 | 9,312,267 | 555,164 |
| 1822-23 | 27,580,400 | 1,644,446 | 2,121,773 | 159,064 | 29,702,173 | 1,803,510 | 11,303,733 | 652,591 |
| 1823-24 | 29,850,440 | 1,777,038 | 2,246,933 | 151,572 | 25,097,373 | 1,925,610 | 10,152,267 | 683,749 |
| 1824-25 | 28,836,133  27,970,533 | 1,690,702 | 2,331,866 | 201,520 | 31,167,999 | 1,892,222 | 13,741,467 | 974,235 |
| 1825-26 | 1,541,022  2,109,499 | 2,563,866 | 185,716 | 30,534,399 | 1,556,738 | 12,750,000 | 953,229 |
| 1826-27 | 40,105,066 | 3,535,466 | 228,204 | 43,640,532 | 2,337,703 | 8,577,467 | 452,274 |
| 1827-28 | 33,455,466  29,631,200 | 1,858,343 | 2,142,666 | 147,212 | 35,598,132 | 2,005,555 | 10,416,934 | 687,569 |
| 1828-29 | 1,686,708 | 3,329,066 | 185,059 | 32,960,266 | 1.871,767 | 9.851,067 | 590,182 |
| 1829-30 | 30,691,200 | 1,647,389 | 2,986,400 | 150,044 | 33,677,600 | 1,797,433 | 8,827,200 | 530,545 |
| 1830-31 | 30,476,533 | 1,692,453 | 2,748,533 | 143,199 | 33,225,066 | 1,835,652 | 7,251,467 | 428,061  779,350 |
| 1831-32 | 31,668,800 | 1,699,468  1,747,421 | 3,196,133 | 160,995 | 34,864,933 | 1,860,463  1,916,435 | 11,183,334 |
| 1832-33 | 31,328,400  30,775,333 | 2,915,066 | 169,014 | 34,243,466  34,646,133 | 16,327,600 | 1,259,177 |
| 1833-34 | 1,681,229 | 3,870,800 | 221,974 | 1,903,203 |  |  |

The quantity exported by the Dutch and other nations, as compared with the exporte of the British and Americans, is very small. Except Britain, Holland and Russia are the only European states in which the consumption of tea is considerable. In 1832 the imports into Russia were 6,461,064. lbs. ; in Holland they amount to about 2.800,000 annually. By the last account from Canton, the quantity of teas shipped from Hongkong and Tongkoo for England, since the first of July 1839, was. of Black Congou, 4,643,600 lb. ; Caper, 21,042 lb. ; Souchong, 31,174 lb. ; Pekoe, 66,900 ; and Orange Pekoe, 271,623 lb. Of green tea the quantities Were, Hyson, 282,400 ; Young Hyconl 45,778 lb. ; Hyson Skin, 38,700 lb. ; Twankay, 1,222,907 lb. ; Gunpowder, 138,009 lb. ; and Imperial, 60,010 lb.