

have been far too intricate to allow many either to appreciate its real state, or to foretell its future career but for grave blunders on its part.

Involved in every war which threatened Holland, bound to assist the State either with saltpetre and ships or money

in the mother country with too little knowledge of India's wants.

When in the second period of English possession of the Banda group (1810—1816) Governor Raffles declared himself an absolute foe of monopoly and asked the English Government to sanction a

stored the Banda possession to Holland, no material change whatever had been made in their administration.

Mercus, the Dutch Governor-General, after his visit to Banda pleaded for the abolition of the monopoly. Van den Capellon, who visited Banda after him in 1824, though much impressed with the desolate state of the impoverished islands, did not dare to abandon the venerable monopoly system sanctioned by a usage of 200 years.

Some change, however, had been introduced. In 1819 slavery [slaves had been emancipated nominally in 1812 under the English] had been definitely abolished in the Moluccas by the Hollanders, and though for the moment the difference between slaves and "adscripti glebæ" (*perkhoorigen*) is still less essential than it pretended to be, this first reorganization was to smooth the way for broader views of lawful trade also.

In 1853 the port of Banda was opened to the flag of every friendly nation. However, as the produce was still monopolized by the Government, merchantmen, knowing that they would not find any cargo, of course did not call.

In 1862 the expeditions of extermination (*Hongi-tochten*) were abolished, and for the future the young nutmeg trees are allowed to thrive in any of the islands of the Moluccas. Very likely the unforeseen rise of Penang and Singapore as spice-markets, supplied by the produce cultivated on English territory (Malacca) helped to open the eyes at last. Only



Natives at Work

or both, the *O. I. Compagnie* had of course more to do than simply to administer the Indian territory. Her greatest fault was the waste of produce ordered to be burnt in Amsterdam, or destroyed in the Moluccas, conforming to strict orders from the company's headquarters. Their eyes were closed against everything that should have been taken as a warning to break with the cutting down of trees (*hongi-expeditions*) and slavery. They were wilfully closed against everything that savored of free labor and free trade, and they would remain so even for many years in favor of the old prejudices. When in 1798 the company's bankrupt household showing a deficit of 120 millions was handed over to the State, the government did not know how to act better than to continue the monopoly of spices, which even managed to draw on its miserable life till 1870.

We need not wonder that, whilst in Europe at the end of the 18th century the revolution changed everything, the ideas in India moved very slowly only. Of course there were some persons in India and even amongst the highest officials who pleaded for a complete opening up of the islands for trade, but the advice they sent home did not find much favor. Under the administration of Holland as well as under that of England, proposals concerning the Banda Isles to this effect met

change, he complained that the Bandanese knew just as little of England as the English knew of the Banda group. If on commercial principles—Raffles wrote—it may be deemed advisable that the spices shall be collected into few hands, let the gardens or their produce be farmed out. Let the East India Company or any association of Europeans enter into the speculations, but let the British Government preside.



This advice was quietly passed by. England did not take any real interest in the Banda group itself, except that its produce should be directed to England, instead of to Holland as before. When the *Treaty of Breda* in 1816, once more re-

three years later the first parcel was sold in Banda Neira in free auction.

Sidoral is the name given to piperazine quinate. It is given in quantities of 5 grams per day for the gouty diathesis.