

PRODUCING RUBBER FOR THE MARKET

Mexico Presents One of the Best Fields in the World — Harvest From Rubber Trees—Local Company's Interests.

RANKING with the world's greatest commercial necessities, such as iron, steel and copper, is rubber. While England, France, Germany and other European countries have been searching the utmost ends of the earth for localities where this commodity will grow and can be obtained in commercial quantities, the United States is just waking up to the fact that at her door in the "rubber belt" of tropical Mexico is the finest rubber growing country in the world, says the Portland Journal.

This valuable article is obtained by "tapping," or cutting the trees from which the milk or latex flows. This is caught in suitable receptacles, passed through a process of coagulation which consists of the separating of the rubber from the water and other ingredients with which nature mixes it. The result from this process forms the crude rubber of commerce. It is then passed through a vulcanizing process in the factories and is made into the thousands and one articles required by the trade.

There are two species of rubber tree from which the article is readily obtained in commercial quantities. The Hevea Brasiliensis and the Castilla Elastica. The former is a native of the Amazon basin, while the latter grows wild in Mexico and Central America. The Castilla matures at the early age of five years (and can be tapped at four years) and is a prolific producer. It attains a great size, up to even five and six feet in diameter, and is a tree of long life, attaining an age of 100 years at least.

It has been demonstrated that these trees are susceptible to cultivation and respond readily to ordinary care. There is no comparison between the size of the wild and cultivated tree of the same age. In the case of the former, the seed takes root in the dense jungle where the young plant receives no sunlight and where it is surrounded by a multitudinous mass of tropical vegetation, and responds but slowly. On the other hand, the cultivated tree is carefully tended during its nursery days and is then set out in a suitably prepared clearing where it obtains an abundance of sunshine and responds very rapidly to its cultivation.

The world is and has heretofore depended upon the native gatherers for the supply. This gatherer is an ignorant native Indian with no thought beyond the needs of today. The consequence is that instead of properly tapping the wild tree he finds while cutting his way through the dense jungle, he cuts them down, simply because he can by that means obtain all the rubber the tree has in it. This ruthless destruction of these valuable trees has been going on for fully 50 years and the world is now facing a gradually increasing rubber shortage. These conditions have led to the formation of rubber plantations, which, from what might be termed experiments of a few years ago, have developed into a most important and profitable industry.

Returns from rubber plantations were first received from Ceylon and the Malay states, where a number of large English plantation companies are in successful operation. All of these are joint stock corporations, their stocks being listed on the London exchange, and it is a notable fact that during the recent panic rubber shares, some of them quoted as high as 10 times their par value, were the only securities that held their own and actually advanced during the general depression.

The *Financial* and *Bullionist*, the oldest London financial journal, has this to say about rubber shares:

"Nothing succeeds like success, and consequently it is not surprising to find that persons who had hardly a good word to say for rubber shares a little time back are now busily engaged in pointing out the attractions of such securities."

The gratification which recent results have excited is, it must be admitted, abundantly justified by the industry has made such progress or has so brilliantly fulfilled the hopes of its sponsors as that of rubber cultivation. Companies which only a few years ago were virtually unknown and were a negligible quantity so far as the general investor was concerned, have since reported profits and declared dividends well calculated to make shareholders in old-fashioned industrial enterprises green with envy. Coal and iron companies, catering companies, motor manufacturing companies during the past year or so have made big profits, but the return they make on their capitals sinks into insignificance beside that which has been the happy lot of the rubber shareholder. And yet rubber-planting is, comparatively speaking, an infant industry. To what heights of prosperity it will attain when its existence is measured by decades and not by years, even the least sanguine prophet can hardly dare to say.

So rapidly has the business developed that the British government employs a staff of scientists whose duty it is to carry on experiments to demonstrate the best methods of growing, cultivating and tapping the trees and coagulating the milk into rubber. The results are given to the planters without charge. It was through their experiments, extending over a period of four years, that the new or "spiral" system of tapping was discovered. This has increased the output over the old "V-shaped" method as five to one, or in other words, a young tree that would supply one pound under the "V" will, under the "spiral" system produce five pounds, without the least injury to the tree.

The tapping of a rubber tree can be likened to the cutting of one's finger. The cut will bleed to a certain limit, but will then crust over and heal over, leaving the new skin or bark as sound as ever. The tree can be cut again in the identical spot.

The cultivation of this very necessary commodity in tropical Mexico is just commencing to attract the attention of thinking people in the United States. The industry has been looked upon as being of a more or less freakish nature, and it is only those who are far-sighted who have taken the pains to investigate and then, upon the courage of their convictions, have invested their money in the enterprise. As an experiment, the rubber had its day and has now resolved itself into a permanent thing.

Up to 1906 the shipments of plantation rubber from Ceylon or the Malay states amounted to less than 200 tons, and it was this amount coming into the London market that created the "boom" above referred to. In an able editorial which appears in the July number of the *Indian Rubber World*, a recognized authority on all things pertaining to rubber, it is stated that during 1907 180 tons of plantation rubber were shipped from one town located in the Mexican "rubber belt." One hundred and fifty tons have been shipped from the same place from January to June, 1908. Now this is more rubber than was shipped from Ceylon in any year prior to 1906. It is more than was shipped from the Malay states in any year before that date, which, as stated before, caused the rubber "boom" in England, and it has come about so quickly that most persons who read these lines will probably be surprised. One hundred and eighty tons or so of rubber considered alone is not of so much importance; considered as the product of planted "castilla" trees in Mexico and evidence that such trees can be cultivated profitably, it is a matter of very real importance to the owners of several millions of planted trees who have been waiting for assurances that their money had not been thrown away.

During the last 10 calendar years, from 1898 to 1907 inclusive, the imports into the United States amounted to \$72,300,292 pounds valued at \$470,561,540, a larger amount having been imported in any one year.

The problem presented to the manufacturer of rubber is a serious one, because he not only has to continually replace rubber articles in daily use, but has to supply the rubber for new articles that are continually being offered to the trade. An iron tire, for instance, will sometimes outlast the vehicle, but a rubber tire is of short life, and they have therefore to keep renewing the rubber tire while the same vehicle is in active operation, but constantly supplying new tires for the new vehicles. Hence, the demand is continually increasing while the supply is not.

It is officially stated that upwards of \$1,000,000,000 of foreign capital is invested in Mexico. Of this amount between \$200,000,000 and \$300,000,000 is American capital, \$30,000,000 of the latter being invested in rubber culture alone. The owners of this vast amount of money, which has developed the rubber into its present conditions of activity and business progression, have, and are realizing, large returns on their investments, which consist of various industries, such as railroads, manufacturers, electrical plants, mining and agriculture. Under our "Monroe doctrine" the United States is bound to protect this invested capital, both local and foreign, and the Mexican government realizing its dependence upon outside capital to develop the natural resources of the republic has demonstrated its own ability to extend the same protection and promote impartial laws just as any of the great powers of the world protect their foreign investors.

Java has heretofore been considered the most fertile and prolific of all tropical countries, but within recent years experts have conceded that tropical Mexico excels in fertility any other country in the world.

Considerable interest has been manifested in the rubber industry by Utah people, especially since 1904, when the local company, the Utah-Mexican Rubber company, was established. Eighty thousand acres are now under cultivation, 5,000 of which are devoted exclusively to the cultivation of rubber. Mr. Noble Warrum, general manager of the Utah-Mexican Rubber company, states that the trees on their plantation will be tapped two years hence, and that a good yield is promised. Although the value of the land is placed at only \$300 per acre, the real worth of the property is estimated at \$500 per acre. At the present time the rubber property is being superintended by Benjamin Cluff, Jr., formerly president of the B. Y. U. of Provo.

Finest Peaches in the State at Wadsworth, Sept. 3.

REGISTERING BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The United States is pretty far down in the list when it comes to the proper registration of births and deaths. Charles L. Wilbur, chief statistician of the United States census, writes in the *Charities and Commons* that there is a more hopeful state to the present, however, consists largely of anticipation as yet. "Of the fifteen registration states, five have been added since 1900. Laws requiring burial permits, the essential requirement of effective death registration—have been enacted in Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wisconsin during the past few years and are now undergoing the test of practical operation. Bills were introduced in the legislatures of Kentucky, Ohio, and Virginia last winter. Of these only the Ohio bill became law, it having been signed by Governor Harris on May 5. It is a complete and comprehensive law, which should yield as excellent results as have been obtained under the Pennsylvania law of 1905.

"A campaign for the extension of the registration area is now being organized, to begin active operations during the legislative sessions of 1909. The great American Medical association will take an active part in the work, through its legislative council, bureau of medical legislation, and state and county medical societies. The legal profession will aid, see the paragraph on Legal Importance of Registration.

The "Castilla Elastica," native of Mexico, many thousands of them of all ages growing wild in the "rubber belt," is now known as the most prolific producer and the earliest in maturity of the two species that are utilized for commercial purposes. It has also been demonstrated that the tree responds very prolifically to the "spiral," or new tapping system.

The amount of plantation rubber coming into the market amounted in 1907 to about 1 1/2 per cent of the world's annual consumption which in round figures during 1907 was 70,000 tons. About 35,000 tons of this amount comes from the Amazon region, Mexico and Central America. The Amazon product is known to the trade as "Para rubber," and when first imported was obtained from the trees growing near the city of Para at the mouth of the Amazon river. The wild supply is entirely dependent upon the native gatherer who, to obtain the maximum quantity, has systematically destroyed these valuable trees for two generations. The consequence is that today the natives have to penetrate fully 3,000 miles into the interior of the Amazon country and wade around in morass and swamps to obtain it. There are no inhabitants in the section referred to and the natives from the coast have to go after this supply. It has been authentically stated, and there is no question as to its truth, that every ton of rubber coming from the Amazon region costs a human life. Not only that, but it costs at least 75 cents gold per pound to get the rubber out.

The annual increase in the world's consumption for the past 10 years is about 10 per cent. Taking this as a basis, the demand by 1912 will amount to 100,000 tons. Now, it is a well known fact that in spite of the great demand, the wild supply is rapidly decreasing and the problem presents itself to the rubber manufacturer as to where this supply is to come from. If all the present planted rubber acreage and all the acreage that is in contemplation of planting was in bearing, it would not nearly supply the coming deficit. The condition of the world's market points to only one conclusion for the future and for a great many years to come, and that is continued high prices. Let us suppose that prices of rubber should drop to 75 cents per pound. The output of 35,000 tons from the Amazon region would immediately cease and a great part of the output from the Congo and other wild rubber producing countries would be greatly curtailed. This would cause a shortage of the 35,000 tons from the Amazon region and the 30,000 tons of natural expansion above referred to, to say the least, of that from the Congo, which would make the shortage more than the present world's supply. It can, therefore, be readily seen that there is no prospect for a great many years at least of cheaper rubber, but on the other hand we may look for higher prices. An extract from a brilliantly compiled official report on agriculture in the Malay states during 1907 says: "It has been shown over and over again that the output from every rubber plantation at present in existence, when every tree is in full bearing, cannot possibly affect to any great extent or in any permanent manner the legitimate profits which the proprietary companies should, and unquestionably will, earn."

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T. L. HISGEN, PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE.

Thomas L. Hisgen, the presidential nominee of the Independence party, which is, apparently, largely a creation of William Randolph Hearst, was born at Petersburg, Ind., although at this time he is a citizen of Massachusetts. He with his brothers, are the leading figures in the company which has for years been fighting the Standard Oil company in New England. Before that he was in the clothing business, in which he made a fair success. He was nominated last year by the Independence league as their candidate for the governorship of Massachusetts and polled 75,000 votes, or 6,000 more than the regular Democratic candidate.

NEXT WEEK IN HISTORY.

- AUGUST 30.**
1568—Sultan Solymur II, "the Magnificent," died; born 1495.
1577—Raphael Semmes, commander of the Confederate cruiser Alabama, died; born, 1809.
1896—Wordsworth Thompson, American genre painter, died; born 1840.
1907—Richard Mansfield, American actor, died at New London, Conn.; born 1871.
- AUGUST 31.**
12—Birth of Caesar Caligula, third Roman emperor; murdered, 41.
1088—John Bunyan, author of "Pilgrim's Progress," died; born 1628.
1886—Terrible earthquake in Charleston, S. C.; killed 18.
1896—Mrs. John Drew, noted American actress, died; born 1818.
- SEPTEMBER 1.**
1715—Louis XIV of France died after a reign of 72 years.
1791—Lydia Huxley (Sigourney), author best known as Mrs. Sigourney, born; died 1865.
1894—Samuel J. Kirkwood, Iowa's "war governor," died; born 1813.
1904—The Russians at Liaoyang held their positions in the face of fierce attacks by the Japanese.
- SEPTEMBER 2.**
31 B. C.—The naval battle of Actium decided the fate of the Roman world; Antony and Cleopatra died.
1812—Battle of Dresden.
- SEPTEMBER 3.**
1570—Surrender of the French at Sedan.
1808—Kitchener annihilated the derwishes at Omdurman; 11,000 derwishes killed, 16,000 wounded.
1904—The Japanese, led by Kuroki, crossed the Taitze at Liaoyang, turning the Russian flank.
- SEPTEMBER 4.**
1758—Chateaubriand, French philosopher and traveler, born; died 1848.
1864—John Hunt Morgan, the noted Confederate raider, killed in a night skirmish at Greenville, Tenn.; born 1826.
1888—Cyclone in Cuba; 1,000 lives lost.
1907—Dr. Edward Grieg, famous Norwegian musical composer, died at Bergen, Norway; born 1843.
- SEPTEMBER 5.**
1750—Robert Ferguson, Scottish poet, born at Edinburgh.
1902—Prof. Rudolph Virchow, celebrated German pathologist, died; born 1821.
1904—The main army of Japanese crossed the Taitze and attacked the Russian rear at Liaoyang.

of Births and Deaths: Report of Special Committee on Vital Statistics to the Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, a copy of which will be sent by the director of the census upon request.

WOMEN IN GERMAN UNIVERSITIES

The universities of Saxony and in the southern half of the empire—Bavaria, Baden and Württemberg—have all opened their doors to female students, and granted them all academic rights and privileges. Others admit them only as visitors to lectures, but refuse to them all other rights. The universities of Berlin, which has adopted a compromise, refusing matriculation to women, but allowing them to attend courses of study as visitors, and also, with the approval of their instructors, to present themselves as candidates for degrees. This is a compromise, the past winter the 21 German universities enrolled 23 matriculated women, and 2,504 female visitors. There was an increase over the preceding winter of 25 matriculated and 200 visitors. The matriculates were divided among the eight universities, where they are allowed entrance and follow the same course as the men. They are: Bonn, 12; Heidelberg, 65; Freiburg, 25; Leipzig, 36; Jena, 20; Tübingen, 9; Würzburg, 8; and Erlangen, 4.

MOTOR BOATS IN INDIA.

Consul-General William H. Michael, of Calcutta, reports as follows concerning the introduction of American motor boats at Bombay: "The Government of Bombay which handles a steam motor boat manufactured in the United States. The first boat behaved so well in the bay under every kind of test that it found an immediate purchaser, and the firm ordered six additional boats immediately. The firm agrees to put boats sold by them in the water, see that they go all right, instruct the purchaser how to handle the boat, and to take care of needed repairs. With this understanding persons are willing to buy, and the trade will increase steadily. A company in Calcutta also handles boats made by the same American manufacturer. The boats take well and give excellent satisfaction. This Calcutta firm handles a motor boat made in England, of a larger class but it does not compare in point of economy of line and finish with the American boat.

Reducing Fat on a Full Meal

If you want to reduce your flesh a pound a day, say, and still are averse to exercising or cutting down your meals—from three to one or half of one—you can manage it. Ask your druggist for a package of Marmola Prescription Tablets; they cost but a trifle (at effective quantity being obtainable for only 5 cents), and take one tablet after meals and at bedtime. That is all. Just eat when and what you please, leave exercising to the athletes, take your convenient little tablet faithfully, and that flabby flesh will soon disappear—possibly at the rate of a pound a day. These tablets are licensed as harmless and effective by the Marmon Co., Detroit, Mich., for they contain identical the same ingredients as the famous Marmola Prescription; 4 ounce Marmola, 1 ounce Fluid Extract Cascara, 1 ounce Syrup Simplex, which as everybody knows is put up regularly and recommended by every druggist in the land.

Announcement

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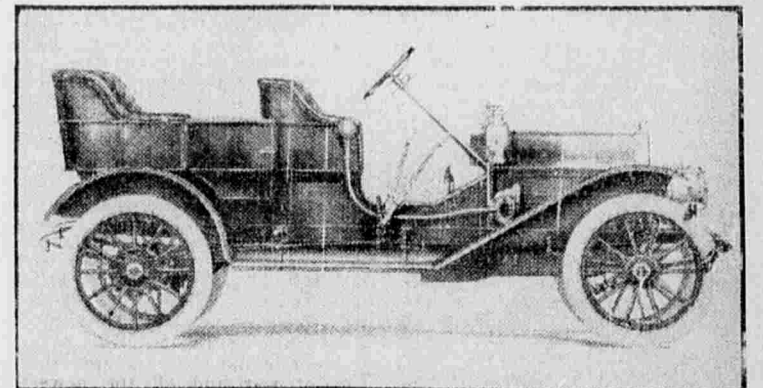
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Compare the following features with any car on the market selling at or near the same price.

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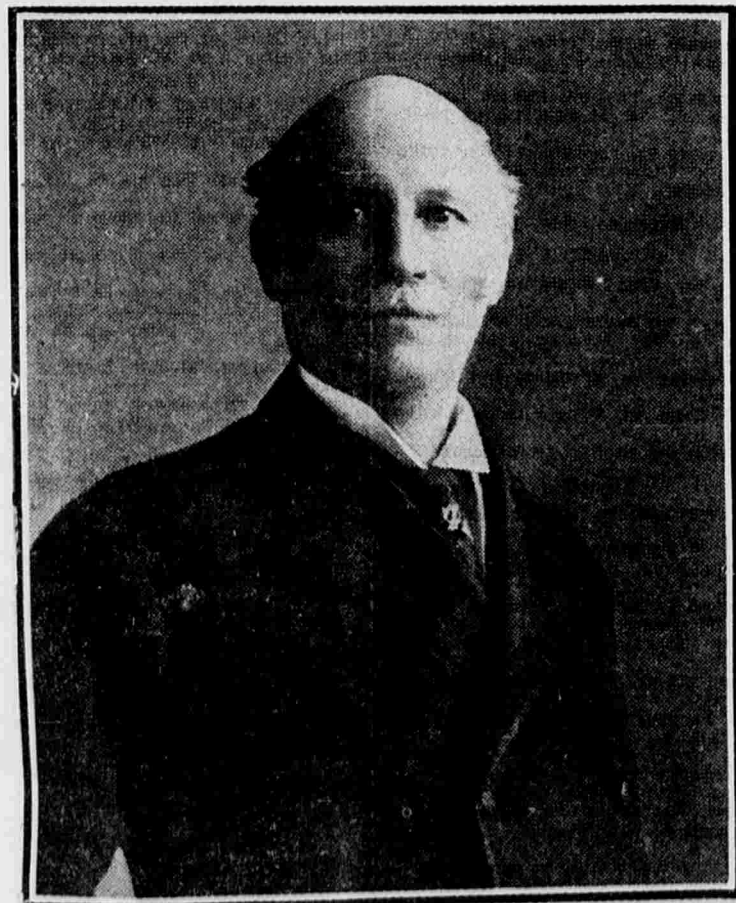
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SENATOR ROBERT LOVE TAYLOR.

Senator "Bob" Taylor of Tennessee, is the author of the precinct club scheme, which Mr. Bryan is making such a feature of in his presidential campaign organization. Senator Taylor is a native of Tennessee, having been born in Carter county of that state in 1850. He received a common school education and was admitted to the bar in 1878. He beat his own brother, Alfred A. Taylor, in a fight for the governorship of Tennessee in 1887, and 10 years later he again became governor of the state. He married Miss Sarah L. Baird of Asheville, N. C., in 1878. He makes his home in Nashville, Tenn.

Gray Hair Restored.

"WALNUTTA HAIR STAIN"
Restores Gray, Stripped or Thinning Hair. Cleanses the scalp, removes dandruff, and restores the hair to its natural color. It is a perfect hair restorer, and is the only hair restorer that does not wash or rub off. It is a perfect hair restorer, and is the only hair restorer that does not wash or rub off. It is a perfect hair restorer, and is the only hair restorer that does not wash or rub off.