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RICH IN GUTTA PERCHA

Government Stops Felling of the Trees in Philippines.

NATIVES ARE PRODIGAL

Not Realizing the Vast Treasure They Possess in This Great Article of Commerce They are Sacrificing the Sources of Supply Because of Laziness.

The commercial history of gutta percha runs parallel with that of submarine and subterranean electric cables— for three-fourths of all the gutta percha produced has been used on them. With the construction of the great transatlantic cables in the sixties and seventies, the demand for gutta percha became enormous. When the Malay Peninsula, adjacent to Singapore, failed to supply sufficient quantities to meet the demand, the adjacent islands of the Rho Archipelago, and Sumatra were invaded and rich finds made. Finally Borneo was included in the producing zone and lastly the Philippines.

In the Philippines the regions which produce gutta percha for market are confined to the islands of Mindanao and Tawi-Tawi.

The best method of collecting gutta percha is a difficult one to determine. The trees are in the tropical forest regions, which are inhabited only by the wildest pagan tribes. These natives are the natural gutta percha collectors, and as a matter of fact, have done all the collecting since the beginning of the industry. They desire to secure the maximum yield from each tree with the minimum expenditure of work or time.

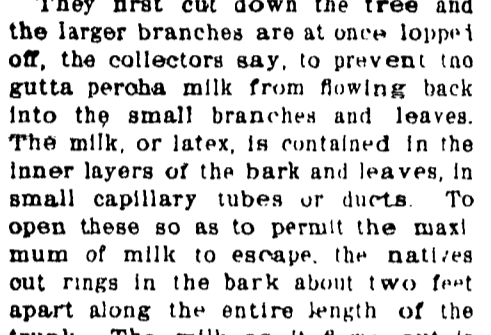
They first cut down the tree and the larger branches are at once lopped off, the collectors say, to prevent the gutta percha milk from flowing back into the small branches and leaves. The milk, or latex, is contained in the inner layers of the bark and leaves, in small capillary tubes or ducts. To open these so as to permit the maximum of milk to escape, the natives cut rings in the bark about two feet apart along the entire length of the trunk. The milk as it flows out is collected in gourds, coconut shells or on large leaves.

As soon as the Forestry Bureau was established in 1889, the felling of the gutta percha trees was prohibited and rules were provided for tapping the tree with a bolo in such a manner as to secure the milk without destroying the tree, but the wild natives never practiced this method, nor did they ever hear of it, and all the gutta percha so far exported has been at the expense of so many trees killed. Islands such as Mindanao and Tawi-Tawi cannot stand this for any length of time, and already the gutta percha trees have entirely disappeared from the vicinity of the coast regions and of the large rivers.

Most of the Philippine gutta percha passes through three hands and rise in price is quick and decided. The native collector receives about \$10, Mexican, for a picul of 162½ pounds. This is carried by the trader to export towns and sold to the Chinese at \$40 to \$80, Mexican, per picul of 137½ pounds, and the same is worth at Singapore about \$150.

Two English Princes.

These two bonny boys are the sons of the Prince of Wales. The taller Prince Eddie, or the Sailor Prince, as he is called, will if he lives, some day be King of England. Should he die the younger one, Prince Albert, will come to the throne. These boys are



Princes Albert and Edward

The Champion Thieves.

The man who stole a red hot stove has been outdone. News comes from a little town in South Dakota that a man named Elrud went to bed the other night only to awake later with his home 10 miles from his land, thieves having six horses hitched to the building and moving it west. The owner stepped out with two guns and ordered the volunteer house movers to return his house to its original foundation, which they did, apologizing by saying that they didn't know it was his home.

A Valuable African Plant.

The most valuable aloe comes from the island of Sokotra, which lies just off the East African coast from Cape Guardafui. The drug itself is the bitter resinous juice of the leaves of the aloe plant that has been hardened in the sun. These leaves are of a fibrous, fleshy nature and, in addition to the juice, the natives make this fiber into rope, many insisting that it makes a better rope than hemp.

World's Highest Monument.

This is in the city of Washington, and to the memory of the great man after whom the city is named. The gigantic monument is 555 feet high, 55 feet square at the base, and contains 18,000 blocks of marble two feet thick. In the interior are a lift and fifty flights of stairs eighteen steps each.—Exchange.

A Job Without Work.

There are 190,227 professional beggars in Spain. In some of the cities beggars are licensed to carry on their trade. Seeking alms is recognized as legitimate business, and the municipality demands a percentage upon the collections. Seville is the only city in the kingdom which forbids begging in the streets.

The First "Uncle Tom's Cabin,"

"Uncle Tom's Cabin," by Mrs. Stowe, was first published in portions in the National Era at Washington in 1850, and in its complete form, in Boston, in 1853. Rev. Josiah Henson, the original "Uncle Tom," died at Dresden, Ont., May 3, 1883, aged 83.

NORWAY AND SWEDEN.

Equality in Their Union Has Just Been Adjusted.

In recognizing Norway as an equal member of the union it appears that Sweden was merely yielding to necessity, and that it was her intention subsequently to curtail the liberties of Norway and gradually fuse the two countries into one Swedish nation. A struggle therefore began which has lasted for ninety years, and which has retarded the progress of the two countries and somewhat estranged them from one another. But notwithstanding the constant friction the great work of national regeneration has proceeded uninterruptedly, and in regard to industrial pursuits as well as mental achievements Norway now occupies a very creditable position among the nations of the world.

In their struggle for unbridged political equality with Sweden, the Norwegians have now arrived at the stage when the question of a separate consular service for Norway is to be decided. A revision of the articles of confederation, or act of union, as it is called, was contemplated in the first half of the nineteenth century, and committees were appointed for the purpose in 1839, 1864 and last in 1897, but nothing resulted from their labors. In 1902, however, the negotiations of the third so-called union committee of a Swede-Norwegian consular committee, the result of whose labors was embodied in a so-called "con-muniqué" subsequently published by a protocol prepared in a joint session of the cabinets of Norway and Sweden.

This protocol was laid before the storting February 13 of the current year, and by it submitted to the Committee on Constitutional Affairs. When reported upon and returned by the committee to the storting a decisive debate will take place, and a change of Ministry may be the result, as the storting will not ratify terms for a separate consular service that might hamper its future action in regard to another important national issue, the appointment of a separate Foreign Minister for Norway.

German Soldier's Hard Luck.

A squad of soldiers were drilling near the line when the Kaiser's train passed. The commanding officer ordered all to salute as the train passed by.

Afterward a sergeant overheard a private remark: "The Kaiser might have let the train slow down so that we could catch a glimpse of him."

The private was arrested, tried by court-martial, found guilty of lese majeste and sentenced to seven years' penal servitude after being drummed out of the army.

The London Spectator, commenting on this, asks: "Can we wonder that the internal condition of the German army is what it is, though externally it still looks so strong, efficient and well organized?"—New York Sun.

OUTWITTED "UNCLE RUSSELL."

So Pleased with Tucker's Ready Wit That He Gave Him Employment.

One of the few men who have ever managed to get ahead of Uncle Russell Sage in a business transaction is a young curb broker named Tucker, and he did so more by accident than design. It happened this way:

Tucker had ten shares of gas stock that he was trying hard to dispose of, with no result. Finally, one of his acquaintances, in a spirit of fun, said to him: "Say, old man, I understand that Sage wants that stock bad, and is willing to pay \$5 for it."

At that time the stock was selling for 91, when it sold at all, so naturally Tucker, who was a newcomer on the curb, started off post haste for Mr. Sage's office, and half an hour later offered his shares in person at 95.

"Don't want it, young man," was the financier's reply. "I can go out and buy all I want at 91."

Then, as he realized that he had been "taken in," an idea struck Tucker. "Mr. Sage," he said, "since you don't want to buy my stock, maybe you'd like to sell me any of the same stock you may own at 95?"

"Eh, what?" queried Mr. Sage. "Ninety-three?" He pondered for a moment. Then, "I'll take your ten shares at 95," he said. And the sale was made.

A little later on when Mr. Sage found that he really could have bought all the stock he wanted at 91 his feelings were anything but friendly toward Mr. Tucker. The next day, however, he was in a different frame of mind. "Any man," he said, "who can take care of himself like that is useful, and I want MY Tucker to watch out for any business I may have on the curb."

And that is what Mr. Tucker is doing today.—New York Mail and Express.

Liked to Be Asked.

The honest son of toil opened his mouth a little wider every time he counted an addition story. It was a twenty-five story building, and so far he had only counted up to the tenth. A large crowd was intently watching this thing.

Suddenly two confidence men emerged from the crowd and approached the unsophisticated one.

"Hello, Jones," cried one.

"I ain't Jones," responded the farmer.

"Smith then?" asked the other.

"I ain't Smith either," he replied.

The confidence men stood there uneasily wondering whether this man was on to them. The farmer impatiently shuffled his feet.

"Ask me who I am," he suggested, mildly.

"They did so."

"I'm Solomon's son," replied the farmer, with gusto, "and my father sent me to find two of his jackasses that had strayed, and here I've found 'em both right away."

Again the confidence men paused uneasily. Again the farmer impatiently shuffled his feet.

"Why don't you ask me what I'll have to drink?" demanded he, with a righteous show of indignation.

A Very Fat One.

We interrupted Harrison at this point.

"How fat did you say this man was, Harrison?" we inquired.

"Oh, awful fat," replied Harrison.

"He was—"

"No, but how many pounds?" we insisted.

"Oh, he was monstrously fat, he—"

"But how—"

"Well, now," said Harrison shortly, "he was so fat he made believe he was spy on his feet."

"Gosh! What a big one he must have been," we murmured in awed accents.

And, enwrapped in contemplation of the size of the hero, we allowed Harrison to go on with his story.

A Typographical Error.

"Gee whiz!" exclaimed the reporter, looking over his report of the wedding in the paper, "I'll bet that bridegroom will be sore."

"What's the matter?" asked the snake editor.

"He owns an old family homestead out in the suburbs somewhere, I believe, and he told me to say the young couple will reside at the old manse."

"The papers got it 'old man's,'"—Philadelphia Record.

One Enough.

"What do we want with gold and precious stones?" said the proud young mother, gazing fondly upon the baby. "This is fortune enough for us."

"Huh!" grunted the father, who had been walking the floor nearly all night, "I'm glad fortune didn't knock twice at our door, then."—Philadelphia Ledger.

His Rise.

First Turkey—Gobbler is a pretty slick article.

Second Turkey—What is he up to now?

First Turkey—Stole a package of breakfast food and eats some every morning to develop his muscles.—Judge

Boston Ladies.

Mrs. Brown—I was downtown yesterday. I didn't know but I might meet you.

Mrs. Greene—I was downtown, too, and I'm awfully sorry I didn't see you. Little Johnny Greene—Ma! don't you remember we saw Mrs. Brown's dog, and you said, 'Come, let's hurry away from here; that old cat must be somewhere near?' What old cat did you mean, Ma?—Boston Transcript.

A WOMAN FARMER.

Mrs. Alice H. W. Boutcher Cultivates Ten Acres at Mattituck.—Receives Fancy Prices.

One of the most successful farmers on Long Island is a woman—Mrs. Alice Havens Worth Boutcher, of Mattituck. Mrs. Boutcher has been personally managing her farm here for about ten years, and she not only directs what is to be done, but she often does much of the manual labor herself, and is not at all afraid of rolling her hands by direct contact with mother earth.

Her husband is Manuel Boutcher, an employee of the Long Island Railroad Company, but her neighbors have no hesitancy in saying that she makes considerably more money than he does.

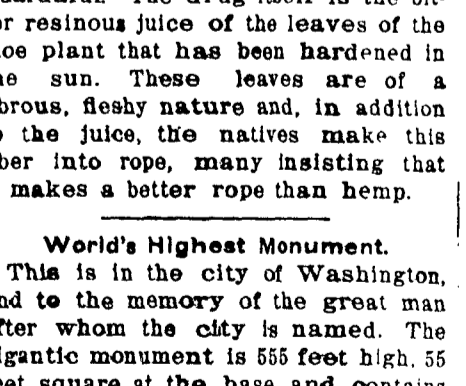
Mrs. Boutcher's farm consists of about ten acres. Truck farming is chiefly carried on, her garden "sass" finding a ready sale at fancy prices, for it is always of the best quality and has the reputation as such. Mrs. Boutcher is a well educated woman. She thoroughly understands her farm and its needs and what it will best produce. In addition to this she can, if necessary wield the hoe, harvest the crops and then place them on sale.

Relation of Tonic and Health.

Health of body is directly dependent on obedience to natural laws and is not to be kept by any medicinal means when those laws are broken. The system may, however, be so "run down" that it is unable to use pure air, exercise and good food as a healthy system can use them. It then needs something which will enable it to derive from these things the benefits they can yield. The "something" is a tonic, but it should be given only until the natural means—air, food and exercise—are producing good results. Perhaps a familiar illustration will make things clearer. A man works the handle of a pump disused for many weeks during hot, dry weather. No water comes. He then pours water down the pump. This causes the sucker to swell and act. He does not need to pour more water. Unfortunately all tonics confer almost immediately an increased sense of well-being. And if a person has fallen into ill health by a badly regulated life, he will feel so happy under the tonic that he will be inclined to pursue the old course. Hence his health will be undergoing slow destruction, while he believes it to be gaining in strength. Then a time comes when the tonic fails and the exhausted system collapses.

To Wear With Separate Skirts.

It is hardly possible, in these days, to have too many of those dainty and useful little blouses to wear with separate skirts. Entirely apart from their fashionable significance—for the best of the Parisian couturiers make a specialty of them—they are a decided economy, in that they afford a change of toilette at a moderate expense. The little model shows one of the new mercerized linens in which a ruffled cape is simulated in the design. From the cut-out neck there is a long yoke, to which the blouse is shirred, and little embroidered flourishes are posed upon the blouse. It is hardly necessary to indicate that



A Very Pretty Blouse.

there is carefully-fitted lining beneath. The ruffles are repeated across the puff sleeve, and a stole effect is passed around the neck, the ends hanging free in front.

Raw Eggs for Children.

The more thoroughly an egg has been cooked the more severe is the labor demanded of the stomach. If we would get from this article of food its utmost value it should be eaten either raw or underdone. Hard boiled eggs are suggestive of pleurisy and dyspepsia. Raw egg is a splendid stimulant when one is exhausted from any cause whatever. It is by no means unpalatable when eaten with salt, pepper and a dash of vinegar. For weakly children raw eggs beaten with milk make a first-class food. The mixture may be sweetened with sugar, and it is best to give it in small quantities at short intervals.

The Health Value of Hot Water.

Cold blooded people, who have little thirst, will do well to make a business of drinking a certain amount of hot water every day. It lessens the tendency to take cold, improves the circulation and benefits coughs and insomnia.

Before going to bed is a very good time for this practice, as it warms up and relaxes the system, thus preparing the way for a good night's sleep.

Many cases of indigestion, head ache, neuralgia, cold hands and feet can be cured in half an hour by drinking slowly one or two pints of water so hot that it almost burns the throat.

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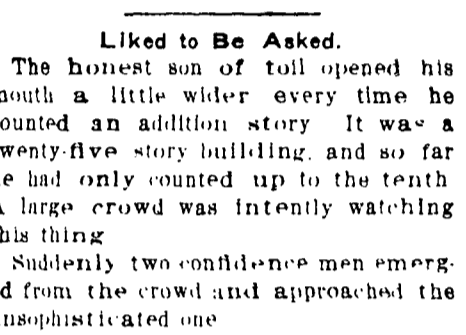
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