

Horrors Of Rubber Gathering

More evidence concerning the horrors that mark the rubber gathering industry in the upper Amazon region within the Peruvian border has been secured by a New York Sun reporter. It is supplied by men who have recently returned from that region, and it corroborates the statements made by Sir Roger Casement.

To get a fair estimate of the conditions under which rubber is produced it is necessary to have a clear idea not only of the region where the milk of the rubber trees is collected but also of the climate, of the natives and of the freedom from restraint, legal or moral, which living in so remote a region engenders.

Peru's situation in the matter is peculiar. The Putumayo district can be reached from Lima only by weeks of travel around by Panama and up the Amazon, while the district itself is under the slightest of government authority. There is practically no restraint from the law and a man may be flogged, maimed, poisoned or shot with absolute impunity as regards government officials.

It has been estimated that a ton of raw rubber represents the life of a man. This is not entirely due to the cruelty of the boss collector, as he is called. Thousands of deaths occur annually from disease, snake bite, crushing by the immense reptiles that infest the water and swamps of the upper Amazon, some of these constrictors being more than fifty feet long, and not a few from the ignorance of the natives, who neglect the commonest hygienic regulations of civilization.

The immediate causes of the cruelty exercised by the boss collectors on the natives are plain enough. The natives are lazy. There is a great amount of the sleeping sickness prevalent in these regions. There is a great amount of danger involved in a trip through the rubber trees. For all these reasons if a native has enough food on hand to last him through the day he is naturally averse to going cupping after the rubber.

On the other hand the boss collector has to supply his contracted amount to the mercantile company, for the ships can make the extreme headquarters only while the overflow season is on, and that is during a very few months of the year, and every day counts in the collection. Coercive measures, therefore, are resorted to to keep the native on his rounds. Machetes are very much in evidence, as they are used for slashing the outer bark to make incisions for the milk to escape. The boss collector finds a machete handier than a walking stick in coercing a native.

If a native is delinquent the boss collector may strike him with a machete as with a stick. In such a case the loss of an ear or limb may be the result. In not a few instances persistent refusal on the part of a native to work has caused him to be killed outright. The man is simply shot down.

Gun and machete furnish two means of inciting industry on the part of the natives, but these do not comprise the entire arsenal of energy producers. An instrument similar to the Russian knout and known as a scourge is the badge of authority among overseers. Few natives escape the scourge and many of them can show backs seamed and ridged the result of blows that have broken the skin and eaten into the flesh. These are the practices which the British and the American governments are demanding that Peru shall order abated even if troops have to be sent to the region where they are common.

In fairness to overseers, however, it must be stated that a more provoking set of operatives that the low caste native can hardly be imagined. They will work only when driven to it by starvation or coercive measures; they are careless in the way they do their work; they spill the precious milk which will subsequently be coagulated into the rubber of commerce; they gash the trees instead of making the proper cut which gets the best results and they frequently will cut down a whole tree rather than take the trouble to cut it properly.

Indeed it was not until the poison penalty was imposed that this felling of trees could be stopped. Even the dull brain of the native could make some connection between the sudden, agonized death of some operative and the fact that he had persistently violated the rule against felling a rubber tree. According to one traveller in the section after a consultation of some of the natives a test was made to establish the existence of that connection.

A native felled a tree, but on returning to headquarters he ate no supper, being supplied with food by some of his fellow operatives in secret. He did not die; but one of the more or less domestic animals about the camp to which he had thrown his own suspected supper came to a sudden end. The next day he felled another tree, but he never sat down to supper, for the collector, learning what he had done, shot him as he entered the camp.

There are sub-collectors who rank as section bosses and who follow the men about on their rounds and are armed with scourge and machete. On one occasion in the absolute knowledge of the person with whom the Sun reporter was talking a sub-collector found a man cutting more deeply than he should into the rubber tree. He struck him on the side of the face with the flat of the machete and broke the man's jaw, leaving him with the remark:

"Don't cut so deep next time."

The day's tour of the natives who cup the trees is not a pleasant one. They start out in the morning with forty or fifty tin cups slung over their shoulders and are obliged to wade sometimes waist or breast deep in mud and ooze and slime. They must be constantly alert for cobras and venomous snakes which infest the waters, to say nothing of several species of saurians whose sharp teeth can perform instantaneous amputation of legs or arms.

Shipping casualties of all nationalities last year totalled 108 vessels, with a tonnage of 114,231.

Chocolate Is A Food Decides Col. Denison

Toronto, Ont., July 26.—Magistrate Denison holds that chocolate was a food "They sent chocolate to the soldiers in South Africa as a food," said he, and dismissed a case against William O'Donnell for selling chocolate on Sunday.

Base Ball

Fredericton Wins From Woodstock.

The Fredericton nine won from the Woodstock Colts by a score of 3 to 2 at the Capital Thursday. The game was played on a wet diamond, but the game went for ten innings. Harrington was on the mound for the winners, and Whitney, a new twirler, pitched for Woodstock. Each team had seven hits. The game was fairly well attended.

	AB.	R.	H.	PO.	A.	E.
Kearney, ss	2	1	1	5	2	0
Ganley, rf	3	1	0	2	0	0
Duggan, cf	3	1	2	4	0	0
L. Conley, lf	4	0	1	1	0	0
B. Conley, 3b	5	0	0	4	0	0
Callahan, 2b	5	0	0	3	1	2
Hoyt, 1b	4	0	0	4	1	0
Fitzgerald, c	3	0	1	7	2	1
Harrington p	4	0	2	0	6	0
Totals	33	3	7	30	12	4

Woodstock.

Corcoran, 2b	4	2	0	0	1	1
Duff, 1b	5	0	1	5	2	0
Black, cf	5	0	2	4	1	0
O'Donnell, rf	5	0	0	3	0	0
Stone, c	3	0	0	9	1	1
Perley, lf	4	0	0	3	0	0
Kling, ss	4	0	1	2	2	1
Lamourey, 3b	4	0	1	1	2	2
Whitney, p	4	0	2	1	2	0
Totals	38	2	7	28	11	5

Score by innings:
Fredericton 0 0 1 0 0 0 1 0 1-3
Woodstock 1 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0-2

Summary—Fredericton 3, Woodstock 2. Stoler bases, Corcoran, Kearney, Ganley, Duggan (2), Callahan, Harrington (2). Base hit, Black. Sacrifice hits, Conley, Ganley. Sacrifice fly, L. Conley. Hit by pitcher, Duggan by Whitney. Struck out by Harrington 5, by Whitney 5. Base on balls, by Harrington 2, by Whitney, 6. Umpire, Duff. Time of game, one hour fifty minutes.

SMILES AND SMILES

A smile that bears a hint of bitterness is a mere grimace.
A smile of scorn throws cold upon the scorners.
A weary smile is often brave, but it is no true smile—it does not tell of joy.
A smile of love and sympathy is pure and beautiful indeed.
A frank, free, merry, happy smile is the true variety, and worth running a mile to see.

FALL SKIN SORES

When troubled with fall rashes, eczema, or any skin disease apply Zam-Buk!

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CARE OF BATHROOM.

Ventilation an Important Part of the Program.

Even the most perfectly appointed bathroom cannot be kept immaculate unless the different members of the family co-operate in keeping it in order. Of course where there are a number of servants this rule does not apply, but the average family usually has only one maid, who cannot follow each person after the bath to attend to the bathroom.

The least each person can do is to leave it in perfect order for the next one—the wet towels placed in the receptacles intended for their temporary disposal, the others neatly folded, the basin and tub washed and wiped and the window opened. Any member of the family who leaves them otherwise, either in the morning or during the day, should be sent back to "make good" or made to pay a heavy fine into the family treasury.

It is the housewife's duty to see that a small bath brush, some cloths and strong soap are kept in a small closet in the bathroom for cleaning off the basin and tub and wiping up the floor, so that her best towels will not be used for that purpose and that there is a temporary receptacle for wet towels so that they will not be put into the hamper wet. The nickel holders serve that purpose beautifully.

Opening the window is a very essential duty, although many never think of that detail, especially in the winter. One should no more think of asking another to bathe in the air in which a bath has been taken than in the same water. It is heavily laden with impurities.

For the daily cleaning one needs the inevitable scrubbing brush, with one of the sand soaps, for the floor if it is tiled. For the polished tiles of the wall and porcelain of tub and basin the rough sand soap must be replaced by a smooth soap or cleaning powder. There are numberless soap powders on the market that serve the purpose without scratching the surface. There is also a special cleaning powder manufactured for the purpose. Yellow stains may mean that there is iron in the water. They may come from rust in the iron pipes. If they do oxalic acid in the cleaning water will remove them.

Whiting mixed with alcohol will keep the nickel in perfect condition if it is used frequently.

ASPARAGUS RECIPES.

Ways of Cooking the Season's Most Delicious Vegetable.

Asparagus Loaf.—Cut top crust from a loaf of stale tin bread and remove the crumbs, leaving only the side and bottom crusts of the loaf. Set this hollowed loaf in the oven until quite dry. Cut stewed asparagus into inch lengths, season to taste, mix with a good white sauce and fill the hollowed loaf with the mixture. Replace the top crust and set in the oven until hot.

Bowknots With Asparagus.—Cut thin puff paste into half inch strips. Shape it on a baking pan into the form of double bowknots. When baked put cooked asparagus tips on each loop of the bow sprinkle a little clear melted butter over and serve immediately.

Asparagus Salad.—Steam the asparagus until tender, then cut off the tips with a piece of the eatable white into inch lengths, and when cold put these over leaves of lettuce in a glass or china bowl. Sprinkle with three well mixed tablespoonfuls of olive oil to one of lemon juice, salt and pepper to taste and a suspicion of sugar and tiny fleck of made mustard. Lastly, sprinkle over it some grated tongue.

Asparagus With Frozen Cream.—Steam some asparagus until tender. When cold lay the branches in a dish. Sprinkle them lightly with salt and pepper. Serve them with frozen cream as a sauce.

Worse Punishment.

Mrs. A.—Do you ever scold your husband? Mrs. B.—Not now. I've found something more effective—I ask him for money.—Boston Transcript.

Baffling.

"Yes! I think the next lecture I shall give will be on Keats." "Oh, professor, what are Keats?"—London Sketch.

PIONEER PREACHERS.

Those of Missouri's Early Days Had to Be Expert Riflemen.

Nearly every pioneer preacher in Missouri was as expert in the use of the rifle as any of the laymen. Services were usually held in a neighbor's cabin. Notice of a "meeting" was promptly and generally circulated, and the settlers attended, uniformly bringing their rifles to guard against possible surprises or to obtain game on the way to or from the service.

The pioneer preachers labored without money and without price. They gained their substance, as did their neighbors, by the rifle and by their daily toil in the clearings and the cornfields.

The Rev. Justinian Williams, Methodist, and the Rev. Peyton Nowlin and the Rev. Thomas Kinney, Baptists, were the first preachers in Saline county. They preached on Edmonson's creek and in the Big Bottom. "Old Ban Nowlin," as he was called, was a sedate gentleman, dry as to manners and sermons, but with a kind heart and good intention.

His colleague, Kinney, however, was of a jovial disposition and very popular. He was without literary attainments, but invariably provoked his congregation to laughter. Nowlin took him to task upon one occasion for his levity. Kinney answered:

"Well, I'd rather preach to laughing devils than to sleepy ones, as you do. You make them sleep, and I make them laugh. My congregations will pass yours on the road to heaven. I bet you a coonskin they will."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

QUEER BANK CHECKS.

Drawn on Wood and Other Things, but They Got the Money.

There is a bank clerk in a western city who has for years indulged a hobby for collecting bank checks drawn on queer articles. There hang about this clerk's desk a torn linen collar, a piece of lath, a cuff and various other objects used for the purpose of drawing money from the bank.

Each of these has a story. The clerk began his collection with a piece of lath. This was honored by the bank for \$250. It was made into a check by the owner of a sawmill, who, with his son, was at the plant with no check book. The money was needed to pay the hands. The sawmill man wrote on the lath just what a check correctly drawn would bear and sent his son to the bank to get the money and explain. The lath check was honored after some discussion among the bank officers.

The cuff check was drawn by an actor who while intoxicated had engaged in fistfights with a fellow thespian and had been arrested. He was treated cavalierly in his cell. As he could obtain no paper, he bribed a boy to take his cuff check to a bank. In due course the player received his money and paid his fine.

If one carries a good account it is probable that his bank will honor his check, even if drawn in a freaky way, but as a general thing they are loath to encourage that sort of procedure.—Exchange.

A Spoon Insult.

The etiquette of eating was formerly simpler, because the number of table implements was smaller. Sir Charles Murray (born in 1806) states in his "Reminiscences" that dessert spoons were unknown in the days of his youth, and people scraped along very comfortably with only teaspoons and tablespoons. When dessert spoons were invented Hamilton Place, the seat of Sir Charles' uncle, was among the first households in Scotland to adopt them, and a small laird invited to dine there was both astonished and disgusted to find one of the new fashioned spoons handed to him with the sweets. "What for do you gie me this?" he inquired of the footman. "Do ye think ma mouth has got any smaller since I lappit ma soup?"—London Chronicle.

What Did He Mean?

The new cook came out and did very well her first afternoon at Lonelyville. After dinner she approached the head of the house.

"How early shall I get up in the morning?" she inquired.

"Well," said Mr. Subbubs, "the first train for the city leaves here at 6:35. You'll have to get up about 6 if you want to make that."—Washington Herald.

Saving Time.

Are you one of the people who hop up nervously when the train is nearing the station and stand until it stops? You think you are saving a lot of time, whereas in reality a car empties itself in three-quarters of a minute.—Woman's Home Companion.

Inducement.

"Did dat man offer any inducement to git you to buy dat mule?" "Yaas indeed," replied Mr. Erastus Pinkley. "He give me his membership in a 'sociation dat provides a han'some funeral for anybody dat belongs to it."—Washington Star.

A man who is not ashamed of himself need not be ashamed of his early condition.—Daniel.

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STONE & WELLINGTON,
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Australia Makes Panama Canal

Protest

MELBOURNE, Australia, July 25.—The Senate of the Commonwealth of Australia to-day unanimously passed the resolution adopted by the House, declaring that a bonus or a rebate of canal dues to American shipping using the Panama canal would be detrimental to the interests of Australia.

Wakao Ippel, the wealthiest man in the province of Yamanashi, Japan, did not learn to read until he was 60 years of age, nor had he up to that time begun to accumulate his present great fortune. At one time he was a ragpicker. His first real business venture was the purchase of crystal balls, which sold at a good profit. After reaching the age of 60 he engaged a tutor in Chinese classics, which study he pursued until his 90th year. He is now 93.

Hyomei

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