

## Camphor - The Manufacture of and Trade In, in Japan.

In the United States Consular Reports for October we find the two following reports, the first of which is from Consul Smith's, of Osaka, and the second from Consul Jones', of Nagasaki:

### THE CAMPHOR TRADE.

The camphor tree, from which the resinous gum is distilled, is a species of the laurel, and is found in the provinces of Tosa, Hinga, and Satsuma, in the south of Japan. Large groves of the trees are owned by the Japanese government, the wood being very desirable for shipbuilding. The districts in which the camphor tree is found are mountainous and situated far from the sea. No reliable information can be obtained as to the cost of producing the gum before being transported in junks to Higo. The peasants who engage in distilling the roots and branches of the trees are said to be poor, and employ the rudest machinery.

The market value of crude camphor gum, and of oil of camphor, per picul (133½ pounds) during the past year was as follows:

|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| Brained.....     | \$33 25 |
| Wet.....         | 37 00   |
| Old dry.....     | 43 50   |
| Average.....     | 36 50   |
| Camphor oil..... | 5 25    |

The highest and lowest prices during the same period were as follows:

|              |         |
|--------------|---------|
| Highest..... | \$40 00 |
| Lowest.....  | 33 00   |

Camphor gum is exported in tubs measuring about six and a half cubic feet; oil in kerosene tins and cases. The grades are from old dry down to new wet, and the various grades depend upon the quantity of adulteration. In oil there are two grades—white and brown.

Adulteration is practiced for the most part by adding water and oil just as far as the buyer will tolerate. In some cases twenty pounds of water will run out of a tub in twelve hours. The unadulterated article, known as the good old dry, can sometimes be bought. The only system of tests, in determining value of the different qualities, is by burning and by absolute spirit. The percentage of pure camphor which the crude yields, when refined, varies according to the quality of the crude. The average percentage of gum produced from the wood as compared with the original weight of the wood, can not be accurately ascertained here, the only foreigner known to have visited the camphor districts having declined to furnish any information on the subject.

To importers in the United States who wish to obtain accurate knowledge of the camphor industry in all its details, including the purchase and shipment of the article, I would specially recommend that a competent agent be sent to Japan to visit the camphor districts and study the process of manufacture, packing, etc.

### MANUFACTURE OF CAMPHOR.

The manufacture of camphor is an im-

portant industry on the island of Kiu Shiu (Kew Shew).

Exported from the port of Nagasaki there were from in the year 1882, 15,186-18 piculs, valued at \$277,792. A picul is 133½ pounds. From other ports of the island not yet open to foreign trade a large quantity was shipped by native merchants in native vessels to Shanghai, in China, and Hongkong, whence it finds its way to India and England; little or none of it is exported to the United States. The camphor tree grows abundantly all over this portion of Japan. It is found alike on high elevations and in the valleys and lowlands. It is a hardy, vigorous, long lived tree, and flourishes in all situations.

Many of these trees attain an enormous size. There are a number in the vicinity of Nagasaki which measure ten and twelve feet in diameter. The ancient temple of Osuwa, at Nagasaki, is situated in a magnificent grove of many hundred grand old camphor trees, which are of great age and size, and are still beautiful and vigorous. I am told that there are trees at other places in Kiu Shiu measuring as much as twenty feet in diameter. The body or trunk of the tree usually runs up as much as twenty and thirty feet without limbs, then branching out in all directions, forming a well-proportioned, beautiful tree, ever green and very ornamental.

The leaf is small, elliptical in shape, slightly serrated, and of a vivid dark green color all the year round, except for a week or two in the early spring, when the young leaves are of a delicate, tender green. The seeds or berries grow in clusters and resemble black currants in size and appearance. The wood is used for many purposes, its fine grain rendering it especially valuable for cabinet work, while it is used also for ship-building. The roots make excellent knees for ships.

I have sent many seeds of the camphor tree to the United States in the hope of adding to our own arboriculture.

In the manufacture of camphor the tree is necessarily destroyed, but, by a stringent law of the land, another is planted in its stead. The simple method of manufacture employed by the natives is as follows:

The tree is felled to the earth and cut into small pieces, or, more properly speaking, into chips.

A large metal pot is partially filled with water and placed over a slow fire. A wooden tub is fitted to the top of the pot, and the chips of camphor wood are placed in this. The bottom of the tub is perforated so as to permit the steam to pass up among the chips.

A steam tight cover is fitted on the tub. From this tub a bamboo pipe leads to another tub, through which the inclosed steam, the generated camphor, and oil flow. This second tub is connected in like manner with a third. The third tub is divided into two compartments, one above the other, the dividing floor being perforated with small holes, to allow

the water and oil to pass to the lower compartment. The upper compartment is supplied with a layer of straw, which catches and holds the camphor in crystals in deposits as it passes to the cooling process. The camphor is then separated from the straw, packed in wooden tubs of 133½ pounds each, and is ready for market. After each boiling the water runs off through a faucet, leaving the oil, which is used by the natives for illuminating and other purposes.—*National Druggist*.

### Mind

Mind it. It won't mind itself. No business will. You may depend upon that, unless you mind your business you won't have any business to mind. And by the way, you need a mind to mind it. Mind this injunction. Keep your mind on it. If you have a good mind. And I hope you have.

### Your

It's your business that is to be minded. Not somebody else's. That is the main point. If you attend to your own business thoroughly you will have but little time to spare. Surely not enough to mind other people's. And you want to thoroughly and completely comprehend this in its full significance. If Tap & Solem want to run their business some special way, let them. It isn't your business. It's theirs. They have a right to. If they want to sell at cost, let them. But you sell for profit, and let them kill themselves if they wish to. You will have to hurry-scurry to wait on customers while they commit hari-kari. Which is best? Hurry-scurry, or hari-kari?

### Own

Your own. You own it. At least I hope so. But if you own up that you don't own it, there is all the more need of minding it, so you will own it. Then when you do own it, you'll own that your exertions have enabled you to do so.

### Business.

It's business to mind your own business. If you don't mind your own business, you have no business to have any business to mind. Do you realize what business means? It is the state of being busy. It is busy-ness. Now if your own business doesn't keep you in busy-ness, you'd better be out of business.

This is a short sermon. It has been divided into four heads, and each one explained and elucidated. If it serves to draw your attention to this homely yet trite saying, and show you your duty to yourself, and everybody else, we shall be satisfied.—*Perf. Gazette*.

No merchant ever yet made money but what some idiot is on hand to tell that the merchant prospered by following his advice.

There are druggists who take pride in being self-made who couldn't hire some other person to take the responsibility of the job.