

Commercial Items.

COD LIVER OIL.—The catch of cod liver oil off the Newfoundland banks this season has been unusually light owing probably to the heavy storms which have beaten upon the Atlantic coasts during the fishing season, which has resulted in great loss of life and destruction of fishing property. The market for this product is accordingly firm.

TURPENTINE IN INDIA.—The production of turpentine in India is likely before long, says the *Pioneer Mail*, to become an important industry. The Punjab Government have recently sanctioned the establishment of a factory for the distillation of the crude resin, the experiments conducted in the Dehra-Doon laboratory and in Kangra having convinced the Forest Department that production on a very considerable scale is possible. In the Kangra Valley forests alone, last season, some 1,200 maunds of resin were collected.

LINSEED OIL.—The steady advance in the price of flaxseed and the relatively small receipts at Chicago, Duluth and other points, has admonished buyers of linseed oil of prospective higher prices, according to the *Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter*. It is probable, therefore, that few were taken by surprise when the principal crushers last Thursday announced an advance of ten cents per gallon. While an advance was expected, its extent was greater than anticipated, although it appears to be conceded by all that the conditions prevailing warrant the present prices. It was expected, however, that the advance would be gradual, as an advance of ten cents is, to say the least, unusual. There appears to be a wide difference in opinion as to the extent of the crop of seed, the estimates ranging all the way from 15,000,000 to 25,000,000 bushels and apparently the crushers, whose interests are most vitally affected and who are probably best informed as to its probable extent, incline to the lower figures.

SENECA ROOT.—This drug has experienced a rapid advance in price. The yield this year has been under the average and the demand, especially for export, appears to be larger than usual. It is estimated that at least 200,000 pounds are required to meet the demand.

CAMPHOR.—The planting of young

trees to make up deficiencies caused by consumption is carried on assiduously by the Camphor Control Offices of the Formosa Government, which is fully alive to the importance of an article, the possession of which gives it such a strong hold over the camphor market. A new Government refinery is to be opened this year, and will have capacity for a daily output of about 8,000 lbs. What has so far been refined is said to be of good quality, though it appears to be somewhat rich in oil. From a report issued by the Formosa Government on the local camphor industry, it appears that rumors of the establishment of the camphor monopoly regulations caused quotations at home and abroad to rise, even before they were put into force. Manufacturers started working in great haste, and persons otherwise employed threw up their business in order to engage in the production of camphor. All the control offices, except Ratow, purchase the crude camphor and camphor oil, but that office itself engages in its production. The total amount of camphor purchased from the licensed producers or manufactured between August 5, 1899, and March 31 last was 20,437 cwt., and 15,535 cwt. of camphor oil.

GINSENG.—The production of ginseng is a monopoly of the Korean Government. It is grown in gardens in the Songdo district by farmers licensed by the Government, to whom it is sold at a fixed rate. The Government, of course, does not pay anything like the market value for the ginseng; moreover, payment is made in nickels, which are intrinsically worth only one-fifth of their face value, thus the profit made by the Government is a very handsome one. In previous years the licensed farmers got much better prices for the root from the Japanese, who took the ginseng, while the farmers complained to the Government that the Japanese had raided their fields, which they were unable to protect. To such an extent had this practice grown that in order to stop smuggling the Korean Government withdrew the prohibition, and permitted the export of the root on payment of duty of about 50 per cent. *ad valorem*; but in spite of this smuggling went on. Last year the whole crop was safely got in under the personal supervision of the Chief Commissioner of Customs. The ginseng was sold to a Chinese syndicate for £103,000, the contract of sale expressly stipulating that the 1900 crop

should not be exported from Korea until after the 12th Chinese moon—i.e., January, 1901.—*Phar. J., Eng.*

The World's Rubber—Production and Consumption.

Although caoutchouc or rubber-yielding trees are found in a large belt of countries on both sides of the Equator, yet the demand for the best qualities of indiarubber is far in excess of the supply. The varieties which are almost exclusively used when great elasticity and durability are required are the Para, Ceara, and Madagascar rubbers, and the demand for these varieties increases every year—an unerring indication of their value.

The total consumption of rubber in the world to-day is estimated at 140,000,000 pounds, costing at least £15,000,000. The following statistics of the world's production and consumption of rubber are taken from Mr. Ferguson's "All About Rubber," a book which deals in a very comprehensive manner with everything relating to the industry.

THE WORLD'S INDIARUBBER.

PRODUCTI. N.	Cwt.	CONSUMPTION.	Cwt.
Brazil, Peru, etc.	150,000	America (United Cwt.	
" (Para).....	150,000	States & Canada.....	403,000
" (Ceara).....	91,000	United Kingdom &	
" (Mangabeira).....	65,000	Dependencies save	
Guiana.....	6,000	Canada.....	150,000
Bolivia.....	30,000	Continent of	
Rest of S. America.....	40,000	Europe.....	100,000
Central America and			
Mexico.....	50,000		
Java, Borneo and			
Eastern Archipelago.....	20,000		
East & West Africa.....	180,000		
Madagascar & Mauritius.....	8,000		
Ceylon.....	150		
Australia.....	—		
Cwt.....	1,253,150	Cwt.....	1,253,000

In 1898 about 240,000 cwt. of Para rubber were sent to Europe and 200,000 cwt. to the United States, but the amount varies from year to year owing to the very unequal nature of the annual gatherings. The United Kingdom re-exports nearly 150,000 cwt. to the United States, Germany, and Russia out of her imports of 400,000 cwt. of raw rubber. Africa supplies half of the rubber sent into the United Kingdom; and we learn from the handbook on the rubber industry by the B.S.A. Company that it is now ascertained that extensive tracts in north-west and north-east Rhodesia produce natural rubber of a high commercial value. The native methods of extraction, however, are very destructive; and in the absence of protective regulations the opening up of markets will inevitably tend to the rapid extirpation of rubber trees.

The supply of rubber, for instance,