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THE TARTE SITUATION
(Montreal Herald, 23rd.)

Sir Wilfrid's Letter.
Ottawa, Oct. 21.
My Dear Tarte—
Back to the tall timber. You are
inconstitutional and talk rattle.
Wilfrid Laurier.
Mr. Tarte's Letter.
Ottawa, Oct. 21.
Sir Wilfrid Laurier—
So you separate me from my salary.
I will meet again.
J. Israel Tarte.

The News in Toronto.
TORONTO, Oct. 22—(Special)—Not
in the memory of the oldest inhabitant
has there been such a sensation
ere as has been caused by the Tarte
fair. Editorially the Globe says: "Our
compliments to Mr. Tarte. He is a
man."

Opinions in Halifax.
HALIFAX, Oct. 22—Just as soon as
the residents of this city wake up
there will be great excitement. The
chronicle says: "Mr. Tarte has re-
turned. He is a grease spot and a blot
on the map." The Herald says:
"There are three great men in Can-
ada. J. Israel Tarte is all three."

Hamilton Speaks.
HAMILTON, Ont., Oct. 22—(Special)
The Hamilton Spectator says: "Two
years ago we called Mr. Tarte things
that were unfit for publication. We
are sorry. He is one of the sweetest
men we know of. We love him."

In Montreal.
Editorially, last night, the Star said:
"The Sultan of Turkey seems deter-
mined to keep up his friendly rela-
tions with Russia."

CRUELTY TO MARIE CORELLI.

(Chicago Inter Ocean.)
The average reader of Marie Corelli
chapters does not remember the slight-
est remarks which she makes in her
novels about the press, and particu-
larly about the society columns of the
press, and how bitterly she assails the
nobles who seek the notice of the
press.

However, the editor of the Gentle-
man (published in England) remem-
bers them. Every expression of con-
tempt for the newspapers and news-
paper notoriety and newspaper "snob"
at Marie Corelli has written has
been treasured by that person when
in conviction that some day or other,
perhaps after the collection might
be a good purpose.

And sure enough, Marie Corelli, with
Byron as her guest, attended the
senior Highland gathering in the
local enclosure recently. It is part of
the business of the Gentlewoman to
make special mention of such affairs
this, and the Gentlewoman did not
forget its duty. However, in mention-
ing those present it named Lady Byron
one of the most distinguished, and
listed all mention of Marie Corelli.

Whereupon the author, who de-
spises the press and loathes newspaper
notoriety and entertains nothing but
contempt for the "snob" who seeks it,
tolerates it, writes in the Gentle-
man complaining of the omission,
after reciting the circumstances,
saying: "I can only conclude that my
name was purposely omitted."

Who is to charge the editor of the
Gentlewoman frankly pleads guilty,
with the explanation that the
omission was "in deference to Miss
Corelli's expressed opinion of newspa-
pers." Her letter of protest, how-
ever, proves to the editor that she has
been misunderstood, and that mention
of her name as that of one who was
gratified to be present would have grati-
fied her. The editor can plead only
the excuse for the mistake be-
cause of the apparent sincerity of Miss
Corelli's letters and writings on the
subject of "snob" and newspapers,
so explains that "logical constancy
compels him to believe that Miss
Corelli, in marking her letter 'private
& confidential,' only meant a re-
quest for publicity." Although the ed-
itor of the Gentlewoman assumes the
female gender here, yet a doubt
is not allowed to linger. It does not
seem possible that a man could be so
kind to a woman as the editor of the
Gentlewoman is to Miss Corelli.

Children Cry for
CASTORIA.

LORD BERESFORD PUFFS U. S.

VERPOOL, Oct. 26—Vice-Admiral Lord
Beresford arrived here today from
New York on the Cunard line str. Umbria.
The United States Lord Beresford studied
the United States of America's battleships and
investigated shipping matters. He was
received on his trip to America and said
he had had a splendid reception in the Uni-
ted States and that he could vouch for the
honesty of the kind sentiments entertained
in America for Great Britain. He said
investigations on the other side had con-
vinced him that Great Britain had nothing
to fear from the International Mercantile
Marine Company; on the contrary he be-
lieved this combine would benefit England
materially and otherwise.
"The United States," said the admiral, "is
far ahead of us in engineering and ad-
aptation and we need to adapt ourselves
to modern ideas."

FINDING FORTUNES IN RUBBER.

THE BOOM IN MEXICO'S GREAT INDUSTRY.

By OLIVER SHEDD.

Mexico is full of opportunities for enterprise and capital. The surest, cleanest, and often the quickest fortunes are those made by the intelligent development of the uncultivated resources of nature. There was a time in the United States when the young man could "go West and grow up with the country," being assured, with the exercise of reasonable intelligence and industry, of an ultimate substantial fortune and position in the community in which he lived. But there is no longer a frontier—no longer a "West" in the sense in which Horace Greeley used the word. There are no longer fertile virgin fields teeming with productive resources, smiling with rich verdure, waiting only for the plow. But the resources of Mexico have been only half developed. The products of its fertile soil have been used unintelligently and to a limited extent by the natives.

American push and "headwork" are being abundantly rewarded in the agricultural districts of the Mexican republic. One of the industries which has been developed there, and which is proving to be among the most profitable is the production of rubber. About five years ago Americans began to realize the chance to make fortunes out of rubber, and the way the industry has already grown since the new American methods have superseded the crude and wasteful methods of the natives, and the enormous profits which this industry yields, are attracting the attention of those who are looking for new fields of opportunity.

There is in the eastern and southern part of Mexico a long, irregular strip of land fifteen or twenty miles wide which has a soil as fertile as any in the world. The wonderful fertility of this limited area is due to an interesting fact. It lies at the base of the great mountainous plateau which runs lengthwise through Mexico, and between the narrow strip and the coast lie open plains perhaps fifteen miles in width. The warm currents of air, laden with moisture from the ocean, moving across these plains, encounter the cold air from the mountains. The result is an abundant rainfall over the territory where these currents meet. This rainfall has for ages produced abundant vegetation, which, dying and enriching the earth, has made a soil of great fertility. The black soil of this district is forty feet deep and so fertile that three crops may be raised on it every year, for in this country there is no winter. Corn, cotton, cocoa, coffee, rice, pineapples, oranges, and many staple fruits grow with rapidity and produce with great abundance. And it is in this strip of land that the rubber trees thrive.

Another fact that makes opportunity for Americans is that this rich territory, which was once almost inaccessible, is now reached by railroads which have been built through subsidies from the Mexican government. Products are easily taken to the coast ports and shipped by steamer to the great markets of the United States. Rubber has for many years been produced in this part of Mexico, but until five years ago it was gathered entirely by natives, who were employed by those who sold the rubber to be shipped. These men would "grub stake" the natives, and then send them into the forests to look for rubber trees. There are no rubber forests and few groves, the trees usually standing alone in the tropical thickets, so that the natives would frequently spend months in the forests before they returned with the crude rubber. They disregarded the fact that the liquid which contains this product is entirely separate from the sap.

By their crude methods the natives killed the trees which gave them a livelihood. Sometimes they felled the trees and then cut the bark so that the rubber liquid would run out. Other times they would make gashes at regular intervals in the bark as the tree stood, sometimes on both sides of the trunk, and this mutilation always killed the tree. The sap would run down the trunk to the lowest gash, and in this the gatherer would stick a stiff bit of leaf, which the liquid would follow to the end and then drip into a round hole which the native dug in the ground. The interior of this hole would be washed with the juice of

moonplant to prevent the milk of the rubber bark from soaking into the earth. The rubber in the rubber-bark sap is like the cream in milk. It separates of its own accord and the watery residuum will dry up in the course of two or three days, leaving the pure rubber. The native would pack this hardened rubber in rough sheets or roll it up in balls to be delivered to the man by whom he was employed. The balls of crude rubber were always cut open before the native was paid for them, to thwart a little trick for profit which was often practiced—that of wrapping the ball of rubber around a stone. The natives were paid for the rubber by weight—about twenty cents a pound. The rubber gathered in this way was always far from clean. Usually the crude balls or sheets delivered by the natives contained forty per cent. of foreign substance.

Another fact that reduced the profit of this method of gathering was that seventy-five out of a hundred of the natives who were employed, or "grub staked," never returned to their employers. Many of the former would become sick in the dense forests, and others would give up the task through indolence, and others, after they had gathered a load of the product, would sell it to some one more convenient, perhaps, than he who furnished the outfit. Not only was the native method costly and unsatisfactory, but it was rapidly killing off the trees and reducing the supply of rubber. This fact was illustrated recently in a rubber-trade publication by a table showing the rise and fall of the rubber production in Colombia, South America. The table showed that in 1855 half a million pounds were taken from that country. The quantity increased, as the demand grew, to seven million pounds in 1875, and then the product decreased, because the trees had been killed by the short-sighted natives and new fields were hard to find. In five years the quantity of Colombia's rubber was reduced to three million pounds a year, and in 1900 less than one million pounds was shipped. It was the custom to fell the trees, but the authorities, appreciating the loss to the country, prohibited it. Then the natives tapped the trees, lacerating the bark so that the trees died. The same course was pursued in Mexico by the native rubber gatherers.

Then came the Americans with intelligent business methods. In the first place, it was obvious that, inasmuch as the supply of trees had been reduced through their destruction by the natives, the first step should be to plant more trees. Immense nurseries were started; the young, broad-leaved plants looking like fields of tobacco. The shoots are set out four hundred to the acre. When they have started on a strong, assured growth they are thinned out, usually at six years old, and two hundred are left standing. Each tree that is cut down at this stage will produce about five pounds of rubber worth 70 cents, so that in this process of development each acre produces \$700. In some cases trees are tapped for rubber milk when they are four years old, four hundred young trees, tapped by native methods, yielding forty-four pounds, worth \$36.80, at each tapping. It is usually considered advisable, however, to wait until the sixth or even the eighth year before beginning to draw the rubber milk. The bark is cut carefully and only a limited quantity of the milk is taken at a time, so that the tree is not injured and its growth not in the least retarded. From an eight-year-old tree a pound of rubber a year may be safely taken. When there are two hundred trees to the acre the product of each acre a year would be two hundred pounds of rubber, worth \$140. This would be obtained without any expense or labor in maintaining or caring for the trees, the only work being the tapping.

A man owning one hundred acres would thus receive \$14,000 a year income. But rubber trees grow rapidly, and as they increase in size the quantity of the rubber milk which they will produce grows in an equal ratio. A tree nine years old will give one and three-fourths pounds of rubber; a tree ten years old, two and one-half pounds in the same time; a tree fifteen years old will produce five pounds a year, so that

one acre will yield 1,000 pounds, worth \$700, and the product of one hundred acres would be worth \$70,000.

The enormous possibilities of the rubber business have led investors to buy large tracts of rubber land in Mexico. Senator Clark, of Montana, owns one of the largest plantations, and near his property and below Vera Cruz is the Obispo plantation, represented by Mitchell, Schiller and Barnes of 52 Broadway, New York, and called by the natives "La Suerte de los Gringos"—in English, "the luck of the Yankee." This plantation contains 9,000 acres. On it there are 120,000 trees permanently set out, and besides a nursery containing 600,000 trees which are over a year old. On this plantation 8,000 acres will be planted entirely in rubber trees, showing to what an extent the industry will be developed. This will be 1,600,000 trees. These trees are to be tapped within six years and will then produce \$1,120,000 worth of rubber. In seven more years the product will be worth four and a half million dollars a year, and rubber trees live to be more than fifty years old. Figures like these show the possibilities for enormous fortunes in the yet undeveloped rubber resources of Mexico.

Those who have bought rubber lands in Mexico have paid small prices. The land was formerly owned by native plantation owners who did not cultivate it, being too indolent or too ignorant to develop its resources. Many of these native owners would become burdened with the large amount of property which they owned. They would borrow money to pay expenses, and then, when they were pressed by their creditors, would be glad to sell in order to be free from debt. In this way many American investors were able to buy wonderfully fertile land at a small price. On the Obispo ranch were found many rubber trees in a tract supposed to have been depleted of its rubber, and this land was purchased without its owner realizing its value.

American ingenuity has devised several new methods for getting rubber ready for the market. The milk is drawn from the bark by suction, so that the pure sap is obtained free from the grit, bark, and foreign substances which were always present in such large quantities in the rubber sold by natives. After the rubber milk is obtained, the pure rubber is separated from the other ingredients of the sap, in much the same way that cream is separated from milk, by a patent process. In the new method introduced and practiced by the Americans there is no waste of sap. By the natives half of it was wasted. When the rubber is coagulated, it is tied up in bales and shipped to New York, where it sells at from seventy-five cents to one dollar a pound, and the total expense of extracting it, separating and coagulating it, and shipping it to the eastern market, is not more than five cents a pound. This shows the enormous profit.

The value of rubber has increased recently because of the decrease in the quantity imported into the United States. In 1900, this was 58,506,569 pounds; in 1902 the amount received was 50,939,248 pounds. The destructive methods of the natives are responsible for this, and make demand for new rubber greater. It is interesting to know that rubber is constantly becoming more valuable as its uses in a hundred branches of manufacture increase. The general use of rubber tires on vehicles of all sorts—carriages, automobiles, bicycles—and the depletion of the uncultivated rubber trees by the destructive natives wherever rubber is found, combine to make a price that will constantly advance.

Andrew Carnegie recently was asked by a reporter in Pittsburg whether, if he were a young man, he would go into the manufacture of steel. He said "No," and added: "The best opening for a young man today is in rubber. Rubber will, in a few years, make a greater fortune under present conditions than steel, or, in fact, any other branch of manufacture. The great value and manifold uses of rubber are just beginning to be properly appreciated, and the profits in its production are greater than almost anything about which I am informed."

ELKIN & CHIPMAN, - - Agents, - - - Eastern Canada.

Bank of Nova Scotia Building, Saint John, N. B.

F. L. POTTS, Local Agent at St. John.