



This is a typical Jungle scene in Sumatra. Before a Rubber Plantation can be laid out the Jungle must be cleared. The trees are cut down and burnt off, the stumps pulled out, the ground plowed and cleared of weeds and roots usually by hand.

Wickham finally enlisted the interest of Sir Joseph Hooker of Kew Gardens, London, who had been considering the possibility of introducing the trees to India. Hooker in turn interested the government of India in the project, with the result that Wickham was given a commission by the Indian Government for the introduction of the Brazilian tree into India.

The seedlings were sent to Ceylon because it was decided that the climate of the Island was better suited than that of India for the rearing of the precious trees. The gardens at Heneratgoda, sixteen miles from Colombo, were opened as their permanent resting place.

The planters in Ceylon did not take hold of rubber planting with the same eagerness as did the planters of Malaya. In Ceylon they were making good profits in tea growing, and had no need to make a change. But in Malaya the planters, and the financial interests in Europe who had sent them out, were sick to death of the struggle to make a living out of coffee and, though in fear and

trembling, began to plant this new thing, rubber, hoping if possible to save their estates from abandonment.

Lucky was it for Malaya that she fostered this new enterprise, for now within her territory lie the greater part of the rubber plantations of the world.

Fabulous Profits

The romance of plantation rubber, is the old, old story, a few resolute men working in eastern jungles, having faith in the ultimate success of the work they had undertaken, and that of those daring to put their capital into faraway lands. It was but a few years ago that practically all the planters were feeling acutely the pinch for funds to tide them over the early stages of the enterprise. Many cases could be cited where fifteen years ago \$25,000 to \$50,000 could not be found to carry on estates being planted in rubber, which are valued today at four to five millions.

When a market for plantation rubber began to develop, the needy planters were astounded at the fabulous estimates of pro-