

Our Rubber Industry

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In the year 1839 Goodyear discovered that with the aid of heat, a chemical combination takes place between a crude gum called Rubber, and Sulphur, producing an entirely new product, known to the consuming world as India Rubber. To-day, the value of manufactures of Rubber exceed that of any other, excepting steel.

And, what is Rubber? Crude Rubber, such as arrives at the Canadian factories from Brazil, Central America, Ceylon, Malay States, Africa,

Canada. The method of gathering the Rubber, which is carried on by the natives, but financed by wealthy syndicates, banks, etc., is as follows:

At dawn, about five o'clock in the morning, the "seringueiro" begins his work. He selects an area of about 150 trees, this area is called an "estrada," he always has one or more helpers; he never works by himself; his tools consist of the machado, a short handled axe, a pail, and a number of small tin cups. After the stem of the

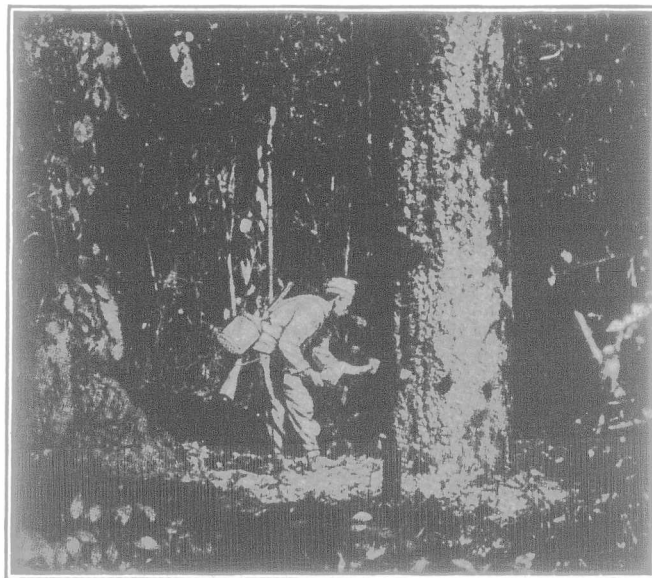


Figure 1

Asia, Madagascar, etc. Crude Rubber is obtained from many species of latex (milk) bearing trees, vines, shrubs, etc.; in the great forests of Brazil, we find the greatest Rubber producing tree, the "Hevea." This wonderful tree has produc-

tree has been cleared, the tapping commences. See illustration No. 1.

With a single stroke of the axe, the bark is slit open just deep enough to extract the latex without damaging the tree. After making about

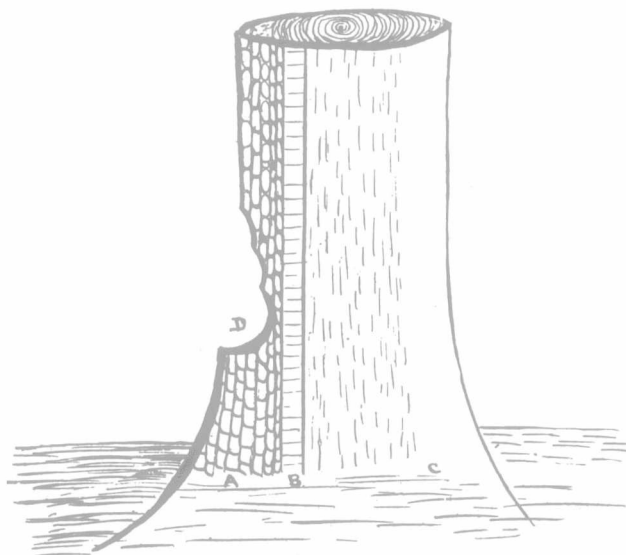


Figure 2

ed Rubber running into hundreds of million pounds. If you visit the towns of Manaos or Para, situated on the Amazon River, you will soon realize that Crude Rubber is to them, what wheat is to

twelve such incisions, the "seringueiro" fixes, by means of clay, one of the small tin cups to collect the latex. Each incision made, at regular intervals, drains, the tree drop by drop of the