

# SWEET CAPORAL



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with Hevea, an additional increase of 2,500 tons per annum of Para rubber will be assured; and supposing that the Brazilian production of Para rubber increases as before at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum, a further annual increase of 1,700 tons can be reckoned on.

Ceara rubber production is capable of important augmentation in Brazil; the East African plantations of this rubber will also greatly extend. On the other hand, Castilloa will only spread in Mexico and Central

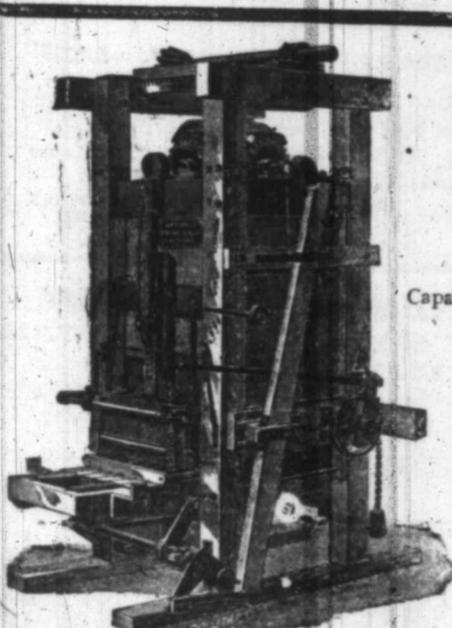
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America through cultivation, which can only be carried on tardily on account of labor difficulties.

In Africa Ceara rubber, as well as Kickxia (Funtumia), rubber plantations are going ahead, but no larger output of wild rubber can be expected, as, in spite of all regulations, most of the Landolphia liana as well as a good deal of Kickxia have been cut down.

As regards the carrying on of rubber plantations, Africa, and especially Asia, have a great advantage over America on account of better labor conditions. In view, therefore, of the small increase of wild rubber output compared with that of plantation rubber, it is a question how soon the supremacy in the world's rubber production may be shifted from America to Asia, whilst Africa will take second place, America being finally surpassed.

The German rubber industry, which in 1905 utilized 13,541 tons of raw rubber, namely, 20 per cent. of the world's production, is the most threatened amongst rubber manufacturing countries. The United Kingdom has assured its future supplies by an extensive programme of cultivation; America is relying on large plantations in Mexico, and seeking in the first place to control the production of the Amazon. Already the news of a great American trust for the control of the world's rubber market is causing anxiety among German manufacturers. For the Belgian industry supplies from the Congo suffice; France can look to her African territories for her needs, and Portugal likewise. Germany, on the other hand, received from her colonies in 1905 only 7.3 million marks worth out of the 100 million marks worth required, and the collection of a very large proportion of this supply resulted in damage if not destruction of the plants.



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