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## TARTE DISSECTIED

What Conservative and Liberal Leaders

With Regard to His Resignation of His Portfoliois Past Record and His Future Actions -
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## 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 capital. The surest, cleanest, and oiten the quickest
fortunes are those made by the intelligent develop-
ment of the uneultivated resources of nature. There ment of the uncultivated resources of nature. There
was a time in the United States when the young man was a time in the United States when the young man
could "go West and grow up with the country," being could "go West and grow up with the country," being
assured, with the exercise of reasonable intelligence assured, with, the exercise of reasonable inteligence 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 psed the word There are no longer fertile virgin fields teeming with ing only for the plow. But the resources of Mexico ing only for the plow. But the resources of Mexieo
have been only half developed. The products of its fertile soil have been used unintelligently and to a limited estent by the natives.
American push and "headwork" are being abun-
dantly rewarded in the agricultural districts of the dantly rewarded, in the agricultural districts of the
Mexican republic. One of the industries which has Mexican republic. One of the industries which has been developed there, and which is proving to be
among the most proftable is the production of rubber.
About five years ago Americans began to realize the 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chance to make fortunes out of rubber, and the way the industry has already grown since the new American methods have superseded the crude and wasteful methods of the natives, and the enormous proits
which this industry yields, are attracting the attention which this industry yieds, 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 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 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, eotton, cocoe, coffee, rice, there is no winter. Corn, eotton, cocos, coffee, rice,
pineapples, oranges, and many staple fruits grow with pineapples, oranges, and many staple fruits
rapidity and produee with great' abundance. And it is in this strip of land that the rubber trees thrive. cans is that this rich territory, which was once almost inaceessible, is now reached by railroads which have
been built through subsidies from the Mexican govbeen built through subsidies from the Mexican gor-
ernment. Prouncts 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 pro-
duced in this part of Mexieo, but pntil 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 Thase men would "grub stake" the natives, and then
send them into othe 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 usually standing alone in the tropical thickets, so that
the natives would frequently spend months in the forests before they returned with the crùde rubber. They disregarded the fact that the liquid which con-
tains 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 woold
make gashes at regular intervals in the bark as the make gashes at regular interrals in the bark as the
tree stood, sometimes on both sides of the trunk, and this mutilation always killed the tree. The sap woolla run down the trunk to the lowest gash, and in this the gatheror would slick a stifi bit of leaf, which the liguid
would follow to the end and then drip into a round hole which the native dug in the ground. The in-
terior of this fole would be washed with the juice of


#### Abstract

moonplant to prevent the milk of the rubber bark from soaking into the earth. The rubber in the rub ber-bark sap is like the cream in milk. It separate of its own accond and the watery residaum will dry ap in the courre of two or three days, leaving the pure ubber. The native would pack this hardened rubbe rough sheets or roll it up in balls to be delivered crude rabber were always cut open before the nativ was paid for them, to thwart a little trick for profi which was often practiced-that of wrapping the ball of rubber around a stone. The natives were paid fo 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 rubber gathered in this way was always far from clean. Usanaly the crude balls or sheets delivered by the natives contained forty per cent. of foreign substance.


 stance. Another fact that reduced the profit of thimethod of gathering was that seventy-five out of hundred of the natives who were employed, or "gru" staked," never returned to their employers. Many of the former would become siek in the dense forests, thers, after they had gathered a load of the product would sell it to some one more convenient, perhaps, han he who furnished the outit. Not only was the native method costly and onseatisfactory, but it was rapidly killing off the trees and redacing the supply of
rubber. This fact was illustrated recently in a rub-ber-trade publication by a table showing the rise and fall of the rubber production in Colombis, 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 milion pounds in 187\%, and then the product deecreased, beceause the trees had been liviled by thie shortaighted natives and new fields were hard to find. In five years the qu:ntity of Colombia's rabber 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 pouns was shipped. It was the custom to fell the
trees, but the anthorities, appreiating the loss to the country, prohibited it. Then the natives tapped the
trees, lacerating the bark so that the trees died. 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 were se to plant more trees. 1 mm were started; the young, broad-leafed 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 strong, assured growth they are thinned out, usually
at six years old, and two humdred are left standing. at six years old, and two huncred are left standing
Each tree that is cut down at this stage will produce this process of developneent each aecre 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 considerworth $\$ 36.80$, at each tapping. It is nsually consider-
ed 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 milk. The bark is cut carefully and only a limited
guantity of the milk is taken at a time, so that the tree is not injured and its growth not in the least retarded may be safely taken. When there are two hundred trees to the acre the produet 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
rapidy, and as they increse in size the rapidy, and as they increase in size the quantity of
the rubber milk which they will produce grita equal ratio. A tree nine years old will grive three-fourths pounds of rubber; a tree ten years old, two and one-half pounds in the same time; a tree fif-
teen years old will produce five pounds a year, so that
one acre will field 1,000 pormas, worth $\$ 700$, and the product of one hundred areres would be worth \$70,000. The enormons poseebiiities of the rubber buinas
have led investors to bay large tracts of rubber bid in Mexico. Senator Clark, of Montana, owns one of the argest plantations, and near his property and belor Vera Cruz is the Obispo plantation, representod by Yitchell, Schiller and Barnes of " 52 Broodway, Ne York, and called by the natives "La Suerte de b This plantation contains 9,000 acres. On it there an 120,000 trees permamently set out, and besides a numsery containing 600,000 trees which are over a yeer On this plantation 8,000 acres will be plate industry will be developed. This will be text rees. These trees are to be tapped withim sir yon nd will then produce $\$ 1,120,000$ worth of rello. In seven more years the product will be worth for nd a half mililon dollars a year, and rubber treas Five
o be more than fifty years old. Figurestite o be more than fifty years old. Figures tike \% undeveloped rubber nesources of Mexico.
Those who have bought rabber lands in Mariee have paid small prices. The land was formerly ownel eing too indelant or too igns who did not culdivate il, being too indolent or too ignorant to develop its x
sources. Many of these native owners would then burdened with the large amiount of property alith henses, and then, when they were pressed by the penses, and then, when they were pressed by the debt. In this way many American investors were eto the Obispo ranch were found many mabher trees in tract supposed to have been depleted of its rubber, an his land was purchased without its owner realizing its American ingenuity has devised several nee methods for getting rabber ready, for the market
The milk is drawn from the bark by, suction, so tho the pure sap is obtained free from the grit, bark, ani foreign substances which were always present in mel
large quantities in the rubber sold by nafives After large quantities in the rubber sold by natives. Atter
the rubber milk is obtained, the pure rubber, ated from the other ingredients of the sap, in mueb
and the same way that cream is separated from mill, by patent process. In the new method introduced and practiced by the Americans there is no waste of amp.
By the natives half of it was wasted. When the rabBy the natives half of it was wasted. When the rub
ber is coagulated, it-is tied er 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
This shows the enormous profit
cause of the decresse reer has increased recently be United States. In 1900 , this was $58,506,569$ pounids in 1902 the amount received was $50,939,248$ pounds for this, and make demand for new rubber reeater. It is interesting to know that rabber is constantly becom ing more valuable as its uses in a hundred branches of manufacture increase. The general use of rribber
tires on vehicles of all sorts carriages, automolites tires on vehicles of all sorts-carriages, automolities,
bicycles-and the depletion of the uncultivated rab-
ber trees by the ber trees by the destruction of natives whecreverivated rubber in found, combine to make a price that will constantly 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 "No," and added: "The best opening for a young man today is in rabber. Rubber will, in a few years, make or, in fact, any other branch of manufacture. The
great value and manifold nses of great value and manifold uses of rubber are just be gining to be properly appreciated, and the profits in
its production are greater than almost anything about which $I$ an informed.

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