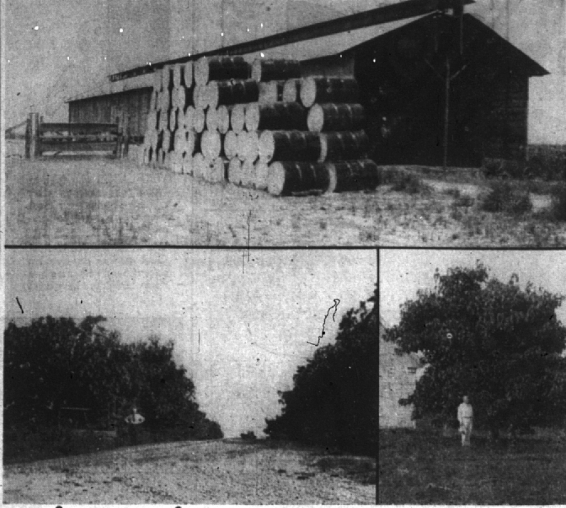


A Trip to Southern Mississippi -- Heart of a Vast Tung Oil Industry -- Described by T. H. Millington

AREA DEVELOPED IN PAST 7 YEARS

Writer Says Climate, Soil Prove Ideal For New Business

By Theo. H. Millington
Having studied somewhat the various reports on tung tree culture issued periodically from the South Mississippi Government Experiment Station located in Poplarville, Mississippi, I have become familiar with the progress made during the last seven years. But the last report I had seen was for 1935 and I was, therefore, not prepared for the vast developments I witnessed on my recent trip to South Mississippi.



On his recent trip to Southern Mississippi where he investigated the tung oil industry in that section, T. H. Millington, local resident, reports rapid advancement in the state due to large scale production of the tung nut.

The picture shows the valuable tung oil barreled and ready for shipment. At the left, Mr. Millington is standing beside a grove of five-year-old trees while the photograph at the right shows him beside an 11-year-old tung tree. The trees do not produce nuts on a commercial scale until the third year.

I went down there with doubt in my mind as to high profits and I found these doubts substantiated in many instances where plantations had not received proper care in the matter of cultivation, due, perhaps, to lack of capital or carelessness. In other cases, results were unfavorable where too many trees were planted per acre. One grove with 100 trees per acre is not profitable.

When I was shown single plantations of 10,000 acres and over, and was told that in Pearl River County 75,000 acres were now planted with tung trees and that 25,000 acres more will be planted this winter, when I was driven miles and miles through tung groves and, as far as my eye could see, it was tung trees, tung trees, and more tung trees; when I saw within one plantation a tung tree refining plant erected at a cost of about \$45,000 I was forced to the conclusion that where capital is ample and care is intelligent the tung industry offers interesting opportunities.

Inasmuch as I knew from government reports that the tung tree requires a special soil, semitropical temperature and heavy rainfall; that in its native China it does not thrive above the 31st parallel; that very little of the United States, lying high enough above sea level to grow these deep rooted trees and, that therefore, the area suitable for tung tree culture is very limited and, that tung oil has an important place in American industry and lastly, that so far, the United States produces only about 2% of the industry absorbed by American industry.

The oil of the tung nut is an ingredient in the best paints and varnishes and because of its resistance to heat, weather, moisture and acid it is used in automobile finishes and other articles where such qualities are required. The pulp of the nut serves as a valuable fertilizer.

The Tung industry in South Mississippi, where is located two-thirds of all the tung trees of the United States, due to its superior suitability, has developed entirely during the Depression. The first was started in March 1929. It is now on the way to attain big business, yet I quote Dr. J. C. Roberts of the South Mississippi Experiment Station in Bulletin No. 310 Dec. 1935 page 12, "The probabilities are that for the present generation, and possibly many years longer, land suitable for the growth of these trees, will not supply the oil now used by North America."

They are now planting 60 trees to the acre, 25 pounds of nuts per tree equals 5 pounds of oil at 15 cents—75 cents per tree, 60 trees to the acre at 15 cents per tree equals \$45.00 per acre.

These figures are accepted generally as conservative, for well managed groves.

A single tree in the Government Experimental Station, uncultivated

and unfertilized, eleven years old, bore 272 pounds of nuts in 1936.

TUNG TREE CULTIVATION

Tung trees are proof against all pests as the bark and leaves are poisonous to insects, beasts and man. Late frost which is rare may injure buds but not the tree. They require cultivation four times a year and chopping the earth around the trunks. Planting from seed is most successful and makes a growth of from 4 to 5 feet the first year and in three years will compare in size favorably with a 10 year Michigan apple tree.

The rows of trees follow the contour of the land and terraces are made where the incline would cause erosion. Many growers run cattle and hogs in the groves after the trees are three years of age. This helps to keep the grass cut between the rows and the resultant fertilizers are very great. It is estimated that per 1,000 pounds of live weight animal, there is discharged annually the following quantities of manure: Cattle, 10 to 12 tons; Horses and Mules, 8 to 10 tons; and hogs 12 to 14 tons.

The rapid growth and large yield per acre may be explained by the fact that southern Mississippi has fully two and one-half times as many growing days as a common to Michigan. Rain fall is about in the same proportion and the average temperature down there runs about 20 degrees higher than in this state with the gulf breeze tempering the heat and winter cold.

COST OF PLANTINGS

If an absentee owner buys a large tract, not less than a ¼ section, 160 acres, and does not want to invest money in plows, tractors, harrow etc., and does not want to do his own work, there are companies with large investment in equipment and trained labor who specialize in the care for groves. If a tract is large enough, land

may be planted and cultivated until bearing age, the third year, for 30.00 to 40.00 dollars per acre. It does not pay to put machinery on small tracts.

The land is cut over pine lands full of great stumps just as Michigan was, following the cutting of the timber, and still is, in many places. It takes heavy tractors to clear such land.

Cost of land varies as the quality and location, the same as Michigan land and it is important to deal with reliable land dealers.

SOUTH MISSISSIPPI IN TRANSITION

Until a few years ago South Mississippi was covered with forests of long leaf yellow pine. The last of these, a tract of 5,000 acres is now being cut in order to plant tung trees.

The condition following the ending of the lumber industry in Mississippi is the same as Michigan was 60 to 75 years ago. But where the Michigan settlers had to clear the land by hand and learn farming by personal experience, South Mississippi has Federal, State and County experimental Stations and agricultural experts to teach them.

Where in Michigan, life among the pioneers was primitive and with its tools but saw and spade, the Mississippi County I visit has the advantage of modern inventions, consolidated schools, county-wide school bus service, Agricultural School, State approved hospital, high schools, electric lighted athletic field for night games, co-operative ward houses, sugar mill and cotton gin, cheap electric light. The Federal Government is spending over 43 million dollars for new roads, beautiful roads, scientifically engineered with banked curves that turn as suggested at 70 miles per hour.

PAST AND FUTURE

The land of the new consolidated School at Savannah, Pearl River County, joins the 5,000 acre timber tract above referred to. Looking into the vast forest one's mind travels backward a thousand years and one asks questions of the past assail the mind. How old are the pines? How did the fires get there? Where from? What was there before the pines? Was the land under the sea and how and why did it rise above the sea level? But when one turns the back upon the pines and faces the consolidated School on one side of the road emerging from the pine forest, there lies on the other side part of a vast plantation of tung trees—the ultra-modern Country Schools and the newest and most valuable of all of the various agricultural products of the South. Turning from the pines one is struck from the past to the future and visits Pearl River County, which now only has about 20,000 people, a booming, populous and prosperous center with fine country homes appearing everywhere, surrounded by smaller cities that are sure to spring up.

I am indebted to Dr. J. C. Roberts of the South Mississippi Branch Experiment Station at Poplarville in whose genial and intelligent personality I found great pleasure and benefit.

Mr. L. C. Gowles, a resident land dealer, formerly a Michigan-lander, was indefatigable in showing me the tung groves. I also acknowledge thanks to Mr. J. E. Mayfield, Attorney-at-Law, for the following local facts:

Pearl River county has a model school system sponsored by the National Educational Association. Poplarville, besides a Grade School, has a High School, an Agricultural School and a Junior College. The county maintains a Home Demonstration Agent and two assistants, a Home Demonstration Agent, a complete health unit

with physician and two registered nurses, a Laboratory Technician, and a Sanitary Supervisor. The County offers fox hunting with foxes in abundance, fishing in all Streams, Natural lakes and artificial ponds and is within one hour's drive of the sport and comforts of the "Gulf Coast" Sea game grounds everywhere. Prevailing winds are southerly cooling breezes.

The progressiveness of Poplarville, only a few years out of the timber, is most astonishing.

ADD MANUALS ON CHARACTER

(Continued from first page of "25 Years" part two)

"25 Years" will remember that he was the Englishman asked to accompany Theodore Roosevelt on his famous English "Coast Swag." To everyone who delights in rural life, waxy brooks, cross country rambles, the magic of changing seasons, this book, by a great British statesman, will be a rare experience.

Simon and Schuster publish "Fang and Claw," written by Frank Buck, with Ferrin Fraser. Another and wider lot of true tales from Oriental jungles makes up this book, which also includes a few pathetic, stirring or beautiful tales of human beings. Mr. Buck explains several of the scenes in his movies which excited so much comment, and Mr. Fraser is an able collaborator, being the assistant author in the Buck radio programs.

Early one of the most attractive books in the new list is "Around Manhattan's Rim," written by Helen Worden and published by the New York World and later on the World-Telegram, Miss Worden's fine magazine city book for natives did not realize that her knowledge of the waterfront was decidedly imperfect, she and her friends, Mrs. Theodore Steinway, set out to walk literally "all around the town." It took months to complete the jaunt. But when they had finished, they had uncovered a vast store of information; seen joy and tragedy; the haunts of crime, poverty and wealth; astrolabes, shot towers, wooden Indians, clams, rags, pottery, chibabes and kings. They had been welcomed royally here, amusingly thrown out there. Rivermen watchmen and innkeepers were their pals, and the account of the winning of them will win many more for the author.

Among the specialized books is "Lace in the Sky," written by Margaret L. Brooke, published by Routledge. It contains detailed information on the past and present of various students of the art. The chief feature, however, is the considerable number of new stitching and methods introduced. A short history of development of lace is included, as well as a list of places and their centers. Also under this category is "Touring the Ancient World With a Camera," one of the most unusual accounts of its kind, compiled by C. G. Home and W. Gaunt. The list is wound up with "Children's Foes of Yesterday," a companion to "Children's Books of Yesterday," and a good 10 too in published by the Studio Press.

INTENTIONALLY "LOST"

Rye, N. Y.—Officials are beginning to get suspicious that some of the many "lost" children at the amusement park, are being deliberately "lost" by their mothers in order that they may enjoy free entertainment at the park. The lost children are usually taken to Kiddie Land and given free access to the rides and other entertainments until claimed.

Local Team Scores Shutout Win Friday

Outplaying the Pontiac Comets in a Class C League baseball game in Pontiac Friday, the Birmingham Merchants scored a 5 to 0 triumph behind the two hit pitching of "Ace" Bottomley.

Bottomley fanned 12 opposing batters while issuing only three free tickets to first base. He also collected the only extra base drive of the contest, slaming a double to rightfield in the fifth frame to give two runs on the bases. The locals garnered five safe hits, ousting their base hits in two innings.

"Red" Wallace, Merchants' shortstop, contributed the outstanding fielding play of the game when he raced behind second, scooped up a hard hit ball and threw out the runner. The locals, now in undisputed possession of first place in the league standings, will take on the Pontiac West Side Merchants today.

Mac—Oh, just tell him I'm not receiving today.

Jean—But he's not delivering; he's collecting.

ELEPHANT BREAKS NECK

Ebensburg, Pa. — Tip, 7,800-pound elephant, was killed when thrown from a truck which was transporting him and another elephant, for the Hagg Greater Shows. The elephants were thrown to the highway as the truck raced around a curve. Tip landed on his head, striking a guard rail post, driving it four feet into the ground. The other elephant was not injured.

Proof.
"Do you think there is any truth in the theory that big creatures are better natured than small ones?" asked the intellectual young woman.

"Surely!" returned the young man addressed. "Just look at the difference between the Jersey mosquito and the Jersey cow!"

Aeronaotic Bird.
"Say," said the woman customer over the telephone, "the next time I order chicken, don't send me any more airplane fowls."
"What do you mean—airplane fowls?" asked the butcher.
"You know what I mean: All wings and machinery and no body."

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DOG FOOD

5 lbs. **49c**

GLASS SHRIMP

3 Cans **\$1.00**

WEIDEMAN'S—WHITE MEAT

TUNA FISH FLAKES

Lge. Can **33c**

RANDALL'S

Chicken Gizzard Noodles

3 Jars **50c**

LIBBY'S

GRAPEFRUIT JUICE

No. 5 Can **23c**

LIBBY'S

TOMATO JUICE

No. 5 Can **23c**

Ivory Snow, Flakes or Dreft

2 Pkgs. **41c**

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