

CHINA CULTIVATES WALNUT BUSINESS ON A LARGE SCALE

INDUSTRY PROVES SUPPORT OF HUNDREDS OF VILLAGES—MILIONS WORTH ARE IMPORTED TO AMERICA—ENTER TEXTILE FIELD.

New York, Dec. 3.—Following importation of walnuts to China by the early missionaries the Chinese developed this industry so carefully it has now reached tremendous proportions, according to George E. Young of Shanghai, China, who has been in the Orient ten years. Mr. Young said that the Chinese are growing more and more interested in their lands and considerable development will be seen during the next few years.

"The cultivation and sale of the walnut, which was first brought to China by the American missionaries, now supports hundreds of Chinese villages," said Mr. Young. "The methods of preparing the nuts for market are most primitive, but as labor is cheap they are able to send them to this country and compete favorably with the domestic market. For the American market they use only the highest grade nuts. They select the light colored and shiny nuts and they are bleached, sorted and packed according to grade. Those of soiled and inferior shells are crushed and the meat is packed for confectionary purposes. This cranking is now done by hand because the only walnut cranking machine is owned and operated with greatest secrecy by walnut growers in this country.

Chinese Waste Nothing.

"The economical bent of the Chinese is given full play in the walnut growing industry. They utilize every particle of the product. When the crop is gathered the husks are beaten off the nuts and are buried in wet earth to rot for fertilizer. The nuts are delivered to the ports through various agencies, the original grower getting an insignificant part of the price realized for them.

"The Manchurian walnut has a harder shell than the product of this country. The shells of the inferior appearing walnuts, which are cracked before shipment, are used for fuel, and on account of the large proportion of oil they contain they make an excellent fuel. The Manchurian walnut commands a special advantage in the confectionary making trade because of superior flavor and texture of the meat.

"This spring the price quoted to American importers for delivery at San Francisco was as high as 20 to 25 cents, including cost, insurance and freight, with the trans-Pacific shipping rate at \$17.50 per ton. The quotations are now around 25 cents. The whole crop was stored in 100 round bags of burlap which are made in India. The walnut meat is very carefully wrapped in paper and packed in wooden boxes to keep out moisture, which is likely to produce mold. In the United States the walnuts are placed in cold storage which preserves their freshness, preventing drying and the crop which was still in the East of June does not get to the market here until some months later."

Cupid's "Shaft."

A honeymoon down a coal-pit sounds a bit weird and dark; but that, at least, was the first trip made by bride and bridegroom after the church ceremony. The bridegroom was a coal-pit manager, and his new wife had never been down a coal-pit, or even seen one, till the wedding day. At her own request they went from the church, donned suitable attire, stepped into the cage, and were taken to the bottom of the shaft, where they had a rousing reception from miners armed with pick and shovel.

Handicapped by Superstition.

Mr. Young pointed out that according to the last issued Bulletin of the Department of Commerce for May, 1920, 10,121,881 pounds of walnuts came to the United States from China in the 11 months ended with May, and their value was \$1,887,491. He says that the Chinese are still greatly handicapped by their old superstitions. After the usual practice of having all streets and passages frequented so that the evil spirits cannot find their way, they are laying out their farms in patches and making the roads rather difficult for anyone not familiar with the locality.

"There is a large and growing market in China for every kind of machinery," said Mr. Young. "This is particularly true of the machinery used in the coal industry. The Chinese are going to be no exception of the whole world in this respect. When a Chinaman figures out something and decides to adopt it in his business he is not content to stop there. He is buying machinery and every process in which he has found its advantage.

"The Chinese have no feeling against the Americans, but, of course, their hatred for the Japanese grows worse. Americans in business in China are disappointed with the class of men from this country who have rushed from the coal-mining field in the belief that some quick profit was there. They are the lowest sort of traders and they are not even intelligent in business."

Child's Tunnel of Death.

Charlestown, W. Va.—When they found James Kerr, aged seven, who had been missing for two hours, he was dead. A little shoe sticking out of a pile of sand revealed that the tunnel in which he had been playing had caved in.

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One to the Sea.

A lady, having left her umbrella in a car, applied for it at the office. "Oh, you ladies, you ladies," said the official in charge, as he brought about thirty umbrellas for her inspection, "you are so terribly forgetful!" The lady smiled as she kindly pointed out to him that, with the exception of three, they were all gentlemen's umbrellas!

Brother of Nelson.

Sir James Mackintosh, the first ruler of Bombay, records in his diary a fact not generally known—viz., that Lord Nelson had a brother, commander of a trading ship, who was cut off by the Malays. His murderers were executed on the Oyster Rock in Bombay harbor.

And Few Care to "Rust Out."

The person who has quit work because of old age alone, should come back, because "to rest is to rust, and to rust is to die"—Exchange.

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