

CUTTING MAHOGANY TREES

Obstacles In The Way of Lumbering in Honduras.

METHODS ARE PRIMITIVE

The Trees Do Not Grow in Clusters but are Scattered Throughout the Forests—It Requires a Skilful Woodsman to Find Them.

There are vast tracts of pine timber land in Honduras, the timber on which will some day become of great commercial value," said H. R. Ormsby, a representative of the Belize State and Produce Company, an English corporation holding concessions in Honduras. Mahogany furnishes the material for profitable lumber operations at present.

"The methods of getting out mahogany in the Honduras forests are primitive. The climate of the country is tropical and the forests low lying and swampy. Only eight weeks in the year are available for moving the cut from the camps; and its movement being done solely by oxen, its rapidity may be imagined.

"Mahogany is abundant, but the difficulty of lumbering it and getting it moved is a great handicap. I have been investigating the methods of handling timber in the Southern yellow pine districts, and if we can adapt them to the woods of Honduras the problem of more profitable management of the mahogany industry of Honduras will have been solved.

"The system of labor with which we have to contend down there is peculiar, too. Laborers are hired for one year, under contract, which calls for three months wages to be paid them in advance.

"The men go to the woods and remain there until Christmas. Then they all leave work and return to their homes to celebrate. They bring several months' wages with them and do not go back to work until they have spent it all. Their money gone, the men return to the forests.

"This refers only to the common laborers. The lumbering of mahogany requires the services of expert woodsmen, who are paid according to the tasks they accomplish.

"Mahogany trees do not grow in clusters, but are scattered throughout the forests and are hidden in dense growths of underbrush, vines and creepers. It requires a skilful woodsman to find them.

"He seeks the highest ground in a forest, climbs to the top of the tallest tree and surveys the surrounding country. The mahogany tree has a peculiar foliage, and the practised eye of the woodsman, soon picks them out.

"Following the timber looker, as he would be called in American forest work, comes the axeman, and then the sawyer and hewer. A large mahogany tree will take two men a day to fell it.

"The trees have large spurs which project from the trunk at its base, and scaffolds must be erected so that the tree can be cut through above them. This leaves a stump from ten to fifteen feet long, which contains the finest of the lumber, but which, under the methods of lumbering that prevail, must be allowed to go to waste.

"The day will perhaps come when these stumps will be grubbed out, just as the stumps of American black walnut are being grubbed now, the relics of wasteful days of cutting when that timber was plentiful, and now worth many times more than the trunks that are cut from them.

"The mahogany hunter has nothing to do with the felling or removing of the tree. His duty is simply to locate it. Often he may earn as much as \$1,000 a month, as he is paid by the tree, but then again he may prospect for weeks without detecting an available tree.

"Mahogany commands a big price in the markets to which it is exported, but it is not only because of the superior quality and beauty and purposes to which it is put that it is so costly. To the difficulty and expense of getting it from its native forests and in shape for marketing that a large portion of its high valuation is due."

Jurisdiction on Conduit Roads.

In the case of J. A. Lutz, who was fined by the Glen Echo authorities for fast driving on the Conduit Road, an appeal to the higher court has just been decided by Judge Henderson, who declares that the jurisdiction of the United States over the Conduit extends to its use as a road, and that the automobile regulations of the town of Glen Echo or of Montgomery County Maryland, are consequently of no force and effect on it. He added that the State has general jurisdiction over the road, but that it is not a public highway within the meaning of the statute.—The Automobile.

Experiment in Ostrich Farming.

An experiment in ostrich farming has been started at Marianao, near Havana. The farm now has 48 birds, 3 of which were imported from the ostrich farm at Phoenix, Ariz., and the balance from the Nice Farm in France.

The bill for putting up the Khedive of Egypt at Dudley house, (England) in 1887 was \$60,000, but it took \$110,000 to entertain Prince Nasrullah Khan of Afghanistan at Dorchester house in 1888.

Do You Open Your Mouth

Like a young bird and gulp down whatever food or medicine may be offered you? Or, do you want to know something of the composition and character of that which you take into your stomach whether as food or medicine?

Most intelligent and sensible people now-a-days insist on knowing what they employ whether as food or as medicine. Dr. Pierce believes they have a perfect right to insist upon such knowledge. So he publishes, broadcast and on each bottle wrapper, what his medicines are made of and verifies by analysis. This he feels he can well afford to do because the more the ingredients of which his medicines are made are studied and understood the more will their superior curative virtues be appreciated.

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A host of medical authorities of all the several schools of practice, recommend each of the several ingredients of which "Favorite Prescription" is made for the cure of the diseases for which it is claimed to be a cure. You may read what they say for yourself by sending a postal card request for a free booklet of extracts from the leading authorities, to Dr. R. V. Pierce, Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y., and it will come to you by return post.

HIDINGS OF DEATH VALLEY

A Storehouse of Wealth and Terrors For the Explorer.

The bodies of two young prospectors have just been found in the famous Death Valley of southern California. Lost in this hottest and driest area known, they had perished of thirst. In the old gold-seeking days the valley claimed hunters who crossed the country.

Less was known about it then than now, not only because it had not been so thoroughly explored, but also because means of circulating geographical knowledge among the people were lacking. Each new body of California-bound travelers had to discover its terrors themselves.

Death Valley covers an area of about five hundred square miles. It is a deep cut in the plains. At the bottom of it is a salt flat, strong in salt and alkaline compounds.

This murderous region demanded its first recorded human toll in 1849 when sixty-eight out of seventy Mormon emigrants, who wandered into the trap, gave up their lives. The story of their sufferings is too horrible to repeat.

The valley is a storehouse of wealth—gold and other valuable metals and minerals. There are beds of borax, niter, soda and salt. It is a treasurebox, but Death holds the key. In its precincts more persons have perished than in any similar area, save that of the great battlefields.

Thirst is not the only danger; deadly vapors and poisonous dusts arise to suffocate the unwary.

Yet into this place of death two people once went in search of life. A husband and wife, both threatened with consumption and in search of a dry climate, wandered into the valley. Finding a spring in a little canon, they put up a cabin and lived for seven years in the very midst of the shunned spot. Then the wife died, and the husband went mad of grief and loneliness.—Exchange.

In Buying a Horse.

The ignorance displayed by most men when they go to buy a horse is something appalling and the wonder is that more skinning is not done. Every man should learn to tell the age up to eight years. He should learn also to discover the five principal blemishes—ringbone, sidebone, splint, spavin and curb. It will do no harm to learn a whole lot of other defects, but it would not even then prevent a man from getting cheated once in a while. The professor from a veterinary college who knows them is easy game. Bear this in mind, whenever you get deceived in a horse do not make the matter worse and worry about it. Never squeal but take your medicine like a man.—Field and Farm.

Petticoat Prettiness.

In plaids the brilliant Scotch colors will dominate. Stripes will be more of the nature of Pekin stripes.

Black and white effects are shown in narrow as well as two-inch widths. More of not too heavy a construction is to be revived and will be shown in fancy effects and color combinations.

Velvet ribbon is a prominent feature in the trimming of silk petticoats. In the more elaborate styled it alternates with the laces.

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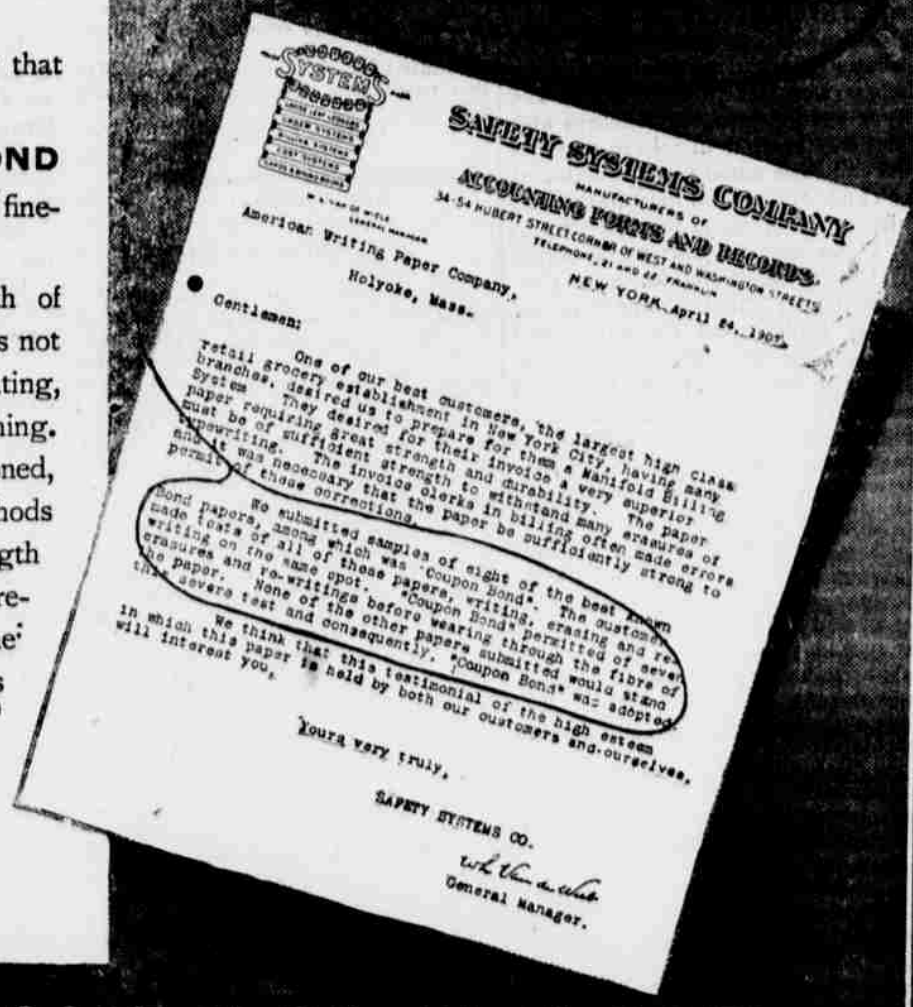
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