

TURPENTINE TREE SAVED.

A Tar Heel's Invention of Clay Cup for Catching Rosin Drip-plugs Revolutionized a Great Industry—No Longer Is There a Needless Waste of Vast Tracts of Timber.

Washington Correspondence Charlotte Observer.

To those who have traveled through the turpentine belt of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia with the ghostlike faces of sapped turpentine trees glaring at them through the shadows, the recent invention of another system of getting the turpentine from the trees, without killing them and without making them so unsightly and ghastly, is interesting.

Already 20,000,000 trees in the South are equipped with small galvanized iron gutters attached to the trees, through which the turpentine is led into a little clay cup. The trees are thus preserved for future turpentine production or for timber and the amount of turpentine from each one of these trees has been increased and the price raised because of the superior quality. Just four or five years ago the new method was introduced and it has already worked noticeable changes in the looks of the forests and promises, in a short time, to revolutionize the turpentine industry, as well as the naval stores industry. The importance of this, aside from the preservation of the pine forests in the South, can be better understood when it is known that, according to the last complete reports, for the year 1902, there were produced in the country 2,100,000 barrels of rosin and 600,000 barrels of turpentine, worth together \$17,000,000.

To the country at large the turpentine is simply indispensable, for its industrial uses. Yet turpentine under the only methods practiced up to a very few years ago, and under the methods still unhappily too common among the less progressive operators, did and is still doing enormous damage to the South. In fact until the cup system came along, it threatened to destroy itself.

The cup system does away with the "box," which is simply a pocket chopped in the tree itself, to catch the rosin, or crude turpentine, which bleeds from the face above. It was a primitive device, but it had the merit of cheapness and simplicity. It meant early death to the trees and devastation of the forest, besides being wasteful of the turpentine itself. It resulted in a large if not a complete loss of the timber, for the lumberman was seldom able to follow close enough upon the heels of the turpentine operator to be ahead of the wind to which the weakened trees easily succumbed and the fires which fed on the fallen wood and spread the destruction further. Yet all this was for a long time regarded as of little importance, since it was easy enough to find new territory in which to repeat the operation.

AN ECONOMICAL METHOD.

Nowadays, however, the owners of Southern pine are growing more particular. Many of them refuse to allow turpentine on any terms. Others are agreeing to it on condition that the cup system be used. With an intelligent, business-like management in charge this system is as much to the advantage of the operators as that of the timber-

Rising from the Grave.

A prominent manufacturer, Wm A. Fertwell, of Lucama, N. C., relates a most remarkable experience. He says: "After taking less than three bottles of Electric Bitters, I feel like one rising from the grave. My trouble is Bright's disease, in the Diabetic stage. I fully believe Electric Bitters will cure me permanently, for it has already stopped the liver and bladder complications which have troubled me for years." Guaranteed by all druggists. Price only 50c.

land owner, for it results in a large quantity of crude turpentine, allows less of the spirits of turpentine to be evaporated, produces higher grade rosin, and lengthens the period during which the same "crop" of trees can be worked. Under a slipshod, incapable management it will fail to make good, because it requires attention to details and intelligent oversight. But for the man who owns the trees, it means a vast deal whether boxing is permitted or not. This is both because the box is wholly needless and because with the cup and gutter the harmful effect of the chipping itself can be greatly reduced.

But the box is being gradually dispensed with, and a few miles from Chattanooga is a pottery which runs night and day throughout the year turning out millions of these clay cups. They are much like a medium-sized flower pot, and all are of exactly the same size and pattern. Each cup has a small round hole in the side and near the top. The moulding is done by machines which were invented for the purpose and which make them at the rate of 18 a minute, or practically one in every 3 seconds. And with all this the pottery cannot keep up with its orders. The casual visitor finds it hard to guess for what use this great output of cheap cups, all invariably alike, are intended and he is interested to be told that into each of the twenty million already in use is slowly dripping the rosin which oozes from a "chipped" or scarred surface in the trunk above into two shallow, downward slanting galvanized iron troughs or gutters. The inner edges of these gutters are thrust into cups deeply made with an upward stroke of a broad-ax at the lower edge of the chipped "face." Each gutter catches the drip from approximately half the face. The two cuts slant towards each other like the sides of a greatly flattened V, but do not meet, for they are at different levels, and so placed that the higher drips into the lower, which in turn discharges into the cup.

A TAR HEEL THE INVENTOR.

The credit for the new system belongs to Dr. Charles H. Herty, professor of chemistry at the University of North Carolina. As a Southerner interested in the welfare of his region he set out to put a stop, if possible, to what he felt to be a reckless and unnecessary impoverishment of a great natural resource. He has had many obstacles to meet and surmount. First came the difficulty in devising a method of gathering the turpentine which should be at once cheap, simple, capable of being used by the kind of labor available, not likely to be interfered with by grazing cattle and hogs and practical. A number of devices had been brought forward by earlier inventors, but all had failed in one or another of these requirements. Then came the difficulty of prejudice on the part of the negroes who were to do the work. "They were ashamed to be seen with me," said Dr. Herty, with a grin, in telling of his early experience during a recent visit to Washington. "I had to pick them up outside of town because they would not ride in the wagon with me through the streets." But their

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prejudice changed to enthusiasm before they had been long at work. Now it would be hard to find a turpentine camp in which there are not some hands who have used the cup system. Though it was only five years ago that the first experiments on a commercial scale were made, a large fraction of the total product is gathered by the new method and the number of operators who have adopted it is steadily increasing.

FINDING A POTTER.

When every other obstacle had been surmounted, after it had been proved by actual experience that the cup system was practicable and could be profitable, came the question of getting the cups made. For some time no pottery could be found with faith enough in a demand for the cups to prepare to make them. At last Dr. Herty found a potter, an old acquaintance, who was willing because of his personal interest in the young enthusiast to undertake to make the cups. "And how many could you make a year?" asked Mr. Herty. "Why, I could make 100,000 if necessary." "But this is a matter of millions of cups a year." That ended the business. The potter regarded himself as a practical man. "You have been among your college men too much; you are dreaming." At last there was no other way open for the inventor but to organize a company and buy a pottery to make the cups.

It was planned at first to make cups only during a part of the year, but the time has never come when the making of cups could stop. Good judgment was shown in choosing the location of the pottery. The clay used in making the cups is dug from the hillside close at hand, coal comes in wagons from the mouth of the mine, and the point is central for shipment to all parts of the South. The cost of the cups has been reduced from 4 cents to 1 6-10 cents apiece. A large part of this reduction has been made possible by the invention of a machine which takes the place of moulding by hand. It is a fortunate thing for the South and the company that these cups are being made and put to use in the forests so greatly needed for lumber and so rapidly diminishing.

Besides the clay cups metal receptacles are being introduced by many operators. These are made of galvanized iron, and are considerably more expensive than the clay cups. On the other hand, they are more durable. They are, however, in some respects less easy to manipulate. Yet large numbers of them are in use with the same result as that obtained from the clay cup, in doing away with the evils of boxing.

Ransom Godwin, a well-to-do white farmer 65 years old, shot and killed his wife on the night of the 6th at his home near Kenly, Johnston county. The murder was apparently without cause. Godwin drank often and mistreated his wife, and Monday night he came home drunk and beat her with a stick unmercifully. Tuesday night he came home drunk again and shot Mrs. Godwin in cold blood. He immediately disappeared in the woods, Mrs. Godwin was about 35 years old. She is survived by two children.

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AUGUSTUS ST. GAUDENS.

America's Foremost Sculptor Passes Away—Lincoln Statue in Chicago one of His Masterpieces—Designed New American Gold Coins.

Cornish N. H., Dispatch 27d.

Augustus St. Gaudens, LL. D., L. H. D., America's foremost sculptor, died at his home in Cornish to-night after a long illness. Death was due to a general breakdown of the system caused in part by a form of nervous dyspepsia with which he had long been troubled. Augustus St. Gaudens was born in Dublin, Ireland, March 1, 1848, of a French father and an Irish mother, and was brought to New York when six months old. At 13 years he began work as a cameo cutter. Hard work landed him in Paris in 1867, the exposition year, and there it became apparent to the young man that his life work must be that of a sculptor rather than cameo worker. He began modeling at the Ecole des Beaux arts under Francis Jouffrey and after three years of constant application, went to Rome, where his first statue, that of Hiawatha, was created and the foundation of his fame was laid. Returning to this country in 1887 the master hand and mind is best seen, artists declare, in the Lincoln statue in Chicago, the Farragut, Sherman and Cooper figures in New York, that of Garfield, in Philadelphia, the "Puritan" in Springfield, and in the inspiring Shaw memorial in Boston. These are generally held to shed the best light on the fame of St. Gaudens, but the figure of Grief in the Rock Creek Cemetery in Washington, the equestrian statue in Chicago of Logan, the figures of the facade of the Boston Public Library, and Diana on the Madison Square Garden tower are always called to mind as sharing in the glory shed by the master pieces.

DESIGNED NEW GOLD COINS.

New York, Aug. 3.—Through a letter from President Roosevelt made public today it was learned that Augustus St. Gaudens, the famous American sculptor, who died to-night, had designed the new gold coins which are now being completed. This design is probably the last completed work that left the hands of the sculptor.

Low Coach Rates and Special Trains via Seaboard.

To accommodate the travel to the Exposition North Carolina Week, the Seaboard Air Line Railway will sell the low Coach Excursion tickets on Wednesday, August 14th, as well as Tuesdays and Fridays. This will give every one an opportunity to go, and special coaches will be attached to all the regular trains from Hamlet, and extra trains run to satisfactorily handle the large movement that is expected.

Coach tickets sold every Tuesday and Friday, also Wednesday, August 14th, from all points between Hamlet and Wilmington inclusive. \$5.25; ten day tickets, \$9.45; sixty day tickets, \$10.45; season tickets, \$12.50.

The time for all North Carolinians to attend and assist in making Thursday, August 15th, "North Carolina Day," the largest during the Exposition.

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\$5.25 Round Trip to Norfolk, Va.

The Seaboard now sells coach excursion tickets for all trains on Tuesdays and Fridays to Portsmouth, for \$5.25, limited seven days; season tickets, \$12.50; 60 days, \$10.45; 10 days, \$9.45.

For other information see your agent. C. H. Gattis, T. P. A., Raleigh, N. C.

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