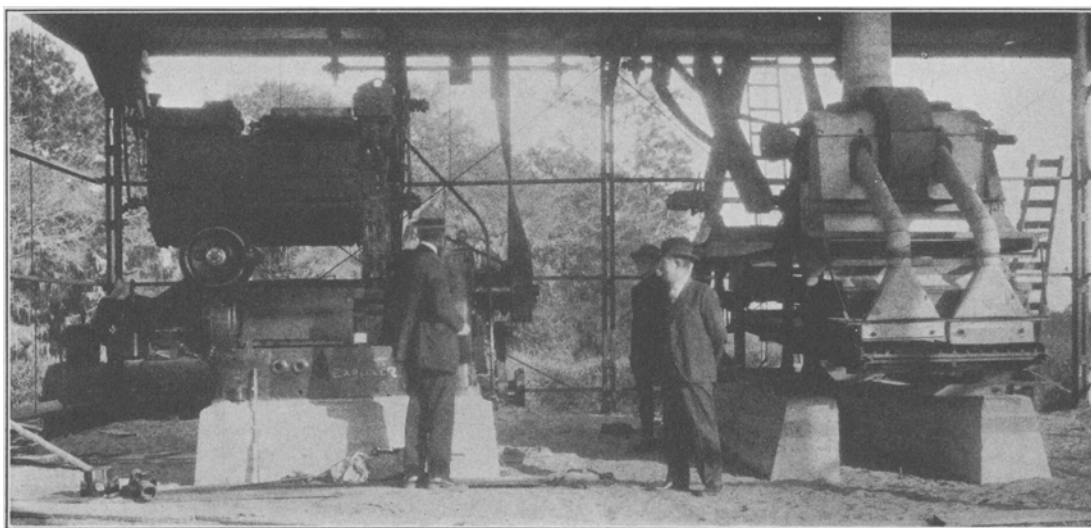


# Rapid Development of Tung Oil Plantations

*America Soon to Be Independent of Foreign Sources for  
Important Paint, Varnish and Linoleum Oil Ingredient*



*Pioneer Tung Oil Expeller Plant*

**I**NDICATIONS are that plans, which have been maturing for the last few years, for the development of a tung oil producing industry in the United States on a scale sufficiently large to place it in the category of "big business" will be set in motion during the next few months. The plans are those which have been formulated by a number of groups of large financial and business interests which propose to establish tung tree groves in Florida and other southern states containing many thousands of these trees, the number being steadily added to each year over the course of the next few years until there will be hundreds of thousands of young trees growing, or in other words, a sufficient number of the trees to assure a supply of tung, or chinawood, oil sufficiently large to meet a major portion proportion of American industrial needs.

Fairly accurate estimates which have recently been made show that there will probably be

not less than 1,000,000 seedling trees set out during the next two or three months, or a total regarded as about the requirements for approximately 10,000 acres of land in the state of Florida, with possibly 1,000 to 1,500 additional acres in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama. There are at present about 8,000 acres in Florida planted to commercial groves of tung trees, from a large part of which the second American-grown crop of tung oil is now being produced. This crop is infinitesimal, so to speak, as far as American industrial requirements go, and it will take years of steady increase in plantings as well as in crop returns from maturing trees to produce the hundred million pounds or more annually consumed in the United States and now obtained entirely from China.

Realizing that American industry cannot afford to allow its interests to be continually jeopardized by such an unstable source of supply as China has always presented for such an

immensely desirable raw material, the large financial and business interests, heretofore mentioned, have evolved plans which will eventually overcome these hazards while providing a large new American agricultural and milling industry which will keep at home millions of dollars heretofore expended abroad for tung oil.

#### *Companies Organized*

QUITE a number of companies have been organized in recent months for the development of groves and, while some have not been of a type to inspire any belief in their sincerity of purpose other than of selling stock or land, many have plans which will eventually produce a real American tung oil industry. One of these companies, sponsored by a substantial financial and business group is planning to spend \$10,000,000 over a period of ten years in developing approximately 50,000 acres of tung tree plantations while another has plans for \$5,000,000 in expenditures for the development of around 20,000 acres. These are but two of the larger ones and there are a number running close to the million dollar mark each in their projected plans.

At least one of the larger groups has organized a subsidiary company which is carrying on research work with a view to discovery of new uses for tung oil and it has been reported that this company has found a new use which it is believed will be of substantial importance and value to the motion-picture and camera film manufacturing industry. Yet another indication of the possibilities of this research work is to be found in a recent statement that government chemists have come to the conclusion that the shells or hulls of the tung nut will yield a most valuable raw material for the manufacture of insecticides. The tung tree, it may be recalled, has proven to be virtually entirely free from injury by insects or other form of plant enemy and is among the hardiest trees in this respect that has ever been found.

The oil obtained from its fruit has been used industrially in this country for about sixty years with new uses being found constantly throughout that period until today there are probably several hundred articles of manufacture or industrial use into which tung oil enters as an important ingredient. Furthermore the consumption has grown from a few thousand pounds a half century ago to better than a hundred million pounds at this time.

#### *Industries Using Tung Oil*

WHILE probably the greater proportion of the tung oil brought into the country is

consumed by the paint and varnish industry, there are huge quantities required for other manufacturers, this being especially so of the electrical industry, which annually uses millions of gallons of a tung oil compound for coating cables, telephone wires, dynamos, generators, fans, and innumerable other items of equipment. The automobile industry is yet another industry requiring huge annual quantities, inasmuch as every brake band on the millions of automobiles turned out has tung oil in it as a binding composition to keep it together. More than 2,000,000 pounds of the oil each year goes into the manufacture of the little tubes used to hold cosmetics, being used to make a coating on them. Then there is linoleum and oilcloth, many million feet of which are manufactured in this country each year, and each foot of which represents a consumption of tung oil in giving those products their finish and waterproofing qualities.

In the paint and varnish industry there are several hundred items into which tung oil enters as a part of the composition.

#### *Credit for Pioneers*

CREDIT for the development of tung oil production in the United States on its present small scale must be given to the paint and varnish interests, allied with naval stores men, who have done the pioneering along with the Department of Agriculture of Florida and several scientific bodies. The work of these interests has provided the nucleus upon which the larger business and financial groups now seem about to build on a scale commensurate with the requirements of American industry. These large groups have become interested on the ground that the development of a commercial supply of tung oil such as American industries require can only be done with large financial resources and not through small stock promotions and land selling schemes.

While Florida is at present the center and leader in the infant American tung oil industry, it is anticipated that any development of an American tung industry on a scale commensurate with American industrial requirements for tung oil will make it imperative to extend operations to other states having suitable soil and climatic conditions. This is true because of the fact that there would not be enough suitable acreage available in the entire state of Florida to meet the ultimate demand, and because of this there has been considerable pioneer work done in the last few years in Mississippi, Alabama and Louisiana.