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Coconuts Make Philippines \$50,000,000 Yearly

Among a number of things in which the Philippines excel the rest of the world is the growing of coconuts, from which the meat is taken for candies and confections and the oil for various staples from soap to soup stock, margarine for the table and grease for the pancake griddle. The same oil makes filled milk, and the glycerine it contains is an indispensable ingredient of gun cotton and t-n-t. Philippine coconuts are converted into copra (the dried meat), oil and copra meal, and desiccated coconut.

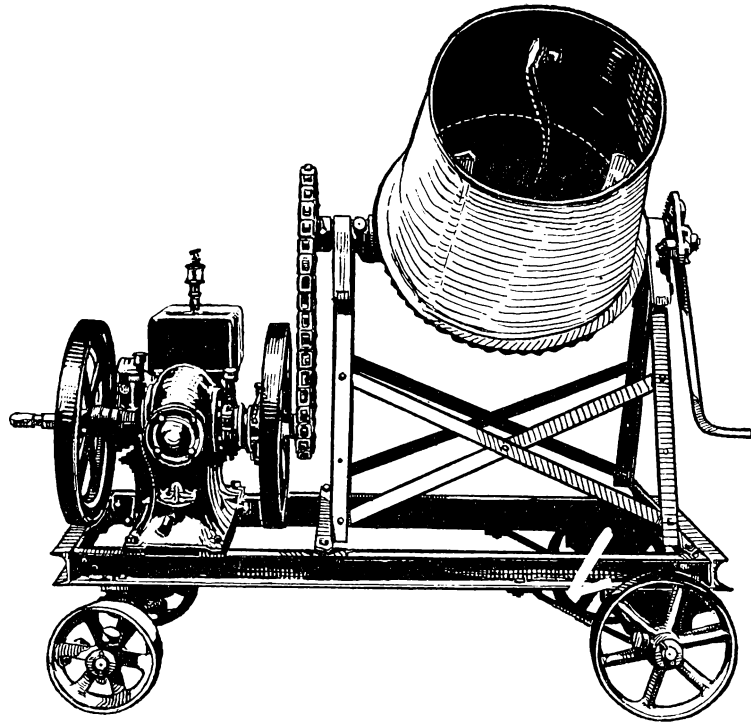
In these semicrude forms, Philippine coconuts are exported in large quantities during every month of the year, principally to the United States and Europe. London seems specially to prefer Cebu copra (that from the port of Cebu, gathered there from the nearby provinces), which ordinarily is cured in the sun. The bulk of copra cured on Luzon is dried by smudge; it is spread over a bamboo grating over a pit where a slow fire of dried husks is kept burning. But

some excellent types of driers are being introduced; growers who have installed these produce a copra which is white and clean and free from smoky odors.

Ground up, heated and put through hydraulic presses, copra yields about 63% of its weight in oil. The cake is left, which, ground into meal again, makes a rich ingredient of dairy feeds. When it derives from clean copra it is a nutritious food for man, rich in both fats and protein. The glycerine, contained in the oil, about 5%, is as satisfactory as any and is in demand for the manufacture of high explosives; the United States has no other such source of glycerine as it has in the enormous plantations of Philippine coconuts.

Besides the coconut regions mentioned, Luzon and the Bisayas, the industry has recently been extended in northern and southern Mindanao; on the island of Basilan, and in the Sulu archipelago. The monthly value of coconut oil export-

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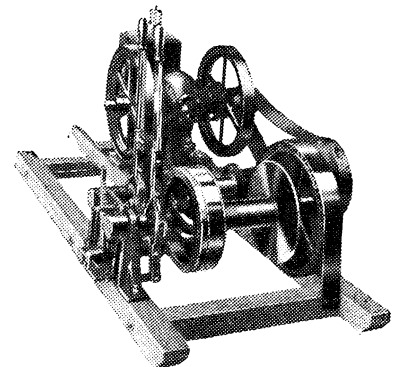
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