

THE PACKING OF RAW RUBBER.

The following requirements of the New York market in regard to the packing of raw rubber are published for the benefit of estates which export their produce to the United States of America. These methods are also recommended generally for rubber exported to other countries.

All rubber must be wrapped in pieces of the same type as the contents of the cases, i.e. pale crepe must be wrapped in lengths of similar pale crepe and smoked sheet in sheets of similar grade to the contents.

All corners and ribs of the cases or bales must be completely covered with the wrapping material so that no splinters or dirt can contaminate the bulk of the contents.

Wrapper sheets count in the weight of the contents and therefore need not be used sparingly. The wrapper sheets, after being brushed, can frequently be used for the manufacture of high grade rubber goods.

CREPE.

The following method is recommended. Each corner rib is covered with a strip of crepe, starting just over half way across the bottom of the case. The strip should be of sufficient length to overlap the top of the case and reach about half way down the outside.

The sides are then covered with similar strips of crepe laid so that the corner strips are partly overlapped.

This method of wrapping is again repeated to form a complete double wrapping.

The crepe forming the main contents is then weighed, placed in the case and pressed in the usual way.

The overlapping strips of crepe are then folded over the top of the contents and the lid is then fixed.

SHEET RUBBER.

Since sheet is thicker than the thin crepe prepared in Malaya, one thickness is sufficient. The lower half of the corner ribs are first covered by a sheet. If the fold at the bottom is too thick, the sheet can be cut lengthwise and the two pieces superimposed. The top half of the ribs is treated similarly. The sides are then treated similarly, using two sheets if long sheets are not available.

After the contents have been filled in, pressed and weighed the overlapping wrapper sheets can be folded over in order to cover completely the top of the contents.

In both instances, it is important to note that all the corners as well as the sides of the cases are completely covered with the wrapping by sufficient overlapping of the edges of the wrapper sheets, so that no splinters or particles of dust from the cases can penetrate into the main contents. This outer layer of rubber will also act as a damp-proof wrapping and lessen the tendency to mould development in the rubber enclosed.

Care and attention in packing is important. All cases should be sun-dried. It is often found that the wood of the cases, especially of the corner ribs, is damp, due to the absorption of moisture.

B.J.E.

