

are thickest, and the work of extracting the gum begins. The chiclero has to groove the bark, and he ascends and descends the tall trunks by means of a rope looped about his body and around the tree, progressing by litches in the aboriginal manner as he wields his machete. After the large sacks of chicle have been carried to the camp the sap is there cooked and moulded into blocks. The trees are tapped and drained for three successive years, and then left alone for about ten years, so that they may have time to heal.

POOR ARTIST AND "STINGY DUCHESS."

The following amusing letter, written to the Earl of Oxford on March 15th, 1713-14, by Sir Godfrey Kneller, the German-born artist who was Court painter to Charles II., James II., William III., and George I., and published for the first time by the *Morning Post*, shows the proverbial indigence of artists:

"I hope your Lordship will be pleased and favour me with having my salary inserted in the new establishment, that I may have the honour of being her Majesty's servant regarded; although it was omitted by the instigation of a stingy, penurious, griping Duchess. And I humbly beg leave to observe to your Lordship that having for every of the Queen's pictures and the Royal Family's pictures before—by agreement—and have had less fifteen pounds than any other subject pays—these two hundred pounds *per annum* are in consideration paid. And I have had nothing for my attendance when the Queen is from town, all her Majesty's reign, nor any travelling wages; all which has been omitted to my great loss and detriment."

FAMOUS NAVAL SIGNALS.

Admiral Beatty flew the signal from the Lion in the Dogger Bank fight, "Keep nearer to the enemy." It was in this fight, it will be remembered, that the Blücher was sunk.

Of course, the most famous naval signal ever flown was Nelson's at the battle of Trafalgar.

Admiral Jellicoe, by the way, holds the record for the shortest signal ever flown. After the Grand Fleet had for the first time swept the North Sea Jellicoe signalled from his ship just the two words, "No Luck!"

When Admiral Sturdee smashed up von Spee off the Falklands he, in the words of a sailor on board, "made a signal which would have warmed Nelson's heart—"God Save the King." The signal was taken up and rung far and wide through space by each ship of the Fleet in turn."

DEATH.

WALSH—April 12, 1928, at Clarina, Mrs. M. Walsh, Postmistress, widow of the late George Walsh, aged 82 years. Funeral to-morrow (Friday), at 3 o'clock, for the family burial place, Kilkeedy. "Peace, perfect peace."

IN MEMORIAM.

MURPHY—In loving memory of Joan, who died on the eighth day of April, 1925, aged thirteen years. "Nearer, my God, to Thee,"—MOTHER.

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