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IMPROVEMENTS IN OIL EXTRACTION INDUSTRIES OF CHINATEA-SEED OIL PRODUCTION -- Ching-chi Tao-pao, 9 May 50

The total yearly production of tea oil in China amounts to approximately 300,000 quintals, only about half of which is exported. The Southwest is important in tea oil production. Hunan stands first in production of tea oil for edible purposes. Some figures for production (in shih-tan) [one shih-tan equals 110.23 pounds] in Hunan during representative years are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Shih-tan</u>
1937	229,469
1938	155,532
1939	232,493
1940	192,188
1947	98,000
1948	180,000
1949	120,000

During wartime, production diminished considerably, as can be seen in the 1947 figure above, and this resulted in rising prices for tea oil.

From 1932 to 1938, the average yearly production in Kwangsi Province was approximately 60,000 piculs. Because of local utilization of tea oil for manufacturing lampblack and hair oil, Kwangsi exported only about one third of its tea oil production.

In Chekiang Province, eight hsien bordering on Kiangsi annually produce some 27,000 piculs. The best quality tea oil in this area comes from Chu-chou where there are two important markets, Li-shui which handles 12,000 piculs of tea oil yearly and Wen-chou which handles 15,000 piculs. Both markets ship the oil on to Canton and Shanghai for export.

In Kwangtung, six hsien along the Kiangsi border have a yearly production of 15,000 piculs. Formerly, this oil was used primarily in the manufacture of hair oil, but since the war it has been used for food. In Kiangsi, some ten hsien throughout the province collectively produced over 10,000 piculs yearly. In Kweichow, eight hsien produced 105,000 piculs yearly before the war. After the war, because tea oil prices rose and plantings increased, there was a surplus of 60,000 piculs to send to the south for export abroad. -- P'an T'ien-hsin

PEPPERMINT OIL AND MENTHOL ICE -- Ching-chi Tao-pao, 28 Nov 50

The peppermint oil and menthol ice industries have been steadily developing in China since 1920. Soochow in Kiangsi produces an especially fine type of peppermint oil which comes from a plant known as wu-pa-k'o (*mentha arvensis*). The areas around Ch'i-men in Anhwei and Hangchow in Chekiang have a high output of crude peppermint oil. Production ranges from 4 to 8 shih-chin per mou. The amount of land planted increased from 10,770 mou in 1936 to 100,000 mou in 1940.

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The following figures show the growth in national production of refined peppermint oil and menthol ice between 1936 and 1940 (unit in pounds).

	<u>1936</u>	<u>1937</u>	<u>1938</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1940</u>
Peppermint oil	48,500	100,500	432,000	582,000	482,400
Menthol ice	41,000	85,400	336,000	520,400	432,600

Only 5 percent of the menthol ice made from peppermint oil was exported and 95 percent of that went to the US. Most of the peppermint oil exported went to European countries, chiefly to Belgium and Denmark. -- T'ien-hsin [P'an T'ien-hsin?]

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