

CEYLON TODAY.

Ceylon comes into the war picture as we show you how some of her thousands of ~~XXXXXX~~ acres of bush country are being cleared to make way for aerodromes. An outsize in bulldozers sweeps all before it, heaving its horsepower against the densely growing timber and undergrowth.

Elephant power is employed as well. Instead of half a dozen Ceylon boys bursting their boilers over the hefty loads, Jumbo goes down on one knee and, with tusks and trunk gets it out of the way as if it were a match stick.

Jungle land in Ceylon is beginning to open up its acres for defence. And in the same busy little island tea pickers are nipping off the young tips at double tempo, so that Britain's stocks of tea won't fall short. Thinking in terms of ration books, by Christmas next this lead out to go a long way. As it's weighed in, pay checks are issued to the pickers according to the weight brought in.

But full marks must go to Ceylon's rubber plantations which are going all out to relieve the serious shortage. By increasing the rate of tapping, output is being stepped up. Every drop of the precious sap is wanted for the war effort. The contents of the little cups are collected and brought in for treatment in the factories. The creamy liquid called latex is then poured into troughs for the congealing process.

Skimming is done as the liquid begins to set. In due course the sponge rubber lumps are removed, and put through rollers which transform them into crepe.

Lengths of pure rubber. Ceylon formerly produced about 10% of the world's supply. There's a big drive on now to bounce that figure to record levels.

Here's another way of increasing the rubber yield. Experiments have been made with a high degree of success in bud grafting. This consists of grafting on to a young rubber tree a bud taken from a branch of a tree of proved high-yielding type. This is inserted in the cut and the incision bound with adhesive tape.

In four months a sturdy youngster is sprouting from thr stem.

Pedagogique