

tended to Japan. These wonderful cables cross mountains and valleys of the ocean bed, and in some places they lie six miles beneath the ocean surface.

Cable tolls are necessarily expensive, as a result of such costly equipment, but all persons or firms who habitually employ the cable use codes in which one word does the duty of ten or fifteen. Newspaper messages are "skeletonized," that is, cut down by leaving out all but the most important words.

In time of war international law permits the cutting of cable lines to the enemy's territory. So, during the World War of 1914-18, all of the Atlantic cables to Germany were put out of service by the Allies.

CABOT, JOHN (1450-1498). One fine May morning in 1497 there sailed from the harbour of Bristol a tiny little ship with a crew of eighteen men. The ship was not much larger than a fishing smack, but it was setting out on one of the most important voyages in the history of the world. The captain was John Cabot, an Italian born in Columbus's own city of Genoa; but he was

sailing under the flag of King Henry VII, to make a voyage of discovery to the strange New World which Columbus had reached five years before.

Boldly Cabot steered his little ship across the boisterous Atlantic. On June 24, 1497, after several weeks of peril and hardship, he sighted the coast of North America—the first European to reach the shores of that continent since the days of the old Northmen. The land he discovered was probably Cape Breton Island and the near-by island we call "New-found-land." When Cabot returned with the news of his eventful discovery, the king gave him only £10, but made up for this mean reward by raising Cabot to the post of admiral.

The next year Cabot set out on a second voyage with two ships and 300 men, and apparently

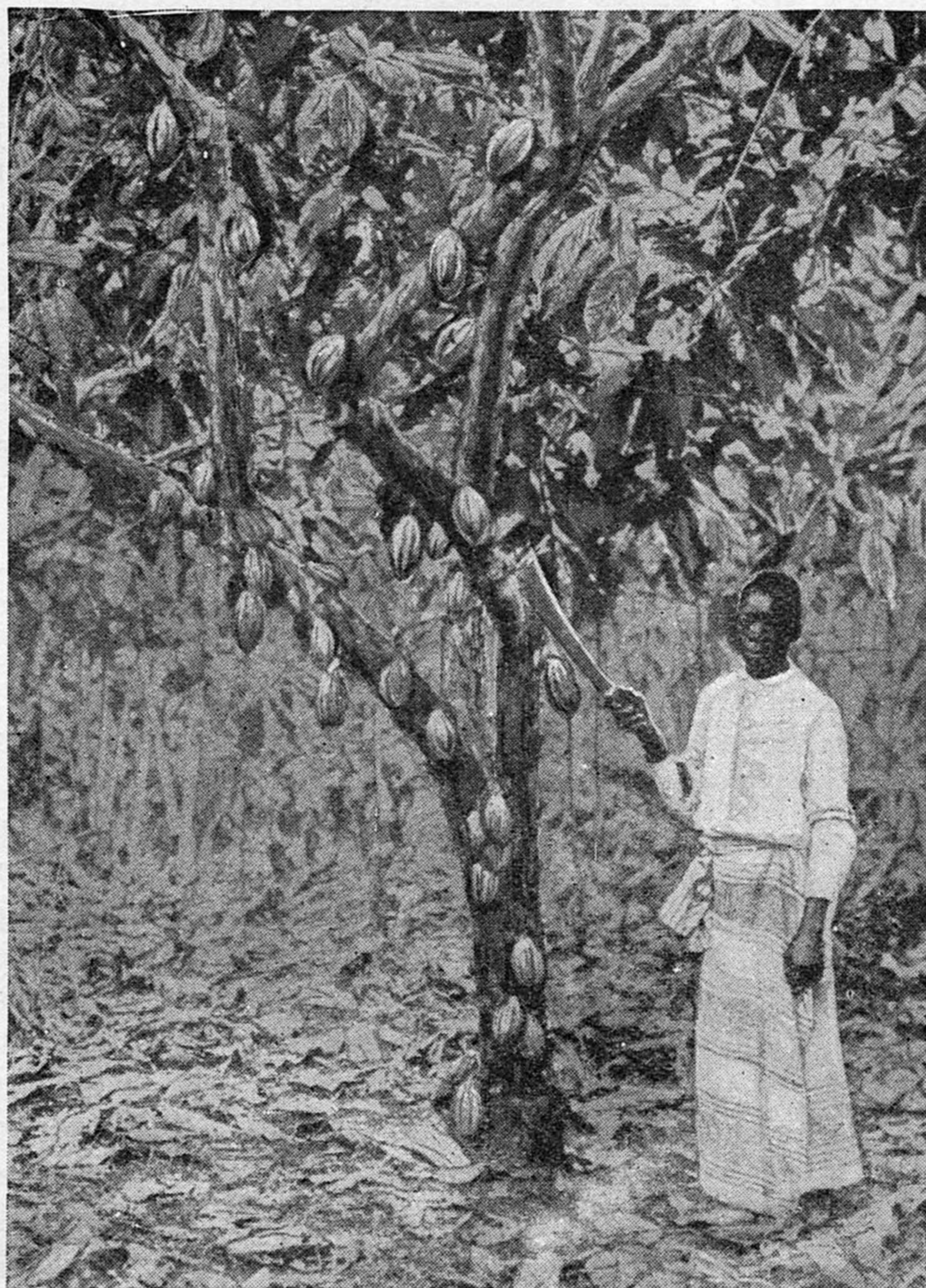
discovered the barren shores of Labrador and sailed as far south as Maryland before returning to England. Soon after John Cabot died. The importance of his discoveries became evident later, when England had laid claim to the whole of North America on the ground that Cabot was the first discoverer to reach the mainland.

John Cabot's son Sebastian (1474-1557) is thought by

some to have accompanied his father on these expeditions. At all events he became a renowned map-maker and navigator and commanded a Spanish expedition to South America in 1526, which explored the region around the La Plata, Parana, and Paraguay rivers. Later he returned to the employ of the English sovereigns, for whom he tried to find a passage to Asia by the north-east route (north of Asia), and thus did much to open up trade between England and the land later called Russia. You will find a picture of John Cabot by Ernest Board on page 125. A beautiful replica in bronze, the work of Ernest Fabian, has been erected in Nova Scotia.

CACAO. This valuable tree, native to the tropical parts of America and Africa, produces the seeds from which the world's supply of chocolate and cocoa is made. It is an evergreen, ever-blooming tree ranging from 20 to 40 feet in height, with a straight branching stem. The

A FOOD TREE OF THE TROPICS



This is the Cacao tree which makes it possible for you to have that refreshing cup of cocoa with your breakfast, or that packet of delicious chocolates that never seems to last long enough.

flowers and fruit grow in peculiar positions, and spring in numerous clusters directly from the trunk and older branches.

The fruit is a pod about the size of a small cucumber, green at first, and purplish-yellow when ripe. It grows on a stem so short that it looks as if it were artificially attached to the tree. The hard leathery rind, about half an inch thick, contains five or eight rows of white or pale purple beans—from 29 to 50 altogether—embedded in a sweet pink pulp. These beans are the raw material of chocolate and cocoa. (See Cocoa.)

The cacao tree is extensively cultivated in Mexico, Ecuador, Venezuela, Brazil, Cuba, Porto Rico, Haiti, San Domingo, Trinidad, Jamaica, Gold Coast Colony, Portuguese East Africa, and Ceylon. The plants are grown in nurseries and come into bearing when they are about five years old. Scientific name, *Theobroma cacao*.