

Pr. 1898

A MANUAL OF THE TIMBERS OF THE WORLD

Their Characteristics and Uses

BY
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THIRD EDITION
WITH AN INDEX OF VERNACULAR NAMES
AND UPWARDS OF 100 ILLUSTRATIONS



LONDON
MACMILLAN & CO. LTD

1948

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION

THE second edition of *Timbers of the World* has been undertaken for the same reason as the first, namely, to supply a clearly arranged handbook which will give information regarding those timbers which have been, or are expected to be, used in works of art or utility.

In 1918, at the conclusion of the war, the first edition was in the press. At that time the general public were under the impression that the whole world was faced with a really serious shortage of timber supplies. There was at the moment a definite shortage resulting from the war and the cessation of shipping. A host of publications, some inspired by trade interests, some by the unprecedented high prices for timber, and all supported by the certain knowledge that the world's supplies were being too rapidly exhausted, confirmed the impression. As a result, new and hitherto unknown timbers poured into the markets of the world. Activity was specially noticeable in India and Burma, in which places a large accumulation of timber had been stored up, and the first and only really energetic exploitation of the forests of the Indian Empire had been vigorously pursued. The Indian Forestry Service, the largest in the world, with at that time fifty-four years behind it, would seem to have failed to realise the commercial value of their vast forest resources. Differing from other countries, India and Burma have never been forced by necessity to realise their forest wealth. The ease with which teak timber has been marketed has had a very deterring influence upon the exploitation of the remaining very abundant and highly valuable store of fine timbers. The situation has been remarked upon by several American foresters and writers, some of whom have visited India and reported upon the forests. It has also been referred to by Zon and Sparhawk in *Forest Resources of the World* as follows: "India is still undeveloped and industrially backward, and the existing forest resources have barely been touched." The greatly increased activity during and after the war provided much more information about those Indian timbers which were reported in the first edition, and gave an opportunity for experience concerning a great many fresh timbers. This knowledge alone was of sufficient importance to call for some further publication.

Mr. J. S. Gamble, shortly before his death, sent me many specimens of Brazilian timbers collected by his brother the late Colonel J. G. Gamble, M.Inst.C.E., who had spent many years in Brazil, together with the catalogue which Colonel Gamble had compiled, and these considerably added

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