

THE WORLD'S COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS

A DESCRIPTIVE ACCOUNT OF THE ECONOMIC PLANTS
OF THE WORLD AND OF THEIR COMMERCIAL USES

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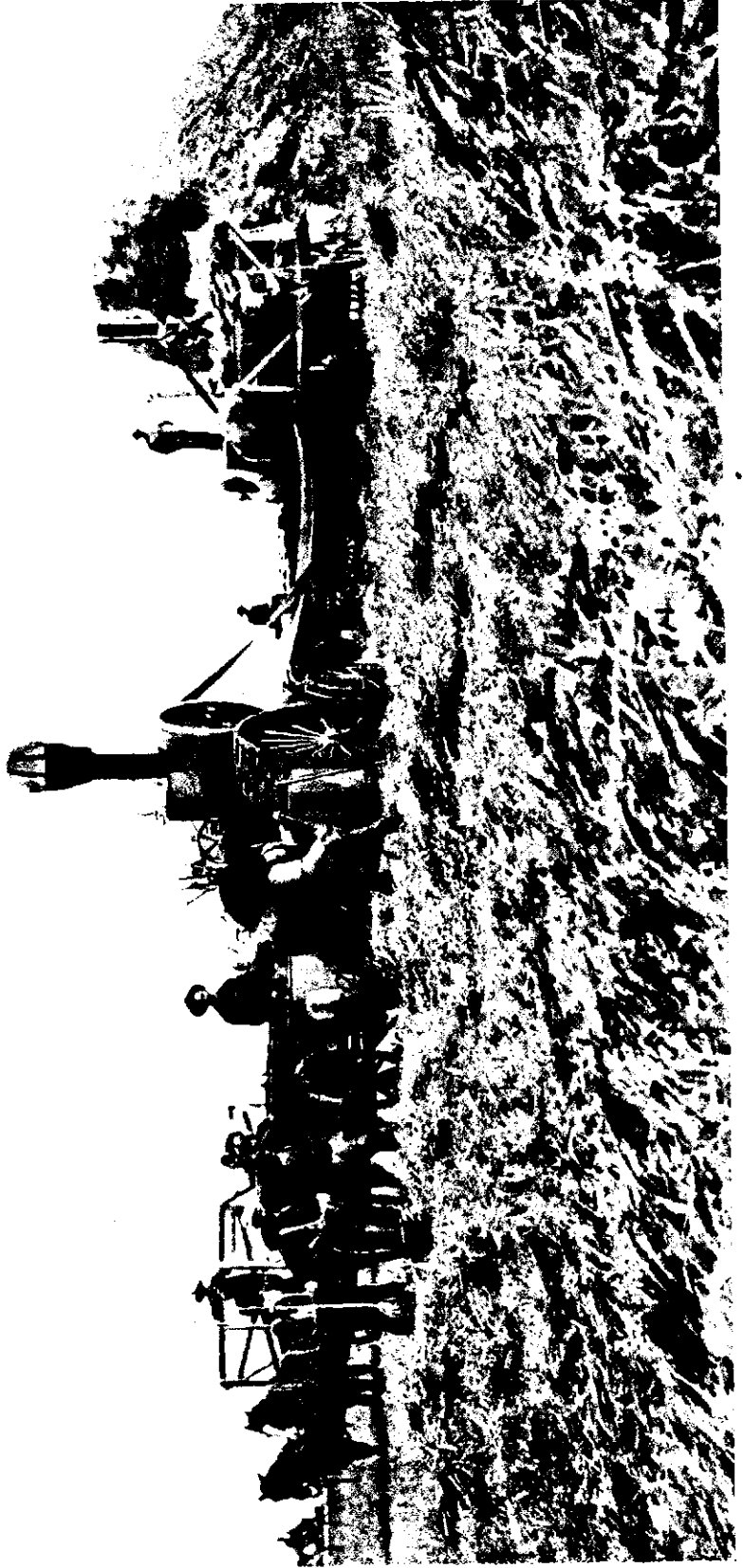
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THRESHING WHEAT ON A CANADIAN PRAIRIE

From a photograph by N. F. Fawcett, Littlehampton

PREFACE

ALTHOUGH the products of the plant world are of enormous commercial importance and enter largely into the every-day life of all of us, nevertheless it has hitherto been impossible to obtain an inexpensive illustrated book, written in English, affording a general summary of information concerning the useful plants of the world and their commercial utilisation. Works dealing with special groups are available, and innumerable papers on plant products are to be found in the publications of our economic and scientific departments at home and in the Colonies. This literature, however, is not readily available to a very large number of enquirers who desire a comparatively brief account of perhaps several important products. Illustrations of many economic plants, and of the methods employed in their cultivation and in the preparation of their produce, are even more inaccessible.

THE WORLD'S COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS presents this information in English for the first time, accompanied by a wealth of illustrations many of which are entirely new. Every effort has been made to keep the book free from technicalities, and the plants are, as far as possible, referred to by their common names, although the scientific names are usually given as well, since they are often indispensable in determining exactly the plants referred to. The coloured plates will often be of assistance in depicting scenes to which full justice cannot be done in "black and white," but all the illustrations are from photographs, and can be depended upon as portraying faithfully the scenes they represent. Maps have been added showing the distribution of the principal cultivated plants, and many useful lessons may be drawn from them.

One of the authors has spent some six years in the tropics, in Ceylon, the West Indies, and West Africa, engaged in economic botanical work, and much of the matter is described from first-hand knowledge. In addition, the copious literature referred to below has been freely drawn upon, and special acknowledgments are due to the publications of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; the Bulletin of the Imperial Institute; the publications of the Imperial Department of Agriculture for the West Indies; the Agricultural Journal of the Royal Botanic Garden, Ceylon; Sir George Watt's "Dictionary of the Economic Products of India;" Spurr's "Encyclopedia of Arts and Manufactures;" Lewkowitsch's "Oils and Fats;" Greenish's "Materia Medica;" Wright's "Para Rubber;" the International Sugar Journal; Noel Deber's "Sugar Cane;" Willis's "Dictionary of the Flowering Plants and Fossils;"

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Engler and Prantl's "Die Natürlichen Pflanzenfamilien," and last, but far from least, the publications of the United States of America Department of Agriculture.

Great advantage has accrued from the co-operation of other workers. Dr. T. A. Henry, F.C.S., has contributed the sections on Gums, Resins, Dyes, Tans, and Essential Oils, Mr. C. E. Jones, B.Sc., F.L.S., the section on Oils and Fats, and Mr. E. H. Wilson the sections on Fruits and Vegetables. The Timber article has had the benefit of Mr. J. H. Badcock's extensive practical knowledge of this subject.

Limitations of space have prevented every plant product being included, but care has been taken to deal with the more important, and it is hoped that the specialist and the general reader alike will find the **WORLD'S COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS** a useful possession.

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ERRATA

- p. 66. in legend of illustration, for "YOUNG CULTIVATIONS" read "YOUNG PLANTATIONS"
- p. 74. in legend of illustration, for "BORASSUS PALMS" read "OIL PALMS"
- p. 116. in legend of illustration, for "CEYLON—THE PELLING OF THE FRUIT" read "CEYLON—BREAKING THE PODS"
- p. 282. line seven from *top* of page, for "In 1896 Ceylon" read "In 1876 Ceylon"
- p. 282. line twenty-three from *bottom* of page, for "1897-8 young plants" read "1877-8 young plants"
- p. 309. lines six and five from *bottom* of page, for "REDWOOD (*Sequoia sempervirens*)" read "REDWOOD (*Sequoia sempervirens*)"
- p. 310. line three from *top* of page, for "*Sequoia Washingtoniana*" read "*Sequoia Washingtoniana*"
- p. 321. coloured plate, facing, for "COTTON FLOWER AND BOLL" read "COTTON FLOWER AND BOLL"
- p. 321. in legend of illustration, for "COCO-NUT YUCCA" read "COCO-NUT PALMS AND YUCCA"
- p. 325. in legend of illustration, for "BORASSUS PALMS" read "SCREW PINES (*Pandanus*) with Borassus Palm on the left"
- p. 335. in legend of illustration, for "DRYING QUININE" read "FOUNDING A QUININE PLANTATION"
- p. 336. in legend of illustration, for "FOUNDING A QUININE PLANTATION" read "DRYING QUININE"
- p. 344. in acknowledgment of illustration, for "*Photo* by T. G. Hill, Esq., F.L.S." read "*Photo* by T. G. Hill, Esq., F.L.S."