

There has been no money as yet paid into the State Treasury, while we surmise a very large amount has been drawn out. Supposing we just "wait a little," and see how this thing comes out. If the result shows beneficial to the State, we will aid our contemporary in giving it publicity, and shall ask if it is otherwise that that sheet join the Star & Times, in the *expose* we intend to make of of this monstrous farce.

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#### TEAK.

Teak-wood, or *Indian Oak*, is the wood of the *Tectona gradis*, a species of the natural order of the *Verbenaceae* the indigenous name of which in the Ghauts of which it is a native, is Taik. It is one of the largest known trees, and from the properties of the wood it is one of the most interesting. It is found in extensive forest tracts in Java, Malabar, Ceylon, Siam, and the Barman territories. It has been introduced into the British Indian possessions, and has been extended to the West Indies, and some naturalists believe that it would thrive even beyond the tropics. It is by far the best of the timbers furnished to us by the East, and is specially adapted for carpentry. A kind of wood imported into England under the name of teak, brought from the west coast of that vast wooded continent, and sometimes called African Teak, ought not to be confounded with it. It belongs to the order *Euphorbiaceae*, and is quite an inter-tropical tree. Though yielding a useful wood for many purposes it wants a great many of the specific properties of Indian oak.

Teak-wood is as strong as oak, but more buoyant; it is not only as durable, but more uniformly to be depended on for its durability. It can endure all climates and all alterations of climate. It can be used, too, when almost green, freshly cut, in fact, from the forest without seasoning or preparation. It is evenly

seasoned and shrinks only in an almost imperceptible degree. It is porous but strong, and while it is easily worked is remarkably lasting. Being of an oily nature it takes the nail well. It scarcely injures iron, and iron injures it but little. It is an invaluable tree for marine purposes, and as a ship timber, is in high favor in Calcutta and Madras, where the wood is consequently in considerable demand. It is also extensively employed in the construction of Eastern temples, and even in the raising of houses. The tree is singular in its style of growth. The young branches are square and jointed; the leaves are placed opposite each other, are obovate in shape and are downy on the lower side. They are inclined to droop, and are even on young trees from one to two feet in length, and from eight to eighteen inches in breadth. Its flowers which are set in wide-spreading panicles, are small, white, and perfume-yielding. It has a tomentose calyx, and the corolla is only slightly longer than the calyx. The fruit is a single-seeded drupe, having a soft outer coat round the endocarpium or stone. Its leaves furnish a fine brilliant purple dye, which is employed to impart their striking gaudy hues to the silks and cottons of the East.

The extensive forests of Pegu are enriched by this splendid timber tree, and its valuable wood grows in great abundance throughout Burmah. Burmese and Siamese teak, though not so close-grained or durable as some other growths, is more buoyant, and is therefore much used for masts and spars. The Burmese teak is more readily conveyed to the ports than some others, and therefore Rangoon and Moulmein teak is the most abundant and the cheapest as much from the facility of gaining supply as for its supposed inferiority to the teak-timber of Java and Malabar. The port of Rangoon, either for its own use in shipbuilding or for exportation to Calcutta, Mad-

ras, &c., receives about ten thousand trees per. annum. These used formerly to be sent in the shape called by Indian shipbuilders *shuibin*—i. e. planks hewn out of the log with the adze, but since the introduction of saw-mills by European settlers a more economical method of plank-production is practised, and the value of the timber in each tree is enhanced by the improved machinery employed in cutting it into serviceable portions.

While Rangoon teak is greatly used in Calcutta and Malras, on account of the facility with which Burmah absorbs British and Indian cotton goods in exchange for this specially valuable product of its upland forests, Malabar teak is the timber most extensively used in the building-yards of Bombay. Malabar teak is reckoned the best of all. It is closest in fibre and heaviest in proportion to its bulk; it contains the greatest quantity of oil, and is the most durable. Instances are on record of ships built of it having undergone the wear and tear of eighty years, and some even have gone through a century of usefulness in the course of their history. They may be regarded as practically indestructible by ordinary use. From its great solidity and consequent heaviness, however, ships are seldom wholly built of this timber. It is seldom or never used for upper works or spars. The keel, the timbers, and such portions of the ship as are under water are built of it, and the rest of ligete. timber. In Calcutta, again, the framework and timbers are usually made of mature timber, and the deck and planking are made of teak. Java teak is regarded as highly valuable for planking. Ships which are entirely built of teak are found to be clumsy and unwieldy, though it is probable that this arises rather from defects in construction than in anything really objectionable in the nature of the timber itself, which seems to

have every quality of workableness that a wood should have, at the same time that other properties are highly in its favor.

Teak is never found growing in low alluvial lands. It avoids anywhere that the tide can rise to or reach. Its *habitat* is the high upland beyond the influence of the sea. That which grows on the high tablelands of Southern India is most highly esteemed. In the territory of Martaban there are extensive forests which are cut down by British settlers, especially for exportation. There is a teak-wood of Australia (*Endiandra glauca*) which is a noble tree, yielding a hard timber. The duramen of it is dark in color, fine and close in texture; it gives forth a pleasing, powerful aromatic fragrance is said to be very durable, and is regarded as a very valuable timber. It has attracted the attention of the building trade.

It is of high importance that a great commercial and manufacturing nation should have access not only to a large variety of woods applicable to specific uses, but especially that it should have abundant supplies of the best of each in its own kind, and for the purpose in which it is to be employed. It is also of importance that a knowledge of the localities and the qualities and the specific uses of different woods should be as largely as possible—diffused among all who are engaged in the timber trades. These few notes may not communicate much to experts, but they may be useful and interesting to others; and in the hope that they may be so they have been penned.—*Timber Trades Journal, London.*

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