

THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROPERTIES OF RAW COTTON

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The Development and Properties of Raw Cotton by W. Lawrence Balls

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W. LAWRENCE BALLS

**THE DEVELOPMENT
AND PROPERTIES
OF RAW COTTON**

**THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROPERTIES
OF RAW COTTON**

THE WORLD'S COTTON CROPS

BY

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Large crown 8vo., cloth, with 32 pages of illustrations, 10 maps, and several diagrams

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The writer of this volume has endeavoured to provide a comprehensive survey of the production and consumption of the raw material which provides nine-tenths of the world's clothing, as well as furnishing and decorative materials, and of endless other new and varied industries from typewriter ribbons to aeroplane sails. The point of view is that of the economist, not the botanist. The uses of cotton seed and the various trades into which it enters, from margarine and "olive" oil to soap and cattle cake, are also briefly described.

AGENTS

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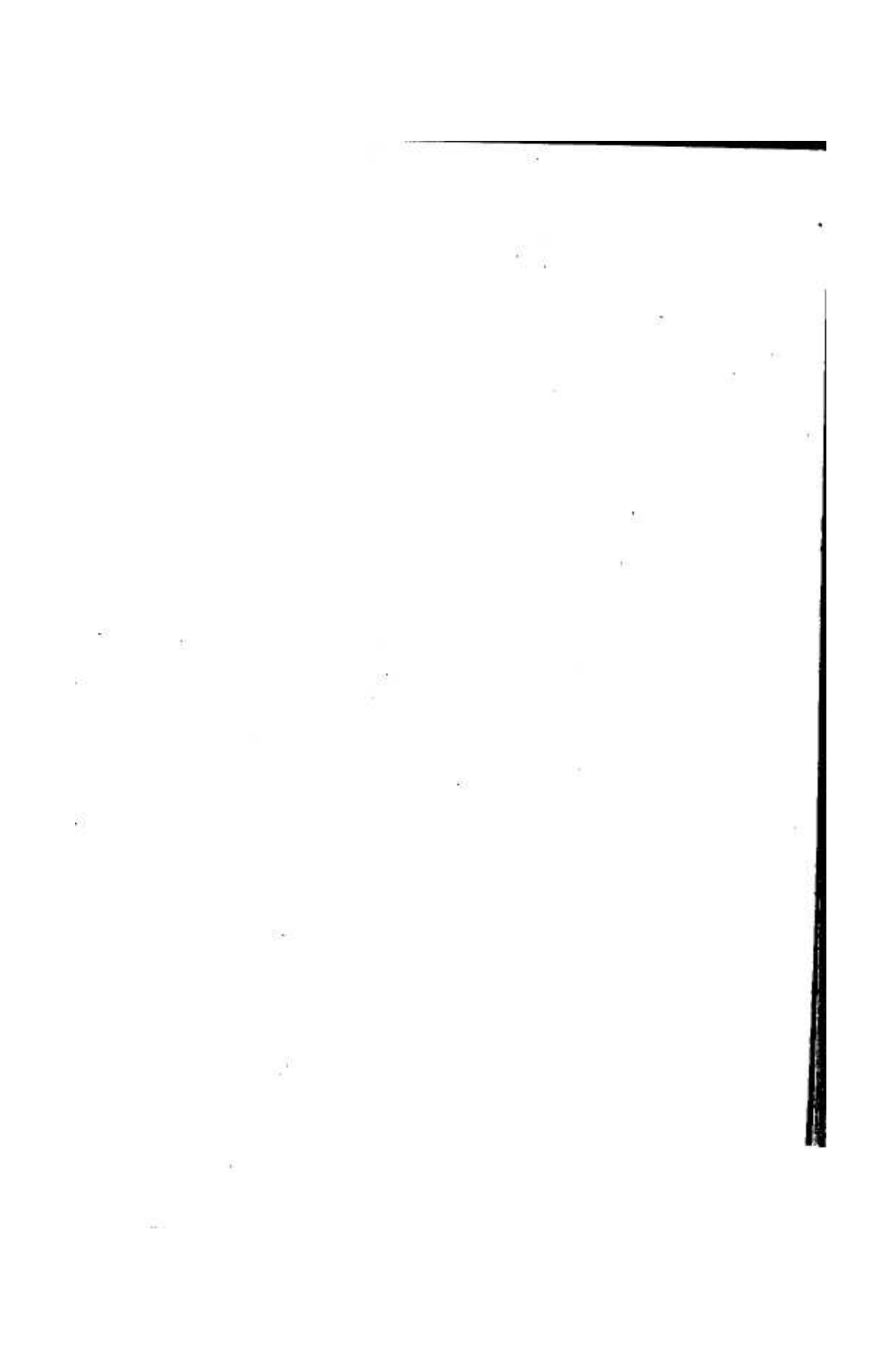




PLATE 1.—THE FIRST PURE COTTON.

This photograph shows the first commercial sample of pure-strain cotton passing through a full-sized power-gin, at the Giza Cotton Experiment Station (Egyptian Government),
December 31, 1913.

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PREFACE

THE simple story of a cotton-fibre has been made difficult in the past, because of a general disinclination to recognize the law-abiding habits of plants, and it has not been made easier by the tendency to regard cotton as a special gift of Nature, destined to man's use. Further, our knowledge of cotton has lagged far behind our knowledge of other useful plants, because it was but rarely that the trained student found himself living in the cotton areas, and it was still less often that—so living—he possessed the necessary tools wherewith to exercise his craft; lastly—having the tools—he ran the risk of obsession by the financial significance of the cotton-plant.

The main purpose of this book is to present the history of the development of cotton-lint, for although this development is essentially normal and simple, it may possibly be of some ultimate use that the mystery which has enwrapped it should be removed.

Accessory to this purpose it has been needful to indicate the manner of the development of the plant on which this lint is borne. In doing this I have taken occasion to point out some of the more recent views and methods which the "organized common sense" of natural science has brought to bear on cotton, and also to indicate the practical bearings of such views and methods.

It cannot be denied that the latter aim of this book

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