

**WOODLAND OF  
INDIAN TERRITORY  
PP. 605-672**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649340477

Woodland of Indian Territory pp. 605-672 by C. H. Fitch

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1903



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## WOODLAND OF INDIAN TERRITORY.

By C. H. FITCH.

### INTRODUCTION.

Reference has been made in previous reports of the Survey to the subdivision of lands in Indian Territory during the years 1895 to 1898, and the results of the topographic and land survey have been, or are about to be, published. It is the purpose here to submit a special report on the woodland of Indian Territory, compiled from information obtained from the plats and field notes, not, however, including a report on the economic value or stand of merchantable timber, the data for which have not as yet been obtained. Consideration is here given to the distribution of woodland and the character of timber found in the lands of the Cherokees, Creeks, Seminoles, Choctaws, and Chickasaws, but not the Indian lands of the Quapaw Agency, occupying the extreme northeast corner, which lands, having long since been subdivided, were not entered upon by this Survey.

The character of the topography is diversified, ranging from high, rugged hills to smooth, rolling prairies. The rougher portion lies east of the line of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway, and its highest and most rugged area is along the Arkansas boundary, this region being the western limit of the Ozark Plateau. In the middle and western portions the hills are lower, and much of the area is undulating, the only group of hills of any note in that section being the Arbuckle Mountains, covering about 100 square miles. The elevation above sea level at the lowest point in the Territory is about 350 feet, and at the highest about 2,700 feet. The larger streams are generally broad and shallow, flowing through wide valleys, most of which are yearly inundated by spring floods.

The lands occupied by the Five Civilized Tribes, above mentioned, contain an area of 30,660 square miles of land surface, of which 18,925 square miles, or nearly 62 per cent, are wooded. The accompanying map (Pl. CXLII) shows the distribution of the woodland, and, as will be readily seen at a glance, the timber, although well distributed over the entire area, is most abundant and compact on the eastern side, and as a rule where the contour lines show the elevation to be greatest,