

FROM THE INDIAN FORESTER - ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

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THE MATCH INDUSTRY

A note on the prospects of establishing a match factory in Southern India which is published in the current issue of the *Travancore Government Gazette*, gives an account of the further advance made in the work of finding a suitable wood for making matches and boxes. Samples of one hundred and twelve species of Travancore woods were sent to "The Karnatak Match Factory" at Dharwar, the proprietor of which, Mr. R.V. Alagwadi, very kindly undertook to test the woods and to send samples of outturn and a report, free of any charge. This he has since done, forwarding six sample boxes and splints of each species tested and a detailed report on the quality and suitability of the woods. From his report we see that out of the 112 samples of wood sent, one was found to be a duplicate and three others reached the factory in a condition unsuitable for testing. Of the remaining 109 species 42 have been found to be suitable for splints and boxes- 18 of them being found very good, 22 of the others are suitable for boxes only and one for splints only, while all the other 44 have been found to be unsuitable. If to the 42 species which now are found to be suitable for splints and boxes are added the 18 others occurring in Travancore and previously ascertained to be suitable for the purpose, the total number of the soft-wooded species fit for match-making (both boxes and splints) comes to 60. Omitting from consideration other soft woods found in the State forests and still remaining to be tested, it may now be safely stated that the 60 species already tested and pronounced suitable are sufficiently abundant both in quality and quantity to justify the starting of one or more match factories in the State with every assurance of a profitable business. - [Commerce.]
