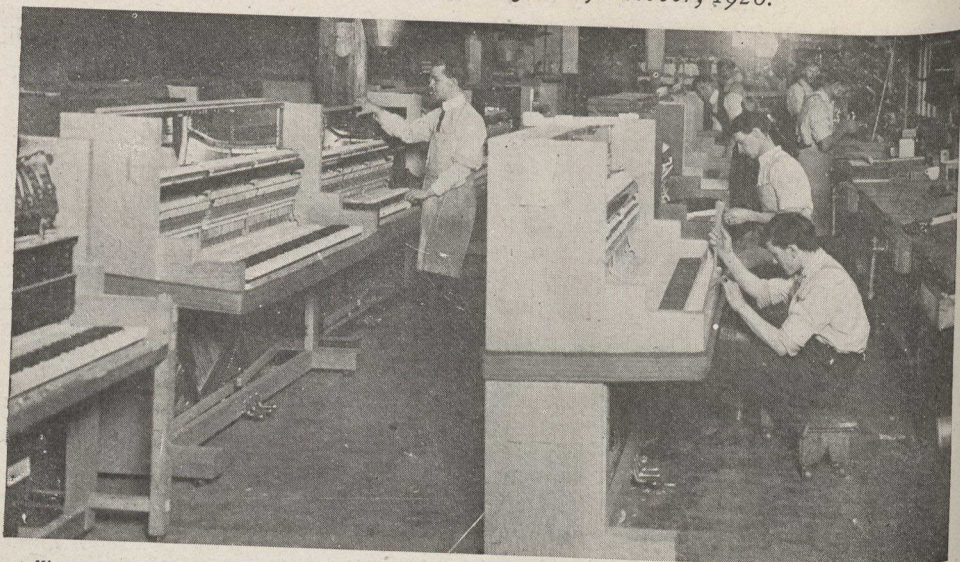




Installing the "piano action" and tone regulating. The action is put into position after the back is completed but before the case is finished.

Pianos in the Making

By G. Gerald Blyth, Assistant Secretary, Canadian Forestry Association.



The building of a musical instrument--what trees are used and why.



Among the hundreds of wood-using industries spread all over the Dominion there are few more interesting and scarcely any where individuality and the sensitive and sympathetic touch of the human hand plays such an important part, as in the making of pianos. Pianos are finding their way into an ever increasing number of homes throughout the land where they contribute their share in providing entertainment and inspiration of the loftiest kind.

It is the purpose of this article to give our readers an insight into the manufacture of pianos, describing the various stages in the process of their construction and an idea as to the species of wood that go to make up a piano.

Selecting the Wood.

The various kinds of wood used in the making of pianos have to be carefully

selected and only the highest grades are suitable. Spruce, Maple, Birch, Walnut, Poplar, Gum-wood, Canadian and American Oak, Ebony, Rosewood and Ash, are the principal woods used and mention will be made further on as to species which enter into the manufacturing of the principal parts. After the lumber reaches the factory it is piled in the yard where it is weather-seasoned for at least two years and longer when possible. A further seasoning is necessary before it can be used and consequently the lumber is placed in dry kilns before it is available for use in the shops.

The Sawing Process.

The lumber is next taken to the wood-mill where it is sawed into widths practically all of which are less than six inches. This is necessary to insure that the grain in the contiguous pieces of