

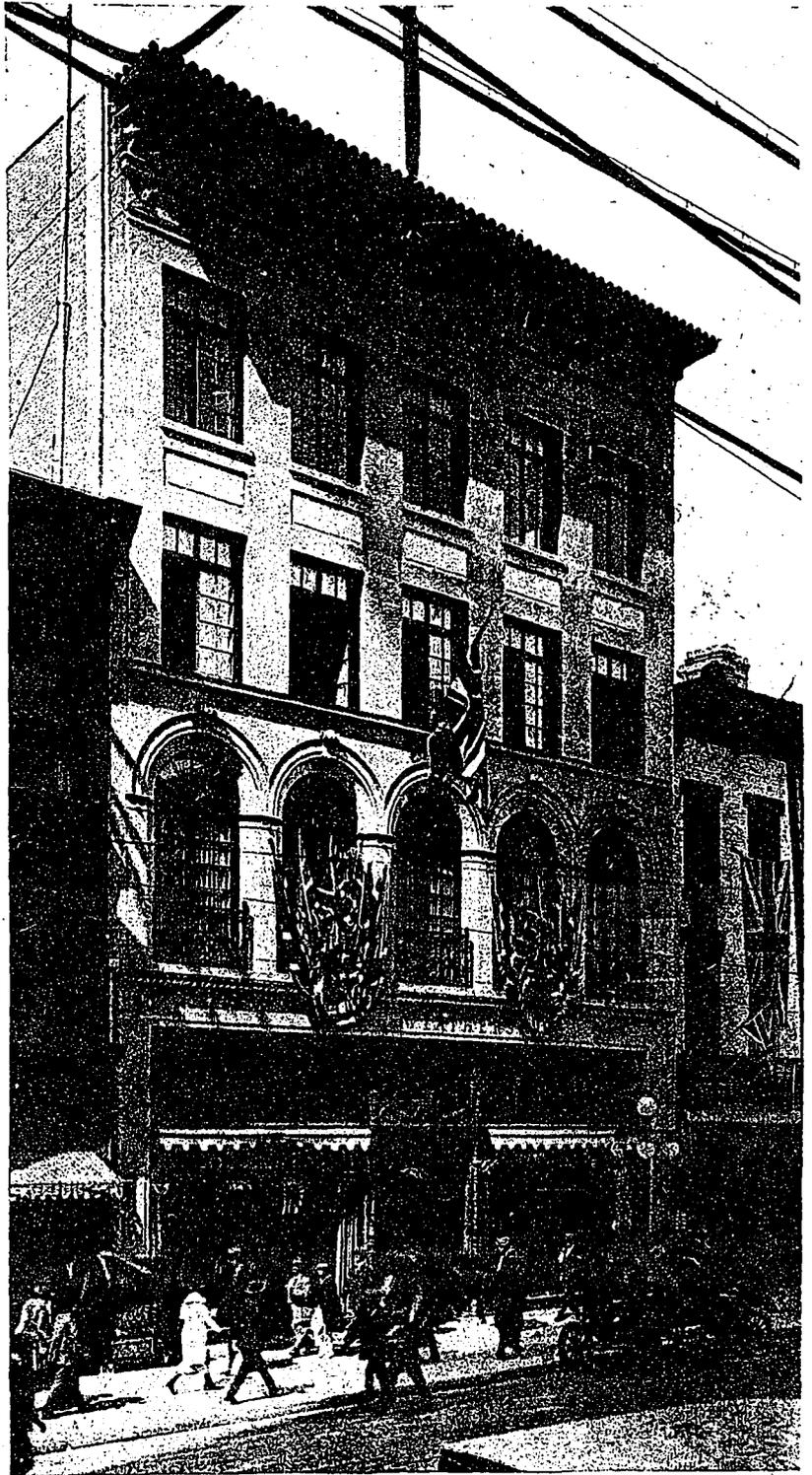
proximately 34 cents per cubic foot.

### Curiosities of Rare Woods

With the development of the woodworking art and the expansion of the furniture trade there came a demand for new and rare woods, and explorers searched the forests of the earth for different effects of grain and color, writes the "Canadian Woodworker." From the Andaman Islands, from unexplored Africa, from Borneo, from the remotest corners of the earth, woods rivalling the mahogany of Mexico and Cuba have thus been brought to light. From the Philippine and Hawaiian Islands, and from the forests of South America, strange woods have been obtained of wonderful grain and color effect, which are still hardly known by name.

Lately, attention has turned more to fields at hand. Gnarled old trees, twisted and insect-stung, despised by the lumberman, are yielding ornamental woods worth many thousand dollars. Curly-birch is but the twisted grain of the ordinary tree, obtained usually from a crotch or where a trunk has been twisted by frequent wind storms. To-day the birch tree that holds the greatest number of these curly burls is considered more valuable than the tall, straight tree without a variation in its normally developed texture. Bird's-eye maple is caused by the sting of an insect whose poison produces a sore in the tree. Nature, attempting to heal the injury, pours new sap into the wound to neutralize the effect of the poison. The outward effect is of a number of excrescences; but when the wood is cut, veneered and polished, the beautiful bird's-eye maple effect is obtained. It is generally the apparently worthless small scrub-oak that gives those delightful pith rays, flaming curls and intricate patterns of light and dark shades that quarter-sawing brings out.

The finest Circassian walnut comes from misshapen, dwarfed trees on the shores of the Black Sea; and the most beautiful parts come from the twisted roots, the burls caused by insect stings. Such growths are so interwoven that they produce the curious and irregular graining which makes the wood more valuable for veneers than mahogany.



STREET ELEVATION.

RETAIL STORE OF FAIRWEATHERS, LIMITED, TORONTO.

CHARLES S. COBB, ARCHITECT.

No two mahogany trees are quite alike. Formerly only the tall, well-formed trees were cut for trade; now it is the misshapen tree that is more keenly sought. The wood expert searches the forests for some abnormal growth. Pieces cut from a crotch show the graceful curls so much desired in fine furniture. Sometimes the figure shown is of flame-like tufts, called "feather" in the trade. As often happens in some mahogany trees, the fibres are arranged