The closer the annular rings are together the better as a rule will the timber be.

Planks cut from a log will always warp away from the centre of the original tree. **Warping.**

The plank cut exactly through the centre will shrink but not warp.

The chief British woods used in the R.C.D., are oak, ash, elm and beech. **British Woods.**

Oak is the strongest, toughest and most lasting. It, however, contains an acid, which corrodes iron in contact with it. **Oak.**

Ash is tough and remarkably elastic. It is used for shafts, handspikes, felloes, &c. It does not stand weather well, and is very liable to suffer from worm. **Ash.**

Elm is a very cross-grained tough wood, therefore it does not splinter. It is also very durable under constant wet. **Elm.**

Beech is a hard, strong wood, but does not stand exposure. **Beech.**

The following foreign woods are used : **Foreign Woods.**

African oak, is stronger, heavier and darker than English oak, for which it is used as a substitute. **African Oak.**

Sabicu, is exceedingly strong, heavy and durable. It is used for parts where rubbing action may be expected and weight is no object, such as the blocks in a rear chock carriage, bollards, &c. It is grown in the West Indies. **Sabicu.**

Teak, an East Indian and African timber. It possesses great strength, toughness and durability, but splinters readily. **Teak.**

It contains an essential oil that keeps off insects.

It is used for work for foreign stations.

Mahogany, is of two kinds, "Honduras," from Central America, and "Spanish," from Cuba and other West Indian Islands. **Mahogany.**

It is strong in all directions, and keeps its shape under trying circumstances, as to heat and moisture.

Honduras is lighter and inferior to Spanish.

Pine is soft, light and elastic, and is of several kinds. **Pine.**