

cents. Of course, the limit-holder can take care of this difference in the bonus which he pays additionally.

In order to meet the difficulty in securing a fair measurement of small logs the proposition is advanced by one member of the Committee, to have all small logs, say below nine inch diameter at the small end, piled and measured by the cord, or else to measure at least by carefully constructed tables which give the number of logs of varying sizes, diameter and length, that go to a cord.

This would result in a great reduction in the cost of scaling, especially as small logs form more and more the bulk of the cut, at least in the Eastern Provinces.

It should be thoroughly understood that log-rules are not really actual measurements, but a mixture of measurement plus a judgment, namely, as to how much saleable material can be cut from the given cubic contents. It is, of course, well known that this result at the mill depends on a great variety of conditions, such as the size and character of the timber, the character of the mill and saw, the skill of the sawyer, the kind of lumber to be cut, and various other variable conditions.

The only absolute measurement—as absolute as anything in such a variable material as logs can be—is the cubic contents.

It would appear, therefore, desirable and from many points of view eminently practicable to make the cubic foot (or cubic meter) the unit of measurement, leaving entirely to the logger the judgment which log scale fits his case, in order that he may produce a satisfactory result from a given cubic log content.

For forestry purposes, *i.e.*, for the purpose of studying rate and amount of production of wood material, a uniform unit of measurement is absolutely necessary, and cubic contents alone, measured by the cubic foot or cubic meter, are acceptable. Hence the present necessity of having to

translate various log-rules into cubic contents is a very considerable drawback and impediment to progress in developing forestry knowledge.

The only way in which a uniform log-rule can be expected to be adopted is by conference of the provincial governments and their agreement as to the fairest rule. At least the eastern provinces which handle timber of more or less the same description could, it seems, very readily come to an agreement to use one log-rule.

No attempts have been made by the Committee to bring the matter to the attention of the provincial governments.

The effort, however, when any change is contemplated, should be at once to press for the adoption of the cubic foot, or better still of the cubic meter; tables giving contents of logs of different diameters and lengths being now in existence in either measure.

(Signed) B. E. FERNOW, *Chairman.*
JUDSON F. CLARK.
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ALEX. McLAURIN.
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In these days when there are numerous claims of alleged 'rain-makers,' who propose to bring down moisture from the clouds by explosions of dynamite, etc., it is rather interesting to know that Dr. Fernow, Dean of the Faculty of Forestry, Toronto University, was the first official rain-maker of the United States, that is to say, Dr. Fernow was instructed to investigate the possibility of causing rain by artificial methods, and he was particularly to investigate whether it was true that great modern battles were always fought in heavy rain-storms caused by the discharge of artillery. Dr. Fernow's investigations led to a report of an entirely negative character, that is to say, he found that there was no truth in the report that great battles were always fought in rain, nor did he find that the discharge of ordnance or bombs had any perceptible effect on the precipitation of moisture.