

Many of these woods look alike, even to the trained eye of the millman or the builder, and yet they are widely different in value for certain purposes, and it is the greatest importance to be able to distinguish them quickly and certainly. Again, a new wood may come to a man's notice for the first time, and it may be necessary for him to decide what it is and what it is worth.

The Government has been helping individual lumber users for some time, but the facilities have not been near so complete as they are now. It is to meet such needs and answer such questions that the forest service has established the laboratory and placed it in charge of a trained dendrologist. Architects, lumbermen, manufacturers and makers of woodware are already sending in samples of wood for identification, and asking if there are not some structural characters by means of which such woods may be conveniently separated from relative species having greater or less value for some specific purpose.

The laboratory will investigate in a practical way. The structure of the woods, sections lengthwise and crosswise, will be studied so as to separate by structure alone the various species of a genus. Analytical keys to the trees of each group will be worked out. These will be based on the arrangement and character of the pores discernible to the naked eye or by a hand lens.

COOPERAGE STOCK MARKET.

(Report by James Innes, Chatham, Ont.)

May 26th, 1908.

There has been very little change in the cooperage stock situation during the past month. The weather has not been very favorable for getting out material, except during the last 10 days. All the mills are running full, at the present, but a great many of them are shutting down at the end of this month, for lack of material, and will not be able to start again till the fall; in other words, until they can get into the woods, and truck timber to the mills.

Prices are, however, firm, with a slight upward tendency, more especially on hoops, which are very short, at the present time.

The demand for apple barrel stock is now commencing, and coopers are laying in a car or two, to make up barrels ahead, as indications are excellent for a good apple crop. Reports from all over Canada are, that the trees have come through the winter in first-class condition; the bloom is heavy, and with the exception of the report in some districts that the Baldwins are going to be light, a bumper crop should result this year.

The sugar refiners are running a little heavier than usual on barrels, and the flour mills are running strong, since the opening of navigation and using large quantities of barrels.

The salt and lime trade is also opening up, and there is very little indication of trade depression this year.

At the present time, we are certainly inclined to be optimistic, as everything points to one of the most prosperous years we have had in Canada. Crops never looked better; fruit promises an abundant harvest, and the general trade of the country is beginning to boom again.

CONSERVATION OF FORESTS.

"The development of our waterways and the conservation of our forests are the two most pressing physical needs of the country," said President Roosevelt in a special message to Congress, February 26th, transmitting the preliminary report of his Inland Waterways Commission. "They are interdependent questions," he declares, "and should be met vigorously, together, and at once. The questions of organization, powers and appropriations are now before Congress. There is urgent need for prompt and decisive action!"

The President believes that no right involving water-power should be granted to any corporations in perpetuity, but only for a length of time sufficient to allow them to conduct their business profitably; that the improvement of the inland waterways can and should be made to pay for itself from the incidental proceeds from water-power and other uses, although navigation should, of course, be free; but that the greatest return will come from the increased commerce, growth and prosperity of the people. "For this work," he continues, "we have waited too long; adequate funds should be provided by bond issue if necessary, and the work delayed no further."

In the report of the commission it was recommended that the president be authorized to appoint and organize a national waterways commission to bring into co-ordination the corps of engineers of the army, the bureau of soils, the forest service, the bureau of corporations, the reclamation service, and other branches of the public service in so far as their work relates to inland waterways; and that the permanent commission continue the investigation of all questions relating to the development, improvement and utilization of the inland waterways, and the conservation of our resources related thereto; and to consider matters of irrigation, swamp land reclamation, control of floods, extension of forests, relations between waterways and railroads, etc.

Even the bitterest opponents of President Roosevelt must accord him full credit—as will future generations—for a policy of broad and far-seeing statesmanship looking toward the regulation, improvement and extension of traffic, and the conservation of our natural assets. His remarkable grasp of the subjects at hand and his energy and persistence in bringing to the attention of the public and Congress, various feasible projects for the accomplishment of his plans, will mark his administration as one in which notable progress has been made in too-long neglected lines.

However, in spite of the "strenuous" efforts of Mr. Roosevelt and the attempts of other public-spirited men to secure "a square deal" for the nation, and although the intelligent citizens of a whole country are calling for the passage of the Appalachian-White mountain forest reserve bill—it seems that Congress, or rather a few petty congressmen, aided and abetted by the czar of the House—are going to allow the measure to be side-tracked for another year. It must be concluded their ability to accomplish this lies in the fact that the majority of members of both Houses are either indifferent just now, or are not thoroughly familiar with the facts regarding our timber supply, and the consequent importance of the bill, so have allowed themselves to be silenced by pretended doubts as to the constitutionality of it—raised by a few demagogues who for personal, or worse reasons, have learned enough about the measure to fight it down for a while at least.

It seems hardly probable that ignorance can be attributed to the congressmen, but indifference may play some part, inasmuch as the great game of national politics is now on in