

CHIEF WOODS USED.

The following figures are taken from the trade returns for the four months ending December 31, 1917, and show the imports of timber into Hong Kong during that period:—

Oak.....	cu. ft.	2,119
Teak.....	"	2,210,775
Other hardwoods.....	"	701,439
Oregon pine.....	"	48,166

Owing to high freights and other causes the quantity of Oregon pine imported last year was less than usual and cannot be taken as representative of the requirements of the market for this wood. A large amount of teakwood is used by the ship building and repair companies for decking and other purposes. Teak is also used for making furniture. This timber is imported from Siam and Burma, usually in the form of logs to be sawn up as required. The Philippine islands produce timber of excellent quality, but most of it is inaccessible and hence costly to get out. Scarcity of efficient labour is also hindering the exploitation of Philippine timber. Lauan timber from the Philippines is one of the chief competitors of Oregon pine, while Philippine apigong is used largely for flooring. A small quantity of lumbayao is also imported principally for the manufacture of furniture. Borneo is another source of supply of timber for the Hong Kong market. The Government of British North Borneo is spending large sums to develop the timber industry of the colony and the competition from this source is likely to prove an important factor in the trade after the war. Borneo timber is a hardwood of good quality with many different varieties. It is located at convenient distance from the seaboard and can be brought out at a comparatively low cost. Borneo timber is imported into Hong Kong for use in connection with ship-building and repairing and for the construction of houses.

INCREASING USE OF NATIVE TIMBER.

Foochow pine is another wood which has lately been coming to the fore, being available for many purposes for which Oregon pine has been employed. This is very scrappy and poor quality timber, being softer and less durable than Oregon pine, but it is good enough for the uses to which it is put. Foochow pine is principally employed for siding in the construction of houses, but is also used for a variety of other purposes for which a cheap wood is required. It has long been used for the construction of junks and other boats, while Foochow poles are displacing bamboo for scaffolding. Timber from Foochow is sold both in the form of poles and planks, the latter not cut to length as in the case of Oregon pine. When properly treated Foochow pine will not be affected by white ants.

Owing to the lack of foresight on the part of the inhabitants in past centuries, China is practically destitute of forest wealth and this largely accounts for the periodical occurrence of disastrous floods. The hills back of the city of Foochow comprise one of the few districts in the country from which timber can be obtained. The logs are floated down by the excellent means of communication afforded by the Min river and its tributaries for a distance of about 230 miles to Foochow, where three saw-mills are located. Another concern which is the largest distributor of timber in China has lately commenced the building of a fairly large and modern saw-mill at Pagoda anchorage, where the seagoing vessels load and discharge, 9 miles below Foochow. This company expects to ship large quantities of Foochow pine timber to Hong Kong.

JAPANESE PINE.

The quantity of Japanese pine sold on the Hong Kong market has not been large. Japan has developed the forest resources of Korea to a great extent, especially in the territory along the Yalu river, on the Manchurian border. Japanese pine is a