THE WOOD-USING INDUSTRIES OF MARYLAND; PP. 5-55

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The Wood-using Industries of Maryland; pp. 5-55 by Hu Maxwell & F. W. Besley

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HU MAXWELL & F. W. BESLEY

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THE

WOOD-USING INDUSTRIES OF MARYLAND

BY

HU MAXWELL, EXPERT

United States Forest Service

WITH A CHAPTER ON

MARYLAND'S LUMBER AND TIMBER CUT AND THE TIMBER SUPPLY

F. W. BESLEY



PREPARED IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF F. W. BESLEY, STATE FORESTER, AND H. S. SACKETT, IN CHARGE OF WOOD UTILIZATION, UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

BALTIMORE, MD.



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INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of the Census, in cooperation with the United States Forest Service, compiles and publishes statistics annually showing the output of sawmills by States and for the whole country. The cut in Maryland in 1908 was 168,534,000 feet, board measure, reported by 384 sawmills. This was one-half of 1 per cent of the total cut in the United States for that year, and was a falling off of more than 21 per cent from Maryland's lumber cut for 1907. The decline was general throughout the country in that year, and for the United States was 17½ per cent. The lumber output as shown in these figures does not include pulpwood, tanbark, tanning extracts, cross-ties, telegraph and telephone poles, or cooperage and veneer stocks.

After lumber leaves the sawmill it serves many useful purposes. Some of it passes through no additional process of manufacture but goes into buildings with only the cutting and fitting which carpenters give it. Another part is further manufactured before it is used. Wood-working machines of many kinds change its form, and it is cut and fitted by skilled labor, and the rough lumber is converted into finished products, such as boxes, frames, doors, sash, vehicles, boats, baskets, musical instruments, furniture, brushes, toys, handles, novelties, and many more. This study has to do with that part of the lumber only which passes through further process of manufacture after it leaves the sawmill.

Heretofore, lumber has not been very carefully followed after leaving the saw, to ascertain what becomes of it, what new forms are given it, and into what commodities it enters. It has been known in a general way that some of it is used in its rough form, while some passes through additional processes of manufacture. The present study of the wood-using industries of Maryland was undertaken to supply information concerning the lumber which is not used in its rough form. The work has been done by the United States Forest Service in cooperation with the State of Maryland. Industries which manufacture

commodities partly or wholly of wood were asked to furnish data along their special lines, and this report is based on their replies, supplemented by independent investigation in all parts of the State.

Statistics thus collected and published are expected to be useful to both the growers and the manufacturers of wood. It is shown what part of the total demand, and the demand for each species, is met by forests and woodlots of the State, and what part is supplied from without. The kinds of wood demanded by the various industries are shown, together with the quantity of each species used, the prices paid at the factories, and into what commodity each wood is manufactured. With this information before them, the woodlot owners who are looking to the future can determine what kinds of timber promise best returns, and they can give preference to those kinds. Owners of timber can form an intelligent opinion as to where the best markets may be found for what they have to offer. On the other hand, the manufacturer who is in the market for woods of certain kinds will have the means to determine whether he can buy near home or whether he must look beyond the State; and a study of average prices paid by others will show whether or not he has been buying on an equal footing. A closer acquaintance between buyer and seller, with a better understanding of what one has to sell and the other wishes to buy, will be of mutual benefit. The utilization of factory waste is an important problem, and it was duly considered in this study. An attempt was made also to ascertain and note the smallest sizes of lumber that the various industries can profitably use.

A history of lumber operations and markets, and of past uses of wood in the State was not undertaken, though it would have brought out many interesting facts. It was deemed sufficient if present conditions were shown, thereby making it possible to formulate an intelligent policy for future operations.

MARYLAND'S WOOD-MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

