THE CALIFORNIA FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY

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A California Forest Products Laboratory is fast becoming a
reality. Preliminary plans are already approved and architects are
now preparing final drawings for the buildings. The new laboratory
will be located in Richmond about 3 miles northwest of the Berkeley
Campus on the tract of land obtained by the University for the devel-
opment of an engineering field station. It will be operated in con-
junction with the University of California School of Forestry.

The main building will be "L" shaped with one wing housing
the administration offices and smaller chemical and physical research
rooms. The other will contain shops and work space for large equip-
ment and pilot plant activities. Near the shop side of this wing will
be a sawmill and a storage building. Altogether, there will be about
20,000 square feet of usable floor space with facilities that could
ultimately occupy a staff of 40 or so.

With only one full-time staff member of the laboratory on
hand, it is difficult to state with any certainty exactly what direc-
tion the research program will take, but it is reasonably certain to
include an appreciable amount of seasoning studies in the early
stages of its development. Small kilns to handle 8-foot lumber are
definitely contemplated as equipment in the main building, and it is
quite possible that a larger kiln will be erected on the grounds.

In conjunction with the expansion of forest products research
facilities, it is hoped that the school will be able to expand its
educational activities in the forest products field, both in formal
courses for full-time students and short courses for industrial
personnel. The goal of the Laboratory will be to make the present
timber resources go farther and prove of more use, thus stimulating
better forest management which in turn will assure us adequate
supplies of timber for the future.