FOREST PRODUCTS LABORATORY † FOREST SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

IMPROVED HARVESTING METHODS

EQUIPMENT SURVEY NOTES

LOG-MEASURING INSTRUMENT

A novel instrument for rapidly measuring off tree-length logs into shorter logs is used by a small southeastern mill. It is used on tree lengths brought into the mill yard to be bucked into logs with a portable power saw. To prevent loss of saw crew time and wastage due to poor bucking it is necessary to measure log lengths accurately and rapidly while exercising good judgment.

The instrument used meets these requirements without causing undue fatigue from stooping to make measurements and enables the user to observe crooks and other defects (fig. 1). It is built of light metal rod, the bottom piece being 4 feet long with sharpened points on each end. A vertical center brace serves to indicate 2-foot intervals (fig. 2). Braces from each end come up at an angle and are attached to the center brace at a convenient height for the operator's use. The operator rotates the instrument on the points as he moves along the tree length (fig. 1). Lumber crayon is used to mark the log lengths.

This instrument, besides being efficient, has an advantage over the ruler or pole-and-ax method in that the ends cannot be readily chopped or broken off, with resultant short logs and wastage. Length of the measuring bar can be altered for cutting odd-length products, such as ties and pulpwood.

E. W. Fobes
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Figure 1.--Log-measuring instrument in use.

Figure 2.--Construction features of log-measuring instrument.

Additional data can be secured by writing to the Farm Forester, c/o U. S. Forest Service, Lake City, Florida.

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