SYMPOSIUM ON TIMBER

INTRODUCTION

BY BEN BENIOFF

Replaceable by nature as a crop and presently conserved by man on a continuing program, timber is one of the most diversified of construction materials. This symposium emphasizes new methods of maintaining high standards of quality control by means of tests.

Working with a material so familiar to all, yet so frequently abused, the engineer must always be aware of all the characteristics of timber. The papers emphasize the broad scope of research and the necessity for constant quality control. Until recently, all grading was subject to one method—that of visual inspection and human judgment. A new mechanical means is now being developed, as described in several of the papers. Although not entirely mechanical, nor completely useful in all fields of lumber grading, it is already of major assistance in the field of structural design.

Engineered timber products including plywood quality control and glued-laminated products inspection and control, are also covered. It is here that we find how timber engineering has expanded in its versatility and utility.

The theme of control is carried throughout each paper, which is a healthy sign for the architect, engineer, and contractor.

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