

Discussion on Applying Forest Tree Improvement
Practices in the Lake States^{1/}

Discussion centered first on the training of crews for seed collection. It was stated that the trained crew used in the first year's work on the Wisconsin verified seed program consisted of college men who had previously worked for the State on jobs requiring tree climbing. One problem was to keep local collectors out of the areas designated for verified seed collection. It was pointed out that the Davey Tree Company will train tree climbers.

There was considerable discussion on the general topic of wood specific gravity. The statement was made that there is no correlation between growth rate and specific gravity in southern pine, and that the southern pulpwood companies know that coastal plain loblolly pine has high specific gravity while that found in the Piedmont has lower specific gravity. It was pointed out also that specific gravity must be based on basal area increment, not on radial increment. For example, in comparing 100 selected southern pines with 100 average trees it was found that although the selected trees grew faster, there was no significant difference in specific gravity based on basal area increment.

It was brought out, however, that there are places where we don't want dense wood. Dense fibers contribute to poor penetrability of paper, and summerwood contributes dense fibers. Springwood on the other hand contributes to paper strength by bonding better than denser summerwood fibers.

Concluding the discussion was a plea that we remember that the greatest use of wood still is as wood, and not as pulp, important as that may be.

^{1/} This report on the discussion for this section and those for succeeding sections are based on notes made by Roland E. Schoenike, graduate student at the University at Minnesota.