

LOUISIANA WOODS.

Louisiana is rich in woods. The long and short leaved pine, water elm, pecan, the southern hickory, bitter pecan, hackberry, persimmon, red oak, water oak, sycamore, beech, willow, magnolia, thorn-locust, locust, red maple, box elder, red gum, black gum, tupelo gum, blue ash, white ash, bass wood, cedar ash, prickley ash, red haw, wild plum, cotton wood, yellow poplar, cypress and the osage orange or bois d'arc. Bois d'arc is an exceedingly hard wood, bright orange in color, and is used extensively for paving blocks and fence posts. This wood is also used as a substitute for box-wood in making roller skate wheels and rollers for pulleys. The cypress is used extensively for making posts and railroad ties, shingles, splints and is bought largely by brewers for cooperage purposes. Cypress is more durable and lasting than cedar. Samples of all the woods mentioned are exhibited in the Forestry Building, at the Pan-American Exposition, the cross and the quarter sections being shown. Cypress knees are here shown, a peculiar formation growing from the roots of the cypress tree in low sections. They serve as areators, carrying air to the tree roots in places where the water covers the roots. The lumber buyer in the South uses these as indication of the soundness of the tree, tapping the

knees in testing his timber rather than the body of the tree to determine if the tree be hard or solid. In the knee is solid it is a sure indication that the tree is sound. In the Agricultural building at the Louisiana exhibit are shown twenty-four varieties of the pecan nut, ranging in size from the ordinary pecan, which we can buy in our markets, to a variety much larger than the ordinary pigeon's egg. Nearly all of these varieties are paper shelled and can be easily broken with the hand. Turpentine, tar, tar oil, creosote, pyroligneous acid (wood vinegar), wood alcohol are produced in Louisiana from fat or refuse pine. The broken and fallen wood of the pine which has lain waste in the forests is cut into foot billets, put into a cooper still and heated, dry distillation being used. It first produces a gas, then the wood alcohol, creosote and turpentine which afterward separates, next tar oil and pyroligneous acid or wood vinegar, lastly tar. The charcoal derived from this dry heat process is of a superior grade, very solid and heavy, and burns much longer than the ordinary charcoal and gives a more intense heat. This is an entirely new process of distillation, and the old process of tapping the tree being more expensive and taking more time.

KIPLING'S IMPRESSIONS OF YELLOWSTONE CANON.

Of the Grand Canon of the Yellowstone, Rudyard Kipling writes: "All I can say is that without warning or

preparation I looked into a gulf 1,700 feet deep, with eagles and fish-hawks circling far below. And the sides of that gulf were one wild welter of color—crimson, emerald, cobalt, ochre, amber, honey-splashed with port wine, snow-white, vermilion, lemon and silver gray in wide washes. The sides did not fall sheer, but were graven by time and water and air into monstrous heads of kings, dead chiefs—men and women of the old time. So far below that no sound of its strife could reach us, the Yellowstone river ran, a finger-wide strip of jade green. The sunlight took these wondrous walls and gave fresh hues to those that nature had already laid there. Evening crept through the pines that shadowed us, but the full glory of the day flamed in that canon as we went out very cautiously to a jutting piece of rock—blood-red or pink it was—that overhung the deepest deeps of all. Now I know what it is to sit enthroned amid the clouds of sunset as the spirits sit in Blake's pictures."

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This paper will publish contributions from the following well-known men, in answer to the question:

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IT'S A CONSPICUOUS ISSUE.

It should be in the hands of every young man.

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