

WOOD - contd.Blanks - contd.

Birch wood is being processed for Model 514 rim fire rifle Stocks. An order has been placed for 25,000 blanks of which approximately 1000 have been received. These are in addition to the initial order of 1500.

The two Model 514 rifles reviewed earlier by Management - one equipped with walnut and the second with birch - were compared with several current production birch Stocks. Two competitor's rifles having birch Stocks were also shown for comparison.

The present process for birch yields a factory cost for the Stock at \$4.68 each as compared with \$4.98 for walnut.

Management has been furnished data on yearly wood consumption and costs. The possibility of working out a satisfactory plan of obtaining Stock and Fore End blanks from South America will be discussed with CBC Management. To date, efforts to obtain wood from South America have been unsuccessful and subject to continual delay.

Efforts are being made to obtain walnut blanks from other sources. This includes Canada as well as all known sources in the east and middle western parts of the United States.

Committee Action

The Model 514 samples (birch) were considered acceptable for immediate production. The plant was requested to darken the Stock when this can be done without resulting in a "muddy" color.

Finishes

The Marshall Laboratory of the F & F Department provided a sample of a proposed filler for wood finishing. The results were not satisfactory. An Ilion representative visited the laboratory May 10 to review the status and formulate the future program to improve lacquer and RK-W finishes.