

chrome was sorted and treated to bring it up to metallurgical grade, and then used in the manufacture of steel.

Chrome is vitally necessary in the manufacture of steel in order to make it rust-proof, harden it for machine tools, and give it resistance. Chrome is also used in combination with other metals.

The United States is so short of high-grade metallurgical chrome that there is no possibility of Japan's importing anything from there. A large percentage, 46.3%, of last year's imports of chrome into the United States came from Russia. Before the war, Philippine chrome was shipped to the United States, but now, practically all the former producers are dormant, and little or no metallurgical chrome is leaving the Philippines.

With the United States short of chrome, the only way SCAP could get this material would be to purchase the low-grade chrome in the Philippines, of which there is a considerable amount scattered in various places, and sort and treat it, so as to bring it up to metallurgical grade, as was done before the war. However, as in the case of coal and iron, owners of the chrome deposits need financial assistance to open them up. Incidentally, if these properties were opened up, many thousands of miners would again be employed in the various mining camps throughout the country.

## Lumber

BY E. C. VON KAUFFMANN

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**S**INCE last month the local market has weakened further. Wholesale purchases from producers are now quoted as follows:

Commercial sizes of Red Luan and

Tangle.....	₱180 00 per M Bd. Ft.
Commercial sizes of Apitong.....	160 00 " " "
Commercial sizes of White Luan.....	150 00 " " "
Shorts, narrows, and strips.....	from 40% to 50% less.

This situation is hitting producers hard. In less than a month prices have dropped ₱60.00 per M Bd. Ft. on the average. Retail prices have not gone down in the same proportion as buyers are overstocked with lumber purchased previously at higher prices, and retail sellers are naturally disposing of this lumber at their average prices.

A group of lumbermen attended a dinner recently and expounded their problems to Secretary of Commerce, Placido L. Mapa, and Secretary of Agriculture, Mariano Garচিতorena. The main topic of discussion was the request that the export of lumber and logs be liberalized further. This would help producers to ship to other countries besides the United States. Actually only a few are able to make shipments to that country because of restrictions in grading which the majority of small producers cannot meet, in addition to the practical impossibility for them to accumulate the minimum 150,000 Bd. Ft. necessary to make up a shipment.

Lumbermen hope that the Government will heed their appeal. If favorably acted upon soon, this would help somewhat to compensate them for the present low local prices which will very likely continue throughout the rainy season. ●

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