1-1-1934

Industrial Field for Foresters

F. D. Hadlock

*Western Electric Company*

Follow this and additional works at: [https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/amesforester](https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/amesforester)

Part of the [Forest Sciences Commons](https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/amesforester)

**Recommended Citation**

Available at: [https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/amesforester/vol22/iss1/28](https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/amesforester/vol22/iss1/28)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ames Forester by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
Industrial Field for Foresters

F. D. HADLOCK, '18
With the Western Electric Co., Cranford, N. J.

In normal times the industrial field offers many opportunities for foresters. Foresters who can show a manufacturer ways to improve his product or reduce costs will always have openings for employment.

Many concerns are still fabricating wooden products despite the increase of wood substitutes. Probably a large amount of wood substitution has been due to the fact that the products have been incorrectly designed. The forester who can correct these errors can find for himself a valuable position. The use of plywood in both the industrial and builders' fields is comparatively new and will undoubtedly afford many opportunities for forestry-trained men.

Aside from a short time with the Western Tie and Lumber Company I have been employed for the past 14 years with the Western Electric Company. In my early work purchasing railroad ties I found that wood technology was the subject which I used most. Practically every phase of forestry training, except perhaps silviculture and like subjects, has proved useful in my work in the industrial field.

In my line I have found that actual experience in wood-working plants and sawmills—in their machine shops, lumber-drying plants, and glue rooms—has been most useful. In this regard it is my belief that the forestry student interested in industrial positions should elect as many engineering courses as possible.

It may sound unusual when I say that I procured my present employment through an advertisement in a Chicago newspaper. I believe that many foresters can obtain good positions by scanning the want-ad sections of large newspapers.

Since I answered that ad my work has been increasingly interesting. My job has been to watch the development of new equipment for manufacturing wood products and perfect machines to do the work better. Cost reduction is the problem which continually faces the forester interested in industrial practice of wood utilization.

Studies of the most economical methods of machine operation; correct species, sizes, and grades of lumber; and changes in design are the stock-in-trade of the industrial forester. He must also be familiar with the preparation of cost estimates on the manufacture of new products in order to do his job fully.