

Correspondence

The Editor,
"Irish Forestry,"
Dublin.

City Saw Mills,
Mulgrave Street,
Limerick.
12th June, 1957.

Dear Sir,

We have read with interest your Winter 1956 Edition. Regarding the contribution of Mr. J. C. Kearney "Willow Growing and Utilisation in the Suir Valley," we suggest that in spite of the fact that timber boxes supplanted casks as containers, there is still a market for hoops. We were at one time very substantial users of willow hoops which are used in the manufacture of casks and barrels but the introduction of the Swedish Pyramid Butter Box and later the cardboard containers reduced the demand very considerably but we still import hoops to the value of about £300 per annum. We have various sources of supply, willow hoops from Holland, and from the Bordeaux area of France we import Chestnut Hoops. We have been using the latter for the past few years and they are most satisfactory. We see no reason, however, why Irish grown willow hoops should not be used but although we used them from time to time we ceased to do so because we found it impossible to find a reliable source of supply that could give regular deliveries of good quality hoops. We suggest that if the Carrick-on-Suir willow growers produce suitable hoops they would have no difficulty in getting sales to the extent of £2,000 or £3,000 per annum.

Referring to the report of the tour in the Black Forest, your readers may be interested to know that we imported three cargoes of softwood from the Black Forest to Limerick in 1954. The writer and Mr. Brendan McMahon visited the area in the Spring of 1954 following much the same route as your tour including Baden-Baden, Donaueschingen, Freudenstadt, Freiburg. The softwood purchased consisted of "Tanne" which is the timber from silver fir and "Ficthe" which is sawn spruce. The timber proved very suitable for general building purposes although the "Ficthe" was preferred owing to a certain amount of "brown streak" in the silver fir. A feature of the timber was the exceptional length and widths available. At one of the sawmills where mechanical pulp was manufactured, we were interested to see that there was quite a thriving industry in the manufacture of brightly printed beer mats. These were being specially manufactured for breweries all over the world including South America, Singapore, Milwaukee, and also Arthur Guinness, Son & Co., Ltd.

Yours faithfully,

Morgan McMahon & Co., Ltd.

Denis McMahon, Managing Director.