
MAY CUT CALIFORNIA HARDWOOD

SAN DIEGO, CALIF., Dec. 4.—An effort is being made to exploit the hardwood region around **Palomar Mountain**. There are millions of feet of good quality golden oak which all the chemical tests have proved to be thoroly satisfactory. The land belongs mostly to cattlemen who have cut the oak indiscriminately for fire wood and fences, and different interests are trying to get leases and establish a center at Escondido. Since conditions in Mexico have become so chaotic, the import of Mexican oak has been slight and extremely variable.

At present the Cal-Wood Lumber Co., of San Diego, is the only concern bringing down the oak, and by the most primitive methods—hauling with mules down the steep mountain sides to Escondido where there is a small mill. Such operations recall the far-off days when Father Serra established the mission at San Luis Rey, the Indians taking the great logs that went to the building of the mission, on their shoulders, never letting them rest on the ground again until they reached the mission, over thirty miles away. They had been blessed by Father Serra as they lay on the ground, and so must be transferred from Indian to Indian until they reached their sacred destination.

The Cal-Wood Lumber Co. hopes to effect a large development of this section in the mountains just back of San Diego, for the field is rich and the distance from San Diego so little—forty-four miles from Palomar—that cheap transportation would be an appreciable item.

The Benson Lumber Co., far from granting that the crest of building activity has been passed in southern California, says that business has never been better than it is in San Diego now. The company's only trouble is shortage of labor and need of yet more lumber. Its great rafts, which carry 5,000,000 feet of logs to the mill, are coming in steadily and it is a common harbor report that the Benson company is chartering vessels for a Mexican export trade. It is understood that one vessel will be put into this trade during the current month.
