WHAT ABOUT THE RAW MATERIALS WE USE?

The best conceived plans for building condensers cannot be executed without the proper raw materials on hand. This is a simple statement, but one which we all take too much for granted. Refer back to the pieced dollar in last November's "Log", and you'll see that raw material purchases accounted for 38½ cents out of our entire 1937 dollar. So, "cold" facts prove the importance of our raw material problem... a top factor affecting the welfare of every Sprague worker.

Let's take at least a brief look at the subject of "Sprague Raw Materials":

First of all, -- our customer gives us a "go ahead" on an order. Maybe it's a tough assignment, but remember, we do have to try and satisfy our customers if we want to hold their business. From our Sales Department to our Engineering Department, the solved problem arrives in the Material Control Department. The question they must now answer is, "How much new raw material must we purchase, and how much stock-on-hand can we utilize to fill the order?" How would you like that question thrown at you on a morning-after-something-or-other?

(Continued on next page)
And don’t forget that about 90% of our orders are for custom-built products, which is another way of saying “there’s something new popping every minute!” As tough and complicated as the answer to this question may be, our Material Control Department hurdles obstacles through the operation and constant use of its unique and perpetual material control files. These files show exactly what raw material is on hand at all times, which, of course, means that when and as stock is used up, the M. C. Dept. must make the necessary entries immediately. Because we use approximately 5,000 different parts, our files must contain the same number of cards (a separate card for each separate part!) Of course, new cards are being added as new items come into the picture, and some are discarded as old items are dropped.

Due to this uncannily accurate check system, we dig up the right answer to half our question, — “How much stock-on-hand can we utilize to fill the order?” Now we come to the matter of necessary new stock purchases, — and that brings us to the Purchasing Department whose job is likewise no path of lilies.

Don’t forget that SPEED AND ACCURACY is the buy-word all through this picture. Our customers want ACTION of the right kind, — and we either give it to ‘em or else! When the Purchasing Dept. receives its “material wanted” memos from the Material Control Dept., the wheels must whizz . . . . and they do!

Our Purchasing Dept. must keep up to snuff on better than 5,000 items, — a few of the more important raw materials represented on the opposite page. A lot of plants manufacture screw machine parts, for example, and it’s our Purchasing Department’s job to know which will render the best service in point of quality, price, delivery, etc. The same story goes for all other items we buy. During our busy season, from 70 to 80 purchase orders are issued each day, — or about 15,000 per year. Other mail leaving the buyer’s office, such as requests for quotations, mechanical and quality data, general correspondence, etc., averages 60 to 75 different typed pieces a day. In addition, vendor’s salesmen are received constantly, so that the latest developments can be considered. This consumes a lot of time, but it’s worth it.

Sometimes our purchase orders specify delivery of goods via air express, because the raw material must be in our plant within a matter of hours. Normal methods of transportation specified include R.R. express or freight, overland trucks, parcel post, and even personal messenger service. During last year’s flood, some supplies were delivered to us via messengers who came to North Adams in private passenger cars! So you see that we are not only manufacturers, — but customers of other manufacturers as well.

Raw material coming in to us goes under the eagle eye of our Receiving Department, where it is inspected for quality. From this point, the material undergoes two types of study, — physical and accounting. You can trace it on by glancing at the sketch opposite.

One of the most vital, general problems in connection with our raw material is the matter of obsolescence. We must be ever on guard against “holding the bag”. Some of our large customers place their orders with us week by week. On some occasions these special weekly orders may be unusually large and marked with many a “RUSH”. Raw material must keep flowing in to us, but, should orders for some special item cease almost overnight, — we can’t afford to get caught with material on our shelves. Raw material which in 99 out of a 100 cases would not fit in with other customers’ orders. Such, in brief, is the story of still another man-sized job which demands the closest possible co-operation of every Sprague employee. And, — by the way, — any unnecessary waste of raw material makes the problem that much harder — and that much more expensive for us all. “A word to the wise is sufficient!”

A MOTTO . . . “He who is silent is forgotten; he who obtains is taken at his word; he who does not advance falls back; he who stops is overwhelmed, distanced, crushed; he who ceases to grow greater becomes smaller; he who leaves off, gives up; the stationary condition is the beginning of the end.” —Amiel.
WE LOOK AT A FEW OF OUR VENDORS

1. Drums and carboys of acids ready for shipment to Sprague Specialties and other factories. Photo, courtesy of Monsanto Chemical Company.

2. Molten aluminum is tapped from the reduction furnace into large crucibles and poured into pigs. Photo, courtesy of Aluminum Company of America.

3. Aluminum ingot, ready to be rolled into sheet. (Alum. Co. of America.)


5. Pouring of the furnace charge of molten brass. Photo, courtesy of Scovill Manufacturing Co.

6. The workman is placing an aluminum ingot into position for the first pass. (Alum. Co. of America)

7. "Breakdown" rolling of heavy cast slabs of brass. (Scovill)

8. One plant of Agar Manufacturing Corp. (producers of corrugated board and shipping containers).

9. Another aluminum scene. At the foil mill the sheet is converted into foil by a series of rolling operations. This view shows the first breakdown mill which takes the $\frac{3}{4}$" coiled sheet and reduces it to approximately 1-32" sheet. (Alum. Co. of America)
PURCHASING DEPT.

David McLelland, (standing) dictates a memo to Doris Sanford. “Dave” is the follow-up man,—keeping after folks who don’t send requested data in on time. He’s a bowling shark too! Doris works on quotations, records and filing, etc. Seated at his desk is Fred W. McNamara, our Purchasing Agent. Mac “shoots” out a letter to his secretary of nine year’s service,—Helen S. Connors.

COMPANY K, 101st Infantry, was formed at North Adams in 1923 and used the old Grand Army Hall on Holden Street as headquarters. The first few years were tough ones. All enlistments were men who volunteered to serve for three years with no pay. However, in their cramped quarters with practically no equipment and no uniforms, the first members were drilled and instructed in army fashion until North Adams had a company of which to be proud. In 1931 the company moved to the newly built State Armory on Ashland Street, where it is now located.

During the past few years the outfit has steadily improved. In 1938 it was chosen the outstanding company in the entire 104th regiment! With this honor went the task of representing the regiment at Camp last summer, in a competitive drill and maneuver for the divisional championship. By finishing third, Company K proved it was worthy of recognition as one of the best companies in the entire 104th Division.

Every year there is a fifteen day tour of active duty for all National Guard companies, which gives the men a chance to get a taste of real service, also to put into actual use things they have been taught during the year. Up until 1935 Camp Devens in Ayer, Mass. was the camp visited for fifteen days every summer. In 1936 the company went out in New York State, near Philadelphia, N. Y., to Pine Camp. This was more of a mobilization to put the Guard under wartime conditions, and take part in an extensive series of maneuvers and sham battles. In 1937 and 1938 they went to the new military reservation on Cape Cod, near Falmouth. This year, Plattsburgh, N. Y., has been chosen for another mobilization such as Pine Camp. There will be room in the company this year for several local boys, because of the fact that all the present members who are married are not allowed to re-enlist. The only requirements for joining are: 18 years of age or over; single; weight at least 120 lbs.; be 5 feet 5 inches tall and in good physical condition.

Company K had seen service in every flood emergency in the past few years (the Mayor of the City has called them out for duty). Each time all members have proven themselves capable of handling any situation. Military call is ten blasts on the fire whistle, and every man must report to the Armory as soon as possible, bringing with him his toilet articles, socks and a change of underwear. In the March, 1936 flood, after completing three days’ duty in this city, they were ordered to Springfield, Mass. where the entire 104th regiment was on duty. They remained in Springfield for about ten days doing police work and guarding the flooded sections of the city against looters and thieves.

At present there are ten members of the Company who are employed in the Sprague Specialties Company plant. These men must attend drills which are held every Monday night at the Armory, from 7:30 to 9:30. During the summer they go up to the rifle range in Clarksburg, where they shoot with the 30 Cal. U. S. Army rifle. Each member must qualify with this rifle once during every three year enlistment. To receive a qualification rating each man

SOME SPRAGUE PEOPLE WITH THE RAW MATERIAL THAT GOES INTO A REAL PRIZE

INCOMING RAW MATERIAL

Here is a typical scene showing a truck unloading raw material on its way through our plant. Soon this material will be molded up into good Sprague condensers,—after which it will serve in somebody’s automobile, radio,—or what have you? George Roy,—our truckdriver is the handsome gent in the foreground.

THE STORY OF COMPANY K

George Flood in the foreground. Genevieve Czerwinski gives the cameraman one of her genial smiles. Sam Krouss, hard at work on his perpetual material control files. At the typewriter you see Helen Root. Genevieve and Helen both check and make entries in the unique files which contain more than 5,000 different and separate cards.
WHO CHECK AND HANDLE WHAT MAKES OUR PRODUCT QUALITY

RECEIVING ROOM
Harry Haskins checks, while Donald MacGillivray opens boxes.

THE STOCK ROOM
In the aisle is Larry Underwood. "Fritz" Windover is handing a box down to "Bob" Boyer.

5. 104th INFANTRY, M. N. G.

must shoot 50 shots (from various positions) at a target from the 200 yard range. He must receive the following score out of a possible 250 points to get his rating: Expert Rifleman — 225 points; Sharpshooter — 214 points; and Marksman — 190 points.

The following is a list of the members working in the plant with their rank, length of service, department in which they are employed, etc.

1. Leonard Lewitt — First Sergeant. 10 years' service. Expert rifleman and holder of distinguished marksman's medal. Lewitt also served 5 years in the Regular Army which makes him a real old timer in this game. "Red" works in the Mica Department on silver and molded mica.

2. Lawrence Laliberte — First Platoon Sergeant. 8 years' service. "Larry" is a sharpshooter and now is the senior duty sergeant in the company. He is one of our check inspectors and spends most of his time in the Paper Test Department, checking paper condensers.

3. Charles Belouin — Sergeant. 8 years' service. "Chuck" is an expert rifleman and right guide of the company. "Chuck" is another check inspector but spends most of his time in the laboratory doing something.

4. Harold Brown — Sergeant. 7 years' service. Expert rifleman and left guide of the company. "Brownie" is the foreman of the Paper Test Department.

5. George Benoit — Corporal. 7 years' service. Sharpshooter and squad leader. George, or "Gook" as he is better known, works in the Mica Department. Company K would never be the same without him.

6. Jack Shields — Corporal. 3 years' service. Sharpshooter and squad leader. Jack is employed in the Mica Department as a supervisor.

7. Armand Gibeau — Private. 1st class. 3 years' service. "Babe" has a marksman's rating and works in the Mica Department.

8. Harold St. Denis — Private. 1st class. 2 years' service. Marksman and first bugler of the company. St. Denis is another employee of the Mica Department.

9. Edward Durant — Private. 2 years' service. Marksman. "Eddie" is regularly employed in the Paper Rolling Department but is now on the layoff list.

10. Chester Zabek — Private. 4 months' service. "Chet" is one of the newest men in the company, but he appears to have the makings of a good soldier. He is employed in the Paper Test Department.

Company on Page 7)
GOOD GOING, YE MINSTRELEERS!

Four weeks of hard work, thought, and preparation came to a successful close at the Drury High School Auditorium when the last curtain fell on a very successful minstrel show. Playing two nights to large and appreciative audiences, the cast did a splendid job.

Representing a cross-section of the entire plant, all the cast, from the end men and girls through the chorus and to the soloists, did their parts with equal zest and enthusiasm. Hubert Scott's tireless efforts as director of the show are to be praised.

Preceding the minstrel were specialty acts including a cowboy band, Hawaiian dance by charming little Miss Fleury, song stylist rendering Irish ballads and a clever magician.

The proceeds will go towards the Christmas Basket Fund.

NEW SOFTBALL LEAGUE

At a meeting held April 26, a new Softball League, to be called Northern Berkshire Softball League, was formed. It will be made up of the following teams:

- Moose
- Gasco
- Olympian
- Co. K.
- Sprague Products

Sons of Italy
Masons (Frat. Organization)
Banker's Cigar
Sox's Tavern

The games will be played according to the 1939 Rule Book. Practice has already begun and the first game will be played the evening of May 15.

The players on the Sprague Products' team are:

- Ray Fawcett
- Jack Washburn
- Rod MacAlpine
- Busby Williams
- William Landry
- Clarence "Ace" Blanchard
- "Ace" Blanchard's Dean
- Sylvio Gamari
- Geo. Beverly
- Geo. Scarbo

- Dave McLelland
- Geo. Roy
- "Hank" Gamari
- Fred Powers
- Geo. "Gook" Benoit
- "Mike" Pierce
- Lou Gazzaniga
- Larry Bishop
- Kenny Russell
- "Cedo" Remillard

The September flood did some ugly landscaping on most streams, but opinions differ as to the good or bad effect the swift flood water had on the fishing. That is a question that time and the experts will decide. Mr. Average Fisherman is satisfied with catching the stocked trout, and our local well-known streams seem to be well taken care of in that respect.

Of this we may be sure — the pickerel and bass will be fighting as usual. Stores have reported unusual activity in the plug and bait casting departments this year so there seems to be as much enthusiasm among the pond men as among the fly casters and worm dunkers. Some anglers, in anticipation of poor trout fishing because of the flood and increasing number of trout fishermen, have turned to the comparatively uncrowded ponds. Hoosac Lake, having been closed to ice fishing this winter, promises to show plenty of active pickerel.

But back to the trout — Sprague fishermen haven't reported any unusually good catches as this goes to press. But when they start to bite we'll get our share because we are certainly well represented on the streams every week end. Roads to the Cold River, Chichalee, and streams to the west have been impassable. We have word that they will soon be opened and those streams will be accessible to all fishermen. The North Branch of the Hoosac River has been popular, along with the streams of South Williamstown, New Ashford and Adams. Many smaller streams have been untouched because of the poor condition of back roads. We are all confident that dry, warm weather will soon be here and that Sprague Izaak Waltons will fill their creels once more.
THEY'VE GOT A TOE-HOLD!

EDGAR "CEDO" REMILLARD

In the past five years of wrestling "Cedo" has won many cups and trophies. He has won a majority of the club matches against the leading men of his own weight. Fourteen times he has won the Athletic Association Union championship and three times the "Two-State" (Mass. and R. I.) championship.

In a tournament at Boston on April 1st of this year he won seven matches—which gave him the New England championship for the third time. This is a record that few wrestlers have equaled.

During the last Olympic trials "Cedo" was not a citizen of this country so could not represent United States in the wrestling game. He has since become naturalized. Looking at his past record it will be seen that "Cedo" may go places in the next Olympics.

PETER MANCUSO

"Pete" in the past years of wrestling has won many A.A.U. wrestling championships. He was runner-up in the New England championship and the "Two State" (Mass. and R. I.) championship several times.

He has won a number of team matches in the East, meeting men of his own weight or heavier.

In the last Olympic trials "Pete" won the New England championship contest held in Providence, R. I. and also placed in the National Y. M. C. A. Olympic Tournament held in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. These tournaments qualified him for the Olympic final trials. The winners would represent United States in the Olympic games that were held in Germany, but due to injuries he was unable to compete.

THE BOWLING LEAGUE

As announced in the last issue of the "Log" the winners in 1938-1939 were: First place — Can Shop; Second place — Dry Assembly; Third place — Pretuners. The winner of high team total and high team single string was the Pretuner Dept. The high individual three string was won by Clinton Sweeney (Can Shop) and Robert Button (Paper Rolling) each being tied at 370. The high individual single string was won by Harold Brown (Paper Test and Wilfred Lebert (Dry Rolling) each being tied at 152.

Ninety bowlers participated this year and fifty-five out of the ninety had averages over ninety. Those having averages of 100 or more are:

Robert Button 105: Francis Blanchard 101:2
George Roy 103:2 Harold Brown 101:1
Charles Simonelli 102:1 George Scarbo 100:7
George Benoit 101:9 Ray Fawcett 100:6
Wilfred Lebert 101:2 Clinton Sweeney 100:6

GIRLS' BOWLING

The girls have been doing their share of bowling this season. The regular team consisted of: Emma Marino, Rita Siciliano, Dot Collins, "Toots" Gibeau, Helen Sikora and F. Varuzzo, — but a great many more play regularly.

Four handicap games played with the boys of the plant resulted in the boys winning 1 game and the girls winning 3 games! The girls won one handicap game from the Strong Hewat boys. They, the girls, also lost one game to the Five Aces (boys) and won one from the Arnold Print Works girls.

SPRAGUE SWEEPSTAKES

A bowling sweepstake for all Sprague employees was held at the Olympian Annex bowling alleys on Saturday afternoon, April 8th, at two o'clock. There were thirty-two bowlers entered in this event and some good scores were the result. Bill Pierce and Larry Bishop were tied for first place with scores of 330. Ace Blanchard was third with 326, and Harold Brown fourth with 320. Freddie Davis took honors for high single string with 131 in the first. Following are the first ten finishers in the order named and their scores.

Bill Pierce 330 Specks Degrenier 314
Larry Bishop 330 Freddie Davis 312
Ace Blanchard 326 Earl Scarbo 299
Harold Brown 320 Clarence Pratt 298
Ray Fawcett 317 Bill Lebert 294

The place wouldn’t be the same
If someone weren’t always looking for Jack Washburn.
If some room weren’t being changed around.
If someone weren’t trying to have a time card signed because he forgot to punch.
If Mr. Graves, (Sr.) weren’t around to see that the girls were taken care of in the lunch room.
If Rita and Jules didn’t have the same lunch hour.
If Wendell Smith (Smitty) got an auto.

HOBBY, HOBBY, — WHO'S GOT ONE?

This shows Kenneth Russell of the Can Shop. His hobby is the study of tropical fish. Clarence Ryan does it too! Both have well equipped aquariums. Kenneth is also quite an amateur photographer.

104th INFANTRY, MASSACHUSETTS NATIONAL GUARD, COMPANY K
Standing: Harold St. Denis, Edward Durant, Chester Zabek, Jack Shields, George Benoit, Armand Gibeau. Charles Belouin was unable to be present the night this photo was taken, but he’s a member of Co. K too.

(Story on Pages 4 and 5)
NEWS ITEMS

Sam Troia and wife, Mary, spent week-end of April 7 in New York City while there they visited the Fair grounds.

Henry Senechal (Dry Formation) enjoyed his vacation the week of April 3.

Merrill Combs (Can Shop) had his vacation the week of April 15. Mr. (Impregnating Dept.) and Mrs. Thomas Riddell spent the week-end of April 15 in Burlington and Barre, Vt.

Kay Conrad who has been ill since last June was visiting her home for Easter. We hope she will be back with us before too long.

Ray Cutler (Boxing) was vacationing the week of April 21.

Bessie Pessolano (Paper Test) is now convalescing.

Eddie Goodman (Methods) is seriously ill in the North Adams Hospital as the result of a skiing accident.

The strange man that has been around the plant recently is our own Clarence Pratt (Maintenance Dept.) — without his hat.

Pauline Morrissey (Main Office) enjoyed her vacation the week of March 25. Part of the time she spent in Pittsfield visiting Lucy Dietlin, formerly of the Main Office.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Denoyan spent the week of April 17 in Washington, D. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter (Scotty) Graves recently spent a few days in Hartford, Conn.

Edward Ducharme (Dry Formation) is convalescing at the North Adams Hospital following an operation.

ENGAGEMENTS

SWEENEY-MORRIS. Clarence Sweeney (Paper Assembly) to Irene Morris, to be married in the near future.

LINCOLN-MAZZA. Julius Lincoln (not employed here) to Christine Mazza (Paper Assembly). Date is set for May 20.

MASELLI-PITANIELLO. Eugenia Pitaniello (Boxing) to John Maselli. June has been chosen as the wedding month.

SOLARI-KENDRICK. Frances Kendrick (Paper Test) to Armond Solari. The wedding will be in the near future.

DORST-ELLIOTT. Stanley Dorst (Laboratory) to Caroline Elliott of Claremont, N. H. The big event is to be in the near future.

WEDDINGS

VEAZIE-MENARD. Robert Veazie (not employed here) to Dora Menard (Paper Assembly) were married last October according to a recent announcement!

DURANT-PINSONAULT. Edward Durant (Paper Rolling) to Ruth Pinsonault at Baptist Church, April 1.

GLIWSKI-PADO. Stanley Gliwski (D. C. Rolling) to Mary Pado at St. Stanislaus Church, Adams, April 24.

NEW DAUGHTERS

April 11. To Mr. and Mrs. Neal Welch (Sales Office).

MIXED DOUBLES TOURNEY

Employees of the Sprague Company engaged in a mixed doubles tournament at the Olympic, first honors going to Harvey Degrenier and Eva Daldoss whose total score for three strings was 625. Ace Blanchard and Dot Collins were second with 618, Mary Bellows and Fred King and Lionel Champagne.

Miss Rita Siciliano was high for women’s three string totals with 295 while Bill Pierce led the men with 314. The scores:

Harvey Degrenier... 348
Eva Daldoss... 277—625
Ace Blanchard... 322—591
Dot Collins... 298—570
George Roy... 279—529
Bill Pierce... 277—537
Yvonne Bourdon... 270—520
Joseph Filiault... 270—517
Rita Siciliano... 275—557
Angie Degrenier... 275—517
John Callahan... 274—511
Lucien Siciliano... 275—472
Albert Messina... 275—444
“Toot” Gibeau... 270—517
Lucien Siciliano... 275—472
Irene Lacross... 275—454
Rod Mazzu... 275—436
Dot Mecklenjohn... 275—436
Hank Gamari... 275—415
Mary Gilbert... 274—545

GUESS WHO?

We’ll give you these clues:

Photo 1. — Now works in our Sample Dept.
Photo 2. — Now a first-class tool-maker.
Photo 3. — Rest of his family are pictured in minstral cast.
Photo 4. — Boy now works in the Boxing Dept. The girl works in Paper Rolling.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthday Greetings to:

MAY
16. Margaret Cook
17. Anna Cronin
18. Elizabeth Fitzpatrick
19. Ralph Blanchard
20. Helen Guertin
21. Doris Benoit
22. Lea Bachand
23. Marion Carson
24. Harold Brown
25. Clarence Ryan
26. Doris City
27. William Bellows
28. Telesphere Dupont
29. Viola Harvey
30. Betty Busby
31. Julia Domolin

NEW SONS

April 1. To Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Battory. Mother is Adele of D. C. Rolling.
April 29. To Mr. and Mrs. Julian Sprague, in Detroit, Mich. Mr. Sprague is one of our salesmen.