

## STORIES of New Jersey

United States. Several million feet of cedar wood are used every year in the manufacture of Dixon's pencils. Cedar is used because of its straight grain, which will prevent breaking off in unexpected places and permit the pencils to be easily sharpened.

The leads are laid in grooves made in the cedar block, the width of six pencils. An empty block cut into corresponding grooves is placed on the top, the two halves glued together and held in bolted frames until the glue has thoroughly dried. A shaping machine cuts the grooves apart and the pencil comes to life and is ready for inspection, painting and stamping.

There is still another process and another section of the world that enter into the making of Dixon's pencils. Those aristocrats that are to be tipped with an eraser have still to receive their brass and rubber crown.

The rubber, which comes from Sumatra, Java, the Federated Malay States and other countries in that far section of our world, is kneaded, milled, processed and vulcanized at the Dixon rubber works, also in Jersey City. After the vulcanization process the rubber cores are cut to the size required for the pencil tip. The individual erasers are placed in huge revolving tumblers, similar to giant barrels, and further processed to give them a smooth and finished appearance. The revolving drums are set in motion and for several hours the erasers rub against each other until the last bit of roughness is removed. The erasers are then fitted into the metal ferrule or cap at the top of the pencil and all are clamped by automatic machinery to the pencil.

Now these pencils are ready for their final inspection before they are approved for shipment. Those that pass this rigid examination are ready for a useful life.

Twelve hundred miles from the cedar swamps of Florida; 5,000 miles from the hillsides of Bohemia; 10,000 miles from the South Seas -- your pencil has seen a good deal of the world.



The Joseph Dixon Crucible Company, Jersey City, N.J.