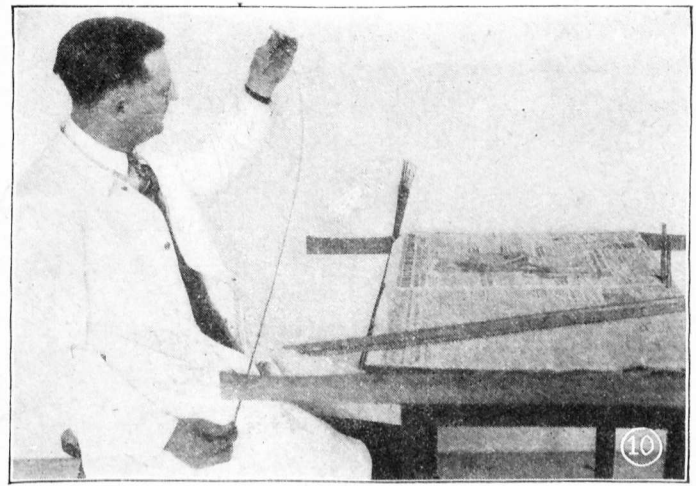
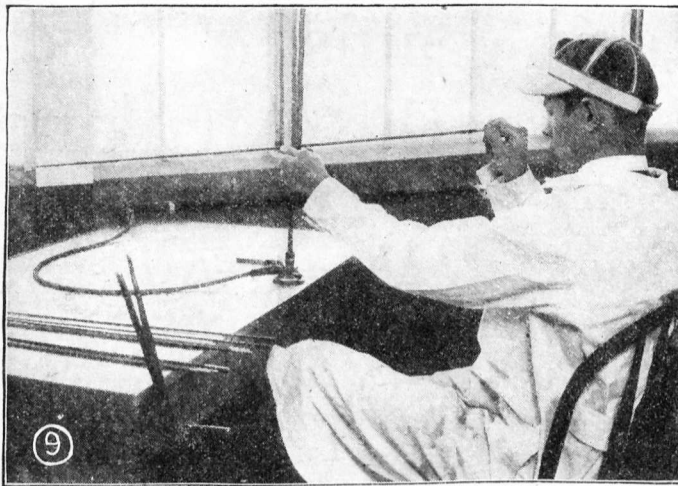


All photographs courtesy Goodwin Granger Company

ILLUSTRATIONS DESCRIBED ON OPPOSITE PAGE



From Bamboo Forests to Fishing Rods

*The Modern Split-Bamboo Fishing Rod Is a Far Cry
From the Crude "Pole" of Boyhood Days*

TO dwellers in Eastern lands, the bamboo tree furnishes frames for houses, material for rafts and boats, containers for water, food, and the like, and other necessities of life. To those in other lands where the pressure of necessity is lightened by a diversity of materials, the term "bamboo" usually conjures up a vision of split-bamboo sun-screens for the front porch, or—more likely—of favorite fishing spots where the bamboo rod reigns supreme. The barefoot boy of story and song whistled on his way to the nearby stream with a single stick of bamboo over his shoulder, bought for a few cents at the general store. The moneyed fisherman rolls smoothly in his car to the best trout stream or bass lake, and in the tonneau repose finely finished split-bamboo fishing rods, each a masterpiece of modern craftsmanship. And in be-

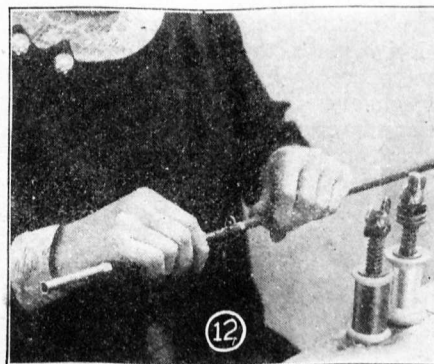
tween these two extremes are to be found all kinds of split-bamboo rods ranging in price from a few dollars to 50 dollars or more.

A good split-bamboo rod is such a thing of beauty and obviously hides within it such a display of expert workmanship, that we are sure many of our readers will be interested in the photographs on this and the opposite pages wherein are shown the various steps in the manufacture of rods of this type. These photographs are described in the following paragraphs.

Opposite page: (1) The preliminary work on the Chinese Tonkin cane, which is conceded to be the best for

operations. In this machine, a temporary winding is put on to hold the strips while drying. Temperatures must be kept constant. (7) The end of the rod is shaped to receive the ferrule. (8) Setting the ferrule, which must be straight with the rod.

This page: (9) The finishing touches of straightening and trueing. (10) Inspecting and testing a tip section before winding. (11) Cork disks for the grip are glued in place and then shaped. (12) The guides are fastened in place with silk wrappings. (13) Steps in the manufacturing process from the raw cane to a finished rod and its protecting case. From left to right there are: the bamboo as it comes from the forest; the sand-papered cane, the split strips; the shaped strips ready for glueing; the glued rod with temporary bindings; the finished rod in all its quiet beauty; and the case for the rod.



fishing rods. Sandpaper is used to remove the "nodes" or joints before splitting. (2) This machine will split the most crooked cane absolutely with the grain. (3) Here the strips are cut so that their cross-section is a perfect equilateral triangle. (4) The strips are straightened and cured. This rapid process is equal to 20 years of ordinary seasoning. (5) Sizing and tapering. The strips are cut to a uniform accuracy of one one-thousandth of an inch. (6) Glueing, the most important of all

