

WOOD PRESERVING A SPECIALTY

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S. Cabot Erg

My dear Sir.

I am glad to know that you are back from Europe, and I thank you for your kind letter. I hope to pay another visit to Boston before winter, and shall be very much pleased to meet you, and to tell you of my recent experiments.

In answer to your enquiry I would say that we have largely used a cellulose or pyroxelene varnish, which shrinks the silk upon application and makes it as tight as a drumhead. I send a recipe for it. The cloth stretches in time however, and moreover the strength is enquired, so that I am now trying a "spar varnish" which is used by boatmen. I send samples of cloth with both varnishes. For large surfaces (16ftx7ft) we used balloon cloth, hemmed, with "grummets" inserted, and laced it to the spars or to wires stretched taut. We could thus take up the bagging.

I have occasionally considered combinations of balloons and aeroplanes, but have never been able to figure out an advantage in diminished motive power. I shall be glad to learn more of your own plans.

Yours Truly

O. Chanute