

Paper AND Pulp News.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF CANADIAN PULP AND PAPER MAKING.

MONTREAL AND TORONTO, JANUARY, 1898.

PINE IS KING.



THE Ontario Legislature has met and the Government has announced its timber policy which has now the force of law, having received the sanction of law. But it is apparent that not the Government alone, but the Opposition also has failed to rise to the occasion in so far as the pulp industry is concerned. Pine is still king, and Liberal and Conservative alike cannot apparently see anything beyond a pine-board in our vast forests. The fight was bitter, keen and sanguinary, but it was waged on pine and pine alone. Not a single member on either side of the House, during the debates upon the question, was heard to mention pulp wood or pulp. The Government, with a marvellous solicitude, which it was, at times, almost painful to witness, for the material welfare of the province, proclaimed aloud their determination to secure for the Canadian workmen the right to the labor involved in the conversion of logs into lumber, thereby ensuring the expenditure in Ontario of the handsome sum of about \$1.75 per thousand that has not hitherto been expended here. But with a fine regard for the honor of the province, the Government regretfully declined to put the new regulation in force until the existing timber licences have expired. The Opposition tumbled over themselves in their anxiety to have the regulations go into force at once, regardless of existing contracts, direct or implied, or anything else, in their eagerness to obtain work for Canadians. While both sides of the House went into hysterics almost upon the question, which involved an increased expenditure in Canada of \$1.75 per thousand feet, they, one and all, deliberately ignored the interests of the pulp men in which there is greater wealth to the community, proportionate to the amount of business transacted, than can ever be in the case of pine. Both parties in the Legislature have committed themselves to the policy which demands the sawing of pine logs in Canada, and they justify their action, and rightly so, by pointing to the increased employment thereby afforded to the workmen of Canada.

That Canadians have a just claim to the magnificent heritage which they have won for themselves, and to all the advantages, natural and otherwise, which it is their good fortune to enjoy, no one will deny. But to the business man, not skilled in the sophistries, of politics it does appear strange that so important an industry as that of converting spruce into pulp should be so neglected and ignored by those who claim to represent the people, and to protect and foster the national industries. The

manufacture of one cord of spruce wood, which costs from \$2 to \$2.50 per cord, into pulp wood enhances its value by \$10 to \$11, at a moderate computation, the increased value being represented almost entirely by labor. As compared with the small amount expended for labor on the lumber, it certainly does appear that this is an industry which any Government or party, which has the desire to encourage and foster profitable industries, would be justified in assisting by reasonable legislation similar to that by which kindred industries are encouraged.

The lumbermen, having obtained their desires, appear to have entirely forgotten the interests of the pulp men, who will apparently have to look out for themselves. Meantime the Americans, who are depending upon us for their supply of raw material, will continue to pay us the pittance of \$2 to \$2.50 per cord for our spruce wood, and will compete with our own manufacturers, not only in our own markets, but in the markets of the world, in the finished article at the rate of \$45 per ton. No wonder the trade journals of the United States are chuckling at the encouraging outlook which presents itself to the paper makers of the United States.

A CANDID ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

The following communication from the E. B. Eddy Co., Limited, will correct any erroneous impression which may have been caused by the firm's announcement in the November issue of *PRINTER AND PUBLISHER*. The communication is dated 15th December, 1897, but, unfortunately, it did not reach this office until the day after we had gone to press for the December issue. We give it space at the earliest possible moment in order to protect our readers as well as to put the Eddy Co. right with the purchasing public. The communication speaks for itself:

DEAR SIR.—Will you please give prominence to our explanation that the advertisement, in your November issue, stating our daily output of paper to be 250 tons, was intended to read 250 tons for our weekly output.

Some of our competitors and their agents and salesmen sought to take advantage of this "lapsus calami" by trying to unsettle our customers with reference to the general correctness and truthfulness of our advertisements.

The fact is that our executive has been so busy with some other of the various departments, as not to have had time lately to devote as much attention as they intend in the future to devote to our paper department, so, although the difference between 250 tons per day and 250 tons per week is wide, it is quite within the range of possibility that it may not be long before the former figures will be more closely run to by us soon.