

News of Industrial Development in Canada

Establishment of Large Steel Plant on British Columbia Coast Being Investigated—Dominion Pulp Properties in New Brunswick Transferred to Fraser Interests—Progress of Belleville During Past Year—Swedish Lumbermen Interested in Canadian Pacific Coast Prospects

INVESTIGATIONS for the establishment of a steel plant on the Pacific coast have been commenced by Henry S. Fleming, of New York, chairman of the board of directors of the Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir), Ltd., who is now at Victoria, B.C. Mr. Fleming has just returned from Brazil, Paris and London. In Europe he was instructed by a number of high steel and financial men to look into the possibilities here and report at once. Provincial government experts of the department of mines, under the Hon. William Sloan, will be called into consultation. It will take Mr. Fleming until September to complete his investigations on the coast. The sites being considered are at Union Bay, B.C., near the coal mines on Vancouver Island, and at Vancouver. The Canadian Collieries, the reorganization of which has just been completed, will be largely interested in the works, according to present plans.

"There is no doubt about the iron resources of this island," said Mr. Fleming. "The magnetic ores, which some persons have been decrying, make the highest grade steel. We use magnetics in Pennsylvania for the production of steel that was sold at a price above the market price. The only trouble with the magnetic ores is that with them the furnace capacity is slightly reduced. The ores have to remain longer in the furnace than is the case with the hematite ores."

The chief side of the steel situation that Mr. Fleming is starting out to investigate at once is the marketing possibilities. As far as he can see now, Mr. Fleming says that the coast steel plant would not be able to compete in the territory farther east than the middle of the prairies with the great mills at the Soo. He says that he even fears the Chicago plants more than the Sault Ste. Marie plants, because of their greater efficiency in production. The lowest daily production that a steel plant can be worked on is 325 tons, and even this output involves overhead costs which are the same for plants four times the size.

Dominion Pulp Properties Transferred

Formal transfer of the Dominion Pulp Co.'s plant and properties to the Fraser Companies, Ltd., took place in Montreal last week. A cheque for between \$1,000,000 and \$1,250,000 was handed over to the British interests, who have owned and operated the Dominion Pulp Co.'s business for some years past.

The Dominion mill is situated on the Miramichi River, opposite Chatham, N.B., and is known as an easy-bleaching sulphite mill. It has a capacity of fifty tons daily, and the manager is Walter G. Steevens, who, it is understood, will continue in that position. It is the intention of the Fraser companies to increase the output of the mill, and as soon as the necessary additional plant can be arranged it is expected the capacity will be brought up to not less than sixty-five tons daily. The timber limits being transferred are largely areas under license from the Department of Lands and Mines, consisting of about 288 square miles of Crown timber lands, but it is believed the source of supply for raw material which the Fraser interests are depending largely upon for their new plant is the Miramichi portion of the 1,580,000 acres of timber limits they are acquiring from the New Brunswick Railway Co., and upon which the Fraser's now hold an option.

The Dominion mill will be the second pulp plant operated by the Fraser companies, their other mill being at Edmundston, N.B., where the bleached sulphite plant is being increased from a capacity of 110 to 180 tons daily. They also operate ten band saw lumber mills, most of which have shingle mills in connection.

Belleville's Progress

Industrial Commissioner White, in his first annual report, reports that Belleville, Ont., since he was appointed to his position in June, 1919, has secured seven new industries. These are not all in operation yet, but are expected to be in the near future.

The Judge Jones Milling Co. have located a flour milling plant in the former premises of Graham, Ltd., H. A. Woods Manufacturing Co., Ltd., manufacturers of valves, automobile steering wheels and automobile door locks. The latter company purchased the patent of the tilting detachable steering wheel from W. H. Appleby, of Windsor, Ont., and will manufacture the locks and wheels at their plant. As soon as machinery can be secured from the United States the Natural Tread Shoe Co. will start production in Belleville. Operations have already been commenced by the Toronto Hat Manufacturing Co. A. S. Richardson and Co., Ltd., and the Weed Harvesting Machine Co., Ltd., will also start operations shortly. The latter company is waiting on the shipment of machinery from the United States.

Mr. White, in his report, stated that the city had not been called upon for any special concessions with the exception of certain fixed assessments. When developed to capacity, it is expected that the new industries will employ upwards of 500 hands. Future prospects are: The Acme Road Machinery Co., of Frankfort, N.Y.; Kirsch Manufacturing Co., of Sturgis, Mich.; the American Ironing Machine Co., of Chicago; the Hayward Tire and Equipment Co., of Indianapolis, Ind.

Manufacturing Notes

Removal of the plant of the Ontario Cement Co. from Blue Lake to Beachville, Ont., is now under way.

Plans are under way for the construction of a plant by the Dominion Oxygen Co., Ltd., at Winnipeg, Man., on Erin Street. The company proposes to manufacture oxygen for welding purposes by taking it from the air, and the plant will constitute another addition to the Canadian chain.

The wagon works at Petrolea, Ont., which have been closed for the past six months, will probably shortly reopen under new management.

Commerce Truck Co. has decided to locate its Ontario plant in Kitchener as a result of recent developments in connection with the industry. Negotiations were originally opened with Guelph, and announcements were made that the motor truck plant would be situated in that city. The Canadian management of the Commerce company made a proposition to the Kitchener Board of Trade, which was endorsed by that body. The truck company's proposition included the erection of houses along with the factory.

The plant which formerly manufactured peat blocks at Alfred, Ont., from the bogs there has resumed operations and is exporting its products.

The hide and liver of mud sharks form the basis of a new industry in British Columbia to be manned by returned soldiers and aided by provincial government capital, according to an announcement from Vancouver. The skins when tanned make up into a variety of choice leathers, and the huge shark livers are rich in heavy oil, which, when pressed out, brings a high price as a lubricant for heavy machinery.

A company, headed by J. V. Cavicchi, of Halifax, N.S., and Vincent McFadden, of Glace Bay, N.S., is being organized to operate the Montgomery Moore coal areas at False Bay, on Mira Bay, C.B. Work on the sinking of a colliery is to be started at once, and an output of from 1,000 to 1,500 tons a day is aimed at. Shipment will be made at False Bay Beach, where a good site for a harbor is available. Mr. McFadden has resigned his position of electrical and construction super-