

Pulp Wood and Wood Pulp in Canada

BY GEORGE JOHNSON, F.S.S. (Hon.)

EGYPT AND CANADA.—The first was the land of the early paper plant ; the second is the country of the latest paper tree.

Egypt was the land of the papyrus, from which the ancient dwellers on the banks of the Nile obtained the material on which to write those well nigh imperishable records which, three thousand years after they were stored away, have been produced from their hiding places looking as fresh with their cuttle-fish ink as though indited but yesterday.

The Papyrus, "the paper-reed of the brook," gave us the name "paper." The word "library" in English, and the French word "libraire," preserve for us a record of the fact that books were once formed of the bark (liber) of trees. The French word "livre" traces its origin to the same source. The English word "book" comes from the Anglo-Saxon word "boc," the beech tree ; and was so derived because the early Anglo-Saxons, like the other Teutonic tribes, used the bark and wood of that tree for writing material.

In modern times we have reverted to the ways of our ancestors and have gone back to the arboreal growth for the supply of paper to meet the world's marvellous demands.

The banks of the Nile were the early store-house of the paper supply. The beech groves of Germany and of England succeeded Egypt. Then towards the close of the 19th century came the opening up of the Canadian spruce forests.