News of Industrial Development in Canada

Lignite Plant at Estevan to Become a Valuable Industry — Motor Car Company for Winnipeg—Pulp Mill and Power Plant Practically Assured for Prince George—Steel Company of Canada Closes Part of Plant at Hamilton

POSSIBILITIES of a new Canadian industry, which may be very helpful in relieving our coal problems, were outlined by R. A. Ross, of Montreal, at a meeting of the Federal Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, of which he is chairman, at Ottawa recently. He gave details of what has been done and what is planned. For the past two years he has investigated the possibilities of making the large deposits of lignite coal in Saskatchewan of commercial value, and has found that lignite promises to become, through a briquetting process, a fuel equal to anthracite and at half its cost.

The plant which has been established at Estevan by the government has already demonstrated that the deposits of lignite in that district can be made of commercial value. Lignite which is young coal, half-way between peat and the ordinary bituminous variety, has in its raw state about half the fuel value of ordinary coal. Two tons of lignite, through briquetting process, can be made equal to a ton of anthracite, Mr. Ross declares. The water, which is about 33 per cent. of the lignite, is driven off and the gas contained by the coal is drawn out and used in the process. There remains a finely ground powder which has the same heat value as the powder of anthracite coal. A binder of tar, sulphite pitch or a similar substance is used and the powder is compressed into briquettes which, besides rendering the lignite valuable as a fuel, decreases the bulk of the raw product, making shipping charges less. This scheme was initiated by the research council, and it has been found that the same process can be applied successfully to the coal dust ordinarily thrown away in Canadian and American mines. It is expected that when the Dominion plant at Estevan further demonstrates the feasibility of the scheme, groups of mines throughout Canada will install similar but larger plants to make use of their waste products, while the vast deposits of lignite in the western provinces will become valuable to the nation.

"The buildings at Estevan," said Mr. Ross, "are almost complete. The machinery is all ordered and much of it is on the ground. The plant will be in full operation by April and will turn out 30,000 tons a year. This is a mere beginning. The total requirements for relieving the coal situation of the west would be several million tons. The west will naturally be the first to benefit by this process. For some years yet it will be cheaper for Ontario and Quebec to import from the United States. The great distances over which the coal has to be shipped in the west are largely responsible for the very high prices there, and if the deposits of lignite and the waste products of mines can be made useful, the coal difficulty will be relieved to a large extent.

Pulp Mill Practically Assured

Definite announcement that a new pulp and paper mill, together with a sawmill and a hydraulic power plant capable of developing approximately 50,000 h.p., the whole representing an investment of $6,000,000, would be established in the vicinity of Prince George, B.C., was made to the members of the board of trade of that city last week by Angus McLean, president of the Bathurst Lumber Co., when speaking on behalf of a new syndicate now being formed, backed by ample eastern capital.

It was announced by Mr. McLean that the plant would cover about 200 acres and would employ at least 1,000 men in the woods and at the plant when it was in full operation. It was stated by members of the party that although they had options already on about 200 square miles of pulp timber lands, they would seek shortly to secure control of about three times this amount as it would be needed in order to assure supply for the next five years at least to continue the manufacture of pulp and paper on the large scale planned.

This deal has been pending for some time, but the syndicate of capitalists has visited several sites in Prince George, and was impressed with all of them, and the location of the new mill in the district is now practically assured.

Those chiefly interested in the enterprise, as announced in *The Monetary Times* recently, include: Lord Beaverbrook, Alexander Maclaren, president of the St. Maurice Paper Co., of Quebec; Angus McLean, president of the Bathurst Lumber Co., Bathurst, N.B.; Frank Jones, president of the Canada Cement Co.; Senator Edwards, Molson McPherson, of the Molsons Bank, and Sir Chas. Gordon, of the Dominion Textile Co.

Sawyer-Massey Reopened

The plant of the Sawyer-Massey Co., Hamilton, Ont., which was closed down for a few days, has reopened. The company took the men back on condition that they accept a 20 per cent. reduction in wages. A few refused, but the majority accepted.

Seven of the eleven open-hearth furnaces of the Steel Co. of Canada at Hamilton, Ont., were closed down this week temporarily. As a result the whole plant will be greatly affected, as the open-hearth department is said to be the basis factor.

A new industry is being added to Winnipeg, Man., through the incorporation of the Winnipeg Motor Car, Ltd., with a capitalization of $1,000,000. The company has acquired properties which are being refitted for the purpose of the manufacture of motor cars. Operations are expected to commence in the near future.

The new industrial plants of Brockville, Ont., Machinery and Foundries, Ltd., is almost ready for operation. General foundry and machine shop products will be turned out, and there will be special attention paid to the manufacture of both power and hand pumps.

Trenton, Ont., electors at the municipal election will vote upon a by-law to encourage an industry for the manufacture of silver-plated ware and other metal goods by the Benedict Manufacturing Co., of Syracuse, by giving it a fixed assessment of $2,000 on all municipal rates, excepting school and local improvement, on the industry and extensions thereof for ten years.

The Webster Dry Cleaning Co., Ltd., a company which has been operating for some years at Port Elgin, N.B., has moved its plant to Moncton, N.B.

The Coleman Lamp Co., one of the largest manufacturers and wholesalers of gasoline and kerosene table lamps and lanterns in the United States, has established a branch factory and office in Toronto, Ont., to manufacture and distribute their products throughout the Dominion of Canada. The company does a large export business throughout the world, shipping six thousand of these lamps per month to London, England, five thousand to China, and the same amount to England, and have agencies in nearly every country of the world.

Announcement has been made that the Northumberland Paper and Electric Co., Ltd., and the Canada Boxboard Co. have amalgamated under the name of the Canadian Paperboard Co., Ltd. The new company operates at Montreal, Frankford and Campbellford.

The National Paper Products Co., with head office in New York City and operating a paper mill and works at Carthage, N.Y., will reopen its branch plant at Brockville, Ont.