

TARIFF REVISION.

THE progress of the Tariff Commission's enquiry is being closely watched by our cousins to the south of the boundary line, and by none more so than those interested in the paper and pulp industries. The following extract from an article in Paper Mill and Wood Pulp News:

"Canada's tariff is to be revised by the new Dominion Government, and a commission is now at work on the matter. It is probable that the revision will not be very radical, but changes may be made on two or three points which will be of considerable interest to the American paper industry. For example, it is proposed to admit paper-making machinery free of duty. This will be gratifying, of course, to the builders of such machinery. The object of the change is to enable Canada to develop the pulp and paper industry to such an extent that it can hold its own market and also enter the markets of England. This may not be so pleasing to American paper manufacturers, who are now competing in Canada with the Canadians, first paying a heavy duty.

"Another matter which may be included in the general tariff scheme is the placing of an export duty on pulp wood. Such a duty is advocated by lumbermen and pulp and paper manufacturers, who not only expect no further favors from the incoming administration in the United States, but also anticipate that Canadian lumber will be removed from the free list. These two interests have joined forces in urging that such an export duty be imposed. The cry has been raised that Canada is being despoiled of its forest wealth for the benefit of strangers, and however inconsequential the spoliation may be, the cry will doubtless be effective in gaining supporters to the idea of an export duty."

ASPEN OR POPLAR AND SPRUCE GROUND WOOD PULPS.

The use of different woods to make ground wood pulp has, during the past 10 or 15 years, undergone, and is undergoing, a great change. In 1884, the principal ground pulps sold in the European markets were pine and aspen, and the aspen was then quoted 25 per cent. above the pine. At this time spruce commenced to be used, and has been gradually increasing in favor to the present time, the only ground wood pulps used in Europe now being spruce and pine.

The drawback to the ground aspen pulp was that it had to be shipped in a dry state, as, when shipped wet, it lost color, and, owing to the small quantity of fibre in it, European paper makers prefer China clay to it for a filling.

Some years ago, aspen ground pulp was used to a considerable extent in the United States, but for the last eight years the demand has been so small and the price so low that it has not paid to grind it.

The grinding of spruce pulp has also undergone a change within the last year or two, the paper makers demanding a better quality of pulp than before, both in the grinding and the screening, and this has necessitated the increase of the power necessary to grind this pulp some 30 per cent.

Poplar or aspen is still used for making chemical pulp by the soda process, and the species used bears the botanical name of *populus grandidentata*.

There is no doubt that white spruce is the best wood for ground pulp at the present time, and the quality made in the province of Quebec brings higher prices in the English market than any other ground pulp.

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