

and spruce are suitable woods. The bark and other refuse from logs would supply fuel for the production of steam. As the process of paper making is simple and suitable wood abundant, it is likely that some enterprising men will soon see the opportunity that exists for a profitable business."

Messrs. J. C. Wilson & Co., the well-known paper makers, of Montreal, have issued a series of three "patriotic" postal cards. The first card represents Britannia with "trident," and Columbia with olive branch, sitting with the lion and eagle at their respective feet. The Union Jack and Stars and Stripes crossed, the poles of which are joined by a gordian knot, and below the flags two hands clasped, representing "Union is strength." A globe between the flags, with the mottoes, "One aim, one goal, Anglo-Saxon, Gloria Mundi." The second card represents the mailed figure of Britannia with "trident" sitting with the crouched lion at her feet. In the distance a battleship, England's first line of defence, and the old motto, "Britannia, Britannia rules the waves, Britons never, never, shall be slaves." The third card represents the Union Jack with the words in the union crosses, "The flag that braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze."

#### NEW PROCESS FOR MAKING "BLOT."

SEBASTIAN WOLF, of Friebseiderhof, Germany, has just received a German patent for a new process for manufacturing blotting and filtering paper and soft fibre felt. The present method of making blotting and filtering paper, says the inventor, is very cumbersome and expensive, and moreover only pure and expensive cotton rags can be used by it, while pure wool fibre has thus far been considered unsuitable for the purpose.

By the new process soft and highly absorbent blotting and filtering paper, as well as filtering board and soft fibre felt, can be made from any kind of stock, especially soda fibre. The fibre is first reduced, as usual, into pulp, which, as in the manufacture of hand-made paper, is spread evenly over the wire cloth of the moulds by dipping it with the latter from the vats. Having been drained, the pulp, without being pressed in any way, is allowed to dry on the wire, either in the normal atmosphere or in chambers in which the air is rarefied. When dry, the loose and very porous felt of the fibres is removed from the wire and pressed more or less between rolls. It is then ready to be used as blotting or filtering paper.

The process is thus divided into two distinct parts; the first for producing the dry, porous fibre felt, and the second for reducing the size of the wide pores of the fibre felt by means of compression. With regard to the first part of the process, it is important that the pulp spread on the wire should be dried in that form and not pressed while moist, as only in that way a really porous product can be obtained. Drying in a chamber with rarefied air will furnish a much softer and porous product than drying in a normal atmosphere and temperature. In rarefied air the water in the pulp reaches the boiling point at a comparatively low temperature, the latter depending on the degree of rarefaction of the air. The steam bubbles which are thereby produced within the pulp rise quickly, force the fibrous particles apart, and hold them in suspension, as it were, until the whole

mass is dry. In rarefied air the fibres do not suffer from excessive heat.

If the drying is to be done under a normal atmospheric pressure, the same or similar drying chambers may be used as in drying with rarefied air, with the difference that instead of producing a vacuum in the chambers warm air is blown or sucked through them. The pulp produced in this way invariably represents a more or less rigid web of fibre—fibre-felt—with uneven, rough surface and wide pores. In this form, because of the large pores, it is not yet a proper filtering mass. To make it such requires pressure sufficient to reduce the size of the pores. This pressure may be properly produced by means of ordinary calenders. In order to give the product a good appearance for blotting paper, the sheets of fibre are pressed with a fine-meshed wire cloth or textile fabric placed between the felt and roll, thus giving the surface of the paper a ribbed or net-like appearance.

If the dry sheets of fibre are pressed only very lightly a soft felt is obtained which, because of its great power of absorption, is particularly suitable for bandages for wounds. Its great pourousness and softness also render it valuable as a material for lining clothes, blankets etc. If intended for blankets it is advisable, in order to increase its strength, to cover it all around with a texture of linen or cotton; for certain other purposes it may also be rendered water proof by the usual process.—*Papier-Zeitnug.*

#### THE "WAR" DEMAND FOR PAPER.

THE war between the United States and Spain has not been unproductive of advantage to the Canadian pulp and paper industry. By good fortune, the majority of the Canadian pulp men who turn out sulphite found themselves with large stocks of sulphur on hand when the war broke out. Their competitors in the United States, on the other hand, appear in many cases to have been caught on the short side of this essential commodity, and the sudden advance in price has caused the value of sulphite to take a sharp upward turn. This advance in price, coupled with a largely increased demand from the United States paper mills, has enabled the Canadian mills to sell all the sulphite pulp they can turn out at profitable prices. The papermakers are also enjoying the novel but welcome sensation of not only being freed from the fear of importation of slaughter job lots of various grades of paper, more especially news, but are actually receiving enquiries from their American cousins as to their ability to make contracts for large quantities of news for consumption in the United States. At present, however, Canadian mills are only able to supply the largely-increased local demand. There are several large mills now in course of erection, which will materially increase the daily output of news, and if the war demand continues until the fall it will afford a ready and acceptable market, that will absorb the increased tonnage without causing disturbance in the home market, which might result from the daily supply becoming greater than the demand. It will also give the mills, new as well as old, an opportunity to look around for new fields of operations. There are also indications that the large newspaper publishers of the United States are restive under the manipulation of the trade by the international paper trust, and it is quite on the cards that some good contracts may be placed with Canadian mills as a protest.