

# LUMBER, PULP AND PAPER

## PROGRESS AT CRABTREE MILLS.

Good progress is being made in the extensions and improvements to the Crabtree Division of the Howard Smith Paper Mills, Limited, and it is the intention of the company to operate this plant on sulphite bonds. It will probably be a couple of months before the mill is ready for operation owing to difficulty in getting machinery from the United States. A new beater room three storeys high has been completed.

## CANADA'S "WOOD PILE."

Canada holds the only large forests in the whole British Empire. Australia and New Zealand, and South Africa, have sacrificed most of their original timber to the fire fiend and ruthless exploitation. These facts emphasize Canada's strategic position as containing the only "wood pile" available to the Empire, except those of Russia. Sixty per cent of John Bull's huge timber demand is supplied by the Russian people to-day, for the British Isles provide only one log out of eight actually needed for home use. What part Canada's forests will play in British trade after the war is problematical, but there is no lack of prophets to predict that every square mile of growing timber will double in value under the strain of post-bellum demand from the devastated districts of Europe. Meanwhile Canadian governments can prepare to take full advantage of increasing timber values by thorough fire protection and scientific control of wasteful lumbering.

## CANADA'S PAPER EXPORTS.

In the report of the Federal Trade Commission of the United States, it is noted that Canada's rapid progress as a factor in the situation is illustrated by the increase in the proportion of the total supply of the United States imported from that country. Ten years ago Canada furnished but a fraction of 1 per cent of the newsprint used in the United States; in 1909, less than 4 per cent; in 1916, about 30 per cent. The imports from Canada amounted to about 75 per cent of the total Canadian production in the calendar year 1915 and about 78 per cent in 1916. In the latter year Canada's oversea exports amounted to about 53,000 tons, or 9 per cent of the total output, leaving about 81,800 tons or 13 per cent for home consumption.

Fiscal year imports by the United States increased from 54,022 tons in 1911 to 438,746 tons in 1916. Since 1912 the annual increase has not fallen below 50,000 tons, and in two years it has exceeded 100,000 tons. In the fiscal year 1916 these imports were over eight times as large as in 1911. They increased from 368,409 tons in the calendar year 1915 to 468,230 tons in 1916.

## WATER PIPES OF PAPER.

The shortage of iron and lead in Germany has led to the invention of paper pipes as conduits for water, oil and gas. Two different processes of making these are employed and they have been submitted to an extensive series of tests. In the process the tubes are made by rolling the sheets of paper around a mandrel of the desired dimensions until the required thickness is obtained, solidifying by means of a suitable adhesive and covering with a layer of a special coating.

These tubes are not appreciably affected by the prolonged action of illuminating gas, and those which were allowed to stand full of water for several weeks did not swell nor exhibit any loss of resistance. They not only weigh far less than pipes of iron or lead—in fact, only from one-sixth to one-tenth as much—but they resist three or four times as much pressure for a given thickness.

The joints are made by slipping sections of other tubes over the ends of the pipes and filling in the spaces by a suitable composition. Unfortunately, the jointed pipes burst at a much lower pressure than do the separate tubes; hence they sometimes give way at joints. Tests of their resistance to exterior pressure give the average considered sufficient to resist the pressure of the earth provided the tubes do not gradually become soft.—Literary Digest.

## TIMBER SALES OF NATIONAL FORESTS.

Sales of national forest timber in fiscal year 1917 doubled those of 1916. Amount exceeded 2,000,000,000 feet, valued at more than \$3,715,000.

## TO LIMIT NEWSPAPERS TO 16 PAGES.

The Senate, as a committee of the whole, accepted the amendment of Senator Jones of Washington to the printing paper bill, limiting newspapers to 16 pages, 30 days after the approval of the resolution.

## INCREASE IN WOOD PULP.

Last year American manufacturers of wood pulp turned out 3,271,310 tons of pulp, converted from 5,226,558 cords of wood, according to forest service. This was an increase of 378,000 tons, or 13 per cent, over two years earlier. Maine still leads as the greatest pulp producing state, although New York is now a close competitor, using 1,100,000 cords of wood against 1,200,000 for Maine. Contrary to general impression, Canada did not furnish the larger part of wood used in manufacture of pulp in the United States, only 700,000 cords being imported.

## MANY PUBLICATIONS DIED LAST YEAR.

At least 1,200 publications in the United States and Canada quit publishing during the year 1917. These approximate 925 suspensions and 250 consolidations, each of which, of course, eliminated at least one publication.

The new publications started bring the net decrease for the year to 616.

The principal decrease was furnished by the weekly, daily and semi-weekly papers. The falling off has been general throughout the country.

The forthcoming 1918 American Newspaper Annual and Directory will show that at the close of the year there are 24,252 publications of all kinds in the United States has 22,842.

Of the total number, the Weekly papers showed the greatest falling off during 1917. The daily papers ranked second.—Pulp and Paper Magazine.

## FEWER NEWSPAPERS.

For twenty years the number of newspapers and periodicals in the United States has been steadily declining, relatively to population. In the last decade or so the number of daily newspapers has notably decreased. A contemporary reports that, though the population of the fourteen largest cities in Michigan has doubled, the number of daily papers has fallen from forty-two to twenty-three.

No doubt like causes have produced a like effect elsewhere. Quite recently consolidations of dailies in first-class cities have attracted attention. The number of considerable cities with no morning paper and of still bigger places with only one morning paper appears to increase. Within our recollection, five morning papers have disappeared from Chicago, though the population of the city has much more than doubled.

The cause, of course, is the steadily increasing cost of establishing and publishing a newspaper. The investment which formerly would have launched a daily paper in Chicago or New York now hardly suffices for Kalamazoo, and operating costs are so high that a paper must win very substantial support or lose a lot of money.

War has greatly increased operating costs by raising the price of paper, other materials and labor. Probably these war costs have been a governing motive in some recent consolidations. The new revenue law, which not only increases postal charges enormously but provides for a zone system, falls heavily on newspaper profits and will presumably accelerate the movement toward consolidation, sectionalism and elimination.

We should not be surprised if two daily papers in a city with anything less than a hundred thousand inhabitants became the exception rather than the rule. That would give the surviving publisher a lot of political influence, but would tend to a one-sided discussion of public affairs.—Saturday Evening Post.

## BROMPTON'S PRESIDENT.

Frank N. McCrea, M.P., President of the Brompton Pulp and Paper Co., has just celebrated his sixty-sixth birthday. He has always been prominently engaged in the lumber business organizing the Sherbrooke Lumber Co., of which he is President, in 1904. He took part in the reorganization of the Brompton Pulp and Paper Co., which took over the Royal Paper Mills Co.'s plant at East Angus, and their vast limits on the St. Francis River in 1907. Mr. McCrea has always taken a prominent part in municipal and public affairs and is a former Mayor of Durham, a former Warden of Drummond County, a former alderman of Sherbrooke, where he has resided since 1901, and has sat in the House of Commons since 1911.

## WOOD ALCOHOL AND WAR.

An announcement came from Washington last week that the country's supply of wood alcohol has been taken over by the national Government. The importance of this announcement to the lumber industry will promptly be recognized, and it will undoubtedly be a very material stimulus to the wood chemical industry—a very practical form of conservation of mill and forest waste, although in this connection applying chiefly to hardwoods.

Wood alcohol is a product having a number of important industrial uses, but its greatest importance at the present time rests upon its use in the manufacture of explosives.

It will, of course, be possible very largely to increase the manufacture of wood alcohol in this country if labor and plant equipment are obtainable, and if the established price for it is sufficiently attractive to compete with demands for human effort in other industrial lines.—American Lumberman.

A. C. Hastings, for three years president of American Writing Paper Co., has resigned and will be succeeded by George A. Galliver, general manager and first vice-president.

## WOOD ALCOHOL.

The deadly wood alcohol is about as useful an agent as any that results from the distillation process. Manufacturers of films, of shellac, and of celluloid require large quantities. Compounds used in medicine and surgery even have it in their make up. There is an anaesthetic made from it, and it is of consequence in formaldehyde manufacture, the uses for which are of wide scope. The huge annual loss from grain smuts, estimated at from ten to twenty million dollars, is readily controlled by soaking the seed in this material. Grain alcohol is not produced in this manner, but as it is used in large quantities in munition plants it may as well be mentioned here, especially as the sawdust piles of the mills when spruce and pine are sawn ought to be supplying a good deal of this that is at present derived from molasses. The unnecessary use of anything sweet for such a purpose goes against the grain of a people who are denying themselves sugar. One ton of sawdust is capable of yielding from twenty to twenty-five gallons of wood alcohol. This alcohol is also important in making ether, and ether, aside from its value in surgery, when combined with alcohol again, is required in the making of nitro-cellulose. This country used last year forty million gallons of denatured alcohol industrially. It would be interesting to know how many tons of spruce and pine sawdust were thrown into the incinerators of the mills merely to get it out of the way.—Boston Evening Times.

## THE KILT IN ITALY. (Southern Lumberman.)

A correspondent in Rome says that an inspiring spectacle is that of British troops passing through small and typical Italian villages—with their tall pointed church belfries standing out against the skyline, while the bells attempt a strange imitation of "God Save the King." The soldiers that excite most attention are killed troops. Many of the villagers have never heard of such a uniform before, and gaze at them in amazement—some even seeming undecided as to whether the stalwart Highland lads are men or women. The British soldiers in Italy are quite overwhelmed with the profusion of flowers they receive—gun carriages, carts and other equipment being smothered with these floral tributes.