

# Paper and Pulp News.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF CANADIAN PULP AND PAPER MAKING.

MONTREAL AND TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1897.

## THE EXPORT QUESTION.

**T**HE speech from the Throne, delivered at the opening of the Ontario Legislature, indicated that the Provincial Government intend doing something in the direction of preventing the continued spoliation of our forest wealth for the benefit of United States manufacturers and United States workmen. In the debate upon the address in reply the Patrons united with the Government in voting down the amendment moved by Mr. Miscampbell, by which the Opposition nailed their colors to the mast in favor of the prohibition of the exportation of logs. The contention made by Hon. Mr. Hardy was that the Government, being the custodian of the honor of the Crown, is bound to carry out the contracts made in good faith, and that such a regulation as suggested by the Opposition would amount practically to confiscation of the rights of individuals. This raises the unpleasant spectre of a perpetual exportation of logs from those limits in respect to which the original conditions of sale did not contain a clause requiring the manufacture of logs in Canada, and unfortunately this class forms by far the largest portion of the limits now under license. The Attorney General's strong point was that this agitation was the result of hostile tariff legislation by the United States, and that his Government could not be held responsible for it in any way. That is probably the case with regard to the present demand for legislation, but it only requires a glance at the record of the past twenty years to show that the question of the disposition of our timber has been a constant bone of contention between the two countries. The United States may not want our pine, but for twenty years they have been legislating to get it under the most favorable terms to themselves, and in such shape as will afford the greatest possible amount of work to their citizens. But it is not alone the hostile tariff of the United States that is responsible for the present agitation. The constantly recurring periods of depression which stagnate business in the United States and which have exercised so powerful an influence upon business in Canada have caused the thoughtful business men of Canada to look further abroad for markets, and the stimulus which this movement has received by the sudden awakening of Canadians to the full sense of their national manhood has deepened and strengthened the determination to conserve our natural resources in order that they may inure to the advantages of our own people. The ambition of Canada is now directed towards a broader sphere of national

greatness than the exercise of agriculture. Its aims now embrace the practice of all those industrial pursuits for the profitable conduct of which Providence has blessed her with the raw material in profusion. Therefore there is lying at the bottom of this agitation and inspiring it the sense of an enlarged citizenship and nationhood although, perhaps, it has been brought to the surface more quickly by the hostility of our neighbors. And it is this enlarged spirit which the Government, not only of the province, but of the Dominion, must recognize in formulating their policies in the future. The days of colonial dependence are gone, and Canadians will be satisfied with no policy or government which has not for its basic foundations recognition of the cardinal principle that Canada has attained the full dignity of nationhood and has taken her position as the leader, the eldest daughter of that family of nations which forms the the greatest factor in the civilization of the world and the advancement and enlightenment of the human race.

Although there may be some difficulty in overcoming the provisions of contracts entered into with relation to the pine limits, it is not so clear that the same obstacle exists with relation to the export of pulp wood, as at the sales of limits for some years past the provision has been made that only pine is included. There is greater reason for demanding the manufacture of pulp wood in this country than that of pine logs if the purely economic reasons are considered, inasmuch as the expenditure in converting pulp wood into pulp is considerably in excess of that expended in the conversion of saw logs into lumber. Therefore, the Government will in all probability find itself at liberty to make effective regulations in reference to pulp wood even if it cannot go so far with respect to pine logs. The pulp and paper men are awaiting with the deepest interest the regulations promised in the speech from the Throne. What the nature of these regulations will be, is, of course, at present a Cabinet secret, except in so far as may be gathered from the debate on the address.

Application will be made at this session of the Quebec Legislature on behalf of David Russell, of Montreal; John Joyce, of Boston, Mass.; William Strahan and others, to incorporate the Shawenegan Water and Power Co. with power to acquire, sell and develop water powers on the St. Maurice and Shawenegan rivers in Quebec province; to purchase and appropriate lands and tenements necessary to such works; develop electricity, transmit, sell or lease the same, and to manufacture calcium carbide, acetylene gas, electric light and other products.