News of Industrial Development in Canada

President of Dominion Steel Not Enthusiastic Over Outlook—Two Large Pulp and Paper Projects for Quebec Province—International Company Expanding Here—Ontario Companies Purchase Alberta Coal Mines — British Motor Manufacturers to Open in Toronto

IN AN interview at Sydney, N.S., recently, Roy M. Wolvin, president of the Dominion Steel Corporation, did not appear to be very optimistic over the export trade prospects of Canadian steel, and particularly in regard to his own company. He pointed out that most of the corporation's steel products during the past year had been marketed in Great Britain, where until quite recently no serious competition was encountered. Of late, however, the very remarkable progress in reconstruction made by Belgium is manifesting itself, and that country is keenly competing in the markets of Great Britain for many lines of steel products. As a result of this competition the demand for Sydney steel products has decreased, and prices have very materially softened.

A vital factor in this connection, he said, was the cost of production in several countries, and he was quite apprehensive that any advance in costs here would result in excluding Sydney steel from the British market, instancing as one of the reasons for his apprehension the fact that for several weeks past no sales of steel products have been made. Mr. Wolvin also made the remark that any increase in the cost of coal production would very seriously affect the steel industry, observing in that connection that one dollar a ton increase in coal cost would mean four dollars increase in the cost per ton of the finished steel product.

Mr. Wolvin did not explain to what extent the coal situation had affected the steel industry, but intimated that it has been and will continue to be a serious problem. Alex. Johnston, another official of the company, who was accompanying Mr. Wolvin, stated that "a three-thousand-ton deficit in the coal output for the year has affected the production of the company."

Pulp and Paper

That the pulp and paper industry of British Columbia is soon to be augmented by additional plants is the statement given in a San Francisco paper recently. A New York company, it is stated, will build a mill at Kitimat Arm, some miles north of Prince Rupert, and a Japanese firm has acquired a tract of timber on Louise Island, in the Queen Charlotte group, with the intention of erecting a plant as soon as the financial situation in Japan clears up. A pulp and paper mill is also being erected in Alaska. The following plants are in operation at the present time: Powell River Pulp and Paper Co., Powell River, B.C.; Whalen Pulp and Paper Co., with plants at Quatsino and Swanson Bay; Pacific Mills, Ocean Falls; Beaver Cove Pulp and Sawmills, Beaver Cove.

The Japanese market has in the past been handled chiefly by the Ocean Falls plant, the largest on the coast. The Powell River Company also does a large export trade, but in the main with the antipodes. The latter firm, which is said to be the oldest established in British Columbia, also deals extensively in the home market, supplying newsprint needs from the coast to Saskatoon, and south along the coast as far as San Diego.

That the mill of the Western Canada Pulp and Paper Co. at Port Mellon, B.C., would be turning out 40 tons of pulp per day by the end of the year is the statement of T. F. Paterson of the Canada Lumber and Timber Company, Ltd. "The people of the province have little idea of the important developments taking place at Port Mellon," said he. "Additions are being made to the plant originally erected by the British Columbia Wood Pulp and Paper Co., which has passed through so many hands. The present company has sufficient backing to make the plant a success. New machinery is now being installed that will raise the capacity from 15 tons to 40 tons per day by December 31, and this will mean the utilization of 80 cords of wood per day."

According to a statement from Quebec city, plans are rapidly nearing completion for the definite launching of a large pulp and paper project, which will concentrate largely upon the region surrounding the Saguenay River, and that the two principal figures in the enterprise are Lord Burnham and Lord Desborough, the former having left for England, after attending the Imperial Press Conference here as chairman, while the latter is still in Canada, with headquarters at Quebec. Both of these gentlemen have large newspaper interests in England.

As outlined, the plans of these interests include the construction of a railway from Hudson Bay to the Seven Islands, passing by Lake Mistassini, Lake St. John and Chicoutimi, to enter Quebec by the Montmorency Valley, which will shorten the route from Chicoutimi to Quebec by one hundred miles. The group will also establish pulp and paper mills at Seven Islands and at all places where there are important water powers along the line of the railway.

It is stated that the port of Seven Islands will be developed and devoted solely to the export of pulp and paper to Europe, where the need for the material is increasingly great. Definite announcement of the full details of the project are said to be ready and will be given out in a short time. Work will be commenced in the near future. It is understood that no subsidies will be asked by the enterprise.

Three Rivers Organization

Elsewhere in this issue is an announcement of the offering of the securities of the Three Rivers Pulp and Paper Co., Ltd., a recently-formed organization. The company's property comprises 787 square miles situated on the rivers St. John, Magpie, Chambers, Salmon, and other tributary streams and lakes in the province of Quebec. It is estimated that four million cords of black spruce and balsam pulpwood are contained in these limits.

A mill is to be erected at Three Rivers, with an initial capacity of 100 tons of pulpwood per day. A suitable site has been secured, with good rail and water shipping facilities, and an ample area for further extensions of the plant for the manufacture of paper and other pulp products if deemed advisable. It is planned to have the mill in operation in November, 1921.

International Paper Expanding Here

P. T. Dodge, president of the International Paper Co., while inspecting the plant of the Riordon Co., Ltd., at Kipawa, Ont., in company with other pulp and paper manufacturers, intimated that his company would shortly undertake the construction of another mill in Canada, although he did not give any details of the undertaking. The International company is now building a pulp and paper plant at Three Rivers, Que., and Mr. Dodge stated that in sixty days it will be turning out pulp. The paper mill will not be ready to operate for some months yet. It is designed to turn out 200 tons of newsprint a day.

Work of constructing the plant of the Kaministiquia Pulp and Paper Co. at Port Arthur, Ont., is progressing at a satisfactory pace, and it is expected to be ready for operation by November 1. The wood-room is almost ready, and the construction of the mill building is proceeding smoothly with the installation of machinery keeping pace.

The Pigeon River Lumber Co., supported by Port Arthur officials, are endeavoring to induce the Ontario government to dispose of timber limits, close to the city, to them; providing they can secure the timber, they are prepared to erect a large pulpmill.

Purchase Alberta Coal Mines

Shareholders of the McIntyre-Porcupine Mines, Ltd., and the Timiskaming Mining Co., two Ontario companies, have