

# WOOD PULP ~ DEPARTMENT

## FRANCE WANTS WET PULP IN ROLLS.

Mr. A. Poindron, Canadian Commercial Agent at Paris, France, writes to the Department of Trade and Commerce as follows:

"What the French paper manufacturer requires is a good fibrous pulp which will give him the least possible trouble to manufacture into paper and the least possible loss through breaches of the fibre, and in both senses they are inclined to give the preference to the wet pulp sheets over the dry sheets, and to the wet pulp sheets in rolls over the wet pulp in boards.

"The Canadian wet pulp manufacturers ship yearly large quantities of their products to Great Britain, and the Canadian statistics show that during the fiscal year 1903 they have exported pulp to England to the value of \$1,129,173. In fact, the rates of freight from Canada to British ports are altogether higher than the rates from Sweden and Norway to the same ports, and if Canadian pulp manufacturers can afford to export to Great Britain in competition with Sweden and Norway, it is likely that, through cheaper cost of manufacturing the chemical pulp in Canada, they can counterbalance the extra cost of ocean transportation to Great Britain. This would also be possible so far as French ports are concerned.

"The Canadian pulp manufacturers, when asked from France for quotations c. i. f. a French port not in direct communication with Canada by a regular line of steamers, should always figure on large quantities and specify the same in quoting, as the cheap transportation required by wood pulp exports does not allow for transshipment. Quotations applying to deliveries in the ports of Dunkirk, Rouen, Nantes, Marseilles, which are not yet regularly connected direct with Canada, but which are the nearest ports for a number of the large importing manufacturers, are frequently wanted. For full cargo quantities, satisfactory quotations to the above ports, either by tramp or by sailors, would likely be obtainable from any of the Canadian ship-brokers. I beg to add that contracts for full cargo deliveries are currently obtainable in France. As concerns Le Havre and La Pallice deliveries, Canadian manufacturers, through the existing direct steamship connections, are now in a suitable situation to book smaller orders or periodical delivery contracts.

"In brief, if the export of wood pulp does not develop, it is not owing to want of attention on behalf of French importers, but owing only to want of offerings on behalf of Canadian exporters. When the prices offered in Great Britain are low, they undertake to give a little more attention to the French outlet, but, unfortunately, when such is the case, as Canadian exporters have no steady agents ap-

pointed in France nor connections previously worked, they try to rush by correspondence, dealing with people who don't know them, don't know their goods or what they are able to manufacture."

## INCREASED COST OF PULP WOOD.

Paper manufacturers are pointing to the gradual increase in the cost of pulp wood since 1898 as a justification of the higher prices for paper. By way of comparison it is cited by United States paper manufacturers that, while previous to 1898 their supply of domestic pulp wood cost them, delivered at the mills, between \$5 and \$6 per cord, the present cost of wood is between \$7 and \$8 delivered. A corresponding advance has also taken place in the cost of Canadian pulp wood. Rough spruce logs that used to cost from \$3 to \$4 per cord f. o. b. cars, are now quoted at from \$4.50 to \$5. Peeled spruce wood, that sold for \$3.50 to \$4.50 per cord five years ago, is now selling at from \$5.50 to \$6 per cord f. o. b. cars. Poplar logs in the United States, that used to cost \$6 per cord and less delivered, now cost the paper manufacturers nearer \$9 per cord. Canadian poplar has advanced from \$3 to \$3.50 to \$5.50 and \$6 f. o. b. cars. Besides the increased cost of the wood freight rates have also advanced within the same time. But, notwithstanding the increased cost of their raw material, it is claimed that the selling price of paper has not advanced proportionately.

Speaking in regard to pulp wood and its increased cost, an authority on the subject explains the advance as follows:—"Previous to 1898 the situation in the various lines of trade for a number of years had been unsatisfactory. As a result of the depression the lumber business was in a bad way. Because of the low prices many sellers of lumber had to discontinue business. Pulp wood was, therefore, cheap, as every timber land owner who happened to need some cash sold his wood. It was his best asset upon which to get a ready return in cash. Times were so hard that there was an over supply of wood for sale. Naturally the price of lumber and pulp wood declined. Beginning in 1898, however, the Spanish war gave an impetus to general business, and the price of lumber, in common with every other commodity, began to advance. Timber that had been costing \$12 to \$13 per thousand feet advanced to \$18 to \$20 per thousand feet. In this connection I want to state that the idea that pulp wood is not suitable for any other purpose than to be ground into pulp is erroneous. In the absence therefore of a splendid supply of cheap pulp wood the buyers had to bid on the better material, and of course had to pay correspondingly for it."

## THE PULP INDUSTRY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The pulp industry will soon be an important one in British Columbia. The Quatsino Power and Pulp Company, which has 125 square miles of the finest timber on the west shore of Vancouver island, will commence the construction of a mill before January next, the papers, it is stated, being signed. Mr. J. A. Moore, of the Moore Investment Company, of Seattle, is largely interested in this company.

Other Seattle people compose the Bella Coola Power and Pulp Company, and Mr. A. E. Williams, manager, and Mr. R. M. Thompson, secretary, have just returned to Vancouver from a season's survey and cruising of the limits. Work will be resumed in the early spring, when a saw mill will be erected first.

The Pacific Coast Wood Pulp & Paper Company has large limits near Powell river, about 80 miles north of Vancouver on the mainland coast, and the company is now being floated in London.

The Oriental Power and Pulp Company has already its buildings at Swanson Bay under way, and will be manufacturing inside of a year and a half. Its concession contains 83,000 acres. This is a subsidiary company of the Canadian Financial Syndicate.

## SISSIBOO PULP PROPERTY SOLD.

The Sissiboo Pulp and Paper Company's properties, situated at Weymouth, Nova Scotia, were sold at foreclosure sale in Digby by Deputy Sheriff Burnham on September 13th, and were bought by Mr. A. G. Ross, of Montreal, manager of the National Trust Company, the plaintiffs in the suit, on behalf of the bond-holders. Among those present and bidding were Messrs. W. G. Clarke, of Clarke Bros., Bear River, and G. D. Campbell, of G. D. Campbell & Co., Weymouth. The properties comprise about 25,000 acres of good timber land covered with spruce, pine, hemlock and hardwood, two pulp mills equipped with eleven grinders, compressors, wet machines, and all the necessary appliances, a large dam constructed of solid masonry, one of the best in the province, a long wharf at Weymouth Bridge with a large warehouse shed 50 by 200 feet, offices, stores, smithy, dwelling house, village lots, etc. The Sissiboo Pulp and Paper Company was incorporated in 1899 with \$250,000 bond issues. Upwards of \$300,000 was expended in acquiring the limits, the mill sites, the construction of dams and plant, and machinery equipment. Owing to the unfortunate flood of 1901 and the general depression in the pulp trade the concern was forced to suspend operations.

## PULP NOTES.

Great Britain's imports of wood pulp are steadily increasing, as the following figures show: 1901, 448,455 tons; 1902, 525,799 tons; 1903, 576,003 tons.

The Laurentide Pulp Company, of Grand Mere, Que., recently reduced their dividend from 8 to 6 per cent. annually. The higher dividend was paid during the years 1901, 1902 and 1903.

The Pentecost Lumber Company have inaugurated extensive plans to supply the pulp and paper mills of Northern New York with pulp wood from their timber limits in Quebec. Cape Vincent, N.Y., has been made the receiving point, and storage ground for 10,000 cords of wood has been acquired. The wood will be taken from the ships by conveyors, operated by electricity.

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