

WOOD PULP DEPARTMENT

WOOD PULP IN GERMANY.

THE future of the wood supply in Germany is the subject of an interesting article in the *Wochenblatt*. Fears have often been expressed whether, with the increased demand for pulp, the German forests will keep pace with the increased consumption.

As by law a rational forest culture is maintained, by which the cutting down must be in a certain proportion to the whole forest area, an absolute break-down need never be expected, the fear only is whether the quantities available will suffice.

On this question, after careful inquiry, the writer of the article comes to the conclusion that such a fear is groundless, because the national forestry will be able to increase from year to year the total of the available quantity. Reforms in this respect have been introduced for some time, and will perhaps slowly but steadily give very satisfactory results.

The fear for the German pulp industry comes from another side. The prices of German raw wood are going up, and if no check takes place there is the chance to be considered that foreign pulp will be produced cheaper, and will in time replace the German pulp, if the latter must follow the higher prices of the raw material.

This is all the more likely, as foreign wood would not pay so well to be imported in the raw state, but rather as the manufactured article. The carriage on the latter would in proportion be cheaper than on the former. The forest owners would ultimately suffer from this, because it is to their interest to keep the pulp industry in a healthy condition.

From this consideration it would appear that the indiscriminate raising of the price of raw wood is likely to injure the forest industry. The forest owners are urged to keep prices steady by increasing the quantities put upon the market without running into the opposite extreme.

HEMLOCK PULP WOOD.

THE hemlock of Michigan and Wisconsin is to have a value other than that for conversion into lumber. Last year it was stated that a party bought up 5,000,000 feet of hemlock for pulp wood in the upper Wisconsin valley and at points on the Wisconsin Central railway. Now, says the *Northwestern Lumberman*, it is stated that N. H. Brokaw, of the Kaukauna Fibre Company, of Kaukauna, in the Fox river valley, Wisconsin, has purchased 5,000 to 6,000 cords of hemlock to be cut and delivered this winter, which will be worked up in the Brokaw mills. This shows that hemlock for pulp making in Wisconsin is a growing factor in the supply. It

is very possible that hemlock in the northwest will assume as much importance in the paper and pulp industry as has spruce in New England and New York.

With this result it plainly can be seen that hemlock as a merchantable wood will acquire great importance. It has rapidly come to the front in recent years for conversion into lumber, and operations in that line this winter are on a scale more extensive than ever before. Without doubt hemlock lumbering is to greatly increase in future years in the three old northwestern pine states. With a corresponding growth in the demand for hemlock pulp wood there will be such a scramble for that kind of timber properties as was not dreamed of a few years ago.

In the Eastern States 60 per cent. of the spruce annually cut goes to the pulp mills. It is possible that an equal percentage of the hemlock in the northwest will, within a few years, be devoted to a like purpose, leaving only 40 per cent. to be cut into lumber for the supply of the general and local demand. Thus we can see what is promised for hemlock in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

THE BRITISH WOOD PULP MARKET.

IN mechanical pulps, says Wood Pulp, of London, Eng., there is really very little to report, but there is likely to be keen competition between Scandinavia and Canada for the European market. The Sault Ste Marie Pulp and Paper Company—the largest mechanical mill in the world—has recently put in drying machinery with the view of shipping the bulk of its pulp to the European markets, and it is reported from the other side that it has already placed in England every ton it can manufacture during the next six months.

The abnormally mild winter in Scandinavia may later on have a tendency to stiffen the market, as owing to the lack of snow the work of getting the logs from the forests to the rivers has been impeded.

Of course, many mills have large stocks of wood on hand, and the market may not be affected by this cause until later on.

Sulphite pulps are slightly easier for the moment, mainly on account of the large shipments of American pulp sent on consignment. These are alleged to be job lots, but however that may be, the dirty condition of the bundles has necessitated them being forced on the market at low prices, and the result is likely to be so unfortunate to the shippers that they will not repeat the experiment. On the whole, however, as the quantities available do not at present exceed the estimated consumption, prices may be maintained a little longer.

Soda pulps are scarce, and prices are likely to be maintained over the year.

The Ontario Forestry Department has been notified that a large firm of American pulp jobbers, with headquarters in Wisconsin, and who use on an average 50,000 cords of pulp wood per year, the larger proportion of which was obtained in Ontario, have decided this year to obtain their supply in Wisconsin. This will considerably curtail the output from the western and newly settled districts of the province, and will cause some hardship among settlers, many of whom rely upon sales of pulp wood for much of their livelihood.

PULP NOTES.

John Mather, of Rat Portage, Ont., is said to be negotiating for the erection of a large pulp mill at Keewatin.

A correspondent of the *Gleaner* points out the advantages possessed by Fredericton, N.B., as a site for the manufacture of pulp.

The Victoria & New Brunswick Pulp Co., of Woodstock, N.B., propose building a dam at the Tobique Narrows and erecting a pulp mill.

Mr. McDonald, of Montreal, will probably erect a pulp mill at St. Joseph d'Alma, utilizing the water power owned by Narcisse Gariépy, of Bay St. Paul.

The Grand Falls Power & Boom Co. have asked the New Brunswick government for a renewal of charter. It is proposed to build pulp mills and other works at Grand Falls, N. B.

The Tourville Lumber Mills Co. is said to be considering the establishment of a large pulp and paper mill at Louisville, Que. The government has been asked to dredge three miles of the river to give the necessary water.

On March 5th the new pulp mills of the Chicoutimi Pulp Company, at Chicoutimi, Que., will be formally opened by the Commissioner of Crown Lands for Quebec. The company have issued invitations to the members of the legislature, journalists, and others interested.

Specimens of the wood pulp manufactured at the Chicoutimi pulp mills were laid on the table of the Quebec Legislature during its recent session. The Chicoutimi Pulp Co. have placed contracts for the cutting of 13,000 cords of pulp wood during the present winter.

Incorporation is asked for the Jacques Cartier Pulp and Paper Co., of Montreal, for the purpose of manufacturing pulp and paper, lumber, etc., and developing water powers on the Jacques Cartier river. Robert Law, merchant, Wm. Currie, paper manufacturer, and others, are interested.

The Shawenegan Manufacturing Co., of Shawenegan, Que., has been granted incorporation, to manufacture pulp, paper, acetylene gas, etc., with a capital of \$500,000. Peter Lyall, contractor, of Montreal, and Charles Riordon, paper manufacturer, of St. Catharines, are interested.

The material used by the new pulp mill of Harvey & Co., of St. John's, Newfoundland, is said to be a species of dwarf lumber, principally spruce, which produces excellent pulp, but has little value for any other purpose. The mill employs 200 hands, and is driven by the water power of an immense flume.

The trade and navigation returns for the year ending June 30th, 1897, states that the value of pulp wood exported to the United States was \$607,221, as against \$600,225 for the previous year. Of wood pulp the export to the United States amounted in value to \$576,720, showing a gain over 1896 of about \$20,000.

Mr. M. F. Mooney, who is interested in the proposed pulp mill at Mispec, near St. John, N.B., to be built by the St. John Pulp Co., is at present in Scotland for the purpose of conferring with the directors of the company. It has not yet been decided whether the output will be 25 or 50 tons per day. Upon Mr. Mooney's return the work of construction will likely be proceeded with.

The Canadian correspondent of the *Paper Mill*, New York, advocates the lowering of the duty on paper making machinery coming into Canada from the United States. He argues that it would greatly promote the development of this country's natural paper making resources, that owners of mills would take advantage of it to increase the efficiency of their equipment, and that new mills would be built.

The Dufferin Falls Lumber, Pulp and Paper Co., of Montreal, is a new concern seeking incorporation, with a capital of \$300,000. Among the promoters are Wm. Currie, paper manufacturer, and James T. Shearer, lumber merchant. This company has purchased the properties on the DuLieuve river at Buckingham, Que., belonging to the estate of Ross Bros., and will commence the manufacture of pulp and paper on an extensive scale.

A barker in the Treadwell Mills, Plattsburg, N.Y., recently went to pieces. The barker is a steel disc, three quarters of an inch thick, and about four feet in diameter. On one side are four knives to cut the bark from the wood, on the other side are fans to blow the shavings away from the barker. The machine is heavily enclosed in iron. An accident such as happened is said to be without precedent in the record of pulp making. A large piece of the barker went through the roof and was carried 300 ft. from the mill.

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