

THE STRAW BOARD TRUST.

THE STANDARD STRAW BOARD CO., the selling agency which controlled the sale of straw board in the United States, has gone out of existence and its business is being closed up. The collapse was brought about by the withdrawal on Sept. 30 by the American Straw Board Co. of its contract.

The Standard Straw Board Co. was organized a little less than two years ago. It was really a combination of a number of straw board manufacturing concerns, the idea being to create a selling agency through which all the members of the pool should transact business. J. H. Swinarton, at that time general manager of the American company, was the prime mover in the scheme. Each manufacturer joining the combination received stock in the Standard Company according to the tonnage of his mill. The capital stock represented nothing in the way of a cash investment, but merely such proportionate share of each member in the pool in the business of the company as the output of his mill bore to the output of the whole. Mr. Swinarton was made president of the organization, a position which he held up to the present time.

Up to about three months ago the new concern worked well. There was a uniform price for straw board all over the country, and, owing to the fact that it was a fairly reasonable one, there was an increase in the consumption of board of over a third. But, as proved to be the case with former combinations in the straw board trade, jealousies cropped out, and some of the members of the Standard began to make up their minds that they could run their mills separately and independently, and make just as much money, if not more. And so, one by one, they pulled out. Between April 1 and September 1 of this year manufacturers of nearly 100 tons of straw board a day withdrew, and since then practically all the remaining mills, representing 313 tons in all, have followed suit.

Two days after the Standard collapsed, however, an adjourned meeting of the representatives of the "independent" mills, which had recently withdrawn from the Standard Company, completed the organization of the Straw Board Manufacturers' Association. A number of the larger mills which were in the Standard are in the new association, and it looks very much as though in the reorganization the small mills, and those with antique plants, have been left to shift for themselves.

A GERMAN TESTIMONIAL.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to The Wochenblatt fur Papierfabrikation that he has received from an English paper maker samples of Canadian mechanical pulp in rolls, and that he finds the quality excellent. The price, he states, is £5 per ton in London, Manchester, etc., and it is readily paid. He had the samples thoroughly tested microscopically, and found only a very small proportion of soft yellowish splinters.

Under the microscope a large number of long and thoroughly isolated cells and cell pieces were visible, similar to pine cells in length and thickness. These long cells were embedded in about an equal proportion of fine broken-up cells; at first the pulp had the appearance of cellulose. Micro-photos of the Canadian and a fine-ground German pulp showed very distinctly that in the latter there were a great many broken cells, splinters and shive, while the Canadian was all long, properly isolated fibres, with soft cloudy dissolved cell fragments. Apart from this examination, he says the good quality of the Cana-

dian pulp is proved by its reputation in England, and the higher price (10 to 14 per cent.) paid for it, although lately its superiority was very much doubted.

He says he does not know whether to attribute it to the hot grinding process without refining, or to a better raw material. He adds that he has no wish to decry the German article, but considers it a good thing for the trade to know the progress made in other countries.

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