

News of Industrial Development in Canada

Backus Interests Reach Agreement with Ontario Government—Publicly Owned Paper Plant Being Considered by "Farmer" Cabinet—Sockeye Salmon Pack will be Greater Next Year—Potato Flour Industry Inaugerated in the West—Vancouver Island Suitable for Textile Manufacturing

AFTER weeks of negotiation, an agreement has been reached between the Ontario government and a syndicate represented by E. W. Backus, of Minneapolis, Minn., regarding pulpwood limits and water power in the Lake of the Woods district. The Backus interests asked for the English River limits, but in order to get this concession they must enter into public competition. According to the agreement the first step necessary for the Backus interests is to erect a mill at Kenora and develop the Lake of the Woods limits which they now hold. The only change in the old agreement concerning these limits is a clause where the government doubles the fees on pulpwood, and brings them up to the present standard. The government also grants a lease to the Backus people of the water power at White Dog Rapids on the Winnipeg River, subject to such "rentals, reservations and conditions," as the minister of lands and forests may deem in the public interest. Mr. Backus, who is the owner of the Norman dam at the outlet of the Lake of the Woods, which is an essential work for the regulation of the level of the Lake of the Woods, consents, as a further term of the agreement, to submit to such regulations as to this dam as may be imposed by the minister of lands and forests.

The government has made a stipulation with Mr. Backus that any portion of the newsprint product must be available for sale to Canadian publishers at the instruction of the government. The amount is left open, but it is said that the government could order 100 per cent. to Canadian publishers under the agreement.

Although nothing definite has been stated, a plan for operating a pulp and paper mill as a provincial enterprise is being seriously considered by the Ontario government. According to the plan under consideration, the mill would be established in the Nipigon district at some point to which power could be transmitted from the new Hydro-Electric power development plant at Nipigon Falls. The establishment of a publicly owned and operated plant, such as this, is considered by no means improbable.

Announcement has been made by the government of Ontario that the limits west of Hele township are to be cancelled. These limits are those over which the Provincial Paper Mills, Ltd., Port Arthur, has been cutting for the past few years. The company's cutting permit has expired and the limits are now up for sale. It is the intention of the government, wherever possible, to cancel any timber limit off which the tenderers have cut the amount originally contemplated, so as to do away with excess profiteering in the obtaining of more wood than the amount to which the tenderer is entitled.

Sockeye Salmon Pack Large

The sockeye pack on the Fraser River, British Columbia, this year will be the largest in four years, according to information received from that section. The sockeye salmon return to their spawning grounds in cycles of four years, and it has been noted by government observers that a big year was generally followed by a lean one, and the succeeding years showed gradually increasing returns. This is the third year of the cycle, according to Fraser River authorities, and, consequently, next year there should be a larger run of sockeye than in this season.

Government reports for July show a considerable increase in the provincial fish catch, as compared with the preceding June and with the corresponding period of a year ago. Fish to the value of \$415,862 were caught last month in the waters contiguous to Van-

couver Island, and of this salmon contributed \$397,452, being 36,132 cwts. June's figures were \$267,102, and July, a year ago, \$342,020. In the Fraser River and in the remainder of the first fishing district, including Howe Sound and Burrard Inlet, the catch aggregated \$294,131, and in June the total was \$171,284, while in July, 1919, the catch approximated \$202,456.

G. L. Dodds, formerly reeve of Arthur, Man., is planning a series of potato flour mills for Manitoba and other western provinces. Mr. Dodds is a farmer, and is well known in his district as a practical agriculturist and farm scientist, and expresses confidence in the outlook for the success of the new industry. He stated that not only is the potato flour itself an economical and popular commercial product, but there are by-products, such as starch and alcohol. Even the residue makes good stock food.

Mr. Dodds says he is now well on the way towards the establishment of the first unit in his series of mills. It will be built at Melita, which is in the centre of a district known to have a soil particularly adapted to the production of mealy varieties of potatoes—those which make good potato flour. Asked as to the kind of potato which would be raised for the manufacture of potato flour, Mr. Dodds instanced the "Bovee." This potato is described as being pink in skin, white as the flesh, and markedly dry and mealy. It is said to ripen early, yield abundantly, and, while it does not attain to any phenomenal size, is perfect in shape and of fine quality.

Vancouver for Textile Manufacturing

Vancouver Island, British Columbia, according to some of the big textile manufacturers of Great Britain who have been there during the past few years, is an ideal place for the manufacture of textiles. Mr. Thompson, of the Island Development League, sees other reasons than the climate for advancing the idea. The establishment of the Trans-Pacific service of the Canadian Mercantile Marine will give service from the Pacific Coast of Canada to British-India ports; and with the C.P.R. freight service that is to be extended to the same part of the empire, Indian cotton could be set down on Vancouver Island, manufactured and marketed to points in the prairies and even as far east as Ontario, under conditions that should be more favorable than can be found in the use of American cotton.

This last has to be imported into eastern Canada for treatment at the Canadian cotton manufacturing centres for distribution to the west, and it can be seen that the freightage by water and manufacture at the west coast could not only eliminate the heavier cost of freightage by rail, but would also do something by way of encouraging trade within the nation and be another development on a preferential trade basis which should be universal throughout the empire.

Ontario Manufacturing

Ratepayers of Wingham have approved of a by-law granting a loan of \$10,000 and a fixed assessment of \$10,000 for seven years, to the William Gunn Co., of Saginaw, Mich., which is to operate a phonograph factory in that municipality.

A by-law granting a fixed assessment of \$10,000 per annum to the Quinte General Manufacturing Co., of Deseronto, has been approved by the ratepayers.

Possibilities of the location in Fort William of a large assembling plant by the Four Drive Tractor Co., of Big Rapids, Mich., was announced by D. L. Bole, of the Bole Grain Co., last week. The manager of the company was