

# WOOD PULP ~ ~ DEPARTMENT

## TEXTILES FROM WOOD PULP.

Artificial silk made from pulp is now a staple on the market, and the demand is greater than the supply, according to the statements of those who are engaged in the business.

We are now to have an extension of the field of the pulp maker, and by means of recent discoveries and improvements practically the whole range of textile work is opened to him as a market for the disposal of his raw material. Recently the Paper Trade Journal gave a somewhat lengthy notice of a book written by Professor Pfuhl, of Riga, Russia, in which that writer reviews the work that has been done in the way of making wood pulp available for textile work. He gave it as his opinion that Kron had outstripped his fellow workers in the same field and had made progress sufficient to demonstrate practically that the yarn for any kind of textile could be spun directly from moist wood pulp, an advantage which was not possessed by the methods of other inventors. It is claimed that by Kron's method there is produced not only a stronger yarn but that the cost of production is less and that the output is greater.

## AUSTRALIA WANTS CANADIAN PULP.

In a report to the Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, Mr. D. H. Ross, Canadian Commercial Agent at Melbourne, Australia, says:

"Samples forwarded to this office by Canadian manufacturers of pulp have been submitted to the local paper mills, but I regret to report that nothing suitable for local requirements has, so far, been received. The local mills require sulphite (not mechanical) pulp, in unbleached and bleached sheets, packed in bales weighing about 3½ cwt. The unbleached pulp is used in the manufacture of brown wrapping paper, which industry is protected by a customs duty of £3 (say \$14.60) per ton. The bleached pulp is required for strong cartridge papers, etc.

"The Melbourne Paper Mills use local materials in making a substitute for cheap pulp, which answers for 'filling' purposes. It is essential to make a dry pulp, equaling in quality that now received from Norway and Germany, in order to obtain a footing in this market. An experimental shipment of Canadian pulp came forward to this city some years ago, but owing to its dampness, the contents of the bails—especially in the centre of the packages—was rotten when it arrived.

"The landed cost of the last shipment from Norway, on Melbourne Wharf, was as follows: Unbleached pulp, £10 (say \$48.66); bleached pulp, £11 (\$53.53), per ton of 2,240 lbs. The landed cost, of course, fluctuates according to the market, and the freights obtainable at time

of shipment. The manager of the local mills expresses a desire to obtain his supplies from Canada, and it is to be hoped that an effort will be made to secure the orders offering. If suitable dry pulp can be produced by Canadian makers, it is probable that the authorities will waive the present customs regulation which requires the sheets to be perforated in order to allow the line to land duty free.

"By this mail I am forwarding fresh samples of continental pulp to the Department of Trade and Commerce. The Melbourne Paper Mills will import from 1,000 to 2,000 tons of dry pulp this year, and it may be stated that there are larger mills in an adjoining state."

## THE CANADIAN PULP PRODUCTION.

Mr. George Johnson, Dominion Statistician, furnishes the following particulars of the pulp production in 1903:

The wood pulp industry of Canada for the calendar year 1903 was carried on by 39 mills which had an output of 275,619 tons of wood pulp. Of this quantity, 187,871 tons were mechanical pulp, 84,808 sulphite and 2,940 soda. The corresponding quantities for 1902 were: Mechanical, 155,210 tons; sulphite, 76,735 tons, and soda, 9,044 tons. This shows an increase of 34,630 tons in 1903. The increase is distributed: Sulphite, 8,073; mechanical, 32,661 tons; soda showing a decrease of 6,104 tons. The total value of the output of 1903 was \$5,219,892. There are several large mills in course of construction, or which, being finished, did not operate during the year 1903. Two or three firms have gone out of business or manufacture only paper where before they made pulp.

Nine of the thirty-nine mills manufacture sulphite pulp and three soda pulp. Twenty-seven manufacture mechanical pulp and five make both chemical and mechanical. Taking the returns of thirty-nine mills, the average time the mills ran during the year was nearly nine months. The value of the production was \$5,219,892, the amount exported \$3,013,441, leaving \$2,206,451 for home use. In a general way, therefore, we export about 57 per cent. of our production. Of the \$3,013,441 worth exported by Canada in 1903, Great Britain took \$865,826, the United States \$1,890,448, and other countries \$248,167.

## NEW SULPHUROUS ACID PROCESS.

A new process for making the acid used in sulphite mills has been patented by Paul Drewsen, of New York, and John Parent, of Shawano, Wis., and for some time past has been in practical operation at the mill of the Wolf River Paper and Pulp Company, Shawano, Wis., U.S.A., in which Mr. Parent is engaged. The process is so simple and does away with

so much expense in first cost and subsequent maintenance, that competent sulphite men who have examined it say it will simply revolutionize present acid-making methods. The apparatus consists simply of a wooden box of size suitable for the amount of acid to be made, provided on the bottom at frequent intervals with agitators. The milk of lime enters the box at one end, and the sulphur gases at the other. The agitators make between 400 and 500 revolutions, and produce a very violent commotion in the liquid, throwing it up against the top of the box and offering a great absorption surface for the gases to reach. From five to ten minutes' treatment is all that is required, and the acid flows in a continuous stream out of the box. The process is in every way continuous and automatic. When the machinery stops, the flow of liquor stops, and no milk of lime can run into the acid. There is also no chance for the settling of lime and monosulphite of lime. There are no pressure or vacuum pumps, no large tanks, little power, and no expensive help. A company known as the Drewson-Parent Construction Company has been formed to exploit the new invention. Paul Drewsen, of New York, is president; John Parent, of Shawano, vice-president; and F. E. Lucke, of Shawano, secretary-treasurer and manager.

## PULP NOTES.

J. R. Booth, of Ottawa, intends building a paper mill in connection with his pulp mill.

The ratepayers of Chatham, N.B., have decided to grant exemption from taxation to the mills and properties of the Maritime Sulphite Fibre Company at that place.

The St. John Sulphite Pulp Company, whose mill is at Mispec, N.B., is to wound up, E. B. Ketchum having been appointed liquidator. English capitalists are the chief stockholders.

Thomas McCormick has succeeded C. W. Rantoul as manager of the Imperial Paper Mills Company at Sturgeon Falls, Ont., and it is understood that the extension of the mills will be proceeded with.

The Jenckes Machine Co., of Sherbrooke, Que., have acquired the sole right to manufacture for the Canadian market the screwless screen plate holder, invented by the Blaisdell Screen Plate Co., of Oakland, Maine.

In connection with the recent charges of William Price against the Quebec Legislature and the Chicoutimi Pulp Company, it is reported that the latter has taken an action in the Superior Court against Mr. Price for \$25,000 for alleged damages.

It is stated that the St. Raymond Pulp Company, of which Mr. Macfarlane of Montreal is one of the principal promoters, are about to construct new pulp and paper mills at St. Raymond costing \$150,000, for which preliminary surveys have already been made.

Several of the Clergue industries at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., have resumed operations under the re-organized company. The pulp mill is one of these, and it is said that there is a good demand for the output. The drying plant is not likely to be started, as experiments in that direction by the old company were not a success.

English capitalists will probably build the La Tuque branch of the Quebec and Lake St. John Railway, which has recently been subsidized by a land grant of 4,000 acres per mile by the Provincial Government. This road will, if built, be an important factor in the development of the pulp and lumber industry of the St. Maurice district.

J. H. Wallace, hydraulic engineer and pulp mill expert, of New York, has been at Fort Frances, Ont., recently, making surveys for the power development and pulp and paper mills to be constructed at that place by the Backus syndicate. The plans call for pulp and paper mills on both sides of the river, the pulp mill to have a capacity of 125 tons daily, to be increased to 175 tons. The work of construction will be under the supervision of W. L. Bowker.