

that the importance of the industry may not be lost sight of, and that its interests may not be sacrificed in promoting that of any other industries which depend upon the forest wealth for raw material, also suggest that an association of pulp manufacturers might not be without its advantages at this juncture.

BRITISH IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

FROM the Board of Trade returns for the seven months ending July 31, it appears that Britain's imports of paper and boards steadily increase and its exports continue to decline. The total of the former amounted to 2,849,251 cwts., valued at £2,040,140, as compared with 2,700,828 cwts., valued at £1,955,564 in the corresponding period of 1897, and 2,303,143 cwts., valued at £1,818,990, in 1896. The imports of raw materials were 351,658 tons, valued at £1,600,882 to date in 1898, as compared with 355,777 tons, valued at £1,736,775, in 1897, and 316,021 tons, valued at £1,559,110, in 1896. The record of exports shows a steady decline in the export of paper of British manufacture from £946,434 in 1896 and £913,297 in 1897 to £868,685 in 1898, or £60,000 in round figures in two years. The exports of foreign-made paper remain about stationary, and in neither of the three years quoted has it reached £50,000 during the first seven months which these figures cover. Details for the month of July show that imported paper, to the value of £209,320, and printed paper, to the value of £24,115 were imported, together with £63,422 worth of straw, mill and wood pulp boards, making a total of £297,057. From Norway, chemical wood pulp, to the value of £42,387, and mechanical wood pulp, valued at £27,394, and from other countries chemical and mechanical, to the value of £47,297 and £33,194 respectively, were imported, giving a total value of £150,272. The imports of esparto and other vegetable fibres dropped from £60,707 in July, 1897, to £29,593 in July, 1898, and of linen and cotton rags from £18,316 in July, last year, to £16,958 in July of the present year. The exports of British manufactured writing or printing paper and envelopes, during the month, amounted to £73,840, of which Canada received £2,644 and the United States £1,217.

A SAFE MARKET.

THE returns of British imports and exports of paper and paper-making materials afford abundant food for reflection by the people of the Dominion, and for encouragement to the Canadian paper and pulp men. A market which imports paper to the value of £2,040,140 and raw material to the extent of £1,600,882, in seven months, is a customer which it is worth much to any country to cultivate and to retain after being once secured. From the returns quoted in another column, it appears that of an export of £73,840 of writing or paper and envelopes, during July, only £2,644 came to Canada, whilst, on the other hand, during the same month, Britain imported mechanical and chemical wood pulp to the extent of £80,491 from "other countries" than Norway. Formerly, all imports of this class of raw material were bulked together, but this year, the Board of Trade has divided it into two classes, "Norway," which includes the Scandinavian Provinces, and "other countries," which practically represents Canada and the United States. It is interesting to note that the imports

of wood pulp from "other countries" are steadily increasing, in about the same proportion as the Norwegian products have declined. This proves that the Canadian article is steadily finding favor in the British market, which is capacious enough to absorb all the pulp we have to spare for some years to come. It is in the manufactured article of paper, however, that there appears to be a splendid market for Canadian goods. Britain requires about \$17,500,000 worth of paper every year, of which a little more than one half is now supplied by Sweden, Germany, Holland and Belgium, the remainder coming from "other countries". If Canadian pulp, the raw material from which a large portion of the paper is made, can make any headway against the Scandinavian article in the British market, there certainly appears to be an excellent opportunity for those Canadian mills which are equipped with the latest and best machinery to compete profitably and successfully with the product of the Scandinavian paper mills in the same market which now gives the preference to Canadian raw material. There ought not to be any difficulty respecting the quality of the finished article, as Canadian genius and Canadian workmanship, founded upon and guided by intelligence, have hitherto proved fully equal to solve the various problems that have presented themselves in any other walk of life, and will not be found lacking in the paper mill. It appears as though those mills which are being equipped for an export trade will find a profitable and large market awaiting their output.

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