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PAPER AND PULP.

THE paper manufacturers of the United States are strenuously opposing the paper and wood pulp provisions of the reciprocity agreement. Among other things it is pointed out that the Dominion Government has no power to bind the provinces, with regard to the abolition of restrictions on the exportation of pulp wood; a point that is well taken.

THE PUBLISHERS' VIEW.

THE American Newspaper Publishers' Association, on the other hand, wants the wood pulp and paper provisions of the reciprocity agreement to go through just as they are. This is not surprising; there is a good deal of human nature in mankind; even in newspaper mankind. The paper and pulp clauses fit the needs of the American press like a glove. They may be rough on the American paper makers and the wood pulp clauses may be rough on the Canadian paper makers, and the Canadian forests; but these things need not worry the American publisher. For him the agreement is victory all along the line; and if every single item on the programme except paper pulp and pulp wood were dropped it would still be a splendid victory for the American newspapers. It is said, however, that the State Department has consented to a change in the agreement which will prevent Canadian paper entering the United States free until Crown Lands wood pulp is also made free. And as this is a matter for the provincial legislatures it may be a long time before that happens.

MONTREAL ISLAND MUNICIPALITIES.

A MEETING at the Montreal City Hall of the mayors of the principal municipalities on the Island of Montreal has unanimously declared itself in favour of taking united action, for the protection of the public interests in the matter of road and sewer construction and in the reservation of areas for public improvements. This action has been taken none too soon, but is better late than never. A similar movement twenty years ago, would have vastly improved the Island and averted the waste of much

money. Moreover it is an appreciable step in the direction of municipal federation and ultimate annexation.

LONG SAULT DAM.

THE House of Representatives at Washington has thrown out the Long Sault Development Bill, on a motion to suspend the rules, in order to enable the passing of the Bill. While this does not finally dispose of the measure, it is conceded that its fate is sealed, at least for the present session of Congress. On the general merits of the Bill no action has been taken, but as the motion to suspend the rules required a two-thirds majority, and it was actually defeated by a vote of 84 to 66 it would seem that the measure is not favorably regarded by Congress. The principal objection raised was to the term of the lease, ninety-nine years, whereas the General Dam Act fixes the limit to such leases at fifty years. The supporters of the scheme argued that nobody would be willing to spend \$40,000,000 upon such an enterprise on a fifty years' lease. The indications are that the project is killed; which is matter for general congratulation to all interested in the navigation of the St. Lawrence.

CANADIAN COALING STATIONS.

SIR Henry Pellat's suggestion that Sydney should be fortified for the protection of the coal supply against foreign foes is well worthy of consideration. The strength of the British Navy is largely dependent upon its magnificent chain of coaling stations all round the world; and the efficiency of the foreign navies in distant waters is greatly impaired by the want of such facilities. In time of peace the lack of coaling stations is a matter of comparatively little importance; but the principal usefulness of a navy is in time of war, when foreign coaling stations can only be had by forcible seizure. For instance, the German navy would be practically powerless on this side of the Atlantic unless it could secure abundant coal supplies somewhere on the American coast. Canada could not make a more valuable contribution to Imperial defence, than by making its coaling stations invulnerable.