

WOOD PULP DEPARTMENT

AMERICAN CAPITALISTS INVESTING IN CANADA.

A TRANSACTION of considerable magnitude has been reported from Scotstown, Canada. Wm. H. Parsons & Co., of New York city, representing the Pejepscot Mills, Maine, on the Androscoggin river, has recently made a \$50,000 purchase at Scotstown, of the Cookshire Mills Company, of their lumber mills and timber limits in that location.

Messrs. Parsons & Company have been in the habit of purchasing a very considerable part of their spruce pulp wood supply in that section of the country. Some months ago they bonded this property of the Hon. R. Pope, representing the Cookshire Mill Company, and before the bond expired they decided to purchase the property. It does not carry with it the ownership of any timber lands, but represents certain timber limits belonging to the Canadian government, and leased by them, so that whoever cuts pulp wood therefrom pays a certain stumpage for the cuttings. This price is not a fixed rate, as the government of Canada arrogates to itself the right to increase this at its own pleasure.

The cost of freighting spruce pulp wood from Scotstown to the Lower Androscoggin, where Messrs. Parsons & Co. propose to grind up this wood, is about \$3 per cord. It seems odd that a pulp and paper concern situated on the Androscoggin river, in the State of Maine, where so much spruce is supposed to be growing, should be forced to make a purchase of forest areas or leases of forest areas in the Dominion of Canada, in order to secure a supply of raw material. This is especially interesting, considering the fact that it is almost certain that the Canadian government will impose an export duty on spruce pulp wood of \$2 per cord, making with the freight of \$3 per cord—a \$5 cost, independent of the cost of stumpage, cutting, hauling and loading on the cars.

This is pretty certain evidence that some of the large pulp and paper manufacturers are willing to have their pulp wood cost more than it does at present, and also leans towards the idea that the areas of spruce forest accessible and desirable for the Maine pulp mills are somewhat scarce or difficult to obtain.

No doubt a purchase in Canada seems cheap in comparison with a purchase of similar rights in the United States, but in the end I believe the areas in the United States can be operated much cheaper than those in Canada. Besides, the accessibility and desirability of those in New England places them far ahead of similar tracts in Canada.

It will be remembered that last year the Montague Paper Company, of Holyoke, Mass., made a considerable purchase of Frank Dudley in this same section of the eastern townships, province of Quebec.

It is also learned that there are large contracts being made this year in the eastern townships for delivery of spruce pulp wood over the Grand Trunk railroad, and over the Boston and Maine

system, for New England pulp and paper mills. It is rumored that the Burgess Sulphite Pulp Company, of Berlin Falls, N. H., are making considerable purchases of pulp wood in Canada this year; also that several of the Maine concerns are contracting for future deliveries of wood, and some of the Connecticut river pulp and paper mills are expecting a part of their supply from the eastern townships.—Northeastern Lumberman.

THE BRITISH MARKET FOR WOOD PULP.

THE last issue of Wood Pulp, published in London, England, contains the following with regard to the market for wood pulp:

The market is very quiet at present, as the bulk of the papermakers have now contracted for their next year's supplies. In the case of mechanical, although there has been no advance, there has been no decline in prices, nor any indication of such in the future—the tendency, in fact, being upward. We hear on reliable authority that the prices for Scandinavian deals have risen nearly 50 per cent., so there seems no likelihood of a fall. Makers of mechanical pulp are holding out for higher prices, but we have not heard of any orders being booked at what they now ask, nor does there seem to be any prospect of their getting what they want at the present time. As most of next year's contracts have been made, papermakers can afford to wait, and the efforts Canada is making to obtain a hold of the market here justifies to a certain extent their decision to wait. There is little doubt that in the near future Canada will prove a very important factor in this market. Already she is offering to supply mills with regular consignments at short intervals at almost the same price as the Scandinavian article; and Canadian pulp has the reputation, whether justly or not, of being superior to Scandinavian. The same thing, however, does not apply to the case of chemical pulps, as America does not yet seem to be able to compete in either quality or price with the European article. The market is accordingly firm at recent prices, while makers are now holding out for higher figures. There is not much of either soda or sulphite to be had now, however, and what little there is is being reserved in the hope of getting higher prices later on.

NEW LIQUID FOR MAKING PAPER PULP OF WOOD.

VERY considerable advantages are presented, the Milwaukee Journal thinks, in the new liquid brought forward by James Lappen, of Appleton, Wis., for making paper pulp of wood. Instead of such pulp product being limited to spruce, this mixture transforms pine—especially slabs and endings—spruce, basswood, poplar, hemlock and tamarack, into such pulp; and whereas the liquor now used in paper mills eats the tanks and machinery and gives off violent fumes of sulphur, the new liquid does not corrode and has no disagreeable odor. The inventor further asserts that the new liquor is much less expensive than that now in use; in fact, reducing the cost of pulp some 50 to 75 per cent., and this with a good profit still remaining for the manufacturer; and one of the valuable points, in addition, put forth in its behalf is that the liquor cooks the wood to pulp in the digester in some six hours or less, while by the paper pulp process at present

in vogue a piece of spruce to be cooked requires a much longer time. The quality of paper thus produced is pronounced to be remarkably good, being firm and pliant, of satisfactory color, and on account of its texture and leathery consistence has been examined by experts in leather manufactures with a view to its employment as material for inner soles, heels and shanks.

PULP NOTES.

A pulp mill is being erected at Chicoutimi, Que. J. T. Guay, of Quebec, is one of the promoters.

It is reported that the establishment of a pulp mill at Magaguadavic Falls, N. B., is contemplated.

Pulp and paper mills are proposed to be established on the Petawawa river, in the vicinity of Pembroke, Ont.

It is said that an impetus will be given to the pulp trade by the recent discovery that bottles can be made out of pulpwood which are said to be not only unbreakable but lighter than glass bottles.

Mr. D. Jalber, of Lake Bouchette, Que., states that a company is being formed in Quebec to construct a paper factory on some falls of the Ouatchouan river, a few miles below its issuing from the lake, where between 3,250 and 3,500 horse power can be obtained.

Mr. J. S. Larke, Canadian Commissioner in Australia, states that Canadian paper and pulp manufacturers are making no effort to enter the Australian market. Canadian paper is continually being asked for, and unlike most other articles from the Dominion, the sale would be immediate one.

The first carload of manilla paper ever sent out of Nova Scotia arrived in St. John last month. It was from the paper mill at Hartville, near Windsor, N. S. There the pulp and the paper are made there. T. G. McMillan has a band mill on the same stream, quite close to the paper mill, and the refuse from the former is utilized in making some of the pulp. The mills are run by water power, and there is a strong head at both mills. The paper mill could get a 40 foot head if necessary. Above the mills is a lake 21 miles long, surrounded by excellent spruce for pulp. The paper mill has its own electric plant, and is fully equipped for economical work.

An act has been passed by the Nova Scotia legislature incorporating "The Acadia Pulp and Paper Mills Company," the promoters being Hon. Alfred G. Jones, A. E. Jones and Walter G. Jones, merchants; John Stairs, manufacturer; Thomas Fysche, bank manager; Benjamin F. Pearson, barrister, all of Halifax; George E. Pomeroy, of Toledo, Ohio, banker; George A. Chubb, of Boston, pulp merchant, and a banker of London. The capital stock of the company is \$550,000, and power given to increase the same as the wants of the company require, to \$5,000,000. The business of the company is, in effect, to take over all the pulp mill industries in Nova Scotia.

An application of the Sturgeon Falls Pulp Company to exercise certain powers under the water privilege came up for hearing at Sturgeon Falls, Ont., on February 9th. A proposition to purchase the Russell power by the Pulp Company at a price of \$6,000, reserving to the company a small water power and some land on the east bank of the river, was taken into consideration by the court. The claimant, the Judge adjourning the sitting to enable the parties to reach an agreement. The matter is therefore virtually settled, and the settlement gives the company from eight to twelve thousand horse power which can be effectively used. The pulp mill there is being built as rapidly as possible, and the foundation work and blasting is rapidly reaching a conclusion.

Mr. J. H. LeFebvre, of Montreal, has written a letter to the Montreal Gazette advocating the imposition of an export duty on pulp wood. He says: "If you visit the pulp and paper mills of New England and New York you will see there large numbers of Canadian workmen, working on Canadian woods, for the profits of American manufacturers. Why should we thus send abroad our men and the raw materials which we could so profitably utilize in our own country. In 1894 Great Britain imported \$25,000,000 of paper and paper making materials. Could we not supply the fourth or the fifth part of this? In this case five or six millions would float in our country."