

# Paper and Pulp News.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF CANADIAN PULP AND PAPER MAKING.

MONTREAL AND TORONTO, NOVEMBER, 1898.

## DEMAND EQUAL CONSIDERATION.

THE Commissioners at Washington are working in secret upon the tariff questions, and it is, perhaps, best, under the circumstances, that the policy of withholding information regarding details until the full report is ready should be adhered to. We have, however, noticed, in all the articles which have appeared in the daily papers respecting the negotiations, that, while a good deal of attention has apparently been paid to the question of free lumber in return for free pine logs, but little is ever heard about free pulp for free spruce logs. It must not be lost sight of that whatever treaty or arrangements may be arrived at, as a result of the pending negotiations, will, in all probability, be the basis of the relations between the two countries for many years to come. We have before pointed out that the rapid development of the use of wood pulp, during the past 15 years, has entirely revolutionized the condition of affairs in our forests, and has imparted a commercial value to that which was before comparatively worthless. The wood pulp industry in Canada is, as yet, but in its infancy, and no one to-day will pretend to say that the limit of usefulness to which the pulp may be applied is within sight. If the indications are not misleading, the pulp and paper industry of the Dominion, which now rivals its sister industry of the forest, will, within a very few years, far surpass it in importance and value. It is, therefore, quite clear that, in any discussion of reciprocity in forest products, spruce wood and pulp should receive equal consideration with pine logs and lumber.

Our Commissioners should not overlook the object lesson contained in the Canadian trade returns for the last fiscal year: Exports of wood pulp to all countries, \$741,959. Exports of pulp wood, \$711,152. Had the pulp wood which went into the United States duty free been manufactured into pulp in Canada, the value of the wood pulp exported would have been increased by about \$2,000,000, which would have gone into the pockets of the workingmen and manufacturers of Canada. Neither should the Canadian Commissioners overlook the sound, logical arguments contained in the following resolution passed by a meeting of paper and pulp manufacturers held at Montreal in September: "It is the sense of this meeting that an export duty be immediately placed on all pulp wood exported from Canada (no matter in what shape or size) which would be equivalent to the present import duty on Canadian pulp entering the United States, unless the United States admit all Can-

adian pulp, both chemical and mechanical, free of all import duty."

Any measure of reciprocity which does not secure for the products of our pulp mills the same advantages in the American as that which is accorded the products of our saw mills will have failed to meet the requirements of the hour, and will cripple and sacrifice an industry which, though young in years, has already attained robust strength, and which, when fully developed, will be a most potent factor in the country's prosperity.

## EXPORT DUTY ON PULP WOOD.

THE opponents of the proposal to place an export duty on pulp wood, who based their arguments upon the necessities of the poor settlers, who now find a source of considerable revenue in their spruce timber, have received a rude rebuff. There is, perhaps, no portion of Canada where the settlers have derived greater benefits from the demand for pulp wood than in Algoma, and it might naturally be expected that the strongest opposition to the proposed duty would come from these settlers. The Algoma Conservator, a weekly paper published at Gore Bay, Manitoulin Island, in the very heart of the spruce district, and which may fairly be accepted as expressing the sentiments of its settlers and farmer subscribers, has declared that an export duty on pulp wood is the remedy for the difficulty. The one thing which Algoma wants is population to develop its rich resources of the forest and soil, and The Conservator shrewdly argues that the imposition of an export duty on pulp wood, high enough to prohibit its exportation, would have the effect of establishing pulp mills along the north shores of lakes Huron and Superior. This candid expression of opinion by a paper representing the pulp wood farmers may be the turning point in the agitation for an export duty. The impression that such a duty would be unpopular with these farmers and would endanger the popularity of those politicians who advocated it had a powerful effect when the proposal was under discussion before. Once let the settler farmer declare for such a duty, this element of political danger being removed, the question comes within the range of practical politics, which may be handled with safety to those taking it up, and the prospects for its adoption are materially improved. If the United States taxes our pulp, the least the Canadian Government can do is to make them pay an export duty on pulp wood and give Canadian pulp mills a chance.