


Paper and Pulp News.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF CANADIAN PULP AND PAPER MAKING.

MONTREAL AND TORONTO, APRIL, 1898.

LOOKING TO CANADA.

HE discussion at the annual meeting of the British Paper Makers' Association upon the question how best to meet the tactics of the great "news" combine of the United States, a report of which appears in another column, is of more than passing interest to Canadian pulp and paper makers. From the tenor of the discussion it appears that the British manufacturers have become aroused to the danger to their interests which will result if the "slaughter market" tactics of our American cousins, the disastrous effects of which Canadian manufacturers have learned from bitter experience, are allowed to be pursued in the British market without strenuous opposition. A combine of British manufacturers is, if rumor is to be believed, to be one of the forces by which the slaughtering methods are to be counteracted. The most encouraging feature of the discussion, to Canadians, is the fact that the leading members of the paper making fraternity of Great Britain, men whose high standing and success are admittedly due to their far-seeing shrewdness and ready appreciation of the natural opportunities which lay before them, unhesitatingly turn to Canada for relief. Sir John Evans and Capt. Partington, who have recently visited Canada, and whose opinions have been formed from actual observation, both realize that the foundation upon which British manufacturers must wage a successful fight against United States competition is cheaper raw material. And it is in Canada that these gentlemen are confident they have found this great desideratum. A constantly increasing market for our pulp will be found in Great Britain, and there is little doubt that if the project of our brethren in the old land, as set forth in their resolution, is carried out, an immense success for the pulp trade in Canada is assured. It does not require a very great stretch of imagination to believe that in the near future, when Canada has become a more important factor as a source of supply than she is now, new paper mills may spring up beside the pulp mills.

A MENACE TO THE SPRUCE SUPPLY.

The gall insect (chunes abietis), that preys upon the spruce trees, is again giving trouble in Ontario. The insect's mode of working is to deposit its eggs at the junction of the needle and the bark, when the wood grows over them, causing an ugly bulb. The young insects hatched in this feed on the wood until they have developed into flies, when they come forth and carry on the work of spreading eggs. In about two years the

tree is ruined. So far the insect has confined its attention almost wholly to shade trees, but Mr. Southworth, the Ontario Clerk of Forestry, who regards it as a menace to the spruce wood tracts, is making great efforts to exterminate it. Already the pest has advanced as far north as Lucknow, where some swamp spruces are found to be attacked by it, and it is feared that, unless vigorous measures are taken, the spruce forests farther north may become infected.

BRITISH MAKERS COMBINING.

We hear, on good authority, that a large paper manufacturing "combine" is in process of formation to embrace many of the largest papermakers in the United Kingdom. The proposed capital is £3,500,000, or thereabouts.—Manchester Courier.

The proposed combine relates entirely to newspaper producers. No department of the paper trade has suffered so much as that of the news from competition and underselling. Whilst the competition was limited to that of Continental opponents on the English markets, comparatively little harm was done. Now, however, that the Americans have got thoroughly to work in the way of sending vast quantities of paper over here, the story is a very different one. Paper combines in America have, we are told, put up the price of the article on the other side of the Atlantic. As a further result of their institution in the land of the almighty dollar, when the demand has been met there the output of the American mills is shipped to the Old World, with disastrous results to proprietors of new mills in this country. As an illustration may be instanced the fact that from Manchester recently has gone an order for 750 tons of American paper in one contract. Some 35 firms are registered in the Paper Makers' Directory as manufacturers of news material, and of these about 17 have been mentioned as likely to join, if the combine becomes an established fact. A number of the mills affected are in Lancashire. So far, three of these, in the neighborhood of Blackburn and Darwen, have been shut down, and there is a prospect of still further stoppages, it is believed, unless some method of protection can be adopted such as is now fore-shadowed.—Manchester Evening News.

BRITISH MAKERS HAVE PREFERENCE.

According to an announcement in the Canadian Senate, the reciprocal tariff will be withdrawn on August 1, and the preference it allows will be conceded only to the United Kingdom and to such of the British Colonies as may be willing to give