

HAS CANADA TOO MANY PULP MILLS?

One Answer to this Query is Positive—What New United States Tariff Means

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In view of the attention which has been attracted to the Canadian pulp and paper field, by occurrences which cannot out exercise some influence upon the general situation, an interview which appears below with a well-informed Montreal pulp and paper man will be of interest. The interview relates to the report that the customs officers of the United States have been notified by the treasury department to collect countervailing duties on all printing paper valued above 2½ cents a pound imported into the United States. It would seem that since the passage by congress of the reciprocity act, print paper from Canada, when valued under 4 cents a pound, has been admitted free of duty. The 2½ cents value is now, under the new law. This order will result in the assessment of 12 per cent., plus the countervailing duty imposed by the country of origin, on the paper above 2½ cents a pound.

Newsprint is Free.

The comments of this Montreal gentleman upon this industry are as follows:—"The practical effect of the new American tariff is that Canadian newsprint is now admitted free. Customs officials through the United States have been notified by the treasury department to collect duty on all printing paper above 2½ cents per pound imported into the United States. However, newsprint is not now nor is likely to be for many years, selling as high as 2½ cents per pound. Canadian paper selling above 2½ cents is all book paper, and of this none is exported. Canada does not at present manufacture sufficient book paper for domestic requirements and imports considerable quantity from England.

"The Newspaper Association of the United States is a powerful body and it has succeeded in having newsprint put on the free list. At present there is practically no newsprint imported into the United States from any country but Canada. Canada is now shipping about 800 tons per day as compared with 250 tons six months ago.

Should be no New Flotations.

"Local paper manufacturers are of the opinion that the United States will in time import newsprint from Norway and Sweden, but these countries are our only competitors. On the whole the market now open in the United States for Canadian pulp and paper is not very considerable. Newsprint is admitted free, but wrapping paper, which was formerly admitted free, has now a duty of 25 per cent. under the new tariff.

"The production of groundwood by Canadian mills is now greatly in excess of the demand. One company, at a very recent date, had on hand 22,000 tons of this product, which, at the prevailing market, meant a reserve of \$300,000 and represented a nine months' output for their mills. A good part of this stock has had to be sold at a sacrifice.

"Canada has now too many pulp and paper mills and it is to be hoped that any further flotations will not take place for some years to come."

During the past two months thousands of tons of steel rails have been received at Fort William. The bulk of the shipments are consigned from the United States Steel corporation's various steel plants in the eastern and central states and are destined for points throughout Western Canada, chiefly to points on the Grand Trunk Pacific Railroad. The United States Steel Corporation have representatives in Fort William superintending the unloading and forwarding of their big consignments. Until the close of navigation the receipts of steel rails, fastenings, bolts, plates, etc., will be heavy, and will exceed all former years' shipments.

One of the noticeable physical features of British Columbia is its position as the watershed of the North Pacific slope. All of the great rivers flowing into the Pacific, with the exception of the Colorado, find their sources within its boundaries. The more important of these are: The Columbia (the principal waterway of the State of Washington), which flows through the province for over 600 miles; the Fraser (750 miles long); the Skeena (300 miles); the Thompson, the Kootenay, the Stikine, the Liard, and the Peace. These streams, with their numerous tributaries and branches, drain an area equal to about one-tenth of the North American Continent. The lake system of British Columbia is extensive and important, furnishing convenient transportation facilities in the interior. The area of the lake aggregates 1,560,000 acres.

UNION LIFE INQUIRY; LEDGER MISSING

The investigation into the affairs of the Union Life Insurance Company, was opened this week with Mr. George Kappele, K.C., the official referee, presiding. Messrs. Harry Symonds, one of the incorporators of the Union Life Company, and W. H. Carrie, secretary of the company, were examined. It was shown relative to the agreements made between the Union Life and the National Agency Company, which controlled most of the stock in the Union Life, that the agreements had been amended from time to time to enable the National Agency to obtain certain amounts, presumably as an agent, and permit it to pay dividends on its capital stock.

It was admitted by witnesses that the National Agency Company used premiums received from the public in connection with the sale of its capital stock and the profit of the sale of certain blocks of stock to the Union Life Company.

W. H. Carrie informed Mr. Masten, (for the government) that a stock ledger referred to was missing.

BANK BRANCHES OPENED AND CLOSED.

During September 20 branches of Canadian chartered banks were opened and 12 closed. The following gives details of the branches opened and closed this year:—

	Opened.	Closed.
January	34	15
February	29	16
March	25	6
April	28	4
May	20	8
June	22	10
July	20	8
August	21	6
September	20	12

Houston's Bank Directory gives the following particulars for September:—

Branches Opened—20.

Alberni, B.C.	Bank of Montreal.
Amqui, Que. (Shown closed last month in error)	La Banque Nationale.
Beauharnois, Que. ...	Banque d'Hochelaga.
Borden, Sask.	Northern Crown Bank.
Chateauguay Basin, Que.	Merchants Bank of Canada.
Chester, N.S.	Bank of Nova Scotia.
Delhi, Ont.	Molsons Bank.
Hunter's River, P.E.I.	Royal Bank of Canada.
Lancer, Sask.	Northern Crown Bank.
Limerick, Sask.	Merchants Bank of Canada.
Maisonneuve, Que. ...	Imperial Bank of Canada.
Prelate, Sask.	Northern Crown Bank.
Richdale, Alta.	Bank of Toronto.
St. George's, Grenada	Royal Bank of Canada.
Shaunavon, Sask. ...	Canadian Bank of Commerce.
Sherbrooke, Que. ...	Royal Bank of Canada.
Toronto, Ont., 2115 Yonge St.	Home Bank of Canada.
Toronto, Ont., Queen St. and Beach Ave.	Bank of British North America.
Victoria, B.C., James Bay	Bank of British North America.
Winnipeg, Man., McGregor St. and Selkirk Ave.	Bank of British North America.

Branches Closed—12.

Gretna, Man.	Bank of Montreal.
Irricana, Alta.	Northern Crown Bank.
Lemberg, Sask.	Bank of Toronto.
Michel, B.C.	Imperial Bank of Canada.
Naramata, B.C.	Canadian Bank of Commerce.
Odessa, Sask.	Bank of Toronto.
Peachland, B.C.	Northern Crown Bank.
Quebec, Que., St. Roch.	Imperial Bank of Canada.
Saskatoon, Sask., 219 Second Ave.	Royal Bank of Canada.
Sayabec, Que.	La Banque Nationale.
Ways Mills, Que. ...	Quebec Bank.
Wynyard, Sask. ...	Imperial Bank of Canada.

Mayor Deacon, Winnipeg, says that no franchise will be given to any company to operate motor buses in the city. There is an application before the city from a party of Montreal real capitalists.