

WOOD PULP ~ ~ DEPARTMENT

INCREASED PULP WOOD DUES.

An order-in-council has been passed by the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario increasing the dues on pulp wood from 20 cents to 40 cents per cord. The new law will take effect on May 1st next and will make the dues the same as is charged in Quebec and New Brunswick. It is expected that pulp wood will be an increasing source of revenue to the Ontario government, as last year 29,848 cords were cut on Crown lands, as against 16,448, in 1898.

SEARCHING FOR NEW FIBRE.

The United States paper makers apparently view with some alarm the prospect of their supply of spruce for pulp making becoming exhausted. No greater evidence of this can be found than the efforts that are being put forth to find a substitute for spruce. The Times-Democrat, of New Orleans, in order to encourage the discovery of a new fibre for use in the making of paper, offers to subscribe \$500 to a fund for this purpose. Naturally many suggestions have already been received, by which cottonwood has been brought forward prominently. Captain McIntyre, of Portland, Oregon, who is engaged in transporting cottonwood from Lower Columbia points to a paper mill in Oregon City, states that by the time the wood reaches the paper mill it costs about the same as firewood, \$3.50 a cord. He has no fear of the supply of cottonwood giving out soon, as it grows very quickly. Under favorable conditions it becomes a sturdy tree 20 inches at the butt within 25 years.

The requirements of the new fibre are that it be cheap, abundant in supply, located so that it can be gotten to the manufacturing point without excessive freight charges, and that it must be capable of being used in the pulp and paper mills as advantageously as wood.

A new design of wood pulp grinder is now being manufactured by McOuat & McRae, of Lachute, Que.

BLEACHING WOOD PULP.

A CORRESPONDENT asks the following question: "What is the best practice in American mills for bleaching wood pulp from the bale? Is it put into the bleaching engine in sheets, or previously steamed, broken up in a rotary boiler, or passed through a willow or devil, or handled in any other way which will enable the greatest output of bleached stuff in the least time?"

Mr. J. F. Hobart answers the question in the Paper Trades Journal as follows: "There is no universal practice, as I have found it, in American mills as to bleaching wood pulp, but the beating engine seems to be used for that purpose more than anything else, although stuff-chests are used for bleaching to a considerable extent. When pulp makers sell bleached pulp they do not, of course, bleach from the bale, but take it as it comes from the wet machine, or even from the digester blow-off, or from the grinder screen. But in mills where wood pulp, both mechanical and chemical, is taken from the bale there is great diversity of practice. I believe that in the majority of American mills the pulp is furnished dry into the beating engine, the sheets being opened out and sometimes torn into pieces of one to three square feet in area. The roll is, of course, raised during the furnishing operation, and the pulp is allowed to run in the engine until it has become reduced to small bits of fibre. Then the bleach is introduced. Steam is sometimes introduced, and the contents of the engine heated up to 120 or 140 degrees Fahr. to facilitate operations both of disintegrating the bunches of fibre and of bleaching. Some mills use stuff-chests, either vertical or horizontal, and the wood pulp, after having been torn in pieces in a beating engine, is let down into the stuff-chests for bleaching. Some mills, instead of using the conventional stuff-chest with agitator, make use of conical vertical chests in which circulation is maintained by means of a powerful fan (centrifugal) pump into which the small conical neck of

the chest is connected. In only one mill which I have visited did I find a machine for tearing up sheets of wood pulp ready for the bleaching operation. This machine was an ordinary picker, such as is used in textile mills for preparing some kinds of fibre, notably flax, cotton, etc. This machine had a large flat travelling slat table upon which the pulp sheets were spread. A power feed and a pressure roller secured a uniform feed and insured the sheets being torn into small and equal pieces. I am not aware that any mills use rotary boilers for breaking up wood pulp preparatory to bleaching, still such may be the case in some mills which I have never had opportunity to visit. But never having seen or even heard of this being done, I believe it is seldom if ever practised in American mills."

THE WOOD PULP MARKET.

Our contemporary, Paper and Pulp, says of the wood pulp market of Great Britain:

The scarcity of mechanical pulp for early delivery is now becoming more apparent, and will be very keenly felt during the next two months. Reports from Norway state that the scarcity of water is now daily becoming more decided. It is difficult to see how prices can fall later on, as some buyers in this market anticipate, as it will take a long time to fill up the gap made by the shortage, coupled with the extra demand. An impression seems to prevail in this country that there will be a serious fall in prices after the spring, but present indications do not warrant this assumption. For prompt delivery moist pine has been sold at 75s c.i.f., while £7 5s c.i.f. is asked for dry pine. Sales have also been made for delivery from July onwards at 60s c.i.f. for moist. Although the majority of makers are now asking 65s for moist and £7 for dry, 70s has been offered for deliveries of moist from March to the end of the year, but refused, as the pulp could not be obtained.

Sulphite for prompt delivery is exceedingly scarce, and the market is absorbing everything that comes on to it, prices being at present very high. As far as we can ascertain the supply has in no way been curtailed; on the contrary, it has considerably increased from Scandinavia, though, of course, shipments from America have fallen off. There is every indication that prices will advance still further, as the quantity of sulphite still available for this country is now known to be limited.

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