

In 1867 they built what was at the time regarded as one of the finest paper mills in America, at Levels 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 of the Old Welland Canal, at Merriton. It had a daily capacity of ten tons of news and wrapping paper.

In the early '70's the Riordans were among the first on this continent to undertake the making of groundwood pulp, straw pulp and rags forming the raw material for newsprint paper prior to that time. In 1885, John Riordan died, and his son, J. G. Riordan, succeeded to his interests. It was at this time that Charles Riordan became the active head of the company. In 1887, Charles Riordan, in conjunction with the late Governor Russell of Massachusetts, brought the sulphite pulp process to America under patents of Dr. Kelner, of Vienna. The company built a sulphite mill of 30 tons capacity at Merriton, which is still in operation.

Turning once more to Lower Canada, it is found that the next paper mill was built at Portneuf, followed by one at Valleyfield, owned by Messrs. W. and

T. Miller, who afterwards sold it to the late Alexander Buntin. Mr. Buntin built extensive additions to the original mill, and installed in it the first wood-grinding machine on the North American continent.

In 1859 the firm of Angus Logan & Company was founded in Montreal, and shortly after this the company had in operation a small mill on the Magog River in Sherbrooke. This consisted of two cylinder machines turning out 2½ tons a day. It employed sixty persons. In 1866 they established a mill in the village of Windsor Mills, and shortly afterwards built what is claimed to be the first pulp mill in Canada. This would appear to be correct, the census returns as late as 1871 making no mention of pulp mills.

From this time on the progress of the industry has been steady and constant. The 1881 census showed Canada to have at that time five pulp mills, with a capital investment of \$92,000, employing sixty-eight people, and having an annual output valued at \$63,000.

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