

WOOD PULP DEPARTMENT

MARKETS FOR CANADIAN PULP.

WHEN in Montreal recently, ex-Mayor George Robertson, of St. John, N. B., was interviewed regarding the proposed pulp mills in New Brunswick. After referring to the several mills now completed and projected, he was asked the following questions:

"Will there be room for all of these mills, and will the demand be sufficiently large to warrant such an extensive outlay?"

"I will answer your questions," Mr. Robertson replied, "by giving you some information as to the extent of the British market. In the Lancashire district of England, 180,000 tons of mechanical pulp are imported yearly for paper. This immense quantity comes chiefly from Scandinavia and Bohemia, and please remember that this is only one kind of pulp."

"Leaving Great Britain and France, which is also a pulp importer, out of the question, just consider the ever-growing paper consumption of the United States. Besides this, there must be at least thirty different articles in which pulp is used in the manufacture."

"Can we compete with the States in the manufacture of pulp?" was next asked.

"To use a common expression, the United States are 'not in it.' They simply cannot compete with Canada in pulp manufacture. Wood costing from \$2.50 to \$3 and even less in Canada is costing to-day \$6 per cord in the United States."

Continuing, Mr. Robertson said that the Americans allowed our wood to go in free, but they levy a duty on the pulp, and in reply to another question, he said: "I should judge the Canadian pulp and paper industry to be of sufficient importance to bring influence to be felt at the proper time and place. I look upon the manufacture of pulp and paper in Canada as one of the most important industries that can be fostered in the Dominion, and the day will come when Canada will have almost a monopoly of the business."

"And New Brunswick will possess its good share?"

"Yes; our province has the largest area of spruce suitable for that purpose that exists in Canada to-day."

FAVORS AN EXPORT DUTY.

Mr. J. H. Lefebvre, C. E., of Montreal, who recently returned from England, tells, in the Montreal Star, of the results of his investigations touching the pulp and paper industry. For the last four years he has devoted his time to the study of the manufacture of pulp and paper, and of the advantages that Canada offers to that industry, and the conclusions he has arrived at are: That we possess indisputable resources and advantages; that, in order to be remunerative and susceptible of attracting capital, the industry should be carried on on a large scale in mills of large capacity; that, in order to retain the control of their market, the British people

will have to turn their eyes to Canada and invest their capital here.

Early last winter he went to England for the purpose of impressing these views upon some of the wealthy manufacturers, and in this he states he was successful. He considers it necessary, however, that Canada should impose an export duty on pulp wood.

Mr. Lefebvre says: "If we increase our production suddenly to a large extent, we must create a demand, because we must be careful not to flood the market; and the only way to do is to take the place of the Americans on the British and European markets, even on their own market. The position to-day is this: The United States forests are getting depleted, and we are allowing the Americans to take our logs and pulp wood, while they impose a duty on our manufactured articles. Why should we let them steal our wood the way they do and leave practically nothing in the country in return but the stumps, while our Canadian workmen are working in the United States in mills supplied with Canadian wood to the benefit of the Americans, who sell us paper and export pulp and paper to Great Britain, Europe—even Australia? We have a great field before us, and it is now time to decide whether we shall take the lead in the wood pulp and paper industry. In the Old World, except Scandinavia, they have no surplus of wood, but barely enough for their own consumption, and many countries have to rely on others for their supply. In Sweden and Norway wood is going up in price, and they can hardly increase their production. We must look to Great Britain for the capital to develop our interests, and especially this one. British capitalists are now turning their attention to Canada. They seem to realize that after Australia and South Africa have had their turn, they should naturally look to Canada for investments; but as yet they are timid. By affording the necessary facilities and encouragement to make it a success, they will start in a good sound enterprise, such as the pulp and paper industry, and the capital will soon follow to develop the other industries of the country. It is time that we should look sharply after our own interests. And sooner or later the question must be settled by the Dominion government, as they will be requested by the American authorities to veto any legislation passed by the provinces to aid this industry. What the country requires is an export duty. I admit that if the duties were taken off on both sides of the line it would open a big market. But this would not have the results we are looking for—it would not stimulate the industry, and would permit the Americans to retain the control of the market."

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

"READER" asks: Can you tell me whether the balsam or fir timber grown on the shores of the Lower St. Lawrence is used in the manufacture of pulp?

ANSWER: We understand that balsam fir is used quite extensively and successfully for chemical (either sulphur or soda) process pulp, but it is no competitor with spruce for ground wood or mechanical pulp. No other wood so far as known is so well adapted for mechanical pulp as our native spruce. We are informed that some spruce mills making spruce pulp may add a

small percentage of balsam pulp to their product without detection, but it is considered an adulteration. As a matter of fact, any of our native woods will make chemical pulp, but there is no substitute for spruce for mechanical.

PULP NOTES.

The E. B. Eddy Company have commenced the erection of a new pulp mill at Hull, Que.

Mr. Douglas Ayerst has been appointed superintendent of the pulp mill of the Royal Paper Mills Company, East Angus, Que.

The council of St. John, N.B., has granted to the Caledonia Sulphite Fibre Company the necessary water rights and the erection of the proposed pulp mill will now proceed with.

Mr. Hiram S. Maxim, of London, Eng., was in Quebec last month, investigating the prospects for a pulp mill. An examination of the water power at Chelsea, owned by Gilmour & Hughson, was made.

The mayor of Woodstock, N.B., has received a communication from a large business concern in Ontario are considering the erection of an immense pulp mill in Eastern Quebec or New Brunswick.

Mr. W. J. Findlay, of Lawrence, Mass., who has been appointed manager of the Sturgeon Falls Pulp Company is a brother of Mr. J. D. Findlay, superintendent of the Toronto Paper Co.'s mill at Cornwall, Ont.

The Lake Megantic Pulp Company, of Lake Megantic, Quebec, is seeking amendments to its charter, with a view to increasing the capital stock and engaging in a more extensive pulp-making, saw-milling and electric light business.

It is understood that Mr. George Taylor, of Toronto, has abandoned, for the present at least, the idea of erecting a pulp mill at Seven Islands, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence river, in Quebec. At one time the project seemed in a fair way of being carried to completion.

A dinner was given recently at the Royal Hotel, St. John, N.B., by Mr. M. F. Mooney, in compliment to Messrs. Philip Grosset and W. D. Grosset, managers of the St. John Sulphite Co., Ltd., who came from Scotland to inspect the work that had been done. The mill will be completed early in March.

The pulp mills at Val Morin, three miles from St. Adele, in Quebec, were destroyed by fire last week. The mills passed into the hands of an American company about two months ago. J. H. Nault, the former proprietor, receiving \$55,000 for the property, including the buildings and installing new machinery to the value of \$15,000. The loss is about \$30,000, half of which is covered by insurance. It is stated to be the intention of the company to rebuild at once.

A patent has recently been taken out for a new method of drying pulp. According to this invention, the drying cylinders are enclosed in an air-tight compartment in which there is a partial vacuum created by means of air pumps. By this means the water evaporates quickly, and the temperature of the drying cylinders is not, therefore, very high. Pulp dried by this method is, therefore, not exposed to the danger of being discolored or affected by being too highly heated. Mechanical pulp dried in this way is disintegrated in the hands of the miller as easily as air-dried pulp.

The Sissiboo Falls Pulp Company, of Weymouth Falls, N.S., have in their mill four grinders, three wet machines, two hydraulic presses and a smaller picking press. There are also the necessary repair shops, and an electric light and steam heating plant. The mill works day and night throughout the greater part of the year. Sawing of water in certain seasons sometimes necessitates a pension. This difficulty, however, has been largely overcome by the construction of reservoirs at certain points on the upper part of the river. Some twenty tons per day is the average output of the mill, which consumes annually about 3,000 cords of spruce. Employment is furnished to twenty-six men.

The Chatham, N.B., World of recent date says: The steamship Tiber sailed on Monday with 1,200 tons of pulp shipped by the Maritime Sulphite Fibre Co. She will stop at Halifax and take on 400 tons of pulp that the company has forwarded to that port by rail. The Tiber's stowage freight, four carloads, was forwarded by rail from the