

INJUSTICE TO THE WORKMEN.

THE employes of Canadian paper and pulp mills are getting restless under the continual harassing of Canadian workmen under the alien labor law in the United States. The citizens of the great republic come into our forests, cut down our spruce, and take it across the boundary to grind it into pulp. But if an unfortunate Canuck happens along and wants to have a hand in the grinding of his own wood he is summarily fired back home again. This treatment has caused the Canadian workman to pause and consider whether the wood should not be ground into pulp in Canada, anyway. He would then get a fair share of the work. An export duty on pulp wood would certainly prevent the injustice under which he now labors in being compelled to stand by in idleness watching the United States citizen doing the work which is his by right. At present all that Canadians get out of the spruce which goes across the line is the brush, which is useless to anybody, and forms a constant menace to the safety of the standing timber.

FIFTY YEARS OF PROGRESS.

The chemical treatment of wood fibre is older than is generally believed, but only dates back about half a century. In 1840 Payen used nitric acid; Couper and Mellier employed in 1852, Watts Burgess in 1853, Julieu in 1855 and Houghten in 1857 various kinds of soda and alkali. Barr and Blondel tried in 1861 sundry acids; Brakot and Machard in 1864 experimented with hydrochlorate; Jilghman introduced in 1859 lime mixed with sulphurous acid; Ekman in 1866, sulphate of magnesia; Fry in 1867, water of a very high temperature; Dresel in 1870, soda; R. Mitscherlich in 1871, sulphurous acid; Ungerer in 1872, soda; Ritter-Kellner in 1872, sulphurous acid; Romer in 1873, nitric acid; Cross in 1880, water with neutral sulphate; Franke in 1881, Pictet in 1882, Graham and Hodgkiss in 1882, made use of various compounds of sulphurous acid; Dahl in 1883 brought in sulphate; Kellner in 1885 electricity, and Lifschutz in 1890, nitric and sulphuric acids. The earlier experiments are only interesting from a scientific point of view. A commercial and industrial success and a more general use cannot be claimed to have taken place much more than about twenty years ago.

A THRIVING INDUSTRY.

Ex-Senator Warner Miller is the authority for the statement that "Wood pulp, combined with paper making, is now the greatest industry in the state of New York. We have 128 mills in operation, a capital of \$30,000,000 invested, an output of 1,400 tons a day of paper, a force of 15,000 men employed, and an annual pay roll for them reaching a total of \$6,000,000. All but 1 per cent. of these employes are men. They furnish sustenance to 100,000 people, and indirectly, in the towns and villages and by means of railroad traffic, to many more." The Senator might have added with perfect truth that much of the raw material upon which the 15,000 men find employment is obtained from Canadian forests.

LAURETIDE PULP COMPANY.

A special meeting of the Laurentide Pulp Co. was held May 15, at Montreal, Sir William Van Horne, vice-president, in the chair, for the purpose of ratifying a bylaw increasing the capital stock of the company to \$4,000,000 by the issue of \$600,000 new stock. The company is erecting large additional works at its

mills at Grande Mere, on the St. Maurice River, and it has acquired very valuable timber limits in that vicinity. The bylaw authorizing the increase in capital was agreed to.

LET US TAKE STOCK.

ONE of the great difficulties which has been experienced in determining the magnitude of Canada's pulp wood supply has been the entire absence of any reliable information concerning the extent of the spruce-bearing areas. It has, of course, been known that spruce may be found in almost every part of the province of Ontario, but from the fact that it is only within a very few years that this wood has possessed any general commercial value, but little attention has been paid to it. The great demand which has arisen for spruce since it has become the principal raw material for the manufacture of paper has created for Ontario and the other eastern provinces, out of that which was regarded as worthless, a most valuable asset. In former years the Crown Lands surveyors have confined their private notes upon the forest wealth, which accompany their official reports to the Government, almost exclusively to the pine. Mr. Thos. Southworth, the clerk of forestry, recognizing the important part which spruce is destined to play in the timber trade, has been directing his attention to the matter of obtaining special reports for the Government upon the extent and value of the spruce areas of Ontario. He has ascertained that north of the height of land and extending to James Bay are enormous forests of spruce, some of which is of large size, as shown by the fact that he recently received from that district a section of a spruce log which measured about two feet in diameter. The trade will be pleased to learn that the Ontario Government has appropriated in the supplementary estimates the sum of \$1,000 to cover the cost of a pulp wood survey. Any steps in the direction, first, of ascertaining the true extent of our pulpwood resources, and next, of bringing them prominently before the world, is worthy of commendation, and the Ontario Government will receive credit for taking the initial step.

The Government should not, however, lose sight of the fact that the great desideratum for the successful manufacture of pulp is cheap power in close contiguity to the standing spruce. It is well known that scattered all through the forests are great natural water powers which are now running to waste, but only await the transforming hand of man to convert them into valuable service for manufacturing purposes, some of them within sight almost of the iron rails over which the manufactured products must find their way to the markets of the world. The Government may aid materially in developing the pulp and paper and other industries by including in the report of the survey such information as will enable those interested to ascertain where these natural water powers are. The policy of carefully preserving the water powers from the grasp of speculating franchise-hunters is a wise one, but on the other hand much can be done toward encouraging legitimate enterprise by the Government preparing the fullest information respecting them. There is no country in the world that possesses within herself the essentials for a great paper exporting industry—unlimited supply of spruce contiguous to abundant water power—to such an eminent degree as Canada. It is the duty of the Governments, both Dominion and Provincial, to exert their power to the fullest extent in building up the country's commerce and wealth by fostering and encouraging those industries which are indigenous to the soil.