

Contracts for chemical pulp for delivery next year are being made more freely, whilst for mechanical enquiries show that paper-makers have still to buy very largely.

A representative of Messrs. Harmsworth, proprietor of the London, England, Daily Mail, has made an inspection of the pulp mill of the Maritime Sulphite Fibre Company, at Chatham, N.B., with a view to purchase.

E. H. Humbert, manager of the Belgo-Canadian Pulp Company, of Shawinigan Falls, Que., was accidentally killed by his own gun while inspecting the limits of the company in the Lake Edward district. Deceased recently arrived in Canada from Belgium.

Progress is being made towards the formation of a combine of nearly all the sulphite pulp mills of the United States and Canada. It is said that the proposition provide that each

manufacturer shall be paid for his plant in stock, preferred and common, both going to makers whose mills show a profit, and common stock to mills not showing an earning capacity.

The progress of the pulp and paper industry of the Dominion is shown by the annual statement of the Laurentide Pulp Company, operating at Grand Mere, Que. The net profits for the past year were \$296,361 over and above interest on bonds on all other charges. This is upwards of 18 per cent. on the stock of the company. It is said that the entire product of the company is sold up to the end of the year 1902.

The paper and pulp industry of the United States, according to a preliminary census report issued the other day, has a total capital of \$167,507,713, a gain of 86.5 per cent. since 1890. The number of establishments is 763, a gain of 17.6 per cent. The value of products

is \$127,286,162, an increase of 61.2 per cent. The average number of wage earners is 49,656; total wages, \$20,746,429; miscellaneous expenses, \$10,184,106; cost of materials used, \$70,530,239.

The Sissiboo Pulp Mills Company, of Weymouth, N.S., has defaulted in the payment of interest on its bond issue. About two years ago the stock of the company was placed on the market, with a bond issue of \$250,000, secured by a mortgage upon the property owned by the company. The present inability to meet the interest is reported to be owing to internal difficulties on the part of the management. It is also probable that the recent low selling price of pulp has been a factor in the embarrassment. The company has an excellent directorate, and it is to be hoped that a satisfactory settlement will be made.

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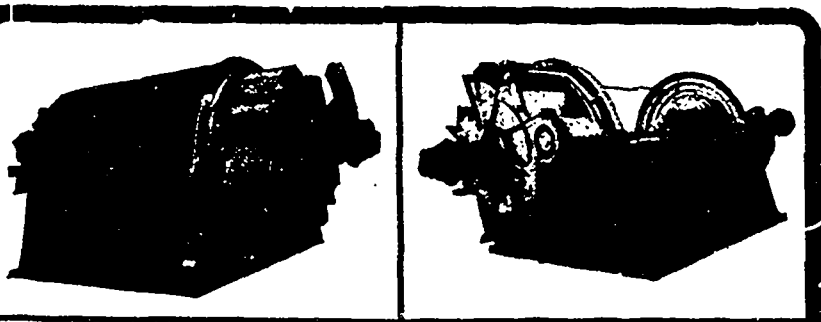
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