

WOOD PULP ~ ~ DEPARTMENT

EXPORT DUTY ON PULP WOOD.

A resolution was passed at the annual meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association in Halifax last month in favor of an export duty of \$4 per cord on pulp wood shipped from Canada. The resolution was adopted for the sole purpose of having our raw material manufactured in Canada. Mr. Eddy, of Hull, declared that Canada was rapidly being robbed of her forest wealth by the exportation of pulp wood to the United States.

It is difficult to secure accurate figures showing the quantity of pulp wood exported to the United States, but one of the best authorities gives it as his opinion that from 60 to 65 per cent. of the pulp used to manufacture paper in the United States is made from timber grown in Canada. Owing to the existing duty on pulp, this percentage is represented very largely by pulp wood, as the quantity of pulp shipped across the border is, in comparison, a mere bagatelle. In the last twelve years there have been exported from Canada between eight and ten million cords of pulp wood, which, when manufactured into pulp, would represent an outlay or an expenditure in cash of from twenty to twenty-five millions of dollars. It is not surprising, therefore, that there is a strong public sentiment in favor of applying to pulp wood a policy which would secure to Canadians the benefits of home manufacture of the raw material. Why should we allow pulp wood to go out of the country free of export duty and give the United States all the advantages accruing from its manufacture, in the place of having this money circulated in Canada?

A tax of \$4 a cord would doubtless be prohibitive, as is intended. Pulp wood cannot now be exported from Ontario and British Columbia, but from the other provinces of the Dominion the business of exporting the wood goes on unhampered, except for a discrimination of twenty-five cents in the Province of Quebec, which is really of no effect in preventing exports. Should the Dominion Gov-

ernment fail in its duty to impose an export tax, it will be up to the Provincial Governments to pass a prohibitory law as was done by Ontario and British Columbia.

We are told that the Treasury Department proposes not to recede from its position in imposing an additional duty on pulp as the result of the discrimination by the Province of Quebec against the export of pulp wood to the United States. We were inclined to regard this action as a bluff, but this characteristic cannot fairly be attributed to the Treasury Department, and we must look upon the officials as sincere until evidence to the contrary is produced. It matters little, however, whether this additional duty is imposed or otherwise. If the relations between the two countries should become such that Canadian pulp and pulp wood could not be exported to the United States, one of the ideal conditions will have been reached, as by this means a wonderful stimulus would doubtless be given to the manufacture of paper, and thus the greatest possible benefit would come to Canadians from the manufacture of the raw material. But we do not expect that this condition will be experienced. If a prohibitory export duty should be placed on pulp wood, the paper makers of the United States would bring such pressure to bear upon their Government that no doubt the duty on wood pulp would be taken off entirely. Then capital would be freely invested in this country for the erection of pulp mills and there would be a demand for labor such as we have not yet seen.

With such an abundance of spruce timber admirably suited for the manufacture of pulp, our Government should disregard entirely all retaliatory measures which may be temporarily put into force by the United States, and should legislate solely with a view of building up manufacturing industries within our borders, which can never be accomplished so long as we allow our raw material to furnish the supply for pulp and paper manufacturers in other countries.

THE SEVEN ISLANDS PULP MILL.

The North Shore Power, Railway and Navigation Company, who are building a large pulp mill at Seven Islands, on the St. Lawrence River, have decided to increase the capacity of the mill from 50,000 tons to 250,000 tons, having satisfied themselves that there is a market for the larger output. Messrs. Ross & Holgate, consulting engineers, of Montreal, who were entrusted with the engineering work, have now been given entire charge of the construction work also, the company having found that sufficiently rapid progress was not being made. The engineers have, with much difficulty, secured several hundred workmen, principally Italians, who are living under canvas and have to be supplied not only with food but with every necessary of life, as there is no town or village within reach from which to obtain what is required. Supplies are brought down by boat from Quebec, but at the close of navigation operations must be suspended. It has been decided to locate the mill alongside the water power, which is situated seven miles from Seven Islands Bay, it having been found by calculation that it would be much cheaper to carry the product of the mill by railway to the shipping point than to locate the mill at the Bay and transmit electric power from the Falls with which to operate it. To do this would require a very large expenditure for copper, as a heavy current would be required.

One of the first undertakings, therefore, was the construction of a steam railroad seven miles in length, which pending the completion of the mill, will be used to carry in supplies and afterwards to convey the product of the mill to the shipping point. The company also own another water power, two or three miles farther distant from the water. These two water powers will have a capacity of about 80,000 h. p. It is proposed, at present, to develop 22,000 h. p. at the mill site. There are now under construction at the bay necessary wharves, and a sufficient number of houses will be built near the mill to accommodate 500 operatives and their families. These features of the undertaking are being pushed forward as rapidly as possible. The next to be commenced will be the construction of the dam, but this will probably not be started this year.

Seven Islands Bay is a natural harbor, being almost land-locked and about seven miles in diameter. It provides accommodation for vessels of 30 feet draught and is open all the year. A comparison last winter showed the temperature to be several degrees higher than at Peterboro, Ont.

This bay is 350 miles nearer Great Britain than is Quebec. It is therefore not improbable that it will, in the future, become an important ocean port.

The North Shore Power Company have purchased 1,000 miles of spruce limits in the neighborhood of the mill site. In the same locality are iron deposits giving by analysis 60 per cent. of pure iron. The whole of this northern section of the province of Quebec is believed to be rich in minerals, as well as in timber, and abounds with excellent water powers, so that a great development is looked for within the next decade.

In reporting on the wood pulp market in France, M. A. L. Grondal, of Paris, states that the demand is slow and prices show a downward tendency.

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