

# WOOD PULP ~ ~ DEPARTMENT

## NORWEGIAN WOOD PULP.

Reporting upon the trade and commerce of Norway, Consul-General Dundas states that the production of pulp, especially mechanical pulp, was not appreciably larger in 1900 than in the preceding year, owing to the scarcity of water, but prices were very high—on the average about 55s. per ton, compared with 28s. to 29s. in the summer of 1899, when as much as 65s. was paid for prompt delivery—and as the demand was very great, manufacturers were masters of the situation. But only about half of the production profited by the rise in prices, the rest having been sold in advance. As formerly, the United Kingdom was the largest customer, with Germany, France, Belgium, Spain and others in order of precedence.

The quantity exported was :

	1899.	1900.
Dry.....	19,768 tons.	21,546 tons.
Wet.....	284,023 "	301,545 "

Of which Christiania supplied :

	1899.	1900.
Dry.....	8,741 tons.	6,670 tons.
Wet.....	34,265 "	38,052 "

The same conditions applied to cellulose, or chemical pulp, added to which the high price of coal is said to have been felt in no small degree by those works dependent on its use, so that on the whole 1900 is characterized as only a fairly good year, some factories doing well, but others the reverse. The total export was 94,885 tons dry and 10,288 tons wet (of which 68,525 tons went to the United Kingdom), compared with 75,731 tons dry and 7,490 tons wet in 1899. The quantity exported through the port of Christiania was 31,403 tons dry and 4,020 tons wet, compared with 17,814 tons dry and 3,948 tons wet in 1899. The foregoing figures include a little re-exported Swedish cellulose.

## THE PULP MARKET.

For some time past there has been pronounced weakness in the wood pulp market. In Great Britain, it is said, there are large stocks of mechanical wood pulp, with very little demand, and offers have been made at 37s. 6d. per ton c.i.f. Manchester. Paper-makers are making requests to defer deliveries. On the other hand considerable purchases have been made for next year, so that it would seem that paper-makers have faith in brighter times ahead, and believe that prices have reached rock-bottom. Reports from Scandinavia state that prices are now showing a tendency to harden.

In Great Britain dry mechanical pulp is quoted at £5 to £5 3s. c.i.f. London and Manchester; and 50 per cent. moist at £1 17s. 6d. to £2 7s. 6d. The price of chemical pulp delivered at same ports ranges as follows :

Sulphite, bleached, £12; unbleached, £9 5s. to £9 10s.

In the United States prices are correspondingly weak, ground wood pulp being quoted at \$13 to \$14 per ton at the mill. Most of the mills have been enabled to keep in operation all summer, not having been shut down for any length of time on account of inadequate water; consequently, the stock of pulp is rather heavy. Some of the Canadian mills are also carrying more than the usual supply of mechanical pulp.

## COMBINE OF PULP MANUFACTURERS.

A meeting of the American Sulphite Manufacturers' Association was held at Niagara Falls, N.Y., on August 19th. The following Canadian companies were represented : Laurentide Pulp Company, Grand Mere, Que.; Riordan Paper Mills Company, Merriton, Ont.; St. John Sulphite Fibre Company, St. John, N.B. A proposition was submitted to the meeting to establish a company to act as a central selling agency, the object being to regulate the price of pulp and to make the produce more uniform and of recognized grades. Each company to hold stock in proportion to the tonnage of pulp produced. The agency would be governed by a board of directors, each mill being entitled to a representative on the board. The product of the mills would be marketed by the company, receiving for its compensation two per cent.

The plan was fully discussed and was placed in the hands of a standing committee to consider and report at a meeting to be held in New York on September 18th. It is realized that it would be necessary to secure the co-operation of all pulp manufacturing companies in order to make the scheme the success it is intended to be.

## PULP NOTES.

The statement of the Maritime Sulphite Fibre Company, of Chatham, N.B., values the mill property and equipment at \$1,204,572.70.

Wood pulp was imported into Great Britain during July last to the extent of 46,942 tons, an increase of 65 tons compared with July, 1900.

Mr. Menier is said to be negotiating to build a mill on the island of Anticosti for the manufacture of wood pulp, chiefly for export to France.

It is reported that a Canadian syndicate has been looking over a water power at Holeb Falls, Maine, with a view to the erection of a large pulp and paper mill.

A representative of an English syndicate last month visited the provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick looking into the possibilities for establishing a large paper manufacturing plant. It is desired to establish a paper mill

with a capacity of 200 tons of paper per day. The water falls at Grand Falls, N.B., was, it is said, considered very favorably.

It is stated that J. W. Munro, M.P.P. of Pembroke, has sub-let to a United States firm his contract for the construction of pulp mills at Webbwood, Ont., for the Spanish River Pulp & Paper Company.

Pulp for paper was imported at Barcelona last year to the extent of 2,784 tons, of the value of £22,372, a drop in quantity but an increase in value compared with the previous year, when 3,158 tons were received, of the value of £21,520.

The W. & A. McArthur Company, of Cheboygan, Mich., who operate a saw mill at Little Current, Ont., are said to be figuring on the erection of mills at Cheboygan for the manufacture of pulp and paper, in order to utilize their water privileges.

Honorable W. C. Wells, Commissioner of Crown Lands for British Columbia, has entered into agreements with the Pacific Coast Paper Company, of Victoria, and the Industrial Power Company, of Nelson, by which these companies acquire extensive timber limits on the British Columbia coast for the purpose of engaging in the manufacture of pulp and paper.

Application has been made for the incorporation of the Franco-Canadian Steam Navigation Company, of Canada, Limited, with headquarters at Montreal and capital of \$1,000,000. The Clergues, of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., are interested. It is proposed to establish a direct service with France, which service it is expected will greatly facilitate the shipment of Canadian pulp to that country.

Tenders were invited a fortnight ago for the necessary power development and construction of pulp mill at Brompton Falls, Que., for the Brompton Pulp & Paper Company. The buildings for which tenders were invited include a pulp mill 142 x 84 feet, two storeys high, and a wood-preparing building 67 x 65 feet, two storeys, both of brick and steel construction with gravel roofs. The president of the company is George E. Bearce, of Lewiston, Maine. E. W. Tobin, M.P., of Brompton Falls, Que., is a director.

A petition was filed at Osgoode Hall, Toronto, on August 25th, on behalf of Charles Reimsborrow, of Chatham, N.B., for investigation into the affairs of the Maritime Sulphite Fibre Company. It is alleged in the petition that the company, without consent of its creditors or without satisfying their claims, conveyed to the Royal Trust Company, of Montreal, and Hugh Robinson, Montreal, certain real and personal property, representing the whole or main part of their assets in trust for the benefit of bondholders, said fund amounting to \$500,000.

A pulp maker, who is well posted on the wood question, made the following statement while in attendance at the recent meeting of Sulphite Pulp Manufacturers : "American pulp makers need not expect to get any wood from Ontario. The two years' limit in which wood from there could be exported is now up, and exports must cease so far as timber from the Crown lands are concerned. For instance,