

to say a few words about the paper machines and the mills themselves.

The first machine was invented about 1800, a very long and narrow contrivance occupying a space of about fifteen hundred square feet, and it is said that for every working day it was capable of turning out from three to fifteen tons of paper."

The first mill established in America was near Philadelphia, about 1700, and served for many years the early printers, among whom was Benjamin Franklin. As time advanced the supply was about to become short, owing to the increasing demand, and at the time of the revolutionary war great difficulty was experienced in obtaining rags for the mills. In the year 1800 the consumption of paper was about 12,000 reams in the United States, valued at 700,000 dollars. But to-day any newspaper in a large city like Boston, Chicago or New York pays more than that amount for the year's supplies.

Although paper mills are situated in many cities of the United States, the best are those in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania. One of the greatest centres is that at Holyoke, Mass., which produces from four to five hundred tons a day.

The Holyoke mill is the plant which afforded the writer the data for the first part of this little article. Visitors are allowed at all times, and are shown through the factory by a man who is there to explain everything to strangers interested in the manufacturing of that precious commodity we so often inadvertently waste, so cheap and universally employed as it is, in this the paper age!

C. F. B.

