

WOOD PULP DEPARTMENT

THE PULP INDUSTRY AND ITS POSSIBILITIES.

STRONG pressure has been brought to bear upon the Dominion government within the past month to induce them to impose an export duty upon Canadian pulp wood, but as is the case with every question having different bearings, this proposal has both its advocates and opponents. Canadian pulp manufacturers are, of course, a unit in its favor, and rightly so, inasmuch as the pulp wood is now exported free of duty, while a tax equal to about \$2 per ton is imposed on the manufactured article by the United States government. The opinion is also becoming more general among lumbermen that our pulp wood should be manufactured at home, and many of them have thus declared themselves. The main opposition to the export duty on pulp wood comes from settlers, who have in the past been enabled to earn a livelihood by selling the wood to the American concerns, and who fear they may lose their bread and butter by the change in the tariff.

Foremost among the advocates of the duty has been Mr. P. J. Loughrin, general labor organizer for Canada, who has been lecturing at different points in Ontario. He states that 600,000 cords of pulp wood are exported annually to the United States, for which from \$2 to \$3 per cord is paid. This raw material is then manufactured into pulp and paper, at a cost of from \$7 to \$11 per cord, which amount, he claims, should be expended in Canada. In support of his arguments that the United States must have our spruce, he states that there are 232 pulp mills in that country idle for want of raw material.

Mr. Milton Carr, of Trout Creek, does not agree with Mr. Loughrin, and has endeavored to point out through the Toronto Globe wherein he errs. In his vicinity, he says, the sale of pulp wood is the chief source of revenue, and without it the settlers could scarcely maintain themselves.

Mr. E. B. Eddy, of Hull, believes that an export duty on pulp wood would result in building up an immense industry in Canada, and favors a duty of \$4 per cord. He says: "If an export duty is levied to the extent I have stated it would lead immediately to the investment of some five or six million dollars in the erection of mechanical pulp mills, stretching all the way from St. John, N. B., in the east to the Lake of the Woods in the west, and this would lead to the building up of scores upon scores of villages where waste lands now exist, and give employment to thousands upon thousands of the laboring class, and the demand for labor would be more than we could supply. The labor required to manufacture one million tons of pulp and to freight it to the border would necessitate an outlay of some \$5,000,000 annually."

In view of the many conflicting interests bearing upon this question of an export duty, it may not be amiss to give some figures and review briefly the possibilities of the Canadian pulp industry. First, it must be admitted that Canada

possesses a greater supply of pulp wood than any other country in the world, and that no other suitable raw material has yet been found, or seems likely to be discovered in the near future, for the manufacture of pulp for paper making. The quality of pulp produced in Canada is said to be superior to the Scandinavian article, and has been given a favorable reception by British paper manufacturers. It has recently been pointed out by a Canadian paper manufacturer of wide experience that the climate of Canada is particularly adapted for growing spruce for making pulp, that at the close of a comparatively hot summer the advent of winter puts a sudden stop to vegetation and growth of fibre, which is not the case in other climates where the advent of winter is slower, and which leaves a fibre that is too hard, while the trees grow too knotty for the best quality of pulp.

That British capitalists are already turning their attention to Canada for a supply of pulp is shown by the statement published within the past fortnight that Mr. Reed, a large English paper manufacturer, had purchased the Masterman pulp mill at Chatham, N. B. This is believed to be an indication of the trend of the trade.

Norway and Sweden have in the past furnished the pulp supply of Europe, but the timber in these countries is becoming exhausted. Hence the market for Canadian pulp in Europe is at once opened up, an opportunity which manufacturers should not allow to pass.

Turning now to figures, it is estimated that there are in Canada thirty-four pulp using paper mills, operated in connection with which are nine chemical fibre and eight ground pulp mills. The paper made in Canada amounts to about 64,000 tons a year, the chemical fibre to 27,000 tons, and the ground pulp to 125,000 tons a year. The value of the annual output of the mills is given as \$6,500,000. Canada exported to the United States last year \$557,000 worth of pulp wood. To Great Britain the pulp exported was valued at \$113,000, and pulp wood at \$27,000.

It is estimated that in the United States the annual output of ground wood pulp is 700,000 tons, and of chemical and sulphite pulp 480,000 tons, for the manufacture of which 1,000,000,000 feet of spruce would be required. The increase of the ground wood pulp business in the past fifteen years has been 1058 per cent.

Some statistics of the foreign imports of Great Britain should prove interesting. In 1895, the last year for which we have any returns, that country imported 297,094 tons of wood pulp, valued at \$7,600,000, an increase of over \$900,000 over the previous year. Of this Canada supplied only \$400,000; United States, \$250,000; Sweden, \$1,700,000; Germany, \$380,000; Holland, \$330,000; Russia, \$250,000, and Austria, \$125,000. The British importations of foreign paper in the same year amounted to \$1,442,000.

According to the Statistical Year Book Canadian wood pulp sold in Great Britain in 1893 at \$24.80 a ton, while the Scandinavian product only commanded \$20.77.

PULP NOTES.

A pulp mill will probably be erected this summer at Lake Megantic, Que.

The St. Johns News understands that the Canada Paper Co. will build a large pulp and paper mill at the new dam at Windsor Mills, Que.

The new pulp mill at Sturgeon Falls, Ont., is nearing completion. The contract for four large pulp grinders has been given to the Bagley & Sewall Co., of Watertown, N.Y., the machines to be delivered before the first of June.

The Petewawa Lumber, Pulp & Paper Company has been incorporated by the Ontario government, the promoters being A. Drewson, New York; A. T. Mohr, Niagara Falls; and Geo. Urban, jr., T. C. Becker and Geo. Dakin, of Buffalo.

Mr. Windler, of New York, has purchased lands on the Saguenay River, Que., from the Terres Rompers to Caron's Falls, near the mouth of Rievère aux Sables, and will build a pulp manufactory there employing from three to four hundred men.

The St. Raymond Company, of St. Raymond, Que., is seeking incorporation, to carry on business as pulp manufacturers. The promoters are John Macfarlane, F. W. Everts, W. Drake, G. F. O'Halloran and E. H. Barber, and the capital stock \$50,000.

It is reported that Sir William C. Van Horne, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and Mr. R. B. Angus, president of the Bank of Montreal, have become associated with General Alger in operating the Laurentide Pulp Company, of Grand Mere, Quebec.

Paper and pulp boards are in demand among apple growers in Canada for use in the barrel heads. It is stated that they preserve the apples better than the wooden barrel heads. Paper pulp is also being used in America as a substitute for wood in the manufacture of black-lead pencils.

We learn that a small lot of about 15 tons of Canadian sulphite has been disposed of in the London market, and that the mills it has gone to have given it a very good report; in fact, in some cases we believe it was reported to be better than the best Scandinavian makes. It is said to be very clean and easily bleached.—Wood Pulp, London.

The largest paper mill is at work in Germany, in the straw pulp manufactory of Tannicht, near Crowswig, Saxony. It is a cylindrical mill of 4,000 kilogrammes capacity, and fourteen metres in length, worked by electricity. It requires forty to forty-five minutes to fill it, and it is emptied in five to ten minutes. The straw pulp is washed, crushed and bleached in the mill.

Chemical pulp will probably be scarce in Great Britain this year. Half the Norwegian mills are reported to be sold out for the whole year, and the others have only unimportant lots left. Buyers show more and more disposition to meet makers' price ideas, and sellers will most likely soon be able to obtain fully those high prices which they are now quoting. Sulphite pulp has been in active demand lately.

Mr. Albert E. Reed, a large paper manufacturer of Maidstone, Kent, England, is at present on a visit to Canada, and is said to have purchased the Masterman sulphite pulp mills located on the Miramichi river, at Chatham, N. B. He proposes to enlarge the capacity of this mill to thirty tons per day. The greater part of the pulp will be required in England to supply the needs of the paper mills operated by Mr. Reed, which has hitherto been obtained mainly from Norway and Sweden.

Do you propose making any changes in the equipment of your mill? If so, drop a card to the CANADA LUMBERMAN giving the particulars. The publisher is always pleased to hear from subscribers.

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