

# WOOD PULP ~ ~ DEPARTMENT

## THE WOOD PULP MARKET.

The wood pulp market has been depressed for some time. There is now a more hopeful outlook and prices seem to be on an upward move. The drouth in Scandinavia is said to be seriously affecting the production of mechanical pulp, and should this trouble prove to be as serious as is reported, it is likely to materially strengthen the pulp market. In Canada, however, production is proceeding along normal lines, although the mill of the Maritime Sulphite Fibre Company at Chatham, N. B., has suspended operations.

A combination of the chemical pulp manufacturers of Norway, Sweden, Germany and Austria is talked of, the object being to bring about a decrease in the production. On the other hand American sulphite manufacturers are considering proposals to increase their exports, and it is thought that in view of this the proposed combination of European manufacturers will be found impracticable.

## PULP MANUFACTURE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The province of British Columbia possesses excellent facilities for the manufacture of pulp, and it seems that they are shortly to be taken advantage of, as two companies have been formed for that purpose.

In 1899 two companies—the Industrial Power Company, of Nelson, and the Pacific Coast Power Company, of Victoria—were incorporated with power to engage in the manufacture of pulp and paper in all its branches. These companies have spent considerable sums in exploring for water powers and timber areas suitable for their purposes, and have at length succeeded in locating what they consider exceptionally good sites for their plants.

The Industrial Power Company has finally secured Clowhom river falls, Sechelt Inlet. Clowhom river empties into the sea over a series of falls, the altitude between the top of the highest fall and sea-level being 120 feet. Twelve thousand horse power is available from these falls, a special feature being the comparatively low cost at which the power can be developed, the ground being very favorably situated for that purpose. Mills can be erected practically at the edge of the ocean, thus securing excellent shipping facilities, and shipments can be made during the whole year without incurring the expense of railway haulage.

By an agreement recently entered into by this company with the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, a large area of timber lands situated on the north end of Vancouver Island and on the Mainland opposite, has been reserved for two years to enable the company to select the timber necessary for its undertaking.

One of the most important water powers of the province, viz., that at Powell river, has been secured by the Pacific Coast Power Company. Powell river forms the outlet of Powell lake and flows into Malaspina straits, about 80 miles north of Vancouver. The power available at this point is estimated at 18,000 horse power, and its situation is admirably adapted as a centre of industrial activity.

There is every reason to believe that in the near future mills of various kinds, utilizing this fine natural power, will be established. Important timber areas have been reserved at Kingcome and Tsaw-Watti rivers, and at Thompson and Wakeman Sounds, to assist the company in its selection of spruce and other

timber lands necessary for supplying pulp wood to the mills which this company propose to erect.

Speaking of the possibilities of the pulp industry in British Columbia, Gosnell's Year Book of British Columbia says: A special feature of British Columbia timber areas is their density—the yield being greatly in excess of that obtainable from equal areas in Eastern Canada. The average cut in Ontario is about 10 cord<sup>s</sup> per acre, while upon the lands secured by this company the estimated cut is over 100 cords per acre. This density enables logging to be carried on to great advantage, and it is estimated that the cost of wood at the mills for many years will be at least one-third the average cost to Eastern United States mills.

Cheap coal of excellent quality can be obtained from Nanaimo or Union, about 90 miles distant, and shipments can be made direct by water to the mills. The markets that can with special facility be supplied from British Columbia are: British Columbia, Japan, Australia, China, New Zealand, Hawaii, Philippines, Fiji, Western Coast of South America, Western Coast of Mexico and Asiatic Russia.

The home market is a rapidly growing one, and with the steady growth of population, a correspondingly rapid increase of the requirements in the way of paper may reasonably be anticipated. The long distance from the eastern mills and the freight rates make competition from the east impossible.

Japan probably furnishes the greatest possibilities for the future, the imports of paper in 1900 amounting to over \$2,000,000, and that of pulp to about \$230,000. Both the demand for pulp and paper in Japan is increasing very rapidly and the pulp mills of this province will be in the best possible position to supply it.

There are no statistics available regarding the trade with China, still an importation of \$375,000 in 1900 from the United States alone shows that the market is a valuable one. The South and Central American republics also show a large increase in imported paper.

The Australian market is perhaps the most important at the present time. There are no suitable pulp woods on that continent and no water powers, so that Australia is almost wholly dependent upon outside sources for its supply of paper, its total importation for 1900 being about \$5,000,000.

Appropos of the above, it is interesting to learn from the annual report of the Minister of Mines for British Columbia that there are valuable sulphur mines on the Extall river, a tributary of the Skeena river. It is the first workable deposit of pyrites suitable for sulphuric acid making found in the province, and bears an important relation to the growth of the pulp industry.

## THE CANADIAN PULP INDUSTRY.

Mr. S. Charles Phillips, of London, England, proprietor of Phillips & Company's publications, The British Paper Trade Journal, Wood Pulp Maker, and others, has been in Canada recently. Mr. Phillips being an excellent authority on pulp and paper matters, we give below some facts as expressed to the St. John Sun.

Mr. Phillips said: I have taken a great deal of interest in the pulp and paper trade, and nothing has delighted me more than to promote the interest under our own flag rather than in any foreign country. I think I can safely say that in the past twenty years I have visited all the important plants in the world. Canada has a great future in front of her. From the beginning I said so, basing the statement on my experience. I may say that our people in Great Britain were very reluctant to believe what I told them, believing that the inexperience of Canadians combined with the high freight rates would preclude the possibility of a substantial trade being done with Great Britain. The facts have proved otherwise. Already the United Kingdom is taking one-sixth of its supply

of ground wood pulp from Canada. Fred Becker, of the enterprising firm of Becker & Co., of London, the largest importers of ground wood pulp, was led through the glowing reports I made during my visits to Canada of her suitability as a source of pulp supply, to come out to this country. His eyes were opened to such an extent that he placed contracts in different parts of the Dominion for 50,000 tons of ground wood pulp. Next year that firm's contracts can for over double that quantity. Mr. Becker was much struck with the methods employed over here and the prompt manner in which business is done. Other well-known houses are doing business with Canadian wood pulp producers, among them being W. G. Taylor & Co. (Ltd.), Henderson, Craig & Co. (Ltd.), and Harry B. Wood. Canadian pulp makers are willing to learn and benefit themselves by the advice gained by those in a position to suggest improvements. It is my firm belief that if Canada makes in the future such rapid strides in the pulp business as have been made in the past, only a few years will elapse till she will supply the greater part of the ground wood pulp supplied in Great Britain, and in addition to that a large percentage to European countries. I find the sulphite pulp industry springing up and making capital progress. Canada being young at the business, has taken up the threads of pulp making European makers left off, and owing to the interesting and scientific character of the industry, improvements in America are constantly being made. New plants have taken advantage of them. Capt. Partington, of the Cushing mill, who is the largest individual shareholder in that mill, is looked upon in the old country and Europe as one of the first and foremost men in the industry. He is a self-made man, which in itself reflects the highest credit on him. He has fought his way through insurmountable difficulties from the bottom rung to the top of the ladder by sheer merit. He has been through every department connected with the pulp and paper mill. He was the first British paper manufacturer to recognize the value of sulphite wood pulp, and about 20 years ago devoted much time and money towards exploiting the system. He made himself familiar with all the processes, which were then few and in their infancy, and evolved for himself a process which he considered the best. Mr. Partington took in hand paper mills in the country which were absolute failures and through his practical knowledge and perseverance, made them most prosperous concerns. He has up-to-date mills at Glossop, Cheshire, near Manchester, Barrow-in-Furness, Borgard in Norway, and Hollein in Austria. He was the first man to make sulphite pulp at Glossop. He has made money in the paper business, and is said to be worth \$1,000,000.

## PULP NOTES.

The Riordon Paper Mills Company, of Merriton, Ont., has been authorized to increase its capital stock to \$1,000,000.

F. M. Steadman has been appointed manager of the mills and stores of the Sissiboo Pulp Company, Weymouth, N.S.

The Pulp Plaster Company, of Toronto, has been incorporated, with a capital of \$25,000, to manufacture pulp and other plaster.

James Beveridge and Charles C. Springer, of Boston, have been selected to the directorate of the Cushing Sulphite Fibre Company, to succeed George S. Cushing and Joseph Allison.

The Wabigoon Star states that definite developments are likely to take place shortly regarding the establishment of a pulp mill at Dryden, Ont., and that Charles Wright will submit a proposition for the building of the mill.

The tender of S. R. Pearce and J. D. Clifford, of Lewiston, Me., has been accepted for the building of pulp and paper mills at Brompton Falls, Que., for the Brompton Pulp and Paper Company. The contract price is about \$190,000, which includes about 30,000 cubic yards of ledge and 10,000 cubic yards of masonry work.

F. J. D. Barison, president of the North River Lumber Company, states that his company will have a pulp mill under construction at St. Ann's, C.I., within six months. The mill will employ over two hundred hands