

WOOD PULP DEPARTMENT

THE EXPORT OF PULP WOOD.

The probability is that the Quebec Legislature will open another session early in January. This fact accounts for the interest which is now being shown in the question of the export of pulp wood. It is understood that influential interests have requested the Cabinet to take some steps to protect the spruce forests of the province, and to assist the development of the pulp industry in Canada. The provincial government has no power to impose an export duty on pulp wood, and the federal government has taken no action. Therefore, it has been suggested that this difficulty can be overcome by imposing a stumpage tax of say \$4 per cord upon all wood cut in the province for pulp, and to give a rebate of \$3 or \$3.50 per cord upon all manufactured into pulp in the province. This would virtually prohibit the export of pulp wood from the province into the United States, and would no doubt be ruinous to those American pulp factories that are dependent upon Quebec for their raw product.

Whether or not any action will be taken by the government is a question in doubt. Those opposed to the imposition of heavy stumpage upon pulp wood intended for export, argue that it would interfere with the large trade done by individual farmers in cutting this wood upon their own lands for export. Against this it is claimed that the stumpage would only apply to lumber cut on Crown timber limits, and that a little courage in the matter on the part of the local government would lead to an industrial revolution in the province of Quebec, forcing the location there of many pulp mills, and probably paper mills as well, that are now situated on the other side of the line and furnishing employment to American labor.

Quebec's strong point is this, that the amount of spruce available in the United States is decidedly limited and will soon be practically exhausted, while in Quebec, the greatest spruce province of the Dominion, the supply is virtually unlimited.

A significant feature of the situation is the rapid absorption of the spruce lands on the St. Lawrence river. The International Paper Company of the United States, which began pur-

chasing only a few years ago, now owns 2,500 square miles. The Laurentide Pulp Company, of Grand Mere, and two other companies own between them 3,500 square miles. The Shawenegan Water & Power Company bought 700 square miles at the sale of limits in Quebec recently, paying over \$50,000. These and other facts, such as the acquisition of large tracts in Ontario by the Petawawa Lumber, Pulp & Paper Company and by the Sturgeon Falls Pulp Company, show that paper manufacturers are convinced that the supply of available spruce in the United States is almost exhausted, and that the paper mills of that country must soon be dependent upon us for their raw material. The International Paper Company alone has a capital of \$36,000,000, and the effect of such a transfer of industrial activity is almost incalculable.

PULP NOTES.

Grenville, Que., is said to offer a good location for a pulp mill.

The pulp mill at Sturgeon Falls, Ont., resumed operations early in November.

Hamelin & Ayers, of Lachute, Que., are experiencing a large demand for their felts for pulp and paper mills.

The Sault Ste. Marie Pulp & Paper Co., according to reports, exported over 10,000 tons of pulp to the United States since October 1st.

A rumor is current that a number of Truro capitalists have in view the establishment of a pulp mill at Farm Lake, Colchester county.

The first shipment of pulp from the pulp mills at Sturgeon Falls, Ont., under the new management, was made on Wednesday, Nov. 30th last.

The Dominion Pulp Company, of Chatham, N.B., has closed a contract with E. Leonard & Sons, of London, Ont., through their St. John branch, for one of the largest digestors ever made in Canada, this being the fourth digester to be supplied by this firm.

The project for a pulp mill at Baie St. Paul, Que., on the St. Lawrence river, is reported to be making good headway. Cross & Ewing are said to be making arrangements to secure a water power at Lime Ridge, near Marbleton, Que., for the purpose of manufacturing pulp.

At the next session of the Newfoundland legislature, application will be made to incorporate the Newfoundland Bleached Pulp Co., with a capital of \$2,000,000. It is proposed to exploit wood pulp, and probably coal, lime, stone and pyrites. The Messrs. Reid are prime movers in this important concern.

The manager of the Dominion Pulp Mills Company, Chatham, N.B., announces himself as strongly in favor of a regular line of steamers between St. John, N.B., and London, England, the year round. He states that his company are in a position to supply four car loads of pulp every week for shipment to London.

It is rumored that an English syndicate have in view the erection of a large pulp mill at Alma Island, near

Tadoussac, Que. The company propose expending about \$2,000,000, and is said to have made an offer to the local government to manufacture 450 tons of pulp per day, provided the free use of certain water powers is accorded.

According to figures just compiled, the export of pulp wood to the United States increased from \$677,221 in the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1897, to \$876,690 in 1898. As showing the marked increase in the export of pulp wood in recent years, it is stated that in 1890 pulp wood was shipped from Canada only to the value of \$50,197, and up to 1896 the exports had not reached the half-million mark.

In connection with the proposal of Mr. George Taylor, of Toronto, to build a pulp mill at Seven Islands, on the north coast of the St. Lawrence, it is learned that the river in some parts is 400 feet wide and 10 feet deep, and that there is a waterfall of 112 feet, giving an immense power. Mr. Taylor has purchased 76 square miles of spruce timber limits in the vicinity, and intends to proceed immediately with the erection of the mill.

An important decision has just been rendered by Judge Routhier in the matter of the Cascapedia Pulp & Lumber Co., of Cascapedia, Que., in liquidation. Mr. Alfred Lemieux, of Quebec, had been appointed liquidator to the company, and as such obtained in May last leave from the Court to sell the property. The sale was advertised to take place on the 14th of July last, but on that date, the bidding not being considered satisfactory, the sale was postponed, and on the following day the Court again granted Mr. Lemieux's petition to sell the property on the 17th of August last. On the latter date the sale took place, and Mr. McLellan purchased the property for \$20,700. Mr. J. M. Fortier was a shareholder and creditor of the company when the latter assigned, and took action in September last against Messrs. Lemieux and McLellan to have the sale to the latter annulled, on the ground that the notices required by law were not given previous to the sale, and that the property was worth much more than the price obtained. Notwithstanding this action, the liquidator notified the shareholders and creditors that the property had been sold, and published notices to that effect in the Quebec Official Gazette. Mr. Fortier then presented a petition to the Court, praying that all proceedings upon the ratification of the deed of sale be suspended until a decision was obtained in his case against Messrs. Lemieux and McLellan, and Judge Routhier granted the petition and ordered that all proceedings respecting the ratification of the sale to Mr. McLellan be suspended, as requested.

APPRECIATES THE PULP DEPARTMENT.

In renewing his subscription to the CANADA LUMBERMAN, Mr. B. L. O'Hara, of Quebec, writes: "The Pulp Department, which seems to have become a regular feature of the LUMBERMAN, is most interesting, and I hope in the course of the next few months to see many good articles on the different stages of the manufacture of pulp, material used, power required, etc. Considerable fir (peeled) is shipped from this province each year."

Readers of THE LUMBERMAN who contemplate enlarging their mill, or purchasing new machinery of any kind, are asked to advise us of their requirements. Such information is greatly appreciated.

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