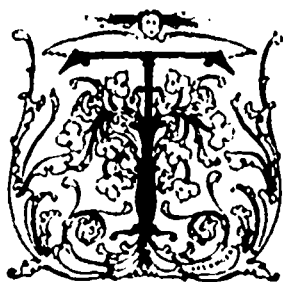


SOME STATISTICS ON THE PULP TRADE.

By THE EDITOR.



THE wood pulp industry did not figure in the census of 1871, showing that it was then an unknown feature of Canada's manufacturing. In 1881 the invested capital amounted to \$92,000, the wages to \$15,720 and the product to \$63,300. With the census of 1891 came an enormous increase. The invested capital was \$21,600,997, the wages were \$292,099, and the value of the product was \$1,057,810. The product in 1891 was 261,155 cords. In the decade from 1881 to 1891, the capital invested has increased fifty-fold.

The exports of wood pulp have also shown a rapid and steady increase. The article did not appear in the Customs returns of 1889, but the subsequent years are as follows:

PULP EXPORTS.

Fiscal year of 1890	\$ 80,005
" " 1891	188,198
" " 1892	219,548
" " 1893	386,692

But still greater are the exports of wood for making pulp, as the following table will show

EXPORTS OF WOOD FOR PULP.

Fiscal year of	Export U.S.	Export Britain.
1893	\$454,253	\$1,640
" " 1892	355,393	...
" " 1891	280,619	...
" " 1890	168,180	460

This should, of course, be manufactured in Canada, but the Government has not seen fit to move in the matter. On the 22nd of September, 1892, an order of the Quebec Executive Council forbade any holder of a license to cut timber, to cut any cedar if it were not made into shingles in the Province of Quebec. This is surely precedent enough. If the various Provincial governments would follow the same rule, there would be no trouble. But if the general authorities, that is the Federal Government, would move in the matter, it would be much better than trusting to seven smaller authorities.

The United States Government has changed the duty on pulp from \$2.50 on wood pulp, and \$6 or \$7 on chemical pulp, to a straight ad valorem duty of 10 per cent. Estimating the value of wood pulp per ton at \$14, the duty would thus be \$1.40 per ton. At \$45 per ton the duty on chemical pulp would be \$4.50 per ton. Thus it may be easily seen that the United States recognizes the value of this young trade. It knows that wood pulp manufacturing is yet in its infancy, that its growth will be rapid, and the country that controls it will be greatly enriched. It knows that by retaining a heavy duty it can prevent the growth of mills among the Canadian spruce forests, and force the manufacturers of it in the United States to give employment to thousands of United States laborers. Will the Canadian Government stand idly by and see Canada robbed of one of its most promising industries?

Of course, the free trader would say: "If the industry is a sustainable one for the country, it will grow up in spite of adverse

tariffs." The man that says this tells something that he knows is untrue, or, if he thinks it true, something which is the result of a defective reasoning power. Tariffs are a nuisance always, and a necessity sometimes. But wherever they exist they affect trade and trade channels. Tariff legislation is something which must be studied apart from pure political economy and its absolute principles.

The forest area of Canada is very large, and its wood is very valuable. The last Statistical Year Book (1893) estimates Canada's area of forest and woodland at 3,315,647 square miles, or nearly two billion acres. This is probably an overestimate, but Canada has certainly a billion acres of forest. Now for some comparisons of areas:

	Acres of Forest.
Norway	19,288,626
Sweden	44,480,000
Belgium	1,243,597
Austria	24,172,360
Hungary	18,777,771
Russia	498,200,000
Canada	1,000,000,000

The manufacturing which Canada should encourage is that in which nature has best fitted her to excel. But, unfortunately, her legislators seem bound she shall excel in those for which nature has made no arrangements whatever. With a forest area like Canada possesses, the country should be full of turning wheels, buzzing saws and well-paid laborers in the lumber industry. Instead of that these forests are being depleted to keep busy the wheels and saws of other countries.

Last year Norway and Sweden sold in Great Britain 173,938 tons of wood pulp, the value of which was over \$4,000,000. Canada shipped 7,870 tons to Great Britain last year. It might be trebled in 1894, if the Government would meet tax with tax, and place Canadian pulp manufacturers in as favorable a position as their competitors in the Republic to the South.

The Bulletin du Musée Commercial says the year 1893 was a very favorable one in Norway for manufacturers of wood pulp, the prices on the average having been four kroner (4s. 5 1/2 d.) higher for wet pulp, and eight kroner (8s. 10 1/2 d.) higher for dry than they were in the preceding year. Purchasers hastened to place their orders, and at the commencement of the year the quantities sold amounted to 130,000 tons. The demand having again increased, the wood pulp syndicate realized that the reduction of the production to the extent of 33 1/3 per cent., which was primarily fixed upon, was too great, and at a meeting, which was held in May, the maximum reduction was fixed at 23 1/3 per cent., but in spite of this prices continued to rise. Towards the end of the year small quantities which were available were sold at 55 kroner (£3 1s. 1 1/2 d.), and 100 kroner (£5 11s. 1 1/2 d.) per ton respectively for pulp wet and dry.

For the current year the greater part of the production is already sold at remunerative prices. The improvement which has manifested itself in the Norwegian wood pulp industry has