

**ENGLISH CAPITAL IN U. S. PAPER MILLS.**

**A** DESPATCH to the New York Commercial Bulletin from Appleton, Wis., dated September 20th, reads as follows:

"The greatest syndicate deal since the purchase of the American breweries by English capitalists has just been concluded, and unless something unforeseen occurs all the paper and pulp mills on Fox River will pass into the hands of an English syndicate on April 1st.

It is learned from parties interested in the sale that every paper and pulp mill on Fox River, with two exceptions, has signed a contract giving options on all mills, machinery, water rights, leases and other properties. The option is good for six months from October 1st.

"The two firms who have not yet signed have agreed to do so Monday. The reason for the delay is to gain time to complete schedules of the properties, which must be attached to the options when delivered to the syndicate in London. The properties involved in the deal include twenty-nine paper and twenty-one pulp mills, situated in Nenah, Minn.; Appleton, Kimberly, Little Chute, Kaukaunah, along Fox River for a distance of twenty five miles. The value of these plants is estimated at \$10,000,000.

"The daily product, when run to their normal capacity, amounts to 1,300 miles of paper, in a sheet seventy-six inches wide, and 300 tons of pulp. The value of the product is about \$50,000 daily. The terms of the options provide that the value of the plants be reckoned on the basis of the actual cost of the mills and machinery, the present value of the water rights and leases, and the earning capacity of the mills, as shown by records.

"The payments for the properties is to be half cash and half in three year notes, to be secured by mortgages on the mills and power. The deal has been on file for several weeks. The original plan provided for the control of all plants in the country.

"It is believed that now that the Fox River plants, which comprise three-fourths of the industry in the state, have been secured, plants of the Wisconsin River and other districts, valued at \$3,000,000, will also sell.

"No change will be made in the management of the business under the new proprietors. The present active owners are to be retained as managers, as also are all heads of departments in the mechanical portion of the mills. The greatest change will be in the clerical departments.

"An office will be established in Chicago, in which the business of all the mills will be transacted. An immense warehouse will also be established there, from which all sales and shipments will be made. In this way the cost of marketing the product of the fifty mills will be reduced to a small fraction of the present cost. The sale will have no effect on the general business of this locality, or upon the employees of the mills, and is generally regarded with complacency."

**TORONTO'S THREE EVENING PAPERS.**

Toronto has three evening papers. The oldest and best is the Telegram. The other two are no credit to journalism. The Star is improving, but the improvement is slow. The News seems to have entirely forgotten the purposes of a newspaper.

Grip, Toronto's comic weekly, gives both the latter a compliment in last week's issue. Here they are:

The Evening News, by a piece of high-minded enterprise, secured from the convict MacWherrel an article entitled "Why I should not be hanged," which it published on Wednesday. A few additional coppers went into the office till as a result, no doubt, but if the editor of the News had any real sense of the dignity of his profession he would feel mean enough to follow this article up by another written by himself, and entitled, "Why should I not be Kicked?"

The Evening Star being written  
Expressly for to sell,  
Says nothing in particular,  
And says it very well.

**REGARDING HALF-TONE PLATES.**

**“W**HAT'S the matter with those plates?" seems to be a prevailing question among printers and pressmen.

The half-tone process came upon us with all the brilliancy of a meteor, and we are now only recovering from our enthusiasm sufficiently to begin to appreciate the fact that many supposed half-tones really have no "tone" at all except under specially favored circumstances.

I am of the opinion that much of the trouble complained of is due to the "texture" of the screens used by the plate-makers, and that in placing future orders for half-tone plates the printer should consider the probable range of work required of them, the quality of ink and paper to be used, and order accordingly.

If the plates are to be printed only in a book, or similar publication, where a high grade of ink and paper specially suited to half-tones can be used, then a plate of the texture of 135 lines to the inch will give satisfactory results in the hands of a good pressman.

On the other hand, if it be probable that the plates will be printed many times, as they would be if illustrating public buildings, colleges or schools, or if the plates are intended for use in a publication or periodical where high grades of ink and paper cannot be used, then a texture of 100 lines to the inch will give better results than 135 lines.

If you order a plate made 100 lines, or 90 lines, or 110 lines, the plate-maker may write back to the effect that you don't know what you want; that some other texture will be better; all because he has not the proper screen to make what you have ordered. Heretofore they have been experimenting and are not yet united on this question of texture.

Many an hour has been spent on make ready, rollers and ink that might have been saved had the plate been made to suit the printer's materials, instead of the pressman trying to make the materials suit the plate. Best results are, of course, obtained only by means of the best materials; but the question of materials is out of the province of the plate-maker and entirely within that of the printer; the latter must do a little thinking and stand by his conclusions.

A plate 60 lines to the inch, if well made, will give satisfactory results on news paper with news ink; one 100 lines to the inch will work all right on a fair quality of book paper with book ink; one 135 or 150 lines to the inch requires a fine grade of coated (or enameled) paper, and the best of cut ink.

Again, a plate finer than 100 to 110 lines ought not to be electrotyped; only a few electrotypers can do it. Generally speaking, they will experiment with the plates at your expense. T. B. Browns, in Inland Printer.