

We represent the business interest of a Canadian community of four or five thousand people, and from our dealings with these mills and our opportunities of observing this industry as it is conducted on the largest scale ever attempted, we feel that we are qualified to express the opinion that an export duty of \$2 per cord on pulp wood sent out of Canada, would :

(1) Immediately result in the improvement of available water powers on the Canadian-American boundary for this line of manufacture ; and, until the local demand for Canadian wood has thus increased ;

(2) Not apparently diminish the quantity of pulpwood now exported from Canada, the revenue from which is of importance to Canadian farmers ;

(3) Immediately give to the Canadian makers of water wheels, hydraulic, pulp, paper and other machinery a new, large and profitable line of business ;

(4) Return to the Dominion Government a substantial revenue ;

(5) Not in the least degree interfere with the negotiation of mutually more advantageous trade relations between Canada and the United States, since it cannot with any pretence of justice be claimed that Canada should continue to allow the raw material absolutely necessary for the carrying on of the industry of pulp making in the United States to be taken from her public domain without restraint, while the manufactured product is practically prohibited from entering the markets of the United States.

The export duty should be imposed.

A FERVENT PRAYER.

A prayer that should be answered without delay is that of the Town Council of Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., asking the Dominion Government to impose an export duty upon pulp wood. The petition sheweth as follows :—

That the principal industry within the town of Sault Ste. Marie, and that upon which its four thousand inhabitants chiefly depend, is the manufacture of pulp for paper-making, as carried on at the Sault Ste. Marie Pulp and Paper Company within said town ; that during the period of thirty months last past, within which said mills have been erected and put into operation, said company have expended more than one thousand dollars for each working day in the construction and operation of its mills, shops and logging operations in the woods, and have, in all departments, kept constantly employed from five hundred to one thousand men : the pulp mills are the largest of the kind ever erected ; and the company have established a large foundry and machine shops for the manufacture of pulp and paper-making machinery, employing in this department a large number of skilled mechanics ;

That a bill is before the Congress of the United States, among the provisions of which is one to increase the duty on manufactured pulp imported into the United States from Canada ;

That the effect of such a provision—if it become law—will be to paralyze the business of manufacturing pulp in Canada for export, by reason of the fact that such manufacture cannot be carried on in Canada at a profit, as the United States is the only market available for pulp, except the small quantity consumed in Canadian paper mills ;

That owing to the probability of the said provisions becoming law, the large pulp mill of the Sault Ste. Marie Pulp and Paper Company, which for more than a year past (and ever since its completion) has been steadily operated, is now unable to sell its product in the United States at a price which will include the duty, and has closed down, and that work has stopped on the construction by them of another equally large pulp and paper mill adjoining the first mentioned mill, each of which said mills is among the largest of the kind in the world ; .

That although the said first mentioned mill has only been closed for about four weeks, the results thereof are keenly felt in the town of Sault Ste. Marie and the country adjoining it, as the monthly pay-roll for wages has been the chief reliance of the town and its vicinity for ready cash ;

And whereas your petitioners do not deem it just that an import duty should be put on manufactured pulp imported into the United States, while the pulp wood from the forests of Canada is allowed to be taken out of Canada by the Americans, free of export duty ;

And whereas the manufacture of pulp in the United States depends largely for its existence on the pulp wood forests of Canada, which are gradually being depleted, with no lasting benefit to Canada so long as the pulp wood is not manufactured in Canada ;

Your petitioners therefore pray the Government of Canada that an export duty of \$2 per cord on unmanufactured pulp wood taken from Canada into the United States be imposed at the coming session of the Parliament of Canada. And your petitioners believe that the imposition of this proposed export tax will in no material amount diminish the quantity of pulp wood to be exported from Canada ; will in no way reduce the price now obtained by those engaged in shipping pulp wood from Canada to the United States, since from no other source can the spruce wood necessary for pulp-making be obtained ; but that the effect will be to return a substantial revenue to the Dominion Government, while equalizing the condition of Canadian pulp manufacturers with that of their competitors protected by the American tariff.

Will the prayer be answered ?

IMPERIAL FEDERATION AND NAVAL DEFENCE.

There are some in Canada who ridicule the idea of the feasibility of Imperial Federation, and declare that while it is practically impossible there is very little or no interest taken in the question in Great Britain. This position we know is incorrect, as has so frequently been shown in these pages. We know that a great deal of active interest exists there, participated in by all classes, and particularly by those who are connected with the commercial enterprises of the kingdom. At a recent dinner of the London Chamber of Commerce, over which Sir Vincent Barrington presided, and at which the question of Imperial Federation was under discussion, Sir Richard Temple, in opening the discussion, pointed out the necessity of coaling stations being established along all the trade routes, and remarked that it was quite possible that some day some one of the colonies might have to adopt a tariff differentiating the mother country, and favoring a foreign nation, in order to receive the benefit of more favorable treatment by the latter. Any scheme of commercial federation as now understood and discussed could hardly include India or the Crown Colonies, and it would apply essentially to self-governing colonies.

Admiral Colomb stated that naval supremacy was not to be had—there must be opposing navies. The meaning of naval supremacy was the keeping open of the communications of the Empire—the high roads of commerce. The work of the navy had been and could be nothing else, and every part of defence was secured thereby. Coaling stations were already rendered impregnable by the power which kept them open.

Sir Ambrose Shea pointed out that the attachment of the Colonies to the mother country was as strong at the present time as it could ever be—they were prepared to give their all to her help. The economic question would be made subservient to all other matters affecting Imperial Federation.