

Newfoundland. Deposits of iron pyrites containing 50 per cent. of sulphur, which are reported to exist at Bay of Islands, are to be worked by the company.

Mr. John R. Barber, M.P.P., of the Georgetown mills, recognizing the changing conditions, has decided to make extensive improvements in his mills. He will not attempt to compete in the manufacture of news with the new mills which are springing up in the northern and eastern districts, where they enjoy superior natural advantages, but will utilize his mill in the production of special brands of paper.

Among the inquiries received at the office of the Canadian Commissioner in London last month, and upon which the Commissioner would like to have correspondence, were the following: A London paper agent wishes to get into communication with some Canadian pulp mills making paper, or some new mills starting in the business. An inquiry has been received from Dresden for the names of asbestos and wood pulp exporters.

The Lake Megantic Pulp Company is asking extended powers. It wants its present capital of \$50,000 increased to \$1,000,000. Instead of its present authorization to manufacture lumber, chemical pulp and electricity, and to use electricity for light, heat and motive power, to build tramways and also branches of railway to connect its establishments in the townships of Whitton and Spaulding with the Quebec Central and Canadian Pacific railway companies.

An examination of the water-powers in the Province of Quebec has recently been conducted by M. Letheule, an electrical engineer from Paris. M. Letheule, who is acting for the French Government, will report upon the advantages for developing electric power to be applied to industrial purposes, with a view to inducing the investment of French capital in the Province. He expects to return and spend some time in pursuing his studies and investigation along the line indicated.

A Toronto Globe despatch from St. John, N.B., says: "On board of the Dominion Line steamship Scotsman, which sailed from this port on December 28 for Liverpool, were Arthur H. Hilyard and Joseph T. Knight, who are going to the Old Country for the purpose of laying before capitalists a scheme for the construction of another large pulp mill at the mouth of the river. They are both enterprising young men, with a thorough business training in both lumber and the shipping business. Surveyors are now laying out plans for the proposed mill, where there are fine water privileges.

Mr. Poupore, M.P., speaking at a public meeting at Mattawa in advocacy of the proposed Georgian Bay and Ottawa Valley Canal, pointed out the many advantages to be derived from its completion, one being its sure effect in developing the resources of raw materials lying in abundance along the route. To the pulp industry, especially, he maintained the canal would be of enormous benefit in making accessible vast supplies of spruce, and furnishing power at numerous points to drive pulp mills of the largest class. Ex Mayor McLeod Stewart, of Ottawa, had much to say of the same tenor. The meeting unanimously pronounced in favor of the canal.

Commenting upon the proceedings at the recent annual meeting of The British Wood Pulp Association, The Paper Mill, New York, says: "Just at present the British papermaker has the whip hand of the Scandinavian pulp industry. Were it

not for the supplies of pulp to be had in Canada and the United States, the British papermaker would not look so confidently toward Scandinavia for cheap pulp, nor would the Scandinavian so cheerfully exploit the cheapness of his product. Evidently it has paid the British papermakers very well to dabble in trans-Atlantic pulp, and to take 'flyers' in the stocks of Canadian pulp mills. It will pay them still better to make big investments in Canada."

Ex-Mayor Robertson, of St. John, N.B., was recently in Montreal in connection with the dry dock project at St. John, and, speaking upon the prospects of the pulp and paper making industry in his Province, said that, leaving Great Britain and France out of consideration, he regarded the United States as a great future market. Referring to the necessity for a Government policy which will foster the pulp industry, he said: "I should judge the Canadian pulp and paper industry to be of sufficient importance to bring influence to be felt at the proper time and place. I look upon the manufacture of pulp and paper in Canada as one of the most important industries that can be fostered in the Dominion, and the day will come when Canada will have almost a monopoly of the business."

DUTYABLE AS TOW OF FLAX.

The United States Board of General Appraisers has handed down the following decision: In the protest of G. McPherson et al., the merchandise was reported by the appraiser as flax tow, and assessed for duty as such at \$20 per ton. The importers claim that the goods are free of duty as paper stock. A large number of witnesses were examined at the hearing, including both manufacturers and importers of similar merchandise, and from the evidence taken it was shown that the importation consisted of what is known as "scutching tow," which is a short, coarse fibre, produced in the process of scutching or hacking flax. It is used chiefly by manufacturers as paper stock to make fibre boards, which are converted into paper boxes, and is also suitable for being spun into coarse yarns, twines, cordage, rope and coarse cloth, and is used largely for these purposes. The board held that the merchandise was "scutching tow," dutiable as "tow of flax." The protests were overruled accordingly.

UNITED STATES IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The returns of the imports and exports of the United States for the first 10 months of 1898 show that the imports of crude paper stock from British North America had declined from \$482,364 in 1897 to \$71,580. The imports of wood pulp, which in 1896 were valued at \$893,717, and in 1897 fell to \$495,277, improved last year and reached \$595,497, of which \$368,350 came from Canada, an increase of \$160,000 compared with the previous year, but \$90,000 less than in 1896. The increased imports last year were largely the result of the abnormal demand for news print created by the war with Spain, but the increase of imports is more than compensated for by the expansion in the export of wood pulp which exceeded the record of the previous year by \$347,000. The same causes which produced the increase in the exports of pulp are also responsible for the increase of \$1,150,000 in the imports of paper and paper manufactures, the item of printing paper alone showing an excess of \$1,436,000 over the previous year.