

# WOOD PULP ~ ~ DEPARTMENT

## MACHINERY FOR PULP MILLS.

WITH the development of the pulp industry in Canada there has arisen much interest in the question of mill equipment, and the relative merits of Canadian and United States machinery have been discussed. The Paper Mill, of New York, contends that for machinery to equip pulp mills, and for structural material for the building of such mills, Canada is almost dependent on the United States, and that the advance in the prices of iron and steel has been so great that the cost of structural material and machinery has been greatly advanced. This journal states that the new mills cannot be built in Canada at present nearly as cheap as they could have been built six months or a year ago, and that if erected they could not compete with some of the older mills which were built with less money.

The statement as to the increased cost of building pulp mills is probably in a measure correct, but that Canada is dependent upon the United States for machinery with which to build pulp mills is a statement to which we take exception. As a proof, we might point to the Masterman pulp mill at Chatham, N.B., which was built entirely of machinery manufactured in Canada. There are several large and responsible firms engaged in the manufacture of pulp machinery, and to some of these the CANADA LUMBERMAN submitted the statements published in the Paper Mill. Their replies will be found below :

AMHERST, N.S., Nov. 15, 1899.

DEAR SIR,—We do not think it is correct that Canada is almost entirely dependent, or to any extent dependent, upon the United States for pulp machinery, as there are a large number of concerns making this class of machinery in Canada. The large increase in the cost of iron and steel materials will no doubt increase the cost to some extent, especially for sulphite mills, which use large di-

gestors, etc., made of heavy boiler plate, which has about doubled in price.

The machines for mechanical pulp making have not increased in cost to any great extent. We manufacture grinders, wet machines, etc., suitable for mechanical pulp, and have not increased the price more than perhaps 10 or 15 per cent.

Yours truly,

ROBB ENGINEERING COMPANY.

LONDON, CANADA, Nov. 14th, 1899.

DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 11th instant to hand, in reference to pulp mill machinery. We are only interested in the manufacture of pulp digestors, such as shown by blue print enclosed, having made several of them for the Dominion Pulp Co., Chatham, N.B.

Yours truly,

E. LEONARD & SONS.

TORONTO, ONT., Nov. 22nd, 1899.

DEAR SIR,—With regard to the subject matter of your letter we may say that the word "machinery" is a very large one, as a pulp mill equipment includes a very large variety of different items of machinery. We presume that your enquiry has particular reference to the pulp mill machinery that we manufacture, and from this standpoint we shall be very glad to go into details.

With reference to the general subject, we may say that so far as we are aware, several firms in Canada are now manufacturing a considerable portion of the pulp mill machinery, and we may mention among these : The Wm. Hamilton Mfg. Co., Peterborough ; John Bertram & Son, Dundas ; and the Waterous Engine Works Co., Brantford.

As to the advance in price of iron and steel causing an increase in the cost of such machinery, that is undoubtedly true, but that this cost has arrested the tendency to proceed with the proposed pulp mill projects is not, we think, a well founded statement. In this particular, our general lines have been advanced in prices from 10 to 15 per cent., owing to the advance in cost of both labor and material, as the price of pig iron, bar iron and other raw material has practically doubled in the last few months.

Yours truly,

THE NORTHEY MFG. CO., Limited.

SHERBROOKE, QUE., Nov. 15, 1899.

DEAR SIR,—We do not agree with the statement quoted, viz., that for machinery to equip pulp mills Canada is almost entirely dependent upon the United States. A mill for the production of ground wood pulp can be entirely equipped by means of Canadian-made machinery, the only items necessary to procure from the United States being the stones for the grinders. Within the past three weeks we have prepared specifications for two ground wood mills, and with the exception of the stones for grinders as mentioned, every item will be built in Canada, or the product of Canadian firms.

It is true that for the latest practice in these lines we depend somewhat upon our observation of American methods, and some of the machines are built by us under the rights of American patentees and in strict accordance with plans furnished by them, but this does not alter the fact that it is possible to build a mill in Canada and equip it entirely with Canadian-made machinery ; in fact, we think the Canadian paper trade, as well as the pulp manufacturers, have abundant opportunity for putting the matter to the test, as pulp mill machinery is manufactured to a greater or less extent by the following Canadian firms. John Bertram & Sons, Waterous Company, E. Leonard & Sons, Robb Engineering Co., Carrier, Laine & Co. L. Matheson & Co., Richard Smith, Polson Co., and there may be some others that escape our notice at the moment, who are engaged in this line of manufacture, in addition to ourselves.

With regard to soda pulp mills the foregoing holds good, but with sulphite mills the case is somewhat different, although in the main the statement holds good. With the exception of some of the patented digester linings and special apparatus in connection with sulphite plants, the bulk of the items of plant for such equipments is manufactured in Canada, or will be built to specification by Canadian manufacturers. In cases under observation where machinery for pulp mills has been procured from the United States, it has seemed to us more the result of the influence of American directors of the companies concerned than any great difference in the merits of Canadian and American machinery.

The cost of materials has compelled an increase of prices ranging from 10 to 25 per cent. or more on all classes of machinery, but in our observation it has not resulted in any postponement or deferring of proposed pulp mill projects in this country. We have as many inquiries and orders under way in this branch as we had a year or so ago, if not more, and the tendency seems to be to place orders for immediate construction in anticipation of a further rise in the price of materials.

With reference to late improvements in machinery, we might refer to the new type of grinder made in the United States by the Ticonderoga Machine Works, Ticonderoga, N.Y., under the name of the Cedar Point Foundry Pattern, and by us in Canada under the name of the Port-

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