

THE PAPER AND PULP TRADE OF THE UNITED STATES.

One of the most remarkable industries of the age is engaged in the production of paper from wood. The raw material for this industry, which is chiefly spruce logs, is found in greater quantities in Canada than elsewhere, and considerable amounts of pulp made from these logs are manufactured in Canada, from which paper is afterwards made. The Canadian production is, however, small compared to that of the States as the native market is limited, and the demand for export, so far, has not assumed the proportions anticipated when the industry was established. In pursuance of their established fiscal policy, the States welcome such raw materials as their mills need from foreign countries, but obstruct the importation of products on which skilled labour has been expended. Hence, Canada has been and is yet sending logs to the States to be converted into pulp on a large scale. We have also sent raw pulp to American mills. In 1898 Canada exported \$534,807 of wood-pulp to the States, the annual average of the last five years being \$847,000. To Great Britain, Canada, in 1898, sent pulp to value of \$676,000, the annual average since 1891 being \$277,000. In 1898 we imported paper from the States to value of \$823,483, and from Great Britain \$230,345. In 1894 the American imports of paper were \$647,955, and the British, \$301,950. In this, as in other goods, the imports from Great Britain have been decreasing, while those from the States have been enlarging. The exportations of paper from America to Great Britain have increased enormously in the last ten years. Up to 1893 the yearly average was \$227,500, since 1893 the average has been \$920,000. In 1897 the amount was \$2,265,000. From Canada the total exports of paper to Great Britain, from 1888 to 1897, amounted to \$152,000. The raw materials from which the paper was made, which the States sent to Great Britain and to Canada, were supplied to a considerable extent from Canada. The work of converting those materials into pulp and from pulp into paper for export was done by American machines, American workmen, by the aid of American capital, and a fiscal policy which aided this form of enterprise. The production of paper and pulp in the United States has developed an enormous industry. From an official report just issued for half of last year, we find that 1,067 mills were in operation, making paper and pulp in the States in 1898. Those mills are scattered over 28 States, these having the largest production being as below, as reported:—

State.	Plants.	Tons produced.		Value of product.	
		Paper.	Pulp.	Paper.	Pulp.
				\$	\$
Connecticut...	38	27,874	1,452,045
Delaware.....	5	7,233	4,428	425,090	133,307
Illinois.....	14	25,710	461,319
Indiana.....	30	56,351	13,860	1,503,335	418,628
Maine.....	35	92,116	111,237	4,192,397	2,539,813
Maryland.....	12	13,736	8,584	671,112	326,700
Massachusetts.	89	117,228	14,498	10,962,261	381,526

Michigan.....	27	36,959	13,279	1,891,290	350,765
N. Hampshire.	24	47,480	62,171	1,750,121	1,280,765
New Jersey....	30	24,596	1,647,288
New York.....	151	262,773	230,037	10,732,169	4,336,744
Ohio.....	41	69,243	3,847	2,739,228	71,591
Pennsylvania..	62	76,372	36,420	4,150,278	1,191,592
Vermont.....	21	29,027	27,310	1,366,861	421,255
Wisconsin.....	43	91,459	73,921	4,969,261	1,523,347
Other States..		16,930	19,791	675,825	453,989
Totals.....	644	994,087	619,383	\$48,689,880	\$13,428,542
Net Repaired.	79	74,093	45,456	5,070,926	934,554

In one half of 1898 we have as above a total production of 1,068,180 tons of paper, and 664,839 tons of pulp, the total value of which was \$52,760,806, the value of the pulp being included in that of the paper into which it was converted. This gives us a trade of which the output in 1898 was not less than 105 millions of dollars, towards which Canada contributed materially by supplying the paper and pulp mills of the States with pulp and with logs. How far those materials might have been utilized for building up a paper trade in Canada is a difficult question. The report before us gives the respective weights and values of the 26 kinds of paper included in above return, from which we learn that one-third of the total quantity of paper made was for newspapers. That is, in 1898 there were 712,120 tons of paper produced in the United States last year for daily and weekly newspapers, for book purposes 250,000 tons, for wrapping paper 440,000 tons, and for hanging, lining, building papers 120,000 tons. Those engaged in the pulp trade will understand what is meant by the American production being 394,000 tons of ground wood pulp, 78,000 tons of soda fibre, 188,000 tons Sulphite, and the balance cotton fibre.

Manifestly this is a trade which must expand, as the whole tendency of the age is to develop habits which involve an increasing consumption of newspapers and books. The expansion is in the use of papers made of pulp; Canada has a practically inexhaustible supply of the woods which are convertible into pulp; the American native supply is fast approaching exhaustion; the English demand is developing more rapidly than the European supply. These conditions indicate there being a bright future before the pulp and paper industries of Canada.

AMERICAN COMPANIES CRITICISED.—The Agrarian "Deutsche Tages-Zeitung" sharply attacks American insurance companies in Chicago. In a letter signed by Ernest Benninghoven the Government is advised before admitting American companies with reckless business methods to inquire of German companies whether such methods would not prove destructive. "The degenerating methods of great American companies," says the writer, "generally so corrupting, would have a corrupting influence upon the insurance business of Prussia." The Government is therefore asked to keep them out of the country.—New York "Commercial Bulletin."