

LUMBER, PULP AND PAPER

FINDS PAPER FIFTY YEARS OLD.

A copy of the Vicksburg Gazette, dated July 2, 1863, and printed on wall paper, was found recently by Frank Walford, of Jefferson, Ind. It was discovered in an old family Bible, where it has been for more than half a century. It was discovered by Mr. Walford while going through the effects of his sister-in-law, who died a few months ago. The paper is a copy of the edition that was not printed until after Grant's troops entered the city. It gives an interesting account of conditions, reflects the indomitable spirit of the defenders, and quotes Grant's boast that he would take his Fourth of July dinner in Vicksburg. Before the paper was printed, and two days after the first item was set, a statement was added to the paragraph to the effect that Grant had eaten his Fourth of July dinner in Vicksburg, and that he brought it with him.

PRINT SHOPS AFLOAT.

A necessary adjunct to Uncle Sam's big fighting ships is a printing plant. Ship orders, radios and the like are now set into type and printed instead of old method of making duplicate typewritten copies. Most typesetting had to be done by hand until recently a linotype machine has been perfected to do the work. Ordinary typesetting machine was found to be useless because of tendency of molten metal to spill in rough weather, but a patent metal box now remedies this. In their spare time printer-jackies get out a monthly magazine, with ads and serial stories and general ship news which compared favorably with land printed variety.—Wall Street Journal.

AN EMBARGO ON SULPHUR.

An embargo has been placed on exports of sulphur to Canada, in order that the supply for war needs of the United States may not be unduly depleted. Sulphur classed with explosives is included in the list of commodities for which export licenses are required. No shipments will be licensed, officials said to-day, until Canada has presented complete estimates of the requirements of the Dominion newsprint makers and of the needs of explosive factories. The impression was given by officials to-day that while there is every desire that the newspaper industry suffer no embarrassment, war needs will be given first consideration and it was suggested that sulphur may be permitted to go to Canada in limited quantities only even after the issuing of licenses resumed.

CANADA'S LUMBER OUTPUT.

The value of the lumber, lath and shingle output reported by 2,609 mills operating in Canada in 1916 was as follows: Lumber, \$58,365,349; bath, \$1,743,940; shingles, \$5,962,933; total, \$66,072,222. In 1916 Canada cut 3,490,550,000 feet board measure of lumber, a decrease of 9.2 per cent from 1915. The cut decreased in all the Western provinces, as compared with 1915, British Columbia making the most pronounced gain. Canadian sawmills reported cutting twenty-five kinds of wood in 1916. Spruce, white pine and Douglas fir have for some years maintained their relative positions as the three leading species. In 1916 balsam took the place of hemlock in the fourth place. The soft woods contributed 95 and the hard woods 5 per cent of the total production. These proportions have remained about the same for several years. Generally speaking, the hard woods are produced in the Eastern provinces, Ontario and Quebec being the main sources of supply. The four leading hard woods—birch, maple, basswood and elm—have occupied their relative positions for several years, but in the 1916 list poplar replaces ash in the fifth place.

SWISS KEEP PRINT PAPER.

An Exchange Telegraph despatch from Copenhagen reports that the Swedish Government has prohibited the exportation of newsprint paper on account of the shortage of timber, coal and sulphur for the manufacture of pulp.

GROWING TREES THAT EARN THEIR OWN LIVING.

The principal burden of forest reproduction is due to the fact that the forest crop requires a great many years to mature. There are, however, many useful commercial trees that are also nut bearing trees and under proper selection and cultural environment can be made to pay for their upkeep, as quite an extended article in one of the forestry journals recently maintains. W. I. Gilson, assistant professor of forestry of the Michigan Agricultural College, in the forestry annual of that institution in an article on the maple syrup industry shows that in a normal sap year and on an average wood lot where the proportion of maple trees amounts to fifteen to the acre each tree will produce a profit of approximately 20 cents, or \$3 an acre. On wood lots where the proportion of sugar maple is larger the returns, of course, would be in proportion.

This article points out also that the status of the Vermont maple syrup industry has been largely attained by co-operation and joint systems of grading and marketing. He believes that much of this co-operative effort could be adopted to advantage in Michigan and that it would greatly promote the maple industry in that State.—American Lumberman.

SAVING OF MAN POWER THROUGH MECHANICAL MEANS.

One of the early problems of our industrial future will be the more economical use of human labor to compensate in some measure for the men withdrawn for military service. In the lumber industry there will be a larger field than ever before for labor saving equipment of all sorts. This will extend to the felling and sawing of timber, the wider use of conveying machinery and in particular improved arrangement and equipment for lumber yards and sheds wherever this may be possible.

The tendency in modern sawmill design is to replace human labor by machinery. Take, for example, the system of live rolls and transfer chains upon which the lumber is shot along from the head-saw to the edger and thence to the timber dock or the sorting chain. Only too frequently, however, the live rolls stop at the beginning of the timber dock and their place is taken by dead rolls or none at all. Thus men are required to push, heave or haul timbers along the dock and pile them. Here as well as elsewhere there is ample room, which practically takes the form of necessity, for labor saving devices. The inefficiency and waste of human main strength and awkwardness are slowly but surely being replaced by the smooth, efficient energy of machinery. Automatic dry kiln stackers and all other labor saving machinery will have a greater vogue than ever before.

SHINGLE ROOFS.

In discussing the question of shingle roofs on dwellings, Frank Lock, United States manager of the Atlas Assurance Company of London, said:

While it is easy to understand the origin and popularity of the shingle roof, it is in no wise necessary that it should be perpetuated. In the early days of the country when timber was the only quickly available building material, there was little alternative but to turn to the shingle. Added to its cheapness was the lack of transportation, which did not permit of easy access to other materials. Those days are gone, and the shingle largely persists because of thoughtlessness, but still more because of the power of the lumber organizations of the country. The small property owner who uses the shingle roof and who incurs the original outlay is very numerous. He has many votes in the municipalities and is enabled too often to vote down any attempt to prohibit the use of the shingle by ordinance in the municipalities. That it should be forbidden where the exposure hazard exists cannot, in my opinion, be gainsaid as a costly menace to the community at large. Milk from tuberculous cows, meat from diseased animals, might be pleaded for on the score of "cheapness." Fire and police departments should be attenuated on the score of economy, but all such arguments should be brushed aside as perils to the community.

NEWSPRINT PRODUCTION.

The newsprint production of 25 United States mills in July totalled 81,279 tons, and 13 Canadian mills produced 48,670 tons, or a total for both countries of 129,949 tons. Total stocks on hand at all points in the United States at the end of July were 36,196 tons and 10,439 tons in Canada, a total of 46,635 tons.

SHORTAGE OF PRINTING PAPER IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

The sudden cessation of shipping from North American ports and the closing down of Scandinavian paper mills from lack of fuel, foreshadows a paper famine in New South Wales.

What little paper is available has gone up in price enormously, and the consequence is that many papers have ceased publication. Other papers announce that owing to the necessity of husbanding their stocks the size of the issues will be considerably reduced.

PAPER MANUFACTURING IN JAPAN.

Paper manufacturing in Japan is of two kinds, namely, Japanese paper and foreign paper manufacturing. The foreign paper is manufactured under large factory systems. The annual amount of this kind of paper manufactured reaches to more than 30,000,000 yen. Exports of this paper have reached to 9,700,000 yen. Of the pulp for foreign paper manufacturing, about one-half of it is imported from abroad. Recently, however, the pulp-raising industry in Hokkaido and Saghalien, or Karafuto, has been greatly extended, so that at the present a foreign supply is very little needed.

THE NEWSPRINT SITUATION.

All through the depression in prices which has featured the paper manufacturing industry during the last four months the price of newsprint has remained firm. The plain facts are that there is to-day in the United States and Canada a shortage of newsprint output. This shortage will be further accentuated in 1918. For this reason and because of the steady advance in cost of production good authorities feel that further advances in price of newsprint must be made when new business for 1918 is signed up.

It is estimated that it is costing the mills of the United States on the average not far from \$8 per ton more to make their newsprint this year than last. Some mills will run as low as a \$5 additional cost and some as high as \$10. But \$8 is a conservative average. On the basis of this increased cost the newsprint producers tried to get a \$20 per ton advance in paper prices and missed their footing. As a result the selling price for newsprint is infinitely varied and haphazard.

On the other hand, most mills are getting prices enough higher to compensate for the increased cost of production. In the case of International Paper its net profits in 1917 will probably be a little under those of 1916 when a balance after interest of \$5,120,727, equal to 22.85 per cent on the \$22,406,000 preferred, was realized. This year the company ought to earn better than \$4,000,000 net for dividends, or say 16 per cent to 18 per cent for the preferred.

On the other hand, the newsprint mills as a group are facing a serious labor situation. The paper makers' unions are combining to demand a six-hour day. This means in effect a four tour instead of a three tour system. It would add 33 per cent at once to the labor bill and presumably would effect an increase in the cost of production that the higher selling prices for paper which are in sight for next year would be imperatively needed to offset.

British Columbia has 15,000,000 acres of standing timber.