

## The Pulp and Paper Industry

### Pulpwood of West U.S. Not Available

A United States Senator said the other day, that there was any amount of pulp wood available in the North Western States and that if the government would vote an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for a survey, he had no doubt that supplies of newsprint would be available to end the present shortage and supply all publishers for decades to come.

Commenting on this Mr. Back of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, said that no doubt the Western States might have a supply of pulp wood. The question was whether it was commercially available. "We have plenty of pulp wood on the Gaspé Peninsula that is not available now because of its position. Then again how can they expect to do anything to help the situation for some years? There isn't a manu-

facturer of paper machinery who can make a delivery inside three years. Add to that the time lost in erecting a pulp plant and you may guess how soon they can expect to relieve the present situation."

"If the pulp wood supply actually exists," Senator Poindexter said, "the survey will go far toward compelling Eastern paper manufacturers to abandon their claims of acute scarcity and stop profiteering."

He proposed appropriation of \$1,000,000 for the survey.

"It will be found," said Mr. Poindexter, "that newsprint can be made in Oregon, Washington and California, at a cost that will permit the product to be sold at prices far below those now being charged by Eastern mills."

### Remarkable Progress in Belgium

The port of Antwerp, during October, berthed 442 ships of 541,099 tons. This is slightly under September figures, which showed the arrival of 505 vessels, but the decrease is accounted for by the fact that the British naval base, beginning October 1, suppressed the shipment of munitions. For the ten months ending November 1, there entered that port 3,013 vessels with a tonnage of 3,910,870.

For the nine months ending October 1, Belgian imports amounted to 3,162,254,089 francs, and exports to 1,071,823,554 francs; the adverse balance thus being 2,090,430,535 francs.

Fiscally, the country is in a better position than the most optimistic in Government circles expected. For the first eight months, the tax receipts were expected to be 469,610,285 francs; 92; the actual receipts for the period were 506,949,133 francs; 48; the excess being thus 37,338,847 francs: 56.

British belief in the stability of the country and its future prospects is indicated by the fact that a group of London capitalists has just granted a twenty-five year loan to the Belgian Government for no less than 50 million pounds sterling, or 2,150 million francs. The interest rate is five per cent. It will be remembered that to date the only American credit to Belgium, outside of the advances by the United States Government, has been the \$50,000,000 acceptance credit arranged by a syndicate of banks for purely commercial purposes.

In restoring its coal mines to production, Belgium has been confronted with a series of difficulties, chief among which were the condition in which the mines were left by the Germans, and the shortage of labor. Despite these, production in September of this year had reached 88 per cent. of the output for the same month in 1913. The gain in the last few months has been remarkable. At Liege, particularly, production, which was only 73.6 per cent in August, was 80 per cent in September.

Much of Belgian coal in pre-war days was sent abroad, and certain countries depend upon such exports for their supplies. In consequence, the Belgian Government pledged itself to export a certain proportion of its product, and has consistently adhered to this policy, although it has meant, in some cases, shortage in her own industries. Such export as has gone forward, however, has served to strengthen Belgian exchange, and make it possible for industry to secure some much needed supplies.—Guaranty Trust Co., New York.

### Substitute for Gasoline

A. B. Macallum of Toronto, chairman of the Honorary Advisory Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, predicts in the report to the Government that denatured alcohol will soon be used as motor fuel instead of gasoline. The pulp mills now waste enough sulphide liquor to supply 5,000,000 gallons annually.



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