

WOOD PULP DEPARTMENT

PULP AND PAPER MAKING IN NOVA SCOTIA.

Many people will be surprised to learn that as far back as 1837 papermaking was introduced in Halifax by one Robert Keswick, says the Halifax Herald. He located his mill at the foot of a lake just west of Moir's mills, Bedford. The factory was a little old-fashioned one. The inside was arranged in a wonderful way and a sketch of its appearance, were it possible to obtain one, would be a curiosity to the up-to-date people of sixty years later. The power was furnished by a twenty-foot breast wheel, eight feet wide, and one small over shot eight feet in diameter and four feet wide. No steam was used in the mill and the stock was cooked in a large open pot over a fire. It was then loft dried. The paper machine used was a 36-inch one with a fire drier.

Later on this mill was replaced by one a little further down the stream. This happened about thirty years ago. The business was continued after the death of Mr. Keswick by his sons, the latter subsequently selling out to Daniel Hughes and his sons. The mill was run under his direction until 1873, when it was totally destroyed by fire. It was never rebuilt, and thus ended the first attempt at papermaking in Nova Scotia.

About the time of the destruction of the Bedford mill a German named Ellerhausen erected Nova Scotia's first pulp mill on the St. Croix River, between Ellershouse and Newport. The machinery was brought out from Germany and England. In connection with the pulp mill a paper plant was also introduced. The pulp, after passing through the first process, was pumped for a distance of two hundred yards to the paper mill, where the article was completed. After running a short time a fire destroyed the pulp mill. The machinery and water wheels were sold for junk. Later on another mill was started on the same site, but it never was completed, and during the fifteen years it remained idle the plant rotted down.

In 1892 the property was offered for sale. It remained idle for a period of three years, and in 1896 the mills were put in a first-class condition for the manufacture of paper. This has been added to from time to time, and the latest extension comes in the shape of a ground wood mill for consumption only. It is the only paper mill in the provinces.

During the idle time of the mill at St. Croix there was built about 1881 at Mill Village, Queens county, a mechanical mill. This mill was

erected largely through the efforts of Emil Vossnack, who was very enthusiastic over the prospective profits. The grinders, eight in number, of five pockets each, taking stones eighteen inches by forty eight inches, of the Voelter screw feed pattern, were built in Halifax. Mr. Lawrence Howlett was general manager. It ran for some time, and was then shut down. About 1889 the mill was again started, with John S. Hughes as manager. The second year he was there he put in four new grinders and wet machines; this time two-pocket Scott & Roberts grinders were chosen. The mill is driven by two seventy-two inch wheels under about twenty feet head, and is located on the Port Medway River about one and one-half miles above Mill Village, at Salters Falls. The product is shipped from Port Medway during the winter, while in summer vessels approach nearer to the mill.

We next have the erection of a sulphite fibre mill on the East River, Sheet Harbor, about 1887, under the Partington process of lead lined digesters. This mill was in operation about four years, since which it has been idle, but has lately passed into other hands, who talk of starting it again. The output was about five tons per day.

The next advance in wood pulp grinding was about 1889, when H. McC. Hart put in an improved Voelter three pocket hydraulic feed grinder at his saw-mill at West River, Sheet Harbor, which has only been in operation when the saw-mill was idle. It has been dismantled.

About 1894 really the first start of any magnitude was made in grinding wood pulp in Nova Scotia. About the same time there went into operation two mills—one at Morgan Falls, on the La Have River, the other at Milton, on the Liverpool River. The Morgan Falls mill had three four-pocket grinders, with hydraulic feed, three 72-inch wet machines with Gotham screens, and was driven by two 33-inch Smith & McCormick wheels and one 18-inch Smith Success wheel, under 35 feet head. The production was about 20 tons per day, wet. The plant is now being generally remodelled and improved, and with the machinery added the product will be increased to 30 or 35 tons wet per day. The output is loaded on the Nova Scotia Central Railway and sent to Bridgewater in summer and Lunenburg in winter.

The Milton mill, located five miles above Liverpool, at Deep Brook, began operations with four four-pocket Voelter hydraulic grinders and four 72-inch wet machines with Gotham screens, driven by four 33-inch Smith & McCormick wheels, one 21-inch and one 15-inch Smith Success wheels under thirty-six feet head, with a production of thirty-five or forty tons per day. This is at present being increased to about sixty tons per day wet by the addition of three three-pocket Scott grinders. The output of this mill

is sent by steam tram to the shipping point at Live Pool. The pulp from both Morgan Falls and Milton mills is finding a market in England, being shipped by steamer from Halifax.

The brothers, Joseph S. Hughes and John S. Hughes, managers respectively of the Morgan Falls and the Milton mills, are sons of Daniel Hughes, who succeeded Mr. Keswick in the old paper mill near Bedford, and have been identified with the pulp and paper manufacture of Nova Scotia from their earliest days.

PULP NOTES.

The bill to amend the charter of the Laurentide Pulp Company, recently before the Quebec Legislature, gives it power to manufacture pulp, deal in timber and timber limits, and erect saw mills, dwelling houses, hotels, churches, etc.

Mr. T. R. Allison, who designed the Masterman pulp mill at Chatham, N.B., now owned by the Dominion Pulp Company, has made a proposition to form a company to start a pulp mill in that town if the municipality will give site, known as the Morrison mill property, as a bonus. The Board of Trade of Chatham is now considering the proposal with a view to advising the town council.

The pulp mills at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., are now being pushed to their utmost capacity, with improved machinery lately put in which reduces material to dry pulp. The demand has been exceedingly lively. The English trade, it is said, will take every pound that can be manufactured during the next six months.

There has been some delay in getting the Petewawa Pulp and Paper Company, which obtained its charter at the last session of the Ontario Legislature, into active operation. It is now stated, however, that Mr. A. T. Mohr, of Buffalo, whose persistency in the matter is born of unbending confidence in the project, has been rewarded, and that building operations at Petewawa, Ont., will be commenced in the spring.

Mr. J. D. Guay, of the Chicoutimi Pulp Company, says: The company's mill at Chicoutimi, Que., upon which \$10,000 has already been expended, will shortly be opened. The company's limits are 500 miles in area, and the first eighteen months' output of pulp has already been sold. In order to turn out the required amount 80 men will be constantly employed, so that between the mill and the dairy industry, which does an annual business of half a million dollars, the population of Chicoutimi will be kept pretty well employed.

The Halifax Chronicle sounds a note of warning in regard to the pulp wood resources of Nova Scotia. The province, it points out, has many tracts covered with the right kind of timber for the manufacture of mechanical and chemical pulp. These the Chronicle advises the owners to husband and foster. It urges that the cutting of the trees be kept under control, that the small ones be preserved, and that due measures for fire protection be taken. In this way, it adds, the necessity for reforestation, to which so many parts of the continent have come, will be avoided.

German experiments prove that the slower the growth of the tree the greater is the strength of its pulp. Norwegian is said to be better than Swedish, and, strange to say, it is claimed that German is better than either. Canadian timber, also, it is asserted, grows too rapidly to make the best pulp. The first statement is obvious, but is it really true that German pulp is the best? I think that the great attention and diligent study given by Germans to chemical science are sure to have some effect upon their manufactures. As far as raw material goes the rapidity of growth must bear a strong part in the pulp produced.—Paper Making.

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