

**THE BRITISH WOOD PULP ASSOCIATION.**

**T**HE British Wood Pulp Association has held its annual meeting and banquet. At the meeting matters of interest were discussed and the annual statements of the president and secretary were received. The president, in his address, said:

"The wood pulp trade has grown enormously during the last two or three years. Wood pulp has been very largely adopted by paper makers, and I have no doubt that the next few years will see a still larger increase, particularly of sulphite pulp. From the statistics I have before me, I see that during the last three years the exports of pulp from Scandinavia have almost doubled themselves, the present export of sulphite pulp from Norway alone to different parts of the world being about 62,000 tons annually, and is now two or three times the value of other raw material, such as esparto, rags, etc. Further developments will depend on the locality in which the pulp is manufactured, and the facilities for procuring the raw material. Twenty-five to thirty years ago only a very small quantity of pulp was used and good prices were obtained, but now, owing to improved methods and increased production, prices have fallen. Now, can we expect prices to remain as they are? With respect to wood, perhaps improved facilities for getting it will to a certain extent counterbalance the increased consumption, but it requires a good deal of confidence to believe that the present consumption of wood can go on without affecting prices. In fact, there has already been a scarcity in Scandinavia, and the demand is now greater than the supply. Forest owners have therefore decided to get higher prices in the future—which is very natural. Cheaper freights have enabled consumers in this country to buy cheaper during the last two or three years than they did seven or eight years ago, and perhaps further improvements in this direction may be looked for, and also savings may be made by improvements in handling, packing, storing and shipping. I will not detain you by saying much on the advantages of wood pulp to the paper maker, but I may say that it is a material we can deal with in confidence, knowing what it is composed of—whereas with rags you never knew what you were getting, and buttons, bits of rubber, whalebone, etc., turned up in and spoiled your pulp. Coming to the contract and conditions of testing, I am very glad that 10 per cent. has been fixed between the bone dry article and its atmospheric condition. I should like to point out the desirability of having bales of uniform weight. This is of great importance in disputes that may arise, especially as regards moisture. I would recommend to the trade to insist upon this, and allow no bale to leave the works unless it is full weight. It is then a very easy matter to see how far the pulp varies from the 10 per cent. condition. I hope the Scandinavians will follow on the lines which you have laid down."

Mr. Andrews, the secretary, reported on the work done during the past twelve months. He said: "Sampling and testing pulp for moisture also occupied us for some time, and we collected from experts a certain amount of information on the subject. It was suggested to us that fixed terms of payment might also be laid down, but we came to the conclusion that this was not practicable. Re invoicing, in the case of excess moisture or excess fibre, has now been definitely decided as the only just course. We approached the Board of Trade in the matter of their returns of imports and exports, suggesting that the returns should be made under separate headings, such as: 'Chemical wet,' 'chemical dry,' 'mechanical wet,' 'me-

chanical dry,' and they explained to us that no alteration could be made during the current year, but that a revision committee would meet during the autumn, and would then give our request consideration. This week an official of the Board of Trade has called upon us and said that he was afraid the committee could not undertake to make four headings, as we suggested, but that he thought they would be prepared to make two headings in the returns, if we would let them know the two most suitable. We therefore replied that if wood pulp was classified under 'mechanical' and 'chemical' the returns would be much more useful. This is a step in the right direction. We hope it will be arranged, and, perhaps, in the course of another year, further concessions in this matter may be granted. We have drawn up a submission form for arbitration (copies of this being on the table) and also copies of the contract note, which we hope will be found useful in arbitration cases."

During the discussion which followed, Mr. Cassie, referring to clause 4 of the contract note, said that now that a considerable quantity of pulp was coming from Canada, the ice clause should be so altered as to include those Canadian ports that are usually blocked by ice in winter.

Mr. Wettre thought the difficulty might be got over by stating in the contract note from which port the pulp would be shipped. It was, however, generally considered inadvisable to tie down the shippers to one particular port.

Mr. Craig thought the Canadian trade required a separate contract note, and that the present one was mainly for Scandinavia.

Mr. Cassie then moved that this matter be referred to the committee.

Mr. Henderson seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

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