

experience of both the Norwegian and American pulps, as well as by such British and foreign paper makers as have had similar experience, that no pulp can compare in value with that of our northern white spruce. The truth is they haven't a genuine spruce in the Scandinavian peninsula. Their wood produces a fibre neither as strong nor as long as ours, it does not interweave or felt as well, nor will it calendar as our spruce fibre does. So that, no matter how carefully the paper is made, they cannot turn it out as strong or as suitable for the fast printing presses which are coming into universal use to-day. It clogs the type, and after it reaches the consumer he finds that if handled by a person in dark clothing his clothes are covered by a sort of woolly dust from the surface of the paper.

Another element in the production of wood pulp is the supply of water power. Without this, economy of production can not be secured. During the last few years competition has steadily reduced prices and profits, and the smaller mills are being squeezed out. The Scandinavian wood pulp mills are small compared with what ours are and should be, so that they cannot, even with cheap labor, get down to the low costs which, under a proper policy, Canada's large mills could show. At the same time their timber areas both in extent and in proximity to driving water are inferior to ours, and the drain upon them by timber exporters, by pulp men and others is comparatively greater and faster than with us. Consequently, the cost of timber with them is steadily advancing. In the United States, too, except in Maine, the mills are importing heavily from Canada, and year by year the quantity thus drawn from a foreign source is being almost doubled, while the demands on the Maine forests and pulp supply are so heavily increased for the same reason that even Maine cannot hold out very long. In fact, much of it is at present in the hands of men who purchased for future investment against a rise in price and are well able to hold on to their property.

For all these reasons Canada should stand undoubtedly first in the race, and if her Government and people do not strain every nerve to take the position offered by circumstances and natural advantages they will have missed one of the grandest opportunities ever given to any country. If the mistaken timidity which shrinks from imposing an export duty on spruce logs so as to force a free market for wood pulp in the States continues, then a campaign for a bounty on the exported pulp should be begun, and if the promoters of our industry will press for such a policy this journal will give it active and hearty support.

LITTLE ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The first mill of the Canadian "Soo" paper plant, at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., will not be completed for two months or more. There are twelve sections, one of which is ready for work. The walls now being erected are of mottled and laminated sandstone, the building being 75 x 370 feet. When this mill is completed another similar one is to be built.

Alex. McArthur & Co., Joliette, Que., are making alterations and improvements in their mill. Two Horne patent beating engines will be substituted for four of the engines now in use, and will be placed on the new floor of the engine room. It is also proposed to put in a new rotary boiler. The walls of a new machine room are up, and the roof is now going on. A

new machine will probably be put in before long. A new boiler house was erected last fall, and two boilers were put in at that time.

The third big raft of pulp wood has left Canada, by way of the "Soo" and Lake Michigan, and was landed at the Supply Company docks at Long Tail point, Wis., recently. It contains 4,000 cords.

Some of the cheap American papers which come into Canada include a line of writing ends which mills at Holyoke, Mass., sell to jobbers in Boston. These send representatives north to Canada, and a Montreal job printer told *PRINTER AND PUBLISHER* last week that he often got offers from this quarter which tempted him to buy.

Miller Bros. & Co. are putting a fourth machine into their pulp mill, which supplies their box and collar manufactory with pulp. They report pulp to be a scarce article in Quebec just now, and the Laurentide Company have none to sell, the American demand being very active.

WORK AT THE WILSON MILLS.

Both at the Lachute and St. Jerome mills of J. C. Wilson & Co., the dry season has affected the water-power. Both mills, however, are working full time. At Lachute the company's 250 horse-power engine keeps the mill running to its full capacity, while at St. Jerome, arrangements have been made so that a short supply of water cannot affect the running of the mill. The firm report an excellent business for the month of July.

A NEW SELLING AGENT.

The Royal Paper Mills Co., recently formed, are now represented in Montreal by J. B. Kerr, who is also their selling agent in the west. The late representative, Mr. William Angus, has not yet arranged any new connection with the paper business of which he has so long been a leading figure, but will probably do so this fall. The company intend putting in a new machine in their mills at East Angus, Que.

THEY ARE DELIGHTED.

The fact that the strawboard and woodboard combination in the States is again on a strong basis is hailed with satisfaction by Canadian makers. They believe that firmer prices and closer co-operation in the States will help the woodboard and strawboard mills in Canada. "If prices stiffen as a result," said one mill to *PRINTER AND PUBLISHER*, "we as a woodboard mill would feel it."

CANADIAN LINEN PAPERS.

There will always be such variety of taste in the demand for writing papers that imported styles will continue in demand. But the fine linen papers made in Canada are constantly increasing their number of users, and trade in them is improving. The heavy weight and the difficulty of reduplicating orders rather handicap the jobbers who handle the American competing lines. The Rolland Paper Co., Montreal, have a new linen letter paper, the Earncliffe, just out, for correspondence and cheques. It compares well in quality and strength with American makes.