

CHEMICAL WOOD PULP.

J. A. DECEW, '96.

In preparing this paper on Chemical Wood Pulp, I have merely attempted a synopsis of the subject, which may convey to those who heretofore have given the subject but little attention, some idea of the methods employed and the chemistry involved in this industry. It is needless to mention that as far as our broad Dominion is concerned, this industry is but in its infancy, for the larger portion of our northern, uninhabited lands are well timbered with spruce, which is one of the best of the paper making woods. Consequently this subject demands more attention than it receives from Canada's Practical Science students, because it has already taken a deep hold upon the financial world, and because our profession above all others, should keep in touch with the industries of the country.

The word pulp is a term which generally may be applied to a number of materials, which are quite variable in character but more or less similar in appearance, therefore if we first classify these in a general way, we shall have a somewhat clearer conception of that special kind, that we are about to discuss. We may divide them into four classes according to quality, namely:

I. Rag Pulp—which is made from cotton, linen or hemp fibres.

II. and III. Wood Pulps—which are of two kinds, chemical and mechanical.

IV. Straw Pulp—which is a chemical product of inferior quality.

As the manufacture of mechanical wood pulp was very ably described in a paper read before this Society last year, the subject matter of this article will deal exclusively with its half-brother of the chemical species, which is in reality another product from the same substance.