

WOOD PULP ~ ~ DEPARTMENT

ENCOURAGING THE CANADIAN PULP INDUSTRY.

THE governments of the provinces of Ontario and Quebec have, almost simultaneously, taken action to assist the development of the Canadian pulp industry and to build up an industry proportionate to the vastness of our resources and manufacturing facilities. In the past the United States has been permitted to import pulp wood from any of the provinces of Canada free of duty, while if the wood were manufactured into pulp and exported to the United States, a duty equal to about 20 per cent. of the value of the pulp was collected by the government of the latter country. This anomaly is now to be removed.

The Ontario government, by an order-in-council already issued, proposes to apply the manufacturing clause to spruce and other soft woods; that is to say, after April 30th, 1901, spruce timber as well as pine must be manufactured within the Dominion. The government was probably induced to take this step by the satisfactory working of the manufacturing clause as applied to pine saw logs.

The Quebec government proposes to accomplish practically the same result in another way. An order-in-council has been signed by the Lieutenant Governor increasing the stumpage dues on spruce timber from 40 cents per cord as at present to \$1.90 per cord, a rebate of \$1.50 per cord to be allowed on all pulp wood manufactured within the province. This rebate will, it is believed, more than offset the present duty on

pulp exported to the United States. Consequently, the United States pulp manufacturer importing his raw material from the province of Quebec will be unable to compete with the Canadian manufacturer, and hence will be obliged to look elsewhere for his supply of raw material or remove his mill across the border into the province of Quebec.

These new regulations, of course, only affect the cutting of timber on Crown lands, but this is the most important factor, as a very small quantity of pulp wood is exported from lands on which the settlers hold the patent. Nearly all the pulp wood exported from Canada is from the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. For the fiscal year ended June 30, 1898, Canada exported pulp wood to the value of \$912,041, of which \$876,962 went to the United States. Of the total amount Ontario sent \$286,987 and Quebec \$624,475. Placing the value of a cord of pulp wood at three dollars, this would represent about 300,000 cords. If this quantity were manufactured in the country and sent out as wood pulp, there would be expended on each cord about \$10, or a total of \$3,000,000. It is no doubt a recognition of this fact that has influenced the governments of the two provinces in the adoption of their present policy. It is quite probable that for a time the governmental revenues from the cutting of pulp wood will show a decrease, but as new pulp mills are established this condition will be overcome.

The Premier of Quebec, speaking on the subject, stated that he was fully alive to the neces-

sity of preserving, as far as possible, the wood of the province for the benefit of our own people. He pointed out that, owing to the depleted supply in the United States, the value of our spruce lands had risen enormously in the past few years. In 1892 spruce limits were sold for about \$8 per mile, while last year the government sold similar limits for \$150 per mile. He further stated that in the province of Quebec there were under license about thirty million acres of timber limits, while there were still unlicensed one hundred million acres in the old part of Quebec and seventy million acres in the new part recently added to the province.

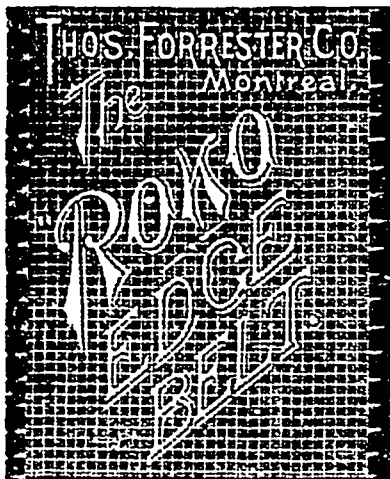
PROVINCIAL DISCRIMINATION.

In the preceding article satisfaction has been expressed with the action of the Quebec Government in imposing differential stumpage due on pulp wood. While in sympathy with the spirit of the legislation, we cannot entirely endorse the terms of the Order-in-Council which provides that a reduction of \$1.50 per cord will only be allowed when the pulp wood is manufactured in the province of Quebec. If this provision is adhered to, it is likely to result to the serious disadvantage of persons owning timber limits in the province of Quebec adjacent to the borders of the other provinces. There are at least two instances where the interprovincial boundaries are large streams, namely, the Ottawa river forming the dividing line between Ontario and Quebec, and the Restigouche river dividing the provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec. These streams bear an important relation to the lumber industry of these provinces, and the regulations in the past have been such that timber could be cut on either side with almost equal advantage, irrespective of the point of manufacture. If a lumberman now operating a saw mill should decide to engage in the manufacture of pulp, the natural site for such an establishment would be adjacent to his present mill. If, however, this mill should

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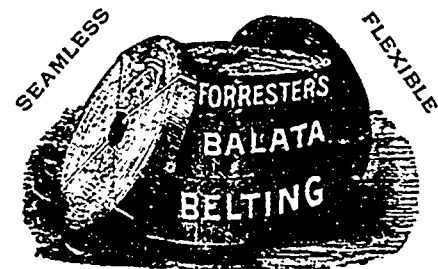
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2½	13	2½	16
3	16	3	21
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