

made boats, sails, mats, cloth, cords and paper. The pith was used for food. Sandals were made out of a material provided by the papyrus. The seams of ships were caulked with a tow made from it.

But the Asiatic plan of making paper from cotton seems to have spread all along the northern shores of Europe, to Greece, to Italy and to have been carried by the Moors to Spain.

As the industry went further and further afield from the home of the cotton plant, the ingenuity of man sought out other material from which to make the paper. In some cases a fair paper was produced by the mixture of woollen rags with the original material. Linen rags were added in countries where the flax plant flourished.

By the 14th century paper making had become a recognized European industry.

At first Italy became the centre of the paper-making industry. Then Germany began to build factories after 1320, A.D. France secured her knowledge of paper-making from Spain late in the 12th century; the early paper being made of cotton.

By the 14th century paper was not uncommon in England.

At first paper was made entirely by hand. Then, as in the history of most manufactures, machinery was invented for the more rapid preparation; then came the division into writing paper, printing paper and wrapping paper, cotton rags being still the chief source of the material from which paper was made.

The demand becoming greater than the supply, the wit of man became actively engaged in finding material from other plants possessed of the necessary fibre. The cotton plant, the papyrus and the palm, flax and some other members of the vegetable kingdom had been employed. But still the demands for paper were inexorable and constantly enlarging.

Every zone was searched for suitable material. It was thought that in Esparto grass the requisite material had been discovered, and for years Esparto, treated after a somewhat similar fashion as rags, was extensively used