

# LUMBER, PULP AND PAPER

## EMBARGO AGAINST EXPORTATION OF SPRUCE.

Owing to the fact that not sufficient aeroplane spruce is being manufactured in Canada, the government has placed an embargo on this character of wood, according to H. R. McMillan, who is attached to the negotiations board and in charge of the production of aeroplane spruce. Mr. McMillan states that about two months ago representatives of the aeroplane manufacturers for the allies met and canvassed the situation and decided there was not sufficient for the needs of the allies. The United States promptly commandeered all the aeroplane spruce in that country for the purpose of supplying its own needs and those of certain of the allies. At this conference it was agreed that Canada should supply her own needs and also those of Great Britain. Although the United States put an embargo on spruce leaving that country, U. S. brokers continued to buy in Canada. Thus much valuable spruce left Canada. A stop has now been put to this.

## FIGHTING FORESTERS.

Sixty-five men from the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Toronto are fighting overseas. Every graduate of the past three years who is physically fit is serving the Empire in some capacity. Other forestry schools have had a similar experience, with the result that there is, and will be for many years, a great scarcity of technically-trained foresters.

## WINDING UP PROCEEDINGS.

At an extraordinary general meeting of the British Canadian Wood Pulp and Paper Company, Limited, special resolutions were passed calling for the voluntary winding up of the company and the appointment of A. H. Douglas as liquidator.

## THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDUSTRIES IN SIBERIA.

The situation in Siberia is generally believed to present excellent openings for the investment of capital in industrial undertakings. Practically the only manufacturing industries established in the country up to the present have been those which depend upon a plentiful supply of cheap raw material, such as spirit distilling, skin curing, flour milling, match making, etc. There is, however, a great wealth of other resources in Siberia, the further working up of which into manufactured products should prove a profitable undertaking. Not only is a home market of over 10,000,000 people available, but natural protection against competitors is assured by the great distance from the nearest industrial centres. It is also expected that the policy of the Government after the war will be to encourage the development of Russian industries, and that with this object in view the protective customs duties imposed on manufactured goods imported from foreign countries will be maintained, and where necessary increased. Conditions would therefore appear favorable to the creation of industries in Siberia for the purpose of further utilizing the natural resources of the country.

### PAPER MILLS.

The consumption of paper in Siberia aggregates between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 tons a year. The country is well supplied with spruce and other timbers suitable for the production of wood-pulp. There would therefore appear to be openings for the establishment of paper mills. Plans have been made and the buildings already constructed for a paper mill at Tomsk to produce 120 tons a day of cheap wrapping and newspaper paper. The machinery and other equipment for this mill has not yet been ordered. The establishment of mills at other points in Western Siberia is also being considered.

Whatever the cause may be and wherever the responsibility may lie, it is clear that any decline in the health of a workman restricts his work and results in financial loss to both employer and employee. When, therefore, the employer studies how he can keep his workmen healthy, he shows good business sense and decent human interest.

## SIBERIA'S LUMBER RESOURCES.

In a report on the timber resources of Siberia, the Canadian Trade Commissioner at Omsk states that the extent of forest lands of Asiatic Russia has been roughly estimated at 853,000,000 acres, of which nearly 700,000,000 acres now belong to the State. There are 465,000,000 acres of virgin forest in that part of Siberia which lies west of Lake Baikal, while eastern Siberia, though not so richly endowed, has sufficient timber to supply the requirements of foreign markets for many years to come.

After referring to the principal timber trees of Siberia, the Trade Commissioner goes on to say that the great forest wealth of the region is practically untouched, but that measures are now being considered whereby the forest resources of Siberia may be utilized to greater advantage. Conferences have been held between those interested in the timber trade and the State Departments concerned, and organization and improved management are regarded as essential for the development of an export trade. The enlargement of existing mills and the erection of new saw mills will be necessary, as well as the establishment of other industrial concerns using wood as raw material. Closely related to the question of the organization of the timber industry is the need for the creation of railways and waterways connecting Siberia with the markets of western Europe.

A railway has been projected to connect the lower reaches of the Obi River with one of the ports on the Arctic Ocean, west of the Kara Sea, with ice-free water during five months of the year. It is claimed that by means of such a line the freight rate from Omsk to London could be reduced to about 24 roubles (about 50s at par rate) per ton. The construction of a canal to connect the Obi River system with the Kama and Volga rivers of European Russia is also being considered.

In Eastern Siberia cheap transport facilities are afforded by the Amur River system, which flows through the country into the Pacific. The lumber industry on the Amur, however, is still in its infancy, and existing mills are not conveniently situated for export trading. The recent improvements to the port of Vladivostok, and the adaptation of the harbor facilities at Nicolaievsk-on-Amur for the handling of timber, should greatly stimulate the shipping of forest products from Eastern Siberia, while the erection of mills in closer proximity to the water frontage available in this region would result in increased lumber shipments from the ports named.

The extension of the export trade in Siberian timber would create a demand for a considerable amount of logging and saw-milling appliances. A steady demand for such appliances will in any event be assured by the development and growth of the country, apart from the export possibilities. Opportunities may also arise for supplying mill and factory equipment, wood-working machine tools, pulp and paper mill supplies, etc. The climatic and forest conditions of Siberia, and the circumstances under which lumber is cut, are in many respects similar to those of Canada. The Russians as a rule are ready to test the methods which have proved satisfactory in other countries, but up to the present practically no use has been made of up-to-date logging appliances. The scarcity and high cost of labor at the present time is directing the attention of timber producers to the question of introducing labor saving devices. Inquiries are being made for portable hoisting cranes, and it is probable that other logging appliances, such as cableways, stationary engines, tractors, locomotives, etc., will come into demand.

The saw milling machines installed in the Siberian mills are almost all of the frame type. A number of adjustable saw blades, ranging from 16 to 26, are hung to a long reciprocating frame, which moves up and down at a comparatively slow speed. It is stated that this type of machine gives general satisfaction, being adapted to a variety of purposes, and not requiring highly-efficient labor for its operation — a point of considerable importance in view of the quality of the labor available.

The management of the forest lands belonging to the Government in Siberia has been largely in the hands of the Colonization Department of the Ministry of Agriculture. This department operates several saw-mills and supplies the peasants and newly arrived immigrants with building materials and other wood products which they require. The head office of the Department in Siberia is situated at Omsk, and the director has expressed his desire to receive

## N. Y. FOREST RESERVES.

The forest reserve of New York State is now nearly 2,000,000 acres, valued at about \$25,000,000.

## CANADIAN WOODS BEST FOR BUILDING.

"Canadian Woods for Structural Timbers," is the title of a bulletin (No. 59) issued by the Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior. This bulletin shows as the result of hundreds of tests that several of our native woods are cheaper and better, as structural timbers, than woods which Canadians have been importing for some years. This is gratifying and satisfactory as regards both home and foreign trade in timber. It means much to Canada in war time, as the development of our resources enables us to carry on the campaign effectively. Citizens who are interested may receive a copy of this bulletin free upon application to the Director of Forestry, Ottawa.

## THE THREE GREAT RISKS.

There are three great risks—the risk of death, the risk of sickness, and the risk of impairment. The risk of impairment means any change by which an insurable man becomes uninsurable or doubtful as a risk. Such an impairment need not relate to a man's own physical condition, but may be the result of a change in his family history, as where any of his near relatives becomes afflicted with consumption, cancer, insanity, epilepsy, etc. Thus a prospect may at any time become an uninsurable risk, not only by attacks of sickness or disease, which not necessarily lessen his earning power, but by the afflictions of others who are related to him. To be denied the privilege of life insurance protection is a calamity, the seriousness of which is best appreciated by those who have had the experience. The risk of impairment is a strong argument for signing an application to-day. —Field Notes.

## PRESENT STANDARDIZED SIZES OF RAILROAD TIES DEFENDED.

The question has been somewhat discussed lately of increasing the standard sizes of railroad ties on the general theory that they would be more durable against decay, but also on the special theory that they would be better able to resist mechanical wear because the face of the tie carrying the rail would be correspondingly increased.

The president of a tie company, however, in a recent contribution in the Railway Review, states that economy in the supply of ties would not be promoted by such a movement. The available timber from which ties are usually manufactured, he says, will produce about 50 per cent of ties 6 x 8 inches, the other half being of sufficient sizes for product 7 x 8 inches and 7 x 9 inches. The 6 x 8 inches tie is, of course, the general standard, while the heavier ties are used for special situations. An increase in the average of the sizes would reduce the volume of timber available for tie purposes, and ties larger than 7 x 9 inches come in direct contact with the demand for lumber because such logs are large enough for saw timber.

This contributor makes the further point that real economy could be secured in the other direction if a market could be found for ties as small as 5 x 7 inches in length, as considerable quantities of these could be secured from timber that is now wasted, particularly in the form of top cuts. While this size of course would not be large enough for standard track use it could, he believes, be largely employed in branch and switch tracks under light traffic. — American Lumberman.

quotations and other information from manufacturers of saw milling and wood working machinery. A circular saw machine adapted for cutting railway sleepers is required in Siberia, and is assured of a good sale if suitable. The Colonization Department also desires to receive particulars of machines which would be suitable for the manufacture of the various parts of portable houses for immigrants and others.

Owners of saw mills and timber properties in western Siberia for the most part obtain machinery and other equipment through dealers in Petrograd and Moscow, who represent the manufacturers. The trade in saw milling machinery, etc., in eastern Siberia is handled by firms in Vladivostok. The advisability of investigation of the situation by expert representatives of manufacturers is emphasized in the report.