

CANADA'S FIRST PAPER MILL

Just 166 years ago last autumn the first paper mill in Canada started in a small way to produce wrapping and printing paper. Today paper mills in Canada export newsprint alone valued at over \$1 billion annually, plus hardboard, cardboard and many other paper products. From that small beginning at St. Andrews, near Montreal, has grown one of Canada's top dollar-earning industries.

The early papers were made from linen and cotton rags, rope and some grasses. Not till some 60 years later was woodpulp first used in paper mills in the Toronto area.

John Taylor of Toronto is believed to be one of the first men in Canada to have applied for a patent to use woodpulp and to have developed machinery for chipping the wood. Basswood was used at first. Today, woodpulp is the main source of all newsprint, with linen and cotton rags being used for some fine papers.

WATER POWER

Water power played a major role in the production of the first Canadian paper, and water power has played a dominant role in the development of paper mills since then.

At St. Andrews-Argente on the Ottawa River, just east of Montreal, a group of young New Englanders from Newton Falls, Massachusetts, built the first mill. It was financed in part by stationer James Brown of Montreal, an ambitious young Scotsman. He later took over the entire operation of the mill and also owned the *Montreal Gazette*, which he sold in 1822 to give him more time for paper-making.

LASTED 30 YEARS

That first mill lasted 30 years, till ice jams one spring broke down the dam where water was stored for operation of the water wheels. There is a memorial plaque to the mill in the small town.

In 1818 a young Scotsman in Halifax, Anthony Holland, decided to make paper for his small newspaper, the *Halifax Recorder*. His mill, according to *Paper in the Making* by George Carruthers, was made of stone in the lower storey, while the upper one was formed of wooden slats like a Venetian blind, to allow air to circulate and dry newly-made paper.

In 1819, the newspaper was printed on paper made by Holland's Acadian Paper Mill and the Nova Scotia legislature voted him £100 as encouragement for making paper. The mill, with a variety of owners after Holland's death, finally ended its life by fire in 1876.

When William Lyon MacKenzie started his *Colonial Advocate* in 1824 in what is now Toronto, he urged that the Upper Canada legislature give an award for the first producer of paper in the colony. That started a race, and the winner was James

Crooks, a young Scotsman who had come to Canada at the age of 13 in 1791 to join an older brother at Fort Niagara.

After the War of 1812, in which he served, he began some industries based on water power near Dundas. He started with a mill built in 1813, a general store, distillery, a wool mill, sawmill, flour mill and tannery.

In 1826 he started his paper mill and was awarded the \$500 by the legislature that December. The *Colonial Advocate* was printed on the hand-made deckle-edged paper in April 1827. The Crooks mill burned down for a second time in 1879, long after its founder had died, and was not replaced.

FIRST MACHINERY IMPORTERS

Two young Englishmen, John Eastwood and Colin Skinner, who had settled in the Don Valley near present-day Toronto in 1821, began work on a paper mill at the same time as Crooks. Their York Paper Mill started operations in August 1827, as reported in the *Colonial Advocate*. They collected rags for their mill in a store at the corner of King and Yonge Streets.

The Eastwood and Skinner mill is believed to have been the first to import and install machinery for paper-making in August 1832.

When George Brown founded *The Globe* at Toronto in 1844, he persuaded John Taylor to start another mill on the Don River. This went into production in 1845 about two miles above the Eastwood and Skinner mill. Taylor and his brothers bought out the earlier mill in 1855, and added a third mill in 1858. By 1861 they had ten employees at each of the three mills.

RECIPE FOR PAPER

The raw stock used was rags, straw and jute. All the stock was cooked in a liquor made from soda and lime, brought to a boil with steam and left to settle. When quite clear, it was drawn off for cooking.

Straw was cooked in a vat having a perforated bottom and covered by a weighted lid that fitted inside and fell as the volume of straw was reduced in cooking. After cooking it was washed in the vat and forked out into drainers. Production at full operation, was about two tons of paper daily.

Other mills started up in the first half of the last century in Quebec and New Brunswick, and, after 1850, paper mills began to grow more numerous in eastern Canada.

EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS, HOURS

The advance estimates of the industrial composite index of employment, not adjusted for seasonal variations, declined slightly in September, but the seasonally-adjusted index rose. Among the industry