

PULPWOOD SITUATION

**For Quebec Province—Export Figures—Expert Says
Legislation Will Increase Home Manufacture—
American Consul Does Not Fear Result.**

Last summer Mr. A. W. G. Wilson, Ph.D., when driving through various sections of Quebec Province, covering a total distance in excess of 2,000 miles, was particularly impressed with the large amount of spruce pulpwood that was being prepared for shipment to the United States. The average price paid for this wood was about \$7 per cord free from bark delivered at the railway.

So great is the demand and so energetically have the farmers and others responded to this demand that large areas have been completely denuded of valuable trees. In a few localities some local residents have gone so far as to cut large spruce trees which were growing on the road allowance—these trees were actually the property of the municipality. In addition, much pulpwood has been cut on Crown lands. Statistics showing the total quantity of pulpwood exported from the Province of Quebec during the year 1909 are not available, but it will probably total nearly 1,000,000 cords.

To Stimulate Home Manufacture

It has recently been announced that it is the intention of the Quebec Government to prohibit the export of the pulpwood from the Crown lands of the Province. This action is to be taken partly for the purpose of conserving the pulpwood resources and partly with the object of stimulating home manufacture. While it is very probable that the first effect of this legislation will be to greatly reduce the amount of wood exported, it seems altogether probable that eventually the home manufacturing industry will be greatly increased. No data are at hand to show the present Canadian home consumption of pulpwood and wood pulp. The amount of imported wood is small.

If anticipations are realized and a large home manufacture of wood pulp is maintained, at least a portion of this wood pulp will be chemically prepared. One of the most important of the chemically made pulps is that known as sulphite pulp. In the preparation of sulphite pulp by the methods at present in vogue in Canada about one ton of raw sulphur, costing about \$22 per ton, is required for every 10 tons of sulphite pulp. It is possible, however, to prepare the sulphur dioxide required by this process from pyrite, or other ores containing a mixture of pyrite and chalcopryrite. In utilizing pyrite ores for this purpose some practical difficulties have been encountered because sulphur trioxide is usually formed at the same time as the dioxide. In chemical works the presence of the trioxide is more desirable than otherwise, but in pulp manufacture it is injurious. Commercial methods for preparing the pure dioxide from pyrite are available.

Production of Sulphite Pulp

In the United States there are two large mills in operation where ores of this character are being utilized for this purpose. Thus, there seems to be no reason, so far as the successful operation of a process is concerned, why Quebec sulphide ores could not be used in Quebec as a source of supply of sulphur for the preparation of sulphur dioxide to be used in the manufacture of sulphite pulp. There are also several plants in successful operation where sulphur dioxide is extracted from smelter fumes for the purpose of making sulphuric acid. If, in the future, conditions should warrant the erection of a smelter in the Province of Quebec, its location in a locality where the sulphur dioxide fumes could be utilized for other purposes would be in the interests of economical operation.

A Washington despatch states that despite the policy of the Quebec Government, prohibiting the exportation of pulpwood cut on Crown lands subsequent to May 10, 1910, there need be no apprehension of a pulpwood shortage in that Province for the American market, according to a report from Gebhard Willrich, United States Consul-General at Quebec.

Fifteen Per Cent. Cut on Crown Lands

"Competent authorities say," reports Mr. Willrich, "that only about 15 per cent. of all the pulpwood cut in this Province was cut on Crown lands. This percentage, while not considerable, was sufficient to prevent the sale at fair prices of large quantities of such wood cut on private lands, which has accumulated in large quantities. Despite the new policy of the Government, the market for pulpwood has been poor. The report further states that the second largest article of export from Quebec in 1909 was wood pulp, representing a value of nearly a million dollars. The value in 1909 was \$949,549, an increase in two years of over 100 per cent. The exports of the product to Great Britain in

1909 amounted to \$847,178; to France, \$82,213, and to the United States, \$19,000, a decrease from \$38,700 in 1908.

"In contrast to the foregoing figures are the export figures for pulpwood, all of which is taken by the United States, because its bulk prevents exportation across the ocean. In 1908 there were exported by water to the United States 30,479 cords, valued at \$197,662; in 1909, 80,781 cords, valued at \$625,827. Exports declared at this consulate of pulpwood by water as well as by rail show a value of \$636,186 during 1908, and of \$1,180,029 in 1909, making an increase of \$543,843 for last year."

VANCOUVER MINING EXCHANGE

Starts Business with the Enumeration of Some Sound Principles.

The Vancouver Mining Exchange has been opened, with Mr. J. B. Johnston as president. Mr. C. F. Law, a prominent mining man of British Columbia, and a member of the new exchange, addressed the first meeting. He emphasized the fact that as a mining stock exchange the members should do their best to make it equally active as a chamber of mines by having good maps and samples, and giving everyone all the information in their power. "According to the last report of the Minister of Mines," he said, "the province has produced \$347,826,000 in metals, but this important industry has been at a standstill for the past four years. It needed some stimulant."

Pivotal Point of Pacific

In tracing the point of development of mining in British Columbia, Mr. Law said that 25 years ago he was in Kootenay and could testify to the great developments which have taken place there, but he added that he thought that the production of metal in the province will double during the next five years owing to the country being opened up by the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway. Prince Rupert reminded him of the early days in the Kootenays, and many scenes recall the continual stream of prospectors who poured into Spokane with their little sacks of ore. "Vancouver will soon present a similar scene," he said, "though in the past we have been accused of taking no interest in mining affairs." For Vancouver, Mr. Law declared, is the pivotal point of the Pacific Coast mining industries.

For Legitimate Mining Companies

In discussing the Stewart camp, Mr. Law said Mr. D. Mann stated that it was a moderate low-grade camp. On such, Mr. Law added, the chief mining camps of British Columbia have been built up. He highly commended the action of President Thorne, of the local exchange, for sending a cable to Agent-General Turner in London, telling the truth about the Stewart camp. After the sensational reports of a "mountain of gold" had been circulated through the press the agent-general's office was besieged by a continual crowd of the interested public. It was not on such sensationalism that the mining exchange should be founded, but on straight deals and true reports. Then it would succeed, he prophesied, and within twelve months become the chief exchange in the city, though there was plenty of room for a general stock exchange also. It was the purpose of the mining exchange, he said, to bring every prominent legitimate mining company in British Columbia to public notice.

"WE DO NOT BONUS INDUSTRIES."

The following cities and towns refuse to grant tax exemptions, money bonuses, free sites, etc., to new industries. They deserve hearty support for this principle:—

Calgary, Alta.
Edmonton, Alta.
Peterborough, Ont.
Welland, Ont.

The Monetary Times will be glad to hear from other municipalities, in order that they may be added to the above list.

A general all-round increase of business is noted in the half-yearly report of the Northern Crown Bank. Deposits bearing interest have increased from \$4,911,315 at the end of June, 1909, to \$7,418,459 at the end of June of the present year. The increase in these deposits is not due solely to the eastern branches, those in the West having contributed their share. In commercial loans the increase during the past twelve months has been from \$8,973,688 to \$11,388,266, while the assets of the bank now stand at \$15,099,345, or approximately \$2,250,000 greater than a year ago.