

Paper Pulp AND News.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF CANADIAN PULP AND PAPER MAKING.

THE OUTLOOK.

“I FEEL confident that the paper manufacturers need have no fear of any disturbance of the tariff to their detriment so far as the new Government is concerned,” said Mr. Buntin, of Buntin, Reid & Co., this week. “I have carefully enquired into the matter and I am safe in making the statement—based upon information which, although not directly obtained from the Premier, is yet derived from a source sufficiently direct to give it all the interest of an authentic and official announcement—that the tariff on paper and manufactures of paper will not be touched. None of the lines which are to-day turned out by the Canadian mills will be touched. The Government, I am assured and firmly believe, are not only willing, but prepared so far as they can, to help the Canadian manufacturers in every way possible, where an exorbitant protective tariff is not required or monopolies do not exist.”

THE FOREST WEALTH OF ONTARIO.

Mr. Thomas Southworth, clerk of forestry in the Ontario Crown Lands Department, has just issued his annual report for 1895. It contains much valuable information concerning the forest wealth of the province, and bears upon its pages the imprint of much careful thought and conscientious study of the great problem of utilizing our timber to the best advantage and preserving it from destruction.

Dealing with questions of more immediate interest to our readers, Mr. Southworth says:

“By far the most significant and far-reaching change, however, arises from the rapid and extensive growth of the wood pulp and paper-making industry. The great expansion of daily journalism in Canada and the United States has created an enormous demand for white paper, various kinds of wood being brought into requisition as the invention of new processes rendered them available for the purpose. With the rapid exhaustion of the forests of the United States the wood products of the Dominion are being more and more drawn upon to supply raw material for American paper mills as well as to meet an increasing home demand for the same purpose. The result has been to largely increase the market value of great areas of timber formerly held in very slight estimation. In some sections of Canada there are extensive growths of poplar, generally considered as an almost valueless tree—fit only for fuel, and so inferior in quality even for that purpose as to be seldom used when any other was available. The discovery that by a chemical process the fibre of this wood could be used in the manufacture of paper caused a revolution and brought the previously despised poplar into the market. Another tree which, like the poplar, is apt to spring up profusely in the wake of a forest fire, and resembles it also in its reputation for general inutility, is

the *Pinus Banksiana*, or ‘Jack’ pine. This has also been found to be a valuable wood for paper-making, and the large quantities of it in Ontario may justly be regarded as a source of future wealth.

“While poplar, basswood and jack pine are used in the manufacture of paper pulp by the chemical process, for the cheaper mechanical process, by which most of the pulp used in newspaper making is produced, spruce is almost exclusively employed. The spruce forests of Ontario are of vast extent and stretch to the far north surrounding Hudson’s Bay. Many of these northern forests are composed exclusively of spruce trees, growing so densely that, although very old, they do not in some sections attain a diameter that would make them available for lumber. Until the rapid strides of the pulp industry drew attention to this raw material awaiting the future demand these forests were not largely taken into account in the stock-taking of the province. This is now changed, however, and spruce rivals the great white pine in its value to the state. It is now pretty generally conceded that Canada has the largest supply of spruce, the great paper-making material, in the world. As the supply in the United States becomes exhausted there can be no doubt that the spruce forests of Ontario will prove a source of wealth to the province, the extent of which it is difficult to estimate.”

A SUICIDAL POLICY.

Mr. F. H. Clergue, president of the Sault Ste. Marie Pulp and Paper Co., writes this journal in reference to the question of putting an export duty on pulp-wood. “You know my views regarding the best course to be taken by the Government for the benefit of the pulp and paper industry, and I am glad to observe from the paper comments that the new Government are likely to concur in them. It would certainly be suicidal to the industry I represent if the Government should continue to allow pulp-wood to be exported free of duty while the American Government impose an import duty on pulp. If the Canadians were to exact from the Americans, in return for the free export of pulp-wood, the free importation into the United States of pulp and paper, they would certainly succeed in their demands, and the result would be an immediate large increase in the manufacture of pulp and paper in Canada.”

The writer of the above is especially well qualified to express an opinion upon the matter, and his views agree with those expressed by many other manufacturers. Some go so far as to demand a material reduction in the duty on those classes of machinery used in the manufacture of paper which are not manufactured in Canada.

There is also a prospect that with the change in the personnel of the Government of Ontario the provincial regulations respecting timber cut on Government lands may be amended in the direction of preventing its exportation in logs.