



:-: EDITORIAL :-:

*PULP AND PAPER AT MCGILL.*

It is hardly more than once in a lifetime that an opportunity like the present comes to a University for establishing a work that will have such a wide influence as would the establishment of a course in pulp and paper making at McGill University. There is no educational institution on the continent better provided with equipment for all the work properly incident to such a course, as the well-known university so ably presided over by the world renowned Gen. Sir. Arthur Currie. It would be but another instance of Sir Arthur's foresight and initiative to recommend and assist in the establishment of Canada's first school of pulp and paper manufacture. There is no industry in Canada which would profit more from a specialized course of this character and there is none better able or more inclined to give willing and helpful co-operation.

The present is the most opportune time that could possibly be conceived. The announcement has just been made of the munificent bequest of Mrs. E. B. Eddy in the establishment of a chair of Industrial Chemistry, with particular reference to the working out of problems in the pulp and paper industry. There is no name in Canadian Industry more highly respected than that of the man who established and built up the great manufacturing enterprise at Hull, a name that is known the world over as a manufacturer of pulp and paper, matches, lumber and numerous other articles produced from wood. It is natural and fitting then, that the Mrs. E. B. Eddy chair should carry with the obligation that the endowment should be devoted particularly to the study of problems and giving instruction in subjects connected with wood and its utilization. There are few chemical industries in Canada that do not in some way touch upon the chemistry of wood so that this subject becomes very near being the keynote of industrial chemistry in Canada. Certainly the pulp and paper industry, apart from the source of this bequest, has a proper claim to the major activities of such a professorship. There are few lines of industrial activity which hold greater promise of development or which have greater need for high class research work than is to be found in the many problems confronting those interested in the products of the forest. These problems range all the way from many puzzling points in the fundamental chemistry of the wood itself, even going back to the soil and the atmosphere where the tree grows, and on down through the many processes of conversion to the properties of pulp and paper and the

elusive molecules of the mysterious substances in the waste liquors. Pages can be written simply in the tabulation of the problems that are even now pressing for solution. It is a curious fact, furthermore, that the attack on one problem is almost sure to open up three or four more that depend on it and that in some cases must be solved before the original line of research can be followed to completion.

Instruction in pulp and paper subjects and research in fundamental problems to be most effective, requires familiarity with, or expression in terms of mill equipment. The proximity of the well equipped paper mill of semi-commercial size at the Forest Products Laboratories of Canada which are housed in McGill property, furnish unsurpassed opportunities. Besides the paper making equipment already installed and only occasionally used, there was recently built an additional building designed to accommodate two digesters, one for pulp making by acid processes, and another for alkaline processes. Specifications were worked out for this equipment through the cooperation of the advisory committee to the laboratories appointed to the Technical Section of the Pulp and Paper Association so that the apparatus could be ordered and installed without delay. In fact, it is understood that there has been an appropriation of the Dominion Trusty Branch for this purpose.

Mention was made in these columns last week of the desirability of a closer cooperation between the University and the Laboratories and now that the announcement has been made of the endowment of the Mrs. E. B. Eddy Chair, it seems that nothing should stand in the way of working out an arrangement that would be most beneficial to all parties.