

## PAPER-MAKING MATERIALS GOING TO WASTE IN THE UNITED STATES

A Washington dispatch printed in "The Paper Mill and Wood Pulp News," New York, May 8, 1920, says:

"Washington, D.C., May 7—Secretary of Agriculture Meredith is convinced that there is a large opportunity for the Department of Agriculture to assist in the economic upbuilding of Alaska. As one means to this end, he is calling attention to the favorable situation for the establishment of paper mills in the territory, and offering co-operation by making available National forest pulpwood on terms that will provide a satisfactory operating basis.

"The secretary believes that the development of the forest and hydro-electric resources of Alaska is a practicable means of increasing the supplies of newsprint available for the United States, and thereby eventually lessening the paper shortage now so acute. The National forests of Alaska probably contain 100,000,000 cords of timber suitable for the manufacture of newsprint and other grades of paper. Under careful management, these forests can produce 2,000,000 cords of pulpwood annually for all time, or enough to manufacture one-third of the pulp products now consumed in the United States.

"The Alaskan forests, according to Secretary Meredith, also contain the second chief essential of a paper manufacturing industry—water power. While no accurate survey of water powers has been made, known projects have a possible development of 100,000 horse-power; and the department estimates that a complete exploration of the National forests in southern Alaska will increase their potential power to a quarter of a million.

"According to the secretary, the chief drawbacks which have prevented paper making in Alaska hitherto have been the large investments required for new plants, inaccessibility and lack of development in Alaska, and the transportation charges to consuming regions in the Central and Eastern States. The secretary expresses the belief, however, that these obstacles are more than offset by the present acute demand and high prices for all grades of paper; and that the near future should witness a movement of the paper industry into southeastern Alaska.

"'Alaska,' said Secretary Meredith, 'is destined to become a second Norway. With her enormous forests of rapidly growing species suitable for pulp, her water power, and her tidewater shipment of manufactured products, Alaska will undoubtedly become one of the principal paper sources of the United States. A substantial development of the paper industry in this wonderful region, combined with the intelligent reforestation of pulp lands in the older regions, should settle forever the question of a paper shortage in the United States.' Within the last ten years, he points out, the Forest Service has brought about the sale of 420,000,000 feet of saw-timber in the National forest of Alaska. A number of areas suitable for pulp operations have been cruised and prepared for sale; and during the coming summer the survey of pulp woods will be extended in order that other desirable tracts may be brought to