

Forest wealth of Canada.

It is stated that the consumption of wood pulp in Great Britain is at present enormous, and is increasing rapidly, more having been imported during the past year than ever before. The use of rags has fallen off, partly owing to the restrictions that have been imposed upon the importation thereof from cholera-infected countries, such restrictions remaining still in force, and may continue for an indefinite period. It would also appear that there is a large demand for the better quality of pulp in the United States, large quantities being shipped there from Germany, while, though at the same time the United States export pulp to Europe, the quantity manufactured is not equal to the home demand.

Appended are quotations from the High Commissiener's letter bearing date June 14th, 1893.

W. G. PARMELEE,
Deputy Minister.

Extract from Sir Charles Tupper's letter :—

I have been making some inquiry as to the demand for wood pulp of various qualities in this country, and find that most of the product is at present imported from Germany and Scandinavia.

I have obtained some samples of German wood pulp, which I send you, and I also quote a letter explanatory of them, that has been received from manufacturers of paper in a large way of business :—

“The best sulphite pulps are undoubtedly made in Germany. Large quantities are also made in Scandinavia and Austria, those from the latter country being also very good. In Norway and Sweden different kinds of wood pulps are turned out, viz., soda pulp and mechanical pulp, the latter being worth from 40s. to 60s. per ton, and it is used in very common news and printings. We do not use the qualities. The samples we sent you represent about the best qualities of sulphite pulps in an unbleached state. We use a large portion without being bleached in our work here, and where it is necessary to have bleached pulps, we find it very much more economical to bleach it ourselves than pay high prices for it in a bleached state.

“The consumption of wood pulp in this country at present is enormous and is increasing to a tremendous extent, and the employment of rags is in consequence falling off.

“Other materials have been affected by the use of wood pulps, such as esparto, but not to anything like the same extent as rags. Again, more wood pulp has been purchased in this country and America during the past twelve months than ever before, owing to the restrictions imposed by the representative governments upon the importation of rags from cholera-infected countries, and these restrictions yet remain in force, and may continue to be enforced for an indefinite period.

“The different qualities and brands of wood pulps are legion. We have not much experience here of the commoner kinds, but from what we understand, there seems to be not much difficulty in finding a market for all that is made.”

In regard to Canada finding a ready market for their goods in England I am not in a position to know much about this question, but I have an opinion on the matter, and it is this: I feel confident that in the near future Canada should prove a very formidable rival to Europe in the manufacture of wood pulps. To my mind there is nothing to prevent this being brought about. Canada possesses the first essential in an unlimited degree. After this, there is no reason why they should not after a time compete with their surplus production against Europe on their own ground.

The United States already manufacture a large quantity but not nearly so much as they require. At present they are not serious competitors against Europe even in their own country.

JOHN DYKE, AGENT AT LIVERPOOL, ON CANADIAN WOOD PULP.

(From Department of Trade and Commerce Report, 1893.)

In previous reports I have alluded to the trade which might be done in wood pulp. The imports continue to increase, the figures being 156,609 tons in 1891, 190,946 tons