

WOOD PULP INDUSTRY IN CANADA, 1903.

The wood pulp industry of Canada for the calendar year 1903 was carried on by 39 mills which had an output of 275,619 tons of wood pulp. Of this quantity, 187,871 tons were mechanical pulp, 84,808 sulphite, and 2,940 soda. The corresponding quantities for 1902 were: mechanical, 155,210 tons; sulphite, 76,735 tons, and soda, 9,044 tons. This shows an increase of 34,630 tons in 1903. The increase is distributed: sulphite, 8,073; mechanical, 32,661 tons; soda showing a decrease of 6,104 tons.

The total value of the output of 1903 was \$5,219,892.

There are several large mills in course of construction, or which, being finished, did not operate during the year 1903.

Two or three firms have gone out of business or manufacture only paper where before they made pulp.

Nine of the thirty-nine mills manufacture sulphite pulp and three soda pulp. Twenty-seven manufacture mechanical pulp and five make both chemical and mechanical.

Taking the returns of thirty-nine mills the average time the mills ran during the year was nearly nine months.

The power to drive the mills is chiefly derived from water. Of a total power equal to 110,630 horse power, 102,960 is water power.

The growth of the industry is considerable. In the census of 1881 there were five establishments with an output of \$63,000. In 1891 there were twenty four with an output of \$1,057,810. The census returns for 1901 have not yet been tabulated. For 1903 the returns to the Statistical Branch preparing the Year Book show, as given above; thirty-nine establishments with an output of \$5,219,892.

Of the product of Canadian mills the Customs returns show that during the calendar year 1903 the export amounted to \$3,013,441, leaving \$2,206,451 for home use. In a general way, therefore, we export about fifty-seven per cent. of our production.

Of the \$3,013,441 worth exported by Canada in 1903, Great Britain took \$865,826, the United States \$1,899,448, and other countries \$248,167.

The market for this product in the United Kingdom is large. In the calendar year 1903 the requirements of Great Britain were of the value of \$12,194,224, of which 68.7 per cent was chemical pulp. Our export in 1903 to Great Britain was about 7.1 per cent of her needs.