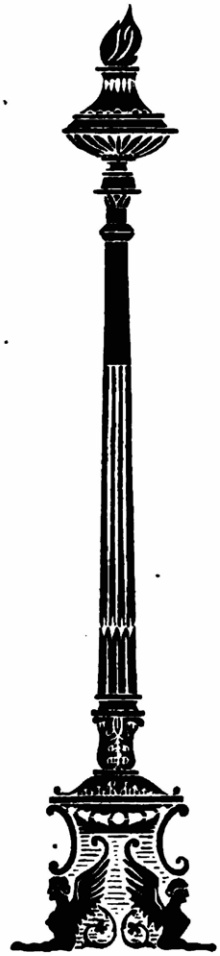
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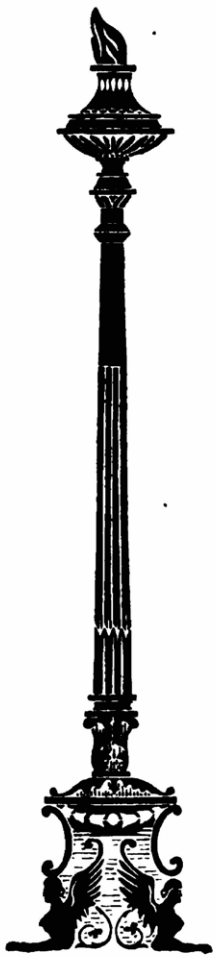
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abundant wood is the Douglas fir, which is successfully used for the manufacture of chemical pulp. Its suitability for mechanical pulp is not so certain. North of Knight's Inlet is the spruce and hemlock belt, affording enormous supplies of excellent pulp-wood—the Sitka spruce especially being unexcelled by any other wood for pulp purposes. These woods cover large tracts immediately contiguous to the sea coast, so that logs can be landed at the mills at very low cost.

Pulping Woods.

An important point in favor of industries on the sea-coast of British Columbia is the mildness of the winters, which admits of operations being carried on throughout the whole year. The forests of this province are much more densely wooded than those of Eastern Canada, 500 cords per acre being not uncommon, while from 100 to 150 cords may be taken as a fair average of good timber lands. With proper husbanding the forests are practically inexhaustible for pulp-wood purposes. This is essentially a timber country. Atmospheric conditions are especially favorable to tree growth, which is very rapid, and the extent of otherwise valueless country along the coast that can be devoted to forestry is enormous. Owing to its wealth of raw material, excellent water-powers and geographical position, British Columbia occupies a position of eminent advantage in competing for the pulp and paper trade of the Pacific. A practically unlimited market is afforded by Australia, Japan, China and the western coast of America—both North and South.

Economic Conditions.

The Industrial Power Company, after cruising many miles of the coast in the search for a suitable water-power, has finally secured Clowhom River Falls, Sechelt Inlet. Clowhom River empties into the sea over a series of falls, the altitude between the top of the highest fall and sea-level being 120 feet. Twelve thousand horse-power (12,000 h. p.) is available from these falls, a special feature being the comparatively low cost at which the power can be developed, the ground being very favorably situated for that purpose. Mills can be erected practically at the edge of the ocean, thus securing excellent shipping facilities; and as there is no ice (as in Eastern Canada), shipments can be made during the whole year without incurring the expense of railway haulage. By the agreement recently entered into by this company with the Honorable the Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, a large area of timber lands situated on the north end of Vancouver Island, and on the Mainland opposite, has been reserved for two years, to enable the company to select the timber necessary for its undertaking.

Industrial Power Co.

One of the most important water-powers of the province, viz., that at Powell River, has been secured by the Pacific Coast Power Company. Powell River forms the outlet of Powell Lake, and flows into Malaspina Straits, about 80 miles north of Vancouver. The power available at this point is estimated at 18,000 horse-power, and its situation is admirably adapted as a centre of industrial activity. Thirty miles to the west are the coal fields of Vancouver Island; and Texada Island, with its rich copper and gold mines, is only ten miles distant. There is every reason to believe that in the near future mills of various kinds, utilizing this fine natural power, will be established at Malaspina—the name given to their townsite by the Pacific Coast Power Company, and where the company holds about 1,800 acres of freehold land. Important timber areas have been reserved at Kingcome and Tsaw-Watti Rivers and at Thompson and Wakeman Sounds, to assist the company in its selection of spruce and other timber lands necessary for supplying pulp-woods to the mills which this company propose to erect.

Powell River Falls.

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An important factor bearing upon the future of British Columbia as the centre of the pulp and paper trade of the Pacific is the rapid depletion of the forests of the United States, and it is confidently anticipated that the importation of Canadian pulp and pulp wood to that country—already large—will continue to rapidly increase. In conclusion, there is no industry, not even mining itself, which gives greater promise of commercial value and general importance than that of the manufacture of wood pulp and paper in this province.

Future Importance.

The Legislature of British Columbia passed an Act at the last session which authorizes the government to enter into agreements with pulp companies granting them leases of pulp lands on very favorable terms, both as regards rental and royalties, and to reserve areas out of which selections of pulp lands may be made. Under the powers of this Act, agreements have been made with the Industrial Power Company, of Nelson, B. C., and the Pacific Coast Power Company, of Victoria, B. C.

Legislation.

A special feature of British Columbia timber areas is their density, the yield being greatly in excess of that obtainable from equal areas in Eastern Canada. The average cut in Ontario is about 10 cords per acre, while upon the lands secured by this company the estimated cut is over 100 cords per acre. This density enables logging to be carried on to great advantage, and it is estimated that the cost of wood at the mills for many years will be at least one-third the average cost to Eastern American mills.

Density of Timber.

Cheap coal of excellent quality can be obtained from Nanaimo or Union, about 90 miles distant, and shipments can be made direct by water to the mills. The markets that can with special facility be supplied from British Columbia are: British Columbia, Japan, Australia, China, New Zealand, Hawaii, the Philippines, Fiji, Western Coast of South America, Western Coast of Mexico, and Asiatic Russia.

Fuel and Markets.

The home market is a rapidly-growing one, and with the steady growth of population a correspondingly rapid increase of the requirements in the way of paper may reasonably be anticipated. The long distance from the Eastern mills and the freight rates make competition from the East impossible.

British Columbia.

Japan probably furnishes the greatest possibilities for the future, the imports of paper in 1900 amounting to over $2,000,000, and that of pulp to about $230,000. Both the demand for pulp and paper in Japan is increasing very rapidly, and the pulp mills of this province will be in the best possible position to supply it.

Japan.

There are no statistics available regarding the trade with China, still an importation of $375,000 in 1900 from the United States alone shows that the market is a valuable one. The South and Central American republics also show a large increase in imported paper.

China.

The Australian market is perhaps the most important at the present time. There are no suitable pulping woods on that continent, and no water-powers, so that Australia is almost wholly dependent upon outside sources for its supply of paper, its total importation for 1900 being about $5,000,000.

Australia.

If preferable trade duties are arranged between Canada and Australia, as now seems probable, Canada (and British Columbia in particular) will occupy a position of great advantage as compared with other countries competing for this trade. It is to be noted that a considerable portion of the paper imported into Australia from Great Britain and the United States were manufactured from pulp shipped from Eastern Canada. The freight charges (and customs duties, in the case of the United States) on this must materi-

Preferential Trade.

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POWELL RIVER—UPPER FALLS.



POWELL RIVER—MIDDLE FALLS.