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WILL TRIPLE PRODUCTION AT THOROLD PAPERMILL

Provincial Paper Limited's Thorold mill, one of that town's pioneer industries, is being expanded under a multi-million dollar program that embraces the doubling in number of its present two paper machines, the tripling of their production of book, writing and other fine papers, the construction of Canada's largest waste-paper pulping plant, and the employment of fifty per cent more personnel.

The company, Canada's largest manufacturing devoted exclusively to fine papers, expects that the first and major phase of the development will be completed early next spring. Provincial also operates a paper mill at Mille Roches, a coating mill at Georgetown, and integrated groundwood, chemical-pulp and paper mills at Port Arthur.

This first phase involves modernization and acceleration of the Thorold paper machines, which are of 140-inch and 90-inch widths, and the addition of a third machine of 136-inch width. These will raise the daily production from 55 tons to about 131 tons. Subsequent addition of a fourth machine, of 120-inch width, will ultimately more than triple the current output.

Recent extensions have enlarged the site to five acres, while new buildings have more than doubled the mill floor area. They will house all ancillary equipment capacious enough to handle the four paper machines production, including a new finishing room with tripled facilities for sheeting and otherwise finishing roll paper. A new two-storey office building has been added. Employee comfort and convenience have been enhanced by installations of the most modern obtainable locker-room equipment.

Believed to be the most modern of its kind anywhere, a new plant utilizing waste as its material will supply a large part of the mill's fibre requirements. Its capacity will exceed 100 air dry tons per day which will be supplemented by virgin pulp from Provincial's Port Arthur mill, from the Smooth Rock Falls plant of the parent company, Abitibi Power and Paper Company Limited, and from other sources.

A complete new laboratory will apply progressive quality-control through test stations and other procedures governing every step in the manufacturing process.

Power for the expanded mill will be provided by new boilers complete with auxiliary water-conditioning and ash-disposal systems. Water consumption will rise from 1 1/2 to 5 million gallons a day and the coal requirements from 25 to 50 tons a day. The mill's present standard crew of 200 is being increased to about 300 employees.

About 250 construction workers have been engaged on the project since it was initiated early this year. Its designers and engineers are the H. K. Ferguson Company of

Cleveland, Ohio. The contractors include Provincial Engineering Limited and Robertson Construction & Engineering Company Limited, both of Niagara Falls, and the W. A. Yates Construction Company Limited, of Hamilton. There are about twenty sub-contractors.

Built originally by the Montrose Paper Company, the mill began production with one machine in 1903. When it went into receivership six years later it was acquired by the St. Lawrence Paper Company, predecessor of Provincial Paper Limited, which installed the second paper machine in 1913.

The new waste plant includes a 2500-ton-capacity storage building. After pulping and de-inking, the stock is pumped into the three-stage continuous bleaching system, comprised of the chlorination stage, the caustic stage and the hypo-chlorite. Thence it is stored at high consistency, 20 per cent stock to 80 per cent water, in a 40-ton vertical storage chest. From the chest, it is routed to the beater room pulpers to be mixed with virgin chemical pulp into the furnish for various grades of paper.

Additional power for the expanded mill will be provided by a new Foster-Wheeler boiler capable of delivering 75,000 lb. per hour at 250 lb. pressure. This is in addition to the present boiler installation which delivers about 17,000 lb. per hour at 150 lb. pressure. The two will be brought into conformity so their combined capacity will be 92,250 lb. per hour with a peak load of 115,800 lb. The new Graver water-conditioning unit will deliver to the boilers what is, in effect, distilled water. There is also an electric boiler which is available as a spare.

The new ash-disposal system is pneumatic and will serve both boilers. It drops the ashes, sucks them into a hopper and drops them thru a dustless unloader. Trucks delivering coal will be utilized to carry away ashes on their return trips. The disposal system is a product of the Chicago Fire Brick Company.

In order to handle the higher demand of the paper machines, the Stapley pulpers are being increased from four to eleven. This equipment is the invention of S. G. Stapley, production manager of the mill, and is manufactured in Canada by Wm. Kennedy & Son Limited of Owen Sound, Ontario.

The paper machines will be fitted with Valley flow boxes and Dominion fourdriniers Suction presses and additional driers will be added as well as new reels supplied by John Inglis Company Limited, Toronto, and new winders from the Appleton Machinery Company of Wisconsin. The new machine room will include a rail crane running the full length of the building.

What is perhaps the world's most up-to-date finishing room, housed in a wholly new wing, will handle the machines' increased production. All roll finishing, including wrapping and weighing, will be done on the ground floor which adjoins the delivery end of the paper machines.

Also on the ground floor are the supercalenders which process about 25 per cent of the mill's production. Their numbers have been increased to three with Kohler wind and unwind reels and their joint capacity has been raised by 50 per cent.

The present rewinder, used for reconditioning and sitting rolls, has been supplemented by a new 120-inch Appleton winder. These machines are also on the ground floor of the new Finishing Room wing. Ample space has been provided here for the storage of roll paper waiting to be sheeted, or supercalendered. There is also one cutter for cutting roll wrappers.

Rolls to be sheeted travel by crane to the upper floor of the wing. Here, five new cutters have been installed, providing a battery capable of sheeting 100 tons of paper per day, three times the Finishing Room's previous capacity.

From the cutters, the sheets travel by belt to pneumatic sorting tables. Here they are inspected by experienced operators who fan out the sheets for examination and remove the soiled, wrinkled or other-

Special Features Mark Baptist Xmas Services

A goodly number of people attended the Christmas services at the Baptist Church on Sunday. The Church was beautifully decorated with evergreens and a Christmas tree, with red candles in silver and blue holders, adorning the windows and the communion table. The pastor, Rev. A. J. Barker,

brought a very inspiring and challenging Christmas message at the morning service, selecting for his text Luke 2:10 — "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people" — this passage is the Heart of the Gospel, bringing relief from our own fears and presenting this glorious hope that is ours.

The Junior Choir, under the leadership of Mrs. Walter Townend, presented four selections: "Onward Ye Pilgrims"; "Christmas Bells"; "Just a Little Child," and "The Song of Peace." The Senior Choir under Mrs. R. H. Wright's direction sang "Angels We Have Heard on High" and the anthem "The First Christmas Morn." Mr. Douglas Peck sang "Night of Nights."

The evening service, which was candle lighted, consisted of carol singing and the cantata "The Quest of the Magi" sung by the choir.

The special parts were taken by Miss Jean Harley, Miss Faith Townend, Mrs. W. Townend, Mrs. R. B. Corbett, Mr. D. N. Cole, and Mr. Douglas Peck.

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wise imperfect.

From the sorting tables, the sheets continue by conveyor belt to the guillotine trimmers which have been increased from three to four. After trimming, the paper is wrapped and packed for shipping. A new covered loading track adjacent to the finishing wing has room for four box cars and a new trucking platform for speedy loading of motor transports.

The new laboratory is equipped for all scientific tests on raw materials as well as on finished paper. Complete checks will be made on the quality and suitability of new base materials that come onto the market. A chain of test stations will be set up in various departments in the mill for constant check and control on each feature of the paper making processes.

The augmented office staff will be housed in a new two-storey concrete and concrete block office wing. Time-keeper, general office and engineering staff will be located on the main floor, and the manager, production manager, personnel and purchasing on the second floor. A complete kitchen and lunchroom will be provided, here for the staff and also a first aid room.

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