

Another Newsprint Mill-A Very Big Welcome

By R. S. Sawhney*

To learn of another Gigantic Newsprint Mill in India (i.e. Nangal) gives me pleasure beyond measure. The site chosen for the Mill is an ideal one because of proximity to the raw materials-plenty of water and abundant power.

The raw materials (i.e. Fir, spruce, pine), softwoods from A-1 material as far as newsprint industry is concerned and hold a great future promise. All the teething troubles faced so far and still being faced by the only Newsprint Mill of the Country- the Hardwood (*Boswellia Serrata*) coupled with chronic power shortage at the Mechanical Pulp Grinders should no longer be a source of fear for future Newsprint Mills based on softwoods.

Extraction of wood and subsequent transportation may present some of the bottlenecks for the coming up of the Newsprint Mill and we may have to resort to transportation by River—may have roads till the altitude possible—may go in for aerial rope ways—may employ helicopters—may have to go in for Balloon logging- the last two being the most recent concepts in wood handling and logging and have been tried in U.S.A., Norway, Canada with quite promising results.

Eucalyptus and Poplar though being hard woods can also be used to a certain percentage in the Newsprint furnish as the Mechanical Pulp from these goes to impart special printing and other characteristics to the Newsprint and effects certain economies. These woods would give normal sulfate pulp (chemical) and have been very usefully/successfully utilised in Australia and Italy for Paper/Newsprint manufacture. Hardwoods have been real headaches all along-giving poor strength mechanical pulp and therefore various modifications-chemi-groundwood (Great Northern, USA), ALB Semi-cell process (Austrian patent), Chيمي-mechanical pulp

(boiling of Eucalyptus wood with Caustic soda before grinding at Industries Khabin dos Parana de cellulose SA (Brazil) and grinding of wood in the presence of Sodium Sulphite and alkalies). Cold Soda pulp etc.—of the groundwood pulp have come up giving satisfactory strength pulp. Japan also has made great strides in the utilisation of Hardwoods for Paper/Newsprint manufacture having gone on for Chيمي-groundwood, Cold Soda, Chيمي-mechanical and Natural Sulphite (NS) impregnated Groundwood Pulp. The percentage in the furnish being 28—35 running at Machine speed-2000 f.p.m. and above. Japan today ranks No. 3 in the world in the Paper Industry, even in spite of Hardwoods/Critical raw materials position and has been termed as the "*Rising Sun of the Paper Industry*" (Pulp/Paper International, 1965 Review Number). Pakistan has very successfully used *Excoecaria agallocha* (Gewa-hardwood) for the production of Newsprint and Printing Paper using besides stone groundwood, Chيمي-ground pulp (ALB Semicell process from Gewa and Imported Chemical Pulp the percentage being 60:30:10 P Fleider & Co. Bavaria and Papeteries Navarre-Roanne (France) were the first to adopt this ALB Semi-cell process. Great Northern Paper Company, East Millinocket Maine (U.S.A.) and Soeiete F. Beghin, S.A., Corbehem, Pas-de-Calais, France are using Chيمي-groundwood process (Great Northern's Patent) Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation, New-York (U.S.A.) are the designers and consultants.

Bagasse also can be incorporated in the Newsprint furnish to a certain percentage-but the fibers are very short and would necessitate a better percentage of chemical pulp so as to let the furnish run satisfactorily at Machine speeds of 1000—2000 f.p.m.

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Already a lot of time has elapsed, costing our country foreign exchange to the tune of crores for the import of newsprint and I feel now not much time be wasted and the Project work be expedited.

It is hoped that Messrs. ABITIBI power and Paper Co, Canada (One of the biggest Newsprint Manufacturers) who are the consultants for the Nangal Newsprint Mill would make the Project a

grand success and that too in the minimum time period, which would be all in the interest of the State and our country at large.

Let me congratulate very heartily Punjab Government for having contributed 2 crores out of the total capital and Messrs. Karam Chand Thappar and Bros. for going in for this fine much needed and long awaited venture.

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