

It is understood that a big field of coal has been located on the State mine reserve at Point Elizabeth (says the "Westport News"). The quality is something between a lignite and a brown coal. Outcrops had been observed indicating the presence of the black diamonds, but it was only recently that the extent was known. Had the field been thoroughly prospected before coal mining was entered upon, the railway would probably have been carried along the coast instead of making a diversion inland, and have enabled the whole field to be worked more cheaply.

Although the paper shortage is acute throughout the British Empire at the present time, necessitating rigid economy in many ways, this position has been brought about principally owing to the difficulty which exists in regard to the importation of the goods. Despite the scarcity of paper supplies being experienced by publishers, the actual prospects of the paper-producing industry after the war never were better. Canada, a land of promise at all times, will be well to the fore in the supply of pulp for paper making, the special spruce, white and with adequate length, abounding in the forests of the Dominion. Balsam fir, although inferior to spruce on account of its resin content, can also be used for paper-making, and this forms part of the wealth of the Dominion forestry as well. Remarkable progress had been made before the war in the development of Canadian wood pulp growing and export. More than 12½ million dollars worth was exported in 1914, but since then the figure has risen to 26 million dollars. Some idea of the vastness of the Dominion can be gleaned from the fact that in New Brunswick the 12 million acres of forest represent over 9270 million cubic feet of timber and 84 million cubic feet of annual growth. Of this 53 per cent. is spruce and fir. This, of course, only refers to paper made from wood pulp. The better qualities, made from rag are likely to be scarce even after the war. Meanwhile, paper is becoming scarcer and ever soaring in price.

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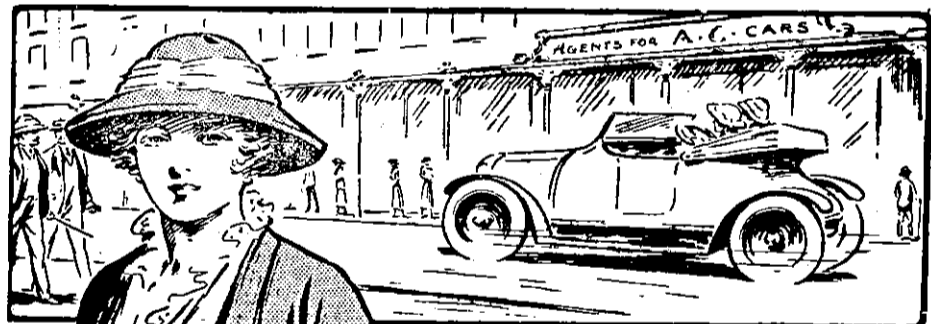
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