

vanced abruptly. The existing copper mines had an alternative choice, that of reducing their production or of closing their works.

The Government's protection was somewhat effective, as the copper imports in 1923 decreased to 6,038 tons or one third of the previous year's imports, and the domestic production also increased markedly. However, the exportation of the home products was as yet inactive.

Although the copper producers in this country were relieved of foreign competition as the result of the application of the protective tariff, their prospects for the future were not bright and, therefore, they have started producing copper-materials in order to recover their former business activity.

These Japanese copper mining companies have taken up the refining and manufacturing business and each has established a separate company for the purpose. Copper wires, plates and sheets, rods, pipes, electric tools, etc. have been manufactured in large quantities since by these companies.

For instance, the Kuhara Mining Company has established the Hidachi Copper Works, the Sumitomo, the Sumitomo Copper Works, the Furukawa, the Fuji Electric Apparatus Company, and the Fujita, the Kosaka Copper Mines and Works.

The recent activity of the hydro-electric power business in Japan has made a rapid increase in the demand

for copper and these hydro-electric power companies have naturally begun to import American copper, which is much lower in price than the home production.

Particulars of the copper production in Japan and her exports and imports during the past 13 years since the outbreak of the Great European War are shown in the following table:

Years	Home production	Imports	Exports
1919	81,865	27,570	19,192
1920	37,461	22,540	5,156
1921	52,522	12,291	9,023
1922	53,780	22,167	410
1923	59,430	6,038	360
1924	61,534	6,090	324
1925	63,513	3,133	266
1926	63,375	12,910	134

The production of copper in Japan has decreased since 1918, as shown in the foregoing, the 1920's output even falling to one-third of that in 1917. The advance of the manufacturing cost and the world-wide slump of the price of copper have thus made it necessary for the small copper mines to stop their operations for some time.

Because of the inactivity of the copper manufacturing industry in Japan, the Government, in 1921, created the high protective tariff, raising the import duty on copper from ¥1.50 to ¥7 per 100 kin, in order to encourage the copper producers in this country.

Japan's Paper Milling

Conspicuous Stride in Production of Foreign Style Paper

The paper industry in Japan had its start long ago, and small factories for the manufacture of Japanese paper exist everywhere in the country, but they are of a primitive type, and the production of Japanese paper does not count much as industry.

On the other hand, the development in the manufacturing of foreign style paper in this country has been most remarkable. The Yukosha Paper Mill, established in 1872, started work in 1874, and the Oji Paper Mill, established in 1873, commenced the manufacture of foreign paper on a large scale in 1915. The Nakanoshima Paper Mill in Osaka, and the Kobe Paper Mill, were established in quick succession, and the Paper Mill of the Government Printing Office also started the manufacture of foreign paper in 1878. The foreign paper manufacturing industry in this country was thus firmly established on a sound basis.

The technique in the production of foreign paper has been gradually improved. Many more mills came into existence following the Sino-Japanese and the Russo-Japanese Wars. The production of printing paper, note paper, packing paper and match paper steadily increased, and in 1913 the total production amounted to 295,000,000 lbs. The outbreak of the world War further contributed to the growth of the paper industry in this country. With the war, the import of German and Austrian paper, which constituted the rival of foreign paper produced in this country, stopped, and the import of paper from Sweden and England was made difficult.

The increase of the paper mills brought about a keen competition, and in order to avoid ruinous competition many mills came to see the benefit of amalgamations. The Fuji Mill effected a merger with the Yokkaichi Mill and the Tokyo Cardboard Company in 1920, and also

bought up the interests of the Nihon Kagaku Shiryo Kaisha in 1922 and these of the Umezu and the Kumano Paper Mills in 1924.

The Oji Paper Mill merged with the Chosen Mill in 1922, with the Ogura Mill in 1923, and with the Toyo Mill in 1923, and with the Toyo Mill in 1924. The Karafuto Kogyo Kaisha (Sagalien Industrial Company) amalgamated the Kyushu, Nakanoshima and the Chuo Mills in 1916, and increased the capital to ¥90,000,000 in 1927. Thus the paper industry in this country at present is swayed by the three big mills of the Oji, Fuji and the Karafuto Mills.

Paper production in 1927 for the nine mills which are members of the Japan Paper Association totaled 1,151,515,000 pounds, a gain of 7.2 per cent over 1926. Sales amounted to 1,131,568,000 pounds, an increase of 8.9 per cent over 1926. Sales equalled 98.3 per cent of production.

Production of newsprint, the largest item for most of the mills, dropped 13,040,000 pounds, due to the 20 per cent restriction on output which was enforced last year. Sales dropped, falling 3,325,000 pounds.

Pulp Imported

Imports of pulp for the last three years have been largely Canadian, as is shown by the following table:

(000) pounds omitted)			
From	1927	1926	1925
Canada	95,427	70,226	71,971
Norway	17,255	12,305	10,884
Sweden	21,749	30,337	45,035
United States	7,164	9,716	28,533
England	3,299	2,108	765
Switzerland	3,316	184	—
Others	3,470	4,768	1,653
Total	160,871	142,551	174,808
Total in tons	7,266	63,151	77,410
Value (¥00)	¥11,926	¥11,018	¥14,925