

Weyerhaeuser Pulp Plant Scheduled to Open May 15

\$400,000 Annual Payroll Is Brought to City Through Latest Industry

Weyerhaeuser's huge new Everett pulp mill, the Northwest's greatest private industrial development since the outset of the depression, is scheduled to begin operation about May 15, it was announced Monday by Manager G. S. Brazeau.

Representing a permanent step in this city's progress toward its enviable goal of becoming the world's pulp center, the industry is being widely acclaimed as a deciding factor in Everett recovery.

Its \$400,000 payroll and the steady type of operation, employing a crew of approximately 250 men means benefits that the entire community will share.

Located on the old mill "A" site on the waterfront, the plant is the latest word in the pulp manufacturing industry. The mill has a rated capacity of 175 tons daily, but is expected to produce at least 200 tons of the highest grade unbleached pulp manufactured in the United States.

Expensive Filtering Plant

More than two years of planning have gone into the tremendous enterprise. The Everett site was selected for its strategic location and construction was begun about a year ago last March, under the direction of O. C. Schoenwerk, designer.

Along with the mill proper which embraces a series of buildings through which the pulp is automatically carried from the raw material to the finished product, the project includes an expensive and intricate filtering plant a mile distant and at an elevation of 240 feet above the mill floor.

The city's contribution to this great development, a 42-inch pipeline, extending all the way across town to the new plant, has been completed and is now ready for use.

The mill will be operated with three eight-hour shifts on a 40-hour week basis. This will necessitate the employment of four crews, it was explained.

220 Local Workers

Nine million feet of lumber have been used in construction of the plant. Two million feet of fir alone was used in building the wood tanks. Another 250,000 feet of lumber was used in the manufacture of wood pipe which is used throughout the plant.

The pulp will not be permitted to touch any iron in its process of manufacture in order to prevent any impurities from rust or corrosion.

Out of the 250 men to be employed in the plant, only about 30 are being brought in from the outside. Most of these are experienced

experts from the Longview mill, who will be placed in key positions. All other employes will be Everett residents.

The pulp mill buildings are systematically arranged to give the utmost in efficiency. At the extreme north end of the plant is the completely rebuilt sawmill in which the logs hauled here by boat will be cut into cants.

Chips Are Graded

The cants then go into the chipping plant on a huge conveyor. All knots are first bored out by means of electric drills after the last bit of bark on the cants has been removed through a cutter.

Automatically the cants then slide into the chippers that chop the hemlock into small pieces. From the machines, the chips run along on a conveyor and are graded into size through means of a large grading screen. The accepted chips are then carried on another conveyor to the storage plant and from there to the digester tanks by another long belt.

Just south of the chipping plant, which is 182 by 126 feet in diameter, stands the towering concrete sulphur storage building, which is supplied by means of a conveyor running from the dock where the sulphur is unloaded by ships.

Beyond the storage bin is the gigantic digester house, separated by the blow pits and a series of tanks from the screen room through which the sulphur is transformed into liquid and then into gas.

Compressor Blends Pulp

After the pulp is cooked in the huge digester tanks which are 52 feet in height and 17 feet in diameter, the pure pulp is run into the storage tanks and blended through means of a central compressor tank to assure uniformity of color and texture.

The pulp, still in liquid form, then proceeds into the machine room where it is dried, rolled and cut into bundles for shipment.

One of the features of the new mill which will give the citizens of the city more comfort than anything else are a pair of tall towers erected alongside the digester tanks, which are designed to catch all of the escaping gases when the pulp is blown from the cooking chambers into the wash tanks.

Gases Are Condensed

This means that the mill will emit no nauseating odors which are commonly produced by pulp mills when the wind is blowing in the right direction. By saving these gases through a process of condensation, the plant is able to pipe them back to the sulphur tank and use them again.

The pulp mill division of the Weyerhaeuser Timber company is managed by R. B. Wolf, who directs both the Longview and Everett plants. Mr. Brazeau, who came here from Chicago, is manager of the Everett mill.

Executive offices of the new plant are located in a new office building now being completed on the mill site.