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See table of contents

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EARLY MEMBERSHIP OF THE TECHNICAL SECTION, CANADIAN PULP AND PAPER ASSOCIATION

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The year 1915 saw two important institutional developments for the organization of science in the Canadian pulp and paper industry. The Technical Section of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association (CPPA) held its first meeting in Ottawa in February and the Federal government's Forest Products Laboratories (FPL) were officially opened at McGill University in December.[1] The two were intimately linked from the beginning.

In 1913, the CPPA was organized as the industry's trade association. Late the next year CPPA president Carl Riordon, Managing Director of one of the most technically progressive pulp and paper firms in Canada, asked FPL Superintendent John S. Bates to start a technical section.[2] Working with Bates in this endeavour were C.B. Thorne, Riordon's brilliant Norwegian manager; consultant T. Linsely Crossley, a former Riordon chemist; Roy Campbell, editor of the *Pulp and Paper Magazine of Canada* (PPMC), tapped by Riordon to be his secretary; and J.J. Harpell, President of Industrial and Education Press, publisher of PPMC.[3] This tightly-knit group, the members of which were to remain important in the movement to promote science in the Canadian pulp and paper industry, brought the Technical Section into formal existence with a meeting at the Chateau Laurier hotel on 12 February 1915.[4] It has remained a matter of pride for the section that this meeting preceded the birth of the US-based Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry (TAPPI) by a week. The Technical Division of the British Paper and Board Makers' Association was not to be formed for another five years.

The first meeting of the Technical Section attracted an attendance of twenty-two. By November 1916 membership reached eighty-five and by September 1917 it stood at 110. The declared purpose of the section was 'to stimulate interest in the science of pulp and paper making in Canada, to provide means for the interchange of ideas among its members and to encourage original investigation.'[5] At first, the intention was for a common meeting ground for any and all interested in the technical side of pulp and paper manufacture. This would include not only chemists and chemical engineers, but also managers, superintendents and other highly skilled technical personnel. Dues were a token dollar a year with ad-

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mission by majority vote of all members of the section. The decision was taken to recognize the PPMC as the section's official journal. By 1916, committees had been formed for Literature and Statistics, Technical Education, Standards, Collection of Samples and an FPL Advisory Committee. In 1917 a Committee on Testing Moisture in Pulp, a vital commercial problem, was added and, in 1918, one on Machinery.

Like other technical and professional bodies, the Technical Section suffered from an identity problem. Following a pattern common in particular to engineering societies, there was at least a latent tension between 'practical men' from a craft tradition and those with university training.[6] This only reflected the far greater and more open tensions which existed between the two groups on the mill floor[7] and, further, reflected the changing structure of knowledge in the pulp and paper industry in the first third of the twentieth century.[8]

At the fourth annual meeting of the Technical Section in January 1918, the decision was taken to restrict full membership in that body to those with at least a BSc or its equivalent.[9] Others who were interested could be admitted as associate members. The Technical Section's 1918 membership list is then the last look at its makeup before the constraint of an education criterion. As such it forms a valuable window into the world of pulp and paper science and technology in Canada at this early date.

An apparently complete biographical list of the 108 members of the Technical Section is contained in the first volume (1915-1918) of its *Proceedings*. The tables which follow are based on the data contained in those biographies. The average age of the members was 36 years. Not included in these statistics is the Secretary of the Section, A.L. Dawe, who was the Secretary of the CPPA and not a technical man.

TABLE ONE: PLACE OF BIRTH

Canada	21
United States	36
United Kingdom	12
Norway	9
Sweden	9
Germany	2
Finland	1
Other Europe	3
Other	3
Not Stated	12
	108

TABLE TWO: EDUCATION

no degree specified[a]	46
engineering 1st degree[b]	46
BSc [c]	6
BA	3
Forestry 1st degree[d]	1
Masters degree	4
Doctorate	2

Notes: degree specified is highest earned

a This underestimates the level of education. Of these, seventeen had some university or European technical college education.

b equivalent of BASc

c not stated as engineering

d BScF or equivalent

TABLE THREE: CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Engineer	24
Chemist	15
Consultant	1
Government Scientist	5
Supervisor of Industrial Research	1
Mill/Plant Superintendent/Assistant	29
Mill/Plant Manager/Assistant	13
Secretary to Company Executive	3
Executive	10
Editor	1
Unspecified/other	4

Notes: if more than one position was listed as current, only the first is used. For those in military service, the last civilian position is used.

TABLE FOUR: PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

			Totals
Forestry	Canadian Forestry Association	4	
	American Foresty Association	1	
	Society of American Foresters	1	
	Canadian Society of Forest Engineers	3	
			9
Engineering	American Society of Swedish Engineers	3	
	Canadian Society of Civil Engineers	8	
	American Society of Mechanical Engineers	3	
	American Society of Civil Engineers	2	
	American Institute of Chemical Engineers	2	
	American Institute of Electrical Engineers	1	
			19
Chemistry	American Chemical Society	13	
	American Electro-chemical Society	3	
	Society of Chemical Industry	8	
			26
Other	Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry		16
	Other		8
	No Affiliations Listed		63

Notes: all affiliations listed are included so that total is greater than 108.

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NOTES

1. 'Forest Products Laboratories Formally Opened,' *Pulp and Paper Magazine of Canada* (*PPMC*) (15 December 1915), 621-6.

2. John S. Bates, *By the Way 1888-1983* (Hantsport, N.S., 1983), 45.

3. J.N. Stephenson, 'Canadian Pulp and Paper Association Twenty Years Old,' *PPMC* (Convention Issue 1933), 69-71.

4. John S. Bates, 'Reminiscences of Technical Section Early Days,' ibid. (January 1974), 20-25.

5. Ibid. (1 March 1915), 123ff.

6. By far the best treatment of this issue is that by Monte A. Calvert, who uses the terms 'shop culture' and 'school culture' in discussing the two groups. See his *The Mechanical Engineer in America, 1830-1910* (Baltimore, 1967), *passim*.

7. See such reminiscences as those of John Bates, *PPMC* (January 1974), 20-25, or T. Linsey Crossley, ibid. (May 1953), 163-6, or Carl Wiegman, *Trees to News* (Toronto, 1953), 133. Contemporary accounts are in agreement with these retrospective views.

8. This issue will be explored at length in my PhD thesis 'Science and the Canadian Pulp and Paper Industry, 1903-1933.'

9. See the section's *Proceedings* vol. I, 24 for this meeting.