

Scales, one of the oldest and most common mechanical devices, play an important role in the paper industry. From the laboratory to the shipment of the finished product, weighing of materials and products at Ecusta is but one of many operations required in the making of paper. Yet, quite a problem would be encountered should there be no scales on which to check the paper during different stages of its manufacture.

Flax straw is weighed when baled for shipment to Ecusta. After the first stage of bleaching the pulp is weighed before going to the second stage. The pulp is weighed again before going to the beaters. Jumbo rolls of paper are weighed after removal from the paper machines. The rolls are wheeled on the scales again after inspection and rewinding. The finished paper, after packaging, tips the scales a final time just prior to shipment to our customers.

In the Paper Division alone, there are more than 100 scales of various types in regular use. The smallest in size is the Laboratory's Analytical balance — sensitive enough to weigh one's own signature. (Take a scrap of paper; weigh it; write your name on it; then weigh the paper again. There'll be a difference in the weight of the paper —the weight of your signature!) The largest scales in use at Ecusta are located near the Gate House. With a capacity of 31,250 pounds and accurate to within 5 pounds, they are used in computing the weight of material by the truck load.

Pictured on these pages are some of the many employees engaged in different weighing operations, using various types of scales and balances. Ecusta has a scale repairman, Harry Ballard, whose sole job is scale adjustment and maintenance. He checks for accuracy an average of 80 scales every week, and, at the same time, makes any necessary adjustments. According to our scale man, the more intricate scales usually function for approximately 18 months before needing major repairs. We should be reminded, says Harry, that, regardless of their size and mechanism, scales are delicate and will not stand up under abuse.

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