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"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."

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THE PRINTED WORD AND CIVILIZATION

By J. W. BATY

The word "civilization," according to one of the greatest authorities, is used to describe a state of human society in which people have reached a certain degree of culture.

One of the greatest factors in the attainment of "a certain degree of culture" is the progress the world has made through the "printed word" and without attempting to trace the earliest degrees of civilization, this article will deal more specifically with the origin of the means whereby the "printed word" became the medium through which modern civilization has reached such a degree of perfection.

The first known form of records was produced on papyrus and parchment, which were the natural forerunners of paper—the manufacture of the former being a flourishing industry in Egypt about 3000 B.C. The stem of a water reed used was cut in sections, split and opened out and cemented together on the same principal that three-ply wood is made today. The Romans improved the process and made different kinds, and named the water reed "papyrus," from which our word paper is derived. Parchment, made from the skin of goats, sheep, pigs and other animals, in use long before Christ, attained its greatest consumption in the Middle Ages, and is still in use for certain legal documents.

The art of paper-making was cradled in the East. The Chinese, about A.D. 105, are credited with having first produced paper from fibrous material, reduced to the condition of pulp. Paper was discovered in Turkistan in the fourth century and contained flax and hemp as minor constituents, but it was not until A.D. 760 that paper was entirely prepared from linen rags by the Samarkand. The art was acquired by the Arabs during their conquests in Tartary, became established in Egypt in the tenth century, and was introduced by the Moors in Spain early in the eleventh century, and brought to Europe by the Crusaders. The first paper mills were erected in Hainault, Germany, in 1189, in England at Hertford about 1496, in America 1690, and in Canada in 1803.

In 1798 the first paper-making machine was invented by Louis Robert, an English patent being taken out in 1801, when the installation of the Fourdrinier paper machine took place at the Two Waters' Mill, Hertford in 1804.

After the publication of the first newspaper in England in 1588, the demand for paper steadily grew, and following the increased consumption of paper due to better education, the British paper-makers were compelled to search for new sources of supply, and two important chemical discoveries were made at the close of the eighteenth century. One was the bleaching action of chlorine, the other the preparation of artificial soda; the latter en-