

that is technically lawful.

The cost of paper has advanced much in recent years. Aside from all influences of the trust or trusts controlling this product, a large advance was inevitable for the reason that the forests bearing pulp timber have been so nearly exhausted that there is added hardship and cost in using what is left, and also because prices always advance as the visible supply shows far short of the inevitable demand. And even if another general trust is not formed the prices of paper will advance still more for the same reasons here given. Even in Canada, where there is a bountiful supply of pulp timber left, prices have advanced in sympathy with general tendencies.

But some check can be put on any arbitrary advances that the trust might be disposed to make by taking the tariff off wood pulp and paper. This would at once give the manufacturers of the United States access to the big Canadian forests and would give the consumers the benefit of competition with Canadian mills. And what is more—and it is very important—it would help to save those American forests yet untouched by the pulp manufacturers. The removal of the tariff would be justifiable on this ground alone, to say nothing of the advantage it would be to the consumers of paper and pulp.—Kansas City Star.

#### AN OLD "AD."

"Nothing succeeds like perseverance," said Mark Twain at a dinner. "When the luck seems most against us, then we should work and hope hardest of all. In moments of discouragement let us remember my old friend, Henry Plumley of Virginia City.

"Henry Plumley ran a collar factory. Times were reputed to be hard with him. When his factory, which was very heavily insured, burned down there was every indication that he had set the place on fire himself in order to get the insurance money. Virginia City was the soul of honor in those days. Shocked beyond words, it rose en masse, seized Henry Plumley, put a halter round his neck and lynched him.

"But he did not die. The sheriff arrived and cut him down in time. He was tried and found guilty and served a term in jail.

"On his release you wouldn't have thought that he'd return to Virginia City again, eh? He did though. He came back, reopened his collar factory and prospered.

"What gave him his start was the odd advertisement with which he announced his return to business among us. Preceded by a brass band, Henry, in a great gilt chariot, burst upon our streets. He sat on a kind of golden throne, and he held on a crimson cushion in his lap an old, old collar. Above the collar, on a crimson banner, waved this inscription in huge letters of gold:

"This is the collar we wore when we were lynched. It saved our life. Be wise in time and use no other. At all retailers, 10 cents apiece, three for a quarter."—Washington Star.

#### BROKEN AT LAST

Joseph H. Choate adverted at a dinner in New York to the English club rule that no club servant may ever, on any account, be tipped.

"When I lived in London," said Mr. Choate, "I heard of an amusing incident based upon this rule.

"There was a certain club which did not permit gambling, but four members, at a loss one night for something to do, decided to have a quiet game of bridge—a small game—half a crown a hundred, or something of that sort.

"So they sought out a secluded corner and fell to. Soon, though,

they noticed one of the club waiters hovering round them, casting stern and suspicious glances at their table. He was a veteran waiter, a club landmark, and they grew a little alarmed. He might tell. Finally they called the man over.

"Joseph," said the general, "what you suspect is true. We are indeed gambling, and we want you to keep mum. After all, Joseph, you have been with the club a good while, and I don't suppose this is the first time you have seen the rules broken."

"General," said Joseph quietly, "I have served the club forty-seven years, and I have seen, sir, every rule broken but one."

"And what one is that?"

"The one, sir, against tipping the club waiters."

"Joseph then had the pleasure of seeing that rule broken, too."—New York Tribune.

#### A THOROUGH DIAGNOSIS

The New Orleans Times-Democrat comments with marked good sense on the recent heavy slump in the quotations of standard securities on the New York stock exchange. It explains that the disclosures of illegal rebating and grafting in the case of Standard Oil and other big corporations involves not these corporations alone, but casts suspicion on all. "In such circumstances," it says "every holder of stocks inevitably asks himself how far the ramifications of the graft have gone and the question gains in poignancy by the drastic measures which the various states are taking against the railroads." The Times-Democrat reaches this eminently sound conclusion:

"The really disquieting feature of the business lies deeper than this. On the face of the papers, it would appear that the congress passed a bill denouncing the severest punishment against all carriers and shippers who should grant or accept rebates and that managers of railways and trusts threw this bill into the waste basket. One would think any man of fair intelligence might have known that such a course was madness, for this nation has never yet been balked of its set purpose. And this view would have decisive weight with honest people who were trustees for thousands of small investors, neither able nor willing to play in such a game. But no such doubt seems to have daunted the high financiers who were pampering their monopolies without a thought of the final score. We suppose a long period of immunity had bred a contempt for the law and its minions. The conspirators thought with Gadshill in Shakespeare's play, 'We steal as in a castle, cocksure; we have the receipt of fern-seed—we walk invisible.' It is this utter lack of both conscience and brains that has staggered the public and made them doubt the best stocks. Tight money, poor trade and other considerations of similar sort are temporary at worst, but the dishonesty and incivism of the magnates have no limits now discernible. Nevertheless, there is good ground to hope that even this barrier to the country's progress will soon be removed. A disease, if not mortal, is half cured when once the diagnosis is thorough. With the gangrene of rebates and graft cut out, American railways will be better properties than they ever have been in all their history. The real remedy consists, not in muleting innocent shareholders, but in consigning dishonest officials to the penitentiary. The final responsibility for the collapse in values does not lie with the president, nor on the legislatures of state and nation—but with the plutocrats who sought to 'steal cocksure' and with the overpaid attorneys who engaged to fur-

nish the fern-seed."—Omaha World-Herald.

#### PREPARATION

"Ah, let me see," said the distinguished arrival as the tug bearing the representatives of the press was discerned coming down the bay to meet his vessel. "Have I got my interview down pat?"

"It is easy, your highness," said the private secretary. "You must remember to say three things."

"Ah, yes. One is, 'I am delighted to realize my ambition to see your wonderful country.'"

"And don't forget to say, 'My nation is in perfect accord with yours. I deprecate any hint of war.'"

"Yes, yes. And the third is, 'I consider American women charming.'"

Bring on your scribes."—Chicago Journal.

#### NEBRASKA STATE FAIR

The Nebraska state fair will be held in Lincoln September 2 to 6. The officials of the fair report that a large number of entries have already been made, and the unusually large number of requests for stalls, ground and floor space indicates that the state fair this year will be the largest and most successful in its history. The good wheat and oat crop in Nebraska, together with the bumper corn crop, which is practically assured will not only make as fine an agricultural exhibit as can be found anywhere but insures another good business year in the middle west, notwithstanding the probable rise in the price of oil to pay the twenty-nine million dollar fine.

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