

quarterly dividend of 1 per cent on the common stock was declared in November, payable December 31, 1898. This common stock is now (January, 1899,) selling on Wall Street at 60. A circular issued by Hatch and Foote on July 15, 1898, and based upon information 'furnished by officers' of the International Paper Company, showed that it was making a profit of \$10 per ton on its output. The same authority states that the trust handles 143,500 horse power; that it owns 450,000 acres of spruce land in New York, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine and Michigan, and holds government licenses for 1,132,000 acres in Canada.

"The entire output of this corporation, representing 1,420 tons per day for theoretical capacity, could be reproduced by a present investment of \$15,000,000, so that the American consumers of newspapers are forced to pay dividends upon an inflated and wholly fictitious valuation of at least \$40,000,000.

A Tariff Trust.

That this is a tariff trust is made clear by the statement of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association in the "Brief in favor of free paper and free pulp" above mentioned. Here are some of them:

"The present tariff rate on printing paper, unsized, sized or glued, suitable for books and newspapers, valued at not above 2c per lb., is 3-10 of a cent per lb., or \$6 per ton. The tariff rate on mechanically ground wood pulp is 1-12 of a cent per pound, or \$1.67 per ton.

"Our spruce wood supply is limited. We, therefore, urge that the commission should take advantage of the present opportunity and immediately secure a sufficient supply of spruce freed from tariff complications.

"The trust, in furtherance of its policy of stifling competition and controlling prices, has increased its timber holdings since this Hatch and Foote statement of July 15, was issued, and that ownership is more than sufficient to give it a wood supply for a long period of years on present production. There are no considerable water powers beyond the control of the trust which can be utilized to operate large plants in competition with the trust, so that all might be done in the United States toward the enlistment of capital, the development of new enterprises, or the conversion of manila mills to news, or the extension of pulp or sulphite mills to news production, would be inconsiderable in comparison with the wiping out of the duty on paper and the opening of Canada to our relief.

"The enlightened policy of New York and other states in protecting forests should be encouraged by putting Canadian pulp and paper on the free list. If consideration be given by the commissioners to the inflated securities issued upon the trust paper mills, then

consideration should also be given to the capital invested in newspapers, which represents at least twenty times the capital actually invested in the paper mills. If the commissioners feel that the labor employed in the paper mills ought to be protected, then we submit that the labor employed in the newspapers affected by this tariff, numbering forty times the force employed in the paper mills, should also be considered. * * *

Only One Remedy for This Trust.

"While the enlistment of capital in American enterprises may exercise a slightly deterrent influence on the paper trust, the effect cannot be material, because the trust owns the largest and best powers in localities where spruce wood is cheap and from which transportation is prompt and cheap. A successful and energetic competition cannot be maintained within the United States. The outside mills that do or can make paper are not equipped for the economical manufacture of news paper. We must look to Canada and the foreign countries where ground wood pulp can be produced at a cost of \$7.50 per ton and where news paper can be produced for one cent per pound. *Free paper is, therefore, the only strong and permanent assurance of protection from this combination.*

"The duty on paper stops cheap books and cheap newspapers. It taxes intelligence, because the newspapers are the people's school and library. All taxes upon paper are taxes upon reading and knowledge, upon the dissemination of information. Under any government such a tax would be oppressive and proscriptive. In a government based as ours is upon the intelligence and resultant virtue of the people, it is anomalous and monstrous. * * *

When this is done or proposed simply to add to the profits of a monopoly, the injury to public interests becomes a matter demanding the intervention of the government."

It would be difficult to frame a stronger argument against a tariff trust than this of the newspapers.

There has been no pronounced change in conditions since the publication of the brief of the newspaper men, except that caused by the drouth, and this only emphasizes the need for free pulp and paper.

In January, 1898, Col. A. G. Paine, president of the New York & Pennsylvania Co., and at one time president of the American Manufacturers' Association, said:

"American paper manufacturers can compete with the manufacturers of any other country exporting paper, and could introduce their goods in France and Germany were it not for the tariff of those countries."

Like views were expressed by Banker Squier, of the firm of Perkins, Good-

man & Co., who said: "The American paper manufacturers can compete with the paper manufacturers of any other country. That is to say, in neutral markets, where the conditions are such as to open the field to competition."

Summary.

The duties on pulp and paper are indefensible from any point of view.

In the first place the duties on pulp and paper compel the 20,000 papers of this country to use paper made from our limited supply of wood instead of from Canada's practically unlimited supply. The effect is to devastate our forests, injure and destroy many industries dependent upon cheap wood and a steady rainfall and water supply, and to injure the health of millions living along our streams which now overflow in spring and dry up in summer and fall.

The duties produce no revenue worth considering. They simply foster a monopoly or trust, which is not an infant but is now exporting paper to Great Britain, Australia and Japan at the rate of 1,000 tons a week. To the extent that these duties enable the trust to charge American consumers higher prices for paper they injure those consumers, who are forty times greater in numbers than are the producers. Because paper is used as a medium for conveying news the taxes upon pulp and paper are taxes upon knowledge and injure the whole American people.

CALVIN TOMKINS.

New York, Nov. 8, 1899.

After a thousand years of desultory individual effort, the public-spirited men of France have now determined to take combined and systematic action in a certain important matter, and have organized, according to the September Nouvelle Revue, the National Alliance for the Increase of the Population of France. In union there is strength.

From South Africa—Jones—"What's the most popular song in Ladysmith today?" Brown—"Why, 'Yule Remember Me.'"—Philadelphia North American.

"Marriage," said the proverb-quoter, "is a lottery." "Yes," answered the Sultan of Sulu as he sadly waved his hand toward the harem, "and there's a bunch of blanks."—Washington Star.

"Can I see the mistress of the house?" asked the tourist in reduced circumstances who stood at the kitchen door. "You can if you have good use of your eyes," coldly replied the woman confronting him. "You are looking at her." "I can use them well enough, madam," he responded with much stiffness, "to see that you are a purist, and not a philanthropist. We have nothing in common. Good afternoon, madam."—Chicago Tribune.