

carrying more than a billion and a half of insurance. The growth of some of the large companies has in it an element of danger. The racing for business necessitates a big expense account and if carried beyond a reasonable limit is a positive detriment to the insured. Whether it is best to try and correct it by legislation is another question. If left alone it would perhaps remedy itself. When the companies see that volume of business is not the only or chief criterion of success, self interest would cause them to no longer make special efforts in that direction. It is usually very unsatisfactory to restrict the operation of the natural laws of growth by arbitrary legislation.

ONE THOUSAND TREES.

In response to the public sentiment aroused in Boston on the subject of tree planting and tree preservation, Mr. Doogue, Superintendent of Public Grounds, has generously offered to give one thousand trees to those who will plant them along the streets, as many as possible to be planted during Arbor Day week. Here is practical encouragement for Arbor Day celebrations of the kind we need, an example it is hoped that will be followed by city foresters and tree wardens throughout the state. Tree lovers will watch with interest the progress made by our newly elected tree wardens.

THE BOER WAR.

The past week in South Africa has been one of waiting, with but little activity. General Roberts is still at Bloemfontein, busying himself in attempting to reestablish the civil government of the Free State on a basis to encourage the friendship of the rebellious inhabitants. Their apparent willingness to surrender is looked upon in some quarters with suspicion. The arms thus far taken are not those used in the conflict against the British, but are old pieces of little utility. It is also reported that many of them as fast as they are released, are moving northward to rejoin the Boer forces. President Steyn's proclamation, declaring all who took the British oath of allegiance, required by General Roberts, to be traitors and punishable by death, is thought to be responsible for the action of the Free Staters.

On the other hand, the opinion is expressed that the people of the Free State have had little sympathy with the war from the start; that they were forced into it by way of a treaty, made with President Kruger in 1897, whereby a defensive alliance was entered into between the two republics, each agreeing to go to the defence of the other, in the event of the independence of either being threatened, and that they had no real grievance against Great Britain

and were only waiting for a chance to honorably withdraw.

British interest is just now centered in Mafeking which has for some time been holding out against the siege of the Boers. Col. Plummer has been attempting its relief, but thus far unsuccessfully, and has finally been driven back to the position occupied two weeks ago. The situation at Mafeking and the necessity for its immediate relief has disarranged the plans of Roberts, and will probably compel him to detail a detachment of his force to drive away the besieging Boers. At the earliest opportunity he will move northward with the main force of his army, upon Pretoria, while Buller will look after the Boers assembled at Biggarsberg. A large English force is being concentrated at Kimberly, which will probably be led against Pretoria by Gen Kitchener, thus getting at the Transvaal capital from the west while Roberts advances from the south.

Presidents Kruger and Steyn and General Joubert recently addressed an assemblage of Boer Strength. Boers at Kroonstad, advising unity of action and stating that Salisbury's reply made peace impossible except by loss of independence so that there remained only the alternative, to fight. The available fighting force of the Boers does not number more than 40,000. This force strongly intrenched about Pretoria, would be able to hold off the British for many days as was shown from the operations about Ladysmith.

TARIFF ON PAPER.

Publishers of books and newspapers and all job printers will be interested in reading the following resolutions adopted at the annual meeting of the American Newspaper Publishers Association at New York on February 23, 1900.

The distinguished republican congressmen from the First and Second districts of Nebraska, who have always taught the benefits of protection, are requested to vote for or against the tariff laws which build this trust and raise the price of literature to all American citizens.

A protective tariff always leads to combines and attempted monopolies as to the things protected. Burkett and Mercer will read the following and then vote as their party dictates:

WHEREAS, The price of printing paper used by newspapers in the United States has been arbitrarily increased in price from sixty to one hundred per cent, without reason or warrant to be found in the conditions of the industry itself, and

WHEREAS, It is the common belief that this increase is due to the workings of a trust;

THEREFORE, Be it

RESOLVED, That the American News-

paper Publishers Association, representing in this case not only its own members but the 22,000 newspapers of the United States, calls upon Congress to make inquiry by means of a special committee into the conditions above described, to the end that suitable legislation may be provided to remedy this condition of affairs in the interest of the best source of public information provided for the people, to wit: the newspaper press, whose interest the founders of the Republic held in the highest regard.

The attention of congress is directed to five bills now in the hands of the Ways and Means Committee, not necessarily to aid the passage of any of them specifically but as evidence of a great demand for some form of remedial legislation, to which the inquiry we request would be preliminary. We believe that the entire agitation against trusts presents no more concrete example than this, and your petitioners, relying upon the desire of congress to legislate in the interests of the people, believe you will accept the opportunity to make this inquiry in the spirit in which it is demanded.

The newspaper, it is fair to state, unlike most forms of industry, sells at a fixed price, and has no means of putting the increased cost on the consumer. In many instances it means the complete confiscation of profits, and in many others creates an actual loss.

The apparently sincere desire of all parties to deal with the trust question removes this inquiry from the charge of partisanship, and makes it what it is intended to be, an inquiry in the public interest.

MACBETH.

We print this week a short but very significant article by Mr. George A. Macbeth on the lead trust. He has for years been the largest manufacturer of glass chimneys in the world. Since his concern combined with several others under the name of the Macbeth-Evans Glass Company, his leadership is greatly increased. Mr. Macbeth has always advocated free trade, both on moral and practical grounds. He has always said that with free raw materials he could, while paying the highest wages known in the business, command the markets of the world and leave all competitors in the shade. Even without cheap raw materials he has for years been exporting millions of chimneys to all parts of the world. His enterprise and ability have enabled him to compete in foreign markets in spite of the tariff-protected prices which he has to pay for lead, lumber, soda ash, etc. Why should the government encourage industrial mendicants by protective tariffs and discourage the enterprise of self-supporting men and industries who ask for no favors, except to be let alone?