

PAPER TRUST AND THE NEWSPAPERS

Enormous Toll That the Publishers Will Have to Pay Next Year.

HUSLER'S FLOUR.

Both phones 128.

PREST. RIDDER'S FIGURES.

Between Paper Trust and Labor Trust Newspapers of U. S. Have a Dark Outlook.

In view of the action of the American Newspaper Publishers' association, in petitioning President Roosevelt to investigate the Paper trust, and in deciding to appeal to Congress to repeal the duty on wood pulp and all materials entering into the manufacture of paper, the following speech delivered by Herman Ridder in Chicago Thursday afternoon, is of especial interest. Mr. Ridder is editor and proprietor of the *St. Louis Zeitung*, and president of the American Publishers' association:

Government reports upon the condition of the printing and publishing business, as it was two years ago, state that it is the largest manufacturing industry which tended toward diffusion and away from consolidation or concentration. In the previous five years it had grown in greater proportion than any other industry, and it had taken first place among all the industries of the country in the number of establishments. Furthermore, the number of printing and publishing houses had shown a greater increase in size, and the increase in circulation had been attended by corresponding increase in profit. The tendency toward concentration and consolidation in every other direction has increased the cost of every article supplied to the newspaper, though it receives less than formerly for the article itself. Consequently the care and attention and energy and ability bestowed upon it, the newspaper percentage of profit is less than that of any other manufacturing enterprise. Speaking generally, the newspapers have encountered large increases in cost of production and enormous decreases in earnings, power of cutting in prices, and in advertising revenue. To meet competition and save themselves, some of them have reduced their prices to sheer despair. The competition between themselves and the increases in output had been maintained to the advantage of the employer—not of the employee. This vast manufacturing industry, consisting of a greater number of establishments than any other manufacturing industry, thus finds itself on the side that is refused the protection of the government. Unlike all the others, it has reached a point where it cannot really pass along its burden to its customers and it cannot restore the conditions which prevailed prior to the time when it gave up all of its gains and improved facilities to all the others. More than that, it is loaded with new burdens arising from the protection of every interest with which it deals. Every machine that the publishers buy—and they have over one hundred million dollars invested in machinery—has a tariff on the manufacturer, more than unity. Every ounce of paper they buy has a protective tariff behind it to maintain prices. In New York City and elsewhere, the morning papers sell practically all of their products to a combination known as the American News company. The newspapers obtain all their telegraphic news from that company. They buy their type setting machines from the Moritzthalen Linotype company. They buy their advertising types from a company formed by a combination of type founders.

LEADING INDUSTRIES.

The leading manufacturing industries of the United States in 1906 ranked as follows:

First—Slaughtering and meat packing.
Second—Iron and steel.
Third—Foundries and machine shops.
Fourth—Flour and grist mills.
Fifth—Clothing.
Sixth—Lumber and timber.
Seventh—Printing and publishing.
Eighth—Cotton manufactures.
Ninth—Wooden manufactures.
Tenth—Boots and shoes.

The printing and publishing interests then represented an annual product of one-half billion dollars, of which six cities contributed a quarter billion, and New York alone accounted for almost one-quarter of the great total. There were two great divisions of this vast business—book and job printing constituting one class, newspapers and periodicals the other class—the latter contributing over three-fifths of the output.

\$239,000,000 INVESTED.

It is for the newspaper especially that I propose to speak. The newspapers and periodicals had a reported capital invested of \$239,000,000, of which nearly \$100,000,000 was invested in machinery, tools and implements. They paid salaries and wages amounting to \$106,000,000 per annum to 160,000 workers. They paid \$58,000,000 per annum for their principal article of use—white paper. They represented the intellectual growth of the country, they expressed its desires.

COMPETITION MAINTAINED.

Yet so scrupulous were they in the subordination of their own and imme-

ed by publishers as payments for insurance just as they paid for fire and marine insurance. It has been calculated that in New York City alone the newspapers pay \$1,500,000 per annum as their tribute to the closed shop and to organized labor. Any attempt to estimate the aggregate paid would involve too many complexities to justify the effort. With each new concession to the unions, such new award of arbitrators, the publishers say, how far this payment may be carried. There are limits beyond which they cannot go, even though they are well wised of organized labor. They are approaching that limit where their negotiations may be forced to stop further concessions, and allowances, if they wish to emphasize the fact that they have no objections to unions. They believe that the unions, notwithstanding many faults, have accomplished excellent results for men who are not amenable to them. They believe that in the way of securing better terms for workers who deserve them. However, they have a right to complain of those unions which set up a selfish guild for individual profit and without regard for the rights of other labor. The unions have fallen into the habit of exacting a toll from a newspaper which any union could hope to obtain from any other employer. These unions are making demands upon the newspapers because of supposed friendliness of unions and because of supposed helplessness of employers in resisting such exactations. A newspaper, to exist, must run all the time. It cannot wait to contest strikes or to insist demands.

PAPER COMBINATION.

Serious as this labor trust may appear in some of its aspects, it does not compare in objectionable features with a paper combination, which is probably the most important financial freak we can find in a long list of combining associations. The printing and publishing business as a whole turns over its capital in about months. Large department stores, that advertise energetically, will turn over their stocks about seven times a year, but the largest paper manufacturers in the world—the International and the New York—show a gross annual business of only \$9,000,000, and require three years to turn over its capital. It has watered itself until it has no more money to invest. It has borrowed upon everything it has. It cannot earn any more money unless it can do more business, and it cannot do more business because it has not the money with which to do it. Instead of accepting its responsibility, it is tending its business to keep pace with the growth of its customers, the International Paper company is producing less newsprint paper today than it turned out immediately after its organization. The available funds at its command, which have been used for new paper machines, are going toward the acquisition of 2,500 square miles of timber lands registered in one of the four land offices in the Province of Quebec, Canada. To maintain that concern and its allied combinations, with their oppressive weight of overcapitalization, to provide a pretext for protecting its labor of \$9,000,000 per annum, the publishing business has been subjected to a series of deliberately planned schemes of extortion. The first step was accomplished in the Dingley bill, so that publishers could not buy paper elsewhere. The associations made in defiance of the federal tariff, and which has been brought below the demand, the market has been starved. The surplus has been exhausted, and the price for the present year has been advanced \$12 per ton upon a consumption of 20,000,000 tons, an addition of \$10,000,000 per year, increased cost of manufacturing, and not justify such an advance. Aggravating that advance is a threat of another advance of \$10 per ton next year, or \$9,000,000 more, a total of \$19,000,000 advance in two years by an industry that says an aggregate of less than \$9,000,000 a year to its labor, while clamoring to Congress for a continuance of its opportunities to combine and oppress publishers.

SHOULD RANK AS CRIME.

The newspapers insist that the paper manufacturers who induced Congress to protect them against competition from abroad are under obligations to provide for the present and prospective demands of consumers in this country. To repress manufacture or to starve the market so that the paper maker is in position to create a famine and to stop the supply to any publisher, should rank as a crime. Many newspapers are unable to obtain any news from paper next year and do not know where to obtain it. In all the history of crime charged against combinations and trusts, such a situation is unprecedented. It demands immediate remedy.

DEAD AT WALDORF-ASTORIA.

New York, Oct. 29.—A man who on Thursday registered at the Waldorf-Astoria as H. B. Potter, Jr., of Philadelphia, was found dead in his room.

After a thorough examination Coroner Harberger emphatically stated his belief that the man had been murdered.

A letter addressed to his wife, Mrs. H. Bradley Potter, Doylestown, Philadelphia, showed that the man was an agent of the Michigan Commercial Insurance company of Lansing, Mich.

The marks on the body showed that he had been beaten and kicked. That the murderer did not occur in the man's room. Coroner Harberger is certain.

TO BOOM LA FOLLETTE.

Madison, Wis., Oct. 29.—A committee was appointed here today to promote the candidacy of Senator Robert M. La Follette for the Republican nomination for president.

The conference at which the committee was appointed was attended by 20 Republican leaders of the state. An executive committee to direct the work was also chosen.

ELECTION OF U. S. SENATORS.

Gov. Stokes Signs Bill Providing for a Popular Expression.

Trenton, N. J., Oct. 29.—Gov. Stokes signed today Senator Colby's bill providing for a popular expression of the selection of United States senator. Under the bill 1900 voters may file a petition with the secretary of state endorsing a member of their political party for the office. Candidates for senator or assemblymen in filing their acceptance of nominations may then sign one or two statements, the first pledging them to vote for the candidates for United States senator receiving the highest number of votes in his county at the party primaries, and second, pledging him to vote for the candidate receiving the highest number of votes in the state at the party primaries.

The governor also signed the direct primary bill which provides for the nomination of all candidates for offices except governor, congressmen, and presidential electors by direct or primary vote instead of through delegates.

ATE CANNED CORNED BEEF.

And Now Five Men Are Ill from Potomac Poisoning.

Los Angeles, Oct. 29.—Five employees of the Berlin dye works are seriously ill today from potomac poisoning from eating canned corned beef for lunch yesterday. Five others are also suffering from the poison, but are not dangerously ill. Those most seriously affected are William Star, shipping clerk; J. E. Cottle, engineer; Vincent Murphy, bookkeeper; John E. Hargley, head dry cleaner, and Miss Ida Horley, finisher. The food was purchased at a nearby grocery store, and came from one of the large packinghouses.

PRINCE'S WEDDING POSTPONED.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 29.—There is reason to believe that the marriage of Prince Wilhelm of Sweden to Grand Duchess Marie Pavlovna, previously announced for this fall, will not take

place until next spring.

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