

ALLEGED COMBINE OF PAPER MILLS.

Evidence Presented by Newspaper Publishers' Association.

BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

Mr. Norris Furnished Long List of Newspapers to Which Price of Paper Had Been Raised—Understanding That One Mill's Customer Is Not to Get Paper From Another.

Washington, April 28.—Evidence tending to show that there has been unity of action among paper mills in the matter of fixing the price of paper, as well as an understanding that none of them shall sell to the customer of another; that contracts for paper could not be obtained for a period longer than one year, and that the mills had arbitrarily shut down or restricted their output, was presented by John Norris of the American Newspaper Publishers' association before the select house committee which is investigating the price of print paper as affected by the tariff, and the question of whether or not there is a combination in restraint of trade.

The evidence which Mr. Norris offered was in the shape of replies by members of the Publishers' association to a number of queries propounded to them by the association. This evidence included a statement of a variation in the price of paper of from \$2 to \$17 a ton, and induced Mr. Mann to make the assertion that it disclosed just the reverse of the contention that there is a combination to maintain uniform prices.

Mr. Norris, however, declared that it was the avowed purpose of the paper makers to regulate the price at the

time of the hearing before the Dingley committee in 1896 and he contended that their present course was in harmony with the original.

Questions Withdrawn or Changed. Mr. Norris laid before the committee a large number of replies of newspapers to the query: "Have any agents or mills withdrawn quotations previously made to you or have they neglected or refused to quote prices to you, or have they changed previous offers?"

These replies all tended to show that some paper companies had declined to make offers, others had withdrawn or changed their quotations and others had announced their product entirely sold.

The Chicago Daily Journal replied that no broker or representative of any paper mill had called on the paper since June 1, 1906, to quote prices or ask for their business.

"It has seemed to us," the journal wrote, "that there is an understanding that we are the Sheboygan's customer and will have to stick to that mill." Efforts to obtain prices elsewhere, the journal wrote, were without avail. "Do you understand," asked Mr. Sims, "from that statement that they left the impression that the other companies, except the Sheboygan, were refusing to quote because they knew the Sheboygan had made quotations?"

"We distinctly alleged," Mr. Norris replied, "that these people had understandings, and we will give statements where they have been told that they were the customers of one mill and that no other mill would bid."

That there was unity of action by selling agents or uniformly in the price of paper, was attested by several hundred newspapers. In several instances the publishers declared they had no information on the subject.

Contracts Limited to a Year. Still another set of replies was submitted by Mr. Norris, by which he undertook to prove that practically every member of the association had been

refused contracts for more than one year, and that in some instances publishers had been forced to live "from hand to mouth" in the matter of their paper supply.

In answer to Mr. Mann, Mr. Norris said that these replies all were received the latter part of September or early in October, 1907.

Evidence also was adduced to show that in many instances changes had been made in selling agencies and that contracts now were being made direct with the mills.

Mr. Norris furnished a long list of newspapers to which the price of paper had been raised, and closed his testimony by submitting evidence from a great number of newspapers that paper mills had shut down or restricted their output, giving various reasons therefor, such, for instance, as that there was no water or that there was a lack of wood supply, and in some cases no explanation at all for a shutdown of several months.

4-Per-Cent-City Bonds at a Premium.

Philadelphia, April 28.—Mayor Reuburn opened bids for \$5,875,000 new 4-per-cent city bonds and found that the bid had been over-subscribed about seven times. There were forty-seven bidders whose bids ranged from par to 104.253. A syndicate headed by H. F. Bachman & Co. of this city was awarded the entire issue of \$5,875,000 at 104.253.

ONLY TWO BATTLESHIPS.

President's Program Defeated in Senate as It Was in House.

Washington, April 28.—By an overwhelming vote President Roosevelt's four battleship program failed in the senate just as it did in the house. The amendment for four battleships was introduced by Senator Piles, and the fight for its adoption was led by Senator Beveridge. Twenty-three votes were cast for the increased program, the number largely being made up of recently elected senators. Fifty senators voted to support the house and the recommendation of the senate naval committee in favor of the building of only two battleships.

The debate on the amendment lasted three days to the exclusion of all other matters. It was begun by Senator Beveridge with an eloquent appeal for the support of the president. At times the discussion came near being acrimonious, especially sharp exchanges occurring between Senators Aldrich and Beveridge.

It was developed by Senator Allison during the debate that there is a well defined understanding among the senate leaders for the authorization of two battleships each year, until the American navy is regarded as sufficient to meet any demands that may be made upon it.

As finally passed, the bill carries appropriations aggregating \$123,111,659, and provides for the construction of two battleships and two colliers and the purchase of three additional colliers, the construction of submarines and other necessary craft, and increases the pay of officers and enlisted men, as well as increasing both the pay and the strength of the marine corps.

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FOR SALE—Pretty house with piazza, furnace, hot water, and fine bath room. Walnut St. organ in perfect order, particularly suited for lodge, chapel, or Sunday school use, also, an oak sideboard, couch, cot, child's bed and a bicycle. T. R. Turner, 62 Jersey avenue.

I offer for sale desirable dwelling on Elizabeth street near Greene; furnace and bath. Price \$31,800, of which \$1,000 may rest on easy terms. Arthur L. Jamason, agent.

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FOR SALE—New typewriter. Enquire this office.

FOR SALE—no night buggy, one cutter, and two sets of harness. Enquire of Geo. J. Burns, 57 State street.

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I have been appointed agent for the sale of the real estate belonging to the late Col. Edward C. James and offer the property for sale at reasonable prices and on easy terms. Alric R. Herriman, No. 9 Ford street.

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