

# The Daily Review.

Towanda, Pa. Saturday, March 6, 1880.

EDITORS:

S. W. ALVORD. NOBLE N. ALVORD.

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## The Tariff on Paper.

It is currently reported that as soon as the bill for reducing the duty on steel rails is out of the way, a strong and well-concerted movement will be made to place printing paper on the free list. The reasons alleged for such action are not without plausibility; it will unquestionably command powerful support, and it may be successful if no effort equal to the occasion be made in opposition.

Publishers of newspapers and periodicals, whose selling prices are fixed and not easily raised, naturally feel the recent advance in the cost of paper, and in looking for a remedy may lose sight of the lessons of the past in their eagerness for immediate relief. Application to Congress for the removal of the duties seems to be the easiest and most direct step to accomplish this, and we may therefore expect to see the all-powerful newspaper interest enlisted on behalf of the measure with an earnestness that will almost insure its success.

Yet in this we think that the newspaper interests will be in error, and that a cooler and wider view of the subject would lead them to deprecate rather than to encourage all such agitation. We speak as consumers, and for the interest of newspapers and printers only, when we counsel a conservative policy and acquiescence in the existing condition of the market, confident that if unwise legislative interference be abstained from, the question will settle itself by the natural operation of supply and demand, and in the long run the consumer will receive his paper at lower rates than if he now seeks temporary relief by striking at his sources of supply.

No business man could have watched the course of the paper market during the recent past without admitting that during the first nine months of 1879, prices were unusually low, and that a reaction was inevitable. Domestic rags were quoted at a figure that scarcely paid for their collection and preservation, so that stocks on hand gradually fell off to a point lower than had almost ever before been known. The cheapness of paper stimulated its consumption in every way; and to this must be added the clause in the new postage law permitting samples of periodicals to be mailed at pound rates, leading to an enormous distribution of gratuitous copies, which caused a very lively demand for paper during the closing months of the year. To meet this demand, it was found that the supply of paper stock was short, and stock consequently advanced with almost unprecedented rapidity. Abroad, though the demand for paper was limited by the prevailing commercial depression, yet one important source of supply for rags was cut off by the German prohibition of importing Russian rags, owing to the dread of plague infection.

In view of all these causes, combined with the general increase of prices and of consumption caused by the revival of prosperity, our wonder is, not at the advance in paper, but rather that the advance has not been greater. It has not kept up with the advance in the price of stock, and the average price of the several grades to-day is but little greater than what it was in the free-trade times before the war.

The remedy lies, not in admitting paper free of duty and creating an interne-cine conflict between our own mills and the massive capital represented by the Belgian Association, for the losses on which consumers in the long run will have to pay one party or the other, but by quietly economizing, avoiding all unneces-

sary waste, and waiting for the inevitable reaction which will shortly follow the existing inflation in the paper stock market; or by making a temporary advance in the subscription prices. Present prices of paper, while to some extent restricting consumption, will soon begin to draw forth more abundant supplies and the market will settle itself on a reasonable basis of price, which may be regarded as permanent for some years at least. Free trade, on the other hand, will not give our manufacturers their stock any cheaper, but will lead to incessant fluctuations of values—a state of things, of all others, most ruinous to journalistic interests, the prosperity of which by reason of the necessity of fixing subscription and advertising rates ahead, depends, more than in any other business, on stable markets.—*Printers' Circular.*

Suit was begun in the United States circuit court Philadelphia yesterday by Edward Murphy against the Pennsylvania railroad company to recover damages for bodily injuries sustained by reason, as alleged, of gross negligence on the part of the defendant and its servants. The complaint sets forth that in June, 1878, one Potter shipped seven horses valued at \$200 each, from West Philadelphia to Jersey City, and employed the plaintiff to accompany said horses in the car in which they were placed, and to care for them on the passage. When the train reached Pennypack station the plaintiff entered the car by means of a ladder from the top, and having attended to his duties, was about going out, when the train was started, and he was thrown violently upon the track, his leg crushed between the wheels of one of the cars, and his body otherwise injured. By reason of such injury the plaintiff was obliged to have his leg wholly amputated, thereby crippling him for life, and he fixes his damages at \$25,000.

## WANTS.

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L. E. ELSBREE.

FOR RENT.—A good house in Third Ward. Apply to J. N. CALIFF.

FOR RENT.—One house on 2d street and one on Mechanic street. Enquire of W. J. YOUNG.

FOR RENT.—I have several dwellings for rent on the First of April next.

L. B. RODGERS.

Two Rooms For Rent in Patton's Block. Enquire of J. G. PATTON.

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Towanda, Feb. 11, 1880.

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