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THE STATIONERY TRADE.—There is great uncertainty as to the immediate future of the price of paper. It is unquestionable that a few months ago the stocks were unusually heavy, and prices were lower than mills could afford to make at, but they were obliged to shut down owing to the absence of the necessary supply of water; this would naturally induce some advance as the dealers' stocks were lowered and little being made, and makers were beginning to take advantage of the situation. But before this was done to any extent there is an outcry about rags, as owing to cholera in the districts, where this class of stock mostly comes from, it was found an advisable precaution of the United States government to prohibit altogether their importation. Stocks of rags are, therefore, accumulating in outside ports, and if the embargo should be suddenly taken off there will be a rush of material and a consequent lowering of the market value of paper; but as there is no immediate sign of this we may expect firmness with a slight upward tendency.

THE ADVANCED PRICE OF WRITING PAPER.—SPRINGFIELD, Mass., October 1.—The writing paper makers' branch of the National Paper Makers' Association had a special meeting here to-day to consider the question of reducing the production of fine papers, to counteract the bad influence on the market caused by the prohibition of the importation of

foreign rags, which has increased the cost of paper stock. After thorough discussion the following was unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That we will not offer our paper for sale or receive any orders therefor except at an advance of price from one to two cents per pound.

Resolved, That rather than sell our paper at a less advance than that named in the foregoing resolution, we will lessen our production until the price of paper advances sufficiently to cover the extra cost of rags and other material.

“OFFICE OF

“MASSASOIT PAPER MANUFACTURING Co.,

“HOLYOKE, Mass., September 18, 1884.”

“DEAR SIRS—Owing to the United States Government shutting out all foreign raw material used in the manufacture of paper, and the consequent rise in price of rags in all of our domestic markets, we are compelled to withdraw all quotations which we have made you upon the several brands of paper which we produce.

“Promising to do all we can for you,

“We remain,

“Yours truly,

“E. C. ROGERS, *Treasurer.*”

“MITTINIQUE, Mass, September 20, 1884.

“GENTLEMEN—When the importation of rags was forbidden by our Government, and the time for the exclusion of foreign rags was fixed at three months, it was hoped that this would cause no serious inconvenience, as that period could be provided for from our own collections and stocks on the way: but the appearance of cholera at Naples, with such severity that sanitary care is impossible, will cause such grave and well-founded apprehensions in regard to shipments from all Mediterranean ports for a year to come, that our Government will be justified in excluding for that period the usual large shipments from that prominent source of supply of the linen rags used in the manufacture of writing paper.

“How far this will induce a continuance of the present exclusion of all foreign rags it is difficult to forecast. Linen rags, essential in the manufacture of best ledgers and other writing papers, have advanced 25 per cent. already, and ‘domestic’ stock sympathizes to a considerable extent in the advance. We can only say that we cannot promise present prices for paper on other than orders now on hand, but will not make an advance to our established trade unless compelled to by a more marked advance of domestic rags than at present demanded; yet that further advance is probable.

“Yours respectfully,

“SOUTHWORTH Co.