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\$1. IN ADVANCE.

SHORTAGE IN PAPER.

The shortage of paper in the market is becoming more and more seriously felt. Publishers, printers, lithographers and others, who have been waiting for large supplies are beginning to fear lest they shall soon be brought face to face with famine in the paper market. Up to this time they have been kept going on small lots, as these came into the hands of the dealers. All handlers of paper now admit that supplies of paper for immediate delivery are not to be had in New York City.

As foreshadowed in THE AMERICAN STATIONER of last week, the International Paper Company has sent out a letter to the dealers in news stating that the Company is obliged to withdraw all quotations and cannot promise to fill further orders. In each line of the trade the story is the same.

This illustrates the general condition in every branch of the industry. If the scarcity of paper continues many more weeks, the outlook is that many lines of trade dependent thereon will be seriously affected. The fact that there is no news for sale may even cause the suspension of a number of small dailies and weeklies, the owners of which purchase their supplies as needed.

The New York representatives of paper mills are so pestered by customers that most of them no longer stay in their office. When they do happen to be in they refuse to answer the telephone. This fact speaks volumes in regard to the actual condition of affairs.

Next in order, the jobbers must retreat unless there is a change. As it is, they are simply throwing what scraps of paper they can get hold of to their customers, in the absence of shipments from the mills. This cannot continue much longer.

Quotations, prices and discounts are no longer matters of interest to the trade, as the all-absorbing question is one of delivery. This overshadows everything else.—The American Stationer, N. Y., Oct. 23, 1899.

The Companion's New Calendar.

The YOUTH'S COMPANION Calendar for 1900 is unique in form and beautiful in design. The oval centerpiece, in high colors and enclosed in a border of flowers, represents "A Dream of Summer" and is supported on either side by an admirably executed figure piece in delicate tints. The whole is delightful in sentiment and in general effect. Larger than any of THE COMPANION'S previous Calendars, it is equally acceptable as a work of art. As an ornament to the home it will take a preeminent place.

The Calendar is published exclusively by THE COMPANION. It cannot be obtained elsewhere. It will be given to all new subscribers for 1900, who will also receive, in addition to the fifty-two issues of the new volume, all the issues for the remaining weeks of 1899, free from the time of subscription. Illustrated Announcement Number, containing a full prospectus of the volume for 1900, will be sent free to any address.

THE YOUTH'S COMPANION,
203 Columbus Avenue,
Boston, Mass.

An official of the Spanish navy at Havana has made three attempts to sell the floating dry-dock at auction, but without success. The Spanish government has decided to tow it to Spain, as it is worth in the neighborhood of half a million dollars.—Ex.

WOMAN'S LOVE.

Bob Ingersoll may have been poor authority on religion, but there is one thing in which his judgement seems second to no other. Hear his opinion on woman's love.

"The one thing in this world that is constant, the peak that rises above the clouds, the one window in which the light for ever burns, the one star that darkness cannot quench, is woman's love. It arises to the greatest heights and sinks to the lowest depths. It forgives the most cruel wrongs; it is perennial of life and grows in every clime. Neither coldness or neglect, harshness or cruelty can extinguish it. A woman's love is the perfume of the heart. This is the real love that subdues; the love that man wrought great miracles in art; that gives us music all the way from the cradle song to the grand symphonies that bear the soul away on the wings of fire. A love that is greater than power, sweeter than life and stronger than death.—Ex."

THE PENALTY FOR BEING POLITE.

It is more difficult to be polite in the city of Hamburg than in any other place in Europe. There the most chivalrous man has to think twice before giving up his seat in a car to a lady, as he may be turned off the car for his politeness. It seems that the Hamburg trolley cars will seat, according to size, twenty or twenty-eight persons, ten to fourteen on each side. In addition, four persons are allowed on the front, and five persons on the back platform. When the car is full the conductor hangs out a sign, "Besetzt," which means "occupied" and is absolutely forbidden to take on another passenger until some one gets off the car.

Sometimes, while the conductor is in front collecting fares, a lady will step on the car, which is already "occupied." As there is no conductor on hand to prevent her, the lady steps inside and the gentleman who may offer her a seat comes out and takes his stand on the platform. When the conductor, after going his rounds, returns to his post, he promptly requests the gentleman to step off the car, as he has forfeited his seat, and the car is fully "occupied." Should he refuse to leave the car he is put off. The policemen on the streets are instructed to watch the cars sharply, and if they find a car carries even one more passenger than its proper complement, the conductor is fined seventy-two cents, which is paid to a charity fund of the street railway company.—Philadelphia Press.

Discoveries have recently been made in the lava beds of New Mexico which throw a new light on the very complete systems of reservoirs and irrigation viaducts which were employed by the ancient inhabitants of that part of the country. Under the lava which covers hundreds of square miles are found traces of cemented ditches and reservoirs that are marvels of civil engineering. Ditches wind in and out at the base of the mountain ranges, following the sinuosities of the canals in such a manner as to catch all the storm water before it was absorbed by the loose sand at the mountain's base. Reservoirs at convenient places stored the water, which was led in cemented ditches across loose soil to the various points where it was required. Chasms were crossed by viaducts.—Ex.

Science, Engineering and Electrical.

Scientific American.
The Philippine army has twelve Colt automatic guns, thirty-three Gatling guns, twenty-one 2-pounder mountain guns, twenty-two 12-pounder mountain guns, and twelve Sims-Dudley dynamite guns.

There will be a model American post office at the Paris Exposition. Arrangements have been made with the French postal authorities whereby mails for Americans in Paris will be sent directly to this office instead of going through the regular channels. The post office will be fitted up with all of the modern postal appliances.

Serious apprehensions are felt that the drought now prevalent throughout the United States will prove a serious injury to the paper trade. There is great difficulty in filling orders. In Maine particularly the water supply has not run as low as at the present for nearly forty years. Mills which run by water power are seriously crippled in most cases.

That the system of transfers which obtain on the trolley lines in our large cities is too liberal is shown by the fact that in New York a newspaper reporter determined to test the possibilities of the transfer system. He succeeded in transferring unchallenged 107 1-2 miles, making 87 transfers for a single five cent fare. This occupied two

could have gone still further had he so desired.

An extraordinary operation was performed a few days ago at Bellevue Hospital, New York City. A messenger boy lost his nose and his right eye in a trolley car accident last June. In order to save his life the doctors allowed his wounds to heal; finally it was decided to perform an operation which should give the boy some relief from the disfigurement of his face. A gutter percha base was shaped, and over this the skin was drawn together with fine silk sutures and the wound was allowed to heal. The operation was an entire success.

The French government is considering the advisability of discontinuing the use of the guillotine and contemplating the adoption in its stead of electrical execution. The head of the criminal is enclosed in a helmet somewhat similar to that used by a diver. When the executioner turns on the current two needless leaps from their sockets, penetrate the temples and enter the brain. A powerful alternating current ruptures and destroys the brain cells so quickly that it is believed that death will be instantaneous. This seems like a clumsy method of execution, but there is no question that will be efficacious.

A suit for \$5,000 damages in each case has been brought against the Bridgeport Traction Company by an administrator of the two victims of the Stratford trolley disaster. The complainant in this case alleges gross and wanton negligence, imperfect roadbed, car, curves, guard rails, and overwork of motormen. The suit is commenced in view of a decision of Judge Wheeler in the Supreme Court just before the disaster, which held that under the State law practically only nominal damages could be obtained in a case where death was sudden and painless. The suit just brought will settle an interesting legal point.

W. W. Haynes, a prominent surveyor of Frio county, in company with his son, arrived here Sunday to begin a survey for Raymond Martin, by order of the District Court.

A big Bull fight is billed to take place next Sunday, Nov. 26, at Nuevo Laredo, also at C. P. D., Mex. The I. & G. N. and Southern Pacific will run special trains on this occasion and both are giving exceedingly low rates.

Brach estimates that the average product of wheat per acre in Great Britain is 35 bushels; in France, 16; in Germany, 19; in Russia, 9; in Norway, 25; in the United States, 12.

A fine shower of rain preceded by a little hail storm which lasted only a few moments, fell on Cotulla and the surrounding country Sunday evening. Taken with the other showers, we now have an excellent season in the ground and with more in the early spring, crops will be assured. Every one is looking forward to a prosperous year for crops as well as grass in the coming year.

A single big gun of the many now being put in place for the protection of the sea coasts costs a large sum. Some interesting figures on this subject have just been submitted to Gen. Wilson, and will be by him transmitted to Congress.

A 12-inch breech-loading rifle, mounted on a carriage,

and an 8-inch, \$72,000. The figures show that modern high-powered guns cost immense sums of money, and the cost of firing them is proportionately as great. The report of experts who have inspected these guns and the devices for securing an accurate aim show that there is an immense saving effected by possessing modern range and position-finding devices.

"The demoralizing effect of a hit as compared to a miss," said one of these reports, "cannot be reduced to a money value, but it costs big money to shoot a big gun and then miss the mark. Take for instance the 12-inch gun. To miss the mark is simply to throw away \$561.70. With the 12-inch gun the loss is \$322.40, and with the 8-inch rifle it is \$184.65."

A West Philadelphia girl, who is an enthusiastic autograph collector, has recently added Rudyard Kipling to her collection, at a cost of \$2.50. From her experience it would seem that the English poet is not such an "absent-minded beggar" as he pictures Tommy Atkins to be. On the contrary, he believes in turning everything to a good account, and it is evidently this belief, rather than a mercenary motive, that prompts him to place a valuation of \$2.50 on every autograph he scribbles. It must not be inferred that he pockets the proceeds. The West Philadelphia girl sent a modest request for an autograph, inclosing a stamped and addressed envelope, as is her custom. In reply she received a printed slip from Mr. Kipling's secretary, setting forth in brief that Mr. Kipling would be pleased to furnish her an autograph upon payment of \$2.50 to any charity which the collector might prefer, a receipt for which should be immediately sent to him. She donated the sum to the Children's Country Week association, forwarded the receipt to Mr. Kipling, and the other day she received the autograph.—Philadelphia Record.

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