

TO ABSORB SMALL PAPER MILLS.

That Is Said to Be the Plan of the Manufacturers' Company.

A meeting which was intended to be secret was held at the Victoria Hotel yesterday by the Manufacturers' Paper company of New York and representatives of the mills not members of this company. The Manufacturers' Paper company is a trust embracing a number of the larger manufacturing concerns, among them being the Ontario Paper company, the Herkimer Paper company, the Montague Paper company, the Watertown Paper Mills, and the Pattibone Paper company. It was organized in New York City about two years ago and is represented here by J. C. Brocklebank, who has an office in the Rookery. Warner Miller, Judge Fullerton, and Mr. Pagensteger of New York were the originators of the scheme.

The trust controls about two-thirds of the production of print paper and supplies nearly all the large dailies. In fact its sales already exceed its capacity and it is compelled to contract with mills not in the combine to enable it to fill its orders. This fact led the directors of the trust at a regular meeting held in New York two weeks ago to consider measures for the extension of the trust and the absorption of additional mills not already under its control. The capital stock was increased and overtures made to outside mills and a secret meeting called for Feb. 3 in Chicago; the mills which it is desired to bring into the combine being invited to attend. These mills are chiefly located at Rochester, Niagara Falls, Watertown, N. Y.; Lynn, Mass.; Appleton, Neenah, and Kaukauna, Wis. Among the Western paper men invited to attend the meeting were: Messrs. Frambach, Frank Steele, Kimberly, Strangle, Davis, Van Nortwick, MacNaughton, Thilmany, and George Whiting. Print paper is now sold in this country 20 per cent below the price at which it can be manufactured abroad. There is be-

sides this margin a duty of 25 per cent on it. This, it is argued by the trust, is ample protection, and all it needs is perfect organization to double the present price of paper as often as it desires until it becomes as famous as the whisky trust. The present price of print paper is about 8@3¼ cents a pound, which is a fair price and leaves a good margin to the producers.

A number of wholesale paper dealers representing the firms of Bradner Smith & Co., George Taylor & Co., the Chicago Paper company, and F. P. Elliott & Co. were seen yesterday afternoon and expressed it as their belief that the object of the trust was ultimately to freeze out the small concerns by offering them inducements to join the trust, and after securing control of their mills use measures which would prove detrimental to the small manufacturers. It was not the opinion of these wholesale men that the trust would be successful in securing a monopoly of the print-paper industry. A call at Mr. Brocklebank's office elicited the information that he was absent for the afternoon.