

THE LIST OF "TRUSTS."

Crocker-Wheeler Company Objects to Tariff Bill's Classification.

To the Editor of The New York Times:

There has been brought to my attention recently a list of "trusts" mentioned by Mr. Underwood in his Tariff bill report and published in many of the leading newspapers of the country. Mr. Underwood suggests in his report that there is a close connection between the advance in the cost of living and the development of industrial combinations or trusts which has been so active during recent years. He then proceeds to give a long list of so-called trusts with dates of incorporation, number of plants acquired or controlled, capitalization, funded debt, earnings, &c. In this list the Crocker-Wheeler Company appears as a "trust" owning or controlling three plants.

Without entering into any discussion of either the trust or tariff questions, I wish to point out the inaccuracy of this statement and the grave injustice it does this company.

The Crocker-Wheeler Company does not now and never has owned or controlled more than one manufacturing plant. The company is not now and never has been a combination or trust in any sense of the word. It has never been "financed" or merged with any other company or combination. It has preserved its absolute independence for nearly a quarter of a century, a period covering practically the entire industrial development of electricity.

It is, therefore, rather exasperating, to put it mildly, after priding ourselves for twenty-five years on our absolute independence, to find ourselves classed in this off-hand manner as a "trust."

SCHUYLER S. WHEELER,

President Crocker-Wheeler Company.

Ampere, N. J., May 24, 1913.