

CONDITION OF OMAHA'S TRADE

Local Jobbing Situation Shows Very Little Change.

COUNTRY COLLECTIONS RATHER SLOW

Nebraska Merchants Buy Very Sparingly of All Lines—No Great Improvement Anticipated for the New Future—Doings of Manufacturers.

The jobbing trade of Omaha has moved along the well beaten path during the past week, and the general situation cannot be said to have shown much change. General business is dull, and there is no reason for expecting it to be otherwise. Country merchants realize that several months will have to be passed through before it will be possible to grow another crop, and with the prospect that money will be very scarce during the spring and summer, they are buying very sparingly of all classes of goods. The volume of trade is small, and every one expects that it will continue so for some months yet. The scarcity of money in the country is becoming more apparent, and collections are less satisfactory. The difficulty of collecting is the most prominent tendency to keep down the volume of trade during the spring and summer. About the only money that is going back into the country at the present time comes from the sales of such country produce as butter and eggs, and from live stock. The latter furnishes the main income of the farmer in the absence of a grain crop, but the income from that source is lighter than the income from the sale of the receipts of cattle at South Omaha have shown a falling off, as compared with last year, and the market is still holding. Live hogs have shown a gain of \$2.00 here, but there has been such a tremendous falling off in the weight of the hogs, while the price is up, that the farmers are not receiving as much money as a year ago.

SNOW, CHURCH & CO.'S VIEWS.

Extension of Omaha's Field as a Jobbing Center is an Encouraging Sign.

The local manager for Snow, Church & Co.'s mercantile agency writes of the Omaha trade situation:

"As the end of February draws near, there appears to be a slight increase in the volume of business. The reduction sales advertised by retailers account for a fair share of the business done in that branch, but the increase applies more directly to wholesale lines. The extension of territory is a direct cause of the larger volume of trade. Since January 1, it is in fact, since the extension of the Burlington line, general jobbers have been prepared to invade new territory. This has been one of the conditions imposed by the situation. As I have stated, at various times, little can be done in Nebraska, but the extension of territory has had a tendency to keep down the volume of trade during the spring and summer. About the only money that is going back into the country at the present time comes from the sales of such country produce as butter and eggs, and from live stock. The latter furnishes the main income of the farmer in the absence of a grain crop, but the income from that source is lighter than the income from the sale of the receipts of cattle at South Omaha have shown a falling off, as compared with last year, and the market is still holding. Live hogs have shown a gain of \$2.00 here, but there has been such a tremendous falling off in the weight of the hogs, while the price is up, that the farmers are not receiving as much money as a year ago."

POULTRY.

In the poultry market there has been little to interest the general public, aside from the egg market, which has been closely watched. The receipts of eggs have been good, but there is no great reason for expecting an advance, but the weather has been too mild to admit of

Poultry has been in fairly good demand at steady prices.

Potatoes—At Denver claims that the dealers there are oversold to the extent of 20 to 30 cars, and that they are paying \$6.00 per car. This is a bad sign.

Apples are very scarce, and so far as can be learned the market does not lack much of this article.

Onions have shown a slight increase in the sales of the western market, but there has been such a tremendous falling off in the weight of the onions, while the price is up, that the farmers are not receiving as much money as a year ago.

Market—In the eastern market there has been a good deal of activity, but the market has been quiet.

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California market, but the market has been quiet.

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