



The following summary of the business situation is prepared for THE COURIER at the Omaha office of Snow, Church & Co.:

There is no material change in the business situation so far this week. Rainy weather has, of course, effected retail trade to some extent, but less than might be supposed. In wholesale lines, things continue improving; there seems to be no cessation in the increasing amount of trade with most jobbers. Collections are fair. Clearings at Omaha for last week show a decided increase over the corresponding week of last month. There is no apparent increased demand for loans, but bankers are more hopeful than they have been for some time, feeling that with the continued improvement of trade, the demand for money will naturally follow.

Railroads report an increased local business. The March business in most branches of trade, if it continues as good as it has begun, will show a decided increase over the business of the corresponding month of last year. This only means, however, that merchants have held back, and are making many purchases now, which would, under ordinary circumstances, have been made earlier in the season. It is curious to note that the same conditions exist in retail business. In clothing, dry goods, and boots and shoes, a very satisfactory trade is reported here. Far from discouraging merchants, the rain in the early part of the week which undoubtedly improved crop prospects, has made them feel much more confident of the future. An indication for better business is the fact that merchants are paying more attention to selling goods, than to collecting old accounts. This is so, to a greater extent, than at any time since the panic. Many of the old bills have been settled in some way or other. During the last few months, credit men have been more careful, and more ready to turn down orders, than to run any risk. The result, of course, is that most bills sold have been paid fairly promptly, leaving only the old balances in arrears.

At Chicago an extensive building season is looked for. In dry goods, notions and boots and shoes, at the same place, business is improving. Many visitors from the country are reported from this and other centers. Conservative buying is the rule. In clothing, at this point, business is light. Some concerns handling coarser goods have fair orders. Great difficulty is experienced in getting satisfactory material from eastern mills. In store and building trade, the expected renewal of the building interest, has led to slight activity. An increase in building in the large centers means an employment of labor, and an increased demand for western products, with better prices, and a revival of business in western jobbing centers. In reviewing the situation, I feel free in saying that business is decidedly better, and the increase noted during the last few weeks, seems to be healthy and staple. There is no sign of a falling off in trade in any line, where a previous improvement has been noted, and there is every indication of the continuation of better business. The tone of trade is firmer, and merchants are more confident than they have been for months, and unless some decided reverse is experienced, affairs may safely be said to be on an upward grade. This is a decidedly conservative view, which I have not felt free to express until it has been fully corroborated by the evidence of steadily increasing business, with no indications of a cessation in activity.

ALBERT ANDRIANO.

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Duncan, Hollinger & Co., furnish the following special market summary to THE COURIER:

The past has been a very uneventful week as regards prices of wheat. It has been marked, however, by a pretty good demand for wheat from millers and exporters and sales of good round amounts

have been reported from Buffalo and Chicago. It is reported also considerable wheat will move out of Duluth by lake on opening of navigation, which is liable to give another impetus to prices in the northwest as stocks there are expected to be insufficient to keep up milling supplies until new crop is fit for grinding. The prices paid continue to attract good receipts to Minneapolis, so that our visible supply does not show large decreases. The weather so far has generally been very favorable for the growing crop and there has been a partial raintall in Kansas which has improved a portion of the area where rain was badly wanted. There are no full estimates so far of the area which will be sown to spring wheat, although all reports point to decreased acreage. We are inclined to look on wheat as a purchase on breaks.

Corn has been alternately weak and strong as receipts have been large or small. We look for light movement for some time to come.

Oats are evidently to some extent manipulated for May. We think they are too high now, but there is some risk to run in selling them. We expect to see them sell  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cents lower in May.

Provisions. The severe fall in the price of hogs last week has caused a lessened run of hogs for the time which has also influenced the provision market. General conditions are not changed, however, and we think that on any fair bulge lard and ribs will do to sell.

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Frank M. Blish, manager of R. G. Dun & Co., summarizes the business situation as follows:

"There has been some increase in the movement of merchandise, and a gradually improving tone in trade. This has been true more especially of the wholesale trade, stormy weather interfering to some extent in retail lines. Contractors and builders report the outlook more favorable in their business than for some time and collections are generally pretty good. The number of idle men is thought to be growing smaller steadily and farmers are reported to have their spring work well advanced. We have had two local failures during the week: A. Sanders & Co. in liquors and Clark R. Byrum in groceries. In the former, attachment suits have been commenced, representing quite a sum in the aggregate and the case will probably run through considerable litigation. The wholesale butter, egg and produce house, formerly known as the Kirschebraun-Haskell Produce Co., has been succeeded by Haskell, Bosworth & Co. and will continue under the management of Morris Friend, the company of the firm."

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E. Rosewater at the annual banquet of the Omaha Commercial club, said: "Omaha has proudly passed through the recent financial depression more satisfactorily than any other city of its size in the United States. During the trying times of the recent financial distress, Omaha has stood with financial solidity and met its obligations with comparatively few failures. Other cities were not so fortunate. I am not going to dwell upon any statistics of our wonderful resources, because they have been published time and again. Omaha is the center of a great agricultural belt. What Omaha needs to assist in its development is more factories and increased jobbing facilities. The growth of Omaha to its present proportions has been a gratifying one. Within recent years there have been many public improvements, including many miles of paved streets. Omaha business men should cultivate the Iowa trade, because Iowa territory, from a commercial standpoint, belongs to Omaha. Council Bluffs is only a suburb of Omaha and if the proper effort of capital and energy is made Plattsmouth and other adjacent town will be suburban possibilities of the near future."

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Dr. W. A. Clark, who has purchased a third interest in the Western Normal College, has arrived in the city with his family. Dr. Clark's active connection with the college will date from April 3d.

"What's in a name?" Well, that depends. For instance, the name of "Ayer" is sufficient guarantee that Ayer's Sarsaparilla is a genuine, scientific blood-purifier, and not a sham, like so much that goes by the name of "sarsaparilla." Ayer's Sarsaparilla is the standard.