



The following summary of the business situation is prepared for THE COURIER by Frank M. Blish, manager for R. G. Dun & Co.:

There have been no special developments in local trade circles during the past week. Things seem to have settled themselves into a sleepy sort of a gait from which there does not appear any immediate

promise of an awakening. April sales are behind those of a year ago in almost every branch of trade, and in many lines there is almost absolute quiet. There is a great deal of hope and confidence as regards the growing crop, to be followed by quick commercial recovery so far as Nebraska is concerned, from the fact that our interests are almost entirely agricultural. This will not come earlier than fall, at best, and there would seem almost a certainty of dull times through the summer months. The situation in the country at large continues very much aggravated by strikes, commonwealth armies and other disturbances. We have had no failures locally.

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

We have had a very uneventful week in wheat market with prices fluctuating within a narrow range. The weather generally has been favorable to the growing crop and improved reports have been coming to hand.

Western millers have been buyers at relatively much higher than Chicago and St. Louis prices, Kansas City for instance paying more in their market than similar wheat is worth in St. Louis. In Minneapolis prices also remain high and receipts this week very small which is greatly attributable to the Great Northern railroad strike.

Liquidation of May wheat in Chicago has been going on rapidly and has not produced so much disturbance of values as was expected.

Corn—The situation remains practically unchanged. The movement from the country is light, the demand good and the price practically unchanged.

Henry Clews says: "The continued silver crusade has a silently unsettling effect upon confidence. There can be no doubt that, in the southwest and south, the feeling in favor of increased issues of silver is gaining ground rather than abating; and, unless something is done to mollify that feeling, it may later on assume more threatening dimensions. Among two-thirds of this inflationist class, however, the demand means more money rather than more silver. They are asking for more silver because, in demanding that expressly they have the influential backing of the mining interest proper. But at the same time, they would be equally willing to accept some other form of currency instead, providing it were placed within their reach. It is therefore of the utmost importance that congress should, during the present session, pass a bill authorizing issues of bank currency, upon a basis of guarantee which while absolutely secure would yet not be oppressive or prohibitory of issues, capable of expansion according to the requirements of business, and available to the state banks on the same terms as to the national. Such a plan is now ready for introduction to the house, and there is a probability of its being not only supported by party leaders but also favored by the administration. The passage of such a measure, though not at the moment needed for currency necessities, would yet have the effect of getting the constantly disturbing money question out of the way, and—which is even still more important—also of depriving the silver agitators of two-thirds of their present support, and finally of removing this dangerous issue from the field of politics."

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The State Journal is the only paper in this city that has the temerity to express its honest opinion on the Coxe mania that is epidemic all over the country. In fact it is the only daily paper of any consequence in the state that was not caught in the tide of demagoguery that has swept over the country since Coxe marched out of Masillon, Ohio.

What a pity it is that we, at least those of us who have no money to go to Omaha, are to go quite without hearing any really good chorus or orchestra music this year. It seems that, with the number of colleges in this city, it should be possible to get some really good orchestra like Damrosch's to come here for one night and give us a concert worthy to listen to. And the young students should be made to go, even if they have to be hauled in by the neck. All our amateur playing will never set the ideal that one night spent in listening to such music will. Every sane and educated person should, before reaching the age of twenty, hear, if only once, a great orchestra performing grand music. And, in the good days coming, such a consummation may be possible. Today we can only hope. What concerts have we had this winter? One good violin recital by a very popular but somewhat overrated player, one good piano recital, some fair comic opera, of no particular musical merit, one fair quintet and one big, free advertising concert by the conservatory. And this is all. Meanwhile, on the acting stage we have seen Miss Marlowe, the Kendals, Robson, Crane, and we are going to see Salvini, the younger, and Mansfield. Surely this is disproportionate, something is wrong somewhere. Either the public taste is defective or the managers of our houses of amusement do not realize that it is not. Meanwhile many young people are growing up with a large part of the ideal side of their natures undeveloped.

The foregoing appeared in the Sunday Journal. It seems to us that there is particular cause to discourage the honest and painstaking musicians to provide satisfactory musical entertainment. There has certainly been a marked improvement in the musical talent of Lincoln in the last year or two, for which a large part of the credit is justly due the conservatory, which is charged with giving a "big free advertising concert." This concert, by the way, compared very favorably with the quality of the music that has been given in Omaha this week by the much heralded opera association. Damrosch's recent appearance here with his symphony orchestra, we would remind the writer of the above, was not warmly received, and his concert was a financial failure. And if we must needs be "hauled in by the neck" to hear "some really good orchestra" from abroad, we might as well hear the best—Thomas or Seidl; and if the writer of the above would guarantee a sufficiently large amount, either of these orchestras could be secured.

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