

for superior dramatic and artistic worth. It is sensational only where sensation is perfectly legitimate in conjunction with his satanic majesty.

Primrose & West's minstrels will be the attraction at the Lansing theatre tonight. The program is made up of new and interesting novelties, and the music and jokes are of the latest pattern. The performance, from the first part to the finish, is entertaining to a degree. Mr. George H. Primrose has given his time during the entire summer to the designing of the first part, which, by the way, has never been thought of, and he has invested more money in scenery and costumes than in any other two seasons. The company is made up of artists in their various parts, and a first-class performance of minstrelsy will be given.

"Si Plunkard," a Yankee comedy illustrating farm life, will be seen at the Lansing theater next Saturday evening, March 24. J. C. Lewis, better known as "Farmer Lewis," plays the title role. He is known in this part from one end of the country to the other. Other members of the company are Sam C. Young who appears as *Felix Smart*, a comic German; Mr. Price, who gives a strong characterization of a Jewish money lender; W. C. West, who in the part of *Robert Denny* exploits villainy with much success. This actor renders Joe Emmett's famous cuckoo song with fine effect. Miss Rice and Miss Lewis take the leading female roles.



aged over their orders since March 1st and indications multiply that farmers are taking advantage of the early spring and are busily at their work again. There are many signs of returning confidence noticed, and as merchandise stocks are generally very low, the outlook for spring business continues to brighten. Failures for the week throughout the state have been few in number and generally of small importance. There is no change whatever in the local money situation.

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

Business for the last three weeks has shown a steady and very satisfactory increase, both as to number and amounts of sales in the retail and wholesale lines; this is especially true in dry goods and boots and shoes. Dry goods men report a larger business for March than usual. This is owing, however, to the fact that January and February business was extremely poor and fell far below the business of corresponding months in years past. The large increase in March, therefore, will only bring up the business to a fair figure.

The free ticket offer of the Omaha Commercial club has done much to stimulate trade in all lines. Reports from other jobbing centers state that business is on the increase, and it seems that the same condition of affairs prevails there as here. The weather has been very propitious, and the prospects for a good crop are brightening daily. Country roads are in better condition, and this is doing much to stimulate trade with country merchants. While a certain contingent is holding corn, by far the larger number are beginning to sell, and it is well that they are doing so. Corn at 23c, which is the price paid at the mill in parts of the state, would certainly seem to leave a profit, when it is known that tenant farmers are now contracting to raise and sell corn for 13c a bushel in cases where the ground is let to them free of rent.

Money is more plentiful, and the clearings at Omaha for last week were larger than for the corresponding week of last month. Eastern money is offered to jobbers in good standing at a low rate of interest on fair sized loans, and the main trouble seems to be that jobbers are little inclined to borrow, owing to the fact that they do not anticipate a large spring trade, and prefer to carry their lines themselves wherever possible.

Retail trade, which has been very dull, is showing very gratifying signs of revival; this is attributable directly to the warm weather and the early approach of spring. A week or ten days more of warm weather will carry us well into the season, and with an early spring assured, business may be expected to continue improving.

Hardware and grocery men are coming into line with the rest in reporting a fair increase in trade, and a feeling of satisfaction seems to prevail here as in other branches of trade.

In reviewing the situation from a conservative standpoint, it is safe to say that business promises to continue on the increase if there is no material change in existing conditions. A few bad days at this time can hardly retard trade to any appreciable extent.

That the last three weeks have shown a slow but very decided improvement in the general situation no longer admits of doubt, and there is every reason to expect a continuation of this state of affairs. In speaking of good business at this time I do not for one moment propose to compare the business this spring with that of any corresponding month during last year; it is merely the intention to record a gradual improvement since the late panic, and any improvement in the situation after the severe strain of the last six months of 1893, is certainly gratifying in the extreme. Better business, therefore at this time, doesn't mean better business than last year at a corresponding time; but better business than we have had since June and July of last year.

The business of last spring was extraordinarily good, better by far than it had been for years before; the business of last fall was the poorest that it has been in the history of the nation. If the business of this spring, therefore, shows sufficient recovery from the effects of the disastrous failures of last fall to record even a slight increase, it seems to me that business men who are disposed to look at matters fairly, should feel reasonably well satisfied.

ALBERT ANDRIANO.

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

Wheat has sold off 2c during the week under the influence of the government estimate of wheat remaining in farmers hands, which was placed at 114,000,000, a larger quantity than had been generally expected. The fine weather, indifferent foreign markets and the resumption of large shipments from Russia, added to the weakness. The growing crop is all in good condition with the exception of western Kansas, where there has been no general rain-fall since last fall. The snow-fall there was not heavy and blew into drifts over large area and rain will be wanted soon to make a crop. It takes a wet season to make a large crop in Kansas and there is not now any prospect of a 70,000,000-bushel crop this year. The clearances of wheat and flour from the seaboard have been pretty good; but there has been little new business done. The milling demand has continued, but the relatively high price of cash wheat at some of the northwest markets has kept up the receipts from the country so that the visible supply is not decreasing at a very rapid rate. We require now to strike a new export demand or crop damage to put life in the market. Ultimately we look for higher prices, but we must first materially reduce our stocks.

Corn has generally ruled strong but without having gained very much in price. The government estimates were regarded as bullish and the general expectation is that there will be no movement until spring work is over, and that it will not be heavy again until a new crop is assured.

Oats—We regard oats as relatively high; the small stock in Chicago may make it rather dangerous, but if we had to do either we should rather sell than buy.

Provisions—We have been repeating weekly that provisions would have to decline. We have now had a large fall and a reaction is taking place, but conditions remain the same, and we think that on any fair bulge they will again be a sale.

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The plumbing and steam and hot water heating stock which recently passed from James H. O'Neill to the First National bank,