



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

There is little apparent change in the business situation beyond a slight improvement in the country. Farmers are busy in the field and country merchants are much encouraged at the prospect of a good crop. This condition of affairs is resulting in a slight improvement of trade in the jobbing centers but there is no sign of the activity usual at this time of the year. This was of course hardly to be expected and even a slight improvement is an indication of what may be hoped for when a good crop is finally assured. While there is little activity in building circles much repair work is being done and property owners show an inclination to improve their holdings. This is the best possible indication on the part of the public.

Collections are only fair and light. Business in general may be called fair, taking into consideration the conditions that prevail at this time, and the tone is firmer and more hopeful both in financial and commercial circles.

Even at this late date there are some business men who pretend to underrate the the importance of the tariff question and its connection with the present condition of trade. Some weeks since I made reference to the period of liquidation which has been going on in the business world and which is a feature usually incident to panics. That we have passed through this period is evident from the fact that collection agencies and correspondents throughout the country report collections fair and light. For the eight months ending March 1st collections had been large and heavy. In that time many firms succumbed to the pressure, others managed to settle up their outstanding accounts and pulled through; in short, all old accounts were cleared up in one way or another and the liquidation thus completed. During this time business was poor, credit high, merchants bought little, and only such goods as they could easily pay for. This brings us around to the original proposition. The general liquidation is complete and there is every reason why trade should resume its normal condition. There is no scarcity of money, indeed, it has been offered in large amounts at remarkably low rates. Brokers and investors are naturally cautious, no doubt more so than formerly, but this very fact would seem an advantage of inestimable value to concerns whose paper is salable, but these very houses have steadily refused to take advantage of the situation on the plea that there is little business and no profit in purchasing heavily at this time. A good crop in this section is absolutely and undeniably necessary to a revival of business in Nebraska.

The mere prospect has already given trade a slight impulse here; affairs in general look better and there is more business here than in the east. But we must have a market for this crop and in order that it brings a good price there must be the usual demand in the east. The mills that should have in operation since early in the year, have been shut down, and thousands of idle operatives has been the result. Jobbers have made few orders for woolen goods and the market is uncertain and depressed. The tariff question will not be settled until late in the season and if the Wilson bill passes, it will

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take some time to adjust matters to conform to the new scales. Each day and week of delay is costing the country millions of dollars; the valuable product of the toil of hundreds of thousands of laborers, but with an insouciance abandon almost criminal, congress continues its dilatory policy on this most important measure. Party politics no longer enters into discussion and every citizen, be he a republican or a democrat is justified in expressing his unqualified indignation at the prolongation of a condition of affairs detrimental to the prosperity of the country. The Wilson bill has been amended and reamended so often and there is so much doubt as to the ultimate outcome of this matter that traffic on all dutiable goods is practically at a standstill. Mills and factories, importers and jobbers with their workmen and women stand idly by waiting for the congress, and still some people say that the tariff has little to do with the depressed condition of affairs. It is hardly credible.

ALBERT ANDRIANO.

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

At the present writing the government report has been received, showing condition of winter wheat as 81.4 as against 86.7 last month and 75.3 last year. It will not do to forget that the principal reason for low prices is the immense stock and this stock is slowly but gradually decreasing and will probably continue to decrease for four months to come. If our crop this year is not larger than present government figures would indicate, there is every reason to expect higher prices.

Corn—Receipts of corn have been very small but this fact has not brought much advance in Chicago, partly because it has been attributed to the rush of spring work and partly owing to weakness and low price of wheat. As regards Kansas and Nebraska the south and west want more than they are getting and in spite of high prices there is little to be bought. That only about fifty cars daily of all grain is loaded on the B. & M. system in Nebraska shows how light the movement is.

Oats—The high prices prevailing in Chicago are beginning to attract larger receipts. The growing crop in Kansas and Nebraska is spotted and uneven and there is not the promise of a good crop in these states.

LOVE.

Love came at dawn when all the world was fair,
When crimson glories, bloom and song were rife,
Love came at dawn when hope's wings fanned the air,
And murmured, "I am life."
Love came at even when the day was done,
When heart and brain were tired, and slumber pressed;
Love came at eve, shut out sinking sun,
And whispered, "I am rest."



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