

THE COURIER

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If one is to believe the reports that emanate from the managerial offices of Ed A. Church and Frank C. Zehrung, the approaching theatrical season in Lincoln is not to be seriously affected by the continued hard times. Between the two managers everything and everybody, according to report, in the entire amusement world has been booked for appearance in this city. Even Patti Rosa would have been secured if she hadn't died most inopportunistly. It is a little too early yet for the managers to make definite announcements; but the preliminary general statements are, as is customary, most encouraging.

The unfavorable crop reports are having a discouraging effect on business. The high price of corn is causing some excitement on the board of trade; but the transactions are mostly of a speculative nature. The immediate cause of the rise is of course attributable to the dry weather and consequent reports of damage to corn. The frantic efforts of shorts to cover their contracts started the ball rolling and prices have been on the upgrade ever since. With a scarcity of corn there is no doubt that the corn crop will command a high price this fall. This being the case those farmers who only raise a half or a third of a crop will come out fairly well.

Retail trade is dull as usual at this time of the year. Wholesalers in general lines report only a fair number of orders, usually small and unsatisfactory, indicating the prevailing timidity of merchants in the country. With the degree of uncertainty which holds sway at present and the fear that a dull fall and winter season will ensue, retailers are loth to order in large quantities and are much inclined to get along as best they can with the stock on hand, relying on occasional small purchases to replenish it. This applies especially to the dry goods and clothing lines. Eastern mills have turned out very few goods during this year and importers have brought very little into the country, all pending the passage of the

tariff bill. In view of this state of affairs it is quite freely predicted by men of experience that a famine in many lines of dutiable and manufactured goods will be a feature of the coming season's business. Even a moderate demand from the consumer will tax most of the retailers to their capacity. For a time they will be able to supply the wants of their customers by filling in with small orders on local jobbers. Wholesalers, however, are in the same relative position. They have bought lightly and will depend on their eastern buyers to protect them. This will create a demand which neither the manufacturer nor importers will be able to meet and the result will be a scarcity in certain goods and an advance in prices. Some of the most conservative men are confirmed in the belief that this will be a prominent feature of this fall's business, the natural result of undue timidity of buyers.

The strike at South Omaha has resulted in an exhibition of violence and brutal coercion on the part of the strikers. When men rebel against unjust treatment and insist on their rights they are entitled to sympathetic consideration. In the strike at South Omaha, however, there is scarcely a redeemable feature. Unreasonable in their demand, with no apparent grievance of their own, these men walked out pending a readjustment of wages at Chicago. Just how the South Omaha houses would force a settlement of the differences existing between the Chicago packers and their men was not apparent. In one case at least the demand was unreasonable and silly to a degree. The Chicago strikers were beaten on their own ground and the houses there are running full force with a new lot of men. The demand for higher wages and more work at a time like the present, when men should be glad to hold their situations on any reasonable terms, was only in accord with their other demands. The packers have the best of the situation and will not fail to teach the men a lesson. In the meantime immense quantities of live stock are being shipped into Chicago and Kansas City and South Omaha is losing business every day.

"Trilby" is ended, and those persons who have been following Du Maurier's serial in *Harpers Magazine* for the past six months can no longer find pleasure in anticipating the arrival of *Harpers* with the next installment of this fascinating work. The ending of the

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