

THE DAILY BEE.

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The signs of the times throughout the country just at present are of a fairly encouraging character, and we are led to believe that we are to have a prosperous year. There is considerable activity in nearly every branch of manufacturing industry. Wages are being gradually restored, the number of hands is being steadily increased, and nearly every large and important manufacturing concern is receiving fresh orders which warrant it in extending its facilities. There is doubt that the rumors of foreign wars and the consequent preparations have infused considerable life and activity into our trade and manufacturing circles. Large orders for supplies of various kinds—principally food, munitions of war, and military equipments generally—have been received and filled, and others are following. But aside from this, the trade outlook is cheerful. The failures of last week in the United States and Canada were 208, as against 240 of the previous week, and 222 of the week before. There has been a decrease in all sections except the south and New York City, where the number is somewhat in excess of recent weeks. The unsettled condition of the weather has been a drawback to trade in some lines, but the improvement noted last week in most of the retail and jobbing branches of business has been fairly sustained. There has been no marked activity, however, in any of the merchandise markets. The volume of trade is very fair, but operations reflect the near want of distributors and consumers, and values continue to rule low and unsatisfactory to sellers. Speculation on the foreign political news has caused a further advance in the price of breadstuffs and a decline in the cotton markets, and the increase of supplies incident to the advancing season has weakened values on dairy and some farm products; but there have been few noteworthy changes in coal, iron or manufactured goods. The legitimate demand for cotton has not improved, and the market for its manufactures has continued quiet. A few leading brands of goods are well sold up, but the supply generally is in excess of requirements, which are presented cautiously. The wool trade continues sluggish, but stocks of old clip are steadily dwindling away and are likely to be pretty nearly exhausted before the new wools begin to accumulate on the seaboard. Shearing has been delayed in many localities by unfavorable weather, but the new clip is under negotiation in all the unwashed wool sections, and some sales have been made at about 2 to 3 cents less than last year's opening prices. This reduction is not equal to the decline that has occurred within the year in eastern markets, and unless lower prices are accepted by growers, or some advance is established on the seaboard, it seems probable that eastern operators will refrain from free investment. It is yet too early in the season, however, to forecast the probable course of the market. Manufacturers of clothing wools are getting more orders for full weights, and the general trade in desirable fabrics has been a little more active, but there has been no improvement in prices. The iron trade has shown some evidence of improvement and the general outlook is more encouraging, but there has been no decided activity in the market. The prevailing activity in the building trades maintains a good demand for builders' materials and hardware. The grain markets have been very active speculatively, and the volume of legitimate business also has been larger. Values have promptly reflected the effect of every indication of the drift of political events in Europe.

and can easily be completed from day to day if the clerk will only attend to his duties. The city council and the board of education ought to make some provision for the thorough examination of these records from month to month, in order to see that the receipts are properly accounted for. The police judge was made a salaried officer for the purpose of doing away with any possible mixing up of his own moneys with those received as fines, and the accounts of the clerk and the court should be audited the same as those of other public officers. The fact that the records are over three months behind is not any excuse for Judge Stenberg in not having his record books kept up from the day that he went into office. It is simply absurd for him to wait until the books of his predecessor are brought up to date. This is not intended as any stricture upon Judge Stenberg, but it is not business for him to delay this important matter any longer. It is possible that with such a clerk as the one who has been attempting to fill the position, the records never would catch up. The city council should take this matter in hand promptly. It would also be well for the board of education to look into these affairs hereafter in its own interest as well as that of the public. We would suggest that an auditing committee be appointed by the council and board to periodically examine the police court records, and in conjunction with the secretary of the board of education it should be the duty of such a committee to check up the receipts and compare the records with those of the jail so that every case is properly accounted for.

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