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BUSINESS FIELD

Financial depressions affect the large cities first. The small country towns are the last to feel their influence. There is a better feeling among the wholesalers in this city than among the retailers because the former do business with the small towns, many of which are in very fair condition financially.

Groceries—There is a somewhat marked improvement in this line. Trade is better, with out of town collections fair to good. Merchants are feeling much better than they did a couple of weeks ago.

Cigars, etc.—A slight improvement is noticeable. There is no complaint as to out of town collections.

Paints and oils—Business is slow, with evidence of slight improvement.

Furniture, etc.—Volume of business slowly expanding. Some bills are being discounted. There is no complaint as to collections.

Drugs, notions, stationary and kindred lines—Trade is only fair—about holding its own. Collections moderate.

Business in most retail lines is always slow about the first of the month, but there is a much better feeling among the retail dealers, and the future is now looked forward to with some degree of confidence.

In groceries there is no particular improvement, and collections continue slow.

Clothing, boots and shoes—At this time of the year business in these lines is almost entirely dependent on the weather, and the condition of the weather for the past month has been generally unfavorable. A week or so of cold weather would have a most beneficial effect. As it is business is no better than two weeks ago.

Dry goods, etc.—Trade is fair; about holding its own. Special efforts to attract purchasers are beginning to meet with some encouragement.

Hardware, etc.—These is very little activity in this line, due to some extent to the weather.

There may be said to be a general improvement, in the amount of business done, with collections slow.

A prominent banker of this city in discussing the business situation with a *Courier* representative said: "It can be stated definitely and positively that there will be a steady and appreciable improvement in business in Lincoln and Nebraska from now on. I will tell you why. For nearly nine months there has been a steady flow of money from this city to the east in payment of various obligations. Eastern security holders have demanded their money as it became due, and individuals and corporations that have made a practice of sending money to Lincoln for real estate loans, have refused to loan a cent. It would surprise you, and the public, if the amount of money that has gone out of Lincoln in the last six or nine months for the discharge of obligations of different sorts, were known, and all this time no money has been coming in. It has been a heavy drain. But now there is a change. There is no longer such an urgent demand for payment from the east, and money has actually begun to flow west. Within the last week or two commercial paper given by Lincoln firms has been sold in New York, and accommodations can now be secured from the east on good security. And there is a willingness to send money here for loans on real estate, and money has reached this city for this purpose. The tide has turned, and with less money going out and with an increasing supply coming in, business will very materially improve."

The extensive building operations that have taken place in this city every season until the present have brought a great deal of money here, and helped business generally. As a matter of fact most of the large buildings have been erected with eastern money. The lull in building has had a great deal to do in causing the depression in this city. There is a bright prospect that next season's activity will make up for this season's dullness.

Prominent railroad men concede that earnings on most lines west of the Mississippi will show some falling off, but they insist that the railroad companies east of the Father of the Waters will make better returns from now until the end of the fiscal year than were recorded for the corresponding period of 1892. Two roads have distinguished themselves by showing good increases in their gross earnings per mile for the

nine months ending September 30, 1893, over the amounts reported for the same period in the previous year—the Illinois Central, which has a gain of \$835, and the New York, Ontario & Western, whose gain is \$659 per mile. These roads owe much of such a favorable result to the heavy world's fair traffic, and some of it, of course, to the fact that the increase in earnings has not been spread over an increased mileage. Atchison's gain amounted to \$4 per mile. It may have been supposed that other roads—the New York Central, for example—would have been among the number with improved totals per mile. The New York Central has done exceedingly well, considering the big hole that must have been made in receipts lately by the falling off in the freight movement. It will be observed, however, that the late returns come from the operation of 2,334 miles of road, against only 2,036 a year ago, and this has brought its average down to \$986 per mile. Several, but not all, of the big granger roads make early returns. Of these, we see St. Paul with a loss of \$52 per mile, on the same mileage this year as last. Rock Island's recent statements have not reflected anything like the contraction in receipts shown by other roads similarly located. In fact, to September 30 it has an increase of \$794,317 on record. It earned, gross, \$14,457,971, against \$13,063,654 a year ago. But, looking at the mileage, the solution is found in an increase of 254 miles, lately in operation. This turns the gain in the aggregate into a loss per mile of \$58.

The single gold standard having been permanently adopted, the matter next in order for consideration is the maintenance at par with gold of our silver and paper money. We have now in circulation in the country silver dollars, silver fractional coins, and silver certificates representing dollars, amounting altogether to \$448,750,000, and \$50,000,000 more are soon to be coined. We have of paper money \$346,000,000 old greenbacks, \$153,000,000 treasury notes, and \$200,000,000 national bank notes. The silver coins and silver certificates derive one-half of their currency value from the fact that they are received by the government and by the people as the equivalent of gold, and the greenbacks, the treasury notes and the national bank notes get the whole of theirs from public confidence in their redeemability in gold on presentation. The maintenance of the gold standard for our currency depends, therefore, entirely upon popular faith, and to prevent this faith from being impaired, as it was last spring, by the export of gold from the country, is of the highest importance. Practically, the duty of fortifying it devolves upon the government alone. The banks are not required to pay these depositors, nor debtors their creditors, in actual gold coin. The silver dollars, the greenbacks and the treasury notes are by law a legal tender; the silver certificates are convertible only into silver dollars, and bank notes are payable in anything that is legal tender. The greenbacks and the treasury notes, if the government should fail to redeem them in gold on demand, would immediately fall below par in gold, and they would draw down with them not only the national bank notes, but the silver coin and the silver certificates.

"Matthew Marshall," the financial editor of the *New York Sun*, suggests that the resumption act needs an amendment providing for the issue of bonds payable expressly in gold, principal and interest, and at a lower rate of interest and for a shorter term than those which are authorized by it as it now stands. Conceding that under the act, the secretary might now sell bonds to maintain gold payments, the only bonds he could offer would be 4 per cent bonds having thirty years to run, 4½ per cent bonds having fifteen years to run, or 5 per cent bonds having ten years to run, and all payable in "coin." To issue any of these classes of bonds now would be so extravagantly wasteful that, as Mr. Sherman said in advocating his proposition for a short term 3 per cent bond, no secretary of the treasury would dare to do it. Besides amendment in this respect, the same writer suggests that there should be a legalization of the gold fund arbitrarily created by Mr. Sherman in 1877 and 1878, and maintained by his successors, and power should be vested in the secretary of the treasury to replenish it whenever it is necessary by the sale of bonds for gold, not only for the benefit of the old legal tenders, but for that of the treasury notes issued for purchases of silver. Even the silver certificates should be made redeemable in gold, as well as in silver, if we are to make effectual the declaration of the repeal bill in favor of "such safe-guards of legislation as will insure the maintenance of the parity of the coins of the two metals."

RANDOM NOTES

An entertaining writer in the *Contributors' club* in the November *Atlantic* pleads against being clever.

"In literature, still more in conversation, cleverness often takes the trivial form of expressing some commonplace thought in big language, thus raising an amusing contrast between the idea and the words. This was a favorite practice with Dickens. Here is an illustration, though not perhaps a very good one, from a contemporary writer: 'When we reflect on the dismal fate of Uriel Freudenberger, condemned by the canton of Uri to be burnt alive in 1760 for rashly proclaiming his disbelief in the legend of William Tell's apple, we realize the inconveniences attendant on a too early development of the critical faculty.' This is very good in its way, but one can easily get a surfeit of this trick. There are people, Boston-bred people especially, whose whole idea of conversation is to manufacture little verbal sweetmeats like the foregoing specimen, and hand them to you with a pleased smile. Ah, the ennui, the fatigue, the despair, that I have suffered at their hands! They are brilliant,—I acknowledge it; they have brains; they outshine me; perhaps, indeed, I am envious of their talents. Nevertheless, I can lay my hand upon my heart and declare that it is not envy, but resentment, that moves my pen against them. The great fault that I find with clever people is this: they do not help us to get 'forrard'; there is nothing to be learned from them, nothing to be got out of them."

"All mankind may be divided into two classes: (1) those from whom ideas or facts can be derived; (2) those from whom neither ideas nor facts can be derived. Of course this division is supplemental to the still more important one which depends upon the affections. The chief use of human beings to one another is to supply an object upon which affection can be bestowed, and from which it may be received. For this purpose do we have wives, husbands, children, lovers, and the like. Some persons maintain dogs, and some cats, for the same reason. But, apart from this relation, the most important use that one has for human beings—at least I find it so—is as feeders for the mind. A man is like a book—to be read, and then either to be put back on the shelf for further reading, if he deserves it, or, as is more likely, to be got rid of; not rudely, of course, but gently, and with due consideration for his feelings."

"There are certain men—to know them is a great privilege—whom you cannot open at random, so to say, without finding a jewel; men in whose company one never spends half an hour without hearing something to remember for a lifetime. But how few they are! As I look back, I count in my own experience only five such. They are as follows: a poet and patriot; an admiral in the United States navy; a preacher and writer, a lawyer; a young fellow who wrote squibs and verses for the magazines and papers. This completes my list, unless I should add to it, as I might not unreasonably, a litterateur who died, indirectly, of drink. Samuel Rogers declared, toward the end of his life, that he had learned far more from men than from books; but his list of friends and acquaintance held such names as Fox, Burke, Grattan, Parson, Tooke, Talleyrand, Erskine, Sir Walter Scott, and the Duke of Wellington."

The presence of a society in this state whose object is the preservation of the history of Nebraska, is little known. It was organized in 1878, and the character of the men who formed it may be seen by a glance at the list of those who signed the call for the first meeting. Among them were: Alvin Saunders, A. S. Paddock, Silas Garber, Robt. W. Furnas, Geo. L. Miller and J. Sterling Morton. By act of the legislature in 1883, the society was made a state affair, and its archives became public property. Under the secretaryship of Professor George E. Howard, for many years holding the chair of history in the state university, and now in Leland Stanford university, the society became known to the historical societies throughout the United States, and the historical society was increased to 4,412 members. At the departure of Professor Howard in 1891, Professor Howard W. Caldwell became secretary. At the last annual meeting a new office of assistant secretary and librarian was established, to which belongs now the correspondence and the care of the books.

In August of this year the society came into possession of its permanent quarters in the new library building of the state university. The university gives this splendid place to the society, in order that the students may be able to use the society's library and read the papers of the state which are there kept on file. In its present ample quarters, with unlimited room to increase its library and its collection of curios the society hopes that a new era has begun. All citizens who have any state pride at all, should enlist their sympathies, their care, and if need be, their money, in building up the society. It may be asked, "what does the society want?" "How can it be aided?" Briefly stated, the society is making an earnest endeavor to collect the following classes of things:

1. Books and pamphlets pertaining in any way to the state, whether published here or elsewhere.
2. Old manuscripts, whether diaries, letters, records or what not, of early settlers.
3. Photographs of old settlers and of any state officers.
4. Files of old papers—the older the better. Old New York, Boston, Philadelphia or other papers, are also of great value to the society.
5. Town and city records; publications of any kind. Especially school reports.
6. Catalogues of institutions of learning that now exist or no longer stand in Nebraska.
7. Facts concerning the early history of the territory and state. Old settlers cannot do greater service to the society than to write down what they know or have experienced.
8. Relics, curios, etc., to which any interest attaches on account of age or associations.
9. Indian relics. The society hopes to gather a large number of things illustrative of Indian life in Nebraska.

"There is no reason why Nebraska should not have as large, flourishing and aggressive a society as Wisconsin or Kansas."—Jay A. Barrett, assistant secretary and librarian of the society, "and it will come by a personal interest of each citizen in the society. Open correspondence with the society. Tell us what you have or know that is valuable to be preserved. Send in to the society all you have or can get possession of, and the coming generations will rise up and call you blessed."

There is some interest in the project to establish a permanent museum on the ruins of the world's fair. Discussing this subject a sarcastic writer in an eastern publication says:

"I should be the last person in the world to suspect those two eminent Chicago philanthropists, Messrs. Marshall Field and George M. Pullman, who have just promised to contribute \$1,000,000 and \$100,000 respectively toward Chicago's contemplated new art museum, of having what is slangily known as a string attached to the same. True, there is some sort of condition attached to the latter gentleman's gift—four other gentlemen, I believe, are each to contribute \$100,000 before the Pullman check is written—but who is going to be so foolish as to suppose that the great carman's generosity will fail to result in bringing the required quartette, as it were, to the scratch with lightning-like rapidity, and that his handsome docteur will not be handed over at once with all the grace and bonhomie for which the Duke is famous? The very business-like manner in which Messrs. Field and Pullman marshal their thousands of employes, through whose aid they have grown so rich as to make even gifts like these look trifling, speaks brightly for the readiness with which, as their fellow society magnates say, 'the coin will be shelled out when the proper time comes.' For my own part I quite agree with the member of the Chicago club who confided to me within a few hours of the publication of the Field-Pullman philanthropic intentions, his opinion that 'it would be worth ten years of any man's life to see old Geordie give away \$100,000.'"

"As for the museum itself, I am assured that when its contents are properly classified and arranged, it will promptly take rank as the eighth wonder of the world. Rare and costly curiosities from all parts of the globe have been promised, and the Chicago section alone will be worth going miles to see. There will be on permanent exhibition, for instance, the petrified skeleton of the first steer slaughtered at the Armour yards after the fire; also a finely engrossed copy of the family pedigree of the late Commodore 'Black Jack' Yattaw, a leading citizen recently deceased, whose historic

POLITICAL TALK

Times have changed in Nebraska.

The populist bugaboo that has cast a shadow on the fair name of the state has nearly spent its force.

The people are coming to their senses again.

And the party that was built upon the quick sands of personal disappointments, and led by disgruntled soreheads and fanatics; the party that sought to advance its interests by destroying the credit of the state, which started on the down grade a year ago, has now attained a velocity that will very quickly bring it to the jaws of disaster that have engulfed every party that was ever organized, whose sole subsistence was demagoguery.

It is unfortunately true that many good men are easily victimized, and it cannot be denied that the Van Wycks and the Burrowses and the Leesess have drawn into the independent party a considerable number of honorable, well meaning men, who have been misled by the false teachings of these maligners of their state.

But in the main the third party has been and is now composed of the off-scouring of the two principal parties, the Edgertons, the Cundiffs and the Schraders, who have looked upon the new organization as a short cut to public office.

And the third party, built up and maintained by political bunco-steerers appealing to the cupidity of office-seekers, crying distress in a tone keyed to the pitch of anarchy, attacking state credit and echoing all the insensate cries that arise from the diseased brains of half crazy politicians who have met with disappointment in the republican and democratic parties, has worked an injury to the state that will not be fully overcome for many years.

The election of Judge Harrison, who had the bitterest opposition that any republican candidate for years has had to contend with, signals the re-awakening of reason among the voters of Nebraska. It shows that the populist object lessons of the last two years, including open outlawry and open revolt against law and order and defamation of individual and state character, have had an effect, and brought the people to their senses.

The credit and, to some extent, the prosperity of the state, were at stake in the contest for the election to the judgeship, and Harrison was elected by the very best element of Nebraska voters, men who love their state and who wish to see it prosper.

At a very low calculation, 2,500 straight democrats voted for Harrison. These were democrats who realized the importance of redeeming Nebraska's credit, and were willing to vote against their party for the sake of the state, just as large numbers of republicans would have done had the conditions been reversed.

As a matter of fact, aside from party pride, republicans were not so much concerned in the election of Harrison as they were in the overthrow of that incubus, the third party. Irvine, the late democratic candidate, is probably just as good a man as Harrison, and had he been in the lead at the start, with a fair show of winning, republicans would have helped elect him.

There was only one issue, the defeat of the calamity howlers, and the election of Harrison is unquestionably one of the most important political events that have happened in this state for a number of years. It added several large marks to Nebraska's credit in the east, and it is a source of great satisfaction to that class of citizens to whom the welfare of the state is an important consideration, and who are wise enough to appreciate the present condition of affairs.

Late returns show that there was a republican landslide in this state so far as county officers are concerned. The populist coffin was driven full of nails on Tuesday.

The way is now open for certain republican success next year if the party will name a good and clean ticket.

Too much credit cannot be given Brad Slaughter for his able management of the campaign. An inefficient chairman of the state central committee would have brought certain defeat. From the very first Slaughter bent all his energies in one direction, staking republican success or defeat on just one consideration. He did not ask men to vote for Harrison because they were re-

publicans, but because the welfare of the state demanded the defeat of the third party. His appeals were addressed to the business men, and his efforts were successful in a marked degree. Mr. Slaughter had a very large share in the election of Harrison. He conducted the campaign as few men could have conducted it. He was most ably assisted by Tom Cooke whose long experience in Nebraska politics and rare executive ability have so often contributed to his party's success in the past.

There is some talk of establishing permanent republican headquarters in this city.

Events in Lancaster county and elsewhere in the state indicate that the A. P. A. is an unknown quantity that may upset things quite unexpectedly at the last minute.

Miller was elected sheriff, to a large extent, by the efforts of Mayor Weir's reform fire and police departments.

There are republicans who think the whole county ticket might have been elected by skillful management.

New Trust Company.
The Mercantile Trust company has been incorporated with the following officers: Frank W. Lewis, president; John H. Ames, vice president; Henry E. Lewis, secretary and treasurer. The authorized capital of the concern is \$100,000. The company will transact the business ordinarily done by trust companies. It will negotiate loans, buy bonds, state and county warrants, etc. The home office will be located in Lincoln, and Mr. Henry E. Lewis will have charge of the same. Mr. Frank Lewis is now in Boston arranging the eastern connections of the company. He will probably make Boston his future home, where he will act as eastern agent for the Mercantile Trust company.

You talk about high kicking.
But Thomson's airy flight
Kicked the capping off the climax—
It was simply out of sight!

FASHIONS FOR MEN.

Overcoats should have velvet collars. Gloves are being worn somewhat darker.

The Alpine hat looks well with the new, big overcoats.

High colors in hosiery and underwear are finding more popularity every day.

Link cuff buttons are worn almost exclusively by men who pretend to keep abreast of the fashion.

Men who carry canes should have them of natural wood. Umbrella handles also should be plain.

Neckwear is getting more elaborate every week, and the gorgeous effects are drawing out the plain colors.

Cresped trousers continue to be the proper thing, and they will likely continue to be as long as they keep trousers in shape.

The regular overcoat is more tasty in dark colors and smooth materials. The Chesterfield coat should never be anything but smooth material. Men who wear the latter garment should always wear a silk hat with it.

A Battle For Blood.
Is what Hood's Sarsaparilla vigorously fights, and it is always victorious in expelling all the foul taints and giving the vital fluid the quality and quantity of perfect health. It cures scrofula, salt rheum, boils and all other troubles caused by impure blood.

Niagara Falls.
Next to the world's fair, all our foreign friends want to see Niagara Falls, and in the minds of many, Niagara Falls is placed first. One of the first questions they ask an American either at home or aboard is about Niagara, but to many of us Niagara Falls is too near. Were it on the other side of the world, thousands of American globe trotters would hasten there, who pass it by now because they can go there any time.

The Michigan Central has made it, perhaps, too easy of access, for its through trains from Chicago to New York and Boston run directly by and in full view of the great cataract, and those passing by daylight stop five minutes for passengers to view the Falls. The wise traveller however will stop over there as long as his time will permit to view the beauties and the grandeur of the falls under different aspects and from different points of view. The longer he stops the more he will find to repay him for whatever expenditure of time and money he incurs.

When a quarter will buy a good reserved seat at the Lansing theatre Sunday evening to hear the Nebraska state band in grand concert, there's no excuse for loafing the streets or going to questionable places.

(Continued on Fifth Page.)