

TRADE IS EXPANDING

BUSINESS STEADILY INCREASES AS SEASON ADVANCES.

Railroads Are Replenishing Old Equipment, Causing the Structural Division to Take On New Life—Leather Shows Improvement.

New York: R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade said Saturday: In spite of a number of abnormal puzzling and disturbing developments the volume of business is large and steadily expanding as the spring season opens and weather conditions improve.

The expansion noted in iron and steel continues chiefly in finished materials. There are intimations that the volume of new business in these lines has been exaggerated, but it is evident, nevertheless, that a very considerable tonnage is being placed and inquiries now pending afford much encouragement. The railroads are replenishing old equipment, and activity in the structural division is a prominent feature of the situation; it is estimated that buying from the latter source is at the rate of 100,000 tons monthly on the more important calls, but cutting prices suggests that there is a sharp decline among fabricating mills.

Business has come forward on cotton goods for export to India and China at prices about on the level of those ruling when the last business was done with these countries a year ago. Inquiry is continued and more business is expected. Additional sales are reported on grey and finished cotton, but at receding prices and without much regard to the situation in raw cotton. To meet current conditions, forced by high raw material, both in cotton and wool, mills are showing increased disposition to curtail operations. A prominent feature was the reinstatement of line of wool goods at 2 1/2 cents a yard advance for limited fall deliveries. In wool goods the jobbers and retailers are doing a moderate but steady business, and with improving weather a more reasonable demand is noted for specialties and novelties. Yarn markets continue unsatisfactory.

Slightly improved conditions noted in the fall wear market last week are still apparent, although no particular activity exists, the distributing element between buyer and seller still being the question of prices.

Trade in all kinds of leather shows slow but steady improvement and is still far from normal, buyers expecting lower prices and operating only for current needs.

CHICAGO LIQUOR FIGHT.

Wets Charge the Drys with Presenting a Fictitious Petition.

Chicago: The campaign on the proposition to make Chicago prohibition territory that will be voted on April 5 was enlivened Friday when the wets filed with the election commissioners charges that the petitions calling for the vote contained 50 per cent illegal or fictitious signatures.

The petition asking that the question, "Shall this city become anti-saloon territory?" be put on the ballot was filed by the drys.

Of the 74,000 names on it, according to the charges, more than 35,000 are unregistered voters and the petition lacks 25,000 names of having enough to have the proposition on the ballot. The charges were denied by the drys and it was stated by them that there would not be time, anyway, to test the validity of the petition.

Presbyterian Conference.

Louisville, Ky.: The council of the Presbyterian and Reformed churches in America Friday decided to hold the next conference in Pittsburg in March 1912. Recommendations that action be taken by the churches to combat the evils resulting from pernicious literature and teachings which are being widely circulated concerning the historical and religious value of the bible, were adopted.

Warships for Turkey.

London: Contracts for two battleships and a cruiser, the nucleus of the new Turkish navy, were placed with the builders at Elswick, Barrow and Clyde Bank, respectively. The order represents an expenditure of \$15,000,000.

Sioux City Live Stock Market.

Sioux City: Friday's quotations on the Sioux City live stock market follows: Top hogs, \$7.90. Top hogs, \$10.65.

Pays Big for a Painting.

New York: Half a million dollars—a record high price for a painting—was paid Friday for the celebrated portrait of Franz Hals, the Dutch painter, and his family, painted by himself. The purchaser was Otto Kahn, the banker.

Kansas Town Votes for Plan.

Neodosha, Kan.: Neodosha Thursday voted to adopt the commission form of government.

NATION FIGHTS BIG SMELTER.

Suit to Stop Destruction of Forests Near Anaconda Filed.

Helena, Mont.: The United States has filed a bill in equity against the Anaconda Copper Mining company, seeking a permanent injunction to compel the operation of the great smelting plant at Anaconda, in such a manner as to end the widespread forest destruction by fumes from the plant.

The bill, which was filed at the instance of Attorney General Wickersham says that the present methods of operating its smelters by the Anaconda company are not only destructive but unnecessary. It is claimed that the fumes destroy all forests on one thousand square miles of land in four counties.

The company has resisted the demand of the government that the methods of the smelting be changed and among other contentions has represented that it would cost millions of dollars to do so, shutting down of the plants. The attorney general, however, announces that the suit will be pressed vigorously unless, as he hopes, the company will co-operate voluntarily with the government to bring about a termination of the existing conditions.

On behalf of the Montana smelters the contention was made that they could not convert the fumes into acid, as had been done in California and Tennessee, because of their wholly different character, but a full investigation has satisfied the government of the entire feasibility of converting the fumes at Anaconda into acid and that there are large phosphate deposits near there which may be used in connection with such acid in the manufacture of fertilizers.

MISSOURI RATE CASES.

Wickersham Will Argue Them Before Supreme Court.

Washington, D. C.: On Attorney General Wickersham in all probability will devolve the labor of the argument in the supreme court in what are known as the Missouri rate cases involving questions touching the making of railroad class rates and their regulation by the interstate commerce commission. It had been the intention to have these cases presented to the court by Wade H. Ellis, assistant to the attorney general, who has just retired from all connection with the department of justice because of criticism made in the house of representatives of his attitude in occupying a federal position while chairman of the Ohio republican state executive committee.

GRANTED AN INCREASE.

Illinois Arbitrators Settle the Chicago Switchmen's Grievances.

Chicago: An increase in wages of 2 cents an hour, allowance of time and a half for all overtime and a hearing within three days when threatened with dismissal were given the switchmen in the railroad yards of Chicago by the Illinois state board of arbitration Friday. About 4,000 men, members of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, are affected.

In their demand for an average increase of 3 cents an hour the men argued the high cost of living. Commenting on this the decision says: "As to the high cost of living, the board, after careful investigation, is of the belief that climatic conditions influence the cost of living and should be considered of temporary influence on the cost index."

Army Officer is a Defendant.

Boston, Mass.: Capt. Charles Glen Collins, late of the British army, and divorced husband of Mrs. Natalie Schenk Collins, of New York, was made a defendant in a suit for \$25,000 brought by Mrs. Ellen B. Ryder, of this city. Frederick W. Fosdick, of Fitchburg, is made a codefendant. Mrs. Ryder claims that after she had loaned Collins, bonds, stocks and cash, he assigned his interest in a marble quarry to Fosdick and then left for England.

Hold Up the Operator.

Baxter Springs, Kan.: Three masked men entered the St. Louis and San Francisco station here shortly after midnight Saturday morning and held up Portland H. High, the operator, and three other men who were in the waiting room. High resisted and was shot twice through the stomach. He will die. They robbed the cash drawers, got \$35 in cash and escaped.

Fires on Strikers.

Youngstown, O.: One man was shot early Friday morning near here when a mob of infuriated strikers from a local powder plant surrounded the home of George Hayre, who had refused to join them, and attempted to storm the house. Hayre opened fire upon them with a revolver.

Springfield, Ill.: President Kinsella, of the Springfield team of the Three Eye league, has purchased additional stock in the club and now is sole owner.

Eastern Wage Conference.

New York: President W. C. Brown and other executives of the New York Central lines conferred Friday over the recent demands for higher wages submitted by the trainmen and conductors.

London: The chancellor of the exchequer has announced an issue of \$105,000,000 five-year exchequer bonds bearing 3 per cent interest. The bonds are offered at 99 1/2.

WANT LOWER FREIGHT RATES.

Merchants and Jobbers in Southwest Present Petition.

Kansas City, Mo.: Merchants and jobbers from Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, representing 200 cities and towns in these states, appeared before Judge Charles A. Prouty, of the interstate commerce commission, here Friday to argue in favor of their petition asking for a decrease in freight rates, based on the gulf water rates from New York by way of Galveston.

The hearing here Friday, which was only preliminary, brought together not only shippers and representatives of the states immediately affected, but as well as the representatives of transportation bureaus in St. Louis, Chicago, Indianapolis and Cincinnati. The eastern bureaus will not, it is stated, protest against the granting of the rate asked for, but they will demand that the freight rates to the cities they represent be reduced in a corresponding measure. The hearing of arguments did not begin actively until Saturday.

H. G. Wilson, transportation commissioner for the Kansas City Commercial club, will ask that rates to Kansas from the east be reduced to a lower figure than that demanded in the petition from the western and southern communities on the grounds that the distance from New York by rail is less than to any of the petition points by way of Galveston. It probably will be several months before a judgment in the case can be handed down by the commission.

MINING MAN DISAPPEARS.

Authorities of Several Cities Asked to Search for C. A. Clark.

Boston, Mass.: The authorities of Chicago, Denver, Leadville, Colorado and Seattle have been asked to join in the search for Charles A. Clark, of this city and Leadville, who disappeared from Chicago two weeks ago in company with James Davidson, of Denver. Miss Augusta M. Clark, of this city, secretary and treasurer of the Boston-Nevada Smelting company, and a sister, told an interesting story regarding her brother's movements and of an alleged attempt to get him out of the way before the May meeting of the stockholders.

Miss Clark declared that George Baker, one of the directors of the company tried to get her brother, who is also a director, to go to Europe while they were both east in February, Clark refused and returned to Chicago, where he met James Davidson, another director. While there they were informed that Baker had disappeared from Boston and that the company had become involved in a legal dispute with the American Finance company regarding the trusteeship of the stock of the Boston-Nevada.

It was with the idea of intercepting Baker, who was believed to be on his way to Seattle, that Clark and Davidson started two weeks ago for that city. Clark was to have wired his sister upon his arrival in Seattle, but she has not heard from him since March 4, when he was in Chicago.

DEFICIT SHOWN FOR YEAR.

American Sugar Refining Company Submits Annual Report.

New York: The American Sugar Refining company finished the fiscal year ended December 31 last with a deficit for the year of \$1,395,850 on account of suits in which the company was involved, according to its annual report made public here Thursday.

The total amount of penalties paid out by the American company in the last fiscal year was \$4,135,486. The net profits for the year were \$10,824,951. Dividends were paid amounting to \$6,299,951, and \$1,784,282 was deducted for depreciation of plants and equipment. The payment of the penalties incurred by the company left a deficit which reduced the total surplus of a year before \$22,697,723 to \$21,301,873.

FIVE KILLED IN AUTO WRECK.

Tree Deliberately Fell So That It Lay Across a Road.

Munich: Investigation into the deaths of Argentine Consul Geiger and four friends, who were killed in an automobile accident, appears to show that the car in which they were riding after nightfall crashed into a tree which had been deliberately felled so that it lay across the road. A series of accidents have occurred in the suburbs recently, automobiles driving into logs and other obstructions placed in their path.

The police have evidence indicating that the "accidents" were planned by a peasant, who sought to avenge the death of a child who had been killed by a machine.

Damages for Death of Husband.

Sterling, Ill.: Mrs. Mary McKennon, of Savanna, Ill., has received \$3,000 from a brewing company in settlement of a case in which she asked damages for the death of her husband, alleging the company sold him beer.

Rock Island Signs Knox.

Rock Island, Ill.: Rock Island has signed up B. N. Knox, a fast semi-professional pitcher from Mississippi, who played on the University of Mississippi team for two years.

Another Player for Infants.

Sterling, Ill.: F. H. Beck, second baseman of the Elkhart, Ind., team of Indiana-Michigan league, has signed with the Sterling Infants.

Nebraska State News In Concise Form

TAKES PART OF SOLDIERS.

Resolution is Adopted to Allow Veteran Use of Chapel.

The frequent complaints of the members of the soldiers' home at Grand Island against the treatment accorded them by Commander Eli Barnes was the subject of discussion by the board of public lands and buildings Thursday afternoon. The latest action of the commander was to prohibit the soldiers from using the chapel for their meetings and Thursday the board was informed that Mr. Barnes refused to permit them to use the chapel in which to practice for their Easter day exercises.

As a result of this last complaint the board adopted the following resolution:

Whereas, The board of public lands and buildings has on numerous occasions received communications from the inmates of the soldiers' home at Grand Island, Neb., complaining that they were deprived of the use of the chapel building for the holding of meetings that were in no way detrimental to the interests or good government of the home, and

Whereas, The board of public lands and buildings is desirous of furnishing for the inmates of said home everything in its power that will add to the comfort and amusement of said inmates, believing that they are justly entitled to all that the state of Nebraska can extend to them, and believing further,

That the chapel building was erected for the sole purpose of furnishing a place of public gathering for the members of the home and that the expenses of heating and lighting said building are so insignificant as not to receive any consideration whatever; therefore, be it

Resolved, by the board of public lands and buildings, That the commandant be and is hereby instructed to allow the said chapel building to be used by the inmates of the home for all gatherings of whatsoever kind that are not detrimental to the good government of the institution.

LISTEN TO MEN WHO WENT EAST

Full Explanation Given of Requirements of Government.

The Omaha Indian tribe met in a large council meeting recently at the Mathey Tyndall lodge, near the agency. The attendance was large and thoroughly representative. The desire to know all of the efforts and accomplishments of the Indian delegation was very deep and sincere. Speeches were made by Daniel Webster, Hiram Chase, Simeon Hallowell, Edward Esau, Thomas McCauley and a number of others. A very full speech was made by Frank La Flesche of the Indian office, explaining in detail the rules and regulations of the Indian office.

He also spoke at length advising the Indians against improvident transactions—and advising them to save their land and preserve their income, and also explaining the effect of taxing their lands and that they should not fear taxation, but assume the responsibilities and support of the government.

The address was impressive and was received with the deepest interest and approval. No action was taken expressive of the future course of the tribe. Mr. Kneale and other agency officials were present and explained the classification to the Indians.

BURGLARS ARE BUSY.

Entry Forced Into Establishment of W. D. Haller at Blair.

Burglars were in for a wholesale business in Blair at an early hour Thursday morning. They broke into the drug store of W. D. Haller by breaking a heavy glass door and took about \$140 from the safe and also broke into the cash register. They did not take any of the jewelry from the safe. They gained an entrance into the basements of the Farnam & Samson drug store and the Blair shoe store, but did not get into the store room of either building. They also got into the notion store of Mr. Jacobson and got some small goods.

There is no clue to the parties, but it is generally credited to home talent.

Campea Gets Job.

The city council of Seward has awarded the preliminary engineering work for paving to George L. Campea, of Omaha. Test wells will also be bored in South Seward before fully deciding to connect up the wells in West Seward.

Pastor Presented with Purse.

Sunday afternoon the congregation of the Swedish Lutheran Bethany church, two miles east of Axtell, surprised their pastor, Rev. C. A. Lonquist, by presenting him with a cash donation of several hundred dollars.

High Wages to Farm Hands.

Owing to scarcity of farm hands York county farmers are advertising for hands, offering higher wages than usually paid clerks or bookkeepers.

REVENUE LAW DEFECTIVE.

County Assessor Miller Points Out Objections.

Fifty county assessors met recently in the state capitol to discuss the provisions of the state revenue law. The meeting was called, not by the state board, but by County Assessor D. R. C. Miller, of Lancaster county. O. E. Bernecker, of Seward, was elected chairman of the meeting. County Assessors Griffith Evans, of Adams county, and E. E. Weston, of Franklin county, were appointed a committee to wait on Attorney General Thompson and get an opinion on the law as amended by the last democratic legislature.

Attorney General Thompson was present. He gave the assessors some opinions, including an opinion that the legislature could not by any means make intangible property out of grain in a grain broker's elevator and that precinct and county assessors ought to have a reasonable time in which to report assessments and have the same reviewed. This law as amended by the last legislature provides that precinct assessors shall make up their books and make return to the county assessors on the last Monday in May. This happens to be May 30. The law as amended further provides that the county assessors shall revise and turn over the books of the precinct assessors by the first day of June. This gives the county assessors one day in which to do an important duty. The attorney general said the law could not compel officers to perform something that is impossible. It is believed the county assessors will set a day on which the precinct assessors shall return their books and that this dates will give the county assessors ample time to perform their duties. The attorney general is expected to give a written opinion on all of the questions raised.

WILL ESTABLISH PLANT.

Cost of Construction to Be About \$300,000.

F. H. Davis, vice president of the First National bank of Omaha, and John T. Burke, electrical engineer of Aberdeen, S. D., have been at Broken Bow considering the establishment of a big power plant on the North Loup. Saturday, the two in company with F. M. Currie, took an auto ride to Burwell and looked over the location. After their return both expressed themselves as well pleased and were firm in the belief that a tremendous amount of power could be generated at that point. The location is a good one and the proposition feasible. It is authoritatively stated that the plant will positively be established, providing a sufficient market can be obtained in the surrounding towns and cities. The cost of construction will be \$300,000.

THROWN UNDER THE WHEELS.

Fremont Railroad Man Killed at California Junction, Ia.

Brakeman A. L. Seaberg, of Fremont, was killed at California Junction, Ia., Tuesday morning by coming in contact with a truckload of trunks as he hung from the side of a car, looking back. Seaberg, who was riding on an extra train sent out to re-rail a car at East Wye, a small station near the junction, was knocked to the track by the impact and the wheels of the car passed over his body. His right arm was severed at the shoulder and his side was crushed. He died in a few minutes. Seaberg was one of the best known brakemen on the division. He went to Fremont several years ago. He was a bachelor and a good mixer and was prominent in local railroad and lodge circles.

Kearney Objects to Rates.

The fifteen directors of the Kearney Commercial club have appointed a committee of three to send a resolution similar to the one adopted by the Omaha club protesting against the raise of freight rates on dressed meats shipped west of Omaha. The committee was instructed to act at once by sending a copy of the resolution to the Commercial club at Omaha and to railroad headquarters.

Seed Corn Tests Perfect.

F. N. Austin, cashier of the City bank at Elm Creek, in Buffalo county, has just completed a seed corn test for eight different Buffalo county farmers, and finds that from corn tested from six of these farmers 100 per cent grew, and from the corn from the other two farmers 90 per cent grew.

Crawford Mayor Found Guilty.

P. G. Cooper, mayor of Crawford in county court, was found guilty of renting property to be used for immoral purposes, and was fined \$100. The case has been appealed to the district court.

Examination of Enumerators.

At the examinations recently held in Beatrice 83 applicants for positions as enumerators were examined, 53 of the number passing.

HUGE TRADE IN DRUGS

Nation's Medical Exports and Imports in Twelve Years Nearly Billion Dollars.

MUCH IS SENT TO THE TROPICS

Two-Fifths of Patent Preparations Goes to Great Britain, Commerce Bulletin Shows.

With importations of drugs and chemicals rapidly approaching \$100,000,000 a year, the importance of commercial relationship between the United States and the tropics is emphasized in the latest statement of the bureau of statistics of the department of commerce and labor. Nearly a billion dollars' worth of chemicals, drug dyes and medicines have entered the commerce of the United States in the last twelve years. The imports were about \$800,000,000 of the total and the exports made up the remainder. But both imports and exports of that class show substantial gains and imports have leaped from \$48,000,000 in 1899 to \$85,000,000 in 1909.

Patent and proprietary medicines form more than a quarter of all the exports. A large proportion of the crude drugs which come up in bulk from the tropics goes back under labels and brands in bottles and packages. The exports as a whole are marketed in widely separated countries. Two-fifths of the patent medicines, however, go to the United Kingdom. Nitrate of soda was the chief import in value in 1909. More than \$13,000,000 worth was used.

Every corner of the earth contributes to imports of drugs and chemicals which find their way to the laboratories and apothecary shops of this country.

WORLD'S NEW WARSHIPS.

One Hundred and Fifty-one Fighting Vessels Launched Last Year.

One hundred and fifty-one fighting ships were launched for the various navies of the world in 1909, according to Lloyd's annual returns. They had a collective displacement of 404,475 tons, approximately 100,000 tons greater than the ships of the preceding year. In both 1901 and 1904, however, a smaller number of naval vessels aggregated a greater displacement—467,547 and 435,006 tons, respectively. Of the 1909 naval launchings, twenty-seven vessels, with a total tonnage of 99,116, were to the order of the German navy; Great Britain was a good second, with thirty-five vessels, of 98,790 tons; France had nineteen vessels of 95,740 tons, and the United States lagged along well in the rear, with fifteen vessels of 48,639 tons.

The total merchant tonnage launched in the year was 1,602,057 (1,063 vessels), of which 991,066 tons took the water from British shipyards and 299,504 from those of the United States. The new merchant tonnage was smaller than it has been in any twelve months since 1897. One of the most interesting merchant vessels of the year was the Wyoming, a six-masted wooden schooner of 3,730 tons burden, launched at Bath, Me. She is the largest wooden sailing vessel ever built with a length of 350 feet, and a spread of canvas of more than 12,000 yards.

FACE PENCIL FAMINE IN 5 YEARS

Federal Forest Bureau Seeks to Find a Substitute for Cedar.

With a view to replenishing the supply of woods adaptable to the manufacture of lead pencils the forest service has perfected plans for testing a number of the national forest woods in co-operation with several leading representatives of the pencil industry.

The department of agriculture recently held conferences with lead pencil manufacturers and it was brought out, as stated at the forest bureau yesterday, that the supply of red cedar, which provides practically all the wood for the annual output for 325,000,000 pencils, will be exhausted within five years. A substitute must be found and the forest service has undertaken the task.

Capitol Grifters to Prison.

Two of the group of officials and contractors concerned in the Pennsylvania Capitol frauds are at last in the State prison, serving their sentences after having exhausted every legal delay within their reach. The State Supreme Court affirmed the conviction of former Auditor General Snyder and former Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Shumaker. Both gave up the fight and were at once taken to prison, though still declaring their innocence, but broken in health. At the same time the State government began suits against all concerned in the looting of the treasury to recover \$5,500,000.

Letter-Telegrams Popular.

Both the Western Union and the Postal Telegraph Companies have now put into service of the public the fifty-word-letter-telegram rate at night, the same as a ten-word telegram during the day. It has proved to be popular, especially with business men, in the cities. When these messages can not be delivered by telephone the same night, they are mailed in the local post office of destination for first morning delivery. The increase of night business is expected to keep the wires busy.