



## BUSINESS CIRCLES

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

The heavy rains in this section of the country have done much for the soil which is in splendid condition. Farmers report that prospects for a good fall crop are better than ever before at this time.

Implement dealers report a fair number of orders for corn planters, and there is every indication of activity in the country. Traveling salesmen say that country merchants are encouraged and everything looks favorable; notwithstanding this condition of affairs, however, there is a very apparent dulness in trade. The passage of the Kelly army across the continent, no doubt, had a depressing effect upon the public in general, and on business men particularly. The mere fact that in this country such a condition exists is of itself, such an evidence of the depressed condition of business that it must of necessity bring home even to the most thoughtless, the exceeding lack of activity now prevailing. Never before in the history of this most prosperous land has such a spectacle been presented to the people. Never before has there been a time when such a movement as that of the so-called Industrial army was possible. In the European countries where the soil and every other resource has been exhausted to such an extent that it only suffices to support the dense population, such demonstrations as these have not been uncommon, but in the United States, the land of plenty, such scenes as are now presented to our people, have never occurred before since the beginning of the panic; its cause has been attributed to one thing and another, but the fact must now be patent to all, that the real and only cause of the continued depression of trade is strictly traceable to the vacillating policy of the present administration. First we had free silver. The discussion of this question consumed months of time, and meanwhile, the financial institutions of the country were shaken from stem to stern. The upshot of all the talk and legislation was the repeal of the Sherman act and the voting of the Seigniorage bill. Financial affairs had re-established themselves in the meantime, and with the money question settled, assumed once more a normal, or at least firmer position.

The tariff bill which, since the incoming of the present congress has been anxiously expected and much debated by the politicians and manufacturers, has now for some time occupied the attention of the legislature of the country, and the end is not yet. It is now claimed that this bill may have passed both houses by the latter part of May, and when it has, it is possible that it may also be vetoed. It is not now a question of high protection, low protection, or any protection at all; but some decided policy is absolutely necessary to re-establish business in some way. Importers are not bringing in any goods, manufacturers are manufacturing nothing, buyers for the large wholesale houses are buying nothing; the retailer is buying nothing and the consumer is inactive—has little money to buy anything. All of which is traceable to the stagnation in all lines of dutiable goods, or all classes of articles liable to be effected in any way by the tariff bill.

How long will the people stand this condition? This is a question impossible to answer at this time, but so long as affairs continue in the present uncertain state, just so long will business continue to be poor, just so long will the record of failures each week show an increase over corresponding week of the previous year. Just so long will there be no revival of trade in any line. The business of a country such as this may be compared to the works of a finely constructed clock. Stop one wheel and you stop the machinery. The stop that has been put to the manufacturing interests of this country is the main spring of the works that keep trade moving. The country, as I have stated before, is now in prime condition. Every prospect of a large crop, every indication favorable, everything points to a large fall trade, but until the tariff question is definitely and irrevocably decided in one way or another, and not until then, may we expect a complete revival in business.

ALBERT ANDRIANO.

## SHAKESPEARE AND BACON AT SOROSIS.

Sorosis met on the afternoon of April 30 at the home of Mrs. Burlingim—The subject for discussion was the old but still unsettled "Shakespearean Controversy", led by Mrs. A. C. Ricketts. Mrs. Ricketts was not a believer at first in the idea that some other than Wm. Shakespeare was or could be the author of the plays that bear his name, but careful study has almost convinced her that a man who lacked so many essential qualities of mind and heart could not be the wisest of men and the greatest of poets. Mrs. Ricketts referred to the fact that Hallam, the historian, said sixty years ago that he found it impossible to identify the writer of Henry VIII, and Macbeth with the young man who played minor parts in a London theatre. The author of the play must have been a scholarly man showing as he did a knowledge of Greek and Latin as well as all the Romantic languages. He must have been a student of books in those languages and of history both past and present. Many of the plots were taken from other tongues and were not translated into English until after the appearance of the plays. He must have been acquainted with law and philosophy. Among the many objections urged were:

First—He made no impression on the political or social life of his time. There is no record of his having ever been with the men of letters and literary tastes. There is no word concerning him from either friend or foe. Ingersoll says that the known facts concerning his life can be written in twelve lines.

Second—His writing indicates a man without education. Some critics even try to prove that he could neither read nor write and the specimens of his writing would scarcely indicate a man who could write page upon page. There are none of his plays in his writing in existence.

Third—From official records and traditions we must infer that Shakespeare was low bred and devoid of intellectual ambition. The name itself signifies a person mean and vile. Others bearing the same name petitioned that it might be changed.

Fourth—There are no manuscript copies in existence, not even in the British museum where have been gathered manuscript copies of almost every known work.

Fifth—His personal character was in direct opposition to the sentiments of mercy, love, justice, humanity and hospitality expressed in the plays. He was born in 1564, left school at 14; at 16 he was apprenticed to a butcher, at 17 he participated in a drinking bout with some youths from a neighboring village. He was married at 19. The record shows that he was arrested several times for stealing and was obliged to flee to London at 21; here he held horses for the gentry, officiated as call boy and later played the parts of the ghosts in "Hamlet and Adam's" "As You Like it." He loaned money and was constantly engaged in petty law suits. He was also a brewer. No trace of his plays around his home nor in the land of his descendants.

It was shown by Mrs. Ricketts that Edward Reed of Andover, Mass. says that the statement that Bacon is author is credible at least, for he was a philosopher, a man of letters, a linguist, courtier and a gentleman. His private note book is found to contain 4404 quotations found in Shakespeare which he had written down for future reference. The evidence which some letters from Sir Tobey Matthews throw upon the matter is of no trifling value. Bacon was the only orator of the age who was competent to write such parts as Antony's oration over Caesar. He concealed his authorship because to have acknowledged it would have caused the downfall of his father as well as himself and in that age free thought and speech led to the scaffold and stake. The theory that the authorship was composite, is ardently supported by some critics, and even Rolfe acknowledged that probably the plays were written by more than one author.

The next meeting will be led by Mrs. A. J. Sawyer on the subject of "Single Tax." Sorosis will meet with Mrs. Sawyer May 14.

### The Spring Medicine.

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