

THE COURIER

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This week, for the first time in two years, Lincoln has given evidence of a disposition to wake up and show some public spirit. The example of Omaha has at last had some effect. It is the general opinion that the most effective way of bringing sub-

stantial results is by a commercial club, and there can be no question that much good will be accomplished if a proper effort is made along this line. There is every indication that there will be the biggest crop this year in the history of the state, and this will insure a marked business revival in Lincoln the coming winter. In fact there seems to be good reason to believe that we are on the eve of prosperous times and with the right kind of an effort Lincoln ought to make a rapid advance in the next twelve months.

There continues to be an undercurrent favorable to the re-nomination of Governor Crouse, and it is confidently predicted that the governor's name will be presented to the state convention.

Jobbers in some lines of trade report a very satisfactory condition of affairs. In other lines there is little or nothing doing. In dry goods business has kept up exceedingly well; as a usual thing business in that line is done in the first two months of the year. This year is somewhat different in that respect. January and February showed only a moderate business, but to the surprise of many, trade kept up during March, April and May, orders coming in to such an extent that the first five months of the year compared very favorably with the first five months of '93. Manufacturers of overalls and shirtings are at present doing a very fair business, and in fact trade in this line shows no perceptible falling off over that of previous years. All hands are busy, and some night work has been done. The briskness of trade in this particular line has been attributed to the increasing demand for low-grade and cheap goods. Clothing merchants also report a fair business, and are confident in their expectations of what the fall will bring. In hardware trade is only fair and furniture men complain of dulness. Business in branches of trade handling luxuries shows no indication of improvement, and indeed, it is sufficient to note only a fair trade in staple lines.

The strikes do not seem to be ended. With the inauguration of the Pullman boycott will begin probably one of the most bitter fights between capital and labor ever seen in this country. No doubt there is wrong on both sides of the question. It is freely asserted that the Pullman company has employed a steady method of oppression in the treatment of its employees; that it has been a monopoly in the fullest sense that the term implies. However this may be, and however unjust the treatment received, it is a doubtful question whether an organization, such as the one handling this strike, has the right to prevent the running of Pullman cars on any line and inconveniencing the entire public in order that it may be successful in its demands on the employers of the dissatisfied men. The attempts to hold up trains and tie up the entire system of roads have always been resisted with force wherever available. It is a question, and a serious question, which of the two monopolies is the greater; the monopoly of the railroad magnate or the monopoly of organized labor. Both are trusts, both are combinations for the enforcement of privileges and protection to selfish interests. One is strong in numbers; the other powerful by the aid of unlimited means. Between the demands of one party and the resistance of the other, the general public is made to suffer, both in inconvenience and pecuniary loss. The time must come and it must come soon, when some method or system will be employed to settle disputes of this character. Organized labor has its rights, and is deserving of recognition just as much as is organized capital, or any other organization legalized under the laws of the country. But no one, even the most partial, will deny that the demands of laboring men have at times been exorbitant, unreasonable and oppressive; that to comply with them would have been nothing short of ruination to the employer. It is to be noted that during the hardest part of the panic, when every business man and every manufacturer was in financial straits, to a greater or less degree, at a time when goods were bringing less money than at any other time, at a time like the present, when a dollar will buy more than it ever has before, the laboring man is unwilling to stand the slightest reduction in his wages. There is entirely lacking with this class, that tolerant and spirit of friendly assistance which should characterize the relations of employer and employee. At no time has the laborer considered the employer's condition or his financial ability to pay. If labor organizations would operate in a more tolerant spirit, would carefully consider all the conditions that prevail in the case, and carry on the warfare accordingly, then public sentiment would be with them, and victory would be theirs.

Al Fairbrother in his latest paper, *The Earth*, of Lynchburg, Va., does not take time to discuss such paltry matters as the Wilson bill or the silver question or the business situation. The last copy of

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