



Business in Lincoln the past few weeks has not shown any great improvement. Retail trade is reported very dull in most lines and collections slow. Collections are coming in very slowly from the country districts and there seems to be a general disposition to buy as little as possible and to put off paying for goods already bought as long as possible. The continued dry pleasant weather has been broken by a good rain at last and while at this time it will do no particular good, in fact not nearly so much good as it will a month later, yet at this time hard storms of either rain or snow will do much to encourage business and the hope for a good crop this year.

While there has been nothing particularly encouraging in trade prospects here, things are looking a little brighter in the east. The success of the new loan and the eagerness with which investors both here and in Europe have subscribed for the bonds offered has given new confidence to all classes of investors, and the general belief in the determination and ability of the President to keep up the gold reserve will tend to make this confident feeling permanent. However some financiers, especially on the other side of the water, seem to doubt the ability of the Morgan syndicate to fulfill its contract to furnish the treasury with free gold during the months to come, and this scepticism of some of the leading London financial journals may explain why stocks of all kinds have not shown as much strength as was anticipated on the placing of the gold loan.

An interesting article in the January *Forum* gives some reasons "why gold is exported." The author claims that the United States owe to Europe annually:

1. Money spent by American travellers.....	\$ 100,000,000
2. For freight carried in foreign ships.....	100,000,000
3. For dividends and invsmt. on American securities.....	75,000,000
4. Profits of foreign corporations and individuals for real estate investments, partnerships, etc.....	75,000,000
Total.....	350,000,000

The balance of trade in our favor in 1894, including exports of silver, was \$264,000,000, leaving a balance of nearly \$100,000,000 to be paid by us in gold or securities, and as Europe is not taking our securities at present, it must have been paid in gold. Then, too, on account of a distrust either of our ability or intention to pay in gold, foreign security holders have been demanding payment as securities matured. Real estate loans have been collected instead of renewed and real estate investments have not been made as formerly. The author concludes that before we can expect a return of confidence in foreign investors, our corporate management must be more honest and reliable, and above all our currency must be put upon an absolutely sound basis. And the first step toward putting our currency upon a sound basis should be the funding of the greenbacks and treasury notes into a low rate long time gold bond, which

if issued in small denominations would find a ready market both at home and abroad.

Nebraska farmers are not the only sufferers this year. Some South Carolina papers describe very vividly the suffering among the cotton farmers of that state owing to the very low price of cotton, and tells how the farmers, for the first time in the history of the state, are unable this year to buy fertilizers for their land. It seems that the state agricultural college is dependent on the tax on fertilizers for half its income and this year it has been reduced more than half so that the institution is seriously crippled. The president has notified needy students that they cannot expect the help this year that has heretofore been extended. Misery loves company and it may be some comfort to our struggling farmers in the western part of this state to know that they are not the only sufferers.

There really seems to be some prospect of the bill permanently locating the state fair at Lincoln passing the legislature. At least it has received so much support that it has thoroughly scared the Omaha contingent. The Lincoln Commercial club has finally aroused from its long and peaceful slumber and is taking an active part in pushing the bill. There is no doubt that Lincoln is the proper place for the fair if it is to be a permanent and successful state institution and most members of the legislature are taking this view of it. The part taken by the Lancaster delegation in the bitter fight over the oleomargarine bill has also made many friends for the state fair bill.

#### THE SACK SUIT.

Do not have a sack suit, which is the most practical one for business, cut to fit snugly. The coat should be made somewhat but not too loose, so that it can button easily across the breast, and so that it will not bulge out if you have a handkerchief in the outside, or a note-book in the inside pocket. See that your sack coat has only two large pockets and one small one, the latter being for change, or car tickets. Sack coats with upper breast pockets are not in fashion, although one sees many of them on the streets. A coat is also much more sightly if the tailor has dispensed with pocket-flaps. The handkerchief is carried these days in the left lower pocket; note-books not to bulky in the inside. Very fashionable men put their watch in their left hand trousers pocket attached to a gold or silver key chain, on which is also their latch key, and perhaps their pencil and their cigar cutter. It is also the vogue to wear the coat unbuttoned, especially in the house. Some men, even in latitudes as high as New York and Boston, do not wear overcoats at all, but with sack coat buttoned, and frequently unbuttoned, they promenade the principal thoroughfares, pretending to be oblivious to the cold.

#### "CASA BRACCIO."

Readers of Marion Crawford's novel "Casa Braccio," now appearing in *The Century*, will be interested in knowing that the story, as printed so far, is true, except that the scene of the actual occurrence was in South America instead of Italy. The girl who really escaped from a Carmelite convent with a Scotch surgeon, was the niece of a bishop. A skeleton was placed in her bed, when it was fired, instead of a body as in Mr. Crawford's story. After much suffering the surgeon and his wife reached the sea-coast, and were taken aboard an English vessel, whence they sailed to Scotland and lived many years in Edinburg. The part of Mr. Crawford's story still to appear, portraying the punishment visited upon the pair for their sin, is imaginary.

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