

Commercial.

The following is the substance of Dun's review of the commercial situation during the past week:

Boston.—Increasing activity but no boom as yet in any line of business. Buying is larger and prospects are good. Woolen mills receiving orders in large amounts; cotton firm and selling freely. Shoe trade good; some factories working over time. Buyers in a hurry for goods. Leather and hides firm and rubber works busy. Money rates stronger, with time loans at 3 to 4 per cent.

Philadelphia.—The iron trade has a temporary lull. Gradual recovery expected. Hardware dealers fairly busy. Shoe manufacturers running full. Collections somewhat improved. More activity in jewelry and improvement in printing and publishing. Fruit dealers disappointed in prices of fruit. Whiskey quiet [a strange kind of whiskey they must have in Philadelphia], tobacco trade fair, and cigar makers report increased Western trade.

Baltimore.—Increased activity in all lines of trade. Fruit and vegetable packers running full time. Rush during the week has diminished stock and raised prices somewhat. Oyster-houses completing preparations for the season. Lively business anticipated.

Pittsburg.—There is continued expansion in iron and steel trade. Production increases without weakening prices. Window glass makers resuming. A 20 per cent. reduction agreed upon.

Cincinnati.—Increase is noticed in trade. Local jobbers are encouraged. Furnishing goods trade is active. The same may be said of wholesale woollens and tailors' trimmings. Lumber business also improving. Bankers report more confidence.

Cleveland.—General trade improved. Demand for manufactured pig iron quite active, but prices weak. Montreal.—Certain lines show better demand; but no general improvement yet. Feeling hopeful, but collections slow.

Toronto.—Slight improvement in business. Lumber looking up. Collections fair, but profits restricted.

Indianapolis.—Business generally encouraging. Glass factories and gas belt are getting ready to start. Collections, satisfactory.

Chicago.—Receipts exceed last year's on many and various articles. The decreased percentage falls principally upon grain. In railroad shipments there is a decrease of 19 per cent. from last year. The bond market shows more activity. Bankers note signs of improvement all along the line. Collections are reported good. Jobbers and sales larger; groceries firm. No gain in jewelry trade as yet. Wheat receipts are heavy beyond precedent; so much so that storage is gotten with difficulty.

Milwaukee.—In all lines a better feeling prevails. Larger orders are coming in. Money is active at 6 and 7 per cent. Timely rains have subdued the forest fires.

St. Paul.—Dry goods and groceries particularly active. Collections are good for the season.

Omaha.—Noticeable increase in number of orders. Jobbers expect a good fall trade. The general tone better.

St. Joseph.—Trade generally good and collections improving.

St. Louis.—Business about as good as ever. Hotels filled with country merchants who have an abundance of money. Trade actively extends to all lines. Grain movement good for the season. Money in better demand.

Kansas City.—Abundant rains have greatly benefited late crops and pasturage. Trade fair; collections improving.

Denver.—Both jobbers and retailers report improvement in business; collections very fair.

Salt Lake.—Sales increased; collections fair.

Louisville.—Conditions improved. Money is in good demand.

Little Rock.—Jobbing trade good; collections fair; crop indications good; outlook for fall trade bright.

Nashville.—Business only moderate.

Knoxville.—General improvement noted in volume and tone of business; but retailers complain of slow sales.

Montgomery.—Cotton lightly injured by rains. Trade opening, well.

New Orleans.—Cotton shows some improvement; sugar continues firm; rice in good demand with slight decline in price; general trade improved.

Atlanta.—Trade conditions satisfactory; crop prospects good.

Charleston.—Retail trade improved; crop prospects good.

Jacksonville.—Business shows improvement in nearly all lines.

Owners of Homes.

The census office made public the principal results of the investigation of farm and home proprietorship, which was made in all of the States and Territories. This is the first investigation of the kind ever conducted for this or any other country. Of the 12,690,152 families in the whole country, 27.80 per cent. own their farms and homes, and 52.20 per cent. hire; and of the families owning their farms and homes 27.97 per cent. have incumbrances thereon and 72.03 per cent. no incumbrance. Among 100 families, on the average, 52 hire

their farms and homes, 35 own free of incumbrance, and 13 own subject to incumbrance. The number of resident owners of land in the United States is 6,066,417 plus such a number of land owners as may be living in tenant families.

The farm families number 4,767,179, of which 65.92 per cent. own their farms, and 34.8 per cent. hire, while of the owning families, 28.22 per cent. have incumbrances on their farms, and 71.78 per cent. have none. In 1888, 25.56 per cent. of the farms were hired.

The cities and towns of 8,000 to 10,000 population are aggregated for the 1,749,579 home families that live in them, and of those families, 35.96 per cent. own their homes, and 64.04 per cent. hire, while of the owning families, 34.11 per cent. own subject to incumbrance, and 65.89 per cent. without incumbrance.

In the cities that contain over 100,000 population, there are 1,948,834 home families, of which 22.83 per cent. own their homes, and 77.17 per cent. hire, while of the owning families 37.80 per cent. own subject to incumbrance and 62.20 per cent. free of incumbrance. Among the cities having 100,000 population and over, New York has the highest percentage of home tenancy, namely, 93.67; Boston is next, with 81.57; Brooklyn third, with 81.44; Jersey City fourth, with 81.20, and Cincinnati fifth, with 80.82 per cent.

The value of the 1,696,890 farms and homes subject to incumbrance is \$5,687,298,069, and the incumbrance on them is \$2,132,949,563, or 37.50 per cent. of the value. The value of each owned and incumbered farm in the United States is \$3,444; of each incumbered home \$3,250, and the average incumbrance on each of the farms is \$1,224; on each incumbered home \$1,293. It was ascertained that 74.22 per cent. of the incumbrance on owned farms was incurred for the purpose of buying real estate and making improvements, and that 83.51 per cent. of the incumbrance was for the purpose of buying and improving real estate, investing in business and purchasing the more durable kinds of personal property. In the case of homes, 81.24 per cent. of incumbrances were incurred to secure purchase money and to make improvements, and 92.66 per cent. was incurred for purchase money, improvements, business and the purchase of the more durable kinds of personal property.

Autumn Novelties for Ladies' Gowns.

Woolen goods for autumn wear are light in weight, a desirable feature—as skirts of dresses are now so generally lined and interlined that they become too heavy for comfort even in mid-winter, if made of weighty fabrics. Plain colors, mixtures of two or three colors and clouded effects are seen among the new goods. Small figures are preferred to large. Narrow stripes lengthwise, bayadere and diagonal, neat checks or blocks, and some plaids are shown in dull and in light colors though not in Scotch tartans. The peculiar blue called bluet appears in all materials and there are many bronze shades, with green prevailing in some and brown in others. Capes will be worn again and must continue in vogue while large sleeves are used. For general wear the golf cape of cloth with Scotch plaid lining will be chosen. The McDowell Fashion Journals from which the above information is gathered contain in their last issue a great variety of novelties for the coming season. They offer besides, by means of coupons, patterns of the very latest styles at very moderate prices. "La Mode de Paris," and "Paris Album of Fashion," cost \$3.50 each per annum, or 35 cents a copy. "The French Dressmaker" is \$3.00 per year, or 30 cents a copy. "La Mode," which is considered the best family journal, with colored plates, costs only \$1.50 per year, or 15 cents a copy. The three first mentioned publications offer each \$1.00 worth of coupon patterns and "La Mode" fifty cents worth of the same as a premium for a yearly subscription. If you are unable to procure any of these journals from your newsdealer do not take any substitute from him, but apply by mail to Messrs. A. McDowell & Co., 4 West 14th Street, New York city.

Bicycle Races.

Bicycle racing will be a leading feature at the Berwick Fair. The management of these races has been given over to the Bicycle Club. A list of events and prizes has been prepared which will bring a larger number of racers here than was present at the race meet held here in July. The prizes and medals amount to \$280.00, to be contested for in four events as follows: Friday, Oct. 5th, one mile novice, value of prizes \$55.00; on same day, one mile Columbia and Luzerne county championship, with prizes amounting to \$65.00; Saturday, Oct. 6th, one half mile open with a prize list of \$80.00 and one mile open, prizes \$90.00. The prizes consist of seven diamonds and five gold and silver medals. Blanks have been sent to all the principle riders in the state and some of the fastest racers will be here.

"Intra-Mural View," a very artistic brochure, has been received from The Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia, publishers of The Ladies' Home Journal. As the title indicates, the booklet gives us glimpses of the interiors of the Journal's offices, and some idea of the work carried on there. The main building, entirely occupied by the editorial and business offices, was designed by Mr. Hardenbergh, the architect of the Hotel Waldorf, New York, and was completed in January, 1893. The exterior is attractive and the interior elegantly appointed and admirably planned. The numerous illustrations, showing the commodious and well-fitted offices, and the accompanying text, giving us some insight into the work in the different bureaus, requiring a force approximating four hundred employes, indicate the wonderful success which The Ladies' Home Journal has achieved in an almost incredibly short time. "An Intra-Mural View" will be sent to any one who will address The Curtis Publishing Company, and inclose four cents in stamps for postage.

Small in size, great in results: DeWitt's Little Early Risers. Best pill for Constipation, best for Sick Headache, best for Sour Stomach.—W. S. Rish-ton, Druggist.

The Milton Bridge.

There is no small amount of dissatisfaction on both sides of the river at the way work is progressing on the new bridge. The difficulty seems to be a disposition on the part of the Northumberland county board of commissioners to look after the interests of Contractor Keefer, and to this end they insist on the discharge of Engineer Robins. The Union county commissioners believe in an important work like this involving the outlay of sixty-seven thousand five hundred dollars of the taxpayers' money for a fifty-seven thousand five hundred dollar bridge, that the work ought to be done under the supervision of a competent mechanical engineer, and in this they are right, and the people of both counties will approve their course.—Ez.

All the talk in the world will not convince you so quickly as one trial of DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve for Scalds, Burns, Bruises, Skin Affections and Piles.—W. S. Rish-ton, Druggist.

That man who is known to have nothing but good stock, of whatever variety, will never have much trouble in finding buyers or in getting good prices. Moreover, he influences the market, and people will be more ready to buy mutton, pork or beef if their tastes have been satisfied with a good quality.

Give a hog half a chance and he will be more than half a gentleman. Let him have a clean place in which to eat and sleep and he will show his best traits. He is dirty only when there is some incentive.

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