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**GOOD TRADE IS CHECKED**  
 Conflicting Reports Regarding Winter Wheat and Labor Troubles Upset Things.

**RAINS IN THE SOUTHWEST**  
 Conditions There Are Improved Because of Recent Copious Supply of Moisture—The Strike Centers Dull.

New York, April 1.—Special telegrams from correspondents of the International Mercantile Agency through out the United States and Canada, report a check to the exceptional good trade in the central west, following more reasonable conditions, but some disturbance in returns as to increased labor troubles and in the conflicting reports of the condition of the winter sown wheat.

A depressing influence is shown by the strike of Iowa soft coal miners and disensions in Pennsylvania, in addition to bitterness of the struggle between strikers and the militia in Colorado and the prospect for another tie up of the New York City building industry.

Advices from the southwest are that winter wheat has improved with good rains. In the central west the plant is generally well rooted but thin on the ground. Western centers say good corn is scarcer than for years. Reports are numerous of the poor condition of cribbed corn.

Outlook for cotton mills for the next six months is not regarded promising by New England authorities, but woolen mills there are running on a full line of orders. Further shut downs of cotton mills at Philadelphia are reported. Eastern shoe manufacturers in some instances are not ordering as freely as a year ago.

Chicago and New York mail orders and reports from visiting buyers begin to point to the prospect for an increasing volume of business in staple merchandise and retail trade has been the best in a long while. In Pittsburgh the March steel and iron has been the best in years with some advance in prices.

Canadian wholesale merchants and manufacturers report good gains in nearly all lines now that railroads have got free of the car congestion handicap. Requests for spring and summer goods are not trustworthy and bank clearings are increasing.

**ANOTHER PULP DECISION.**  
 Rossed Pulp Wood is Announced Duty Free as Paper Stock.  
 New York, April 1.—Another pulp decision of interest to paper manufacturers has been handed down by the board of United States general appraisers which declares that rossed pulp wood is free of duty as paper stock. This case has involved more labor than any other that has come before the board for a long time, on account of the bitter fight made by the paper manufacturing companies which have rossing plants in the United States to keep out the Canadian rossed wood.

Rossed pulp wood is spruce or poplar, cut into logs about two feet long and with the bark and roughness removed by a mechanical process called rossing. This is done in Canada for economy for transportation and logs in this condition are ready to go direct into the grinders.

Acting under the direction of the secretary of the treasury the customs officials have been, until the present time classifying the wood as "blocks or sticks, rough hewn," at 20 per cent.

**AMENDMENTS TO BILL.**  
 Committee on Commerce Acts Favorably on Sundry Civil Measure.  
 Washington, April 1.—The senate committee on commerce has acted favorably on a number of proposed amendments to the Sundry Civil bill, which heretofore had been acted on by the committee in the form of bills. The amendments will be referred to the committee on appropriation and are as follows:  
 Providing for revenue cutter depot at Oakland, Cal.; revenue cutter for Honolulu; immigration station at San Francisco; life saving stations at Cape Nome, Alaska, and Half Moon

bay, Cal., quarter for the lighthouse keepers at Cape Mendocino, Point Conception and Point Bonita, Cal., and fog signals at Quarry point and Humbolt bay, Cal.  
 The conference on the agricultural appropriation bill reached an agreement today. The bill now carries \$5,902,000. The senate amendment providing for experiments on animal breeding and feeding in cooperation with state agricultural institutions is accepted. The house recedes from its disagreement to the state amendment providing for the publication of investigations into the adulterations of food and beverages.

**WIDOW TAKES HER LIFE.**  
 Despondent Over Death of Husband Woman Drowns Herself.

Oakland, April 1.—Despondent over the death of her husband six months ago, Mrs. Barbara Page of 5751 Vallejo street committed suicide some time this afternoon by drowning in Temescal creek, near the Emeryville race track.

Mrs. Page disappeared from her home about 5 o'clock this morning. During the forenoon her grandson, named Lindblom, appealed to J. C. Coburn, town clerk at Emeryville, asking him to aid in a search for the aged woman. Young Lindblom stated that he feared his grandmother was demented and that she might end her life.

A number of persons at once began a search and the aged woman's footsteps were soon traced to the creek, where her dead body was found at noon. The water at this point, owing to the recent heavy rains, is about ten feet deep.

Mrs. Page's story is a sad one. About six months ago the husband died, leaving the family nothing but the cottage on Vallejo street. For several months she has been seeking to secure a pension, her husband having been a Grand Army man. Only a few weeks ago she stated to Mr. Coburn of Emeryville that unless relief arrived soon she and her grandchildren would be destitute. Page had resided in Emeryville for many years and was a highly respected citizen. The family had a large circle of acquaintances here and across the bay. The coroner has taken charge of the case.

**ASKS FOR FORECLOSURE.**  
 Trust and Savings Bank Wants its Money Out of Packing Company.

Chicago, April 1.—Foreclosure of a trust deed on the International Packing Company's plant, valued at \$1,300,000 has been asked by the Illinois Trust & Savings bank. As defendants in this latest suit it names the International and Consolidated Packing Companies and Henry Boere. The bank avers it acts in the interest of owners of \$2,165,000 of the \$2,438,000 outstanding bonds of the International Company. It is declared there are 240 owners in all. The plaintiff asks that another receiver be appointed.  
 John C. McPherson, previously named has reported his failure to recover any of the property he demand-

**LUMBERMEN OF NORTHWEST DEMAND BETTER RATES**

Tacoma, April 1.—The lumbermen of the northwest have taken the initiative in a movement for a lower rate on fir from western transcontinental terminals to Missouri river points. The box men of the Pacific Coast Lumber Manufacturers' Association has held a meeting here to consider the matter, and next Tuesday the Southwestern Washington Lumber Manufacturers' Association will hold a meeting at Napavine to take up the same question. It is the intention that both associations shall act in harmony and in concert. To this end a joint committee representing both associations will be sent to St. Paul to interview President Elliott, of the Northern Pacific, and President James J. Hill, of the Great Northern. The Pacific Coast Association has empowered President Griggs, of the association, to act for it in the selection of the personnel of the committee. He stated this afternoon that he would not announce the names of the committee for a week or more.

Another important thing the committee will take up with the heads of the two great roads will be the reduction of the present rates on box shooks from western terminals to Missouri river points. The box men of the state are vitally interested in this issue, as of late, on account of an increased production of shooks by the mills of Southern Oregon and of California, a great deal of the vast trade in this commodity among the fruit men of California has been wrested from the mills of the state. The present rate on box shooks from western terminals to Missouri river points is 59 cents a hundred pounds. The manufacturers declare this is prohibitive. They want the rate cut down to 40

cents, which will enable them to lay down their product in Kansas City and Omaha and other great packing centers of the Missouri river country where enormous numbers of boxes are used, at a price that will prove remunerative.

The present rate of 50 cents to the 100 pounds on fir from western terminals to Missouri river points is also held to act almost in a prohibitive manner and makes any attempt to invade the Missouri territory perilous and commercially untenable. A 40-cent rate is wanted, which is the same as at present obtains at St. Paul. Such a rate, manufacturers say, will enable them to run fir into the Missouri river cities on a competitive basis with the yellow pine from the south. The southern pine enjoys the extremely low rate of 22 cents a hundred pounds from southern terminals to the Missouri river points, but its greater weight adds to the competitive handicap it will have to overcome in its struggle for supremacy with the western fir. The manufacturers feel that this is one of the greatest issues that have come up affecting lumbering interests in a long time.

If the box shooks are admitted to the Missouri river territory on a 40-cent basis it will enable mills in Washington to immediately feature this end of their business, and spruce and hemlock timber, which are now going begging practically in the state, will come into positive demand, resulting in a very considerable expansion of the milling industry.

There will be no attempt at present to secure a cut on the cedar rate of 60 cents a hundred to Missouri river points, as the lumber men frankly confess they will be gratified to get the reduction on fir.

ed. It is declared the bank became trustee of the Consolidated June 1, 1892, when the company issued \$2,500,000 bonds and that the trusteeship was continued by the International Company as successor. It is alleged both the International and Consolidated Companies are insolvent and that \$65,000 interest on their bonds has been unpaid since May 1.

**Directs Codifications.**  
 Rome April 1.—The pope of his own accord has directed that a codification be made of the canon laws along lines similar to codification of the Roman civil laws under Emperor Justinian.

**Receiver is Appointed.**  
 Denver, April 1.—Henry Altman has been appointed by Judge Carpenter as the receiver for Colorado of the Majestic Copper Mining and Smelting Company. He has been placed under bonds of \$5000. It is probable that the efforts to wind up the affairs of the corporation and the collection of the debts

owing will be transferred to the federal courts. Charges of mismanagement and extravagant dissipation of the assets of the company are made by John T. McLean against the directors. The company owns a large number of mines and smelters in Utah.

**No Eggs For Easter.**  
 New York, April 1.—Eggs by the million, shipped from west and south, and destined for this city, have been delayed by storms and the packers fear a famine on Easter and are making strenuous efforts to meet the demand. At the mercantile exchange the egg market is in a chaotic condition prices fluctuating wildly. Compared with last year the receipts for the week show a falling off of 37,500 cases or more than 140,000,000 eggs.

**Baseball Scores.**  
 Los Angeles—Los Angeles, 2; Portland 1.  
 San Francisco—San Francisco, 2; Oakland, 4.

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