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PAST WEEK IN BUSINESS.

Dun's Commercial Review gives the following summary of business conditions throughout the country for the week ending March 27.

Domestic distribution of merchandise increases so slowly that the gains from week to week do not appear important, and longer periods must be taken for comparison in order to appreciate the progress made, though, of course, total transactions are still below producing capacity. Considerable activity has been promoted in pig iron this week at the expense of values. Finished steel output now averages a 75 per cent rate of production, foreign orders being especially conspicuous. Copper is quiet, but strong on the outlook for increased consumption. The shipyards and the automobile industry are active. The demand for textiles is broadening, although the trade is still hampered by the scarcity of dyes and the higher price of the raw product. The fine weather and the indications of an early spring are favorable for retail trade. Silks and embroideries show improvement. The shoe trade is quiet though steady, with factories generally running on part time. The cotton market advances in activity and price. Wheat fluctuates according to the war news. In contrast to the conservative movement in domestic lines, is the remarkably rapid expansion in foreign trade, war orders overcoming the obstacles of limited shipping facilities, high freights and blockade risks. During February the exports of breadstuffs, oils, cotton and other products made extraordinary gains as compared with a year ago. Foreign orders are a feature of both the steel and the cotton goods markets. Exports of woolen goods have also been heavy. In other lines export orders are the sustaining influence. Never in the history of the world has there been so extraordinary a change in monetary conditions as has taken place in the United States between August and March; the enormous balance of trade in favor of this country and the unprecedentedly low rates of exchange vividly illustrate the great gain in financial power. Exports in February were the largest on record, and the reduction in imports resulted in a balance for this country of over \$450,000,000 in three months. Taken in connection with the cessation of American travel in Europe, and the probable transfer of considerable European capital to the United States, this has caused a decline in exchange such as has not been witnessed before in half a century. Negotiations are reported as pending for big foreign credits in New York. Moreover, no such foreign liquidation of American securities has occurred as might have been expected, and the New York stock market is notably active and strong. There has been no development of the war that as yet definitely foreshadows progress towards peace, and the situation is still critical, with many delicate problems for neutral nations. Though money is plentiful for some purposes, and gold is being imported in large amounts, investment capital is conservative, especially as regards new projects. Collections generally are backward, but failures are slightly less numerous than in preceding months.

CURE OF CRIMINALS.

Warden Osborne of Sing Sing, if he had his way, would keep the criminal, whatever his offense, in confinement until he was "cured" and no longer; and in argument for his plan he likens men in prison to patients in a hospital. The latter, in theory at least, are kept until they are well or dead, no matter what is the ailment, and on recovery, if they do recover, they are allowed to go. And that is just what he would do with the morally sick—the criminal.

This reform warden—appointed because he was a practical reformer—proposes that all judicial sentences for crime be made really "indeterminate"—not within any stated limits, that is, but for only the time, long or short, it takes in each case to make the convict over into a safe citizen.

Of the old objects which imprisonment was supposed to attain—punitive, deterrent and reformatory—he would abandon all except the last.

This is, of course, the logical position for anyone to take who accepts in its entirety the modern view of criminal conduct and of the nature of individual responsibility therefor.

But it conflicts with so many established customs, be-

liefs, prejudices and superstitions that it will hardly be accepted before the millennium arrives, and when that comes there will be no prisons or prisoners to worry about.

But there is wide-spread and constantly growing sympathy with the effort to emphasize the possibilities of reforming convicts, and experiments in this direction have warm and increasing approval.

We may be slow to give up the spirit of vengeance in our ideas of punishment, but we must at least admit that it never played any beneficial part.

The old system, by common consent, has worked very badly, in all ages and all conditions—so badly that no change can be very much for the worse.

THE UNACCOUNTABLE WEATHER.

Much mental energy is being wasted by scientific persons in the endeavor, first to prove that the weather this year is phenomenal and secondly to find the cause of the phenomenal conditions.

One learned professor, whose habitat is in Chicago, that headquarters of all this is bizarre in the line of original investigation, advances the theory that the shape of the earth's orbit is changing rapidly and that the character of the seasons is altered in consequence, the winters becoming colder and the summers more rainy.

Others study the spots on the sun and draw ominous conclusions.

Theories are, indeed, as plentiful as blackberries, and it is the exception rather than the rule to find authority for the belief that the world had such weather before and that there is, after all, nothing surprising in the refusal of nature to work by rule and square and in conformity with iron clad regulations.

Yet, as a matter of fact, hardly any phenomenon in the way of atmospheric or climatic conditions can occur for which precedents are not to be found.

Nor does it matter much if when abnormal conditions supervene, a scientific explanation is not easily forthcoming.

In the making of weather as in many other things the ways of providence are generally inscrutable.

The Panama canal is already a busy little waterway. On February 14 the canal had been open to commercial traffic for six months and in that time 496 vessels, other than canal vessels and launches, passed through and carried 2,367,244 tons of cargo. As a considerable portion of this great tonnage was grain and other commodities that would otherwise have been transported across the continent on the railroads, the figures throw light on the rivalry between the freight vessels and the transcontinental land lines.

Upon protest of club women against the height of street car steps, an ordinance has been adopted at Concord, N. H., ordering all car steps to be placed within fifteen inches of the ground. And before the change could actually be made, Dame Fashion widened the skirts so that it was unnecessary.

The gifted Charles Francis Adams, who has just died, was one of the most conspicuous examples of a man who frankly said what he meant and never made any effort to conceal his real feelings, according to the Boston Globe. And possibly this fact accounts for the briefness of Mr. Adams' political career.

The dispatches yesterday stated that Mr. Fong Do You of San Francisco, was collecting money from his countrymen for patriotic purposes. Mr. Do You may be able to work it with the Chinamen, but with the average American, he would have a mighty poor show, at least, until he changed his name.

Salem high school won the debating honors of Western Oregon the other night, and we are old-fashioned enough to believe that it is worth more than the football or baseball championship.

If it rains tomorrow, ten or seven, or some other number of consecutive Sundays will be moist, according to an old tradition. But worse than that it would spoil a lot of new millinery.

There is a threatened strike at Tacoma to which no objection is raised. About fifty dissatisfied inmates are preparing to walk out of the poorhouse unless certain requests are complied with.

The presidency of Mexico is no longer the attractive job it was since the treasury has been so thoroughly cleaned out.

Sherman was a success at defining war, but evidently lacked the nerve to say what neutrality is.

It is virtually certain that no poet will attempt to celebrate the fall of Przemysl in rhyme.

TOO MUCH TROUBLE.

George W. Coleman, head of the Ford Hall Forum, told the following story at a recent dinner of the Pilgrim Publicity association.

"A farmer had 20 employees on his farm, and as none of them was as energetic as the farmer thought he should be, he hit upon a plan which he believed would cure them of their lazy habits. 'Men,' he said one morning, 'I have a nice, easy job for the laziest man on the farm. Will the laziest man step forward?' Instantly 19 of the men stepped forward.

"Why don't you step to the front with the rest?" inquired the farmer of the remaining one.

"Too much trouble," came the reply.

PAINTERS STRIKE IN CHICAGO.

Chicago, April 2.—Their demand for a scale of 70 cents an hour for the next two years rejected, 300 union painters went on strike here today.

Work on several large buildings was tied up as a result. A strike of machinists, plasterers, sheet metal workers, electricians and lathers has been in progress for a month.

STATE NEWS

Medford Tribune: A posse of Okdale residents have a skunk corralled under Dr. E. G. Riddell's garage, and a stringent blockade has been declared to starve the member of the meek family out. The meekie will not come out, and no one will volunteer to bring him out, so it was decided to starve him out. There is no question about the blockade's being under the garage. The South Okdale district has been pestered for some time by the unwelcome visitor, now making a last stand.

Fossil's council has ordered 300 feet of 3-inch fire hose, by way of being prepared for the failure of equipment that has been long in use.

The grounds surrounding the library building at Hillsboro are being spaded and seeded to grass and when the work is complete the proprietor of a Hillsboro greenhouse has promised roses for the parking.

Albany Herald: The oldest resident of Linn county is Mrs. Mary M. Faulkner, residing southeast of this city a few miles. She is now 95 years of age and bids fair to become a centenarian. Besides being almost a hundred years of age she has spent more than half her life in Oregon on the same farm. A remarkable thing about Mrs. Faulkner is that she sees without glasses and gets around without help.

Fossil Journal: H. H. Wheeler, a highly respected pioneer of eastern Oregon, died yesterday at his home in Mitchell. The county of Wheeler was named in his honor. He carried the mail from The Dalles to Canyon City in the mining boom days of the early sixties, and while doing so had his front teeth shot out by the Indians. He is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Carl Whitecomb of Mitchell.

Good roads testimonial in Tillamook Herald: Fred Kaufman of Woodburn, who recently made a trip to this city with a horse and buggy, speaks very highly of our roads. He says that he never traveled a rod of good road between Woodburn and this city until he struck the Tillamook county line at Dolph. He says he traveled farther in four hours on Tillamook roads than in 10 hours on other roads.

LITTLE BOBBIE'S PA

Unkel Ed came over aggen last nite to get ten dollars from Pa. Ma was very mad wen she saw Pa give Unkel Ed the \$10 but Unkel Ed is Pa's brother & Pa was fond of him ever since they was kids together.

The full name of Unkel Ed is Unkel Edwin & he is a poet. He struck the ten dollar bill wich Pa gav him in his pocket & then Pa sed, Well, Eddie, how is things? How is it, Pa sed, that you doant woo the Muse for these littel touches insted of wooing me.

I ought to be aled of the gain on my last song, sed Unkel Ed beekaus several of our great riters told me that I am the latest poet. Now that you have cum across with the ten I am going to recite my new song entitled Where the fire is glowing There My feet is full of mud.

The nite was softly falling across the fields of Maine, A pretty littel lady thare was speaking to her awain, She put her arms around his neck & kissed him on the cheek, And while his hart was beating fast these words he did speak.

I love you darling Sophie, my little Georgia maid, We tramp together through the swamps & never are afraid, My hart is beating hard for you, my hart that throbs with blood, Where the fire flies is crowing, thare my feet is full of mud.

Well, sed Unkel Ed, how do you like that for a fine pece of melody & lyrics, I think it is grate, sed Pa. It is verry swell song for a base solo Pa sed beekaus mud is down verry deep. I am glad you like it sed Unkel Ed beekaus I was going to raise that but a littel. I was going to ask you to maik it twenty insted of ten.

Now that you come to menahim it, sed Pa, I doant think verry much of the song. You know how songs aled, Pa sed, you git a few dollars now & then & the publisher gits sumthing all the time. Why doant you talk this song to a musiek publisher & grab off twenty \$ yureself, Pa sed, so you can pay me back my ten.

Then Unkel Ed began to cry. O erule fate, Unkel Ed sed, I have been tramping around from one newspaper to another for hours & hours & now that I have gathered ten dollars from a true friend he wants to talk to you about paying it back. I think I will go hoam & rite a new song, sed Unkel Ed with a title like Doant try Yure Relatives, but go and Beat Yure Friends. Remember, sed Unkel Ed, I shall never darken yure doer aggen.

Oh you must, sed Pa.

I have told you I never shall, sed Unkel Ed.

I guess yure Unkel Ed is rite, sed Ma. Ma pushed Pa to one side & sed to Unkel Ed, now go, & doant you ever cum around heer aggen with any of yure sad songs. Reet it, sed Ma & see that you maik good time to the street cars. My husband has to work hard for his munny, Ma sed & any time he has any to spare I will use it to buy littel Bobbie shoes, & Unkel Ed went.

A boy need not hope to be able to manage a business when he grows up if he can't do such a simple thing as to manage his parents when he is small.



We drove the prices down as far as they would go, but we have kept the quality up as high as it can go. No one ever succeeded by trying to sell the wrong thing. We are here to succeed and intend to stay. Come and see us. We are always on the job and will see that you get just what you want at the right price.

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TALKS ON THRIFT

No. 13—YOUR BOY'S CHANCE IN THE WORLD.

"The dazzling attractions of a luxury-loving age constitute the greatest possible danger to American education."—President Faunce of Brown University.

It's a fine Sunday afternoon. Proud and happy Father is giving Baby Boy an airing and getting a lot of good from the exercise himself. The youngster's asleep now, so we'll just join Daddy and have a quiet talk with him about his son's future.

"What are you going to do to give that boy of yours a start in life?" we ask.

"Why, we're going to feed him, clothe him and try to keep him well," says the fond parent. "We'll send him to public school and Sunday-school. He will have good books to read, good playthings and good playmates."

"That's fine," we reply, "but how is he going to learn thrift and the value of money?"

"Well, my theory is," replies the young father, "that if my child is given all those things I have mentioned he will be pretty well able to take care of himself when the time comes. Of course, I'm carrying some life insurance for the benefit of my family."

"That's all right," we reply, "but do you realize that learning the value of money by beginning to earn it and save it in his boyhood will do more to insure your boy's success than almost any other one thing? It will create in him a habit which will be of lifelong benefit. And if you open a savings bank account in his name and keep it up faithfully, eventually, with his assistance, you can accumulate a really worthwhile fund from money which you otherwise might waste."

"By George, there's a good deal of truth in that. I never looked at it like that before," says the young father, just as the baby wakes up and begins to say "Dad, Dad."

"I'll start that savings account tomorrow" is his parting remark as we take leave of him.

Now just a word to parents of older boys. Your boy is busy every day laying the foundation for his career. His

daily practices are becoming his habits. If an "easy spender" now he will have much to undo before he "finds himself."

A savings account at the bank will help our boy to gain poise and self-control. Its effect upon his life will depend upon the attention he gives to it. Will you help and encourage him in this direction?

SALARY SCALE RAISED

Wilmington, Del., April 2.—A 10 per cent salary raise for all employees of Du Pont Powder Co., at plants in various parts of the country went into effect today. The increase will continue for the current year and probably longer. Big sales to the European belligerents are said to have made the wage increase possible.

A cripple has runing expenses the same as other people.

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