

**BUSINESS ON THE BOOM.**

**Better Conditions Throughout the United States.**

New York, Aug. 10.—The Times says: The tide of prosperity is already setting in all over the country. From every section and nearly every train comes the report of confidence restored and an eager looking forward to the good times that are sure to come with the resumption of business after the summer. Even now, when the vacation season is still on, the commercial activity of the country is greater than usual, and the wholesalers find a much larger number of buyers visiting the important centers and a remarkable willingness among them to place orders.

The New York Times publishes a series of statements written by the editor of the leading trade publications of the country. They are the men who have their fingers on the pulse of trade and watch week by week its fluctuations, with no other idea than to collect reliable data for the guidance of their clients. They are thoroughly posted in all that goes on in the commercial world, and the universal note of their statements is optimism of the immediate future.

Reports from New England show that the settlement of the tariff has assured a period of development for the manufacturers. In particular the admission of hides free has encouraged the shoe men, and the heavy duties on woollens and cottons will help the textile manufacturers.

The South rejoices that, just as it began to take on a new industrial life, it has shown that it can weather a financial storm. It has passed through the panic period successfully, and it looks forward to a time of expansion such as it has never yet known.

The West thinks of its crops. They are expected this year to pass the eight billion dollar mark and to be worth nearly \$325,000,000 more than last year. With prices and stocks what they are, the farmers see nothing but prosperity before them, and the millers think that they now have an opportunity for resuming their export trade.

Other industries are in equally healthful condition. The miners in general are active and feel that the stringency of the last year or two has shaken out most of the wild-cat schemes which injured the general reputation of their business. The coal owners expect that a general increase of industrial activity will cause a revival in the demand for bituminous coal. The iron works find that orders are coming in more freely, and that the railroads especially are placing more orders and inquiries for structural materials show that building is looking up. Lumbermen also watch the resumption of large schemes with hope and foresee in the taking up again of public improvements a generous demand for their commodity.

Railroad construction will, it is expected, be carried on in the near future at almost the same rate as before the panic. Moreover, a very healthy feature is the steady improvement of railroad terminals and the equipment of the roads with proper signaling systems. The undertaking of such work, on which there is no immediate return, shows that the companies feel that their returns are satisfactory enough to permit them to lay aside large amounts of capital for the permanent improvement of their tracks.

The retailers have lived from hand to mouth and have taken from the factories only what was absolutely necessary for

current trade. Consequently their stocks have been low, and in the last few months have been almost depleted. But now that the public has more money to spend, the buyers are adopting a more liberal policy. They are in the market to buy for the fall trade, and all along the line it is declared that they are spending much more freely than a year ago.

The clothing business is in a flourishing condition, and so great is the demand for goods of quality from out-of-the-way districts that the manufacturers find it of advantage to send their commercial travelers to points never before covered. Moreover, collections are excellent, and many firms are meeting their obligations on ten-day discounts in order to obtain the benefit of their ready cash.

Yet there is no likelihood of boom conditions. The retailers have learned the dangers of speculation, and are taking only what they foresee they will actually need. They are building up an absolutely solid business structure, which will withstand any chance setbacks that may occur before the full expansion of trade is realized.

The settlement of the tariff enables the commercial world to go ahead with confidence. It has released the tea and coffee markets from the uncertainty that paralyzed them. It has guaranteed an increase in the Oriental rug imports. It has caused prices to stiffen. Business failures in the last month have been below the average, and already there is a cry from the West for more labor.

**PRACTICAL LUMBERMEN WILL AID IN CONSERVATION OF YELLOW PINE.**

Washington, Aug. 13.—The interest being taken by practical lumbermen in the conservation of the forests was illustrated at the semi-annual meeting of the Yellow Pine Manufacturers' Association which was recently held in Chicago. The report of the committee on the conservation of the yellow pine forests received much attention and was adopted unanimously.

Among the chief recommendations made by the committee in its report was for the cutting by lumbermen of their timber by two operations with an interval of from fifteen to twenty years, the ripe timber being removed during the first cutting and to leave from 2,500 to 3,000 feet of standing timber on each acre. It was shown by such a method of lumbering that a decided advantage would accrue to the lumbermen through the increased growth and consequent gain in timber which would be had between the first and second cuttings.

The Association also adopted the recommendation of the committee providing for the appointment of a committee with power to act and to expend funds to cooperate with the Forest Service on matters of education, forest fires and taxation.

**COMING CONVENTIONS.**

The following are among the conventions to be held within the next four months:

Sept. 7—The National Farmers' Union, Birmingham, Ala.

October 12, 13 and 14—Annual Convention National Nut Growers' Association, Albany, Ga. J. F. Wilson, Poulan, Ga., Secretary.

Oct. 19-20-21-22—Annual conference Atlantic Deepwaterway Association, Norfolk, Va.

**JACKSONVILLE AS CONVENTION CITY.**

**Three Important Associations Will Hold Annual Meetings Here in the Fall.**

As a convention city, Jacksonville is making her competitors disappear in the boggy medium of unpopularity as effectually as did Korah and his band of dissentients in the days of Moses. A half dozen big national conventions, and as many state assemblies are coming and prospects are bright for the number being increased.

The success which has attended the efforts of the city to secure these important conventions places emphasis upon the demand for more adequate auditorium facilities. Especially is the demand of a paramount nature in the case of the national conventions, which will bring to the city thousands of members and visiting friends. It is true that the board of trade has a fine auditorium, but in the event of the coming of a national convention this assembly place is entirely too inadequate of capacity. What is most needed is a convention hall that will accommodate 5,000 or more persons at one time. These big conventions not only bring many hundreds of dollars into the city, but will prove of inestimable value as an advertisement, bringing as they do people from every section of the country within the city's gates.

The board of trade now has under consideration a plan to supply this need by erecting a third story to its building and using the entire space of the addition as an auditorium. Should this plan be adopted and carried out an auditorium just twice the size of the present one will be supplied. This movement is a most commendable one, and doubtless will be endorsed by every public-spirited citizen of the city.

**Conventions to Come.**

A list of the conventions to be held in Jacksonville, with their dates as nearly correct as possible, is as follows:

October 12 and 13, 1909—Florida Retail Hardware Dealers' Association.

October 19, 20 and 21, 1909—American Railway Bridge and Building Association.

November 17 and 18—Mississippi-Atlantic Inland Waterways Association.

March, 1910—Grand Lodge, Knights of Pythias.

Date not fixed—Pecan Nut Raisers' Association.

November, 1910—General Grand Chapter, Order of Eastern Star.

May, 1911—Order of Railway Conductors.

It will be seen that three of this list of important conventions are to be held here this fall. Actual preparations for the reception and entertainment of the delegates and friends of these conventions are now being carried on by the board of trade and the local members of the association.

**Retail Hardware Men.**

The Florida Retail Hardware Dealers' Association is composed of members engaged in the retail hardware business at points throughout the state, the membership numbering over 100. The association will be in session here two days.

The officers of the association are as follows: President, M. E. Grouber, West Palm Beach; vice-president, B. F. Watts, Leesburg; treasurer, D. L. Thomas, Tampa, and secretary, W. K. Jackson, Lakeland. The executive committee is composed of C. F. Smedley of Jacksonville;

R. E. McNeill, Live Oak, and M. B. Bates, Quincy.

**Will Have Exhibit.**

In connection with the convention and for the benefit of the members of the association, the manufacturers and jobbers will establish and maintain a large and handsome exhibit of products. The Christopher building on East Bay street, now being occupied by the Gilbert garage, has been engaged for the exhibit.

The business sessions of the convention will be held in the board of trade auditorium. Two business sessions a day will probably be held. An interesting program is now being arranged by the executive committee and the officers of the association. An interesting entertainment program is also being arranged, among the features of which will be a trip by boat up the St. Johns, tendered by the local members; a banquet tendered by the manufacturers and jobbers and a smoker by the board of trade.

**A. R. B. and B. Association.**

One of the most important conventions to be held here this year is the annual meeting of the American Railway Bridge and Builders Association, which will be convened in the board of trade auditorium October 19, for a three-day session. The object of this convention is the advancement of knowledge pertaining to the principles, design, construction and maintenance of railway bridges and other constructions, by investigations, reports and discussion of the experience of its members and others, and to provide a means of exchange of ideas, in order that bridge and building factors may be systematized and improved. The membership is composed of civil engineers and construction engineers of all the railroads in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, and it also has members in Australia and New Zealand. The membership is nearly 400, representing railway mileage amounting to 197,409 miles. The committee of arrangements on behalf of the association is as follows: M. F. Cahill, Seaboard Air Line, Jacksonville; J. W. Morgan, Southern Railway, Columbia, S. C., and E. K. Barrett, Florida East Coast Railway, St. Augustine. At the annual conventions there is usually held an exhibit of railway supplies by the Supply Men's Association, and it is expected that this feature will be established and maintained here.

**Waterways Association.**

Another important convention for this fall is that of the Mississippi-Atlantic Inland Waterways Association. Hon. Duncan U. Fletcher of this city is president of the association. Excellent work is being performed by Secretary Leland J. Henderson, of Apalachicola, and Treasurer G. A. Waterman, in their effort to arouse all the interest possible in the convention. The governors of several states have appointed delegates and indications are that the convention will be largely attended.

The object of the association is to secure an inland waterway along the Gulf coast from the mouth of the Mississippi to Apalachicola, and thence by a ship canal across Florida to the Atlantic.

**Interesting Letter.**

A copy of the following interesting letter from G. Grosvenor Dawe, manager of the Southern Commercial Congress, relative to the convention, was received yesterday from the secretary of the waterways convention:

"Washington, D. C., July 21, 1909.

"Mr. L. J. Henderson, Secretary, Mis-