WAR LINES SLACKEN CIVILIAN BUSINESS

Trade of All Kinds Sidesteps to Aid Turning Out Government's Orders.

RETAIL SALES IMPROVE

Readjustments of Last Several Months Grow Under New Regulations.

Slackening up in some lines and a tightening of the Government's checkrein in others featured business this week.

Bradstreet's will say to-day: "Government requisitions and expenditures are of an unprecedented height, transportation routes are under unexampled strain and increasing stress is being laid upon the necessity for curtailing nonessential industries to allow of full supplies of fuel and raw materials for war purposes. Trade in civilian supplies is still large, but there appears to be a concentration upon foods and wearing apparel to an extent not hitherto seen.

"Further quieting down of ordinary house building and of operations in furniture, automobile (pleasure car) and jewelry manufacturing, furs and other products is balanced by increased buying of steel for munition, shipbuilding and allied lines. Agricultural implement men, too, are buying and selling freely enough for an ordinarily quiet period, while automobile manufacturers are reported shifting a great deal of capacity to supplying Government needs for munitions.

"The last great advances in cotton goods and other textiles tended to dislodge some hitherto stubborn advocates of conservatism, and final distributers show more disposition to cover future needs and call for prompt shipments.

"Retail trade is better, aided by cooler weather and the advance of the holiday season."

Dun's Review will say: "The process of readjustment which has been under way for several months in domestic business steadily widens and the changing conditions in foreign trade stand out more prominently as new regulations are put into effect. Some inconvenience and unsettlement are necessarily experienced from the added difficulties and restrictions imposed by the war, and with the doubts about future economic developments there is an ever increasing disposition to operate conservatively and mainly for well defined requirements.

"Where scarcity of supplies is threatened certain interests endeavor to cover their wants as far ahead as possible; yet discussion of the extension of price control prompts not a few buyers to hold off in anticipation of reductions, and in the rare cases where there are accumulations, yielding tendencies are witnessed."

Failures during the week, according to *Bradstreet's*, numbered 236. The R. G. Dun & Co. count was 292 failures.

Despatches from Canada indicate that trade is keeping up in satisfactory volume.

LIVE STOCK MARKET.

BEEVES—Receipts, 2,278 head; 47 cars on sale. Steers extremely slow and uneven; lower, with a number of cars unsold at the close. Cows also dull and 10@15c. off; bulls steady. Ordinary to good steers, $9.50@12.10 per 100 lbs.; bulls, $7.75@10.50; cows, $5@10. Dressed beef steady. Native sides, 14@22c. per lb.

Sales—F. Schamberg, 15 Pennsylvania steers, 1,247 lbs. average, $12.10; 5 Pennsylvania steers, 1,225, $12; 16, 1,119, $11.50; 25 Kansas bulls, 1,000, $10; 12 cows, 1,000, $8; 5 Kansas steers, 1,000, $10; 8