THE CENTRES OF TRADE.

Dun and Bradstreet on the Business Situation.

OAT SHORTS SQUEEZED IN THE CHICAGO MARKET.

July Wheat Marks Considerable of an Advance.

Sugar Gains One Per Cent. in the Day's Trading—Bond and Miscellaneous Stock Market Heavy—Smaller Shipments of Gold Abroad Than Were Expected—Heavy Buying of Wool Is Noted as Encouragement—Kansas City, Omaha and Chicago Live Stock—Lead and Silver Quiet, But Firm.

New York, May 4.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly trade review tomorrow will say: A point of encouragement is the heavy buying of wool, amounting to 6,492,000 pounds for the week at three chief markets, against 4,660,000 last year, and in April sales of 21,838,958 pounds, against 36,738,950 last year. As these sales have for years been in steady relation to the general consumption of wool, it is fair to infer, that in spite of the stoppage of some important works and in spite of uncertainties as to labor and as to legislation, consumption will continue for some weeks at least.

The enormous unsold stock of wheat, which has made a lower average of prices in February, March and April, than was ever known in any previous month, has depressed May wheat to the lowest point on record, although western receipts were only 2,000,734 bushels, against 2,488,000 last year, and Atlantic exports, 1,131,239 against 1,243,249 last year. The decline for spot has been sought, with no change for July.

Corn yielded a quarter, exports falling suddenly below, while western receipts nearly doubled last year's and pork products were lower.

The most encouraging sign is the marked decrease in liabilities of firms failing which were only $1,48,344 for the last week of April and for four weeks, $[illegible], of which $[illegible] were of manufacturers, and $1,614,500 of trading concerns. The amount of liabilities in the south was $2,312,999 against $3,418,906 in eastern and $2,842,250 in western states. The failures this week have been 234 in the United States against 216 last year and 35 in Canada against 27 last year.

AS SEEN BY BRADSTREET.

New York, May 4.—Bradstreet's review of the state of trade tomorrow will say: The amount of general merchandise throughout the country is smaller in volume. Spring trade is finished, and orders for fall delivery are, with few exceptions, not meeting expectations. Jobbers in leading lines at most of the larger cities report sales, almost without exceptions, as of a hand to mouth description.

The extension of the coal and coke strike, accompanied by riots at Cleveland and Mesaba, has emphasized the depression. The industrial situation, therefore, has not improved.

Strikes of iron ore miners, and among building trades, with an extension of the coal miners' strike and the almost total cessation of operations in the coke regions, have swelled the total number of idle industrial workers to fully 215,000. Shut downs of industrial concerns dependent on coke or soft coal for fuel are increasing.

The price movement tops the scale with Indian corn, oats, cotton, coffee and refined sugar all lower, and wool and some varieties of woolen and cotton goods have met with a marked tendency of quotations to weakness.

Wheat scored its fifth or sixth lowest price on record during the crop year, 60¾ at New York.

A relatively favorable industrial report comes from Detroit, where there are fewer unemployed.

At St. Louis, four months' shipments are in excess of last year.

Transactions in wool have slackened and prices of some grades are weaker.

Stocks of wheat in Canada, afloat for and in Europe during April fell away 5,267,000 bushels, a smaller April decrease, except in 1891, than for six years. Should those stocks fall away during May and June even as rapidly as for several preceding years, American afloat and European supplies on July 1 will nearly, if not quite, equal the heavy stocks available July 1, 1893. Exports of wheat, both coasts, amount to 2,712,000 bushels, compared with 2,727,000 bushels last week, 2,776,000 bushels in the week a year ago, 3,561,000 bushels two years ago and 2,339,000 bushels in the corresponding week of 1892.

San Francisco telegraphs a reviving of general trade. Not that any less damage is known to have been done to California wheat than was previously asserted. Exceptionally favorable crop reports are received from Nebraska.

ON WALL STREET.

New York, May 4.—The fact that only three millions of gold have been engaged for shipment to Europe by tomorrow's steamer, $500,000 of which goes from Boston, was regarded as a favorable indication by the speculative fraternity and the evidences of the approaching settlement of the tariff question by the national legislature was accepted as another bull point. These forces far outweighed the depression which was carried over from yesterday, as a result of the difficulties which beset the reorganization proceedings now in progress in the several insolvent railway corporations.

The local traders were mostly buyers. London was a small purchaser of the arbitrage specialties. It was, therefore, with a good tone that the speculation opened.

National Lead was in particular request, and opened 1¼% higher and then declined 1¼. The movement was due to operations of the pool recently formed in the stock. Sugar opened ⅛ higher and also took a dip of 1¼. The general market had advanced only a fraction when the decline in Sugar and Lead caused a partial reaction and during the first hour the trading was irregular, the market becoming steady toward 11 o'clock. During the next hour the buyers were more numerous than the sellers and prices moved upward under the leadership of Lead and the other industrials, the railway list not being prominent in the improvement.

After midday, New England, which had been neglected during the morning, broke 1% on free offerings of stock said to be for the Boston account.

The rest of the market was but slightly affected by this demonstration, and before 3 o'clock a strong buying movement was developed in Sugar, which led to a general advance, the speculation continuing firm, but in light volume, until a little before 5 o'clock, when a drive was made in Sugar, tending that stock down and carrying the other industrials with it.

The railway list reacted but very slightly. The decline in Sugar was speedily recovered, and in the later dealings the stock touched the high point 103⅞, 2⅞ above the lowest of the morning. Subsequently a reaction of ¾ took place with a final rally of ½, making a gain of 1⅞ on the day, the preferred rising ⅝. The general market was well held in the late dealings and closed firm 1@2% above the final quotations of yesterday, the latter being Laclede Gas preferred.

The railway and miscellaneous bond market was rather heavy during the day.

The total sales of stock today were 189,257 shares, including: Atchison, 4,700; American Sugar, 37,500; Burlington, 19,900; Chicago Gas, 19,700; Distilling, 19,500; General Electric, 3,900; Missouri Pacific, 4,400; National Lead, 19,300; New York and New England, 5,400; Reading, 8,800; Rock Island, 2,700; St. Paul, 8,600; Union Pacific, 3,500.

SEDALIA BANK SUSPENDS.

Sedalia, Mo., May 4.—The First National bank failed to open today. The bank has a capital of $250,000 and was supposed to have a reserve of $25,000. The suspension is attributed to the loss of business brought about by the publication in a St. Louis paper several months ago of a telegram saying the bank had failed. Other banks became suspicious. It is the general belief the depositors will be paid in full.

NEW YORK MONEY MARKET.

New York, May 4.—Money on call, easy at 1%; last loan 1%; closed 1%. Prime mercantile paper, 3@5%. Sterling exchange, firm, with actual business in bankers' bills, 4,891@4,89 for demand, and at 4,87½@4,87¾ for sixty days. Posted rates, 4,88½@4,90; commercial bills, 4,86½@4,86¾; silver certificates, 64@65.

PACIFIC INSURANCE UNION.

San Francisco, May 4.—The annual meeting of the Pacific Insurance union was held today, and most of the old officers were re-elected. They are: President, Harry Mann; vice-president, W. J. Dutton; secretary and treasurer, C. D. Havens; auditor, V. C. Duffin.

The following executive committee was chosen: C. F. Mullins, I. Gatte, L. L. Bromwell, James N. Reynolds.

THE LONDON MARKET.

New York, May 4.—The Evening Post's London cablegram says: Today's markets were quiet, closing with a better tone. Americans opened flat, but recovered at midday on the apparent scarcity of stock here.

After the exchange closed there was a further material rise and business with a strong appearance. Missouri Kansas was largely dealt in, and is said to be supported by Maccusie. Argentines were also better.

Rupee paper was very flat on continental and bear sales. Silver has fallen to 29 on fresh arrivals from Chili and was steady at these prices. £22,000 in gold came in.

BONDS AND OILS.

New York, May 4.—Government bonds, firm. State bonds, dull. Petroleum, firmer: Pennsylvania oil sales, none; April option sales, none, closed 85¾ bid. Lima oil sales, none.

BULLION IN THE BANK.

London, May 4—Amount of bullion gone into the Bank of England on balance today is £22,000.

NEW YORK GENERAL MARKET.

New York, May 4.

HOPS—Quiet.

WOOL—Steady; domestic fleece, 19@25; pulled, 20@28. Pig iron, quiet. Copper, easier, lake 9⅝.

LEAD—Firm—3.20.

SILVER—65¾.

TIN—Firm; plates, dull.

SPELTER—Easier; domestic, 3.85 asked.

COFFEE—Options opened dull and unchanged to 5 points lower on weak European advices and declines still further on local offers, closing barely steady at 10@20 points decline. Sales, 9,000 bags, including: May, 15.30; June, 15.30; July, 15.00@15.10; August, 14.70@14.75; September, 14.40@14.50. Spot coffee, Rio weak; No. 7, 16¼. Mild, steady; cordova, 19½; sales, 4,000 bags; Rio No. 7, August spot, 15¾; 750 Central American p. t. Warehouse deliveries at New York yesterday were 3,328 bags; New York stock, 184,360; United States stock, 246,318 bags; afloat, 184,000; visible supply for United States, 430,318 bags. Rio market quiet; quotations nominal; none given. Exchange, 9⅝d. Receipts, two days, 11,000 bags; stock, 105,000 bags. Santos, quiet, good average Santos, 15,000; receipts, two days, 2,000; stock, 30,000. Hamburg, barely steady; prices unchanged to ⅛@¼% pfg. lower. London, quiet, prices 3d to 9d lower. Havre, irregular; sales, 12,000 bags; prices 1 f lower.

SUGAR—Raw, active, firmer; centrifugal 96 test 2⅞; sales, 200 hogsheads, 100 cerrons muscovado 89 test 2¾; 800 bags do at 2 7-16; 600 bags centrifugal 96 test 2 11-16; 12,800 bags do 2⅞; 2,450 bags centrifugal molasses sugar 2¾. Refined strong; No. 6, 3¼@3 13-16; No. 7, 3⅛@3 11-16; No. 8, 3 7-16@3⅜; No. 9, 3⅜@3 9-16; No. 10, 3 5-16@3½; No. 11, 3 3-16@3¼; No. 12, 3⅛@3 5-16; No. 13, 3 1-16@3⅛; No. 14, 3@3 1-16; No. 15, 2⅞@3; No. 11, off A, 3⅞@3 15-16; mould A, 4⅛@4 5-16; standard A, 4⅛@4 1-16; confectioners A, 3⅞@4 1-16; cut loaf, 4⅝@4 11-16; crushed, 4⅝@4 15-16; powdered, 4⅛@4 1-16; granulated, 4⅛@4 1-16; cubes, 4⅛@4 11-16.

GOVERNMENT AND OTHER BONDS.

New York, May 4.

U. S. 5's reg.....	118	U. S. 5's coup..	118
U. S. 4's reg.....	113¾	U. S. 4's coup..	114
U. S. 4¼'s reg (b)	96	Pac 6's of '95(b)	102
La. stamped 4's..	95	Mo. 6's (b).....	100
Tenn new set 6's.	102	Can. So. 2ds...	104
Tenn new set 5's.	101	Cen. Pac. 1s(b)	104½
Tenn new set 3's.	75½	D & R. G.1's(b)	111
L. & R. G. 4's(b).	76	Erie 2ds.....	75
M. K. & T.G.6's..	45½	M.K.& T.G.5's.	81½
Mutual Union 6's.	105	N. J. C. Int. C.	115⅞
No. Pac. 1's.....	111¼	No. Pac. 2's....	80
Nw. Consols.....	140	Nw. Deben.5's	109¾
S.L.&I.M.Gen.5's	86	S.L.& S.F.G.M.	95
St. P. consols....	128	St.P.C.& P.1's..	111¼
T.P.L.G.T.Rec...	83¾	T.P.R.G.T. R..	35⅝
U. P. 1's (b).....	104	West Shore....	105
R. G. W. 1's.....	68	Atchison 4's...	74¼
Atchison 4's.....	83½	G. H. & Sa.6's.	97
G.H.&Sa.7's(b)...	98	H.& T.Cent 5's.	105½
H.& T.Cent. 6's...	101	N. C. 6's.....	121½
N. C. 4's.....	99		

BOSTON QUOTATIONS.

Boston, May 4.

Atchison.....	13⅝	Telephone	190
Burlington.....	79⅝	Mexican	7¾
San Diego.....	8¼		

NEW YORK MINING STOCKS.

New York, May 4.

C. C. & Va.....	6 50	Deadwood ...	50
G. & C.....	1 00	H. & N.....	90
Homestake.....	12 00	Mexican	1 60
North Star.....	7 50	Ontario	1 50
Ophir.....	2 50	Plymouth ...	20
Sierra Nev.....	1 35	Standard	1 70
Union Con.....	15	Yellow Jack't	1 00
Iron Silver.....	10	Quicksilver ..	2 00
Bulwer.....	12	Preferred ..	15 00

MINING STOCKS—SAN FRANCISCO.

San Francisco, May 4.—The official closing quotations for mining stocks today were as follows:

Alta.....	47	Belcher	1 70
Best & Belcher	2 40	Bodie Con.	25
Chollar.....	72	Con. Cal. & Va.	7⅝
Crown Point....	95	Eureka Con.....	50
Gould & Curry	1 15	Hale& Norcross	85
Mexican.....	2 10	Ophir	5 00
Potosi.....	1 45	Savage	96
Sierra Nevada	1 65	Union Con.....	1 25
Utah.....	15	Yellow Jacket..	1 15

RAILROAD AND OTHER STOCKS.

San Francisco, May 4.

Atchison.....	13⅝	Adams Express	150
Alton, T. H.....	32	Amer. Ex.....	110
Preferred.....	153	B. & O.....	76½
Canada Pac.....	67	Canada South..	50¾
Central Pa.....	14½	Ches. & Ohio....	18¼
Chicago Alton..	140	C. B. & Q.....	78¾
Chicago Gas.....	65⅝	Con. Gas.....	136¼
C. C. C. & St. L.	37⅝	C. C. & I.....	10
C. O. Cer.....	30¼	Del. Hudson.....	137¾
Del. Lack & W..	160¾	D. & R. G. pref.	32
Dis.& C. F. Co..	24⅝	East Tenn.....	4¼
Erie.....	15½	Fort Wayne.....	155b
Preferred.....	32 b	G. N. pref.....	104
C. & E. Ill. pref.	94	Hocking Val.....	18¼
Ills. Cen.....	93¾	St. P. & Duluth.	23
L. & T pref.....	24⅞	Lake Erie & W..	18
Lake Shore.....	129½	Preferred	67¾
Lead Trust.....	41	L. & N.....	48¾
L. & N. A.....	82¼	Man. Consol.....	125
Mem. & C.....	5	Michigan Cen...	97¾
Miss. Pac.....	36¾	Mobile & Ohio..	18
Nash. Chatt.....	12	Nat. Cordage....	24½
N. J Central....	108½	Preferred.....	47½
Nor. & W. pref.	21½	N. Amer. Co.....	4¼
North. Pa.....	4½	U. P. D. & Gulf.	5½
Preferred.....	5½	Northwestern ...	108½
N. Y. Central....	99¾	Preferred	141
O. S. N. & E.....	6	Ontario & West.	15⅝
Ore Im.....	14½	Oregon Nav	20
O. S. L.& U. N..	70	Pacific Mail.....	15½
Peoria Dec.&E..	9¾	Pittsburg	152 b
Pullman Palace.	171	Reading	16½
Rich. Ter.....	9	R. G. W.....	14½
Preferred.....	15	Preferred	42
Rock Island.....	69⅝	St. Paul.....	62
St. Paul & O.....	28¼	Preferred	119
Southern Pa.....	20¼	Preferred	114½
Sugar Refinery..	109¼	Tenn. C. & I....	17⅝
Texas Pacific....	8⅝	Tol. & O. C. pref.	69
Union Pacific....	18⅝	U. S. Express...	123
W. St. L. & Pa..	7¾	Wells Fargo Ex.	123
Preferred.....	16¾	Western Union	83⅝
Wheeling & L.E	12⅝	Minn. & St. L...	11
Preferred.....	48½	D. & R. G.....	10¾
Gen. Electric....	39½	Nat'l. Linseed...	12½
Col. Fuel & I.....	25	H. & Tex. Cen..	4
Preferred.....	68½	Tol. A. A. & N.M	7½
Tol.St.L. & K.C.	1	Preferred	7

SAN FRANCISCO—GENERAL.

San Francisco, May 4.—Drafts, sight, 10; telegraphic, 12½. Silver bars, 65¾@66¼. Mexican dollars, 52@53½. Wheat, quiet; December, 1.14⅝.

CHICAGO GENERAL MARKET.

Chicago, May 4.—The price of oats made a sensational advance today. The corner in May, which has recently been dormant, woke up and surprised the shorts. The prices, which for some time have been hovering around 33c., took a jump to 37⅞. Yesterday's price at the close was 31, and the advance of 1⅞ per bushel in one day in an article which does not usually move more than 11-16 of a cent in twenty-four hours, was rather a remarkable occurrence.

The chief engineer of the deal is E. Heese, who is seconded by Noble Jones. These two parties are supposed to own all the cash oats in store and the great bulk of the contract of the shorts for May delivery and the manipulators were not pushing matters. The shorts, in their anxiety to get out of the whole, were themselves responsible for today's advance. The condition of May delivery of oats is not confined to Chicago alone. May oats is a scarce article at Milwaukee and St. Louis and something like a corner in May prevails in those markets also.

While May oats were selling here at 35¾ they could be bought for July delivery at 30⅞. The position of shorts in May is to be judged from the fact that there are only about 600,000 bushels of contract oats in store and there are supposed to be about 3,000,000 sold short. The manipulators raised the screws a little at the close and let the price drop back to 35⅞.

The fine weather was no bar today to a fairly active demand for wheat. It had a bulge of ¾ in the first forty-five minutes of the session and after a slight reaction it had an additional jump of ⅝c. The trading was quite animated during the latter part of the advance. The opening prices for July were 59⅝ bid with only a sale or two at that and much more generally at 59½. It worked gradually up until it struck 60¾. There was a reaction to 59⅝, followed by a speedy bulge to 60½, from which latter point there was another reaction of ⅛, closing at an advance of ⅛ above Thursday's last quotation. The prospective decrease in the visible supply was the sole cause of the bull feeling.

The corn market was fairly active during the first half hour, when it relapsed into a quiet state. The market was firm, apparently influenced only by the strength in wheat. On a limited amount of trading, the price worked up ½ from the opening and reacted only ⅛, closing ⅛ higher than on Thursday.

The provision market was strong without much activity. The scarcity of the offerings, more than the extent of the buying, was the principal feature of the day's trade. The Cudahy Packing company were the chief buyers of pork. Swift encountered some of the stuff that had been bought yesterday. Hog receipts were only 18,000 compared with 20,000 estimated. Receipts in the west was also light. The quality of the hogs received here was said to be poor, which was another cause of uneasiness to the shorts. July pork gained 25c., closing within 5c. of the high point of the day. July lard was 7½c. higher at the close than on Thursday and ribs 10c. higher.

Estimated receipts for Saturday: Wheat, 60 cars; oats, 160 cars; hogs, 12,000 head.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

WHEAT NO. 2.—

	Open.	High.	Low.	Closing
May ..	58⅛	59¼@59½	58	59
July ..	59⅛@59⅝	60½	59⅝	60⅜
Sept ..	60⅝@60⅞	61⅝	60⅝	61½@61⅝

CORN NO. 2.—

	Open.	High.	Low.	Closing
May ..	37⅞	38⅛	37⅞	38⅛
July ..	39⅛	39¼@39⅜	39⅛	39¼@39⅜
Sept ..	40¼	40⅜	40¼	40⅜

OATS NO. 2.—

	Open.	High.	Low.	Closing
May ..	34	35⅞	34	35
June ..	33⅝	34⅞	33⅞	34½
July ..	29⅞	30½	29⅞	30¼@30⅜
Sept ..	25½	25⅝	25⅜@25½	25⅝

MESS PORK, PER BBL.—

	Open.	High.	Low.	Closing
May ..	12.40	12.47½	12.40	12.47½
July ..	12.35	12.57½	12.35	12.52½

LARD, PER 100 LBS.—

	Open.	High.	Low.	Closing
May ..	7.42½	7.45	7.42½	7.42½
July ..	7.10	7.20	7.10	7.20
Sept ..	7.10	7.20	7.10	7.17½

SHORT RIBS, PER 100 LBS.—

	Open.	High.	Low.	Closing
May ..	6.57½	6.57½	6.52½	6.55
July ..	6.35	6.47½	6.35	6.45
Sept ..	6.35	6.45	6.35	6.45

Cash quotations were as follows:

FLOUR—Dull and unchanged.

WHEAT—No. 2, spring, 58⅞; No. 3, spring, 52@55; No. 2, red, 58⅞.

CORN—No. 2, 38¼; No. 3, yellow, 39¼.

OATS—No. 2, 35; No. 2, white, 38½@38⅝; No. 3, white, 35¾@36¼.

RYE—No. 2, 46.

BARLEY—No. 2, nominal; No. 3, 54@55; No. 4, 48@54.

FLAX SEED—No. 1, 1.29.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, 4.25.

MESS PORK—12.50@12.52½.

LARD—7.42½@7.47½.

SIDES—Short clear (boxed), 6.87½@7.12½.

SHOULDERS—Dry salted (boxed), 6.00@6.25.

SHORT CLEAR—Sides (boxed), 6.87½@7.12½.

WHISKY—Distillers' finished goods, 1.15.

Article.	Rec.	Ship.
Wheat	10,000	121,000
Corn	153,000	261,000
Oats	247,000	177,000
Rye	.....	2,000
Barley	14,000	4,000

On the produce exchange today the butter market was weak, creamery, 13@16; dairy, 10@14; eggs steady at 10 cents.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK.

Chicago, May 4.

CATTLE—Receipts, 6,500; in fair demand; prime to extra native steers, 4.50@4.75; medium, 4.15@4.40; others, 3.95@4.00. Texas, 3.85@4.10.

HOGS—Receipts, 18,000; in good demand, unchanged; rough and heavy, 4.50@4.75; packers and mixed; 5.10@5.15; prime, heavy and butcher weights, 5.15@5.20; assorted light, 5.15@5.20.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—Receipts, 6,000; slow; heavy sheep not wanted; top sheep, 4.25@4.75; top lambs, 4.75@5.25.

KANSAS CITY LIVE STOCK.

Kansas City, May 4.

CATTLE.—Receipts, 5,000; shipments, 1,400. Market steady to strong. Texas steers 2.50@3.90; Texas cows, 2.00@3.15; shipping steers, 3.40@4.40; native cows, 2.00@3.00; stockers and feeders, 1.75@2.90; bulls, 2.75@3.25.

SHEEP.—Receipts, 1,500; shipments, none. Market steady.

OMAHA LIVE STOCK.

Omaha, Neb., May 4.

CATTLE—Receipts, 2,800. The general market was better. All classes of buyers were out early after supplies and business was brisker from the start, with prices strong to a dime higher than yesterday on beef steers, strong on cows and a shade firmer all around on stockers and feeders. Native steers, 3.30@4.40; western, 2.90@3.90; Texas, 2.00@3.70, cows, 1.75@3.50; feeders, 3@3.85.

SHEEP—Receipts, 300. Demand was good at steady prices. Quotations unchanged.

CALIFORNIA FRUIT.

Chicago, May 4.—The Earl Fruit company sold California cherries today at $2.50 to $3.40 per 10-pound box. These early cherries are rather small. They will become desirable as the size increases.

LIVERPOOL GRAIN.

Liverpool, May 4.

WHEAT—Demand poor, holders offer moderately. No. 1, California, 4s 11½d@5s 1d. Red Western, 4s 4½d@4d.

CORN—Quiet, demand moderate; new mixed spot, 3s 5¾d.

Receipts of American wheat were 46,000 centals. Receipts of American corn for the past three days were 120,000 centals.

NARROW GRINS.

"Don't you think that Spudkins is a very stingy man?" "He is. He doesn't even enjoy a joke at his own expense."—Pittsburg Chronicle.

Landlady—Mr. Digby will you have some of this butter? Digby—Thank you marm; I belong to the temperance society and can't take anything strong.

Hoax—Do you believe that 13 is a fatal number? Joax—Well, all the people who lived in the thirteenth century are dead.—Philadelphia Record.

Clerk—Can't I sell you a pillow sham? Mr. Hungryman—No, I live in a boarding house where the pillows and everything else are shams.—Texas Siftings.

Longwed—I listened to a moving speech this morning. Upstreete—Lawyer? Longwed—Nop; landlord. Said he was going to raise my rent.—Buffalo Courier.

Police Turnkey—Well, what is your name? Dejected Wanderer—Ain't got none. Jist call me No. 2. "No. 2?" "Yes. I'm my wife's second husband."—Indianapolis Journal.

In a museum in St. Louis one of the freaks is a man who broke his leg trying to get away from an office that was seeking him. He would make a hit in New York.—Texas Siftings.

"Miss Oldgirl is in a rage at Bluntley for speaking of her as a regular chromo." "Don't blame her. Everybody in town knows well enough she is hand painted."—Buffalo Courier.

Mr. Grumps—What earthly good would it do if women should be allowed to take a hand in politics? Mrs. Grumps—Well, for one thing we'd clean house a good deal oftener than you men voters do.—New York Weekly.

Some er these days,
When the good times come,
The cash'll jingle,
An we'll git some.
But it's jes' as well,
When there's cash to raise,
Not to bank too heavy
On "some er these days."
—Atlanta Constitution.

AN ELECTRICAL SLIP.

Public opinion had been triumphantly vindicated. The insanity plea had broken down, and Albert Prior was sentenced to be hanged by the neck until he was dead, and might the Lord have mercy on his soul. Everybody agreed that it was a righteous verdict, but now that he was sentenced they added, "Poor fellow!"

Albert Prior was a young man who had had more of his own way than was good for him. His own family—father, mother, brother and sisters—had given way to him so much that he appeared to think the world at large should do the same. The world differed with him. Unfortunately, the first to oppose his violent will was a woman—a girl almost. She would have nothing to do with him, and told him so. He stormed of course, but did not look upon her opposition as serious. No girl in her senses could continue to refuse a young man of his prospects in life. But when he heard that she had become engaged to young Bowen, the telegraph orepator, Prior's rage passed all bounds. He determined to frighten Bowen out of the place, and called at the telegraph office for that laudable purpose; but Bowen was the night operator, and was absent. The day man, with a smile, not knowing what he did, said Bowen would likely be found at the Parker place, where Miss Johnson lived with her aunt, her parents being dead.

Prior ground his teeth and departed. He found Miss Johnson at home, but alone. There was a stormy scene, ending with the tragedy. He fired four times at her, keeping the other two bullets for himself. But he was a coward and a cur at heart, and when it came to the point of putting the two bullets in himself he qualled, and thought it best to escape. Then electricity did him its first disservice. It sent his description far and wide, capturing him twenty-five miles from his home. He was taken back to the county town where he lived and lodged in jail.

Public opinion, ever right and all-powerful, now asserted itself. The outward and visible sign of its action was an ominous gathering of dark-browed citizens outside the jail. There were determined mutterings among the crowd rather than outspoken anger, but the mob was the more dangerous on that account. One man in its midst thrust his closed hand toward the sky and from his fist dangled a rope. A cry like the growling of a pack of wolves went up as the mob saw the rope, and they clamored at the gates of the jail. "Lynch him! Jailer, give up the keys!" was the cry.

The agitated sheriff knew his duty, but he hesitated to perform it.

But the keys were not given up. The clamor ceased. A young man with pale face and red eyes stood on the top of the stone wall that surrounded the gaol. He held up his hand and there was instant silence. They all recognized him as Bowen, the night operator, to whom she had been engaged.

"Gentle," he cried, and his clear voice reached the outskirts of the crowd, "don't do it. Don't put an everlasting stain on the fair name of our town. No one has ever been lynched in this county, and none in this state so far as I know. Don't let us begin it. If I thought the miserable scoundrel inside would escape—if I thought his money would buy him off—I'd be the man to lead you to batter down those doors and hang him on the nearest tree—and you know it." There were cheers at this. "But he won't escape. His money can't buy him off. He will be hanged by the law. Don't think it's mercy I'm preaching; it's vengeance!" Bowen shook his clenched fist at the goal. "That wretch there has been in hell ever since he heard your shouts. He'll be in hell, for he's a dastard, until the time his trembling legs carry him to the scaffold. I want him to stay in this hell till he drops through into the other, if there is one. I want him to suffer some of the misery he has caused. Lynching is over in a moment. I want that murderer to die by the slow, merciless cruelty of the law."

Even the worst in the crowd shuddered as they heard these words and realized as they looked at Bowen's face, almost inhuman in its rage, that his thirst for revenge made their own seem almost innocent. The speech broke up the crowd. The man with the rope threw it over into the gaol yard, shouting to the sheriff: "Take care of it, old man, you'll need it."

And so it came about, just as Bowen knew it would, that all the money and influence of the Prior family could not help the murderer, and he was sentenced to be hanged on September 21, at 6 a. m. And thus public opinion was satisfied.

But the moment the sentence was announced and the fate of the young man settled a curious change began to be noticed in public opinion. It seemed to have veered around. There was much sympathy for the family, of course. Then there came to be much sympathy for the criminal himself. People quoted the phrase about the worst use a man can be put to. Ladies sent flowers to the condemned man's cell. After all, hanging him, poor fellow, would not bring Miss Johnson back to life. However, few spoke of Miss Johnson, she was forgotten by all but one man, who ground his teeth when he realized the instability of public opinion.

Petitions were got up, headed by the local clergy. Women begged for signatures and got them. Every man and woman signed them. All except one, and even he was urged to sign by a tearful lady, who asked him to remember that vengeance was the Lord's.

"But the Lord has His instruments," said Bowen, grimly, "and I swear to you, madam, that if you succeed in getting that murderer reprieved I will be the instrument of the Lord's vengeance."

"Oh, don't say that," pleaded the lady. "Your signature would have such an effect. You were noble once and saved him from lynching; be noble again and save him from the gallows."

"I shall certainly not sign. It is, if you will pardon me, an insult to ask me. If you reprieve him you will make a murderer of me, for I will kill him when he comes out, if it is twenty years from now. You talk of lynching; it is such work as you are doing that makes lynching possible. The people seem all with you now, more shame to them, but the next murder that is committed will be followed by a lynching, just because you are successful today."

The lady left Bowen with a sigh, depressed because of the depravity of human nature, as indeed she had every right to be.

The Prior family was a rich and influential one. The person who is alive has many to help; the one in the grave has few to cry for justice. Petitions calling for mercy poured in on the governor from all parts of the state. The good man, whose eye was entirely on his own re-election, did not know what to do. If any one could have shown him mathematically that this action or the other would gain or lose him exactly so many votes, his course would have been clear, but his own advisers were uncertain about the matter. A mistake in a little thing like this might easily lose him the election. Sometimes it was rumored that the governor was going to commute the sentence to imprisonment for life; then the rumor was contradicted.

People claimed, apparently with justice, that surely imprisonment for life was a sufficient punishment for a young man, but every one knew in his own heart that the commutation was only the beginning of the fight, and that a future governor would have sufficient pressure brought to bear upon him to let the young man go.

Up to the 20th of September the governor made no sign. When Bowen went to his duties on the night of the 20th he met the sheriff.

"Has any reprieve arrived yet?" asked Bowen. The sheriff shook his head sadly. He had never yet hanged a man, and did not wish to begin.

"No," said the sheriff. "And from what I heard this afternoon none is likely to arrive. The governor has made up his mind at last that the law must take its course."

"I am glad of that," said Bowen.

"Well, I'm not."

After 9 o'clock messages almost ceased coming in, and Bowen sat reading the evening paper. Suddenly there came a call for the office, and the operator answered. As the message came over the wire Bowen wrote it down mechanically from the clicking instrument, not understanding its purport, but when he read it he jumped to his feet, with an oath. He looked wildly around the room, then realized with a sigh of relief that he was alone, except for the messenger boy who sat dozing in a corner, with his cap over his eyes. He took up the paper again, and read it with set teeth.

"Sheriff of Brenting County, Brentville:

"Do not proceed further with execution of Prior. Sentence commuted. Documents sent off by tonight's mail registered. Answer that you understand this message. JOHN DAY, Governor."

Bowen walked up and down the room with knitted brow. He was in no doubt as to what he would do, but he wanted to think over it. The tiegraph instrument called to him and he turned to it, giving the answering click. The message was to himself from the operator at the capital, and it told him he was to forward the sheriff's telegram without delay, and report to the office at the capital—a man's life depended on it, the message concluded. Bowen answered that the telegram to the sheriff would be immediately sent.

Taking another telegraph blank, he wrote:

"Sheriff of Brenting County, Brentville:

"Proceed with execution of Prior. No reprieve will be sent. Reply if you understand this message.

"JOHN DAY, Governor."

It is a pity it cannot be written that Bowen felt some compunction at what he was doing. We like to think that, when a man deliberately commits a crime, he should hesitate and pay enough deference to the proprieties as to feel at least a temporary regret, even if he goes on with his crime afterward. Bowen's thoughts were upon the dead girl, not on the living man. He roused the dozing telegraph messenger.

"Here," he said, "take this to the goal and find the sheriff. If he is not there go to his residence. If he is asleep wake him up. Tell him this wants an angwer. Give him a blank, and when he has filled it up, bring it to me; give the message to no one else, mind."

The boy said "yes sir," and departed into the night. He returned so quickly that Bowen knew without asking that he had found the sleepless sheriff at the goal. The message to the governor, written in a trembling hand by the sheriff, was: "I understand that the execution is to take place. If you should change your mind, for God's sake telegraph as soon as possible. I shall delay execution until last moment allowed by law."

Bowen did not send that message, but another. He laughed—and then checked himself in alarm, for his laugh sounded strange. "I wonder if I am quite sane," he said to himself. "I doubt it."

The night wore slowly on. A man representing a press association came in after 12 and sent a long dispatch. Bowen telegraphed it, taking the chances that the receiver would not communicate with the sender of the reprieve at the capital. He knew how mechanically news of the greatest importance was taken off the wire by men who have automatically been doing that for years. Anyhow all the copper and zinc in the world could not get a message into Brentingville, except through him, until the day operator came on and then it would be too late.

The newspaper man, lingering, asked if there would be only one telegrapher on hand after the execution.

"I shall have a lot of stuff to send over and I want it rushed. Some of the papers may get out specials. I would have brought an operator with me, but thought there was going to be a reprieve—although the sheriff didn't seem to think so," he added.

The day operator will be here after 6, and I will return as soon as I've had a cup of coffee, and we'll handle all you can write?" answered Bowen, without looking up from his instrument.

"Thanks. Grim business, isn't it?"

"It is."

"I thought the governor would cave; didn't you?"

"I didn't know."

"He's a shrewd old villain. He'd have lost next election if he'd reprieved this man. People don't want to see lynching introduced and a weak-kneed governor is Judge Lynch's friend. Well, good night; see you in the morning."

"Good night," said Bowen.

Daylight gradually dimmed the lamps in the telegraph room, and Bowden started and caught his breath as the church bell began to toll.

It was 10 minutes after 6 when Bowen's partner, the day man, came in.

"Well, they've hanged him," he said.

Bowen was fumbling among some papers on his table. He folded two of them and put them in his inside pocket. Then he spoke:

"There will be a newspaper man here in a few moments with a good deal of copy to telegraph. Rush it off as fast as you can and I'll be back to help before you are tired."

As Bowen walked toward the gaol he met the scattered group of those who had been privileged to see the execution. They were discussing capital punishment and some were yawningly complaining about the unearthly hour chosen for the function they has just beheld. Between the outside gate and the gall door Bowen met the sheriff, who was looking ghastly and sallow in the fresh morning light.

"I have come to give myself up," said Bowen, before the official could greet him.

"To give yourself up? What for?"

"For murder, I suppose."

"This is no time for joking, young man," said the sheriff severely.

"Do I look like a humorist? Read that."

First incredulity, then horror,