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Kansas City have made up their minds that
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A SENSELESS SCARE.

The strangest thing about the money scare
which this country has experienced for some
weeks past, is the unquestionable evidence
of great prosperity, side by side with the
most depressing complaints of business dull-
ness and the most gloomy predictions of
financial disaster. It has been repeated
from mouth to mouth, and printed in the
papers time and again, that general mercan-
tile business is dull everywhere. Yet there
is the fact, shown by the weekly reports of
railroad earnings, that the distribution of
staple products is extraordinarily large and
is steadily increasing. Fifty-one railroad
companies reporting to the New York *Chron-
icle* for the fourth week in June show net
earnings 3.92 per cent greater than for the
corresponding time last year. For the
month of June eighty-two roads show
an increase of 1.27 per cent. This in-
crease in earnings has come almost en-
tirely from freight on the hundreds of articles turned out of
factories for the use of the people and from
the shipments of food products from one
section of the country to another. It would
be impossible for this large movement of
goods to continue unless wholesalers were
doing a large business and they in turn
could not keep up their business without an
active retail trade throughout the country.
The question therefore arises, is business
dull or have merchants simply taken up the
complaint of their neighbors and uncon-
sciously exaggerated the condition of their
own business because of the general uneas-
iness in trade circles?

It cannot be doubted that when the worst
has been said the actual conditions have
been not half as bad as they have been
painted. What the *Wall Street Daily News*
said on this matter a few days ago is perfect-
ly true:

If anyone had ventured to predict the financial
and commercial difficulties which we have ex-
perienced during the past six months, one would un-
hesitatingly have said that we could not possibly
have gone through them without more serious and
lasting injury, and without really graver disasters
than we have encountered.

Yet the country has gone through a period
of terrible strain and there has hardly been
a break in the general prosperity of the
country. The total bank clearings of the
country last week were only 8 per cent less
than the clearings of the corresponding week
last year. When it is remembered that the
bank clearings represent only that part of the
country's financial transactions which are in
the form of checks deposited in a bank other
than that upon which they are drawn, this
small decrease appears extraordinary. Credit
at banks has been almost entirely withdrawn
for weeks from several important branches

to turn sick and faint in the presence of the
fearful spectacle. The loss of life might
have been greater, but the reality is so ter-
rible that the public mind cannot consider
the greater misfortune which was escaped
by confining the fire to one building. It
turns out—alas, too late—that the doomed
structure was a fire-trap. It seems to have
been constructed in utter disregard of every
rule of safety and in a manner to involve
the largest possible percentage of risk and
danger. These discoveries are always made
when the knowledge ceases to be of any
value. The revelation in this case will only
intensify the sorrow and regret which will
be felt everywhere over the fate of the brave
firemen whose lives went out in such a fate-
ful manner at Jackson park yesterday. It
ought to serve to render impossible the con-
struction of such death-traps in the future,
but experience does not always prevent the
repetition of error and disaster.

SECRETARY SMITH has decided that a
pensioner drawing a pension for total dis-
ability must be shown to be physically in-
capable of performing manual labor. Ben-
eficiaries of this law whose claims are
questioned have been notified that their
pensions will be suspended for sixty days,
during which time they will be required to
produce the certificate of a reputable
physician, properly attested by reliable
witnesses, showing cause for a continuance
of their pensions. This is merely following
out the letter and the spirit of the law. It
is intended to aid persons who are unable to
work. The investigation cannot injure any-
body who has a rightful claim upon the
Government under this act. The course of
Secretary SMITH will call forth plenty of
buncombe about the hostile attitude of the
Administration to the old soldiers, but it is
plainly and unmistakably in the line of
public duty. The monstrous abuses which
have sprung up in connection with the pen-
sion system make it necessary to separate
the wheat from the tares, and that is one of
the duties which is expected of the present
Administration. The country is ready for
this reform, and there is nobody to whom it
will prove as advantageous as to the deserv-
ing pensioners.

THE Supreme Court of the United States
has finally settled a question which has proved
a source of vexatious disputation in this coun-
try for many years. In ruling upon a tariff
law which was recently submitted to its atten-
tion it decided that the tomato is a vegetable
and not a fruit. Now if the watermelon can
be properly classified by judicial edict, there
will be nothing left for the American people
to quarrel over but silver.

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of business. That, of course, has reduced the check payments and increased the cash transactions. The distrust which has prevailed has resulted in impelling timid people to rush straight to the bank for the payment of checks which they receive, instead of letting them go through the ordinary channels which would take many of them to the Clearing House. Farther than that, many people have withdrawn deposits from banks and instead of paying with checks for purchases, they have paid with cash. It is most remarkable, therefore, that the decrease in bank clearings should be so slight. A falling off of 50 per cent. in clearing-house transactions would not be a surprising result from conditions such as have been depicted in the current gossip of the past few weeks.

When the facts noted here are considered the conclusion is irresistible that conditions have been grossly exaggerated and that even the actual state of affairs is in large part a result of a senseless scare.

The scare is passing away and six months from now the business world will realize that, instead of passing through flood and fire, as it imagines it has been doing for a month, it has simply had a bad nightmare. People sometimes fall out of bed and get hurt when they have bad dreams. Many people have suffered in the present instance. But all the same it has been very largely a senseless scare.

A LESSON FOR ALL CITIES.

The Chicago correspondent for the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* writes:

There is a lesson for St. Louis in the boulevard and park system of Chicago. When Chicago had a million people somebody had the far thought to plan a system of parks and many miles of connecting thoroughfares for 1 million. Then, it seemed like a journey to the interior of Illinois to reach some of Chicago's parks, and the beautiful walks were a revelation to vast stretches of pasture. Now, the parks are almost gone, and the boulevard is a rather to be desired.

A TRIP THROUGH THE AIR.

The Ferris Wheel, Which Is the Eiffel Tower of the World's Fair.

From Harper's Weekly.

Now that it is finished, the great Ferris wheel, to which reference has been previously made in this paper, is the landmark of the World's fair at Jackson park. Whether the visitor approaches the fair from the lake or by the Illinois Central railway, the huge wheel is about the first thing to catch the eye. The top of the wheel is 265 feet above the ground, as the wheel is 250 feet in diameter and the bottom of it is fifteen feet above ground. This huge plaything, a gigantic merry-go-round running vertically, instead of horizontally, is a splendid point of observation, from which a visitor can take bearings and arrange plans for seeing the fair.

The wheel is something like 825 feet in circumference, and as it requires ten minutes for each revolution, the passengers have plenty of time in which to see what lies about them. As the wheel ascends a better view may be had of Chicago and the prairies beyond than from any of the tall buildings in town; and as the wheel descends, there is the fair—the White City—stretched in front, the lake beyond, and the busy Midway Plaisance right underneath. There are thirty-six cars attached to the periphery of the wheel, the attachment being by an axle in the top of the car, which, swinging freely and having its weight at the bottom, always remains parallel with the earth. As each car holds forty, the total capacity of the wheel is 1,440 passengers.

Candor compels the confession that one does not step into the cars of the wheel without some trepidation. It is an engineering novelty. Nothing like it was ever built or attempted before. After paying his admission fee at the entrance gate he is ushered up the platform and steps into the nearest cars, swinging by its great trunion pin between the two rims of the wheels. The car is substantially built, neatly upholstered and roomy. The passenger no sooner enters it than tremors creep over him. But there is a feeling of reassurance when he recalls the stability of the structure, the cog wheels and air brakes and all other provisions against accidents.

Slowly, steadily, with a motion that tells of an immense hidden power, the great wheel begins its revolution. Inch by inch and toot by foot the car gradually rises, clear of the platform. Above and below is a wonderful network of steel spoked and other cars by the dozen. The passenger has a soaring sensa-

WASHED AWAY

How an Alum Mining to a Truthful

From the New York Herald.

"Did you ever hear asked the Montana m plied in the negative tinued:

"Well, it was this Butte City and another ing near Bannock, wh pure alum. They tas straight. Then they located the claim. The bit and found t about 20x37 feet, the earth at an angle their tools in the outfit to cover their assess shaft was down about they knocked off. W layout you'd ever seen tell about it over and went right down strai of alum as clear as cr out a slab of the stuff and they had a lookin lady would want. Th but they spent more there mirror than they before, and neither of that.

"Well, bimby they on the cayuses and s get windlasses, men a work the claim. Th the rainy season sets i had to stay in town u creeks and streams wa they showed that alum the druggists said if h in good shape that the lionaires. Well, ever stuff and saw the open up they had to them two weeks in of blues for drinks. When the rain slowed town early one mor some of the boys wa wasn't takin' no chan them up. It took a place, 'n they got ther moran' they was all a break for their claim. The stakes was all rig sign of the shaft whi alum that they had be