

friends are now candid enough to acknowledge the advantages that are to accrue to the mercantile classes from the refusal of northwestern farmers last fall to place their main crop out of their hands at the speculators' own prices. When the MILWAUKEE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE advised the producers to sell only wheat enough to pay their debts and to hold the rest until the world wanted it, we were assailed by such admirable protectors of northwestern interests as the Nation, the N. Y. Tribune, the Springfield Republican and nearly all the eastern commercial papers. These journals warned us that we were ruining the farmers by enticing them to hold wheat in the fall that they would be obliged to give away in the spring, that we were ruining merchants by keeping their farmer customers from paying their debts. It now appears, according to the Nation, that the farmers of the northwest as a general thing paid their debts as they went along, as the MILWAUKEE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE admonished them to do, and that the merchants of the country are the immediate gainers from the circumstance that the farmers waited to sell their wheat crop at a profit instead of selling it on a forced market. Other journals last fall may have had the sense to comprehend this subject as well as the MILWAUKEE JOURNAL OF COMMERCE. Few had the courage to take the stand which that paper took.

#### Insulting Italians.

Charles Warren Stoddard writes from Venice: "How these Italians do enjoy insulting the servants of the public! Only the other night a ballet was put on at the Venice wherein an admirable artist, but a rather homely woman, made her first appearance in Venice. There was much excitement in the house in consequence of a predisposition on the part of some present to prevent the reappearance of the lady in question. It seems that certain members of the press had demanded of her those favors that lose their value as soon as granted, and, upon being indignantly repulsed, they resolved to ruin the engagement of the dancer. Her entrance was

the signal for a most disgraceful uproar, that was continued to the very close of the long ballet. The lady probably never danced so well before as she danced that night. Stung with the insults of the baser members of the audience she surpassed herself. From our seats in the orchestra we saw the tears streaming down her face, and to her the hour must have been one of exquisite agony. Three times she fainted behind the scenes but recovered in season to renew her efforts to please with a grace and spirit I have never seen surpassed. Inasmuch as at the ballet continued to the close and she had not positively been hissed from the stage the manager could not break his engagement with her. She appeared on the second night, and the miserable wretches who were so noisome on the evening previous having exhausted themselves her success was unqualified, and she is now dancing before delighted and more appreciative audiences."

#### An Actress's Repartee.

A writer gives the following example of Augustine Brohan's powers of repartee: "One evening she was sitting in the foyer, recruiting herself with a cup of *consomme*, and surrounded, as usual, by a levee of admirers, among whom was Desnoyers, then stage-manager of the Theatre Francais. 'Augustine,' said he, 'you have always an answer for everything, but I intend to puzzle you. I will give you a sentence, in which I will introduce the name of a town. You are to reply in one word, which must not only be *apropos* to what I say, but must also signify a city or town, in France or out of it. I am not particular. *Ca-va-t-il?*' 'Ca-va,' said the actress. 'Bien,' pursued the *regisseur*. 'Commencons. Il parait que tu aimes le *bouillon?*' 'Elbeuf' (et l'boeuf), replied Augustine, without moving a muscle. 'Bravo!' cried the delighted circle. Desnoyers looked rather crestfallen, but, recovering himself continued in a pathetic tone, 'Si tu me joues de ces *tours-la*, j'en mourrai!' This time Augustine rose from her seat, stared him full in the face, and exclaimed with perfectly annihilating emphasis, 'Peris, gueux!' (Perigueux.)"

THE WISCONSIN LUMBERMAN will be largely improved during its coming year. No lumberman can afford to be without this publication.