

BUSINESS SLOW TO RECOVER IN EAST

I. Freimuth Says Conditions Are Improving Slowly—Buyers Get Fine Stock.

I. Freimuth, head of the Freimuth department store, who returned yesterday from a buying trip in the east, says the conditions there are much less encouraging than they are in the west, and particularly the middle section of the country.

"Some improvement financially is noticeable," he said last night. "But the situation is far from satisfactory. The trade is not what it was a year ago, by any means, but it is slightly better than it was two months ago.

"The east is depending mainly on the west for the bulk of its business this spring. The buying demand of the middle west will probably be the salvation of many of the big manufacturers and jobbers of eastern states. The western merchants are bringing in orders steadily, although they are not buying as heavily as a year ago, while the eastern trade is very slack. The local retail business in New York has fallen off, and none of the big stores are busy, as they usually are at this time of the year.

"Merchandise is not very scarce at the present time, but there is certainly not an over supply of it. Every importer and jobber thinks that there will be scarcity later on, however, and this will tend to stimulate manufacturing and business generally."

Mr. Freimuth says his buyers have selected as fine a stock of goods as has ever been brought back from New York, and that the house is prepared to meet brisk spring trade in spite of the handicap under which they are working in displaying stock on account of the delay in the completion of the new store space.

"After seeing the conditions in New York all the western buyers, I think, came home feeling that they were particularly fortunate in escaping the real brunt of the financial depression," said Mr. Freimuth. "The middle western portion of the country, I venture to say, is much better off than any section in the United States."