

## THE SPECULATIVE MARKETS.

Bears Have Their Hands Full Keeping Down May Wheat.

## BUYERS HOLD THE WINNING HANDS.

Still Harping on Dodge—The Usual Bull Rumor—The Crowd Fights Shy of Partridge and His Bear Tactics.

**CHICAGO, Jan. 8.—**(Special Telegram to THE BEE)—There was nothing remarkable about the opening of the board of trade markets today. Prices were little changed, and there was no unusual news at hand to indicate any great change in prices. After some routine trading in the morning, the market became dead, developed considerable strength. May wheat sold from \$0.50 to 97c, even from \$0.25 to 95c, from 45c to 46c. Pork started at 11.25c and advanced to 11.45. Lard and ribs were firm and a shade higher.

It appears to be more than the bears are able to do to keep the price of May wheat below 97c for any length of time. By 10:30 a.m. the price had advanced to 97c, even to 97c 1/2 at the close of yesterday, after selling up to 97c twice during the session. The price started at the closing figure, and on some local hammering touched 97c 1/2, with a bulge at once on ordinary buying to 97c. Once or twice later, the price rested at 97c, but the bulk of the trading was above that figure. Before noon the market moved up to 97c 1/2, and closed at 97c 1/2, even to 97c 1/2.

The news of the day, both local and foreign, was conflicting, but buyers had the best of it. Early Liverpool cables were firm, with prices unchanged. Private cables reported a 4d advance at the close. Snows in the southwest were favorable for the growing crop. The statement was around with no authority, quoted that the Dutch figures would be out on Monday. Reports of heavy rains made the yield large enough to have a bullish effect. An easier feeling in money centers indicated by the return of the Bank of England rate to 4 per cent and fair export clearances, principally in flour helped buyers. New York and New Orleans each cleared 2,000 bushels of wheat; New York 8,000 barrels of flour and Baltimore 38,000 barrels of flour. Lard—Opened weak; closed firm; western steam, \$0.275c. Lard—Opened weak; closed firm; western cream, 18.28c; Elgin, 18c.

**CHICAGO, Jan. 8.—**1 p.m., close—Wheat-Steady; cash, \$0.95; May, 95c. Corn—Steady; cash, 46c; May, 53c. Oats—Steady; cash, 40c; May, 46c. Pork—Steady; cash, \$0.675c; May, \$1.10. Lard—Steady; cash, May, 46c. Partridge—Steady; cash, \$0.25; May, \$0.675c.

Rye—Firm at 65c. Barley—Firm at 65c. Flax—Firm at 65c. Whisky—\$1.11. Peppermint oil—\$1.00. Butter—Sweet creamery, 16c; 20c; dairy, 14c.

Cheese—Steady; full cream cheddars, 65c; 70c; half cream, Young Americans, 60c. Eggs—Firm at 65c. Hides—Unchanged; light and heavy green, saffron, 41c; green, 48c; salted, 41c.

FLOUR—Slow; steady, 40c. Oats—Steady; 40c. Peas—Steady; 40c. Beans—Steady; 40c. Rye—Firm at 65c.

Lard—Open weak; closed firm; western cream, 18.28c; Elgin, 18c.

Cheese—Firmer; light creamery, 41c; 45c.

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