COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

Wheat Shows an Advancing Tendency Throughout the Day.

OTHER GRAINS FOLLOW IN ITS TRAIN

Bears Not Inclined to Put Out Short Lines at the Advance—Provisions Start Strong, but Advance Lost Later.

CHICAGO, Feb. 19.—The advancing tendency of today's wheat market was uninterrupted, except by the moderate reactions which are its regular accompaniment, the May option closing at a 1c advance. Renewed war rumors were the cause of the closing strength. Corn and oats were stronger and closed ¼c higher each. Provisions started strong, but lost all the advance later and closed at substantially unchanged figures.

There was very nearly a repetition of the Thursday market in wheat for the morning. May opened in rather an uncertain manner at 75⅛@75⅜c, against yesterday's closing figures of 75¼@75⅜c, but with hardly any trading at the lower of the quotations, sales as a rule being made at 75¼c. The price kept creeping up slowly on moderate and scattering buying, with no disposition of buyers to take profits or bears to put out short lines at the better figures. About the only explanation offered was that the whole trade felt bullish—that there was a feeling that wheat will do better. Liverpool opened only ¼d higher, which was no more than had been expected, but advanced later and proved moderately helpful. Northwest receipts showed a small decrease, 253 cars, against 356 last year. But the lethargy did not last long. The slow advance of the first hour was followed by a sudden burst of buying, which did not seem altogether a surprise to the pit. As the May price touched 75⅝c Logan's leading broker began bidding for 100,000 or 200,000 bu. at a time. He bought 1,250,000 bu. in less than a minute, getting part of it at 76c. At that figure the crop appeared to be for sale and a sluggish reaction to 75⅝c ensued. Chicago received twenty-one carloads and 75,000 bu. were inspected out of store. The shipments hence by rail were 29,000 bu. and by canal 9,000 bu. The Atlantic port clearances were 420,000 bu. in wheat and flour together. After the decline to 75⅝c the market ruled very dull until about 12 o'clock, when a report was put into circulation of actual fighting between the Greeks and Turks. This caused a somewhat excited bulge to 76½c, but plenty was offered at that price and a reaction took place, the market closing firm, however, at 75⅞@76c.

Corn was in good demand and fairly active. The strength in wheat and the very heavy export clearances were the chief reasons for the strength. There was good buying by several prominent houses, largely in the way of covering by shorts, and prices were firmly maintained to the end. Atlantic port clearances were 1,128,444 bu. May opened a shade higher at 24⅝c, sold a shade lower and advanced to 24¾@24⅞c, where it closed.

Oats acted in concert with wheat and corn, opening steady at or very near to yesterday's values and advancing to close firm. The better feeling was not brought about through sympathy alone, for outside shorts were buying and this item contributed to the buoyancy of the market. May opened at 17⅝c, sold to 17⅞c and closed with sellers at 17⅝c.

The activity which came into the provision market a few days ago was again noticed in today's business. Hog receipts were again exceptionally small and though fluctuations were frequent the general tendency of the market during the morning was upward. Liberal selling caused a sharp decline in the afternoon, which was arrested, however, before prices got materially below yesterday's. At the close May pork was a shade higher at $8.02½, sold May lard about 2½c higher at $4.02@4.05 and May ribs a shade lower at $4.10@4.12½.

The estimated receipts for Saturday are: Wheat, 18 cars; corn, 195 cars; oats, 270 cars; hogs, 17,000 head.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

Articles.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.	Y'est'y.
*Wheat—					
Feb....	73⅝@¾	75	73⅝	74⅞	73¾
May....	75⅛@⅜	76⅛	75⅛	76⅛@⅜	75⅛@⅜
July....	71⅞@¾	73	71⅞	73	71⅞
Sept....	70⅛	71¼	70⅛	71¼	69⅞
*Corn—					
Feb....	22⅝	22⅝@⅝	22⅝	22⅝@⅝	22⅝@⅝
May....	24⅛	24⅛@⅜	24	24⅛@⅜	24⅛@⅜
July....	25⅝@¾	25⅝	25⅝@¾	25⅝@¾	25⅝@¾
Sept....	26⅛	26⅛	26⅛	26⅛	26⅛@⅜
*Oats—					
Feb....	....	....	....	15⅝	15⅛
May....	17⅝	17⅝@⅞	17⅝	17⅝	17⅛
July....	18	18⅛	18	18⅛	17⅞
Pork—					
May....	8 05	8 12½	8 00	8 02½	8 00
July....	8 22½	8 25	8 15	8 15	8 12½
Lard—					
May....	4 00	4 10	4 00	4 05	4 00
July....	4 10	4 20	4 10	4 12½	4 07½
Sh't Ribs					
May....	4 12½	4 17½	4 10	4 12½	4 12½
July....	4 20	4 25	4 20	4 20	4 17½

* No. 2.

Cash quotations were as follows:

FLOUR—Steady; winter patents, $4.35@4.60; straights, $4.10@4.30; spring specials, $4.50; spring patents, $4.00@4.30; spring straights, $3.40@3.70; bakers, $3.00@3.40.

WHEAT—No. 2 spring, 74⅞@75⅝c; No. 3 spring, 72@73c; No. 2 red, 85¼@85½c.

CORN—No. 2, 22½@22¾c; No. 2 yellow, 22½@22¾c.

OATS—No. 2, 16¾@16½c; No. 2 white, f. o. b., 18½@19c; No. 3 white, f. o. b., 19@19c.

RYE—No. 2, 35c.

BARLEY—No. 2, nominal; No. 3, f. o. b., 26@33c; No. 4, f. o. b., 22½@25c.

FLAXSEED—No. 1, 74½@77c.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, $2.60.

PROVISIONS—Pork, mess, per bbl., $7.90@7.95. Lard, per 100 lbs., $3.92½. Short ribs sides (loose), $3.95@4.20. Dry salted shoulders (boxed), $4.50@4.75. Short clear sides (boxed), $4.25@4.37½.

WHISKY—Distillers' finished goods, per gal., $1.17.

SUGAR—Cut loaf, $5.26; granulated, $4.64.

The following were the receipts and shipments today:

Articles.	Receipts.	Shipments.
Flour, bbls.....	11,000	9,000
Wheat, bu.....	18,000	58,000
Corn, bu.....	185,000	252,000
Oats, bu.....	494,000	272,000
Rye, bu.....	5,000	1,000
Barley, bu.....	81,000	46,000

On the Produce exchange today the butter market was steady; creamery, 18@20c; dairy, 9@17c. Eggs steady; fresh, 15c. Cheese, steady, 9½@10½c. Dressed poultry, firm; turkeys, 11@11½c; chickens, 6@7c; ducks, 10@11c.

NEW YORK GENERAL MARKET.

Quotations of the Day on General Commodities.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—FLOUR—Receipts, 5,300 bbls.; exports, 4,715 bbls.; market firm and higher, particularly on spring; southern flour, steady; city, winter patents, $4.00@4.65; Minnesota patents, $4.35@4.45; Minnesota bakers, $3.70@3.90; winter low grades, $2.60@2.90. Rye flour, easy; fancy, $2.80@2.90. Buckwheat flour, dull, $1.25.

BUCKWHEAT—Dull, 74c.

CORN MEAL—Dull; yellow western, 86c.

RYE—Firm; No. 2 western, 38¾@39c.

BARLEY—Dull; feeding, 29½c.

BARLEY MALT—Quiet.

WHEAT—Receipts, 49,950 bu.; exports, 31,226 bu. Spot firmer; No. 1 hard, 85½c. Options opened steady and was strong, with few interruptions all day; closing 1@1½c net higher; the advance was based on higher foreign news and late wet weather, inducing a covering by shorts; No. 2 February closed at 83½c; May, 80⅝@82c, closed at 82c.

CORN—Receipts, 164,775 bu.; exports, 27,821 bu. Spot firm; No. 2, 21⅝c. Options opened steady and advanced on covering and heavy clearances; closing ⅛c net higher; February closed at 25⅝c; May, 29⅝@30⅛c, closed at 30⅛c.

OATS—Receipts, 117,600 bu.; exports, 40,377 bu. Spot firm; No. 2, 21⅝c. Options quiet, but firm, with the other markets; closing ⅛c net higher; February closed at 20½c; May, 21½c, closed at 21½c.

HAY—Steady; shipping, 50@55c; good to choice, 60@72½c.

HOPS—Steady; state, common to choice, 1895 crop, 5@7c; 1896 crop, 8@13c; Pacific coast, 1895 crop, 5@7c.

HIDES—Firm; Texas, dry, 16@18c; Galveston, 13c; California, 19½c.

LEATHER—Firm; hemlock sole, Buenos Ayres, light to heavy weights, 19½@20½c.

PROVISIONS—Beef, steady; cut meats, firm; pickled bellies, 4½@4½c; pickled shoulders, 4@4¼c. Lard, firm; western, steady at 4.12½; refined, firm. Pork, firm; mess, $8.50@9.00; family, $9.50@10.00. Tallow, steady; city, 3¼c; country, 3⅛c.

BUTTER—Receipts, 3,668 pkgs.; market steady; western creamery, 12@20c; Elgins, 20c; factory, 7@12½c.

CHEESE—Receipts, 721 pkgs.; market steady; state, large, 9@10½c; small, 9@12½c; part skims, 5@9½c; full skims, 2@3½c.

EGGS—Receipts, 2,932 pkgs.; market firm; state and Pennsylvania, 16c; western, 12½@16c; southern, 12@13½c.

OILS—Petroleum, steady; United closed at 91½c bid. Rosin, dull. Turpentine, easy.

RICE—Steady; fair to extra, 3¼@4¼c; Japan, 4¼@4⅝c.

MOLASSES—Quiet; open kettle, good to choice, 22@32c.

METALS—Pig iron, easy; southern, $10.25@12.00; northern, $11.00@12.50. Copper, easy; brokers, $12; exchange, $12. Tin, very quiet; straits, domestic, $14.00@14.05. Lead, steady; exchange, $3.25@3.50; brokers, $3.55.

Liverpool Grain and Provisions.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 19.—WHEAT—Spot steady; demand moderate; No. 2 red, spring, 4s 3d; No. 1 California, 6s 0½d. Futures opened quiet, with near positions unchanged and distant positions ¼d higher; closed firm; business about equally distributed. February, 6s 3d; March, 6s 3½d; May, 6s 4¾d; July, 6s 4d.

CORN—Spot firm; American, new, 3s 7½d. Futures opened easy, with near and distant positions ¼d higher; closing steady, with near and distant positions unchanged to ¼d higher; business about equally distributed; February, 2s 5d; March, 2s 7¼d; April, 2s 7½d; May, 2s 8¼d; June, 2s 8¾d; July, 2s 9¼d.

FLOUR—Steady; demand poor; St. Louis fancy, winter, 8s 6d.

PROVISIONS—Bacon, steady; demand fair; Cumberland cut, 28 to 30 lbs., 27s; short ribs, 20 to 24 lbs., 35s 6d; long clear, light, 35 to 38 lbs., 28s 6d; long clear, heavy, 40 to 45 lbs., 24s 6d; short clear backs, light, 18 lbs., 24s 6d; short clear middles, heavy, 45 to 50 lbs., 24s; clear bellies, 14 to 16 lbs., 26s 6d. Shoulders, square, 12 to 13 lbs., 25s 6d. Hams, short cut, 14 to 16 lbs., 40s 6d. Tallow, fine North American, 18s. Beef, extra India mess, 60s; prime mess, 48s 6d. Pork, prime mess, fine western, 45s; medium western, 40s. Lard, steady; prime western, 20s 6d.

CHEESE—Dull; demand poor; finest American, white and colored (September), 58s 6d.

BUTTER—Finest United States, 90s; good, 55s.

PETROLEUM—Refined, 6¼d.

REFRIGERATOR BEEF—Forequarters, 4d; hindquarters, 5¼d.

HOPS—At London (Pacific coast), £3 15s.

Receipts for the past three days, wheat, 246,000 centals, including 129,000 American. American corn, 189,300 centals.

WEATHER—Warm and moist.

OMAHA GENERAL MARKET.

Condition of Trade and Quotations on Staple and Fancy Produce.

EGGS—Fresh gathered, 12c.

BUTTER—Common to fair, 9@10c; choice to fancy roll, 13@14c; separator creamery, 20c; gathered creamery, 15@16c.

GAME—Blue winged teal ducks, $1.75; green wing, $1.50; redheads and mallards, $3.75; small rabbits, 40@50c; jacks, $1.00@1.25; squirrels, 60@70c; Canada geese, large, $6.00@7.00; small, $4.00@5.00.

CHEESE—Domestic bricks, 10½c; Edam, per doz., $9; club house, 1-lb. jars, per doz., $3.15; Limberger, fancy, per lb., 9½c; Roquefort, ½-lb. jars, per doz., $3.60; Young Americas, 10½c; twins, fancy, 10½c.

VEAL—Choice fat, 80 to 120 lbs., are quoted at 7@7½c; large and coarse, 4@5c.

DRESSED POULTRY—Chickens, 6@7c; turkeys, 10@11c; geese, 7@7c; ducks, 8@9c.

LIVE POULTRY—Hens, 5@5½c; cocks, 3@4c.

PIGEONS—Live, 75@90c; dead pigeons, not wanted.

HAY—Upland, $4.50; midland, $4; lowland, $3.50; rye straw, $3.50; color makes the price on hay; light bales sell the best; only top grades bring top prices.

BROOM CORN—Extremely slow sale; new crop, delivered on track in country; choice green self-working carpet, per lb., 2@2½c; choice green, running to hurl, 2@2¼c; common, 1½c.

VEGETABLES.

SWEET POTATOES—On orders, per bbl., $1.75.

ONIONS—Good stock, per bu., $1.

LIMA BEANS—Per lb., 3c.

BEANS—Hand picked navy, per bu., $1.25@1.35.

CABBAGE—Fancy stock, per 100 lbs., $2.

CELERY—Per doz., 25c; fancy, 35c.

POTATOES—Good native stock, per bu., 30c.

FRUITS.

MALAGA GRAPES—Per keg, $7.

CRANBERRIES—Cape Cod, per bbl., $6.00@6.50.

APPLES—Fancy, New York, $1.60@1.65; extra fancy, large, $1.75.

CALIFORNIA PEARS—Per box, $2.

TROPICAL FRUITS.

ORANGES—Mexican, $2.75@3.00; California navels, 150s to 200s, $3.75; large sizes, $3.25@3.50; seedling, $2.75.

LEMONS—Messinas, $3.00@3.50; choice California, $2.75; fancy, $2.75@3.00.

BANANAS—Choice, large stock, per bunch, $2.00@2.25; medium-sized bunches, $1.50@2.00.

MISCELLANEOUS.

HONEY—Choice, 13@14c.

CIDER—Clarified juice, per half bbl., $2.50; per bbl., $4.00@4.25.

MAPLE SYRUP—Five gal. cans, each, $2.50@2.75; gal. cans, per doz., $12; half-gal. cans, $6.25; quart cans, $3.50.

NUTS—Almonds, California, per lb., large size, 13c; Brazils, per lb., 10c; English walnuts, per lb., fancy, soft shell, 12@12½c; standards, 11@11½c; filberts, per lb., 10c; pecans, polished, large, 9@10c; jumbo, 11@12c; large hickory nuts, $1.25 per bu.; small, $1.50; cocoanuts, 5c each.

FIGS—Imported fancy, 5 crown, 30-lb. boxes, 15c; choice, 10-lb. boxes, 3 crown, 11c.

HIDES, TALLOW, ETC.

HIDES—No. 1 green hides, 5½c; No. 2 green hides, 4½c; No. 1 green salted hides, 7c; No. 2 green salted hides, 6c; No. 1 veal calf, 8 to 12 lbs., 7c; No. 2 veal calf, 8 to 15 lbs., 6c; No. 1 dry flint hides, 8@10c; No. 2 dry flint hides, 6@9c; No. 1 dry salted hides, 8@9c; part cured hides, ½c per lb. less than fully cured.

SHEEP PELTS—Green salted, each, 25@60c; green salted, shearlings short wooled early skins, each, 15c; dry shearlings (short wooled early skins), No. 1, each, 5c; dry flint, Kansas and Nebraska butcher wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 4@5c; dry flint, Kansas and Nebraska Murrain wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 3@4c; dry flint Colorado butcher wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 4@5c; dry flint Colorado Murrain wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 3@4c; feet cut off, as it is useless to pay freight on them.

TALLOW AND GREASE—Tallow, No. 1, 3c; tallow, No. 2, 2½c; grease, white A, 3c; grease, white B, 2c; grease, yellow, 3c; grease, dark, 1½c. Wax—Old yellow, 22@24c; beeswax, prime, 15@22c; rough tallow, 1c.

WOOL—Unwashed, fine heavy, 6@7c; fine light, 8@9c; quarterblood, 10@12c; cody, burry and chaffy, 8@9c; cotted and broken, coarse, 7@9c; cotted and broken, fine, 8@9c. Fleece washed—Medium, 15@18c; fine, 14@16c; tub washed, 16@18c black, 8c; bucks, 6c; tag locks, 2@5c, dead pulled, 8@9c.

HONES—In car lots, weighed and delivered in Chicago: Dry buffalo, per ton, 12.00@14.00; dry country, bleached, per ton, $10.00@12.00; dry country, damp and meaty, per ton, $6.00@8.00.

DRESSED—Good native steers, 400 to 600 lbs., 6½c; good forequarters steers, 5c; good hindquarters steers, 8½c; western steers, 6c; fancy heifers, 6c; good heifers, 5¾c; good forequarters heifers, 4¾c; good hindquarters heifers, 7¾c; good cows, 5¾c; fair cows, 5½c; common cows, 4½c; cow forequarters, 4¼c; cow hindquarters, 7½c; tenderloins, 20c; bone less sirloins, 8c; strip loins, 7c; rolls, 8½c; sirloin butts, 8½c; shoulders clods, 5½c; rump butts, 5c; steer chucks, 4½c; cow chucks 3½c; boneless chucks, 4½c; square plates, 2½c; steer ribs, 6c; flank steak, 6c; loins, No. 1, 12½c; loins, No. 2, 10½c; loins, No. 3, 8½c; No. 1 short loins, 14½c; No. 2 short loins, 12½c; No. 3 short loins, 10½c; sirloin ends, 7½c; ribs, No. 1, 10½c; ribs, No. 2, 8½c; ribs, No. 3, 6½c; steer rounds, 6½c; cow rounds, 5¾c; cow rounds, shank off, 6½c; cow rounds, shank and rump off, 7c; trimmings, 3½c; beef shanks, 2c; brains, per doz., 25c; sweetbreads, per lb., 15c; sweetbreads (calves), per lb., 20c; kidneys, per doz., 35c; ox tails, each, 2c; livers, per lb., 2½c; hearts, per lb., 1½c; tongues, per lb., 12c.

MUTTON—Lambs, 7c; yearlings, 6½c; sheep, 6c; market racks (long), 8½c; hotel racks (short), 8c; legs and saddles, 8c; lamb legs, per pair, 15c; lamb saddles, 8c; lamb legs, per pair, 15c; lamb fronts, 5c; lamb stews, 2½c; tongues, each, 5c; plucks, each, 3c.

PORK—Dressed pigs, 5c; dressed hogs, 4¾c; tenderloins, 12½c; loins, 5½c; spare ribs, 4½c; ham sausage butts, 5c; shoulders, rough, 4½c; shoulders, skinned, 5c; trimmings, 4½c; leaf lard, not rendered, 5c; heads, cleaned, 3½c; snouts and ears, 3½c; backbones, 2½c; cheek meats, 4½c; neckbones, 2½c; pigs' tails, 2c; pluck, each, 5c; chitterlings, 5c; hocks, 4c; hearts, per doz., 25c; stomachs, each, 3c; tongues, each, 8c; kidneys, per doz., 10c; brains, per doz., 15c; pigs' feet, per doz., 35c; livers, each, 3c.

WOOL SALES ARE STILL LARGE.

Mills Are Covering Orders for Next Season with Foreign Wools.

BOSTON, Feb. 19.—The Boston Commercial Bulletin will say tomorrow of the wool market: The sales are still wonderfully maintained, when the enormous business done in January is considered. More attention is being paid to foreign merino wool, and less to domestic. Mills are covering orders for next season with the foreign wool they need for finishing. Not only Australian, but Montevideo and Buenos Ayres wools have been moving briskly. Stocks of American washed fleece are much reduced, but there is still plenty of territory or unwashed western wool. Prices are no higher, but the market is steady here. Foreign wool markets are less steady. The coming Australian clip is likely to be one of the largest known. The sales of the week are 4,305,500 lbs. domestic and 3,087,000 lbs. foreign, against 3,265,000 lbs. domestic and 3,419,000 lbs. foreign last week, and 1,496,600 lbs. domestic and 721,000 lbs. foreign for the same week last year. The sales to date show an increase of 21,053,500 lbs. domestic and 9,285,000 lbs. foreign from the sales to the same date in 1896. The receipts to date show an increase of 9,753 bales domestic and 19,599 bales foreign.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 19.—WOOL—Unchanged.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—WOOL—Unchanged; fleece, 15@26c; pulled, 16@18c.

Coffee Markets.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—COFFEE—Options opened steady 5 to 15 points higher in response to firmness in Havre; advanced 5 points on European buying, but later eased off 10 points under Brazil hammering; closed barely steady and unchanged to 10 points net advance; May, $9.15@9.20; spot, Rio, quiet; No. 7, invoice, $9.62½; jobbing, $10.12½. Mild, quiet; Cordova, $15.50@16.75; total warehouse deliveries from the United States, 14,363 bags, including 8,962 bags from New York; New York stock today, 354,653 bags; United States stock, 429,259 bags; afloat for the United States, 316,000 bags; total visible for the United States, 745,267 bags, against 476,—145 bags last year.

SANTOS, Feb. 19.—COFFEE—Steady; good average Santos, 10,800 reis; receipts, 11,000 bags; stock, 450,000 bags.

HAMBURG, Feb. 19.—COFFEE—¼ pfg. advance; sales, 11,000 bags.

HAVRE, Feb. 19.—COFFEE—Closed steady at a net advance of 1 point; sales, 21,000 bags.

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb. 19.—COFFEE—Steady; No. 7, Rio, 16,200 reis; exchange, 8 9-16d; receipts, 6,000 bags; cleared for the United States, 8,000 bags; for Europe, 4,000 bags; stock, 267,000 bags.

Kansas City Markets.

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 19.—WHEAT—Active and generally higher; No. 2 hard, nominally 79@80c; No. 3, 75@78c; No. 4, 69@73c; No. 2 red, nominally 81c; No. 3, 88@89c; No. 4, nominally 70@80c; No. 2 spring, 74@78½c; No. 3, 73@76c.

CORN—Active and ¼@¼c higher; No. 2 mixed, 16¾@17c.

OATS—Rather slow; No. 2 white, 17½@18½c.

RYE—No. 2, nominally 31c.

HAY—Steady; choice timothy, $8.50@9.00; choice prairie, $5.00@5.50.

BUTTER—Steady; creamery, 17@18½c; dairy, 10@15c.

EGGS—Steady at 13½c.

Peoria Markets.

PEORIA, Feb. 19.—CORN—Firm; new No. 2, 19½c.

OATS—Quiet; No. 2 white, 16½@17c.

WHISKY—Market steady; finished goods on the basis of $1.17 for high wines.

WHEAT—No. 2 red, winter, 82c.

RECEIPTS—Corn, 59,200 bu.; oats, 38,650 bu.; rye, 3,600 bu.; whisky, none; wheat, 1,200 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Corn, 47,300 bu.; oats, 46,000 bu.; rye, none; whisky, 375 gals.; wheat, 1,000 bu.

OUTLOOK BRIGHTENS A BIT

More Improvement During Last Week Than Since November.

BIG EXCESS OF MERCHANDISE EXPORTS

Large Increase in Iron and Steel Business, Better Demand for Woolen Goods, Prices for Grain Higher.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade tomorrow will say:

A large increase in the iron and steel business on account of sales covering eight to twelve months' production of the largest works, a better demand for woolen goods and slightly better for cottons, a gain which may prove lasting in boots and shoes, slightly better prices for wheat, cotton, wool and iron, and a money market well adapted to encourage purchases against future improvement in business have rendered the past week more hopeful than any other since early in November. The heavy excess of merchandise exports over imports in June, the continuance of exchange rates, showing that England is still largely indebted to this country on current account, and the prospect that congress will adjourn without any disturbing action, all have their favorable influence upon the money market, and upon future undertakings. In nearly every branch the great iron and steel industry feels the upward impulse supplied by purchases of steel rails, said to be 500,000 tons each from the Illinois Steel company and from the Carnegie company, besides some from other companies, in part as low as $15 per ton, about 100,000 to foreign purchasers at $17 to $18, but all recent sales at $20 at eastern and $21 at western mills. Nearly all the great railroads of the country have seized the opportunity to supply themselves with rails for one to two years' requirements. These enormous orders have advanced Bessemer pig at Pittsburg only 15 cents per ton, with gray forge a shade lower, and no considerable change appears in finished products, although plates are unchanged in price with good demand, and nails are held at recent prices. The bar association no longer controls anything and iron bars are quoted at $1.05 per 100 pounds, while steel bars are quoted at 95 cents per 100 pounds. Structural forms are steady, although 100,000 to 150,000 tons are said to be required alone this year, and American tin plates are still selling at $3.20, which is 30 cents less than the price for foreign.

Other industrials are gaining also, though less conspicuously. The recent decline and subsequent rise in raw cotton have not materially affected the manufacture, which is gradually getting rid of its accumulated surplus, though there seems to be but little increase as yet in the demand for goods. Supplies of wools have sharply declined, amounting to 7,042,000 pounds for the week, against 9,157,900 for the previous week, but owing to the heavy transactions early in the month the sales for three weeks have been 30,130,300 pounds, of which 18,057,500 pounds were domestic, against 13,168,700 pounds last year, of which 5,907,500 were domestic, and 16,—996,200 in 1892, of which 10,944,200 were domestic. The larger mills have acquired full supplies for the present, and many advance of prices they appear ready to drop out of the market.

The heavy exports in January following the unprecedented excess of exports over imports of merchandise in the four previous months are largely due to the fact that neither the wheat nor the cotton markets have been materially controlled by speculation. Wheat dropped to 70¾ cents, but rose to 83¾ cents with no important impulse except the conclusion that recent prices have been low enough. The Atlantic exports, flour included, were only 1,235,375 bushels for the week, against 1,830,384 bushels last year, but for three weeks have been 5,090,—471 bushels, against 5,458,429 bushels last year. The western receipts are still small, for the week only 1,507,845 bushels, against 2,415,558 bushels last year, and for the past three weeks only 4,699,240 bushels, against 8,327,777 bushels last year. Meanwhile the western receipts of corn have been well nigh double last year's, and for three weeks the Atlantic exports have been 6,318,214 bushels, against 3,234,809 bushels last year. Evidently this movement is displacing many million bushels of wheat in foreign consumption.

The failures for the past week have been 203 in the United States, against 280 last year, and fifty-eight in Canada, against sixty-six last year.

WEEKLY CLEARING HOUSE TOTALS.

Aggregate of Business Transactions of the Associated Banks.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—The following table, compiled by Bradstreet's, shows the total clearances at the principal cities and the percentage of increase or decrease, as compared with the corresponding week last year:

CITIES.	Amount.	Inc.	Dec.
New York.....	$ 483,325,397	....	27.8
Chicago	79,784,635	....	17.5
Boston	86,849,454	3.9	....
Philadelphia	59,334,410	....	1.1
St. Louis.....	27,685,927	23.2	....
San Francisco.....	13,347,091	....	10.8
Baltimore	12,567,665	....	11.3
Pittsburg	13,512,237	....	1.4
Cincinnati	11,693,400	8.5	....
Kansas City.....	10,443,656	5.1	....
New Orleans.....	8,840,136	....	11.1
Buffalo	3,836,829	....	6.3
Milwaukee	4,877,145	....	11.2
Detroit	5,620,435	....	11.7
Louisville	6,652,135	20.0	....
Minneapolis	5,019,498	....	19.3
OMAHA	3,947,204	....	....
Providence	4,892,200	6.5	....
Cleveland	5,168,306	....	3.2
St. Paul.....	2,722,919	....	41.2
Houston	5,381,969	....	10.1
Denver	2,756,123	1.4	....
Indianapolis	3,545,990	....	4.3
Columbus, O.....	3,262,700	11.2	....
Hartford	2,182,016	....	2.5
Richmond	1,939,296	....	14.6
Washington	1,728,547	....	9.5
Dallas	2,565,188	....	10.8
St. Joseph.....	1,003,221	....	11.5
Peoria	1,642,444	....	9.1
Memphis	1,779,777	....	14.4
Portland, Ore.....	741,859	....	17.3
Rochester	1,319,986	....	12.0
New Haven.....	1,458,868	2.1	....
Savannah	2,076,000	....	23.3
Springfield, Mass.....	1,157,119	....	19.0
Worcester	1,377,581	1.4	....
Portland, Me.....	1,225,562	17.1	....
Atlanta	1,758,809	....	14.3
Fort Worth.....	1,256,915	....	3.1
Waco	1,249,344	....	20.5
Syracuse	902,422	....	12.0
Des Moines.....	873,485	....	9.2
Grand Rapids.....	770,619	6.6	....
Seattle	394,943	....	33.2
Augusta	893,010	27.6	....
Toledo	1,247,278	....	....
Lowell	535,593	....	10.0
Wilmington, Del.....	597,971	....	22.7
Norfolk	851,117	....	15.2
Sioux City.....	422,620	....	2.3
Los Angeles.....	826,393	....	5.0
Tacoma	341,712	....	37.2
Spokane	466,820	11.4	....
Jacksonville	255,738	....	6.2
Lincoln	752,086	29.3	....
New Bedford.....	430,573	....	6.7
Birmingham	385,999	3.4	....
Topeka	462,184	....	29.5
Lexington, Ky.....	345,685	40.6	....
Binghampton	376,306	11.5	....
*Bay City, Mich.....	194,968	....	28.6
*Fall River.....	945,566	....	3.7
*Akron, O.....	233,900	....	13.0
*Springfield, O.....	128,988	....	24.1
*Canton, O.....	146,700	....	22.3
*Sioux Falls.....	39,948	....	54.6
*Fremont, Neb.....	51,000	....	5.5
*Hastings, Neb.....	79,324	29.5	....
*Chattanooga	306,767	5.5	....
*Fargo	87,388	....	25.0
*Nashville	922,589	....	9.5
*Galveston	4,102,300	....	11.0
Salt Lake.....	1,624,372	....	20.9
Dayton	520,752	....	5.1
Knoxville	340,160	....	14.7
Kalamazoo	215,397	....	29.4
Rockford, Ill.....	147,218	....	21.0
Davenport	444,323	....	....
Totals, United States...	$ 892,014,465	....	18.6
Exclusive of New York...	408,689,068	....	4.4
DOMINION OF CANADA.			
Montreal	$ 9,573,631	7.0	....
St. Johns.....	506,598	....	....
Toronto	5,554,105	14.5	....
Halifax	1,067,327	15.8	....
Hamilton	610,246	2.4	....
Winnipeg	816,242	12.7	....
Totals	$ 17,621,551	....	4.8

*Not included in totals.

BRADSTREET'S REVIEW OF TRADE.

Considerable Improvement Shown, with an Advance in Prices.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—Bradstreet's tomorrow will say:

General trade shows more improvement, features of which are the advances for pig iron, steel billets, steel rails, some grades of wool, raw sugar, Indian corn, pork and lard and for print cloths, with an upward tendency for leather, together with a number of metal and textile industrial establishments which have reopened within the week and improvement in recent railway earnings. Among the more important staples for which prices have decreased are wheat, flour, oats, coffee, cotton, rosin and turpentine.

The unexpected weakness in wheat and wheat flour prices forms the best evidence of the lack of confidence by the trade and general public in official reports of the size of the domestic wheat crop of last year. Exports of wheat (flour included as wheat) from both coasts of the United States and from Halifax, N. S., and St. Johns, N. B., this week aggregate 2,120,895 bushels, compared with 2,051,000 bushels last week, 3,149,000 bushels in the corresponding week of 1896, 1,808,000 bushels in the like week of 1895, 1,736,000 bushels in the corresponding period of 1894, and as contrasted with 2,596,000 bushels in the like week of 1893.

Exports of Indian corn this week are the largest on record for a like period, amounting to 2,441,420 bushels, as compared with 4,193,000 bushels last week, 2,925,000 bushels in the week a year ago, 595,000 bushels in the week two years ago, 1,325,000 bushels three years ago, and as contrasted with 186,000 bushels in the like week of 1893.

The total business failures throughout the country have increased, numbering 325 this week, compared with 301 last week, 276 in the third week of February, 1896; 327 in the like week of 1895, 235 in the corresponding period in 1894, and 202 in the like week of 1893. There were 192 suspensions and failures of banks, bankers and loan and trust companies in the United States as reported to Bradstreet's last year, compared with 135 in 1895, only eighty-nine in 1894, and contrasted with 169 in the panicky year of 1893, when the total of estimated liabilities, amounting to more than $170,000,000, was less than the total indicated assets. Only one-third the number of banks (national, state, savings, private and trust companies) failed or suspended last year than were reported embarrassed in 1893, and the reduction in the total estimated liabilities was in the same proportion. But that such embarrassments were in one sense more serious in 1896 than in 1893 is plain, as the total indicated assets of embarrassed banks in 1896 were $9,—650,000 smaller than the estimated liabilities. There are fifty-eight failures reported from the Canadian dominion this week, compared with fifty-four last week, fifty-eight in the week a year ago and as compared with thirty-eight two years ago.

BRADSTREET'S FINANCIAL REVIEW.

Panicky Feeling Caused by the Condition of Cretan Affairs.

NEW YORK, Feb. 19.—Bradstreet's Financial Review tomorrow will say:

The action of the European powers in intervening in Crete revived the panicky feeling that was shown in the London and continental markets last week. The situation as regards Turkey and Greece continues, however, so strained that while there has been a recovery of values in the foreign markets, there has been no revival of speculative activity there. Our own market was helped by these occurrences to the extent at least of having the bear traders deprived of the aid of foreign selling or of active depressing influences from abroad. At the same time the other chief bearish factor—the investigation of the industrial companies by a New York legislative committee—has ceased to have much weight with the street. While industry support is still lacking in the trust stocks, the attacks of the bears upon them ceased, and covering of the large professional short interest caused appreciation in their prices. This was the principal speculative movement of the week, which, indeed, has been a dull one throughout, and given up almost entirely to maneuvering by board-room traders. Among the other incidents a leading place must be given to the anthracite coal stocks, which were influenced by the accounts of continued unsatisfactory conditions of the trade and to a greater extent by the decline of Lehigh Valley stock in Philadelphia, which broke from 25½ to 21. Emphatic denials were made of reports about an impending receivership, but the action of the market certainly betokens liquidation.

The fact that the iron interests largely regard the disruption of the steel rail pool with satisfaction, and that the break in rails has attracted large orders and stended the market, have not as yet had a favorable effect upon the industrious carrying roads. Hocking Valley, in particular, showed a decline from 8¼ to 4⅝ for the common. Stories that the March 1 interest might be defaulted and that a readjust