CONDITION OF OMAHA TRADE

Weather Too Cool for Best Interests of the Retailers.

JOBBERS START THEIR GOODS TO MOVING

Prospects of a Season of Prosperity Induce Country Merchants to Buy Freely—Prices Are Holding Up Well.

Business in general is in a very satisfactory condition. On pleasant days the local retail stores have been thronged with shoppers who have bought freely of all spring and early summer merchandise. The week just closed was about the best so far this month. However, the weather is still too cool for the best interests of the dealers in warm weather goods and everyone is hoping for the speedy arrival of hot weather, which would undoubtedly create a much better demand. With the jobbers everything appears to be moving along in an entirely satisfactory manner.

Wholesale grocers report trade during the last week as being most satisfactory. There is a good healthy demand for practically all lines of goods and dealers are looking for a good, steady trade to continue unbroken. The strength of the general market is also a good indication that the trade outlook is very favorable and consequently local jobbers express themselves as being well pleased with prevailing conditions.

Refined sugar is in the same position it was a week ago, but raws are 1-16c higher. In view of the fact that the period of heavy consumption is close at hand, it is thought that refined sugar must take an upward jump in the near future. On account of the backward spring a short berry season is predicted, which means that there will be an enormous demand for sugar during that time which may lead to a shortage. In that event the price would not be the important factor. The only change in farinaceous goods since last report is that of tapioca and sago, which are being quoted a little higher on account of short supply.

October cheese is said to be well cleaned up and the new full cream goods, which are being offered on the market are held at fancy prices. A drop in the market is not looked for within two or three weeks, when now grass cheese will be offered.

Canned goods of every description are just as firm as ever and an advance in coupon standard corn is announced. The consuming demand is still very heavy, even though prices are all the way from 5 to 10c per cent higher than they were a year ago. The dried fruit situation is about the same as it was a week ago, with the exception of prunes, which are much firmer in tone. Holders on the coast are asking from 1c to ¾c more than they did a week ago, but so far no advance has been made on this market. The upward trend of prices seems to have but little effect on the amount of dried fruits consumed, as is shown by the heavy shipments being made at the present time. This is largely due to the fact that the fruit crop last year was a general failure, was small and consequently a smaller amount than usual was put up by the consumers. This naturally had a tendency to increase the demand for dried fruits at a time when the supply was short. Prices consequently are much higher than they were a year ago. It is claimed that the general market will average over 50 per cent higher. The greatest advance is in raisins, which are 100 per cent higher, and the least is in the case of raspberries, which are lower, being quite plentiful.

Hardware Values Stronger.

Hardware men, as usual, are talking higher prices. The principal advance is that of nails and barbed wire, which are being quoted 15c higher than they were a week ago. An advance, however, of 25 per cent is announced on spelter, which affects galvanized iron and all lines in which it is used. These are the more important changes, but the whole market is in a very strong position, with indications favorable for still higher rather than for lower prices.

Locally trade conditions are not materially different from what they were a week ago. There is no great rush for stock on the part of retailers, but at the same time there is a good steady trade which, jobbers say, is more satisfactory than to have the business come in spurts and starts. The general impression seems to be that there is not going to be any great rush this spring, but as country merchants are pretty well supplied and will only buy as they need more goods, which will keep a steady stream of orders coming the rest of the season.

Dry Goods Fairly Active.

There is nothing new to report regarding the dry goods trade. Local jobbers are having a nice run of business, but it is doubtless true that a little warmer and more settled weather would be a decided advantage to them. There is, however, a good active market and jobbers say the amount of business transacted so far this season compares very favorably with previous years. Traveling men are very enthusiastic regarding the outlook for a good summer and prophesy an enormous fall trade, provided crops do not fail. There are no new features to the market worthy of mention, as there is the same strong feeling all along the line which has been characteristic of the situation throughout the season.

Boot and shoe men report a very fair run of business during the last week and say that trade is as good as they reasonably could expect. Traveling men are on the road with fall goods and are meeting with good success for so early in the season. Retailers seem to be confident regarding their future trade and consequently are not so cautious as heretofore.

Little or nothing is being done by rubber goods men at the present time, as traveling men are still waiting for prices.

Yellow Pine Higher.

The demand for lumber at this point is still rather light, owing to the fact that farmers are too busy with their spring work to give their attention to building. Retailers out through the country are heavily stocked with but little chance of their being able to unload much of it for some time to come. That being the case jobbers, of course, expect trade to be pretty quiet for the next month or more, when there may be quite an improvement, providing crops are in good shape. The falling off in the demand, however, has not prevented the yellow pine people from making the advance previously announced and every indication seems to point to a maintenance of present prices. Local jobbers have also advanced their lists, so that lumber loaded out of Omaha costs the same as when bought direct from the manufacturers.

The hide market is perhaps a trifle stronger than last week, but quotations are gradually increasing.

Fruit and Produce.

Trade with commission men was a little better last week, as fresh fruits and vegetables are beginning to arrive in larger quantities. Prices, however, are most firm. However, are still too high to make them sell readily, but a big drop is sure to take place soon. The supply of strawberries was more liberal last week and sold at $5.50@6.00 per crate and pints brought $2.00. The latter part of the week some Mississippi berries arrived and were in good condition. Arkansas berries are expected on the market by May 1 and, as the crop is exceedingly large the price ought to be low.

Peanut is coming in quite freely and sells rapidly at $1.35@1.50 per 30 to 35-lb. box and the 50-lb. boxes bring $1.75. Asparagus is also in good demand and is worth 10@15c.

String beans are beginning to come, the on-third bushel boxes selling at $1.00@1.25. Radishes, onions, lettuce, etc., are all in good supply and sell rapidly at quotations given below.

The egg market, under the influence of light receipts and a good strong demand, advanced to 12½c. Poultry is also very firm, as receipts are rather light and the demand good. Butter, on the other hand, is rather weak, owing to the decline in eastern markets.

Fresh water fish are still very scarce, but quotations remain about the same. They are still in good demand, although the high price naturally cuts off consumption to some extent.

Baltimore Market.

BALTIMORE, April 22.—FLOUR—Unchanged; receipts, 291 bbls.; exports, 288 bbls.; sales, 700 bbls.

WHEAT—Dull and easy. Spot and month, 77⅞@77½c; May, 77½@77⅝c; steamer, No. 2 red, 72⅝@72½c; receipts, 16,706 bu.; exports, 102,000 bu.; southern, by sample, 71@75½c; southern, on grade, 73@77c.

CORN—Lower. Spot, 40⅞@40¾c; month, 39⅝@39¾c; May, 38⅝@38¾c; January, 38½c; steamer mixed, 38@38¼c; receipts, 230,450 bu.; exports, 110,159 bu.; southern white, 43c; southern yellow, 42c.

OATS—Firm. No. 2 white, 35@35½c; No. 2 mixed, 32½@33c; receipts, 3,326 bu.; exports, none.

Liverpool Grain and Provisions.

LIVERPOOL, April 22.—WHEAT—Spot firm; No. 1 red northern, Duluth, 6s 4½d; No. 2 red western, winter, 6s 4½d; No. 1 California, no stock; futures steady; May, 6s 3½d; July, 5s 9½d.

CORN—Spot steady; American mixed, new, 3s 3½d; American mixed, old, 3s 9½d; futures, April, nominal; May, quiet at 3s 3½d; July, quiet at 3s 5½d.

FLOUR—St. Louis fancy winter, firm at 7s 6d.

PROVISIONS—Beef, dull; extra India mess, 60s; prime mess, 55s. Pork, dull; prime mess, western, 45s. Hams, short cut, 14 to 16 lbs., firm at 37s 6d. Bacon, Cumberland cut, 25 to 30 lbs., firm at 31s; short ribs, 18 to 20 lbs., firm at 31s; long clear middles, light, 30 to 35 lbs., firm at 29s 6d; short clear backs, 16 to 18 lbs., strong at 28s 6d; clear bellies, 14 to 16 lbs., firm at 30s 6d. Shoulders, square, 12 to 14 lbs., firm at 32s. Lard, prime western, in tierces, steady at 27s 6d; American refined, 28 lbs., steady at 27s.

HOPS—At London (Pacific coast), firm at £4 10s@£4 15s.

BACON—Canadian, 58s 5d.

BUTTER—Finest United States, 84s; good, 65s.

CHEESE—Firm; American finest white and colored, 52s 6d.

TALLOW—Prime city, steady at 23s 9d; Australian, in London, dull at 23s 9d.

OILS—Cottonseed oil, dull; refined, May and August, easy at 10s 6d; turpentine spirits, firm at 24s 3d. Rosin, common, steady at 4s; petroleum, refined, 6d; linseed 6d, 18s 9d.

OMAHA GENERAL MARKET.

Condition of Trade and Quotations on Staple and Fancy Produce.

EGGS—Receipts light; demand good; market firm at 12½c.

BUTTER—Common to fair, 10@11c; choice, 12@14c; separator, 18@19c; gathered creamery, 15@17c.

POULTRY—Hens, live, 8½@9c; dressed, 10c; old and stagy roosters, live, 4@7c; dressed, 5@7c; ducks and geese, live, 7½@8c; dressed, 10c; turkeys, live, 9@10c; dressed, lightweight, 12½@13c; heavyweight, 11@12c.

PIGEONS—Live, per dozen, 75@90c.

VEALS—Choice, 8c.

OYSTERS—Bulk Standard, per gal., $1.10; mediums, per can, 15c; Standard, per can, 20c; Extra Select, per can, 25c; New York Counts, per can, 50c.

FRESH WATER FISH—Catfish, per lb., 12c; buffalo, per lb., dressed, 7c; white fish, 11c; lake trout, 11c; yellow pike, 11c; silver herring, 5c; perch, 4c; bullheads, dressed, 10c; black bass, 18c.

SEA FISH—Flounders, 8c; haddock, 9c; Columbia river salmon, 15c; halibut, 11c; blue fish, 10c; Spanish mackerel, 10c; red snapper, 10c; extra large mackerel, each, 30c; roe shad, each, 50c.

FRUITS.

STRAWBERRIES—Per crate, $5.50@6.00; pints, $3.00.

APPLES—Ben Davis, per bbl., $5.00; Gentons, $4.75; New York Baldwins, Greenings and others, choice, per bbl., $5.50; western boxed, $2.00.

CRANBERRIES—Jerseys, per bbl., $7.50.

VEGETABLES.

STRING BEANS—One-third bu., $1.00@1.25.

EGGPLANT—Per 30 to 35-lb. box, $1.35@1.50; per 50-lb. box, $1.75.

BEETS—Per bbl., $1.50.

PARSNIPS—Per bbl., $1.75.

RADISHES—Per bu. box, $1.25@1.50.

TOMATOES—None in market.

SPINACH—Per basket, $1.

LETTUCE—Home grown, per dozen bunches, 40@15c.

ASPARAGUS—Per lb., 16@18c.

ONIONS—Home grown, per doz. bunches, according to size, 15@25c.

WATERCRESS—16-qt. cases, $1.60.

CABBAGE—Crated, per lb., 3½c.

CAULIFLOWER—Per crate, $2.50.

ONIONS—Per bu., 90c@$1.00.

BEANS—Hand-picked, navy, per bu., $1.50@1.60.

POTATOES—Choice Iowa, sacked, 70c; poorer stock, 60c; Minnesota Burbanks, 55@60c; Colorado, $1.00; early Ohio seed potatoes, $1.00@1.10.

SWEET POTATOES—Per bbl., seed, $2.

TROPICAL FRUITS.

LEMONS—California, fancy, $3.50@3.75; choice, $3.25@3.50; Messina, fancy, $3.75@4.00.

ORANGES—Navels, fancy, $3.75@4.00; choice, $4.75; seedlings, $2.75; Med. sweets, $3.00.

BANANAS—Choice, crated, large stock, per bunch, $2.00@2.25; medium sized bunches, $1.75@2.00.

DATES—Hallowee, 60 to 70-lb. boxes, 6c; Sair, 6c; Fard, 9-lb. boxes, 10c.

MISCELLANEOUS.

NUTS—Almonds, per lb., 13c; Brazils, per lb., 9@10c; English walnuts, per lb., fancy soft shell, 12½@13c; standards, 10@11c; filberts, per lb., 11c; pecans, polished, 8@10c; cocoanuts, per 100, $4; peanuts, raw, 5½@6c; roasted, 6½@7c.

CIDER—Per half bbl., $3.

SAUERKRAUT—Per half bbl., $2.00@2.25.

HONEY—Choice white, 12½@13c.

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

MAPLE SUGAR—Choice, in boxes, 9c.

HIDES, TALLOW, ETC.

HIDES—No. 1 green hides, 7c; No. 2 green hides, 6c; No. 1 salted hides, 8½c; No. 2 salted hides, 7½c; No. 1 veal calf, 8 to 12 lbs., 10c; No. 2 veal calf, 12 to 15 lbs., 8c.

TALLOW, GREASE, ETC.—Tallow, No. 1, 3½c; tallow, No. 2, 3c; rough tallow, 1½c; white grease, 2½@3c; yellow and brown grease, 1½@2½c.

FURS—Mink, 50@75c; bear (black or brown), $5.00@20.00; otter, $1.50@8.00; beaver, $1.00@6.00; skunk, 15@75c; muskrat, 3@10c; raccoon, 15@50c; red fox, 25c@$1.25; gray fox, 25@75c; wolf (timber), 25c@$2.50; wolf, (prairie), coyote, 10@50c; wildcat, 10@25c; badger, 50@40, silver fox, $50.00@75.00.

SHEEP PELTS—Green salted, each, 15@75c; green salted shearings (short wooled early skins), each, 15c; dry shearings (short wooled early skins), No. 1 each, 5c; dry flint, Kansas and Nebraska butcher wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 40@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, 40@5c; dry flint, Colorado murrain wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 3@4c.

NEW YORK GENERAL MARKET.

Quotations for the Day on General Commodities.

NEW YORK, April 22.—FLOUR—Receipts, 17,445 bbls.; exports, 411 bbls; dull and lower to sell; winter patents, $3.75@4.20; winter straights, $3.60@3.75; winter extras, $2.60@3.00; Minnesota patents, $3.90@4.25; Minnesota bakers, $3.00@3.20. Rye, dull; good to fair, $3.00@3.15; choice to fancy, $3.20@3.40.

CORNMEAL—Quiet; yellow western, 85@86c; city, 86@87c.

RYE—Firm; No. 2 western, 66½c, f. o. b. afloat.

BARLEY MALT—Dull; western, 58@65c.

WHEAT—Receipts, 34,225 bu.; exports, 175,648 bu. Spot easy; No. 2 red, 82⅞c, f. o. b., afloat; No. 1 northern, New York, 87⅝c, f. o. b., afloat. Options opened steady on better cable news than expected, but subsequently weakened under predictions of general rains. Closed weak at ½@¾c decline. May opened 77⅞@78⅛c, closed 77⅝c; July, 77⅞@78⅛c, closed 78⅛c; September, 76⅞@77⅝c, closed 76⅞c; December, 78⅛@78⅝c, closed 78⅛c.

CORN—Receipts, 30,175 bu.; exports, 40 bu. Spot easy; No. 2, 43½@43⅝c, f. o. b., afloat, new and old. Options opened easy and sold with wheat and under May liquidation, latter option closing ½c net lower and July unchanged. May opened 39⅝@40c, closed 39⅝c; July, 39⅝@39¾c, closed 39¾c.

OATS—Receipts, 159,200 bu.; exports, 66,183 bu. Spot dull; No. 2, 32c; No. 3, 32c; No. 3 white, 35c; track, white, 35@39c; No. 2 white, 36c; track, mixed, western, 32@34c; track, white, 35@39c. Options dull; shipping, 44@45c; good to choice, 65@67c.

HOPS—Common to choice, 1896 crop, 6@7c; 1897 crop, 11@15c; 1898 crop, 16@17c; Pacific coast, 1896 crop, 6@7c; 1897 crop, 11@15c; 1898 crop, 17@18c.

HIDES—Steady; Galveston, 20 to 25 lbs., 19c; Texas, dry, 24 to 30 lbs., 12½@13c; California, 25 to 30 lbs., 18@19c.

LEATHER—Steady; hemlock, Buenos Ayres, light to heavy weights, 21c.

WOOL—Steady; fleece, 17@21c; Texas, 11@14c.

PROVISIONS—Beef, steady; family, $9.50@11.00; extra mess, $9.00; beef hams, $19.00@19.50; packet, $9.50@10.00; city, extra India mess, $11.00@15.50. Cut meats, steady; pickled bellies, $5.00@5.75; pickled shoulders, $4.50; pickled hams, 7½@7½c. Lard, easy; western steamed, $5.52½; refined dull; continent, $5.75; South American, $6.25; compound, 4¾c. Pork, quiet; mess, $8.75@9.50; clear, $10.25@10.75; family, $10.50@11.00.

BUTTER—Dull and weak; western creamery, 15@18c; western factory, 13@14½c; imitation creamery, 14@16½c; state dairy, 14@15c; state creamery, 15@18c.

CHEESE—Receipts, 848 pkgs.; old, quiet; large white, 12@12½c; small white, 12½@13c; large colored, 12@12½c; small colored, 12½@13c; new, slow; large, 10c; small, 10@10½c.

EGGS—Receipts, 7,146 pkgs.; firmer; western, 13@13½c; southern, 13@13½c.

TALLOW—Weak; city, 4⅛@4¼c; country, 4⅛@4¼c, as to quality.

OILS—Petroleum, dull; refined, New York, 6.35. Philadelphia and Baltimore, $6.50; Philadelphia and Baltimore, in bulk, $4.40. Rosin, steady; common to good, $1.35. Turpentine, steady at 42½@42¾c.

RICE—Steady; domestic, fair to extra, 4½@7c; Japan, 5@5¼c.

MOLASSES—Firm; New Orleans, open kettle, good to choice, 23@37c.

COTTONSEED OIL—Continues very dull; prime crude, 22½c; prime crude, f. o. b. mills, 18@19c; prime summer yellow, 26½@27c; off summer yellow, 25½@26c.

Philadelphia Produce Market.

PHILADELPHIA, April 22.—BUTTER—Dull and weak; fancy western creamery, 18@18½c; fancy western prints, 21c.

EGGS—Half cent lower; fresh nearby, 13c; fresh western, 13@13½c; fresh southwestern, 13@13½c; fresh southern, 13c.

Minneapolis Wheat Market.

MINNEAPOLIS, April 22.—WHEAT—In store: No. 1 northern, April, 71½c; May, 70½@70¾c; July, 71⅝c; September, 69⅝c. On track, No. 1 hard, 72½c; No. 1 northern, 71½c; No. 2 northern, 69⅝c.

Milwaukee Grain Market.

MILWAUKEE, April 22.—WHEAT—No. 1 northern, 73@74c; No. 2 northern, 71@71½c.

RYE—Lower; No. 1, 58c.

BARLEY—Dull; No. 2, 46½c; sample, 38@46c.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

Short Selling on Prospects of Rain Makes Wheat Decline.

MAY AND JULY OPTIONS SHOW LOSSES

All Branches of the Market Show Sympathy and Corn, Oats and Provisions Are All Lower.

CHICAGO, April 22.—Liquidation and short selling today on prospects of rain caused a decline in wheat. At the close May and July both showed a loss of 1½c. Corn declined ⅝c and oats ¼@¾c. Pork lost 5c and lard and ribs 2½@5c each.

Wheat opened steady on better Liverpool cables than expected. There was a lack of outside trading, however, and prices soon eased off, the weakness becoming quite pronounced on predictions of general rains where badly needed in the south and southwest. Liquidation was heavy and there was a good deal of short selling. May started ⅛c higher at 73⅛c and declined steadily to 72¼c at the close. July opened at 74⅝@74⅞c and sold off to 73⅝@73¾c, the closing price. Private crop damage reports were less numerous than heretofore. Chicago received 63 cars, of which 7 graded contract. Minneapolis and Duluth got 231 cars, against 218 for the same day a year ago. World's shipments to Europe for the week were estimated at 8,000,000 bu. Atlantic port clearances in wheat and flour equalled 542,000 bu.

Corn declined under moderate liquidation, increased country offerings and heavy receipts. There was a fair shipping demand. Receipts, 240 cars. May started a shade lower at 34⅛c, sold sparingly at 34⅞c, then declined to 34c at the close.

Sympathy with other grains and free realizing by longs caused a decline in oats. There was a good cash demand from the east. Receipts, 173 cars. There was a good cash demand. May opened a shade higher at 26¼c and declined to 26⅛c at the close.

Free deliveries of hogs and the weakness in grains depressed provisions. May pork opened 2½c lower at $9.15, lost to $9.20, then rallied to $9.12½, sellers, at the close. The range in lard and ribs was small.

Estimated receipts for Monday: Wheat, 72 cars; corn, 227 cars; oats, 200 cars, and hogs, 33,000 head.

Leading futures ranged as follows:

Articles.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.	Yesdy.
*Wheat.					
May	73⅛@¾	73⅛	72¼	72¼	73⅜
July	74⅝@¾	74⅝	73⅝@¾	73⅝@¾	74⅝@¾
Sept	73⅛	74	72⅝	72⅝	73⅝@74
*Corn.					
May	34⅛@¼	34⅝	34	34	34⅝
July	34⅝@¾	35	34⅝	34⅝@¾	35
Sept	35⅛@⅜	35⅝	35¼	35¼@⅜	35⅝@⅞
*Oats.					
May	26⅝	26⅝	26⅛	26⅛	26⅛@⅜
July	24⅝@¾	24⅝	24¼	24¼	24⅝
Sept	22⅝@¾	22⅝	22¼	22¼	22⅝
Pork.					
May	9 15	9 20	9 12½	9 12½	9 17½
July	9 12½	9 20	9 12½	9 20	9 25
Sept	9 50	9 52½	9 45	9 45	9 50
Lard.					
May	5 27½	5 27½	5 22½	5 22½	5 27½
July	5 37½	5 40	5 35	5 35	5 37½
Sept	5 50	5 52½	5 45	5 47½	5 52½
Ribs.					
May	4 77½	4 77½	4 72½	4 75	4 77½
July	4 90	4 92½	4 87½	4 87½	4 92½
Sept	5 02½	5 05	5 00	5 00	5 05

*No. 2.

Cash quotations were as follows:

FLOUR—Steady: winter patents, $3.60@3.70; straights, $3.30@3.40; clears, $3.10@3.20; spring specials, $4.25; patents, $3.30@3.75; straights, $3.00@3.10; bakers, $2.20@2.50.

WHEAT—No. 2 spring, 72@72½c; No. 3 spring, 68@68½c; No. 2 red, 75½@77½c.

CORN—No. 2, 34½c; No. 2 yellow, 34¾c.

OATS—No. 2, 27½@27¾c; No. 2 white, 30½@31½c; No. 3 white, 29½@30½c.

RYE—No. 2, 57½c.

BARLEY—No. 2, 40@47c.

SEEDS—No. 1 flaxseed, $1.17; northwest, $1.21; prime timothy seed, $2.32½@2.35.

PROVISIONS—Mess pork, per bbl., $9.10@9.15. Lard, per 100 lbs., $5.22½@5.25. Short ribs sides (loose), $4.50@4.90. Dry salted shoulders (boxed), $4.50@4.62½; short clear sides (boxed), $5.00@5.10.

WHISKY—Distillers' finished goods, per gal., $1.26.

SUGARS—Cut loaf, $5.96; granulated, $5.45.

Following are the receipts and shipments today:

Articles.	Receipts.	Ship'ts.
Flour, bbls	17,000	10,000
Wheat, bu	77,000	.....
Corn, bu	158,000	292,000
Oats, bu	179,000	172,000
Rye, bu	24,000	4,000
Barley, bu	29,000	12,000

On the Produce Exchange today the butter market was quiet and easy; creameries, 13@17c; dairies, 11@15c. Eggs, steady; fresh, 12½@12¾c. Cheese, weak; creams, 11½@12½c. Dressed poultry, moderate demand; turkeys, 11@12½c; ducks, 9@10c; chickens, 9½c.

MOVEMENTS OF STOCKS AND BONDS.

Changes Are Only Trivial, but in the Way of Improvement.

NEW YORK, April 22.—The market today was almost wholly professional and the net changes were trivial, although in the way of improvement. The specialties monopolized attention except for activity in some of the internationals. In the early trading an expected favorable bank statement was discounted, and on its appearance general realizing followed, the appearance of a supply of stock from large banking quarters encouragement to the bears to put out short lines, and the market closed with a raid in progress. The bank statement showed a large increase in loans and deposits and a consequent heavy gain in surplus reserve. London sold freely of Louisville & Southern preferred and Denver & Rio Grande, but those stocks were well taken and all closed at good advances. Norfolk & Western shares were the only other particularly strong railways. Sugar was strong throughout and gained 2¾. Brooklyn Transit moved irregularly, slightly above yesterday's figures. Among other specialties Continental Tobacco was pressed for sale early on the increased capitalization, but rallied on various rumors of impending activity. The imports for March were the largest in nearly two years. Nevertheless the excess of exports reached nearly $33,000,000, largely due to a gain in manufactured products, as this exceeds the imports of crude and raw material fell off about $18,000,000. Sterling exchange was strong, with an insufficiency of commercial bills. It was thought that preparations for the payment of the Spanish indemnity figured in the exchange market. Money on call showed a variable tendency, alternately easy and firm, with ease generally prevailing. Loanable funds were increased by receipts of money from Baltimore and Philadelphia. The bank clearings of the United States, reflecting the comparative apathy in speculation, decreased for the week over $41,000,000, but were still greatly in excess of those of last year. The grain market's strength, supposedly reflecting an expectation of a shrinkage in the cereal yield, was watched narrowly for its effect on the grangers. This group of stocks moved within compressed limits, while Burlington advanced about 2 points on the subscription privilege extended to stockholders. The professional element showed a frequent disposition to be bearish, while real holders of stock generally clung tenaciously to their favorites, but the liquidation of speculative holders was not lacking. The dullness of the week seemed conducive to an increase in the short interest, which acted as a support to values on concessions. Frequently, after a long period of inactivity, business suddenly increased as though it had been prearranged. The more notable changes in prices for the week were: Declines: Third Avenue, 9½; Brooklyn Transit, 4; Manhattan, 3⅞; People's Gas, 3⅜; New York Central, 2, and Lackawanna and Northwestern ½ each. The advances include: New York Air Brake, 11; Colorado Fuel, 10½; Colorado Fuel preferred and New Haven, 7 each; Anaconda Mining, 8; National Steel, 4; New Jersey Central, Delaware & Hudson and Louisville, over 3 each, and Southern preferred, 2⅝. There was also at one time of a recurrence of discrimination in loans against the industrials, but less was heard of this with the easing of money. There were sales for western account on several occasions which were taken to be connected with information on crop prospects. Railway earnings that appeared during the week were generally favorable.

Considerable favorable comment was aroused by the keen investment inquiry for bonds, which included middle-class as well as prime grades. The market displayed pronounced strength throughout, moving independently of the stock market. United States 5s, registered, 3s, regist'd, and new 4s, registered, advanced ½; 3s coupon, and old 4s, registered, 1¼, and old 4s, coupon, and new 4s, coupon, ¼ in the bid price.

The Commercial Advertiser's London financial cablegram says: The markets here were generally quiet and firm today, but Americans were more active than recently, hardening distinctly. The close was a shade over parity. The chief feature was arbitrage buying of Louisville & Nashville, Southern Railway and Norfolk & Western preferred. There was active dealing in copper shares, Anacondas relapsed to 11 1-16; Tintos recovered to 4; discounts were a shade firmer, but money was very easy—almost unlendable. There were £58,000 gold in bars bought by the bank and £1,000 arrived from Australia.

The following are the closing quotations for the leading stocks on the New York exchange today:

Atchison	24¾	St. Louis & S. F.	12¾
do pfd	61⅝	do pfd	70½
Baltimore & Ohio	32¾	St. L. & S. F. 1st pfd	70
Canadian Pacific	87⅝	St. Louis & S. F. 2d	54
Canadian Southern	53	do pfd	54⅝
Central Pacific	34	St. Paul	75
Ches. & Ohio	22⅝	do pfd	170
Chi. & Alton	154	St. P. & Om.	94
C. B. & Q.	94¾	do pfd	161
C. & E. Illinois	74½	So. Pacific	29⅝
Chi. Gas	93	So. Railway	12
Chi. G. W.	19½	do pfd	45
Chi. Ind. & L.	4½	Texas & Pacific	18⅝
Chi. & N. W.	101	Union Pacific	40⅝
do pfd	138	do pfd	76⅝
C. C. C. & St. L.	80½	U. P. D. & G.	12
do pfd	97	Wabash	7
Del. & Hudson	121⅝	do pfd	23⅝
Del. L. & W.	165⅝	Wheel. & L. E.	14
Del. & Rio G.	20⅝	do pfd	54½
do pfd	75	Adams Ex.	150
Erie (new)	20⅝	American Ex.	149
do 1st pfd	40½	United States	53
Ft. Wayne	181	Wells Fargo	127
Ill. Cent.	101	A. Cot. Oil	36
Lake Erie & W.	17½	do pfd	78⅝
do pfd	69	Amer. Spirits	14⅝
Lake Shore	195	do pfd	38⅝
Leads. & Nash.	64⅝	Amer. Tobacco	124
Manhattan L.	102⅝	do pfd	143
Met. St. Ry.	250½	Cons. Gas	200
Mich. Cent.	93	Com. Cable Co.	186
Mo. Pacific	35	Col. F. & Iron	53½
Mobile & Ohio	48	do pfd	112
Mo. K. & T.	17⅝	Gen. Electric	138⅝
do pfd	39⅝	Nat. Cloth Co.	102
N. J. Central	122	Brooklyn R. T.	120½
N. Y. Central	129⅝	Int'l Paper	24⅝
N. Y. C. & St. L.	14	do pfd	80
do 1st pfd	60	La Clede Gas	24½
do 2d pfd	32	Lead	32½
Nor. & West.	20⅝	do pfd	113
N. & W. pfd	68⅝	Nat. Lin. Oil	4
No. Amer. Co.	6⅝	Pacific Mail	32⅝
Ontario	37⅝	People's Gas	126⅝
Ore. Imp.	21	Pullman Palace	163⅝
Ore. R. & Nav.	69⅝	Silver Certificates	90
Ore. R. & Nav. pfd	77⅝	S. R. & T.	9
Ore. Short Line	41⅝	do pfd	37⅝
Pacific Coast	40	Sugar	127⅝
Pacific Coast 1st pfd	85	do pfd	110⅝
do 2d pfd	70	T. C. & Iron	64
Reading	24	U. S. Leather	8⅝
do 1st pfd	64⅝	do pfd	72
do 2d pfd	27	U. S. Rubber	32
R. G. W.	24	do pfd	115
do pfd	64	Wes. Union	92⅝
Rock Island	115⅝	A. S. & W.	16⅝
		do pfd	40
		Fed. Steel	68
		do pfd	68⅝
		Col. Southern	6¼
		do 1st pfd	21
		do 2d pfd	20

The total sales of stocks today were 365,714 shares, including: American Steel and Wire, 5,600; American Sugar, 16,000; Anaconda, 7,900; Atchison preferred, 8,100; Burlington, 4,700; Chicago Great Western, 3,500; Colorado Fuel and Iron, 5,000; Continental Tobacco, 28,400; Denver & Rio Grande, 15,600; Des Moines & Fort Dodge, 2,700; D. S. S. & A. preferred, 2,300; Federal Steel, 5,300; Louisville & Nashville, 5,500; Louisville & Nashville preferred, 7,600; Manhattan Consolidated, 2,500; Manhattan Beach, 22,500; Mexican Central, 10,200; Missouri Pacific, 4,300; National Steel, 8,800; New Jersey Central, 5,600; Norfolk & Western, 3,900; Norfolk & Western preferred, 8,800; St. Louis & Southwestern, 2,000; St. Louis & Southwestern preferred, 2,200; St. Paul, 2,200; Southern Railway, 3,700; Southern preferred, 16,900; Tennessee Coal and Iron, 12,300; Wheeling & Lake Erie, 5,900.

New York Money Market.

NEW YORK, April 22.—MONEY ON CALL—Nominal; no loans.

PRIME MERCANTILE PAPER—3½@4¼ per cent.

STERLING EXCHANGE—Market steady, with actual business in bankers' bill at $4.86¾@4.87 for demand and at $4.85¾@4.85 for sixty days; posted rates, $4.85½@4.86 and $4.87½@4.88; commercial bills, $4.84¾@4.84⅞.

SILVER CERTIFICATES—60@60½c.

BAR SILVER—59½c.

MEXICAN DOLLARS—47¾c.

BONDS—State bonds inactive; railroad bonds firmer; government bonds firmer; U. S. 2s, reg., 100; 3s, reg., 108; coupon, 109; new 4s, reg., 126; coupon, 130; old 4s, reg., 112½; coupon, 113½; 5s, reg., 111¾; coupon, 113.

Closing quotations on bonds were:

U. S. 2s, reg	100	M. K. & T. 4s	94
U. S. 2s, reg	100	N. Y. C. 1st	115
U. S. 3s, coup	109	N. J. C. 5s	119¼
U. S. new 4s, reg	129	N. C. 6s	127
U. S. do coup	130	N. C. 4s	104
U. S. old 4s, reg	112½	No. Pacific 1st s	120
U. S. do coup	113⅝	No. Pacific 3s	68
U. S. 5s, reg	111¾	No. Pacific 4s	103⅝
U. S. 5s, coup	111	N. Y. C. & St. L. 4s	106
District 3.65s	117	N. S. & W. con. 4s	94½
Ala. class A	110	N. & W. gen. 6s	130
Ala. class B	110	Ore. N. 1st s	115⅝
Ala. class C	100	Ore. N. 4s	103
Ala. currency	100	O. S. L. 6s	130⅝
Atchison 4s	101⅝	O. S. L. 5s	112
Do adj. 4s	83¼	Reading 4s	85⅝
Canada So. 2ds	111	R. G. W. 1sts	97⅝
C. & O. 6s	194⅝	St. L. & I. M. 5s	110⅝
C. & O. 5s	120⅝	St. L. & S. F. Gen. 6s	123⅝
C. & N. W. con. 7s	144⅝	St. P. Consols	193⅝
do S. F. deb. 5s	123	St. P. C. & P. 1sts	121
Chi. Terms. 4s	100	St. P. C. & P. 5s	120⅝
D. & R. G. 1sts	108⅝	So. Ry. 5s	109⅝
D. & R. G. 4s	101⅝	S. R. & T. Gs	99
East Tenn. 1sts	106¼	Tenn. new set. 3s	87
Erie Gen. 4s	94⅝	T. P. 1sts	114
F. W. & D. 1sts, t. r.	85⅝	T. P. 2ds	53¼
Gen. Elec. 5s	116⅝	U. P. 4s	105⅝
G. H. & S. A. 6s	111	U. P. D. & G. 1sts	99
G. H. & S. A. 2ds	101⅝	Wab. 1sts	117
H. & T. Cent. 5s	112	Wab. 2ds	98⅝
H. & T. C. con. 6s	110	W. Shore 4s	114⅝
Iowa C. 1sts	109⅝	Wis. Cent. 1sts	69⅝
K. C. P. & G. 1sts	87⅝	Va. Centuries	86
La. New Con. 4s	109⅝	*Va. deferred	9
L. & N. Uni. 4s	97	Colorado South'n 4s	86⅝
M. K. & T. 2ds	67⅝		

*Offered.

Boston Stock Quotations.

BOSTON, April 22.—Call loans, 3@4 per cent; time loans, 3½@4½ per cent. Closing prices for stocks, bonds and mining shares:

A. T. & S. F.	29⅝	Gt. Electric Ill.	200
do pfd	61⅝	Allouez M. Co.	11
do 4s	100½	Atl