

## A PERTURBED PROVISION PIT

The Day's Transactions Declared the Largest in Twelve Months.

## WHEAT TAKES A BACK SEAT.

The Cattle Market Slow to Open—Hogs Fairly Active With Little Or No Change in Prices—General Quotations.

## CHICAGO PRODUCE MARKET.

CHICAGO, Feb. 2.—[Special Telegram to the Bee.]—The provision crowd was very much surprised this morning at the small stocks. The experts said that if pork and lard and ribs were reduced to pounds stocks would show up 50,000,000 pounds less than at this same time last year. There was a very small increase in pork over last month and actually a decrease in ribs, a notable thing, for ordinarily houses at the stock yards are going with so much speed during January that stocks are largely increased. The surprise opened up at \$12.75¢ for May, an advance of 1¢ over last night and 3¢ above a barrel over the low figures of yesterday.

Within a very few minutes after the opening of the crowd in the provision pit increased, drawing from wheat and corn, until the small pit was overflowing. The price of May pork kept advancing until from \$12.75¢ it touched \$13.00. At about this figure transactions were enormous. Robert Rollison bought continuously and in all sized packages—from 5,000 barrels at a clip down to 250 barrels. This buying was set down in popular opinion as for Armour, Hamill & Congdon ent almost as big a figure. They took 10,000 barrels in less than a half dozen trades and their buying was set down as for Remer. Whether this last operator is long or short nobody knows. He has mystified the crowd completely. Brokers who stick to the pork pit day in and day out the year round say that the day's trading was the largest in twelve months. The buying and selling was steady and in big jags and lasted all the session. The shorts swarmed in from all sides and bought. The advance was never checked until the May option of pork sold at \$13.30, an advance of 4¢ from the opening and an advance of 73¢ a barrel from the lowest figures of yesterday, when took a back seat to-day. Interest concentrated on the provision side due to the action of the cattle exchange, which was the prominent feature of the wheat market. "Waiting calm" were the rule. Despite the dullness mentioned the wheat market is far from being weak. It is simply stagnant with the foundation of the steady underflow on private advances of crop damage in Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio and confirmation of previous bad news from California. Liverpool was firm and steady and today was making a display of patience and backbone despite the bears. The opening was off a trifle, but the close was firm at a shade better prices than yesterday's closing range, viz., 77¢c to 78¢c. February, 78¢c; May, 83¢c. Corn—Firm; No. 3, on track, 30¢c. Oats—Steady; No. 2, white, on track, 30¢c. Rye—Dull; No. 1, 55¢c. Beef Steader; No. 2, 50¢c. Provisions—Steady; pork, February, \$12.00; May, \$13.15. Cincinnati, Feb. 2.—Wheat—Firm; No. 2 red, 84¢c. Corn—Strong and higher; No. 2 mixed, 38¢c. Oats—Quiet but firmer; No. 2 mixed, 30¢c. Rye—Quiet; No. 2, 60¢c. Pork—At \$13.00. Lard—Firm and higher at \$6.50. Hamill & Congdon, Feb. 2.—Wheat—Weak; No. 2 red, 80¢c; No. 3, 82¢c; May, 85¢c. Corn—Firm; No. 2 mixed, cash, 30¢c; 34¢c; May, 37¢c. Oats—Steady; No. 2 mixed, cash, 27¢c; May, 30¢c. Hamill & Congdon, Feb. 2.—Wheat—Strong; cash, 78¢c; February, 78¢c; May, 83¢c. Corn—Firm; No. 3, on track, 30¢c. Oats—Steady; No. 2, white, on track, 30¢c. Rye—Dull; No. 1, 55¢c. Beef Steader; No. 2, 50¢c. Provisions—Steady; pork, February, \$12.00; May, \$13.15. Chicago, Feb. 2.—Wheat—Firm; No. 2 red, 84¢c. Corn—Strong and higher; No. 2 mixed, 38¢c. Oats—Quiet but firmer; No. 2 mixed, 30¢c. Rye—Quiet; No. 2, 60¢c. Pork—At \$13.00. Lard—Firm and higher at \$6.50. 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