

## THE SPECULATIVE MARKETS.

A Very Uncertain Wheat Trade Most of the Day.

CORN CLOSES FAIRLY STEADY.

Oats Quite Active but Lower—A Few Less Provision Business—Cattle Slow and Irregular—An Advance on Hogs.

## CHICAGO PRODUCE MARKETS.

CHICAGO, Feb. 24.—(Special Telegram to THE BEE.)—The action of the wheat market was very uncertain most of the session. There was a general disposition to ignore weather news after the experiences of last week. During the day dispatches reporting continued rains in California and another cold wave in the northwest were not heeded. There was no outside piece of news of any sort to materially affect values. The market opened about steady for May at 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢, but went off at once to 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ , rallied to 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ , then dropped to 76 $\frac{1}{2}$  and at 1 o'clock was up to 77 $\frac{1}{2}$  with the pit dull. The bottom for June was 77 $\frac{1}{2}$  and July 75 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The feature of the day was the covering of wheat by importers. It is reported that a great quantity the first hour. At the same time Hutchinson, Cudahy and McCormick & Co. were free sellers. There was some buying by the northwest, and late some New York buying orders. There were calls for wheat, but little change in price of May went to trade. The wheat market was dull and steady at the close with May at 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Corn was depressed about 1¢ for all future at one time today by the large receipts, the stock later being held steady. The large increase in the visible supply. The weather being generally warm and damp had a depressing effect also. February closed at 75 $\frac{1}{2}$ , March at 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ . May said at 79 $\frac{1}{2}$  and closed at 78 $\frac{1}{2}$ . July closed at 78 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Oats were fairly active, weaker and lower, due to the mild weather, fair receipts, the decline in other grains and also to the selling by longs. Prices for deferred futures receded 1¢ each. The decline brought in good buying to cover by shorts and the market closed steady. The market was steady at the same as Friday's last sales.

There was a fair business in selling May and buying July at 75 $\frac{1}{2}$  difference. Car lots of No. 2 in store were dull at 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ for regular, 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ for steamer, 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ for May. Oats were offered at 74 $\frac{1}{2}$  for May and 75 $\frac{1}{2}$  for July.

There was a little firmer feeling on hog products today, but aside from this the market was featureless. Lard and meat pork sold 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  higher, while short ribs, gammon, etc., were off half the advance. Packing products but little change. May sales were: Short ribs, \$4.80 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; lard, 55 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; March, May pork, \$9.95 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

## CHICAGO LIVE STOCK.

CHICAGO, Feb. 24.—(Special Telegram to THE BEE.)—CATTLE.—The demand for steers either good or medium, opened rather slow with a determination on the part of buyers to hammer prices, and for a time trade was almost at a standstill, as most of the salesmen stood held to the notion that under the circumstances there was no necessity of giving way to any great extent, while on the other hand there were salesmen that made the concession asked, especially if the buyer was one of the regulars, hence values ruled irregular, that is, from steady to 10¢ lower to about everything in the steer line. Cow stock was in good demand and steady. Hogs and combs stock ruled steady. There were no Texas in sight during the forenoon. There was a little business in stocker and feeder line, with prices as high as at any time last week. Choice to extra steers, \$4.60 $\frac{1}{2}$ -\$4.80; medium to good steers, 1,000 to 1,500 lbs., \$4.00-\$4.20; 200 to 300 lbs., \$3.00-\$3.20; 1,200 lbs., \$1.00 $\frac{1}{2}$ -\$1.70; stockers and feeders, \$2.40 $\frac{1}{2}$ -\$3.00; cows, bulls and mixed, \$1.40 $\frac{1}{2}$ -\$2.30; bullock, \$2.35 $\frac{1}{2}$ -\$2.60; Texas cord fed steers, \$2.00 $\frac{1}{2}$ -\$2.35.

HOGS.—Fairly active with an advance of a strong 50¢ all around. Pigs paid \$3.00-\$3.95, going up to \$4.00 occasionally, while shippers paid \$4.00 $\frac{1}{2}$ -\$4.05. Light sorts sold uniformly at \$4.00. The market closed steady.

## FINANCIAL.

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—(Special Telegram to THE BEE.)—STOCKS.—There was a fair interest and a well distributed business in stocks at the opening today, with Louisville & Nashville, Rock Island, New England, St. Paul and Burlington & Quincy most prominent. First prices as compared with the closing figures of Friday showed very irregular changes. Louisville & Nashville being down 5% per cent, while Cotton Oil was up a like amount. There was considerable pressure to sell in early dealings and fractional declines occurred all over the list. New England and Louisville & Nashville leading with 5% per cent each in the regular list and Sugar with 1 per cent in the unlisted department. Tennessee Coal was exceptional and after opening at 95 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent at 95 $\frac{1}{2}$  it retired to 95, recovering slightly with the rest of the list. The recovery was full and complete a rule and Grangers were specially prominent in the upward movement. Burlington rising 1 per cent from its lowest figure to 107 $\frac{1}{2}$ , followed closely by Rock Island, which again crossed 90, and St. Paul, Chicago, St. Louis & Pittsburg preferred also showed marked strength and rose from 90 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ . In the hour to 12 o'clock the market was weak all around. Sugar touched 64 $\frac{1}{2}$  with a slight rally and Burlington dropped back to 92 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Rock Island again followed and touched 92 $\frac{1}{2}$  but recovered to 90 $\frac{1}{2}$  or 91 better than the close last week. The coal stocks attracted more than their share of attention. Tennessee Coal dropped rapidly from 66 to 59 against 69 $\frac{1}{2}$  this morning, a net loss of 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. There was a feeble recovery of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 per cent. Colorado Coal sympathized and declined from 45 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 43 but afterward recovered most of the loss. Reading also showed a temporary decline and dropped to 39, but rallied later. The stock market was much changed after midday. Tennessee Coal went off with a whirr to 51 but recovered to 53. There was an impression that the large short interest was nervous and covering under attack on a few speculators. Buying in railroad shares became quite general. Burlington led the advance, and went up to 100 $\frac{1}{2}$ , closing at 103 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Rock Island followed to 90 $\frac{1}{2}$  or 1 per cent higher for the day. St. Paul touched 68; Missouri Pacific 72 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; and Union Pacific 65 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Sugar was firm and Cicago Gas was up at the close. The total sales were 202,678 shares.

The following were the closing quotations:

U. S. 4 regular, 125 Northern Pacific, 31.  
U. S. 4 coupons, 125 do preferred, 125.  
U. S. 4 regular, 125 Northern Pacific, 31.  
U. S. 4 coupons, 125 do preferred, 125.  
Facilities of 125 N.Y. Central, 100.  
Chicago & Alton, 125 do preferred, 125.  
Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, 125 C. & St. P., 125.  
D. & W., 125.  
Illinois Central, 125 do preferred, 125.  
H. & W., 125.  
Rock Island, 125 do preferred, 125.  
Lake Shore, 125 do preferred, 125.  
Michigan Central, 125 Western Union, 125.  
Missouri Pacific, 65 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

MONEY.—On call easy, ranging 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. PRIME MERCANTILE PARCELS—4 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 5 per cent.

STERLING EXCHANGE—Weak; sixty-day bills, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  to 5; demand, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

PRODUCE MARKETS.

CHICAGO, Feb. 24.—11:30 p. m. close—Wheat.—Ffirmer, February, 74 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; March, 75 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; May, 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; July, 78 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; September, 79 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; November, 80 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; December, 81 $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Corn—Steady; February, 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; May, 28 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; Oats—Higher; February, 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ ; May,

The Week's Business.		
For the week ending Saturday, February 22.		
SWIFT & CO.	5,434	
GEORGE H. HAMMOND & CO.	1,428	
THE ARMOUR-CUDAHY PACKING COMPANY	1,987	
OMAHA PACKING CO.	156	
SHIPPERS AND FEEDERS	5,400	
LOCAL	58	
Total	12,321	

FEB.		
Showing the number of hogs bought by the leading buyers of to-day's market:		
ARMOUR-CUDAHY PACKING COMPANY	315	
OMAHA PACKING COMPANY	479	
SWIFT & CO.	613	
GEORGE H. HAMMOND & CO.	374	
HOGS SATURDAY AVERAGED 270 POUND, AND 60 TO THE CAR.		

MARCH		
Showing the number of hogs bought by the leading buyers of to-day's market:		
ARMOUR-CUDAHY PACKING COMPANY	315	
OMAHA PACKING COMPANY	479	
SWIFT & CO.	613	
GEORGE H. HAMMOND & CO.	374	
HOGS SATURDAY AVERAGED 270 POUND, AND 60 TO THE CAR.		

APRIL		
Showing the number of hogs bought by the leading buyers of to-day's market:		
ARMOUR-CUDAHY PACKING COMPANY	315	
OMAHA PACKING COMPANY	479	
SWIFT & CO.	613	
GEORGE H. HAMMOND & CO.	374	
HOGS SATURDAY AVERAGED 270 POUND, AND 60 TO THE CAR.		

MAY		
Showing the number of hogs bought by the leading buyers of to-day's market:		
ARMOUR-CUDAHY PACKING COMPANY	315	
OMAHA PACKING COMPANY	479	
SWIFT & CO.	613	
GEORGE H. HAMMOND & CO.	374	
HOGS SATURDAY AVERAGED 270 POUND, AND 60 TO THE CAR.		

JUNE		
Showing the number of hogs bought by the leading buyers of to-day's market:		
ARMOUR-CUDAHY PACKING COMPANY	315	
OMAHA PACKING COMPANY	479	
SWIFT & CO.	613	
GEORGE H. HAMMOND & CO.	374	
HOGS SATURDAY AVERAGED 270 POUND, AND 60 TO THE CAR.		

JULY		
Showing the number of hogs bought by the leading buyers of to-day's market:		
ARMOUR-CUDAHY PACKING COMPANY	315	
OMAHA PACKING COMPANY	479	
SWIFT & CO.	613	
GEORGE H. HAMMOND & CO.	374	
HOGS SATURDAY AVERAGED 270 POUND, AND 60 TO THE CAR.		

AUGUST		
Showing the number of hogs bought by the leading buyers of to-day's market:		
ARMOUR-CUDAHY PACKING COMPANY	315	
OMAHA PACKING COMPANY	479	
SWIFT & CO.	613	
GEORGE H. HAMMOND & CO.	374	
HOGS SATURDAY AVERAGED 270 POUND, AND 60 TO THE CAR.		

SEPTEMBER		
Showing the number of hogs bought by the leading buyers of to-day's market:		
ARMOUR-CUDAHY PACKING COMPANY	315	
OMAHA PACKING COMPANY	479	
SWIFT & CO.	613	
GEORGE H. HAMMOND & CO.	374	
HOGS SATURDAY AVERAGED 270 POUND, AND 60 TO THE CAR.		