THE CONDITION OF TRADE.

How the Squeeze Will Benefit the Financial Situation in Omaha.

BANKS HAVE NO MONEY FOR SPECULATION

Collections Still Slow but Improving—Few Failures for the Week—A Frightening Up in the Jobbing Line.

According to the views of local bankers the financial situation in Omaha is improving. Money is not much easier than it was a week ago but there are indications that the easeness is not so generally felt as was recently the case. Business men are meeting their obligations at the banks promptly and are generally reducing their indebtedness, which of itself is a very hopeful sign. Under the present conditions it is only a question of a little time when the problem of tight money will have solved itself and the financial situation in Omaha will be in better shape than ever from the very fact of its having gone through a squeeze and learned self-reliance. The banks are still very conservative in the matter of discounts but they claim to be taking good care of their regular patrons, which is doubtless the case as less complaint has been heard during the past week from business men. A local banker expressed the position of his own bank by saying "we have enough money for the legitimate requirements of trade, but very little for speculative purposes or to loan on real estate based on a speculative valuation." This is very largely the ground taken by all the banks and is the continuation of the conservative spirit that has characterized all acts of the bankers of Omaha during the recent financial stringency.

Collections at Omaha are still rather slow and in that the closeness of money is most apparent.

A very good indication of an improved condition in the west is the fact that only six failures in business have been reported during the past week in the territory embracing Nebraska and parts of Wyoming, South Dakota and Iowa, or in other words, the territory immediately tributary to Omaha. The average in the same territory for a while back has been about twenty-two per week. Besides the small number, the failures themselves were for the most part of no great importance, as the largest of the six was for only $10,000. This is a most satisfying showing, as a good many had rather anticipated an increase in the number of failures for the latter part of this month.

WHOLESALE TRADE.

Business in a jobbing way has been very fair during the past seven days. There has been quite a movement of seasonable goods, which was stimulated to some extent by the colder weather. Orders for spring goods are also commencing to arrive more freely with a promise of still larger orders to follow as the season advances. The past week has generally been favorable to all lines of merchandise business and there is safety be said that the outlook is brighter. The general prevalence of heavy snows all over the state has been a great source of encouragement as presaging good crops for the coming summer, even in localities that suffered most during the past season. The country retail dealers who have been in the city during the past week have expressed great satisfaction that there will be plenty of moisture in the ground with the opening of the spring and they have much more confidence in the future of trade than was the case a month ago. Their present condition has also been greatly improved by the liberal demand for winter goods which has been experienced by the retail trade throughout the state during the past ten days. This has enabled the retail dealers to unload a very considerable proportion of their winter stocks which it was feared they would be compelled to carry over. In view of these facts the jobbers of the city have reason to feel encouraged at the outlook. As to the values in standard lines of goods there have been few changes worthy of special mention, the markets generally being very even.

In rubber goods the situation is a little unusual. Crude rubber is advancing, but rubber shoes are declining. As usual when the prevailing conditions are unnatural the cause is due to some special manipulation on the part of speculators. Baron de Gondoriz, backed by native and foreign capital, is endeavoring to corner the entire rubber output of the Amazon region and is succeeding so far at least as to advance prices on crude rubber. At the same time a misunderstanding, or as it is more generally termed, a war among the manufacturers of rubber shoes is lowering prices on that class of goods. Since the first of the month the drop in prices has been from 38@6 per cent to 45@5 per cent. The prospects are that values can not long remain at the present low point for any great length of time. The recent snow storms have helped to reduce very materially the stocks of rubber boots and shoes in the hands of the retail dealers and in that respect have been of great benefit to the trade.

The clothing trade has suffered considerably from the open winter, but taking everything into consideration it is now in very fair condition. The local trade in this line was very good the past week and jobbers are reporting an increase in outside orders for spring goods.

Trade in the lines covered by the jobbers of hats, caps, etc., was not very brisk, owing in good part to the fact that some of their best territory was rendered rather inaccessible by the snow blockade.

Jobbers of hardware report considerable improvement in trade and goods in their line are commencing to move more freely, especially spring goods. Prices remain about steady. They have reached a point where it would not seem that they could go much lower and there is not activity enough to the market to push prices up. Taking this view of the situation it would look as if the present ought to be a favorable time in which to buy hardware.

The wholesale grocery trade has been practically featureless for some days past. Prices have presented no decided changes; some lines have shown a firmness, but not enough to warrant any advance. As to the volume of business the week has been all that could reasonably have been expected.

There were more retail dry goods merchants in the city last week looking around the jobbing houses and there was a more apparent disposition to buy. Mail orders which had been kept back by the storm came in more freely toward the close of the week. Prices remain about steady but the market is rather unsettled.

COUNTRY PRODUCE

commanded good prices all last week and the market was very nearly steady on everything with the exception of eggs. At the opening of the week eggs were quoted at 16@17c and with other markets lower so that shippers could do nothing, there appeared to be every reason for expecting a steady decline in the price. Contrary to expectations the receipts proved to be very light and the market was gradually forced up until 20c was reached on Friday. Dealers were all the while looking for a break and the prevalent feeling was bearish. The more liberal arrivals at the close of the week caused a drop of about 2c. Poultry was in light supply and good request all the week. Chickens sold mostly at 8@9c, but toward the close dropped 1c. Geese and ducks showed rather more strength at the close than at the opening and the choicest stock sold up to 11c. Butter was featureless, remaining in the same notch all the week, but the receipts were moderate and the prices obtained very satisfactory. It was not safe to anticipate over 1c for the best country rolls, though it was sometimes possible to get more in small lots. Hay, owing to the light supply, advanced to $8.00@8.25 for the best grades.

LIVE STOCK.

The Omaha cattle market began the week with a drop of 5@10c on all but the best grades of beeves and followed this up with a still further decline on Tuesday. This was apparently due to the oversupply of the common grades, but the tide turned in the other direction on Wednesday. The improvement was only temporary, as Thursday brought a market that was no more than steady on the best grades while the tendency was downward on the more undesirable beeves. On Friday some gain was made and retained to the close of the week. Good beeves averaging 1,350 to 1,450 sold at $4.50@4.80, with 1,100 to 1,200 lb cattle at $4.00@4.40. Very nearly half of all the beef steers sold brought $4.00 and above.

The market in good cows was strong, but common kinds were weak in sympathy with the low prices at which the more undesirable of the beef steers sold. The best cows sold at $3.00@3.80 with pretty fair stuff at $2.50@3.50 and on down to $1.00 per hundred for the very common canners. Some very choice heifers sold up to $4.00.

The best feeders remained at about steady prices though the trading was limited, but the common grades, of which there was an oversupply, went off about 25c during the week. The prices paid for good feeders ranged principally from $2.50@3.00.

The receipts of cattle for the week show a decided gain over the previous week.

The changes in the hog market during the week have not been of very great importance, the fluctuations being confined to a narrow range. The opening and closing prices of the week were not far removed from each other. The average price paid for hogs kept inside the range of $2.77@2.85, and $2.80@3.10 bought a very considerable proportion of the offerings. The receipts of hogs for the week were considerably in excess of the previous week.

SPECULATIVE MARKETS.

During the past week the bulls made a strong effort to advance the price of wheat at Chicago, using whatever strong features there were to the best possible advantage. In spite of them, however, the market acted heavy and closed 1c lower than it opened. It would seem from this that barring accidents to the new crop the market will go gradually lower.

Corn was comparatively active and sold up to 56c for May during the week. Around 56c there were heavy offerings and the market weakened off, closing about midway between the high and low point of the week. Conservative traders think it a sale on hard spots.

Oats were dull and featureless all the week.

Provisions were stronger on the lighter receipts of hogs and a better class of buying orders. The bottom seems to have been reached at about $9.50 for clear pork and a comparatively dull market with an advancing tendency is anticipated.

The board at St. Louis was closed on Saturday out of respect to General Sherman.

The following table will show the highest and lowest prices for leading options at Chicago and St. Louis on each day of the period under review, also the opening and closing of the week:

Date	Wheat May Open	High	Low	Close	Corn May Open	High	Low	Close	Oats May Open	High	Low	Close	Pork May Open	High	Low	Close	Lard May Open	High	Low	Close	Ribs May Open	High	Low	Close
Monday, Feb. 16	96¾	97⅛	96⅝	96⅞	47⅝	48⅛	47⅝	48	29	29⅛	28⅞	29	9 37½	9 37½	9 25	9 30	6 05	6 05	5 95	5 97½	5 15	5 15	5 05	5 07½
Tuesday, Feb. 17	96⅞	96⅞	96⅛	96⅛	48	48⅛	47⅞	47⅞	29⅛	29⅛	28⅞	28⅞	9 35	9 35	9 22½	9 22½	6 05	6 05	5 95	5 95	5 15	5 15	5 05	5 05
Wednesday, Feb. 18	96⅞	96⅞	96⅛	96⅛	47⅞	48	47⅞	48	29	29⅛	28⅞	29	9 35	9 35	9 25	9 25	6 05	6 05	5 95	5 95	5 15	5 15	5 05	5 05
Thursday, Feb. 19	96⅞	97	96⅞	97	48	48⅛	47⅞	48	29⅛	29⅛	28⅞	29	9 35	9 37½	9 25	9 30	6 05	6 05	5 95	5 97½	5 15	5 15	5 05	5 07½
Friday, Feb. 20	97⅛	97⅛	96⅞	96⅞	48⅛	48⅛	47⅞	47⅞	29⅛	29⅛	28⅞	28⅞	9 37½	9 37½	9 25	9 25	6 05	6 05	5 95	5 95	5 15	5 15	5 05	5 05
Saturday, Feb. 21	96⅞	96⅞	96⅛	96⅛	47⅞	48	47⅞	48	29	29⅛	28⅞	29	9 35	9 35	9 25	9 25	6 05	6 05	5 95	5 95	5 15	5 15	5 05	5 05

Date	Corn, Cash	Oats, Cash	Pork, Cash	Lard, Cash	Ribs, Cash
Monday, Feb. 16	48	29	9 30	6 00	5 15
Tuesday, Feb. 17	48	29	9 30	6 00	5 15
Wednesday, Feb. 18	48	29	9 30	6 00	5 15
Thursday, Feb. 19	48	29	9 30	6 00	5 15
Friday, Feb. 20	48	29	9 30	6 00	5 15
Saturday, Feb. 21	48	29	9 30	6 00	5 15

No session of Board.

OMAHA LIVE STOCK.

OMAHA, Feb. 21, 1891.

CATTLE—Estimated receipts of cattle 2,050 as compared with 1,542 yesterday and 1,537 Saturday of last week. The best grades were active and strong, others steady. Feeders were very slow and lower, fully 25c lower than last week.

HOGS—Estimated receipts of hogs 7,000, as compared with 5,557 yesterday and 4,668 Saturday of last week. The market opened slow, with fresh meat men bidding about steady prices and packers 5c lower. The market closed and 5@10c lower. The range of the prices was $3.00@3.35, the bulk selling at $3.25@3.40. Pigs, $2.00@2.50; light-lights, $2.75@3.00; light, $3.00@3.35; heavy, $3.00@3.50; mixed, $3.25@3.40. The average of the prices was $3.30½ as compared with $3.34½ yesterday and $3.22½ Saturday of last week.

SHEEP—Estimated receipts of sheep, 405, as compared with 565 yesterday and 1,061 Saturday of last week. The market was active and steady. Natives, $2.50@4.80; westerns, $2.50@4.75.

Receipts and Shipments.

Showing the official receipts and shipments of cattle, hogs and sheep on the dates indicated:

RECEIPTS.

Dates.	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.
Friday, Feb. 13	2,067	5,561	225
Saturday, Feb. 14	1,537	4,668	1,061
Monday, Feb. 16	2,360	4,012	440
Tuesday, Feb. 17	3,500	6,551	69
Wednesday, Feb. 18	1,715	5,552	622
Thursday, Feb. 19	1,300	4,825	50
Friday, Feb. 20	1,542	5,557	565
Saturday, Feb. 21	2,050	7,000	405
Second week of Feb.	10,647	27,800	3,579
First week of Feb.	13,065	36,811	2,874
Fourth week of Jan.	15,524	50,919	3,883
Third week of Jan.	13,360	42,807	2,059
Second week of Jan.	12,021	35,243	2,256
First week of Jan.	9,417	35,734	2,289

SHIPMENTS.

DATES.	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.
Thursday, Feb. 12	1,067	....	....
Friday, Feb. 13	354	....	....
Saturday, Feb. 14	1,464	....	202
Monday, Feb. 16	1,042	121	....
Tuesday, Feb. 17	1,604	302	....
Wednesday, Feb. 18	1,409	97	....
Thursday, Feb. 19	415	122	....
Second week of Feb.	5,533	....	1,377
First week of Feb.	7,520	1,010	1,850
Fourth week of Jan.	8,236	838	2,565
Third week of Jan.	4,968	1,925	83
Second week of Jan.	5,216	2,981	1,149
First week of Jan.	5,362	1,363	1,718

Disposition of Stock.

Showing the number of cattle, hogs and sheep purchased on this market as reported by the weighmaster of the Stockyards company for February 21.

CATTLE.

Swift & Co.	478
The G. H. Hammond company	246
The Cudahy packing company	305
Omaha packing company	14
Lee Rothschild	194
Hamilton & Stephen	61
Benton & Underwood	24
Nels Morris	15
Shippers and feeders	762
R. Becker & Degen	115

HOGS.

The Cudahy packing company	2,730
Omaha packing company	2,443
Swift & Co.	1,275
The G. H. Hammond packing company	561
Shippers and feeders	671

SHEEP.

Swift & Co.	197
The G. H. Hammond packing company	208

The Week.

Showing the number of head of stock purchased on this market as reported by the weighmasters of the Stockyards company for the week ending Saturday, February 21.

CATTLE.

Swift & Co.	2,236
The G. H. Hammond Co.	1,563
The Cudahy Packing Co.	1,037
Omaha Packing Co.	14
Shippers and feeders	7,022

HOGS.

The Cudahy Packing Co.	13,524
Omaha Packing Co.	9,662
Swift & Co.	6,483
The G. H. Hammond Packing Co.	3,652
Shippers and feeders	4,150

SHEEP.

Swift & Co.	2,155
The Cudahy Packing Co.	412
The G. H. Hammond Packing Co.	315

Stock Receipts.

Estimated Today.	Official Yesterday.
Cattle.... 93 cars, 2,050	Cattle.... 70 cars, 1,542
Hogs.... 99 cars, 7,000	Hogs.... 82 cars, 7,557
Sheep.... 2 cars, 405	Sheep.... 3 cars, 565

Highest and Lowest.

Today.	Yesterday.
Highest.... $4.50	Highest.... $4.55
Lowest.... 3.00	Lowest.... 3.00

Comparative Table.

The following table shows the range in prices on hogs:

Monday, January 19	3.00	@3.60
Tuesday, January 20	3.00	@3.60
Wednesday, January 21	2.60	@3.55
Thursday, January 22	2.75	@3.50
Friday, January 23	3.00	@3.55
Saturday, January 24	2.80	@3.55
Monday, January 26	3.10	@3.60
Tuesday, January 27	3.00	@3.60
Wednesday, January 28	2.85	@3.55
Thursday, January 29	3.15	@3.55
Friday, January 30	3.20	@3.60
Saturday, January 31	3.15	@3.55
Monday, February 2	3.00	@3.55
Tuesday, February 3	3.25	@3.55
Wednesday, February 4	3.10	@3.65
Thursday, February 5	3.10	@3.65
Friday, February 6	3.10	@3.60
Saturday, February 7	3.00	@3.50
Monday, February 9	3.10	@3.40
Tuesday, February 10	3.10	@3.50
Wednesday, February 11	3.00	@3.50
Thursday, February 12	3.00	@3.40
Friday, February 13	3.00	@3.45
Saturday, February 14	3.00	@3.50
Monday, February 16	2.90	@3.45
Tuesday, February 17	2.90	@3.45
Wednesday, February 18	2.90	@3.50
Thursday, February 19	3.00	@3.45
Friday, February 20	3.00	@3.55
Saturday, February 21	3.00	@3.50

Average Price of Hogs.

Showing the average price paid for loads of hogs on the days indicated in 1888, 1889, 1890 and 1891:

Days.	Jan. '91	Jan '90.	Jan. '89	Jan. '88.
1	Sunday.	3 59	4 84	5 04
2	3 42½	Sunday.	4 75	5 08
3	3 50½	3 53	Sunday.	5 12
4	3 51	3 69	4 79	5 21
5	3 52	3 62	4 78	Sunday.
6	3 53½	3 72	4 67	5 15
7	3 53½	3 56	4 57	5 10
8	Sunday.	3 64	4 49	5 09
9	3 57½	Sunday.	4 46	5 13
10	3 61	3 65	Sunday.	5 22
11	3 58½	3 65	4 55	5 27
12	3 60	3 61	4 55	Sunday.
13	3 45	3 55	4 62	5 19
14	3 37½	3 61	4 67	5 10

Days	Feb. '91.	Feb '90.	Feb. '89.	Feb. '88.
1	Sunday.	3 66	4 57	5 07
2	3 53½	3 67	4 50	5 18
3	3 45½	Sunday.	Sunday.	5 26
4	3 45½	3 55	4 45	5 23
5	3 44½	3 55	4 50	Sunday.
6	3 43½	3 72	5 55	5 31
7	3 50½	3 72	4 45	5 40
8	Sunday.	3 74	4 43	5 42
9	3 39½	Sunday.	4 50	5 34
10	3 33½	3 77	Sunday.	4 35
11	3 34½	3 73	4 40	5 30
12	3 25½	3 67	4 35	Sunday.
13	3 27½	3 72	4 31	5 23
14	3 32½	3 72	4 36	5 22
15	Sunday.	3 78	4 37	5 15
16	3 34½	Sunday.	4 32	5 16
17	3 27½	3 72	Sunday.	5 17
18	3 30½	3 71	4 32	5 13
19	3 28½	3 71	4 35	Sunday.
20	3 31½	3 73½	4 34	5 23
21	3 31½	3 73	4 24	5 23

Range of Prices.

The following table shows the prices paid for sheep:

Prime fat sheep	$3 75	@4 75
Good fat sheep	3 30	@3 60
Common to medium sheep	2 25	@3 00
Western ewes	2 00	@4 75

Highest and Lowest Sales of Hogs.

IN JANUARY.

Highest, Thursday, January 1	$3 75
Lowest, Thursday, 23d	2 75
Highest average, Monday, 5th	3 52½
Lowest average, Wednesday, 21st	3 31

IN FEBRUARY.

Highest, Wednesday, 4th	3 65
Lowest, Saturday, 7th	2 90
Highest average, Wednesday, 4th	3 47½
Lowest average, Thursday, 12th	3 29½

Representative Sales.

STEERS.

No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.
1	860	$3 00	24	1055	$4 00	41	1237	$4 15
2	825	3 00	24	1055	4 00	20	1282	4 15
1	840	3 00	16	1121	4 05	18	1258	4 15
6	650	3 15	41	1167	4 05	3	1380	4 15
3	900	3 50	20	1191	4 05	1	1144	4 20
20	801	3 55	10	1280	4 10	9	1198	4 25
22	910	3 60	79	1139	4 10	18	1221	4 25
14	931	3 65	21	1189	4 10	9	1270	4 25
8	896	3 70	14	1221	4 10	7	1297	4 30
39	952	3 75	18	1253	4 10	7	1323	4 35
2	960	3 75	7	1133	4 10	14	1250	4 35
16	941	3 75	20	1092	4 10	40	1255	4 37½
12	1008	3 80	18	1178	4 12½	22	1221	4 40
12	1046	3 80	18	1228	4 15	2	1155	4 45
15	992	3 85	21	1234	4 15	17	1327	4 55
18	1106	3 95	22	1150	4 15	40	1284	4 75
79	1156	3 95	1	1300	4 15	32	1431	4 85
19	1052	3 95	23	1314	4 15	51	1472	4 90
9	1215	4 00	20	1182	4 15			

OXEN AND STEERS.

18	1283	3 60						

COWS.

3	803	1 15	22	870	2 50	20	821	2 85
4	930	1 50	1	1150	2 50	10	1071	2 85
5	798	1 50	14	918	2 55	5	1348	2 85
1	870	1 50	12	920	2 60	7	1185	2 85
1	910	1 70	11	963	2 60	17	1159	2 90
3	1120	1 75	13	978	2 60	12	1066	2 90
2	1105	1 75	19	969	2 65	2	1175	3 00
11	852	2 00	10	763	2 65	2	1060	3 00
20	973	2 00	4	1030	2 65	1	1030	3 00
15	846	2 00	20	930	2 70	1	1030	3 00
15	941	2 00	1	1040	2 75	24	924	3 15
2	1050	2 15	1	1110	2 75	2	1045	3 25
3	1113	2 15	2	865	2 75	2	1055	3 25
1	1060	2 25	17	975	2 75	1	1400	3 35
4	1065	2 35	2	820	2 80	1	1090	3 60
5	760	2 40	17	1012	2 80	12	1228	3 85

BULLS.

1	1100	1 85	3	1573	2 25	1	1090	2 80
1	1150	2 20	5	1325	2 25	1	1700	2 85
1	1400	2 25	1	1500	2 40	1	1370	3 10
1	1140	2 25	1	1280	2 50	1	1330	3 25
1	1000	2 25	1	1440	2 75	2	1000	3 25
1	1000	2 25	2	1000	2 75	1	1090	3 75

CALVES

1	70	2 50	2	275	4 00	3	196	4 75
5	376	2 75	1	140	4 00	1	140	5 00
4	340	2 90	2	145	4 50	1	190	5 50

HEIFERS.

20	677	2 50	1	500	2 60	7	718	3 10
20	580	2 75	8	701	3 10	4	927	3 25
11	610	2 75						

STOCKERS AND FEEDERS.

15	674	2 50	3	780	2 65	1	930	2 80

STAGS.

1	1640	2 25	18	1356	3 85	17	1538	3 85
35	1548	3 50						

OXEN.

3	1546	2 25	7	1044	2 90			

WESTERN CATTLE.

No.		Av.	Pr.
	Haley Live Stock company—		
60	cows	988	2 35
	Standard Cattle company—		
18	cows	1175	3 00
19	calves	164	4 50

HOGS.

No.	Av.	Sh.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Sh.	Pr.
93	145	120	$3 00	70	281	200	$3 32½
64	161	—	3 00	54	316	12	3 35
72	148	160	3 00	55	249	120	3 35
76	166	40	3 07½	60	254	80	3 35
84	193	120	3 10	71	225	—	3 35
68	196	—	3 10	66	247	120	3 35
67	189	40	3 10	62	256	40	3 35
96	167	160	3 10	74	257	200	3 35
80	169	40	3 10	71	284	80	3 35
71	158	40	3 12½	62	244	—	3 35
96	178	40	3 15	57	259	200	3 35
105	192	80	3 15	75	264	160	3 35
74	186	80	3 15	72	216	—	3 35
82	191	160	3 15	82	307	80	3 37½
80	235	320	3 20	61	272	40	3 40
68	210	40	3 20	65	272	—	3 40
71	184	160	3 22	61	283	120	3 40
70	215	120	3 22	57	245	—	3 40
67	206	160	3 22	54	274	—	3 40
55	209	200	3 22	75	243	80	3 40
69	218	80	3 25	84	300	120	3 40
72	223	200	3 25	58	318	160	3 40
65	230	120	3 25	50	315	240	3 40
75	225	80	3 25	80	205	80	3 40
65	250	320	3 25	67	285	240	3 40
78	214	40	3 25	68	208	—	3 40
87	207	120	3 25	65	259	—	3 40
60	221	160	3 25	61	258	80	3 40
71	188	80	3 25	78	220	240	3 40
77	219	80	3 25	61	307	80	3 40
77	229	40	3 25	57	287	160	3 40
78	204	200	3 25	70	272	—	3 40
60	220	80	3 25	78	226	80	3 42½
96	190	40	3 25	61	281	80	3 42½
68	214	120	3 25	9	365	—	3 45
74	208	120	3 25	64	344	120	3 45
81	240	160	3 25	57	351	80	3 45
104	182	120	3 27½	61	256	—	3 45
88	212	120	3 27½	48	303	—	3 45
68	209	80	3 30	64	252	—	3 45
69	226	40	3 30	62	268	80	3 45
64	285	80	3 30	50	301	80	3 45
87	243	120	3 30	62	291	—	3 45
85	187	—	3 30	42	330	—	3 45
84	238	120	3 30	44	436	—	3 50
72	254	200	3 30	53	333	120	3 50
75	211	80	3 30	47	437	—	3 50
72	222	120	3 30	51	326	80	3 50
68	229	80	3 30	57	173	40	3 50
45	245	80	3 30	40	458	—	3 50

PIGS AND ROUGH.

1	380	—	1 00	22	115	—	2 50
20	75	—	2 00	8	105	—	2 50
12	100	—	2 35	8	130	—	2 75

SHEEP.

No.		Av.	Pr.
28	natives, ewes	88	4 00

Country Produce.

GAME—Very few rabbits are coming in now. Cottontails sell at $1.00 per dozen.

BUTTER—The market did not present any new features yesterday, prices remaining just about the same point. Best country rolls, 17@18c; good, 16@16c; low grades, 6@12c.

The week closed with stocks fairly well cleaned up. There were some little changes yesterday but they were mostly on the side of lower prices. The most noticeable was in eggs and dressed chickens.

EGGS—The receipts were considerably larger yesterday and the tendency of stocks to accumulate weakened the market and sales were made at 17@18c.

POULTRY—Chickens were in more liberal receipt and as they did not move off any too freely a weaker market was consequent. The best stock sold at 8c and the more undesirable at 6@7c. Turkeys held up to the old price of 10@12½c. Geese and ducks were scarce and the market firm. The best sold at 10@11c but some inferior looking ducks went as low as 8c.

THE SPECULATIVE MARKETS.

A Good Day in Wheat is Something of a Surprise.

STRONG BEAR NEWS FROM KANSAS.

A Great Dropping Off in Interest in the Corn Pit—Oats Narrow and Neglected—Cattle and Hogs—Financial.

CHICAGO, Feb. 21.—[Special Telegram to THE BEE.]—The day in wheat was better than might have been expected with so many outside points still shut off from Chicago by wire. Private wires are mostly out of use and some of the best influences expected are not at hand. The indications for the severe weather, promised, were not very promising, although the cold wave signal was hoisted at Minneapolis. The easier silver market gave rise to talk of India offering Liverpool and other European points wheat at the prices now ruling in Chicago. California sent some buying orders, but these were more than offset by the statement of Temple of Kansas City, interested in a system of 100 elevators, that Kansas is full of old wheat and likely to come to the market right along now. The news in circulation being more bearish than otherwise, and leaders of trade generally sellers, it was not surprising that the only bulge in the price for the day did not hold. The action up to the last half hour was: May opened steady at 97⅛, sold off to 97c and up to 97⅛@97⅜c and back to 97c. July opened at 93c, sold at 92⅞c to 93⅛c. The heavy feeling in wheat the half an hour before the close resulted in a break, late in the session. May went off to 96⅝c, and closed at 96⅞c, or ⅝c lower for the day. July touched 92½c and closed at 92⅝c also ⅝c lower. February was quoted at 94½c to 93½c and closed nominal at 93⅝c.

There was a great dropping off in the interest in corn from previous days. The flurry over the covering of shorts in May appears to be over for the present at least. The cooler and dryer weather had a bearish effect on the trade. Many of those who sold short on the bulge yesterday, put out more corn this morning. The first action of the market was a drop from 55c to 54⅞c in May and tp 53½c or 53⅝c in July. Before noon, when wheat moved up, there was a little recovery in May to 54⅞@55c and July to 53⅝@53¾c. The easier feeling returned the last hour and at 1 o'clock prices were at about the bottom figures, with May at 54⅝c and July quoted at 1⅛c under. When wheat weakened the last half hour the sellers in corn took advantage to depress corn. May was sold, principally, and yielded to 54⅛c, closing at 54⅜c. July did not sell under the early figure, 53½c and closed at that price. February was quoted at 54c to 52⅞c to 52⅝c to the close. Puts on May on the curb sold at 54⅛c; calls at 55⅛@55⅜c.

The oats market was narrow and neglected. May sold at 46⅝c and 46½c, closing ½c under yesterday at 46⅝c. June was nominal at 46c. July at 44c.

There was a feeling in the provision market from the start. May pork opened at $9.02½, broke to $8.80 on the call, recovered to $9.87½ and sold at $9.77½ shortly before the close. Lard sold at $5.92½ and off to $5.85 or 10c under last night. Ribs were off a like amount. Hutchinson was a seller and the short interest appeared to be satisfied for the present. All hog products were sold freely before the end of the session and closed without any rally from the bottom figures except 2½c recovering in lard and ribs. Mess pork was especially heavy, selling down to $9.75 for May and $9.10 for