THE SPECULATIVE MARKETS.

Wheat Was Weak Yesterday and Prices Ruled Decidedly Lower.

CAUSED BY THE SITUATION IN EUROPE.

Free Selling Orders from the Northwest Started the Traders—Corn Sympathized with Other Cereals Generally.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 16.—Wheat was weak today and prices ruled lower. The conditions were full of discouragement for holders, and there was a steady selling pressure most of the day with a sluggish demand and trade was dull and narrow. The weakest aspect of the case was the situation in Europe where holders seem to have lost confidence and turned free sellers. For some days the situation there has been growing worse, and now there appears to be a general slaughter of the longs. Europe has been getting more than she was consuming for some weeks, and this has finally had its effect, and today most of the private cables reported the market sick, both on the continent and in the United Kingdom. Domestic markets have sympathized with conditions abroad and are tending downward. Local bears sold freely and longs were also inclined to let go their holdings. The decline met some stoploss orders, whose execution added to the weakness. St. Louis operators sold, and there were free selling orders from the northwest, while Schwartz-Dupee, Baldwin-Farnum and Milmine-Bodman led the selling on the part of the local commission houses. Partridge was also a liberal seller on all the hard spots. The buying was confined largely to the covering of shorts, which seemed a satisfactory market.

Bradstreet's reported a net increase for the week in the available supply in this country of 446,000 bu. The export clearances were light and the receipts in the northwest were heavier. May opened at 95c against 95⅞c at the close yesterday, broke to 93½c, reacted to 96⅝c, weakened again during the last hour, selling off to 93⅝c, rallied to 95⅛c and closed at 95⅝c.

Corn was weak and lower on all the futures. The weakness in the wheat pit was one of the depressing factors, but the chief one was the improved inspection, which was 57 cars out of 401 inspected. This is a larger per cent than for some time previous. This discouraged the bull party and their fears were augmented by the statement that at least one Chicago elevator was engaged in making contract corn at the rate of several thousand bu a day by drying out its excellent No. 2 new. Word was also received from other points that a good deal of corn is now trading contract and the proportion is expected to increase. So shorts felt more at ease and bought with the selling of longs. January opened lower at 44⅛c, sold as low as 43⅝c and closed at 43⅝c.

Oats were quiet, steady and without feature.

Hog products were steady and inclined to firmness, although trade was light. Receipts of live hogs were smaller than estimated and prices at the yards were quoted 10c higher. This tended to keep products steady, notwithstanding the weakness in wheat and corn. Allerton and Dunn were free sellers while the Anglo-American company, Charles Wright and Hately Bros. were good buyers. The close shows practically no change from the last figures of yesterday. Estimated receipts for tomorrow: Wheat, 240 cars; corn, 390 cars; oats, 216 cars.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

ARTICLES.	OPEN.	HIGH.	LOW.	CLOSE.
WHEAT—No. 2.				
December...	$ 90⅛	$ 90⅞	$ 89⅞	$ 90
January.....	91⅛	91⅝	90⅛	91
May.....	97	97⅛	96⅝	96⅝
CORN—No. 2—				
December...	50	50¼	47	48
January.....	44¾	45	43⅝	43⅝
May.....	42¾	42⅞	42¼	42⅜
OATS—No. 2—				
December...	32¼	32¼	32	32
January.....	32⅛	32⅛	30⅞	31⅛
May.....	33	33⅛	32⅝	32⅝
MESS PORK—				
December...	8 12½	8 12½	8 10	8 10
January.....	11 03	11 03	10 92½	10 95
May.....	11 42½	11 45	11 37½	11 43
LARD—				
December...	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00
January.....	6 12½	6 12½	6 10	6 12½
May.....	6 47½	6 50	6 45	6 47½
SHORT RIBS—				
December...	5 45	5 45	5 40	5 40
January.....	5 45	5 45	5 42½	5 42½
May.....	5 82½	5 82½	5 77½	5 80

Cash quotations were as follows:

FLOUR—Steady and unchanged.

WHEAT—No. 2 spring wheat, 93c; No. 3 spring wheat, 92½@93½c; No. 2 red, 99c.

CORN—No. 2, 45½c.

OATS—No. 2, 32c; No. 2 white, 33@34c; No. 3 white, 32@33c.

RYE—No. 2, 88c.

BARLEY—No. 2, 50c; No. 3, f. o. b., 38@57c; No. 4, f. o. b., 37@45c.

FLAX SEED—No. 1, 94½c.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, $1.23.

CHEESE—Firm: full cream cheddars, 11@11½c; young Americas, 12@12¼c.

EGGS—Unchanged.

TALLOW—Unchanged.

PORK—Mess pork, per bbl, $8.10@8.15; lard, per cwt, $6.07½; short ribs sides (loose), $5.40@5.62½; dry salted shoulders (boxed), $4.37½@4.50; short clear sides (boxed), $5.70@5.75.

WHISKEY—Distillers' finished goods, per gal, $1.18.

SUGAR—Cut loaf, unchanged, 5⅞@5¾c.

ARTICLES.	RECEIPTS.	SHIPMENTS.
Flour barrels	39,000	25,000
Wheat, bushels	188,000	180,000
Corn, bushels	326,000	297,000
Oats, bushels	232,000	288,000
Rye, bushels	45,000	20,000
Barley, bushels	86,000	53,000

On the Produce exchange today the butter market was quiet and unchanged: fancy creamery, 29½@37c; fine western, 25@26½c; ordinary, 20@22½c; selected dairy, 22@25c; ordinary, 18@21c; eggs, 23½@24½c.

New York Markets.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—FLOUR—Receipts, 400,009 pkgs; exports, 2,563 bbls.; 10,757 sacks; dull and weak; sales, 29,350 bbls.

WHEAT—Receipts, 206,350 bu.; exports, 167,734 bu.; sales, 7,064,000 bu. of futures; 18,000 bu. of spot. Spot market quiet and lower; No. 2 red, $1.04½@1.04¾ in store and elevator; $1.06@1.06¾ afloat; $1.06@1.07⅛ f. o. b.; No. 3 red, $1.00½@1.01; ungraded red, 98⅝@$1.11; No. 1 northern, $1.07¼; No. 1 hard, $1.11¼; No. 2 northern, $1.02. Options declined ⅜@1⅜c on depressed cables, increased disposition to sell on foreign account, liberal receipts and large Chicago operators selling short, reacted ½@⅞c on liberal buying, but closed weak at ⅜@1⅛c on yesterday. No. 2 red, December, $1.04⅛@1.04⅜, closing $1.04½; January, $1.04⅞@1.05⅜, closing $1.05; February, $1.06@1.06¼, closing $1.06⅛; March, $1.07¼@1.08, closing $1.07⅞; April, $1.07⅞@1.08, closing $1.07¾; May, $1.07⅞@1.08⅜, closing $1.07¾; June, $1.05¾@1.06⅛, closing, $1.05¾.

RYE—Dull; heavy western, $1.02@1.04.

BARLEY—Dull; No. 2 Milwaukee, 73@74c.

CORN—Receipts, 157,325 bu.; exports, 64,237 bu.; sales, 1,631,000 bu. futures; 174,000 bu. spot. Spot market fairly active, closing firmer; No. 2, 56⅛@57⅜c in elevator, 57⅝@59c afloat; unassorted mixed, 48@49c; No. 2 white, 56c; No. 3, 50@51c; steamed, mixed, 51½@55¼c. Options declined ⅝@2c, chiefly on December, on the increasing receipts; reacted ⅛@1c on increased export demand, closed weak at ⅛@1⅛c under yesterday; December, 56⅛@57⅜c, closing at 57⅛c; January, 53½@54⅛c, closing at 53⅝c; February, 52⅝@53⅝c, closing at 52⅞c; March, 52⅝@52¾c, closing at 52¾c; May, 51½@51¾c, closing at 51¾c.

OATS—Receipts, 88,150 bu.; exports, 9,163 bu.; sales, 290,000 bu. of futures, 146,000 bu. of spot. Spot market weaker; moderately active; options dull, lower; December, 30⅝@40c, closing at 30⅞c; January 30⅝@30¾c, closing at 30⅝c; May, 32@32⅛c, closing at 32⅛c; spot No. 2 white, 4½@34c; mixed western, 38½@41½c; No. 2 white, 39@41½c; No. 2 Chicago, 41½c.

HAY—Quiet, steady.

HOPS—Firm, good demand.

SUGAR—Raw, dull, nominal; refined, moderately active, steady.

MOLASSES—New Orleans, firm; good demand.

RICE—Firm; good demand.

PETROLEUM—Steady; declined ⅜ per cent on a few short sales, then became dull and remained so until the close. Pennsylvania oil spot sales, none; January option opened at 59½c; highest, 59½c; lowest, 58⅞c; closing, 58⅞c; Lima oil, no sales; total sales, 29,000 bbls.

COTTON SEEDOIL—Dull; crude, 25c; yellow, quiet.

TALLOW—Dull, barely steady.

ROSIN—Steady.

TURPENTINE—Steady; 33½@34¼c.

EGGS—Easy; western, 30@32c.

PORK—Quiet; old mess, $9.50; new, $10.50; extra prime, $9.50.

CUT MEATS—Quiet, weak; pickled bellies, 5¾@5¾c; pickled shoulders, 5c; hams, 7¾@8c; middles, quiet, steady.

LARD—Easier and quiet; western steam, closed at $6.42½ bid; sales, 250 tierces at $6.40; option sales, 1,500 tierces: December, $6.40 asked; January, $6.44; February, $6.53 bid; March, $6.63 bid; May, $6.78.

BUTTER—Quiet, easy; western dairy, 16@22c; western creamery, 19@29½c; Elgin, 29@29½c.

CHEESE—Quiet; part skims, 4½@9c.

PIG IRON—Fair demand; American, $15.50@17.75.

COPPER—Quiet, steady; lake and December, $10.30.

LEAD—Quiet; domestic, $4.25.

TIN—Quiet and firm; straits, $20.00.

Minneapolis Wheat Market.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Dec. 16.—Cash wheat was active; large amount of low grade stuff sold at a very good price; receipts, 540 cars. Close for No. 1 northern: December, 85¼c; May, 91½c; January, 85⅛c on track; No. 1 northern, 87¼c; No. 1 hard, 88¼c; No. 2 northern, 81@85c.

New York Dry Goods Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—There was an improved general demand for dry goods and a more active movement in bleached cottons. Buyers have been waiting for some time for a price to be put on Lonsdale and bleached shirtings. This was done today and a few other lines followed, though the action has been quietly discounted by some agents. The following revisions were made: Lonsdale 4-4 bleached shirtings, 8¼c; Lonsdale 7-8 bleached shirtings, 7¼c; Blackstone, 7c; Hope, 7c; Fitchville, 6½c; Forget-Me-Not, 5c; New York mills 4-4 bleached shirtings, 10½c. The reductions on the Lonsdale cambrics were made 1c. The movement seems to satisfy buyers and relieves the market from suspense. A few other reductions may follow. These reductions occur upon comparatively light stocks.

Milwaukee Grain Market.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Dec. 16.—WHEAT—Easier; cash, 91¼c; No. 2 spring, 86c; No. 1 northern, 91c.

CORN—Lower; No. 3, 41c.

OATS—Quiet; No. 2 white, 33½@33¾c; No. 3 white, 32@32½c.

BARLEY—Easy; No. 2, 55½c; sample on track, 39@59.

RYE—Dull; 88c.

Omaha Grain Market.

Prices based on delivery at Mississippi river points. Nebraska inspection, and ten days' shipment, unless otherwise stated.

WHEAT—No. 2 red winter, 91c bid; No 3 red winter, 85c bid.

RYE—No. 2, 85c bid.

CORN—No. 3 or better, 39½c bid, Baltimore terms; January, 39c bid.

Coffee Markets.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—Options opened steady from 5 points up to 10 points down and closed steady from 5 points down to 15 points up; sales, 42,750 bags, including: December, $14.93@$15.20; January, $12.70@12.85; February, $12.50@12.55; March, $12.10@12.30; May, $11.90@11.95; July, $11.80; October, $11.65; spot Rio, firm, but quiet; No. 7, $14.0½.

Liverpool Markets.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 16.—WHEAT—Dull; holders offer moderately; California No. 1, 8s 9½d per cental; red western, spring, 8s 4½d@8s 5d; No. 2 red, winter, 8s 4½d.

CORN—Easy; demand fair; mixed 5s 4½d per cental.

LARD—Prime western, 3ls per cwt.

St. Louis Markets.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 16.—WHEAT—Weak; cash, 92½c; May, 97⅛@97⅜c.

CORN—Easy; cash, 39⅝@39¾c; May, 39½c.

OATS—Weak; cash, 31½@32c; May, 32½c.

PORK—Quiet; new, $11.25.

LARD—Firm at $6.05.

WHISKEY—$1.18.

Cincinnati Markets.

CINCINNATI, O., Dec. 16.—WHEAT—Nominal; No. 2 red, 94c.

CORN—Easier; No. 2, mixed, 45c.

OATS—Easier; No. 2 mixed, 35@35½c.

WHISKEY—$1.18.

Toledo Grain Market.

TOLEDO, O., Dec. 16.—WHEAT—Lower; No. 2 cash and December, 95½c.

CORN—Steady; No. 2, cash, 45c.

OATS—Quiet; cash, 34c.

Traders' Talk.

CHICAGO, Dec. 16.—Counselman & Day to Cockrell Bros.: Wheat opened ⅜c lower and closed 1⅛c lower than yesterday. Weak closing, liberal arrivals at spring wheat points, a net increase of 446,000 bu. reported by Bradstreet's in the absence of enough new buying to absorb current receipts, caused a heavy feeling and brought out some pretty free selling by the long element. The market closed heavy and within ¼c of the low point of the break. Two eastern rail roads are nominally open for shipment but practically the blockade continues and the sample market is depressed. Corn opened lower and heavy in tone and closed lower than yesterday. Oats were dull and considering the surrounding weakness held up remarkably well. Provisions were firm and all offerings for January delivery were taken by packers, some of whom sold May on the hard spots. The closing was dull with pork and lard unchanged and ribs 2½c easier. A good shipping demand, but speculation flat.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 16.—F. G. Logan & Co. to J. Sands Commission company: Wheat opened weak. Foreign advices are lower with a demoralized feeling because of heavy imports and want of speculation. The market here must have more outside help to sustain it even at the decline. The northwest receipts, we are informed, will increase. The southwest receipts keep up, and reports of the growing crop treat y improved, tends to lower prices with them. The seaboards say there is no buying support and the latest Beerbohm figures the world's supply in store and afloat at three principal grain centers at 20,000,000 bu., which is 50,000,000 more than one year ago. Under these circumstances higher prices cannot be looked for. Should the foreigners sell out their holdings a further decline will follow. The only thing in the near future to advance prices is damage by severe weather. Corn was panicky from the opening. It is yet too high and January is out of all proportion to May. Oats weak and lower. Provisions strong on light receipts of hogs. Prices higher.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 16.—Kennett, Hopkins & Co. to S. S. McWhorter: There was liberal buying of wheat around 97c. The market had declined nearly 3c from last week's rally, the amount on passage and fallen off in spite of large clearances, and the visible supply in this country, including both coasts, showed an increase of less than 500,000 bushels for the week. The bare wheat fields had also experienced a freeze, and it was thou ht by room traders that buying against puts would show a profit before the day closed, but private cables received shortly after the session opened showed that foreign markets were very weak. They have been showing weakness for some days, but in their closing cables today foreign holders seemed to throw up the sponge and retire from the field. These advices had a depressing effect here and a great deal of wheat came out for liquidation of long accounts. Long, who had been fighting bravely on the long side, said it was useless to try to lift prices in this country without foreign help. If holders abroad are going to run, as seems very probable, the liquidation should result there as here, we don't see anything to prevent a further decline in American markets. The trade is too narrow to stand up under the concentrated selling of the big bears when the foreign outlook is so discouraging. The boom which seems sure to come later on appears to be indefinitely postponed. Larger receipts, better grading and prospects of more abundant supplies in contract corn resulted in a weaker market with considerable liquidation of longs in December and January. May declined slowly because the trade is so bullish that it was bought at every fractional decline. Some receivers predict that it will soon be at a premium over January and possibly this is true if the weather should favor shipments and the railways furnish enough cars, but it should not be forgotten that every sharp break in the old crop futures has for months been followed by squeezing the shorts and the condition may favor more disastrous manipulation. We see nothing on which to buy May and believe it to be a sale on all hard spots for 2@3c profit. Oats dull and some in sympathy with corn. Provisions have been well held considering weakness in other products though it is not expected that the run of hogs will let up materially until after the holidays. The belief seems to be growing stronger with the trade that the supply will run short after a time, and as but little lower prices are to be looked for any way it is safe to anticipate conditions and to be cautious about staying too long on the short side. Receipts of hogs here are largely over the marketing last year they are decidedly short at more western points.

New York Money Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—MONEY ON CALL—Easy, ranging from 2½ to 3 per cent; last loan, 3 per cent; closed offered at 3 per cent.

PRIME MERCANTILE PAPER—4@5 per cent.

STERLING EXCHANGE—Quiet and firm at $4.83 for sixty-day bills and $4.85 for demand.

The following were the closing prices on bonds:

U. S. 4s reg	110⅛	*Mutual Union 6s	103
U. S. 4s coup	112⅛	N. J. C. Int. Cert.	109¾
U. S. 2s reg	100	North. Pacific 1sts	119⅝
*Pacific's of 95	108¼	North. Pacific 2nds	112
La. stamped 4s	88	*Northwestern Con.	137½
*Tenn. new set 6s	105	*North. Debent 5s	104⅝
Tenn. new set 5s	100	St. L. & I. M. Gen. 5s	86
Tenn. new set 3s	70⅞	St. L. & S. F. Gen. M.	109
Canada So. 2nds	100	*St. Paul Consols	128⅝
Cen. Pacific 1sts	107½	*St. P., C. & Pac. 1sts	115⅝
Den. & R. G. 1sts	120	Tex. P. L. G. Tr. Rcts	81⅝
*Den. & R. G. 4s	80½	Tex. P. R. G. Tr. Rcts	20⅝
Erie 2nds	105⅝	*Union Pacific 1sts	108¾
M. K. & T. Gen. 5s	78¼	West Shore	109⅝
M. K. & T. Gen. 5s	45½	D. & R. G. W.	79¾

*bid.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—The stock market today was again moderately strong with especially wide movements in firm stocks while the buying, being more than usual of late, made up of commission dealings, the volume of business was not so large though footing up a respectable figure. In the early dealings Rock Island and Chicago Gas were very codspicuous. Later in the day Northern Pacific preferred became prominent for strength while the granges assumed a more commanding position, being taken largely by the western operators. St. Paul especially making substantial progress followed by Northwestern which felt the stimulus of the late deal. Boston was a liberal buyer of its specialties, Burlington and Union Pacific especially, with a sprinkling of New England and Atchison. Among the unlisted industrials both the sugar stocks and the lead stocks were active and while the latter were strong the former were weak. Sugar sold ex-dividend and after opening lower than the parity with last night's prices. The general list opened with small gains as a rule over last night's figures and slowly advanced without making any marked improvement but the realizings in final trading caused the loss of many of the early gains. The strong stocks, however, were held well up to the best figures.

Among the inactive shares, Kansas & Texas preferred and Manhattan, the latter selling ex-dividend, which was recovered with something in addition, were most conspicuous for strength. The market closed rather heavy at slight concessions from the best prices, but most stocks still show fractional gains for the day. Chicago Gas is up 1⅛ per cent tonight and Northwestern 1 per cent.

Government bonds have been dull and easier.

State bonds have been dull and steady.

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

Atchison	47⅞	do preferred	109⅞
Adams Express	140	N. Y. Central	117⅞
Alton, T. H	29	N. Y., Chi. & St. L.	2⅞
do preferred	128	do preferred	7⅞
American Express	114	Ohio & Mississippi	22⅞
B. C. R. & N	92	do preferred	85
Canada Pacific	89⅞	Ontario & Western	23⅞
Canada Southern	63⅞	Oregon Improvem'n	25
Central Pacific	32⅞	Oregon Nav	79
Chesapeake & Ohio	26	Oregon Trans	37⅞
do 1st preferred	50⅞	Pacific Mail	37
do 2d preferred	39	P. D. & E	20⅞
Chicago & Alton	137	*Pittsburg	150
C. B. & Q	101	*Pullman Palace	181⅞
C., C., C. & St. L.	71⅞	Reading	38⅞
Del. Hudson	122⅞	Rock Island	87⅞
Del. L. & W	138	*St. L. & S. F. 1st pfd	76
D. & R. G. pfd	43⅞	St. Paul	78⅞
East Tennessee	46	do preferred	122⅞
do 1st preferred	42	St. P., Min. & Man	115⅞
do 2d preferred	12⅞	St. Paul & Omaha	38⅞
Erie	30⅞	do preferred	104⅞
do preferred	71	Tenn. Coal & Iron	38⅞
*Fort Wayne	154	Texas Pacific	11⅞
Chi. & East Ill	64	Tol. & O. Cen. pfd	80
Hocking Valley	28⅞	Union Pacific	42⅞
Houston & Texas	3⅞	U. S. Express	49
Illinois Central	107	Wabash, St. L. & P.	13⅞
St. Paul & Duluth	42	do preferred	27⅞
Kansas & Texas	16⅞	Wells Fargo Exp	140
Lake Erie & W	20	Western Union	81⅞
do preferred	67⅞	Am. Cotton Oil	30⅞
Lake Shore	125⅞	Colorado Coal	33⅞
Louisville & Nash	80⅞	Homestake	17⅞
Louisville & N. A	23⅞	Iron Silver	130
Memphis & Char	26	*Ontario	44
Michigan Central	108	Quicksilver	5⅞
Mil. L. S. & W	71	do preferred	21
do preferred	130⅞	Sutro	5
Mo & St. L	8⅞	Bulwer	40
do preferred	19	Rich. & W. P. Ter	11⅞
Missouri Pacific	57⅞	Wisconsin Central	17
Mobile & Ohio	36⅞	Great Northern pfd	24⅞
Nashville Chatt	94	Chicago Gas	67⅞
N. J. Central	112⅞	Lead Trust	18
Norfolk & West. pfd.	51	Sugar Trust	85⅞
Northern Pacific	24⅞	Southern Pacific	30⅞
do preferred	68⅞	Oregon S. L. & U. N.	24
U. P., Denver & G	17	R. G. W	41
Northwestern	115⅞	R. G. W. dis	72

*bid. ex-div.

The total sales of stocks today were 224,483 shares, including Atchison, 7,015; Canada Southern, 5,537; Chicago Gas, 19,500; Erie, 9,900; Lake Shore, 2,000; Northwestern, 5,573; New York Central, 5,330; Northern Pacific preferred, 24,390; New England, 3,100; Richmond & West Point, 8,100; St. Paul, 19,200; Union Pacific, 11,930.

Financial Review.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—The Post says: Although not at all incomprehensible, it will be generally agreed that so far late December trading the present market is most unusual. Except for December, 1886, when the excitement of an old-fashioned and long continued bull movement was reaching its climax, the month has been uniformly characterized in recent years by a pause in active stock exchange business and a quiet closing of accounts for the year. This December has presented a very remarkable exception. The market shows every day a combination, if not a conflict, of forces. The natural tendency is to dullness and the spasmodic buoyancy is evoked by undoubted outside buying orders. Of course it is impossible to say when this outside movement will slacken or come to a halt. It might continue in undiminished force up to the 31st. This morning it looked as though the persistency had frightened the newly accumulated short interest, to whose operations were properly attributed the recoveries in Richmond Terminal, Union Pacific, Rock Island, Missouri Pacific, Northern Pacific preferred and other stocks.

London Stock Markets.

[Copyrighted 1891 by James Gordon Bennett.]

LONDON, Dec. 16.—[New York Herald Cable—Special to THE BEE.]—Today was better than yesterday on the Stock Exchange, and the market closed stronger all around. The principal feature was the recovery in foreign stocks, Brazilian leading the way. The mid-monthly settlement in Paris is pro ressing satisfactorily. Every effort is being made to prepare the ground for the issue of the new Spanish loan on this stimulating influence. It is probable that there will be a reduction of the bank rate tomorrow to 3 per cent. Opinions are much divided on the question and it would be unsafe to reckon upon a change as assured. There is still a dearth of business in the American department in American and Canadian railways. Union Pacific advanced 1⅛ per cent. Central Pacific and Pennsylvania Central, Northern Pacific preferred and St. Paul, 1/2 per cent; Erie, Lake Shore and Ohio, ¼ per cent; Ontario and Canadian Pacific, ½ per cent; Grand Trunk ordinary, ⅛ per cent, guaranteed ½ per cent, first preference ⅝ per cent, second ⅝ per cent, and third ¼ per cent. Discount rates were barely steady, three months bank bills being taken at 1⅞ per cent or a shade less. Call loans were quoted at 1 to 1½ per cent. The sum of £130,000 in sovereigns was withdrawn from the bank for South America operations.

LONDON, Dec. 16.—The following were the London stock quotations closing at 4 p. m.:

Consols money	95 5-16	Mexican ordinary	29⅝
Consols account	95⅝	St. Paul, common	81
N. Y. P. & O. bds	38⅞	N. Y. Central	121⅝
Canadian Pacific	92⅞	Pennsylvania	58
Erie	32	Reading	19⅞
Erie, 2nds	110		

BAR SILVER—43⅝d.

MONEY—1¼ per cent.

Rate of discount in the open market for both short and three-month bills, 1⅞ per cent.

Amount of bullion withdrawn from the Bank of England on balance today, £130,000.

Financial Notes.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 16.—Clearings, $4,086,416; balances, $470,391. Money, 7@8 per cent. Exchange on New York, 25c premium.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Dec. 16.—Clearings, $2,098,625. New York exchange, commercial, $1.50 per 1,000 discount. Bank 5/c discount to par.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 16.—New York exchange, 25@30c premium. Money steady at 6 per cent. Bank clearings, $17,500,636. Sterling exchange firm at $4.82¼ for sixty-day bills, and $4.85 for light drafts.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—Clearings, $129,843,308; balances, $5,223,788.

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 16.—Clearings, $17,420,665; balances, $1,508,812; rate for money, 2@3 per cent; exchange on New York, par to ⅛ per cent premium.

PARIS, Dec. 16.—Three per cent rentes 95f 9½c for the account.

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 16.—Clearings, $2,616,065; balances, $443,527; rate, 6 per cent.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 16.—Clearings, $11,584,555; balances, $1,673,969; money, 4 per cent.

HAVANA, Dec. 16.—Spanish gold, $2.38@2.38¼; exchange quiet; sugar quiet.

Boston Stock Market.

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 16.—The following were the closing prices on stocks on the Boston stock market today:

Atchison & Topeka	47⅞	Boston & Montana	30⅞
Boston & Albany	168	Calumet & Hecla	405
Boston & Maine	167	Franklin	15
C. B. & Q	100⅞	Kearsarge	10
Fitchburg R. R	78	Santa Fe Copper	3-10
Flint & Pere M.	30	Tamarack	155
Mass. Central	16	San Diego Land Co.	16
Mex. Cen. common	21⅞	West End Land Co.	17
N. Y. & N. England	38⅞	Bell Telephone	199⅞
Old Colony	164⅞	Lanson Store S	165
Rutland preferred	70	Water Power	3⅞
Wis. Cen. common	17	C. M.	10⅞
Allouez M. Co. (new)	1⅞	B. & B. C.	14⅞
Atlantic	19	Thomson Houston	48⅞

Denver Mining Stocks.

DENVER, Colo., Dec. 16.—The following list is the closing quotations on the Mining exchange today. Sales, 15,000 shares:

Allegheny	8	Gold Rock	65
Amity	2⅞	Ironclad	14⅞
Argonaut	15	John J.	1
Ballarat	23	Justice	26
Bangkok-Cora B.	6	Leavenworth	6
Bates Hunter	50	Lexington	36⅞
Big Pittsburg	5	Little Rule	50
Big Six	6⅞	May Mazeppa	11
Brownlow	7⅞	Morning Glim	47
Calliope	67	Oro	100
Claudia J.	8	Park Consolidated	12⅞
Century	15	Pay Rock	1⅞
Clay County	110	Potosi	1⅞
Cash	1	Puzzler	2⅞
Diamond B.	3⅞	Robert E.	3
Denver Gas and Oil	9	Running Lode	24
Emmons	45	Whale	4
Gettysburg	28⅞	Sutton	15
Golden Treasure	70	Paul Gold	12

New York Mining Quotations.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—The following are the closing mining stock quotations:

Alice	125	Mexican	160
Best & Belcher	200	Ontario	4100
Chollar	125	Ophir	270
Deadwood	185	Plymouth	250
Gould & Curry	100	Savage	160
Hale & Norcross	125	Sierra Nevada	180
Homestake	1075	Standard	110
Horn Silver	380	Union Con	150
Iron Silver	130	Yellow Jacket	160

St. Louis Mining Quotations.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 16.—Sales of mining stocks aggregated 12,000 shares; however, 9,500 of these being Little Albert at 5⅝.

American	10	Montrose	9
Central Silver	15	Breen	6
Elizabeth	20	Murphy	6
Granite Mountain	107½	Silver Age	5
Little Alberts	5⅝	Small Hopes	90

OMAHA LIVE STOCK MARKET.

OMAHA, Dec. 16.

Receipts were 1,661 cattle, 7,341 hogs and 771 sheep. Receipts for the past three days compared with the corresponding three days last week show a loss of 3,500 cattle, 4,700 hogs and about 250 sheep. This partly accounts for an advance so far this week of from 15c to 20c in cattle values and from 10c to 15c in hogs.

There was not a great deal of life to the cattle trade owing in a great measure to the generally inferior quality of the offerings. The demand was active for desirable stock, but outside of a few loads of Christmas cattle there was very little here that could be called really good. Shippers bought a few cows, but were not wanting any steers so that the dressed beef men had practically no opposition. The general run of natives sold from $2.90 to $3.30 with one small bunch of 1,400-lb steers at $3.75 and some 1,100-lb long yearlings that sold for Christmas beef at $3.25. Trading was slow and on the slow order all day, but in the end about everything at all useful changed hands.

The supply of butcher stocks included about half the receipts. There were plenty of good cows and heifers here, some of the best, in fact, that were ever in the yards. Several loads sold for Christmas beef at from $3.50 to $4.75, and there were plenty of cows here good enough to bring better than $2.25. Desirable grades were strong, but medium and common stuff sold at prices steady to a shade easier than yesterday, mostly from $1.55 to $2.00. Canners and rough odd lots sold from $1.25 to $1.50. There were very few real cavyes here, but prices were about steady on the basis of from $2.00 to $4.50 for common to good stock. Bulls, oxen and stags were in good supply and demand at from $1.50 to $3.15.

There was an easier feeling in the stocker and feeder trade. The outside demand was lighter than usual and on this account the regular dealers were bidding lower. Trading was dragging, and while the volume was somewhat larger than yesterday prices were generally a shade lower on anything less than good. Some warmed up steers brought $3.35, but from $2.35 to $2.90 bought the bulk of the fair to good stock. Representative sales:

STEERS.

No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.
2	675	$2 50	3	573	$3 00	5	1142	$3 15
5	880	2 50	15	1023	3 05	4	1117	3 15
1	800	2 50	19	1011	3 05	21	1148	3 25
1	1130	2 50	21	993	3 10	42	1 87	3 25
2	950	2 60	8	1025	3 10	16	1115	3 30
16	1103	3 00	23	1089	3 15	3	1 86	3 40
18	1044	3 00	6	1036	3 15	1	1400	3 75

COWS.

No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.
2	925	1 25	11	1036	1 75	10	1020	2 10
3	880	1 25	11	1000	1 75	12	865	2 10
4	702	1 25	3	1050	1 75	63	940	2 12½
1	720	1 30	3	840	1 75	15	840	2 15
18	701	1 35	1	1030	1 75	11	1064	2 15
2	830	1 35	9	841	1 75	21	1104	2 15
2	890	1 45	19	972	1 80	44	990	2 20
1	1120	1 50	15	896	1 80	40	941	2 20
1	1110	1 50	11	841	1 85	2	1150	2 22
5	872	1 50	15	810	1 85	16	978	2 30
2	915	1 50	14	879	1 90	11	1067	2 30
3	983	1 50	12	983	1 90	17	1027	2 35
1	700	1 55	20	822	1 90	6	1100	2 25
4	856	1 55	17	922	1 90	1	1150	2 25
2	1055	1 55	14	979	1 90	1	1180	2 35
55	745	1 55	12	959	1 90	32	1035	2 30
2	1305	1 60	7	768	1 90	19	996	2 30
8	623	1 60	9	900	2 00	2	1290	2 35
8	1100	1 60	19	948	2 00	2	1330	2 40
4	1047	1 65	7	1030	2 00	20	929	2 40
1	933	1 65	21	933	2 05	2	1030	2 40
15	1098	1 70	22	1040	2 05	2	1075	2 50
2	1150	1 75	4	917	2 10	23	1165	2 55
6	944	1 75	15	1026	2 10	2	1016	2 85
26	911	1 75						

MILKERS AND SPRINGERS.

1