THE SPECULATIVE MARKETS.

Wheat Opened a Little Lower Early, But Improved Later.

SOME DAMAGE BY FREEZING REPORTED.

These Rumors, with Others of a Less Startling Character, were the Strengthening Features —Stocks and Bonds.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 17.—Wheat opened a litte lower this morning, but soon improved in tone, advancing to a point above the closing price yesterday. The strength was due almost entirely to local causes, as the conditions abroad grow more and more discouraging. The foreign trade is not only dull and nearly lifeless, but prices continue to recede. This morning, Liverpool cables quoted that market from ½d to 1d lower, while London was 3d off; Berlin, 1m down; Paris 20c, and Antwerp 25c lower. It was this weakness abroad which started the market here weak. But there was good covering by shorts to secure profits, and there was also a feeling on the part of the scalping element that after such a break as we have had some reaction might reasonably be expected, and there was some buying on this theory. There were also some crop damage reports in circulation, the plant having been injured, it is said, by late freezing and thawing; besides the receipts in the northwest were smaller—only 550 cars against 961 cars yesterday.

The Cincinnati Price Current said there had been some damage in places to winter wheat from freezing and thawing, but that as a whole the average condition of the crop had been maintained. The same paper put the aggregate of the last crop in the United States and Canada at 650,000,000 bu., with a surplus for export of 260,000,000 bu. Of this amount 112,000,000 bu. had been exported during the last five months, leaving 148,000,000 bu. for export during the next seven months, which will not require quite so rapid a movement as has thus far taken place. The average rate so far has been 23,400,000 bu. per month, which would amount to 156,800,000 bu. for seven months. As a rule, the short selling was less aggressive, although Pardridge was still a very pronounced bear, and was thought to have increased his short line very considerably. Schwartz-Dupee and Baldwin-Farnum led the selling on the part of the commission houses, but on the later appearance of strength, took the most of it back, and also went long. George Smith, Baxter and Mitchell were moderate buyers on early weakness; Poole and Sherman also bought a moderate line. As a rule, however, trade was slow and exceedingly narrow, with the operations largely of a scalping character. May opened at from 9⅞c to 9⅝c, and soon advanced to 9¾c, grew steady around that figure till afternoon, when late private cables quoted an advance in prices at Liverpool. This caused an advance in the price to 9⅞c, and the close was steady at 9¾c.

Corn was quiet but firm, the nearby futures scoring a decided advance, while May rose only a trifle. The receipts were 403 cars, of which 54 graded contract. This continued improvement in the grading, together with advices from outside points indicating that the improvement has come to stay, caused temporary weakness near the opening, but a lot of shorts had good profits in their deals and proceeded to cover. There was a good demand for the cash article with talk of some export orders. The result was the advance noted. December started at 47c, sagged off to 46¾c, then advanced steadily to 51c, at which it closed. January started at 45¾c, sold at 43c, advanced and closed at 44⅞c. May fluctuated between 42c and 43½c.

Oats were quiet but stronger, and closed at 28c, a substantial betterment in the prices, in sympathy with the advance in corn.

Hog products were strong and closed with moderate advance in prices. The receipts of hogs at the yards were considerably lighter than had been estimated, and prices were 5c higher. This, with the active support given the market by the longs, made the tendency upward during most of the day.

Estimated receipts for tomorrow: Wheat, 225 cars; corn, 225 cars; oats, 170 cars; hogs, 38,000 head.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

ARTICLES.	OPEN.	HIGH.	LOW.	CLOSE.
WHEAT—No. 2.				
December...	$ 89¼	$ 90⅛	$ 89⅛	$ 90⅛
January.....	90⅞	91⅜	90⅜	91⅜
May.....	96@96⅛	97¼	96	96⅞
CORN—No. 2.				
December...	47	51	46¾	51
January.....	45¾	44⅞	43	44⅜
May.....	42¼	42½	42⅛	42½
OATS—No. 2.				
December...	32	32⅛	32	32¼
January.....	31⅛	31⅛	31¼	31⅛
May.....	32⅛	32⅛	32⅛	32⅛
MESS PORK—				
December...	8 10	8 10	8 10	8 10
January.....	11 02½	11 10	11 02½	10 07½
May.....	11 45	11 57½	11 45	11 55
LARD—				
December...	6 00	6 00	6 00	6 00
January.....	6 15	6 17½	6 15	6 17½
May.....	6 50	6 52½	6 50	6 52½
SHORT RIBS—				
December...	$ 4 42½	$ 4 47½	$ 4 42½	$ 4 47½
January ...	5 45	5 50	5 45	5 50
May.....	5 80	5 87½	5 80	5 85

Cash quotations were as follows:

FLOUR—Dull and lower; spring patents, $4.60@4.90; bakers', $3.40@4.00; winter patents, $4.60@4.85; straights, $4.25@4.45.

WHEAT—No. 2 spring wheat, 90⅞@90½c; No. 3 spring wheat, 88c; No. 2 red, 90½c.

CORN—No. 2, 50@50½c.

OATS—No. 2, 32⅛@32⅜c; No. 2 white, 33¼@33⅜c; No. 3 white, 31½@32½c.

RYE—No. 2, 88c.

BARLEY—No. 2, 50c; No. 3, f. o. b., 43@58c; No. 4, f. o. b., 32@43c.

FLAX SEED—No. 1, 94½c.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, $1.23.

PORK—Mess pork, per bbl, $8.10@8.20; lard, per cwt, $6.15@6.12½; short ribs sides (loose), $5.45; dry salted shoulders (boxed), $4.37½@4.50; short clear sides (boxed), $5.75@5.85.

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

SUGAR—Cut loaf, unchanged, 7c; cut loaf, unchanged, 5⅞@5¾c.

CHEESE—Unchanged; full cream cheddars 11@11½c; young Americas, 12½@12¾c.

HIDES—Unchanged.

TALLOW—Unchanged.

Receipts and shipments today were as follows:

ARTICLES.	RECEIPTS.	SHIPMENTS.
Flour barrels	34,000	12,000
Wheat, bushels	145,000	52,000
Corn, bushels	258,000	180,000
Oats, bushels	194,000	173,000
Rye, bushels	20,000	30,000
Barley, bushels	70,000	44,000

On the Produce exchange today the butter market was unchanged; fancy creamery, 26½@27c; fine western, 25@25½c; ordinary, 23@24c; selected dairy, 23@23c; ordinary, 18@21c; eggs, 23@24½c.

New York Markets.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—FLOUR—Receipts, 28,190 pkgs; exports, 4,166 bbls., 14,684 sacks; market unchanged, weak; moderately active; sales, 22,200 bbls.

WHEAT—Receipts, 160,200 bu.; exports, 388,861 bu.; sales, 2,632,000 bu. of futures; 90,000 bu. of spot; market irregular, closing stronger and quiet; No. 2 red, $1.04⅛@1.05⅜ in store and elevator; $1.05⅝@1.06⅝ afloat; $1.06⅛@1.08⅜ f. o. b.; No. 3 red, $1.00@1.01½; ungraded red, 90@1.03; No. 1 northern, $1.06⅝@1.08; No. 1 hard, $1.11⅝; No. 2 northern, $1.02. Options declined ⅝c on foreign selling, advanced ⅜@1⅛c on stronger political news, and closed firm at ⅛@1c over yesterday's. No. 2 red, December, $1.04⅛@1.05¼, closing $1.05¼; January, $1.04⅞@1.05⅞, closing $1.05⅞; February, $1.05⅜@1.06, closing $1.06⅜; March, $1.07⅛@1.07⅞, closing $1.07⅞; April, $1.08⅛@1.08⅝, closing $1.08⅝; May, $1.08¼, closing $1.07⅞; June, $1.05⅞@1.06⅛, closing $1.06⅛.

RYE—Quiet and weak; western, $1.0@$1.02½.

BARLEY—Dull; No. 2 mixed Milwaukee, 76@77c; sales, 8,000 bu.

CORN—Receipts, 218,550 bu.; exports, 25,550 bu.; sales, 11,000 bu. futures; 114,000 bu. spot. Spot market higher, unsettled and moderately active; No. 2, 57½c in elevator; 58@59c afloat; ungraded mixed, 47@55c; No. 2, 50⅝@53½c; steamer mixed, 55@56c. Options opened ⅛c down, advanced fully 3c on December, which closed 2c over yesterday, and firm on needs of shorts and better cables; other months firm at ⅜c advance; January, 53⅛@54⅛c, closing at 54⅝c; February, 52⅞@53⅜c, closing at 53⅜c; March, closing at 51c; May, 51⅛@51⅜c, closing at 51⅜c.

OATS—Receipts, 88,150 bu.; exports, 20,894 bu.; sales, 435,000 bu. of futures, 114,000 bu. of spot. Spot market stronger; less active; options fairly active, firmer; December, 40@40⅛c, closing at 40⅛c; January 39⅞@39⅞c, closing at 39⅞c; May, 39⅞@39⅞c, closing at 39⅞c; spot, No. 2 white, 41⅛@41½; mixed western, 38@41½c; white western, 39@44½c; No. 2 Chicago, 41½c.

HAY—Steady, quiet.

HOPS—Fairly active, firm.

SUGAR—Quiet, dull, nominal; refined, steady, fair demand.

MOLASSES—New Orleans, active, firm.

PETROLEUM—Quiet, steady; closed at 58⅜c for January.

COTTON SEED OIL—Firm; yellow, 29½c.

TALLOW—Firm.

ROSIN—Steady, quiet.

TURPENTINE—Quiet and firm at 33½@34½c.

EGGS—Fancy fresh, firmer; western, 24½c; receipts, 25,734 packages.

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

CUT MEATS—Dull, easy; middles, dull and steady; short clear, $5.75.

LARD—Stronger; moderate demand; western steam, $6.47½; sales, 99 tierces; option sales, 3,500 tierces; December, $6.42 asked; January, $6.46@6.50, closing at $6.51; February, $6.63; March, $6.70, closing at $6.69 bid; May, $6.84.

BUTTER—Quiet, fancy steady; western dairy, 16@22c; creamery, 19@26c; western factory, 14½@20; Elgin, 29c.

CHEESE—Quiet; part skims, 4½@9c.

PETROLEUM—Firm, active; American, $5.50.

COPPER—Steady; lake and December, $12.50.

LEAD—Dull, easy; domestic, $4.25.

TIN—Quiet, steady; straits, $19.00.

Kansas City Markets.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 17.—FLOUR—Unchanged; patent, $2.40@2.5); extra fancy, $2.20@2.25; fancy, $2.05@2.15; choice, $1.90@2.00.

WHEAT—Steady; No. 2, cash, 78c bid.

CORN—Quiet, but steady; January, 35c bid; May, 36c bid.

OATS—About steady; No. 2, cash, 33c bid; 33c asked; January, 31c bid; 31½c asked; May, 32½c bid; 32¾c asked.

BUTTER—Unchanged; creamery, 22@28c; dairy, 15@21c; store packed, 13@16c; rolls, 15@22c.

EGGS—Unchanged.

FLAXSEED—Unchanged.

HAY—Unchanged.

RECEIPTS—Wheat, 65,000 bu.; corn, 2,000 bu.; oats, 800 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Wheat, 31,000 bu.; corn, 3,600 bu.; oats, none.

Cotton Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—COTTON—Quiet; middling uplands, 7 15-16c; middling Orleans, 8 5-16c; sales, 94 bales. Futures closed easy; sales, 197,100 bales; December, $7.51; January, $7.61; February, $7.77; March, $7.92; April, $8.10; June, $8.30; July, $8.40; August, $8.48; September, $8.55.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 17.—COTTON—Steady; middling, 7¼c; receipts, 3,500 bales; stock, 175,222 bales; shipments, 2,556 bales; sales, 7,300 bales.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Dec. 17.—COTTON—Opened steady but closed easy; middling, 7¼c; low middling, 7c; good ordinary, 6⅝c; nominal 16c; receipts, 19,619 bales; gross, 20,403 bales; exports to France, 500 bales; to the continent, 3,233 bales; coastwise, 1,289 bales; sales, 5,750 bales; stock, 429,510 bales.

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, 92c bid.

RYE—No. 3, 80c bid.

OATS—No. 2 white, 31½c bid; No. 3 white, 31c bid.

CORN—Year, 39c bid, Baltimore terms; 30 days shipment, 38c bid.

Among the sales were: 5,000 No. 3 or better corn, December shipment, 38c; 5,000 same, shipped by January 15, 38½c.

BOARD OF TRADE NOTES.

Mr. Fritz, of the firm of Wilson & Fritz, Walnut, Ia., was in the board.

R. W. Morse of Shenandoah, Ia., was on the board.

New York Dry Goods Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The demand for dry goods was more general and the special movement in bleached goods was quite active. Additional price revisions took place as follows: Print of the Loom, 4-4, 8½c less 5 and 2½ per cent; Fruit of the Loom, 7-8, 7½c, same discount; Dwight Anchor, 4-4, 8½c; Masonville, 4-4, 8½c; Wamsutta, 4-4, 10½c; Utica Nonparell, 4-4, 10½c; Farmers Choice, 4-4, 6½c; Coventry, 4-4, 6½c; Pequot, wide sheetings, 10-4, bleached 20c; 9-4 brown, 22½c; 9-4, 22½@24 c; 8-4, 24½c; 7-4, 18⅝@19c; 6-4, 16⅝ 14c; 50-inch, 14@12½c; 5-4, 12½@11½c; 42-inch bleached, 11½c. The movement was a quick one, and stocks were likely to be closed out shortly. Most of the other descriptions of goods had been previously equalized and this probably completes the changes.

Milwaukee Markets.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Dec. 17.—WHEAT—Steady; May, 92½c; No. 2 spring, 87c; No. 1 northern, 92c.

CORN—Quiet; No. 3, 39c.

OATS—Steady; No. 2 white, 34@35½c; No. 3 white, 32@32½c.

BARLEY—Quiet; No. 2, 56c; sample on track, 50@56c.

RYE—Quiet; No. 1, 88c.

PROVISIONS—Firm.

PORK—January, $11.55.

Liverpool Markets.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 17.—WHEAT—Dull; holders offering freely; California No. 1, 8s 7d@8s 8½d per central; red western, spring, 8s 3d@8s 4d; No. 2 red, winter, 8s 3½@8s 4d.

CORN—Steady; demand improved; May mixed western, 5s 5d per central.

PEAS—Canadian, 6s 3d per central.

BACON—Long and short clear, 55 lbs., 32s 6d per cwt.; long clear, 45 lbs., 34s.

St. Lou's Markets.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 17.—WHEAT—Higher; cash, 92½c; May, 97⅛@97⅜c.

CORN—Higher; cash, 36@39⅜c; May, 39⅞c asked.

OATS—Higher; cash, 32c; May, 32⅜c.

PORK—Dull; new, $11.25.

LARD—Dull at $6.05.

WHISKEY—$1.18.

BUTTER—Unchanged.

Coffee Markets.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—Options opened steady, unchanged to 15 points down; closing steady 5 to 10 down; sales, 26,000 bags, including: December, $19.20@19.25; January, $12.75@12.81; February, $12.40@12.50; March, $12.20@12.25; May, $11.90@11.95; June, $11.85; July, $11.56@11.75; October, $11.65; spot Rio, quiet and easier; No. 7, $13.87½.

Minneapolis Wheat Market.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Dec. 17.—May wheat advanced 1c, after holding weak up to the close; receipts, 375 cars. Close for No. 1 northern: December, 88c; May, 92⅝c; January, 88⅛c on track; No. 1 northern, 88c; No. 1 hard, 89c; No. 2 northern, 86@88c.

Cincinnati Markets.

CINCINNATI, O., Dec. 17.—WHEAT—Easier; No. 2 red, 94@94½c.

CORN—Lower; No. 2, mixed, 44½c.

OATS—Firm; No. 2 mixed, 35@35½c.

WHISKEY—$1.18.

Toledo Grain Market.

TOLEDO, O., Dec. 17.—WHEAT—Higher; No. 2 cash and December, 95½c.

CORN—Steady; No. 2, cash, 45½c.

OATS—Quiet; cash, 36c.

Foreign Oil Market.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—CALCUTTA LINSEED—48s 9½d per quarter.

ANTWERP, Dec. 17.—PETROLEUM—15⅛f paid; 16f sellers.

Traders' Talk.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 17.—Counselman & Day to Cockrell Bros.: Under the influence of lower early cable advices wheat opened at ⅛c decline, but owing to the Price Current report of weather damage to the growing crop and light receipts in the northwest shorts were disposed to buy from the outset. The second private cables were steadier and brought buying orders at improved rates, but still too low to work because freights were lower. Several eastern railroads taking car lots for local points indicates some relief to shippers, and Atlantic clearances footed up 705,000 bu. in wheat and flour. Thus the general tone improved and returning confidence brought buying orders enough to absorb offerings and close the market ⅝c higher, with top prices asked. We anticipate an improved tone to cables tomorrow. Corn opened easy, but improved at once on bids from shippers, who were buying year and January and selling May. Year corn especially is scarce and hard to trade in. We don't believe speculators will risk any money in it from this out. We would buy other futures on weak spots. Provisions opened firmer in response to an advance in hogs at the stock yards, and closed with outside prices nearly maintained. The buying was mostly local and speculative in character. Shipping business is restricted and the market too narrow for much change at present.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 17.—Kennett, Hopkins & Co. to S. A. McWhorter: The opening was rather easier on lower cables, but shorts bought freely and local traders generally went long for a turn, on the theory that the decline had gone far enough for the present. The big bears took a share of their profits. There were no special features and no opposition to the rally and one came rather because it was expected than from any stimulating news. Early in the session better cables were claimed but they did not materialize. The board's closing advices brought English and continental markets lower. Clearances were quoted good. Considerable new business was reported in a fair way of being closed up. If tomorrow's cables should show returning confidence abroad our market may do some better. Corn and oats were very strong during the entire session, although the opening was rather inactive and unspirited. Things soon took a different caste and the bulls began feeling for higher prices. Cable advices later in the day showed an improvement in corn prices, quoting January 1½c higher and February ⅛c higher. The market closed about 1c higher than the opening for January and a small fraction higher for May. Year corn still acts very unsettled. Oats closed strong in sympathy with corn. Provisions showed a decidedly upward tendency this morning which is due large y, as usual, to the increased demand by foreign buyers and a decrease in receipts and estimates for the week. Although they are unusually large there seems to always be a call for every barrel that is offered. Provisions closed strong and 5@10c better in price for the more prominent futures.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The stock market today was as stubborn as yesterday, with a moderate volume of business, and the interest stiffened prices to less than a dozen of the more prominent stocks. Outside centers contributed their quota toward making the strength of the market, and while Chicago took the grangers in liberal quantities, Philadelphia was interested in the Northern Pacific preferred and the coalers, and Boston purchased Burlington and others of its favorites. Commission houses were the principal buyers throughout, and while there was a good deal of realizing, especially in the forenoon, in Chicago Gas, the strength of the market was hardly impaired by the movement, and when the buying was resumed later in the day with the aid of the covering of the shorts, the advance made more substantial progress. The general market opened with a poor appearance, but a firm tone displayed an advancing tendency in the first sales.

Later material improvement in the price of Chicago gas, however, showed too much profit already accrued in second purchases for many of the smaller operators, and a relinquishment among that class depressed its price about 1 per cent, which has been of considerable influence on the rest of the list, and although no weakness was seen, the selling did not assume very large proportions, and before noon the liquidation was over, when a full and free recovery occurred. In Chicago gas, accompanied by upward movements in some of the leading railroads, Rock Island was prominent in the advance during the early dealings, but the commercial stocks became the features later in the day when rumors of the coming declarations of 2 per cent in the Reading seconds were instrumental in again bringing it to the front and marked strength was shown in its securities. The other coal stocks were not far behind and Lackawanna and Delaware & Hudson both rose materially, Louisville and Erie were specially stronger, and the latter unusually active in the late trading. There were also a few sharp moves among the inactive shares, Chicago Junction and Stock Yards, Great Northern preferred, Milwaukee, Lake Shore & Western preferred, and some others being prominent. The market finally closed active and strong at the top figures. The marked gains in the active list comprise Lackawanna 1¾ per cent; Reading and Delaware & Hudson each 1¼ per cent, and Louisville, Northern Pacific preferred 1¼ per cent. The list as a whole, however, was higher.

Government bonds were dull and easier. State bonds were dull and steady.

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

Atchison.....	49¼	do preferred.....	89¾
Adams Express.....	141	N. Y. Central.....	114
Alton, T. H.....	29	N. Y., Chi. & St. L.	20¼
do preferred.....	128	do preferred.....	79
American Express..	114	Ohio Mississipi	22
B. C. R. & N.....	83	do preferred.....	85
Canada Pacific.....	89¾	Ontario & Western..	20⅝
Canada Southern....	63¾	Oregon Improvem'n.	25
Central Pacific.....	32⅛	Oregon Nav.....	78
Chesapeake & Ohio..	26	Oregon Trans.....	16⅞
do 1st preferred....	50⅝	Pacific Mail.....	57⅛
do 2d preferred....	39¼	P. D. & E.....	20⅞
Chicago & Alton....	155	*Pittsburg	159
C. B. & Q.....	99⅝	Pullman Palace.....	158
C., C., C. & St. L....	72	Reading	39⅛
Del. Hudson.....	123¼	Rock Island.....	88⅝
Del. L. & W.....	135⅝	St. L. & S. F. 1st pfd	76
D. & R. G. pfd.....	40⅛	St. Paul.....	79¼
East Tennessee.....	6	do preferred.....	122⅝
do 1st preferred....	42	St. P., Min. & Man...	114
do 2d preferred....	12⅝	St. Paul & Omaha ..	38⅞
Erie.....	27⅛	Texas Pacific.....	13⅝
do preferred.....	72	Tenn. Coal & Iron...	38¾
*Fort Wayne.....	154	Texas Pacific.....	11⅝
Ill. & East Ill.....	64	Tol. & O. Cen. pfd...	80
Lackawanna	136	Union Pacific.....	42⅛
Houston & Texas...	3⅝	U. S. Express.....	50
Illinois Central.....	107¼	Wabash, St. L. & P..	13
St. Paul & Duluth..	43	do preferred.....	28⅛
Kansas & Texas	19	Wells Fargo Exp.....	143
Lake Erie & W.....	20	Western Union.....	82
do preferred	67¾	Am. Cotton Oil.....	30⅝
Lake Shore.....	121	Colorado Coal.....	35¼
Long Island.....	95¾	Homestake.....	11½
Louisville & N. A...	23⅝	Iron Silver.....	145
Memphis & Char....	26	*Ontario.....	44
Michigan Central...	103¾	Quicksilver.....	3½
Mil., L. S. & W.....	70	do preferred.....	21
*do preferred.....	121¼	Sutro	5
Min & St. L.....	9¼	Bulwer	40
do preferred.....	19	Rich. & W. P. Ter...	11⅝
Missouri Pacific.....	58	Wisconsin Central...	17
Mobile & Ohio.....	33¾	Great Northern pfd	123½
Nashville Chatt.....	92	Chicago Gas.....	66⅛
N. J. Central.....	111	Lead Trust.....	17⅞
Norfolk & West. pfd.	51¼	Sugar Trust.....	86⅛
Northern Pacific.....	25⅝	Southern Pacific.....	30⅝
do preferred.....	69	Oregon S. L. & U. N.	24
U. P., Denver & G....	15	R. G. W.....	41
Northwestern	116	R. G. W. ctfs.....	72

*bid. ex-div.

The total sales of stocks today were 251,955 shares, including Atchison, 8,795; Canada Southern, 3,25?; Chicago Gas, 27,585; Delaware Lackawanna & Western, 8,300; Erie, 30,840; Louisville & Nashville, 6,340; Missouri Pacific, 6,100; Northwestern, 6,67?; New York Central, 3,645; Northern Pacific preferred, 23,039; Reading, 16,910; Richmond & West Point, 5,508; St. Paul, 19,550; Union Pacific, 9,030.

Financial Review.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The Post says: The only possible conclusion is that the stock market has passed almost wholly out of professional hands. The persistency of the upward movement has surprised everybody, but if the outside buying of the last fortnight was to any extent for a temporary speculation on a larger scale, it may be expected that within the next few days the stock will come upon the market in realizing sales. There have, during the last few days, been indications in some quarters of such realizing, but in no great magnitude, hence the question is still in doubt.

New York Money Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—MONEY ON CALL—Easy, ranging from 2½ to 3 per cent; last loan, 2½ per cent; closed offered at 3 per cent.

PRIME MERCANTILE PAPER—4½@5 per cent.

STERLING EXCHANGE—Quiet and steady at $4.82¾ for sixty-day bills and $4.85 for demand.

The following were the closing prices on bonds:

U. S. 4s reg.....	110½	*Mutual Union 6s....	104½
U. S. 4s coup.....	111⅞	N. J. C. Int. Cert...	110
*U. S. 2s reg.....	100	North. Pacific lsts...	118⅜
*Pacific 6s of '95.....	108¼	North. Pacific 2nds..	112⅜
La. stamped 4s.....	87½	Northwestern Con...	137½
*Tenn. new set 6s ...	105	North. Debent 5s....	104
*Tenn. new set 5s ...	101	St. L. & I. M. Gen. 5s.	86
Tenn. new set 3s.....	70¼	*St. L. & S. F. Gen. M	109
Canada So. 2nds.....	106½	St. Paul Consols.....	128½
*Cen. Pacific lsts.....	102½	*St. P., C. & Pac. lsts.	115½
Den. & R. G. lsts.....	115¼	Tex. P. L. G. Tr. Rcts	81½
Den. & R. G. 4s.....	93¾	Tex. P. R. G. Tr. Rcts	29¾
Erie 2nds.....	106¾	Union Pacific lsts...	108¾
M. K. & T. Gen. 4s...	78½	West Shore.....	103½
M. K. & T. Gen. 5s...	45⅝	D. & R. G. W.....	79¾

*bid. †asked.

London Stock Markets.

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LONDON, Dec. 17.—[New York Herald Cable.—Special to THE BEE.]—The stock markets closed with a good tendency in all departments. Although the bank rate was not lowered, business is by no means active. The chief feature was the rise in Turkish tribute loans, which closed from 2 per cent to 3 per cent higher. Most other foreign stocks improved and consols closed steady. Money, 95¾ to 95⅞. For the account the price declined 1-16 per cent. Home railways are generally higher on American purchases made yesterday in, but showed considerable firmness, though in some instances the best prices of the day have not been fully maintained. The traffic receipts of the Nitrate Railway company from December 1 to 15 were £40,629, being a decrease of £8,221 as compared with the same period last year. No bullion operations were reported at the bank. Discount rates are steady owing to the absence of any change. The bank rate bills are extremely scarce. The quotation for three months' bank paper was with difficulty maintained at 1⅞ per cent. Call money was quoted at from 1 to 1¼ per cent, but is practically unloanable. At the close the discount houses reduced their deposit rates to 1¼ per cent and 1 per cent respectively for money call and notice.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—The following were the London stock quotations closing at 4 p. m.:

Consols money.....	95 5-16	Illinois Central.....	111
Consols discount....	95 11-16	Mexican ordinary....	39¼
N. Y. P. & A. stock..	25¼	Mexican Pacific.....	21¼
Canadian Pacific....	92⅝	N. Y. Central.....	121⅝
Erie.....	32	Pennsylvania	58¾
Erie, 2nds.....	109¾	Reading	19¾

BAR SILVER—43⅝d.

MONEY—1¼ per cent.

Bullion in the Bank of England increased £236,000 during the past week. The proportion of the Bank of England reserve to liability which was last week 55.7 per cent is now 44.99.

Financial Notes.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Dec. 17.—Clearings, $2,040,146.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 17.—Clearings today, $1,051,500.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—Clearings, $125,074,809; balances, $5,289,723.

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 17.—Clearings, $2,289,233; balances, $400,832; rate, 6 per cent.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 17.—Clearings, $12,334,559; balances, $1,393,434; money, 4 per cent.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 17.—New York exchange selling at par. Clearings, $434,515; balances, $74,081.

HAVANA, Dec. 17.—Spanish gold, $2.37½@2.38; exchange steady; sugar quiet, some parcels of old sugar were resold at $4.20@4.12½ per quintal.

PARIS, Dec. 17.—Three per cent rentes 95f 55c for the account. The weekly statement of the Bank of France shows a decrease of 3,350,000f gold and 1,050,000f silver.

CHICAGO, Ill., Dec. 17.—New York exchange, par; money, 6 per cent. Bank clearings, $15,917,981. Sterling exchange, dull and unchanged at $4.82¾ for sixty-day bills, and $4.85 for sight drafts.

Boston Stock Market.

BOSTON, Mass., Dec. 17.—The following were the closing prices on stocks on the Boston stock market today:

Atchison & Topeka..	49¼	Atlantic.....	19
Boston & Albany....	199	Boston & Montana..	37⅛
Boston & Maine.....	168½	Calumet & Hecla....	218
C. B. & Q.....	99¾	Franklin.....	13⅛
Eastern R. R. pfd....	120	Kearsage.....	10
Fitchburg R. R.....	128	Santa Fe Copper....	4
Flint & Pere M.....	28¾	Tamarack.....	155
Mass. Central.....	16	San Diego Land Co..	16
Mex. Cen. common...	21	West End Land Co..	10⅝
N. Y. & N. England...	39⅝	Bell Telephone	198
do 7s.....	120⅝	Calumet & Hecla....	218
Old Colony.....	165	Lamson Store S....	19¾
Rutland preferred...	30	Water Power.....	3⅞
Wis. Cen. common...	17¼	U. S. M.....	10¼
do preferred.....	40	N. E. T. & T.....	19¼
Allouez M. Co. (new).	1¾	B. & B. C.....	15
		Thomson Houston..	48¾

Denver Mining Stocks.

DENVER, Colo., Dec. 17.—The following list is the closing quotations on the Mining exchange today. Sales, 21,730 shares.

Alleghany.....	8	Ironclad.....	14¼
Amity.....	7¾	John J.....	¾
Argonaut.....	10	Justice.....	26
Ballarat.....	2½	Leavenworth.....	6
Bangkok Cons B....	5¼	Lexington.....	55
Bates Hunter.....	50	Little Rule.....	90
Big Indian.....	5	May Mazeppa.....	110
Big Six.....	6¼	Matchless.....	300
Brownlow.....	7	Morning Glim.....	47
Calliope.....	15	Oro.....	100
Claudia J.....	5	Park Consolidated..	5½
Century.....	14¾	Ray Rock.....	1¼
Clay County.....	114	Potosi	1¼
Diamond B.....	3½	Puzzler	2½
Denver Gas and Oil.	98	Quito.....	110
Emmons.....	6c	Running Lode.....	2¼
Gettysburg.....	2⅝	Wasatch.....	3
Golden Treasure....	60	Sutton.....	15
Gold Rock	70	Paul Gold.....	12½

San Francisco Mining Quotations.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 17.—The official closing quotations for mining stocks today were as follows:

Alta.....	70	Ophir.....	270
Belcher.....	200	Potosi.....	170
Best & Belcher.....	200	Savage.....	160
Bodie Consolidated.	65	Sierra Nevada.....	150
Challar	130	Union Consolidat'd.	150
Con. Cala. & Va.....	300	Utah.....	45
Crown Point.....	80	Yellow Jacket.....	110
Gould & Curry.....	112½	Com.....	25
Hale & Norcross.....	130	N. Q.....	25
Mexican.....	300	R. L.....	*30
Mono	60	N. B. L.....	30
Navajo.....	10		

New York Mining Quotations.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—The following are the closing mining stock quotations:

Alice.....	125	Mexican.....	160
Belcher.....	200	Ontario.....	435
Concala & Virginia.	375	Ophir.....	270
Deadwood.....	190	Plymouth.....	250
Could & Curry.....	100	Savage.....	150
Hale & Norstrip.....	120	Sierra Nevada.....	165
Homestake.....	9075	Standard.....	105
Horn Silver.....	900	Yellow Jacket.....	109
Iron Silver.....	145		

St. Louis Mining Quotations.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Dec. 17.—The mining stock market today was rather quiet. Sales aggregated 3,600 shares. Following is the close.

Adams.....	105	Montrose Placer....	8
American Nettie....	15	M. Breen.....	4½
Central Silver.....	15	Pat Murphy.....	5¾
Elizabeth	65	Silver Age.....	5
Granite Mountain.	1725	Small Hopes.....	90
Little Albert.....	5	Yuma	17½

OMAHA LIVE STOCK MARKET.

OMAHA, Dec. 17.

Receipts were 2,771 cattle, 10,431 hogs, 356 sheep and 29 horses, not an unusually heavy run, but about 25 cars more than the early estimates. For the past four days receipts foot up 7,837 cattle, 30,953 hogs and 1,311 sheep, against 11,042 cattle, 37,098 hogs and 1,609 sheep the same time last week, a considerable decrease all around.

There was quite a liberal showing of pretty good corn fed native cattle here, and half a dozen loads of really good stuff. One bunch of fine 1,184-pound steers brought $5.50 for Christmas purposes, a good 1,150 to 1,350-pound stock sold at from $4.50 to $4.55. The market was active and stronger on anything desirable, but the fair to good 800 to 1,100-pound half fat stuff sold at about steady prices at from $2.90 to $4.00. Several loads of westerns were on the market, the first for several days. They sold readily at good strong prices at from $2.40 to $3.20 for common to very good steers. Taken all in all, it was a fairly satisfactory market and the supply was pretty well cleaned up at the close.

Offerings of butcher stock were liberal, including nearly half the supply. Although there were not so many choice loads as yesterday, there was a very respectable showing of really good cows and heifers. On these, prices were generally stronger, good to choice cows selling at from $2.25 to $4.25. Medium cows showed no particular change aside from being a trifle slow. Common and canning cows sold at from $1.25 to $1.75. Trading was largely from $1.80 to $2.50. Bulls, stags and oxen sold about the same as usual, from $1.50