

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

Clique Brokers Made Their Appearance Yesterday When the Market Was Weakest.

HEAVY PURCHASES IN THE NORTHWEST

Corn Was Rather Weak Early in Sympathy with Wheat, but Later That Cereal Firmed Up and Closed at Tuesday's Figures.

CHICAGO, Ill., March 15.—Clique brokers took their usual stand by way of the wheat market, but weakness in western markets brought perhaps 500,000 bushels, while Cudahy, Boyden, Parker and others also picked what they could. For a time Partridge, Barnum, Linn, Swartz-Dupee and Seavers met the demand with free offerings, but the weather conditions and the attitude of the clique gradually developed a decidedly bullish sentiment. Short sales showed a growing desire to cover and some buying, but the buying May was stronger than July and advanced 8½ over yesterday. The disposition yesterday was to sell May and buy July, while today there has been liberal buying of May, with July to some extent neglected.

The northwest was a large buyer of May today. There is no doubt that the persistent talk of the bull clique has caused a general feeling of alarm and shorts and caused general buying, especially as the situation has been made more bullish by the unfavorable weather conditions and the steady stream of crop damage discharges.

After the rally the market was nervous to the close, moving back and forth but without material change. A fair volume of sales was transacted during the afternoon. The opening was from 3c to 4c lower for May. After several fluctuations it advanced 1c, and was finally closing about 4c higher than yesterday.

Corn was rather weak early in sympathy with wheat, but turned up on improved reports for tomorrow, there was an improvement of nearly 1c, but it lost a fraction, closed dull, and was 1c lower than in the morning. The opening was from 3c to 4c lower for May. After several fluctuations it advanced 1c, and was finally closing about 4c higher than yesterday.

There was a moderate trade in oats and a lower range of prices; a decline of 3c being recorded early, but was followed by a reaction that carried prices back to the opening. The opening was from 3c to 4c lower than yesterday for May and June.

Hog products opened weak and low on the hog market, but closed 4,000 to 5,000 on estimates. With the commission houses executing some orders to sell, the market broke slightly, and then, in the absence of offerings, prices were firm again. Buying was light.

The volume of trading was light. A pronounced disposition on the part of the shorts to cover and to profit from the gains of figures of yesterday, and a steady feeling was noticeable up to the close, pork leaving off 7c higher than last night, lard 2½c and fat 1c.

Estimated receipts for tomorrow: Wheat, 140 cars; corn, 400 cars; oats, 80 cars; hogs, 1,700 bushels.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

ARTICLES.	OPEN.	HIGH.	LOW.	CLOSE.	YES.
Wheat No. 2	75c	75c	73c	73c	73c
May.	75c	75c	73c	73c	73c
June.	72c	72c	70c	70c	70c
July.	72c	72c	70c	70c	70c
Aug.	72c	72c	70c	70c	70c
Oats No. 2	40c	40c	38c	38c	38c
May.	38c	38c	36c	36c	36c
June.	38c	38c	36c	36c	36c
July.	38c	38c	36c	36c	36c
Lard.	12c	12c	11c	11c	11c
July.	12c	12c	11c	11c	11c
Sept.	10c	10c	10c	10c	10c
Oct.	10c	10c	10c	10c	10c
May.	10c	10c	10c	10c	10c

Cash quotations were as follows:

Flour.—Dull, unchanged; winter patents, 40c; spring, white, straight, 43c; 43½c; spring, patent, 43c; 43½c; spring straight, 42c; 42½c; bakers, 42c; 42½c.

Wheat.—No. 2, spring, 72c; 73c; No. 3, 68c; No. 2, 41½c; No. 3, 38½c; No. 2, yellow, 41½c; No. 3, 38½c; No. 2, white, f. o. b., 43½c.

Oats.—Firm, steady; No. 2, white, f. o. b., 35c; No. 3, white, f. o. b., 34½c.

Barley.—Dull, steady; No. 3, f. o. b., 40½c; No. 4, 41c.

Timothy Seed.—Price, \$4.25.

Turnips.—Price, 10c; 12c; 14c; short sides (dozen), \$0.10; 17c; 20c; dry salted smokers, \$0.62; 65c; short sides (boxed), \$1.25.

Whisky.—Distillers' finished goods, per gal., \$1.50.

Sugar.—Unchanged; cut, half, 5½c; granulated, 5½c; standard "A," 5c.

The following were the receipts and shipments for today:

ARTICLES.	RECEIPTS.	SHIPMENTS.
Flour, bush.	\$2,000	43,000
Wheat, bu.	14,000	55,000
Corn, bu.	10,000	102,000
Oats, bu.	14,000	55,000
Bry. bu.	6,000	8,000
Bush.	55,000	21,000

On the Produce exchange today the market was firm; creamery, 26c; 27c; dryers, 26c; 26½c; eggs, lower; strictly fresh, 18c; 18½c.

Omaha Grain.—The following prices are based on delivery.

Wheat.—No. 2, spring, 68c; No. 3, spring, 65c; No. 2, hard, 61½c; No. 3, hard, 57c.

Oats.—No. 2, white, 33½c; No. 3, white, 32c.

Barley.—Dull, steady; No. 3, f. o. b., 40½c; No. 4, 41c.

Flax Seed.—No. 1, 20c.

Timothy Seed.—Price, \$4.25.

Turnips.—Price, 10c; 12c; 14c; short sides (dozen), \$0.10; 17c; 20c; dry salted smokers, \$0.62; 65c; short sides (boxed), \$1.25.

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St. Louis Markets.—St. Louis, Mo., March 15.—Flour—Barely steady.

Wheat.—Open 3c higher, closed 3c above yesterday; cash, 61c; April, 63c; May, 65c; June, 67c; July, 70c; Aug., 73c; Sept., 75c; Oct., 78c; Nov., 80c; Dec., 82c.

Corn.—Open 3c higher and closed 3c above yesterday; cash, 37½c; May, 39c; June, 41c; July, 43c; Aug., 45c; Sept., 47c; Oct., 49c; Nov., 51c; Dec., 53c.

Oats.—Dull; on track, 31½c; May, 32½c; June, 33½c; July, 34½c; Aug., 35½c; Sept., 36½c; Oct., 37½c; Nov., 38½c; Dec., 39½c.

Barley.—Dull, steady; No. 3, f. o. b., 40½c; No. 4, 41c.

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Corn.—Open