

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

Outside Business Was Light and Even
Chicago Traders Were Idle.

BULL CLIQUE IN WHEAT OVERLOADED

Cereal Traders Alarmed at the Situation—General Rains Reported in the Wheat Belt with Mild Weather—Stocks and Bonds.

CHICAGO, Ill., March 22.—There was a great contraction of trade in wheat on account of the fear that the load of the bull clique is becoming unusually heavy and unmanageable. Business today was light from the outside. The price was to lower at the start, but recovered to the early loss. Corn was stagnant and unchanged. Provisions were lively and irregular, wheat very poorish on the show-bills in bears in the end.

The reports coming to hand concerning the winter wheat were somewhat varied, but generally speaking, damage was acknowledged up to date as colour do roses regarding wheat prospects, reversed the picture today, and noted a failure of a portion of the Algerian crop and injury to that of Spain and Hungary.

General railroads reported in the wheat belt with mild weather and a growing probability that the sorghum drought in Kansas would continue and crop prospects materially improved.

Geddes, Mills, Parker and Baydon, supposed to be acting in the interest of the clique, called into the pit after the market had closed, causing some reaction which, however, was only temporary. There was a general sense of May and bought put 100 bushels at \$1.10, 100 bushels at \$1.05, 100 bushels at \$1.04, 100 bushels at \$1.03. These free and extensive operations on the part of this usually conservative operator led to a rumor that he was going to cover his position.

There was a rumor that the big market in May. There was a rumor that No. 2 red winter wheat was being shipped from Detroit to Chicago by rail, but it could not be definitely ascertained.

The opening was about five to six to lower for May and the lower for July than the closing figures of yesterday, rated a little stronger and the market fluctuated within a change easier.

The probable collapse of the Kansas dry spell was partly offset by a report that a large number of farmers from Missouri and the crop outlook was worse than since 1885. Bradstreet's available stocks were less than 500,000.

Corn operators were disposed to interpret the rain as meaning smaller receipts owing to bad country roads, with possibly a little better news in the future. The purchasing by those friendly to higher prices caused about the advance, but this was soon withdrawn and the market sagged to about old prices.

There was a light trade in oats, mostly in the way of changes in feeding price, to indicate a slight improvement.

Hog products opened weak and lower on increased receipts of bacon from commission houses. The shorts bought quite freely and as soon as the offerings were taken the market was again quiet. The market for hams of trading was light and the undertone weak.

The raiding by Wright and Baldwin was of short duration, the market dropping below the opening and then again becoming weak.

The decline from last night varied from 5¢ to 30¢.

Estimated receipts for tomorrow: Wheat, 140,000 bushels; corn, 140 ears; oats, 147 ears; hogs, 19,000 head.

The leading features ranged as follows:

ARTICLES.	OPEN.	HIGH.	LOW.	CLOSE.	YEST.
Wheat No. 2	73	73	73	73	73
May	73	73	73	73	73
July	73	73	73	73	73
Corn No. 2	418	418	418	418	418
May	418	418	418	418	418
July	418	418	418	418	418
Oats	304	304	304	304	304
May	304	304	304	304	304
June	304	304	304	304	304
Bacon	3.36	3.36	3.36	3.36	3.36
May	3.36	3.36	3.36	3.36	3.36
Feet	2.98	2.98	2.98	2.98	2.98

Cash quotations were as follows:

Flour—Easy, but not quotably changed; winter patents, \$37.00-\$42.00; winter straight, \$35.00-\$40.00; spring, \$35.00-\$40.00; straight, \$26.00-\$30.00; hams, \$2.10-\$2.35.

Wheat—No. 2 spring, 72½-\$73½; No. 3 spring, northern, 70½-\$71; No. 2 red, 72½-\$73.

Corn—No. 2, 41½; No. 3, cash, 38½; No. 2 yellow, 41½; No. 3 yellow, 39½.

Barley—No. 2, 36½; No. 3, white, 39½-\$40.

Rye—No. 2, 50¢.

Bacon—No. 1, \$1.05-\$1.15.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, \$4.38-\$4.40.

Pork—Moss, per lb., 75¢-\$77.50; pork ribs, dressed, \$1.15-\$1.17½; short ribbed shoulders, dressed, \$0.90-\$0.92½; short clear sides (boxed), \$0.80-\$0.82½.

Whisky—Distillers' finished goods, per gal., \$1.17.

Sugar—Unchanged; cut, 50¢; \$55½-\$57.

The following were the receipts and ship-
ments for today:

ARTICLES.	Receipts	Shipments
Flour, bbls.	17,000	6,000
Wheat, bu.	182,000	144,000
Corn, bu.	19,000	18,000
Oats, bu.	18,000	18,000
Bacon, bu.	23,000	6,000

On the Produce exchange today the butter market was firm; creamery, 20½-\$21; dairy, 20½-\$20; eggs, in fair demand; strictly fresh, 15¢.

OMAHA GRAN.

The following prices are based upon delivery at Mississippi river points:

Wheat—No. 2, 70¢; No. 3, 67¢; No. 4, 64¢.

Rye—No. 2, 52¢; No. 3, 48¢; No. 4, 45¢.

Corn—No. 2, cash and April, 38¢; No. 3, better cash and April, 37½¢.

Barley—No. 2, 36½; No. 3, 40¢; No. 4, 37¢.

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