CONDITION OF OMAHA'S TRADE

Jobbers Take Stock and Prepare for the Coming Year.

COLLECTIONS AS A RULE UNSATISFACTORY

Jobbing Business Quiet as Usual During Last Week of the Year—The Month as a Whole Not Entirely Satisfactory in All Lines.

As usual during the last week of the year there has been very little doing in the jobbing district in the way of new business. The jobbers have many of them been taking stock, and all have been putting things in shape for the commencement of the new year. The last half of December is a sort of cleaning house time with the jobbers. It is a season when there is very little selling to be done, as retail merchants are all supposed to be busy at that time looking after their holiday trade, and the jobbers are left to themselves for a time. There is usually plenty to do in the way of making preparations for the spring trade, besides taking stock, which is left until this season by many houses. What little trade there has been has partaken largely of that featureless character usual at this season, and is without general interest.

The month of December as a whole has not been entirely satisfactory in all lines of the jobbing business. Thus the boot and shoe men claim that they have not sold the goods that they anticipated would be taken by the retail trade this month. At the same time houses engaged in other lines say that they have done as much as they anticipated.

The retail trade of the city during the holidays was very fair, and as a rule the large retail establishments report the volume of business fully up to expectations. Buyers as a rule wanted cheap goods, and stocks that would come under that head were pretty well reduced. Goods that looked rather high were neglected to a considerable extent, and in not a few cases dealers marked down the price on such goods rather than have them left on hand at the close of the season. Taking everything into consideration, it can be said that trade in a retail way was fully as good as could reasonably have been anticipated.

THE BANKS.

The annual report of Comptroller Eckels contains some details as to the amount and character of bank deposits that will be of interest to Nebraskans. The city of New York naturally leads all other cities in the matter of national bank deposits. The Boston bubble, however, show a larger number of depositors in proportion to the population than New York.

The people of this section of the country will be most interested in that portion of the report bearing on the condition of national banks in the western states, which is as follows:

States and Cities	Number Reporting.	Number of Depositors.	Amount of Deposits.
Wisconsin	77	37,991	$15,624,122
Milwaukee	4	5,722	8,623,374
Iowa	162	54,345	29,491,241
Des Moines	4	2,366	1,094,352
Minnesota	65	28,550	11,731,739
St. Paul	5	9,012	7,985,476
Minneapolis	4	9,509	5,185,231
Missouri	51	24,369	15,981,499
St. Louis	9	14,270	18,692,429
Kansas City	9	12,085	14,024,662
St. Joseph	2	3,375	2,729,495
Kansas	129	42,676	14,475,750
Nebraska	110	37,029	9,870,378
Lincoln	3	2,683	1,488,479
Omaha	9	8,524	10,062,615
Colorado	47	25,383	18,847,772
Nevada	2	618	1,000,000
Oregon	36	11,638	6,202,575
Arizona	5	1,130	572,551
North Dakota	31	7,544	2,509,269
South Dakota	32	8,478	3,008,103
Idaho	9	1,711	1,288,190
Montana	25	11,759	8,102,652
New Mexico	10	2,973	1,375,296
Utah	11	5,743	3,985,852
Wyoming	6	3,955	1,289,165
Oklahoma	12	2,412	631,148
Indian Territory	6	2,106	718,508

The figures for the states do not include those for the large cities, which are given separately.

The above table will repay the trouble and time of a careful examination. Among the chief points of interest is the fact that Omaha makes a better showing than cities like Milwaukee, St. Paul, Minneapolis, or better than any of the cities in the list, excepting only Kansas City and St. Louis.

The savings bank returns by states show few important changes for 1894 as compared with 1893. New England alone shows an increased number of depositors and a greater average deposit, but the aggregate increase is only $6,269,879. The southern states show a decline from $12,021,357, to $9,479,314, while the central group of western states show a greater aggregate, but smaller proportional decline, from $99,447,141 to $88,776,230. The decline in the Pacific states and territories is from $144,467,061 to $129,367,693, but the falling off in number of depositors has increased the average deposit from $661.22 to $674.59.

IN THE PRODUCE DISTRICT.

Commission men are considerably interested in the new railroad rates on butter and eggs that will go into force with the first of the year and there is considerable speculation as to what the effect will be upon the local business in those commodities. The Western Traffic association a month ago decided to abolish car lot rates on butter and eggs in its territory. After the first of the year no more car lot rates will be made to any point from the west on these two commodities, but instead the local rate will be in force, which is practically an advance of rates from third to second class on car lots. Chicago Produce says that it means a good deal to the produce business of Chicago. It means practically the wiping out of business of the heavy car lot shippers in the west who have been sending the goods directly to New York in car lots. These big shippers have been able to gather butter and eggs at primary points and ship them through to New York in car lots because of the difference in rates between the local and through rate.

The change of classification puts the car lot shipper at inland points at a disadvantage. If he wants to make up a car he must pay the local rate to get his butter and eggs to the shipping point to be inspected, and then pay the same rate to Chicago and New York that the shiper of the small lot could get. For instance, a firm at Beatrice, Neb., gathers eggs from surrounding points and make up their car lots at Beatrice. On an average it costs them 20 cents per 100 pounds to get the goods into Beatrice. They have been more than making up the difference, however, in the margin left between the local rate to Chicago, which is 7c, and the car lot rate, which is 53 cents. After the first of the year whatever they pay for collecting their eggs will be that much more added to the through local rate, up to 20 cents on an average, instead of 73 cents. The local shipper can ship his eggs to Chicago for the first local rate of 77 cents, where it would cost the shipper of car lots 90 cents to get the produce together and ship it. A prominent Nebraska shipper says: "The abolishing of car lot rates to Chicago means the tearing down of a business in car lots which we have been years in building up. Every cross-roads merchant can now ship to Chicago cheaper than the shipper, who has to pay a local rate in order to get his goods in the house at a central point and inspect them."

Other shippers of car lots at interior Nebraska points take the same view of the situation and they are at loss to know just what will be done after the first of the year.

Railroad men explain the advance by saying that the roads have come to the conclusion that they were not getting enough money out of the high grade freight that is being hauled. Rates on heavy, cheap commodities have been pressed so low that the earnings have been reduced, and it was a question of how they were to be swelled. This step was decided upon. The cutting of rates on car lots, or rather forcing everything in the shape of butter and eggs into the second class or local rates, will not on the average add very much to the cost of the high class goods.

In addition to the changes of the classification of butter and eggs in car lots, live poultry in car lots has been raised from class A to third class minimum 24,000 pounds, which means about $30 per car higher rates from Missouri points. Butter in crocks and jars will be charged double first class.

AS DUN SEES IT.

Local Trade Conditions Much Better Than Had Been Looked For.

"The year 1894," said the local manager of the mercantile agency of R. G. Dun & Co., "closes with the trade conditions hard enough and without anything upon which to base a reasonable hope for an immediate improvement. Still the comparative results, as shown in our eastern review, for the year are better than 1893 in many respects, but not so satisfactory as in 1892. The business figures are really encouraging when we reflect that 1892 was a remarkably prosperous year in the United States and the slight falling off in November aggregates in nearly all lines show conclusively that the country is recovering and safe.

"Locally, comparative conditions are not so bad as has been predicted. In the jobbing district a careful estimate for the year just past, as compared with 1893, shows dry goods about even, groceries not more than a trifle ahead, hardware less than 15 per cent shrinkage and other staple lines a fair average trade. Liquors are short 25 per cent, drugs perhaps 10 per cent and lumber fully 30 per cent. In crockery, leather and findings, furniture, jewelry and miscellaneous lines the shrinkage is quite pronounced. However, it must not be forgotten that in nearly every branch of trade there has been a great reduction in prices. The decrease will run from 10 to 25 per cent, and a corresponding increase in the amount of goods sold must be made in order to reach the aggregate in dollars and cents of preceding years. Taking this fact into consideration, it will be seen that the consumption has not fallen off as much as many causual observers have estimated.

"In retail trade the year has been 'spotted.' Department stores have prospered and cash dealers have been doing fairly well. The credit houses complain a good deal of slow collections, but the situation is better than was to be expected under all the circumstances. Some months trade has been good, others bad, and others indifferent, with an average shrinkage of fully 25 per cent.

"At South Omaha, in spite of strikes and fires, the year will show a satisfactory business, and for a good portion of the year a remarkable activity. The statistics for the year will soon be ready, and it is expected they will be interesting to every body who believes in Omaha's greatest industry.

"The bank statements published the past week show rather more than the usual falling off of deposits. The banks, however, are not disturbed over this, for the demand for loans has been weak and all the larger institutions were paying interest on considerable sums, which they were unable to use. The demand for money will undoubtedly increase from this time forward. No bank failure is reported for this week in Nebraska and the number and liabilities of failed traders is less than two years ago."

SNOW, CHURCH & CO.'S VIEWS.

Close of the Year Finds a Little Improvement Over Twelve Months Ago.

The local manager of Snow, Church & Co.'s mercantile agency writes:

"Local retail houses are very well satisfied with the holiday trade just over. Business was rather slow in coming, but during the last few days immediately preceding Christmas, dealers were kept very busy. Wholesalers are busy invoicing and salesmen are busy in preparing for their January trip.

"Business during the latter half of this year shows a decided falling off over the first part of the year, a very natural result of the failure in crops. The prospects for the first half of 1895 cannot be considered very bright for the same reason, and a decided revival can hardly be expected to set in here until a fair crop is reasonably well assured.

"There is no disputing the fact, however, that general conditions have been gradually improving and there is no doubt that, notwithstanding the dullness of business here, affairs are on a more solid footing than at the beginning of 1894. Jobbers in this territory have reduced their expenses to a minimum, credits are handled very carefully, and, although margins are small and business is conducted on a reduced scale, results have been very satisfactory when all the conditions are considered. By the careful continuance of this conservative policy, Omaha jobbers will easily hold their own during the coming months and be prepared for the revival when it does come. A wide extension of territory has been an important feature of the wholesale business here during the last year. Many houses whose business had never extended beyond the confines of Iowa and Nebraska are now selling goods in Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota and other neighboring states, and there is now doing business as far west as the Pacific coast.

"Manufacturers of shirts, overalls and clothing have very materially increased their business during the past year, in the face of adverse time, and between 600 and 700 operatives are now employed in local factories in these lines. The output of these concerns is finding a ready sale, and Omaha's importance as a market for this class of goods is growing day by day. It has already reached the point where the western make of shirts is recognized as superior to that of the eastern factories, and concerns here are equipped for turning out the finest class of goods in that line.

"Jobbers generally are not done invoicing and an accurate estimate of the business for the last year can hardly be made until this work is completed.

"The year 1894 can certainly be closed with the knowledge that the general outlook is far better than at the end of 1892."

NEW YORK GENERAL MARKET.

Closing Quotations on the Principal Commodities and Staples.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—FLOUR—Receipts, 8,630 bbls.; exports, 1,600 bbls.; sales, 1,650 bbls. Market only nominal and very little business anticipated until well into the new year; city mill patents, $4.00@4.15; winter patents, $2.80@3.15; city mill clears, $3.35; winter straights, $2.55@2.75; Minnesota patents, $3.05@3.70; winter extras, $2.00@2.50; Minnesota bakers, $2.50@2.60; winter low grades, $1.70@2.15; spring low grades, $1.70@1.90; shipping extra, $1.35@2.85. Southern flour, inactive; common to fair extra, $1.80@2.40; good to choice, $2.40@2.95. Rye flour, dull; superfine, $2.55@2.75; fancy, $2.80@2.90. Buckwheat flour, firmer; $1.85@1.95.

BUCKWHEAT—Dull; 52½@53c.

CORN MEAL—Quiet; sales, 150 bbls.; yellow western, $1.10@1.15; Brandywine, $3.

RYE—Nominal; car lots, 55@56c; boat loads, 56@58c.

BARLEY—Dull; western, 64@65c.

BARLEY MALT—Firm; western, 70@75c.

WHEAT—Receipts, none; exports, 56,600 bu.; sales, 950,000 bu. futures; no spots. Spot, nominal; No. 2 red, in store and elevator, 59¾c; afloat, 61½c; f. o. b., 62c; No. 1 northern, 68¾c, delivered; No. 1 hard, 70¼c, delivered. Option market opened firmer at first under a heavy selling off in weekly wheat and flour exports and weak cables, but rallied and advanced sharply on the burning of 500,000 bu. of wheat in Toledo and reported closing of Argentine ports by cholera. Subsequently, on net advance; No. 2 red, January, closed at 59⅞c; February, 60¾c; March, 61½@61¾c, closed at 61c; May, 61 13-16@62c, closed at 61⅝c; June closed at 62¾c; July, 62 11-16@62⅞c, closed at 62¾c; December closed at 59⅝c.

CORN—Receipts, 7,800 bu.; exports, 2,000 bu.; sales, 155,000 bu. futures, 16,000 bu. spot. Spot dull; No. 2, 51¾c in elevator; 53c afloat; steamer mixed, 49½c; No. 3, 48¾c. Options easy for a time on large receipts, but subsequently advanced with wheat and closed unchanged to ½c higher; January, 51¾c; February closed at 51½c; May, 51⅛@52⅝c, closed at 52c; December, 51⅜c.

OATS—Receipts, 21,600 bu.; exports, 300 bu.; sales, 25,000 bu. futures, 18,000 bu. spot. Spot steady; No. 2, 24½c; No. 2, delivered, 25¼c; No. 3, 38½c; No. 2 white, 38¾@39c; No. 3 white, 39¾c; track, white, 38@42c. Options quiet but steady; closed at unchanged prices; January closed, 25½c; December closed at 24¼c.

HAY—Dull; shipping, 50@55c; good to choice, 60@75c.

HOPS—Quiet; state, common to choice, old, 3@6c; new, 9@12c; Pacific coast, old, 5½@7c; new, 8@12c.

HIDES—Steady; wet salted New Orleans, selected, 45 to 65 lbs., 4½@5c; Buenos Ayres, dry, 20 to 24 lbs., 12c; Texas, dry, 25 to 30 lbs., 6½@7c.

LEATHER—Quiet; hemlock sole, Buenos Ayres, light to heavy weight, 11½@12c.

WOOL—Quiet; domestic fleece, 17@31c; pulled, 19@24c.

PROVISIONS—Beef, quiet; family, $10.50@12.00; extra mess, $7.50@8.00; beef hams, $17; city, extra India mess, $16.00@18.50. Cut meats, easy; pickled bellies, $5.75@6.10; pickled shoulders, $4.75@5; pickled hams, $8.00@8.16½. Lard, steady; western steam closed at $7; sales, 750 tierces at $7; city at 5¾@5¾c; sales, 150 tierces; December closed at $7.05, nominal; January, $6.95, nominal; May, $7.10, nominal; refined, quiet.

MOLASSES—Dull; New Orleans open kettle, good to choice, 29@33c.

ORANGES—Market firm; fancy, $2.25; others, $1.50@2.00.

PIG IRON—Dull and weak; Scotch, $19.00@20.00; American, $9.50@13.00.

COPPER—Quiet; brokers' price, $9.75.

LEAD—Weak; brokers' price, $3.

TIN PLATES—Nominal.

COTTON SEED OIL—Dull and nominal; prime crude, 24@24½c; off crude, 23@24c; yellow butter grades, 28@28½c; prime yellow, 29c; yellow off grades, 24@28½c; prime, 32@33c, nominal.

Liverpool Markets.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 29.—WHEAT—Spot, steady; demand poor; No. 2 red, winter, 4s 9½; No. 2 red, spring, stocks exhausted; No. 1 hard, Manitoba, 5s 1d; No. 1 California, 5s 2d. Futures closed dull, 1 farthing off from yesterday's closing figures; business heaviest on early positions; December and January, 4s 8¾d; February, 4s 9¼d; March, 4s 9½d; April, 4s 10¼d; May, 4s 10¾d.

CORN—Spot, quiet; American mixed, 4s 9½d; futures closed weak, 3/4 farthings lower than yesterday's closing; business heaviest on middle distance; December, 4s 2¼d; January, 4s 2¼d; February, 4s 2¼d; March and April, 4s 2¾d; May, 4s 2¾d.

FLOUR—Dull; demand poor; St. Louis fancy winter, 5s 3d.

PEAS—Canadian, 4s 1½.

PROVISIONS—Bacon, steady; demand moderate; Cumberland cut, 28 to 30 lbs., 32s; short ribs, 28 lbs., 33s; long clear, light, 38 to 45 lbs., 32s; long clear, heavy, 35 lbs., 32s; short clear backs, light, 18 lbs., 28s; short clear middles, heavy, 35 lbs., 32s; clear bellies, 14 to 16 lbs., 42s; shoulders, square, 12 to 13 lbs., 29s; hams, short cut, 14 to 16 lbs., 41s. Tallow, fine North American, nominal, 23s. Beef, extra India mess, 72s 6d; prime mess, 60s. Pork, prime mess, fine western, 60s; prime medium, 55s 9d. Lard, steady; prime western, 35s 3d; refined, in pails, 36s 6d.

CHEESE—Quiet; demand poor; finest American, white, 56s 6d; American, colored, 51s 6d.

BUTTER—Finest United states, 75s; good, 68s.

TURPENTINE SPIRITS—2os 6d.

ROSIN—Common, 4s 9d.

COTTON SEED OIL—Liverpool refined, 18s 6d.

BLEACHING POWDER—Hard wood, f. o. b., Liverpool, 17 10s.

HOPS—At London (Pacific coast), 42 10s.

Toledo Grain Market.

TOLEDO, Dec. 29.—WHEAT—Higher; firm; No. 2, cash and December, 58c; May, 57½@57¾c.

CORN—Higher, steady; No. 2 mixed, 44c; No. 3 mixed, 42c; No. 4 mixed, 41½c; No. 3 white, 42c.

OATS—Dull; No. 2 mixed, 22c; No. 2 white, 24½c.

RYE—Dull; cash, 51c.

CLOVER SEED—Dull, steady; prime, cash, December and January, $4.87½; February, $5.85; March, $5.67½.

RECEIPTS—Wheat, 27,600 bu.; corn, 37,500 bu.; clover seed, 124 bags.

SHIPMENTS—Flour, 500 bbls.; corn, 1,000 bu.; oats, 500 bu.; rye, 500 bu.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

Short Session Was a Fairly Active One in the Wheat Pit.

THAT CEREAL OPENED VERY WEAK

Foreign Markets Were Easier but Other Fresh Features of the Day's News Were Bullish—Oats Were a Shade Firmer.

CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—The short session was a fairly active one in the wheat pit, but dull elsewhere. Wheat was knocked down early in the forenoon by the sacrifice of a heavy line of long stuff. It recovered and closed quite strong at ¼c for the day on account of the working here of a considerable line of cash wheat for immediate loading and spring shipment. Corn ruled firmer and closed at from ¼c to ⅛c higher. Oats, unchanged. Provisions were dull and rather weak.

Wheat at the opening was very sick for half an hour or so. The ostensible cause given at the time was the small amount of the exports of flour and wheat for the week. The foreign markets were easier again. The other fresh features of the day's news were bullish. The receipts in this country were light. The Atlantic port clearances of wheat and flour for twenty-four hours amounted to 470,000 bu. New York had further details of the outbreak of cholera in Argentine, naming the ports which had been closed there in consequence of it. That and the burning of 600,000 bu. of wheat in an elevator in Toledo were given as the reasons for firmness, which succeeded the early weak spell. Near the end of the session it became known that a large trade had been quietly going on here in cash wheat for shipment, and when it was ascertained that the total amount worked yesterday and today was 465,000 bu. the market became very strong and closed at ⅝c advance over the lowest price it sold for early in the day. Near the opening the pressure of long wheat was evident, and it went, most of it, at from 57¾c to 57c, or the lowest price that was touched. The opening price for May was 57¾c, and, after declining to 57c, it gradually improved until it reached 57⅞c, which it did just at the close.

Corn was dull and governed for the most part by trades based upon puts and calls. It shared slightly in the strength of wheat. There were enough shorts who are willing to buy at around present prices to easily absorb the offerings. The opening for May was 48c, and it did not move from that point for fifteen minutes. It was driven down to from 47⅞c to 48c by the sale of 200,000 bu. at that price at a time when 48c could have been had for it. It improved to 48¼c and closed at from 48⅜c to 48¾c, closing at 48⅝c bid.

Oats were quiet and a shade firmer. Fluctuations were narrowly confined those of corn and confined to a narrow range. May sold between 31⅜c and from 31⅝c to 31¾c, closing at 31⅝c bid.

Hog receipts were only 12,000 head, but provisions were easier. Not all of the day's decline was maintained. Pork, which had made a break of 15c, recovered half of its loss. Lard, which declined 7½c, rose again to within 2½c of yesterday's closing price, and ribs likewise suffered to an extent of 2½c for the day. Selling was responsible for the weakness.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

Articles.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
Wheat, No. 2				
Dec.....	58¾	58⅜	57¾	58⅛
May.....	57⅝@58¼	57⅝	57	57⅝
July.....	57⅜	58¼	57¼	58¼
Corn No. 2				
Dec.....	45⅛	45⅝	45⅛	45⅝
Jan.....	45⅛	45⅝	45¼	45⅝
May.....	48	48¾	47⅝@48	48⅝@48¾
Oats No. 2				
Dec.....	28⅛	28¾	28⅛	28⅜
May.....	31¾	31⅝@31¾	31⅜	31⅜
Pork per bbl				
Jan.....	11 27½	11 35	11 27½	11 35
May.....	11 85	11 85	11 70	11 77½
Lard, 100 lbs				
Jan.....	6 75	6 75	6 70	6 72½
May.....	7 00	7 00	6 92½	6 97½
Short Ribs				
Jan.....	5 70	5 70	5 65	5 67½
May.....	6 00	6 00	5 95	5 97½

Cash quotations were as follows:

FLOUR—Easy; no sales reported.

WHEAT—No. 2 spring, 58@59¾c; No. 3 spring, nominal; No. 2 red, 58¾@59¾c.

CORN—No. 2, 45¾c; No. 3 yellow, 45¾c.

OATS—No. 2, 28¾c; No. 2 white, 31¾@32¼c; No. 3 white, 31¾c.

RYE—No. 2, 49c.

BARLEY—No. 2, 55c; No. 3, 52@55c; No. 4, nominal.

FLAX SEED—No. 1, $1.28@1.29.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, $4.12½.

PROVISIONS—Mess pork, per bbl., $11.37½@11.50. Lard, per 100 lbs., $6.75. Short ribs sides (loose), $5.70@5.75; dry salted shoulders (boxed), 5¾@5¾c; short clear sides (boxed), 6¼@6¼c.

WHISKY—Distillers finished goods, per gal., $1.22.

SUGARS—Cut loaf, unchanged.

The following were the receipts and shipments today:

Articles.	Receipts.	Shipments.
Flour, bbls	5,000	2,000
Wheat, bu	16,000	10,000
Corn, bu	154,000	16,000
Oats, bu	89,000	65,000
Rye, bu	4,000	1,000
Barley, bu	15,000	13,000

On the Produce exchange today the butter market was firm; creamery, 12@23c; dairy, 10@19c. Eggs, firm; 12@21c.

OMAHA GENERAL MARKET.

Condition of Trade and Quotations on Staple and Fancy Produce.

The butter market has been rather quiet during the past week, so far as the low grades are concerned, and there is a strong tendency for stocks to accumulate. The medium grades have been a little more active, but the week closed with the trade dull and the market weak.

The receipts of eggs were lighter during the past week, owing to the storm and colder weather. Although there were quite large stocks on hand, the drop in the receipts caused a firmer feeling and there was a tendency to advance the market. Buyers, however, were taking only small lots as a rule, and with stocks found to begin with, there was not much opportunity for putting up the price.

While the receipts of live poultry fell off to some extent, there was a corresponding increase in the receipts of dressed poultry. The poultry market has been pretty fair shape during the past week. There was no glut, the receipts being moderate and about equal to the demand. Dealers were enabled to clean up the arrivals in the receipts of dressed poultry. The poultry market has been pretty fair shape during the past week. There was no glut, the receipts being moderate and about equal to the demand. Dealers were enabled to clean up the arrivals in good shape. The holiday trade was entirely satisfactory.

With the coming of the new year the season for prairie chickens, quail and venison will expire, and from that time on there will not be much in the way of game aside from squirrels and rabbits.

The hay market is not so strong as it was a week ago, as will be noted from the quotations given below.

The following will show the receipts for the weeks ending on dates indicated at heads of columns, the figures representing cases of eggs, coops of live poultry, packages of butter and dressed poultry, and cars of potatoes:

	Dec. 29.	Dec. 22.	Dec. 15.	Nov. 24.
Eggs	952	1,599	761	779
Butter	754	909	843	1,059
Live poultry	404	492	435	441
Dressed poultry	1,021	924	433	543
Potatoes	3	4	5	12

It will be noted that there was a falling off in the receipts of the past week, as compared with the previous week, in eggs, butter, live poultry and potatoes, but an increase in dressed poultry.

During the past five or six years the poultry business has increased rapidly. During the past summer and fall this market has been crowded all the time with poultry and it has been frequently remarked by commission men that they could not see where all the poultry came from and that the country seemed full of it. Other markets have experienced the same thing. In New York received 4,165 cars of live poultry, while this year the total will not be over 3,500, a short of 1,500 cars. The receipts of live poultry have been even heavier this year than the figures would indicate, as a great deal of poultry has arrived in 1-pig cars, and they hold a good deal more stock than the old fashioned flat cars. The wire car is a car especially made to carry live poultry, having a large number of small wire sections for the poultry, but New York commission men are very much opposed to them for that market, owing to the extra expense and trouble of unloading and because they have to furnish coops, which are not readily obtainable at all times, and the bulk of the poultry arrives in the flat cars, the coops being piled up and fastened tightly. Quotations:

BUTTER—Culled stock, 8c; common to fair, 8@10c; fair to good country, 10@12c; choice to fancy, 14@16c; gathered creamery, 19@20c; separator creamery, 20@21c.

EGGS—Strictly fresh laid, 18@19c.

LIVE POULTRY—Old hens, 4½@5c; spring chickens, 5@5½c; ducks, 6c; turkeys, 8c; heavy toms, 7c; geese, 6c.

DRESSED POULTRY—Chickens, fair, 4½@5c; choice large, 5½@6c; choice small, 6½@7c; turkeys, fair to good, 7@7½c; choice heavy, 8@8½c; choice small, 6½@7c; ducks, fair to good, 8@9c; fancy, 9@10c; geese, fair to good, 6@7c; fancy, 8@9c.

GAME—Prairie chickens, per doz., $4; grouse, per doz., $3.50; blue wing teal per doz., $1.00@1.25; green wing teal, per doz., $1.25@1.50; ducks, mixed, per doz., $1.00@1.25; canvasbacks, $4.00@5.00; mallards and red heads, $2.50@2.75; quail, $1.00; deer saddles, 12@13c; antelope saddles, 7@10c; small rabbits, 75c; jack rabbits, $1.25.

VEAL—Choice, fat, 70 to 100 lbs. are quoted at 6@6½c; large and coarse, 3@4c.

CHEESE—Wisconsin full cream, Young A, 13c; twins, 12½c; Nebraska and Iowa, full cream, 11c; Nebraska and Iowa, part skims, 7@8c; Limburger, No. 1, 11c; brick, No. 1, 11c; Swiss No. 1, 13c.

HAY—Upland hay, $9; midland, $5.50; lowland, $5; rye straw, $6. Color makes the price on hay. Light shades sell the best. Only top grades bring top prices.

PIGEONS—Old birds, per doz., 80c@$1.00.

VEGETABLES.

POTATOES—Western, stock, car lots, 60@65c; small lots, 65@70c.

OLD BEANS—Hand picked, navy, $1.90@2.00; Lima beans, per lb., 3½c.

ONIONS—On orders, 60@70c.

CABBAGE—On orders, 1½c.

CELERY—Per doz., 30@40c.

SWEET POTATOES—Home grown, $2.75; Missouris, $3.00@3.25.

BEETS—Per bbl., $2.

CARROTS—Per bbl., $2.

CAULIFLOWER—Per doz., $2.75@3.00.

HORSERADISH—Per lb., 10@c.

PARSNIPS—Per bbl., $2.

RUTABAGAS—Per bbl., $2.

PARSLEY—Per doz. bunches, 25c.

TURNIPS—Per bbl., $2.

SQUIT PEAR—Per lb., 3½c.

GREEN PEAS—Per bu., $1.25@1.35.

RADISHES—Per doz., 25c.

LETTUCE—Per doz., 25c.

SPINACH—Per bbl., $1.50@1.75.

FRUITS.

QUINCES—California, per 50-lb. box, $1.50.

PEACHES—None.

PLUMS—California, none.

PRUNES—None.

PEARS—Winter Nellis, $2; Vicars, $1.75.

APPLES—Good stock, per bbl., $2; Genitons, $2.75; eastern stock, $3.25; greenings, $3.50@3.75.

GRAPES—Concord, none; Malagas, per 63 to 68-lb. bbls., gross, $3.00@3.50.

CRANBERRIES—Jerseys, fancy, $10.50 per bbl.

TROPICAL FRUITS.

The first carload of oranges from Riverside, Cal., this year was shipped to San Francisco for the holiday trade. The fruit was sold f. o. b. at $2.50 a box. This is later than usual for the first shipments to be made, but it is said there is a desire to hold the fruit until it is ripe.

ORANGES—Floridas, per box, 150s, 176s, and 200s, $2.75; 128s, $2.40@2.75.

TANGERINES—Floridas, per half box, $2.25.

BANANAS—Choice stock, $2.00@2.50 per bunch.

LEMONS—Malaga, $3.75; fancy, Florida, sizes 250 and 300, $4.00@4.25; new Messinas, sizes 300 and 360, $4.75@5.00.

PINEAPPLES—None.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The position of Sicily Siberta has been improved during the week, says the New York Journal of Commerce, by the purchase of some 500 bags, this parcel having been held by an outside importer who had no legitimate channel through which to distribute the goods. From Messina we learn from reliable sources that the sales of new crop will not have reached a total of 50,000 bags, which leaves a remaining stock of about 11,000 bags, certainly a very limited quantity for this period of the year. In view of these facts, and the market there has been showing a stronger tendency of late, with an appreciation cabled to 25s, or say a bare cost to import of 6c. When it is considered that the annual consumption of this country alone has been 50,000 to 75,000 bags, the strength of the present situation can readily be discovered. Though the Sicily product is given the preference by the majority of consumers upon this side, there is some call for the fancy long nut from Naples. Of this variety some 1,500 to 2,000 bags are imported annually, though none in the trade are accustomed to carrying any considerable quantity at one time, the comparatively high cost tending to limit sales and be a check upon any large ventures. The imports since September 1 have been 15,110 bags, and the total quantity now in transit is 800 bags. Quotations:

OYSTERS—IXL, 8c; medium, per can, 10c; horseshoes, 12c; extra standards, 15c; extra selects, 15c; company selects, 20c; New York counts, 25c.

NUTS—Figs—Extra fancy, 16c; fancy, 14c; choice, 12@13c; California, bags, 7c.

HONEY—New York, 13c; California, 16c; strained, 4 to 10-lb. cans, per lb., 10c.

MAPLE SYRUP—Gallon jugs, per doz., $12.

NUTS—Almonds, 15c; English walnuts, soft shelled, 12c; standards, 10c; filberts, 9@10c; Brazil nuts, 8c; shellbark hickory nuts, per bu., $1.50@2.00; large hickory nuts, $1.25@1.50; fancy raw peanuts, 6c; roasted peanuts, 7½@8c.

HIDES—No. 1 green hides, 2½c; No. 2 green hides, 3½c; No. 1 green salted hides, 4½c; No. 2 green salted hides, 3½c; No. 1 green salted hides, 25 to 40 lbs., 4½c; No. 2 green salted hides, 25 to 40 lbs., 3½c; No. 1 veal calf, 3 to 5 lbs., 5c; No. 2 veal calf, 3 to 5 lbs., 3½c; No. 1 dry flint hides, 6c; No. 2 dry flint hides, 4c; No. 1 dry flint salted hides, 5c; part cured hides, ½c per lb. less than fully cured.

SAUER KRAUT—Choice white, per bbl., $4.50; per half bbl., $2.50.

MINCE MEAT—Fancy, in half bbls., per lb., 5½c; 10-gal. kegs, 6c; condensed, per case of 3 doz., $2.50.

FISH—Sunfish and perch, 6c; buffalo, 7c; croppie, 10c; catfish, 12c; black bass, 20c.

CIDER—Pure juice, per bbl., $5.50; half bbl., $3.

SHEEP PELTS—Green, salted, each, 25@60c; green salted shearlings (short wooled early skins), each, 5@15c; dry shearlings (short wooled early skins), No. 1, each, 5@10c; dry shearlings (short wooled early skins), No. 2, each, 5c; dry flint Kansas and Nebraska butcher wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 4@6c; dry flint Nebraska murrain wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 4@6c; dry flint Colorado butcher wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 4@6½c; dry flint Colorado murrain wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 4@6c.

TALLOW AND GREASE—Tallow, No. 1, 4@4½c; tallow, No. 2, 3½@4c; grease, white A, 4½@4½c; grease, white B, 3½c; grease, yellow, 3½c; grease, dark, 2½@3c; old butter, 2@2½c; beeswax, prime, 17@20c; rough tallow, 2c.

St. Louis General Market.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 29.—FLOUR—Dull; nominal.

WHEAT—Dull, but there was liquidation in a moderate way; a considerable amount of wheat was sold at from ½@¾c below yesterday's close, but there was a rally of ½@¾c toward the close; No. 2 red, cash, 51c; December, 51½c; January, 51¾c; May, 57½c.

CORN—Easier early on lower cables, closing weaker and tame at ¼c net decline; No. 2 mixed, cash, 42¼c; December, 42⅝c; January, 42¾c; May, 45½c; July, 46⅜c.

OATS—Inactive, but firmly maintained; No. 2, cash, 29¾c; December, 30¼c; May, 31⅜c.

RYE—Dull; 3c bid for No. 2, cash.

BRAN—Quiet; very little offered.

FLAX SEED—Quiet at 73c.

CLOVER SEED—Quiet; choice, $3.50@3.60.

TIMOTHY SEED—$4.90@5.25.

HAY—Steady at late decline; prairie, $8.50 for choice; $9.50 for best stock.

BUTTER—Unchanged.

EGGS—Scarce and higher at 20c.

LEAD—$2.60.

SPELTER—$3.07½.

CORN MEAL—$2.05@2.10.

WHISKY—$1.22.

COTTON TIES—70c.

BAGGING—5¼@6¾c.

PROVISIONS—Pork, standard mess, jobbing $11.62½. Lard, prime steam, $6.60; choice, $6.70. Bacon, packed shoulders, $6; longs, $6.50; ribs, $6.62½; shorts, $6.75. Dry salt meats, loose shoulders, $5.75; longs and ribs, $5.87½; shorts, $6. Hams, sugar-cured, $10.50@11.00.

RECEIPTS—Flour, 2,000 bbls.; wheat, 5,000 bu.; corn, 25,000 bu.; oats, 13,000 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Flour, 2,000 bbls.; wheat, none; corn, none; oats, 9,000 bu.

Kansas City Markets.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 29.—WHEAT—Firm; No. 2 hard, 53c; No. 2 red, 51@51½c; rejected, 45@46c; sales, no sample, on change, f. o. b., Mississippi river; No. 2 hard, 50@52c; No. 2 red, 52c.

CORN—Mixed fractionally higher; No. 2, 40@40½c; white, slow, ¾c lower; No. 2, 40¾@41c.

OATS—Steady; No. 2 mixed, 29½@31c; No. 2 white, 33@34c.

RYE—Firm; No. 2 nominally, 49c.

FLAX SEED—Dull; nominally $1.28@1.30.

BRAN—Firm, 68@69c.

HAY—Steady; timothy, $8.00@9.50; prairie, $7.00@8.50.

BUTTER—Quiet and steady; creamery, 18@21c; dairy, 12@15c.

EGGS—Firm, 16½@16¾c.

RECEIPTS—Wheat, 5,000 bu.; corn, 15,000 bu.; oats, 7,000 bu.

SHIPMENTS—None.

Cotton Market.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 29.—COTTON—Quiet and easy; middling, 5¼c; low middling, 4⅞c; good ordinary, 4⅝c; net receipts, 13,335 bales; gross, 14,238 bales; exports, to Great Britain, 5,014 bales; to France, 7,625 bales; to the continent, 6,250 bales; coastwise, 8,246 bales; sales, 1,400 bales; stock, 413,193 bales.

Futures quiet; sales, 74,700 bales; January, 5.15@5.17; February, 5.24@5.25; March, 5.34@5.35; April, 5.36@5.38; May, 5.41@5.42; June, 5.47@5.48; July, 5