CONDITION OF OMAHA'S TRADE

Unseasonable Weather Holds Down the Volume of Business.

COUNTRY COLLECTIONS MIGHT BE BETTER

Produce and Live Stock Markets Notably Dull—Holiday Goods in Profusion and in Endless Variety Awaiting Buyers.

Business in all departments has suffered during the past week from the effects of the unseasonable weather, which has cut off the demand for cold weather goods and has left the retail trade especially in the dumps. The springlike weather has invited people to be out of doors, and on most days the streets have been crowded, so that the retail district really presented an animated and busy appearance, but it was not a buying crowd. Lookers were in the great majority, and the snapping weather necessary to make buyers was absent.

In the jobbing district of the city a fair amount of business was done, but there, too, the effects of the unseasonable weather were noticeable. Letters from customers generally spoke of roads in bad condition and a consequent light attendance of farmers in the towns, rendering the retail trade rather quiet and collections none too good. The conditions in the country were reflected in a moderate movement of goods from jobbing houses.

In spite of the present dullness, business men appear to believe that the general trend of business shows a gradual improvement, as there is certainly less of anxiety and uncertainty as to the future. Business men without doubt have more courage, but this is not the season of the year when new enterprises are expected to materialize. The near approach of the holiday season invariably marks the beginning of a period of great activity in retail circles, but the jobbing trade at the same time is generally rather quiet.

HOLIDAY GOODS DISPLAYED.

This week and the first part of next the holiday trade will overshadow everything else. Omaha merchants generally have anticipated a good trade, and many houses have put in special lines of holiday goods. The departments in which holiday goods are displayed are very interesting by reason of the great showing of novelties intended for Christmas presents. Every year a long list of new novelties is added to the assortment already so large as to be bewildering.

As usual, the greatest progress is to be seen in the production of new articles intended for the use or wear of women. One of the most interesting features in this division is the array of celluloid articles. These include handkerchief cases, glove boxes, sachet and bonbon cases, and similar toilet and boudoir appurtenances, in artistic form and decorated with delicate floral paintings and other designs on tinted grounds. Then, too, there is a wide array of hair brushes shown in delicate tints in imitation of ivory, amber, tortoise shell and carmelian. In the perfumery department there is an assortment of bottles, every one a work of art, that is perfectly bewildering. Cut glass bottles of the most delicate workmanship and dainty filigree work in gilt and silver. Then comes an endless array of writing materials and articles for the writing desk, both useful and ornamental.

In the men's department the selection is not so large and by comparison with the novelties intended for the fair sex may seem even meager. There are dressing cases in a considerable variety, poker sets and smoking sets without end. Articles of wearing apparel are numerous, and the stock to select from is large. Then comes a long array of articles that would be appropriate for either sex, such as the fine examples of the potter's art, representing all the celebrated makes in the different quarters of the globe and the thousand and one articles produced by the jeweler's art.

It is, however, when the toy department is reached that the Christmas-like character is particularly marked. The array of toys, ranging from the simplest 5-cent novelties to the most complex, expensive devices, becomes greater each year.

SOUTH OMAHA'S EXPERIENCE.

At South Omaha there was a very material falling off in the volume of business as compared with the previous week, though a fair average business was done. The season of range cattle is practically over and the packers have to depend for the most part upon native cattle or such westerns as have been on corn feed. As the greater proportion of the feeders did not go out into the country until late, it is still early to anticipate a very large run of cornfed cattle. During the past week packers have been forced to ship in a good many cattle from other markets to make up the deficiency in the supply at this point. The result has been a quiet week in beef cattle, but feeding cattle are still in active demand and the country has been a free buyer. The large corn crop in the country makes feeders anxious for cattle.

PRODUCE MARKET QUIET.

In the produce district of the city dullness has been the rule the past week. Considerable business, however, has been doing and a by no means small quantity of produce has been handled, but the market has been dull and featureless and devoid of interest. Most houses report a much smaller volume of business than for the previous week.

One of the leading causes for the unfavorable situation was the warm weather, which decreased the consuming demand and renders the handling of perishable produce risky at the best. Large quantities of dressed poultry received was unfit for use, having been allowed to freeze in the city. Game was also a source of trouble for the same reason.

As usual, when the weather is warm and dealers all in a hurry to sell, prices broke badly. This was especially true of poultry and game, which was not only lower, but hard to move, even at the reduced prices. The production of eggs is evidently on the increase and the larger receipts of the past few days caused a weakening of the market. A continuance of present mild weather could hardly fail to bring about a very large decrease in the receipts and a much greater decrease in the price, as has been the experience in former seasons when mild weather predominated.

No very important developments were made in the butter market, good butter sold freely, though some houses reported that they were able to secure more butter at present prices than they could find a market for. Prices for butter thus far this season have been fairly satisfactory to the manufacturer, and no complaints have been heard from that source. In regard to butter prices the New York produce exchange thus put out figures showing the price of dairy butter for each year since 1848.

Year.	Cents. per lb.	Year.	Cents per lb.
1848	17	1872	31
1849	16	1873	34.75
1850	16.5	1874	29
1851	14.7	1875	31
1852	21.8	1876	31
1853	19.7	1877	24
1854	21.3	1878	22.75
1855	24.3	1879	26.13
1856	22.6	1880	28.25
1857	23	1881	26.75
1858	21.3	1882	32.19
1859	21.9	1883	26.25
1860	18.8	1884	25.90
1861	17.1	1885	23.60
1862	20	1886	23.80
1863	24.8	1887	23.80
1864	46.3	1888	24.30
1865	41.5	1889	21.90
1866	46.75	1890	21.90
1867	33.8	1891	21.44
1868	43.8	1892	21.50
1869	41.75	1893	22.25
1870	35.5	1894	18.50
1871	31.33	1895	16.90

OMAHA GENERAL MARKET.

Condition of Trade and Quotations on Staple and Fancy Produce.

EGGS—Fresh gathered, 20c.

BUTTER—Common to fair, 8@9c; choice to fancy, roll, 13@15c; separator creamery, 21c; gathered cream, 18@20c.

GAME—Prairie chickens, per doz., $6.00@6.25; quail, $1.00@1.50; blue winged teal ducks, $1.50@1.75; green wing, $1.25; redheads and mallards, $3.50; small rabbits, 25@40c; jacks, 75c; squirrels, 60@75c; deer saddles, 14@16c; carcasses, 10@12c; antelope saddles, 13@16c; carcasses, 9c; Canada geese, large, $6.00@7.00; small, $4.00@5.00.

CHEESE—Domestic brick, 10c; Edam, per doz., $9.00; club house, 1-lb. jars, per doz., $3.15; Limberger, fancy, per lb., 9c; Isoneofort, ½-lb. jars, per doz., $3.00; Young Americas, 11c; twins, fancy, 10½c.

VEAL—Choice fat, 80 to 120 lbs., are quoted at 7@8c; large and coarse, 6@5c.

DRESSED POULTRY—Chickens, 5@5½c; turkeys, 8@9c; geese, 7@8c; ducks, 7@8c.

LIVE POULTRY—Not wanted.

PIGEONS—Live, 75@90c; dead pigeons not wanted.

HAY—Upland, $5.50; midland, $4.50; lowland, $4; rye straw, $4; color makes the price on hay; light bales sell the best; only top grades bring top prices.

BROOM CORN—Extremely slow sale; new crop, delivered on the country; choice green self-working carpet, per lb., 3½c; choice green, running to hurl, 3½c; common, 1½c.

VEGETABLES.

SWEET POTATOES—On orders, per bbl., $2.00.

ONIONS—Good stock, per bu., 35@40c.

LIMA BEANS—Per lb., 4c.

BEANS—Hand picked navy, per bu., $1.25.

CABBAGE—Home grown, per hundred, 90c @$1.00.

CELERY—Per doz., 25@30c; fancy, large, 40@50c.

POTATOES—Good stock, per bu., 35c; Wyoming stock, sacked, 80c per 100 lbs.

TOMATOES—Texas, per bushel crate, $2.25.

FRUITS.

GRAPES—Crates, 10 pony baskets, Concords and Catawbas, per crates, $3.00.

MALAGA GRAPES—Per keg, $7.

CRANBERRIES—Cape Cod, per bbl., $8.

APPLES—Cooking, per bbl., $1.65@1.75; fancy New York, $1.75.

CALIFORNIA PEARS—Per box, $2.00@2.25; New York, per bbl., $3.50@4.00.

QUINCES—Per bbl., $4.

TROPICAL FRUITS.

PINEAPPLES—Per crate of two to three doz., $4.00@5.00.

ORANGES—Mexican, $3.75; California navels, $4.00.

LEMONS—Messinas, $3.00; choice California, $3.50@3.75; fancy, $4.00.

BANANAS—Choice, large stock, per bunch, $2.00@2.25; medium-sized bunches, $1.50@2.00.

MISCELLANEOUS.

HONEY—Fancy white, per lb., 14c; choice, 13c; California, amber color, 10c.

CIDER—Clarified juice, per half bbl., $2.50; per bbl., $4.50@4.75.

MAPLE SYRUP—Five-gal. cans, each, $2.75; gal. cans, per doz., $12; half-gal. cans, $6.25; quart cans, $3.50.

SAUER KRAUT—Per half bbl., $1.75; bbls., $3.00@3.25.

FIGS—Imported fancy, 5 crown, 20-lb. boxes, 15c; choice, 10-lb. boxes, 3 crown, 11c.

NUTS—Almonds, California, per lb., large size, 15c; Brazils, per lb., 10c; English walnuts, per lb., fancy, soft shell, 12@12½c; standards, 11@11½c; filberts, per lb., 10c; pecans, polished, large, 9@10c; jumbo, 11@12c; large hickory nuts, $1.25 per bu.; small, $1.50; cocoanuts, 5c each.

DATES—Fard, 15-lb. boxes, per box, 5c.

FRESH MEATS.

BEEF—Good native steers, 400 to 600 lbs., 6@7c; western steers, 5@5½c; good cows and heifers, 5@5½c; medium cows and heifers, 4½c; good forequarters cows and heifers, 2½c; good forequarters native steers, 5c; good hindquarters cows and heifers, 6½c; good hindquarters native steers, 8½c; cow rounds, 5½c; cow plates, 3½c; boneless chucks, 4c; cow chunks, 2½c; steer chunks, 4c; beef tenderloins, 22c; beef rolls, boneless, 10c; sirloin butts, boneless, 10c; loin backs, boneless, 10c; loin backs, 8c; cow ribs, No. 3, 7c; cow loins, No. 3, 9c; beef trimmings, 3½c; rump butts, 5c; shoulder clods, 2½c.

PORK—Dressed hogs, 5c; pork loins, 6½c; pork tenderloins, 15c; spare ribs, 5c; ham sausage, butts, 5c; pork shoulders, rough, 4½c; pork shoulders, skinned, 4½c; pork trimmings, 5c; leaf lard, not rendered, 6c.

MUTTON—Dressed lamb, 7c; dressed mutton, 6c; racks, mutton, 3½c; legs, mutton, 8½c; saddles, mutton, 8½c; stew, 3c; sheep plucks, 3c.

HIDES, TALLOW, ETC.

HIDES—No. 1 green hides, 5c; No. 2 green hides, 4c; No. 1 green salted hides, 7c; No. 2 green salted hides, 6c; No. 1 veal calf, 8 to 12 lbs., 7c; No. 2 veal calf, 8 to 15 lbs., 4c; No. 1 dry flint hides, 9@10c; No. 2 dry flint hides, 8@9c; No. 1 dry salted hides, 8@9c; part cured hides, ½c per lb. less than fully cured.

SHEEP YELTS—Green salted, each, 25@60c; green salted, shearings (short wooled early skins), each, 10@25c; dry pelts (short wooled early skins), No. 1, each, 5c; dry flint, Kansas and Nebraska butcher wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 4@6c; dry flint, Kansas and Nebraska Murrain wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 3@4c; dry flint Colorado butcher wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 4@5c; dry flint Colorado Murrain wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 2@4c; feet cut off, as it is useless to pay freight on them.

TALLOW AND GREASE—Tallow, No. 1, 3c; tallow, No. 2, 2½c; grease, white A, 3c; grease, white B, 2c; grease, yellow, 2c; grease, dark, 1½c; old butter, 2@2½c; beeswax, prime, 15@22c; rough tallow, 1c.

WOOL—Unwashed, fine, heavy, 60@70c; fine, light, 80@c; quarterblood, 10@12c; seedy, burry and cheffy, 80@c; cotted and broken coarse, 74@c; cotted and broken, fine, 60@c. Fleece Washed: Medium, 15@18c; fine, 14@16c; tub washed, 16@19c; black, 8c; bucks, 6c; tag locks, 20@3c; dead pulled, 50@6c.

BONES—In car lots, weighed and delivered in Chicago: Dry buffalo, per ton, $12.00@14.00; dry country, bleached, per ton, $10.00@12.00; dry country, damp and meaty, per ton, $6.00@8.00.

NEW YORK GENERAL MARKET.

Quotations of the Day on Various Commodities.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—FLOUR—Receipts, 28,200 bbls.; exports, 5,412 bbls.; quiet, but firmly held for both spring and winter brands; winter patents, $4.80@5.10; Minnesota patents, $4.50@4.70; Minnesota bakers, $3.40@4.10; winter extras, $2.35@3.00; winter low grades, $2.55@3.05. Rye flour, quiet and steady; superfine, $2.85@3.05, fancy, $3.10@3.25. Buckwheat flour, dull, $1.35@1.40.

BUCKWHEAT—Dull at 35@37c.

CORN MEAL—Quiet; yellow western, 53c; city, 60c.

RYE—Nominal; car lots, 40@42c.

BARLEY—Steady; western, 28@28½c; malting, 30@40c.

BARLEY MALT—Nominal; western, 50@55c.

WHEAT—Receipts, 28,200 bu.; exports, 5,412 bu. Spot firmer; No. 2 hard, 39⅝c. Options opened steady and was further advanced on heavy weekly exports and lower cables and favorable Argentine crop reports, cash demand west and prospects of a heavy visible supply; closed ⅞@1c net higher; No. 2 red, May, 86 1-16@86 9-16c, closed at 86⅝c.

CORN—Receipts, 31,200 bu.; exports, 26,103 bu. Spot inactive; No. 2, 29c. Options quiet, but very steady on large weekly clearances; closing unchanged; May, 31⅞@32c, closed at 31⅞c; December closed at 29c.

OATS—Receipts, 264,000 bu.; exports, 5,200 bu. Spot dull; No. 2, 22½c. Options dull and unchanged; December closed at 22½c.

HAY—Quiet; shipping, $5.50@6.00; good to choice, $7.00@7.50.

HOPS—Dull; 1895 crop, 3@7½c; 1896 crop, 8@14c; Pacific coast, 1896 crop, 3@7½c; 1896 crop, 9@14c.

HIDES—Dull; Galveston, 13c; Buenos Ayres, dry, nominal; California, 25c.

LEATHER—Steady; hemlock sole, Buenos Ayres, light to heavy weights, 19½@20½c; acid, 20@22c.

PROVISIONS—Beef, steady; family, $9.00@10.00; extra, $7; beef hams, $17.50@18.00; packet, $8.00@9.00. Cut meats, steady; pickled bellies, 4½@5c; pickled shoulders, 4c; pickled hams, 8½@9c. Lard, firm; western steamed, $4.15; refined, steady. Pork, dull; mess, $8.25@8.15; short clear, $8.75@10.50; family, $10.50@11.00.

BUTTER—Quiet; western creamery, 13@22c; western factory, 7@12c; Elgins, 23c; imitation creamery, 11@17½c; state dairy, 11@20c; state creamery, 15@23c.

CHEESE—Quiet; large, state, 7@10½c; small, fancy, 7½@10½c; part skims, 3½@7c; full skims, 2½@3c.

EGGS—Steady; state and Pennsylvania, 26@23c; western, fresh, 15½@21c.

TALLOW—Quiet; city, 3½c; country, 3½c, as to quality.

OILS—Petroleum—Dull; United, $1.00 bid. Rosin, quiet; strained, common to good, $1.82½. Turpentine, quiet; 27@27½c. Cottonseed, market irregular; prime crude, 20½@21c; prime crude, f. o. b., mills, 17@17½c; off crude, 20½c; prime summer, yellow, 23@23½c; off summer, yellow, 23c; butter grades, 20½c; prime white, 27c.

RICE—Steady; domestic, fair to extra, 3¾@6c; Japan, 4¼@4¾c.

MOLASSES—Quiet; New Orleans, open kettle, good to choice, 26@34c, for new crop.

METALS—Pig iron, steady; southern, $11.00@12.25; northern, $11.00@13.00. Copper, quiet; lake brokers, $11.37½. Tin plates, quiet. Lead, firm, with demand showing considerable interest; brokers are quoting $3.75 for domestic, for round lots, either prompt or nearly delivery although in some cases higher prices are being asked.

St. Louis General Market.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 12.—FLOUR—Dull and weak; patents, $4.00@4.75; extra fancy, $4.10@4.20; fancy, $3.40@3.50; choice, $3.00@3.10.

WHEAT—Futures ruled strong and higher during the most of the day, and, with the exception of fractional reactions, advanced and closed ⅞c to 1⅜c above yesterday. Spot, higher; No. 2 red, cash, elevator, 86c bid; track, 91@92½c; No. 2 hard, cash, 78c; December, 90½c; May, 89⅞@90c.

CORN—Futures dull, but firm and a shade higher than yesterday. Spot, firm; No. 2 cash, 21½c; December, 21c bid; May, 23⅝c bid.

OATS—Futures dull, but firmer; unchanged. Spot, firmer; No. 2 cash, 20c bid; May, 21½c bid.

RYE—Lower; 36½c bid.

CORN MEAL—$1.35.

BRAN—Dull; 34@35c bid, sacked, east track.

FLAXSEED—Easy; 75c.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, $2.50.

HAY—Dull; weak; prairie, $4.00@7.50; timothy, $6.00@11.50.

POULTRY—Chickens, easy; old, 5c; spring, 5c; turkeys, steady; 9c; ducks, firm, 7½c; geese, slow; 40@45c.

BUTTER—Unchanged; steady; 17c.

EGGS—Steady; 17c.

WHISKY—$1.18.

METALS—Lead, quiet; $2.70@2.80. Spelter, dull; $1.05 asked.

COTTON TIES—90c.

BAGGING—5⅞@6¼c.

PROVISIONS—Pork, better; standard mess, jobbing, $7.10@7.40. Lard, better; prime steam, $3.62½; choice, $3.80. Bacon (boxed) shoulders, $4.75; extra, short clear and ribs, $4.70; shorts, 4½c. Dry salt meats (boxed) shoulders, extra short, clear and ribs, $4; shorts, $4.15.

RECEIPTS—Flour, 4,000 bbls.; wheat, 16,000 bu.; corn, 104,000 bu.; oats, 47,000 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Flour, 4,000 bbls.; wheat, 25,000 bu.; corn, 40,000 bu.; oats, 4,000 bu.

Kansas City Markets.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 12.—WHEAT—Dull and barely steady; No. 2 hard, 77c; No. 2 red, 92@93c; No. 2 spring, nominally 75@76c.

CORN—Rather weak; No. 2 mixed, 18½@19c.

OATS—Choice, steady; No. 2 white, new, 19c; old, nominally 22@23c.

RYE—Steady; No. 2, nominally, 32c.

HAY—Steady; unchanged.

BUTTER—Dull but firm; creamery, 20½@22c; dairy, 10@12c.

EGGS—Weak at 17c.

Peoria Markets.

PEORIA, Dec. 12.—CORN—Firm; No. 2, 21c; No. 3, 22½c.

OATS—Irregular; No. 2 white, 18@22c.

RYE—Dull; No. 2, 28c.

WHISKY—Steady; finished goods, $1.18.

RECEIPTS—Corn, 67,600 bus.; oats, 69,150 bus.; rye, 1,800 bus.; whisky, none; wheat, 4,200 bus.

SHIPMENTS—Corn, 16,100 bus.; oats, 53,800 bus.; rye, 650 bus.; whisky, 1,200 bus.; wheat, 1,300 bus.

Toledo Grain.

TOLEDO, Dec. 12.—WHEAT—Higher; firm; No. 2 cash and December, 94½c; May, 99½c.

CORN—Dull; steady; No. 2 mixed, 22½c.

OATS—Steady; No. 2 mixed, 18c.

RYE—Active; higher; No. 2 cash, 39c.

CLOVER SEED—Higher; firm; prime December, $5.40.

Wool Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—WOOL—Quiet; fleece, 15@20c; pulled, 15@18c.

'Frisco Wheat.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 12.—WHEAT—Firm; May, $1.57 bid.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

Wheat Starts Strong and Remains So, Closing at an Advance.

LIVERPOOL SUPPLIES THE STRENGTH

Corn Gets No Material Benefit from the Rise in Wheat Except for a Few Minutes at the Start.

CHICAGO, Dec. 12.—Wheat started strong today and remained so, closing at an advance of 1c per bushel. Foreign news, especially that relating to the poor Argentine crop outlook, was the leading motive for the advance. Corn and oats were easier, declining about ¼c each. Provisions made small advances.

In wheat Liverpool again supplied the motive power which kept the market moving. The Liverpool cablegram reported the market firm there at ¼d advance. Private cablegrams used language a trifle more emphatic about the advance. The market here started strong on that information, and except for a little hesitation immediately following the opening advance it remained strong throughout the session. Northwest receipts, though small compared with last year's figures, were uncomfortably large in view of the oft-repeated reports that a good share of the crop had already been moved. Minneapolis and Duluth reported that 554 cars and Chicago 51 cars were received, a total of 605 cars, against 516 last week and 1,122 last year. This caused the slight hesitation at the start, but was soon lost sight of in the flood of bull news. Argentine prospects were gloomy as ever according to the cablegrams, and the shipments from that country apparently bore this out. Only 24,000 bu. were shipped to the continent from Argentine and not a bushel to the United Kingdom. The exports from both coasts for the week were heavy—4,222,000 bu. in wheat and flour—said to be the largest known for many years. This was encouraging to holders, as at that rate our surplus would be practically exhausted before April and several months of scarcity would follow. Armour delivered from 500,000 bu. to 600,000 bu. of wheat on December contracts, but the market absorbed it all readily. May opened at from 80¼c to 80⅝c, compared with from 79¾c to 79⅞c at the close yesterday. It was principally at 80⅝c that first transactions took place, but it found too many sellers around that for a minute or two and dropped to 80¼c. It soon rallied from that and went up to 80⅞c, sticking close to that price up to the end of the session. It did not again go below from 80½c to 80⅝c and was bringing from 80⅞c to 80⅞c as the market closed. On the curb a few minutes later it was said to have sold at 81c.

Corn got no benefit from the rise in wheat except for a few minutes at the start. It opened for May at 26c, sold at 26⅛c, sagged to from 25¾c to 25⅞c and rested worth 25⅞c, or 1-16c less than on the day before. The amount of business done in the pit altogether would not have made a busy day for commission house, and this fact was the chief source of weakness.

Quite a good business was transacted in oats. The opening was rather nervous under conflicting influences of liberal receipts and a good cash market. Shorts took advantage of the situation and under liberal offerings the market declined, but rallied with wheat and a good demand which sprang up later. May opened about ⅛c lower at from 25⅛c to 25⅞c, declined to from 20⅛c to 20⅝c and finished at 20⅝c bid.

Provisions were still but firm. The improvement at the opening was ascribed to the light run of hogs. Packers generally sold, but the market held up well and closed at about the top prices of the day. May pork closed about 7½c higher at $7.52½; May lard at about 2½c higher at $4.07½; May ribs 5c higher at $4.02½.

Estimated receipts Monday: Wheat, 31 cars; corn, 245 cars; oats, 450 cars; hogs, 40,000 head.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

Articles.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.	Yest'y.
*Wheat—					
Dec.....	76¾	76⅞	76⅛	76⅞	76
May.....	80⅛@¼	80⅞	80⅛	80⅛@⅞	79⅞@¾
July.....	73⅝@¾	74⅜	73⅝@¾	74⅜	73¼
*Corn—					
Dec.....	22⅞	22⅞	22½	22½	22¾
Jan.....	23⅛	23⅛	22	23	23-22½
May.....	26	26⅛	25⅝@⅞	25⅞	25⅞-26
*Oats—					
Dec.....	17⅛@¼	17⅛@¼	17	17	17⅛
May.....	20⅝@⅞	20⅝	20⅛@⅜	20⅛	20⅝
Pork—					
Dec.....	6 85	6 87½	6 85	6 87½	6 80
Jan.....	7 60	7 65	7 60	7 62½	7 57½
May.....	7 90	7 95	7 87½	7 92½	7 87½
Lard—					
Dec.....	.....	.....	.....	3 75	3 70
Jan.....	3 85	3 90	3 85	3 87½	3 75
May.....	4 05	4 10	4 03	4 07½	4 05
Sh't Ribs					
Dec.....	3 90	.....	.....	.....	3 87½
Jan.....	3 85	3 87½	3 85	3 87½	3 85
May.....	4 02½	4 02½	4 00	4 02½	3 97½

* No. 2.

Cash quotations were as follows:

FLOUR—Steady; winter patents, $4.50@4.75; straights, $4.25@4.60; spring specials, $4.60; spring patents, $4.15@4.50; straights, $3.75@4.00; bakers, $3.10@3.25.

WHEAT—No. 2 spring, 76⅞@77⅛c; No. 3 spring, 75@76c; No. 2 red, 85⅝@86⅝c.

CORN—No. 2, 22⅝c.

OATS—No. 2, 17½c; No. 2 white, f. o. b., 20⅝@22c; No. 3 white, 17@17½c.

RYE—No. 2, 35½c.

BARLEY—No. 2, nominal; No. 3, f. o. b., 25@37½c; No. 4, f. o. b., 23@26c.

FLAXSEED—No. 1, 75@77½c.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, $2.55@2.60.

PROVISIONS—Mess pork, per bbl., $6.87½@6.90; lard, per 100 lbs., $3.80@3.82½; short ribs sides, loose, $3.80@4.10; dry salted shoulders, boxed, $4.25@4.50; short clear sides, boxed, $4.00@4.12½.

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

SUGARS—Cut loaf, $5.26; granulated, $4.63.

The following were the receipts and shipments today:

Articles.	Receipts.	Shipments.
Flour, bbls.....	4,000	4,000
Wheat, bu.....	27,000	120,000
Corn, bu.....	122,000	54,000
Oats, bu.....	414,000	194,000
Rye, bu.....	11,000	.....
Barley, bu.....	97,000	147,000

On the Produce exchange today the butter market was steady; creamery, 15@23c; dairy, 10@19c. Eggs, weak; fresh, 16c. Cheese, steady; 8½@9c.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Security Market Phenomenally Dull Throughout the Session.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—Today's stock market was phenomenally dull, some hesitancy was discernible even on the part of the professional dealers and values sagged slightly on very moderate pressure. The arbitrage operations were restricted to a few hundred shares. The limited dealings were confined to the active list, and the fluctuations lacked importance, except in Manhattan, Rock Island and Reading, the last mentioned being sold on the complications which are said to be likely to arise in defining the legality of the reorganization. Rubber, in the regular stagnation, was conspicuous by a 1c drop and a subsequent partial rally. At the low point supporting orders and covering influenced a general recovery in which the specialties were the most prominent. The closing was firm at slight net changes, either way. Railway bonds were quiet, but firm. The sales were $572,000. The important advances ranged from ⅛ to 4 per cent, the last in King's County Elevated firsts.

The market for the week has at frequent intervals been characterized by spells of dullness taxing the power of description. The disposition of important interests towards a temporary policy of inaction has been more clearly manifested as the week progressed, but while prices have moved irregularly within a narrow range, any serious break has been averted through the extreme easiness of money. Investment buying in actual decided clearing up of the general business and financial outlook have displayed an increasing interest in the railway bond market, but the heavy speculators and their following are waiting until a more definite understanding has been shown as to the possibilities of action at Washington on the Cuban question, the indebtedness of the Pacific railroads to the government and other important topics. Speculation in view of the tariff probabilities and intimations of aggressive steps regarding the so-called trusts, tend to check activity in general trade, as well as in Wall street. At the same time the plethora of loanable funds, favorable cotton and winter wheat crop estimates and expectation of more encouraging comparisons in railway traffic returns before many weeks, account for the lack of pressure of long stocks in the face of bear raids. The result of this condition has been an sluggish market, relieved at times by spasmodic bursts of comparative activity, due to drives at the high-priced stocks and specialties and subsequent covering purchases.

London's operations were moderate in extent and on both sides of the market, with a slight preponderance in selling orders. There has been no abatement, however, of the foreign demand for investment bonds. The market was relieved from absolute stagnation by business succeeding the declaration of the regular quarterly dividends of Sugar, Western Union and Manhattan, while the bears made a bold play against the Gas shares, based on the popular agitation for lower prices for the product. Consolidated Gas was one of the few stocks that moved with spirit and covered an extremely wide range, closing at a net loss of 7⅝ per cent. Some of the specialties were affected by the actual or expected dissolutions of trade pools, including the steel billet trust, which has virtually been disbanded. The passing of the dividend on Illinois Steel was set down to this condition of affairs. Reading was prominent in the trading in the last half of the week and sagged sharply on the unexpected issue raised as to the legality of certain steps in the reorganization proceedings. Long Island dropped 7 per cent to 47 on unfavorable rumors regarding the financial and physical condition of the property. A rally to 52 followed on an official denial of the report by the president of the company. Chicago Gas weakened on reported activity by the opposition interests, and Sugar was depressed by the dullness in the trade and alleged forecasts of adverse legislation. Steadiness ruled in the Bal dealings, due almost entirely to the covering of shorts. The net changes were declines of from 1 to 2 per cent in the principal shares. The aggregate sales were 733,597 shares.

The bond market during the week displayed considerable firmness and a broader inquiry. Investment orders for fugaltt and local account resulted in material gains in a number of cases, but sharp losses also occurred in some instances. The sales were $8,242,500. Government bonds were strong on moderate purchases, chiefly by investment interests. The sales were $211,900. Silver certificates were neglected, but ruled slightly higher on sales of $55,000.

The Financier says: The surplus reserve of the New York clearing house banks, after having increased from $6,225,550 on September 5 last to $32,464,400 December 5, shows signs of halting, the decrease for the week ending December 12 being $85,600. This contraction was brought about mainly through the enormous expansion in loans. The increase in loans is the largest reported since election, and is in itself a striking evidence of the present workings of the low money market. On November 7 the total loans of the New York banks were $612,178,200. The total for the week just ended was $663,000,700, showing an expansion of $51,322,800 in about one month.

The growth for the past week, therefore, was almost 20 per cent of the whole. But it is probably true that part of this unparalleled increase comes from sources other than those arising from commercial demands. The sterling exchange operations, by which large capital is brought here from abroad, figure heavily in the loan column, although it would be late to dispute the fact that the needs of trade have aided in bringing about the unprecedented upward movement, which seemingly has not yet culminated. The peculiar position which the New York banks occupy today toward foreign commercial centers is illustrated in this statement.

The gold movement having virtually closed, money is flowing into the New York banks faster than it can be used, and the result is a remarkably busy market. How much money we received from abroad during the late season of stringency cannot be estimated with accuracy, but our enormous exports have made foreign nations debtor to the United States, and, instead of getting their money back in the form of balances, they are compelled to borrow on this side to relieve stringent conditions there. This has never happened before.

The Evening Post's London financial cablegram says: The stock markets today, except for Americans, show a further distinct improvement. Trade sels were 112 for the account. The recovery in mines was mainly due to covering by bears, but there is other evidence of improvement in demand. Well informed people are still disinclined to look for gold shipments from the United States just yet. A mass of American bills here will mature this month. Indeed, good banking quarters estimate that about £5,000,000 of American money is in this market at present.

The following were the closing quotations on the leading stocks of the New York exchange today:

Atchison.....	14¼	Ontario & W.....	15⅝
Adams Ex.....	148	Oregon Nav.....	15
Alton, T. H.....	65	Oregon S. L.....	3½
Alton, T. H. pfd.....	100	Pacific Mail.....	25
Adams Express.....	140	Peoria, Dec. & E.....	2
Baltimore & Ohio.....	14¼	Pullman.....	160
Canada Pacific.....	55⅝	Pullman Palace.....	150
Canada Southern.....	48⅝	Quicksilver.....	5
Central Pacific.....	15	Quicksilver pfd.....	50¾
Ches. & Ohio.....	17	R. G. W.....	15
Chicago & Alton.....	140	do pfd.....	40
C. B. & Q.....	77⅝	Rock Island.....	64⅝
Chicago Gas.....	71⅛	St. Paul.....	74⅝
Consolidated Gas.....	154¼	do pfd.....	130
C., C., C. & St. L.....	27½	St. Paul & Omaha.....	48⅝
Colo. Coal & Iron.....	⅝	do pfd.....	137
Cotton Oil Cert.....	12	Southern Pacific.....	19¼
Delaware & Had.....	125⅝	Sugar Refinery.....	116¼
Del., Lack. & W.....	156	Tenn. Coal & Iron.....	27¾
D. & R. G. pfd.....	43	Texas Pacific.....	5
Distil Tenn.....	21	Union Pacific pfd.....	50
Erie.....	14⅝	Union Pacific.....	19¾
do pfd.....	40	U. S. Express.....	40
Fort Wayne.....	166	W. St. L. & Pac.....	6
G. Northern pfd.....	115	do pfd.....	10⅝
C. & R. I. pfd.....	95	Wells Fargo Ex.....	90
Hocking Valley.....	18⅝	Western Union.....	88⅝
Illinois Central.....	93	Wheeling & L. E.....	8⅝
St. P. & Duluth.....	18	do pfd.....	30
C. & A. pfd.....	28½	Wabash, St. Louis.....	12⅝
Lake Erie & West.....	18⅝	do pfd.....	12
do pfd.....	70	Gen. Electric.....	32
Lake Shore.....	154⅝	Nat'l Linseed.....	14⅝
Lead Trust.....	24⅝	Cent. Pacific.....	2⅝
Louisville & N.....	40⅝	do pfd.....	80
L. & N. A.....	14⅝	Tol., St. L. & K. C.....	4⅝
Manhattan Con.....	95⅝	do pfd.....	10
Memphis & C.....	13	Southern.....	5
Michigan Central.....	92	Nat'l Starch.....	23⅝
No. Pacific.....	21	Tobacco.....	144
Mobile & Ohio.....	21⅝	do pfd.....	191⅝
Nashville Chat.....	86	Am. T. & C. Co.....	90
National Cordage.....	38⅝	do pfd.....	109
do pfd.....	11	Sugar pfd.....	102⅝
N. J. Central.....	102⅝	Guidage std.....	22⅝
N. & W. pfd.....	16	Leather pfd.....	61⅝
Norfolk & W. pfd.....	53	Leather.....	15⅝
Northern Pacific.....	14⅝	Rubber pfd.....	80⅝
N. Pacific pfd.....	33	Cotton Oil pfd.....	51
Northwestern.....	103	P. C. C. & St. L. pfd	45
do pfd.....	147	Am. Spirits.....	12⅝
N. Y. Central.....	103	do pfd.....	29
N. Y. & N. E.....	43		

The total sales of stocks today were 46,411 shares, including the following: American Sugar, 5,100; Burlington, 3,600; Manhattan, 3,500; Reading, 10,200.

New York Money Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 12.—MONEY ON CALL—Easy at 1½ per cent.

PRIME MERCANTILE PAPER—4@5 per cent.

STERLING EXCHANGE—Steady; with actual business in bankers' bills at $4.86¾@4.88⅞ for demand and $4.83@4.83⅝ for sixty days; posted rates, $4.84½ and $4.87½; commercial bills, $4.82¾.

BAR SILVER—65⅝c.

BONDS—State bonds, dull; railroad bonds, firm