COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

Wheat the Only Article on the Speculative List Showing Activity.

CABLES HAVE QUITE A BEARISH TONE

Corn Extremely Dull All Day, the Little Business Doing Being in Small Lots and Chiefly of a Scalping Nature.

CHICAGO, Dec. 18.—Wheat was the only article on the speculative list that showed any activity today. It closed with a ⅞c decline, partly caused by the weak foreign markets and partly through sympathy with the slump in Wall street. Corn and oats declined about ⅛c each, and provisions closed unchanged to 5c lower.

In what the early Liverpool news received a bearish interpretation. There was no change in price noted in the first cable from that point, which was distinctly disappointing to the bulls, although why it should be was a mystery, as this market was weak on the curb last night on the correction of the Newport News exports, which were found to be only 140,000 pounds, or about 700 barrels, instead of 140,000 barrels, as reported. This disappointment was shown in the opening quotations for May, which ranged from 79⅞c to 80⅛c, as compared with yesterday's closing price of 80⅝c; after hovering around the best market for a time, the price began to advance, and in the first forty-five minutes trading had reached 80⅝c. The northwestern receipts were smaller than ever, and reports from that territory were to the effect that arrivals are now about down to their average during the winter. Minneapolis and Duluth reported 363 cars, as compared with 547 cars last week and 729 on the corresponding day last year. Chicago's showing was equally low—43 cars—against 48 last week and 181 last year. Shorts did considerable covering, being encouraged by a better tone to later cables and to a belief which was quite prevalent that the Liverpool opening had been manipulated by the bulls. The price had many fluctuations between 79⅞c and 80⅝c during the forenoon. A report that $3,000,000 had been engaged for exportation was the cause of the drop to the last named figure. The market came completely under the spell of the New York financial news and the weak stock market in the last hour. It had recovered to 80⅛c from its previous break to 79⅞c, but went down again with a clatter to 79⅝c about half an hour from the close. Crop damage reports were more numerous than before. The crowd refused, however, to allow next year's crop to enter so early into this season's campaign, and felt and acted like determined bears. The price rested at 79⅝c.

Corn was extremely dull all day, the little business doing being in small lots and chiefly of a scalping nature. Sympathy with wheat and the colder weather with expectations of increased receipts militated against higher prices, and caused the weak undertone which characterized the market. May opened ⅛c lower at 25⅞c, sold at 25⅝c and declined to from 25¼c to 25⅛c, where it closed.

Oats opened lower and after a momentary display of strength sold off still further under free offerings. Later under heavy buying principally by one broker the market recovered. Business everywhere was dull, fluctuations being confined to a narrow range. May opened ⅛c lower at 20c, and advanced to 20⅛c, then declined to from 19⅞c to 20c, closing easy at 20c.

Provisions were affected by dullness in grain and a general disposition to postpone business until after the holidays. The offering and orders to buy were both light. Pork, however, was the only staple showing any appreciable change at the close. May pork closed 5c lower to $7.87½; May lard unchanged, at from $4.00 to $4.02½; May ribs, unchanged at from $4.00 to $4.02½.

Estimated receipts Saturday: Wheat, 31 cars; corn, 319 cars; oats, 250 cars; hogs, 21,000 head.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

Articles.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.	Yest'y.
*Wheat—					
Dec....	77	77¼	76¼	76¼	77⅛
May....	79⅞	80⅛	79⅝	79⅝	80⅝
July....	74⅝	74⅞	73¾	74	74⅞
*Corn—					
Dec....	22¾	22¾	22⅝	22⅝	22¾
Jan....	22¾	22¾	22⅝	22⅝	22¾
May....	25⅝	25⅝	25¼	25¼	25⅞
*Oats—					
Dec....	16¾	16¾	16¾	16¾	16¾
May....	20	20⅛	19⅞-20	20	20⅛
Pork—					
Jan....	7 57½	7 62½	7 55	7 60	7 62½
May....	7 90	7 90	7 85	7 87½	7 92½
Lard—					
Jan....	3 82½	3 82½	3 80	3 82½	3 82½
May....	4 02½	4 02½	4 00	4 02½	4 02½
Sh't Ribs					
Jan....	3 82½	3 85	3 82½	3 85	3 85
May....	4 00	4 02½	3 97½	4 02½	4 00

* No. 2.

Cash quotations were as follows:

FLOUR—Steady; winter patents, $4.50@4.75; straights, $4.20@4.60; spring specials, $4.60; spring patents, $4.15@4.35; straights, $3.75@4.00; bakers, $3.40@3.35.

WHEAT—No. 2 spring, 76¼@76½c; No. 3 spring, 74@78c; No. 2 red, 88½c.

CORN—No. 2, 22⅝@22⅞c.

OATS—No. 2, 17c; No. 2 white, f. o. b., 19⅝@20½c; No. 3 white, 17¼@17½c.

RYE—No. 2, 36c.

BARLEY—No. 2, nominal; No. 3, f. o. b., 23@25c; No. 4, f. o. b., 22@25c.

FLAXSEED—No. 1, 74@76c.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, $2.60.

PROVISIONS—Mess pork, per bbl., $6.75@6.80; lard, per 100 lbs., $3.75@3.77½; short ribs sides, loose, $3.70@4.00; dry salted shoulders, boxed, $4.25@4.50; short clear sides, boxed, $4.00@4.12½.

POULTRY—Firm; turkeys, 11c; chickens, 6c; ducks, 9@10c.

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

The following were the receipts and shipments today:

Articles.	Receipts.	Shipments.
Flour, bbls	5,000	6,000
Wheat, bu	30,000	18,000
Corn, bu	319,000	29,000
Oats, bu	425,000	241,000
Rye, bu	8,000	.....
Barley, bu	98,000	22,000

On the Produce exchange today the butter market was firm; creamery, 15@20c; dairy, 15@17c. Eggs, firm; fresh, 19c. Cheese, steady; 8½@9c.

NEW YORK GENERAL MARKET.

Quotations of the Day on Various Commodities.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—FLOUR—Receipts, 19,300 bbls.; exports, 11,903 bbls.; dull and easy, with only jobbing sales reported; Minnesota patents, $4.55@4.65; winter patents, $4.90@5.10; Minnesota bakers, $3.40@4.10; winter extras, $3.35@4.00; winter low grades, $2.85@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, 55c; city, 60c.

RYE—Nominal; car lots, 40@42c.

BARLEY—Steady; western, 28@28½c; malting, 38@40c; feeding, 28@28½c.

WHEAT—Receipts, 56,400 bu.; exports, 63,288 bu.; spot, dull and weaker; No. 1 hard, 92½c. Options opened weaker, owing to disappointing English cables, rallied on export business and covering, but turned weak again under rumors of good exports, depression in stock, the Cuban question, light exports from the seaboard and absence of demand; closed ½@1⅛c lower; No. 2 red, May, 85 1-16@86⅛c, closed 85½c; December, 86⅛@86⅝c, closed 86½c.

CORN—Receipts, 75,000 bu.; exports, 4,882 bu.; spot, inactive; No. 2, 28½c. Options opened steady, but sold off on prospect of larger receipts and sympathy with wheat, closing at ⅛c decline; May, 31⅛@31⅜c, closed 31⅛c; December closed 28⅝c.

OATS—Receipts, 154,800 bu.; exports, 41,914 bu.; spot, dull; No. 2, 22c. Options were inactive and lower, closing at ⅛c decline; May closed 24⅛c; December closed 21½c.

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

HOPS—Dull; state, common to choice, 1895 crop, 3@7½c; 1896 crop, 8@13c.

HIDES—Dull; Galveston, 13c; Buenos Ayres, dry, nominal; California, 24c.

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

BUTTER—Receipts, 2,326 pkgs.; steady; western creamery, 15@22c; Elgins, 22½c; factory, 9@16c.

CHEESE—Receipts, 2,659 pkgs.; quiet; large and small, 7@10½c; part skims, 3½@7c; full skims, 2½@3c.

EGGS—Receipts, 2,490 pkgs.; steady; state and Pennsylvania, 21@23c; western, 19@22c.

PROVISIONS—Beef, firm; family, $9.50@11.00; extra mess, $7.50@8.00; beef hams, $17.00@18.00; packet, $8.00@9.50. Cut meats, quiet; pickled bellies, 4.25@4.75; pickled shoulders, 4.00@4.25; pickled hams, $8.25@8.75. Lard, steady; western steam, $4.12½; refined, steady. Pork, quiet; mess, $8.25@8.75; short clear, $8.75@10.50; family, $10.50@11.00.

OILS—Petroleum dull; United closed at 97c bid. Rosin, quiet; strained, common to good, $1.80@1.82½. Turpentine, dull; 27@27½c. Cottonseed, nominally steady; prime crude, 20c; prime summer yellow, 23c; off summer yellow, 22½@23c.

RICE—Steady; fair to extra, 3¾@5c; Japan, 4@4¼c.

METALS—Pig iron, steady; southern, $11.00@12.25; northern, $11.00@13.00. Copper, easy; brokers, $11.30; exchange, $11.20@11.50. Lead, continues strong; brokers, $2.75; exchange, $3.00@3.05. Tin, steady; straights, $12.80; plates, dull. Spelter, dull; domestic, $4.15@4.25; December tin at $12.77½.

Dry Goods.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—Business was very slack as regards engagements for current wants. For spring fabrics of all descriptions there was more or less business doing in all directions, while a good to large movement of all kinds of stuffs are being hurried forward with all dispatch at the request of purchasers. Print cloths dull and nominal at 2 5-16c, with sales of 52,000 pieces for the week.

FALL RIVER, Mass., Dec. 18.—Print cloths market dull; no business in regulars; light sales of odds on basis of 2¼c.

MANCHESTER, Dec. 18.—Cloth market quiet and unchanged; yarn market steady, with very little doing.

OMAHA GENERAL MARKET.

Condition of Trade and Quotations on Staple and Fancy Produce.

EGGS—Fresh gathered, 18@19c.

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@11c; antelope saddles, 13@14c; carcasses, 9c; Canada geese, large, $6.00@7.00; small, $4.00@5.00.

CHEESE—Imported brick, 10½c; Limburger, per doz., $2.00; club house, 1-lb. jars, per doz., $3.15; Limburger, fancy, per lb., 9½c; Roquefort, ½-lb. jars, per doz., $5.00; Young Americas, 10½c; twins, fancy, 10½c.

VEAL—Choice fat, 60 to 120 lbs., are quoted at 7@8c; large and coarse, 4@5c.

DRESSED POULTRY—Chickens, 5½@6c; turkeys, 10c; geese, 8@9c; ducks, 7@8c.

LIVE POULTRY—Not wanted.

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

HAY—Upland, $5.00; 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 track in country; choice green self-working carpet, per lb., 2½c; choice green, running to hurl 2¼c; 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, 45@50c.

POTATOES—Good stock, per bu., 25c; Wyoming stock, racked, 30c per 100 lbs.

TOMATOES—Texas, per bushel crate, $2.25.

FRUITS.

GRAPES—Crates, 15 pony baskets, Concords and Catawbas, per crates, $3.00.

MALAGA GRAPES—Per keg, $7.

CRANBERRIES—Cape Cod, per bbl., $6.

APPLES—Cooking, per bbl., $1.65@1.75; fancy New York, $3.75.

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; Redlands, $3.00@3.25.

LEMONS—Messinas, $5.00; 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., $2.00@2.25.

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

NUTS—Almonds, California, per lb., large size, 13c; Brazils, per lb., 10c; English walnuts, per lb., fancy, soft shell, 12@12½c; standards, 10@11c; filberts, per lb., 9c; pecans, peelished, large, 9@10c; jumbo, 11@12c; large hickory nuts, $1.25 per bu.; small, $1.50; cocoanuts, 5c each.

HIDES, TALLOW, ETC.

HIDES—No. 1 green sides, 5c; No. 2 green hides, 4c; No. 1 green salted hides, 5c; No. 2 green salted hides, 4c; No. 1 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, 6@8c; 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, 15c; dry shearings (short wooled early skins), per lb., 5c; dry flint, Kansas and Nebraska butcher wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 6@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@6c; dry flint Colorado Murrain wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 3@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, 1¾c; old butter, 2@2½c; beeswax, prime, 15@22c; rough tallow, 1c.

WOOL—Unwashed, fine, heavy, 6@7c; fine, light, 8@9c; quarterblood, 10@12c; seedy, burry and chaffy, 8@9c; cotted and broken, coarse, 7@9c; cotted and broken, fine, 6@8c. Fleece Washed—Medium, 15@18c; fine, 14@16c; tub washed, 16@19c; black, 8c; bucks, 6c; tag locks, 2@3c; dead pulled, 8@6c.

BONES—In car lots, weighed and delivered in Chicago: Dry bulls, 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.

Liverpool Markets.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 18.—WHEAT—Spot, quiet; demand poor; No. 2 red, spring, 6s 8d; No. 1 California, 7s 10d. Futures opened and closed quiet, with near and distant positions unchanged at yesterday's prices; business about equally distributed; December, nominal; January, 6s 7d; February, 6s 7½d; March and May, 6s 8d; April, nominal.

CORN—Spot, quiet; American mixed, new, 2s 1½d. Futures opened and closed quiet, with near and distant positions unchanged from yesterday's closing prices; business about equally distributed; December, 2s 9½d; January, 2s 9½d; March, 2s 9¾d; April and May, 2s 9¾d.

FLOUR—Dull; demand poor; St. Louis fancy, winter, 9s 3d.

PROVISIONS—Bacon, quiet; demand moderate; Cumberland cut, 28 to 30 lbs., 28s; short ribs, 20 to 24 lbs., 28s; long clear, light 35 to 38 lbs., 28s 6d; long clear, heavy, 40 to 45 lbs., 27s 6d; short clear backs, light, 18 lbs., 28s 6d; short clear middles, heavy, 45 to 50 lbs., 26s; clear bellies, 14 to 16 lbs., 28s; shoulders, square, 12 to 18 lbs., 29s. Hams, short cut, 14 to 16 lbs., 40s. Tallow, fine North American, 18s 6d. Beef, extra India mess, 60s; prime mess, 70s. Pork, prime mess, western, 48s 9d; medium western, 45s 3d. Lard, dull; prime western, 21s; refined in pails, 23s.

CHEESE—Steady; demand poor; finest American, white and colored (September), 51s.

BUTTER—Finest United States, 90s; good, 58s.

OILS—Linseed oil, 18s 6d. Petroleum, refined, 6½d.

REFRIGERATOR BEEF—Forequarters, 3¾d; hindquarters, 5¼d.

HOPS—At London (Pacific coast), £3 5s.

The receipts of wheat during the past three days were 22,000 centals, including 20,500 American. The receipts of American corn for three days were 121,000 centals.

WEATHER—Cold and clear.

St. Louis General Market.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 18.—FLOUR—Dull and weak; patents, $4.60@4.75; extra fancy, $4.10@4.20; fancy, $3.60@3.50; choice, $3.00@3.10.

WHEAT—Futures opened quiet at ⅛c lower. There was very little speculative demand and the pit was almost deserted the greater part of the time. After fluctuating within a narrow range the option closed ⅝c to ¾c under yesterday. Spot, dull, but firm; No. 2 red, cash, elevator, 86c bid; track, 92@93c; No. 2 hard, cash, 80c asked; December, 89¾c bid.

CORN—Trading in the speculative market was light, there being but little life and no effective news and no appreciable change from yesterday noticeable. Spot, easy; No. 2 cash, 20⅝c bid; December, 20½c bid; May, 22⅝c asked.

OATS—Dull and easy for both spot and futures; No. 2 cash, 18c bid; May, 20¾c bid.

RYE—Firm; 36½c bid.

BARLEY—Dull; 30@40c.

CORN MEAL—$1.35.

FLAXSEED—Quiet; 72c.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, $2.40.

HAY—Dull and weak; prairie, $4.00@7.50; timothy, $8.00@11.00.

EGGS—Firmer; 17c.

POULTRY—Chickens, dull; old and spring, 5c; turkeys, easier at 8c; ducks, easy at 6½@7c; geese, slow at 4½@5c.

WHISKY—$1.19.

LEAD—Firm; $2.75@2.82½; spelter, easy; $3.97½.

PROVISIONS—Pork, easy; standard mess, jobbing, $7.10@7.35. Lard, steady; prime steam, $3.60; choice, $3.72½. Bacon (boxed) shoulders, $4.55; extra short clear, $4.62½; ribs, $4.70; shorts, $4.87½. Dry salt meats (boxed), shoulders, $4; extra short clear, $3.87½; ribs, $4.25; shorts, $4.37½.

RECEIPTS—Flour, 3,000 bbls.; wheat, 9,000 bu.; corn, 122,000 bu.; oats, 61,000 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Flour, 6,000 bbls.; wheat, 6,000 bu.; corn, 161,000 bu.; oats, none.

Coffee Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—COFFEE—Options opened steady, with prices unchanged to 5 points higher; ruled quiet and featureless on indifferent offices and absence of outside support; closed quiet at a net advance of 5 points; sales, 7,500 bags, including December, 9; March, $9.30@9.35. Spot coffee, Rio, dull; No. 7, jobbing, $10.50; invoice, $10. Mild quiet; Cordova, $15.50@17.00. Total warehouse deliveries from the United States, 10,454 bags, including 9,087 bags from New York; New York stock today, 206,314 bags; United States stock, 354,818 bags; afloat for the United States, 372,000 bags; total visible supply for the United States, 706,818 bags, against 553,076 bags last year.

HAVRE, Dec. 18.—COFFEE—Closed quiet and steady at a net advance of 1@1¼f; sales, 2,000 bags.

SANTOS, Dec. 18.—COFFEE—Steady; good average Santos, 10,400 reis; receipts, 12,000 bags; stock, 692,000 bags.

HAMBURG, Dec. 18.—COFFEE—Steady; ¼@½ pfg. advance; sales, 6,000 bags.

RIO, Dec. 18.—COFFEE—Dull; No. 7, 9,800 reis; exchange, 9 1-16d; receipts, 11,000 bags; cleared, for the United States, 2,000 bags; for Europe, 4,000 bags; stock, 400,000 bags.

Kansas City Markets.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 18.—WHEAT—Firm; slightly higher; No. 2 hard, 78@79c; No. 2 red, 91@92c; No. 2 spring, 75@c.

CORN—Slow; No. 2 mixed, 18½c.

OATS—Stronger; No. 2 white, new, 20@21c; old, 21@c.

RYE—Steady; No. 2, 30@32c.

HAY—Steady; choice timothy, $8.00@8.50; choice prairie, $5.50.

BUTTER—Weaker on heavy supply; creamery, 15½@19c; dairy 10@13c.

EGGS—Firm at 16½c.

Peoria Markets.

PEORIA, Dec. 18.—CORN—Market steady; No. 2, 20¾c.

OATS—Market easy; No. 2 white, 18@21c.

RYE—Market easy, irregular; No. 2, 37@38½c.

WHISKY—Market steady; finished goods on the basis of $1.18 for high wines.

RECEIPTS—Corn, 43,200 bu.; oats, 74,850 bu.; rye, 1,200 bu.; whisky, none; wheat, 1,800 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Corn, 4,200 bu.; oats, 77,200 bu.; rye, 1,200 bu.; whisky, 825 gals.; wheat, 1,200 bu.

REVIVAL IS IN THE FUTURE

Business Waits for Gradual Improvement of Consuming Demand.

DUN'S REPORT CONTINUES HOPEFUL

Preparations Being Made for a Large Business Next Year, but Otherwise No Changes Are Expected for Two Weeks.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade tomorrow will say: Cuban reports, unusual closeness of money in Germany and the decision that there will be no action on the tariff at this session have not really changed the situation, but have been talked about as if they might change it. A sudden demand for gold from Germany, just before the close of the year, is not unusual, nor does it count for much. No facts, but only desires or fears, have led some to look for a change of tariff before March, and considerable speculation based on that idea has been arrested, but other business waits for the gradual improvement of the consuming demand. The holiday trade is generally large, though at some points more confined to cheap goods than usual, and the influence of an increase in the working force is felt in other ways. But until the new year the only material changes expected are such as prepare for a large business next year.

Exports of cotton are naturally stimulated by lower prices. The demand for goods in this country falls below the inside production, and the market is weak in tone, with prices of some jobbers' bleached goods sharply reduced. Speculation in wool has halted, sales for the week being 3,721,200 lbs., against 5,190,000 last year and 5,651,400 in 1892, and concessions are more frequent. Ohio XX selling at 12 cents, against 20 cents recently. The demand for goods seems to have been postponed until after the holidays.

The control of the Mountain Iron Mesaba mine has been leased for fifty years, or purchased, by the Carnegie interests from Mr. J. D. Rockefeller. This, with the erection of sixteen new open hearth furnaces, making thirty-six, insures enormous increase of production at extremely low cost, and will affect all combinations in steel products or in ore. The billet pool has practically dissolved, and sales are reported at $16 to $17, with contracts to supply consumers throughout most or the whole of next year. The beam pool has revived and restored the price to $1.55, but nails and steel bars are a shade lower. The rail association has been in session, and our Philadelphia dispatch states that rails are sold at $25, against $28, so long maintained. Bessemer pig and grey forge are a shade lower at Pittsburg. Virginia and Alabama iron are offered 25c lower at the east, and with so much uncertainty regarding great changes in progress, very little is done in finished products and generally at concessions. A sale of 3,000,000 lbs. of lake copper is reported at 11½c. Coke production is increasing, with contracts reported at $1.90.

The boot and shoe industry is near the end of the orders, receiving scarcely any of the moderate asked, but eastern shipments are still large.

Wheat rose about 2c Monday, but declined still further, and closed ½c lower for the week. The receipts in two weeks have been 6,625,352 bu., against 11,600,747 last year, and Atlantic exports for three weeks have been, flour included, 6,821,144 bu., against 5,907,824 last year. November exports, flour included, were 15,825,156 bu., against 11,322,149 last year, of which Pacific were 5,818,190 bu., against 4,405,201 last year. For three months exports of cotton and breadstuffs have only about equaled the total value of all imports.

Failures for the week have been 367 in the United States, against 327 last year, and 47 in Canada, against 32 last year.

WEEKLY CLEARING HOUSE TOTALS.

Aggregate of Business Transacted by the Associated Banks.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—The following table, compiled by Bradstreet's, shows the total clearances at the principal cities and the percentage of increase or decrease, as compared with the corresponding week last year:

CITIES.	Clearings.	Inc.	Dec.
New York	$ 605,278,704	.....	11.1
Boston	75,629,196	.....	2.2
Chicago	16,087,090	.....	1.7
Philadelphia	61,444,998	.....	12.6
St. Louis	26,524,476	.....	9.4
San Francisco	14,731,420	.....	2.0
Baltimore	13,841,158	.....	5.4
Pittsburg	13,550,859	.....	10.6
Cincinnati	12,278,050	.....	10.3
Kansas City	11,415,423	0.9	.....
New Orleans	12,929,904	.....	9.1
Buffalo	4,558,294	.....	13.9
Milwaukee	4,908,884	.....	5.6
Detroit	7,080,728	.....	27.0
Louisville	7,259,016	11.9	.....
Minneapolis	10,078,957	.....	.....
OMAHA	3,804,424	.....	14.4
Providence	5,698,100	.....	17.6
Cleveland	6,282,087	.....	6.2
Houston	7,753,459	6.2	.....
St. Paul	4,928,593	.....	15.7
Denver	2,413,296	.....	19.1
Indianapolis	4,277,101	.....	7.1
Columbus, O.	4,065,600	.....	.....
Hartford	2,095,551	.....	15.6
Richmond	2,594,890	.....	8.1
Washington	1,704,800	.....	20.5
Toledo	1,418,801	.....	11.3
Dallas	3,159,163	1.9	.....
St. Joseph	1,378,229	1.1	.....
Peoria	1,579,149	.....	10.4
Memphis	2,814,047	10.6	.....
Portland, Ore.	1,567,831	9.1	.....
Richmond	1,495,189	.....	12.8
New Haven	1,464,636	.....	11.5
Savannah	3,685,478	.....	.....
Springfield, Mass.	1,310,835	.....	14.8
Worcester	1,413,836	.....	2.0
Portland, Me.	1,406,816	.....	.....
Atlanta	1,817,190	.....	.....
Fort Worth	1,833,740	21.1	.....
Waco	3,250,641	62.9	.....
Syracuse	939,936	.....	25.0
Des Moines	1,175,363	11.6	.....
Grand Rapids	798,294	.....	5.7
Seattle	523,528	.....	5.2
Knoxville	384,839	.....	6.8
Lowell	569,568	.....	21.0
Wilmington, Del.	673,522	.....	2.3
Norfolk	1,066,623	.....	3.3
Sioux City	519,569	.....	25.2
Los Angeles	2,045,692	.....	25.0
Tacoma	479,339	.....	9.1
Davenport	509,786	.....	.....
Spokane	661,844	46.5	.....
Jacksonville	252,110	.....	15.1
Lincoln	482,129	.....	10.5
New Bedford	54,320	1.0	.....
Wichita	378,640	.....	34.1
Birmingham	448,890	.....	.....
Topeka	624,997	10.4	.....
Lexington, Ky.	228,625	.....	16.2
Binghampton	261,200	.....	14.0
Dayton	559,990	.....	1.4
Bay City, Mich.	242,762	11.6	.....
Fall River	1,293,220	.....	.....
Akron, O.	270,000	.....	12.9
Springfield, O.	149,580	.....	25.8
Canton, O.	262,800	.....	6.9
Sioux Falls	25,810	.....	66.0
Fremont, Neb.	56,600	.....	8.2
Hastings, Neb.	68,654	.....	12.1
Chattanooga	245,000	.....	2.3
Fargo	127,448	.....	12.6
Nashville	113,148	13.0	.....
Galveston	7,777,400	18.0	.....
Salt Lake	1,879,725	52.8	.....
Scranton	809,838	.....	7.6
Helena	529,721	.....	10.5
Augusta	930,193	16.1	.....
Kalamazoo	240,776	.....	19.1
Rockford	186,076	.....	19.1
Totals United States	$1,080,921,223	.....	8.7
Exclusive New York	480,642,460	.....	5.6
DOMINION OF CANADA.			
St. Johns	$ 59,951	.....	.....
Montreal	11,930,959	.....	.....
Toronto	7,374,526	.....	4.3
Halifax	1,487,484	.....	15.7
Hamilton	651,747	.....	16.0
Winnipeg	1,816,808	24.8	.....
Totals	$ 22,861,359	.....	1.7

Clearings at Waco, Houston, Galveston and St. Johns, N. B., not included in the totals.

BUSINESS DULL, BUT FAILURES FEW

Bradstreet's Says Many Purchases Are Cheap Grade of Goods.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—Bradstreet's tomorrow will say: Wholesale trade continues of smaller volume than expected, practically the only activity in the wholesale lines being in groceries, candies, fruits and nuts. The weather has interfered with seasonable business, which at many centers is smaller than in preceding years, in that a larger proportion of purchases are of a cheap grade of goods. The downward tendency of prices pointed out a fortnight ago is continued. This includes quotations for hides, which caused boot and shoe jobbers to restrict purchases, anticipating cuts in prices for shoes; steel rails, steel billets and Bessemer pig iron. Cotton, too, is lower on estimates of a larger crop than expected; also print cloths, as products of that staple, and because of the large stock of the same; anthracite coal, Indian corn, oats and petroleum. Steady or practically unchanged quotations are reported for pork, lard, coffee and sugar. Wheat and rosin are higher.

The dry goods market is quiet for seasonable fabrics, jobbers reporting only a small amount of sales. Woolen mills report a moderate quantity of orders. At the south the decline in the price of raw cotton may affect country merchants, who are still carrying that staple.

Exports of wheat, flour included as wheat, from both coasts of the United States this week amount to 3,524,826 bu., as compared with 4,227,000 bu. last week, 2,056,000 bu. in the corresponding week one year ago, 3,354,000 bu. in the week two years ago, 2,605,000 bu. three years ago, and as contrasted with 4,247,000 bu. in the like week of 1892. Exports of Indian corn from both coasts continue heavy, aggregating 2,814,150 bu., as compared with 3,541,000 bu. last week, 2,657,000 bu. in the week a year ago and an average of about 900,000 bu. each in corresponding weeks in three preceding years.

There were 259 business failures reported throughout the United States this week, twenty-two fewer than last week and twenty-six less than in the corresponding week one year ago. As compared with the like week in 1894, this week's total shows a gain of fifty and with the corresponding week in 1893 the gain is six. In the third week of December, 1892, there were sixty-one fewer failures than this week. There are thirty-nine business failures reported from Canada this week, compared with forty-two last week and forty-two in the week a year ago.

WALL STREET AGITATED BY CUBA.

Heavy Liquidations and Marked Declines Reported by Bradstreet's.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—Bradstreet's review of the stock market tomorrow will say: Shortly after noon on Friday the market received a shock from the announcement that the senate foreign relations committee had decided to report with favorable recommendations Senator Cameron's resolution recognizing the independence of Cuba. Heavy liquidations and marked declines ensued, the market being apparently without support, save from the buying to cover shorts. The violence of the break and the attendant circumstances recall the Venezuela episode of last December and it would seem that the street was to some extent influenced by the memories of that occasion and was thus, possibly, disposed to exaggerate the danger of the situation, either as regards its political consequence or its effect on prices, either here or in London. Up to the moment that this development appeared sentiment was apparently improving for the better and prices, toward the close of the week, displayed more or less improvement, mainly on covering by the short interest. Information from Washington seemed to minimize the chances of anything being done there in the Cuban matter prior to the recess of congress. Indeed, the fact that that body will suspend its sessions on next Tuesday for an entire fortnight, coupled with additional indications that no important legislation can be carried through the short session, was received in Wall street with evident signs of relief. Large speculative interests, particularly those which receive their inspiration from Washington, undoubtedly took advantage of the depressed state of the market early in the week and covered extensive short lines. The followers, who were mainly recruited from the room traders, finding the market oversold, supplied a buying power, which caused the improvement already noted, while bull pools in various special stocks took advantage of the circumstances to renew their activity, though these tendencies were all reversed, of course, by the sudden change in the Cuban situation on Friday. Reports that gold is likely to go to Germany next week, though supported by the strength of the exchange market, particularly for continental exchange, seemed to have little or no speculative influence. The impression in banking circles is that any gold exports at present would be small, and that, moreover, a further advance in sterling would bring on the market part of the very large amounts of long bills on gold here on loans. In the street, while these considerations have weight, they are less important than the fact that the banks and the treasury are both able to stand a small drain with ease, and the fact that the rates for money here compare so favorably with those prevalent in London is also not without its forces. London has been doing little in our market. The arbitrage trading from day to day indicates a measure of interest in Americans there. At the close on Friday there was considerable anxiety as to the view which the London market would take of the latest developments in connection with Cuba.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Wall Street Feels the Demoralizing Tendency of the Cuban Agitation.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—Wall street has recently attached only a perfunctory interest to the Cuban probabilities, having persuaded itself that beyond a few fierce and impassioned rhetorical declarations by certain senators and congressmen no disturbing developments were likely to occur. The average trader and security holder was, not quite certain, in fact, whether even these resolutions would escape burial in committee, and the leading bull interests seemed disposed to assert themselves after their protracted inactivity and compel the prompt covering of a too bold and somewhat unwieldy short interest. Instead, however, the financial community-at-large, and especially interests on the long side, were treated to an unpleasant and almost entirely unexpected reminder of the Venezuelan episode of a year ago. London prices for American securities were reported lower and stress was again laid upon the monetary stringency in London and at other financial centers, while the continued firmness of the exchange market caused a renewed discussion of the prospect of early exports of gold. The market opened weak and soon developed increased heaviness on the reported confidence expressed by certain senators and congressmen regarding the strength of the pro-Cuban sentiment in the respective bodies.

Shortly before 1 o'clock disconnected and incomplete dispatches from Washington reporting the decision of the senate committee on foreign relations to report favorably to that body the Cameron resolution recognizing the independence of Cuba by the United States caused demoralization in the stock exchange market, holders of securities in their uncertainty as to the legal scope or meaning of this action throwing them over right and left. As usual in similar circumstances, stop loss orders were uncovered right and left and the flood of long stocks entailed the professional depreciator of other people's