COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

Wheat Exhibits Remarkable Strength in View of the Holiday Trade.

FIRMNESS OF EARLY CABLES A FEATURE

Corn Moderately Active and Firmer, the Market Being Helped Materially by the Strong Feeling in Wheat and Cable Flashes.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Wheat today exhibited remarkable strength in view of the holiday character of trading. Liberal clearances were again a big factor in the 1c advance which took place. Foreign news was also influential. Corn advanced ¼c and oats closed a shade over yesterday's prices. Provisions showed some weakness and small declines took place.

The opening strength of wheat was principally due to the firmness of the early cables, although the continued lightness of northwestern receipts helped in a measure. Liverpool opened at an advance of ¾d per cental and another ½d advance was reported by subsequent dispatches. Berlin also reported 1¼ marks advance. The opening price for May was at an improvement of from ⅛c to ⅜c on the closing price of the day before, and that was bettered a little several times during the forenoon. The tendency, however, during that time was for the price to settle back after each little spurt to about the point of improvement with which the market commenced. The dullness of speculative trade appeared to be the only thing in the way of a much heavier advance than was secured during the first hour and a half, but even that could not entirely suppress the further expression of the bullish sentiment that underlay the market. May wheat opened at from 80⅞c to 80⅝c, advanced to 81⅛c in a short time and kept between that price and 80⅞c for an hour and a half. It became stronger in the last half hour of the forenoon and about 12 o'clock it rose to 81⅜c. Minneapolis and Duluth received 673 cars, against 77 cars on the corresponding day of the week before. Chicago received 28 cars. The Atlantic port clearances were heavy at 450,000 bu. wheat and flour together. This latter was responsible for the advance to 81⅝c, which marked the high point of the day's trading. The inquiry for wheat for rail shipment eastward was in evidence even in commission houses which are not regularly in the shipping business. That a heavier trade was not done was due solely to the fact that 1½ per cent premium over December was asked for good samples of No. 2 spring and May price or over for No. 1 northern spring. The market was weaker during the last hour and after selling at 81⅝c broke gradually to 81⅛c. There was nothing bearish in the news, but on the sharp advance there was a good deal of long wheat for sale and as the short interest had well covered the demand was light and weakness naturally followed. The closing price was from 81¼c to 81⅜c.

Corn was moderately active and firmer. The market was helped materially by the strong feeling developed in wheat and by the firmer cables. Shorts were good buyers and the offerings were light. There was an easier feeling during the last hour, but prices were well maintained. May opened ⅛c higher at 25¼c, advanced to 25⅝c and closed with that price asked.

In oats, outside of the covering of a few small, unimportant short lines early in the day, the market was quiet and featureless. Prices were confined to a narrow range and ruled steady to a shade firmer in sympathy with wheat. May opened a shade higher at from 19⅞c to 20c, sold at from 20c to 20⅛c and closed at from 19⅞c to 20c.

Trade in provisions was again chiefly in the way of changing January trades to May. Packers were willing to sell moderately and were more pressing than buyers, resulting in somewhat lower prices in the end. May pork closed 2½c lower at $7.87½; May lard about 5c lower at $3.97½; May ribs about 5c lower at $3.97.

Estimated receipts for Thursday: Wheat, 19 cars; corn, 320 cars; oats, 309 cars; hogs, 25,000 head.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

Articles.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.	Yest'y.
*Wheat—					
Dec.	77¾-78	78⅛	77¾	78⅛	77
May	80¾-81	81⅝	80⅞	81¼@⅜	80⅛@¼
July	75⅝@¾	76¼	75⅝	75⅞	75¼
*Corn—					
Dec.	22¼@⅜	22¼@⅜	22⅛@¼	22¼@⅜	22⅜
Jan.	22¼	22¾	22⅛@¼	22¾	22⅛
May	25¼	25⅝	25¼	25⅝	25⅜
*Oats—					
Dec.	16¼	16⅜	15⅞	16⅜	16⅜
May	19⅞-20	20-20⅛	19⅞	19⅞-20	19⅞
Pork—					
Jan.	7 60	7 62½	7 57½	7 60	7 60
May	7 90	7 92½	7 87½	7 87½	7 90
Lard—					
Jan.	3 82½	3 82½	3 77½	3 77½	3 82½
May	4 02½	4 02½	3 97½	3 97½	4 02½
Sh't Ribs—					
Jan.	3 82½	3 85	3 80	3 80	3 85
May	4 00	4 02½	3 97½	4 00	4 02½

*No. 2.

Cash quotations were as follows:

FLOUR—Quiet; winter patents, $4.50@4.75; straights, $4.50@4.75; spring specials, $4.50; spring patents, $4.15@4.50; straights, $3.75@4.00; bakers, $3.10@3.15.

WHEAT—No. 2 spring, 78⅝@78¾c; No. 3 spring, 74@75c; No. 2 red, 89½@90½c.

CORN—No. 2, 22⅜@23c; No. 2, yellow, 22⅜@23c.

OATS—No. 2, 16¼c; No. 2 white, f. o. b., 18⅞@20¼c; No. 3 white, 17½c.

RYE—No. 2, 37¼c.

BARLEY—No. 2 nominal; No. 3, f. o. b., 23½@33c; No. 4, 23@26c.

FLAXSEED—No. 1, 73@75c.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, $2.65.

PROVISIONS—Mess pork, per bbl., $6.75@6.80; lard, per 100 lbs., $3.72½@3.75; short ribs, sides, loose, $3.75@4.00; dry salted shoulders, boxed, $4.25@4.50; short clear sides, boxed, $4.00@4.12½.

DRESSED POULTRY—Firm; turkeys, 11c; chickens, 6@6½c; ducks, 9@10c.

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

The following were the receipts and shipments today:

Articles.	Receipts.	Shipments.
Flour, bbls.	10,000	5,000
Wheat, bu.	35,000	50,000
Corn, bu.	240,000	74,000
Oats, bu.	492,000	198,000
Rye, bu.	12,000	
Barley, bu.	92,000	25,000

On the Produce exchange today the butter market was firm; creamery, 15@21c; dairy, 10@17c. Eggs, steady; fresh, 20c. Cheese, steady; 8½@9c.

NEW YORK GENERAL MARKET.

Quotations of the Day on General Commodities.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—FLOUR—Receipts, 21,-800 bbls.; exports, 24,904 bbls.; held higher, but still dull, as the trade appears well stocked up on old purchases; Minnesota bakers, $3.40@3.95; winter low grades, $2.75@3.05; winter patents, $4.40@5.10. Rye flour, dull; superfine, $2.85@3.05. Buckwheat flour, dull; $1.20@1.35.

BUCKWHEAT—Quiet; 35c.

CORN MEAL—Quiet; $1.36.

RYE—Nominal; 40@42c.

BARLEY—Quiet; 28½@29c.

BARLEY MALT—Dull; western, $5.30@5.50.

WHEAT—Receipts, 79,600 bu.; exports, 95,405 bu.; spot, firmer; No. 1 hard, 94¼c. Options opened strong and advanced on higher cables, foreign buying, bullish sentiment and local covering, finally easing off under realizing, but closing firm at ¾@1¼c net advance; No. 2 red, May, 86⅝@86½c, closing 87¼c; December, 89 1-16@89¾c, closing 89⅝c.

CORN—Receipts, 20,200 bu.; exports, 34,363 bu.; spot, firm; No. 2, 29c. Options market was quiet, but generally firmer with wheat, closing at ¼c net advance; May, 31⅝@31 7-16c, closing 31⅜c.

OATS—Receipts, 18,400 bu.; exports, 51,447 bu.; spot, dull and firm; No. 2, 22¼@22½c. Options dull, but stronger, in sympathy with higher cash property, closing ⅛@⅜c higher; May, 24⅛@24¼c, closing 24¼c; December, closed, 23⅝c.

HAY—Easy; shipping, 52½@57½c; good to choice, 70@75c.

HOPS—Dull; 1895 crop, 3@7½c; 1896 crop, 8@13c; Pacific coast, 1895 crop, 3@7½c; 1896 crop, 9@13c; London market dull.

HIDES—Steady; Galveston, 12@13c; Buenos Ayres dry, nominal; Texas, dry, 9½c; California, 15½c.

LEATHER—Dull; hemlock sole, Buenos Ayres, light to heavy weight, 19½@20½c.

WOOL—Quiet; fleece, 15@20c; pulled, 15@18c.

BUTTER—Receipts, 3,926 pkgs.; Elgins, 22c; factory, 12c.

CHEESE—Market quiet; state, 10½@12c; part skims, 3½@7c.

EGGS—Receipts, 4,156 pkgs.; market steady; state and Pennsylvania, 21@24c; western, 15@25c.

PROVISIONS—Beef hams, $18.00 asked; packet, $8.00@9.50. Cut meats, steady; pickled bellies, $4.12½@4.75; pickled shoulders, $4.00@4.25; pickled hams, $8.25@8.75. Lard, quiet; western steam, $4.12½; refined, quiet. Pork, firm; mess, $8.25@8.75; short clear, extra prime, $8.75@10.50. Tallow, steady; city, 3⅜@3½c; country, 3¼@3⅝c.

OILS—Petroleum, quiet; United closed at 93c. Rosin, steady; strained, common to good, $1.77½@1.80. Turpentine, steady; 27@27½c. Cottonseed, nominally steady; prime crude, 20c; prime summer yellow, 22c; off summer yellow, 22½@23c; prime white, 27@27½c.

RICE—Quiet; fair to extra, 3¼@6¼c; Japan, 4¼@4¾c.

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

METALS—Pig iron, dull; southern, $11.00@12.25; northern, $11.00@13.00. Copper, firmer; brokers, $11.37½; exchange, $11.30@11.50. Tin, firm; straits, $13; plates, quiet. Spelter, dull; domestic, $4.12½@4.25. Pig lead continues to show strength, but only occasional carloads for prompt or nearby delivery are salable, owing to the arbitrary views of holders. Round lots of domestic might be placed at $2.75; brokers' prices, $3.00@3.05.

Sugar Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—SUGAR—Raw, quiet; fair refining, 2⅞c; centrifugal, 96 test, 3¼c. Refined, quiet; mold "A," 4⅝c; standard "A," 4¼c; confectioners' "A," 4⅛c; cut loaf and crushed, 5c; powdered and cubes, 4⅝c; granulated, 4⅜c; molasses, 89 test, 2⅝c.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—SUGAR—Cane, steady; little doing; centrifugal, Java, 11s 3d; Muscovado, fair refining, 9s 9d. Beet, steady; December, 9s 1½d; January, 9s 1½d.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Security Market Dealings Altogether of a Holiday Character.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Today's stock market was of holiday proportions and the course of prices indicated a desire to even up contracts on both sides before the impending protracted holidays. Trading came to a positive halt occasionally, and the moderate business was almost entirely for professional account. Prices moved irregularly, but an undercurrent of strength was noted. For some time efforts to shake out long stock have, as a rule, disturbed only small holdings, and today covering of shorts was the basis of improvement in spots. Foreign dealers appeared indifferent as regards stocks here, but late in the day sold New York Central, Lake Shore and others of the international shares, resulting in material declines in the two last mentioned. The selling was induced by the reduction in the Canada Southern dividend for the half year. Manipulation in the industrials caused some decided gains and imparted systematic strength to the general list. Towards the close realizations impaired the tone of the speculation. The market opened at a slight shading in prices, but firmness soon developed on purchases by the bears, which, in the case of the Burlington, carried the price up an extreme 1 per cent. The anthracite coal shares were well supported on the improved outlook for the trade and the reassuring advices regarding the probable action on the 1897 dividend by the Delaware & Hudson directors. The stock rose 2⅝ per cent, and New Jersey Central 1½ per cent. Susquehanna & Western preferred fell 2 per cent, but recovered half of the decline. Tobacco common was active and rose 2 per cent and the scrip made an equal gain on revived dividend rumors. A partial reaction followed on the absence of official confirmation of the reports.

The afternoon speculation was characterized by intervals of semi-stagnation, and the fluctuations were without importance until near 2 o'clock, when, on the selling previously referred to, New York Central and Lake Shore dropped 2⅜ per cent. The selling movement subsided around delivery hour, and some recoveries occurred. Chesapeake & Ohio became active and rose 1¼ per cent to 16⅜. There was no news to account for the movement in the stock. The closing was steady, but very dull.

The bond speculation was quiet and uninteresting, but prices were fairly well sustained. The sales were $703,000. Governments were neglected, but generally lower. The sales were $30,000. Silver certificates were steady on sales of $10,000 at 65⅝c.

The Evening Post's London financial cablegram says: The holiday appearance continues in the neglected stock markets. Americans were lower today in sympathy with New York. The bank failures in the United States will perhaps deter purchases here of Americans, but they do not cause realization. Well informed quarters had looked for something of the kind and may expect more. Financiers here still concur in placing a lower estimate on England's indebtedness to the United States as reflected in hoarded sterling bills than New York cables report. The mining settlement will begin tomorrow, but no business is looked for. The Paris and Berlin markets were steady.

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

Atchison	13⅛	Ontario & W.	14¾
Adams Ex.	148	Oregon Nav.	14
Alton, T. H.	55	O. S. L. & U. N.	13¾
Am. Express	109	Pacific Mail	23
Baltimore & Ohio	14⅛	Peoria, Dec. & E.	2
Canada Pacific	54¾	Pittsburg	162
Canada Southern	46	Pullman Palace	151
Central Pacific	14⅛	Reading	24⅞
Ches. & Ohio	15⅞	R. G. W.	15
Chicago & Alton	160	do pfd	40
C. B. & Q.	70	Rock Island	65⅛
Chicago Gas	73¾	St. Paul	72½
Consolidated Gas	143	do pfd	130½
C. C. C. & St. L.	25¾	St. Paul & Omaha	47¼
Colo. Coal & Iron	⅜	do pfd	125
Cotton Oil Cert.	10½	Southern Pacific	14⅛
Delaware & Hud.	119	Sugar Refinery	109⅝
Del. Lack. & W.	156	Tenn. Coal & Iron	25
D. & R. G. pfd	41¾	Texas Pacific	8⅛
East Tenn	14½	Tol. & O. Cen. pfd.	50
Erie pfd	20	Union Pacific	8¾
Fort Wayne	162	U. S. Express	40
G. Northern pfd.	118	W. St. L. & Pac.	6¾
C. & E. I. pfd.	95	do pfd	15⅜
Hocking Valley	17¾	Wells Fargo Ex.	97
Illinois Central	92	Western Union	81¼
St. P. & Duluth	19	Wheeling & L. E.	6⅞
K. & T. pfd	26¾	do pfd	27
Lake Erie & West.	16½	Minn. & St. Louis	17¾
do pfd	68	Den. & R. G.	11¼
Lake Shore	153¼	Gen. Electric	31⅛
Lead Trust	22½	Nat'l Linseed	12
Louisville & N.	47¼	Col. Fuel & I.	23½
L. & N. A.	¾	do pfd	70
Manhattan Con.	86⅜	Tol. St. L. & K. C.	4½
Memphis & C.	15	do pfd	10
Michigan Central	90	Southern	10½
Mo. Pacific	19⅜	do pfd	26⅜
Mobile & Ohio	22½	Tobacco	78
Nashville Chat.	68	do pfd	101
N. J. Central	99⅞	Am. T. & C. Co.	85
N. & W. pfd	16	C. C. Co.	150
North Am. Co.	4½	Am. Sugar pfd.	100
Northern Pacific	12⅜	Leather pfd.	60½
N. Pacific pfd.	22⅝	Rubber pfd.	80½
U. P. D. & G.	2	Cotton Oil pfd.	53½
Northwestern	101⅜	P. C. C. & St. L. pfd	45
do pfd	150	Am. Spirits	11⅛
N. Y. Central	93	do pfd	25¾
N. Y. & N. E.	45		

The total sales of stocks today were 109,709 shares, including the following: American Sugar, 16,400; Burlington, 19,400; Chesapeake & Ohio, 4,300; Manhattan, 5,900; Reading, 7,700; Rock Island, 3,400; St. Paul, 11,000; silver certificates, 10,000; Wheeling & Lake Erie, 3,100.

New York Money Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—MONEY ON CALL—Easy at 1½@2 per cent; last loan, 2 per cent, closed, offered at 1½ per cent.

PRIME MERCANTILE PAPER—3½@4½ per cent.

STERLING EXCHANGE—Easier, with actual business in bankers' bills at $4.87 for demand and $4.83½@4.83¾ for sixty days; posted rates, $4.84½@4.85½ and $4.87½@4.88; commercial bills, $4.82½.

BAR SILVER—65⅝c.

SILVER CERTIFICATES—65½c.

GOVERNMENT BONDS—Weak; state bonds, dull; railroad bonds, steady.

Closing quotations on bonds were as follows:

U. S. new reg.	119¼	C. P. 1sts of '95	102⅝
U. S. new coup.	119¼	D. & R. G. 7s	110
U. S. 5s, reg.	113⅛	D. & R. G. 4s	89½
U. S. 5s, coup.	113⅛	Erie 2ds	63⅛
U. S. 4s, reg.	109⅜	G. H. & S. A. 6s	106¼
U. S. 4s, coup.	111	do 7s	95
U. S. 2s, reg.	95	H. & T. C. 5s	108
Pacific 6s of '95	93½	do 6s	105
Ala., class A	104	M. K. & T. 1st 4s	80⅛
Ala., class B	104	do 2ds 4s	57¼
Ala., class C	96	Mutual Union 6s	110
Ala., Currency	93	N. J. C. Gen. 5s	119
La. New Con. 4s	96	No. Pacific 1sts	115
Missouri 6s	100	do 2ds	116
N. C. 6s	120	N. W. Consols	139
N. C. 4s	100	do S. F. Deb. 5s	110½
S. C. nonfund.	½	R. G. West. 1sts	75
Tenn. new set 6s	80	St. P. Consols 7s	139
Tenn. new set 5s	105	do C. & P. W. 5s	113½
Tenn. old 6s	60	St. L. & I. M. Gen. 5	73½
Va. Centuries	61⅛	St. L. & S. F. Gen. 6	110
do deferred	7	Texas Pac. 1sts	85⅛
Atchison 4s	78½	Texas Pac. 2ds	19⅝
Atchison 2d A	40¾	U. P. 1sts of '96	102⅝
Canada So. 2d	105⅛	West Shore 4s	107
L. & N. unified 4s	78	O. R. & N. 1sts	112⅛
Southern 5s	90¾	N. P. 3ds	76⅛

Boston Stock Quotations.

BOSTON, Dec. 23.—Call loans, 2½@4 per cent; time loans, 3½@4½ per cent. Closing prices for stocks, bonds and mining shares:

A. T. & S. F.	13	Atchison pfd.	21⅜
American Sugar	109½	Ed. Elec. Ill.	145
Am. Sugar pfd.	100⅛	Gen. Elec. pfd.	70
Bay State Gas	5⅝	Atchison 4s	78⅛
Bell Telephone	210	New England 6s	111½
Boston & Albany	203	Wis. Cent. 1sts	38
Boston & Maine	155	Allouez Mining Co.	52
C. B. & Q.	70	Atlantic	21
Fitchburg	84	Boston & Montana	92
General Electric	31	Butte & Boston	61 5-16
Illinois Steel	42	Calumet & Hecla	325
Mexican Central	7¼	Centennial	2⅜
Old Colony	176½	Franklin	11
Ore. Short Line	14	Kearsarge	15
Rubber	24	Osceola	28⅛
Union Pacific	8¾	Quincy	119
West End	65	Tamarack	91
Westingh. Elec.	24	Wolverine	8½

San Francisco Mining Quotations.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 23.—The official closing quotations for mining stocks today were as follows:

Alta	3	Gould & Curry	24
Alpha Con.	8	Hale & Norcross	115
Andes	13	Justice	4
Belcher	34	Kentucky Con.	1
Best & Belcher	41	Mexican	40
Bodie Con.	64	Occidental Con.	4
Bullion	8	Ophir	88
Bulwer Con.	41	Overman	6
Caledonia	11	Potosi	52
Challenge Con.	29	Savage	27
Chollar	89	Sierra Nevada	40
Confidence	78	Union Con.	38
Con. Cal. & Va.	100	Utah Con.	6
Con. Imperial	1	Yellow Jacket	29
Crown Point	18		

Silver bars, 65⅝c. Mexican dollars, 51½@52c. Sight drafts, 12½c; telegraphic, 15c.

New York Mining Quotations.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The following are the closing mining quotations:

Bulwer	40	Ontario	800
Chollar	50	Ophir	90
Crown Point	15	Plymouth	20
Con. Cal. & Va.	100	Quicksilver	100
Deadwood	600	Quicksilver pfd.	1200
Gould & Curry	25	Sierra Nevada	35
Hale & Norcross	105	Standard Con.	120
Homestake	2900	Union Con.	35
Iron Silver	25	Yellow Jacket	25
Mexican	35		

London Stock Quotations.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—4 p. m. closing:

Consols, m'y	110 13-16	St. Paul common	4⅞
Consols, acc't	111 1-16	N. Y. Central	96¾
Can. Pacific	56⅛	Pennsylvania	52⅛
Erie 1st pfd.	34⅛	Reading	12
Ill. Central	95	Mex. Cen. new 4s	69⅛
Mexican ordinary	21½		

BAR SILVER—30⅛d per ounce.

MONEY—3½ per cent.

The rate of discount in the open market for short and three months' bills, 3⅝@3⅞ per cent.

Foreign Financial.

BERLIN, Dec. 23.—Exchange on London, eight days' sight, 20 marks 34 pfg.

PARIS, Dec. 23.—Three per cent rentes, 102f 40c for the account; exchange on London, 25f 23½c for checks.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—Gold is quoted at Buenos Ayres today at 177.30; Lisbon, 38½; Rome, 104.80. American eagles are quoted at 76s 7½d.

OMAHA LIVE STOCK MARKET

Coming of Christmas Shows Plainly on Cattle Receipts.

BEEF STEERS SELL TEN CENTS HIGHER

Short Supply and Urgent Demand Give Salesmen the Better of the Situation—Hogs Go Up a Nickel.

SOUTH OMAHA, Dec. 23.—Receipts for the days indicated were:

	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.	Horses.
December 23	1,361	6,523	1,779	....
December 22	3,316	8,158	1,177	....
December 21	2,239	4,172	2,019	....
December 19	1,751	5,482	662	....
December 18	1,948	5,947	1,087	....
December 17	2,242	7,379	1,232	23
December 16	2,601	6,778	1,244	....
December 15	3,259	8,416	2,950	....
December 14	3,105	2,490	2,103	....
December 12	952	3,923	179	....
December 11	1,314	4,550	729	....
December 10	2,363	5,305	546	....

The official number of cars of stock brought in today by each road was:

	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.
C., M. & St. P. Ry.	1	3	..
O. & St. L. Ry.	..	2	..
Missouri Pacific railway	1	3	..
Union Pacific system	12	14	..
C. & N. W. Ry.	..	1	..
F., E. & M. V. R. R.	11	24	..
S. C. & P. Ry.	1	1	..
C., St. P., M. & O. Ry.	6	10	4
B. & M. R. R. R.	9	24	..
C., B. & Q. Ry.	1	14	10
K. C. & St. J.	8	..	..
C., R. I. & P. Ry., east	1	10	..
C., R. I. & P. Ry., west	..	1	..
Total receipts	15	107	14

The disposition of the day's receipts was as follows, each buyer purchasing the number of head indicated:

Buyers.	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.
Omaha Packing Co.	.....	1,225	.....
G. H. Hammond Co.	101	1,792	.....
Swift and Company	111	1,916	222
Cudahy Packing Co.	238	1,229	1,082
R. Becker & Degan	26	.....	.....
Vansant & Co.	22	.....	.....
J. L. Carey	153	.....	.....
Lobman & Rothschilds	96	.....	.....
Vanderberg & Co.	.....	.....	380
Cudahy P. Co., K. C.	218	.....	.....
Left over	100	400	350
Totals	1,380	6,562	2,034

CATTLE—For the middle of the week, today's cattle receipts were exceedingly small, in fact the smallest of any day since Saturday a week ago. As compared with a week ago, there was a falling off of about 2,000 head. Light receipts, however, are to be expected, owing to the near approach of a holiday, when beef, as a rule, is in light demand and markets slow. Such cattle as arrive on Christmas will be cared for, but the scale houses will be closed and there will be no market.

Today's cattle trade was in very satisfactory condition as regards killing cattle. The supply was small, the actual number of cattle on sale being very little over a thousand and a good many of them feeders, so that there were hardly enough fat cattle to go the rounds of the buyers. Under the influence of light receipts, good demand and favorable advices from other points, beef steers sold 10c higher this morning and the market was active at the advance, so much so that the pens were cleared in a very short time. None of the cattle here were very good, the most of them selling at $3.90@4.10.

Only about six loads of cows and heifers were on sale and they changed hands at strong prices. There were some heifers in the yards good enough to bring $3.40 and $3.65.

In the stocker and feeder division there was no improvement noticed in the market, but at the same time values were fully steady and the demand fair for the latter part of December. The trade was not particularly active, but, as the offerings were by no means large, it did not take very long to clear up the yards. Representative sales:

NATIVES.

BEEF STEERS.

No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.
1	1090	$3 00	3	1050	$3 85	27	1243	$4 00
2	910	3 25	20	1132	3 90	17	1102	4 05
8	1192	3 50	6	1273	3 85	17	928	4 05
8	1093	3 85	7	1058	3 95	19	1215	4 10

COWS.

No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.
1	920	1 50	1	1050	2 40	5	882	2 75
1	850	2 00	1	1130	2 40	1	1010	2 75
5	926	2 00	1	1670	2 40	10	1042	2 75
1	870	2 00	2	725	2 50	2	820	2 80
1	860	2 00	1	950	2 50	2	1095	2 80
1	1100	2 00	1	960	2 50	1	1350	2 85
5	972	2 00	1	1130	2 50	1	1330	2 85
1	530	2 00	3	1170	2 50	5	1142	2 90
5	996	2 10	1	1350	2 50	1	1190	3 00
4	925	2 15	6	1173	2 50	5	1296	3 00
1	1160	2 20	3	1210	2 50	1	1050	3 00
3	903	2 20	23	791	2 50	1	1270	3 00
1	1019	2 25	3	960	2 60	12	1101	3 05
2	1025	2 25	4	982	2 60	1	1310	3 10
1	1180	2 25	1	980	2 60	2	1010	3 10
7	1002	2 25	6	993	2 60	1	1080	3 15
1	960	2 25	1	1150	2 60	1	1300	3 15
7	947	2 30	2	1165	2 70	3	1143	3 15
1	950	2 35	12	1189	2 75	2	1225	3 15
1	910	2 35						

HEIFERS.

No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.
1	680	2 25	2	705	2 75	17	910	3 05
1	690	2 25	1	740	2 75	7	825	3 10
1	710	2 40	2	660	2 75	2	795	3 10
1	640	2 50	6	665	2 80	19	981	3 40
3	713	2 55	2	840	2 80	22	1050	3 65
1	760	2 75	5	672	2 85			

BULLS.

No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.
1	1390	2 20	1	1250	2 60	1	1150	2 70
1	1440	2 40	1	1140	2 65	1	1240	2 70
1	1100	2 60	1	1880	2 65	1	1710	2 75
1	880	2 60	1	1270	2 65	1	930	2 75
1	1270	2 60	1	1470	2 65	1	1640	3 10
1	2230	3 25						

CALVES.

No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.
2	205	3 60	4	370	3 50	1	130	4 00
1	190	3 00	1	320	3 65	1	120	4 00
6	308	3 00	2	220	3 75	1	170	4 00
1	200	3 00	1	390	3 75	3	126	5 00
3	309	3 00	9	386	3 90			

STOCKERS AND FEEDERS.

No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.
1	790	2 75	4	715	3 45	12	688	3 65
18	641	2 75	1	580	3 50	10	820	3 65
3	716	2 75	10	655	3 50	9	757	3 65
1	560	3 15	2	725	3 60	16	591	3 70
1	620	3 25	1	620	3 60	5	406	3 80
1	1010	3 25	1	560	3 60	4	477	3 80
1	770	3 25	17	570	3 60	1	430	3 85
3	1000	3 25	53	691	3 60			

WESTERNS.

No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.
66 feeders	909	$3 55	21 feeders	676	$3 65
20 feeders	932	3 60			

WYOMING.

Thomas Stout.

18 steers......1265 3 50

UTAH.

C. Boynton.

	Av.	Pr.		Av.	Pr.
14 cows	807	1 75	51 heifers	579	2 70
21 cows	792	2 00	1 feeder	970	3 00
1 heifer	620	2 25	1 calf	210	3 00
3 calves	190	2 25	20 feeders	606	3 35
5 cows	963	2 30	25 feeders	658	3 45
3 cows	1026	2 35			

HOGS—The receipts of hogs were quite liberal for this market, though 1,700 less than yesterday's record. For the three days of the week the receipts foot up 18,778 head, as against 17,684 for the corresponding days of last week.

The market opened this morning under conditions favorable to the sellers, in spite of the fact that other markets did not show any great improvement, the strong demand being the main feature of strength. The early sales were strong to 5c higher, and the market was active at the advance, the great bulk of all the hogs selling in good season. After the most of the hogs had changed hands and the most urgent orders had been filled, the market eased off and closed with the advance lost.

Heavy hogs sold very largely at $3.10@3.15, as against $3.05@3.10 yesterday. The medium weights and light loads brought $3.20@3.22½. Yesterday's market, on an average, was the lowest of any day since December 7, and still it was only 3@4c lower than the general average for the past week or more. Today's advance carries the market back to where it was a week ago. The prices paid today were only 15c lower than they were a year ago at this time. Representative sales:

No.	Av.	Sh.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Sh.	Pr.
10	377	...	$3 00	60	301	120	$3 15
38	410	120	3 10	43	281	80	3 15
41	322	...	3 10	55	315	120	3 15
25	359	...	3 10	45	342	40	3 15
25	352	...	3 10	62	300	80	3 15
46	423	80	3 10	26	307	120	3 15
41	352	400	3 10	53	310	...	3 15
53	392	80	3 10	54	299	240	3 15
13	361	...	3 10	59	290	160	3 15
17	409	...	3 10	40	321	80	3 15
67	335	160	3 10	61	267	80	3 17½
49	357	120	3 10	61	308	80	3 17½
26	413	...	3 10	56	330	40	3 17½
54	387	40	3 10	47	294	160	3 17½
46	342	280	3 10	63	282	...	3 17½
15	400	...	3 10	52	337	80	3 17½
55	353	80	3 10	58	304	...	3 17½
45	378	...	3 12½	71	250	...	3 20
50	330	80	3 12½	72	257	80	3 20
59	359	80	3 12½	57	235	80	3 20
59	349	...	3 12½	70	279	...	3 20
48	321	200	3 15	54	271	80	3 20
64	312	80	3 15	56	261	40	3 20
45	274	120	3 15	54	279	160	3 20
54	293	120	3 15	66	261	80	3 20
55	314	...	3 15	42	261	...	3 20
64	298	120	3 15	59	272	40	3 20
54	322	160	3 15	64	250	80	3 20
64	312	80	3 15	55	351	80	3 20
66	337	80	3 15	56	259	...	3 20
55	330	120	3 15	60	264	240	3 20
45	364	160	3 15	69	267	80	3 20
49	325	120	3 15	57	247	80	3 20
62	232	80	3 15	56	261	40	3 20
63	288	40	3 15	31	251	...	3 20
46	335	40	3 15	54	216	200	3 20
71	296	80	3 15	39	342	...	3 20
50	250	...	3 15	55	308	80	3 20
59	366	80	3 15	60	294	80	3 20
63	311	80	3 15	63	278	...	3 20
56	309	80	3 15	52	224	120	3 22½
22	310	...	3 15	90	214	...	3 25
55	340	...	3 15	67	279	...	3 25
55	310	120	3 15	67	245	...	3 25
54	316	160	3 15	66	290	...	3 25
60	296	80	3 15	61	266	...	3 25
58	308	80	3 15	59	262	...	3 25
50	292	...	3 15	60	214	...	3 25
59	311	80	3 15	68	246	80	3 25
56	320	200	3 15	65	272	...	3 25
69	297	120	3 15	77	206	...	3 25
51	317	...	3 15	77	225	40	3 25
46	349	80	3 15	79	214	...	3 25
39	453	40	3 15	55	272	...	3 25
51	350	...	3 15	59	226	...	3 30
49	327	80	3 15	74	223	...	3 25
26	370	80	3 15	42	197	40	3 30
44	394	40	3 15	79	245	...	3 30
41	408	...	3 15	69	213	...	3 30
59	313	...	3 15	40	197	...	3 32½
52	335	160	3 15	67	193	...	3 32½

PIGS—ODDS AND ENDS.

No.	Av.	Sh.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Sh.	Pr.
1	290	...	2 25	4	337	...	3 10
2	185	...	2 85	5	294	...	3 10
1	420	...	3 00	4	205	...	3 15
9	422	...	3 00	4	232	...	3 15
9	425	...	3 00	4	240	...	3 15
3	410	80	3 05	8	293	...	3 20
5	352	...	3 05	3	166	...	3 20
7	374	...	3 05	8	293	...	3 20
5	428	80	3 05	8	190	...	3 25

SHEEP—The receipts of sheep were liberal, with the demand good and the market just about steady. Representative sales:

No.		Av.	Pr.
99	native ewes	106	$2 75
222	western wethers	85	2 82½
108	native mixed	102	2 90
210	native wethers	109	3 00
570	western wethers	118	3 10
114	native wethers	90	3 15

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK.

Supply of Cattle Scarcely Sufficient to Meet Requirements of Buyers.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—The run of cattle today was barely sufficient to meet the requirements of buyers and prices ruled strong at an advance of from 10c to 15c. Sales were on a basis of from $3.70 to $3.75 for the common lots of dressed steers; from $4 to $4.25 for medium grades; $4.75 for good cattle and from $4.80 to $5.25 for choice to prime, with fancy beeves selling at from $5.20 to $5.40. Sales were largely at from $4.25 to $5. There was a fair stocker and feeder trade at from $3 to $3.70, the sales consisting largely of stock steers at from $3 to $3.70. Cow sales were largely at from $2 to $3, while good to prime heifers brought from $3.25 to $4. Bulls sold largely at from $2 to $3.25, and calves were in good demand at from $4.75 to $5.50 for desirable offerings. Texas cattle were active and firmer.

Trade in hogs was active on local account at generally unchanged prices. Sales ranged at from $2.95 to $3.25 for packing droves up to $3.42½ for selected light singing pigs averaging around 160 lbs., with the bulk of the transactions at from $3.15 to $3.30.

Prices for sheep were stronger under the influence of an active demand, with choice lambs 10c per 100 lbs. higher. Sales were on a basis of from $2.25 to $2.50 for the poorest sheep up to $3.65 for choice lots, fed westerns selling at from $3 to $3.50. Good yearlings brought from $3.75 to $4, and lambs were active at from $3.50 to $5, with extra nice ones wanted at from $5.10 to $5.25.

Receipts: Cattle, 8,500 head; hogs, 47,000 head; sheep, 10,000 head.

Kansas City Live Stock.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 23.—CATTLE—Receipts, 4,500 head; shipments, 4,100 head. Market strong to 10c higher, and active; Texas steers, $2.50@3.75; Texas cows, $2.00@2.65; native steers, $3.20@5.00; native cows and heifers, $1.25@3.75; stockers and feeders, $2.60@3.90; bulls, $1.75@3.25.

HOGS—Receipts, 13,000 head; shipments, none. Market about steady, closing little weaker; bulk of sales, $3.15@3.20; heavies, $3.00@3.30; packers, $3.10@3.27½; mixed and light, $3.15@3.30; Yorkers, $3.25@3.30; pigs, $2.60@3.15.

SHEEP—Receipts, 2,000 head; shipments, 1,000 head. Market steady; lambs, $2.90@4.25; muttons, $1.60@3.50.

New York Live Stock.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—BEEVES—Receipts, 548 head; fairly active; steers and oxen, generally steady; bulls and fresh cows, firmer; cows, $4.10@4.50; stags and oxen, $2.25@4.25; bulls, $2.50@3.30; dry cows, $1.30@3.00. Cables quote American steers at 10½@12c, dressed weight; sheep at 9@10c, dressed weight; refrigerator beef at 8@8½c; exports, 2,700 quarters of beef.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—Receipts, 7,588 head; dull and lower; sheep, $2.50@3.65; lambs, $4.25@5.50.

HOGS—Receipts, 4,183 head; weak at $3.50@3.90.

St. Louis Live Stock.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 23.—CATTLE—Receipts, 2,500 head. Market active and 10c higher within the range.

HOGS—Receipts, 8,000 head. Market active and 5c higher; light, $3.10@3.25; mixed, $3.00@3.25; heavy, $2.90@3.35.

SHEEP—Receipts, 2,000 head. Market 10c higher, within the range.

Stock in Sight.

Record of receipts of live stock at the four principal markets, December 23, 1896:

	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.
South Omaha	1,345	6,448	1,778
Chicago	8,500	47,000	10,000
Kansas City	4,500	13,000	2,000
St. Louis	2,500	8,000	2,000
Totals	16,845	74,448	15,778

Wool Market.

BOSTON, Dec. 23.—The American Wool and Cotton Reporter will say tomorrow of the wool trade: Excessive dullness has constituted the sole feature of the market the past week. December is always a dull month, and is, perhaps, more so than usual this year, by reason of the fact that duplicate orders have, in the opinion of the best judges, fallen considerably short of what might be considered a normal amount. December ought also, it is claimed, to furnish more heavy weight orders than have yet come forward. The trade is looking forward to the new year with hopefulness. Prices are much the same as a week ago. Sales in Boston, Philadelphia and New York for the week aggregated 4,763,600 lbs.; 2,715,700 lbs. being domestic and 2,048,100 lbs. foreign. Sales since January 1 amount to 237,249,150 lbs., as compared with 243,067,165 lbs. last year. Considering the dullness of the general market sales of Australian may be considered large.

OMAHA GENERAL MARKET.

Condition of Trade and Quotations on Staple and Fancy Produce.

EGGS—Fresh gathered, 19@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, $2.50; small rabbits, 25@40c; jacks, 75c; squirrels, 60@75c; deer saddles, 14@15c; carcasses, 10@11c; antelope saddles, 13@14c; carcasses, 9c; Canada geese, large, $6.00@7.00; small, $4.00@5.00.

CHEESE—Domestic brick, 10½c; Edam, per doz., $9.00; club house, 1-lb. jars, per doz., $3.15; Limberger, fancy, per lb., 9½c; Roquefort, ½-lb. jars, per doz., $3.60; Young Americas, 10½c; twins, fancy, 10½c.

VEAL—Choice fat, 80 to 120 lbs., are quoted at 7@8c; large and coarse, 4@5c.

DRESSED POULTRY—Chickens, 5½@6c; turkeys, 9@11c; geese, 7@8c; 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., 2¼c; choice green, running to hurl, 2½c; common, 1¼c.

VEGETABLES.

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

ONIONS—Good stock, per bu., 40@50c.

LIMA BEANS—Per lb., 4c.

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

CABBAGE—Good stock, per hundred, $1.25.

CELERY—Per doz., 25@30c; fancy, large, 45@50c.

POTATOES—Good stock, per bu., 25c; Wyoming stock, sacked, 80c per 100 lbs.

FRUITS.

GRAPES—Crates, 15 pony baskets, Concords and Catawbas, per crates, $2.50.

MALAGA GRAPES—Per keg, $7.

CRANBERRIES—Cape Cod, per bbl., $6.

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

CALIFORNIA PEARS—Per box, $2.00@2.25.

TROPICAL FRUITS.

PINEAPPLES—Per crate of two to three doz., $4.00@4.50.

ORANGES—Mexican, $3.75; California navels, $4; seedlings, $3.

LEMONS—Messinas, $4.50@5.00; choice California, $4.50@3.75; fancy, $4.

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., $4.00@4.25.

MAPLE SYRUP—Five-gal. cans, each, $2.50@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.

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 PELTS—Green salted, each, 25@60c; green salted, shearings (short wooled early skins), each, 15c; dry shearings (short wooled early skins), No. 1, each, 5c; dry flint, Kansas and Nebraska butcher wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 4@5c; 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, 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, 1½c; 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, 5@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.

FRESH MEATS.

BEEF—Good native steers, 400 to 600 lbs., 5½@7c; western steers, 4½@5½c; good cows and heifers, 5@5½c; medium cows and heifers, 4½c; good forequarters cows and heifers, 4c; good forequarters native steers, 5c; good hindquarters cows and heifers, 6½c; good hindquarters native steers, 8c; cow rounds, 5¾c; cow plates, 2½c; boneless chucks, 4c; cow chucks, 3½c; steer chucks, 4c; beef tenderloins, 20c; beef rolls, boneless, 8½c; sirloin butts, boneless, 8½c; loin backs, boneless, 8c; strip loins, 7c; cow ribs, No. 3, 6½c; cow loins, No. 2, 8½c; beef trimmings, 3½c; rump butts, 5c; shoulder clods, 5½c.

PORK—Dressed hogs, 4¾c; pork loins, 6c; pork tenderloins, 15c; spare ribs, 5c; ham sausage butts, 5c; pork shoulders, rough, 4¼c; pork shoulders, skinned, 4½c; pork trimmings, 5c; leaf lard, not rendered, 6c.

MUTTON—Dressed lamb, 7c; dressed mutton, 6c; racks, mutton, 8½c; legs, mutton, 7½c; saddles, mutton, 7½c; stew, 3c; sheep plucks, 3c.

Liverpool Markets.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 23.—WHEAT—Spot quiet; demand poor; No. 2 red, spring, 6s 10½d; No. 1 California, 7s. Futures opened quiet, with near positions ¼d higher and distant positions ¾d higher; business heaviest on middle positions; December, nominal; January, 6s 8¾d; February, 6s 9¼d; March and May, 6s 9¼d; April, nominal.

CORN—Spot steady; American mixed, new, 2s 10¼d. Futures opened steady, with near positions unchanged and distant positions ¼d lower; closed steady, with January and February ¼d higher, and other months unchanged from yesterday's closing prices; business about equally distributed; December, 2s 9¼d; January, February and March, 2s 9½d; April, nominal; May, 2s 9¾d.

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

PROVISIONS—Bacon, quiet; demand poor; Cumberland cut, 28 to 30 lbs., 25s; short ribs, 20 to 24 lbs., 27s 6d; long clear, light, 35 to 38 lbs., 28s; 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., 28s. Hams, short cut, 14 to 16 lbs., 29s. Tallow, fine North American, 18s 9d. Beef, extra India mess, 60s; prime mess, 50s. Pork, prime mess, fine western, 48s 9d; medium western, 41s 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, 50s.

OILS—Linseed, 15s 6d. Petroleum, refined, 6¼d.

REFRIGERATOR BEEF—Forequarters, 5¼d; hindquarters, 6¼d.

HOPS—At London (Pacific coast), £3 15s.

St. Louis General Market.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 23.—FLOUR—Dull and weak; patents, $4.60@4.75; extra fancy, $4.10@4.20; fancy, $3.40@3.50; choice, $3.00@3.10.

WHEAT—Futures dull, but firm and higher; traders holding off till Christmas. Spot higher; No. 2 red, cash, elevator, 91@91½c; track, 91@93c; No. 2 hard, cash, 79c; December, 91⅝c; May, 90⅝c bid; July, 74⅝c.

CORN—Futures dull, and dragging, but higher at the close. Spot firm; No. 2 cash, 20@20½c; December, 19¾c bid; May, 22¾c bid.

OATS—Dull and slow; No. 2 cash, 17c bid; May, 20⅛c.

RYE—Lower; 35c, track.

BARLEY—Dull; malting, 30@40c.

CORN MEAL—$1.35.

FLAXSEED—Higher at 72c.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, $2.40.

EGGS—Lower at 14½c.

POULTRY—Chickens, unchanged; turkeys, 8@8½c; ducks, 5½@6c; geese, 5½c.

WHISKY—$1.18.

METALS—Lead, quiet at $2.75@2.82½. Spelter, dull; $3.97½ asked.

PROVISIONS—Pork, unchanged; standard mess, jobbing, $7.15@7.40. Lard, unchanged; prime steam, $3.65; choice, $3.70. Bacon, boxed, $4.70; shorts, $4.87½. Dry salt meats, boxed shoulders, $4; extra short clear, $3.87½; ribs, $4.25; shorts, $4.37½.

RECEIPTS—Flour, 4,000 bbls.; wheat, 14,000 bu.; corn, 127,000 bu.; oats, 20,000 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Flour, 5,000 bbls.; wheat, 17,600 bu.; corn, 151,000 bu.; oats, 10,000 bu.

Coffee Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—COFFEE—Options opened dull, but steady, with prices unchanged to 5 points higher; ruled inactive and featureless, with cables as expected, and no outside speculative interest; closed dull at from 5 points advance to 5 points decline; sales, 2,750 bags, including March, $9.45@9.50; May, $9.50. Spot coffee, Rio, quiet; No. 7, invoice, $10; jobbing, $10.50. Mild, quiet; Cordova, $15.50@17.00; sales, 2,500 bags, Maracaibo, p. t., 400 bags Central American, p. t. Total warehouse deliveries from the United States, 9,976 bags, including 5,050 bags from New York; New York stock today, 319,275 bags; United States stock, 402,711 bags; afloat for the United States, 307,000 bags; total visible supply for the United States, 709,711 bags, against 569,143 bags last year.

HAVRE, Dec. 23.—COFFEE—Closed quiet at ¼@½f net decline; sales, 12,000 bags.

SANTOS, Dec. 23.—COFFEE—Firm; good average Santos, 11,000 reis; receipts, 16,000 bags; stock, 672,000 bags.

HAMBURG, Dec. 23.—COFFEE—Quiet; ¼ pfg. decline; sales, 1,000 bags.

RIO, Dec. 23.—COFFEE—No. 7, 10,500 reis; exchange, 8 7-16d; receipts, 10,000 bags; cleared for the United States, 9,000 bags; for Europe, 1,000 bags; stock, 215,000 bags.

Kansas City Markets.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 23.—WHEAT—Market steady and active; No. 2 hard, 79c; No. 2 red fancy, 93c; No. 2 spring, 74@78c.

CORN—Market active, ¼c higher; No. 2 mixed, 17¾@18c.

OATS—Market active, about steady; No. 2 white, new, nominally, 19@21c; old, poor, 21c.

RYE—No. 2, 33c.

HAY—Market steady, unchanged.

BUTTER—Market stronger; creamery, 18½@20c; dairy, 10@15c.

EGGS—Receipts heavy, demand light; quotable at 16½c.

RECEIPTS—Wheat, 26,400 bu.; corn, 79,300 bu.; oats, 21,000 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Wheat, 14,400 bu.; corn, 36,500 bu.; oats, 14,000 bu.

Minneapolis Wheat.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 23.—WHEAT—December closed at 76⅝c; May, 79½c. On track: No. 1 hard, 79⅜c; No. 1 northern, 77⅝c; receipts, 297 cars.

FLOUR—Fair demand; first patents, $4.15@4.35; second patents, $4.00@4.10; first clears, $3.40@3.60; second clears, $2.30@2.50.

Oil City Market.

OIL CITY, Pa., Dec. 23.—Credit balances, 93c; certificates, no bids; shipments, 113,707 bbls.; runs, 98,225 bbls.

Cotton Market.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 23.—COTTON—Firm; middling, 6¾c; low middling, 6½c; good ordinary, 6⅛c.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 23.—COTTON—Steady; unchanged; middling, 6 13-16c; sales, 763 bales; receipts, 4,429 bales; shipments, 3,099 bales; stock, 51,081 bales.

Peoria Markets.

PEORIA, Dec. 23.—CORN—Steady; No. 2, 20¼c.

OATS—Firm; No. 2 white, 17½@20½c.

RYE—Dull, easy; No. 2, 35½c.

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

RECEIPTS—Corn, 50,400 bu.; oats, 35,050 bu.; rye, 600 bu.; whisky, 150 gals.; wheat, 5,400 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Corn, 4,900 bu.; oats, 74,400 bu.; rye, 600 bu.; whisky, 1,150 gals.; wheat, 12,000 bu.

Toledo Grain.

TOLEDO, Dec. 23.—WHEAT—Dull, but higher; No. 2 cash and December, 94¼c; May, 95⅝c.

CORN—Dull; No. 2 mixed, 22½c.

OATS—Quiet; No. 2 mixed, 18c.

RYE—Steady; No. 2 cash, 38c.

CLOVER SEED—Inactive; prime December, $5.45.

Dry Goods.

FALL RIVER, Mass., Dec. 23.—Print cloths dull at 2 9-16c.

'Frisco Wheat.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 23.—WHEAT—Quiet; May, $1.55⅝.

Financial Notes.

BOSTON, Dec. 23.—Clearings, $14,673,611; balances, $1,525,714.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 23.—Clearings, $2,385,210; balances, $327,978.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23.—Clearings, $10,818,-258; balances, $1,649,217.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 23.—Clearings, $4,239,391; balances, $421,068. Money, 5@7 per cent; New York exchange, par bid; 25c premium asked.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Clearings, $14,152,915. Money, steady and unchanged; New York exchange, par; foreign exchange, steady; demand, $4.86¾; sixty days, $4.83½.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The directors of the United States Rubber company at a special meeting this afternoon declared a dividend of 2 per cent on the common stock. The only previous dividend on the common stock was 2½ per cent, declared in March, 1895. The Pennsylvania Coal company has declared an extra dividend of 5 per cent on its stock. The regular dividend rate is 16 per cent per annum. Clearings, $91,-989,593; balances, $4,886,808.

Queen Lil at the Crescent City.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 23.—Queen Liliuokalani arrived on the Sunset limited over the Southern Pacific this morning. She was accompanied by Mrs. E. Graham and her two children, Arthur and Annie, a maid and male attendant. She left immediately over the Louisville & Nashville for the north, thence to England.

False Rumor of a Disaster at Sea.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The rumor last night that there was a steamer ashore on the south side of Long Island cannot be verified today. Inquiry made on Fire Island and the various life saving stations on the south shore brought the report that they had no knowledge of any vessel being ashore or in any kind of trouble.

Instructions to the Receiver.

In the case of E. L. Stone against the Omaha Fire Insurance company, Judge Powell yesterday afternoon issued an order to Receiver Earl Gannett instructing him to institute proceedings to collect on the notes executed by the stockholders of the company.

Sold to New York Capitalists.

COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 23.—The Central Ohio Natural Gas and Fuel company has been sold to New York capitalists at $82.50 per share. Emerson McMillan made the purchase for them. The capital stock is $1,900,000. The highest ever paid heretofore for the stock was $77.

Banker Turns Counterfeiter.

GUTHRIE, Okl., Dec. 23.—J. C. Miller, who has been convicted of counterfeiting at New Orleans, was president of the First National bank at Blackwell, Okl., and was a son of G. W. Miller, a prominent cattleman of the Cherokee strip.

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