CONDITION OF OMAHA'S TRADE

Business Partakes of the Usual Holiday Character.

STOCK TAKING SEASON IS NOW AT HAND

Moderate-Priced Goods the Best Sellers for Christmas Gifts—Merchants Predict a Demand for Winter Goods in January.

Of all the fifty-two weeks that go to make up the circle of the year there is not one approaching in importance the six days preceding Christmas, important alike to the busy tradesman and the idle lover of pleasure; a season that is looked forward to with the liveliest expectations on the part of every citizen, young or old.

To the tradesman it is the harvest time of the year, the season when he must gather in business sufficient to balance the ledger on the right side or else settle down to a realization of the hard fact that his year's work has been in vain.

The time-honored custom of making Christmas presents has given rise to a great industry, or rather many industries, that might all be grouped under a single head, namely, the manufacture of holiday goods. Every manufacturer, and every bright man with a patentable idea, has ransacked his brain to devise useful or attractive articles that might serve at Christmas time as gentle reminders of friendship.

Months ago the manufacturers began work upon the goods that have only the past week reached the hands of consumers. From the manufacturers the goods were passed on to the jobbers, who have had their men out all the fall and winter soliciting orders from the retail trade.

The goods, for the manufacture and distribution of which months were required, must all be sold within the week, or at most two weeks, preceding Christmas day.

Viewed in the light of the foregoing, the statement that the past week was the most important of the whole year, could hardly be regarded as extravagant.

CHRISTMAS TRADE JUST FAIR.

Omaha merchants did not base as high hopes this year upon the results of Christmas trade as usual, and in that regard there was no little display of wisdom. They were all aware that money is scarce and that hard times have forced people into the practice of a rigid economy which would cut down the lavish expenditures for Christmas gifts customary in former years. The realizations of the past week were very much in accord with expectations formed in advance by most members of the retail trade, though the mild weather rendered the situation still more unfavorable.

The Christmas trade, as a whole, was fair, but to some it was a disappointment—those who had cheap goods for sale did better than they expected, while the holders of finer and more expensive merchandise did worse. With many shoppers it was a scramble for cheap goods, something that would go the farthest and make the most show for the money. Cold weather, without doubt, would have materially altered the character of the trade, as it would have developed a demand for warm wearing apparel and the many other useful articles necessary in winter time, but the cold weather did not put in an appearance.

As to the future of the retail trade, some merchants express the opinion that January will show better results than usual, the basis for such predictions being the assumption that we have settled to have cold weather by that time, and that when it does come consumers who have been such moderate buyers thus far will be forced to provide themselves with winter goods.

During the coming week the usual taking of stock will occupy the attention of most merchants, January 1 being the generally accepted date for the closing of books and the figuring of profits and losses.

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, 40@60c; jacks, $1.00@1.50; squirrels, 60@75c; deer saddles, 14@16c; carcasses, 10@12c; antelope saddles, 12@14c; carcasses, 8c; 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, ¼-lb. jars, per doz., $4.60; Young Americas, 10¼c; twins, fancy, 10½c.

VEAL—Choice fat, 80 to 125 lbs., are quoted at 7@8c; large and coarse, 4@5c.

DRESSED POULTRY—Chickens, 5@6c; turkeys, 9@11c; geese, 7@8c; ducks, 7@8c.

LIVE POULTRY—Not wanted.

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

HAY—Upland, $5.50; midland, $4.50; lowland, $4.00; rye straw, $4.00; 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, 2¼c; common, 1½c.

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, 4@5c.

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

FRUITS.

GRAPES—Crates, 12 pony baskets, Concords and Catawbas, per crate, $2.50.

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.

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, $3.50@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, $2.00@2.75; gal. cans, per doz., $12; half-gal. cans, $6.75; quart cans, $4.50.

SAUER KRAUT—Per half bbl., $4.75; bbls., $8.00@8.25.

FIGS—Imported fancy, 5 crown, 30-lb. boxes, 15c; choice, 20-lb. boxes, 12c; Smyrna, 11c.

NUTS—Almonds, California, per lb., large size, 12c; Brazils, per lb., 10c; English walnuts, per lb., fancy, soft shell, 12@12½c; standards, 10@11c; 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, 5c; No. 2 green salted hides, 4c; No. 1 veal calf, 8 to 15 lbs., 4c; 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@50c; 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, 9@10c; dry flint, Kansas and Nebraska Murrain wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 8@9c; dry flint Colorado butcher wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 8@9c; dry flint Colorado Murrain wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 7@8c; cavearas, per foot cut off, as it is useless to pay freight on them.

TALLOW AND GREASE—Tallow, No. 1, 5c; tallow, No. 2, 2½c; grease, white A, 3c; grease, white B, 2c; grease, yellow, 2c; grease, dark, 1½c; old butter, 1@2½c; beeswax, prime, 19@22c; rough tallow, ½c.

WOOL—Unwashed, fine, heavy, 6@7c; fine, light, 8@9c; quarter-blood, 10@12c; coarse, burry and cheaty, 8@9c; coated and broken, coarse, 7@8c; coated and broken, fine, 8@9c. Washed—Fine Medium, 16@18c; fine, 14@16c; tub washed, 19@23c; black, 5c; locks, 6c; tag locks, 2@3c; dead pulled, 8@9c.

HORSES—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 musty, per ton, $5.00@8.00.

FRESH MEATS.

BEEF—Good native steers, 900 to 600 lbs., 5½@6c; western steers, 4½@5½c; good cows and heifers, 3@3½c; medium cows and heifers, 2½c; good forequarters cows and heifers, 4c; good forequarters native steers, 5c; good hindquarters cows and heifers, 6½c; good hindquarters native steers, 8c; cow rounds, 5½c; cow plates, 2½c; boneless chucks, 4c; cow chucks, 2½c; steer chucks, 4c; beef tenderloins, 20c; beef rolls, boneless, 8½c; sirloin butts, boneless, 8½c; loin backs, boneless, 9c; strip loins, 7c; cow ribs, No. 2, 6½c; cow loins, No. 2, 8½c; beef trimmings, 2½c; rump butts, 5c; shoulder clods, 2½c.

PORK—Dressed hogs, 4½c; pork loins, 5c; pork tenderloins, 10c; spare ribs, 5c; ham sausage, 7c; pork sausage, 5c; pork shoulders, rough, 4½c; pork shoulders, skinned, 5c; pork trimmings, 5c; leaf lard, not rendered, 5½c.

MUTTON—Dressed lamb, 7c; dressed mutton, 6c; racks mutton, 4½c; legs, mutton, 7½c; saddles, mutton, 7½c; stew, 3c; sheep plucks, 2c.

New York Weekly Bank Statement.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—The weekly bank statement shows the following changes: Reserve, increase $1,053,175; loans, increase $637,300; specie, decrease $165,600; legal tender, increase $2,600,600; deposits, increase $2,247,900; circulation, decrease $31,100. The banks now hold $24,308,900 in excess of the requirements of the 25 per cent rule.

REPORT OF NEW YORK FINANCIER.

Much Surplus Funds in the Various Banks of the City.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—The New York Financier says this week: The statement of the associated banks of New York City for the week ending December 26 covers but five business days, and reflects, above everything else, the listless condition evident in the Stock exchange and commercial circles. Despite the calls for currency from this center, which came in after the several large weekly failures, the banks report an increase of $2,300,000 in cash, the gain of $2,600,000 in legal tenders having been offset by a decrease of $300,000 in specie. There was an expansion of $637,300 in loans, which, coming after the increase of $3,312,000 for the week previous, and the large gains of preceding weeks, shows the dullness into which the market has fallen. But the very moderate increase reported was made at an advance in interest figures, the effect of business troubles in the west and the approaching January settlement period having operated to raise rates on both call and time loans. As the total loan increase of $5,954,900 since November 7 has been made at constantly reduced quotations, the advance for the current week does not appear logical, although it is generally thought the firmer tone will show no relaxation until after the first of the year. In the meantime the excess of idle money in New York grows with every statement, the surplus reserve of $24,309,900 now reported being the highest since September 7, 1895, excepting, of course, the several weeks preceding the February bond loan, when the New York banks were accumulating specie. The conditions surrounding these two periods of high surplus, however, are largely different. On September 7, 1895, the loans of the New York banks were $21,000,000 higher than at present, and deposits were $51,000,000 greater. As a large proportion of the loans made by the New York banks since election have been on sterling exchange, it would be seen that the course of the money market is now dependent in part on developments affecting the price of sterling, and a further strengthening in the price will doubtless tend toward maintaining better interest rates here. At any rate, there is reason to look for this result during the first part of the coming year and it is, perhaps, due to these anticipations that the rate is now strengthening, although the accumulation of idle money continues.

WEEKLY DRY GOODS REVIEW.

Slight Increase in the Value of the Imports.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—The imports of dry goods and general merchandise at this port this week were valued at $6,988,554, against $7,204,968 last week, and $8,674,626 the corresponding week last year. The imports of specie were $70,736, of which $22,448 were gold, against $79,509 last week and $156,618 the corresponding week last year. The exports of specie were $980,696, of which $65,445 were gold, against $515,374 the corresponding week of last year.

FALL RIVER, Mass., Dec. 26.—The cloth market continues to be dull and the sales for the week were considerably below the production. The holiday shutdown has taken 5,000 pieces out of a dull week's production, and accordingly the week's deliveries reduced the surplus 52,000 pieces. There were no sales of sixes and dealing in odd goods has been at prices a shade off the quotations. The statement shows: Production, 175,000 pieces; deliveries, 227,000 pieces; stock, 1,000,000 pieces; print cloths, 85,000 pieces; sales, odd, 1,392,000 pieces. Last week's stock, 1,054,000 pieces; sales, odd, 128,000; 64-64s, no sales. 13s-60s. Spot, 25,000. Futures, 45,000. Sold for weekly delivery: December, 168,000 pieces; January, 128,000 pieces; February, 42,000 pieces; March, 16,000 pieces; April, 5,000; May, 3,000; June, 3,000.

London Grain Market.

LONDON, Dec. 26.—The weather during the week has been favorable and the crops are doing well. Wheat in the market had a holiday tone, but, owing to American advices, was 2d to 6d higher, with high offers. There was a moderate demand for cargoes, and a good business was done in parcels. The general position is hopeful and the country markets are steadier. California wheat, prompt delivery, was quoted at 28s 9d. Northern spring parcels, January and February delivery, were quoted at 32s. Flour was fairly strong, 6d better, and in quiet demand. Maize was steadier and easier on the week. Mixed American steamer maize, January delivery, was quoted at 12s 6d. Barley was firm, with light offers. Oats were quiet and steady. American white clipped oats, January delivery, were quoted at 12s 9d.

Leather Market.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—The Chicago Shoe and Leather Review says the hide market is at least 5c higher all around. The cold facts are that the demand for hides exceeded the supply and the packers put up the prices. It is thought the sudden appreciation of values will have the effect of checking the buying movement and thus preventing further advances. Country buff hides were sold at 8c in Chicago, and the big packers secured 9½c for native steers. Packers' light native cows were also sold at 9c, and Texas steers brought 8½c. In some instances the advance is 1c per lb.

Financial Notes.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Clearing house statement, exchange $161,912,900; balances, $5,686,846; balances, $1,457,983.

BOSTON, Dec. 26.—Exchanges, $14,659,646; balances, $1,457,983.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 26.—Clearings, $2,532,519; balances, $166,673; money, 5@7 per cent; New York exchange, par bid; 25c premium asked.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—Clearings, $16,422,512; money, steady at 6@7 per cent; New York exchange, not quoted; foreign exchange, barely steady; demand, $4.87; sixty days, $4.83½.

Chicago Provisions.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—BUTTER—Firm; creameries, 15@21c; dairy, 10@15c.

EGGS—Firm; fresh, 20c.

DRESSED POULTRY—Firm; turkeys, 11c; chickens, 9@12c.

San Francisco Mining Quotations.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 26.—The official closing quotations for mining stocks today were as follows:

Alta	7	Gould & Curry	25
Alpha Con	7	Hale & Norcross	110
Andes	13	Justice	4
Belcher	39	Kentucky Con	1
Best & Belcher	43	Mexican	39
Bodie Con	60	Mono	22
Bullion	8	Occidental Con	19
Bulwer Con	39	Ophir	86
Calaveras	10	Overman	5
Challenge Con	30	Potosi	53
Chollar	81	Savage	24
Confidence	70	Sierra Nevada	38
Con. Cal. & Va	100	Union Con	38
Con. Imperial	1	Utah Con	5
Crown Point	18	Yellow Jacket	29

PROMISING GOLD FIELDS.

Some Observations on Alaska's Mineral Resources.

When Secretary Seward in 1867 concluded the negotiations with Russia by which the United States acquired 580,000 square miles of new territory for the sum of $7,200,000 there were many people disposed to think that Seward had driven a hard bargain and that the United States had paid a large sum for a land of glaciers and icebergs, which could never be made to produce the value of the purchase money. Experience has shown, says the Philadelphia Times, that all these misgivings were unfounded and that Seward made an excellent bargain. The seal industry alone produced a good deal more than the original outlay before the seals were practically exterminated. The salmon and halibut fisheries of Alaska are now very valuable, and there is a large supply of lumber yet to be cut from the Alaska purchase.

It is as a gold field that Alaska promises to make the greatest return to its purchaser. Without gold Alaska does not owe the United States anything on the original purchase money, and its fisheries and lumber interests promise to prove an inexhaustible source of profit. But gold is likely, after all, to be its most valuable production, and the indications are that within a very few years it may fairly rival California in its palmiest days in value of its annual output of the precious metal. The output for 1895 reached $5,000,000, for the current year it will not be less than $5,000,000, and the prophesy is freely made that it will reach $12,000,000 in 1897. The richest field yet discovered is in the Yukon river region, a locality until very recently hard to reach and still harder to transport modern mining machinery to.

A new overland way from Juneau to the Yukon has been opened, which can be traversed in twenty-five days, whereas the journey formerly occupied two or three months. This has given a great impetus to the development of the country, and 11,000 people were added to the population of Alaska in the year 1896. As soon as a disputed boundary question is settled an international wagon road will be opened from the coast to the mines, which will doubtless give a great impetus to the gold development of this section. But while the boundary dispute is in abeyance and the international road waits, American push and enterprise are finding a way to transport mining machinery and provisions to the gold diggings. Three lines of well appointed freight and passenger steamers ply regularly to the trading posts and mining camps of the Upper Yukon and electric and steam tramways, compressed air drills, snowsheds and protecting apparatus enable the miners to carry on their work the year round.

The importance of this great reserve gold field, which has only just begun to be developed, to the prosperity of the country, cannot be overestimated. The bulk of the present large gold output of the United States is confined to California, Colorado and a few other Rocky mountain and Pacific coast states, and it will be a good while before these older deposits are exhausted. Eventually, however, Alaska will become the leading gold-producing section of the country, and it is gratifying to know that it is extensive in territory and rich in its deposits of the precious metal. The people of the United States have just decided by a large majority in favor of the gold currency standard, and with undeveloped Alaska as a reserve to draw from, there is little danger that they will ever be required to reverse the verdict of November.

OMAHA LIVE STOCK MARKET

Week Closes with the Usual Light Run of Cattle.

DEMAND GREATLY OUTRUNS THE SUPPLY

Buyers Compelled to Hustle for the Filling of Orders—Hogs Open Strong and Close Rather Easier.

SOUTH OMAHA, Dec. 26.—Receipts for the days indicated were:

	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.	Horses.
December 26	1,071	4,693	292	....
December 24	1,988	6,039	869	....
December 23	1,361	6,523	1,779	....
December 22	3,318	8,158	1,177	....
December 21	2,659	3,172	2,019	....
December 19	1,734	5,482	682	....
December 18	1,948	5,947	1,087	....
December 17	2,242	7,379	1,233	23
December 16	3,991	6,778	1,244	....
December 15	3,299	8,416	2,959	....
December 14	3,105	2,490	2,493	....

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

	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.
C., M. & St. P. Ry.	1	1	..
Mo. Pac. Ry.	..	1	..
Union Pacific system	17	16	1
F., E. & M. V. R. R.	6	7	..
C., St. P., M. & O. Ry.	5	6	..
B. & M. R. R. R.	8	21	..
C., B. & Q. Ry.	..	7	..
K. C. & St. J.	3	1	..
C., R. I. & P. Ry., west.	4	..	..
Total receipts	44	60	1

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.	....	933	....
G. H. Hammond Co.	112	825	....
Swift & Co.	74	1,152	....
Cudahy Packing Co.	275	1,170	....
R. Becker and Degan	6	....	....
Vansant & Co.	5	....	....
J. L. Carey	29	....	....
W. I. Stephens	21	....	....
Swift, from country	120	....	202
Cudahy P. Co., K. C.	70	....	....
Other buyers	96	....	....
Total	818	4,077	202

CATTLE—Arrivals today were light, as was to be expected on the day following a holiday, and there were not enough cattle of any kind to make a very good test of the market. The demand was of larger proportions than the receipts and everything in the yards sold early and was weighed up long before midday.

The total receipts for the week foot up 9,022, as against 15,916 last week, the intervention of a holiday and the shrinkage in the demand incident to the season being the apparent cause of the falling off in arrivals.

Considering the few cattle in the yards the showing of beeves was quite large, there being several bunches of pretty decent corn fed steers. One load of 1,181-lb. steers sold up to $4.35, with quite a number of loads at $4.00@4.25. The market on steers was fully steady and in some cases a little stronger. Later on in the day came reports of bad markets in the east, but the cattle here were all sold, or the market might possibly have closed lower.

Cows and heifers were in active demand and sold stronger, the few here changing hands early.

Speculators were pretty well sold out of stockers and feeders, and as a fair demand is anticipated from the country for the coming week they will be good buyers of that kind of cattle this morning. The market, in consequence, was active and fully steady. Representative sales:

NATIVES.

BEEF STEERS.

No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Pr.
1	1020	$3 40	15	1080	$4 00	12	1224	$4 25
9	1033	3 60	17	1287	4 10	12	974	4 25
19	1224	3 75	15	1010	4 10	14	1150	4 25
18	1187	3 75	26	1026	4 15	18	1481	4 25
13	1110	3 90						

COWS.

1	720	1 50	1	1020	2 50	10	1152	2 85
2	1020	2 00	4	1152	2 50	1	1280	2 90
1	890	2 00	1	1080	2 50	2	1250	2 90
1	850	2 00	1	1110	2 60	3	1133	2 90
3	1066	2 25	2	1065	2 65	5	1022	2 90
9	814	2 25	7	959	2 65	1	790	3 00
1	1060	2 25	2	1170	2 70	1	1310	3 00
2	955	2 35	2	750	2 70	20	1238	3 00
9	1011	2 35	1	1130	2 75	17	1028	3 15
2	1050	2 35	2	1065	2 75	8	822	3 25
3	1000	2 35	2	1205	2 75	1	1250	3 25
2	970	2 40	3	1020	2 75	2	980	3 25
1	1010	2 50	1	1060	2 80	1	1420	3 50
1	1110	2 50						

HEIFERS.

1	570	1 75	1	810	2 75	6	905	3 00
1	790	2 00	9	502	2 85	3	643	3 00
1	600	2 05	11	457	2 85	13	876	3 10
1	680	2 05	3	833	2 95	3	916	3 20
1	590	2 75						

BULLS.

1	1350	1 75	1	910	2 65	3	1613	2 85
2	1140	2 25	1	1320	2 75	1	680	2 85
2	1515	2 50	1	1015	2 75	1	1630	3 00
6	1183	2 55	2	1075	2 75	1	1710	3 00
1	1280	2 65	1	1700	2 85			

STAGS.

1	950	3 00	1	1150	3 00

CALVES.

1	220	3 00	17	334	3 60	1	140	4 50
1	300	3 50	1	240	4 00			

STOCKERS AND FEEDERS.

1	520	2 75	1	820	3 25	8	487	3 70
5	816	3 00	24	717	3 00	1	740	3 80
2	650	3 00	3	423	3 60	21	883	3 80
1	920	3 25	14	540	3 70	2	455	3 80

HOGS—There was a fair run of hogs here considering the day, making a total for the week of 28,893, as compared with 36,492 for the week before.

The market opened today a little stronger, but the strength lay mostly on the medium weight loads. Heavy packing hogs and the best light sold in about the same notches as on Thursday. The market was active, but by the time half of the receipts had changed hands the wire edge was off and the close was easier.

Heavy loads weighing 300 pounds and over sold very largely at $3.00@3.15, with an occasional load as high as $3.20. The medium weights for the most part brought $3.20@3.25 and the light loads $3.20@3.40.

The hog market was in fairly satisfactory condition all the past week, in that the demand was active, and it was an easy matter to dispose of all arrivals at current prices. The market did not show much change in values, the fluctuations being very small, no day showing as much as 5c, in fact the prices paid were just about the same as during the previous week, the week closing about 5c higher than it opened, not enough gain to be hardly worth mentioning. The prices paid during the week have averaged about 20c lower than a year ago. Representative sales:

No.	Av.	Sh.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Sh.	Pr.
41	311	...	$3 10	63	285	120	$3 20
49	277	80	3 10	61	252	...	3 20
44	288	80	3 10	67	247	80	3 20
62	252	80	3 10	55	288	40	3 20
52	247	80	3 10	65	276	...	3 20
58	272	160	3 10	27	276	...	3 20
66	277	80	3 10	57	304	120	3 20
59	329	3	12½	72	314	...	3 20
63	320	15	3 15	65	286	80	3 20
58	334	80	3 15	52	283	160	3 20
57	328	40	3 15	54	269	120	3 20
72	284	...	3 15	86	140	...	3 20
62	277	80	3 15	61	317	80	3 20
54	297	80	3 15	62	252	...	3 20
56	340	...	3 15	77	235	120	3 25
58	290	40	3 15	65	269	80	3 25
65	321	240	3 15	58	269	...	3 25
57	327	80	3 15	70	224	...	3 25
49	345	160	3 15	82	268	...	3 25
65	306	160	3 15	68	278	120	3 25
64	311	...	3 15	12	218	...	3 25
67	323	160	3 15	61	232	40	3 25
38	292	120	3 15	72	236	...	3 30
43	300	40	3 15	77	240	...	3 25
40	320	80	3 15	80	225	...	3 30
18	292	80	3 17½	75	219	40	3 30
62	252	80	3 20	60	258	...	3 35
71	252	80	3 20	93	182	...	3 35
73	259	40	3 20	88	180	40	3 37½
61	276	...	3 20	142	212	80	3 37½
39	262	80	3 20				

PIGS—ODDS AND ENDS.

1	260	...	1 75	8	412	...	3 10
4	282	...	2 90	9	321	40	3 10
9	413	...	3 00	2	333	...	3 10
5	346	...	3 10	7	210	...	3 20

SHEEP—There was only one load of sheep here and it was consigned direct to a packer, so that there was nothing to make a test of the market.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK.

Not a Very Urgent Demand for Cattle—Hogs a Shade Higher.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—The run of cattle today was larger than is usual on Saturday. There was not a very urgent demand and sales were rather slow, buyers bidding 10c lower for most kinds of cattle. A few common dressed beef steers sold at from $3.50 to $4, but cattle largely sold at from $4.50 to $5.25 for anything at all desirable, with the best beeves at from $5.30 to $5.50.

Prices for hogs were a good, strong nickel higher, and some sales showed advances of from 7½c to 10c per 100 lbs. over Thursday's quotations. Fancy selected light hogs and pigs sold up to $3.50. From that figure orders were worked all the way down to $3.05 for coarse, heavy hogs, packing lots going at from $3.05 to $3.25. Pigs sold at from $3 to $3.50.

The sheep market there was a very good demand at steady prices. Sheep were salable at from $2.25 to $2.50 for the poorest, up to $3.85 for the best. Lambs sold at from $3.50 to $5.25 for poor to prime, and yearlings at from $4.75 to $4.90. Heavy sheep went at from $3.25 to $3.60 and good to choice lightweights, 90 lbs., sold from $3.50 to $3.85.

Receipts: Cattle, 1,500 head; hogs, 15,000 head; sheep, 6,000 head.

Kansas City Live Stock.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 26.—CATTLE—Receipts, 1,200 head; shipments, 2,200 head. Market steady to shade lower; Texas steers, $3.00@4.00; Texas cows, $1.50@2.35; native steers, $3.20@4.85; native cows and heifers, $1.25@3.70; stockers and feeders, $2.00@3.80; bulls, $1.60@2.90.

HOGS—Receipts, 5,000 head; shipments, 100 head. Market opened steady to 5c higher, closed weak; bulk of sales, $3.00@3.25; heavy, $3.10@3.30; packers, $3.15@3.30; mixed, $3.15@3.37½; lights, $3.12½@3.35; Yorkers, $3.20@3.32½; pigs, $3.00@3.25.

SHEEP—Receipts, 500 head; shipments, 1,400 head. Market strong; lambs, $2.75@4.00; mutton, $2.00@3.25.

Chicago Live Stock.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—HOGS—Receipts, 15,000 head; market fairly active; light, 5@10c higher; others strong to 5c higher; light, $3.30@3.50; mixed, $3.20@3.45; heavy, $3.20@3.40; rough, $3.05@3.10.

CATTLE—Receipts, 1,500 head; quiet and steady.

SHEEP—Receipts, 6,000 head; steady.

VANDALS IN WASHINGTON.

Nothing is Sacred to the Relic-Hunting Fiends.

The question as to whether the inauguration ball shall or shall not be held in the new congressional library building is attracting much attention, writes the Washington correspondent of the Chicago Inter Ocean. Those who have felt an especial interest and pride in the magnificent new building are naturally opposed to it. They fear the building of people, many of whom will come from a distance, and, while they will feel less restraint and local pride in the structure, will the more prize any relics and souvenirs of the occasion.

The very delicate carvings on the balustrades and in various parts of the building would be a great temptation to this class of people. Besides, there would be danger of the carvings and decorations being damaged in the putting in position of the flags and draperies with which all national events of this kind are accompanied. In addition to this, any mishap among the throng of people might produce similar results.

Another point which is urged is that while the halls, when reached, are spacious and magnificent, the passageways reaching to them are insufficient in width to accommodate the throng of people who are expected to attend.

It is in the matter of vandalism, however, that the friends of the building fear most. In such a throng individuality largely disappears and it is the experience of all those who have had to do with the public structures in Washington that the average sightseer is on the alert for souvenirs, even though he may be a patriotic and self-respecting citizen.

A New York lawyer once paid a fine for chipping a piece of marble from the shaft of the Washington monument, and only a few weeks ago a visiting minister from New Jersey fell into the hands of the officers. He was here on his wedding trip, and in court he blamed his wife for what he had done. She wanted a relic in the form of a piece of the marble, and the husband obligingly used his umbrella to disfigure the big shaft. But he fared no better than offenders who were supposed to be less intelligent, for Judge Kimball made no exceptions in cases of this kind and fined him $10. These are only two of the many cases in which well-known people have figured as vandals, and Judge Kimball as well as the police can see no reason why others should not follow in their footsteps.

In other buildings, especially the National museum and the Smithsonian, the men on guard are kept busy at all times to prevent visitors from breaking exhibits or carrying away mementos of their visit to the capital.

Officers on duty at the white house and at the Washington monument, as well as at other public buildings where crowds congregate, are almost unanimous in the opinion that constant vigilance is the only safeguard against vandalism. As one veteran employe put it:

"You have to watch everybody, and even then you can't always prevent them from picking up some little thing as a relic and walking off with it."

The white house and monument in particular have suffered from the thoughtlessness of relic hunters. The furniture and curtains in the east room are being constantly tampered with. Many pieces have been cut from the hangings, and it is a common practice for visitors to try to unscrew the ornamental knobs on the chairs and sofas.

The Washington monument has also suffered severely from vandalism, in spite of the efforts to prevent it. The majority of the exquisite memorial stones have been broken or otherwise damaged. All the raised letters on the Nevada tablet have been taken away and all but one of the raised letters on the Swiss tablet. This damage was repaired as well as possible. Visitors are constantly chipping pieces from the monument, outside and in, notwithstanding all the watchmen can do.

Whenever detected these thoughtless people are arrested, but generally escape upon the payment of a small fine. In one case a man from Texas was seen to break a piece from the shaft and the piece was found in his pocket, but he was discharged by the police court judge from "lack of evidence."

A remarkable example of this kind of work can be seen in the senate waiting room, which is perhaps, in decoration, the most beautiful apartment in any public building in Washington, and perhaps not less beautiful than any in the world. On one of the thick French plate glass windows there are inscribed words with but little meaning, with a thousand flourishes, which cover the entire window. This vandalism is at a point more frequented by the public than almost any in the building. It is just where a watchman would be likely to see the vandalism committed, but no one did see it and no one knows who did it, except the vandal himself. He had gloried in a diamond ring and he took pleasure in digging deeply into the glass, to show how good a diamond it was.

The most wonderful pair of doors in the United States are those hung at the east entrance of the capitol. It would seem to be a very risky business for any one to tamper with the delicate and artistic ornamenta giving a sculptural history of the country from its earliest settlements which adorn these remarkable doors of bronze. These doors were secured at immense cost and are one of the great sights not only of the capitol building, but of the city of Washington.

The vandals have not overlooked them. The stirrups of soldiers, the swords of the miniature warriors, and various delicate parts of the ornamentation have been knocked off and carried away to the homes of the vandals in various parts of the country, in order that they might have a relic of the great building. These relics are exceedingly costly to the government, as to a considerable extent they mar the beauty of works of art that have required the expenditure of large sums of money in order to procure them.

The statuary that adorns either side of the east entrance, which, from its prominent position, would seem to be comparatively safe from the barbarous relic hunters, has not escaped injury. The sculptors have been called upon a number of times since those statues were put in place to patch on fingers and toes as neatly