COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

Weak Cables and Lack of Exports Force Wheat Down a Fraction.

COLD WAVE SAVES A BAD BREAK

Corn and Oats Decline a Small Fraction, but Provisions Hold Firm and Show a Slight Gain for the Day.

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—The wheat pit was the scene of a wrestling match between a predicted cold wave on the one hand and weak cables and an almost total lack of export sales on the other. The bear factors had the better of it. May closing at ⅝c decline after a decidedly nervous session. Corn and oats were heavy and closed about ⅜c lower each. Provisions were firm and advanced slightly.

Wheat held to its steady connection with the Liverpool market, which, notwithstanding the ¾c advance here yesterday, was ½d lower this morning. Because of this disappointing decline at Liverpool and in spite of the reduction in consols and light receipts of wheat at Chicago and the northwest, May opened here at from 74⅝c to 74¾c, as against 74⅜c to 74⅞ at the close yesterday. The price wriggled and squirmed every time it got to ½c above the lower of the opening prices, as it did two or three times during the forenoon, and gave every evidence of feeling uncomfortable when in the neighborhood of yesterday's closing rates. The first advance to 74⅝c was followed by a return to 74⅜c. A slow rally to 74¾c ensued. This was followed by several minor fluctuations, but by 12 o'clock the price had slid off to 73⅞c, or virtually 1c per bu. below the closing price of the day before. Most of the strength displayed in the frequent small bulges came from St. Louis, which market bought freely during the morning and sent renewed reports of damage to the crop in the northwest. Closing cables reported Liverpool 1d lower for the day and continental markets, with one unimportant exception, were all lower. That and an absence of demand for cash wheat, here or at the seaboard, were the reasons for the free selling which succeeded every little bulge during the forenoon. Chicago receipts were only thirteen carloads, against sixty-two on the corresponding day of the year before, and Minneapolis and Duluth got only 130 cars, compared with 485 last year. The smallness of the Atlantic port clearances of wheat and flour was one of the day's discouragements to the bulls, the total being equal to only 173,000 bu. The break in wheat would have probably been greater had not the signal service predicted a drop in the temperature to 10 degrees below zero. Apprehensions as to the effect of this, coupled with Beerbohm's estimate that the world's visible March 1 would be 36,000,000 bu. smaller than it was March 1, 1896, created a good demand and quick reaction from the break to 73⅞c. By 1 o'clock May was bringing 74¼c. The closing bell found the price at 74⅛@74¼c.

Corn was steady for a while after the opening, but became exceedingly heavy later in the day. The market was weakened by prospects of larger receipts and a poor shipping demand, the elevator interests as a rule being sellers. Atlantic clearances were 900,000 bu. May opened unchanged to 21¼c, sold at 24⅜c, then declined to 23⅞c, closing easy at 23⅝@23c.

The oats market was almost entirely controlled by the fluctuations in wheat and corn. But little business was transacted, the covering of a line of about 300,000 bu. being responsible for the strength immediately after the opening. After that the market relapsed into a condition of extreme heaviness. May opened unchanged at 17½c, sold at 17⅜c, fell off to 16¾c and closed with sellers at 16⅞@17c.

Provisions acted very firm in spite of larger hog receipts than expected, which caused only a slight opening dip in prices. Offerings were light and the market ruled firm, with but slight changes throughout the session. Prices advanced slightly near the close on buying by Armour and the English houses. At the close May pork was 5c higher at $8.07½@8.10, May lard 2½c higher at $4.10 and May ribs 2½c higher at $4.17½.

The estimated receipts for Saturday are: Wheat, 10 cars; corn, 220 cars; oats, 220 cars; hogs, 24,000 head.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

Articles.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.	Yest'y.
*Wheat—					
Feb....	73⅝@⅞	73⅞	72⅞	73⅛	73⅞
May...	74⅝@¾	74⅞	73⅞	74⅛@¼	74⅜@¾
July...	71⅞@¾	72⅛@¼	71⅛	71⅛	72⅝@⅞
Sept...	70⅛	70⅛	69⅞	69⅞	70⅛
*Corn—					
Feb....	22⅝	22⅝@⅞	22⅛	22⅛@⅜	22⅜@⅞
May...	24¼	24⅜	23⅞	23⅞@24	24⅛@⅜
July...	25⅝	25⅝@⅞	24⅞@25	25	25⅝
Sept...	20⅝	20⅝@⅞	20⅛	20⅛	20⅝
*Oats—					
Feb....	15⅝	15⅝	15⅝	15⅝	15⅝
May...	17¼	17⅜	16⅞	16⅞@17	17¼
July...	18⅝	18⅝@¾	17⅞	17⅞@⅛	18⅝
Pork—					
May...	7 97½	8 10	7 95	8 10	8 02½
July...	8 15	8 22½	8 15	8 22½	8 15
Lard—					
May...	4 05	4 10	4 05	4 10	4 10
July...	4 17½	4 20	4 15	4 17½	4 17½
Sh't Ribs					
May...	4 15	4 20	4 07½	4 17½	4 15
July...	4 17½	4 27½	4 17½	4 27½	4 22½

* No. 2.

Cash quotations were as follows:

FLOUR—Steady; winter patents, $4.30@4.50; straights, $4.00@4.20; spring patents, $4.00@4.30; straights, $3.40@3.70; bakers, $3.00@3.40.

WHEAT—No. 2 spring, 73½c; No. 2 red, 83⅛@84½c.

CORN—No. 2, 22⅝@22¾c.

OATS—No. 2, 15½@15⅝c; No. 2 white, f. o. b., 19@21c; No. 3 white, f. o. b., 16@19½c.

RYE—No. 2, 32½c.

BARLEY—No. 2, nominal; No. 3, f. o. b., 23½@32c; No. 4, f. o. b., 22½@24c.

FLAXSEED—No. 1, 75@77½c.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, $2.65@2.70.

PROVISIONS—Mess pork, per bbl, $7.95@8.00. Lard, per 100 lbs., $4. Short ribs sides (loose), $3.95@4.25. Dry salted shoulders (boxed), $4.50@4.75. Short clear sides (boxed), $4.25@4.37½.

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

SUGARS—Cut loaf, $5.26; granulated, $4.64.

The following were the receipts and shipments today:

Articles.	Receipts.	Shipments.
Flour, bbls.....	5,000	6,000
Wheat, bu.....	12,000	22,000
Corn, bu.....	109,000	48,000
Oats, bu.....	253,000	247,000
Rye, bu.....	3,000	.....
Barley, bu.....	50,000	11,000

On the Produce exchange today the butter market was steady; creamery, 14@18c; dairy, 9@16c. Eggs, easy; fresh, 15c. Cheese, steady; 9½@10¼c. Dressed poultry, turkeys, 10@10½c; chickens, 6½@7½c; ducks, 10@11c.

NEW YORK GENERAL MARKET.

Quotations of the Day on General Commodities.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—FLOUR—Receipts, 12,000 bbls.; exports, 10,795 bbls.; influenced by the heaviness in wheat and ruled heavier on spring patents and winter wheat grades; winter extra, $3.15@3.30. Southern flour, active; sales, 1,000 bbls. Rye flour, quiet. Buckwheat flour, firm at $1.25.

BUCKWHEAT—Steadier at 35c.

CORN MEAL—Quiet; yellow western, 58c; Brandywine, $1.85@1.90.

RYE—Quiet; No. 2 western, 37½@38c.

BARLEY—Quiet at 26½@26½c.

BARLEY MALT—Quiet; western, 50@58c.

WHEAT—Receipts, 24,415 bu.; exports, 80,393 bu.; spot quiet; No. 1 hard, 87½c. Options opened weak, following lower cables, rallied sharply on bad crop news from the southwest, broke again in the late session under liquidation and disappointing cash demand, closing at ½@⅝c net decline; No. 2 red, May, 79⅞@80 7-16c, closed at 79⅞c.

CORN—Receipts, 129,675 bu.; exports, 91,669 bu.; spot steady; No. 2, 29c; steamer mixed, 27½c. Options opened easier owing to weak cables, rallied on covering, but again declined with wheat and closed ¼@⅜c net lower; May, 29 5-16@29⅞c, closed at 29⅜c.

OATS—Receipts, 94,800 bu.; exports, 207,664 bu.; spot dull; No. 2, 21½c. Options dull and easier, closing ⅛c net lower; May, 21⅝@21⅝c, closed at 21⅝c.

HAY—Dull; shipping, 50@55c; good to choice, 67½@72½c.

HOPS—Quiet; state, common to choice, 1895 crop, 5@7c; 1896 crop, 8@13c; Pacific coast, 1895 crop, 5@6c; 1896 crop, 9@12c.

HIDES—Steady; Galveston, 13c; Buenos Ayres, dry, nominal; Texas, dry, 16@19½c; California, 25½c.

LEATHER—Firm; hemlock sole, 19½@20½c.

BUTTER—Receipts, 4,619 pkgs.; steady; western creamery, 12@16c; Elgins, 18c; factory, 7@12c.

CHEESE—Receipts, 569 pkgs.; quiet; state, large, 9@12½c; state, small, 9@12½c; part skims, 5@9½c; full skims, 2@3½c.

EGGS—Receipts, 8,223 pkgs.; quiet; state and Pennsylvania, 21½c; western, 15c; southern, 16@18½c.

PROVISIONS—Beef, strong; family, $8.50@11.00; extra mess, $7.00@8.00; beef hams, $18.50@19.00; packet, $7.50@8.00. Cut meats, steady; pickled shoulders, 5.12½@5.25; hams, $8.50@9.00. Lard, firm; western steam, $4.25; refined, higher. Pork, firm; short clear, $8.50@10.00. Tallow, firm; city, 3¼c; country, 3⅜c.

OILS—Petroleum, quiet; United closed at 8c bid; Pennsylvania crude, steady; March, 85½c. Rosin, quiet. Turpentine, steady at 28⅝@29½c.

RICE—Steady; fair to extra, 3¼@4¼c; Japan, 4¼@4⅝c.

MOLASSES—Quiet; New Orleans, open kettle, good to choice, 23@31c.

METALS—Pig iron, steady. Copper, easy; brokers, $11.90; exchange, $12. Tin, easy; straits, $13.50@13.80; plates, dull. Spelter, dull; domestic, $4.00@4.10. Lead, steady; leading brokers name $3.95 as the figure, while the exchange reports $3.32½@3.37½.

OMAHA GENERAL MARKET.

Condition of Trade and Quotations on Staple and Fancy Produce.

EGGS—Fresh gathered, 11½c.

BUTTER—Common to fair, 9@10c; choice to fancy roll, 12@13c; separator creamery, 18c; gathered creamery, 16c.

GAME—Blue winged teal ducks, $1.75; green wing, $1.50; redheads and mallards, $3.75; small rabbits, 40@50c; jacks, $1.00@1.25; squirrels, 60@70c; Canada geese, large, $6.00@7.00; small, $4.00@5.00.

VEAL—Choice fat, 80 to 120 lbs., are quoted at 7@7½c; large and coarse, 4@5c.

DRESSED POULTRY—Chickens, 5@6c; turkeys, 10@11c; geese, 7@8c; ducks, 8@9c.

LIVE POULTRY—Hens, 5@5½c; cocks, 3@4c.

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

HAY—Upland, $4.50; midland, $3.50; lowland, $3; rye straw, $3.50; color makes the price on hay; heat 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., 2@2½c; choice green, running to hurl, 2@2½c; common, 1½c.

VEGETABLES.

PIE PLANT—Per doz., 60c.

SWEET POTATOES—Fancy Illinois, per bbl., $1.75.

ONIONS—Good stock, per bbl., $3.50.

LIMA BEANS—Per lb., 4c.

BEANS—Hand picked navy, per bu., $1.55@1.60.

CABBAGE—Fancy stock, per 100 lbs., $1.75@2.00.

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

POTATOES—Good native stock, per bu., 50c.

FRUITS.

MALAGA GRAPES—Per keg, $7.

CRANBERRIES—Best Jersey, per bbl., $5.

APPLES—Extra fancy, large, $2.25@2.50.

CALIFORNIA PEARS—Per box, $1.75.

TROPICAL FRUITS.

ORANGES—California navals, 150s to 200s, $3.75; large sizes, $3.25@3.50; seedling, $2.25@2.50.

LEMONS—Messinas, $3.00@3.50; choice California, $2.75; fancy, $3.

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

MISCELLANEOUS.

HONEY—Choice, 13@14c.

CIDER—Clarified juice, per half bbl., $2.50; per bbl., $4.00@4.2

MAPLE SYRUP—Five gal. cans, each, $2.50; gal. cans, pure, per doz., $12; half-gal. cans, $6.25; quart cans, $3.50.

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., 10c; pecans, polished, large, 9@10c; jumbo, 11@12c; large hickory nuts, $1.25 per bu.; cocoanuts, 4@c each.

FIGS—Imported fancy, 5 crown, 30-lb. boxes, 15c; choice, 10-lb. boxes, 3 crown, 11c.

HIDES, TALLOW, ETC.

HIDES—No. 1 green hides, 5½c; No. 2 green hides, 4½c; No. 1 green salted hides, 7c; No. 2 green salted hides, 6c; No. 1 veal calf, 8 to 15 lbs., 7c; No. 2 veal calf, 8 to 15 lbs., 6c; No. 1 dry flint hides, 9@10c; No. 2 dry flint hides, 6@7c; 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 spring skins), 20c; dry shearings (short wooled early skins), No. 1, each, 5c; dry flint, Kansas and Nebraska butcher wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 6@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, 2@4c; per cent 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, 2½c; grease, yellow, 2c; grease, dark, 1¾c; old butter, 2@2½c; beeswax, prime, 15@22c; rough tallow, 1c.

WOOL—Unwashed, fine heavy, 66@7c; fine light, 8@9c; quarterblood, 10@12c; seedy, burry and chaffy, 8@9c; cotted and broken, coarse, 7@9c; cotted and broken, fine, 66@8c. Fleece washed—medium, 15@18c; fine, 16@18c; tub washed, 19@18c; black, 8c; bucks, 6c; tag locks, 2@3c; dead pulled, 5@6c.

BONES—In car lots, weighed and delivered in Omaha, $8.50; 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.

DRESSED MEATS.

BEEF—Good native steers, 400 to 600 lbs., 6c; good forequarters steers, 5c; good hindquarters steers, 8½c; western steers, 6c; fancy heifers, 6c; good heifers, 5¾c; good forequarters heifers, 4½c; good hindquarters heifers, 7¼c; good cows, 5¼c; fair cows, 3½c; common cows, 4¾c; cow forequarters, 4½c; cow hindquarters, 7¼c; tenderloins, 20c; boneless strips, 8c; strip loins, 7c; rolls, 8½c; sirloin butts, 8½c; shoulders clods, 5½c; rump butts, 5c; steer chucks, 4½c; cow chucks, 3½c; boneless chucks, 4½c; cow plates, 3½c; steer plates, 4c; flank steak, 8c; loins, No. 1, 12½c; loins, No. 2, 10½c; loins, No. 3, 8½c; No. 1 short loins, 15c; No. 2 short loins, 13c; No. 3 short loins, 11c; Sirloin ends, 7½c; ribs, No. 1, 10½c; ribs, No. 2, 8½c; ribs, No. 3, 6½c; steer rounds, 6½c; cow rounds, 5¾c; cow rounds, shank off, 6½c; cow rounds, shank and rump off, 7c; trimmings, 2½c; beef shanks, 2c; brains, per doz., 35c; sweetbreads, per lb., 15c; sweetbreads (calves), per lb., 20c; kidneys, per doz., 35c; ox tails, each, 2c; livers, per lb., 3c; hearts, per lb., 3c; tongues, per lb., 12c.

MUTTON—Lambs, 7½c; yearlings, 7c; sheep, 6@6½c; market racks (long), 8½c; hotel racks, (short), 11c; legs and saddles, 8c; lamb fries, 5c; breasts and stews, 3c; tongues, each, 3c; plucks, each, 3c.

PORK—Dressed pigs, 5c; dressed hogs, 4½c; tenderloins, 15c; loins, 5½c; spare ribs, 2c; ham sausage butts, 5c; shoulders, rough, 4½c; shoulders, skinned, 4½c; trimmings, 4½c; leaf lard, not rendered, 5c; heads, cleaned, 2c; shouts and ears, 2c; backbones, 2½c; cheek meats, 3c; neckbones, 2½c; pigs' tails, 2c; pluck, each, 5c; chitterlings, 5c; hocks, 4c; hearts, per doz., 25c; stomachs, each, 3c; tongues, each, 8c; kidneys, per doz., 10c; brains, per doz., 15c; pigs' feet, per doz., 20c; livers, each, 3c.

St. Louis General Markets.

WHEAT—Opened strong in the speculative market, owing to numerous crop damage reports, and prices advanced rapidly. Later the market became quiet for a time, but was fluctuating within a wide range, closing unchanged to a shade higher for May, and fractionally lower for July. Most of the trading was in the latter portion. Spot, higher; No. 2 red, cash, in elevator, 88½c; on track, 89@90c; No. 2 hard, cash, 80c asked; May, 85c; July, 71⅝c. Corn was dull and easier, closing unchanged to a shade below yesterday; spot steady; No. 2 cash, 20½c bid; May, 21⅝@21¾c; July, 23c bid. OATS—Dull and a shade easier for futures; spot steady; No. 2 cash, 17c bid; May, 18c asked.

RYE—Firm; 32c bid, east track.

BARLEY—Dull; malting, 28@35c.

CORN MEAL—$1.35.

BRAN—Firm at 49@50c.

FLAXSEED—Firm at 74c.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, $2.60@2.65.

HAY—Unchanged; prairie, $4.00@4.50; timothy, $6.00@8.00.

DRESSED POULTRY—Chickens, steady; old and spring, 6c; turkeys, steady at 7½@9c; ducks, firm at 8@8½c; geese, dull at 5@6c.

BUTTER—Quiet and unchanged; creamery, 13@19½c; dairy, 8@15c.

EGGS—Steady at 13c.

WHISKY—$1.18.

METALS—Lead, strong at $2.10@2.15. Spelter, dull at $3.82½.

PROVISIONS—Pork, higher; standard mess, jobbing, $7.90@8.35. Lard, higher; prime steam, $3.92½; choice, $4. Bacon (boxed), shoulders, 4½@4¾; extra short clear, $4.75; ribs, $5; shorts, $5.12½. Dry salt meats (boxed), shoulders and extra short clear, $4.37½; ribs, $4.50; shorts, $4.75.

RECEIPTS—Flour, 5,000 bbls.; wheat, 13,000 bu.; corn, 126,000 bu.; oats, 45,000 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Flour, 5,000 bbls.; wheat, 9,000 bu.; corn, 73,000 bu.; oats, 26,000 bu.

Coffee Markets.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—COFFEE—Options opened steady and unchanged to 5 points decline, ruled dull all day; cables were unsatisfactory; closed quiet, unchanged to 10 points decline; sales, 5,250 bags, including: May, $9.20. Spot coffee, Rio, quiet; No. 7, invoice, 9.62½; No. 7, jobbing, $10.12½. Mild, quiet; Cordova, $15.50@18.75. Total warehouse deliveries from the United States, 20,677 bags, including 19,084 bags from New York; New York stock today, 256,906 bags; United States stock, 406,980 bags; afloat for the United States, 297,000 bags; total visible for the United States, 703,980 bags, against 461,174 bags last year.

HAVRE, Feb. 26.—COFFEE—Closed dull and unchanged; sales, 8,000 bags.

SANTOS, Feb. 26.—COFFEE—Quiet; good average Santos, 11,000 reis; receipts, two days, 18,000 bags; stock, 442,000 bags.

HAMBURG, Feb. 26.—COFFEE—Quiet and unchanged; sales, 10,000 bags.

RIO DE JANEIRO, Feb. 26.—COFFEE—Steady; No. 7, Rio, 10,400 reis; exchange, 8 17-32d; receipts, 8,000 bags; cleared for the United States, 1,000 bags; for Europe, 3,000 bags; stock, 245,000 bags.

Review of the Wool Market.

BOSTON, Feb. 26.—The Commercial Bulletin will say tomorrow of the wool market: "The market is much quieter, the smaller sales of domestic representing part speculation among dealers. The total sales were swollen by heavy transactions in South American crossbreds. These wools are 5c or 6c a scoured lb. less than medium wools, and are being sold in large blocks, from the stock on spot and to arrive, to the Riverside mills and other manufacturers of rough-faced fabrics. Over 2,000,000 lbs. of these wools were reported this week. The general selection is now limited, and prices are firm throughout the list. The sales of the week are 2,461,000 lbs. domestic and 3,416,500 lbs. foreign, against 3,595,600 lbs. domestic and 3,087,000 lbs. foreign last week, and 949,000 lbs. domestic and 799,000 lbs. foreign for the same week last year. The sales to date show an increase of 25,555,000 lbs. domestic and 11,596,500 lbs. foreign, from the sales to the same date last year. The receipts to date show an increase of 11,090 bales domestic and 3,433 bales foreign."

Kansas City Markets.

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 26.—WHEAT—Market fairly active and about steady. No. 2 hard, 71½@73c; No. 3, 70@70½c; No. 4, 66@68c; No. 2 red, 86@91c; No. 3, 83@85c; No. 4, 76@80c; No. 2 spring, 75@77c; No. 3, 72@73c.

CORN—Market rather slow and slightly lower; No. 2 mixed, 18⅝@19c.

OATS—Market slow and about steady; No. 2 white, 18@18c.

RYE—No. 2, 31c.

HAY—Market steady and unchanged; timothy, $5.50@9.00; prairie, $3.00@5.50.

BUTTER—Market steady; creamery, 16½@17½c; dairy, 10@12c.

EGGS—Market weak and ½c lower, 11c.

Toledo Markets.

TOLEDO, Feb. 26.—WHEAT—Lower and steady. No. 2 cash, 86⅝c; May, 87⅝c.

CORN—Dull and lower; No. 2 mixed, 22½c.

OATS—Dull and steady; No. 2 mixed, 17½c.

RYE—Easier; cash, 36c.

CLOVER SEED—Dull; prime cash, $4.75. OIL—Unchanged.

NOT COMING WITH A RUSH

Prosperity Does Not Make Its Appearance with Rapid Strides.

IMPROVEMENT IN BUSINESS IS STEADY

Gradual and Moderate Gain Noted in Nearly All Lines—Opening of Rail Mills Gives Many Men Employment.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade tomorrow will say:

Genuine improvement in business does not come with a rush, like the breaking of a great dam. The growth for some weeks past has been more encouraging, because, in nearly all lines, it has been gradual and moderate. The rupture of the steel rail and other combinations in the iron business has brought out a vast quantity of trade, which has been held back, and has set many thousand men at work, while the slow, but steady gain in other great industries has given employment to many thousands more, but the full effects will not appear until increased purchases by all these swell the distribution of goods. Meanwhile, it is substantial ground for confidence that months which were regarded by many in the money market with serious apprehension have passed without disturbances, and with steady gain in the position of the country and of the treasury.

The breaking of bonds which have restricted many branches of the iron industry has been followed by an enormous increase in demand and in orders booked and by the starting of many works. Nothing is settled yet about the price of Lake Erie for the coming season, but some expect for Mesaba the price of 1895, while others expect a lower price. The rapid increase in the coke output in the Connellsville region, which is now over 100,000 tons, gives prospect of moderate cost for fuel, and the addition of important furnaces to the producing capacity prevents a large rise in Bessemer pig, which had, nevertheless, advanced 10c at Pittsburg, with increasing demand. Purchases of rails, estimated at 1,000,000 tons within two weeks, whereas the production last year was 1,102,892 tons and the sales in 1895 to be only 800,000 tons, ensure employment for the works far ahead, and eastern works are taking desirable contracts at $18 per ton. Bars are unchanged, but orders for 900 cars by one railway, with numerous others, increase the demand, and plates are required for two great elevators at Chicago. Important contracts for export continue, and American makers undersell foreigners in tinplate by 20c, and are selling cotton ties below 50c, for which $1.10 was charged by importers a year ago.

With less rapidity, but yet steadily, other industries are gaining. Although brown four-yard sheetings are ⅛c lower and print cloths 1-16c lower, it is found that several cotton mills have started, not covered by the restriction as to print cloth works, which is carried out. Increasing demand has also started quite a number of woolen mills, including many making dress goods and hosiery. The demand for men's woolens is also somewhat better, especially for heavy weights, and there are improving sales of better quantities. Sales of wool have been 28,317,200 pounds in four weeks, against 22,966,800 pounds in the largest previous month, 1892, and 19,000,000 pounds in estimates. The improvement in the great establishments are believed to have supplied their possible wants for some months ahead, a single purchase of 1,300,000 pounds of South American crossbred being the most important noted this week.

Wheat enjoyed a brief rise, then dropped over 3c, and closed 2⅝c lower for the week. While western receipts are 40 per cent smaller than last year for the past four weeks, Atlantic exports have included in the same weeks have been 51,240,150 bushels, against 7,043,575 bushels last year, and the exports of corn have been 2,435,552 bushels, against 4,195,282 bushels last year. The increase in corn more than makes up in foreign consumption for the decrease in wheat.

Cotton rose 2-16c, though without material change in movement. Better reports of manufacturing in England and stirring of some mills here give hopes of better demand.

Failures for the week have been 296 in the United States, against 278 last week, and fifty in Canada, against fifty-eight last year.

WEEKLY CLEARING HOUSE TOTALS.

Aggregate of Business Transactions of the Associated Banks.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—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.	Amount.	Inc.	Dec.
New York.....	$ 427,670,890	.....	19.5
Chicago	65,582,444	.....	10.6
Boston	76,526,054	.....	5.3
Philadelphia	49,555,901	.....	11.4
St. Louis.....	25,409,303	28.9	.....
San Francisco	8,345,913	.....	23.6
Baltimore	11,136,252	.....	4.3
Pittsburg	12,973,997	.....	7.2
Cincinnati	9,589,050	.....	4.7
Kansas City.....	8,175,656	.....	3.5
New Orleans.....	3,825,427	.....	16.7
Buffalo	3,555,347	.....	9.4
Milwaukee	1,894,955	.....	8.2
Detroit	4,530,874	.....	2.2
Louisville	4,706,513	1.9	.....
Minneapolis	4,387,637	.....	11.2
OMAHA.....	4,176,758	17.4	.....
Providence	4,364,600	.....	14.9
Cleveland	4,516,873	.....	19.6
Houston	4,782,686	.....	7.2
St. Paul	2,528,926	.....	24.3
Denver	1,941,546	.....	11.0
Indianapolis	2,780,260	.....	9.7
Columbus, O.....	3,321,300	13.2	.....
Hartford	1,934,613	.....	3.9
Richmond	1,764,836	6.0	.....
Washington	1,482,342	.....	11.3
Salt Lake.....	934,502	.....	10.4
Dallas	2,870,853	2.5	.....
St. Joseph.....	1,031,231	2.8	.....
Peoria	3,371,165	.....	30.4
Memphis	1,723,496	.....	1.4
Portland, Ore.....	1,185,682	.....	7.2
Rochester	1,153,187	.....	16.0
New Haven.....	1,194,427	.....	4.9
Savannah	1,850,864	.....	16.3
Springfield	989,022	.....	16.5
Worcester	1,070,397	.....	11.5
Portland, Me.....	1,023,461	.....	.....
Atlanta	1,117,347	.....	1.6
Fort Worth.....	1,097,335	.....	25.8
Waco	1,116,963	25.6	.....
Syracuse	936,123	.....	5.8
Des Moines.....	815,777	.....	6.9
Grand Rapids.....	815,771	.....	16.8
Seattle	677,668	.....	2.0
Lowell	565,857	.....	.....
Wilmington, Del.....	541,968	1.4	.....
Norfolk	848,136	13.2	.....
Sioux City.....	468,942	7.1	.....
Los Angeles.....	770,820	.....	21.7
Tacoma	852,445	.....	40.2
Scranton	718,464	9.6	.....
Spokane	418,808	21.6	.....
Jacksonville	194,807	.....	22.4
Lincoln	211,883	.....	23.5
New Bedford.....	257,940	19.3	.....
Wichita	370,617	4.5	.....
Birmingham	345,984	.....	30.1
Topeka	331,820	.....	20.9
Lexington, Ky.....	223,696	.....	3.8
Binghampton	205,700	.....	8.3
Toledo	1,127,542	.....	.....
Bay City, Mich.....	184,432	.....	34.2
Fall River.....	855,859	25.0	.....
Akron, O.....	221,100	.....	4.7
Springfield, O.....	214,217	2.9	.....
Canton, O.....	149,700	12.9	.....
Sioux Falls.....	32,397	.....	32.9
Fremont, Neb.....	58,993	1.7	.....
Hastings, Neb.....	84,061	44.8	.....
Chattanooga	214,478	.....	11.9
Fargo	81,823	.....	25.0
Nashville	760,821	.....	13.8
Galveston	4,178,900	21.5	.....
Augusta	690,280	8.6	.....
Dayton	488,220	.....	9.0
Knoxville	292,322	4.5	.....
Kalamazoo	206,163	.....	14.5
Rockford	215,215	15.2	.....
Davenport	443,254	.....	.....
Totals United States...	$ 783,420,055	.....	13.4
Exclusive of New York..	355,789,195	.....	7.9
DOMINION OF CANADA.			
Montreal	$ 8,881,273	5.4	.....
Toronto	5,899,671	.....	16.5
Halifax	856,855	.....	3.1
Hamilton	562,662	.....	7.8
Winnipeg	1,059,271	6.7	.....
St. Johns, N. B.....	430,364	.....	.....
Totals	$ 17,259,462	.....	3.9

BRADSTREET'S WEEKLY REVIEW.

Few Cities Report Change in Volume or Temper of Trade.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Bradstreet's tomorrow will say:

The placing of orders for nearly 1,500,000 tons of steel within the past three weeks is the most important influence for improvement in general trade since the November election. The contracts for steel rails, taken since the break in the price, together with expenditures necessary to lay these rails, means the placing in circulation of no less than $25,000,000. The amount of sales of rails for export has been exaggerated, as orders placed abroad were due to English mills being temporarily engaged on other forms of steel. The rush for rails appears to be about over, and the outlook is for higher prices. Consumption of Bessemer pig iron is in excess of production, and wire and wire nail mills are running full time. Many woolen mills in New England have started up. Manufacturers are buying in expectation of a duty being placed on raw wool. The recent improvement in cotton goods is maintained.

At most cities there has been no change in the volume and temper of trade. Demand has been quiet, and while expectations favor an early improvement, progress thus far has been somewhat disappointing. The most marked gains are at Chicago and St. Louis, where visiting merchants have made relatively heavy purchases of dry goods, clothing and groceries. Jobbers at Cleveland, Cincinnati, Milwaukee and Louisville in some instances regard the outlook as more favorable. Unfavorable weather on the South Atlantic coast and at the northwest has interrupted business and reports from Galveston and Nashville are that the movement of merchandise has been disappointing.

Exports of wheat (flour included as wheat) from both coasts of the United States this week (one holiday) and from St. John, N. B., have fallen off sharply, the total amounting to 1,372,216 bu., the smallest total since the last week in April, 1896, compared with 2,120,000 bu. last week, 2,296,000 bu. in the last week of February, 1896; 2,889,000 bu. in the corresponding week of 1895; 2,972,000 bu. in the like week of 1894, and as contrasted with 3,251,000 bu. in a similar period of 1893. Exports of corn amounted to 4,674,600 bu. this week, compared with 4,441,000 bu. last week, 3,158,000 bu. in the like week last year, 847,000 bu. two years ago, 1,227,000 bu. three years ago, and as contrasted with 1,076,000 bu. in the like week of 1893.

There are 258 business failures reported this week, compared with 275 last week, 271 in the week one year ago, 234 in the last week of February, 1895; 272 in the corresponding week in 1894, and as contrasted with 237 in the like week of 1893. There are 50 failures reported from the Dominion of Canada, against 58 last week, 51 in the week a year ago, 44 two years ago, and as compared with 39 in the like week of 1894.

WALL STREET TRADE REVIEWED.

Bradstreet Sizes Up Events of the Week on the Stock Exchange.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Bradstreet's Financial Review tomorrow will say:

Transactions on the stock exchange this week were absolutely professional, and the market has been more than usually irregular in its tendencies. Large financial interests are inclined to wait upon events, while the factors which influenced the smaller traders were of an uncertain and changeable character. The principal items were the Cretan question and its relation to European money and security markets, and the revival of the Cuban discussion in Washington. As to the first of these, the earliest developments indicated that the powers would probably interfere between Greece and Turkey and thus prevent a breach of the peace. This checked anything like a panic in the London and continental markets, but the later information concerning the lack of a definite program on the part of the powers, and the recalcitrant attitude of Greece, seems to be a wet blanket on the entire European financial situation. London's influence has, consequently, been a negative one. At home the discussion of the Cuban situation in the senate, and the rumors concerning the attitude of the American consul general at Havana, General Lee, together with the newspaper comments and rumors on the subject, were used with bearish effect, even if the street on the whole displayed less susceptibility to such disturbing influences. This, however, may be accounted for in a large degree by appreciation of the fact that the advent of a new administration and the expiration of the old congress in a few days limits the probability of any serious action in the premises. It may be also mentioned that the certainty of an extra session of congress immediately after March 4, at which revenue legislation will be agitated, has a tendency to limit the disposition to do anything, and it is sentimentally, at least, a bear factor.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

General Activity Returns and Market Advances All Along the Line.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—In the last hour and a half of trading today, the Stock exchange threw off the lethargy that has been its characteristic for many days past, and showed marked evidence of a lively activity, in which the volume of trade was large and the prices advanced sharply throughout the list. The pardon by Spain of Julio Sanguilly, the American citizen confined in Cuba, and the consequent practical abandonment by the United States senate of its