COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

Fear of War Gives Wheat a Boost of Another Cent at Chicago.

MARKET RULES STRONG ALL THE DAY

Corn and Oats Each Make a Half Cent Advance on Similar News and Provisions Makes a Substantial Gain.

CHICAGO, March 5.—The advance of 1c per bu. in wheat today was entirely due to the increasing possibility of war in Europe. The market was strong all day, practically all the bear circumstances being a lack of shipping demand. All the other markets were affected to a greater or less degree, corn advancing ½c, oats ½c and provisions 5@12½c.

Bulls in wheat had all kinds of news to encourage them at the opening. The first cables from Liverpool showed an advance of ⅝@¾d and British consols were lower, the action in these cases being, of course, due to the further complications over Crete. These indications of increased uneasiness abroad obscured every matter of routine news at the opening. The next most important piece of intelligence was the prediction sent out by the signal service office that the rainy weather of today would be succeeded tonight by a cold wave, which was already en route. May was wanted at 76⅛@76½c, as compared with yesterday's closing price of 75½@75⅝c, and immediately advanced to 76⅝c. Then the only important reaction of the day occurred. The later Liverpool cables reported from ½@¾d reaction from the opening price of futures. New York wired that only a few loads of last night's offers by cable had been accepted, although in the course of the forenoon the number was said to have been fifteen carloads. The figures of the movement for the last twenty-four hours gave no encouragement to buyers. Minneapolis and Duluth received 298 cars, compared with 130 a week ago and 331 the same day of the year before. Chicago receipts were very small, the number of cars inspected being only sixteen, compared with forty-six a year ago. Atlantic port exports of wheat and flour equaled 350,000 bu. Estimates upon the decrease in the visible for the week were close around 1,000,000 bu. The price of May gradually worked down to 75⅝c, reaching that point shortly before 12 o'clock. Closing cables had in the meantime been received, which gave spot wheat at Liverpool 1½d higher for the day and the war fever broke out afresh. Disquieting news poured in from the east, many of the foreign houses advising that war was imminent and bears who had the temerity to hold out during the early bulge fled to cover, the price rising to the highest of the day, 76⅝c. It was in demand at that price at the close.

Corn developed into a decidedly large market. The burning of the big Peoria elevator compelled a good deal of sledging, although the European situation was at the bottom of the strength. There was only one weak spot, realizing shortly after the opening causing a reaction, but prices at no time got to yesterday's level. Exports were 579,000 bu. May opened 1c higher at 24¼c, sold between 24⅛@24⅜c and 24⅝c, closing firm at the top.

In oats, except for a surprise of easiness which existed for a few minutes directly after the start, the feeling was strong during the entire session. Sympathy with wheat and corn was the conductor of the better feeling. Shorts covered generally, there being considerable buying against the Peoria fire loss. May opened ⅛c higher at 17¼c, sold a shade lower and advanced to 17⅛@17⅝c, where it closed.

There was an active trade in provisions and a strong market, small hog receipts and war news resulted in a good opening advance, but offerings were sufficient to cause a reaction. The demand became very heavy later in the day, the Cudahys being especially large buyers, and prices advanced again, closing strong at the top. At the close May pork was 12½c higher at $8.35, May lard 5c higher at $4.20 and May ribs 7½c higher at $4.37½.

The estimated receipts for Saturday are: Wheat, 17 cars; corn, 295 cars; oats, 250 cars; hogs, 25,000 head.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

Articles.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.	Yest'y
*Wheat—					
March.	75¼@⅜	75⅝	74⅝	75⅝	74⅞
May	76⅛@⅜	76⅝	75⅞	76⅝	75½@¾
July	73⅝@¾	73⅞	72⅝	73⅞	72⅝@¾
Sept	71⅝	72	71⅝	72	71
*Corn—					
March.	.....	.....	.....	23⅛	23
May	24¼	24⅝	24⅛@¼	24⅝	24@⅛
July	25⅛	25⅝	25⅛@¼	25⅝	25⅛
Sept	26⅝@⅞	27⅛	26⅝	27⅛	26⅛
*Oats—					
March.	.....	.....	.....	16	15⅝
May	17⅛	17⅛@⅜	17⅛@⅜	17⅛@⅜	17⅛
July	18¼	18⅜	18¼	18⅜	18⅛
Pork—					
May	8 25	8 35	8 22½	8 35	8 22½
July	8 42½	8 45	8 35	8 45	8 32½
Lard—					
May	4 20	4 22½	4 17½	4 20	4 15
July	4 27½	4 30	4 25	4 30	4 25
Sh't Ribs					
May	4 32½	4 40	4 32½	4 37½	4 30
July	4 42½	4 50	4 42½	4 47½	4 40

* No. 2.

Cash quotations were as follows:

FLOUR—Firm: winter patents, $3.40@4.50, straights, $4.00@4.20; spring specials, $4.40; spring patents, $4.00@4.20; straights, $3.40@3.70; bakers, $3.00@3.40.

WHEAT—No. 2 spring, 75⅝c; No. 3 spring, 72@73c; No. 2 red, 85⅝@86⅝c.

CORN—No. 2, 24@24½c.

OATS—No. 2, 16⅝@16¾c; No. 2 white, 19@20½c; No. 3 white, 16⅝@17c.

RYE—No. 2, 34½c.

BARLEY—No. 2 nominal; No. 3, f. o. b., 25@30c; No. 4, f. o. b., 22½@24c.

FLAXSEED—78@79½c.

TIMOTHY SEED—$2.75.

PROVISIONS—Mess pork, per bbl., $8.25@8.30. Lard, per 100 lbs., $4.19@4.20. Short ribs sides (loose), $4.20@4.50. Dry salted shoulders (boxed), $4.56@4.75; short clear sides (boxed), $4.50@4.62½.

WHISKY—Distillers' finished goods, per gal., $1.17.

SUGAR—Cut loaf, unchanged.

The following were the receipts and shipments today:

Articles.	Receipts.	Shipments.
Flour, bbls	6,000	8,000
Wheat, bu	11,000	39,000
Corn, bu	258,000	131,000
Oats, bu	330,000	245,000
Rye, bu	3,000	500
Barley, bu	25,000	19,000

On the Produce exchange today the butter market was steady: creamery, 10@18c; dairy, 9@16c. Eggs, steady; fresh, 10½c. Cheese, steady; 8½@10½c. Dressed poultry, steady; turkeys, 11@11½c; chickens, 6½@7½c; ducks, 10@11c.

NEW YORK GENERAL MARKET.

Quotations of the Day on General Commodities.

NEW YORK, March 5.—FLOUR—Receipts, 16,288 bbls.; exports, 22,560 bbls.; quiet but firm, with wheat and held at 5@10c higher; winter patents, $2.40; Minnesota patents, $4.25@4.50; Minnesota bakers, $3.50@3.95; winter low grades, $2.60@2.80. Southern flour, steady. Rye flour, steady. Buckwheat flour, dull.

BUCKWHEAT—Steady, 35c.

CORN MEAL—Steady; yellow western, 57c.

RYE—Firm; No. 2 western, 38c.

BARLEY—Quiet at 26½c.

BARLEY MALT—Quiet; western, 45@63c.

WHEAT—Receipts, 4,285 bu. Spot, stronger; No. 1 hard, 92½c. Options opened stronger on higher cables and lower consols, eased off at noon under realizing, inspired by easier late cables, but fully recovered near the close on renewed war news, and closed 1⅛@1⅜c net higher; March closed at 83⅞c; May, 81½@82⅞c, closed at 82⅝c.

CORN—Receipts, 81,900 bu.; exports, 58,518 bu. Spot, quiet and firmer; No. 2, 21½c. Options opened firm and advanced, influenced by the wet weather and the rise in wheat, closing ⅜c net higher; March closed at 20½c; May 20⅝@20⅞c, closed at 20c.

OATS—Receipts, 78,000 bu.; exports, 36,088 bu. Spot, stronger; No. 2, 17½c; western, 21@22½c. Options dull, but steady; closing ¼c higher; May closed at 17⅞c.

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

HOPS—Easy; 1895 crop, 4@6c; 1896 crop, 8@12½c; Pacific coast, 1895 crop, 4@6c; 1896 crop, 8@13c.

HIDES—Firm; California, 21 to 25 lbs., 26c; Galveston, 23c; Buenos Ayres, dry, nominal; Texas, dry, 19½c.

LEATHER—Firm; hemlock sole, 19½@20½c.

BUTTER—Receipts, 3,552 pkgs.; market steady; western creamery, 10@18c; 12@18c, 19c; factory, 7@12c.

CHEESE—Receipts, 778 pkgs.; market steady; state, large, 9@12½c; state, small, 9@12½c; part skims, 5½@9c; full skims, 1@1½c.

EGGS—Receipts, 11,210 pkgs.; market firm; state and Pennsylvania, 13@13½c; western, 11½@12½c; southern, 12@12½c.

PROVISIONS—Beef, firm; family, $9.00@11.00; extra mess, $7.50@8.00. Cut meats, firm; pickled hams, $8.75@9.25. Lard, firm; western steam, $4.37½; refined, firm. Pork, firm; mess, $8.50@9.00; new mess, short clear, $8.75@10.25; family, $9.50@10.25. Tallow, steady.

OILS—Cottonseed, firm; prime crude, 20@20½c; prime yellow, 23½@24c. Petroleum, nominal; United closed, no price given; Pennsylvania, crude, steady; April, 91c bid. Rosin, quiet; strained to good, $1.70. Turpentine, steady, 29@30½c.

RICE—Steady; fair to extra, 4@4¼c; Japan, 4¼@4½c.

MOLASSES—Quiet; New Orleans, 22@30c.

METALS—Pig iron, dull; southern, $10.25@12.00; northern $10.50@12.50. Copper, steady; brokers, $11.85; exchange, $11.90@12.00. Tin, easy; straits, $13.60@13.50; plates, dull. Spelter, steady; domestic, $4.10@4.15. Lead, strong; brokers quote $3.05, while the metal exchange reports spot quotations at $3.40@3.45, and reports four cars March at $3.40 and four cars April at $3.42½.

Cotton Markets.

NEW YORK, March 5.—COTTON—Spot, steady; middling, 7 5-16c; middling, uplands, 7 5-16c; middling, gulf, 7 7-16c; sales, 269 bales. Futures, firm; sales, 150,200 bales; January, $6.78; March, $6.91; April, $6.94; May, $7; June, $7.04; July, $7.09; August, $7.10; September, $6.76; October, $6.76; November, $6.68; December, $6.73. The market opened steady, with prices 1 to 7 points lower in sympathy with easier advices from Liverpool. Private advices ascribe the Liverpool decline to the talk of war in Europe. Later favorable cables steadied the market. Trading in the first quarter of an hour was active, but with the execution of these orders, materially fell off and became quiet. European houses sold for months lightly, while the swing of near positions was almost entirely local. At 11 o'clock the market was steady at a net loss of 3 to 4 points, with sales of 45,000 bales.

NEW ORLEANS, March 5.—COTTON—Steady; middling, 7c; low middling, 6 9-16c; good ordinary, 6 5-16c.

ST. LOUIS, March 5.—COTTON—Quiet and unchanged; middling, 7 1-16c.

OMAHA GENERAL MARKET.

Condition of Trade and Quotations on Staple and Fancy Produce.

EGGS—Fresh gathered, 10c.

BUTTER—Common to fair, 7½@8c; choice to fancy roll, 10@12c; separator creamery, 18c; gathered creamery, 14c.

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, 6@6½c; turkeys, hens, 10@11c; gobs, 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; 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., 2@2½c; choice green, running to hurl, 2@2½c; common, 1½c.

VEGETABLES.

PIE PLANT—Per doz., 60c.

SWEET POTATOES—Fancy Illinois, per bbl., $1.50@1.75.

ONIONS—Good stock, per bbl., $3.00.

LIMA BEANS—Per lb., 4c.

BEANS—Hand picked navy, per bu., $1.10@1.20.

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

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

POTATOES—Good native stock, per bu., 30c.

FRUITS.

MALAGA GRAPES—Per keg, $7.

CRANBERRIES—Best Jersey, per bbl., $5.00; boxes, $1.40@1.50.

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; seedlings, $2.25@2.50.

LEMONS—Messinas, $3.25@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.

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.; cocoanuts, 4½c each.

FIGS—Imported fancy 4 crown, 20-lb. boxes, 12c; 5 crown, 50-lb. boxes, 14@15c.

HONEY—Choice, 13@14c.

CIDER—Clarified juice, per half bbl., $2.50; per bbl., $4@4.2.

MAPLE SYRUP—Five gal. cans, each, $2.50; gal. cans, pure, per doz., $12; half-gal. cans, $9.25; quart cans, $3.50.

HIDES, TALLOW, ETC.

HIDES—No. 1 green hides, 6c; No. 2 green hides, 5c; No. 1 green salted hides, 7½c; No. 2 green salted hides, 6½c; 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, 6@8c; 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, 2@4c; feed cut off, as it is useless to pay freight on them.

TALLOW AND GREASE—Tallow, No. 1, 2¾c; tallow, No. 2, 2c; grease, white A, 2c; grease, white B, 2c; grease, yellow, 2c; grease, dark, 1½c; oil 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 cotty, 6@8c; cotted and broken, coarse, 7@9c; cotted and broken, fine, 6@8c. Fleece washed—medium, 15@18c; fine, 14@16c; tub washed, 16@18c; black, 8c; bucks, 6c; tag locks, 2@3c; dead pelts, 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.

St. Louis General Markets.

ST. LOUIS, March 5.—FLOUR—Unchanged.

WHEAT—Opened strong and higher and for a time the speculative market was active, but later the life all died out of the trading. Heavy receipts and a falling off in the speculative demand caused the depression, which did not last long. Futures soon became strong and advanced, closing a full cent above yesterday. Spot, higher; No. 2 red, cash, elevator, 92@92½c; track, 92@94c; No. 2 hard cash, 79½c; May, 88⅛c bid; July, 73⅝c.

CORN—Futures, dull early, with but little speculative demand. Later the market firmed up and closed fractionally above yesterday; spot, firm; No. 2 cash, 20¾c; May, 22¼c; July, 23⅝c; September, 24½c.

OATS—Dull, with light receipts and no speculation; No. 2 cash, 23½c bid; May, 18⅝@18½c.

RYE—Held at 34c.

BARLEY—Dull; malting, 28@35c.

CORNMEAL—$1.35.

BRAN—Firm; sacked, east side, worth nominally, 52@54c.

HAY—Dull and unchanged.

FLAXSEED—Higher at 75⅝c.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, $2.60@2.65.

BUTTER—Firm; creamery, 16@19½c; dairy, 11@15c.

DRESSED POULTRY—Market higher; chickens, firm; old, 7@7½c; spring, 7@7½c; turkeys, 10c; ducks, steady at 8@8½c; geese, 35@4c.

EGGS—Higher at 10c.

WHISKY—$1.18.

METALS—Lead, strong at $3.15@3.20; spelter, firm at $2.90.

PROVISIONS—Pork, higher; standard mess, jobbing, $8.15@8.60. Lard, higher; prime steam, $4.02½; choice, $4.10. Bacon (boxed), shoulders, $4.75; extra short clear, $5; ribs, $5.25; shorts, $5.37½. Dry salt meats (boxed), shoulders, $4.62½; extra short clear, $4.62½; ribs, $4.75; shorts, $4.87½.

COTTON TIES—Unchanged.

BAGGING—Unchanged.

RECEIPTS—Flour, 3,000 bbls.; wheat, 13,000 bu.; corn, 68,000 bu.; oats, 21,000 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Flour, 4,000 bbls.; wheat, 24,000 bu.; corn, 113,000 bu.; oats, 21,000 bu.

Liverpool Grain and Provisions.

LIVERPOOL, March 5.—4:15 p. m.—WHEAT—Spot, steady; demand moderate. No. 2 red spring, 6s 4d; No. 1 California, 6s 7d. Futures opened steady with near positions at 1½d higher, and distant positions 1¼d higher; closed steady with March 1⅜d higher and other months ¾d higher. Business equally distributed; March, 6s 3¾d; May, 6s 5d; July, 6s 5d.

CORN—Spot, steady; American mixed, new, 2s 6d. Futures opened steady with near and distant positions ½d higher; closed firm with April ¾d higher and other months ½d higher. Business about equally distributed; March, 2s 6⅛d; April, 2s 7½d; May, 2s 8¼d; June, 2s 8½d; July, 2s 9½d.

FLOUR—Quiet; demand poor; St. Louis fancy winter, 8s 6d.

BACON—Heavy, weak; demand poor; Cumberland cut, 28 to 30 lbs., 27s 6d; short ribs, 20 to 24 lbs., 26s; long clear light, 35 to 38 lbs., 25s 6d; long clear heavy, 40 to 45 lbs., 24s 6d; short clear backs, light, 18 lbs., 24s 6d; short clear middles, heavy, 45 to 50 lbs., 24s 6d; clear bellies, 14 to 16 lbs., 26s. Shoulders, square, 32 to 18 lbs., 24s 6d. Hams, short cut, 14 to 16 lbs., 40s 6d. Tallow, fine North American, 11s 6d. Beef, extra India mess, 58s 9d; prime mess, 48s 9d. Pork, prime mess, finest western, 45s; medium western, 40s. Lard, steady; prime western, 21s; refined, in pails 22s.

CHEESE—Dull; demand poor; finest American, white and colored, September, 57s 6d.

BUTTER—Finest United States, 90s; good, 55s.

OILS—Linseed, 15s 6d; petroleum, refined, 5½d.

REFRIGERATOR BEEF—Forequarters, 3¾d; hindquarters, 5¾d.

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

The receipts during the past three days were 125,000 centals wheat, including 24,000 American; corn, 290,400 centals.

Weather fine.

Coffee Markets.

NEW YORK, March 5.—COFFEE—Options opened steady and unchanged to 5 points decline under disappointing European cables, later advanced 5 points on improvement in cables, but eased off again under lack of outside support and closed steady at 3 to 5 points net decline. Sales, 11,500 bags, including March, $8.95; May, $8.90@8.95. Spot Rio, dull; No. 7, 9¾c invoice and 10½c jobbing. Afloat offered at 9.37½. Mild, steady; Cordova, 11.50@16.75. Sales, 1,550 bags Caracas, 100 bags Central American, p. t.; 100 Savanilla, p. t.; 11,000 Rio No. 7, afloat, $9.50; 1,000 bags Rio, 7 to 8, shipped, $9.50. Total warehouse deliveries from United States, 8,186 bags, including 5,659 bags from New York; New York stock today, 265,449 bags; United States stock, 235,997 bags; afloat for United States, 402,000 bags total visible for the United States, 637,997 bags, against 466,742 bags last year.

HAMBURG, March 5.—COFFEE—¼ pfg. lower, sales, 5,000 bags.

HAVRE, March 5.—COFFEE—Firm and unchanged to ¼f net decline; sales, 55,000 bags.

SANTOS, March 5.—COFFEE—Quiet; good average Santos, 11,000 reis; receipts, 19,000 bags; stocks, 1,000,000 bags.

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 5.—COFFEE—No. 7, Rio, 10,350 reis; exchange, 5 7-16d; receipts, 17,000 bags; cleared for the United States, 6,000 bags; stock, 272,000 bags.

Peoria Markets.

PEORIA, March 5.—CORN—Firm and higher; new No. 2, 20½c.

OATS—Firm; No. 2, white, 19c.

WHISKY—Steady at $1.17.

RECEIPTS—Corn, 76,000 bus.; oats, 17,000 bus.; wheat, 5,000 bus.

SHIPMENTS—Corn, 59,000 bus.; oats, 46,000 bus.; whisky, 750 bbls.; wheat, 8,000 bus.

Sugar Markets.

LONDON, March 5.—SUGAR—Cane, quiet; little demand; centrifugal, Java, 11s; Muscovado, fair refining, 9s. Beet, quiet; prices barely maintained; March, 9s 9¼d.

NEW YORK, March 5.—SUGAR—Raw, steady; fair refining, 2⅝c; centrifugal, 3⅛@3 1-16c. Refined, quiet; powdered, 4½c; granulated, 4⅛c.

IMPROVEMENT IS GRADUAL

Continued During the Week and Without Material Check.

BETTER DEMAND FOR MOST PRODUCTS

Reports of Probable Need Abroad Help Speculation in Wheat, Which Has Risen Three Cents—Corn a Cent Stronger.

NEW YORK, March 5.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Review of Trade tomorrow will say:

The slow and gradual improvement observed for some time has continued during the past week, and without material check. There is a better demand for most products, on the whole, with continuance of speculative buying in some, notably in wool, because of expected duties.

Reports of probable need abroad have helped speculation in wheat somewhat. It has risen about 3 cents, though the price is still lower than two weeks ago. Corn is a cent stronger, about the price of two weeks ago. Western receipts of wheat are still small, 1,529,821 bushels, against 2,201,633 bushels last year, and the Atlantic exports (flour included) were for the week 1,232,412 bushels, against 1,541,135 last year, but the corn exports continue so heavy as to compensate largely, if not wholly, for any decrease in wheat, amounting in the week to 2,759,754 bushels (gulf ports not included) against 1,164,290 last year, reckoning half a bushel of corn for one bushel of wheat. The grain supply of other countries continues much larger than a year ago. Cotton has declined ⅛c, and with good reason, for although receipts from plantations fall off, the decrease is not greater than the decrease in consumption owing to stoppage of mills. As there is comparatively little cotton available in the country, the market is very convenient for speculators to manipulate. While many of the mills have stopped production of cotton goods for a time, the recent outlook is on the whole unchanged and the demand for goods does not improve, while print cloths are a shade lower. The mills accumulated stocks far in excess of the actual demand during most of the dullness and their enforced restriction at this time is merely paying a debt. The demand for wool has diminished, though only a little, and sales are quiet, a third more than the full consumption of all mills, if all were at work, but the speculative trading continues, and at the three chief markets in five weeks has covered 46,216,700 pounds, against 28,677,400 in the same weeks of 1892.

Western holders are too stiff for eastern purchasers and the buying of domestic wool has slackened. Although some more mills have gone into operation, the course of the market has not favored great activity, but it has shown that for goods of the higher class there is a better demand than heretofore.

While the demand for Bessemer pig has sustained the recent advance to $10.75 per ton at Pittsburg and gray forge is still quoted at $9.40 there, and there is also less cutting of prices to get more business in finished products, the general range of prices still continues very low. There is less evidence of eastern mills selling rails below $29 except for export, sales of that character having been made at $18. Western makers are said to be firm at $21 per ton, but the demands of the most important railways have been supplied for the present, the consumers of billets are not in the market just now, but with the somewhat larger product of pig iron, it may be doubted whether, outside of rails, the demand for finished products equals the capacity of the works.

Failures show but slight increase over those of 1896 or 1895, and but little decrease compared with 1894. The feature of special interest is the conservatism in trading indicated by the liabilities of trading failures in nearly every branch of business, contrasted with the slight increase of liabilities of manufacturing failures.

WEEKLY CLEARING HOUSE TOTALS.

Aggregate of Business Transactions of the Associated Banks.

NEW YORK, March 5.—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	$ 572,074,625	.....	6.3
Chicago	81,144,000	.....	10.8
Boston	95,555,123	8.7	.....
Philadelphia	61,080,550	8.9	.....
St. Louis	26,984,258	15.4	.....
San Francisco	14,581,656	.....	8.8
Baltimore	14,393,726	.....	5.9
Pittsburg	15,579,761	13.1	.....
Cincinnati	11,518,400	.....	2.4
Kansas City	9,634,863	1.0	.....
New Orleans	8,626,917	.....	20.3
Buffalo	3,799,037	.....	13.2
Milwaukee	4,815,651	8.5	.....
Detroit	5,559,749	3.1	.....
Louisville	6,279,818	.....	.....
Minneapolis	7,620,065	.....	1.4
OMAHA	4,395,556	1.8	.....
Providence	4,074,200	3.7	.....
Cleveland	5,566,734	.....	6.5
Houston	5,198,209	18.4	.....
St. Paul	2,810,704	.....	26.4
Denver	2,731,700	.....	3.5
Indianapolis	2,955,925	.....	.....
Hartford	2,736,448	.....	6.8
Richmond	2,959,137	1.4	.....
Washington	1,511,782	.....	28.4
Dallas	2,496,315	.....	.....
St. Joseph	1,554,770	4.7	.....
Peoria	1,419,858	.....	32.8
Memphis	1,737,669	.....	6.2
Portland, Ore	923,273	.....	21.3
Rochester	1,619,557	2.5	.....
New Haven	1,420,593	.....	2.0
Savannah	2,477,757	10.7	.....
Springfield, Mass	1,369,457	.....	.....
Worcester	1,544,398	25.9	.....
Portland, Me	1,397,159	2.9	.....
Atlanta	1,460,374	3.5	.....
Fort Worth	1,186,459	.....	4.1
Wacco	1,721,945	62.2	.....
Syracuse	934,409	7.8	.....
Des Moines	1,010,351	.....	6.4
Grand Rapids	736,017	3.5	.....
Seattle	425,340	.....	6.1
Davenport	486,195	.....	.....
Lowell	584,422	3.1	.....
Wilmington, Del	644,174	.....	8.2
Norfolk	597,875	.....	2.9
Sioux City	549,033	3.1	.....
Los Angeles	1,456,226	19.9	.....
Tacoma	387,248	.....	26.6
Spokane	539,212	6.7	.....
Jacksonville	247,487	.....	25.9
Lincoln	256,259	.....	21.5
New Bedford	797,204	96.3	.....
Wichita	415,605	.....	4.8
Birmingham	395,274	.....	17.4
Topeka	467,556	12.8	.....
Lexington, Ky	334,767	.....	.....
Binghampton	270,600	.....	9.7
Kalamazoo	268,546	.....	3.7
Bay City, Mich	201,956	.....	28.7
Fall River	875,915	2.2	.....
Akron, O	278,600	.....	4.8
Springfield, O	166,243	.....	16.1
Canton, O	150,000	.....	10.1
Sioux Falls	43,813	.....	52.2
Fremont, Neb	75,422	.....	6.2
Hastings, Neb	106,884	19.1	.....
Chattanooga	235,870	.....	17.8
Fargo	111,677	.....	9.7
Nashville	1,131,807	.....	8.5
Galveston	4,977,500	16.4	.....
Toledo	2,352,711	25.0	.....
Salt Lake	1,263,292	1.1	.....
Scranton	824,183	11.2	.....
Augusta	235,795	25.6	.....
Dayton	586,739	.....	6.1
Knoxville	450,302	9.4	.....
Rockford	149,918	.....	29.3
Totals United States	$1,010,426,637	.....	5.0
Exclusive of New York	438,352,002	.....	3.5
DOMINION OF CANADA.			
Montreal	$ 8,157,201	.....	1.8
Toronto	5,839,939	.....	31.0
Halifax	2,161,596	3.5	.....
Hamilton	611,511	.....	1.6
Winnipeg	941,596	.....	6.6
St. John	593,514	.....	.....
Totals	$ 18,314,823	.....	17.0

BRADSTREET'S WEEKLY REVIEW.

Change in Administration Makes Better Feeling in Trade Circles.

NEW YORK, March 5.—Bradstreet's tomorrow will say:

The new administration, the certainty of an extra session of congress within a fortnight and the promise of a new tariff at an early day, which shall provide adequate revenue and protection, have done much to stimulate a better feeling in trade circles and increase confidence in the near approach of an improvement in business.

Favorable features are found in higher prices for wheat, corn, pork, lard and spirits of turpentine, as well as for steel billets. Steel mills are fairly well filled with orders and in some lines are inclined to advance prices. Recent low quotations for various forms of iron and steel have been withdrawn, notably for wire and structural material. Confidence is expressed in an early advance of prices for tin and for shoes and leather, based on the activity in hides. Quotations were firm and unchanged during the week for lumber, wool, print cloths, rosin, petroleum, coffee, steel rails and bessemer pig iron, but there have been decreases for wheat, flour, oats, sugar and cotton. General trade has been interfered with by rain, high water in the Ohio valley and snow in the northwestern spring wheat states.

Exports of wheat, flour included as wheat, from both coasts of the United States this week amount to 2,075,435 bushels, compared with 1,372,009 bushels last week, 2,467,000 bushels in the week a year ago, 3,272,000 bushels in the week two years ago, 2,851,000 bushels three years ago, as compared with 2,894,000 bushels in the like week of 1892. Exports of Indian corn continue heavy, amounting to 5,256,783 bushels this week, compared with 4,744,000 bushels last week, 2,275,000 bushels in the week a year ago, 496,000 bushels in the like week of 1895, 1,847,000 bushels in 1894, and as compared with 679,000 bushels in the corresponding week of 1893.

There were 262 business failures throughout the United States this week, compared with 251 last week, 279 in the week a year ago, 232 in the week two years ago, and smaller totals in like weeks in the two preceding years. This marks a return of the ratio of business failures to the total number in business nearly to the normal. There are fifty-one business failures reported from Canada this week, against fifty last week; sixty-six in the week a year ago and fifty-three two years ago.

REVIEW OF THE STOCK MARKET.

Greater Activity Displayed in Trading During the Past Week.

NEW YORK, March 5.—Bradstreet's Financial Review tomorrow will say:

Greater activity has been displayed in the Stock exchange trading this week, and though the transactions have continued to be mainly, if not entirely, professional, there was some evidence of a broadening out of the market. This was particularly true of the Vanderbilt shares. Whether, as the street chooses to assume, there is any ground for supposing that members of the Vanderbilt party are supporting their securities or taking active speculative interest is immaterial. It would seem that conservative people have become renewed purchasers of that group of stocks, and the influence was felt agreeably throughout the list and induced considerable short covering and not a little buying by traders for long account. The bank statement was particularly noticeable on Wednesday, and on Thursday there was a general irregular appearance. There was at first a disposition to wait for the president's address. When that document was published, however, the "street" took an unfavorable view of the paragraph in which President McKinley refers to trusts and combines. Up to that time the industrial group had been comparatively neglected, although sympathizing with the higher tendencies of the railroad stock list. Under the influence in question, however, industrial shares of the same class were attacked by the bears and led the way in a sharp reactionary movement, the professional traders promptly liquidating a portion of their recent purchases. On Friday the market was still controlled by renewed foreign selling and professional bearishness, based on the threatening aspect of eastern politics. The anthracite coal group was heavy throughout.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Market is Extraordinarily Firm in Spite of War News.

NEW YORK, March 5.—The undertone of firmness in the market today, and its stubborn resistance to the rather discouraging tone reflected from Europe were notable features. The day opened with a decline, due to the alarm manifested on the London and continental bourses over the threatening aspect of the Cretan question, and to sales for London account of international shares. This decline was soon checked, however, quite a strong buying movement coming through commission houses, apparently for investment account, and the general disposition of the market seemed to be to rise and to wipe out the decline of yesterday, which is attributed generally today to reaction and profit-taking. There was, in fact, a general advance in prices which held for the greater part of the day, but very few shares attained the level of yesterday morning before the decline. Much the same influences contributed to the rise as early in the week, the Vanderbilts being in excellent demand. New York Central especially was strong, the shares rising 1¾ per cent to 98. Lake Shore gained 2¾ per cent, and Northwestern and Omaha 1⅛ per cent each. The highest-priced investment stocks also recovered part of the loss of yesterday, Omaha preferred and Northwestern preferred, New Haven and Chicago & Alton gaining 1 to 2 per cent. The grangers also, and in fact, the whole railway list, with few exceptions, shared in the advantage given to prices by the strong upward tendency of the Vanderbilts, and rose strongly. Commission houses reported orders extended over a wide range of shares, and gave variety of the market. Of the granger group, Rock Island showed an advance of 1¼ per cent; Northwestern gaining an equal figure. Burlington rose 1 per cent, and St. Paul ¾ per cent, the latter in the face of heavy London selling. An estimated aggregate of sales for London account of 20,000 shares credited fully one-third of that amount to St. Paul. Louisville & Nashville was also heavily sold for London account, and showed less resistance than St. Paul, and finally declined ½ per cent. The industrials showed strength and had apparently recovered from the alarm over President McKinley's trust utterances. Sugar advanced 1⅝ per cent; Chicago Gas, 1 per cent; Leather preferred, 1¼ per cent; Edison General Electric, with exceptional strength, 1⅝ per cent on reports of growing business. Manhattan and New Jersey Central, recently the special targets for bear attacks, improved 1 to 1½ points, respectively. St. Paul and Texas preferred gained 1 per cent. Even the anthracite coal group displayed more strength than of late. This encouraging progress of events was retarded about 1:30 o'clock by a movement to take profits. The continued sales of London orders added to the weight of the offerings. There was also in the minds of the traders some expressed uneasiness to hear some more explicit and authoritative announcement of the new president's Cuban policy than has yet been given, and to wait for this development. The recessions from the high level were quite sharp under these influences. Manhattan yielding 1⅛ per cent; Sugar, 1 per cent; New York Central, 1 per cent; St.