CONDITION OF OMAHA'S TRADE

In Some Departments a Falling Off, in Others a Material Gain.

COUNTRY COLLECTIONS GENERALLY FAIR

Cold Weather Started Up Retail Trade and the Storm Will Give It Still Greater Impetus—Bank Clearings Show Up Well.

The general business situation was very much the same last week as it was the week before, and no marked change is anticipated until after the coming of the new year. That there is plenty of business doing is shown by the bank clearings, by the reports of individual houses and by the general air of prosperity noticeable in the trade centers of the city.

In the last two weeks the jobbers have done a good business as the outcome of the retail demand that was quickened by the more seasonable weather that marked the close of November and the opening of December. And now at the beginning of the last month of the year jobbers find that their stocks have undergone a material reduction in spite of the many new goods of a seasonable character that have been added from time to time.

It was only reasonable to expect that business in a jobbing way would slack up after stocks in the country were once put in reasonable shape. To some extent these expectations have been realized and here and there a let up in the country demand is discernible. At the same time it must be admitted that there has been no such falling off in jobbing operations as is usual at this season of the year. It seems almost remarkable that trade should hold up so well and now that real winter weather has set in it will not be surprising if business even in staple lines continues active right to the holidays.

In the meantime the near approach of the holiday season has stimulated business in all departments devoted to such goods as are generally in demand at this time of the year.

The storm the latter part of the week created a decided change for the better in retail trade circles. The improvement was especially noticeable in the demand for all kinds of footwear, while the clothing stores came in for no small share of the benefits. The retail trade in Omaha is much better shape than it was a month ago, and as a rule retail merchants appear to be very well satisfied.

Bank clearings, showing large gains over the record made a year ago, only tend to confirm the assertions already made to the effect that business generally is of a very satisfactory character and far ahead of what it was a few months ago.

JOBBERS AND MANUFACTURERS.

C. P. Bogan left the middle of the week on a trip to the Black Hills and more distant points in the interest of Lininger & Metcalf Co.

Visiting traveling men remark that business in Omaha, generally speaking, is dull and in some departments of the wholesale trade there is no complaint.

The Nebraska chicory fields this season, though not turning out as well as last year owing to lack of rain the latter part of the summer, will produce a thousand tons of dried roots.

Mr. Metcalf of the Lininger & Metcalf Co. has returned from an extended eastern trip. He found the factories behind with orders and everyone anticipating the largest trade ever known for the coming season.

Paxton & Gallagher company are arranging to increase their floor space by putting in shelving on the first floor, the lower story of their building being eighteen feet, so that there is plenty of space for carrying out such a scheme.

Branch & Co. recently received a box of poultry from the country and on opening it up found a pair of spectacles. It is a serious question in their minds whether the shipper intended that they should sell the spectacles on commission or whether he sent them that they might see the market more clearly.

The Western Electrical company has secured the contract for the equipment of a complete electric light and power plant at Osceola. Osceola is one of the most prosperous of the towns in the state and no money or expense is to be spared in making this one of the most complete electric plants of its size in the country.

California oranges are just commencing to move forward to market, the first of the season having put in an appearance at this point just prior to Thanksgiving day. Californians estimate that this season's crop will bring them in $5,000,000. It will cost eastern consumers about double that amount, as they have to pay the freight.

Hardware people are very much interested in the rumors of negotiations looking to the consolidation of the wire nail and wire rod interests. To effect such a combination the seven big factories must all be brought in, and in addition a large number of small concerns. The small manufacturers appear to be the people most difficult to deal with and the collapse of the wire nail pool a year ago was due to their action.

Christmas business has started out well in Omaha and gives promise of exceeding all previous records. Omaha jobbers have put in large stocks of holiday goods in anticipation of a large demand, and so far they have not been disappointed. The people in the country have more money to spend on holiday goods than during the last three years and retailers knowing that fact have and still are buying freely.

Retail Implement Dealers of Nebraska and Iowa will meet in convention at Council Bluffs January 12 to 15. Between 300 and 500 dealers are expected to be present at this meeting. The meeting of last year, which was also held at the Bluffs, was largely attended and the interest in the work in hand has rather increased than decreased during the year. Prominent jobbers and manufacturers from all sections of the country will be present.

The Chicago Journal of Commerce says that something like a permanent trade stimulation has manifested itself in Nebraska, and commercial agencies have made a special report on the fact that jobbing centers are finding sales easy and collections prompt. Omaha trade has shown a great influx of steady orders. For some years consumers of hardware have been pursuing a very conservative system and the demands now coming forward are heavy. While the recent rush is practically over, trade is still active, and in several metal lines manufacturers are yet behind in shipping orders to leading jobbers.

The coming of the winter season usually witnesses a large increase in the begging nuisance with which business men have to contend. The business man is beset from morning until night with people who want him to buy tickets to this or that ball or entertainment, or contribute goods for this or that fair or charitable institution, or join this or that movement for some one else's benefit. In not a few instances these demands amount to little more than blackmail as the business man is promised the patronage of the begging organization in a way that carries with it a threat to boycott him if he fails to comply with the demands made upon him.

Work is progressing as rapidly as could be expected on the creameries at Leigh and Linwood. The plants under construction will cost about $1,000 each, and will be supplied with separators manufactured by the Sharples company of this city. The same company has been doing a large business in Utah, where there appears to be a good deal of interest of late in the creamery business. Parties are figuring on building a creamery at Elba, Neb. Those who are well informed in the matter say that there is no danger of this business being overdone in Nebraska, as the demand is far in excess of the supply. Denver is now buying creamery butter in Nebraska and is paying Elgin prices for it on board the cars at the shipping point.

The hardware jobbing houses of the country are now making their contracts with bicycle manufacturers for the coming season. As a general thing, the well advertised makes are naturally receiving the preference. Hardware people think that wheels will be handled more generally through hardware houses next season than ever before, though dealers who make a specialty of wheels would hardly be expected to see it that way. It would, however, seem to be a settled fact that the hardware trade of the country appears bent upon capturing the wheel trade and making that a part of their regular business. It is said that the price of wheels will be less next year, though the material cost more, which means that manufacturers are prepared to do business on a narrower margin of profit.

Mr. C. H. Picken, manager of the Paxton & Gallagher company, has introduced an entirely new system of billing out goods which is attracting a good deal of attention among the jobbers of this and other cities, and which promises to come into general use. Everyone appreciates the labor of marking goods for shipment and the larger the business the more trouble it becomes, especially when goods have to be put up in different departments and when so many men who are very capable in every other respect find it almost impossible to do the marking in a satisfactory manner. Mr. Picken has a stencil-cutting machine, operated by a boy, which cuts from heavy manilla paper when goods are stenciled, doing the work rapidly and correctly. When an order is to be filled each department from which goods are to be shipped is furnished with a slip containing that portion of the order to be put up in that department, and accompanying each slip is a stencil bearing the name and shipping address of the party ordering. When the goods are all set out the clerk takes his brush and stencil and marks them and throws the stencil into the rubbish barrel, no stencil being used a second time. The amount of time and labor saved by this system is surprising.

OMAHA GENERAL MARKETS.

Condition of Trade and Quotations on Staple and Fancy Produce.

EGGS—Strictly fresh, 17c.

BUTTER—Common to fair, 10@11c; choice to fancy, 14@17c; separator creamery, 22c; gathered creamery, 20c.

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

DRESSED POULTRY—Chickens, 5@6c; turkeys, not wanted; geese, 8c; ducks, 7c.

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

HAY—Upland, $6.50; midland, $5.50; lowland, $5.00; rye straw, $4; color makes the price on hay; light bales sell the best; only top grades bring top prices.

VEGETABLES.

CELERY—Good stock, large, 40c; small, 25@30c.

ONIONS—Per bu., 55@60c.

BEANS—Hand-picked navy, per bu., $1.40.

SWEET POTATOES—Per bbl., $2.75.

CABBAGE—Home grown, per lb., 1¼@1½c.

POTATOES—Home grown, 40@55c; western stock, 60@70c.

FRUITS.

CALIFORNIA STRAWBERRIES—Per pt., 50c.

QUINCES—California, per box, $1.25.

APPLES—Winter stock, $2.75@3.00; California Bellefower, boxes, $1.50@1.60; Colorado Jonathans, boxes, $1.75.

CRANBERRIES—Jerseys, per bbl., $7.00; Wisconsin Bell & Bugle, $7.50.

CALIFORNIA AND COLORADO PEARS—Good winter Nells, $2.00.

GRAPES—Catawbas, 9-lb. baskets, 14@15c; Malagas, $5.50@6.50.

TROPICAL FRUITS.

ORANGES—Mexican, per box, $4.00; Louisiana, $4.00.

LEMONS—Messinas, 360, $3.00@3.50; 300, $4.00@4.50; California, 360, $3.00@3.25; 300, $3.25@4.25.

BANANAS—Choice, large stock, per bunch, $2.00@2.25; medium-sized bunches, $1.75@2.00.

MISCELLANEOUS.

NUTS—Almonds, per lb., large size, 14@15c; Brazils, per lb., 10c; English walnuts, per lb., fancy, soft shell, 12c; standards, 10@11c; filberts, per lb., 10c; pecans, polished, large, 9@10c; jumbos, 8c; large hickory nuts, $1.25 per bu.; small, $1.50 per bu.; cocoanuts, per 100, $3.75@4.00; peanuts, raw, 5@5½c; roasted, 6@6½c.

FIGS—Imported fancy, 2 crown, 14-lb. boxes, 12½c; 3 crown, 44-lb. boxes, 15c; 2-lb. boxes, 25c per box.

HONEY—Choice white, 12c.

KRAUT—Per bbl., $4.00@4.25; half bbl., $2.50@2.60.

MAPLE SYRUP—Five-gal. cans, each, $2.25; gal. cans, pure, per doz., $12.00; half-gal. cans, $6.25; quart cans, $3.50.

DATES—Per 60 to 70-lb. boxes, 5½c; Fard 8-lb. boxes, 9c.

CIDER—Per half bbl., $3; bbls., $5.50.

FRESH MEATS.

DRESSED BEEF—Good native steers, 7c; good forequarters, steers, 6c; good hindquarters, 9c; western steers, 6@6½c; fancy heifers, 6½c; good heifers, 6c; good forequarters, heifers, 5½c; good hindquarters, heifers, 8½c; good cows, 5½c; fair cows, 5c.

BEEF CUTS—Tenderloins, 18c; boneless strips, 9c; strip loins, 7c; rolls, 8½c; sirloin butts, 8½c; shoulder clods, 3½c; rump butts, 5½c; steer shoulder clods, 3½c; rump butts, 8½c; steer chucks, 5½c; cow chucks, 4½c; boneless chucks, 4½c; cow plates, 3c; steer plates, 3½c; flank steak, 6½c; loins, No. 1, 14c; loins, No. 2, 10½c; loins, No. 3, 8c; sirloin ends, No. 1, 9c; ribs, No. 1, 9c; ribs, No. 2, 7½c; ribs, No. 3, 6c; steer rounds, 7½c; cow rounds, 6½c; cow rounds shank off, 8½c; trimmings, 4½c; beef shanks, 3c; brains, per doz., 35c; sweetbreads, per lb., 10c; sweetbreads (calves), per lb., 40c; kidneys, per doz., 25c; beef tongues, per lb., 5c; livers, per lb., 5c; hearts, per lb., 3c; tongues, per lb., 12½c.

MUTTON—Lambs, 7c; sheep, 6½c; market racks (long), 8c; hotel racks (short), 11c; legs and saddles, 9c; lamb legs, 8c; breasts and stews, per pound, 3c; fries, each, 5c.

PORK—Dressed pigs, 5½c; dressed hogs, 5c; tenderloins, 15c; loins, 7c; spare ribs, 5c; ham sausage butts, 6½c; shoulders, rough, 5c; shoulders, skinned, 5½c; trimmings, 5½c; leaf lard, not rendered, 5½c; heads, cleaned, 4c; snout and ears, 4c; backbones, 1½c; cheek meats, 4½c; neck bones, 2c; pigs' tails, 4c; plucks, each, 5c; chitterlings, 5c; hocks, 4c; hearts, per doz., 25c; stomachs, each, 3c; tongues, each, 7c; kidneys, per doz., 10c; brains, per doz., 15c; pigs' feet, per doz., 25c; livers, each, 3c.

HIDES, TALLOW, ETC.

HIDES—No. 1 green hides, 7c; No. 2 green hides, 6c; No. 1 salted hides, 8½c; No. 2 green salted hides, 7½c; No. 1 veal calf, 8 to 12 lbs., 10c; No. 2 veal calf, 12 to 15 lbs., 8c.

SHEEP PELTS—Green salted, each, 15@75c; green salted shearlings, each, 25@35c; short wooled early skins, each, 15c; dry shearlings (short wooled early skins), No. 1, each, 5c; dry flint, Kansas and Nebraska butcher wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 8@9½c; 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.

HORSE HIDES—Each, $1.50@2.25.

TALLOW, GREASE, ETC.—Tallow, No. 1, 3½c; tallow, No. 2, 2½c; rough tallow, 1½c; white grease, 2½@2¾c; yellow and brown grease, 1½@2¼c.

FURS—Bear (black or brown), $5.00@20.00; otter, $1.50@8.00; mink, 15@40c; beaver, $1.00@6.00; skunk, 15c, 25c, 50c; muskrat, 3c, 5c; raccoon, 15@50c; red fox, 25c@$1.25; grey fox, 25@50c; wolf (timber), 25c@$2.50; wolf (prairie coyote), 10@75c; wildcat, 10@25c; badger, 5@10c; silver fox, $50.00@75.00.

St. Louis General Markets.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 4.—FLOUR—Quiet; patents, $4.65@4.90; straights, $4.40@4.60; clear, $4.0@4.25; medium, $3.50@3.75.

WHEAT—Lower, closing ¼c off for May and ⅛c for July from yesterday. May opened ¼c to ⅛c lower, advanced ⅛c and closed 1-16c below the top. Spot, firm; No. 2 red, cash, elevator, 96c; track, 96¼@97c; No. 2 hard, cash, 87@88c; December, 96⅝c; May, 88⅝@92c; July, 80½c.

CORN—Futures opened weak, declined, advanced and closed near the top, the same to prices from yesterday. Spot, easier; No. 2 cash, 24c; January, 24¼c; May, 25¼c; July, 27½c.

OATS—Futures were dull and lower. Spot, steady; No. 2 cash, elevator, 20c; track, 21½c; December, 20½c; May, 22¼@22⅝c; No. 2 white, 23⅝@23½c.

RYE—Steady at 47½c.

FLAXSEED—Higher at $1.06.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, $2.60.

CORNMEAL—$3.40.

BRAN—Dull, but strong; sacked, east track, 54c; bulk, track side, 65c.

HAY—Demand good, choice stock, firm; prairie, $7.00@8.50; timothy, $8.00@10.50.

BUTTER—Quiet; creamery, 18@23c; dairy, 11@16c.

EGGS—Steady at 17½c.

WHISKY—$1.19.

COTTON TIES—70c.

BAGGING—6⅝@7¼c.

METALS—Lead, quiet at $3.5°@3.12½. Spelter, dull; $3.75, sellers.

PROVISIONS—Pork, steady; standard mess, jobbing, $8.25@8.50. Lard, higher; prime steam, $4.10; choice, $4.15. Bacon, boxed lots, extra short clear, $4.87½@5.00; ribs, $5.37½@5.50; shorts, $5.50@5.62½. Dry salt meats, boxed shoulders, $4.75@4.87½; extra short clear, $4.37½@4.50; ribs, $4.62½@4.87½; shorts, $4.87½@5.00.

RECEIPTS—Flour, 2,000 bbls.; wheat, 34,000 bu.; corn, 208,000 bu.; oats, 14,000 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Flour, 3,000 bbls.; wheat, 16,000 bu.; corn, 83,000 bu.; oats, 19,000 bu.

Weare Commission Company.

OMAHA OFFICE, Dec. 4.—The market opened weak at 8c under yesterday's close in sympathy with cables, evidently the effect of the statement that there was yet 297,000,000 bu. of wheat in the farmers' hands, 115,000,000 of which was available for export, which is questionable when compared with the report of shipments, and the unprecedentedly large receipts at all terminal markets up to the present time draining country elevators of the usual amount held for future delivery, and certainly the prevailing prices have been attractive to the farmers, which is emphasized by their present financial condition as compared with the last two years.

These facts considered as against the most liberal estimates of the crop will hardly uphold the above statement. However, admitting this to be correct and placing as much confidence in the continued cablegrams of the United Kingdom's requirements of 8,000,000 bu. from this country and Russia before March 1, and there is not an extreme surplus to bear on, and we believe any breaks of 1c or more to be good buying ground.

Corn was weak at the opening in sympathy with other cereals, but soon rallied and closed ¼c above yesterday. Spot, easier; No. 2 cash, 24c; January, 24¼c; May, 25¼c; July, 27½c.

Oats were strong at 22c for May, with shipments of 848,000 bu., or nearly double the receipts.

Kansas City Grain and Provisions.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 4.—WHEAT—In good demand at yesterday's prices: No. 1 hard, 74c; No. 2 hard, 72c; No. 3, 81c; No. 4, 75c; No. 1 soft, 95c; No. 2, 91c; No. 3, 88c; No. 4, 84c; No. 2 spring, 86c; No. 3, 83c; one car white, 74c.

CORN—No. 2 white, 27½c.

OATS—Fair demand at yesterday's prices; No. 2 mixed, 22c.

RYE—Market steady; No. 2, 43c.

HAY—Market firm; demand good, unchanged; timothy, $8.25@8.50; prairie, $7.00@7.25.

BUTTER—Market some lower; creamery, 18c; dairy, 15c.

EGGS—Market firm; fresh Missouri and Kansas stock, 16c; storage, 12c.

RECEIPTS—Wheat, 65,400 bu.; corn, 76,000 bu.; oats, 10,000 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Wheat, 76,800 bu.; corn, 46,800 bu.; oats, none.

Cincinnati Market.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 4.—FLOUR—Dull; fancy, $4.20@4.40; family, $3.25@3.75.

WHEAT—Dull; No. 2 red, 97½c.

CORN—Firm; No. 2 mixed, 27½c.

OATS—Quiet; No. 2 mixed, 23½c.

RYE—Weak; No. 2, 46c.

PROVISIONS—Lard, steady, $4.15. Bulk meats, quiet, $4.30. Bacon, steady, $5.62½.

WHISKY—Steady, $1.19.

BUTTER—Steady.

PORK—Firm, 16½c.

CHEESE—Steady; good to prime Ohio flat, 9@9½c.

Grain Receipts at Principal Markets.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 4.—Receipts: Wheat, 682 cars; corn, 49 cars; oats, 287 cars. Estimated car lots Monday: Wheat, 225; corn, 250; oats, 450.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 4.—Receipts: Wheat, 48 cars. SHIPMENTS: Wheat, 178 cars.

PEORIA, Dec. 4.—Receipts: Corn, 55,400 bu.; oats, 35,000 bu.; rye, 2,400 bu.; whisky and wheat, none. Shipments: Corn, 15,400 bu.; oats, 48,300 bu.; rye, 1,200 bu.; whisky, 1,568 bbls.; wheat, none.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

Wheat Freaks Away Again Owing to Weakness Reported from Liverpool.

ALSO DUE TO INCREASE IN THE VISIBLE

Unusually Large Exports Tend to Strengthen the Market, but the Influence is of Short Duration.

CHICAGO, Dec. 4.—A decline of ⅞c, with which wheat was opened today, was pared down by the action of shorts to a net decline of ⅜c at the close. Weak cables were responsible for the early decline, but the clearances, the largest for the season, made a fairly firm market toward the close. Corn and oats were firm and advanced ¼c and ¼@⅜c, respectively. Provisions advanced 5@10c on a good shipping demand.

Wheat started weak and at ⅝@⅞c decline for May, Liverpool was ¼d lower for December, ⅝d lower for March and ⅜d down for May, compared with yesterday's closing rates. The weather had turned from severe frost to a decided thaw over the greater part of the winter wheat country and the Minneapolis and Duluth receipts were again not far from double those at the corresponding time of the year before. The market did not for some time give much indication of doing better, but in the course of an hour from the start it had a small modicum of firmness.

The opening prices for May were from 89c to 89¼c, compared with 89⅞c at the close Friday. On the slight rally that followed it sold up to 89½c. January, during that time, made some peculiar changes, selling at from 89¾c, when May was 89c and at 89c when May was bringing 89¼c, or at from ⅜c premium to ¼c discount compared with May prices.

The weakness at Liverpool was accounted for by the editor of the Liverpool Corn Trade News, in which he said the decline was owing to selling for March and May on orders from Chicago, and also to Thoman's report issued yesterday.

Minneapolis and Duluth receipts were 889 cars, against 927 cars a week ago and 469 cars the corresponding day of the year before. The primary receipts were as heavy as ever, the total of the day being 943,000 bu., against only 532,000 bu. on the like day of the year before. The expected increase in the visible of 500,000 bu. to be realized will stand contrasted with 252,000 bu. decrease for the similar period of 1896.

The week's exports from both coasts were 6,700,000 bu., the largest but once before for one week's shipments. The day's clearances from Atlantic ports were liberal at the equivalent in wheat and flour of 717,000 bu. Those liberal shipments, combined with firmness of the Paris and Antwerp markets, considering the Liverpool day's weakness here added to the recovery of May to 89⅝c, but reacted a little under scattered realizing and closed at 89½c or ⅜c lower than it did yesterday. December was neglected by the general crowd and was only heard from at wide intervals. It sold from 94⅝@94½c at the opening, to 95¼c, and closed at 95c, which shows no change for the day.

Corn at the opening sold ¼c lower than at the close yesterday, influenced by the weakness in wheat, but good buying by local shorts and commission houses caused the market to react and later prices ruled firm. The renewed exports of corn for the week—4,585,000 bushels—were a bullish influence. Cables were ¼d lower. Receipts were 488 cars. May ranged from 28⅝c to 28¼c and closed ¼c higher at 28⅛c.

Oats were firmer on buying by local operators and elevator people. Light offerings aided in the upturn of prices and also caused the trade to be rather limited. Sympathy with corn was a factor. Receipts were 387 cars. Selling was scattered and entirely local. May ranged from 22⅛c to 22⅝c and closed ¼c higher at 22⅝c.

Provisions were firm. The basis of the strength was the excellent demand from domestic and foreign sources for the cash products. The shipments from Chicago for the week were so heavy as to be the subject of general remark. Exporters were credited with buying purchases of January lard. The market opened steady at about yesterday's prices and gradually advanced, closing strong at close to the top. At the close January pork was 10c higher at $8.27½ and January lard 5c higher at $4.27½, and January ribs 2½@5c higher at $4.20@4.22½.

Estimated receipts Monday: Wheat, 225 cars; corn, 450 cars; oats, 250 cars; hogs, 40,000 head.

Leading futures ranged as follows:

Articles.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.	Yes'y
*Wheat—					
Dec....	95¼@95⅝	95⅝	94¾	95	95
Jan....	89⅝	89⅝	89	89⅝	90⅛
May....	89 @89⅝	89 @89⅝	89	89⅛	89⅝
*Corn—					
Dec....	24⅝	25⅛	24⅝	25	24⅝
May....	28⅛@28⅜	28⅝	28⅛	28⅛	28⅜
*Oats—					
Dec....	20⅝	20⅝	20⅝	20⅝	20⅝
May....	21⅝	22⅛	21⅝	22 @22⅛	21⅝
Pork—					
Dec....	.....	.....	.....	7 25	7 12
Jan....	8 17½	8 30	8 15	8 27½	8 17½
May....	8 40	8 52½	8 40	8 52½	8 42½
Lard—					
Dec....	.....	.....	.....	4 15	4 10
Jan....	4 22½	4 27½	4 22½	4 27½	4 22½
May....	4 40	4 45	4 40	4 45	4 40
Sh'ribs—					
Dec....	4 20	4 20	4 17½	4 20	4 17½
Jan....	4 17½	4 22½	4 17½	4 22½	4 17½
May....	4 30	4 35	4 30	4 35	4 30

*No. 2.

Cash quotations were as follows:

FLOUR—Quiet; winter patents, $4.70@4.90; straights, $4.20@4.40; spring specials, $4.35; spring patents, $4.60@4.80; bakers', $3.50@3.80.

WHEAT—No. 2 spring, 89@90c; No. 3 spring, 82½@86½c; No. 2 red, 89@90½c.

CORN—No. 2, 25½c.

OATS—No. 2, 21⅝c f. o. b.; No. 2 white, 23@23½c.

RYE—No. 2, 46½c.

BARLEY—No. 2, 26@27c.

FLAXSEED—No. 1, $1.09@1.12½.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, $2.62½@2.65.

PROVISIONS—Mess pork, per bbl., $7.30@7.35. Lard, per 100 lbs., $4.25@4.27½. Short ribs sides (loose), $4.15@4.50. Dry salted shoulders (boxed), $4.75@5.00. Short clear sides (boxed), $4.40@4.50.

WHISKY—Distillers' finished goods, per gal., $1.19.

SUGARS—Cut loaf, $5.81; granulated, $5.31.

Articles.	Receipts.	Shipments.
Flour, bbls.	9,000	3,000
Wheat, bu.	162,000	284,000
Corn, bu.	271,000	280,000
Oats, bu.	430,000	848,000
Rye, bu.	15,000	350,000
Barley, bu.	65,000	76,000

On the Produce exchange today the butter market was firm; creameries, 15@23c; dairies, 12@18c. Cheese, quiet, 6@8½c. Eggs, 20c. Dressed poultry, quiet; chickens, 6½c; spring, 7@7½c; ducks, 7@7½c.

NEW YORK GENERAL MARKET.

Quotations of the Day on General Commodities.

NEW YORK, Dec. 4.—FLOUR—Receipts, 24,700 bbls.; exports, 14,010 bbls.; dull and easy with wheat; Minnesota patents, $3.60@3.85; Minnesota bakers', $2.20@2.45; winter patents, $4.85@5.15; winter straights, $4.50@4.60; winter low grades, $2.90@3.70. Rye flour, dull, $2.70@3.25; latter fancy. Buckwheat flour, quiet, $1.40@1.45.

BUCKWHEAT—Quiet, 37½@38c.

CORNMEAL—Quiet; yellow western, 65c.

RYE—Steady; No. 2 western, 50¼c.

BARLEY—Quiet; feeding, 28c.

BARLEY MALT—Easy; western, 55@60c.

WHEAT—Receipts, 149,825 bu.; exports, 182,795 bu. Spot, weak; No. 2 red, 97¼c. Options opened weak, under disappointing cables and were dull all the morning within a narrow range, closing ¼@⅜c net lower; No. 2 red, May, $2.02⅝c; closed, 92¼c; December, 95 9-16@96 1-16c; closed, 96c.

CORN—Receipts, 101,400 bu.; exports, 107,451 bu. Spot, easy; No. 2, 28⅝c. Options opened easy, sympathizing with wheat and cables, but rallied early and closed unchanged; May, 28⅝@28⅝c; closed, 28¼c; December, 28⅝@28⅞c; closed, 28⅝c.

OATS—Receipts, 141,200 bu.; exports, 23,867 bu. Spot, easier; No. 2, 23¼c. Options, dull and about steady, closing practically unchanged; May closed, 21⅝c; December closed, 20c.

HAY—Dull; shipping, 40@65c; good to choice, 80@75c.

HOPS—Steady; state, common to choice, 1895 crop, 4@6c; 1896 crop, 6@9c; 1897 crop, 15@18c; Pacific coast, 1895 crop, 4@6c; 1896 crop, 6@9c; 1897 crop, 15@18c.

HIDES—Steady; Galveston, 15c; Texas dry, 12c; California, 17@18c.

LEATHER—Quiet; hemlock sole, Buenos Ayres, light to heavy weight, 20½@21½c.

WOOL—Steady; domestic fleece, 27@31c; Texas, 19@17c.

PROVISIONS—Beef, steady; family, $9.00@10.00; extra mess, $7.50@8.00; beef hams, $22.00@22.50; packet, $9.00@10.00. Cut meats, steady; pickled bellies, 6@7½c; pickled shoulders, 5¾c; pickled hams, 7¼@7½c. Lard, steady; western steamed, $4.50; refined, steady. Pork, dull; mess, $8.25@9.00; short clear, $10.00@12.00; family, $10.50@11.00. Tallow, steady; city, 3¼c; country, 3¼@3½c, as to quality.

OILS—Petroleum, dull; United closed, no market. Rosin, steady; strained, common to good, $1.40@1.45. Turpentine, steady, 32½@34c. Cottonseed oil, dull, inactive but steady; prime crude, 18@19½c; prime summer yellow, 21½@22c; butter oil, 24½@25c; prime winter yellow, 26½@27c.

RICE—Steady; fair to extra, 4¼@5¼c; Japan, 5@5¼c.

MOLASSES—Quiet; New Orleans open kettle, good to choice, 26@31c.

METALS—Pig iron, quiet; southern, $10.00@11.25; northern, $10.00@12.25. Copper, firm; brokers', $10.87½. Lead, strong, $3.90. Tin plates dull, $11.77½@13.82½. Spelter, steady, $3.85@4.05.

BUTTER—Receipts, 2,577 pkgs.; market steady; western creamery, 14@21½c; Elgins, 23½c; factory, 11½@14½c.

EGGS—Receipts, 3,487 pkgs.; market quiet; state and Pennsylvania, 21@23c; western, 20@22c.

CHEESE—Receipts, 2,289 pkgs.; market dull; large white, September, 8¼@8½c; small white, 9½c; large colored, September, 8¼@8½c; small colored, 8@8¼c; large, October, 7½c; small, October; skimmed, light skims, 6@6½c; part skims, 4@5c; full skims, 2@3c.

Baltimore Markets.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 4.—FLOUR—Dull and unchanged; receipts, 3,645 bbls.; exports, 4,500 bbls.; western straights, $2.85@3.20; western extra, $3.40@3.60; western family, $4.00@4.25; winter wheat patents, $4.60@5.10; spring wheat patents, $5.00@5.25; spring wheat straights, $4.15@4.35.

WHEAT—Strong; spot, 95⅝@97½c; month, 96⅝@96¾c; January, 96¼@96⅝c; May, 92⅝c bid; steamer, No. 2 red, 91¼@91¾c; receipts, 100,151 bu.; exports, 141,222 bu.; southern wheat, by sample, 91@97c.

CORN—Firm; spot, 32⅝@34c; month, 32@32¼c; December, new or old, 31¼@31⅜c; January, 31¼@31⅜c; February, 31⅛@32c; steamer mixed, 31⅝@32½c; receipts, 85,575 bu.; exports, none; southern white and yellow corn, 32@33c.

OATS—Firm; No. 2 white, 22½@23c; No. 2 mixed, 22½c; receipts, 20,124 bu.; exports, none.

RYE—Firmer; No. 2 western, 53½@53¾c; receipts, 36,138 bu.; exports, none.

HAY—Steady; choice timothy, $13 asked.

GRAIN FREIGHTS—Unchanged; steamers easy; parcels, firm; steam to Liverpool, per bu., 4½d. December: Cork, for orders, per quarter, 3s 10½d. December; 3s 7½d. January.

BUTTER—Steady; fancy creamery, 22@23c.

EGGS—Steady; fresh, 20c.

CHEESE—Steady, unchanged; market stock heavy; fancy New York, large, 9½@10c; fancy New York, small, 10¼@10½c.

Liverpool Markets.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 4.—WHEAT—Spot, No. 2 red, western winter, steady, 7s 5½d; No. 1 red, northern spring, steady, 7s 3d.

CORN—Spot, American mixed, quiet, 3s 2½d; futures quiet; December, 3s 2½d; January, 3s 1¾d; February, 3s 1¾d.

FLOUR—St. Louis, fancy winter, dull, 16s.

HOPS—At London (Pacific coast), firm, £4 10s @£5.

PROVISIONS—Beef, firm; extra India mess, 65s 3d; prime mess, 56s 3d. Pork, firm; prime mess, fine western, 48s 9d; prime mess, medium western, 46s 3d. Hams, short cut, steady, 31s. Bacon, Cumberland cut, dull, 24s; short ribs, steady, 35s 6d; long clear middle, light, dull, 33s 6d; long clear middles, heavy, dull, 32s; short clear backs, steady, 21s; clear bellies, firm, 37s 6d; shoulders, square, firm, 28s 6d. Lard, prime western, steady, 22s 6d. Tallow, prime city, steady, 18s 6d.

CHEESE—American finest white and colored, steady, 42s 6d.

Peoria Markets.

PEORIA, Dec. 4.—CORN—Market steady; No. 2, 25c.

OATS—Market firm; No. 2 white, 22c.

RYE—Market quiet, nominal; No. 2, 47½c.

WHISKY—Market steady; high proof spirits, $1.18; alcohol, $2.21.

Detroit Market.

DETROIT, Dec. 4.—WHEAT—No. 1 white, 90c; No. 2 red, 91½c; December, 90½c; May, 91½c.

CORN—No. 2 mixed, 26¾c.

OATS—No. 2 white, 24¾c.

RYE—No. 2, 46½c.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Movement of Prices Trivial, Except in a Few Special Cases.

NEW YORK, Dec. 4.—Today's stock market was left almost entirely to the room traders and they seemed disposed to depress prices during the early part of the session by short sales. Their efforts met with little response and they covered before the close, bringing prices in most cases slightly above yesterday's close. The movement of prices was, however, trivial throughout the day, except in a few special cases.

Manhattan reflected the anxiety of those who had bought yesterday under the mistaken impression that the general rapid transit plan had been declared unconstitutional. Heavy offerings at the opening sold the stock down a point, the lowest of the day. The close was near the low point after a full recovery in the meantime. All sorts of rumors were afloat regarding the stock, and dealings in it were quite feverish.

Sugar was traded in for the most part at a level below yesterday's close, the supply of stocks being apparently large on any advance.

Chicago Great Western showed a degree of strength on account of its large percentage of increase of earnings for the fourth week in November. Susquehanna & Western continued to rise in price, and Delaware & Hudson of the coal group sympathized, but New Jersey Central and the leading stocks on the other hand were heavy. The day's news so far as it was regarded was favorable, statements of the fourth week earnings that were published showing large earnings and handsome increases.

The increase in cash was not sufficient to cover increased requirements of the legal reserve caused by the heavy increase in deposits, and the consequence is still further declines in the surplus reserve. There has been nothing in the general requirements of the money market during the week to account for the expansion of $3,472,500 in the loans, and it is probably due to borrowing on exchanges. It is estimated that $10,000,000 of foreign exchange has been allowed to accumulate in this city during the week, and the fact that prices of exchange have not been materially lowered shows that it is withheld from the money loaned abroad. There is a continuance of investment buying of long exchange in anticipation of the usual return movement of trade after the first of the year.

Although the imports of general merchandise at this port for the week show a sharp falling off, the receipts at the custom house indicate a growth of the improvement during November, which the buyers of foreign exchange expect will increase still further as the stocks are worked off which were imported in anticipation of the tariff law. Unless the import movement of general merchandise shall become very heavy in the next few months long exchange must prove a poor investment in view of the outgo of merchandise the last few months.

London advices during the week have reported for high grade railroad bonds. The same demand had existed in the New York market with a very limited supply, which was largely furnished for foreign account as well as in London. This would indicate a further heavy transfer to this side of the water of the highest-priced railroad securities in sufficient volume to have quite an appreciable effect upon the exchange balance.

The activity of the bond market has been a feature of the Stock exchange here all week, and the total sales of bonds on Thursday was of a par value of nearly $4,700,000.

The activity of the stock market has been spasmodic. The week opened with evidences of an awakened outside interest in the market, due to the short advances of Friday and Saturday previous, but the buyers of that period took occasion to realize on Monday and turned prices backward again. Tuesday and Wednesday the bulls loaded up again and prices slowly hardened. Thursday opened with great animation and rising prices, but while the animation continued the rise seemed to come to a stop and soon prices were falling quickly and sharply. This renewed realizing movement by the powerful operators, whose resources enabled them to manipulate the prices, threw the market into semi-stagnation, from which it showed no sign of recovery either Friday or today. The reactions have, however, wiped out all gains, and the week shows net gains of between 1 and 2 per cent on some, notably Sugar, 4¼ per cent, Pennsylvania, Chicago Great Western, Missouri Pacific and Union Pacific. The rise of Tuesday and Wednesday was due primarily to the aggressive and confident buying of influential combined interests. But the factors which induced a large following were the favorable railroad statements issued by the October statements of the Pennsylvania and Burlington, and the statements in general of gross earnings for the fourth week of November and the announcement of the Rock Island refunding scheme and the sale of $15,000,000 of the refunding bonds. The free offerings of stocks on the advance show the disposition to await the shaping of policies by congress before buying securities to hold.

The bond market has shown less hesitancy than stocks, and prices have steadily advanced, though periods of lessened activity have accompanied the declines in prices of stocks.

The supply of high grade bonds has been unequal to the demand, and the demand has been overflowed to