COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

Wheat is Very Tame and Remains Unusually Passive All Day.

CABLE REPORTS FAVORABLE TO THE BULLS

Corn and Oats Have Lively Advances and Provisions Are Strong with Higher Prices.

CHICAGO, Dec. 15.—Very little business was done today in the December delivery of wheat, and May did not fare much better. The latter month was well sustained as a rule and at the close was selling ½c higher than the final figures of yesterday. Shorts covered freely late in the session. Corn and oats had a lively spurt in the last fifteen or twenty minutes' trading and showed closing advances of ⅝@⅞c and ½c, respectively. Provisions were strong throughout and advanced 7½@15c.

There was no strongly developed feeling either way at the opening in wheat. Prices were substantially the same as at the close yesterday, May starting at 90⅝@90⅝c, most of the first sales being at 90⅝c, while December was quoted at 91½c. A slightly firmer feeling was imparted soon after by a cablegram from the Liverpool Corn Trade News, stating that only five Argentine steamers had been fixed as yet, meaning only that many so far chartered for shipment of wheat. It also quoted Goodwin, the Argentine wheat authority, as saying arrivals in Europe would not be before April. A private Paris cablegram ridiculed the statement that France would only need to import 20,000,000 bu. foreign wheat from November 1 to the end of the crop year, stating their estimate of requirements for that time at 60,000,000 bu, and that bakers' and millers' stocks were small and farmers' deliveries light. These statements caused moderate covering by the more timid shorts, the price of May advancing in consequence to 90⅞c. But the dullness of trading initiated against any sustained advance and prices slowly slid off again to 90⅝c, though not without several slight rallies. Minneapolis and Duluth receipts were 472 cars, against 660 Wednesday a week ago and 377 the corresponding day of the year before. Chicago received in the usual way by rail 324 carloads, compared with 26 carloads a year ago, but received today in addition to rail receipts from the country 300 cars and 30,000 bu. from unlicensed elevators and 120,000 bu. by lake, the lots all No. 1 northern spring. Primary receipts amounted altogether to 882,865 bu., against 282,950 bu. the previous year. Export clearances from Atlantic ports amounted to 215,609 bu. in wheat and flour.

A second cablegram from the Liverpool Corn Trade News reported official statistics of wheat and flour consumption in Germany and Belgium for November much smaller than in that month last year. May touched 90⅝c, the low point on that. Bradstreet's reported the world's visible increased by 18,000 bu. The temporary decline on the reported reduced appetites of the Germans and Belgians came to an end when the Bradstreet's report was published.

The market developed considerable strength toward the close, due to free seasonal covering by shorts and limited speculative offerings. May sold from 91¼c and closed firm at 91⅝c. December transactions comprised, all told, about 200,000 bu., most of it sold for Armour & Co.'s account and bought principally by Allen & Grier at 91c. It started nominally worth 97½c, then at 91c, from that up to 91⅝c and down again to 87¼c, where it closed.

Corn was very slow and inclined to be weak up to within fifteen minutes of the close, when it suddenly became active and strong on a rush of shorts to cover sales made during the recent decline. This caused a recovery of the slight early decline and a good advance besides, which proved to be quite broad at the close. Cash demand was slow. May ranged from 29⅝@29¾c to 28½c, closing ⅜@⅝c higher at 29⅝c.

Oats, like corn, were weak early in the session and some decline followed free selling. Prices turned abruptly upward when covering started near the close, for very little was offered and the market was strong and ¼c higher at the end. Cash business was limited. May ranged from 22½c to 22c and closed at 22⅝c.

Provisions were exceedingly firm and more active speculatively than they have been for some time. Light receipts of hogs and a firm hog market started prices higher and good general buying kept the market advancing. Purchases of lard were especially heavy. At the close May pork was 15c higher at $8.75, May lard 7½@10c higher at $4.65 and May ribs 10c higher at $4.47½.

Estimated receipts Thursday: Wheat, 410 cars; corn, 290 cars; oats, 360 cars; hogs, 31,000 head.

Leading futures ranged as follows:

Articles.	Open.	Hiah.	Low.	Close.	Yest'dy
*Wheat-					
Dec....	97⅛	98⅛	97	97⅛	97⅝-98
Jan....	92	93⅛	92	93	92⅝
May...	90⅝	91¼	90⅝	91⅛	90⅝
*Corn-					
Dec....	25¼	25⅝	25⅛	25⅝	25⅛
Jan....	25⅝	26	25⅝	26	25⅛
May...	28⅝	29	28⅝	29	28⅝
*Oats-					
Dec....	21⅞	21⅞	21⅛	21⅞	22
May...	22⅛	22⅛	22	22⅝	22⅛
Lard-					
Dec....	.....	.....	.....	7 50	7 45
Jan....	8 42½	8 52½	8 40	8 57½	8 37½
May...	8 62½	8 77½	8 62½	8 75	8 60
Lard—					
Dec....	.....	.....	.....	4 35	4 25
Jan....	4 45	4 50	4 42½	4 47½	4 35
May...	4 60	4 67½	4 60	4 65	4 57½
Sh'rtRibs					
Dec....	.....	.....	.....	4 32½	4 25
Jan....	4 30	4 35	4 27½	4 35	4 25
May...	4 42½	4 50	4 40	4 47½	4 37½

*No. 2.

Cash quotations were as follows:

FLOUR—Easy, quiet and rather weak; hard patents, $4.60@4.80; soft, $4.40@4.60; soft bakers, $3.30@3.60; winter straights, $4.50@4.70.

WHEAT—No. 2 spring, 88@89c; No. 3 spring, 82@92c; No. 2 red, 97½c.

CORN—No. 2, 26⅝c.

OATS—No. 2, 22⅝c; No. 2 white, 24@24½c; No. 3 white, 23@23½c.

RYE—No. 2, 45½c.

FLAXSEED—No. 1, $1.15@1.18.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, $2.62½.

PROVISIONS—Mess pork, per bbl., $7.50@7.55. Lard, per 100 lbs., $4.65@4.70. Short ribs sides (loose), $4.27½@4.50. Dry salted shoulders (boxed), $4.50@4.75. Short clear sides (boxed), $4.45@4.65.

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

SUGARS—Cut loaf, $5.95; granulated, $5.22.

Articles.	Receipts.	Shipments.
Flour, bbls.....	33,000	20,000
Wheat, bu.....	314,000	9,000
Corn, bu.....	208,000	48,000
Oats, bu.....	613,000	247,000
Rye, bu.....	86,000	1,000
Barley, bu.....	95,000	9,000

On the Produce exchange today the butter market was steady; creameries, 13@22c; dairies, 12@19c. Cheese, quiet, 8@9½c. Eggs, 18c. Dressed poultry, easy; turkeys, 11@11½c; chickens, 4½@5½c. Ducks, 6@8c.

NEW YORK GENERAL MARKET.

Quotations of the Day on General Commodities.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—FLOUR—Receipts, 21,612 bbls.; exports, 4,213 bbls.; market continued very quiet at barely steady prices; city mill patents, $5.65@5.85; city mill clears, $4.40@5.50; winter straights, $4.50@4.60; Minnesota patents, $5.10@5.35. Rye flour, dull at $2.70@3.35. Buckwheat flour, quiet at $1.90@1.45.

BUCKWHEAT—Dull at 37@38c.

CORNMEAL—Quiet; yellow western, 65c.

RYE—Dull; No. 2 western, 49½c.

BARLEY—Dull; feeding, 24½c.

BARLEY MALT—Steady; western, 52½@60c.

WHEAT—Receipts, 179,450 bu.; exports, 24,190 bu. Spot, firm; No. 2 red, 98½c. Options opened easy on local offerings, rallied on French cables, small northwest receipts and cold weather west, holding firm all day and closing ⅝@1c net higher on a late scare among shorts; May, 97 9-16@97⅝c; closed, 97¾c; December, 96⅝@97⅛c; closed, 97⅛c.

CORN—Receipts, 975 bu.; exports, 50,728 bu. Spot, firm; No. 2, 34½c. Options opened steady and advanced on light receipts, firmer cables and the rise in wheat, closing unchanged to ¼c net higher; December, 31⅝@31⅞c; closed, 31⅞c; May, 33⅛@33½c; closed, 34½c.

OATS—Receipts, 175,800 bu.; exports, 19,321 bu. Spot, quiet; No. 2, 27½c. Options, quiet all day, closing unchanged; December, 27c; May closed, 27½c.

HAY—Quiet; shipping, 40@45c; good to choice, 60@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—Quiet; Galveston, 15c; Texas, dry, 12c; California, 17@18c.

LEATHER—Steady; hemlock sole, Buenos Ayres, 20½@21½c.

WOOL—Quiet; fleece, 27@31c; Texas, 13@17c.

PROVISIONS—Beef, quiet; family, $9.50@10.00; extra mess, $7.50@8.00; beef hams, $22.00@22.50; packet, $9.00@10.00. Cut meats, quiet; pickled bellies, $5.00@5.50; shoulders, $5.75; hams, $7.00@7.25. Lard, steady; western steamed, $4.70; December closed, $4.65, nominal; refined, steady at $4.60@4.12½. Pork, dull; mess, $8.25@9.00; short clear, $10.00@11.00; family, $10.00@11.00. Tallow, firmer; city, 3½c; country, 3⅝@3¾c.

OILS—Cottonseed, steady; prime crude, 18½c; prime yellow, 21½@22c; off summer yellow, 21½c; butter oil, 24½@27c; prime winter yellow, 23½@27c. Petroleum, quiet; united closed at 65c asked. Rosin, steady; strained, common to good, $1.40@1.45. Turpentine, steady at 32@32½c.

RICE—Firm; fair to extra, 4½@4¾c; Japan, 5@5¼c.

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

METALS—Pig iron, warrants, steady, $6.70 bid and $6.80 asked. Lake copper, quiet, unchanged, $12.87½@12.00. Tin, easy, $13.65@13.70. Spelter, dull, $3.80@3.90. Lead, firmer, $3.72½@3.77½; brokers, $3.65.

BUTTER—Receipts, 5,600 pkgs.; market steady; creamery, 19@23c; Elgins, 23c; factory, 12@17c.

CHEESE—Receipts, 2,055 pkgs.; market quiet; large white and colored, September, 9½@9¾c; small white and colored, September, 9@9½c; large, 7@7½c; small, white and colored, September, 9½@9¾c; light skims, 6@6½c; part skims, 4½@5½c; full skims, 2@2c.

EGGS—Receipts, 4,722 pkgs.; market steady; state and Pennsylvania, 21@23c; western, 20@22c.

OMAHA GENERAL MARKETS.

Condition of Trade and Quotations on Staple and Fancy Produce.

EGGS—Strictly fresh, 18c.

BUTTER—Common to fair, 10@11c; choice to fancy, 14@15c; separator creamery, 22c; gathered creamery, 20c.

VEAL—Choice fat, 80 to 120 lbs., quoted at 8c; large and coarse, 40@5c.

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

GAME—Small rabbits, per doz., 30c; large, per doz., 50c; slow; prairie chickens, $3; quail, $2@$1.60; squirrels, 50@60c.

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

HAY—Upland, $6.50; midland, $5.50; lowland, $5; 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., 60@65c.

BEANS—Hand-picked navy, per bu., $1.25@1.30.

SWEET POTATOES—Per bbl., $2.50.

CABBAGE—Good stock, per lb., 1½c.

POTATOES—Home grown, 40@55c; western stock, 65@70c.

FRUITS.

CALIFORNIA STRAWBERRIES—Per pt., 30@35c.

QUINCES—California, per box, $1.25.

APPLES—Winter stock, $2.75@3.00; California Belleflower, boxes, $1.35; Colorado Jonathans, boxes, $1.75; Oregon, boxes, $1.25.

CRANBERRIES—Jerseys, per bbl., $7; Wisconsin Bell and Bugle, $7.50; Wisconsin Bell and Cherry, $6.50.

GRAPES—Catawbas, 5-lb. baskets, 14@15c; Malagas, $5.00@6.00.

TROPICAL FRUITS.

ORANGES—Mexican, per box, $3.75@4.50; California navels, $4.00@4.25.

LEMONS—Messinas, $60, $2.00@3.50; 300, $4.00@4.50; California, 300, $3.50@3.50; 360, $3.75@4.00.

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

MISCELLANEOUS.

NUTS—Almonds, per lb., large size, 12½@13c; small, 10c; Brazils, per lb., 9@10c; English walnuts, per lb., fancy soft shell, 11c; standards, 9@10c; filberts, per lb., 10c; pecans, polished, medium, 8@9c; extra large, 10c; large hickory nuts, $1.00@1.10 per bu.; small, $1.25@1.35 per bu.; cocoanuts, per 100, $4.00; peanuts, raw, 5@5½c; roasted, 6@6½c.

PIGS—Imported fancy, 3 crown, 14-lb. boxes 12c; 5 crown, 44-lb. boxes, 14@15c; 2-lb. boxes, 22@23c per box; California, 10-lb. box, $1.00.

HONEY—Choice white, 12c; Colorado amber, 10@11c.

KRAUT—Per bbl., $4.00; half bbl., $2.25@2.35.

MAPLE SYRUP—Five-gal. cans, each, $2.75; gal. cans, pure, per doz., $12.00; half-gal. cans, $6.25; quart cans, $3.50.

DATES—Hallowee, 60 to 70-lb. boxes, 6c; Satr, 5½c; Fard, 9-lb. boxes, 9c.

CIDER—Per half bbl., $3.00; bbls., $5.25.

FRESH MEATS.

DRESSED BEEF—Good native steers, 7c; good forequarters, steers, 6¼c; good hindquarters, 8¼c; western steers, 6¼c; fancy heifers, 6¾c; good heifers, 6¼c; good forequarters, heifers, 5½c; good hindquarters, heifers, 8c; good cows, 6¼c; fair cows, 5¾c.

BEEF CUTS—Tenderloins, 18c; boneless strips, 10c; strip loins, 9c; rolls, boneless, 9½c; rounds, Spencer cuts, 9½c; sirloin butts, boneless, 9¼c; shoulder clods, boneless, 6¼c; rump butts, boneless, 8¾c; c. 1 chucks, 6¾c; No. 2 chucks, 5¼c; No. 3 chucks, 4¾c; boneless chucks, 5¼c; cow plates, 2¾c; steer plates, 4¼c; flank steak, 8½c; loins, No. 1, 14c; loins, No. 2, 10¾c; loins, No. 3, 8¾c; short loins, market style, 2c above loins; short loins, No. 1 butt steak, 5c above loins; cow loin ends, 8c; steer loin ends, 8c; hanging tenderloins, 4¾c; ribs, No. 1, 12c; ribs, No. 2, 8¾c; ribs, No. 3, 6¾c; steer rounds, 7c; cow rounds, 6½c; cow rounds, shank off, 8c; steer rounds, shank and rump off, 8¾c; trimmings, 4½c; beef shanks, 3¼c; brains, per doz., 35c; sweetbreads, per lb., 12½c; sweetbreads (calves), per lb., 40c, kidneys, per doz., 35c; ox tails, each, 3c; livers, per lb., 5c; hearts, per lb., 3c; tongues, per lb., 12½c; calf livers, each, 35c; calves, whole carcass or sides, 9c; calf head and feet scalded, per set, 75c.

MUTTON—Spring lambs, 8¾c; lambs, 8¼c; sheep, 7½c; market racks (long) 10c; hotel racks (short), 11½c; loins, 9c; saddles, 9½c; legs, 9¾c; lamb legs, 10½c; breasts and stews, 3¾c; tongues, each, 3c; forequarters, 5c.

PORK—Dressed pigs, 5c; dressed hogs, 4½c; tenderloins, 12½c; loins selected, 6½c; regular, 5½c; spare ribs, 5c; ham sausage butts, 5½c; Boston butts, 5c; shoulders, rough, 4¾c; shoulders, skinned, 5c; trimmings, 5c; leaf lard, not rendered, 5c; heads, cleaned, 4c; snouts and ears, 4c; backbones, 2½c; slip bones, 2½c; cheek meats, 4½c; neckbones, 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; hog rinds, 3c; blade bones, 5c.

HIDES, TALLOW, ETC.

HIDES—No. 1 green hides, 7c; No. 2 green hides, 6c; No. 1 salted hides, 8¾c; No. 2 green salted hides, 7¾c; 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 (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, 4@5c; dry flint, Kansas and Nebraska murrain wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 3@4c; dry flint Colorado butcher wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 4@5c; dry flint Colorado murrain wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 3@4c.

HORSE HIDES—Each, $1.50@2.25.

TALLOW, GREASE, ETC.—Tallow, No. 1, 3¾c; tallow, No. 2, 2¾c; rough tallow, 1½c; white grease, 2¼@2½c; yellow and brown grease, 1½@2¼c.

FURS—Bear (black or brown), $5.00@20.00; otter, $1.50@3.00; mink, 15@60c; beaver, $1.00@6.00; skunk, 15c, 25c, 50c; muskrat, 3c, 5c, 7c; raccoon, 15@50c; red fox, 25c@$1.25; grey fox, 25@50c; wolf (timber), 25c@$2.50; wolf (prairie coyote), 10@50c; wildcat, 10@25c; badger, 50@60c; silver fox, $50.00@75.00.

St. Louis Markets.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 15.—FLOUR—Lower; patents $4.65@4.85; straights, $4.35@4.50; clear, $4.0@4.25; medium, $3.00@3.75.

WHEAT—Irregular closing steady for December with May ⅝c above and July ¼c below yesterday. May, the active option, opened about the same as it closed yesterday, declined ¼c, rallied ⅝c, broke ¼c, late reacting ⅝@⅞c closing with sellers at the top. Spot, lower; No. 2 red cash or elevator, 97c; track, 97⅛@$1.00; December, 97½c; January, 96c asked; May, 92⅝@92½c; July, 89c; No. 2 hard, cash, 86@87c.

CORN—Futures were dull early but became strong later, closing with buyers ¼c above the bottom and ⅜c higher than yesterday. Spot steady; No. 2 cash, 25c; December, 24⅝c; January, 25c asked; May, 27c.

OATS—Futures were dull and unchanged. Spot steady; No. 2 cash elevator, 21c; track, 22c; No. 2 white, 24½c; December, 21c; May, 22½c.

RYE—Firm, 45@45½c.

FLAXSEED—Higher, $1.12.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, $2.50.

CORNMEAL—$1.40.

BRAN—Steady; sacked offered at east track at 56c.

HAY—Firm; prairie, $7.50@8.50; timothy, $8.25@10.00.

BUTTER—Dull; creamery, 18@23c; dairies, 9@18c.

EGGS—Steady 17c.

WHISKY—$1.19.

METALS—Lead, firm, $3.52½@3.55. Spelter, nominal, $3.75@3.77½.

PROVISIONS—Pork, higher; standard mess, jobbing, $8.50. Lard, higher; prime steam, $4.35; choice, $4.40. Bacon, boxed lots extra short clear, $4.75@5.00; ribs, $5.12½@5.37½; shorts, $5.25@5.50. Dry salt meats, boxed shoulders and shorts, $4.75@5.00; extra short clear, $4.37½@4.50; ribs, $4.62½@4.87½.

RECEIPTS—Flour, 5,000 bbls.; wheat, 52,000 bu.; corn, 126,000 bu.; oats, 24,000 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Flour, 4,000 bbls.; wheat, 37,000 bu.; corn, 156,000 bu.; oats, 71,000 bu.

Weare Commission Company.

OMAHA OFFICE, Dec. 15.—Early cables this morning at ¼c lower than yesterday influenced our market to an opening of 90⅛@90⅜c for May wheat, or practically yesterday's close, with December unchanged, and with oats and corn in the same notches. The comparison of receipts and shipments shows an increase yesterday of 335,000 bushels of wheat in Chicago and 220,000 bushels of corn and 205,000 bushels of oats, which is distinctly a bearish feature, especially so with corn, when the supply of 17,000,000 bushels in Chicago is taken into consideration, and yet it held firm and advanced, as did all other kinds of grain, upon the reports of advancing cables, with damage to the Argentine crop, with that country as a prospective buyer at any material decline in present values, assisted by light receipts of cars, there being 100 cars less of wheat than half as many cars of corn as has been received any previous day this month, with the receipts of oats being but half those of yesterday and but one day's lighter business in them this month.

May wheat closed at 91⅛c, or ⅛c higher than yesterday, while December closed ⅛c lower with May corn at 29c, or ⅜c higher, closing at the top, while oats were strong at ⅛c higher.

The increase of the contract grade of wheat in Chicago, considered with the antics of the "bull clique," is causing some comment as to their purpose toward the market, and for this reason we do not care to express any opinion in regard to the immediate future of wheat, but think that either corn or oats are a purchase for at least a scalp.

Cincinnati Market.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 15.—FLOUR—Steady; fancy $4.25@4.40; family, $3.25@3.80.

WHEAT—Easier; No. 2 red, 95c.

CORN—Quiet; No. 2 mixed, 26½@26¾c.

OATS—Firm; No. 2 mixed, 24½c.

RYE—Steady; No. 2, 46½c.

PROVISIONS—Lard, firmer, $4.30. Bulk meats easy and higher, $4.35. Bacon, easy, $5.50.

WHISKY—Active, $1.19.

BUTTER—Quiet and lower; Elgin creamery, 24c; Ohio, 14@20c; dairy, 12@13c.

EGGS—Easy at 16½c.

CHEESE—Steady; good to prime Ohio flat 8½@9c.

Liverpool Markets.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 15.—WHEAT—Spot, No. 2 red western winter, steady at 7s 9½d; No. 1 red northern spring, steady at 7s 8½d.

CORN—Spot, American mixed, quiet at 3s 2½d; December, 3s 2d; January, 3s 1¾d; February 3s 1½d.

FLOUR—St. Louis fancy winter, steady at 19s.

BACON—At London (Pacific coast), firm at £r 10s@£5.

PROVISIONS—Beef, extra India mess, 66s; prime mess, 56s 3d. Pork, firm; prime mess western, 38s 54. Hams, short cut, 14 to 16 lbs., steady at 36s 6d. Bacon, short ribs, 20 to 24 lbs., dull at 24s 6d; long clear middles, light, dull at 31s; short clear backs, dull at 30s; long clear middles, heavy, dull at 30s; clear bellies, firm at 28s 6d; shoulders, square, firm at 29s. Lard, prime western, firm at 22s 9d. Tallow, prime city, steady at 18s 6d.

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

Baltimore Markets.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 15.—FLOUR—Dull and unchanged; receipts, 14,226 bbls.; exports, 40,318 bbls.; western superfine, $2.70@3.00; extra, $2.75@3.00; family, $4.00@4.25; winter western patents, $4.35@4.50; spring, $4.00@4.20; spring wheat stocks, $4.00@4.25.

WHEAT—Easier; spot and month, 90⅛@90⅜c; steamer No. 2 red, 90⅛@90⅝c; receipts, 24,724 bu.; exports, 72,000 bu.; southern wheat, by sample, 91@97½c; on grade, 91⅛@93⅛c.

CORN—Steady; spot, 32@32⅛c; month, 32⅛@32⅜c; December, new or old, 32¼@32½c; steamer mixed, 30½@30⅝c; receipts, 189,086 bu.; exports, 152,922 bu.; southern white and yellow, 37½@32½c.

OATS—Quiet and steady; No. 2 white, 29½@30c; No. 2 mixed, 27@27½c; receipts, 24,591 bu.; exports, none.

RYE—Easier; No. 2 nearby, 51½c; No. 2 western, 52½c; receipts, 13,326 bu.; exports, 25,714 bu.

HAY—Steady; choice timothy, $13.00 asked.

GRAIN FREIGHTS—Fairly active and easy; steam to Liverpool, per bu., 4d December; Cork for orders, per quarter, 3s 6d January; 3s 6d February.

BUTTER—Firm; fancy creamery, 23@24c; fancy ladle, 17@18c; good ladle, 15@16c; store packed, 12@14c.

EGGS—Steady; fresh, 19@20c.

CHEESE—Steady and unchanged; market stock heavy; fancy New York, large, 9¼@10c; fancy New York, small, 10¼@10½c.

Bradstreet's Visible Stocks.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Special cable and telegraphic dispatches to Bradstreet's covering the principal points of accumulation indicate the following changes in available supplies last Saturday as compared with the preceding Saturday:

WHEAT—United States and Canada, east of Rockies, increase, 82,000 bu.; afloat for and in Europe, increase (Liverpool Corn Trade News), 200,000 bu.; world's supply, total increase, 383,000 bu.

CORN—United States and Canada, east of Rockies, decrease, 470,000 bu.

OATS—United States and Canada, east of Rockies, decrease, 799,000 bu.

Further shifting of the country's wheat stocks is indicated by reports to Bradstreet's this week. Among the more important increases not reported in the visible supply were the gains of 598,000 bu. at New Orleans, 350,000 bu. at Chicago private elevators and 118,000 bu. at Winnipeg. The large decrease included a falling off of 570,000 bu. at Fort William and Kewatin and 120,000 bu. at points in Manitoba outside of Winnipeg.

Kansas City Grain and Provisions.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 15.—WHEAT—Slow; hard about steady; soft firm; No. 1 hard, 84@84½c; No. 2, 81½@84½c; No. 3, 78@81½c; No. 4, 77@78½c; rejected, 74@76c; No. 2 red, 93c; No. 3, 89@92c; No. 4, 81½@86c; No. 2 spring, 81@82c; No. 3, 78c.

CORN—Firm, rather strong; No. 2 mixed, 23c.

OATS—Rather slow, about steady; No. 2 white, 24½@24½c.

RYE—No. 2, 43c.

HAY—Quiet and firm; choice timothy, $8.50@8.75; choice prairie, $7.25.

BUTTER—Country roll wanted; all grades steady; creamery, 17@18c; dairy, 13@15c.

EGGS—Steady and active; fresh, 17½c; storage, 14@15c.

WHEAT—Receipts, 65,600 bu.; corn, 65,000 bu.; oats, 20,000 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Wheat, 42,000 bu.; corn, 6,000 bu.; oats, none.

New Orleans Markets.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 15.—HOG PRODUCTS—Steady. Pork, standard mess, 8¾c. Lard, refined, tierce, 4¾c. Boxed meats, dry salt shoulders, 4⅝@4¾c; sides, 4⅝c. Bacon, clear rib sides, 5⅝c. Hams, choice sugar cured, 8@9½c.

COFFEE—Firm; Rio, ordinary to fair, 7½@9½c.

FLOUR—Firm; extra fancy, $4.50@4.60; patents, $4.90@5.00.

CORNMEAL—Quiet, $1.00.

BRAN—Quiet, 70c.

HAY—Easy; prime, $12.50@14.00; choice, $15.00.

CORN—Steady; No. 2 sacked white, 25c; mixed, 35c; yellow, 36c.

OATS—Steady; No. 2 sacked, 28c.

RICE—Quiet; ordinary to good, 3⅞@4½c.

Grain Receipts at Principal Markets.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 15.—Receipts: Wheat, 72 cars; corn, 176 cars; oats, 295 cars. Estimated tomorrow: Wheat, 410 cars; corn, 210 cars; oats, 260 cars.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 15.—Receipts: Wheat, 109 cars.

DULUTH, Dec. 15.—Receipts: Wheat, 10 cars.

PEORIA, Dec. 15.—Receipts: Corn, 43,600 bus.; oats, 22,900 bus. Shipments: Corn, 33,300 bus.; oats, 22,400 bus.; whisky, 1,410 bus.; wheat, 1,270 bus.

Toledo Market.

TOLEDO, Dec. 15.—WHEAT—Dull; No. 2 cash and December, 93½c; May, 93¼c.

CORN—Active; No. 2 mixed cash and December, 26½c.

OATS—Steady; No. 2 mixed, 22c.

RYE—Dull; No. 2 cash, 46c.

CLOVERSEED—Higher; firm; prime cash, $3.12½.

Philadelphia Produce.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 15.—BUTTER—Steady; fancy western creamery, 23c; fancy western prints, 25c.

EGGS—Unchanged; fresh nearby, 20c; fresh western, 20c.

CHEESE—Steady.

Detroit Markets.

DETROIT, Dec. 15.—WHEAT—No. 1 white, 91½c; No. 2 red, 92⅝c; May, 92½c.

CORN—No. 2 mixed, 29c.

OATS—No. 2 white, 24½c.

RYE—No. 2, 47c.

Peoria Markets.

PEORIA, Dec. 15.—CORN—Steady; No. 2, 26c.

RYE—Firm; No. 2, 48@50c.

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

San Francisco Wheat Market.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 15.—WHEAT—Quiet and firm; May, $1.38½.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Bulls and Bears Contest, the Latter Getting the Advantage.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Today's market was largely professional, and in the contest between the bulls and bears the former enlisted themselves under the banner of the coalers and the latter made the traction stocks their main resource. The fortunes of battle shifted several times during the day, and in the middle afternoon the bulls seemed to have gained a decisive advantage, the earlier marked losses in some special stocks having been almost entirely wiped out and the bears apparently driven to cover. In the last hour of trading, however, a large number of loans were suddenly called and in replacing them the call loan rate stiffened sharply to 4 per cent, at which rate a large amount of money was placed. This induced liquidation, especially in stocks which yielded a profit on the day's advance. The bears thus encouraged renewed their attack on the specialties which had engrossed their attention all day and uncovered loss orders on the way down. As a consequence the tide of battle was turned completely and victory lay with the bears. A small part of the day's large gains was left in some of the stocks which had shown most early strength, but in other leading shares early gains were replaced by late losses.

The scarcity of money is due to operations looking to the payment tomorrow of an instalment of about $8,500,000 by the Union Pacific sale. The previous payments on this account, amounting to over $29,000,000, have been left on deposit in New York banks, but tomorrow's payment will go direct into the treasury and be removed from the money market. Two additional payments of an equal amount remain to be made, one on December 20 and one on January 5, and this will be paid directly into the treasury. The payment by the government on December 24 of the maturing Pacific bonds, which amount to over $29,000,000, will be made by checks, presumably on the New York deposits to the government's credit.

The movement in currency continues from New York, the week indicating a still further decline in New York cash reserve. The tone of sterling exchange was somewhat easier today, but did not respond to any marked degree to the hardening of the money market. Time money for three or shorter periods also stiffened appreciably.

The early strength in the day's stock market was aided by the rise in the price of coalers due to reports of an agreement to restrict the output during the coming year. The Northern Pacific stocks were also a center of strength, the preferred advancing at one time 1¾ per cent and the common nearly a point. Reports from London and the European bourses showed a good demand there for those stocks. Atchison preferred was also up over a point at one time. The rise above par of Burlington was a further feature. The special weakness of the local traction stocks was due to the threatened agitation of anti-franchise men, and to the judicial decision at Albany holding that consent of adjoining property owners is necessary to enable the cars of one company to run on the tracks of another company. The resumption of the quarterly dividend of 1¼ per cent in Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis preferred, after its omission for two quarterly periods, was a feature of the day, as was the 1 per cent dividend in Southern preferred.

Sugar was traded in ex-dividend, and at one time during the day showed a recovery of one-third of the dividend, but in the later dealings it succumbed quite early and lost over 2 points on the day. Norfolk & Western preferred, which was at one time nearly 3 points higher, shows a net gain of 1⅜ per cent.

The bond market was firm at less active prices, and the active issues were only about steady. Some of the high price issues showed sharp advances. Missouri Pacific collaterals lost 3 points. Total sales, $290 000. United States new 4s declined ⅛ per cent bid.

The Evening Post's London financial cablegram says: "The settlement has been concluded and the stock markets here were generally good today. The feature was the rise in English rails on the belief that the engineers' strike is about settled. Americans were good and close near the best, although the support here is almost entirely professional. St. Paul was especially bought at the close. Kaffirs were animated and strong, notably the deep level shares. I am privately informed that a large block of shares has been taken up by a syndicate in Scotland. Western Australian mines were buoyant. There is a keen demand for gold by Russia and India at 78 strong. The allotment of Indian council drafts was all sold and five lakhs in addition. The allotment rates ranged up to 15 1-64. Indications favor a demand for drafts for some time to come. Paris copper shares were steadier. A huge amount was borrowed from the Bank of England today."

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

Atchison	13⅛	do pfd.....	142
do pfd.....	31	St. P. & Om.....	76¼
Baltimore & Ohio...	13	do pfd.....	150⅛
Canada Pacific	80⅝	St. P. M. & M.....	123
Canada Southern..	55⅛	So. Pacific	20
Central Pacific.....	10⅝	So. Railway.....	9⅛
Ches. & Ohio.....	22⅝	do pfd	32⅝
Chicago & Alton....	162	Texas & Pacific	11⅛
C., B. & Q.....	99⅝	Union Pacific t. r..	21⅝
C. & E. I.....	52	U. P. D. & G.....	7⅝
C. C. C. & St. L...	83¼	Wabash	7⅝
do pfd.....	91	do pfd	21⅝
Del. & Hudson.....	111⅝	Wheel. & L. E.....	2
Del. L. & W.....	154	Wheel. & L. E. pfd	10
Den. & Rio G	11⅝	Adams Ex.....	156
do pfd.....	42⅝	American Ex.....	115
Erie (new).....	13⅝	United States Ex...	40
Erie 1st pfd.....	38⅝	Wells Fargo Ex....	113
Ft. Wayne	170	A. Cok. Oil.....	22⅝
Great Northern pfd.	130	do pfd.....	75⅝
Hocking Valley.....	6⅝	Am. Spirits	7⅝
Illinois Central.....	104⅝	Am. Spirits pfd.....	18⅝
Lake Erie & W.....	16⅝	Am. Tobacco.....	87
do pfd.....	70	do pfd	111
Lake Shore.....	174	People's Gas.....	96⅝
Louisville & Nash..	57⅝	Cons. Gas	177
Manhattan L.....	102⅝	Com. Cable Co.....	175
Met. St. Ry.....	121⅝	Col. F. & Iron.....	23
Michigan Central..	102	do pfd.....	70
Minn. & St. L.....	2⅝	Gen. Electric.....	38⅝
do 1st pfd.....	88	Illinois Steel.....	43
Mo. Pacific.....	34⅝	La Clede Gas.....	44⅝
Mobile & Ohio.....	29	Lead.....	34⅝
Mo. K. & T.....	13⅝	do pfd.....	104
do pfd.....	36⅝	Nat. Lin. Oil.....	16⅝
Chicago. Ind. & L..	9⅝	Oregon Imp. Co....	14⅝
do pfd.....	32⅝	Pacific Mail.....	30
N. J. Central.....	93⅝	Pullman Pal.....	173
N. Y. Central.....	107⅝	Silver Certificates..	57⅝
N. Y. Chi. & St. L.	13⅝	Stand. Rope & T...	4⅝
do 1st pfd.....	73