COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

Leiter Influence Still Felt on Chicago Board of Trade.

DECEMBER WHEAT ADVANCES ONE CENT

Support from the Young Manipulator Braces the Market at Times When It Was Disposed to Sag.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28.—Wheat opened firm today and closed firm at ¼c advance for May and ⅛c higher for December, but it had several radical changes of feeling during the session. Statistics were bearish, but the influence of strong, coarse grain markets and support from the Leiter party counterbalanced this in the end. Corn closed without change. Oats gained 4@4⅛c. Provisions were firm until near the end, when they became heavy, and closed 2½@5c lower.

The opening in wheat was firm, May starting at 94¼c, against yesterday's price of 94c, and holding for a few minutes at 94½@94⅝c. There was moderate buying at the start, influenced apparently by the strength of Liverpool, where ½@⅝d advance was recorded in face of the ½@⅝d decline here yesterday. The early firmness shown by corn and oats also helped. There was official confirmation of the small exports from all countries to Europe last week that the Liverpool Corn Trade News cablegram advised of the day before. The figures made the total world's shipments 6,625,000 bu., and as this country contributed 4,750,000 bu., the quota of all the other exporting countries in the world amounted to only 1,875,000 bu. A week spell succeeded the firm start, caused by heavy receipts in Chicago and the estimate emanating from what was considered a reliable source that Argentine would have an exportable surplus of 60,000,000 bu. The Chicago receipts were 488 carloads, and the estimated addition to the contract stocks in regular warehouses from today's receipts was 250,000 bu. Minneapolis and Duluth received 657 cars, against 280 a week ago, and 344 the corresponding day of the year before. Trading was very dull, and the market broke very easily on moderate offerings, selling down to 93¾c. When the clearances of wheat and flour at New York of the day were reported as equal to 415,000 bu, the buoyancies that set in was arrested and succeeded by another period of considerable strength, May recovering to 94¼c and holding for some time at close to that figure. The Leiter people were conspicuous buyers on the advance. The wheat and flour on ocean passage decreased 320,000 bu. Bradstreet's made the world's visible supply 50,000,000 bu, more than it was a week ago, showing an increase during this side of 1,250,000 bu., and a decrease in and afloat for Europe of 1,250,000 bu. A year ago on the corresponding week there was a net decrease in world's stocks of 2,355,000 bu. The total wheat and flour cleared from the principal Atlantic ports was equal to 555,000 bu. The contract stock of wheat in Chicago Saturday night the last week 7,237,235 bu., an addition of 2,077,000 bu. for the week, and since Saturday enough has been received to make the stock 8,500,000 bu. After 12 o'clock the market experienced another weak spell, during which May dropped to 93¾@93⅝c, but toward the close the market became quite strong again, and gradually recovered to where it closed. December was weak early, but was shot up to $1.00¾ on buying of perhaps 25,000 bu. It closed at 99½c. Deliveries of wheat amount to 50,000 bu., half of which came from Armour, Allen & Grier received it.

Corn was quite active and irregular. It was firm at the opening on higher cables and the foreign demand, but broke quickly on the unexpectedly heavy receipts, 954 cars, with quite a rush of selling. The heavier holders stood pat, however. In sympathy with the late firmness of wheat the corn market became strong again, and swaps well supported for the rest of the session. May ranged from 30¾c to 29¾c, and closed unchanged at 30¾c.

The market for oats was a very broad and important one. The market shared the opening firmness of wheat and corn, but the advance provoked a flood of profit taking and short selling, which caused a sharp decline. At the bottom heavy buying commenced again, the Leiter interests being credited with the purchase of 750,000 bu., while other prominent people bought heavily. Rumors of the sale of fifty loads for direct shipment to London contributed to the firmness. Cash prices were the highest for several months. May ranged from 24c to 23¾@23¼c, closing at 24c.

Provisions at the start and for some time after were steady. Hog receipts were small, and yard prices higher, which helped to maintain prices. Trading was dull with outside orders limited, and fluctuations during the morning were narrow. A few minutes before the close some heavy selling orders, supposedly from John Cudahy, caused a slump and left the market weak. At the close May pork was 5c lower at $8.87½. May lard 2½c lower at $4.70, and May ribs 2½c lower at $4.52½.

Estimated receipts for Wednesday: Wheat, 235 cars; corn, 310 cars; oats, 240 cars; hogs, 32,000 head.

Leading futures ranged as follows.

Articles.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.	Yesday
Wheat-					
Dec....	98	1 00¼	97¼	99⅛	98¼
Jan....	94¼	94⅜	94¼	94⅜	94⅛
May....	94¼	94½	93½	94¼	94
*Corn—					
Dec....	27¼	27¾	27	27⅜	27
Jan....	27⅜	27⅝	27	27⅝	27¼
May....	30⅜	30¾	30¼	30⅜	30⅛
July....	31¼	31¼	30¾	31⅛	31⅛
*Oats—					
Dec....	22¾	22¾	22½	22⅝	22¼
May....	23¾	24	23½	24	23⅜
Pork—					
Dec....				7 70	7 70
Jan....	8 75	8 77½	8 70	8 70	8 72½
May....	8 92½	8 95	8 87½	8 87½	8 92½
Lard—					
Dec....				4 42½	4 45
Jan....	4 53	4 57½	4 52½	4 55	4 55
May....	4 72½	4 72½	4 67½	4 70	4 72½
Sh'tribs					
Dec....				4 35	4 40
Jan....	4 40	4 40	4 35	4 37½	4 40
May....	4 55	4 52½	4 50	4 52½	4 42½

*Cash quotations were as follows:

FLOUR—Steady; winter patents, $4.70@4.80; straights, $4.30@4.40; spring specials, $5.50; spring patents, $4.40@4.80; straights, $4.10@4.40; bakers, $3.50@3.80.

WHEAT—No. 2 spring, 93½@99c; No. 3 spring, 84@91c; No. 2 red, 96½@97½c.

CORN—No. 2, 27¾@27½c.

OATS—No. 2, 23½@23¾c; No. 2 yellow, 27½@27½c; No. 2 white, 25c; No. 3 white, 24½@25¼c; No. 3 white, f. o. b., 24½@25c.

RYE—No. 2, 46¾c.

BARLEY—No. 2, f. o. b., 28½@28c.

SEEDS—No. 1, flaxseed, $1.17½@1.21½. Prime timothy seed, $2.75.

PROVISIONS—Mess pork, per bbl., $7.50@7.75. Lard, per 100 lbs., $4.52½@4.55. Short ribs sides (loose), $4.35@4.70; dry salted shoulders (boxed), 4½@4¾c; short clear sides (boxed), $4.65@4.75.

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

SUGARS—Cut loof, $5.96; granulated, $5.92.

Articles.	Receipts.	Shipments.
Flour, bbls	33,000	23,000
Wheat, bu	232,000	5,000
Corn, bu	385,000	80,000
Oats, bu	483,000	410,000
Rye, bu	17,000	34,000
Barley, bu	73,000	22,000

On the Produce exchange today the butter market was steady; creameries, 15@21c; dairies, 12@18c. Cheese, firm; Ecgs, firm; fresh, 21c. Dressed poultry, market steady; turkeys, 5@9c; chickens, 5½@6c; ducks, 6@7c.

NEW YORK GENERAL MARKET.

Quotations of the Day on General Commodities.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—FLOUR—Receipts, 21,973 bbls.; exports, 18,149 bbls.; quiet, but firmer on improvement in grain; city mill patents, $5.25@5.90; city mill clears, $5.40@5.50; Minnesota patents, $5.15@5.45; Minnesota bakers, $4.25@4.50; winter patents, $4.85@5.15; winter straights, $4.50@4.65; winter extras, $3.40@4.00; winter low grades, $2.90@3.00. Rye flour, steady at $2.60@3.25, latter for fancy. Buckwheat flour, dull at $1.25@1.40.

BUCKWHEAT—Dull at 36½@37c.

CORN MEAL—Firmer; yellow western, 67c; city, 68c.

RYE—Quiet; No. 2 western, 50½c; car lots, 50@51c.

BARLEY—Steady; feeding, 25c.

BARLEY MALT—Steady; western, 32½@40c.

WHEAT—Receipts, 149,450 bu.; exports, 333,752 bu. Spot, firm; No. 2 red, 91.02¾. Options opened firm on cables, broke sharply under liquidation, bearish Argentine news and disappointing late foreign markets, but finally rallied on active covering and strength in coarse grain markets, closing ½@⅝c net higher; No. 2 red, May, 94@94⅝c, closed at 95¼c.

CORN—Receipts, 42,900 bu.; exports, 150,960 bu. Spot, firm; No. 2, 25¾c. Options opened steady with wheat, but declined on heavy carlot reports, with a late rally on covering, closed ¼@⅜c net higher; May, 34 15-16@35⅛c; closed at 35¼c.

OATS—Receipts, 127,200 bu.; exports, 228,189 bu. Spot, strong; No. 2, 28½@28¾c. Options were quiet, but stronger on large export purchases west and improvement in cash circles; closed ⅛@⅜c net lower; May closed at 28¼c.

FEED—Dull; bran, 67½@67½c middlings, 75@77½c; rye feed, 60@65c; city, 70c.

HAY—Dull; shipping, 60@65c; choice, 65@70c.

HOPS—Steady; state, common to choice, 1896 crop, 4@6c; 1896 crop, 7@9c; 1897 crop, 16@18c; Pacific coast, 1896 crop, 4@6c; 1896 crop, 7@9c; 1897 crop, 16@18c.

PROVISIONS—Beef, steady; family, $7.50@9.00; extra, $7.00@8.00; beef hams, $22.00@22.50, nominal. Pork, quiet; family, $9.00@10.00. Cut meats, quiet; pickled bellies, $5.00@6.00; pickled shoulders, $5.00@5.25; pickled hams, $7. Lard, steady; western steam, $4.82½; December, $4.80; refined, steady. Pork, quiet; mess, $8.50@9.00; short clear, $10.00@12.00; family, $10.00@10.50. Tallow, firm; city, 3½c bid; country, 3½@3¾c.

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

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

WOOL—Steady; fleece, 27@28c; Texas, 12@17c. OILS—Petroleum, dull; United, no market, 66½c; Pennsylvania crude, 85c. Rosin, steady; strained, common to good, $1.60@1.65. Turpentine steady at 31½@32c. Cottonseed, firmer and more active, prime crude, 19@19½c; prime crude f. o. b. mills, 19@19½c; prime summer yellow, 22c; prime summer yellow, 21½c; prime winter yellow, 21@22c.

RICE—Steady; fair to extra, 4¾@6¼c; Japan, 5@5¼c.

MOLASSES—Quiet; New Orleans, open kettle, good to choice, 20@31c.

METALS—The metal market fails to show any improvement. According to the Metal exchange official report pig iron warrants closed dull at $9.62½@9.75 bid; lake copper unchanged at $10.85 bid and $10.95 asked. Tin, unchanged at $12.05 bid and $12.70 asked. Spelter, quiet at $3.95@4.00. Lead, unchanged at $3.70@3.75. The firm making quotations for miners and smelters to settle mills and lead stores at $3.80; copper, dull at $10.87½, and casting copper dull at $10.37½.

BUTTER—Receipts, 3,111 pkgs.; steady; western creamery, 15@22c Elgins, 22c; factory, 15@17c.

CHEESE—Receipts, 3,731 pkgs.; quiet; large, white, September, 9½c; small, white, September, 9½@9¾c; large, colored, September, 9½c; small, colored, September, 9¾@9¾c; large, late made, 7½@8c; small, late made, 8¼@8½c; part skims, 6@6½c; part skims, 4½@5½c; full skims, 3@4c.

EGGS—Receipts, 6,132 pkgs.; firm; state and Pennsylvania, 24@25c; western, 21@24½c.

OMAHA GENERAL MARKETS.

Condition of Trade and Quotations on Staple and Fancy Produce.

EGGS—Strictly fresh, 18@19c.

BUTTER—Common to fair, 10@11c; choice to fancy, 14@15c; separator creamery, 21c; gathered creamery, 18@19c.

CHEESE—Choice full, 10 to 120 lbs., quoted at 8c; large and coarse, 7@8c.

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

GAME—Small rabbits, per doz., 50c; large, per doz., $1@1.20; prairie chickens, $3; quail, 90c@$1.00; squirrels, 50@60c.

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

VEGETABLES—Celery, 15c; cabbage, $1.25; hothouse cucumbers, $1.25; hothouse lettuce, 15c per pound; hothouse radishes, 15c per dozen bunches; hothouse rhubarb, 15c per dozen bunches; tomatoes, $2.50 per crate; Spanish onions, $1.75 per crate; California onions, $1.75 per crate; Illinois onions, $1.50 per bushel; Illinois potatoes, 30c per bushel; sweet potatoes, $2.50 per bushel; Illinois cabbage, $1.50 per hundred; Illinois celery, 15c per bunch; Illinois parsley, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois beets, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois carrots, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois turnips, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois parsnips, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois horseradish, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois cauliflower, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois Brussels sprouts, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois peppers, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois egg plant, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois dried peppers, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois dried sage, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois dried thyme, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois dried parsley, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois dried summer savory, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois dried sweet marjoram, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois dried sweet basil, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois dried mint, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois dried lavender, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois dried rosemary, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois dried caraway seed, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois dried coriander seed, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois dried dill seed, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois dried fennel seed, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois dried anise seed, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois dried mustard seed, 15c per dozen bunches; Illinois dried celery seed