CONDITION OF OMAHA'S TRADE

Jobbers Well Pleased with the Experiences of the Past Week.

COLLECTIONS ALL THAT COULD BE ASKED

Wholesale Fruit Merchants Scouring the South—Friction Between Jobbers and Retailers Hard to Be Avoided—Bank Clearings.

The past week has developed a very satisfactory run of general business in the jobbing district. Buyers have been in good attendance, in fact, many jobbers say that the number of visiting country merchants is larger than it has been at any time in the past year or more, excepting only the week of the State fair. A large proportion of those merchants who put in an appearance the past week evidently came with the expressed intention of placing orders as the most of them bought liberally.

Salesmen on the road also made good progress and the whole situation as regards the jobbing trade continues in a most satisfactory condition, only good reports being heard in all quarters.

Country collections are very good and are likely to so continue as long as the farmers have corn and hogs to convert into cash with which to supply their wants at the country stores.

The local retail trade averaged very well the past week, though the weather was quite severe on some days and shoppers were inclined to remain in doors. It is a noticeable fact that there are more people in Omaha and that there has also been a large increase in the number of working people who have steady employment, both of which facts have been conducive to an improved condition of the retail trade.

HARD TO DRAW THE LINE.

The line of demarcation between retailers and jobbers is a question that has bothered the brains of tradesmen ever since the beginning of history and is very little nearer a satisfactory solution now than at the beginning. To determine where the province of the jobbers ceases and that of the retailer begins, to definitely settle what constitutes jobbing and what retailing, though it may appear an easy matter at first sight is nevertheless beset with difficulties that have baffled the brightest minds in trade. Naturally enough the retailer is the chief complainant, the tendency being for the jobber or wholesale dealer to invade the territory of the retailer, while the latter has few opportunities to interfere with the wholesaler.

The desire to sell, to clean up stocks, especially for cash, and a disinclination to disoblige friends, are the chief incentives that lead the wholesale dealer to sell to consumers, which, according to the retail dealer's definition, constitutes retailing. Every jobber insists that his house does not retail goods, while the retail merchant insists that they all do to a greater or less degree.

In Omaha the contest between retailers and wholesalers has been confined almost entirely to that branch of trade engaged in handling groceries and fruits, and while no great noise has been made, considerable feeling has been engendered at times. The retail grocers have a strong association which resents any invasion of the retailers' domain in the manner that has been frequently invoked to bring the wholesalers to their way of thinking.

As a jobber remarked the other day, it is no easy matter to keep from selling goods to consumers at times. For example, a personal friend of the jobber comes along and asks as a favor that a certain article be sold to him, perhaps it is the firm's banker, or perhaps it is a jobber engaged in some other line of business, who is in a position to be of great assistance and who has been very accommodating at various times what is to be done? A refusal nine times out of ten offends and if the favor be granted the retailer complains that business is being taken from him by the jobber. One such case would amount to very little, but in a city where there are a hundred houses that wholesale goods, each one of them with a certain following of friends, it cuts quite a figure. Then it is customary for men employed in a jobbing house to be allowed to have goods out of the house at wholesale prices. As every house does not handle all the goods that are required in the family the boys gradually make the acquaintance of the men in the other houses and an exchange of courtesies takes place by means of which each employed in a jobbing house is able to secure most anything that may be desired at wholesale. This practice is not by any means restricted to the men on salaries, but the heads of houses practice the same thing. A prominent retail grocer said the other day that he had been intimately acquainted with the head of one of the largest jobbing houses in the city and to his certain knowledge he had never spent a dollar at a retail store in the city of Omaha for any merchandise unless it might be for some article that could not be found in any of the jobbing houses of the city. If he wants a meal he can't be goes to a wholesale house, where the meats are sold, if it is a pair of shoes some friend in one of the wholesale shoe houses fits him out and so on through the whole list. If he wants a case of berries or a barrel of apples or a few sacks of potatoes he sends up to one of the wholesale fruit or produce houses. When the members of firms, all their employes and a long list of friends and favored individuals are taken into consideration it will be seen at once that this invasion of the retailers' domain is a matter of no small moment and it is a question if the retailer is not justified in entering a strong protest.

The cause for complaint, however, would not appear to be all on one side as the jobbers have troubles of their own. In the case of the wholesale fruit and produce men, the retailers do not hesitate to buy directly from the producer, thus to a certain extent invading the field of the wholesaler, and some of the largest retailers receive more produce from the country than they can sell over their own counters and become sellers in the open market. Every produce house is at times the recipient of goods that are not wanted by the retail trade, and is compelled to let a peddler or a consumer have them or see them perish and become a total loss. It is especially so with most kinds of country produce which is perishable and which is received by the commission houses. The country shipper sends in his produce to a commission house to be sold and he expects his commission house to get the first buyer or the best buyer have the goods. He wants the goods sold regardless of the courtesies of trade which custom in the city may have built up and in which he takes not the least particle of interest.

For these and many other reasons the adjustment of the lines and boundaries between the two branches of trade are hard to establish satisfactorily to all parties interested, and there is always likely to be more or less friction between the different interests. However fair dealing on both sides will tend to minimize the difficulties.

One thing is certain, Omaha is one of the poorest retail towns of its size in the whole country and anything that will tend to improve the situation will be likely to meet with favor. The large jobbing houses, however, can hardly be held responsible as other more potent causes have been at work, one of the most marked being the prevailing habit among a very large proportion of the inhabitants of buying supplies of various kinds in Chicago and eastern markets under the impression that they can save money by so doing or that it sounds better to say that this or that article was brought from a large eastern market.

JOBBERS AND MANUFACTURERS.

E. B. Branch of the firm of Branch & Co. is still incapacitated for work by reason of his injury to his hand, received at Niagara falls at the time of the meeting of the National League of Commission Men.

L. G. Doup, the lounge manufacturer, spent a part of the past week in St. Louis where he went to buy stock. The factory is at work getting out spring styles and expects to put out a more attractive line than ever before.

The National Oil & Paint Co. is at work on an order for 1,500 gallons of house paint for a jobbing house. The factory is also turning out the excelsior green roof paint to be used on the roofs of the exposition buildings. Dealers in paints and oils are making great preparations to meet the heavy demand for varnishes and all kinds of interior and exterior finishes which is sure to come with spring.

With the wholesale fruit men all roads seem to lead southward these days. The city is almost depopulated of heads of firms and it is said that the few that are left are thinking of leaving as soon as they can arrange their affairs. The fact that Arkansas has several hundred cars of strawberries that will be ready for shipment northward in the course of a few weeks seems to be the main attraction, and not a desire on the part of the fruit men to escape the cold waves that are to be expected in this latitude.

One unfamiliar with the jobbing trade can hardly form anything like a correct idea of the great number and variety of brushes that are sold from a jobbing point like Omaha. The wholesale grocers, druggists, paper houses and hardware people all handle brushes and lots of them. The unfortunate feature of the business is that all these brushes are made by prison labor and it is impossible for any manufacturer to compete with prison labor, as has already been demonstrated in this city. If it were not for the prison labor it would be possible to build up a large manufacturing industry in this one line in the west that would give employment to a largely increased trade, say the shirt manufacturers. They report a gain of 40 per cent in the volume of trade during January, as compared with the corresponding month of last year. Down at the Nebraska Shirt factory they have received the new spring styles of goods, which seem destined to meet with popular approval. The figures are more subdued and the general effect is much more quiet than last year. The new shades are heliotrope and brown, while pink and blue are strong favorites.

Secretary Holmes of the Manufacturers' association is arranging for a display of the mill products of the state representing the output of twelve different mills. Already nine mills have agreed to the proposition, leaving only three to be obtained, with a half dozen mills seriously considering the matter. The plan is to secure a large space in one of the principal buildings and construct a building of wood after some artistic design which will be covered with bags of flour from the different mills represented. The interior of this structure is to be a model kitchen, which will be conducted by Mrs. Harriet MacMurphy and Mrs. Peak. Mrs. MacMurphy will deliver daily lectures on scientific cookery and the nutritive values of food products, which will be demonstrated by baking and serving flour of the mills represented. Showcases will contain samples of the bread as well as of the flour and the wheat from which it is made.

ployment to a large number of people.

The other day Judge Utley of O'Neill marketed a lot of capons in this city that weighed, dressed, ten pounds each and brought 10 cents per pound, or $1 each, while the average rooster that is coming to the market weighs only four pounds and sells for 5 cents per pound, or 20 cents each. It is claimed by those in the poultry business in the city that the farmers of the state might just as well double several times over their revenue from poultry sales by caponizing their roosters. A capon does not eat any more than a rooster, although he grows to twice the size. Capons are always in good demand in all markets of the country. At the present time old cocks are quoted in Boston at 5 cents per pound and capons at 12@14 cents, while in New York the quotation on capons is 14@17 cents, showing the wide difference in the price between the two grades of fowls. C. M. Nethaway of Wahoo is another Nebraskan who has practiced caponizing his fowls with great success.

WHERE IS THE GREAT DIFFERENCE

Speculations in the West Against Speculations in the East.

W. H. Roberson, local manager of R. G. Dun & Co., speaking of trade for the week, says:

"Quite a sensation was created in Omaha by the announcement of the resignation of the cashier of the great Chemical National Bank of New York and the incidents connected with his transactions. To a western man it seems remarkable that an incident of this kind should attract so much attention in the great commercial centers of the east. Gentlemen of wealth, standing and recognized ability enter into extensive speculations. They suddenly discover that possibly their investments will be unprofitable, and possibly they will sustain losses. The whole country is advised as to the details, and the promoter is roundly abused for inviting these innocent capitalists to participate in his enterprises. Many a western man has taken his wealth to the Chicago grain pit or Wall street and has seen his fortune dissipated in a week through his own bad judgment, aided and abetted by genial and able brokers either in Chicago or New York. Nobody hears of the losses, and outside of a select circle no one knows anything regarding the brokers, and it never occurs to the western commercial agent to dance a war dance on the frame of the broker or of his associates who have profited by the bad judgment of the western investor.

"Personally it has become exceedingly tiresome to me to read from time to time editorial articles of western losses which find their way into the eastern press. Commerce is only enlightened selfishness at the best and whether a man loses money by investing in grain or investing in mining stock, or by investing in western mortgages, I cannot for the life of me see why the western promoter should be considered more dishonest or culpable than an eastern promoter, so long as the investors themselves are not deliberately defrauded by positive misrepresentations.

"Before passing final judgment upon the institutions and persons involved in this particular sensation it might be well to wait for full information as to all the facts.

"Locally, the conditions continue to improve. The early approach of spring gives unusual promise for business in this city. The Internal Revenue department reports collections amounting to $660,000 for the six months ending December 31. The government fiscal year extends from July to July, and the present fiscal year ends June 30, 1898. The figures for the first six months exceed by $40,000 the total receipts for the preceding twelve months of the preceding fiscal year. The month of January, 1898, shows nearly $36,000 more cash received by the internal revenue collector than was received in January, 1897.

"Under the new system of assessment the valuation of the taxable property of the city of Omaha is increased to $22,000,000, a fact worthy of comment because it is well known that our rate upon former assessments was the occasion of considerable unfavorable comment in financial circles, the assessed valuation being extremely low.

"At the postoffice the postage receipts show a gain of $3,300 for the month of January. This is another indication of the improved conditions now prevailing in this city. Probably no public office so closely touches the pulse of commerce as the postoffice.

"At South Omaha in addition to the great improvement in progress and contemplated the fact is that the market is growing more rapidly than either of the other two great markets. The hog pack for the season shows a gain of a little less than 13 per cent over last season at Kansas City, a little more than 17 per cent for Chicago and a mere trifle less than 26 per cent gain for Omaha."

St. Louis General Markets.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 5.—FLOUR—Higher, in sympathy with wheat; patents, $4.50@4.90; straights, $4.35@4.50; clear, $4.25; medium, $3.50@3.75.

WHEAT—Lower, closing ¼c for July and ⅛c for May below yesterday; May opened ¼@⅝c lower, advanced ⅝@¾c and declined ¼c, closing at the bottom. Spot, lower; No. 2 red cash, elevator, 95c track, 96@97c; February, 96c; May, 95⅞@96c; July, 89¾c; No. 2 hard cash, 89½@90c.

CORN—Futures advanced early, but before the finish this gain and more too was lost, the close being ¼c below yesterday. Spot, higher; No. 2 cash, 26½c; February, 26¾c asked; May, 26½@26⅝c; July, 27¼c.

OATS—Futures advanced and closed fractions higher than yesterday. Spot, higher; No. 2 cash, elevator, 24½c; track, 25c; February, 24½c; May, 24¾c asked; July, 23¼c bid; No. 2 white, 26@26½c.

RYE—Steady, 47c.

SEEDS—Flaxseed, quiet, $1.21. Prime timothy seed, $2.65.

CORNMEAL—$1.45@1.50.

BRAN—Quiet, firm; east track, salable, 56½c.

HAY—Strong; prairie, $5.50@8.25; timothy, $8.00@10.25.

BUTTER—Quiet, easy; creamery, 15@19½c; dairy, 8@15c.

EGGS—Steady, 13½c.

WHISKY—$1.19.

COTTONTIES—70c.

BAGGING—5⅝@6c.

METALS—Lead, lower, $3.45@3.47½. Spelter, firm, $3.80.

PROVISIONS—Pork, higher; standard mess, jobbing, $10.37½. Lard, lower; prime steam, $4.67½; choice, $4.75. Bacon, extra short clear, boxed lots, $5.50@5.62½; ribs, $5.62½@5.75; shorts, $5.75@5.87½. Dry salt meats (boxed shoulders), $4.50@4.75; extra short clear, $4.75@5.00; ribs, $5.00@5.25; shorts, $5.12½@5.37½.

RECEIPTS—Flour, 4,000 bbls.; wheat, 14,000 bu.; corn, 117,000 bu.; oats, 29,000 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Flour, 4,000 bbls.; wheat, 13,000 bu.; corn, 57,000 bu.; oats, 21,000 bu.

Kansas City Grain and Provisions.

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 5.—WHEAT—Active, generally ½c higher; No. 1 hard, 88½c; No. 2, 86½@88c; No. 3, 84½@86½c; No. 1 red, 93c; No. 2, 91@93c; No. 3, 86@88c; No. 2, spring, 87c; No. 3, 82@85c.

CORN—Active, steady; No. 2 mixed, 24½@25c.

OATS—Active, about ½c higher; No. 2 white, 23½@24c.

RYE—Steady; No. 2, 43@43½c.

HAY—Weaker on heavier receipts; choice timothy, $8.50@9.00; choice prairie, $6.75@7.00.

BUTTER—Firm; creamery, 15@18c; dairy, 12@14c.

EGGS—Firm at 13½c.

RECEIPTS—Wheat, 76,400 bu.; corn, 87,600 bu.; oats, 7,000 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Wheat, 28,400 bu.; corn, 38,700 bu.; oats, 9,000 bu.

Cincinnati Market.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 5.—FLOUR—Quiet; fancy, $4.50@4.60; family, $3.60@3.80.

WHEAT—Steady; No. 2 red, 95½c.

CORN—Quiet; No. 2 mixed, 29½c.

OATS—Steady; No. 2 mixed, 26c.

RYE—Quiet; No. 2, 49c.

PROVISIONS—Lard, quiet, $4.75. Bulk meats, firm, $4.87½. Bacon, steady, $5.75.

WHISKY—Steady, $1.19.

BUTTER—Quiet; Elgin creamery, 21c; Ohio, 13@18c; dairy, 10c.

SUGAR—Steady; hard refined, $4.03@5.85.

EGGS—Steadier at 15c.

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

Detroit Market.

DETROIT, Feb. 5.—WHEAT—No. 1 white and No. 2 red, 93½c; May, 94½c.

CORN—No. 2 mixed, 27c.

OATS—No. 2 white, 27c.

RYE—No. 2, 49c.

San Francisco Wheat Market.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 5.—WHEAT—Steady; December, $1.32½; May, $1.39½.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

Trading is Almost Entirely Local and Fluctuations Are Narrow.

LIVERPOOL DULLNESS IS REFLECTED HERE

Wheat Closes at a Decline, Corn and Provisions Remain Unchanged, While Oats Show a Small Advance.

CHICAGO, Feb. 5.—After a dull and uninteresting session wheat closed today at ¼c decline. Trading was almost entirely local, and fluctuations were narrow. Corn closed unchanged, Oats were strong, but advanced only ¼c. Provisions reached a new level of prices, but reacted and closed unchanged to a shade lower.

For a few minutes around the opening wheat was inclined to sympathize with the action of the Liverpool market. That market, after opening a little higher, declined and closed ¼d to ⅜d lower in the face of yesterday's improvement here. On this account first sales of May were at a slight decline, May opening at 94⅞@95c, against yesterday's closing price of 95¼c. Besides the Liverpool decline, northwest receipts continued heavy, Minneapolis and Duluth reported a total of 357 cars, against 320 last week, and 279 a year ago. Chicago receipts were forty-six cars. The weekly exports were also not up to expectations, 3,434,000 bu., against 5,025,000 the week before. A rather bearish showing of the visible supply was looked for Monday, and New York reported moderate selling at the opening for foreign account. Notwithstanding all this, the market became strong almost immediately. Moderate buying by local long interests principally supplemented by a little covering by St. Louis brokers of lines put out yesterday, carried the price of May steadily up to 95⅛@95⅜c. The advance was helped by the continued strength of oats and provisions, both of which markets made new prices for the session during the morning. There were reports of grain famine from parts of southeastern Asia, and California reported a continuation of the drouth. A factor in the advance was the report that the reduction on the Italian grain duty would probably remain in effect until the last of May. After the advance to 95⅝@95¾c prices eased off slowly to 95¼c on realizing, but closing Paris cables caused another brief period of strength, and a reaction to 95⅞@95¾c. Paris was from 4½ to 6½ centimes higher for flour, and from 1½ to 3½ centimes higher for wheat. During the last half hour of the session prices gradually receded. There were moderate though persistent offerings, principally in the way of local evening up transactions, and May finally dropped to 95c. That price was bid at the close.

The market for corn was firm but dull, but prices averaging a little over yesterday's close. The market was a good deal influenced by the action of oats. Wheat scalpers were moderate buyers. The slight advance disappeared under realizing late in the session. May closing steady, May ranged from 26¼@26⅜c to 29⅛@29⅜c, and closed unchanged at 29⅛c.

Oats were again quite active, and the market made a new high mark for the season. Reports of large cable acceptances were an important factor in the advance. There was heavy buying by the most influential traders, and shippers and commission houses took large quantities. The advance brought out liberal realizing, and part of the advance was lost, the market closing firm; May ranged from 24⅝c to 24⅞@24½c, and closed ⅛c higher at 24⅝c.

Provisions were again quite active, opening slightly higher, the market quickly became strong on a continuation of the general activity of the preceding yesterday, and were credited with considerable buying. Prices reached the highest points of the season, but heavy realizing at the top caused a reaction, the market closing steady, but with all the advance lost. May pork closed unchanged at $10.27; May lard, 2½c lower at $4.92½, and May ribs, 2½c lower at $5.05@5.07½.

Estimated receipts for Monday: Wheat, 70 cars; corn, 610 cars; oats, 250 cars; hogs, 38,000 head.

Leading futures ranged as follows:

Articles.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.	Yes'dy.
*Wheat—					
Feb....	98	98	98	98	98
May...	94⅞@95	95⅛@⅝	94⅞	95	95¼
July...	84¼	84⅜@⅝	83⅞@84	83⅞@84	84⅝
*Corn—					
Feb....	27⅛	27¼	27⅛	27⅛	27⅛
May...	29⅛@⅜	29⅛@⅜	29⅛	29⅛	29⅛
July...	30¼	30⅛	30¼	30¼@⅜	30¼@⅜
*Oats—					
May...	24⅝@⅞	24⅞	24⅝@⅞	24⅝	24⅜
July...	23	23¼	23	23	23
*Pork—					
May...	10 25	10 35	10 25	10 27½	10 27½
July...	10 35	10 35	10 35	10 37½	10 37½
Lard—					
May...	4 95	5 00	4 92½	4 92½	4 97½
July...	5 05	5 07½	5 02½	5 02½	5 05
*Short Ribs—					
May...	5 07½	5 12½	5 05	5 07½	5 10
July...	5 15	5 20	5 15	5 15	5 17½

Cash quotations were as follows:

FLOUR—Steady; winter patents, $4.80@4.90; straights, $4.30@4.60; spring specials, $5.35@5.45; spring patents, $4.60@4.90; straights, $4.30@4.50; bakers', $4.00@4.30.

WHEAT—No. 2, spring, 91@93c; No. 3 spring, 84@93c; No. 2 red, 93c.

CORN—No. 2, 27⅝c; No. 2 yellow, 27⅝c.

OATS—No. 2, 24⅝@24¾c; No. 3 white, f. o. b., 25⅝@26½c.

RYE—No. 2, 47½c.

BARLEY—No. 2, f. o. b., 29@29⅝c.

FLAXSEED—$1.24½@1.26. Prime, $1.29.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, $2.80@2.82½.

PROVISIONS—Pork, mess, per bbl., $10.20@10.25. Lard, per 100 lbs., $4.95@4.90. Short ribs, sides (loose), $5.25. Dry salted shoulders (boxed), $4.75@5.00; short clear sides (boxed), $5.25@5.35.

WHISKY—Distillers' finished goods, per gal., $1.18½.

SUGARS—Cut loaf, $5.89; granulated, $5.39. *No. 2.

Articles.	Receipts.	Shipments.
Flour, bbls.....	9,000	16,000
Wheat, bu.....	23,000	4,000
Corn, bu.....	343,000	111,000
Oats, bu.....	187,000	114,000
Rye, bu.....	3,000	.....
Barley, bu.....	42,000	4,000

On the Produce exchange today the butter market was firm; creameries, 13@19c; dairies, 11@17c. Cheese, quiet, 8@8½c. Eggs, steady; fresh, 13½c. Dressed poultry, firm; turkeys, 11@12c; chickens, 6½@7½c; ducks 6@7½c.

NEW YORK GENERAL MARKET.

Quotations for the Day on General Commodities.

NEW YORK, Feb. 5.—FLOUR—Receipts, 14,375 bbls.; exports, 4,134 bbls.; quiet, but firmly held; city mill patents, $5.65@5.90; city mill clears, $5.40@5.55; Minnesota patents, $5.10@5.35; Minnesota bakers', $4.25@4.50; winter straights, $4.55@4.65; winter extras, $3.50@3.90; winter low grades, $2.90@3.00. Rye flour, dull, $2.60@3.10, latter for superfine. Buckwheat flour, quiet, $1.25@1.30.

BUCKWHEAT—Firm, 37c.

CORNMEAL—Dull; yellow western, 97c.

RYE—Quiet; No. 2 western, 56½c; car lots, 50@52½c.

BARLEY—Strong; feeding, 38½c.

BARLEY MALT—Steady; western, 52½@66c.

WHEAT—Receipts, 21,285 bu. Spot, firm; No. 2 red, $1.03½. Options, easier on disappointing Liverpool cables, but afterward recovered and closed unchanged to ¼c net higher. Foreigners bought considerable wheat and local covering was stimulated by Russian famine news and bullish Australian and Californian crop reports. No. 2 red, February, $1.02¾; May, 95⅞@96⅛c; closed, 96¼c.

CORN—Receipts, none; exports, 69,056 bu. Spot markets firm; No. 2, 36⅝c. Options quiet, but firmer on some export inquiry and sympathy with wheat, closing ¼c net higher; May, 34@34¼c; closed, 34¼c.

OATS—Receipts, 32,400 bu.; exports, 5,000 bu. Spot, strong; No. 2, 29¾c. Options moderately active and firm on higher spot, closing ¼c net advance; May, 29¼@29½c; closed, 29¼c.

FEED—Firm; bran, 70@77½c; middling, 75@77½c. Rye, 65c.

HAY—Quiet; shipping, 35@45c; good to choice, 60@70c.

HOPS—Steady; state, common to choice, 1895 crop, 4@6c; 1896 crop, 7@9c; 1897 crop, 17@19c; Pacific coast, 1895 crop, 4@6c; 1896 crop, 8@10c; 1897 crop, 17@19c.

HIDES—Steady; Galveston, 20@25 lbs., 15c.

LEATHER—Steady; hemlock sole, Buenos Ayres, 19½@20c.

WOOL—Quiet; fleece, 27@31c; Texas, 13½@15½c.

PROVISIONS—Beef, firm; family, $11.00@11.50; extra mess, $8.00@8.50; beef hams, $23; packet, $9.00@10.50. Cut meats, steady; pickled bellies, 5.62½@5.75; pickled shoulders, $4.75; pickled hams, $7.25@7.50. Lard, firm; western steamed, $4.95; refined, steady; Pork, firm; mess, $9.50@10.50; short clear, $10.00@12.00; family, $10.50@11.00. Tallow, dull; city, 3 9-16@3⅜c; country, 3½@3⅝c.

OILS—Petroleum, dull; United, 56c. Rosin, quiet; strained, common to good, $1.40@1.45. Turpentine, firm, 34@34½c. Cottonseed oil, quiet but fairly steady, without change; prime crude, 16½@19c; prime crude, f. o. b. mills, 15@15½c; prime summer yellow, 21½c bid; off summer yellow, 21½c, nominal. Butter oil, 25@27c; prime winter yellow, 27½@28½c.

RICE—Firm; fair to extra, 4⅝@6⅝c; Japan, 5@5¼c.

MOLASSES—Firm; New Orleans, open kettle, good to choice, 28@35c.

METALS—Pig iron, dull; southern, $9.75@11.25; northern, $10.50@12.00. Copper, strong; brokers', $10.87½. Lead, firm; brokers', $3.45. Tin, plates, steady.

BUTTER—Receipts, 2,709 pkgs.; firm; western creamery, 14½@20c; Elgins, 20c; factory, 11@14c.

CHEESE—Receipts, 460 pkgs.; steady; large, white, September, 8½c; small, white, September, 8⅝@8¾c; large, colored, September, 8@8¼c; small, colored, September, 8⅝@8¾c; large, October, 8⅝@8¾c; small, October, 8½@8¾c; light skims, 6@6½c; part skims, 4@5½c; full skims, 2@3c.

EGGS—Receipts, 4,012 pkgs.; firm; state and Pennsylvania, 19c; western, 18½c.

OMAHA GENERAL MARKETS.

Condition of Trade and Quotations on Staple and Fancy Produce.

EGGS—Good stock, 14c.

BUTTER—Common to fair, 9@11c; separator creamery, 20c; gathered creamery, 15@16c.

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

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

GAME—Small rabbits, per doz., 75c; large, $1.25; 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., $1.

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

SWEET POTATOES—Kansas, 10-peck bbls., $2.50; fancy Muscatine, 11-peck bbls., $3.25.

CABBAGE—Good stock, per lb., 1½c.

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

FRUITS.

APPLES—Winter stock, $3.00@3.50; California Bellefleur, boxes, $1.50; Colorado Jonathans, boxes, $1.75; Oregon, boxes, $1.25.

CRANBERRIES—Jerseys, per bbl., $7.00@7.25; Wisconsin Bell and Bugle, $7.50@7.75; Wisconsin Bell and Cherry, $6.

GRAPES—Malagas, $5.00@6.00.

TROPICAL FRUITS.

ORANGES—Mexican, per box, $2.75@3.00; California navels, $3.00@3.25.

LEMONS—California, fancy, $3.25; choice, $3.

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

MISCELLANEOUS.

NUTS—Almonds, per lb., large size, 12@13c; small, 11c; Brazils, per lb., 9@10c; English walnuts, per lb., fancy soft shell, 10@11c; standards, 8@9c; filberts, per lb., 10c; pecans, polished, medium, 6@7c; extra large, 8@9c; large hickory nuts, $1.00@1.10 per bu.; small, $1.25@1.35 per bu.; cocoanuts, per 100, $4; peanuts, raw, 5@5½c; roasted, 6@6½c.

FIGS—Imported fancy, 3 crown, 14-lb. boxes, 12c; 5 crown, 14-lb. boxes, 14@15c; 2-lb. boxes, 22@23c per box; California, 10-lb. box, $1.

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

KRAUT—Per bbl., $4; half bbl., $2.25@2.35.

MAPLE SYRUP—Five-gal. cans, each, $2.75; gal. cans, pure, per doz., $12; half gal. cans, $6.25; quart cans, $3.50.

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

CIDER—Per half bbl., $3; per bbls, $5.25.

FRESH MEATS.

DRESSED BEEF—Good native steers, 6½c; good forequarters steers, 5½c; good hindquarters steers, 8½c; western steers, 6c; fancy heifers, 6½c; good heifers, 6c; good forequarters heifers, 5c; good hindquarters heifers, 8c; good cows, 5⅝c; fair cows, 5½c; cow forequarters, 4½c; cow hindquarters, 7½c.

BEEF CUTS—Hanging tenderloins, 4½c; ribs, No. 1, 11c; ribs, No. 2, 8c; ribs, No. 3, 6c; sirloins, 7c; cow rounds, 6½c; cow rounds, shank off, 7½c; cow rounds, shank and rump off, 8c; trimmings, 4½c; beef shanks, 3c; brains, per dozen, 35c; sweetbreads, per lb., 12½c; sweetbreads (calves), per lb., 40c; kidneys, per doz., 35c; tails, each, 3c; livers, per lb., 2½c; hearts, per lb., 2½c; tongues, per lb., 12½c; calf livers, each, 35c; calves, whole carcass or sides, 9@10c; calf head and feet, per set, 75c; tenderloins, fresh, 18c; tenderloins, frozen, 16c; boneless strips, fresh, 10c; boneless strips, frozen, 8c; strip loins, fresh, 8c; strip loins, frozen, 6½c; rolls, boneless, 8c; rolls, spencer cuts 9c; sirloin butts, boneless, 9c; shoulder clods, boneless, 6c; rump butts, boneless, 5½c; No. 1 chucks, 6c; No. 2 chucks, 4¾c; No. 3 chucks, 4½c; boneless chucks, 4½c; cross plates, 2½c; briskets, 4c; plank steak, 6c; thin flanks, No. 1, 12c; loins, No. 2, 10c; loins, No. 3, 7½c; short loins, market style, 2c above loins; short loins hotel style, 4c above loins; cow loin ends, 8c; steer loin ends, 7c.

MUTTON—Fancy yearlings, 8½c per lb.; lambs, 7½c; sheep, 6½c; market racks, long, 8½c; hotel racks, short, 11c; loins, 8½c; saddles, 3c; legs, 9c; lamb legs, 10c; breasts and stews, 3½c; tendoins, 3c; forequarters, 5c.

PORK—Dressed pigs, 5½c per lb.; dressed hogs, 5c; tenderloins, 14c; loins, short, 6½c; long, 6c; spare ribs, 4½c; ham sausage butts, 5½c; Boston butts, 5c; shoulders, rough, 4½c; shoulders, skinned, trimmings, 4½c; leaf lard, loose, 3½c; rendered, 5c; heads cleaned, 4c; snouts and ears, 3c; backbones, 2c; slip bones, 2½c; cheek meat, 3½c; neck bones, 2c; pigs' tails, 3c; plucks, each, 5c; sweetbreads, 5c; hocks, 2c; 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, 2c; hog rinds, 3c; blade bones, 5c.

HIDES, TALLOW, ETC.

HIDES—No. 1 green hides, 5c; No. 2 green hides, 4c; No. 1 salted hides, 9c; No. 2 green salted hides, 8c; 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@6c; 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.

TALLOW AND GREASES, etc.—Tallow, No. 1, 3c; tallow, No. 2, 2½c; rough tallow, 1½c; white grease, 2½@2¾c; yellow and brown grease, 1½@2¼c.

FURS—Raw (black or brown), $5.00@20.00; otter, $1.50@8.00; mink, 15@60c; beaver, $1.00@6.00; skunk, 15c, 25c, 50c; muskrat, 3c, 5c, 7c; raccoon, 15@55c; red fox, 25c@$1.25; grey fox, 25@50c; wolf (timber), 25c@$2.50; wolf (prairie coyote), 10@50c; wildcat, 10@75c; badger, 50@40c; silver fox, $10.00@75.00.

HORSE HIDES—Each, $1.50@2.25.

Weare Commission Company.

OMAHA OFFICE, Feb. 5.—The market opened slightly weaker this morning than at last night's close, evidently affected by cables, which were ¼c lower. Later it showed a little strength, which was evenly distributed among the different cereals which it maintained until near the close, when it declined to 95c for May, or ¼c lower than yesterday, and 83⅝c to 84c for July, or ⅜c lower than yesterday. Corn closed unchanged, with the market having a good deal of strength, and closed ⅛c higher.

Although cables were some stronger during the session than at the opening, the local crowd, who are not in a position to stand any material advance, sold the market off as indicated below. To show the energy of the professionals in attempting to get the price of wheat on a little lower level, or what they would term buying ground, we will endeavor to enumerate a few of the tactical facts they are incorporating into the domestic news. The substitution of other grain for wheat and the substitution of lower grades of wheat against the phenomenally high price which Mr. Leiter holds his wheat, the weakness of the St. Louis market was loudly talked of as showing a great influence because of its being located in the winter wheat section; the decreased estimates of foreign requirements, the increased estimates of the Argentine surplus and splendid prospect for winter wheat crop and a larger amount of spring wheat than the most bearish figured on, and yet the prices are higher than when they commenced to give this kind of news, with a good foreign demand and the seaboard quoted as believing that cash wheat would not be a drug in this country for the next three and a half months, at the end of which time the new crop could be floated upon with a reasonable degree of certainty.

However, should this kind of news continue or increase in volume, it is questionable whether manipulation on the cash side of the market will be able to control. In any event the market, with these weights in the balance, is bound to fluctuate and continue giving elegant scalping opportunities, and should it touch any materially lower mark in the nearby futures, it is certainly a purchase for a nice turn.

The visible supply statement Monday is expected to show anywhere up to 500,000 bu. decrease in wheat.

Grain Receipts at Principal Markets.

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 5.—Receipts: Wheat, 17 cars, MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 5.—Receipts: Wheat, 235 cars.

CHICAGO, Feb. 5.—Receipts today: Wheat, 45 cars; corn, 445 cars; oats, 177 cars. Estimated Monday: Wheat, 70 cars; corn, 610 cars; oats, 250 cars.

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 5.—Receipts: Wheat, 119 cars.

DULUTH, Feb. 5.—Receipts: Wheat, 52 cars, cars.

Philadelphia Produce.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 5.—BUTTER—Firm, 1@2c higher; western creamery, fancy, 20½c.

EGGS—Dull, ½c lower; fresh nearby and western, 18@19c.

CHEESE—Steady; New York factory, choice, 8¼@8½c; New York factory, fair to good, 8¼@8½c.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Strength of a Few Lines Lifts the Market to a Higher Level.

NEW YORK, Feb. 5.—Today's stock market was lifted to a higher level by the conspicuous strength of comparatively few stocks. It was noteworthy that the Vanderbilts, which gave the initial impetus to yesterday's advance, showed the effects today of profit-taking, Lake Shore losing 2 points and New York Central a small fraction. Michigan Central, after bounding upward at the opening, receded over a point, but closed with a substantial gain. The far reaching importance of the lowering of New York Central and Lake Shore and the prospects of additions to the plant continued to have a marked sentimental effect on the whole market. The possibilities in the way of reduced expenditures for administration and the stability of rates for traffic from consolidations are canvassed with eager attention by dealers in securities. Pennsylvania was conspicuously affected, and the long sustained advance in the stock of its subsidiary company, Pittsburg, Cleveland, Chicago & St. Louis, is pointed to as evidence of closer relations to come. Burlington rose strongly on rumors of the ripening of