COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

Cold Weather in the Northwest Brings Strength to Wheat.

THERE IS HEAVY BUYING IN MAY AND JULY

Same Influence Rules the Coarser Grains, Corn and Oats Each Making an Advance in Price.

CHICAGO, March 18.—The appearance of cold weather in the northwest today brought an end to the long spell of weakness in wheat and caused heavy buying, both in May and July. The market was strong throughout, May closing 1¼c higher and July 1¼@1⅝c higher. The same influence ruled in the coarser grain markets, corn and oats advancing ¼c each. Provisions were very dull and inclined to weakness, though price changes were small.

Wheat started firm, July ¼c higher at 85¼@85⅝c and May ¼c higher at $1.04⅝. It was raining throughout the west, in itself a depressing factor, but freezing weather was reported in the northwest and there was a good deal of apprehension of the frost line extending over the water-soaked winter wheat fields. Possible damage from this source did not at first result in a great increase in the buying demand, but it stopped the selling pressure, and shorts anxious to cover found it necessary to advance their bids materially before securing the desired wheat. In the first forty-five minutes trading July was advanced to 85¾c. Then realizing by scalpers caused a reaction to 85¼c, where the market hung for a short time. After that the market gradually became stronger and trade broadened out considerably. Late advices from Liverpool showed sharp advances, both in cash and in the deferred futures. California sent quite gloomy crop reports, predictions being that the crop on account of the drouth would not exceed 2,000,000 bu. That these reports were taken seriously in California was evidenced by the number of crop reporters, both by May and July contracts, but especially for the former, which were received from that source. Private advices from the northwest said that stocks there were nearly exhausted. These reports were given some color by the falling off in Minneapolis and Duluth receipts, these two cities reporting 275 cars today, against 439 last week and 297 a year ago. Chicago receipts were 168 cars, 33 of which were of contract grade. The total addition to contract stocks was 118,000 bu., private houses contributing 75 cars and 10,500 bu. The seaboard advices were of a bullish character, an improved foreign demand at better prices being reported. The demand for July became quite general about the middle of the session. Outsiders came into the market in greater numbers, while local shorts were heavy buyers. The prices of July reached 86¼c on this bulge. Another short spell of realizing caused a reaction to 85¾c, but toward the end of the session buying again became heavy and prices advanced. The market ruled strong to the close, July advancing to 86¼@86⅝c and closing strong at 87¼c. Quite a large trade was done in May. California shorts were especially good buyers, as were local traders who have been heavy sellers of that delivery lately also brought back some of their lines. Leiter's brokers were free sellers, but the market was strong enough to absorb everything offered, and probably 500,000 bu. were disposed of by the Leiter people at prices around $1.05¼. May sold as high as $1.06 and closed at $1.05¾.

Corn was strong, though not very active. Less favorable weather conditions and the strength of wheat made a better demand, especially from local shorts, and several important lines were covered. Country offerings were small, which also helped. May ranged from 29¼@29⅝c to 29c and closed ¼c higher at 29¼c.

Oats were stronger in sympathy with other grains and on the unfavorable weather. There was little pressure to sell and with a fairly good demand from shorts prices ruled firm at a slight advance. There was a good cash inquiry, but bids were a little out of line. May ranged from 25⅜c to 25½c and closed ¼c higher at 25⅜@25¼c.

Provisions were dull on the whole, though trading was too small to admit of material declines. Prices fluctuated narrowly all day, with very little doing beyond a scattered scalping business. At the close May pork was 2½c lower at $9.90, May lard unchanged at $5.15 and May ribs unchanged at $5.10.

Estimated receipts Saturday: Wheat, 130 cars; corn, 210 cars; oats, 180 cars; hogs, 17,000 head.

Leading futures ranged as follows:

Articles.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close	Yest'y.
*Wheat—					
March.	1 03	1 03	1 03	1 03	1 02
May	1 04¼	1 04¼	1 03¾	1 03¾	1 04
July	85@85⅝	86¼@86⅝	85	86¼	84¼@84⅝
*Corn—					
May	29@29¼	29¼@29⅜	29	29¼	29
July	30¼@30⅝	30⅝	30¼@30⅜	30⅜@30⅝	30¼
Sept	31⅜	31⅝	31⅛	31⅜@31⅝	31⅜
*Oats—					
May	25¼	25⅜	25¼	25⅜@25⅜	25⅜@25⅜
July	23¼	23⅝	23⅛	23⅜	23¼@23¾
Lard—					
May	9 02½	9 02½	9 87½	9 90	9 02½
July	9 07½	9 07½	9 02½	9 05	9 07½
Lard—					
May	5 15	5 15	5 12½	5 15	5 15
July				5 20	5 22½
Ribs—					
May	5 10	5 10	5 07½	5 10	5 10
July				5 15	5 17½

*No. 2.

Cash quotations were as follows:

FLOUR—Quiet; winter patents, $4.80@5.00; straights, $4.30@4.60; spring specials, $5.40@5.50; spring patents, $4.70@5.00; bakers, $3.60@3.90.

WHEAT—No. 3 spring, 83½@85¾c; No. 2 red, $1.02@1.03.

CORN—No. 2, 28¾c.

OATS—No. 2, 25½c, f. o. b.; No. 2 white, 28½@28¾c; No. 3 white, 28@28c.

RYE—No. 2, 40c.

FLAXSEED—No. 1, $1.18@1.22.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, $2.80.

PROVISIONS—Mess pork, per bbl., $9.90@9.95. Lard, per 100 lbs., $5.10@5.12½. Short ribs sides (loose), $4.92½@5.17½; dry salted shoulders (boxed), $4.75@5.00; short clear sides (boxed), $5.25@5.40.

WHISKY—Distillers' finished goods, per gal., $1.19½.

SUGARS—Cut loaf, $5.88; granulated, $5.38.

Articles.	Receipts.	Shipments.
Flour, bbls	26,000	36,000
Wheat, bu	77,000	85,000
Corn, bu	266,000	138,000
Oats, bu	273,000	294,000
Rye, bu	10,000	2,000
Barley, bu	47,000	45,000

On the Produce exchange today the butter market was steady; creameries, 13@16c; dairies, 10½@16c. Cheese, quiet at 8@8½c. Eggs, 9½c. Live poultry, quiet; turkeys, 7@9c; chickens, 7½@8c; ducks, 7@8c.

NEW YORK GENERAL MARKET.

Quotations for the Day on General Commodities.

NEW YORK, March 18.—FLOUR—Receipts, 22,434 bbls.; exports, 12,766 bbls.; market quiet; prices lower to sell; city mill patents, $5.85@6.10; city mill clears, $5.60@5.75; Minnesota patents, $5.20@5.45; Minnesota bakers', $4.35@4.55; winter patents, $4.90@5.50; winter straights, $4.50@4.65; winter extras, $3.90@4.10; winter low grades, $2.90@3.00. Rye flour, dull; fancy, $2.85@3.25. Buckwheat flour, quiet at $1.30@1.50.

BUCKWHEAT—Steady at 43@44c.

CORNMEAL—Quiet; yellow western, 68c.

RYE—Steadier; No. 2 western, 58½c.

BARLEY—Dull; feeding, 44½c.

BARLEY MALT—Quiet; western, 52½@67c.

WHEAT—Receipts, 85,500 bu.; exports, 88,128 bu. Spot, firm; No. 2 red, $1.04¾ f. o. b., afloat to arrive, and $1.05¾ spot. Options opened firm at ¼@⅝c advance and were strongly sustained all day by bullish market news from abroad and active covering on cold weather, threatening the wheat belt; export demand light, but foreign men reported another big demand for Russian steamers; closed, ⅝@1¼c net higher; No. 2 March, $1.04¾@1.05¾; closed, $1.04¾; May, 99⅞c@$1.00⅝; closed, $1.00⅝.

CORN—Receipts, 96,525 bu.; exports, 85,319 bu. Spot, firm; No. 2, 36½c. Options opened steady and ruled generally firm all day with wheat; the wet weather west and early opening of navigation also had a bull effect; closed, ¼c higher; May, 35⅝@36c; closed, 36c.

OATS—Receipts, 76,000 bu.; exports, 21,354 bu. Spot, firmer; No. 2, 31@31½c; No. 2 white, 32½c. Options, stronger with the other grain markets and closed ⅝c net higher; May closed, 29⅝c.

FEED—Quiet; bran, 80@82½c; middlings, 80c; rye feed, 62½@65c.

HAY—Dull; shipping, 30@35c; good to choice, 55@70c.

HOPS—Steady; 1896 crop, 4@6c; 1896 crop, 7@9c; 1897 crop, 17@18c; Pacific coast, 1895 crop, 4@6c; 1896 crop, 6@10c; 1897 crop, 17@18c.

HIDES—Firm; Galveston, 15@15½c; Texas dry, 13c; California, 17½@18½c.

LEATHER—Steady; hemlock sole, Buenos Ayres, 20@20½c.

WOOL—Quiet; fleece, 17½@23½c; Texas, 13½@15½c.

PROVISIONS—Beef, steady; family, $11.25@11.75; extra mess, $8.50@9.00; beef hams, $22.00@23.00; short clears, $10.00@11.00. Cut meats, quiet; pickled bellies, $5.75@6.50; pickled shoulders, $4.50@4.62½; pickled hams, $7.75@8.00. Lard, easy; western steamed, $5.40; refined, weaker. Pork, dull; mess, $10.00@10.25; short clear, $10.50@12.50; family, $11.00@11.50. Tallow, dull; city, 3 11-16c; country, 3¼@3¾c.

RICE—Steady; fair to extra, 4½@6¼c; Japan, 5¼c.

OILS—Petroleum, dull. Rosin, steady; strained, common to good, $1.42½@1.45. Turpentine, steady at 23½@24c. Cottonseed, dull; prime crude, 26c; prime crude f. o. b. mills, 16@16½c; prime summer yellow, 22½c; off summer yellow, 22c; butter oil, 25@27c; prime winter yellow, 28@28½c.

MOLASSES—Firm; New Orleans, open kettle, good to choice, 29@33c.

METALS—Business on the Metal exchange continues exceedingly dull and with the exception of lead, prices show no change whatever. At the close today pig iron warrants were quiet at $8.75 bid and $8.87½ asked. Lake copper, quiet at $11.87½ bid and $12 asked. Tin, dull at $14.20 bid and $14.50 asked. Spelter, steady at $4.12½ bid and $4.25 asked. Lead, dull; easy at $3.67½ bid and $3.72½ asked. The firm that fixes the selling prices for miners and smelters calls lead $3.90.

BUTTER—Receipts, 2,031 pkgs.; firm; western creamery, 15@19c; Elgins, 19c; factory, 13@15c.

CHEESE—Receipts, 1,331 pkgs.; dull; September, 8c; light skims, 5¾@6c; part skims, 4@6c; full skims, 2@3c.

EGGS—Receipts, 9,045 pkgs.; easy; state and Pennsylvania, 10½@10¾c; western, 10¾c.

OMAHA GENERAL MARKETS.

Condition of Trade and Quotations on Staple and Fancy Produce.

EGGS—Good stock, 8c.

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

VEAL—Choice fat, 80 to 120 lbs., quoted at 8@9c; large and coarse, 6@7c.

LIVE POULTRY—Chickens, 5½@6c; old roosters, 4c; ducks, 6c.

GAME—Mallards, $3.00@3.25; teal, $1.25@1.50; brants, $3.50@4.50; Canadian geese, $4.50@6.00; mixed, $1.25@1.50.

PIGEONS—Five, $1; dead pigeons not wanted.

HAY—Upland, $5.50; midland, $5.00; lowland, $4.50; straw, $3.00@3.50; color makes the price on hay; light bales sell the best; only top grades bring top prices.

VEGETABLES.

CELERY—Good stock, large, 50c; small, 25@30c.

ONIONS—Per bu., $1.00@1.10.

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

SWEET POTATOES—Kansas, 10-peck bbls., $2.50.

CABBAGE—Good stock, per lb., 1½@1¾c.

POTATOES—Home grown, 30@35c; Colorado stock, 70c.

TOMATOES—Per crate, seven baskets, $4.00@$4.25.

FRUITS.

STRAWBERRIES—Per 24-qt. case, $7.50.

APPLES—Winter stock, $3.00@3.25; California Bellefleur, boxes, $1.50; Colorado Jonathans, boxes, $1.75; Nebraska, boxes, $1.25.

CRANBERRIES—Fancy Jersey, per bbl., $10.00.

GRAPES—Malagas, $5.00@6.00.

TROPICAL FRUITS.

ORANGES—California navels, $2.75@3.00; fancy seedlings, $2.50; choice, $2.25.

LEMONS—California, fancy, $2.75; choice, $2.50; fancy Messina, $3.00@3.50.

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, 8½@9c; filberts, per lb., 10c; pecans, polished, medium, 9@10c; extra large, 8@9c; large hickory nuts, 4@6c; 40@50 per bu.; small, $1.25@1.35 per bu.; cocoanuts, per 100, $4.00; peanuts, raw, 5@5½c; roasted, 6@6½c.

FIGS—Imported, fancy, 3-crown, 14-lb. boxes, 10c; 5-crown, 4-lb. boxes, 12c; 2-lb. boxes, 22 @23c per box; California, 10-lb. box, $1.00.

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

KRAUT—Per bbl., $3.50; half bbl., $2.25.

MAPLE SYRUP—Five-gal. can., each, $2.75; gal. cans, 75c, per doz., $12.00; half-gal. cans, $6.25; quart cans, $3.50.

DATES—Hallowee, 60 to 70-lb. boxes, 5½c; Safr, 5c; Fard, 9-lb. boxes, 9c.

CIDER—Per half bbl., $3.00; bbl., $5.00.

FRESH MEATS

DRESSED BEEF—Good native steers, 6¾c; good forequarters steers, 5½c; good hindquarters steers, 8½c; western steers, 6¼c; fancy heifers, 6¼c; good heifers, 6c; good forequarters heifers, 5c; good hindquarters heifers, 8c; good cows, 5½c; fair cows, 5¼c; cow forequarters, 4½c; cow hindquarters, 7½c.

BEEF CUTS—Hanging tenderloins, 4½c; ribs, No. 1, 11c; ribs, No. 2, 8c; ribs, No. 3, 6½c; rounds, No. 1, 7½c; rounds, No. 2, 6¾c; rounds, No. 3, 6¼c; trimmings, 4½c; beef shanks, 2c; Bolognas, 4½c; sweetbreads, 15c; stomachs, 12c; sweetbreads (calves), per lb., 60c; kidneys, per doz., 35c; ox tails, each, 3c; livers, per lb., 2½c; hearts, per lb., 2½c; tongues, per lb., 11c; calf livers, each, 25c; calves, whole carcass or sides, 9c; calf head and feet, scalded, per set, 75c; tenderloins, fresh, 18c; tenderloins, frozen, 15c; boneless strips, fresh, 9½c; boneless strips, frozen, 9c; strip loins, fresh, 7½c; strip loins, frozen, 6¼c; butts, boneless, 5½c; rolls, spencer cuts, 9c; sirloin butts, boneless, 8c; shoulder clods, boneless, 6¼c; rump butts, boneless, 5½c; No. 1 chucks, 5c; No. 2 chucks, 4½c; No. 3 chucks, 4c; boneless chucks, 5c; cow plates, 2½c; steer plates, 4c; blank steak, 7c; loins, No. 1, 13½c; loins, No. 2, 10½c; loins, No. 3, 8½c; short loins, market style, 2c above loins; short loins, hotel style, 4c above loins; cow loin, 6c lb, 8c; steer loin, ends, 9c.

MUTTON—Fancy lambs, 9c per lb.; lambs, 8c; sheep, 7c; market racks, long, 9c; butts, short, 11c; loins, 9c; saddles, 9c; legs, 9c; lamb legs, 10c; breasts and stews, 3½c; tongues, each, 3c; forequarters, 5½c.

PORK—Dressed pigs, 5½c per lb.; dressed hogs, 5¼c; tenderloins, 14c; loins, short, 6½c; long, 6c; spare ribs, 5c; ham sausage, butts, 5¾c; Boston butts, 5½c; shoulders, rough, 5c; shoulders, skinned, 5½c; trimmings, 4½c; leaf lard, not rendered, 5¼c; heads, cleaned, 4c; snouts and ears, 3c; in cobbons, 2c; cheek meat, 4c; neck bones, 2c; pigs' tails, 3c; plucks, each, 5c; chitterlings, 5c; nocks, 4c; hearts, per doz., 25c; stomachs, each, 3c; tongues, each, 7c; kidneys, per doz., 10c; brains, per doz., 15c; pigs' feet, per doz., 15c; livers, each, 3c; hog rinds, 2c; blade bones, 5c.

HIDES, TALLOW, ETC.

HIDES—No. 1 green hides, 7½c; No. 2 green hides, 6½c; No. 1 salted hides, 9c; No. 2 green salted hides, 8c; No. 1 veal calf, 8 to 12 lbs., 8c; No. 2 veal calf, 12 to 17 lbs., 8c.

SHEEP PELTS—Green salted, each, 15@75c; green salted shearings (short wooled early skins), each, 15c; dry shearings (short wooled early skins), No. 1 each, 5c; dry flint Kansas and Nebraska butcher wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 4@5c; dry flint, Kansas and Nebraska murrain wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 3@4c; dry flint Colorado butcher wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 4@5c; dry flint Colorado murrain wool pelts, per lb., actual weight, 3@4c.

TALLOW, GREASE, ETC.—Tallow, No. 1, 3@3¼c; tallow, No. 2, 3c; rough tallow, 1½c; white grease, 2¼@2¾c; yellow and brown grease, 1½@2¼c.

FURS—Bear (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@20c; red fox, 25c@$1.25; gray fox, 25@50c; wolf (timber), 25c@$2.50; wolf (prairie coyote), 10@35c; wildcat, 10@25c; badger, 5@40c; silver fox, $50.00@75.00.

St. Louis General Markets.

ST. LOUIS, March 18.—FLOUR—Weaker; patents, $4.70@4.85; straights, $4.25@4.55; clear, $4.00@4.25; medium, $3.50@3.75.

WHEAT—Higher, closing strong, with May, 74@76c; July, 1 1-16c, and September 1c above yesterday. Spot, higher; No. 2 red cash, elevator, 98½c; track, 98½@99c; March, 99c; May, 81@80¾c; July, 81@81¼c; September, 76¾c; No. 2 hard cash, 92½c.

CORN—Futures neglected early, but later became firm and closed tame and fractionally higher than yesterday. Spot, higher; No. 2 cash, 26¾c; March, 29¾c; May, 26¾c; July, 25¼@25⅝c; September, 23c bid.

OATS—Futures strong and fractionally higher. Spot, stronger; No. 2 cash, 26c; track, 27c; March, 26c; May, 26¼c; July, 23c; No. 2 white, 28½c.

RYE—Quiet, 40@42c.

FLAXSEED—Nominal, $1.15.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, $2.85@2.90.

CORNMEAL—$1.50@1.55.

BRAN—Quiet, steady; sacked, east track, 57½c bid.

HAY—In little demand, except for fine timothy; prairie, $5.00@8.25; timothy, $8.00@10.50.

BUTTER—Quiet; creamery, 15@18½c; dairy, 9@15c.

EGGS—Lower, 8½c.

WHISKY—$1.20.

COTTONTIES—26c.

BAGGING—5½@6c.

METALS—Lead, dull, $3.52½. Spelter, nominal, $4.

PROVISIONS—Pork, lower; standard mess, jobbing, $10.87½. Lard, easier; prime steam, $4.95; choice, $5.05. Bacon, extra short clear (boxed lots), $5.62½@5.75; ribs, $5.75@5.87½; shorts, $5.87½@6.00. Dry salt meats, boxed shoulders, $4.50@4.75; extra shorts, $5.12½@5.25; ribs, $5.25@5.37½; shorts, $5.37½@5.50.

RECEIPTS—Flour, 3,000 bbls.; wheat, 8,000 bu.; corn, 90,000 bu.; oats, 54,000 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Flour, 21,000 bbls.; wheat, 19,000 bu.; corn, 79,000 bu.; oats, 31,000 bu.

Liverpool Market.

LIVERPOOL, March 18.—WHEAT—Spot, steady; No. 2 red western, winter, 4s.

CORN—Spot, steady; American mixed, new, 2s 4½d; futures, steady; March, 2s 3¾d; May, 2s 3d; July, 2s 2¾d.

FLOUR—St. Louis fancy winter, steady at 9s 3d.

HOPS—At London, Pacific coast, firm at £4 6s @£4 15s.

PROVISIONS—Beef, firm; extra India mess, 68s 9d; prime mess, 58s 9d. Pork, prime mess, fine western, firm at 51s 3d; prime mess, medium western, 48s 9d. Hams, short cut, steady at 54s 6d. Bacon, firm at 31s; short ribs, steady at 31s; long clear middles, light and heavy, 28s 6d; long clear middles, heavy, steady at 29s; short clear backs, steady at 28s 6d; clear bellies, steady at 32s; shoulders, square, steady at 27s 6d. Lard, prime western, steady at 27s 6d.

CHEESE—American finest white and colored, easy at 38s 6d.

TALLOW—Prime city, firm at 29s.

OILS—Cottonseed, Liverpool refined, steady at 15s 3d. Turpentine spirits, firm at 28s 9d. Rosin, common, steady at 4s 3d.

New Orleans Market.

NEW ORLEANS, March 18.—HOG PRODUCTS—Quiet; pork, standard mess, $10.25. Lard, refined tierce, 3¾@3¾c; pure lard, 5¼@5¾c. Boxed meats, dry salt shoulders, 5c; sides, 5¾c; bacon, sides, 6¼c. Hams, choice sugar cured, 8½@9½c.

COFFEE—Rio, ordinary to fair, 6¾@5¾c.

RICE—Steady; ordinary to good, 3¾@4¾c.

FLOUR—Extra fancy, $4.60@4.70; patents, $4.95 @5.00.

CORNMEAL—$1.65@1.70.

BRAN—72c.

HAY—Prime, $12.00@12.50; choice, $11.00@11.50.

CORN—No. 2 sacked, mixed, 37c; white and yellow, 38c.

OATS—No. 2 racked, 32c.

Cincinnati Markets.

CINCINNATI, March 18.—FLOUR—Firm; fancy, $4.35@4.55; family, $3.80@4.10.

WHEAT—Firmer; No. 2 red, 96½c.

CORN—Dull; No. 2 mixed, 31½c.

OATS—Firm; No. 2 mixed, 29@29½c.

RYE—Quiet; No. 2, 53c.

PROVISIONS—Lard, quiet at $4.95. Bulk meats, steady at $5.15. Bacon, firm at $5.95.

WHISKY—Firm at $1.20.

BUTTER—Easier; Elgin creamery, 20½c; Ohio, 13@16c; dairy, 10@12c.

SUGAR—Easy; refined, $4.10@5.85.

EGGS—Firmer at 9c.

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

Kansas City Grain and Provisions.

KANSAS CITY, March 18.—WHEAT—Active, 1@1½ c higher; No. 1 hard, 90c; No. 2, 87@90c; No. 3, 86@86½c; No. 1 red, 94@95c; No. 2, 83@ 86c; No. 3, 80@80c; No. 2 spring, 86@88c; No. 3, 83@85c.

CORN—Steady to ¼c higher; No. 2 mixed, 25¾ @26c.

OATS—Active, steady; No. 2 white, 27½@28c.

RYE—Steady; No. 2, 46c.

HAY—Dull; choice timothy, $8.50@9.00; choice prairie, $7.00@7.25.

BUTTER—Steady; creamery, 15@18½c; dairy, 14@16c.

EGGS—Steady; 6c.

RECEIPTS—Wheat, 13,200 bu.; corn, 36,500 bu.; oats, 13,000 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Wheat, $1,000 bu.; corn, 55,200 bu.; oats, 3,000 bu.

Baltimore Market.

BALTIMORE, March 18.—FLOUR—Dull; western superfine, $2.70@3.10; western extra, $3.35@4.00; western family, $4.30@4.60; winter wheat patents, $4.75@5.00; spring wheat patents, $3.20@3.40; spring wheat straights, $5.00@5.15; receipts, 8,320 bbls.; exports, 500 bbls.

WHEAT—Firmer; spot and month, 99¾@99⅞c; May, $1.00¼@1.00⅝; steamer, No. 2 red, 96¾@96¾c; receipts, 24,500 bu.; exports, 80,000 bu.; southern wheat, by sample, 96c@$1.00⅝; southern, on grade, 96¾@$1.00⅛.

CORN—Firm; spot and month, 33¼@33¼c; May, 32⅝@32¾c; steamer mixed, 32¾@32⅞c; receipts, 314,810 bu.; exports, 42,857 bu.; southern white corn, 33@34c; southern yellow, 33¾@33¾c.

OATS—Quiet; No. 2 white, 34@34½c; No. 2 mixed, 32@32¼c; receipts, 32,443 bu.; exports, 40,500 bu.

RYE—Steady; No. 2 nearby, 55¼@55½c; No. 2 western, 56¼@56½c; receipts, 10,727 bu.; exports, none.

HAY—Dull; choice timothy, $12.50@13.00.

GRAIN FREIGHTS—Fairly active for steamers; steam to Liverpool, per bu., 3½d, May; Cork for orders, per quarter, 3s 10½d, March; 3s 1½d@ 3s 6d, April.

BUTTER—Steady; fancy creamery, 19@20c; imitation creamery, 17@18c; fancy ladle, 15c; good ladle, 13@ 14c; store packed, 10@12c.

EGGS—Fresh, 10½c.

CHEESE—Steady; fancy New York, large, 9¼@ 9½c; fancy New York, medium, 9¼@10c; fancy New York, small, 10¼@10½c.

Grain Receipts at Principal Markets.

CHICAGO, March 18.—Receipts, Wheat, 108 cars; corn, 220 cars; oats, 195 cars. Estimated tomorrow: Wheat, 150 cars; corn, 210 cars; oats, 180 cars.

MINNEAPOLIS, March 18.—Receipts: Wheat, 234 cars.

ST. LOUIS, March 18.—Receipts: Wheat, 6 cars.

DULUTH, March 18.—Receipts: Wheat, 41 cars.

KANSAS CITY, March 18.—Receipt: Wheat, 22 cars.

Toledo Market.

TOLEDO, March 18.—WHEAT—Higher; No. 2 cash, 98c; May, 98½c.

CORN—Higher, steady; No. 2 mixed, 30½c.

OATS—Steady; No. 2 mixed, 27c.

RYE—Unchanged; No. 2 cash, 50½c.

CLOVERSEED—Active; prime cash, March and April, $2.80.

Philadelphia Produce.

PHILADELPHIA, March 18.—BUTTER—Firm; western creamery, 20c; western prints, 21c.

EGGS—Steady; fresh nearby and western, 11c.

CHEESE—Easier; New York fancy full cream, 8½@9¼c; New York prime, 7½@8c.

Detroit Market.

DETROIT, March 18.—WHEAT—No. 1 white, 95c; No. 2 red, cash and May, 97c.

CORN—No. 2 mixed, 29½c.

OATS—No. 2 white, 30c.

RYE—No. 2, 51c.

San Francisco Wheat Market.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 18.—WHEAT—Inactive; December, $1.33½; May, $1.42.

BARLEY—Inactive; December, 98c; May, $1.01½.

Peoria Markets.

PEORIA, March 18.—CORN—Steady; No. 2, 28½c.

OATS—Firm; No. 2 white, 26½@28¾c.

WHISKY—High proof spirits, $1.19½.

STOCKS AND BONDS.

Market Is Manipulated by the Professional Traders.

NEW YORK, March 18.—Today's stock market fluctuated over quite a wide extreme, first upward and then downward, and with a later recovery above the early high point. But it is noticeable that the day's net changes, although mostly on the side of gains, were not large. The extreme dullness was a feature. This and the character of the rumors which affected the market indicated the manipulation of small professional traders, whose existence depends upon a movement of prices, whether up or down. The late rally was the feature of the day and was significant of the nervous waiting attitude of the speculative world. This rally was affected on detailed rumors as to what had been taking place at the secret meeting of the cabinet in Washington. Compromise with Spain over Cuba was the burden of this rumor, accompanied by the information that Spain was perfectly willing to grant everything on the sole condition that its flag remains in Cuba. The professional short sellers hastened to cover open contracts on the strength of this report, and another to the effect that the distinguished officer of high rank in the United States navy had expressed the opinion that the Maine was destroyed by an internal explosion due to an accident. Business in the flurry caused by these rumors was more active than at any time during the day, but was not on an unusually large scale, especially considering the wide movement of prices. Neither was the rally well sustained on reaction touching finally all stocks and approaching to a substantial fraction in many cases. As for the opening spurt it was largely assisted by the buoyancy of the local traction stocks, based on the reported offer of the rapid transit commission for an extension of the elevated system. Manhattan more than recovered its dividend on the first quotation on the strength of this and Metropolitan jumped 2¼ per cent. The subsequent movement downward was equally conspicuous in these stocks and other specialties. The heaviness and dullness were apparent on the slightest intermission after the opening spurt up to the recovery in the last hour. The relapse in Spanish 4s in London and Paris was not reassuring. Notwithstanding yesterday's slight hardening in the rates of exchange and the distinctly easier tone in today's money market, further gold to the amount of $200,000 was engaged for import today. The bond market showed weakness in the early dealings and a firmer tendency at the close. Total sales, $1,300,000. United States new 4s and the old 4s, coupon, were ½ lower, and the old 4s, registered, ½ lower bid.

The Evening Post's London financial cablegram says: The stock markets here were idle and featureless today, with a bullish inclination. Americans opened steadier in sympathy with yesterday's buying by a leading American house, gave way later on New York selling and closed weak. The report of the naval board of inquiry on the Maine disaster is anxiously awaited. Spanish 4s were ⅜ lower. New York is said to be operating considerably in that stock. The Chinese loan prospectus is out. The details are as already cabled, but an important point to note is that the entire loan has to be paid up as early as May 3. This doubtless indicates the payment to Japan on May 8 of the entire balance of the indemnity of £12,000,000. The ease in the London money market was increased today by the release of £500,000 of Japanese money from the Bank of England.

Following are the closing quotations of the leading stocks on the New York market today:

Atchison	11⅛	Hawaii Com. Com.	29¾
do pfd	25¾	St. P. & Om	70
Baltimore & Ohio	17	do pfd	150
Canada Pacific	82¼	St. P. M. & M	127
Canada Southern	46	So. Pacific	15⅜
Central Pacific	12	So. Railway	7⅜
Ches. & Ohio	19	do pfd	26¾
Chicago & Alton	150	Texas & Pacific	9⅜
C., R. & Q	90¾	Union Pacific pfd	50¾
C. & E. I	53	U. P. D. & G	6¾
C., C. C. & St. L	27¾	Wabash	9¾
do pfd	82	do pfd	15
Del. & Hudson	109	Wheel. & L. E	1⅛
Del. L. & W	150	Wheel. & L. E. pfd	9¾
Den. & Rio G	11¾	Adams Ex	109
do pfd	44¾	American Ex	120
Erie (new)	12¾	United States Ex	38
Erie 1st pfd	34⅞	Wells Fargo Ex	114
Ft. Wayne	160	Am. Cot. Oil	16⅝
Great Northern pfd	143	A. Cot. Oil pfd	67⅜
Hocking Valley	5⅝	Am. Spirits	6
Illinois Central	99⅜	Am. Spirits pfd	17⅜
Lake Erie & W	18¾	Am. Tobacco	98⅛
do pfd	85	do pfd	133
Lake Shore	185	People's Gas	90¾
Louisville & Nash	49⅜	Cons. Gas	179
*Manhattan L	101⅜	Com. Cable Co	165
Met. St. Ry	140¾	Col. F. & Iron	17⅜
Michigan Central	109⅜	do pfd	75
Minn. & St. L	26	Gen. Electric	32⅜
do 1st pfd	82⅜	Illinois Steel	45
Mo. Pacific	25⅜	La Clede Gas	42⅜
Mobile & Ohio	26	Lead	22
Mo. K. & T	10⅜	do pfd	101¾
Mo. K. & T. pfd	32⅜	Nat. Lin. Oil	15
Nat. Lin. Oil	15	Pacific Mail	24
Pacific Mail	24	Pullman Palace	169½
Pullman Palace	169½	Silver Certificates	55
Silver Certificates	55	Stand. Rope & T	3¾
Stand. Rope & T	3¾	Sugar	119⅜
Sugar	119⅜	do pfd	112
do pfd	112	T. C. & Iron	109¼
T. C. & Iron	109¼	U. S. Leather	8⅛
U. S. Leather	8⅛	do pfd	57¾
do pfd	57¾	U. S. Rubber	16⅜
U. S. Rubber	16⅜	do pfd	74¾
do pfd	74¾	Western Union	85⅛
Western Union	85⅛	Northwestern	117¾
Northwestern	117¾	do pfd	174
do pfd	174	Rio Grande West	18
Rio Grande West	18	do pfd	54
do pfd	54	Chicago Great W	9⅜
Chicago Great W	9⅜	S. L. & S. W	4
S. L. & S. W	4	do pfd	9¼
do pfd	9¼	Reading 1st pfd	39¼
Reading 1st pfd	39¼		

*ex-div.

Total sales of stocks today, 360,200 shares, including: Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, 25,760; Louisville & Nashville, 7,050; Manhattan, 22,005; Metropolitan, 13,175; New York Central, 6,293; Northern Pacific, 7,355; Northern Pacific preferred, 16,795; Rock Island, 9,255; St. Paul, 28,055; Union Pacific, 16,884; Tobacco, 12,910; People's Gas, 6,050; Sugar, 66,339.

London Stock Quotations.

LONDON, March 18.—4 p. m.—Closing:

Consols, m's	111⅛	N. Y. Central	114¼
Consols, acct	112	Pennsylvania	58⅜
Can. Pacific	84⅛	Reading	8⅝
Erie	13⅜	Mex. Cen. new 4s	66
Erie 2nds	35⅝	Atchison	11⅛
Ill. Central	103	L. & N	50⅜
Mexican ordinary	20¼	Grand Trunk	8⅜
St. Paul common	92		

BAR SILVER—Steady at 25¼d per oz.

MONEY—2 per cent.

The rate of discount in the open market for short bills is 2⅝@3 per cent; for three months' bills, 2 15-16@3 per cent.

Foreign Financial.

LONDON, March 18.—Gold is quoted at Buenos Ayres today at 166. American eagles are quoted at 76s 7½d.

PARIS, March 18.—The bourse opened dull, chiefly on London offers, and later was steadier. Rentes and Italian securities at first weakened. Then there was a relapse in Spanish 4s. Afterward they became firmer, but 4s closed heavy and Turkish securities finished decidedly weak. Three per cent rentes, 103f 25c for the account. Exchange on London, 25f. 31c for checks.

BERLIN, March 18.—Prices on the bourse were irregular today. American securities were weaker and Canadian Pacifics were well supported. Bank shares were animated in anticipation of the Chinese loan.

New York Money Market.

NEW YORK, March 18.—MONEY ON CALL—Nominally, 2½ per cent.

PRIME MERCANTILE PAPER—4½@5½ per cent.

STERLING EXCHANGE—Easy, with actual business in bankers' bills at $4.83¾@4.84 for demand, and $4.80⅝@4.81 for sixty days; posted rates, $4.81¼@4.82¼ and $4.84½@4.85½; commercial bills, $4.80⅛@4.80¾.

SILVER CERTIFICATES—55@55¾c.

BAR SILVER—55c.

MEXICAN DOLLARS—45c.

GOVERNMENT BONDS—Easier; new 4s, reg. and coupon, 122½; 4s, reg., 110; coupon, 111; 2s, reg., 98¾; 5s, reg. and coupon, 111½; Pacific 6s of '95, 103.

Closing quotations on bonds were as follows:

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