Destructive Capacity of Chinch Bugs Measured by Government Experts.

ENORMOUS DAMAGE DONE IN A YEAR

Most Dangerous of the Insect Foci Against Which Agriculturists Buttle-Proposed Measures for Its Suppression.

An insect that is able to do \$100,000,000 worth of damage to the farmers of the United States in a single year may well be regarded as the most dangerous and destructive of the many foce against which the agriculturists of this country are obliged to fight for a living. That is the highest record up to date of the famous chinch bug, which has been such a sorrow in recent times in Miszouri, Kansas and other states attack. The line, poured from the nozzle of the middle west. Hence it is not sur- of a watering-pot with the sprinkler reprising, writes a Washington correspondent, that the government should be making a serious study of the creature in question, or that an elaborate publication on the subject should be now in course of preparation. The latter is from the pen of Prof. Webster, the where they are easily killed with a little well known entomologist, and will be published shortly by the Department of Agri-

Prof. Webster save that the chinch bug first made its presence known in this country by its ravages in the wheat fields of the 1845 to 1850 it attacked Illinois and portions of Indiana and Wisconsin. The loss The earlier outbreaks, though the more disastrous; for the destruction of the took away all cash profits, but also deprived the early settlers of their very living and in some cases reduced them to starvation. From 1863 to 1865 the insect was again destructive, and it was estimated that three-fourths of the wheat and one-half of the corn crop were wiped out through altotal value of more than \$73,000,000.

Estimating the Losses. There was a serious outbreak of the chinch bug in the west in 1868, and again in 1871, but in 1874 the ravages were wideapread and enormous. The loss in 1871 in seven states, viz., Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, Wisconsin and Indiana, was computed at \$30,000,000. Dr. C. V. Riley computed the loss in Missouri alone in the year 1874 at \$19,000,000. The loss to the whole country for 1874 was not less than \$100,000,000. The next great outbreak occurred in 1887. In this case the damage was estimated at \$60,000,000, the heaviest losses occurring in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Kansas. This gives, as the estimated loss in the thirty-seven years, 1850 to 1887, the enormous sum of \$267,000,000. Another chinch bug plague reached its maximum acceptly in 1896. Careful estimates of the loss during the last seven years would in all probability swell the amount to fully \$330. 000,000 for the period from 1850 to 1898. During the outbreak in Ohio at least two

It should be taken into consideration that the financial losses above estimated have not fallen upon the entire nation, but upon the nine states named. In fact, small as it is, the chinch bug has cost the people of these nine states a sum of money sufficient to defray the entire expense of the national government for a whole year. Fire excepted, same period over the same area of country.

farmers became discouraged and sought re-

No other insect, native to the western hemisphere, has spread its devastating hordes over a wider area of country with more fatal effects to the stable grains of North America than has this one. But for the extreme susceptibility of the very young to destruction by drenching rains the practice of raising grain year after year on the same areas, as followed in the United States. would be altogether unprofitable. It seems to be a fact that plentiful rain destroys the chinch bugs, if it comes at the proper time. The years of greatest abundance of the pesare apt to be preceded by a series of years

Each female chinch bug lays about 500 eggs and the adult insect is not produced until sixty days later. The newly hatched young are very active and the first to appear may be observed with their progenitors about the bases of wheat, corn or grass plants and later all stages are seen mingling together, having little appearance of belonging to the same species, so greatly do they vary in size and color in their several stages of development. On first emerging from the chrysalis the adult is generally of a dull pink color. In a short time these colors change to the normal ones of the apecies, which are black as to the body, with white wings.

Natural Foes.

From attack by enemies the chinch bug seems to be protected in some degree by its vile odor, which is similar to that of the related bedbug. However, in the middle west the birds which are its natural foes, such as the quail, are being ruthlessly wiped out by the shotgun. This fact may account. in a measure, for its spread and multiplication, but, as will be explained later, only in a small degree. Various predaceous insects feed on the chinch bug, but they do not seem to be of great importance. Indeed, the spread of the pest is accounted for largely by the absence of natural enemies Athin the limits of the United States.

The most important natural foes of the chinch bug are two species of parasite fungi, which under favorable circumstances destroy them wholesale, literally eating them For some years past a distinguished engaged in propagating these humble but destructive plants for the purpose of infecting heaithy chinch bugs with a fatal mal-He has widely advertised a proposal to exchange sick chinch bugs for well ones the latter, as fast as they arrive, being infected with the deadly complaint by placing them together with insects already diseased. The sickened bugs are sent in tin boxes through the mails to farmers, who scatter them in the infested fields. In this way the greedy insect hordes are inoculated with the horrible complaint, and so perish by whole-

There has been devised recently an im portant improvement on this plan, by which he disease-fungus is propagated artificially in a mixture of cornmeal and beef soup. The spores of the plant, being stirred up in the mixture aforesaid, quickly germinate, and the result is the production of infection-producing material. This substance is very much more convenient to handle than moribund insects, and it may be scattered over

COSTLY FOE OF FARMERS is white with them and, on stirring up the to be full of dead chinch bugs to a depth of two or three inches, the white fungus-covered bodies contrasting strongly with the black color of the rich loam. Nevertheless, it seems that the fungus has little effect except where the insects are very thick, so as to make contagion easy. Furthermore, it requires moist weather for its maximum

efficiency. "There ought to be a central propagating station for the disease-fungus, from which supply," says Prof. Webster. "Farmers also, should watch the seasons carefully and when there are two dry summers in succession every preventive measure should b adopted-notably the burning of leaves, dead grass and other rubbish during winter or early spring, followed up by sowing small plats of early millet, Hungarian grass or spring wheat in low damp places in the fields with a view of attracting the females and massing the bugs and then freely applying the fungus in their midst."

One very effective method of fighting chinch bugs is to lay a line of fresh coaltar as a barrier between a migrating horde and the field which they are advancing to moved, needs to be only three-quarters of an inch wide, and at intervals of twenty feet in length are dug holes, in which tin cans are sunk. The insects proceed along the tar line until they fall into the cans, kerosene. In this way the bugs are caught literally by the bushel.

Chinch bugs are essentially gregarious, gathering and feeding together in flocks. On reaching a suitable field of grain they congregate upon the stalks until the latter North Carolina farmers, in 1785. From are literally covered with the insects, vary ing in color from the black-and-white adults to the differently-tinted larvae. Only which it caused to the farmers in Illinois in the winged adults fly away, the main body 1850 was reckoned at \$4,000,000, or \$4.70 for of less developed bugs remaining and leavevery man, woman and child living in the ing in a body only when the plants on which they have congregated have been occasion of smaller money loss, were even drained of their juices and have begun to wither. Then they simply crawl to the grain crops in those pioneer days not only nearest healthy plants and begin work on them. A general migration by flight takes place in the autumn.

What it Feeds On.

Favorite articles of chinch bug diet are broomcorn, sorghum, Bermuda grass, blue grass, bottle grass and crab grass. most the entire northwest. This meant a the western country the major portion of loss of 30,000,000 bushels of wheat and 138 - | the damage done is to fields of wheat, har-000,000 bushels of corn, representing a ley, rye and corn. Oats are rarely attacked. The female chinch bug deposits her eggs about the roots of grasses and grain plants. In early days the insect doubtless subsisted on the native grasses. but it readily acquired a taste for exotic kinds. Last summer Entomologist-in-Chief Howard of the Department of Agriculture found chinch bugs in the act of destroying the lawn in a Brooklyn park. In 1897 an assistant of Prof. Howard's collected chinch bugs from coarse grass, incrusted with a salty deposit, in the Colorado desert of California. This locality is considerably below the ocean level and represents an ancient extension of the Gulf of California.

The immunity of the chinch bug from attacks by natural enemies is so striking that it has attracted the attention of all entomologists who have made a study of the species and all accept this as indicating that it is an exotic, not originally belonging to our insect fauna. Prof. Webster's theory is that the bug is of tropical seashore origin and worked its way northward centuries ago by way of the east coast of Central America. Apparently the chinch bug occupied the most of the country prior to its occupancy by the white man and its first depredations were caused by its coming in contact with the advance of civilization. Not until within the last fifteen years has the chinch bug been known to work serious and widespread injury east of the Allegheny mountains, nor of Virginia; and west of these mountains they have done scarcely there is probably no other thing that has any damage north and east of a line drawn sands of farmers in Ohio never saw a chinch bug until within the last four years and there are thousands more in northwestern Ohio, southern Michigan and northern Indiana that even yet would not be able to recognize one were they to see it among their growing grain.

OMAHA GENERAL MARKET.

Condition of Trade and Quotations on Staple and Fancy Produce. EGGS-Good stock, 22c. BUTTER-Common to fair. 12@121/2c;

holce, 13@16c; separator, 20@21c; gathered creamery, 186719c. POULTRY-Hens, live, 44c; dressed, 54@ POULTRY—Hens, live, 44c; dressed, 5466
6c; old roosters, live, 3c; dressed, 4644c;
spring chickens, live, 5½66c; dressed, 66
64c; ducks, live, 5½66c; dressed, 7c; geese,
live, 7c; dressed, 8c; turkeys, live, 869c;
dressed, 11612c.
GAME—Teal, blue wing, \$1.75; green wing,
\$1.50; mixed, \$1.7562.25; prairie chickens, \$5;
quail, per doz., \$1.0061.10; jackrabbits, \$1.256;
1.50; cottontails, 60675c.
PIGEONS—Live, per doz., 60cVEAL—Choice, 869c.

VEGETABLES.

ONIONS-Per bu., 40g50c. BEANS-Hand-picked, navy, per bu., \$1.30 @1.40. POTATOES-Choice stock, 45@50c; sacked,

POTATOES—Choice stock, 45@50c; sacked, 45@50c; poorer stock, 40c.

SWEET POTATOES—Per bbl., \$2.50.

CABBAGE—Per lb., crated, 1½c.

TROPICAL FRUITS.

LEMONS—California, fancy, \$4.00@4.25; choice, \$3.75@4.00.

ORANGES—Mexicans, \$4: small stzes, \$3.75; Navels, fancy rose brand, \$4.00@4.25; Redland, choice, \$3.75@4.00; seedlings, \$3.25@4.35.

BANANAS—Choice, large stock, per bunch, \$2-06@2.25; medium sized bunches, \$1.75@2.00.

FRUITS.

bunch, \$2.0062.25; medium sized bunches, \$1.7562.00.

FRUITS.

APPLES—Western Ben Davis, Genitons and Winesaps, per bbl., \$3.50; New York Baldwins, Greenings and others, choice, per bbl., \$3.7564.00.

PEARS—Bartiett, California, out of the market other varieties, \$2.25.

STRAWBERRIES—Per box, 30c.

GRAPES—Mainga, per bbl., \$5.0068.50.

CRANBERRIES—Bell & Bugles, per bbl., \$7.50; Jersey, \$6.256.50; per crate, \$2.25.

QUINCES—Per box, \$2.

MISCELLANEOUS,

CHRISTMAS GREENS—Trees, 4-5 feet, per doz., \$2.50; 7-9 feet, per doz., \$2.50; 7-9 feet, per doz., \$2.50; 7-9 feet, per doz., \$4.50; extra large trees, for school and church purposes, 12 to 24 feet, according to size and beauty, \$2.00 to \$5.00 each; evergreen wreathing, in colls of 29 yards, per coll, \$1.00; holly branches, in cases, 2x2x4 feet, about 60 lbs., \$4.50; in bbls., per bbl., \$2.00; wreathes, crosses and horseshoes, per doz., \$1.50; long needle pines, \$1 to 5 feet long, per doz., \$3.50; mistletoe, in boxes of about 25 lbs., per box, \$3.75; in smaller quantities, per lb., \$20c.

NUTS—Almonds, per lb., 17c; Brazils, per lb., \$20; censiled, 7675; c. chestnuts, \$29c.

MAPLE Syrup—Five-gal, can, each, \$250; gal, cans, pure, per doz., \$12.00; halfgal, can, \$6.25; quart cans, \$3.50.

Firs—Hallowee, 60 to 70-lb, boxes, 60 for 50-lb, boxes, \$1.50.

HONEY—Choice white, 12½613c.

DATES—Hallowee, 60 to 70-lb, boxes, 60 for 50-lb, boxes, 10c.

CIDER—Per half bbl., \$3.00633.15.

SAULERKRAUT—Per half bbl., \$2.00.

HIDES, TALLOW, ETC.

HIDES, TALLOW, ETC.

HIDES—No, 1 green hides, 7c; No. 2 green

HIDES, TALLOW, ETC.

HIDES, TALLOW, ETC.

HIDES—No, 1 green hides, 7c; No. 2 green hides, 6c; No. 1 salted hides, 84c; No. 2 salted hides, 74c; No. 1 veal calf, 8 to 12 lbs., 19c; No. 2 veal calf, 12 to 15 lbs., 8c.

TALLOW, GREASE, ETC.—Tallow, No. 1, 3c; tallow, No. 2, 2½c; rough tallow, 1½c; white grease, 2½d; yellow and brown grease, 1½d; 24c. bund insects, and it may be scattered over a field with far greater case and convenience.

Some Good in This.

The effectiveness of this plan for communicating plague to chinch bugs artificially has been much questioued, but Prof. Webster and other scientists today pretty generally admit that it accomplishes wonderful results. In a field of wheat that has been treated in the manner described the track of the insects as they move in any direction is literally paved with their dead bodies, each little corpse enveloped in a white winding-cheet of fungus. In places the ground

OMAHA LIVE STOCK MARKET

Little Bunch of Cattle Winds Up Week of Light Receipts.

MEAN PRICES CUT OFF LOCAL ARRIVALS

Holders Not Inclined to Press Things Under Existing Conditions-Hog Run Very Heavy, with Prices Fairly Well Sustained.

	10,000	- 1
SOUTH OMAI	IA. De	c. 17.
Receipts today	Hogs, 11,844 6,072 15,891 19,047 16,628 11,007	431 1.837 2,483 3,600 833
Total this week	80,489 58,058 44,163 46,820 50,277	9.787 12,337 10,841 9.730 16,005

	1898.	1897.	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
Dec. 1	3 25	3 23	3 19	•	4 41	5 291	5 70
Dec. 2	3 28	3 25	3 09	3 35		5 19	5 75
Dec. 3	3 29	3 19	3 23	3 42	4 47		5 88
Dec. 4		3 21	3 16	3 39	4 38	5 13	
Dec. 5	3 34	-	3 09	3 39	4 27	5 14	5 91
Dec. 6	3 34	3 25	0.00	3 33	4 35	5 03	6 05
Dec. L	3 27	3 22	3 09	3 36	4 85	5 06	6 01
Dec. 7 Dec. 8 Dec. 9	3 29	3 22 3 17 3 13	3 19 3 21		4 34	5 14	5 98
Dec. 9	3 29	3 13	3 21	3 32 35		5 15	5 86
Dec. 10	3 31	3 13	3 21	3 35	4 20		6 00
Dec. 11		3 15	3 17	3 28 3 31	4 20	5 10	6 04
Dec. 12	3 37		3 20	3 31	4 25	5 07	6 11
Dec. 13				3 33	4 20	5 07	6 11
Dec. 14		3 23	3 28	3 38	4 25	5 14	6 17
Dec. 15	3 27	3 24	3 17	•	4 09	5 06	6 21
Dec. 16			3 17	3 37		4 92	6 36
Dec. 17	3 26	3 31	3 17	3 40	4 13	•	6 41

Indicates Sunday. The official number of cars of stock brought in today by each road was:

Cattle. Hogs.Sheep.H'ses C., M. & St. P. Ry......
O. & St. L. Ry......
Missouri Pacific Ry... 4
Union Pacific System. 1
C. & N. W. Ry....
F. E. & M. V. R. R... 9
S. C. & P. Ry. F. E. & M. V. R. R. S S. C. & P. Ry. S. C. & P. Ry. B. & M. R. R. R. 1 C. B. & Q. Ry. 5 C. R. I. & P., east. C. R. I. & P., west. Total receipts 20

The disposition of the day's receipts was as follows, each buyer purchasing the number of head indicated:

Totals 578 13,063 639

present time canners are selling largely at \$2.00@2.65, medium kinds of cows at \$2.75@3.10 and good to choice cornfed cows at \$3.15@3.75; good to choice cornfed heifers, \$3.50@4.50, with the extreme top for the week at \$4.60.

at \$4.60.

The trade in feeders and stock cattle has been very light all this week, as few cattle have been received and few wanted. In the territory immediately tributary to this market there is no great surplus of feed and farmers are not as anxious for feeders on that account as they might otherwise be. At the same time the snow has delayed the gathering of the corn crop to some extent, so that the farmers are not in a position to put stock cattle in stalk fields. Still there is a little demand for stockers and feeders all the time and toward the latter part of this week the market showed some strength.

of this week the market showed some strength.

HOGS—Receipts of hogs this week have been the largest of the year to date. During the week ending July 31, 1894, when the crop failure was forcing farmers to sell everything they had, the receipts reached 103,837, which was the largest number ever received during a period of seven days. At that time the hogs averaged only 234 pounds, while at the present time they average 279, so that the number of pounds of pork received this week has been as large as ever in the listory of the yards.

This morning there was a good liberal run of hogs for a Saturday, and other market points were quite well supplied. Chicago reported 27,000, Kansas City 7,000, St. Joseph 5,000 and St. Louis 2,500 with 6,000 on sale. In addition to the fresh arrivals at this point there were 650 hogs carried over from yesterday, but as against this Cudahy had in fifteen double decks from Kansas City and Armour eight from Sloux City. Liberal receipts on the last day of the week always constitute a bear factor in the trade, but a far more potent influence was the fact that the hogs are costing the packers within 5c as much as in Chicago. One of the heaviest packers bought 14,000 hogs in Chicago yesterday, at an average cost of only \$3,33, while the average price paid for all the hogs here yesterday was \$3,30%, or 2%c lower than the cost in Chicago.

price paid for all the hogs here yesterday was \$3.30%, or 2%c lower than the cost in Chicago.

Taking these facts into consideration it is not to be wondered at that the market this morning opened 5c lower than yesterday's general market, and slow at the deciline. The sales were largely on the basis of \$3.25 for good heavy, such as brought \$3.30 yesterday morning. Even at the deciline packers did not appear to be in any hurry to fill orders and sellers did not find it an easy matter always to get a buyer to look at their holdings. The market dragged along all the morning and still about everything sold by 11 o'clock. While the heavy weights went largely at \$3.26, medium weights and light mixed sold principally at \$3.27½, with a few choice light at \$3.3043.32½.

This has been a week of great hog receipts and values have been borne down by the weight of large offerings. This applies to most all markets as well as to this one. On Monday there was an advance of 5c, which was followed by a strong market on Tuesday. By Wednosday the hogs were coming too fast for the good of the market and values dropped off 5c, but still remained a shade higher than the close of the previous week. On Thursday there was a loss of another 5c, the average of all the sales on that isy being \$3.27, which was the lowest point touched since the first of the month. On Friday the market averaged a little better, the week clessing 5c ower than last week, and at the lowest point of the month.

One thing bas been very apparent all

month.

One thing has been very apparent all the week and that was that the buyers wanted the hogs at the prices, so that on most days the market was active and prices here were very little under Chicago prices. Even with the large receipts local packers could not get enough hogs and shipped in a good many from other markets. A great many hogs were attracted this way from lowa by the high prices and taken all in all this was the best market in the west.

SHEEP- Receipts were very light today.

taken all in all this was the best market in the west.

SHEEP-Receipts were very light today, only two loads of westerns being reported in. The market was just about steady, with no quotable change, the heavy Wyoming wethers bringing \$3.85.

There has been no very marked change in the sheep market this week, values at the present time being very much where they were a week ago. Recipts have been light, as will be noted from the table at head of column. While the market on some days has been slow, about everything received has been sold and at prices right up with Chicago, so that there was no cause for the market not being more active was that it was too high in comparison with the way sheep were selling in other markets. At the present time there appears to be a fair demand for good light mutton sheep and lambs and it has not been much trouble to dispose of the few received that would shawer to that description. At the same

time old and thin ewer may be depended upon to move slowly, as the present time. On Thursday a bunch of spring lambs that had never been on, grain feed brought \$6.50, thus proving lbal there is a market here for fancy stuff, \$5.00 confed western wethers, \$3.562.95; fair to good cornfed western wethers, \$3.562.95; fair to good western yearlings, \$4.564.25; feeder lambs, \$5.0035.15; fair to good lambs, \$4.5064.75; feeder yearlings, \$2.5693.80; feeder lambs, \$4.0064.40; cuil sheep, \$4.00623.00; cuil lambs, \$5.0035.50.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK MARKET. Light Receipts of Cattle and Quota-

tions Are Nominal. CHICAGO, Dec. 17 -Receipts of cattle today were too light to make a market and quotations in consequence were almost entirely nominal. A few medium grade cattle and one or two choice lots of Christmas and one or two choice lots of Christmas beeves were disposed of at yesterday's ruling prices. The recent improvement in prices is expected to bring larger numbers of cattle to the market next week.

There was a good demand for hogs at prices fully as high as yesterday's best. Hogs sold all the way from \$3.1563.25 for common, up to \$3.4063.45 for choice to extra grades, the bulk of the sales being at \$3.306 3.374, while most of the pigs sold at \$3.006 3.10.

Light offerings of sheep and lambs sold at steady prices. Lambs were salable at \$4,0005.60 for inferior to prime heavy-weights and yearlings were quotable at \$4.1504.50. Sheep sold at \$2.5004.25. Receipts: Cattle, 200 head; hogs, 17,000 head; sheep, 2.000 head.

KANSAS CITY LIVE STOCK MARKET.

Quotations Nominally Steady and Hog Market Higher.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 17.—CATTLE—Recelpts, 315 head; market was dull and quoted nominally steady; there were no good to choice cattle on sale; ore lot of poor western steers sold at \$2.75; native cows ranged from \$2.25 to \$3.00. There was cows ranged from \$2.25 to \$3.00. There was practically no trade in stockers and feeders. One lot of feeders sold at \$3.55 and one lot of stock cows and heifers brought \$3.20. HOGS-Receipts, \$181 head. The general tone of the market was higher and some sales were made at 2½c above yesterday's close. One load of prime heavies sold at \$3.40, the top price. Light market pigs were in small supply; heavies, \$3.324@3.40; mixed, \$3.20@3.27½; light, \$3.00@3.25. SHEEP-Receipts, 24 head. Only one small bunch arrived. One lot of lambs sold at \$5.25; sheep, \$4.10@4.25.

St. Louis Live Stock.

ST. LOUIS Dec. 17.—CATTLE—Receipts, 1.700 head, including 160 Texans; shipments, 1.100 head; choice native beef steers, strong to 10c higher than last week, but steady; medium grades are nearly steady and common kinds 19@15c lower; stock cattle are wanted at 10c to 20c higher prices than last week; all other classes of native cattle show no material change; Texas cattle are lower; fair to fancy native shipping and export steers, \$3.90@5.35; bulk of sales, \$4.25 @5.25; dressed beef and butcher steers, \$3.50 @5.30; bulk of sales, \$4.25@4.75; steers under 1,000 lbs., \$2.90@5.05; bulk of sales, \$3.50@4.00; stockers and feeders, \$2.50@4.30; bulk of sales, \$3.50@4.00; stockers and feeders, \$2.50@4.30; bulk of sales, \$3.00@4.00; bulks, \$2.15@4.00; Texas and Indian steers, \$3.00@4.30; bulk of sales, \$3.25@3.90; cows and heifers, \$3.00. HOGS—Receipts, \$3.00. Hogs—Receipts, \$3.00. head; shipments, 1,200 head; market steady to strong; pigs and lights, \$3.20@3.30; packers, \$3.30@3.40; butcher, \$3.40@3.50.

SHEEP—Receipts, none; shipments, 700 head; market dull and steady; native muttons, \$3.35@3.90; culls and bucks, \$1.60@3.85; stockers, \$2.00@3.05; lambs, \$4.50@5.60.

heiters, \$1.000-1.0, 5.700 head. Market ac-G4.20.

HOGS—Receipts, 5.700 head. Market ac-tive and steady to strong, selling at \$3.25@ 3.40; bulk, \$3.27%@3.35.

SHEEP—Receipts, 100 head. Market was steady and demand strong for killers.

Cincinnati Live Stock. CINCINNATI, Dec. 17. - HOG8 - Dull,

Following are the re principal western market	ceipts	at the	four
C	attle.	Hogs.	Sheep.
Omaha	462	11,844	431
Chicago	200	17,000 8,181	2,000
St. Louis		3,200	
Totals	2,677	40,225	2,455
CONDITION OF REW			-

Gain of \$3,258,600 in Gold Reserve and of \$2,756,100 in Cash. NEW YORK, Deq. 18.—The Financier says: The New York clearing house banks gained \$3,258,600 in gold last week and, as offsetting losses of legals was but \$497,500, the net expansion of \$2,756,100 in cash provided a \$10,124,100 in deposits, brought about for the most part by the loan expansion of \$6,246,-500, and left the banks with \$230,075 more cash than they reported at the close of the previous week. The statement does not dif-

er materially from that exhibit. It is favorable from a banking standpoint, as was pointed out in this analysis last week, in its deduction that the banks are finding employment for all excess cash floating this employment for all excess cash floating this way. To what extent the expanding loans reflect domestic needs is another matter. It is highly probable, however, that the current increase came largely from borrowings incident to the heavy business being done on the New York exchange. At the same time holdings of sterling investments are becoming large from the view of an and astimates of holdings of sterling investments are becom-ing larger from day to day and estimates of \$50,000,000 are conservative. The latest trade reports may be interpreted to mean that the financial loan which may be the fea-ture of New York for some weeks past is not at an end. Loans are now \$73,000,000 larger than on October 1 and deposits in eleven weeks have risen almost \$105,000,000. It is needless to say that both items are far needless to say that both items are far ahead of anything ever known in the history of the banks. But with this unprecedented gain the clearing house institutions today hold about \$2,000,000 more excess reserve

than reported in October.

The gain in cash for the week is larger than had been predicted. The interior movement will become larger as the first of the year approaches. If this proves true we shall probably witness a continuance of the operations which have swelled the bank totals of late of late. operations which have swelled the bank totals of late, otherwise the demand for funds may curtail to some extent the available reserve and paincidentally affect exchange to the point of gold imports. Some bankers are looking for firmer money rates before January, but that they can be maintained is rather doubtful.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The market last week was as a whole remarkably firm, prices generally advancing. In American securities the upward movement was very marked, New York and the continent doing most of the buying, while London was inclined to realize, the result being that the close was generally lower. Among the declines were New York Central & Hudson River railroad shares, which fell 1½ points; Atchison, Toshares, which fell 1½ points; Atchison, Toeka & Santa Fe adjustments, 1 point; Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe preferred, 3-8;
Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe ordinary, 3-8;
Reading gold bonds, 1; Reading first preferred, ½; Reading ordinary, ½; Norfolk &
Western preferred, ½; Norfolk & Western
ordinary, 3-8; Illinois Central, ½; Louisville & Nashville, ½; Wabash B debentures
½; Wabash preferred, ½; Erie firsts, 3-8;
Bouthern preferred, 3-8; Southern ordinary,
1-8; Baltimore & Ohlo, ¼; Chesapeake &
Ohlo, ¼; Denver & Rio Grande, ¼; Rio
Grande & Western, ¼; Northern Pacific, ¼;
Central Pacific, 1-8; Missouri, Kansas &
Texas, 1-8; Pennsylvania, 1-8. Union Pacific
ordinary rose 13-8. Union Pacific preferred
¼ and Denver & Rio Grande preferred ¼.
Money on call was in good demand at from
2½ to 3 per cent; three months' bills firm at
from 3 7-15 to 3½.

Baltimore Market.

Baltimore Market.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 17.—FLOUR—Dull, unchanged; receipts, 10,700 bbls.; exports, 1,260 bbls. WHEAT-Dull and lower; spot and month,

Prices on Saturday. CHICAGO, Dec. 17.—Foreign weakness heavy primary receipts and small ship-ments pounded all bullishness out of wheat today. The price of May shows 7-8c loss. Corn and oats closed 1-Sc lower. Provisions are unchanged to 5c higher.

today. The price of May shows 7-8c loss. Corn and oats closed 1-8c lower. Provisions are unchanged to 5c higher.

Wheat at the opening evidently felt the heavy realizing that took place late in yesterday's session. Buyers were in the market after only small lots. Liverpool showed closing declines of 3-8g5-8d. This was probably the result of yesterday's late break here, but had effect on Chicago traders nevertheless. May started 4c lower at 674gc. Before any support of consequence was given May declined to 674g68 3-8c. Then buyers became plentiful. Further confirmation of damage to the Argentine crop by rains proved the incentive for covering that carried the price up to 674c in a very few minutes. Liquidation, in which heavy longs were prominent, started, however, before the price had reached 674c and 674c was received for only a few lots. Before 11 o'clock the price had again been forced down to 67c and shortly afterward 664c was touched, the low part of the day. Minneapolis and Duluth receipts were 849 cars, compared with 934 last week and 650 a year ago. Chicago receipts were 172 cars, ten of contract grade. Primary receipts were heavy, while shipments were very light. Atlantic clearances of wheat and flour amounted to 530,000 bu. Clearances from both coasts for the week were 6,076,600 bu. Beerbohm estimated the world's shipments at 8,000,000 bu. Commission houses were quite heavy sellers during the decline. Outsiders with wheat were apparently afraid of a serious slump and put their holdings back on the market while there was yet time. May fluctuated narrowly around 664c until near the close, when it developed a little more strength on covering by shorts and closed fairly steady at 867-8c.

There was a narrow market in corn. Prices averaged a little lower, principally in sympathy with wheat. Receipts were liberal, 825 cars, and the weather was favorable for the continuance of a large country movement. The cash business was moderate, owing to the inability of shippers to get cars. Outside selling was promine

Provisions were slow, but fairly steady. The weakness in grain caused realizing by longs and selling by packers, but all offerings were taken and prices did not yield much. The close was steady with the declines all recovered. May pork closed 5c higher at \$3.67½, May lard was unchanged at \$5.32½@5.35 and May ribs unchanged at \$2.21½.

\$4.82\(\frac{1}{2}\).
Estimated receipts Monday: Wheat, 250 cars; corn, 285 cars; oats, 425 cars; hogs, 45,000 head, Leading futures ranged as follows: Articles. | Open. | High. | Low. | Close. | Yes'd'y

		A Charles of the Control of the Cont	1400 SAN SON	FEET 1100 CARS 7000	and the second
Wheat. Dec May July	65 674 64%	66% 67% 6436	65 H 66 H	65% 66% 64%	66346
Dec May July	84%-35 85%-35	34404 35 35%	93%@K 24% 85%	3414 3414 3514	34 35 35
Oats. Dec May	26% 6%	26 26 %@%	26 2634	26 26%	26
Jan May	9 82 M 9 62 M	9 40	9 32%	9 40 9 674	9 62
Jan May	5 10 5 80	5 12% 5 85	5 07 4 5 30	6 1916 5 32%	5 10 5 32
Jan	4 8234	4 88	4 624 4 774	4 65 4 82%	4 81
eNo 9					

*No. 2.

Cash quotations were as follows:
FLOUR—Steadler; winter patents, \$3.40
63.50; straights, \$3.1063.20; spring specials, \$3.9064.00; spring patents, \$3.2063.50; straights, \$2.8063.00; bakers, \$2.2062.40.

WHEAT—No. 3 spring, 63656; No. 2 red, 68650c.
CORN—No. 2, 341-863444c.
OATS—No. 2, 2646c; No. 2 white, 2946c; No. 3 white, 286284c.
RYE—No. 2, 5449c.
BARLEY—No. 1, 38649c f. o. b.
FLAXSEED—No. 1, \$1.0461.094c.
TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, \$2.30.
PROVISIONS—Mess pork, per bbl., \$8.106

gal, \$1.26.
SUGARS—Cut loaf, \$5.95; granulated, \$6.45.
The following were the receipts and shipments for today.

Receipts.	Shipments	
34,000	44.00	
157,000	8,00	
367,000	63,00	
	166,00	
	20,000	
95,000	14,00	
	34,000 157,000	

ter market was steady; creamerles, 14@ 19c; dairies, 13@18c. Cheese, steady, at 8%@10½c. Eggs, fresh, 21@21½c. Dressed poultry, easy; turkeys, 10c; chickens, 6@6½c; ducks, 6@6½c. NEW YORK GENERAL MARKET.

Quotations for the Day on General Commodities.
NEW YORK, Dec. 17.—FLOUR—Receipts, 4,775 bbls.; exports, 7,143 bbls.; quiet and a shade easier; winter patents, \$3.70@3.85; winter straights, \$3.45@3.55; winter grades, \$2.70@2.90; winter low grades, \$2.40@2.65; Minnesota patents, \$3.70@4.00; Minnesota pakers, \$2.85@3.00. CORNMEAL—Firm; yellow western, 76@

RYE-Steady; No. 2 western, 6lc, f. o. b., BARLEY MALT-Steady; western, 60@ BARLEY MALT—Steady; western, 60@ 70c.

WHEAT—Receipts, 20.584 bu.; exports, 168.833 bu.; spot, easy; No. 2 red, 77 1-8c, f. o. b., afloat. Options after opening easier on cables railied on adverse Argentine news, only to suffer a second decline near the close, through a heavy unloading by scalpers. The close was ½4½c net lower; March, 74%, 675 3-8c, closed 74%c.

CORN—Receipts, 74.875 bu.; exports, 170,-642 bu.; spot, easy; No. 2, 42 5-8c, f. o. b., afloat. Options opened steady on covering, but later weakened with wheat; closed 1-86 ½c net decline; May, 39 7-86409, closed 39 7-8c.

but later weakened with wheat; closed 1-86 %c net decline; May, 39 7-86409, closed 39 7-8c.

OATS—Receipts, 14.400 bu.; spot, steady; No. 2, 32½c; No. 2 white, 34c. Options were dull.

HOPS—Steady: state, common to choice, 1896 crop, 768c; 1897 crop, 11613c; 1898 crop, 12621c; Pacific coast, 1898 crop, 1623c; 1897 crop, 10613c; 1898 crop, 19621c.

BUTTER—Receipts, 2,500 pkgs.; market firm; western creamery, 18621c; Eligins, 21c; factory, 12614½c.

CHEESE—Receipts, 1,600 pkgs.; market steady; large white, 1046104c; small white, 104611c; large colored, 10462104c; small colored 104c.

EGGS—Receipts, 800 pkgs.; market firm; western, 26c; southern, 22625c.

WOOL—Steady; domestic fleece, 17622c; Texas, 11614c.

COTTONSEED OIL—Trade light, but prices well sustained; prime crude, 17469 isc; prime summer yellow, 22c; summer yellow, 20621c; butter grades, 25627c; prime winter, yellow, 216214c; prime white, 28c.

TALLOW—Dull; city, 2463 9-16c; country, 3-863 5-8c.

RICE—Firm; domestic, fair to extra, 44, 654c; Japan, 544654c.

MOLASSES—Firm; New Orleans, open kettle, good to choice, 24634c.

METALS—The firm naming the settling prices for leading miners and smelters at the west quotes lead at \$3.55, copper at \$12.75 and casting copper at \$11.624. The Metai exchange issued no report today.

St. Louis Market.

St. Louis Market.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 17.—WHEAT—Futures were fractionally lower; spot. lower; No. 2 red, cash, elevator. 69c bid; track, 794-66 file; December, 69c; May, 70 1-8c bid; No. 2 hard, cash, 644-6654c.

CORN—Spot and futures were fractionally lower; No. 2 cash, 324-c; December, 324-c; May, 334-633 3-8c.

OATS—Lower; No. 2 cash, 27c bid; track, 274-c; December, 27 5-8c asked; May, 274-c bid; No. 2 white, 29c.

RYE—Easler at 62c bid.

SEED—Flaxseed, higher at \$1.62; prime timothy seed, \$2.30.

CORNMEAL—Higher at \$1.65-61.70.

BRAN—Better; sacked, east track, 66c.
HAY—Timothy, steady at \$8.00/9.00; prairie, easy at \$6.25-68.00.

POULTRY—Dull; chickens, 5-65-4c; ducks, 54-66-4c; geese, 5-66c; turkeys, 6c, BAGGING—Lower at 54-66c.

WHISKY—Steady; \$1.26.

BUTTER—Steady; creamery, 154-22c;

WHISKY-Steady; \$1.26.
BUTTER — Steady; creamery, 18422c; dairy, 14918c.
EGGS—Quiet at 29c.
PROVISIONS — Pork, quiet; standard mess, jobbing, \$8.25. Lard, guiet; prime cars; oats, 425 cars.

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steam, \$5.00; choice, \$5.05. Dry salt meats, boxed shoulders, \$4.12½; extra shorts, \$4.62½; ribs, \$4.75; shorts, \$4.87½. Bacon, boxed shoulders, \$5.00; shorts, \$5.12½; ribs, \$5.37½; shorts, \$5.62½. METALS—Lead dull and weak at \$3.62½, sellers; speiter, dull at \$5.00. RECEIPTS—Flour, 2,000 bbls.; wheat, 16,000 bu; corn, \$0,000 bu; oats, 25,000 bu. SHIPMENTS—Flour, 4,000 bbls.; wheat, 20,000 bu; corn, 49,000 bu; oats, 23,000 bu.

CINCINNA'14, Dec. 17.-WHEAT-Easier;

No. 2 red, 694c. CORN-Firm; No. 2 mixed, 354c. OATS-Firm; No. 2 mixed, 299/294c. RYE-Steady; No. 2, 57c. PROVISIONS-Lard, quiet at 14.9865.00; sulk meats, steady at 14.50; bacon, quiet at 5.50.

WHISKY-Firm at \$1.26. Grain Receipts at Principal Markets. MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 17. – Receipts: Wheat, 629 cars. DULUTH, Dec. 17.—Receipts: Wheat, 220

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