COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

Provisions Take the Lead in the Speculative Markets on 'Change.

ADVANCE FROM TEN TO THIRTY CENTS

Wheat Advances Five-Eighths of a Cent, Corn Three-Eighths and a Half and Oats Fourth of a Cent.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—Provisions today assumed the leadership of speculative markets on 'change. Advances ranging from 10c to 30c were scored in hog products, with trading the most active in weeks. The disposition was strong in all markets to steer clear of the short side over the holiday season. Wheat advanced 5-8c, corn 3-8@½c and oats ¼@3-8c.

For half an hour following the opening in wheat trading was so slow as to suggest an abandonment of speculation by the principal traders pending the holiday season. News at first rather favored sellers and this, coupled with the natural inclination to even up sales over the holidays, caused a rather easy feeling. Opening trades in May ranged from 68 1-8c to 68¼c, and before any support of any consequence was given the market had declined to 67⅝@67 7-8c. Cables were indifferent, foreign markets showing little change either way. Northwestern receipts were fairly liberal, Minneapolis and Duluth reporting 786 cars, compared with 945 last week and 701 a year ago. Chicago receipts were 158 cars, two of contract grade. More favorable weather was reported in Argentina and weather conditions in the United States were also better. Nearing the decline liquidation by bulls was prominent. Moderate covering by shorts at the bottom soon caused a reaction in May to 68⅝@68 1-8c, where the price hung for a time. But before 11 o'clock the market had grown strong on evidences of a renewal of the foreign demand for American wheat and before noon the trading was broad and general. The seaboard reported sales for export aggregating over fifty loads. New York advices also told of the loading of wheat there and at Galveston for Spain, Sicily and Trieste, to ports that usually draw from Russia. Liverpool reported Russian wheat dearer and said that the Argentine harvest would be very late. Atlantic port clearances amounted to 825,000 bu. As prices advanced the buying demand became very heavy, shorts covering and sellers of weekly calls buying to protect those privileges. The disposition to get away from the short side of the market pending the three days holiday was pronounced, and at times offerings were almost altogether lacking. May finally rose to 69c and closed at 68 7-8c sellers.

A good business was done in corn. Early the market was easy with wheat and on the improved weather west, which caused some liquidation by longs. Prospects of increased stocks were also a factor. Offerings, however, were readily taken and under strong cables, good export demand and strength developed by wheat the market rallied easily and remained strong to the close. Leading bull interests were buyers on the rally. Receipts were 336 cars. May ranged from 34 5-8c to 35 1-8c and closed 3-8@½c higher at 37½c.

The market for oats was firm without much independent feature. There was little yielding early with corn and bright weather, but when corn advanced oats followed at once. Elevator interests sold moderately. Shippers were more bullish on account of lack of Russian offerings. The cash demand was good and samples were higher. Receipts were 290 cars. May ranged from 26 7-8@27c to 27½c and closed ¼@3-8c higher at 27 3-8@27½c.

Provisions were very active and showed more strength than for weeks past. Hog receipts were light and yard prices higher. This caused good buying at the start and as the session progressed trading became broad and general, outsiders and prominent local traders buying heavily. Small estimates of hogs for next week helped the bull sentiment. The market was strong to the close. May pork closed 27½@30c higher at $10.20, May lard 10c higher at $5.23½ and May ribs 15c higher at $5.35.

Estimated receipts Saturday: Wheat, 98 cars; corn, 500 cars; oats, 275 cars; hogs, 18,000 head.

Leading futures ranged as follows:

Articles.	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.	Yes'd'y
*Wheat.					
Dec....	65¼	66⅛	65	66⅛	66⅛
May...	68 @68⅛	69	67⅝-68	68⅝	68¼
July...	66¼@⅜	67⅝	66¼	67 @⅛	66⅝@⅜
*Corn.					
Dec....	35½@⅜	36⅛	35⅝@¼	36¼	36@⅛
May...	36⅝-37	37⅝	36⅝	37⅝	37⅛
July...	37 @⅜	37⅝@⅝	37	37⅝@⅝	37⅝
*Oats.					
May...	27 @¼	27⅝	26⅝-27	27⅝@¼	27¼
July...	27⅛@⅜	27⅝	25¾	25¾	26⅝
Pork.					
Jan....	9 57½	9 90	9 57½	9 85	9 57½
May...	9 95	10 25	9 92½	10 20	9 92½
Lard.					
Jan....	5 22½	5 30	5 20	5 27½	5 17½
May...	5 45	5 55	5 42½	5 52½	5 42½
Ribs.					
Jan....	4 72½	4 87½	4 72½	4 85	4 72½
May...	4 92½	5 07½	4 92½	5 05	4 90

*No. 2.

Cash quotations were as follows:

FLOUR—Firm; winter patents, $3.50@3.60; straights, $3.20@3.30; spring specials, $4.00; spring patents, $3.20@3.50; straights, $2.80@3.00; bakers, $2.20@2.40.

WHEAT—No. 3 spring, 62@65½c; No. 2 red, 68½c.

CORN—No. 2, 36¾c; No. 2 yellow, 27c.

OATS—No. 2, 26¼@26¾c; No. 2 white, 28¾c; No. 3 white, 27¼@28½c.

RYE—No. 2, 54@54½c.

BARLEY—No. 2, f. o. b., 37½@48½c.

FLAXSEED—No. 1, $1.10; n. w., $1.15½.

TIMOTHY SEED—Prime, $2.30.

PROVISIONS—Pork, mess, per bbl., $8.55@8.65. Lard, per 100 lbs., $5.15@5.30. Bacon, short ribs sides (loose), $4.50@5.00. Dry salted shoulders (boxed), $4.25@4.37½; short clear sides (boxed), $5.00@5.05.

WHISKY—Distillers' finished goods, per gal, $1.26.

SUGARS—Cut loaf, $5.95; granulated, $5.33. The following were the receipts and shipments for today.

ARTICLES.	Receipts.	Shipments.
Flour, bbls.....	27,000	36,000
Wheat, bu.....	126,000	62,000
Corn, bu.....	343,000	114,000
Oats, bu.....	381,000	283,000
Rye, bu.....	32,000	5,000
Barley, bu.....	83,000	11,000

On the Produce exchange today the butter market was steady; creameries, 14@20½c; dairies, 12½@17c. Cheese, dull at 8⅝@10c. Eggs, fresh, 20½@21½c.

NEW YORK GENERAL MARKET.

Quotations for the Day on General Commodities.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—FLOUR—Receipts, 22,034 bbls.; exports, 12,182 bbls.; quieter, but maintained its strong undertone; winter straights, $3.50@3.55; Minnesota patents, $3.50@4.00.

CORNMEAL—Yellow western, 78@79c, firm.

BARLEY MALT—Firm; western, 58@70c.

WHEAT—Receipts, 272,500 bu.; exports, 241,645 bu.; spot, firm; No. 2 red, 78¾c, f. o. b. afloat. Options were dominated entirely by the bull sentiment today; opening was steady on the favorable news from Liverpool; advanced actively on good continental export demand and large clearances, reaching top point on the present bull movement; the close was firm at ¼@¾c net advance; December, 74⅝@75 11-16c, closed at 75½c; March, 75 5-8@76 3-8c, closed at 76¼c.

CORN—Receipts, 136,500 bu.; exports, 165,003 bu.; spot, firm; No. 2, 43 7-8c, f. o. b. afloat. Options eased off at first under realizing, but quickly swung into line with wheat and developed positive strength; shorts and outsiders furnished the demand; closed ¼@3-8c net higher; December closed at 42¾c; May, 41 5-8@42¼c, closed at 42¼c.

OATS—Receipts, 46,700 bu.; exports, 2,580 bu.; spot, quiet; No. 2, 33c; No. 2 white, 34½c bid; options were quiet.

BUTTER—Receipts, 3,753 pkgs.; market firm; western creamery, 15@21c; Elgins, 21c; factory, 12@14½c.

COTTONSEED OIL—Firm; prime crude, 17½@18c; December yellow, 22@22½c.

CHEESE—Receipts, 3,987 pkgs.; market steady; large white, 10½c; small white, 10⅝@11c; large colored, 10½c; small colored, 10⅝@11c.

EGGS—Quiet, 19c.

METALS—Lead, higher, $3.70. Spelter, dull, $4.90.

PROVISIONS—Pork, higher; standard mess, jobbing, old $8.65; new, $9.80. Lard—Higher; prime, steady, $3.10; choice, $7.17 1-2. Dry salt meats and shoulders, $4.25; extra shorts and ribs, $4.75@5.00; shorts, $5.00@5.12 1-2. Bacon, boxed shoulders, $4.75; extra shorts, $5.12 1-2@5.25; ribs, $5.50; shorts, $7.62 1-2.

RECEIPTS—Flour, 2,000 bbls. Wheat, 79,000 bu. Corn, 88,000 bu. Oats, 32,000 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Flour, 100 bbls. Wheat, 34,000 bu. Corn, 151,000 bu. Oats, 36,000 bu.

Kansas City Grain and Provisions.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 23.—WHEAT—Market firm; No. 2 hard, 62@64c; No. 3, 59@62c; No. 2 red, 69c; No. 3, 62@66c; No. 2 spring, 60@63c; No. 3, 58@60c.

CORN—Market steady; No. 2 mixed, 33c; No. 2 white, 33½c; No. 3, 32½c.

OATS—Market steady; No. 2 white, 27¾@28¼c.

RYE—Market firm; No. 2, 50c.

HAY—Market steady, unchanged.

BUTTER—Market steady; separator, 19c; dairy, 15c.

EGGS—Market steady; fresh, 22c.

RECEIPTS—Wheat, 63,600 bu.; corn, 14,300 bu.; oats, 7,000 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Wheat, 70,800 bu.; oats, 5,000 bu.

Baltimore Market.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 23.—FLOUR—Quiet and unchanged; receipts, 14,758 bbls.; exports, none.

WHEAT—Firm; spot and month, 72 1-8@73¼c; receipts, 138,681 bu.; exports, 242,619 bu.; southern wheat, sample, 69@73½c; southern wheat, on grade, 70@73c.

CORN—Firm; spot, 42@42¼c; month, 42c; December, new or old, January and February, 41¼@41 3-8c; steamer mixed, 38½@38¾c; receipts, 191,103 bu.; exports, 201,143 bu.; southern white and yellow corn, 38¼@41¼c.

OATS—Firmer; No. 2 white, 33@33½c; No. 2 mixed, 31½@32c; receipts, 7,957 bu.; exports, none.

Grain Receipts at Principal Markets.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 23.—Receipts: Wheat, 659 cars.

DULUTH, Dec. 23.—Receipts: Wheat, 127 cars.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 23.—Receipts: Wheat, 74 cars.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Estimated cars for tomorrow: Wheat, 98; corn, 500; oats, 275.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 23.—Receipts: Wheat, 106 cars.

Receipts at Primary Markets—Wheat, 1,000,903 bushels; corn, 709,470 bushels; oats, 30,784 bushels.

Cincinnati Market.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 23.—FLOUR—Dull.

WHEAT—Steady; No. 2 red, 70c.

CORN—Firmer; No. 2 mixed, 36½c.

OATS—Firm; No. 2 mixed, 29c.

RYE—Steady; No. 2, 57c.

PROVISIONS—Lard, firmer at $4.55. Bacon, steady at $5.75.

WHISKY—Steady at $1.26.

BUTTER—Dull.

SUGAR—Firm.

EGGS—Steady at 20c.

Toledo Market.

TOLEDO, O., Dec. 23.—WHEAT—Futures were active; No. 2 cash and December, 70¼c; May, 71 5-8c.

CORN—Active and steady; No. 2 mixed, 36 5-8c.

OATS—Dull and steady; No. 2 mixed, 27½c.

RYE—Unchanged; No. 2 cash, 54c.

CLOVERSEED—Dull; prime December, $4.50 asked.

Liverpool Grain Market.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 23.—WHEAT—Market quiet, unchanged to ¼d higher; December, 5s 11¼d; March, 5s 10d; May, 5s 8¼d.

CORN—Market steady, unchanged to ¼d higher; December, 3s 11¾d; March, 3s 10⅞d; May, nominal.

Milwaukee Grain Market.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 23.—WHEAT—Higher; No. 1 northern, 67½c; No. 2 northern, 65⅝@66¼c; No. 2 spring, 64c; No. 3, 61½@63½c.

Milwaukee Grain Market.

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 23.—WHEAT—Market higher; No. 1 northern, 67½c; No. 2 northern, 65⅝@66¼c; No. 2 spring, 64c; No. 3, 61½@63½c.

RYE—Steadier; No. 2, 53¾@64¼c; No. 2, 53¼c.

BARLEY—Quiet; No. 2, 48½@49c; sample, 40½@44c.

OPERATIONS IN STOCKS AND BONDS.

Market Moves in Irregular Way, but No Great Changes Are Recorded.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The stock market moved in an irregular fashion, but no changes, as a result of the day's operations, were fractionally in favor of the advocates of the long account, a very unusual thing on the eve of a Christmas holiday.

The activity and breadth of the market were well sustained. London was a buyer in the early dealings, but later took profits on the rise here. The action of the government in calling for the $8,000,000 of Union Pacific payments now in the depository banks, which is to be paid in 10 per cent installments, failed to cause a ripple in the money market. The speculation in Federal Steel issues was on a tremendous volume of business and both common and preferred rose very sharply, but in the afternoon on free liquidation and the withdrawal of some of the usual support the stocks broke, leading to a moderate reaction in other shares. There was good buying, however, of Federal Steel on the dip and this steadied the general list. Sugar, Leather, Tobacco and American Steel and Wire showed considerable strength.

Rumor had it that there would be favorable developments announced in Brooklyn Rapid Transit before Tuesday, and the stock rose 2 points, but did not hold the extreme rise. The close was on a rise.

The market this week continued almost every day on an upward rise. The movement in a general way verified the street proverb, "As go movements, so goes the market."

The upward trend in the government mortgages resulted in some record prices and the general market for stocks and bonds was likewise strong. Two other street maxims were not borne out by the course of quotations. London's early prices are usually an index to the trend of the market locally, and to "copper London's trades" has not been regarded the part of wisdom. Then, too, the public was content to enjoy the Christmas holidays without realizing paper profits and the "reaction before the holidays" which is according to precedent, failed to materialize. Conditions permeating the financial fabrics continue wonderfully favorable to this nation. Bountiful crops sell abroad at remunerative and steadily improving prices, while the great iron and coal industries are getting a grip on the world's market.

The congestion of surplus capital due to America's enormous trade balance explains the investment of same $75,000,000 used in discounting foreign commercial bills, which must be paid in gold or in securities unless the United States assumes the roll of a creditor nation and gives ear to the reported propositions to float foreign government loans here. The return flow of money from the south and west is about due and the banks gained on balance at the subtreasury. To meet the January dividend requirements money has shown the slightest hardening tendency and last Wednesday a flurry in call money resulted in its bringing the market up to 4½ per cent for a small loan, but enormous offerings quickly brought it back to 2½ per cent.

The railway transports gave substantial evidence for a rise in some directions and seemed to warrant the introduction of many dormant securities to the speculative and semi-investment public. Small reactions and irregularity due to bear tactics kept trading rather healthy and free from the danger of a too sudden inflation. Scale orders to buy at concessions rallied prices after each period of depression. This held the market in spite of continuous hammering and enormous liquidation, and when it was found prices would go down, manipulation ensued. Toward the close of the week there was a disinclination to be short over the three holidays and there were large covering purchases.

Much interest was manifested in the dividend declarations of the week, but there was no change except the increase to 2 per cent in the Denver preferred disbursements. The over-sanguine predictions current as to the probable dividend declaration met some credence in particular cases, owing to the high rights of earnings. The grangers and the Pacifics were in keen request at periods and gained substantially. A number of hitherto inactive stocks made considerable progress upward, prominent among which were Baltimore & Ohio, Lake Erie & Western, Minneapolis and St. Louis and Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis. Besides the much-mooted Alton deal, there were various rumors of traffic alliances of many roads which served to keep unabated the investment demand. Talk of the prospective settlement of the Central Pacific's government obligation and a subsequent reorganization helped that stock, in view of the beneficial results of similar rehabilitations of railway properties. The resignation of a prominent officer and director of the sugar company brought forth much bear activity in that stock, which subsequently recovered its loss. The prosperity of the iron and coal industries was reflected in pronounced activity in the securities of allied industries. Powerful interests at times supported such stocks as Federal Steel, the common making an extreme of 11 1-2, while the preferred touched 84 5-8, a rise of 5 1-4 points, but both lost about 2 points on their advance.

The week's bond market was less active than the preceding week and the dealings were devoid of such a pronounced tone of strength. Irregularity was very conspicuous in operations, but the general undertone nevertheless was very substantial, many issues improving to the best price ever recorded for them.

United States new 3s and 4s advanced 1-2, the old 4s, coupon, 3-8 and do, registered, 1-8 in the bid price.

The Commercial Advertiser's London financial cablegram: "Today's was the busiest house and the largest attendance seen in the stock exchange here on the eve of Christmas for a very long time. Prices were generally steady. The American market was active, closing at the best. Denvers and Norfolks were the features. Other changes on balance were slight. Copper stocks were firmer. There were further large borrowings from the bank.

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

Atchison	18⅝	Rock Island ..	111⅝
do pfd	50⅞	St. Louis & S. F...	8½
Baltimore & Ohio..	69	do pfd	68¼
Canada Pacific	84¼	do 2d pfd	33¼
Canada Southern ..	56	St. Louis & S. W..	7⅛
Central Pacific	25¾	do pfd	17⅝
Ches. & Ohio	23⅛	St. Paul	118
Chi. & Alton	169¼	do pfd	165
Chi., B. & Q.....	122⅝	St. P. & Om.....	91¼
Chi. & E. Ill.....	53	do pfd	168
do pfd	110¼	St. P., M. & M....	172
Chi. G. W.....	15⅞	So. Pacific	32½
Chi., Ind. & L....	8½	Southern Railway..	10¼
do pfd	36	do pfd	41⅝
Chi., N. W.....	141⅝	Texas & Pacific	19
do pfd	186	Union Pacific	43¼
C., C., C. & St. L..	43¼	do pfd	73¼
do pfd	95	*U. P., D. & G....	12⅝
Det. & Hudson	104	Wabash	8⅛
***Del., L. & W....	159	do pfd	23
Den. & Rio G.....	20	*Wheel. & L. E....	4⅞
do pfd	68⅞	do pfd	27¼
Erie (new)	14⅝	Adams Express ...	108
do 1st pfd	37⅞	American Express..	144
Fort Wayne	172	United States	51
Ga. New York	135½	Wells Fargo	120
Hocking Valley	3½	Am. Cot. Oil.....	33¼
Illinois Central ...	114⅛	do 1st pfd	87½
Lake Erie & W....	20½	do pfd	31½
do pfd	73½	Am. sports	13⅝
Lake Shore	201¾	Am. Tobacco	142¾
Louis. & Nash.....	64	do pfd	151
Manhattan L	97¼	Cons. Gas.	194⅛
Met. St. Ry.	191⅝	Com. Cable Co. ..	175
Michigan Cent.	111	Col., F. & Iron ..	31½
Minn. & St. L.....	37½	do pfd	77
do 1st pfd	99¼	Gen. Electric	93¾
Mo. Pacific	44⅞	Haw. Com. Co....	58
Mobile & Ohio	31¼	Int. Paper	61
M., K. & T.....	13	do pfd	90½
do pfd	37⅝	La Clede Gas	52
N. J. Central	93½	Lead	28
N. Y. Central	123¼	do pfd	114
N. Y., C. & St. L..	14	Nat. Lin Oil	9
do 1st pfd	70	Pacific Mail	44¼
do 2nd pfd	35	People's Gas	109¼
Nor. & West.....	17⅝	Pullman Palace	149
No. Am. Co..	5⅞	Silver Certificates..	53½
No. Pacific	43⅝	Stand. Rope & T..	4¼
do pfd	76⅝	Sugar	126
Ontario & W.....	17¼	do pfd	111⅝
Ore., R. & Nav....	50	T., C. & Iron	37⅝
Oregon Short Line.	6½	U. S. Leather	7½
Pacific Coast 1st pfd	81½	do pfd	71¼
do 2d pfd	62	U. S. Rubber	45
Pittsburg	172	do pfd	110
Reading	19	West. Union	92⅝
do 1st pfd	47	Fed. Steel	47¼
R. G. W.	26	do pfd	82½
do pfd	64		

*2d asst. paid. **4th asst. paid. ***offd.

Total sales of stocks today were 873,400 shares, including 3,800 Atchison, 17,420 Atchison preferred, 3,225 Central Pacific, 6,350 Central Pacific, 3,023 Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, 6,902 Denver & Rio Grande preferred, 15,110 Louisville & Nashville, 10,520 Manhattan, 15,140 Minneapolis & St. Louis, 32,050 Missouri Pacific, 3,575 Missouri, Kansas & Texas preferred, 6,815 Northern Pacific, 14,120 Rock Island, 22,930 Union Pacific, 13,810 St. Paul, 7,150 Southern Pacific, 5,600 Southern Pacific preferred, 199,910 Union Pacific preferred, 5,135 Wabash preferred, 3,810 Wheeling & Lake Erie, 4,800 American Paper, 8,014 American Spirits, 9,010 American Spirits preferred, 14,220 Tobacco, 140,220 Steel, 53,357 Steel preferred, 64,450 People's Gas, 7,315 Colorado Fuel and Iron, 12,470 Pacific Mail, 32,280 Sugar, 22,215 Tennessee Coal and Iron, 20,120 Leather, 35,270 Leather preferred, 4,495 Rubber, 3,635 St. Louis & Southwestern preferred, 14,090 Chicago Great Western.

Foreign Financial.

PARIS, Dec. 23.—Prices on the bourse today were firm, but closed easier. Rentes were favorably influenced by the report that the revenue project of M. Peytral, the French minister of finance, would be rejected. Spanish 4s relapsed on realizations prompted by adverse advices concerning the health of Senor Sagasta, the Spanish premier. Rio Tintos were firm. Spanish 4s, 45.80. Three per cent rentes, 101f 72c for the account; exchange on London, 25f 23c for checks.

BERLIN, Dec. 23.—Money was scarce at 7 7-8@8 per cent on the bourse today for the settlement and business opened dull under apprehension of dearer money. Later there was a better feeling. Spanish 4s were easier. Americans were quiet. Canadian Pacifics were weak and local securities were easy.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The market for American securities fluctuated somewhat after a steady period on operators taking profits, but later improved and closed firm. The demand was moderate. Turpentine spirits, 32s 7d. Sugar certificates, 11s 6d. Spanish 4s, 45.50.

New York Money Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—MONEY ON CALL—Nominal at 2@2½ per cent.

PRIME MERCANTILE PAPER—3@3½ per cent.

STERLING EXCHANGE—Steady, with actual business in bankers' bills at $4.84½@4.84¾ for demand, and at $4.81¾@4.82 for sixty days; posted rates, $4.82½ and $4.85½; commercial bills, $4.81.

SILVER CERTIFICATES—59½@60¼c

BAR SILVER—69⅝c.

MEXICAN DOLLARS—46⅝c.

GOVERNMENT BONDS—Irregular; 3s, 106⅞; new 4s, reg., 128⅝; coupon, 128¾; 4s, 111¾; coupon, 113¼; 2s, 99½; 5s, reg., 112⅝; coupon, 112¾; Pacific 6s of '99, 102⅞.

U. S. new 3s	105	N. C. 4s	104
U. S. new 4s. reg...	128¾	No. Pacific 1sts....	117¼
U. S. do coup....	128¾	No. Pacific 3s.....	69¼
U. S. 4s, reg.....	111¾	No. Pacific 4s.....	102⅝
U. S. docoup	113¾	N. Y. C. & St. L. 4s..	106⅛
U. S. 2ds, reg.....	99⅝	N. & W. 6s.....	138
U. S. 5s, reg.....	112⅝	N. W. Consols.....	143¾
U. S. 5s, coup.....	112⅝	N. W. Deb. 5s.....	119¼
District 3.65s.....	118	Ore. N. 1sts.....	114
Ala., class A.....	108	Ore. N. 4s.....	100
Ala., class B.....	108	O. S. L. 6s t. r.....	129⅛
Ala., class C.....	100	O. S. L. 5s t. r.....	110⅝
Ala., Currency.....	100	Pacific 6s of 95.....	102½
Atchison 4s.....	100	Reading 4s.....	86⅝
Do. adj. 4s.....	79	R. G. W. 1sts.....	82⅝
Canada So. 2ds.....	110¼	St. L. & I. M. con 5s	104⅝
Chi. Terms. 4s.....	95⅛	St. L. & S. F. Gen. 6s	124¼
C. & O. 5s.....	118	St. P. Consols.....	162¼
C. H. & D. 4½s.....	104⅝	St. P. C. & P. 1sts..	122
D. & R. G. 1sts.....	108	St. P. C. & P. 5s....	121
D. & R. G. 4s.....	90½	So. Ry. 5s.....	108⅝
East Tenn. 1sts.....	107¼	S. R. & T. 6s.....	82½
Erie Gen. 4s.....	75¾	Tenn. new set 3s....	94⅝
F. W. & D. 1sts. t. r.	85½	T. P. L. G. 1sts.....	110
Gen. Elec. 5s.....	109	T. P. Ry. 2ds.....	94⅝
G. H. & S. A. 6s....	102	U. P. D. & G. 1sts..	82
G. H. & S. A. 2ds...	103	Wab. 1st 5s.....	113⅝
H. & T. Cent. 5s....	111	Wab. 2ds	64½
H. & T. C. con. 6s...	111	W. Shore 4s.....	112⅝
Iowa C. 1sts.....	104⅝	Va. Centuries.....	82⅝
La. New Con. 4s....	107	Va. deferred.....	7
L. & N. Uni. 4s.....	87⅝	Wis. Cent. 1sts.....	63⅝
Missouri 6s	100	U. P. 4s	13¾
M. K. & T. 2ds.....	67¼	U. P. R. N. pfd.....	72
M. K. & T. 4s.....	91	Pacific Coast	44
N. Y. C. 1sts	117⅛	Colo. Southern.....	7
N. J. C. 5s.....	115	1st pfd	50¼
N. C. 6s.....	125	2nd pfd	19

Boston Stock Quotations.

BOSTON, Dec. 23.—Call loans, 2@3 per cent; time loans, 3@4 per cent. Closing quotations on stocks, bonds and mining shares:

Atch., Top. & S. F.	18⅝	Wis. Central	1¼
Am. Sugar	126	Ed. Elec. Tel	196
do pfd	111½	Gen. Elec. pfd.. ..	158
Bay State Gas ..	3 15-16	Atch'son pfd..	50⅝
Bell Telephone ...	275	Atch. 2ds	96½
Bost. & Albany ...	246	Allouez Min. Co....	6⅝
Boston & Maine ..	171	Atlantic	31
Boston L	82½	Bost. & Mont....	166
Chi., Bur. & Q.....	122⅝	Butte & Boston	84
Fitchburg	107½	Calumet & Hecla ..	625
Gen. Elec.....	93½	Centennial	20
Mex. Central	7¾	Franklin	19¼
N. Y. & N. Eng....	99	Old Dominion	33¾
Old Colony	198	Osceola	76½
Ore. Short Line ...	41½	Quincy	140
Rubber	44¾	Tamarack	171
Union Pacific	43¼	Wolverine	52½
Wes. End	89¾	Parrott	31
Westingh. Elec...	38½	Humboldt	2½
do pfd	62		

San Francisco Mining Quotations.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 23.—The official closing quotations for mining stocks today were as follows:

Alta	7	Hale & Norcross ..	158
Alpha Con..	3	Justice	14
Andes	4	Kentucky Con....	8
Belcher	17	Mexican	27
Best & Belcher	32	Occidental Con	85
Bullion	3	Ophir	46
Caledonia	20	Overman	17
Challenge Con..	15	Potosi	14
Chollar	14	Savage	18
Confidence	65	Sierra Nevada	78
C. Imp. & Va....	100	Union Con	12
Crown Point	15	Utah Con..	9
Gould & Curry	21	Yellow Jacket	22

Silver bars, 59¼c; Mexican dollars, 47¼@47¾c. Drafts, sight, 15c; telegraph, 17½c.

London Stock Quotations.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—4 p. m.—Closing:

Consols, money	110¼	N. Y. Central	126¼
Consols, acct.....	110⅝	Pennsylvania	62⅝
Canad'an Pacific ..	86⅝	Reading	8⅛
Erie	14¼	Union Pacific	76½
do 1st pfd	38⅝	Atchison	19⅝
Illinois Central	117½	L. & N..	65½
Nor. Pacific pfd	79	Grand Trunk	7¼
St. Paul	123¼		

BAR SILVER—Stagnant at 27 3-8d.

MONEY—3@3½ per cent.

The rate of discount in the open market for short bills, 3 7-16@3¼ per cent; for three months' bills, 3 7-16@3½ per cent.

New York Mining Quotations.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The following are the closing quotations on mining stocks:

Chollar	12	Ontario	500
Crown Point	13	Ophir	45
Con., Cal. & Va....	100	Plymouth	10
Deadwood	50	Quicksilver	150
Gould & Curry	20	do pfd	400
Hale & Norcross ..	150	Sierra Nevada	70
Homestake	5,000	Standard	200
Iron Silver	73	Union Con..	17
Mexican	27	Yellow Jacket	16

Financial Notes.

OMAHA, Dec. 23.—Bank clearings today were $1,324,614.10; balances, $54,034.58. One year ago the clearings were $849,802.41; balances, $121,921.23. Increase in clearings, $474,811.69.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—The imports at the port of New York for the week were: Gold, $384,156; silver, $41,428; dry goods, $1,931,972; general merchandise, $5,775,493. The exports of specie during the week amounted to $499,749 in silver and $236,906 in gold.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23.—Clearings, $12,000,135; balances, $1,615,153.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 23.—Clearings, $2,822,213; balances, $471,644.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—Clearings, $175,681,405; balances, $8,237,614.

BOSTON, Dec. 23.—Clearings, $21,714,261; balances, $2,336,313.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 23.—Clearings, $1,931,111; New York exchange, bank, par; commercial, $1 discount.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 23.—Money, 2¼@6 per cent; New York exchange, 25c discount; clearings, $1,771,000.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 23.—Clearings, $4,920,475; balances, $719,092; money, 4@7 per cent; New York exchange, 10c discount bid; par asked.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Clearings, $23,280,654; balances, $1,540,800; New York exchange, par; posted rates, $4.82½@4.85. Stocks active; Diamond Match easy on realizing; others steady; Alley L, 75; Biscuit, common, 51¾; Biscuit, preferred, 105½; Diamond Match, 145; Lake Street L, 12½; West Chicago, 93½.

Cotton Market.

NEW ORLEANS, Dec. 23.—COTTON—Futures steady; December nominal; January, $5.01@5.02; February, $5.07@5.08; March, $5.10@5.11; April, $5.16@5.17; May, $5.21@5.22½; June, $5.26@5.27; July, $5.30@5.31; August, $5.30@5.32; September, $5.23@5.25; October, $5.25@5.27. Spot quiet; sales, 3,350 bales; ordinary, 3 1-16c; good ordinary, 4 3-8c; low middling, 4¾c; middling, 5 3-16c; good middling, 5 13-16c; middling fair, 6 5-16c; receipts, 12,152 bales; stock, 495,318 bales.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—COTTON—Steady; middling, 5 7-8c; net receipts, 229 bales; gross, 3,928 bales; sales, 546 bales; stock, 89,651 bales; exports to the continent, 393 bales. Total today: Net receipts, 58,491 bales; exports to Great Britain, 3,766 bales; to France, 14,785 bales; to the continent, 31,907 bales; stock, 1,336,904 bales. Consolidated: Net receipts, 360,535 bales; exports to Great Britain, 162,957 bales; to France, 46,577 bales; to the continent, 77,372 bales.

Coffee Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.—COFFEE—Options opened barely steady, 5@10 points lower; further eased off 5 points under disappointing European selling and bear hammering; decline arrested later by firmer ruling of Brazilian markets, liberal warehouse deliveries and buying on reaction theory; pronounced strength of spot also tended to make shorts cautious. Closed quiet, with prices 10@15 points lower. Sales, 9,220 bags, including January at $7.75; March, $5.90@5.95; May, $6.05; June, $6.10; July, $6.10; August, $6.15; September, $6.20; October, $6.25; November, $6.30; December, 1898, $6.30. Spot coffee, Rio, firm; No. 7, invoice, $7; No. 7, jobbing, $7.50. Mild, firm; Cordova, $7.75@15.00.

Wool Market.

BOSTON, Dec. 23.—The Boston Commercial Bulletin will say tomorrow of the wool market: Trading has continued very active. The chief business has been transacted in territories, while Australians have found a ready market. Australian washed fleeces and territories are steadier, while quotably unchanged. The sales of the week are 4,300,000 lbs. domestic and 2,074,000 lbs. foreign, a total of 6,374,000 lbs., against 6,317,000 lbs. last week and 8,853,000 lbs. for the same week last year. The sales to date show