

## COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

Crop Damage Stories Fade and Wheat Begins to Weaken.

MAY CLOSES AT A DECLINE OF 34 CENT

CORN and OATS FALL OFF Fractionally, Pork is Unchanged, Lard and Hogs a shade Higher Than Tuesday.

CHICAGO, March 15.—The break in the protracted dry spell in California, together with the continuation of crop damage claims, weakened wheat today and May closed at a decline of 34¢. Corn lost 4¢ and lard and hogs a shade higher.

Summaries of amount of winter-killed wheat in several states showed apparently very little warrant for the sensational damage reports with which the trade has recently been flooded and caused the wheat market to open at a decline of 34¢. At the decline several railroads were reported to have been damaged, but the reports were received only in cables from Illinois last year. Primary western receipts amounted to 475,000 bu., compared with 466,000 bu. last year. Western receipts in all cases were equal in wheat and flour to 466,000 bu. Reports of an improvement in the export demand at the seaboard caused the wheat price to end the day at 69¢, a shade above 68¢. Receipts were 32,000 bu., compared with 30,000 bu. last year. The market was closed on the damage prospect. The market soon slipped off to 68¢, closing at 69¢ 1/2.

Corn did not appear to have any clear notion as to what direction to take. It followed the course of wheat for the most part. Near the end of the session the market was off 1/2 cent, or 68¢ 1/2.

Wheat futures were 1/2 cent higher than the other grain. There was sympathy with the other grain. There were no general trade reports. Hogs were light, 133 cars, 103,000 lb., and 100,000 lb. were bought.

Provisions rated steady, notwithstanding a sharp drop in the price of bacon. The latter was the main factor for the price, but the weakness at the yards does not have much influence on provision futures, which were off 1/2 cent, or 11¢ 1/2.

May pork started 2¢ higher lower at 76¢ 1/2, sold sparingly at 76¢ 1/2, then rallied to 76¢ 1/2.

Estimated receipts for Thursday: Wheat, 33,000 bu.; corn, 150 cars; hogs, 133,000 lb.

Leading futures ranged as follows:

Article	Open	High	Low	Close	Yester.
*Wheat	69¢ 1/2	70¢	69¢ 1/2	69¢ 1/2	70¢
July	69¢ 1/2	69¢ 1/2	68¢ 1/2	68¢ 1/2	69¢ 1/2
May	69¢ 1/2	70¢	69¢ 1/2	69¢ 1/2	70¢
Apr.	69¢ 1/2	70¢	69¢ 1/2	69¢ 1/2	70¢
Mar.	69¢ 1/2	70¢	69¢ 1/2	69¢ 1/2	70¢
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