

CONDICTION OF OMAHA'S TRADE

Movement of Merchandise Rather Quiet Last Week.

IT IS THE SEASON FOR COMPARISONS

Values on Practically All Classes of Merchandise Show Large Gains as Compared with a Year Ago—Jobbers All Well Pleas'd.

The bull which usually follows the rush of trade preceding a Christmas season was experienced in this last week by both jobbers and retailers. Jobbers especially had a quiet time, as most of their traveling men were in and consequently very few orders were received. They had, however, all the business they wanted, as this is the time of year when the change stocks and prepare for the coming year. Retailers were also busy sorting up their stocks and invoicing, so there is really very little to be said regarding the condition of trade.

The markets, too, were almost without features, but some of the changes are expected after the first of the year.

The closing up of a calendar year always invites comparison and this year is no exception. The general run of business reported big gains in the volume of business transacted and a corresponding increase in the unfavorable weather for heavyweight goods collections at the present time are in better shape than they were a year ago.

Some Comparisons. The hardware market has attracted as much attention, perhaps, as any, and is considered a good example of the year's progress. A prominent hardware jobber of this city in speaking of market conditions at the present time is considered high because they compare favorably with the years of depression which prevailed during the years of depression.

Present values, of course, seem high when compared with the year of last year, or two or three years ago, but when placed by the side of prices in force in 1897 and 1898, they are not so high. For example, wire nails are \$1.35 higher than they were a year ago and 30 cents higher than they were in 1897.

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Thread Market Higher. The grocery market is in the same position it was in a week ago, no changes whatever having taken place. As is usually the case at this time of year, the general run of business is expected for next week and from then on. Local jobbers speak very favorably of the showing made during the present year and say that they have done 25 per cent more business than they did last year.

It is a difficult matter to compare present prices with those of last year and grades, but the way it is safe to call the market all the way from 50 per cent higher than it was a year ago.

But and shoe men call trade quiet, just as present, but are looking for a change in the demand for their goods. Retailers' stocks are getting broken up and duplicate orders should be made.

NEW YORK GENERAL MARKET. QUOTATIONS FOR THE DAY ON VARIOUS COMMODITIES.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—FLOUR—Receipts, 1,231 bbls.; exports, 9,851 bbls.; sales, 7,500 bbls.; price, 100.00; market, steady.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—WHEAT—Receipts, 1,231 bbls.; exports, 9,851 bbls.; sales, 7,500 bbls.; price, 100.00; market, steady.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—CORN—Receipts, 1,231 bbls.; exports, 9,851 bbls.; sales, 7,500 bbls.; price, 100.00; market, steady.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

Wheat, Corn and Oats Close at a Shade Higher Prices.

COLDER WEATHER HAS ITS INFLUENCE

Shorts Do a Bit of Covering, Leaving the Old Year with Accounts Evened Up—Provisions Easier.

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.—There was less than a week's business in any of the markets today. The cold weather and the improvement in the cash demand, steadied wheat, May closing at a shade gain over yesterday. Corn closed a shade and oats a letter and provisions unchanged to 2 1/2.

A microscopic comparison of yesterday's final figures for May wheat with the initial price today showed a shade loss, this option being at 92 1/2.

In the corn market such movements as were visible to the naked eye indicated steadiness, but the range was only in May, that option opening unchanged at 72 1/2.

Provisions were a little easier, the factors being the liberal next week, together with the narrowing of the January-May difference.

Estimated receipts Monday: Wheat, 100,000 bushels; corn, 450,000 bushels; oats, 250,000 bushels.

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STOCKS AND BONDS

Local Tenders, Increase, \$1,100,000; Deposits, Decrease, \$18,000; Circulation, Increase, \$3,000.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET.

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