

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

Grain Pits Rule Quiet on Board of Trade During Day.

WHEAT, CORN AND OATS RISE SLIGHTLY

Provisions Open Strong on Better Priced Hogs, but Longs Shatter Values when They Commence Profit Taking.

CHICAGO, Feb. 20.—Quotations prevailed in the grain pits today after falling steady the greater part of the day which closed firm, with May wheat highest. May corn was 1/2 cent higher, while oats were up 1/4 cent. Provisions ruled easier and the May products closed from 1/2 to 1/4 cent lower.

The early wheat market was a disappointment to the grain pit traders. The opening prices were easier, with May wheat higher than last week, but the weakness at the start being attributed to the lack of confirmation of the European wheat situation. The market was quiet and steady, with a fair demand for foreign wheat, but no interest in the trading the first half of the session and the market held steady. Fluctuations continued within a narrow limit, May selling between 77 1/2 and 78 1/2. Smaller Argentine wheat and wheat from the Argentine market and a fair export demand caused a better feeling later and a fair demand for foreign wheat developed, which advanced May to 77 1/2. The close was firm, with May wheat higher at 77 1/2 and 78 1/2.

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OMAHA LIVE STOCK MARKET

Heavy Weight Steers Rather Slow and Weak but Handy Buyers' Solid Steady.

HOGS OPENED FIVE TO TEN CENTS HIGHER

Very Light Run of Sheep and Lambs and Market Ruled Active and Steady to Strong for All the More Desirable Grades.

SOUTH OMAHA, Feb. 20. Receipts were: Cattle, Hogs, Sheep, Official Monday, 4,993 6,322 5,443; Official Tuesday, 4,993 6,322 5,443; Official Wednesday, 4,993 6,322 5,443; Official Thursday, 4,993 6,322 5,443; Official Friday, 4,993 6,322 5,443.

Five days this week, 18,189 23,011 20,624. Same days last week, 18,189 23,011 20,624. Same week before last, 18,189 23,011 20,624. Same four weeks ago, 18,189 23,011 20,624. Same five days last year, 18,189 23,011 20,624.

The following table shows the receipts of cattle, hogs and sheep at South Omaha for the year to date, with comparisons with last year:

Year to date, 1902, 1901, 1900, 1899, 1898, 1897. Cattle, 111,966 118,138 117,757; Hogs, 1,328,412 1,328,412 1,328,412; Sheep, 178,417 178,417 178,417.

The disposition of the day's receipts was about as follows: Cattle, 111,966; Hogs, 1,328,412; Sheep, 178,417.

The best steer market, though, was not quite as brisk as it was yesterday on the good cattle. The heavy weights in particular did not sell very well, and on that class salesmen were calling the market a "good quality sold without difficulty at about steady prices."

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The cow market was active and stronger on cutters and the better grades of corn-fed. For a week the market on that class of cattle is fully 25 cents higher and in some places more. Canners, however, have been rather slow, and the price of the heavy weights has not improved. Today they were rather slow, and the price of the heavy weights has not improved.

Supplies of stock cattle were limited this morning and generally the case toward the close of the week, the market was rather slow, and the price of the heavy weights has not improved.

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beef steers, \$4.00 to \$5.00; fair to good, \$3.00 to \$4.00; stockers and feeders, \$2.50 to \$3.50; western fed steers, \$3.00 to \$4.00; Texas and Indian steers, \$3.00 to \$4.00; native cows, \$3.00 to \$4.00; native calves, \$2.50 to \$3.50; calves, \$2.50 to \$3.50.

HOGS—Receipts, 7,000 head; market opened strong to be higher, closed weak; top, \$7.20; bulk of sales, \$7.00 to \$7.10; heavy, \$6.80 to \$6.90; mixed packers, \$6.60 to \$6.70; light, \$6.40 to \$6.50; porkers, \$6.20 to \$6.30.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—Receipts, 2,000 head; market steady; native lambs, \$4.00 to \$5.00; western lambs, \$3.50 to \$4.50; fed ewes, \$3.50 to \$4.50; native ewes, \$3.50 to \$4.50; eastern wethers, \$3.00 to \$4.00; stockers and feeders, \$2.50 to \$3.50.

ST. JOSEPH, Feb. 20.—CATTLE—Receipts, 1,200 head; steady; native, \$3.00 to \$4.00; Texas and western, \$2.50 to \$3.50; and feeders, \$2.00 to \$3.00; veals, \$3.00 to \$4.00; calves, \$2.50 to \$3.50; stockers and feeders, \$2.00 to \$3.00.

HOGS—Receipts, 8,800 head; light and heavy mixed, \$6.50 to \$7.15; medium and heavy, \$6.20 to \$6.85; pigs, \$5.75 to \$6.40; top native ewes, \$5.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—Receipts, 700 head; active; native yearling wethers, \$3.75; top native ewes, \$5.

Stock in Sight. The following were the receipts of live stock at the six principal western cities yesterday:

Omaha, 2,400; Chicago, 2,000; St. Louis, 1,800; St. Paul, 1,500; Kansas City, 1,200; Denver, 1,000; Total, 11,900.

St. Joseph Live Stock Market. ST. JOSEPH, Feb. 20.—(Special Telegram.)—CATTLE—Receipts, 1,200 head; steady; native, \$3.00 to \$4.00; Texas and western, \$2.50 to \$3.50; and feeders, \$2.00 to \$3.00; veals, \$3.00 to \$4.00; calves, \$2.50 to \$3.50; stockers and feeders, \$2.00 to \$3.00.

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