OMAHA LIVE STOCK MARKET

Fat Cattle Quarter to Fifty Higher for the Week.

HOGS HIGHER THAN FOR WEEKS

Sheep Strong and Active, with Everything Selling Early—For Week Lambs Are Seventy-Five Cents Higher.

SOUTH OMAHA, Dec. 28, 1908.

Receipts were:	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.
Official Monday	2,417	3,481	2,829
Official Tuesday	3,084	7,319	3,67
Official Wednesday	1,926	6,858	813
Official Thursday	730	6,006	2,[illegible]
Official Friday—Holiday.			
Estimated Saturday	154	1,782	1,447
Six days this week	8,291	23,496	11,130
Same days last week	24,034	40,423	31,688
Same days 2 weeks ago	23,686	30,677	27,735
Same days 3 weeks ago	23,120	62,217	44,708
Same days 4 weeks ago	22,506	52,532	20,899
Same days last year	5,750	25,440	5,779

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

	1908.	1907.	Inc.	Dec.
Cattle	1,021,844	1,151,816	.....	129,972
Hogs	2,386,544	2,224,199	162,345	.....
Sheep	2,081,844	2,030,957	50,887	.....

The following table shows the average price of hogs at South Omaha for the last several days, with comparisons:

Date.	1908.		1907.		1906.		1905.		1904.		1903.		1902.	
Dec. 16	5 20		4 23	*	4 76		4 42		4 28		6 16			
Dec. 17	5 24		4 47		6 18	*	4 49		4 24		6 [illegible]			
Dec. 18	5 31½		4 47		6 18		4 76	*	4 34		6 35			
Dec. 19	5 30½		4 34		6 19		4 84		4 30		4 31		6 01	
Dec. 20	*		4 23		6 18		4 90		4 50	*			6 07	
Dec. 21	5 35½		4 33		6 09		4 88		4 44		4 23		*	
Dec. 22	5 32½		*		6 06		4 99		4 38		4 39		6 15	
Dec. 23	5 30		4 44		*		4 96		4 39		4 44		6 19	
Dec. 24	5 47		4 36		6 13				4 42		4 48		6 27	
**Dec. 25														
Dec. 26	5 60		4 20		6 21		5 05		4 43		4 54		6 39	

** Holiday. *Sunday.

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

	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.	H'r's.
C., M. & St. P.	....	2	..	..
U. P. R. R.	....	6	6	1
C. & N. W. (east)	2	..	2	..
C. & N. W. (west)	..	..	..	..
C., St. P., M. & O.	1	2	..	*
C., B. & Q. (east)	..	2	1	..
C., B. & Q. (west)	2	1	..	..
C., R. I. & P. (east)	..	1	..	..
Illinois Central Ry.	..	3	..	..
Total receipts	5	45	9	1

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

	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.
Omaha Packing Co.	....	257	....
Swift and Company	....	420	....
Cudahy Packing Co.	5	558	1,372
J. H. Bulla	40	....	....
Other buyers	....	....	72
Totals	45	1,771	1,444

CATTLE—As usual on a Saturday there were no cattle of any consequence here, the yards being practically bare. The receipts for the week have been very small as compared with previous weeks, but still decidedly larger than a year ago.

The market throughout the week has been in a healthy condition. Packers have evidently wanted the few desirable beef steers coming and they have bought the arrivals very readily. Prices have been steadily advancing and at the close of the week beef steers are safely 25@60c higher than they were a week ago.

Cows and heifers have also shown good advances from day to day, being active sellers in the face of moderate receipts and a good demand. They, too, at the close of the week are 25@60c higher, and the advance has been pretty well distributed over all kinds. As a matter of course, the best grades usually get the best of any improvement of the market.

The feeders coming have sold very freely at good, strong prices. They were already very high to begin with, and hence there was not room for very much advance, but still they are safely 10@15c higher, the advance being quite noticeable in the medium grades and all good, light stockers.

Quotations on cattle: Good to choice cornfed steers, $6.25@7.15; fair to good cornfed steers, $5.25@6.25; common to fair cornfed steers, $3.75@5.25; good to choice range steers, $5.25@6.00; fair to good range steers, $4.00@5.25; common to fair range steers, $3.00@4.50; good to choice cornfed cows and heifers, $4.25@6.00; good to choice grass cows and heifers, $3.75@4.40; fair to good grass cows and heifers, $3.00@3.75; common to fair grass cows and heifers, $2.00@3.00; stock heifers, $2.50@3.30; veal calves, $3.00@6.25; bulls, stags, etc., $2.50@4.25; good to choice stockers and feeders, $4.00@5.25; fair to good stockers and feeders, $3.75@4.50; common to fair stockers and feeders, $2.75@3.75.

HOGS—It is not surprising that receipts were light this morning, it being the day after a holiday, as well as a Saturday. Only twenty-four cars were reported in and these changed hands early. There were not enough to supply the demand and packers seemed to be willing to pay a good price for what little there was. It was one of those days when it was hard to determine just how the market really stood. Some light stuff brought a big 10c higher, while other light stuff of about the same quality brought steady prices with Friday. The top was $5.85. There were hardly enough to make what is termed a bulk, but the most of the hogs sold between $5.45@5.70. Taking everything into consideration, the market was 5@10c higher.

Receipts of hogs this week have shown a considerable falling off with last week, but still they have been decidedly larger than the same week a year ago. While the market has fluctuated back and forth to some extent, still the general tendency has been upward. At the close of the week prices are on an average 17½c higher than last week, and the highest at any time since the first week of the month.

Representative sales:

No.	Av.	Sh.	Pr.	No.	Av.	Sh.	Pr.
38	75	...	3 35	62	257	480	5 62½
38	113	...	4 75	74	222	200	5 65
67	164	40	5 00	74	245	...	5 65
62	171	...	5 10	71	211	...	5 65
94	184	...	5 40	68	289	...	5 70
83	211	240	5 40	62	270	240	5 70
73	220	...	5 55	66	262	200	5 70
77	224	80	5 52	65	288	...	5 70
63	224	...	5 55	72	271	...	5 70
74	226	120	5 55	67	284	...	5 75
73	228	80	5 60	84	227	200	5 80
71	231	...	5 60	60	210	...	5 80
65	233	280	5 60	70	213	200	5 85

SHEEP—Receipts of sheep were very much larger than usual for the last day of the week, there being all told about nine cars on sale. The market as a whole was in pretty good shape and pretty much everything changed hands very readily at very strong prices. Thus good fat ewes sold up to $4.50, the highest price paid for the month of December. A bunch of weighty yearlings sold up to $5.75.

Receipts of sheep have been very light this week, as usual during the holiday season, but still there have been enough to supply the demand, although none too many. In fact, packers have wanted a few cars of good killers every day, and, as the supply of such has been light, packers have been forced to advance prices very materially. At the close of the week it is safe to quote the general run of lambs 75c higher than last week, while sheep and yearlings are about 50c higher. Ewes especially have shown a very stiff advance, reaching this week, as noted above, the highest price of the month to date. The feeling on the market is very good, but still salesmen feel that in order to maintain present high prices, receipts for the coming week should not be excessive, as packers will be very apt to take advantage of any very large runs that may occur to take off at least a part of what they put on this week.

Quotations on sheep and lambs: Good to choice lambs, $6.75@7.25; fair to good lambs, $6.25@6.75; feeding lambs, $4.50@6.15; good to choice light yearlings, $5.50@6.00; fair to good heavy yearlings, $4.75@5.40; feeding yearlings, $4.00@4.50; good to choice wethers, $4.25@4.75; feeding wethers, $3.75@4.25; good to choice ewes, $4.00@4.50; fair to good ewes, $3.50@4.00; feeding ewes, $7.00@3.25; culls and bucks, $1.00@2.00.

Representative sales:

No.		Av.	Pr.
222	western ewes	98	4 50
124	western ewes	97	4 50
112	western ewes	98	4 50
248	western yearlings	103	5 75
13	western ewes and wethers	100	5 00
326	western ewes	113	4 50
197	western lambs	78	7 00

Kansas City Live Stock Market.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 28.—CATTLE—Receipts, 400 head, including 100 southerns; market steady; receipts for the week, 32,5[illegible]0 head; choice export and dressed beef steers, $6.00@7.25; fair to good, $4.60@6.00; western steers, $3.60@5.75; stockers and feeders, $3.0[illegible]@5.25; southern steers, $3.75@5.50; southern cows, $2.25@4.00; native cows, $2.00@4.75; native heifers, $2.25@5.75; bulls, $1.6[illegible]@4.25; calves, $3.50@7.25.

HOGS—Receipts, 3,[illegible] head; market 10@[illegible]c higher; top, $5.95; bulk of sales, $5.4[illegible]@5.85; packers and butchers, $5.[illegible]@5.95; lights, $5.2[illegible]@5.60; pigs, $4.0[illegible]@5.00; receipts for the week, 6,[illegible]0 head.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—Receipts, 200 head; market steady; receipts for the week, 14,100 head; lambs, $4.50@7.50; ewes and yearlings, $4.25@5.25; western yearlings, $5.50@4.25; western sheep, $4.00@5.00; stockers and feeders, $3.75@4.75.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK MARKET

Cattle and Sheep Steady—Hogs Five Cents Higher.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28.—CATTLE—Receipts, 400 head; market steady; beeves, $3.50@7.60; Texans, $3.50@4.30; westerns, $3.50@5.50; stockers and feeders, $2.60@4.70; cows and heifers, $1.50@4.30; calves, $6.25@9.00.

HOGS—Receipts, 10,000 head; market 5c higher; light, $4.95@5.75; mixed, $5.35@6.00; rough, $5.35@5.60; good to choice heavy, $5.40@6.00; pigs, $3.75@4.90; bulk of sales, $5.50@5.85.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—Receipts, 2,500 head; market steady; natives, $2.60@4.90; westerns, $2.60@4.90; yearlings, $5.00@6.25; native lambs, $4.50@7.70; westerns, $4.50@7.70.

St. Louis Live Stock Market.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 28.—CATTLE—Receipts, 250 head, including 450 Texans; market steady; native shipping and export steers, $4.50@7.85; dressed beef and butcher steers, $4.00@6.50; steers under 1,000 pounds, $3.75@6.25; stockers and feeders, $2.75@4.65; cows and heifers, $2.00@6.00; canners, $1.75@2.00; bulls, $2.75@4.75; calves, $3.50@7.00; Texas and Indian steers, $3.00@5.50; cows and heifers, $1.70@4.40.

HOGS—Receipts, 2,500 head; market 10c higher; pigs and lights, $5.25@5.60; packers, $5.50@5.80; butchers and best heavy, $5.50@5.70.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—Receipts, 150 head; market steady; native muttons, $3.00@4.50; lambs, $5.50@7.50; culls and bucks, $2.50@4.00; stockers, $2.00@3.50.

Sioux City Live Stock Market.

SIOUX CITY, Ia., Dec. 28.—(Special Telegram.)—HOGS—Receipts, 1,600 head; market 5@10c higher; range, $5.30@6.80; bulk of sales, $5.55@5.60.

CATTLE—Receipts, 100 head; market steady; beeves, $5.00@7.00; fat cows and heifers, $3.75@5.00; feeders, $3.00@4.75; calves and yearlings, $3.00@4.00.

St. Joseph Live Stock Market.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Dec. 28.—CATTLE—Receipts, 250 head; shipped direct.

HOGS—Receipts, 1,250 head; market 10@15c higher; active; top, $5.90; bulk of sales, $5.35@5.60.

No sheep were received.

Stock in Sight.

Receipts of live stock at the six principal western markets yesterday:

	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.
South Omaha	154	1,782	1,447
Sioux City	100	1,600	....
St. Joseph	350	1,250	....
Kansas City	400	3,000	300
St. Louis	500	2,500	150
Chicago	400	10,000	2,000
Total	1,904	20,032	4,397

REPORT OF THE CLEARING HOUSE

Transactions of the Associated Banks for the Week.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—Bradstreet's bank clearings report for the week ending December 24 shows an aggregate of $3,289,584,000, as against $3,362,570,000 last week and $1,324,134,000 in the corresponding week last year. The following is a list of the cities:

CITIES.	Clearings.	Inc.	Dec.
New York	$2,172,011,000	11.8	.....
Chicago	264,535,000	55.4	.....
Boston	155,746,000	56.1	.....
Philadelphia	126,580,000	33.1	.....
St. Louis	66,880,000	32.7	.....
Pittsburg	43,774,000	4.1	.....
San Francisco	34,355,000	40.3	.....
Kansas City	42,040,000	63.7	.....
Baltimore	27,978,000	.....	.....
Cincinnati	25,969,000	45.2	.....
Minneapolis	17,888,000	.....	8.5
New Orleans	19,366,000	.....	2.5
Cleveland	14,730,000	13.9	.....
Detroit	13,755,000	28.1	.....
Louisville	14,463,000	88.7	.....
Los Angeles	11,229,000	91.3	.....
Omaha	12,978,000	38.5	.....
Milwaukee	11,297,000	25.0	.....
Seattle	9,731,000	59.7	.....
St. Paul	9,654,000	2.1	.....
Buffalo	7,758,000	37.2	.....
Denver	9,066,000	29.5	.....
Indianapolis	8,546,000	83.5	.....
Fort Worth	12,459,000	65.3	.....
Providence	6,874,000	33.8	.....
Portland, Ore.	6,068,000	72.1	.....
Albany	6,435,000	73.7	.....
Richmond	6,916,000	33.8	.....
Washington, D. C.	6,690,000	53.7	.....
Spokane, Wash.	6,791,000	60.2	.....
Salt Lake City	6,569,000	128.1	.....
Columbus	5,589,000	37.6	.....
St. Joseph	5,551,000	76.9	.....
Atlanta	6,251,000	36.9	.....
Memphis	6,238,000	23.1	.....
Tacoma	5,550,000	19.8	.....
Savannah	4,411,000	.....	7.1
Toledo, O.	4,781,000	20.1	.....
Nashville	3,895,000	5.8	.....
Rochester	3,328,000	25.2	.....
Hartford	3,211,000	43.7	.....
Des Moines	2,976,000	39.4	.....
Peoria	2,994,000	55.2	.....
Norfolk	3,045,000	.....	.....
New Haven	2,138,000	26.6	.....
Grand Rapids	2,152,000	25.9	.....
Birmingham	2,485,000	49.7	.....
Syracuse	1,853,000	17.3	.....
Sioux City	2,330,000	38.2	.....
Springfield, Mass.	1,812,000	38.2	.....
Evansville	2,097,000	64.2	.....
Portland, Me.	1,610,000	5.4	.....
Dayton	1,892,000	66.8	.....
Little Rock	1,779,000	52.0	.....
Augusta, Ga.	2,095,000	52.1	.....
Oakland, Cal.	1,685,000	64.1	.....
Worcester	1,903,000	53.1	.....
Mobile	1,377,000	1.1	.....
Knoxville	1,446,000	16.5	.....
Jacksonville, Fla.	1,679,000	50.1	.....
Chattanooga	1,653,000	59.2	.....
Charleston, S. C.	1,631,000	29.7	.....
Lincoln, Neb.	1,680,000	77.8	.....
Wilmington, Del.	1,213,000	24.6	.....
Wichita	1,771,000	93.9	.....
Wilkesbarre	1,261,000	22.9	.....
Wheeling, W. Va.	1,571,000	45.7	.....
Fall River	1,187,000	48.0	.....
Davenport	1,008,000	38.6	.....
Kalamazoo, Mich.	1,121,000	59.0	.....
Topeka	1,312,000	43.2	.....
Helena	1,042,000	72.2	.....
Springfield, Ill.	987,000	25.4	.....
Youngstown	963,000	53.4	.....
Fort Wayne	783,000	59.1	.....
New Bedford	870,000	57.3	.....
Erie, Pa.	686,000	29.2	.....
Cedar Rapids, Ia.	801,000	35.3	.....
Macon	937,000	48.0	.....
Akron	697,000	.....	.....
Lexington	693,000	.....	.....
Rockford, Ill.	700,000	11.6	.....
Fargo, N. D.	823,000	.....	.....
Lowell	447,000	14.6	.....
Binghamton	488,000	54.9	.....
Chester, Pa.	470,000	6.8	.....
Sioux Falls, S. D.	588,000	28.9	.....
South Bend, Ind.	396,000	64.3	.....
Bloomington, Ill.	455,000	30.7	.....
Canton, O.	781,000	69.4	.....
Quincy, Ill.	453,000	6.3	.....
Springfield, O.	345,000	.....	43.6
Decatur, Ill.	416,000	69.1	.....
Mansfield, O.	367,000	79.9	.....
Fremont, Neb.	285,000	42.0	.....
Jacksonville, Ill.	299,000	119.8	.....
Oklahoma	1,521,000	206.4	.....
*Houston	21,823,000	91.8	.....
*Galveston	16,900,000	38.4	.....
Columbia, S. C.	726,000	53.8	.....
Sacramento	1,690,000	107.2	.....
Jackson, Miss.	392,000	.....	.....

*Not included in totals because containing other items than clearings.

Clearing House Bank Statement.

NEW YOORK, Dec. 26.—The statement of clearing house banks for the week shows that the banks hold $16,923,325 more than the requirements of the 25 per cent reserve rule. This is an increase of $6,913,625 in the proportionate cash reserve as compared with last week.

The statement follows:

		Dec.
Loans	$1,276,745,300	$39,234,800
Deposits	1,322,151,900	46,760,500
Circulation	49,129,600	*2,517,600
Legal tenders	78,262,700	1,126,900
Specie	248,186,600	3,649,600
Reserve	327,461,300	4,776,500
Reserve required	330,537,975	11,690,125
Surplus	16,923,325	*6,913,625
Ex-U. S. deposits	19,229,700	*6,656,125

*Increase.

The percentage of actual reserve of the clearing house banks today was 26.58.

The statements of banks and trust companies of Greater New York not reporting to the clearing house shows that these institutions have aggregate deposits of $1,115,026,600. Total cash on hand, $108,401,800, and loans amounting to $1,037,049,200.

Bank of England Statement.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—The weekly statement of the Bank of England shows the following changes:

Total reserve, decreased	£2,964,000
Circulation, increased	899,000
Bullion, decreased	2,074,833
Other securities, increased	4,610,000
Other deposits, increased	919,000
Public deposits, increased	722,000
Notes reserve, decreased	2,822,000

Government securities unchanged.

The proportion of the bank's reserve to liability this week is 38.30 per cent; last week it was 43.62 per cent.

Treasury Statement.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26.—Today's statement of the treasury balances in the general fund, exclusive of the $150,000,000 gold reserve, shows: Available cash balance, $160,270,056; gold coin and bullion, $25,865,248; gold certificates, $62,833,300.

Bank Clearings.

OMAHA, Dec. 28.—Bank clearings for today were $2,549,882.64, and for the corresponding date last year, $1,676,101.98.

	1908.	1907.
Monday	$2,283,066.79	$2,135,174.01
Tuesday	2,087,134.28	1,611,140.08
Wednesday	1,963,569.26	Holiday.
Thursday	2,042,124.59	2,077,663.72
Friday	Holiday.	1,278,157.26
Saturday	2,549,882.64	1,676,101.98
Totals	$10,924,767.56	$8,678,227.05

Increase over corresponding week last year, $2,246,540.51.

OMAHA GENERAL MARKET.

Conditions of Trade and Quotations on Staple and Fancy Produce.

BUTTER—Creamery, No. 1, delivered to retail trade in cartons, 31c; No. 1 in 60-lb. tubs, 60c; No. 2 in 60-lb. tubs, 28c; No. 2 in 20-lb. tubs, 28c; No. 2 in 1-lb. cartons, 29c; fancy dairy, tubs, 29@23c; packing stock, 20c.

EGGS—Fresh candled, 33c; storage, 28c.

CHEESE—Finest Wisconsin full cream, twins, 15c; young Americas, 4 in hoop, 15¼c; favorite, 8 in hoop, 16c; daisies, 20 in hoop, 15½c; cream brick, full case, 15c; block swiss, 15c; full cream limburger, 16c.

BEEF CUTS—No. 1 ribs, 17½c; No. 2 ribs, 11½c; No. 3 ribs, 7c; No. 1 loins, 20c; No. 2 loins, 13c; No. 3 loins, 9c; No. 1 chuck, 6c; No. 2 chuck, 5c; No. 3 chuck, 4½c; No. 1 round, 8½c; No. 2 round, 7c; No. 3 round, 6½c; No. 1 plate, 5½c; No. 2 plate, 4½c; No. 3 plate, 3½c.

DRESSED POULTRY—Dressed hens, 10c; springs, 11c; ducks, 12c; geese, 10c; turkeys, 13c; squabs, $2.30@2.25 per doz.

SUGAR—Coarse granulated, 5.50c; fine granulated, 5.70c; cubes, 6.60c; powdered, 6.50c.

FRESH FRUITS—Apples, $3.25@4.25 per bu. box. Lemons, $4.00@4.50. Oranges, California, $3.00@3.25. Bananas, 4c per lb. Grapes, Malaga, $5.50@6.50 per keg; California Emperor, 4-box crates, $1.65@1.75.

BEEF CUTS.

Ribs: No. 1, 11c; No. 2, 12c; No. 3, 8c. Loin: No. 1, 20c; No. 2, 13½c; No. 3, 10c. Chuck: No. 1, 7c; No. 2, 5¾c; No. 3, 5c. Round: No. 1 9c; No. 2, 7¾c; No. 3, 6½c. Plate: No. 1, 6½c; No. 2, 5c; No. 3, 4½c.

VEGETABLES—Celery, California, per doz., 90c; Utah, 75c; other, 60@90c. Beans, navy, No. 1, per bu., $2.50@2.60; lima, per lb., 5½c. Cabbage, 2½c per lb. Potatoes, 60@65c. Tomatoes, per basket crate, $2.00. Cucumbers, per doz., $1.50@1.75. Onions, Spanish, per crate, $2.00; Texas, $1.25 per crate. Lettuce, per doz., 45c. Peppers, southern, $1.00 per crate. Cauliflower, $2.50 per crate; Egyptian, $1.50 per doz. Brussels sprouts, 30c per qt. Kumquats, 35c per qt.

WEATHER IN THE GRAIN BELT

Fair and Colder for Sunday is the Forecast.

OMAHA, Dec. 25, 1908.

A barometric depression, noted over the extreme upper valleys and upper lake region Thursday morning, is moving off the upper Atlantic coast this morning. This disturbance is causing generally cloudy weather throughout the eastern portion and light snows are falling in the lower lake region and south over western New York, western Pennsylvania, Virginia and North Carolina. A depression of pronounced energy overlies the extreme upper valleys and Canadian provinces, with its center over Manitoba. This depression has caused a very rapid and decided rise in temperature in the upper Mississippi and upper Missouri valleys and throughout the northwest. The pressure is high on the Pacific coast and southeast over the lower mountain district, and is high over the extreme lower valleys and southern states. The depression over the upper valleys will move eastward, and will be followed by the western high, causing colder in this vicinity tonight and Sunday, with continued fair weather.

Omaha record of temperature and precipitation compared with the corresponding day of the last three years:

	1908.	1907.	1906.	1905.
Minimum temperature	29	29	30	31
Precipitation	.00	.00	T	.00

Normal temperature for today, 23 degrees.

Deficiency in precipitation since March 1, 4.42 inches.

Deficiency corresponding period in 1907, 7.38 inches.

Deficiency corresponding period in 1906, 4.83 inches.

L. A. WELSH,
Local Forecaster.

New York Money Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 26.—MONEY—On call, unquoted.

PRIME MERCANTILE PAPER—4@4½ per cent.

SILVER—Bar, 49¼c; Mexican dollars, 45c.

STERLING EXCHANGE—Nominal with actual business in bankers' bills at $4.8506@4.8515 for sixty days bills and at $4.87 for demand. Commercial bills, $4.84¾@4.87¼.

BONDS—Government, unquoted; railroad, unquoted.

Philadelphia Produce Market.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 26.—BUTTER—Quiet but steady; extra western creamery, 34c; extra nearby prints, 35c.

EGGS—Firm, but generally quiet; Pennsylvania and other nearby firsts, free cases, 34c at mark; Pennsylvania and other current receipts, in returnable cases, 33c at mark; western firsts, free cases, 34c at mark; western firsts, current receipts, free cases, 32@33c.

Chicago Produce Market.

CHICAGO, Dec. 26.—The butter and eggs board was closed today.

CHEESE—Firm; daisies, 14¼@15c; twins, 14@14¼c; young Americas, 14½c.

POULTRY—Alive, steady; turkeys, 16c; chickens, 11½c; springs, 13c.

Babies Strangled

by croup, colds or coughs are instantly relieved and quickly cured with Dr. King's New Discovery. 50c and $1.00. For sale by Beaton Drug Co.

GEMS THAT FOOL EXPERTS

Sapphires and Rubies Turned Out from Crucible of French Alchemist.

"Not five out of a hundred jewelers in New York could detect a manufactured ruby," said a gem expert the other day. "The imitation is so perfect that I think it hardly proper to publish the fact. I might lead some swindler to buy the French made stones at 40 cents a carat and sell them at the price of the genuine, which is upward of $16 a carat wholesale. A fine ruby is more valuable than a diamond of the same weight. So is a sapphire, for that matter."

Rubies and sapphires are chemically of similar composition, both being varieties of the mineral corundum, but the manufacture of sapphires to equal the genuine stone is a later achievement than the production of rubies. At his laboratory at Boulogne-sur-Seine a modern alchemist named M. Louis Paris transmutes inert powders into sparkling gems and heaps up quantities of sapphires greater than a thousand miners could dig from the bowels of the earth.

The constituents of the jewels to be created, which are aluminum and oxide coloring, are weighed very precisely on glass inclosed scales, for an error of a milligram in the proportions would give defective results. The mixed powder is poured in a cupel, which is then placed in an oil burning oven. A temperature of 1,700 degrees is maintained for several hours. When the cupel is taken from the oven its contents are dumped into a cup and thence emptied through a funnel into a sort of flower pot with a perforated cover. The pot is placed over the jet of an oxyhydrogen blowpipe, with a temperature of 1,500 degrees. The tube of the oxyhydrogen apparatus is protected with many layers of sheet iron, and this final process is carefully observed by expert workmen. Slowly the liquefying powder falls in the shape of drops upon the intense flame, and in place of a mere chemical mixture appears a sapphire, splendidly blue and transluscent.

The sapphire, natural or artificial, is a very hard stone. Even if fashion declines to accept the laboratory article, important commercial uses can be found for it, as in forming tips for rock-boring drills the sapphire drill is equal to the diamond drill and on the artificial basis costs infinitely less.—New York Tribune.

Foley's Orino Laxative cures chronic constipation and stimulates the liver. Orino regulates the bowels so they will act naturally and you do not have to take purgatives continuously. Sold by all druggists.

Active Salesmen—Bee Want Ads

TOUCHING TROOP OF GHOSTS

Roosevelt's Last Night in the White House Sketched in Advance.

PATHOS WITH THE BARK ON

Mollycoddle Skips With Strenuous Life and Has Corking Good Time Beating Other Shades to a Frazzle.

"The Farewell of the Roosevelt Ghosts," an advance picture of the night of March 3, 1909, in the White House, is esteemed one of the finest bits of fancied humor and pathos that has tickled Washington in many a day. George R. Brown, one of the younger Washington correspondents, has contributed to the Boston Herald several sketches of the kind, but the last one is the first to excite the mirth of official Washington. The yarn follows:

It was the night before inauguration day, and all through the White House not a creature was stirring except six secret service men, eight watchmen, several mice in the pantry and Pete the bulldog. Upstairs in the executive bed chamber strenuous sounds issued from the crack under the door, indicating that the chief magistrate of the nation was peacefully slumbering on the last night he was to spend in the mansion.

Suddenly a small, white figure crept noiselessly through the gloomy halls and proceeded timidly into the presence of the sleeper.

"Who's there?" demanded a voice. It was the voice of President Theodore Roosevelt. "Speak, or I'll shoot!"

"Don't shoot," cried the small, white figure. "I've simply come to say good-by to you."

"Who are you?" demanded the president, cocking his revolver.

"I am the Mollycoddle," sighed the small, white figure, "and this is my last night on earth; farewell."

A Real Fright.

The little creature vanished through the door just as there entered a strange being so horrible of mien that the Mollycoddle fled shrieking down the corridor. Even the president was alarmed for an instant. The newcomer was misshapen, distorted, with a crooked, wretched face, a hump back, red eyes, a huge wart of a nose and mismated feet.

"Who are you?" demanded the well-known voice. "Answer up pert; I've got the drop on you."

"Do not waste any powder on me," replied the frightful object in blood curdling tones, "for I am not worth it. I am the Criminal Absurdity. I am here simply to bid you adios."

By this time the upper corridors of the White House fairly swarmed with strange, uncouth, delirious looking personages. They crowded into the room and when the Criminal Absurdity pressed the hand of the great man and paid his last respects, they flocked to the bed. Some wore grins, some had faces more like masks than human visages, but all of the countenances bore the imprint of great suffering, and not a creature present but looked as though he had been dragged through a knothole. One in particular presented such a pitiful appearance that its associates respectfully gave it the place of honor on the footboard.

"Who are you?" demanded the voice.

"I am the Frazzle," replied the poor creature, but in tones so weak that it was with difficulty it could make itself understood. "I am the Frazzle," it repeated, and burst into tears.

"Poor little chap," said the well known voice in tones of pity, "poor little chap. You've just begun your career of misery. I pity you."

The Shade of Many.

The Criminal Absurdity tried to "butt in" at this point, but the voice interrupted. "As for you," it said, "I well remember when you were born. It was at Oyster Bay, Sept. 12, 1904, in my letter accepting the republican nomination for the presidency. Little did I think then that you would have such a vogue. And the poor Mollycoddle, which has just left the room. That was at Harvard Union Feb. 23, 1907. Let me think. O, yes, here's the very note:

"'As I emphatically disbelieve in seeing Harvard or any other college turn out mollycoddles instead of vigorous men, I may add that I do not in the least object to a sport because it is rough.'"

There was a commotion at the foot of the bed, and an unkempt, wild eyed object scrambled upon the counterpane, waving a red flag.

"Ha!" cried the well known voice. "I recognize you, all right."

"Correct," replied the waver of the red banner, "I am the Undesirable Citizen, and I've come to say au revoir."

"I wrote a letter about you to Mr. Honore Jaxon of Chicago about the Moyer-Hayward affair," said the voice.

"In my letter, to which you object, I referred to a certain prominent financier, Mr. Harriman, on the one hand, and to Messrs. Moyer, Hayward and Debs, on the other, as being equally undesirable citizens."

The Fat Person.

What else the voice would have said will never be known, for at this point a person so dignified, fat, sleek and prosperous looking strutted into the room and stalked toward the bed with such ponderous tread, and withal so chestily, that the other objects gathered about fell all over themselves getting out of his way. The newcomer had a generous paunch, short legs supporting it, a thick, red neck, jowls like those of a well fed shoat, and two little twinkling eyes, but what attracted the greatest attention was his suit of clothes, fashioned of a remarkable cloth in which the checks and stripes were dollar marks. Taking a gold embossed card from his pocket, he presented it to the occupant of the bed.

"So," said the voice, "you are here, too, are you?"

"Permit me," replied the fat personage in the dollar mark suit, "to introduce myself to your guests. Gentlemen, I am the Malefactor of Great Wealth."

"You were created in a message to congress," said the voice gleefully, "and I must admit that I gave you a pretty hot shot."

"The shots that hit are the shots that tell," spoke up a natty looking sailor.

"Bully, by George," shouted the voice. "I remember that. It was on board the Kearsarge when I reviewed the fleet on August 17, 1903. I want to say that—"

"Then you must remember me," interrupted a flat, skinny, narrow, keen looking little chap, who had been unnoticed heretofore, "for I was there on that occasion, too."

"Who are you?" demanded the voice.

"I am the Fighting Edge," replied the keen looking little chap; "I'm out for glory."

Duty to the Fare.

A stern man, with serious eyes and thoughtful brow, pushed his way firmly to the center of the strange group.

"Say not so," he said, in tone of thunder. "Have you forgotten the Grand Army of the Republic reunion in Washington on February 19, 1902?"

"Who are you?" demanded the voice.

"I am Duty," replied the man with the serious eyes. "Let me quote from your 'Glory is a good word, but duty is a better one.'"

"Right you are," cried the well known voice. "I award the palm to Duty." Poor Fighting Edge, at these words, slunk from the room and was seen no more, his place being taken by a typical low brow, who edged into the presence of the personage in bed. He was a dirty man, with matted hair falling down over his eyes, a round shouldered man, and about him was the fetid odor of the stable. He was the kind of a man would naturally imagine to be possessed of a pair of shifty eyes, but as he never raised his head, but kept his nose pointed always to the floor, this could not be accurately seen.

"And you," thundered the well known voice, "I think I know you!"

"I won't deny it," whimpered the wretch, displaying for the first time his long implement of labor, "I am the man with the muck rake. I made your acquaintance at the laying of the cornerstone of the house of representatives office building in Washington, April 14, 1906. You took me out of Mr. Bunyan's 'Pilgrim's Progress,' and I haven't known a minute's rest since. I've been worked to death in every 10-cent magazine in the country. Still, I'm not sore at you. I'm simply