SUGAR IS STRONG

Demand Exceedingly Heavy at the Low Price.

TRADE THINKS IT BOTTOM

Any Advance in East Now Would Be Reflected Here, According to Opinion in the Trade. Trust Branching Out.

SUGAR—Strong local consumptive demand.
FLOUR—Japanese buyers show more interest.
WHEAT—Improvement in California demand.
FRUIT—Lemons not so firm.
VEGETABLES — Florida tomatoes received.
POTATOES—New California plentiful and cheaper.
BUTTER—Good storing and shipping demand.
CHEESE—Local market unsettled.
EGGS—Supply is moderate.
POULTRY — More plentiful and weaker.
MEATS—Veal too plentiful.

Local grocery jobbers report that sugar is fast going into consumption, the low price made at the opening of the week having stimulated the demand here and at points that draw on this city for their supplies. As pointed out by one of the large distributors, it is reasonable to believe that the bottom of the market has been reached, and this belief, together with the naturally increased demand at this time of year is responsible for the rapidity with which stocks are being transferred from jobbers' hands to those of retailers.

It is also asserted by some that the decline in New York Thursday was brought about by the heavy reduction in prices on the coast. The market seems to be in such a position now that any advance in the East would be immediately reflected here. The condition of the raw sugar market, which dominates that for refined sugar, indicates that an advance is not far off.

It is not believed there is any trouble between the Eastern refineries at the present time. According to opinions in the Eastern sugar trade, the relations between the American Sugar Refining Company and the Arbuckle sugar interests have reached the point where the latter is about to be absorbed by the former. It is the understanding that about $20,000,000 will be involved in the deal which, when completed, will remove a leading competitor from the field practically dominated by the Sugar Refining Company. The capitalization of the American Sugar Refining Company now is $90,000,000, divided equally into 7 per cent cumulative preferred and common stock, while the acquisition of the Arbuckle interests will raise this total to about $110,000,000.

Of the relations existing between the Western Sugar Refining Company and the California-Hawaiian Refining Company, nothing positively is known and any assertion that is made must be purely guesswork. Everything seems to be harmonious now, but how long this condition will last is a question. "The ultimate outcome of the matter," said a leading jobber yesterday, "must be the taking in of the new company by the Western, but before that is done the Hawaiian is certain to stink a lot of money."

Three cargoes of raw Java sugar have been bought for direct shipment to San Francisco by the Western Refinery to replace the Hawaiian sugars now going to the Crockett plant. There is no interruption to the production of the two California refineries. It is reported that 8000 short tons of refined sugars were destroyed by the fire, which were promptly replaced by shipments from the interior.

EXPORT FLOUR MARKET.

Japanese Bidding Up Better, but Not Yet in Line With Local Prices.

The Japanese are bidding up better for flour, but they are not in line with the higher prices now prevailing on the coast and trading is accordingly nominal. Although late advices from Japan say stocks in that country are still heavy, it is evident that there is more disposition to take on supplies than has been the case for several months past.

There is some curiosity to know what effect the new Japanese duty on flour will have on buying. The duty will go into effect October 1 of this year. It will amount to $1.07 gold a barrel, an increase of 18 cents over the present duty. It is a pretty steep rise, and shows clearly enough the disposition of the Japanese government to protect its millers. Prior to all-former duty advances in Japan, purchases of American flour have been exceedingly heavy, and as Japanese stocks will be greatly reduced by the end of Summer, unless much buying is done in the meantime, it is presumed the merchants there will want a large quantity when there will not be much of a supply to draw from, as it will be too early for new crop flour. The trade would prefer that the buying would go over to the new crop, but this will hardly be the case.

The Hongkong flour market is demoralized, and local exporters can do nothing with it. Offers from that city, instead of showing an advance to correspond with the higher wheat prices on this coast, are somewhat lower than formerly.

LEMONS NOT SO FIRM.

Strawberries Sell According to Quality—New Potatoes Cheap.

A car of fancy lemons reached the railroad yards last evening and will be on sale this morning at $4.50. The firmness recently noted in this line could not be maintained in view of the slow demand here, caused by the bad weather, and the fact that offerings in California are exceedingly heavy. A car of Mediterranean sweets also arrived and was quoted at $3.

The sale of strawberries depended on the quality of the fruit offered. Oregon berries were in good supply and the best Roseburgs brought 10@12½ cents a pound. Of the 100 crates received, however, many were spoiled by the rain and some sold as low as $2 a crate. Hood Rivers were quoted at 15 cents. Dollar berries from Florin were steady at $1.50 a crate, and Jessies, of which there were only a few, moved at $1.25. Orders for California berries have been placed as late as Sunday delivery, and if the weather continues wet shipments may be later, as there are plenty of berries in the Florin district yet, and this is their only market. A day or two of warm weather would bring in the Oregon fruit in sufficient supply to check shipments entirely from the South.

New potatoes are plentiful and cheap, being quoted at 2 cents in sack lots, and it is surprising that they do not move better, as the quality of most of the old potatoes on sale is inferior.

One hundred crates of Florida tomatoes reached the market yesterday, and were quoted at $5.50. Not much California truck was brought up on the steamer.

BUTTER MOVES READILY.

Storage and Shipping Demand Keeps Down Accumulation.

A good movement in butter is reported by the city creameries, and prices are quoted steady. Whatever surplus there is goes into cold storage. On Front street considerable outside butter is being bought for storage purposes, and this with a fair shipping demand prevents any accumulation. No change in prices is looked for soon.

Cheese is in good supply, and prices are somewhat unsettled by the cutting indulged in by rival coast concerns.

Eggs rule firm, though quotations furnished by different dealers vary by a full cent. The supply is moderate and the demand steady.

Receipts of poultry are increasing daily, and prices have a downward tendency. Small Springs and very large hens are particularly weak.

Dressed Veal Too Plentiful.

The dressed meat market was flooded with veal yesterday. It came in from all quarters by every train and boat. Dealers experienced great difficulty in moving the receipts, in spite of the excellent quality. The price dropped to 6 cents for the best offerings, but this proved no inducement, as it was not a question of price with the butchers, but their inability to take care of so much stock. Several shippers sent word that they would make further large shipments today, and if they do they will further break the market. Arrivals of pork were also heavier and weakened the market. Mutton and lambs continued easy because of the abundant supply.

Better Demand for Wheat.

Some improvement in the outside demand for wheat is reported and the market has a firmer tone. Dealers yesterday quoted club at 73 cents, and bluestem at 74@75 cents. These prices are about 2 cents above export values. The California orders are not heavy yet, but may lead to something better. Farmers are slow sellers.

Bank Clearings.

Bank clearings of the leading cities of the Northwest yesterday were:

	Clearings.	Balances.
Portland	$ 872,687	$103,197
Seattle	1,294,315	211,762
Tacoma	602,416	48,010
Spokane	195,200	145,247

PORTLAND QUOTATIONS.

Grain, Flour, Feed, Etc.

FLOUR — Patents, $3.75@4.30 per barrel; straights, $3.40@3.75; clears, $3.35@3.50; Valley, $3.40@3.65; Dakota hard wheat, patents, $5.50@6; clears, $5; graham, $3.25@3.75; whole wheat, $3.75@4; rye flour, local, $3; Eastern, $5@5.25; cornmeal, per bale, $1.90@2.29.

MILLSTUFFS—Bran, city, $17; country, $18 ton; middlings, $25.50@26; shorts, city, $17.50; country, $19@20 per ton; chop, U. S. Mills, $17.50; linseed dairy food, $18; Acalfa meal, $18 per ton.

WHEAT—Club, 73c; bluestem, 74@75c; red, 71c; Valley, 70@71c.

OATS—No. 1 white feed, $29; gray, $28.50 per ton.

BARLEY—Feed, $23.50@24 per ton; brewing, $24@24.50; rolled, $24.50@25.50.

CEREALS' FOODS—Rolled oats, cream, 90-pound sacks, $7; lower grades, $5.50@6.75; oatmeal, steel cut, 50-pound sacks, $3 per barrel; 19-pound sacks, $4.25 per bale; oatmeal (ground), 50-pound sacks, $7.50 per barrel; 10-pound sacks, $4 per bale; split peas, $5 per 100-pound sacks; 25-pound boxes, $1.40; pearl barley, $4.25 per 100 pounds; 25-pound boxes, $1.25 per box; pastry flour, 10-pound sacks, $2.50 per bale.

HAY—Valley timothy, No. 1, $12@13 per ton; clover, $7.50@8; cheat, $6@7; grain hay, $7@8; alfalfa, $13.

Vegetables, Fruits, Etc.

DOMESTIC FRUITS — Apples, $2.50@3.50 per box; cherries, $1.25@1.50 per box; strawberries, California, $1.25@1.50; Oregon, 10@15c per pound; gooseberries, 8c per pound.

TROPICAL FRUITS—Lemons, $4@4.50 per box; oranges, navels, $3.50 per box; Mediterranean sweets, $2.50@3; tangerines, $1.85 per half box; grapefruit, $2.50@3.25; pineapples, $4@5.50 per crate; bananas, 5c per pound.

FRESH VEGETABLES—Artichokes, 75c per dozen; asparagus, 75c@$1.25 per box; beans, 10@15c; cabbage, $1.75@2 per 100; cucumbers, 50c@$1 per dozen; lettuce, $1@1.50; onions, 10@15c per dozen; peas, 3½@5c; peppers, 25@40c; radishes, 15c per dozen; rhubarb, 3c pound; spinach, 90c per box; tomatoes, $2@2.50 per crate; Florida, $5.50; parsley, 25c per dozen; $2 per crate.

ROOT VEGETABLES—Turnips, $1@1.25 per sack; carrots, 65@75c per sack; beets, 85c@$1 per sack; garlic, 10@12½c per pound.

ONIONS—Bermuda, 4c per pound.

POTATOES—Buying prices: Fancy graded Burbanks, 60@65c per hundred; ordinary, nominal; new California, 2c per pound.

DRIED FRUITS—Apples, 14c per pound; apricots, 18@15c; peaches, 12½@13c; pears, 11½@12c; prunes, 5½@8c; California figs, white, in sacks, 5@6½c per pound; black, 4@5c; bricks, 12-14-ounce packages, 7½@8c per box; Smyrna, 20c per pound; dates, Persian, 6@6½c per pound.

RAISINS—Seeded, 12-ounce packages, 8@8½c; 16-ounce, 9½@10c; loose muscatels, 2-crown, 6½@7c; 3-crown, 6¾@7¼c; 4-crown, 7@7½c; unbleached, seedless Sultanas, 6@7c; Thompson's fancy bleached, 10@12c; London layers, 3-crown, whole boxes of 20 pounds, $2; 2-crown, $1.75.

Butter, Eggs, Poultry, Etc.

BUTTER—City creameries: Extra creamery, 20c per pound. State creameries: Fancy creamery, 17½@20c; store butter, 12@12½c.

EGGS—Oregon ranch, 19@20c per dozen.

CHEESE—Oregon full cream twins, 12@13c; Young America, 13@14c.

POULTRY — Average old hens, 14@14½c; mixed chickens, 13½@14c; broilers, 20@22½c; young roosters, 12½@13c; old roosters, 11@12½c; dressed chickens, 16c; turkeys, live, 15@18c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 20@23c; geese, live, pound, 10@11c; geese, dressed, per pound, old 10c, young 12c; ducks, old 17c, young 20c; pigeons, $1@2; squabs, $2@3.

Hops, Wool, Hides, Etc.

HOPS—Oregon, 1905, 11½@12½c.

WOOL—Eastern Oregon average best, 18@21c; Valley, coarse, 22@23c; fine, 24@25c per pound.

MOHAIR—Choice, 28@30c per pound.

HIDES—Dry: No. 1, 16 pounds and up, per pound, 18@20c; dry kip, No. 1, 8 to 15 pounds, 18@20c per pound; dry salted, bull and stags, one-third less than dry flint; culls, moth-eaten, badly cut, scored, murrain, hair-slipped, weatherbeaten or grubby, 3 to 5c per pound. Green: Salted hides: Steers, sound, 60 pounds and over, per pound, 10@11c; steers, sound, 50 to 60 pounds, 10@11c per pound; steers, sound, under 50 pounds, and cows, 9@10c per pound; stags and bulls, sound, 7c per pound; kip, sound, 15 to 30 pounds, 10c per pound; veal, sound, 10 to 14 pounds, 11c per pound; calf, sound, under 10 pounds, 11@12c per pound; green (unsalted), ½c per pound less; culls, ½c per pound less. Sheepskins: Shearlings, No. 1 butchers' stock, each, 25@30c; short wool, No. 1 butchers' stock, each, 50@60c; medium wool, No. 1 butchers' stock, each, $1.25@2; murrain pelts, from 10 to 20 per cent less, 5c; 15@16c per pound. Horse hides: Salted, each, according to size, $1.50@2.50; dry, each, according to size, $1@1.50; colts' hides, each, 25@50c. Goatskins: Common, each, 15@25c; Angora, with wool on, each, 30c@$1.50.

FURS—No. 1 skins: Bearskins, as to size, each, $5@20; cubs, each, $1@3; badger, prime, each, 25@50c; cat, wild, with head perfect, 30@50c; house cat, 5@20c; fox, common gray, large prime, each, 50@70c; red, each, $2@5; cross, each, $5@15; silver, and black, each, $100@300; fishers, each, $3@8; lynx, each, $4.50@6; mink, strictly No. 1, each, according to size, $1@3; marten, dark Northern, according to size and color, each, $10@15; pale, pine, according to size and color, each, $2.50@4; muskrat, large, each, 12@15c; skunk, each, 40@60c; otter, prime, per pelt, each, $@15c; otter, for large, prime skin, each, $6@10; panther, with head and claws perfect, each, $2@5; raccoon, for prime large, each, 50@75c; mountain wolf, with head perfect, each, $3.50@5; prairie (coyote), 60c@$1; wolverine, each, $6@8; beaver, per skin, large, $5@6; medium, $3@7; small, $1@1.50; kits, 50@75c.

BEESWAX—Good, clean and pure, 22@25c per pound.

TALLOW—Prime, per pound, 4@4½c; No. 2 and grease, 2@3c.

CASCARA SAGRADA (chittam bark)—New, 2@2½c; old, 2½@3c per pound.

Dressed Meats.

VEAL—Dressed, 75 to 125 pounds, 6c; 125 to 150 pounds, 5½c; 150 to 200 pounds, 5c; 200 pounds and up, 3½@4½c.

BEEF—Dressed bulls, 3c per pound; cows, 4½@5½c; country steers, 5@6c.

MUTTON—Dressed fancy, 7@8c per pound; ordinary, 5@6c; lambs, with pelt on, 8c.

PORK—Dressed, 100 to 150 pounds, 8@9c; 150 to 200 pounds, 7½@8c; 200 pounds and up, 7@7½c.

Groceries, Nuts, Etc.

COFFEE—Mocha, 26@28c; Java, ordinary, 18@22c; Costa Rica, fancy, 18@20c; good, 16@18c; ordinary, 10@12c per pound; Columbia roast, cases, 100s, $14.75; 50s, $14.75; Arbuckle, $16.25; Lion, $16.25.

RICE—Imperial Japan No. 1, 5½c; Southern Japan, 5.25c; head, 7c.

SALMON—Columbia River, 1-pound talls, $1.75 per dozen; 2-pound talls, $2.40; 1-pound flats, $1.10; Alaska pink, 1-pound talls, 90c; red, 1-pound talls, $1.25; sockeye, 1-pound talls, $1.70.

SUGAR—Sack basis, 100 pounds: Cube, $5.40; powdered, $5.15; drs granulated, $5.05; extra C, $4.60; golden C, $4.45; fruit sugar, $5.05. Advances over sack basis as follows: Barrels, 10c; ½-barrels, 25c; boxes, 50c per 100 pounds. Terms: On remittances within 15 days deduct ¼c per pound; if later than 15 days and within 30 days, deduct ⅛c; sugar, granulated, $4.85 per 100 pounds; maple sugar, 15@18c per pound.

SALT—California, $11 per ton, $1.60 per bale; Liverpool, 50s, $17; 100s, $16.50; 200s, $16; ½-pounds, 100s, $7; 50s, $7.50.

NUTS—Walnuts, 15¾c per pound by sack; ¼c extra for less than sack; Brazil nuts, 18c; filberts, 16c; pecans, jumbos, 16c; extra large, 17c; almonds, 14½@15c; chestnuts, Italian, 12½@16c; Ohio, 20c; peanuts, raw, 7½c per pound; roasted, 9c; pinenuts, 10@12c; hickory nuts, 7½@8c; cocoanuts, $5@60c per dozen.

BEANS—Small white, 4½c; large white, 3½c; pink, 3c; bayou, 5c; Lima, 6c; Mexican red, 5c.

Provisions and Canned Meats.

BACON—Fancy breakfast, 20c per pound; standard breakfast, 18½c; choice, 17½c; English breakfast, 11 to 14 pounds, 16½c; peach, 15½c.

HAMS—10 to 14 pounds, 14¾c per pound; 14 to 16 pounds, 14¼c; 18 to 20 pounds, 14¼c; California (picnic), 10½c; cottage, 10¾c; shoulders, 10½c; boiled, 22c; boiled picnic boneless, 15c.

PICKLED GOODS—Pork, barrels, $16; ½-barrels, $9.50; beef, barrels, $12; ½-barrels, $6.50.

SAUSAGE—Ham, 13c per pound; minced ham, 10c; Summer, choice dry, 17½c; bologna, long, 7c; weinerwurst, 10c; liver, 6c; pork, 9@10c; headcheese, 6c; blood, 6c; bologna sausage, link, 6c.

DRY SALT CURED—Regular short clears, dry salt, 11½c; smoked, 12½c; clear backs, dry salt, 11¼c; smoked, 12¼c; clear bellies, 14 to 17 pounds average, dry salt, 12½c; smoked, 13¼c; Oregon exports, 20 to 28 pounds average, dry salt, 12c; smoked, 13c; Union bellies, 10 to 18 pounds average, none.

LARD—Leaf, kettle rendered: Tierces, 12½c; tubs, 12¾c; 50s, 12½c; 20s, 12¾c; 10s, 13c; 5s, 13¼c. Standard pure: Tierces, 11¼c; tubs, 11½c; 50s, 11¾c; 20s, 11¾c; 10s, 12c; 5s, 12½c. Compound: Tierces, 7½c; tubs, 7¾c; 50s, 7¾c; 10s, 8¼c; 5s, 8½c.

Oils.

TURPENTINE—Cases, 91c per gallon.

COAL—Cases, 19c per gallon; tanks, 12½c per gallon.

GASOLINE—Stove, cases, 25½c; 72 test, 27c; 86 test, 55c; iron tanks, 19c.

WHITE LEAD—Ton lots, 7¾c; 500-pound lots, 8c; less than 500-pound lots, 8¼c. (In 25-pound tin pails, 1c above keg price; 1 to 5-pound tin pails, 1c above keg price; 1 to 5-pound tin cans, 100 pounds, per case, 2½c per pound above keg price.)

LINSEED—Raw, in barrels, 48c; in cases, 53c; boiled, in barrels, 50c; in cases, 55c; 25-gallon lots, 1c less.

SAN FRANCISCO QUOTATIONS.

Prices Quoted on Produce in Bay City Markets.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 18.—FLOUR—Net cash, family extra, $4.70@6 per barrel; bakers' extra, $4.40@4.75.

WHEAT—No. 1 Spring, $1.27½@1.30; per cental; inferior grades, $1.18@1.25; white milling, good to choice, $1.32@1.35; fancy, up to $1.40.

BARLEY—No. 1 feed, $1.20@1.23¾; with fancy up to $1.25; common to fair, $1.18@1.18¾; brewing, $1.23¾@1.26¼.

OATS—White, $1.50@1.70; red, $1.52½@1.60; black, $1.30@1.40; rye, $1.47½@1.55.

HAY—Per ton, choice wheat, $12@17.50; wheat and oats, $11@15; oat, $10@14; barley, $8.50@12; alfalfa, $11@12.50; stock, $7@7.50; straw, 30@65c per bale.

BRAN—$17.50@21 per ton; middlings, $25@28; ground barley, $25@27.

BEANS—Per cental, large white, $2.50@2.65; small, $3.40@3.65; peas, nominal; Lima, $4.60@4.75; red, $3.75@4; pink, $1.95@2.10; bayo, $3.65@3.75; black eyes, $4.75@5.

SEEDS—There are scarcely any supplies on hand and prices are nominal.

DAIRY PRODUCE—Lombard-street wharf—The ruling prices of the San Francisco Wholesale Dairy Produce Exchange were as follows: Butter, fresh California extras, 17½c; steady; firsts, 16@17c; seconds, 15c; packing stock, No. 2, 15@16c.

EGGS — Fresh California selected, 18½c; firsts, 17½@18c; seconds, 16½@17c.

CHEESE—New California fancy, 11c; firsts, 10½c; Young America, fancy 12c.

POULTRY—Old roosters, per dozen, $3@3.50; young do, $5@7.50; fryers, $4@5; broilers, $2@3; hens, small, $4.50@5; large, $5@7; live turkeys, nominal; goslings, nominal; pigeons, $1; young, $1.50.

FRESH FRUIT—Greenwich-street wharf—The leading fruits now in market sold at the following prices: Strawberries, per chest, $3@5; large varieties and $6@8 for Longworths; apples, $1.50@2.25 per box; cherries, black, 60@65c per drawer; white, 50@7c per pound; gooseberries, 25@35c per drawer; oranges, navels, $2.25@3 per box with a few second-grade $2 per box; lemons, $1.50@2.25; Mexican limes, $3.50@5; bananas, $1@2 per bunch; pineapples, $2@3 per dozen.

Dealers sold vegetables at the following prices at Greenwich-street wharf: Asparagus, $1.25@2 per box; green peas, 50@65c per sack; rhubarb, 40@70c per box for small and 75c@$1 for large; string beans, 5@7c per pound; tomatoes, 75c@$1.25 per box; new potatoes, 1@1½c per pound; old rivers, 80c@$1.10 per sack; Oregon, $1@1.15; Coos Bay, $1.20@1.35 per sack; onions, new, 85c@$1.15 per sack; boxes, 25@50c; Oregon, $2.75@1.75 per cental, as to quality; Australian, $3.50@5; cucumbers, 40@75c.

LIVESTOCK MARKETS.

Prices Current Locally on Cattle, Sheep and Hogs.

The following livestock prices were quoted in the local market:

CATTLE—Good steers, $4.50@4.75; second-class, $3@3.50; cows, good, $3.25@3.50; fair to medium, $2.50@3; calves, good, $4.50@5.

SHEEP — Good sheared sheep, $4@4.50; lambs, $4.50@5.

HOGS—Good, $7@7.25; light and feeders, $6.50@6.75.

EASTERN LIVESTOCK.

Prices Current at Kansas City, Chicago and Omaha.

CHICAGO, May 18.—Cattle—Receipts, 1500; market, strong; beeves, $4.15@6.10; stockers and feeders, $2.90@4.80; cows and heifers, $1.85@4.35; calves, $4@6.40; Texas fed steers, $4@4.60.

Hogs—Receipts today, 15,000; tomorrow, estimated, 9000; market, slow, steady; mixed and butchers, $6.35@6.55; good to choice heavy, $6.50@6.57½; pigs, $6.85@6.20; rough heavy, $6.20@6.35; light, $6.30@6.55; bulk of sales, $6.47½@6.55.

Sheep—Receipts, 5000; market, strong; sheep, $4.35@6.25; lambs, $5@7.75.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 18.—Cattle—Receipts, 1000; market, steady; native steers, $4.25@5.90; native cows and heifers, $2.50@5.20; stockers and feeders, $3@4.60; Western cows, $2.50@4.50; Western steers, $3.75@5.35.

Hogs—Receipts, 7000; market, steady; bulk of sales, $6.25@6.37½; heavy, $6.30@6.42½; packers, 6.30@6.40; pigs and lights, $5.50@6.32½.

Sheep—Receipts, 2000; market, steady; mutons, $4.50@6.25; lambs, $6@7.70; range wethers, $5.25@6.50; fed ewes, $4.75@6.

SOUTH OMAHA, Neb., May 18.—Cattle—Receipts, 2800; market, steady; native steers, $4.25@5.75; Western steers, $3.50@4.60; stockers and feeders, $3@4.75; bulls, stags, etc., $2.75@4.

Hogs—Receipts, 6000; market, 5c higher; heavy, $6.35@6.45; mixed, $6.35@6.40; light, $6.30@6.40; pigs, $5@6; bulk of sales, $6.35@6.40.

Sheep—Receipts, 1500; market, steady; yearlings, $5.50@6.25; wethers, $5.40@6; ewes, $4.75@5.65; lambs, $6@8.75.

Dried Fruit at New York.

NEW YORK, May 18.—There is but little business in evaporated apples, but remaining stocks are firmly held. Prime are quoted at 11c; choice at 11¼@11½c; fancy, 11¾@12c.

Prunes are firm with quotations ranging from 7¼ for 50-60s to 8¾c.

Apricots are very quiet, the demand being checked by the high prices and the scarcity of available supplies. Choice are quoted at 12½c; extra choice, at 13@13½c; fancy, 14@14½c.

Peaches are unchanged, with choice quoted at 11c; extra choice, 11@11½c; fancy, 11¾@12c; extra fancy, 12@12½c.

Raisins are in limited jobbing demand. Loose muscatels, 6@6¾c; seeded raisins, 5¼@7¾c. London layers, $1.50@1.60.

Dairy Produce in the East.

CHICAGO, May 18.—On the Produce Exchange today the butter market was easy; creameries, 13½@19c; dairies, 13@14c. Eggs, steady at mark, cases included, 15½c; firsts, 15½c; prime firsts, 16½c; extras, 18½c. Cheese, steady, 9½@12c.

NEW YORK, May 18.—Butter, weak; Western factory common to firsts, 11@15c. Cheese, strong. Eggs, steady, unchanged.

LOSS OF HALF CENT

Chicago Wheat Market Weak Nearly All Day.

PIT TRADERS ARE SELLERS

Liverpool Declines, Notwithstanding Sharp Advance on This Side Thursday—Weather Conditions Favor Bears.

CHICAGO, May 18.—With the exception of two or three bulges which were of short duration, the tone of the wheat market was inclined to weakness all day. Pit traders were disposed to take the selling side of the market and there was also at times liberal selling by local longs. Comparative weakness in the market at Liverpool, where prices showed a small loss notwithstanding the advance of more than 1 cent here yesterday, had a depressing effect on the local market at the opening. The decline at Liverpool was attributed to heavy shipments from Argentina. Weather conditions in the United States furnished an additional incentive to the bears. While rains were reported in only a few localities in the Southwest, the hot wave had given place to lower temperatures over the Winter wheat belt. About the middle of the session the market was strong for a brief period because of active covering by shorts, who were forced to action by the statement of a trade journal which claimed that rains were needed in Kansas to avert damage. This was quickly followed by a reaction, however, longs being free sellers. The market closed easy, July opened ¼@½c lower, at 82½@82¾c, sold between 82⅝c and 83⅛@83¼c, and closed ⅝@½c lower, at 82½@82¾c.

Indications of an increased movement of corn from the country had a weakening effect on the corn market, sentiment being bearish all day. Cash houses and local longs were free sellers during the greater part of the day, and offerings were taken chiefly by commission-houses. The market closed easy, July opened ⅜@⅝c lower, at 47½c to 47½c, and sold up to 47⅝c, and closed ½c down, at 47⅜c.

Weakness of wheat and corn caused profit taking in the oats pit and resulted in a weak market. There was a slight increase in local receipts and this assisted in the creation of bearish sentiment. July opened ⅛c to ¼c lower, at 32⅝@33⅛c, and closed ⅜@½c lower, at 32⅛@33c.

Provisions were rather weak because of moderate profit-taking. Trading was in very light volume. At the close July pork was down 10@12½c; lard was off 5@7½c, and ribs were 5c lower.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

WHEAT.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
May	$ .84½	$ .84⅞	$ .84⅛	$ .84⅜
July	.82⅝	.83⅛	.82⅝	.82⅝
September	.80⅝	.80⅞	.80⅝	.80⅝

CORN.

May	.49⅛	.49⅛	.48⅛	.48½
July	.47½	.47⅝	.47⅛	.47⅜
September	.47½	.47⅝	.47⅛	.47½

OATS.

May	.33⅝	.33⅝	.33⅝	.33⅝
July	.33⅛	.33⅛	.32⅝	.32
September	.31⅛	.31⅛	.30⅝	.30⅞

MESS PORK.

May	15.60	15.70	15.57½	15.57½
July	15.72½	15.75	15.60	15.65
September	15.52½	15.52½	15.40	15.42½

LARD.

May	8.65	8.65	8.59½	8.57½
July	8.72½	8.75	8.65	8.67½
September	8.87½	8.90	8.80	8.80

SHORT RIBS.

May	.....	.....	.....	9.00
July	9.02½	9.07½	8.95	9.00
September	9.05	9.10	8.97½	9.02½

Cash quotations were as follows:

Flour—Firm.

Wheat—No. 2 Spring, 83@85¼c; No. 3, 78@84c; No. 2 red, 90¼@90¾c.

Corn—No. 2, 49¾c; No. 2 yellow, 50½c.

Oats—No. 2, 33⅝c; No. 2 white, 34½@36c; No. 3 white, 33¼@34⅜c.

Rye—No. 2, 62c.

Barley—Fair to choice malting, 34½@36c.

Flaxseed—No. 1, $1.09; No. 1 Northwestern, $1.14½.

Timothy seed—Prime, $3.30@3.40.

Mess pork—Per barrel, $15.55@15.60.

Lard—Per 100 pounds, $8.40.

Short clear sides—Loose, $8.85@8.95.

Short clear sides—Boxed, $9.20@9.30.

Whisky—Basis of high wines, $1.29.

Clover—Contract grade, $11.25.

	Receipts.	Shipments.
Flour, barrels	21,000	17,000
Wheat, bushels	8,000	6,400
Corn, bushels	42,200	63,600
Oats, bushels	175,500	263,300
Rye, bushels	2,000	1,800
Barley, bushels	27,200	3,200

Grain and Produce at New York.

NEW YORK, May 18.—Flour—Receipts, 18,300 barrels; exports, 6800 barrels. Firm and higher for top grades: Minnesota patents, $4.50@4.60; Minnesota bakers, $3.45@3.85; Winter straights, $3.90@4.

Wheat—Receipts, 52,000 bushels; exports, 8000 bushels. Spot, irregular; No. 2 red, 93c, nominal elevator and 94c, nominal f. o. b. afloat; No. 1 Northern Duluth, 93½c; nominal f. o. b. afloat. Reports of rain in the Southwest and poor cables made the wheat opening lower today. It had a sharp rally on further bull support and outside buying, and in the afternoon was nervous, closing easy at ⅛c net decline. May closed at 90½c; July, 88⅛@88c, closed 88⅛c; September, 85⅛@86c, closed 85¾c; December, 86@86⅛c, closed 86c.

Hops, hides and wool—Steady.

Petroleum—Firm.

Minneapolis Wheat Market.

MINNEAPOLIS, May 18. — Wheat, May, 82¼c; July, 82⅝c; September, 79⅛@79⅝c; No. 1 hard, 84¼c; No. 1 Northern, 83¼c; No. 2 Northern, 82¼c.

Wheat at Tacoma.

TACOMA, May 18.—Wheat, unchanged; export, bluestem, 73c; club, 72c; red, 69c.

Wheat at Liverpool.

LIVERPOOL, May 18.—Wheat, May, 6s 8¾d; July, 6s 7¼d.

STOCK MARKET IN A RUT

PRICES IRREGULAR AND TRADING OF SMALL VOLUME.

Pennsylvania Depressed and Reading Barely Steady—Estimates of Today's Bank Statement.

NEW YORK, May 18.—The inconstancy of the tendency of prices in the dull rut of professionalism into which the stock market is relapsing was again well illustrated today. The early market showed an extension of the decline which became pronounced late yesterday. Afterwards there was a slow and irregular recovery with increasing dullness amounting practically to idleness late in the day. The day's movements were almost entirely accounted for by the shifting operations of the room traders and their inability to move prices far in either direction. News was unimportant and without much influence.

Pennsylvania continued to be conspicuously depressed under the joint influence of the revelations before the Interstate Commerce Commission and of the heavy borrowings of the company. The latter influence was aggravated by the circulation of reports of additional loans in immediate prospect by the company, for which no authority was obtainable.

The money and exchange markets were without notable incident. Call money and loans on time up to six months continued easy in tone and rates were even shaded to some extent, but for periods over the end of the year, 5 per cent is strongly bid and the asking rate is 5½ per cent.

Estimates of the complexion of the coming bank statement, based on the known movements of currency, pointed to only a small decrease in the cash item, although the sub-Treasury account shows an absorption from the banks of over $15,000,000. This is due in large part to the return of Government funds placed on deposit with the banks when they were engaging gold in Europe on condition that they should be returned on receipt of the gold. There have been very large receipts of imported gold this week, and these receipts go into bank vaults to make good the return of Government deposits in the cash showing. The movement of cash with the interior by express has been in favor of New York on balance to the extent of several million dollars. The loan item is subject to the usual uncertainty and the Pennsylvania loan operation will enter into the week's changes.

Transfers of currency to San Francisco through the sub-Treasury were light again today. The puzzle of this renewed demand is increased to the banking mind by reports that Chicago banks have received large return shipments from the Pacific Coast within the last few days.

Foreign exchange rates were easy again today, but the decline was not sufficiently decisive to answer the question of a resumption of gold imports.

The decline in the wheat market and reports of better weather conditions in the wheat belt were coincident with an improving tone of the stock market late in the day. Professional initiative on the recovery was languid and the trading showed an increasing degree of lack of leadership and a decline in the efforts to effect a movement of prices. Reading showed a firm tone at times, but its movement was unimportant. Reports of a dispute among trunk lines over passenger rate differentials received some attention, but were of small effect on prices. The closing tone was heavy at the recovery.

Bonds were steady. Total sales, par value, $2,070,000. United States is declined ¼ per cent on call.

CLOSING STOCK QUOTATIONS.

	Sales.	High.	Low.	Closing bid.
Adams Express	.....	.....	.....	240
Amalgam. Copper	72,900	110	109¼	109⅝
Am. Car & Found.	1,300	41¼	40⅝	40⅝
do preferred	500	101⅝	101⅝	101
Amer. Cotton Oil	200	32⅛	32	32
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	90
Amer. Express	.....	.....	.....	220
Am. Hd. & Lt. pf.	500	34	33½	33½
American Ice	1,100	63¼	62⅝	63¼
Amer. Linseed Oil	.....	.....	.....	20
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	40
Amer. Locomotive	15,100	69⅞	68⅝	67¼
do preferred	100	115	115	114½
Am. Smelt. & Ref.	26,800	156	153½	155½
do preferred	100	119½	119½	118¼
Am. Sugar Refin.	4,500	136½	135	135⅝
Amer. Tobacco pfd.	100	103¼	103¼	103¼
Anaconda Min. Co.	31,600	271½	268	268⅝
Atchison	3,200	89¼	88¼	88⅝
do preferred	200	102½	102⅝	102½
Atlantic Coast Line	100	144	144	144
Baltimore & Ohio	1,700	107¼	106¼	106⅝
do preferred	400	93½	93	93
Brook. Rap. Tran.	20,100	84	82⅝	83
Canadian Pacific	500	160	159⅝	159⅝
Cent. of N. Jersey	100	228	228	228
Central Leather	600	42⅝	42	42
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	104
Chesapeake & Ohio	300	58⅝	58⅝	58½
Chicago & Alton	.....	.....	.....	25
do preferred	100	76½	76½	77¼
Chi. & N. Western	3,400	19½	19	19
Chi. & Northwest	.....	.....	.....	203
Chi., Mil. & St. P.	15,500	168⅝	167	168¼
Chi. Term. & Tran.	300	11⅛	11⅛	11
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	28
Cin., C., C. & St. L.	.....	.....	.....	97
C., C., C. Fuel & Iron	4,600	50⅝	49⅝	50
Colo. & Southern	500	33⅝	33½	33½
do 1st preferred	.....	.....	.....	70
do 2d preferred	.....	.....	.....	47½
Consolidated Gas	4,600	139¼	138	138⅝
Corn Products	8,300	24	23⅝	23½
do preferred	1,300	81⅛	79½	80½
Delaw. & Hudson	1,100	211	210