COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEWS

The cold weather bottled up business yesterday, as far as any activity on Front street was concerned, and there was not very much business from the country. A few loads of potatoes straggled in, but they were well wrapped to prevent freezing, and, as most of the buyers were poorly provided with places to store them, prices were not very firm. Eggs were a shade firmer, on account of the cold weather, and some dealers were holding for 16c, with others wishing to sell at 15c in single cases and 14½c in round lots. The wheat markets were firmer.

Bank Clearings.

	Exchanges.	Balances.
Portland	$341,486	$86,351
Seattle	295,140	79,094
Tacoma	169,973	35,684
Spokane	109,528	62,040

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Grain, Flour, Etc.

There is more strength in the wheat markets than there has been since the turn of the year, and 54@55c was freely quoted for No. 1 Walla Walla wheat yesterday, with Valley nominally 55@55½c, and bluestem 56@57c. Freights are keeping company with the market, and better than 40c was paid yesterday for a ship for Sound loading.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 54@55c; Valley, 55@55½c; bluestem, 56@57c per bushel.

Flour—Best grades, $2 70@3; graham, $2 50; superfine, $2 10 per barrel.

Oats—White, 35@38c; gray, 33@34c; etained, 29@30c per bushel.

Barley—Feed, $14@15; brewing, $17@18 per ton.

Millstuffs—Bran, $12@13 per ton; middlings, $18@19; shorts, $13@15; chop, $14.

Hay—Steady; timothy, $10@11; clover, $7@7 50; Oregon wild hay, $6@7 per ton.

Vegetables, Fruit, Etc.

Vegetables—Parsnips, $1; carrots, $1; turnips, 90c; onions, $1 50@2 per central; cabbage, 1½c per pound; potatoes, 55@85c per central; sweet potatoes, 2@2½c per pound.

Fruit—Lemons, $3 50@3; oranges, $2 75@3 per box for navels, $2 for seedlings; tangerines, $1 75; Japanese oranges, 75c@$1 50 per box; pineapples, $4 50@6 per dozen; bananas, $2 50 @3 per bunch; Persian dates, 7½@8c per pound; apples, $1 @ 1 50; pears, 75c@$1 25 per box; cranberries, $6 50@7 per barrel for Howes, $7 75@8 for Eastern.

Dried fruit—Apples, evaporated, 7 @ 8c per pound; sun-dried, sacks or boxes, 4@5c; pears, sun and evaporated, 5@6c; plums, pitted, 4@ 5½c; prunes, Italian, 3½@5½c; silver, extra choice, 5 @ 6c; figs, Smyrna, 22½c; California black, 5@6c; do white, 10c per pound.

Butter, Eggs, Poultry, Etc.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 50@55c; seconds, 47½ @48c; dairy, 30@37½c; store, 25@32½c per roll.

Eggs—14½@15c per dozen for Oregon.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, $3@4; hens, $4@ 4 50; ducks, $5@6; geese, $7@8 per dozen; turkeys live, 10@11c; dressed, 12½@14c per pound.

Game—Mallard ducks, $3; widgeon, $1 50@2; teal, $1@1 25 per dozen.

Cheese—Full cream, twins, 12½@13c; Young America, 14c per pound.

Groceries, Nuts, Etc.

Coffee—Mocha, 29@28c; Java, fancy, 26@32c; Java, good, 20@24c; Java, ordinary, 18@20c; Costa Rica, fancy, 18@20c; do good, 16@18c; do ordinary, 10@12c per pound; Columbia, roast, $12 75 per case; Arbuckle's, $14 25; Lion, $13 25.

Sugar—Cube, $5 85; crushed, $5 85; powdered, $5 85; dry granulated, cane, $5 35; beet, $5 35; extra C, $4 85; golden C, $4 72½ net; half barrels, ⅛c more than barrels; maple sugar, 15@16c per pound.

Beans—Small white, 3½c; bayou, 4c; Lima, 6c per pound.

Salmon — Columbia river, 1-pound talls, $1@ 1 50; 2-pound talls, $2@2 50; fancy, 1-pound flats, $1 65@1 75; ½-pound fancy flats, 85@90c; Alaska, 1-pound talls, $1 20@1 30; 2-pound talls, $1 80@2 25.

Grain bags—Calcutta, $7@7 10 per 100.

Nuts—Peanuts, 6½@7c per pound for raw, 10c for roasted; cocoanuts, 90c per dozen; walnuts, 10@11c per pound; pine nuts, 15c; hickory nuts, 7c; chestnuts, 15c; Brazil, 11c; filberts, 15c; fancy pecans, 12@14c; almonds, 15 @ 17½c per pound.

Coal oil—Cases, 21½c per gallon; barrels, 17½c; tanks, 15½c.

Rice—Island, 6½c; Japan, 5½c; New Orleans, 4½@5½c; fancy head, $7@7 50 per sack.

Meat and Provisions.

Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, $4@4 25; dressed mutton, 7@7½c per pound.

Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, $5; light, $4 50; dressed, 6c per pound.

Beef—Gross, top steers, $4@4 50; cows, $3 50 @4; dressed beef, 6½@7½c per pound.

Veal — Large, 7@8c per pound; small, 8½@ 9½c.

Provisions — Portland pack (Shield brand): Hams, smoked, are quoted at 13½c per pound; picnic hams, 9½c per pound; breakfast bacon, 13½c; bacon, 9½c; backs, 9½c; dry salt sides, 8½c; dried beef, 17½c per pound; lard, 5-pound pails, 10c; 10-pound pails, 9½c; 50s, 9½c; tierces, 9½c per pound. Eastern pack (Hammonds): Hams, large, 13c; medium, 13½c; small, 13½c; picnic hams, 9½c; shoulders, 9½c; breakfast bacon, 12½c; dry salt sides, 8½@9½c; bacon sides, 9@10½c; backs, 10c; butts, 8c; jard, pure leaf, kettle rendered, 8c, 10½c; 10s, 10½c.

Hops, Wool, Hides, Etc.

Hops—9@8c per pound.

Wool—Valley, 12@15c for coarse, 15@20c for best; Eastern Oregon, 8@14c; mohair, 27@30c per pound.

Sheepskins—Shearlings, 15@20c; short-wool, 25 @35c; medium-wool, 30@30c; long-wool, 60c@$1 each.

Pelts — Bear skins, each, as to size, $5@15; cubs, each, $1@5; badger, each, 10@14c; wildcat, 25@40c; housecat, 5 @ 10c; fox, common gray, 40@60c; do red, $1 25@1 75; do cross, $2 50 @6; lynx, $1 50@2 50; mink, 30c@$1 25; marten, dark Northern, $4@8; do pale, pine, $1 25 @3; muskrat, 8 @ 12c; skunk, 25@40c; otter (land), $4@6; panther, with head and claws perfect, $1@3; raccoon, 25@50c; wolf, mountain, with head perfect, $2 50@5; wolverine, $2 50@6; beaver, per skin, large, $6@7; do medium, per skin, $4@5; do small, per skin, $1@2; do kits, per skin, 50c@$1.

Tallow—3@3½c; No. 2 and grease, 3½@4c per pound.

Hides—Dry hides, No. 1, 16 pounds and upward, 15@15½c; dry kip, No. 1, 5 to 10 pounds, 15c per pound; dry calf, No. 1, under 5 pounds, 15@16c; dry salted, one-third less than dry flint; salted hides, round steers, 60 pounds and over, 8½@9c; do 50 to 60 pounds, 8@8½c; de under 50 pounds and cows, 7½@8c; kip, 15 to 30 pounds, 7½@8c; do veal, 10 to 14 pounds, 7½c; do calf, under 10 pounds, 7½c; green (unsalted), 1c per pound less; culls (bulls, stags, motheaten, badly cut, scored hair slipped, weatherbeaten or grubby), one-third less.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET.

Conflicting Speculative Opinion Over the Outlook for Prices.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—The movement of prices in the stock market today reflected very clearly the doubtful and conflicting speculative opinion over the outlook for prices. The opinion reflected was almost wholly that of professional operators in stocks, as they were the only ones who took any notable part in the trading. The general public persisted in keeping out of the stock market, and this continued indifference had not a little to do with doubts of the professional speculators, some of whom sold stocks before the close of the day, prompted by their disappointment over the failure of any general demand for stocks to develop.

A number of factors contributed to an early advance in prices. The initial impulse came from the London market, where prices advanced on the cheerful feeling engendered by the forward movement of British troops in South Africa. London was a buyer here at the opening, but the demand from that source was satisfied with the taking of 25,000 to 30,000 shares. The iron and steel group advanced in company in the morning, and the active bidding up of professional traders, American Steel & Wire rising to within a fraction of 60. Tennessee Coal rose an extreme 2¾. The impulse to these stocks came from the allegations contained in a pending lawsuit of notoriety regarding the enormous profits of the steel trade for the past year, and assertions of the likelihood of still larger returns for the current year.

The strength in Sugar was based upon the vague rumors of coming advance in the price of the product and resumption of operations by refineries recently closed down. But the strength from these causes was not well maintained in the face of apathy in demand, and a notable weakness in some stocks. A break of 3¾ in Third Avenue was due to the announcement by a banking house of its withdrawal of a proposed loan to this company. This caused sharp sympathetic declines in other local traction stocks, the iron and steel stocks and Sugar, and, in fact, unsettled the whole list. Railway stocks lost the early gains, but became dull, but notably firm near last night's level of prices.

Reports continue to reflect a high level of prosperous business activity, and an unprecedented level of railroad earnings. But this very activity in business arouses questions whether the prosperous use of money thus involved is not likely to deplete the supply of funds available for speculative purposes. No better explanation has been found of last week's enormous loan expansion than the demand for mercantile uses, which is known to be on a very large scale. Rates for call loans still continue easy, but only the choicest grades of mercantile paper can be placed now as low as 4 per cent, most transactions being made at 4½ to 5 per cent. Time loans for 60 days are also in large demand at 4½ per cent. The subtreasury has already absorbed over $1,600,000 from the market this week, and the course of New York stock exchange at interior points gives little hope of any gain in cash for those sources. Taking into account the recent tendency toward large expansion of loans, a further large inroad upon surplus reserves is regarded as inevitable in the coming bank statement.

Business in bonds continued on a fairly large scale, and price changes were irregular. Total sales, $2,135,000. United States bonds were unchanged in bid price.

BONDS.

U. S. 2s, reg	102½	Gen. Electric 5s	117
do 3s, reg	109⅝	N. Y. Central 1sts	110
do 3s, coupon	109⅝	Northern Pacific 3s	67
do new 4s, reg	134	do 4s	105⅞
do new 4s, coup	134	Oregon Nav. 1sts	110
do old 4s, reg	112⅝	do 4s	101⅞
do old 4s, coup	114	Oregon S. L. 6s	127
do 5s, reg	112⅝	do con. 5s	115
do 5s, coupon	112⅝	Rio Gr. West. 1sts	97½
Dist. of Col. 3-65s	117	St. Paul consols	167⅞
Atchison adj. 4s	82⅞	St. P. C. & P. 1sts	119⅝
C. & N. W. con. 7s	141	do 5s	120½
do S. F. deb. 5s	120	Union Pacific 4s	104⅝
D. & R. G. 1sts	102⅝	Wis. Central 1sts	91
do 4s	99		

STOCKS.

The total sales of stocks today were 426,700 shares. The closing quotations were:

Atchison	21	Union Pacific	50½
do pref	63½	do pref	76⅞
Balt. & Ohio	63⅞	Wabash	6⅞
Can. Pacific	66½	do pref	20⅞
Can. Southern	48½	Wheeling & L. E.	10⅞
Ches. & Ohio	29½	do 2d pref	27⅞
Chi. Gr. Western	13½	Wisconsin Central	18⅝
C., B. & Q.	125⅝	P. C., C. & St. L.	65
Chi., Ind. & L.	16½	EXPRESS CO.'S.	
do pref	45	Adams	115
Chi. & East. Ill.	91½	American	146
Chi. & N. W.	142	United States	46½
C., R. I. & Pac.	108⅝	Wells-Fargo	123
C., C., C. & St. L.	61⅝	MISCELLANEOUS.	
Colo. Southern	9⅝	Amer. Cotton Oil	34
do 1st pref	43½	do pref	94
do 2d pref	15⅝	Amer. Malting	5⅝
Del. & Hudson	110	do pref	23
Del., Lack. & W.	173	Amer. Smelt. & R.	41⅝
Denver & Rio Gr.	19⅝	do pref	92
do pref	72⅝	Amer. Spirits	3⅝
Erie	12⅝	do pref	17
do 1st pref	37½	Amer. Steel Hoop	47
Great North. pref	158	do pref	84½
Hocking Coal	17	Amer. Steel & W.	59
Hocking Valley	54½	do pref	93⅝
Illinois Central	114	Amer. Tin Plate	34⅝
Iowa Central	12½	do pref	81
do pref	33	Amer. Tobacco	119
Kan. C., P. & G.	13	do pref	135
Lake Erie & W.	20⅝	Anaconda Min. Co.	45
do pref	83½	Brooklyn R. T.	74
Lake Shore	194	Colo. Fuel & Iron	40½
Louis. & Nash.	81½	Cont. Tobacco	52⅝
Manhattan El	99½	do pref	84½
Met. St. Ry.	179	Federal Steel	56
Mexican Central	12½	do pref	75½
Minn. & St. Louis	61	General Electric	127
do pref	93	Glucose Sugar	56⅝
Missouri Pacific	46½	do pref	100
Mobile & Ohio	44	Int. Paper	22½
M., K. & T.	11	do pref	68½
do pref	35	La Clede Gas	76
New Jersey Cent.	116½	National Biscuit	37
New York Cent.	134⅞	do pref	92⅝
Norfolk & West.	29⅝	National Lead	23⅝
do pref	73½	do pref	105½
Northern Pacific	53⅝	National Steel	50½
do pref	70½	do pref	76⅝
Ontario & West.	24½	N. Y. Air Brake	130
O. R. & N.	42	North American	14⅝
do pref	76	Pacific Coast	51½
Pennsylvania	135½	do 1st pref	83
Reading	18½	do 2d pref	65½
do 1st pref	56	Pacific Mail	30⅝
do 2d pref	28½	People's Gas	106
Rio Grande West.	46	Pressed Steel Car	32½
do pref	87	do pref	87
St. Louis & S. Fr.	10½	Pullman Pal. Car	185
do 1st pref	68	Stand. Rope & Tw.	8½
do 2d pref	35⅝	Sugar	113½
St. Louis & S. W.	11	do pref	113
do pref	27	Tenn. Coal & Iron	100⅝
St. Paul	128½	U. S. Leather	17⅝
do pref	171½	do pref	75⅝
St. Paul & O.	115	U. S. Rubber	33½
Southern Pacific	29½	do pref	94½
Southern Ry	12⅝	Western Union	84
do pref	67	Republic Iron & S.	27½
Texas & Pacific	16⅝	do pref	68½

Money, Exchange, Etc.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 15.—Sterling on London, 60 days, $4 85½; do sight, $4 88½.

Silver bars—59⅝c.

Mexican dollars—48@48½c.

Drafts—Sight, 15c; telegraph, 17½.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—Money on call, easy, 2@2½ per cent; last loans, 2½ per cent; closed, 2 per cent; prime mercantile paper, 4@5 per cent; sterling exchange, irregular, with actual business in bankers' bills at $4 87½@4 87¾ for demand, and at $4 84½ for 60 days; posted rates, $4 85@4 88½; commercial bills, $4 83½@ 4 83⅝.

Silver certificates—59⅝@60⅝c.

Bar silver—59⅝c.

Mexican dollars—47½c.

Bonds—Government, steady; state, steady; railroad, irregular.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—Consols, 100⅝.

Foreign Financial News.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—The Commercial Advertiser's London financial cablegram says:

The news of Lord Roberts' advance into the Orange Free State caused a very cheerful opening in the market here today, but the volume of business falling off, early advances were lost by noon. Later there was a slightly hardening tendency, which was maintained to the close, except in Americans, which began hard with small steady buying, but lapsed on sales by New York, which included bonds. It is apprehended here that New York will have to prepare for dearer money.

London Stock Market.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—Canadian Pacific, 101¼; Union Pacific preferred, 79; Northern Pacific preferred 76¾; Atchison, 22; Grand Trunk, 8¾; Anaconda, 9¼.

THE GRAIN MARKETS.

Prices for Cereals in European and American Ports.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 15.—Wheat, steady; spot dull. No change in the barley market. Oats steady.

Spot quotations were:

Wheat—Shipping, No. 1, $1; choice, $1 01½; milling, $1 02½@1 05⅝.

Barley—Feed, 70@77½c; brewing, 77½@85c.

Oats—Gray, Oregon, $1 07½@1 12½; milling, $1 15@1 17½; red, $1 12½@1 20.

Call board sales:

Wheat—Steady; May, $1 02⅝; cash, $1 01½.

Barley—No sales.

Corn—Large yellow, $1 02½@1 05.

New York Grain and Produce.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—Flour—Receipts, 22,000 barrels; exports, 21,160. Market more active.

Wheat — Receipts, 29,600 bushels; exports, 104,185. Spot, firm; No. 2 red, 77½c. Options opened steady, on cables, but eased off, gathering strength later in sympathy with corn. The market ruled very firm for the balance of the day. Covering by shorts and a fair extension of long accounts were the trading features. Exports also made more inquiry for cash wheat, interior receipts were moderate, and crop news from this country and France bullish. Closed firm at ⅛c net advance. March closed at 77½c; May, 75⅞@76⅝c, closed at 75⅞c; July, 75⅛@75½c, closed at 75½c.

Wool—Steady.

Hops—Steady.

Chicago Grain, Produce, Etc.

CHICAGO, Feb. 15.—Corn was the governing market on the exchange today. Corn started rather easy, May opening at 34⅝@34⅞c, to 34⅝ @34⅞c, and selling off early to 34⅜c. The market quickly found itself crowded with buyers, and the desire to get corn, actuated by small country offerings and the large cash business done yesterday, and the promise of heavy shipping business today, caused a rally. Trade was active and the market broad. May soared to 35⅛c, and closed ⅝c up, at 35⅛@35⅛c, having receded from the top on profit-taking.

Wheat—With snow on the ground and the Northwest receipts 150 cars larger than last year, and 200 cars over last week, holders set less value on their May wheat at the opening, which was 66⅝@66⅞c, compared with yesterday's close at 68⅝c. Before support was received May reacted to 66⅛c, caused by the strength of corn, better late cables, reports of more damage to the long-suffering French crop, an improved export demand and better cables later. May worked its way up to 69⅛@69⅜c, and closed firm, ⅝c over yesterday, at 69c. Trade was active the greater part of the session. There was considerable profit-taking and some heavy covering by shorts, principally St. Louis people.

The greater part of the session in oats lagged, but towards the end took a brace, in sympathy with the strength of corn. May closed ¼c up, at 24c.

Provisions—There was a dip in provisions early, but the market recovered on the strength of corn and firmer tone in hogs. Trade was fairly active. May pork closed 12½@15c over yesterday, May lard 2½c up, and May ribs 5@ 7½c higher.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

	Opening.	Highest.	Lowest.	Close.
WHEAT.				
February	.....	.....	.....	$0 67½
May	$0 68⅝	$0 69⅛	$0 68⅝	69
July	69⅝	69⅝	69⅛	69⅝
CORN.				
February	.....	.....	.....	33⅞
May	34⅝	35½	34⅝	35⅝
OATS.				
May	23⅝	24	23⅝	24
July	22⅝	23	22⅝	23
MESS PORK.				
May	10 90	11 00	10 82½	11 00
July	10 95	11 05	10 87½	11 05
LARD.				
May	6 02½	6 07½	6 00	6 07½
July	6 10	6 17½	6 10	6 17½
SHORT RIBS.				
May	5 95	6 05	5 92½	6 03
July	5 97½	6 05	5 95	6 05

Cash quotations were as follows:

Flour—Firm.

Wheat—No. 3 spring, 64@68c; No. 2 red, 71c.

Corn—No. 2, 35⅜c.

Oats—No. 2, 23½c; No. 3 white, 25½@26c.

Rye—No. 2, 56c.

Barley—No. 2, 38@43c.

Flaxseed—No. 1, $1 60.

Timothy seed—Prime, $2 52½.

Mess pork—$9 85@10 95.

Lard—$5 75@5 95 per cwt.

Short ribs—Sides, loose, $5 90@6 15.

Shoulders—Dry salted, boxed, $6 12½@6 37½.

Short clear sides—Boxed, $6 10@6 15.

Butter—Steady; creamery, 19@24c; dairy, 19@ 22c.

Cheese—Firm, 12@13c.

Eggs—Easy, 12c.

	Receipts.	Shipments.
Flour, barrels	55,000	40,000
Wheat, bushels	40,000	25,000
Corn, bushels	355,000	247,000
Oats, bushels	283,000	249,000
Rye, bushels	4,000	1,000
Barley, bushels	16,000	12,000

European Grain Markets.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—Wheat—Cargoes off coast, nothing doing; cargoes on passage, quiet and steady; No. 1 standard California, 30s 6d; Walla Walla, 28s 6d; English country markets, firm.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 15—Wheat, firm; wheat in Paris, quiet; French country markets, weak. Wheat—Spot, firm. Futures, quiet; March, 5s 10¾d; May, 5s 10½d; July, 5s 10⅝d.

Corn—Futures, steady, February, 3s 8¼d; March, 3s 8½d; May, 3s 8d.

SAN FRANCISCO MARKETS.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 15.—Wool—Spring—Nevada, 12@15c; Eastern, Oregon, 12@13c; de Valley, 20@22c. Fall—Northern, mountain, 10@ 12c; mountain, 8@10c; plains, 6@10c; Humboldt and Mendocino, 15@17c per pound.

Hops—1899 crop, 11@13c for choice.

Millstuffs—Middlings, $17 50@20; bran, $12 50 @13 50 per ton.

Hay—Wheat, $6 50@9 50 per ton; wheat and oat, $6 50@9; barley, $5@7; alfalfa, $6@7 50; clover, $7@8 per ton; straw, 30@45c per bale.

Potatoes—Early Rose, 85@95c; river Burbanks, 50@75c; Salinas Burbanks, 80c@$1 10; Oregon Burbanks, 75c@$1 10 per sack; sweets, $1 75@ 1 85 per central.

Onions—$1 75@2 25 per central.

Citrus fruit—Mexican limes, $4@5; common California lemons, 75c@$1 50; choice, $1 75@2

Tropical fruit — Bananas, $1 50 @ 2 50 per bunch; pineapples, nominal.

Apples—$1@1 25.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 24@25c; do seconds, 22½@23c; fancy dairy, 20@22c; do seconds, 18@ 19c; pickled, 22@24c; firkin, 21@22c per pound.

Cheese—New, 10@11c; Eastern, 16½@17c per pound; Young America, 16½@11½c; Western, 13@14c per pound.

Eggs — Store, 14@15c; Eastern, cold storage, nominal; ranch, 17c per dozen.

Receipts—Flour, quarter sacks, 13,034; wheat, centals, 35; barley, centals, 3720; oats, centals, 3180; corn, centals, 230; beans, sacks, 712; potatoes, sacks, 2015; bran, sacks, 285; middlings, sacks, 20; hay, tons, 196; wool, bales, 30; hides, 344.

EASTERN LIVESTOCK.

CHICAGO, Feb. 15.—Cattle—Choice strong to 10c higher, including Texans; others steady to strong; butchers' stock and canners active and 5@10c higher, feeders unchanged. Good to choice, $5 10@6; poor to medium, $4@4 90; mixed stockers, $3 25@3 80; selected feeders, $4 @4 90; good to choice cows, $3 10@4 40; heifers, $3 25@4 75; canners, $2 40@2 90; bulls, $2 60 @4 40; calves, $5@7 75; fed Texas steers, $4@5.

Hogs—Market averaged a shade higher, closed strong; fair clearances; top, $5 02½; mixed and butchers, $4 70@5; good to choice heavy, $4 90 @5 02½; rough heavy, $4 75@4 85; light, $4 70 @4 92½; bulk of sales, $4 82½@4 95.

Sheep and lambs—Market strong to 10c higher; good clearances; native wethers, $4 85@ 5 80; lambs, $5@7 25; Western wethers, $5@ 5 80; Western lambs, $6@7 10.

Receipts — Cattle, 1000; hogs, 33,000; sheep, 12,000.

OMAHA, Feb. 15. — Cattle — Receipts, 20,000 Market steady; native beef steers, $4@6 60; Western steers, $3 90@4 85; Texas steers, $3 10 @4 25; cows and heifers, $2 25@4 15; canners, $2 25@3; stockers and feeders, $3 60@5; calves, $4@7; bulls and stags, $3@4 10.

Hogs — Receipts, 5600. Market steady to easier; heavy, $4 75@4 82½; mixed, $4 70@4 75; light, $4 70@4 75; bulk of sales, $4 72½@4 75.

Sheep—Receipts, 4600. Market steady; lambs, $5 50@6 80.

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 15.—Cattle—Receipts 6000. Market steady; Texas steers, $3 75@4 90; Texas cows, $2 50@3 65; native steers, $4@5 30, native cows and heifers, $2 50@5; stockers and feeders, $2 25@5 25; bulls, $2 85@3 75.

Hogs—Receipts, 12,000. Market barely steady; bulk of sales, $4 70@4 75; heavy, $4 67½@4 80; packers, $4 67½@4 75; lights, $4 60@4 70; Yorkers, $4 60@4 70; pigs, $4@4 60.

Sheep—Receipts, 3000. Market steady; lambs, $4@7; muttons, $3 85@5 60.

The Metal Markets.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—Tin moved up a shade again today, following the improvement in the London market. Otherwise the situation locally was unchanged. News from the West was about in line with anticipations, demand was slack and offerings light. Pig-iron warrants, very dull; lake copper, unchanged, at $16 25; tin, very quiet, at $30 37½; lead, unchanged, $4 70 bid, $4 75 asked. The firm that fixes the ceiling price for miners and smelters quotes lead at $4 45 at the close. Bar silver, 59⅝c.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 15.—Bar silver, 60½c.

LONDON, Feb. 15.—Bar silver, 27 9-16d.

Coffee and Sugar.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—Coffee—Options closed steady, with prices 10@20 points lower; sales, 34,750 bags, including March at $7 10@7 15; May $7 30@7 35; July, $7 50. Spot Rio, quiet; No. 7, invoice, 8¾c; No. 7, jobbing, 9¼c. Mild, quiet; Cordova, 10@13½c.

Sugar—Raw, steady; refined, firm.

Bryan's Personal Appearance.

Springfield Republican.

For an hour and 20 minutes the eyes of the crowd were fixed closely on the figure on the platform—a middle-sized, rather fleshy man, in an absurdly Western, black cut-away suit, baggy trousers, coat wrinkled with traveling, an odd low vest, with white studs in the expanse of shirt front, a very low collar, and the black string tie of the Western country lawyer. No man could owe less to the artifices of the tailor, and his oratory and his manner are as simple as his clothes. He is a cunning and accomplished orator, to be sure, but his strength is in his simplicity and his sincerity; his similes, his language and his thoughts are simple and direct, and on this foundation he builds a speech that is masterful and impressive.

Fortification Useless.

New York Herald.

With an adequate navy, the United States has nothing to fear from the neutralization of the Nicaragua canal, and without such a fleet it cannot protect itself by fortifying the waterway.

The paramount value of the canal to America and to the world will be as a great commercial highway in time both of peace and war. This boon is too priceless to be delayed or jeopardized by petty contention for useless fortification. The United States can well afford to throw open the canal to the war vessels, as well as the shipping of all nations, and thus make it a world highway.

We cannot afford to adopt a dog in the manger policy, which has rallied all the lobbyists and selfish interests that have been striving to defeat the great enterprise.

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INCOME FROM BUTTER.

A Washington Farmer's Good Showing From Few Cows.

WALLULA, Wash., Feb. 9.—(To the Editor.)—I saw an article in your paper about a woman's experience in butter-making near Weston, Or., so I thought, as I have kept a close account of my butter, the last year, I would like to have it published, just to show what kind of a yield it was. I started in January 6, 1899, and went to January 6, 1900, from four cows. As the cows dried up, the butter went down; then as they became fresh again, the butter went up. I sold 513 rolls and had all the milk and butter the family wanted and for the harvest hands—four men. October 20, two of my cows died from getting too much alfalfa, so you see I did not have the four cows near all the time. I got 50 to 60 cents all the time for butter, per roll. The 513 rolls (1026 pounds) brought $282 30, besides having all the family of five wanted and four harvest hands through haying. I live three miles east of Wallula, on the Walla Walla river. AMOS G. CUMMINGS.

Product in Detail.

Date.	Rolls.	Amt.	Date.	Rolls.	Amt.
		JANUARY.			
6	11	$5 50	20	10	$5 00
13	11	5 50	27	10	5 15
		FEBRUARY.			
3	9	$5 85	17	6	$3 90
10	7	4 55	24	5	3 25
		MARCH.			
3	5	$3 25	24	3	$1 95
10	3	1 95	31	3	1 95
17	3	1 95			
		APRIL.			
7	2	$1 10	21	*14	$7 00
14	4	2 20	27	13	6 50
		MAY.			
5	13	$6 50	19	16	$8 00
12	13	6 50	26	16	8 00
		JUNE.			
2	15	$7 50	23	13	$6 50
9	15	7 50	30	15	7 50
16	17	8 50			
		JULY.			
7	11	$5 50	21	11	$5 50
14	11	5 50	28	8	4 00
		AUGUST.			
4	10	$5 00	18	16	$8 00
12	10	5 00	25	18	9 00
		SEPTEMBER.			
1	14	$7 00	22	13	$6 50
8	12	6 00	26	11	5 50
15	11	5 50			
		OCTOBER.			
6	11	$5 50	20	†11	$5 50
13	14	7 00	27	†7	3 50
		NOVEMBER.			
3	8	$4 80	17	7	$4 20
10	6	3 60	24	7	4 20
		DECEMBER.			
1	7	$4 20	22	6	$3 60
8	5	3 00	29	6	3 60
15	6	3 60			
		JANUARY.			
6	6	$3 60			

*One fresh cow.
†Cow died.

A Seeker of Information.

LENTS, Or., Feb. 14.—(To the Editor.)—Wanted to know, through The Oregonian, why, if England is such a tyrant—such a hideous monster—that every colony except "poor Ireland" is ready with money and men to fight when the mother country is in trouble? Will some Irish-Catholic arise and say just why Scotland, Australia, Canada and other colonies love England and will "fight for their queen," while all Catholic Irish and all the "Byron" men hate England? I would also like some good Catholic to explain why they did not arise in their might and do something for Cuba in her 10 years' war for liberty? Where were the O'Days, the O'Riggens, and other great men, in those days? My opinion is that if they could only succeed in destroying Protestant England, the next in order would be Protestant America. But when will the "invasion" of Canada begin? The Canucks are patiently waiting, and will give them a warm reception, as they did on a certain occasion some years ago. J. L. M'PHERSON.

The Rich and Poor Idlers.

Chicago Tribune.

Mr Franklin MacVeagh says that "the habitual idleness of the rich is no more justified than the idleness of the tramp," but that "the tramp is easier to bear than the useless man or woman of wealth." The average mortal finds it easier to blame the useless millionaire than the useless tramp, because there is nothing about the life of the latter which excites envy, while there is about that of the former. The tramp has poor clothes and uncertain subsistence. He pays a high price to escape from daily toil. The idle man of wealth pays nothing for his immunity from labor. He has all the comforts and luxuries of life and has idleness to boot. It is not strange that he should find severer censors than the tramp, whose life is so peculiarly unlovely and uninviting.

Mr. MacVeagh says also that "wealth cannot escape the responsibilities of idleness." It should not, but statistics showing the extent to which wealth is indulging in idleness would be interesting and valuable. There are many tramps—thousands of them. How many men of wealth are there who are habitual idlers? There are some rich persons who belong in that disreputable class. There are many more who do not, but who persist in working with an assiduity which surprises the ordinary man, who says he would not work so hard if he had so much money. Perhaps some day an industrious social economist, concluding there is nothing left to discover about the inmates of the slums of poverty, will begin to study the inhabitants of the slums of wealth, and take a census of them. A carefully prepared directory of the men of wealth in this country who are habitual idlers and as such should be held up to scorn, would make entertaining reading. Probably it would not be a large pamphlet.

Human Life Prolonged.

W. R. Thayer, in the Forum.

There is one characteristic which distinguishes the 19th century from all other centuries—a characteristic which has become too common to attract the attention it deserves, although it really measures all the rest; this is longevity. During the past 100 years the length of life of the average man in the United States and in the more civilized parts of Europe has increased from a little over 30 to about 40 years. A multitude of causes, mostly physical, have contributed to this result. Foremost among these should be placed (1) whatever may be included under the general term sanitation; (2) improved methods in medicine, and (3) the more regular habits of living which are the direct outcome of industrial life on a large scale.

These are some of the evident means by which life has been lengthened. Inventions, which have made production cheap and the transportation of all products cheap and easy, have had an influence too great to be computed. And no doubt much has been due to a general improvement in methods of government; although, in the main, there has been much less progress in practical government than is commonly supposed. But, whatever governments have done or left undone, the fact to be insisted on here is, that the average man today lives almost 10 years longer than his grandfather lived. Indisputably, therefore, the year 1900 finds conditions more conducive to longevity than existed a century ago. This is true beyond question for the masses, who feel immediately the effects of plenty, hunger and cold.

The Author of "Blagen on the Rhine"

Sir Algernon Treat, in his "Reminiscenses," recalls that "at the time of the dispute with the United States on the Oregon question, the announcement of the free-trade policy of Sir Robert Peel was made in the Times. There was a false and malicious story that the news was extracted from Sidney Herbert and given to the Times by Mrs. Norton; but I have it on the authority of Sir William Stephenson, who was then private secretary to Sir Robert Peel, that it was deliberately given to the Times by Lord Aberdeen, with the object of conciliating the United States." To the lovely Mrs. Norton there is a reference on page 55; our author vouches for the accuracy of Mr. Motley's portrait of her. "