COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEWS

The trade situation presents no features of special interest. The local retailers were buying a trifle more freely than usual yesterday in anticipation of a good trade Saturday, and the day before New Year's. The street was pretty well supplied with California produce, the liberal receipts by steamer being increased by some good-sized rail consignments yesterday. The poultry market is shaping for a good show of firmness on New Year's day, and dressed turkeys sold as high as 15 cents yesterday, with live moving freely at corresponding figures. Geese and ducks are firm at quotations, and chickens are also in good demand. Eggs continue weak with receipts increasing.

Bank Clearings.

	Exchanges.	Balances.
Portland	$424,021	$117,937
Spokane	284,398	113,608
Tacoma	177,765	47,558

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Grain, Flour, Etc.

The Eastern wheat market braced up a little yesterday, and as European markets were holding steady, an air of strength was imparted to the cereal in the local market. As high as 55 cents was paid for Walla Walla, although the ruling quotations were about 54 and 54½ cents. A premium of 2 cents over these figures was bid for choice bluestem. Freights are a shade firmer, although no new transactions are reported. Owners are refusing 40 shillings for March loading.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 54@54½c; Valley, nominal; bluestem, 57@58c per bushel.

Flour—Best grades, $2 90@3 40 per barrel; graham, $2 60.

Oats—White, 42@42½c per bushel; gray, 40@41c.

Barley—Feed, $15@15 50; brewing, $16@16 50 per ton.

Millstuffs—Bran, $15 50 per ton; middlings, $21; shorts, $17; chop, $15.

Hay—Timothy, $12@12 50; clover, $7@9 50. Oregon wild hay, $6@7 per ton.

Butter, Eggs, Poultry, Etc.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 50@55c; store, 25@32½c per roll.

Eggs—Eastern, 22½@25c; Oregon ranch, 27½c per dozen.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, $2 50@3; hens, $3 50@4 50; ducks, $4@6; geese, $6@9 per dozen; turkeys, live, 11@12c; dressed, 13½@14c per pound.

Cheese—Full cream, twins, 12@12½c; Young America, 13½@14c per pound.

Vegetables, Fruits, Etc.

Vegetables—Parsnips, 65c; turnips, 75c; carrots, 75c sack; onions, $1 50@1 75; cabbage, $1 25@1 50 per cental; potatoes, 50@60c per sack; sweet potatoes, 1½c per pound; celery, 60@65c per dozen; California tomatoes, $1 25 per box.

Fruit—Lemons, $2 50@3; oranges, $2 50@3 for navel; $2 00@2 50 for seedlings, per box; pineapples, $4 50@6 per dozen; bananas, $2 50@3 per bunch; Persian dates, 7c per pound; pears, 75c@$1 per box; apples, 50c@$1 25 per box; grapes, Muscat, 90c@$1; Tokay, $1 per box.

Dried fruit—Apples, evaporated, 5@6c per pound; sun-dried, sacks or boxes, 3@4c; pears, 8@9c; prunes, Italian, 5@7c; silver, extra choice, 5@7c; figs, California black, 5c; figs, California white, 5@7c; plums, pitless, white, 7@8c per pound.

Meat and Provisions.

Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, sheared, $3 50; dressed, 6½@7c per pound; spring lambs, 8½c per pound gross; dressed, 7@7½c.

Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, $5 60@5 75; light, $5; dressed, 5@6½c per pound.

Veal—Large, 6½@7c per pound; small, 8@8½c per pound.

Beef—Gross, top steers, $3 50@4; cows, $3@3 50; dressed beef, 6@7c per pound.

Provisions — Portland pack (Shield brand): Hams, smoked, are quoted at 12c per pound; picnic hams, 9c per pound; breakfast bacon, 12½@15c; bacon, 10½@11½c; backs, 10½c; dry-salted sides, 9½@10c; dried beef, 15c; lard, five-pound pails, 10½c; 10-pound pails, 10½c; 50s, 10½c; tierces, 10c per pound. Eastern pack (Hammond's): Hams, large, 12c; medium, 12½c; small, 12c; picnic hams, 9c; shoulders, 9½c; breakfast bacon, 12½@15½c; dry-salted sides, 9½@10½c; bacon, sides, 10½@11½c; backs, 11c; butts, 10½c; lard, pure leaf, kettle-rendered, 5s, 10½c; 10s, 10½c; dry-salt, bellies, 10½@11½c; bacon bellies, 11½@12½c; dried beef, 15c.

Groceries, Nuts, Etc.

Coffee—Mocha, 23@28c; Java, fancy, 26@27c; Java, good, 20@24c; Java, ordinary, 18@20c; Costa Rica, fancy, 18@20c; Costa Rica, good, 16@18c; Costa Rica, ordinary, 10@12c per pound; Columbia roast, $12 13; Arbuckle's, $12 25; Lion, $12 13 per case.

Sugar—Cube, $6 35; crushed, $6 60; powdered, $5 95; dry granulated, $5 75; extra C, $5 25; golden C, $5 15 net; half barrels, ⅛c more than barrels; maple, 15@16c per pound.

Salmon—Columbia River, one-pound talls, $1 50@2; two-pound talls, $2 25@2 50; fancy one-pound flats, $2@2 25; ½-pound fancy flats, $1 30@1 50; Alaska, one-pound talls, $1 40@1 60; two-pound talls, $1 90@2 25.

Nuts—Peanuts, 6½@7c per pound for raw, 8c 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.

Beans—Small white, 4¾c; large white, 3¾@4c; bayou, 3¾c; Lima, 6c per pound.

Grain bags—Calcutta, $6@6 12½ per 100 for spot.

Coal oil—Cases, 18½c per gallon; barrels, 14½c; tanks, 13c.

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

Hops, Wool, Hides, Etc.

Hops—New crop, 12@14c per pound; 1899 crop, 6@7c.

Wool—Valley, 13@14c; Eastern Oregon, 10@12c; mohair, 25c per pound.

Sheepskins—Shearlings, 15@20c; short-wool, 25@35c; medium-wool, 30@50c; long-wool, 60c@$1 each.

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

Hides—Dry hides, No. 1, 16 pounds and upward, 14@15c; dry kip, No. 1, 5 to 16 pounds, 15c per pound; dry calf, No. 1, under 5 pounds, 15@16c; dry-salted, one-third less than dry flint; salted hides, sound steers, 60 pounds and over, 7@8c; do. 50 to 60 pounds, 7½c; do. under 50 pounds and cows, 7c; kip, 35 to 50 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, moth-eaten, badly cut, scored, hair-slipped, weather-beaten or grubby), one-third less.

Pelts—Bearskins, each, as to size, $5@$15; cubs, each, $1@6; badger, each, 50c; wildcat, 25@75c; housecat, 50@25c; fox, common gray, 40c@$1; do. red, $1 75@2 50; do. cross, $2 50@6; lynx, $2@4 50; mink, 40c@$1 75; marten, dark Northern, $5@10; do. pale pine, $2@4; muskrat, 5@15c; skunk, 50@80c; otter (land), $4@8; panther, with head and claws perfect, $1@3; raccoon, 25@80c; wolf, mountain, with head perfect, $3 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, $1@2.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET.

Profit-Taking and Unsettled Business Weakens Prices.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—The history of today's stock market does not differ materially from that of the past few weeks. That is to say, selling to take profits came on the market like a flood in the opening dealings, and the professional bears, constantly watchful for the first sign of the reaction which they know must inevitably come, offered prices down in an attempt to dislodge long stock. Their efforts were defeated, as they had been on many previous occasions, by the supporting orders which came into the stocks attacked and the new points of strength which were confidently marshaled from among the stocks which have not yet enjoyed any considerable rise. The point wherein today's market differed from those of recent stock exchange history was that the profit-taking was renewed in force before the close, and the unsettled condition lasted until trading ceased, prices at that time showing wide declines from the best, and in some cases being well below last night.

There were no remaining points of strength to sustain the market in this late break, the ingenuity of the traders having apparently failed them, or their industry in seeking out new stocks being overcome by weariness. Once again the often recurring cry of a year-end squeeze in the money market was raised this morning in connection with the opening attack on stocks. Loans today on the stock exchange carry over until Monday, but this fact, coupled with the year-end requirements, failed to create a ripple of trouble in the call loan market. Only at the opening was 6 per cent asked, and the rate declined from that point.

The striking feature of the buoyant market which prevailed during the middle portion of the session was the inconstancy of the strength and demand for special stocks. A rapid price movement in an individual stock would be followed by a sharp reaction, while the speculative demand would shift hurriedly to others quarters. A few minutes' consultation between traders on the floor would result in the formation of a pool to take all offerings in some inconspicuous stock. After these were absorbed the price would be rapidly bid up 1 or 2 or 3 points. Such a maneuver never failed to attract a horde of speculative following, buying orders coming from both within and without the exchange. These short-time pools had no difficulty in liquidating their holdings at a handsome profit. The list of stocks in which this operation occurred included many of the high-grade railroad stocks, as well as those known in stock exchange parlance as cats and dogs.

The demand for bonds was not so conspicuous as yesterday, but there were strong points in the market. Total sales, $5,925,000. United States old 4s advanced ¾, refunding 2s ⅛, and 3s and 5s ¼ on the last call.

BONDS.

U. S. 2s, ref. reg.	100⅝	N. Y. Cent. 1sts	109⅝
do coupon	107⅛	Northern Pac. 3s	71⅛
do 3s, reg.	111½	do 4s	105⅝
do coupon	111⅝	Oregon Nav. 1sts	110½
do new 4s, reg.	138½	do 4s	103⅛
do coupon	138½	Oregon S. L. 6s	129
do old 4s, reg.	110⅝	do con. 5s	117
do coupon	111⅛	Rio Gr. W. 1sts	101
do 5s, reg.	114⅝	St. Paul consols	185⅝
do coupon	114⅝	St. P. C. & P. 1sts	120⅝
Dist. Col. 3-65s	125	do 5s	122⅛
Atchison adj. 4s	88	Union Pacific 4s	107⅛
C. & N.W. con. 7s	139	Wis. Cent. 1sts	89⅝
do S. F. deb. 5s	123	Southern Pac. 4s	83½
D. & R. G. 4s	102⅝	West Shore 4s	116⅛
Gen. Electric 5s	164		

STOCKS.

The total sales of stocks today were 1,409,900 shares. The closing quotations were:

Atchison	40⅝	Wabash	12⅝
do pref	87⅝	do pref	26½
Balt. & Ohio	82½	Wheel. & L. E.	12½
do pref	85⅝	do 2d pref	20⅝
Can. Pacific	91⅝	Wis. Central	17⅛
Can. Southern	57⅝	P. C. C. & St. L.	56
Ches. & Ohio	41⅛	Third Avenue	119
Chi. Gr. Western	17⅝	National Tube	67
C., B. & Q.	142⅝	do pref	105
Chi., Ind. & L.	25⅛	EXPRESS CO.'S.	
do pref	61½	Adams	150
Chi. & East. Ill.	93⅝	American	180
Chicago & N. W.	170⅝	United States	57
C., R. I. & Pac.	129⅝	Wells-Fargo	140
C., C., C. & St. L.	72	MISCELLANEOUS.	
Colo. Southern	7½	Amer. Cotton Oil	31
do 1st pref	42⅝	do pref	90
do 2d pref	17	Amer. Malting	5
Del. & Hudson	128⅝	do pref	26½
Del., Lack. & W.	190	Amer. Smelt. & R.	53⅝
Denver & Rio Gr.	32⅝	do pref	96⅝
do pref	86½	Amer. Spirits	3
Erie	24	do pref	17
do 1st pref	58⅛	Amer. Steel Hoop	32
Great North. pref	187½	do pref	77⅝
Hocking Coal	16⅝	Amer. Steel & W.	45⅛
Hocking Valley	42	do pref	87⅛
Illinois Central	136⅝	Amer. Tin Plate	16⅝
Iowa Central	23⅝	do pref	91½
do pref	48½	Amer. Tobacco	112⅝
Lake Erie & W.	45⅛	do pref	135
do pref	113	Anaconda M. Co.	48⅛
Lake Shore	198	Brooklyn R. T.	83
Louis. & Nash.	88⅝	Colo. Fuel & Iron	55⅛
Manhattan El	114⅝	Cont. Tobacco	39
Met. St. Ry.	170⅛	do pref	93⅛
Mex. Central	16⅝	Federal Steel	50½
Minn. & St. Louis	21	do pref	77⅛
do pref	163⅛	Gen. Electric	191⅛
Missouri Pacific	71⅝	Glucose Sugar	50
Mobile & Ohio	45⅝	do pref	90
M., K. & T.	16⅝	Int. Paper	25
do pref	45⅝	do pref	73⅝
New Jersey Cent.	149½	La Clede Gas	74
New York Cent.	143⅝	National Biscuit	87½
Norfolk & West.	44⅝	do pref	91
do pref	82½	National Lead	19½
Northern Pacific	82½	do pref	92
do pref	86⅝	National Steel	41⅝
Ontario & West.	21	do pref	82
O. R. & N.	42	N. Y. Air Brake	156
do pref	76	North American	21
Pennsylvania	146	Pacific Coast	59½
Reading	22⅝	do 1st pref	80
do 1st pref	70⅝	do 2d pref	66
do 2d pref	37⅝	Pacific Mail	42
Rio Gr. Western	35	People's Gas	104
do pref	96	Pressed Steel Car	50⅝
St. Louis & S. F.	22	do pref	82½
do 1st pref	76½	Pullman Pal. Car	200½
do 2d pref	51½	Stand. Rope & T.	5⅛
St. Louis S. W.	17½	Sugar	140⅝
do pref	43⅝	do pref	116
St. Paul	143⅛	Tenn. Coal & Iron	64
do pref	188	U. S. Leather	14⅝
St. Paul & O.	125	do pref	77
Southern Pacific	43⅝	U. S. Rubber	26⅛
Southern Ry	27⅛	do pref	76
do pref	72⅛	Western Union	83½
Texas & Pacific	23⅛	Republic Iron & S.	16⅛
Union Pacific	77⅛	do pref	64
do pref	85⅝	Amal. Copper	93⅛

For continuous quotations on stocks, bonds, Chicago grain and provisions, call on R. W. McKinnon & Co., 8 and 9 Chamber of Commerce, who are members of the Chicago Board of Trade. Telephones, Oregon, Main 313; Columbia, 725.

Money, Exchange, Etc.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 28.—Sterling on London, 60 days, $4 82; sterling on London, sight, $4 85½.

Mexican dollars—50½@51c.

Drafts—Sight, 12½; telegraph, 15.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Money on call, 3@6 per cent; last loans, 3@5 per cent.

Prime mercantile paper—4¾@5½ per cent.

Sterling exchange—Firm, with actual business in bankers' bills at $4 85 demand, and at $4 81¼@4 81⅝ for 60 days. Posted rates, $4 82@4 86; commercial bills, $4 80½@4 81.

Silver certificates—64½@65½c.

Mexican dollars—50c.

Government bonds, strong; state bonds, inactive; railroad bonds, strong.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—Money, 3¾@4½ per cent; consols, 97⅝.

Stocks in London.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—Atchison, 48¼; Canadian Pacific, 94⅝; Union Pacific preferred, 85⅝; Northern Pacific preferred, 89⅝; Grand Trunk, 7½; Anaconda, 10⅛.

THE GRAIN MARKETS.

Prices for Cereals in European and American Ports.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 28.—Wheat and barley futures inactive; spot wheat firmer; spot barley steady; oats strong. Spot quotations were:

Wheat—Shipping, No. 1, 97½c; choice, 97½c; milling, $1 00@1 03⅝.

Corn—Large yellow, $1 17½@1 20.

Chicago Grain and Produce.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28.—Save for a few moments at the start, the Government report, issued after closing yesterday, wasted its bearishness on the desert air. The general opinion before business began was that there would be imposing amounts of long stuff for sale, consequent to the Government figures, and those who wanted to buy held off for a recession in prices. May opened ⅛@¼c lower at 72⅛@72⅜c, nervously touched 72⅝@72¾c, and then dropped to 72⅜@72½c. The unloading of wheat that had been expected failed to materialize. The course of the market thereafter developed the fact that it had been oversold. Bids for wheat served mostly to keep the price an elusive fraction away until May had fully recovered. Even at the top price, 73⅛@73⅜c, offerings were only moderate, and the close was firm, ½c higher, at 73⅛c.

Corn was moderately active at the opening, but became dull and narrow later. May closed unchanged at 35¼c.

The oats market not only ruled firm, but exhibited strength enough to pull itself out of the rut in which it has recently been plodding. May closed ¼c higher at 23⅝c.

Provisions were quiet, but firm, except for December lard, which lost its recent manipulative support and dropped off 5c. Moderate receipts, fair local buying and the wheat strength were the main supporting factors. January pork closed 10c higher, lard 2½c up, and ribs 5c improved.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

	Opening.	Highest.	Lowest.	Close.
WHEAT.				
December	$0 69⅞	$0 70⅝	$0 69⅛	$0 70⅛
January	69⅝	70⅝	69⅝	70⅛
May	72½	73⅝	72⅝	73⅛
CORN.				
December	36½	36⅝	36⅛	36⅛
January	36⅛	36½	35⅞	36⅛
May	36	36⅛	36	36⅛
OATS.				
December	21⅝	21⅝	21⅝	21⅝
January	21⅝	21⅝	21⅝	21⅝
May	23⅝	24	23⅝	23⅝
MESS PORK.				
January	12 07½	12 20	12 07½	12 20
May	12 15	12 25	12 15	12 22½
LARD.				
December	6 87½	6 87½	6 80	6 82½
January	6 70	6 77½	6 70	6 77½
May	6 87½	6 92½	6 87½	6 92½
SHORT RIBS.				
January	6 22½	6 35	6 22½	6 30
May	6 35	6 40	6 35	6 40

Cash quotations were as follows:

Flour—Dull and easy.

Wheat—No. 3 Spring, 65@71c; No. 2 red, 72@74½c.

Corn—No. 2, 36½c; No. 2 yellow, 36½c.

Oats—No. 2, 22½@23⅝c; No. 2 white, 25½@26c; No. 3 white, 25@26c.

Rye—No. 2, 50@51c.

Barley—Fair to choice malting, 53@60c.

Flaxseed—No. 1, $1 55@1 56; No. 1 Northwestern, $1 50.

Timothy seed—Prime, $4 50.

Mess pork—Per barrel, $11.

Lard—Per 100 pounds, $6 75.

Short ribs—Sides, loose, $6 25@6 50.

Shoulders—Dry-salted, boxed, $5 87½@6 12½.

Sides, short, clear, boxed, $6 65@6 75.

Clover—Contract grade, $10 00@10 25.

	Receipts.	Shipments.
Flour, barrels	66,000	54,000
Wheat, bushels	212,000	43,000
Corn, bushels	615,000	72,000
Oats, bushels	402,000	105,000
Rye, bushels	9,000	2,000
Barley, bushels	60,000	25,000

On the Produce Exchange today the butter market was dull; creamery, 15@23c; dairy, 12@20c.

Cheese—Dull at 10½@11¾c.

Eggs—Active; fresh, 27c.

New York Grain and Produce.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Flour—Receipts, 15,414 barrels; exports, 5390 barrels. Market steady.

Wheat—Receipts, 76,755 bushels; exports, 91,348 bushels. Spot firm; No. 2 red, 79c f. o. b.; 76¾c elevator. Options opened easy, owing to continued bearish sentiment on the Government report, but quickly rallied on covering, and remained strong for the remainder of the day. Demand was prompted by adverse Argentine cables, higher cables from Europe, export buying and fair clearances. Closed firm, ⅛@¾c net advance. January closed 77⅝c; March, 79¼c; May, 79c; December, 77½c.

Wool—Dull.

Hops—Quiet.

European Grain Markets.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—Wheat cargoes on passage quiet and steady; No. 1 standard California, 30s; Walla Walla, 29s 9d; English country markets quiet; but steady.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 28.—Wheat firm; No. 1 standard California, 6s 2½d@6s 3d; wheat in Paris steady; flour in Paris quiet; French country markets easy; wheat firm; No. 1 California, 6s 3d; No. 2 red Western Winter, 5s 11½d; No. 1 Northern Spring, 6s 2½d.

Crop-Report Comment.

The firm of F. G. Logan's Chicago grain letter to R. W. McKinnon & Co. says:

Wheat—The Government report which came yesterday afternoon raised its estimate on the total of last wheat crop to 522,000,000 bushels. This was considerably more bearish than the trade had generally expected. Evidently European market did not construe it as essentially bearish. Liverpool was ⅛c higher. While it increases its estimate over the last report by at least 30,000,000 bushels, it is not of itself bearish. The generally accepted estimate of domestic requirements for bread and seed is about 250,000,000. This would leave for export 132,000,000 bushels. For the past three years we have exported an average of over 200,000,000 bushels, and so far on this crop at about that ratio. The conclusion is evident. There was some selling pressure at the opening, but nothing material or persistent, and prices have since hardened and more than regained their early loss. Some exporters say Continental inquiry shows slightly improving tendency. Primary receipts, 607,000 bushels, against 448,000 bushels same date last year. Shipments, 222,000 bushels, against 140,000 bushels same date a year ago. Estimates for tomorrow, 95 cars.

SAN FRANCISCO MARKETS.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 28.—Wool—Spring—Nevada, 11@12c; Eastern Oregon, 14c; Valley Oregon, 15@17c. Fall—Mountain lambs, 9@10c; San Joaquin plains, 6@8c; Humboldt and Mendocino, 10@12c.

Hops, crop of 1900, 13½@17½c.

Hay—Wheat, $9@13 50; wheat and oats, $9@12 50; best barley, $9 50; alfalfa, $7@10; compressed wheat, $9@13 per ton; straw, 25@47½ per bale.

Millstuffs—Middlings, $16 50@19 50; bran, $14@14 50 per ton.

Potatoes—River Burbanks, 30@65c; Salinas Burbanks, 85@$1 15; Oregon Burbanks, 60c@$1; sweets, 50c@$1.

Onions—$1 65 per cental.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 25c; do seconds, 27@28c; fancy dairy, 22c; do seconds, 18c.

Cheese—California flats, 10½@11c per pound; Young America, 11½@12c; Eastern, 14@15c.

Eggs—Fancy ranch, 32½c; store, 25c; Eastern, 25c.

Citrus fruit — Mexican limes, $4@4 50; common California lemons, 75c; choice, $2 50; navel oranges, $1 50@2 50 per box; pineapples, $2@3 per dozen.

Poultry—Turkeys, gobblers, 12@13c; do hens, 13@14c per pound; old roosters, $3 50@4 per dozen; young roosters, $4 50@5; fryers, $4@4 50; hens, $3@4 50 per dozen; small broilers, $2@2 50; large do, $3@3 50; old ducks, $3@4; geese, $1 25@1 50 per pair.

Green fruit—Apples, choice, $1 per box; common, 30c per box.

Bananas—$1@2 50 per bunch.

Receipts—Flour, 10,300 quarters; wheat, 73,000 centals; barley, 4940 centals; oats, 200 centals; beans, 712 sacks; potatoes, 5000 sacks; bran, 950 sacks; hay, 300 tons; wool, 325 bales; hides, 300.

BIG BEAN DEMAND.

Not Exactly a Corner, But Supply in Hands of Few.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28.—According to local merchants, one of two big firms, either Albert Dickinson & Co., Chicago, or a Detroit house, practically controls the market for the white beans supply, which, although there is a fair crop harvested, has been tremendously reduced by heavy purchases by the United States and British Governments to supply soldiers in the Philippines and South Africa. As a consequence, the price has had a rapid and legitimate advance, until it is now $2 35 per bushel, with the supply limited even at that figure.

Members of the firm of Albert Dickinson & Co. deny that their house has organized a corner.

EASTERN LIVESTOCK.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28.—Cattle—Receipts, 2500 head; market generally steady. Good to prime steers, $5 25@6; poor to medium, $3 35@5 15; selected feeders, slow, $3 75@4 25; mixed stockers, weak, $2 50@3 75; cows, $2 50@4 20; heifers, $2 50@4 40; canners, $1 75@2 70; bulls, $2 50@4 50; calves, steady, $4@5 50; Texans, receipts, 250 head; best on sale today, one car at $4 80; Texas steers, $4@4 85; grass steers, $3 30@4 40; bulls, $2 50@3 25.

Hogs—Receipts today, 27,000 head; tomorrow, 19,000; left over, 4000; average, 5@10c higher; top, $4 90. Mixed and butchers, $4 60@4 90; good to choice heavy, $4 70@4 90; rough heavy, $4 55@4 65; light, $4 60@4 80; bulk of sales, $4 75@4 85.

Sheep—Receipts, 8000 head; sheep and lambs, mostly 10@15c lower. Good to choice wethers, $3 75@4 50; fair to choice mixed, $3 40@3 75; Western sheep, $3 75@4 50; Texas sheep, $2 50@3 50; native lambs, $4 25@5 50; Western lambs, $5@5 50.

OMAHA, Dec. 28.—Cattle—Receipts, 1200 head; market active and stronger. Native beef steers, $4@5 40; Western steers, $4@4 50; Texas steers, $3@3 75; cows and heifers, $3@4 15; canners, $1 75@2 75; stockers and feeders, $3@4 50; calves, $4 50@5 50; bulls and stags, $2 25@4.

Hogs—Receipts, 7600 head; market, 5@7½c lower; heavy, $4 70@4 77½; mixed, $4 75@4 77½; light, $4 65@4 80; bulk of sales, $4 75@4 77½.

Sheep—Receipts, 1200 head; market, 10c lower. Fair to choice natives, $3 80@4 15; fair to choice Westerns, $3 20@3 90; common and choice sheep, $3 65@3 80; lambs, $4 25@5 25.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 28.—Cattle—Receipts, 2000 head; market steady. Texas steers, $3 25@4 75; Texas cows, $2 25@3 25; native steers, $3 50@5 40; native cows and heifers, $1 75@4 50; stockers and feeders, $3 40@4 60; bulls, $2 50@4.

Hogs—Receipts, 11,000 head; market weak; bulk of sales, $4 80@4 82½; heavy, $4 80@4 87½; packers, $4 80@4 87½; mixed, $4 75@4 85; lights, $4 75@4 85; Yorkers, $4 80@4 85; pigs, $4 50@4 70.

Sheep—Receipts, 1000 head; market steady; lambs, $4@5 55; muttons, $2 70@4 15.

The Metal Markets.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Business was generally of a hand-to-mouth character in the metal trade today. Speculation was conspicuous by its absence, and the market was devoid of important new developments. Tin was about 50 points lower today, following a loss of 10s for the metal in London to £82 12s, and on liberal arrivals. The close, however, was steady on the basis of $26 90@27 20, owing to a lack of sellers. Copper in London was fairly active, 2s 6d lower, at 72s 15d. The local situation, however, remains in a somewhat nominal condition. Prices were quoted at $17 for Lake Superior, and 16⅝ for casting, with more sellers than buyers. Lead was dull but steady on the basis of $4 37½, while prices abroad went off 1s 3d to £16 3s 9d. Spelter was nominally quoted at $4 12½@4 17½. At London prices were unchanged. Domestic iron markets ruled dull at unchanged prices. Pig iron warrants were quoted at $9 50@10 50; Northern foundry, $15@16 75; Southern foundry, $14 50@15 75, and Southern soft, $13@15 75. English iron markets unchanged.

Bar silver—63¾c.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 28.—Bar silver, 64c.

LONDON, Dec. 28.—Bar silver, 29½d.

Sugar Trust Meets.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—The Journal of Commerce prints the following:

An informal meeting of the directors of the American Sugar Refining Company has just been held here. After the meeting, H. O. Havemeyer said there has been no agreement with competing companies and that at the coming meeting of directors there would be no increase in the dividend on the common stock.

New York Cotton Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Cotton on the opening of the market was quiet at prices one to four points lower, under light room and some foreign selling. Soon after the call, near months and shorts took fright on rumors that January was to be forced considerably higher. Prices readily responded to the change in feeling, and as Liverpool quickly rallied to conform with our firmness, a substantial net rise was soon recorded. January climbed to $2 62, and December was also much firmer. The close was quiet, with prices four points lower to eight points higher.

Coffee and Sugar.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Coffee—Options closed steady, with prices 10 to 15 points net higher. Sales, 3750 bags, including: December, $5 50; January, $5 50@5 55; March, $5 75. Spot—Rio, steady; No. 7, invoice, 6¾c; mild, quiet; Cordova, 9½@13¾c.

Sugar—Raw steady; refined, quiet.

Fraternal Insurance.

New York Spectator.

To those familiar with the facts in the case, no surprise was occasioned by the application made last Friday in Indianapolis for the appointment of a receiver for the Order of Chosen Friends. This order is one of a number of similar concerns which have been hanging on the ragged edge of insolvency for some years past. They were started on a basis unsound in theory, and, when once in difficulties, found the very arguments they used to attract members in the beginning turned against them. The Order of Chosen Friends began business in 1879, and for some years bore every appearance of prosperity, its membership at one time amounting to nearly 40,000. During the last 10 years, however, the young and healthy members have been deserting it in large numbers, owing to the rapidly increasing death rate among the older members, until at the close of 1899 the certificates in force numbered but 20,797, and an additional number have withdrawn during the present year. In 1899 the order reported receipts from mortuary assessments of $780,265, and it paid in claims during the year $722,122, while its total disbursements exceeded the total income by $6545. At the close of the year the net cash assets in hand, after deducting all reported liabilities, amounted to but $21,288. The new members admitted last year numbered 1590, while 2286 certificates terminated by lapse, and 435 by death, showing a death rate of 21.5 per thousand certificates exposed, the average death cost per $1000 of insurance for the year being $25 46. Quite a number of fraternal orders are in an equally precarious condition, with as little possibility of avoiding the fate which has befallen this Indianapolis order. Their difficulties increase with the passing years, yet they continue to accept new members, apparently with the hope that something will happen to arrest the inexorable progress of old mortality. This class of orders should be honest enough with their members to notify them that they cannot go on as at present conducted, and either increase their rates to a point where every death loss will be absolutely provided for, or go out of business at once, and thus avoid more serious troubles than those now confronting them. Those orders which have not yet felt the pinch of a heavy death rate should take warning by the experience of their less fortunate competitors and so arrange their plans as to offer every reasonable assurance of absolute security. Is the term "fraternal insurance" to become as offensive, as indicative of broken promises and failure, as "assessment or co-operative" insurance, now out of date?

The Treasures of St. Ildefonso.

Cornhill.

In the chapter-room two dull portraits of Philip and Elizabeth simper over the cupboard, which contains the treasures. When the guide book mentions with a thrill that there are 12,000 diamonds in the monstrance, one yawns and thinks there are more in Mr. Streeter's shop. But the monstrance is really a beautiful cross of its kind, and, besides, is a splendid memorial of the great imperial days of Spain. For the gold and the jewels came from Mexico, and it was the work of a Mexican goldsmith. It was stolen by the French during the war of independence, but, strangely enough, left intact with all its 12,000 diamonds, for the English to take at Ciudad Real and return to its proper place. Besides the crosses there is a whole cupboard full of relics, the most curious being the staff of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, which was supposed to be a sovereign remedy for the Queens of Spain in their confinements, and was regularly conveyed by a deputation of canons to Queen Isabella II, when infants of Spain made their entrance into the world. The most interesting is the little wooden stool which St. Theresa carried about with her. For here was a personality whose memory yet breathes a sweet and pungent perfume, such as legends affirm to have arisen from the bodies of older and less vital saints.

DAN RICE'S LAST NICKEL.

It Brought Luck and Enabled Him to Assist a Church.

Kansas City World.

"Circus people as a rule are the best traveling class railroads have to deal with," said George B. Kretsinger, of the Kansas City Southern, who has had much to do with such combinations. "They are always found to be close figurers, presenting a million and one contentions, asking as many, if not more courtesies, but in the end the results are generally satisfactory to both parties.

"It is only within the last few years that railroads began handling circus outfits. The country road and wagon once afforded a cheap method of transportation between small towns, where nickels, dimes and quarters rarely ever failed to be taken in by the hatful. Those not on country roads were found on the large rivers, shifting their dates to suit the seasons, all the way from St. Paul and Cincinnati to Cairo, Ill., and New Orleans. The late Colonel Dan Rice, who probably pleased more people as a clown than any other sawdust king, was a striking figure among the performing river craft, and one of the first to put his show on the rails.

"This was back in '73, when a panic swept over the country and river towns had hit the sky, right and left, for the show business. Rice and his animals were tied up at St. Louis, waiting for times to grow better, when a trading firm offered a good lump sum for his boats. He figured it was go broke in almost any event, so he sold and then began to tour eastward with a train of borrowed cars. It was a big undertaking, even for Rice, who was about the richest in the business in those days; but everything went reasonably well until he started to enter Indiana. The last Illinois town was 'rotten.' The show had hardly made 'animal meat,' to say nothing of the money to get to another stand. As a last resort Colonel Rice 'soaked' the show to the railroad company to put him into Vincennes, just over the state line, agreeing that the company's agent there should play doorkeeper and hold out what was coming. Vincennes did not look a whit good. The town was dead, and the inhabitants wouldn't enthuse a bit over the bum band and bright-colored wagons. An hour before the afternoon performance was to begin found Colonel Rice pacing in front of the main entrance, figuring with himself for dear life, when a party of ladies approached.

"'Colonel Rice,' they began, 'we have always heard of you as a very charitable gentleman, and, unfortunately, our church has been damaged, and needs a new roof. We thought you might be willing to subscribe toward it.'"

"There was a man who had just stood up a railroad asked to give money away, but he was equal to the occasion, when he pulled from his pocket a nickel, and poising it on his finger, replied:

"'Ladies, I am now balancing a cash account. It appears small to you, no doubt, but in truth it represents all the money I possess. If this show does any business here, I'll not only contribute toward repairing your church, but I'll put a new roof on it.'

"The two performances that day netted the old man $150, paid for the next jump, and out of it was donated $100 to the church."

"If!"

London Punch.

("Had the war not broken out, Lord Lansdowne would have easily ranked as the best War Minister of recent times."—Daily Telegraph.

It's really very hard to know what one would
wish to be!
I'd like to be a sailor if it weren't for the sea;
I'd like to be a parson if I hadn't got to
preach;
I'd like to be a teacher, but I'd simply hate to
teach.

I'd like to be a burglar if it weren't for the
p'lice;
I'd like to be a soldier if we always were at
peace;
I'd like to be the Speaker if the session were
abolished;
I'd like to have the woolsack were the House
of Lords demolished.

But of all the great professions which I'd
gladly claim as mine,
There's one par excellence to which my long-
ing thoughts incline;
For nothing in the universe would suit my tal-
ents more
Than being made War Minister if there was
never war.

Downing, Hopkins & Co.
WH