FARMERS HOLD ON

Year-End Sales in Wheat Market Are Light.

MORE CALIFORNIA INQUIRY

Trade in Barley, Oats and Flour Is Quieter—Crop Conditions in Foreign Exporting Countries. Big Holiday Demand.

WHEAT—Expected selling movement does not materialize.
FLOUR—Oriental demand light.
HOPS—Full prices being paid in country.
POULTRY—Steady movement in turkeys at unchanged prices.
EGGS—Market overstocked, slow and lower.
BUTTER—Active movement at fairly firm prices.
VEGETABLES — California produce cleans up.

The wheat market is still dragging. Dealers rather expected that there would be something of a selling spurt about this time by farmers who would want to close up their accounts with banks before the turn of the year, but so far it has not materialized. Holders are evidently in good enough financial shape to keep possession of their crops until they get ready to sell, and an uninteresting market is therefore looked for during the remainder of the season. It is estimated that fully 75 per cent of the Northwestern crop has been disposed of, and the remaining 25 per cent will doubtless be worked off gradually. Export prices are entirely nominal in the absence of foreign business. A moderate amount of trading on California account is again reported.

Both oats and barley are quiet now, but prices hold to a very steady basis. The export flour market is very slow at the moment. Some inquiries as to prices are received from the Japanese, but they do not result in business.

Conditions of crops in foreign exporting countries were thus reported by Broomhall's Corn Trade News of December 5:

Russia—Latest crop reports have continued quite favorable. The situation at the ports is very uncertain, but people naturally hope for the best. Shipments last week were large, and we can be sure that holders will continue to ship away their stuff as fast as they possibly can.

India—We are still without news of general rains, and season is now getting well advanced. The officials do not consider the situation as serious and it is certain that there is still ample time for good crops to be obtained in the late regions, but although these are the chief exporters, yet there will not be a good harvest if the other districts fare badly. Moderate quantities continue to be exported, and we should certainly see an increase if there were an improvement in crop prospects.

Australia—The tail end of the old crop is being shipped out and, as we showed last week, prospects for the new season are fair.

Argentina—The government has announced that the November frosts did only insignificant damage to the crops, and our own agent at Buenos Ayres continues to send favorable reports concerning wheat. On the other hand, more or less unfavorable reports continue to be circulated in America, and it is generally acknowledged that the flaxseed crop is disappointing, one cable lately received in Liverpool putting the outturn 20 per cent below last year's. Shipments of wheat last week were large, but much of the stuff was for non-European destinations.

GOOD DEMAND FOR TURKEYS.

Prices Steadily Maintained Up to the Close—Eggs Are Lower.

As was expected, receipts of turkeys yesterday were lighter than on Thursday, and an active demand cleaned up most of the offerings. Prices held steady around 20 and 21 cents for good average fowls. Some extra fancy turkeys brought 22 cents, and on the other hand, culls sold low, most of the No. 2 stock going at 17 and 18 cents. One very poor lot only brought 8 cents. Geese and ducks also moved well, but chickens were again a drug on the market, with 10 cents as the top and few buyers at that.

Eggs dropped to 30 cents flat. Purchasers continue to hold off and stocks to accumulate, which does not promise well for the market in the coming week.

The movement in butter was sufficient to keep stocks down, and the feeling was therefore firm.

The cheese market was strong, active and unchanged.

ELEVEN-CENT HOP BUSINESS.

Horst Buys in Eugene at That Price—Purchases by Seavey & Metzler.

Another 11-cent hop purchase was made by the E. Clemens Horst Company yesterday. Their agent, Hayes, at Eugene, bought the Rhodes lot at that figure, amounting to 150 bales.

Ernest Wells, the Portland agent of the company, accepted the Miller lot, bought at Hillsboro, Tuesday.

Seavey & Metzler yesterday purchased the Knox Bros.' lot of 70 bales at Eugene at 10 cents. They have also purchased the G. H. Cone lot of 68 bales at Butteville at the same price.

Fruits and Vegetables Active.

Holiday buying in the fruit and vegetable line practically came to a close yesterday afternoon. The week was a highly successful one and everybody is satisfied. All the California truck received by steamer and by rail was cleaned up, and several other lines, such as oranges, bananas and sweet potatoes, ran very low. The next arrivals announced are a car of celery and a car of sweets, due Tuesday.

Bank Clearings.

Bank clearings of the Northwestern cities yesterday were as follows:

	Clearings.	Balances.
Portland	$ 808,578	$155,551
Seattle	668,068	140,128
Tacoma	771,217	33,786
Spokane	685,178	34,485

PORTLAND QUOTATIONS.

Grain, Flour, Feed, Etc.

FLOUR—Patents, $4.30@4.70 per barrel; straights, $3.80@4.10; clears, $3.60@3.80; Valley, $3.60@3.90; Dakota hard wheat, patents, $5.50@6; clears, $5; graham, $3.20@3.75; whole wheat, $3.75@4; rye flour, local, $5; Eastern, $5.25@5.50; cornmeal, per bale, $1.90@2.20.

Wheat—Export: Club, 71@72c; bluestem, 73@74c; red, 67@68c; Valley, 72c.

MILLSTUFFS—Bran, $17.50@18 per ton; middlings, $24.50; shorts, $18.50@19; chop, U. S. Mills, $17.50; Linseed Dairy Food, $18; Acalfa meal, $18 per ton.

OATS—No. 1 white feed, $27; gray, $26.50 per ton.

BARLEY—Feed, $22@22.50 per ton; brewing, $22.50@23; rolled, $23@23.50.

RYE—$1.50 per cental.

CEREAL FOODS—Rolled oats, cream, 90-pound sacks, $4.75; lower grades, $3.25@4.50; oatmeal, steel-cut, 50-pound sacks, $5 per barrel; 10-pound sacks, $4.25 per bale; oatmeal (ground), 50-pound sacks, $7.50 per barrel; 10-pound sacks, $4 per bale; split peas, $6 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—Eastern Oregon timothy, $14.50@15.50 per ton; Valley timothy, $11@12; clover, $8@9; cheat, $8.50@9.50; grain hay, $8@9.

Vegetables, Fruit, Etc.

DOMESTIC FRUITS—Apples, $1@2.50 per box; persimmons, $1.25 per box; pears, $1.25@1.50 per box; cranberries, $13@13.50 per barrel.

TROPICAL FRUITS—Lemons, $2@3.75 per box; oranges, navels, $2.75@3 per box; Japanese, $1.50 per double box; grapefruit, $3.50@4.50; pineapples, $2.50@4.50 per dozen; tangerines, $1.75 per box; bananas, 4½@6c per pound.

FRESH VEGETABLES—Artichokes, $1@1.25 per dozen; beans, 10@12½c per pound; cabbage, 1½c per pound; cauliflower, $1.25 per dozen; celery, 40@75c per dozen; cucumbers, 50@60c per dozen; eggplant, 5½c per pound; head lettuce, 40c per dozen; hothouse, $1@1.25 per box; peppers, 6c per pound; pumpkins, ¾@1c pound; radishes, 25c per dozen; tomatoes, $1.75 per crate; sprouts, 7c per pound; squash, ¾@1c per pound.

ROOT VEGETABLES—Turnips, 90c@$1 per sack; carrots, 65@75c per sack; beets, 85c@$1 per sack; garlic, 12½c per pound.

ONIONS—Oregon, $1@1.25 per sack.

POTATOES—Buying prices: Fancy graded Burbanks, 65@75c per sack; ordinary, 55@60c; Merced sweets, sacks, $1.90; crates, $2.75.

DRIED FRUITS—Apples, 11@12c per pound; apricots, 12@12½c; peaches, 10½@12½c; prunes, none; Italian prunes, 5½@6½c; California figs, white, in sacks, 5½c per pound; black, 4@5c; bricks, 12-14 ounce packages, 75@85c per box; 8-ounce, $2@2.40; Smyrna, 20c per pound; dates, Persian, 5½@6c per pound.

RAISINS—Seeded, 12-ounce packages, 8@8½c; 16-ounce, 9½@10c; loose muscatels, 2-crown, 7@7½c; 3-crown, 7½@7¾c; 4-crown, 8@8½c; unbleached seedless Sultanas, 6@7c; Thompson's seedless unbleached, 8@8½c; Thompson's fancy unbleached, 12@12½c; London layers, 3-crown, whole boxes of 20 pounds, $1.75; 2-crown, $2.

Butter, Eggs, Poultry, Etc.

BUTTER—City creameries: Extra creamery, 30@32½c per pound. State creameries: Fancy creamery, 27½@30c; store butter, 16@16½c.

EGGS—Oregon ranch, 30c; Eastern, 25c per dozen.

CHEESE—Oregon full cream, twins, 14½@15c; Young America, 15½@16c.

POULTRY — Average old hens, 10c; young roosters, 9c; Springs, 10c; broilers, 12@15c; dressed chickens, 12@12½c; turkeys, live, 16@17c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 17@21c; geese, live, pound, 9@10c; geese, dressed, per pound, 12@13c; ducks, 15@16c; pigeons, $1.25@2; squabs, $2@2.50.

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, 100c, $14.25; 50s, $14.25; Arbuckle, $15.85; Lion, $15.15.

RICE—Imperial Japan, No. 1, 5½c; Southern Japan, 5.35c; head, 7c.

SALMON—Columbia River, 1-pound talls, $1.75 per dozen; 2-pound talls, $2.40; 1-pound flats, $1.85; fancy, 1½-pound flats, $1.80; ½-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, $5.99; powdered, $5.65; dry granulated, $5.55; extra C, $5.10; golden C, $4.80; fruit sugar, $5.55; advances over sack basis as follows: Barrels, 10c; ½-barrels, 25c; boxes, 50c per 100 pounds. (Terms: On remittance with 15 days deduct ¼c per pound; if later than 15 days and within 30 days, deduct ½c per pound; no discount after 30 days). Beet sugar, granulated, $5.35 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, $17; 50s, $17.50.

NUTS—Walnuts, 15½c per pound by sack; ¼c extra for less than sack; Brazil nuts, 16c; filberts, 16c; pecans, jumbos, 16c; extra large, 17c; almonds, 18½@19c; chestnuts, Italian, 12½@16c; Chile, 20c; peanuts, raw, 7½c pound; roasted, 9c; pinenuts, 10@12c; hickory nuts, 7½@8c; cocoanuts, $5@6c per dozen.

BEANS—Small white, 4c; large white, 3½c; pink, 2½c; bayou, 4½c; Lima, 5½c; red Mexican, 8c.

Provisions and Canned Meats.

HAMS—10 to 14 pounds, 12½c per pound; 14 to 16 pounds, 12½c; 18 to 20 pounds, 12½c; California (picnic), 8c; cottage hams, 8½c; shoulders, 8c; boiled ham, 19c; boiled picnic ham, boneless, 16c.

BACON—Fancy breakfast, 18½c per pound; standard breakfast, 16½c; choice, 15½c; English breakfast, 11 to 14 pounds, 14½c; peach bacon, 15½c.

PICKLED GOODS—Pork, barrels, $18; 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, 5½c; weiners, 8c; liver, 6c; pork, 9@10c; headcheese, 6c; blood, 6c; bologna sausage, link, 4½c.

CANNED MEATS—Corned beef, pounds, per dozen, $1.25; two pounds, $2.25; six pounds, $7. Roast beef, flat, pounds, $1.25; two pounds, $2.25; six pounds, none. Roast beef, tall, pounds, none; two pounds, $2.35; six pounds $7. Lunch tongue, pounds, $2.75. Roast mutton, six pounds, $8.50.

DRY SALT CURED—Regular short clears, dry salt, 10½c; smoked, 11½c; clear bellies, dry salt 10½, smoked 11½c; clear bellies, 14 to 17 pounds average, none; Oregon exports, 20 to 25 pounds average, dry salt 11c, smoked 12c; Union bellies, 10 to 18 pounds average, none.

LARD—Leaf lard, kettle rendered: Tierces, 10½c; tubs, 10½c; 50s, 10½c; 20s, 11c; 10s, 11½c; 5s, 11½c. Standard pure: Tierces, 9½c; tubs, 9½c; 50s, 9½c; 20s, 10c; 10s, 10½c; 5s, 10½c. Compound: Tierces, 6½c; tubs, 6½c; 50s, 6½c; 10s, 7¼c; 5s, 7½c.

Hops, Wools, Hides, Etc.

HOPS—Oregon, 1905, choice, 10@11½c; prime, 8½@9½c; medium, 8c; olds, 5@7c.

WOOL—Eastern Oregon average best, 16@21c; Valley, 24@26c per pound.

MOHAIR—Choice, 30c per pound.

HIDES—Dry hides: No. 1, 16 pounds and up, 16½@18c per pound; dry kip, No. 1, 8 to 10 pounds, 15@16c per pound; dry calf, No. 1, under 5 pounds, 17@19c; dry salted, bulls and stags, one-third less than dry flint; (culls, worm-eaten, badly cut, scored, murrain, hair-clipped, weather-beaten or grubby, 2@3c per pound less). Salted hides: Steers, sound, 60 pounds and over, 10@11c per pound; 50 to 60 pounds, 8½@10c per pound; under 50 and cows, 8c per pound; salted kip, sound, 15 to 30 pounds, 8c per pound; salted veal, sound, 10 to 14 pounds, 9@10c pound; salted calf, sound, 10 to 14 pounds, 10@11c pound; (green unsalted, 1c per pound less; culls, 1c per pound less). Sheepskins: Shearlings, No. 1 butchers' stock, 25@30c each; short wool, No. 1 butchers' stock, 40@50c each; medium wool, No. 1 butchers' stock, 60@80c; long wool No. 1 butchers' stock, $1.00@1.50 each. Murrain pelts from 10 to 20 per cent less or 12@14c per pound; horse hides, salted, each, according to size, $1@1.50; colts' hides, 25@50c each; goatskins, common, 10@15c each; Angora, with wool on, 20c@$1.50 each.

BEESWAX—Good, clean and pure, 29@22c per pound.

TALLOW—Prime, per pound, 3½@3¾c; No. 2 and grease, 2@3c.

FURS—Bearskins, as to size, No. 1, $2.50@10 each; cubs, $1@2; badger, 25@50c; wildcat, with head perfect, 25@50c; house cats, 5@10c; fox, common gray, 50@75c; red, $2@5; cross, $5@15; silver and black, $100@200; fishers, $5@6; lynx, $4.50@6; mink, strictly No. 1, according to size, $1@2.50; marten, dark Northern, according to size and color, $10@15; marten, pale, pine, according to size and color, $2.50@4; muskrat, large, 10@15c; skunk, 40@50c; civet or polecat, 5@10c; otter, large, prime skin, $8@10; panther, with head and claws perfect, $2@5; raccoon, prime, 30@50c; mountain wolf, with head perfect, $3.50@5; coyote, 60c@$1; wolverine, $6@8; beaver, per skin, large, $5@6; medium, $3@4; small, $1@1.50; kits, 50@75c.

CASCARA SAGRADA (chittam bark)—2½@3c, according to quality.

Dressed Meats.

BEEF—Dressed bulls, 1@2c per pound; cows, 3@4c; country steers, 4@4½c.

VEAL—Dressed, 70 to 125 pounds, 7½@8c; 125 to 200 pounds, 5½@5c; 200 pounds and up, 3@3½c.

MUTTON—Dressed, fancy, 6@6½c per pound; ordinary, 4@5c; lambs, 7@7½c.

PORK—Dressed, 100 to 150 pounds, 7c; 150 and up, 6@6½c per pound.

Oils.

TURPENTINE—Cases, 89c per gallon.

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.)

COAL OIL—Cases, $2.05 per case; iron barrels, 15c per gallon; wood barrels, 18c.

GASOLINE—Stove gasoline, cases, 23½c; 72 test, 27c; 86 test, 33c; iron tanks, 19c.

LINSEED OIL—Raw, in barrels, 81c; in cases, 86c; boiled, in barrels, 83c; in cases, 88c; 250-gallon lots, 1c less.

Dried Fruit at New York.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—The market for evaporated apples continues very firm, and there are rumors that prime fruit has sold as high as 9½c. Common to good are quoted at 7@8½c; nearly prime, 9@9½c; prime, 9½@9¾c; choice, 10½c, and fancy, 11@12c.

Prunes are in fair demand at prices ranging from 4½@8c for spot.

Apricots are firm, although business is very quiet. Choice are quoted at 9½@10c; extra choice, 10½@10¾c, and fancy, 11@12c.

Peaches are unchanged, with extra choice quoted at 10c; fancy, 10½@11c; extra fancy, 11½@12c.

Raisins are unchanged; loose muscatels are quoted at 5¾@7½c; seeded raisins, 5¼@9c, and London layers, $1.60.

Dairy Produce in the East.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—On the Produce Exchange today the butter market was firm; creamery, 17@24½c; dairy, 17@20c. Eggs, firm, cases included, at mark, 18@22c; firsts, 22c; prime firsts, 26c; extras, 28c. Cheese, firm, 11½@12c.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—Butter, firm; extra creamery, 28@29½c; cheese, firm; eggs, strong; Western finest selected, 29@30c.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 22.—Wheat, December, 6s 10½d; March, 6s 11½d; May, 6s 9½d. The weather in England today is cloudy.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 22.—Wool, steady; territory and Western mediums, 26@30c; fine mediums, 22@26c; fine, 18@21c.

DEAL IN TRACTIONS

Stock Market Interest Centers in Street Railway Issues.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MERGER

New York Lines Show Good Net Gains—Union Pacific Goes to New High Record—Market Broad and Active.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—Interest in the stock market converged very largely in the shares of the local transportation companies. These issues were very strong and active on the announcement of a virtual conclusion of negotiations whereby the Metropolitan Street Railway Company and its allied interests come under control of the Interborough Rapid Transit Company, thus giving the latter interests practically a monopoly of all the traction facilities on Manhattan Island.

Some sort of a deal involving these important interests has been expected for a long time, but its exact form was always a matter of idle speculation. The exact details of the deal were not obtainable during market hours today, but enough was learned to indicate that the transfer would be effected on terms satisfactory to the purchasers. The new interests in Metropolitan are said to include several prominent individuals identified with the Pennsylvania and other great railway systems. So far as could be learned, the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company is not included in the deal, as it now stands, but the fact that representatives of that company were in conference with the new Metropolitan interests today was regarded as more than a mere coincidence. Change of control of Metropolitan is said to carry with it important concession in the way of proposed subway extensions. It is not unlikely that new securities will be issued for those outstanding in the name of the Metropolitan Company. At any rate, it is understood the transfer from old to new interests will involve a comparatively small cash outlay.

The tractions led the market from the outset, thousands of shares of Metropolitan Street Railway and Metropolitan Securities making initial gains of 2 to 4 points. Interborough opened on the curb with an advance of over 8 points and was the feature of that market throughout, attaining a new high record. Net gains of these issues for the day were 2% for Metropolitan Street Railway, 4% for Metropolitan Securities and 5 for Interborough.

Transactions in these stocks, as a group, constituted the major portion of the day's business, although the general market later became broad and active in the face of a 16-per-cent money rate. The prevailing rate of the day, however, was nearer 8 per cent. Shares of the Pennsylvania Railway and subsidiary companies, including Reading, B. & O., C. & O., Norfolk & Western and P., C., C. & St. L., were especially strong. Union Pacific went to a new high record and an active demand for Southern Pacific advanced that stock a point with St. Paul, and the Northwestern and Atchison participating in the day's general advances. The only high-class railway issue to display weakness was Illinois Central.

Aside from the movements in Sugar and Virginia-Carolina Chemical, there were no noteworthy movements in the industrial group. Surprise was expressed at the failure of the United States Steel issues to make more immediate response to the favorable trade conditions. The market reacted slightly in the last hour, but rallied in the final trading and the closing was strong. Lorillard was scarcely a factor here, trading in less than 15,000 shares, practically all sales. Forecasts of the week's money movements point to a small gain by the banks, despite the very heavy outflow.

Bonds were steady. Total sales, par value, $2,400,000. United States new 4s declined ¼ per cent on call.

CLOSING STOCK QUOTATIONS.

	Sales.	High.	Low.	Closing bid.
Adams Express	.....	.....	.....	235
Amalgamated Copper	35,900	99	98	98¾
Am. Car & Foundry	1,900	39¾	39	39¼
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	90½
American Cotton Oil	7,300	58¾	57¾	58¼
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	90½
American Express	.....	.....	.....	221
Am. Hd. & Lth. pfd.	7,500	43½	39½	42
American Ice	700	33½	33½	33½
Amer. Linseed Oil	800	20¾	20	20¾
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	41½
American Locomotive	6,200	68¾	67	68¼
do preferred	600	116¾	115	116
Am. Smelt. & Refin.	12,200	162	160	160¾
do preferred	100	127½	127½	127½
Am. Sugar Refining	29,700	152	150¾	151½
Amer. Tobacco pfd.	.....	.....	.....	105
Anaconda Mining Co.	9,500	192	191	190½
Atchison	19,000	88¼	86½	87¾
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	101
Atlantic Coast Line	.....	.....	.....	138
Baltimore & Ohio	17,600	113½	111½	112½
do preferred	200	98½	98½	97½
Brook. Rap. Transit	144,000	91¾	89¾	89¾
Canadian Pacific	20,000	174¾	172¾	173½
Central Leather	900	45¾	45	44¾
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	103
Central of N. Jersey	.....	.....	.....	220
Chesapeake & Ohio	2,200	55¾	54¾	54¾
Chicago & Alton	.....	.....	.....	30
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	72
Chicago Gt. Western	500	21	20¾	20¾
Chicago & Northwest	5,200	221	219¾	222½
Chi., Mil. & St. Paul	25,800	181¾	180¼	180½
Chi. Term. & Transit	.....	.....	.....	14
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	32
C., C., C. & St. Louis	800	105	104½	104½
Colorado Fuel & Iron	28,900	56¾	53¾	55¾
Colorado & Southern	900	28¾	28	28
do 1st preferred	.....	.....	.....	67½
do 2d preferred	2,500	47½	47	47
Consolidated Gas	7,100	180	178¼	178¾
Corn Products	.....	.....	.....	15
do preferred	400	36¾	36	35
Delaware & Hudson	.....	.....	.....	222
Del., Lack. & West.	.....	.....	.....	450
Denver & Rio Grande	.....	.....	.....	36¾
do preferred	100	90	90	89¾
Distillers' Securities	13,900	53¾	52¾	52¾
Erie	11,200	47½	46¾	47
do 1st preferred	100	79¾	79¾	79¾
do 2d preferred	500	72¼	71¾	72¼
General Electric	900	176¾	174¾	175¼
Hocking Valley	.....	.....	.....	100
Illinois Central	4,200	176	173½	174¼
International Paper	1,000	23¾	22½	22½
do preferred	2,400	85	82¾	84¾
International Pump	.....	.....	.....	36
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	78½
Iowa Central	500	28¾	28	28
do preferred	400	58½	58	58¼
Kansas City Southern	8,100	35	34	34¾
do preferred	2,900	68	66	67¾
Louisville & Nashv.	4,900	151¾	150¾	151
Manhattan L.	1,200	164	162½	162½
Met. Securities	105,800	86½	80½	82¾
Metropolitan St. Ry.	145,300	130½	126	127¾
Mexican Central	4,400	25¾	25	25¼
Minn. & St. Louis	2,400	79¾	79½	79
M., St. P. & S. S. M.	2,000	140	138½	140
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	166
Missouri Pacific	2,100	102½	102	102¾
Mo., Kans. & Texas	3,200	37¾	37¼	37¼
do preferred	400	71	70¾	70¾
National Lead	1,400	86½	85	85¾
Mex. Nat. R. R. pfd.	.....	.....	.....	34¾
New York Central	13,900	151¾	150¾	151
N. Y., Ont. & West.	1,000	51¾	51	51¼
Norfolk & Western	4,600	84½	83¾	83¾
do preferred	400	93	92	92
Northern Pacific	1,300	204¾	202	204½
North American	1,400	96¾	96½	96¾
Pacific Mail	1,800	46¾	46	46¾
Pennsylvania	147,500	142¾	141¼	142¾
People's Gas	5,600	100¾	99¾	100
P., C., C. & St. Louis	3,600	86¾	82	84
Pressed Steel Car	.....	.....	.....	34¾
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	90½
Pullman Palace Car	.....	.....	.....	242
Reading	23,700	138¾	136¾	137½
do 1st preferred	400	92	91¾	91¾
do 2d preferred	200	96	96	95½
Republic Steel	1,700	32	29¾	32¾
do preferred	200	103	102½	102¾
Rock Island Co.	1,100	23¾	23	23¾
do preferred	1,200	62½	61¾	62
Rubber Goods	100	41½	41½	41
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	105
Schloss-Sheffield	700	88¼	87½	88
St. L. & S. F. 2d pfd.	700	50¾	49¾	47½
St. Louis Southwest.	.....	.....	.....	28
do preferred	100	59	59	58
Southern Pacific	81,500	66¾	65¾	66¼
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	117½
Southern Railway	3,300	35¾	34¾	35¼
do preferred	300	90	90¾	90¾
Tenn. Coal & Iron	900	137½	136½	136½
Texas & Pacific	100	25¾	25¾	25¾
Tol., St. L. & West.	400	34¾	30	30¾
do preferred	200	57¾	57¾	57¾
Union Pacific	209,300	149¾	148¾	149
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	96
U. S. Express	.....	.....	.....	114
U. S. Realty	.....	.....	.....	88
U. S. Rubber	1,300	52¾	52¾	52¾
do preferred	200	110	109¾	109½
U. S. Steel	74,800	38¾	37¾	38¾
do preferred	28,100	105¾	104¾	104¾
Virg.-Caro. Chemical	30,900	48¾	46¾	46¾
do preferred	1,100	115¾	115½	115
Wabash	100	20¾	20¾	20¾
do preferred	200	40½	40¾	40¾
Wells-Fargo Express	.....	.....	.....	227
Westinghouse Elect.	.....	.....	.....	174
Western Union	100	92¾	92¾	92¾
Wheeling & L. Erie	.....	.....	.....	17½
Wisconsin Central	400	29	28½	28¾
do preferred	500	60½	59	59½

Total sales for the day, 1,351,400 shares.

BONDS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—Closing quotations:

U. S. ref. 2's reg.	102¾	D. & R. G. 4s	101½
do coupon	103½	N. Y. C. Gn. 3½s	99¾
U. S. 3's reg.	102¾	N. Pac. 3s	77
do coupon	102¾	N. Pac. 4s	100½
U. S. new 4s reg	136½	So. Pacific 4s	95¾
do coupon	136½	Union Pac. 4s	106½
U. S. old 4s reg.	102¾	Wis. Cen. 4s	95
do coupon	103¾	Jap. 6s, 2d ser.	98¾
Atchison Adj. 4s	94	Jap. 4½s, cer.	92

Stocks at London.

LONDON, Dec. 22.—Consols for money, 89¼; consols for account, 89¼.

Anaconda	9½	Norfolk & West.	88
Atchison	88¾	do preferred	95
do preferred	107	Ont. & Western	32¾
Baltimore & O.	114¾	Pennsylvania	72¾
Can. Pacific	177½	Rand Mines	7
Ches. & Ohio	55¾	Reading	70¼
C. Gt. Western	21½	do 1st pref.	47¼
C., B. & Q.	183	do 2d pref.	40
De Beers	17¾	So. Railway	35¾
D. & R. Grande	37	do preferred	102½
do preferred	91¾	So. Pacific	67
Erie	48¾	Union Pacific	150¾
do 1st pref.	81¾	do preferred	100
do 2d pref.	74	U. S. Steel	38¾
Ill. Central	180½	do preferred	107¼
L. & Nashville	153	Wabash	21
Mo., Kan. & T.	38¾	do preferred	41½
N. Y. Central	156¼	Spanish Fours	91¾

Money Exchange, Etc.

NEW YORK, Dec. 22.—Prime mercantile paper, 5½@6 per cent.

Sterling exchange, firm, with actual business in bankers' bills at $4.8625@4.8640 for demand, and at $4.8305@4.8310 for 60 days. Posted rates, $4.85½ and $4.86½@4.87; commercial bills, $4.82½@4.82¾.

Bar silver, 65¼c.

Mexican dollars, 50c.

Government bonds, easy; railroads, steady; money on call, strong, 6@15 per cent; ruling rate, 10; closing bid, 6; offered at 8 per cent. Time money, strong, demand good; 60, 90 days, 6 per cent and commission; six months, 6 per cent.

LONDON, Dec. 22. — Bar silver, steady, 30 1-16d per ounce. Money, 2¾@3¼ per cent. Discount rate for short bills, 3¾@4 per cent; three months' bills, 3¾ per cent.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 22.—Silver bars, 65¼c. Mexican dollars, nominal. Drafts, sight, 8c; telegraph, 10c. Sterling, 60 days, $4.83¼; sight, $4.86¼.

Note.—No session until Tuesday, December 26.

Daily Treasury Statement.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Today's statement of the Treasury balances in the general fund, exclusive of the $150,000,000 gold reserve, shows:

Available cash balances	$128,201,773
Gold coin and bullion	87,173,699
Gold certificates	51,581,300

MARKET LACKS SUPPORT

WHEAT HEAVY AT CHICAGO THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

Liquidating Sales by Commission-Houses and Shorts—Large Shipments From Argentina.

CHICAGO, Dec. 22.—Weakness in the wheat market developed within the first few minutes of trading and continued until the close of the session. Liquidating sales by commission houses, supplemented by aggressive short selling on the part of local bears, caused declines ranging from ½ to 1¾c. The greatest pressure was on the December option. This was due to the increasing local stocks, which it was said might compel longs to take large quantities of cash grain on December contracts. Shipments from Argentina for the week were larger than the estimates, and primary receipts were unexpectedly heavy. During the day the market lacked positive support and the feeling was heavy until the close. May opened unchanged to a shade lower at 87⅝c and ranged from 87⅝@87½c, sold off to 87c and closed off ⅝c at 87@87¼c.

Liquidation of the December delivery was the feature of the trading in corn. As a result of this selling, the price of that option declined 1c. May closed ⅛@¼c lower at 44⅝@44½c.

Oats were depressed by the weakness of other grains. May closed ⅛c lower.

Provisions were weak on the decline in the price of live hogs. At the close, May pork was off 2½c, lard was down 2½@5c and ribs were a shade lower.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

WHEAT.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
December	$ .83⅝	$ .83⅝	$ .82¼	$ .82½
May	.87⅝	.87⅝	.87	.87¼
July	.83½	.83½	.83	.83⅜

CORN.

Dec. (old)	.50	.50	.49	.49
Dec. (new)	.45¼	.45¼	.44¾	.44¾
May	.44⅝	.44⅝	.44¼	.44¼
July	.44½	.44⅝	.44⅜	.44½

OATS.

December	.30¾	.30¾	.30¾	.30¾
May	.32	.32	.31¾	.31¾
July	.30¾	.30¾	.30¾	.30¾

MESS PORK.

January	13.45	13.52½	13.45	13.47½
May	13.60	13.67½	13.60	13.60

LARD.

December	.....	.....	.....	7.45
January	7.42½	7.45	7.35	7.37½
May	7.42½	7.45	7.32½	7.40

SHORT RIBS.

January	7.10	7.10	7.02½	7.02½
May	7.22½	7.27½	7.22½	7.22½
July	7.35	7.40	7.35	7.35

Cash quotations were as follows:

Flour—Dull, prices unchanged.

Wheat—No. 2 Spring, 84@86c; No. 3, 80@82½c; No. 2 red, 87½@87¾c.

Corn—No. 2, 49c; No. 2 yellow, 49c.

Oats—No. 2, 30¾c; No. 2 white, 31½@32c; No. 2 white, 29¾@31c.

Rye—No. 2, 65@66c.

Barley—Good feeding, 37½@37½c; fair to choice malting, 41@49c.

Flaxseed—No. 1, $1.03; No. 1 Northwestern, $1.08½.

Timothy seed—Prime, $3.35.

Mess pork—Per barrel, $12.75@12.80.

Lard—Per 100 pounds, $7.42½@7.45.

Short ribs sides—Loose, $6.90@7.10.

Short clear sides—Boxed, $7.12½@7.25.

Clover—Contract grade, $13.

	Receipts.	Shipments.
Flour, barrels	18,200	37,