EXPECT NO CHANGE

Grocers Are Closely Watching the Sugar Market.

NEW COMPANY IN FIELD

Spreckels Buys Raw Material in Cuba to Make Up for Deficiency in Hawaiian Islands—Eastern Markets Strong.

SUGAR—New Hawaiian company's output will soon be on market.

WHEAT—Extra seed requirements expected.

FLOUR—No new export business reported.

VEGETABLES—Large receipts do not cause lower prices of vegetables.

FRUIT—Portland-bound bananas still detained at Billings. Oranges advance in Southern California.

BUTTER—Weaker feeling on Front street.

EGGS—Receipts heaviest of present week.

POULTRY—Firm on light arrivals.

HOPS—Sales in Harrisburg district.

Grocers, both wholesale and retail, are watching the sugar market with interest these days. The new refinery of the American-Hawaiian Company, at Crockett, Cal., will be turning out its product soon, and the trade will then know what policy the independent company has decided upon. The Crockett refinery received its first cargo of raw sugar from the islands a short time ago. It was first announced that its sugar would be on the market March 1, and then the date was set for March 15. Now the time fixed is March 26, so it is presumed the Hawaiians will be heard from very soon.

The general opinion that has been expressed from the start by the best posted jobbers is that there will be no clash between the rival interests. The new competitor is believed to have entered the field as a bona fide competitor of the Western refinery, and not for the purpose of selling out, like some of its smaller competitors. Nor is the Spreckels company expected to precipitate a fight, for good, sound business reasons.

As a large part of the Hawaiian output is controlled by the independent company, the Western Refinery is forced to seek for its raw material in other parts of the world, and is said to have chartered several sailing vessels in the past week to load in Cuba for San Francisco.

The general position of the Eastern sugar markets continues very strong, with an upward tendency in raw sugars. A New York broker's weekly circular says of the market:

Last week we said that the chances are that we have seen the lowest prices of the year, and indications point to continued firmness, with a slowly hardening tendency. We are further confirmed in this opinion by the course of the market during the week under review, with quite considerable transactions. Quotations on the spot and for shipment have slightly advanced to 2.44 cents per pound for 96 degrees test centrifugals, duty paid, and its equivalent 2 3-32 cents c. and f. for Cuban sugars. The advance is not important, but the fact remains that there are chances of a hardening tendency which should lead to further improvement. The important feature tending in this direction is the fact that Cuban planters are selling so far below the Hamburg parity for beet sugars, now 29 cents, as to cause a loss to them of nearly all the concessions made under the Cuban reciprocity treaty. While prices of beet sugars continue steady, and even have an advancing tendency, it is natural to suppose that after the liberal sales made by Cuba of her first production from crop, she will be able to maintain a firmer position for the remainder of the crop, especially as at this time the total crop production to date is considerably less than at the corresponding time last season, although by no means too late to be recovered from before the end of the campaign. Our special cable from Cuba gives production to March 1 of 323,411 tons, against 539,194 tons for same time last year, and total stock in the island of 128,828 tons, against 239,392 tons on same date last year.

According to the Belgian journal, La Meuse, of Liege, the total beet-sugar crop of Europe for 1905-6 is estimated at 6,855,000 tons, which is an increase of almost 50 per cent over that of the previous year. It is thought that the excess production for the current year will be about 2,150,000 tons of raw sugar, as compared with the actual production of the year preceding, which would make the product for 1906 the largest in the history of the industry.

ASPARAGUS PRICES HOLD UP.

Advance at San Francisco Prevents Decline Here on Large Receipts.

The steamer produce unloaded yesterday morning was in first-class condition, and met with a prompt demand. A large quantity of asparagus was received, and in the natural course of things a drop in prices was expected, but San Francisco advices reported a higher market there, and the local price was therefore held at 9 cents in box lots and 10 cents for broken boxes.

The three cars of bananas that were detained at Billings by the storm are still there. Three cars of oranges were unloaded yesterday. Fancy lemons are very scarce, and have advanced to $3.25. Choice lemons are plentiful here and in the South.

As Florida tomatoes have become a feature of the early markets in that section, the following from a New York paper regarding the crop of that state will be of interest:

Private mail advices to a well-known New York firm from one of their members down in Florida, received this week, state that the tomato crop on the Florida east coast this season will be very light. Washouts, floods and continued heavy rains have done the damage, and it is estimated that the total output of the east coast this season will not exceed 300,000 crates, with that output centralized to a very great extent. Such comparatively high spots at Dania, Fort Lauderdale, Boynton and Coolahatchee escaped comparatively lightly, and will be among the principal shipping stations. Cutler was wiped off the map as far as tomato shipments this season are concerned, the rains having put it clean out of business.

Some buyers, the writer states, have contracted for tomato crops on the basis of $2.25 for fancy and $1.50 for choice, taking everything up to May 10, being strengthened in this point of view by the undoubted scarcity of the crop. Big prices have already been obtained, one grower around Little River, it is reported, having received over $7 net for tomatoes shipped to Chicago.

MORE SEED WHEAT REQUIRED.

Cold Weather Will Cut Down Available Supply for Milling and Shipment.

Conflicting reports are coming in of the damage caused to the Winter wheat crop in the land Empire by the cold snap. Some section report practically no injury, while elsewhere it is said whole sections will have to be resown. It is conceded that a considerable quantity of wheat that would otherwise have come to tidewater will be kept in the interior for seeding purposes, and in view of the lightness of stocks, there may be some difficulty in filling requirements during the remainder of the season. There was not much life to the market yesterday and prices were unchanged, though improvement was shown in the Eastern and foreign trade. A Portland cargo of bluestem was sold in Liverpool yesterday at 30s, which, on the union freight rate, is equivalent to the prevailing quotations here.

The export flour market is reported to be very dull. The Japanese are well stocked up and are not expected to be in the market for a month yet, and no hope is held out for a revival of the Chinese demand soon. A number of inquiries have been received from Vladivostok, but it is said they have not resulted in business.

WEAKER FEELING IN BUTTER.

Lower Prices Looked for on Front Street. Receipts of Eggs Large.

A weaker feeling is noted in the butter market on Front street. Arrivals clean up fairly well, but supplies are steadily increasing. The city creameries are also fully supplied, and some of them have a surplus. California butter is being ordered more freely.

Egg receipts were large yesterday, aggregating over 300 cases, and more difficulty was found in maintaining the ruling quotation of 16½ cents. Some offers to sell on Front street were made by retailers, who have been getting liberal supplies direct from the country.

Very few coops of poultry arrived, and prices held firm. Some dealers were satisfied with their receipts, but others had orders they could not fill.

Advance in Oranges.

A telegram received from the California Fruitgrowers' Exchange yesterday afternoon announced a sharp advance in oranges in Southern California. All grades up to choice were marked up 15 cents, and fancy 25 cents. This will add further strength to the already strong position of the local market.

Harrisburg Hops Sold.

A quiet but steady demand is reported in the hop market. About 100 bales of Harrisburg hops were bought by local dealers at 9 cents. Growers generally are not disposed to sell.

Bank Clearings.

Bank clearings of the Northwestern cities yesterday were as follows:

	Clearings.	Balances.
Portland	$ 963,547	$139,916
Seattle	1,501,884	308,767
Tacoma	325,689	59,041
Spokane	571,275	98,692

PORTLAND QUOTATIONS.

Grain, Flour, Feed, Etc.

FLOUR—Patents, $3.75@4.30 per barrel; straights, $3.40@3.65; clears, $3.35@3.50; Valley, $3.40@3.65; Dakota hard wheat, patents, $4.80@5, clears, $5; graham, $3.20@3.75; whole wheat, $3.75@4; rye flour, local, $5; Eastern, $5@5.25; cornmeal, per bale, $1.90@2.25.

WHEAT—Club, 60@61c; bluestem, 69@67c; red, 64@65c; Valley, 68c.

OATS—No. 1 white feed, $27.50; gray, $27 per ton.

MILLSTUFFS—Bran, city, $17; country, $18 per ton; middlings, $24.50; shorts, city, $18; country $19 per ton; chop, U. S. Mills, $17.50; linseed dairy food, $18; Acalfa meal, $18 per ton.

CEREAL FOODS—Rolled oats, cream, 90-pounds sacks, $6.75; lower grades, $5.25@6.50; oatmeal, steel-cut, 50-pound sacks, $3 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, $5 per 100-pound sacks; 25-pound boxes, $1.40; pearl barley, $4.25 per 100 pounds; 25-pound boxes, $1.25 per box; pastry flour, 10-pound sacks, $2.50 per bale.

BARLEY—Feed, $23@24 per ton; brewing, $24@24.50; rolled, $24.50@25.50.

BUCKWHEAT—$2.25 per central.

HAY—Eastern Oregon timothy, $13@14 per ton; Valley timothy, $8@9; clover, $7.50@8; cheat, $6@7; grain hay, $7@8.

Vegetables, Fruits, Etc.

DOMESTIC FRUITS—Apples $1@2.50 per box; cranberries, $12.50@14.50 per barrel.

TROPICAL FRUITS—Lemons, $3@3.25 per box; oranges, navels, $2@3.25 box; Japanese, 60c per single box; tangerines, $1.85 per half box; grapefruit, $3@3.25; pineapples, $3.75@4 per dozen; bananas, 5c per pound.

FRESH VEGETABLES—Artichokes, $1@1.25 per dozen; asparagus, 60@10c per pound; beans, 22½c; cabbage, 1½@1½c per pound; cauliflower, $2@2.25 per crate; celery, $4.50@5; chickory, 25c; cucumbers, $1.25@1.50 per dozen; head lettuce, 35@40c per dozen; hothouse, $1.25@1.75; peas, 10@12½c; peppers, 25@40c; radishes, 20c per dozen; rhubarb, $2.25 per box; tomatoes, California, $2.25@2.50 per crate; sprouts, 6@7c per pound; parsley, 25c.

ROOT VEGETABLES—Turnips, 90c@$1 per sack; carrots, 65@75c per sack; beets, 85c@$1 per sack; garlic, 10@12½c per pound.

ONIONS—Buying prices: No. 1, 70@80c per sack; No. 2, nominal.

POTATOES—Buying prices: Fancy graded Burbanks, 50@60c per hundred; ordinary, nominal; sweet potatoes, 2½@2½c per pound.

DRIED FRUITS—Apples, 11@12c per pound; apricots, 12@12½c; peaches, 10½@12½c; pears, none; Italian prunes, 5½@6½c; California figs, white, in sacks, 5½c pound; black, 4@6½c; figs, 12-14 ounce packages, 75@80c per box; 28-ounce, $2@2.40; Smyrna, 20c per pound; dates, Persian, 5½@6c 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 fancy unbleached, 12@12½c; London layers, 3-crown, whole boxes of 20 pounds, $1.75; 2-crown, $2.

Groceries, Nuts, Etc.

COFFEE—Mocha, 29@28c; Java, ordinary, 18@22c; Costa Rica, fancy, 18@20c; good, 16@18c; ordinary, 15@22c per pound; Columbia roast, cases, 100c, $14.75; 50s, $14.75; Arbuckle, $16.38; Lion, $16.38.

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, 1 to 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, $1.25.

SUGAR—Sack basis, 100 pounds: Cube, $6.05; powdered, $5.80; dry granulated, $5.70; extra C, $5.25; golden C, $5.10; fruit sugar, $5.70. Advances over sack basis as follows: Barrels, 10c; ½-barrels, 25c; boxes, 50c per 100 pounds. Discounts: On remittance within 15 days deduct ¼c per pound; if later than 15 days and within 30 days, deduct ¼c; sugar, granulated, $5.50 per 100 pounds; maple sugar, 15@18c per pound.

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

NUTS—Walnuts, 13½c per pound by sack; ¼c extra for less than sack; Brazil nuts, 16c; filberts, 16c; pecans, jumbos, 16c; extra large, 17c; almonds, 14½@15c; chestnuts, Italian, 12½@16c; Ohio, 20c; peanuts, raw, 7½c pound; roasted, 9c; pinenuts, 10@12c; black walnuts, 7½@8c; cocoanuts, 35@60c per dozen.

BEANS—Small white, 4c; large white, 3¾c; pink, 2½c; bayou, 4½c; Lima, 5½c; red Mexican, 8c.

Butter, Eggs, Poultry, Etc.

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

EGGS—Oregon ranch, 16½c per dozen.

CHEESE—Oregon full cream, twins, 14½@15½c; Young America, 15½@16½c.

POULTRY — Average old hens, 13@14c; mixed chickens, 12½@13c; broilers, 20@22c; young roosters, 12½@12½c; old roosters, 10@10½c; dressed chickens, 14@15c; turkeys, live, 16@17c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 18@20c; geese, live, pound, 8@9c; geese, dressed, per pound, 10@12c; ducks, 16@18c; pigeons, $1@2; squabs, $2@3.

Provisions and Canned Meats.

HAMS—10 to 14 pounds, 13c pound; 14 to 16 pounds, 13c; 18 to 20 pounds, 12c; California (picnic), 9c; cottage hams, 9½c; shoulders, 9c; boiled ham, 19c; boiled picnic ham, boneless, 14c.

BACON—Fancy breakfast, 18½c per pound; standard breakfast, 16½c; choice, 15½c; English breakfast, 11 to 14 pounds, 14½c; peach bacon, 13½c.

PICKLED GOODS—Pork barrels, $18; ½-barrels, $9.50; beef, barrels, $12; ½-barrels, $6.50.

SAUSAGE—Ham, 15c per pound; minced ham, 10c; Summer, choice dry, 17½c; bologna, long, 5½c; weinerwurst, 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.

DRY SALT CURED—Regular short clears, dry salt, 10½c; smoked, 11½c; clear backs, dry salt, 10½c; 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, 11¼c; 10s, 11¼c; 5s, 11½c. Standard pure: Tierces, 9¾c; tubs, 9¾c; 50s, 9½c; 20s, 10¼c; 10s, 10¾c; 5s, 10¾c. Compound: Tierces, 6¾c; tubs, 6¾c; 50s, 6¾c; 20s, 7¼c; 10s, 7¾c.

Hops, Wool, Hides, Etc.

HOPS — Oregon, 1905, choice, 10@10½c; prime, 8½@9½c; medium, 7@8c; olds, 5@7c.

WOOL—Eastern Oregon average best, 18@21c; Valley, 24@26c per pound.

MOHAIR—Choice, 25@28c.

HIDES—Dry: No. 1, 16 pounds and up, per pound, 18@20c; dry kip, No. 1, 8 to 15 pounds, per pound, 16@18c; dry calf, No. 1, under 8 pounds, 18@21c; dry salted, bull and stags, 1-3 less than dry flint, calls, moth-eaten, badly cut, scored, murrain, hair-slipped, weather-beaten, or grubby, 2c to 3c per pound less. Salted hides: Steers, sound, 60 pounds and over, per pound, 10@11c; steers, sound, 50 to 60 pounds, per pound, 10@11c; steers, sound, under 50 pounds, and cows, per pound, 9@10c; stags and bulls, sound, per pound, 7c; kip, sound, 15 to 30 pounds, per pound, 10c; veal, sound, 10 to 14 pounds, per pound, 11c; calf, sound, under 10 pounds, per pound, 11@12c; green (unsalted), 1c per pound less; culls, 1c per pound less. Sheepskins: Shearlings, No. 1 butchers' stock, each 25@30c; short wool, No. 1 butchers' stock, each 50@60c; medium wool, No. 1 butchers' stock, each 70c@$1; long wool, No. 1 butchers' stock, each $1.25@2; murrain pelts, from 10 to 20 per cent less, or per pound, 15@16c; horse hides, salted, each, according to size, $1.50@2.50; dry, each, according to size, $1@1.50; colts' hides, each, 25@50c; goat skins, common, each 15@25c; Angora, with wool on, each 30c@$1.50.

FURS—No. 1 skins: Bearskins, as to size, each $5@20; cubs, each, $1@3; badger, prime, each, 25@50c; cat, wild, with head perfect, 30@50c; house cat, 5@20c; fox, common gray, large prime, each, 50@70c; red, each, $1@5; cross, each, $5@15; silver and black, each $100@300; fishers, each, $5@8; lynx, each, $4.50@8; mink, strictly No. 1, each, according to size, $1@3; marten, dark Northern, according to size and color, each $10@15; pale, pine, acording to size and color, each, $2.50@4; muskrat, large, each 12@15c; skunk, each, 40@60c; civet, or polecat, each, $@18c; otter, for large, prime skin, each $6@10; panther, with head and claws perfect, each $2@5; raccoon, for prime large, each 50@75c; mountain wolf, with head perfect, each $1.50@5; prairie (coyote), 40c@$1; wolverine, each, $6@8; beaver, per skin, large, $5@6; medium, $3@7; small, $1@1.50; kits, 50@75c.

BEESWAX—Good, clean and pure, 32@35c per pound.

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

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

Dressed Meats.

VEAL—Dressed, 75 to 125 pounds, 7@7½c; 126 to 150 pounds, 6@6½c; 151 to 200 pounds, 5@5½c; 200 pounds and up, 5½@6c.

BEEF—Dressed bulls, 2½@3c per pound; cows, 3½@4½c; country steers, 4@5c.

MUTTON—Dressed, fancy, 8½@9c per pound; ordinary, 4@5c; lambs, 8@9½c.

PORK—Dressed, 100 to 150 pounds, 8@8½c; 150 and up, 6@6½c per pound.

Oils.

TURPENTINE—Cases, 88c per gallon.

COAL TAR—Cases, 20c per gallon; tanks, 14½c per gallon.

GASOLINE—Stove gasoline, cases, 25½c; 72 test, 27c; 86 test, 35c; iron tanks, 18c.

WHITE LEAD—Ten lots, 7¾c; 500-pound lots, 8c; less than 500-pound lots, 8¼c. (In 25-pound tin pails, 1c above keg price; 1 to 4-pound tin pails, 1c above keg price; 1 to 5-pound tin cans, 100 pounds per case, 2½c per pound above keg price.)

LINSEED OIL—Raw, in barrels, 84c; in cases, 88c; boiled in barrels, 86c; in cases, 91c; 250-gallon lots, 1c less.

IMPROVEMENT IN WHEAT

CHICAGO MARKET OPENS FIRM AND ONE CENT HIGHER.

Much of the Strength Lost Near the Middle of the Day on Profit-Taking.

CHICAGO, March 16.—The greatest strength in the wheat market was shown during the first hour, when prices advanced 1 cent above yesterday's close. Liverpool came higher, and there were reports of heavy shipments of flour from New York. An excellent demand for cash wheat was reported at all leading grain centers of the United States. The market, however, lost much of its firmness near the middle of the day, because of profit-taking by local holders. During the later part of the session the market was steady. May opened ⅝@¾c to ⅞@⅞c higher at 78⅛c, advanced to 78⅞@78⅞c, declined to 78⅛c, and closed ⅛@⅜c higher at 78⅜c.

Corn was firm for the greater part of the day. Shorts who were influenced by the upturn in wheat covered freely. May closed steady ⅛c higher at 43⅝c.

Oats were firm early, but weakened later. May closed ⅛c lower at 29⅝@29¾c.

The provision market was firm all day. At the close, May pork was up 10c and lard and ribs each 2½@5c higher.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

WHEAT.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
May	$ .78⅛	$ .78	$ .77⅞	$ .78⅜
July	.78⅝	.78⅝	.77⅞	.78⅛
September	.78⅝	.78½	.77⅞	.77⅞

CORN.

May	.43⅝	.43⅝	.43½	.43⅝
July	.44⅛	.44⅛	.43⅝	.43⅝
September	.44⅝	.44½	.44⅛	.44⅝

OATS.

May	.30	.30⅛	.29⅝	.29⅝
July	.29⅛	.29⅛	.28⅝	.28⅞
September	.28⅛	.28⅝	.28⅛	.28⅝

MESS PORK.

May	13.95	13.95	13.85	13.92½
July	13.80	13.85	13.75	13.82½

LARD.

May	7.90	7.92½	7.90	7.90
July	8.00	8.02½	8.00	8.00
September	8.12½	8.15	8.10	8.10

SHORT RIBS.

May	8.45	8.47½	8.42½	8.45
July	8.50	8.50	8.45	8.47½
September	8.55	8.57½	8.55	8.57½

Cash quotations were as follows:

Flour—Firmer.

Wheat—No. 2 Spring, 77½@80c; No. 3, 75@79c; No. 2 red, 82½@82¾c.

Corn—No. 2, 43½c; No. 2 yellow, 43c.

Oats—No. 2, 29⅝@29¾c; No. 2 white, 32½c; No. 3 white, 29½@31½c.

Rye—No. 2, 60@60½c.

Barley — Good feeding, 37@37½c; fair to choice malting, 40@50c.

Flaxseed—No. 1, $1.08; No. 1 Northwestern, $1.14.

Mess pork—Per barrel, $13.80@13.85.

Lard—Per 100 pounds, $7.85.

Short ribs sides—Loose, $8.30@8.40.

Short clear sides—Boxed, $8.60@8.70.

Clover—Contract grade, $13.65.

	Receipts.	Shipments.
Flour, barrels	23,900	21,600
Wheat, bushels	9,000	58,000
Corn, bushels	133,200	233,300
Oats, bushels	136,700	263,700
Rye, bushels	30,000	
Barley, bushels	46,500	7,000

Grain and Produce at New York.

NEW YORK, March 16.—Flour—Receipts, 12,000 barrels; exports, 8000; firm, with a fair trade.

Wheat—Receipts, 32,000; spot firm; No. 2 red, 85½c elevator; No. 2 red, 87c f. o. b. afloat; No. 1 Northern Duluth, 87¾ f. o. b. afloat. A strong advance occurred in wheat today based on bullish cables, lighter Argentine shipments, disturbing foreign political news and heavy covering. Part of the advance disappeared in the last hour through realizing sales, a bearish Modern Miller report and favorable Western news. Last prices were ½@⅝c net higher. May closed 85½c; July, 84⅝c; September, 84c.

Hops—Quiet.

Hides and wool—Quiet.

Grain at San Francisco.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 16.—Wheat steady; barley easier.

Spot quotations:

Wheat—Shipping, $1.32½@1.35; milling, $1.37½@1.47½.

Barley—Feed, $1.17½@1.21¼; brewing, nominal.

OATS—Red, $1.25@1.65; white, $1.55@1.70; black, $1.25@1.40.

Call board sales:

Wheat—May, $1.27.

Barley—May, $1.19½.

Corn—Large yellow, $1.17½@1.20.

Minneapolis Wheat Market.

MINNEAPOLIS, March 16.—Wheat—May, 76⅝c; July, 78⅛c; No. 1 hard, 77¼c; No. 2 Northern, 76⅝c; No. 3 Northern, 74⅝@75¼c.

Wheat at Liverpool.

LIVERPOOL, March 16.—March, nominal; May, 6s 6¼d; July, 6s 6½d.

Weather cloudy and threatening.

Wheat at Tacoma.

TACOMA, March 16.—Wheat, 1c higher; export bluestem, 66c; club, 65c; red, 64c.

Dried Fruit at New York.

NEW YORK, March 16.—The market for evaporated apples continues quiet, with very little demand for export. Prices, however, were firmly held where fruits show a desirable quality. Common to fair, 7@8½c; fair to good, 10@8¾c; nearby to strict prime, 9@9½c choice, 10c; fancy, 11@11½c.

Prunes and peaches are unchanged from yesterday.

Apricots are in fair demand with choice 10½c; extra choice, 11c; fancy, 11½@12½c.

Raisins are unchanged.

Wool at St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, March 16.—Wool—Steady; territory and Western mediums, 22@26c; fine mediums, 21@23c; fine, 18@21c.

CALL MONEY FIRM

Hardening of Rate Disappointing to Stock Speculators.

MARKET IS STILL SLUGGISH

Estimate of Week's Currency Movement Indicates Gain From Interior Will Offset Loss on Subtreasury Operations.

NEW YORK, March 16.—The stock market showed no marks of extension beyond the professional limits which have bounded it all this week. The volume of trading was about the same as yesterday, but was very largely congested in the first hour, showing the continued effect of the weakness of special stocks which developed yesterday. Some sympathetic effect upon the general list was shown while this further weakness was manifest, but prices were disposed to recover, and did so when the weak stocks rallied.

The continued firmness of the call-money market and an appreciative advance in interest rates for time loans were disappointing to the supposition that Wednesday's dividend disbursements were alone responsible for the firmness of the money market, and the effect of the free distribution of dividend money should be felt in the money market by this time.

The estimate of the week's currency movement indicated a gain upon the balance from the interior by express about sufficient to offset the loss on Subtreasury operations. This is in contrast with an estimated loss of over $1,000,000 to the interior by the export movement of last week. New York exchange at Chicago, however, fell back to a small discount today, after having ruled at a premium earlier in the week. Foreign exchange also reacted slightly from yesterday's strength, although foreign money markets were reported to be still tight.

The foreign trade statement for February showed the gratifying excess in value of merchandise exports over imports of $37,517,766, compared with only $3,786,369 in February of last year. This increase in value of total exports, comparing the same periods, is more than $11,000,000 greater than the increase in agricultural exports alone, thus indicating the expansion in manufactured articles of export. The week's exports of grain, however, show a falling off of over 500,000 bushels of wheat and of 258,000 bushels of corn, compared with last week. Stocks closed at small general gains, but with the tone barely steady.

Bonds were heavy; total sales, par value, $1,695,000; United States bonds were all unchanged on call.

CLOSING STOCK QUOTATIONS.

	Sales.	High.	Low.	Closing Bid.
Adams Express	.....	.....	.....	240
Amalgam. Copper	28,200	107¾	106⅝	107
Am. Car & Found.	800	41⅞	41⅝	41½
do preferred	200	101	101	100⅝
Amer. Cotton Oil	100	24¼	24¼	24¼
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	90
American Express	.....	.....	.....	225
Am. Hd. & Lt. pf.	800	33⅛	32⅛	32
American Ice	1,400	47	46¼	46⅝
Amer. Linseed Oil	.....	.....	.....	21⅝
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	46
Amer. Locomotive	800	69	68½	68¾
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	116
Am. Smelt. & Ref.	10,900	150⅞	150	150¼
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	122
Am. Sugar Refin.	3,600	138⅝	137⅞	138⅛
Amer. Tobacco pfd.	100	104⅝	104⅝	103½
Anaconda Min. Co.	25,700	27½	26½	26⅝
Atchison	2,500	92⅝	92⅛	92½
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	102
Atlantic Coast Line	1,400	162	160	161½
Baltimore & Ohio	700	110⅛	109⅞	110
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	96½
Brook. Rap. Tran.	19,600	85	84⅛	84½
Canadian Pacific	2,600	171	170⅛	170⅝
Central Leather	900	44⅝	44	44
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	104⅛
Cent. of N. Jersey	.....	.....	.....	215
Chesapeake & Ohio	8,700	57⅛	57	57½
Chicago & Alton	.....	.....	.....	39
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	75
Chi. Gt. Western	300	20⅝	20⅝	20⅝
Chi. & Northwest	400	222½	222½	222½
Chi., Mil. & St. P.	1,900	176	175⅛	175⅝
Chi. Term. & Tran.	.....	.....	.....	12
do preferred	200	30	29⅝	29½
C., C., C. & St. L.	.....	.....	.....	98½
Colo. Fuel & Iron	12,000	63½	62	62
Colo. & Southern	400	33	32½	32½
do 1st preferred	.....	.....	.....	69⅝
do 2d preferred	.....	.....	.....	47½
Consolidated Gas	37,300	145½	142⅛	143½
Corn Products	1,200	17⅛	17	17
do preferred	100	56	56	55
Delaw. & Hudson	.....	.....	.....	205
Del., Lack. & W.	400	444⅝	440½	440½
Den. & R. Grande	800	44⅝	44	44
do preferred	900	87	86⅝	86
Distillers' Secur.	1,200	57½	57⅛	57⅝
Erie	2,200	42⅝	42⅛	42⅝
do 1st preferred	200	77⅝	77⅛	77
do 2d preferred	200	67	67	66
General Electric	100	166½	166½	167
Hocking Valley	.....	.....	.....	114
Illinois Central	400	171½	170½	171½
International Paper	400	21	21	21¼
do preferred	200	82½	82½	82
International Pump	.....	.....	.....	32½
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	82
Iowa Central	.....	.....	.....	38
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	70
Kansas City South	200	29	29	29⅝
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	58⅝
Louis. & Nashville	14,400	152⅛	150	151⅞
Manhattan L.	100	137	137	136½
Metropol. Securities	100	71	71	71⅛
Metropol. St. Ry.	6,800	112⅝	112⅛	112
Mexican Central	3,200	24⅞	24⅛	24⅝
Minn. & St. Louis	100	75	75	75
M., St. P. & S.S.M.	1,400	150⅝	150	150⅝
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	174
Missouri Pacific	128,100	96⅛	95	96
Mo., Kan. & Texas	2,600	36	34⅝	35⅛
do preferred	8,400	72⅝	71	72
National Lead	3,700	81⅝	80½	80⅝
Mex. Nt. R. R. pf.	400	40½	39½	39
New York Central	1,200	149⅞	148½	149
N. Y., Ont. & W.	1,900	46⅛	46	45
Norfolk & Western	.....	.....	.....	87⅝
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	91
North American	800	100	98⅝	99⅝
Northern Pacific	3,800	218½	217	217⅛
Pacific Mail	.....	.....	.....	21⅞
Pennsylvania	9,700	138	137½	138½
People's Gas	3,700	95	94½	94⅝
P., C., C. & St. L.	.....	.....	.....	79
Pressed Steel Car	200	52⅝	52½	52½
do preferred	100	98	98	97⅝
Pullman Pal. Car	.....	.....	.....	227
Reading	50,100	128⅝	127⅝	128½
do 1st preferred	200	91	91	89½
do 2d preferred	.....	.....	.....	86
Republic Steel	.....	.....	.....	28½
do preferred	600	106½	106½	100½
Rock Island Co.	1,200	26⅛	26	26⅛
do preferred	100	66	66	66
Schloss-Sheffield	4,500	84½	83	83⅝
St. L. & S. F. 2 pf.	800	45⅝	45½	45½
St. Louis Southw.	900	24⅛	23⅝	24
do preferred	300	56	55½	56
Southern Pacific	6,600	66⅛	65⅝	66⅛
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	117½
Southern Railway	24,100	41⅝	40½	40⅝
do preferred	700	101½	101½	101
Tenn. Coal & Iron	100	150½	150½	150
Texas & Pacific	2,100	34	33⅝	33⅝
Tol., St. L. & W.	200	36	36	36
do preferred	100	54⅝	54⅝	54½
Union Pacific	29,100	153½	152⅛	152⅝
do preferred	200	96	96	95½
U. S. Express	100	116	116	116
U. S. Realty	100	84½	84½	84
U. S. Rubber	2,100	53½	52½	53½
do preferred	100	113	113	113
U. S. Steel	31,200	40⅝	40½	40½
do preferred	4,400	106	105½	105⅞
Virg.-Caro. Chem.	1,450	52	51	51½
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	115
Wabash	1,000	22⅝	22⅝	22⅝
do preferred	2,700	50⅛	49½	49⅞
Wells-Fargo Exp.	.....	.....	.....	223
Westinghouse Elec.	100	161	161	161
Western Union	1,300	93	92½	92⅝
Wheel. & L. Erie	.....	.....	.....	19½
Wisconsin Central	.....	.....	.....	26½
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	55½

Total sales for the day, 574,500 shares.

BONDS.

NEW YORK, March 16.—Closing quotations:

U. S. ref. 2s reg.	103⅝	D. & R. G. 4s	99½
do coupon	104⅛	N. Y. C. G. 3½s	98⅝
U. S. 3s reg.	103½	Nor. Pacific 3s	77
do coupon	103½	Nor. Pacific 4s	104½
U. S. new 4s reg.	131½	So. Pacific 4s	92½
do coupon	131½	Union Pacific 4s	104½
U. S. old 4s reg.	103⅝	Wis. Central 4s	92
do coupon	104⅝	Jap. 6½s	100½
Atchison Adj. 4s	94	Jap. 4½s	91⅞

Stocks at London.

LONDON, March 16.—Consols for money,