NOW TRY TO SELL

Potato Speculators Anxious to Unload.

PAID ABOVE THE MARKET

But Farmers, Excited by the Extreme Prices Offered, Now Decline to Market Their Product. Holiday Tone in Grain.

There is a lull in the potato market at the present time. Some of the buyers who jumped in not long ago and paid prices above the market value in anticipation of a bulge, have now turned sellers and are trying to unload on the other dealers, but with indifferent success. The demand from California is very slow and the shippers are cautious about taking hold.

Based on the San Francisco market, where average stock is selling at $1.15 and fancy at $1.25, shippers are offering to farmers 80@85 cents for Eastern Multnomah and 65@70 cents for Valley stock. This, they say, is all the market will justify, but the farmers are still excited by the higher prices offered recently by speculators, and are not disposed to sell at these prices. They are nearly all engaged in digging now, but are holding back their potatoes from the market, although prices are very fair. This, in the opinion of the dealers, is bad policy and may lead to a slump later, when all of them try to market their product.

The California market is held down by the big supply of River potatoes still unsold. There is always a demand in San Francisco for a certain amount of Oregons, but the price is governed by the price of California potatoes.

The best inquiry just at the present time is for seed varieties, to ship south, and for these buyers here are offering one cent a pound.

OREGON APPLES IN NEW YORK.

Sale Is Helped by Poor Quality of Eastern-Grown Fruit.

The New York Fruitman's Guide of December 18 reports a good general movement in box apples at $2.50@4 per box for Spitzenberg stock, and other Western apples selling as to kind and quality at $2.50@3 per box. Many poor Eastern apples are on the New York market, which has injured the general trade in barrel stock, but, as a New York dealer expressed it, "It would seem to have stimulated a good deal of business in the box stock, and this fruit now has the call here. It is said that most of the Oregon apples have been shipped out of the state, and it is said that a good percentage of the fruit has found a market in this and contiguous centers."

The Guide says of the Hood River apple deal:

"Hood River apples packed by the Hood River Valley Association have again demonstrated the value of care in the packing and selection of stock for the several markets. It is stated on good authority that the big deal in the fruit handled by Stebbins, Smith & Kelly, of this city, has practically been wound up, and that the bulk of the Hood River product has been put into circulation among the trade. The apples from the section noted made as much of a hit this season as last—and that is saying a good deal, for last year the sales were on a scale that marked an epoch in the history of apple marketing. This year as then the uniformity shown in the grading and packing of this high-class fruit established among the buyers that made the disposal of the stock a mere matter of detail. To the Hood River Apple-Growers' Union is due the praise that comes to those who have set a high mark for excellence and maintained it."

SALEM HOPS SELL FOR 31 CENTS

New Hop Acreage in California Estimated at 600 Acres.

Hop dealers look for some business this week for account of late December shipments, but it is not likely there will be much trading until the holidays are past. As for the foreign demand, it is not expected to materialize strongly until after the English elections.

Although several dealers were in the market yesterday, the only transaction reported was the purchase of Chitin & Linn of the Simonton lot of 121 bales at Salem at 21 cents.

A California letter stated that some contracting was being done in Sonoma at 14 cents for three years. It was estimated by the writer of the letter that the new hop acreage in the state will amount to 600 acres of which 300 acres is in Sonoma.

NO ACTIVITY IN GRAIN TRADE.

Buyers and Sellers Waiting Until the Holidays Are Over.

Grain traders are waiting until the holidays are over to resume active business. In the meantime, with hardly any offerings or demand, prices are nominal, yet the undertone of the market is very healthy. Buyers of wheat, oats or barley realize they would have to pay full prices to get supplies in the country.

The American visible supply of wheat is reported by the Merchants' Exchange at 27,362,000 bushels—a decrease of 657,000 bushels.

Local receipts, in cars, were as follows:

	Wheat	Barley	Flour	Oats	Hay
Monday	96	5	17	8	9
Year ago	103	4	14	3	10
Season to date	6653	1060	1169	880	1361
Year ago	8503	1207	542	661	1065

POULTRY STILL SELLS AT GOOD PRICES

Advance in Eastern Butter Strengthens the Local Market.

There was not much demand for live poultry yesterday, but the little that came in sold at good prices. Chickens brought 15 cents, and Chinese tupers readily paid 20 cents for ducks. A fair inquiry is expected this week for dressed poultry, and it is probable that what surplus was carried over will be entirely worked off. Eastern ducks and geese are meeting with much favor because of their unusually fine appearance.

The street was well supplied with eggs, and while in some quarters the feeling was weak, elsewhere a good demand was reported.

Cheese was quoted very firm, and it is anticipated that prices will be raised this week or next.

The butter market has gained some strength from the advance in the East.

Receipts of Fresh Produce.

A good supply of fresh produce came in yesterday, including one car of celery, two cars of sweet potatoes, two cars of oranges, one car of lemons and two cars of bananas. Trade was fairly good, and prices generally unchanged.

Bank Clearings.

Bank clearings of the Northwestern cities yesterday were as follows:

	Clearings.	Balance.
Portland	$1,084,360	$195,192
Seattle	2,321,512	235,540
Tacoma	1,085,177	114,336
Spokane	1,084,348	123,176

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Grain, Flour, Feed, Etc.

WHEAT—Track prices: Bluestem, $1.20; club, $1.10; red Russian, $1.08@1.09; Valley, $1.08.

BARLEY—Feed and brewing, $30@31 per ton.

FLOUR—Patents, $6.15 per barrel; straight $4.85; export, $4.55; Valley, $5.70; graham, $5.50; whole wheat, quarters, $5.70.

CORN—Whole, $35; cracked, $36 per ton.

MILLSTUFFS—Bran, $26 per ton; middlings, $32; shorts, $28.50@29.50; rolled barley, $31.

OATS—No. 1 white, $32.50@33 per ton.

HAY—Timothy: Willamette Valley, $18@20 per ton; Eastern Oregon, $16@21.50; alfalfa, $16@16.50; clover, $15@16; cheat, $15@16; grain hay, $15@16.

Dairy and Country Produce.

BUTTER—City creamery extras, 39c; fancy outside creameries, 34@35c per lb.; store, 22½@24c. (Butter fat prices average 1½c per pound under regular butter prices.)

POULTRY—Hens, 15c; Springs, 15c; ducks, 20c; geese, 12c; turkeys, live, 20c; dressed, 25c.

EGGS—Fresh Oregon extras, 41@42½c per dozen; Eastern, 28@32c per dozen.

CHEESE—Full cream twins, 18@18½c per pound; young Americas, 19@19½c.

PORK—Fancy, 10@10½c per pound.

VEAL—Extras, 11@11½c per pound.

Vegetables and Fruits.

FRESH FRUITS—Apples, $1@3 box; pears, $1@1.50 per box; Spanish Malaga, $7@7.50 per barrel; quinces, $1.25@1.50 per box; cranberries, $9 per barrel; persimmons, $1.50 per box.

POTATOES—Carload buying prices: Oregon, 65@80c per sack; sweet potatoes, 2c per pound.

TROPICAL FRUITS—Oranges, $2.50@3; lemons, fancy, $6; choice, $5.50; grapefruit $3.50@4 per box; bananas, 5@5½c per pound; pomegranates, $1.50 per box. Japanese oranges, $1.50@1.75 per bundle; tangerines, $1.75 per box.

VEGETABLES — Artichokes, 75c per dozen; beans, 10c per pound, cabbage, 1½c per pound; cauliflower, $1.85@2 dozen; celery, $3.50@4.00 per crate; eggplant, $1.75; hothouse lettuce $1.50 per box; peas, 10c per pound; garlic, 10c per pound; horseradish, $1.50 per box; pumpkins, 1¼@1½c; radishes, 15c per dozen; sprouts, 8c per lb.; squash, 1@1½c; tomatoes, 75c@$1.

SACK VEGETABLES—Turnips, $1 per sack; carrots, $1; beets, $1.50; parsnips, $1.50.

ONIONS—Oregon, $1.50 per sack.

Provisions.

BACON—Fancy, 27c per pound; standard, 22c; choice, 21c; English, 20@20½c.

DRY SALT CURED—Regular short clears, dry salt, 15½c; smoked, 16½c; short clear backs, heavy dry salted, 15½c; smoked, 16½c; Oregon exports, dry salted, 16c; smoked, 17c.

HAMS—10 to 12 pounds, 17½c; 14 to 18 pounds, 17½c; 18 to 20 pounds, 17½c; hams, skinned, 18c; picnics, 12½c; cottage rolls, 15c; boiled hams, 24@25c; boiled picnics, 21c.

LARD—Kettle rendered, 10s, 17½c; standard pure, 10s, 16½c; choice, 10s, 15½c. Compound, 10s, 11½c.

SMOKED BEEF—Beef tongues, each, 60c; dried beef sets, 15c; dried beef outsides, 17c; dried beef insides, 21c; dried beef knuckles, 20c.

PICKLED GOODS—Barrels: Pigs' feet, $12.50; regular tripe, $10; honeycomb tripe, $12; lean tongues, $19.50; mess beef, extra, $12; mess pork, $25.

Hops, Wool, Hides, Etc.

HOPS—1909 crop, 20@21½c; olds, nominal.

WOOL—Eastern Oregon, 16@22c pound; olds, nominal.

MOHAIR—Choice, 25c pound.

CASCARA BARK—4½c per pound.

HIDES—Dry hides, 18@19c per pound; dry kip, 17@18c pound; dry calfskin, 19@21c pound; salted hides, 10½@11c; salted calfskin, 15@16c pound; green, 1c less.

FURS—No. 1 skins: Goatskins, 15c@$1.25; badger, 25@50c; bear, $6@20; beaver, $6.50@8.50; cat, wild, 75c@1.50; cougar, perfect head and claws, $3@10; fisher, dark, $7.50@11; pale, $4.90@7; fox, cross, $3@5; fox, gray, 60@80c; fox, red, $3@5; fox, silver, $35@100; lynx, $8@15; marten, dark, $8@12; mink, $3.50@5.50; muskrat, sea otter, $100@250, as to size and color; 15@25c; otter, $2.50@4; raccoon, 60@75c; skunks, 55@80c; civet cat, 10@15c; wolf, $8@8.50; coyote, 75c@$1.25; wolverine, dark, $3@5; wolverine, pale, $2@2.50.

Groceries, Dried Fruits, Etc.

DRIED FRUIT—Apples, 10c per pound; peaches, 8½c; prunes, Italians, 4@5c; prunes, French, 4@5c; currants, 10c; apricots, 12½c; dates, 7½c per pound.

SALMON—Columbia River, 1-pound talls, $2 per dozen; 2-pound talls, $2.95; 1-pound flats, $2.10½; Alaska pink, 1-pound talls, 90c; red, 1-pound talls, $1.45; sockeyes, 1-pound talls, $2.

COFFEE—Mocha, 24@28c; Java, ordinary, 17@20c; Costa Rica, fancy, 18@20c; good, 16@18c; ordinary, 12½@16c per pound.

NUTS—Walnuts, 15c per pound; Brazil nuts, 12½@15c; filberts, 14@17c; almonds, 16½@17c; chestnuts, Ohio, 20c; cocoanuts, 90c@$1 per dozen.

BEANS—Small white, 5½c; large white, 4½c; Lima, 5½c; bayou, 6½c; pink, 4½c; red Mexican, 7½c.

SUGAR—Dry granulated, fruit and berry, $5.95; beet $5.75; extra C, $5.45; golden C, $5.35; cubes (barrel), $6.35; powdered (barrel), $6.20. Terms on remittances within 15 days, deduct ¼c per pound. If later than 15 days and within 30 days, deduct ½c per pound. Maple sugar, 15@18c per pound.

SALT—Granulated, $14 per ton, $1.90 per bale; half ground, 100s, $8.50 per ton; 50s, $9 per ton.

HONEY—Choice, $3.25@3.50 per case.

Oils, Turpentine, Etc.

COAL OIL—Pearl, astral and star, cases, 10c per gallon; eocene, cases, 22c per gallon; Elaine, cases, 28c per gallon; extra star, cases, 22c per gallon; water white, iron barrels, 11½c per gallon; wood barrels, 15½c per gallon; special water white, iron barrels, 15c per gallon.

GASOLINE—Red crown and motor gasoline, iron barrels, 18c per gallon; cases, 23c per gallon; 86 gasoline, iron barrels, 20c per gallon; cases, 27½c per gallon.

BENZINE—V. M. and naptha, iron barrels, 13½c per gallon; cases, 20½c per gallon; engine distillate, iron barrels, 9c per gallon; cases, 16c per gallon.

TURPENTINE—In cases, 73c per gallon; wood barrels, 75½c per gallon; aroturps (turpentine substitute), iron barrels, 58c per gallon; cases, 65c per gallon.

LINSEED OIL—Raw, in barrels, 78c; boiled, in barrels, 80c; raw, in cases, 83c; boiled, in cases, 85c.

EGG DEMAND IS BETTER

BUT PRICES ARE NOT LIFTED AT SEATTLE.

Good Trade in Japanese Oranges. Prospect of Light Potato Shipments Makes Firm Market.

SEATTLE, Dec. 27.—(Special.)—About 100 bundles of Japanese oranges have reached Tacoma for Seattle commission men. The fruit will be fumigated and will probably not be ready for distribution until about Wednesday. Japanese oranges have had a good sale locally. California tangerines are now offering at $2 per box.

The potato market was firm today at $20. The prospects of light shipments this week are largely responsible for this condition.

Business in fruit and vegetable departments today was light. The California boat brought about 400 packages of produce, mostly cocoanuts. Hall receipts were moderate.

Trade in dairy produce was very brisk. The demand for fresh eggs was reported better than at any time in two weeks, but the anticipated rise to 50 cents did not materialize and sales were made at 48 cents. There was a fair demand for hens and chickens and a few orders for live turkeys for the New Year's trade were booked at Christmas prices.

Buyers were able to get wheat here today, and all but one plant resumed. There was not much demand for wheat, and last week's prices prevail. Hay receipts were 49 carloads.

QUOTATIONS AT SAN FRANCISCO.

Prices Paid for Produce in the Bay City Market.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 27.—The following prices were quoted in the produce market today:

Vegetables — Cucumbers, $1@1.75; string beans, 15@20c; tomatoes, $1@1.75; garlic, 4@5c; green peas, 10@17½c; eggplant, 8@10c.

Millstuffs—Bran, $28.50@30; middlings, $36.50@37.50.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 35c; creamery seconds, 31c; fancy dairy, 29c.

Eggs—Store, 42½c fancy, 47c.

Cheese—New, 13@18½c; young Americas, 18@19c.

Hay—Wheat, 14@19.50; wheat and oats, $13@17; alfalfa, $9@12; stock, $8@10; straw per bale, 50@75c.

Fruits—Apples, choice, 75c@$1.00; common, 50@65c; bananas, 50c@$3.25; limes, $4@4.50; lemons, choice, $3@8.50; common, $1.50@2.50; oranges, navels, $1.65@2.50; pineapples, $3@5.

Wool—South Plains and San Joaquin, 8@10c; Spring Humboldt and Mendocino, 13@15c.

Hops—18@24c per pound.

Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, $1.15@1.25; Salinas Burbanks, $1.25@1.40; sweets, $1.50@1.60.

Receipts—Flour, 5764 quarter sacks; wheat, 3000 centals; barley, 2800 centals; beans, 1125 sacks; potatoes, 6780 sacks; middlings, 70 sacks; wool, 95 bales; hides, 1060

SKYROCKET COURSE

Rock Island Stock Soars Upward 31 1-4 Points.

THEN LOSES ALL ITS GAIN

Bungling Manipulation Given as the Reason for Its Extraordinary Action—List in General Not Affected.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—The Rock Island episode in today's stock market afforded an opportunity to test the stability of the present speculative position. The resisting power shown to the alarming intimations carried by the sensational gyrations in Rock Island stock served as assurance that the present position is not easily vulnerable. There was a dread that quiet liquidation might have been going on which would be followed, after a certain stage, by the withdrawal of support and abandonment of values to the natural play of forces.

In some stocks where there has been a persistence of speculative activity since the general market has grown quiet there was a hasty unloading of stocks and a sharp break in prices. The general list, however, stood up well under the shock and then rallied. The conclusion is forced that the heavy tone last week was due to a pause in the activity of the speculation for a rise, rather than to any active pressure to sell stocks.

Whatever explanation may lie back of the Rock Island episode, the movement of the stock was extraordinary. A rise of 31¼ points in five minutes in the price of a railroad stock having a substantial volume and a widely disseminated market, is a rare occurrence in stock market history. When it is followed in almost as little time by a complete relapse, it may be said to be almost without precedent.

Attempted explanations of the movement were widely varied and in some cases fantastic. Recent heavy sales of calls on the stock by foreign stock operators and the purchases by them, according to the rule, of half the amount required to meet the contract undoubtedly played a part in the condition.

The conviction grew that a miscarriage of the market management of the stock had as much to do as anything with the unedifying spectacle of its performance. That management has involved lavish outlay of resources and a very free play of manipulative force. Instead of the usual carefully calculated balance of such forces today, there seemed to have been a reckless or blundering upheaval in one direction without the intended effect on the other side. An error by a subordinate clerk was one specious suggestion brought forward, with the conclusion left by Christmas festivities offered to account for it. This explanation or its corollaries found more general acceptance than rumors of a struggle for control, owing to the fact of the control lying with the preferred stock of the company.

Having asserted its power of resistance to shock, the stock market showed little disposition to move upward with decision pending the working out of the year end money market problem.

Bonds were irregular. Total sales, par value, $4,907,000. United States bonds were unchanged on call.

CLOSING STOCK QUOTATIONS.

	Sales.	High.	Low.	Closing Bid.
Allis Chalmers pf.	200	54¾	54¾	54½
Amal Copper	35,000	89	85¼	87¾
Am Agricultural	1,600	49½	48	48¾
Am Beet Sugar	900	46⅝	46	46¼
Am Can pf	800	81	81	80¾
Am Car & Foun.	600	71½	71	71¼
Am Cotton Oil	.....	.....	.....	97½
Am Hide & L pf	900	47½	46⅝	46⅝
Am Ice Securities	300	25⅞	25½	25
Am Linseed	2,700	18	17⅝	17⅝
Am Locomotive	1,100	60	59½	59½
Am Smelt & Ref.	16,600	102¾	100¼	101⅝
do preferred	100	110¾	110¾	111
Am Sugar Ref	400	123½	122½	122
Am Tel & Tel	2,600	142½	142	142¼
Am Tobacco pf	400	96	95¾	96
Am Woolen	.....	.....	.....	31
Anaconda Min Co.	7,200	55¼	49⅝	52¼
Atchison	6,900	122⅞	121¼	121¼
do preferred	300	105¼	105¼	105¼
Atlan Coast Line	100	136	136	135
Balt & Ohio	3,400	118¼	117½	117¾
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	92
Beth Steel	200	34	33½	33½
Can Pacific	100	170¼	170½	170½
Central Leather	1,900	47⅞	46½	47
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	107½
Cent of N Jersey	.....	.....	.....	315
Ches & Ohio	4,000	86½	86¼	86½
Chicago Mem.	100	67	67	66
Chi Gt Western	10,400	35	32	34⅞
Chi & N W	.....	.....	.....	150½
Chi, M & St P	1,700	157½	157	157
Chi, R I & P	9,900	83¾	82¾	83¼
Col Fuel & Iron	1,800	50¼	49½	49¾
Colo & Southern	.....	.....	.....	53
do 1st preferred	.....	.....	.....	81
do 2d preferred	.....	.....	.....	80
Consol Gas	8,800	158½	156	157
Corn Products	1,700	22⅝	22⅜	22½
Del & Hudson	.....	.....	.....	184
D & R G (New)	300	51⅝	50	51
do preferred	700	84	83⅞	83⅞
Distillers' Secur	100	37¼	37¼	37
Erie	3,200	33⅞	32⅞	32⅞
do 1st preferred	300	49½	49½	49½
do 2d preferred	800	38⅞	38⅝	38⅞
Gen Electric	200	159¾	159¼	159½
Gt North pf	2,400	143½	143	143
Gt North Ore	800	81	80	80
Illinois Cent	400	147¼	147	147½
Inter Met	14,100	23½	24¼	24¼
do preferred	21,200	62⅞	60¾	62
Inter Harvester	600	117	116	116
Inter Marine pf	2,700	24⅝	23⅞	24¼
Inter Paper	300	16¾	16¼	16
Inter Pump	700	52½	52½	52½
Iowa Central	400	29½	29½	29½
K C Southern	1,300	43¾	43	43⅞
do preferred	2,200	71	71	70½
Louis & Nash	2,300	157¼	155½	155½
Minn & St L	600	54	53	53½
M St P & S S M	.....	.....	.....	188⅝
Missouri Pac	700	71	70¾	70¾
Mis Kan & Texas	8,100	49	48	48⅝
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	73¼
Nat Biscuit	100	116	116	115½
National Lead	600	88½	88⅝	87½
N Rys of M 1st pf	300	58½	58½	58
N Y Central	24,800	122¼	121¼	121¾
N Y O & West	700	49⅝	48⅝	48⅝
Norfolk & West	700	98⅝	98½	98
North American	2,000	85⅝	84½	85¼
Northern Pacific	5,600	144¾	143¾	144¼
Pacific Mail	2,100	42⅞	41⅞	42¼
Pennsylvania	28,400	137¼	134⅝	136½
People's Gas	1,000	115¾	114⅞	115¾
P C C & St L	200	98⅝	98⅝	98
Pressed Steel Car	500	51¼	51	51
Pull Palace Car	.....	.....	.....	190
Ry Steel Spring	100	51¼	51¼	51¼
Reading	73,400	171¼	169	169⅞
Republic Steel	.....	.....	.....	45½
do preferred	100	104⅝	104⅝	104
Rock Island Co	207,600	81	49¾	51⅝
do preferred	1,200	94	91½	91
S L & S F 2d pf	300	59⅝	59	58⅝
St L Southwest	600	32⅞	31⅞	31⅞
do preferred	200	79⅞	79½	79½
S S S & Iron	.....	.....	.....	86½
South Pacific	53,400	132¼	130	132⅝
South Railway	4,600	32⅞	32¼	31⅞
do preferred	800	74⅞	71¾	73⅝
Tenn Copper	200	38⅝	38	38
Texas & Pacific	600	35	35	34½
T St L & Western	100	52⅝	52½	52½
do preferred	400	70⅝	70⅝	70⅝
Union Pacific	45,500	202⅝	200	201½
do preferred	100	103⅝	103⅝	103½
U S Realty	100	81½	81½	80
U S Rubber	1,000	53½	52⅝	52½
U S Steel	100,600	91½	90	90⅝
do preferred	300	125⅝	125	125¼
Utah Copper	1,100	59	58½	58½
Vir Caro Chem	12,600	56⅞	53⅝	56⅝
Wabash	29,100	61	57⅞	59½
West Maryland	700	53¼	52¼	52⅝
Western Elec	.....	.....	.....	81½
West Union	.....	.....	.....	76½
W & Lake Erie	700	9½	9½	9½
Wis Central	200	48⅞	48	48
Pitts Coal	4,800	28⅞	28	28⅝
United D Goods	100	124⅝	124⅝	124
Am Steel	.....	.....	.....	64⅝

Total sales for the day, 889,300 shares.

BONDS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—Closing quotations:

U S ref 2s reg	101½	N Y C 3½s	91
do coupon	101½	North Pacific 3s	73½
U S 3s reg	101⅝	North Pacific 4s	101½
do coupon	101⅝	Union Pacific 4s	101⅝
U S new 4s reg	114½	Wisconsin Cent 4s	94
do coupon	115¼	Japanese 4s	87⅝
D & R G 4s	96		

Eastern Mining Stocks.

BOSTON, Dec. 27.—Closing quotations:

Adventure	6¾	Mohawk	65
Amalgamated	87⅝	Nevada	26¾
Arizona Com	40	Old Dominion	51
Atlantic	11⅞	Osceola	169
Butte Coalition	28⅝	Parrot	21½
Cal & Arizona	101	Quincy	89
Cal & Hecla	680	Shannon	16¼
Centennial	37	Tamarack	68
Copper Range	82½	Trinity	9¼
Daly West	18⅝	U S Mining	54
Franklin	18¾	U S Oil	9
Granby	10½	Utah	39
Greene Cananea	11⅝	Victoria	54
Isle Royale	27½	Winona	10
Mass Mining	6⅝	Wolverine	146
Michigan	7	North Butte	49⅝

Money, Exchange, Etc.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—Prime mercantile paper, 5@5½ per cent.

Sterling exchange steady, with actual business in bankers' bills at $4.8435@4.8450 for 60-day bills and at $4.8740 for demand. Commercial bills, $4.83⅝@4.84⅛.

Bar silver, 52½.

Mexican dollars, 44c.

Government bonds steady; railroads irregular.

Money on call firm, 4¾@5½ per cent; ruling rate, 5 per cent; closing bid, 4¾ per cent; offered at 5 per cent. Time loans quiet and steady; 60 days, 4½@4¾ per cent; 90 days, 4½ per cent; six months, 4¼@4½ per cent.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 27.—Sterling on London, 60 days, $4.84½; do sight, $4.87½.

Silver bars, 52½c.

Mexican dollars, 46c.

Drafts—Sight, 2c; telegraph, 5c.

BERLIN, Dec. 27.—Exchange on London, 20 marks, 21¼ pfennigs for checks.

Treasury Statement.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—The condition of the Treasury at the beginning of business today was as follows:

Trust funds—	
Gold coin	$879,135,889
Silver dollars	487,959,000
Silver dollars of 1890	3,953,000
Silver certificates outstanding	487,959,000
General fund—	
Standard silver dollars in general fund	$ 1,522,139
Current liabilities	104,032,812
Working balance in Treasury offices	26,499,393
In banks to credit of Treasurer of the United States	37,373,215
Subsidiary silver coin	15,498,163
Minor coin	1,011,724
Total balance in general fund	$2,247,017

ON A HEALTHY BASIS

LIVESTOCK PRICES FIRM IN SPITE OF DULLNESS.

Hogs Sell Up to $8.70 and Cows Move at $3.75—Receipts Are Light.

The week opened with only a moderate degree of activity at the stockyards. No great rush of business is looked for between now and New Year's, but in spite of that, the market remains in a healthy condition, so far as values are concerned. The receipts yesterday were light, consisting of only 78 cattle, 18 calves and 137 hogs.

That there has been no recession in hog values was shown by the sale of a lot of 97 head at $8.70, while a car of cows moved at $3.75.

Shippers at the yards yesterday were T. B. Long, of Ontario, with one car of hogs, and R. C. Miller, of Nampa, Idaho, with three cars of cattle and calves.

The day's sales were as follows:

		Wt.	Pr.
25	hogs	154	$8.25
20	hogs	94	7.65
37	hogs	239	8.70
80	stock hogs	64	7.00
18	calves	261	8.25
28	cows	1006	3.75
1	bull	1510	2.50

Prices quoted at the yards yesterday were as follows:

CATTLE—Best steers, $4.50@4.75; fair to good, $4@4.25; medium and feeders, $3.25@3.50; cows, top, $3.50@3.85; fair to good, $3@3.25; common to medium, $2.50@2.75; bulls, $3.25@3.60; heavy calves, $4@4.25.

HOGS—Best, $8.50@8.65; medium, $7.50@8.25; stockers, $8.50@8.75.

SHEEP—Best wethers, $5.50@5.75; fair to good, $4.50@5; ewes, ½c less; yearlings, best, $6@6.25; fair to good, $4.50@4.75; lambs, $6@9.25.

Eastern Livestock Markets.

CHICAGO, Dec. 27.—Cattle—Receipts, estimated at 16,000; market, 10c higher. Beeves, $4.10@8.50; Texas steers, $4.10@4.90; Western steers, $4.10@6.80; stockers and feeders, $3.10@5.30; cows and heifers, $2.10@5.70; calves, $7.25@9.75.

Hogs—Receipts, estimated at 15,000; market, 10c higher. Light, $7.95@8.50; mixed, $8.15@8.70; heavy, $8.25@8.60; rough, $8.25@8.40; good to choice heavy, $8.40@8.80; pigs, $7.10@8.55; bulk of sales, $8.25@8.50.

Sheep—Receipts, estimated at 10,000; market, 5@10c higher. Native, $3.60@5.65; Western, $3.80@5.65; yearlings, $6.50@7.40; lambs, native, $5.75@8.30; Western, $5.75@8.50.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 27.—Cattle—Receipts, 7000; market, 10c higher. Native steers, $5@7.50; bulls, $3@4.75; native cows and heifers, $2.50@6.50; stockers and feeders, $3.25@5.25; calves, $3.75@8.25; Western steers, $4.50@6.75; Western cows, $2.75@4.75.

Hogs—Receipts, 6000; market, 10c higher. Heavy, $8.40@8.50; packers and butchers, $8.25@8.60; light, $8@8.35; pigs, $6.50@7.50.

Sheep—Receipts, 2000; market, 10@20c higher. Muttons, $4.40@5.75; lambs, $6.25@8; fed Western wethers and yearlings, $4.50@7; fed Western ewes, $4.25@5.25.

OMAHA, Dec. 27.—Cattle—Receipts 2100; market, slow. Native steers, $4@9; cows and heifers, $3@6.25. Western steers, $3.50@5.25; cows and heifers, $2.75@4.50; canners, $2.25@3.25; stockers and feeders, $2.75@5.25; calves, $3.50@7.50; bulls, stags, etc., $2.75@4.50.

Hogs—Receipts, 2600; market, 10@20c higher. Heavy, $8.30@8.40; mixed, $8.25@8.30; light, $8.20@8.35; pigs, $6.75@7.75; bulk of sales, $8.25@8.35.

Sheep—Receipts, 6500; market, 10@20c higher. Yearlings, $5.80@7; wethers, $5.25@5.55; ewes, $4.25@5.40; lambs, $7@8.15.

Dairy Produce in the East.

CHICAGO, Dec. 27.—Butter—Steady; creameries, 27@35c; dairies, 25@30c.

Eggs—Receipts, 4029 cases; steady at mark, cases included, 24½@28½c; firsts, 32c; prime firsts, 35c.

Cheese—Steady; daisies, 16½@16¾c; twins, 16@16¼c; Young Americas, 16@16¼c; long horns, 16½c.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—Butter—Steady; Western factory seconds to firsts, 24@25c; Western imitation creamery, 26@28c.

Cheese—Firm.

Eggs—Steady; Western extra firsts, 35@36c; firsts, 31@32c; seconds, 28@30c. Refrigerators, 21@25c.

Metal Markets.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—With the London exchange closed, the metal markets developed a weak feature today. Standard copper on the New York exchange was firm; spot, 13.12½@13.37½c; December, January, February, March and April, 13.25@13.37½c.

Tin was steady, with spot, December and January, quoted at 33.70@34c; February, March and April, 33.75@34.12c.

Lead firm; spot, 4.67½@4.72½c New York, and 4.75c asked East St. Louis.

Spelter quiet; spot, 6.10@6.30c New York, 6.05@6.10c East St. Louis.

Iron was unchanged.

Dried Fruit at New York.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—Evaporated apples steady; spot fancy, new crop, 10½@11½c; choice, 8½@9c; prime, 7⅞@7¾c; old crop prime, 7½c; common to fair, 6@7c.

Prunes—Steady; California, 2¾@9c; Oregon, 6@9c.

Apricots—Steady; choice, 11¾@11½c; extra choice, 11¾@12½c; fancy, 12¼@13½c.

Peaches—Firm; choice, 6¾@7c; extra choice, 7@7½c; fancy, 7¾@8c.

Raisins—Irregular; loose muscatel, 4@5c; choice to fancy seeded, 5@6¾c; seedless, 5½@5c; London layers, $1.17½@1.80.

Wool at St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 27.—Wool—Steady; territory and Western mediums, 24@29c; fine mediums, 21@23c; fine, 12@20c.

RICH MAN'S SON IS SUICIDE

Seattle Insurance Agent Feared Mind Failing, Drinks Acid.

SEATTLE, Wash., Dec. 27.—Raymond Lloyd, aged 35, an insurance agent, a Yale graduate in the class of '94, committed suicide in a shabby room in this city today by swallowing an ounce of carbolic acid.

Lloyd, who was unmarried, was a son of Major Henry P. Lloyd, whose address is Union League Club, New York. Raymond Lloyd came here six years ago. He was despondent because of a fear his mind was failing. His father is said to have been a law partner of President Taft in Cincinnati at one time.

In Lloyd's effects were found letters from his father saying that he had spent many thousands of dollars on the son and could do nothing more for him.

SHORTS IN A PANIC

Wild Scramble to Cover on Chicago Market.

LIFTS PRICE WITH A JUMP

December Option Advances 3 1-4 Cents Before the Close—Little of It for Sale — Other Deliveries Higher.

CHICAGO, Dec. 27.—Wheat for December delivery advanced 3¼c here today, owing to a stampede of shorts. Other deliveries also made good gains. The advance in December occurred in the final half of the day and enlivened an otherwise rather listless market. There was little of the December option on sale at any time and fair demand for that month by a leading commission-house started a wild scramble among shorts to cover which resulted in the price jumping to $1.19¾ compared with $1.16¾, the low point of the day. The bulge in December forced May from $1.10⅞@1.11 to $1.12½. Strength of corn helped to stimulate demand for wheat. The market closed about steady, with December at $1.18⅛ and May at $1.11½@1.11⅝.

Corn was exceedingly strong the greater part of the day, but broke sharply later, owing to liberal realizing sales. Congestion in the December delivery contributed materially to the bullish sentiment. The close was steady, with prices ⅛c higher than Friday's final quotations, December being at 65c and May at 67@67⅛c.

Strength of wheat and corn were chiefly responsible for moderate strength displayed by oats. Prices closed ⅛c to ⅜c higher.

Provisions closed 15c lower to 15c higher. The leading futures ranged as follows:

WHEAT.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
Dec.	$1.17	$1.19¾	$1.16¼	$1.18⅛
May	1.14⅛	1.12½	1.11	1.12⅝
July	1.02	1.03½	1.01⅛	1.01⅞

CORN.

Dec