COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEWS

Another week of fine weather has permitted a vast amount of Spring work on the farms, and, while it has temporarily restricted distributive trade through the inability of farmers to leave their work, no complaints are heard. Bank clearings, as handled in Portland, are an excellent commercial barometer, and those for the week just closing show a satisfactory increase over those of the corresponding week in 1899, and are very close to those of 1898, when $1 wheat and plenty of it was in evidence. There has been a further decline in the wheat market, due to a continuation of record-breaking Argentine shipments and to perfect weather conditions in this country. In the wool trade, neither buyers nor sellers are showing any particular anxiety about doing business, and, while the Eastern manufacturers are holding off, there is no special weakness shown among Western holders. There has been some activity in mohair during the week, but quotations are weaker, and the best prices of the season have undoubtedly been passed.

The hop situation remains practically unchanged, except for the sale of a few lots of inferior stock. It is reported that overtures are being made by dealers for the coming crop, but from appearances there will not be much contracting done this year. In potatoes, a shade more firmness is noticeable, due to the light receipts, but as yet there is no advance in prices, and some very good stock sold yesterday at 42½ cents. Onions are selling at record-breaking prices, a lot of 100 sacks selling yesterday at $6 50 per cental, which is the highest price paid for over 20 years. At these prices, consumers buy very sparingly, as the new crop from California will be coming to hand in a few days. The steamer arriving Friday brought a few new onions. They are still rather young, but sold at 5 cents per pound. The next arrivals will probably be better matured and will sell cheaper. Apples are out of the market, and navel oranges are following them, although Mediterranean sweets are quite plentiful. Two carloads of bananas came in yesterday, the most of them arriving too green for immediate use.

The egg market braced up a little yesterday, and some dealers were endeavoring to secure 13 cents. At this figure they moved very slowly, and sales were generally made around 12 and 12½ cents. Butter is very weak, but closed the week at unchanged prices. Veal and pork are selling fairly well at quotations. Poultry was very firm yesterday, and sold at extravagant prices for fancy stock. Hay, oats and barley are very dull, and during the week a few brands of Valley flour were marked down 5 cents per barrel.

WHEAT—The wheat market for the greater part of the week just closed has had a decidedly sickly cast, and closed yesterday down in the dumps. The May option in Chicago is drifting out of existence to slow music, and yesterday was hovering dangerously close to the 65-cent mark, while on the previous day it touched that figure, recovering slightly afterwards. In the Portland market, there does not appear to be much of a demand for the cereal except when it can be secured at or about export prices. Yesterday, some of the exporters had their figures down to 52 and 53 cents for Walla Walla, and expressed themselves as indifferent about doing business at anything in excess of these figures. In Valley, there is some demand from the mills all the time, and choice stock naturally brings a premium over the ordinary run of offerings, but for export, 53 cents is the best quotation obtainable.

The continued enormous shipments from the Argentine are undoubtedly having a very bad effect on the foreign market at the present time, although we are repeatedly assured by the Liverpool papers that the effect of these shipments had been discounted. This might have been true up to a certain stage, but as they keep on holding up around record figures, it begins to look as though the "discount" had not been liberal enough. In the past 10 weeks the Argentine has set afloat 28,568,000 bushels, the weekly shipments with few exceptions running pretty close together in quantity. In detail, they were as follows:

Week ending—		Bushels.
April	21	3,760,000
April	14	2,792,000
April	7	1,696,000
March	31	3,816,000
March	24	4,104,000
March	17	2,544,000
March	10	3,112,000
March	3	2,856,000
February	24	2,320,000
February	17	1,5[illegible],000
Total		28,568,000

This total lacks but a small amount of equaling the entire shipments of the cereal year of 1898-99 from Oregon, Washington and Idaho, and is large enough to cause some sober thinking among the men who are obliged to raise wheat in competition with a country which turns off such astonishing amounts, even when the price is low.

The crop conditions in the United States continue quite favorable and are especially so in the Pacific Northwest, with California making no complaint, except as for the southern part of the state.

Concerning the position of wheat in the United States the Chicago Daily Trade Bulletin has the following: Estimating the wheat crop of the United States at 550,000,000 bushels, and allowing 138,000,000 bushels for supplies in all positions on July 1, 1899, the aggregate supplies for the 12 months would be 688,000,000 bushels. Allowing 324,000,000 bushels for domestic requirements, 65,000,000 bushels for seeding purposes, 138,000,000 for export to date, and 90,000,000 bushels for supplies in all positions July 1, 1900, makes an aggregate quantity accounted for of 617,000,000 bushels, and leaves for export during the remaining three months about 71,000,000 bushels. The exports from April 1, 1899, to July 1, 1899, were about 46,000,000 bushels. At the present rate of exports, however, the supplies on July 1, in all positions, will probably be about 120,000,000 bushels, or only 18,000,000 bushels less than estimated one year previous.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Grain, Flour, Etc.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 52@54c; Valley, 53c; bluestem, 56@57c per bushel.

Flour—Best grades, $2 60@3; graham, $2 50; superfine, $2 10 per barrel.

Oats—White, 35c; gray, 32@33c; stained, 29@30c per bushel.

Barley—Feed, $14@14 50; brewing, $17@17 50 per ton.

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

Hay—Timothy, $9@10; clover, $7@7 50; Oregon wild hay, $6@7 per ton.

Butter, Eggs, Poultry, Etc.

Butter—Weak; fancy creamery, 35@40c per roll; dairy, 30c; store, 20@25c per roll.

Eggs—12½@13c per dozen.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, $4@5 per dozen; hens, $5@6; ducks, $6@7; geese, $8@10 per dozen; turkeys, live, 15c; dressed, 15@17c per pound.

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

Vegetables, Fruit, Etc.

Vegetables—Parsnips, 60@75c; carrots, 50c; turnips, 60@75c; onions, 5c per pound for new, 6½c per pound for old; cabbage, 90c@$1 per cental; potatoes, 30@50c per sack; sweet potatoes, 3c; peas, 4½@5c; beans, 10@12c; asparagus, 5@6c; new potatoes, 2@2½c per pound.

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

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

Groceries, Nuts, Etc.

Coffee—Mocha, 23@28c; Java, fancy, 29@32c; Java, good, 20@24c; Java, ordinary, 18@20c; Costa Rica, fancy, 18@20c; do good, 16@18c; do ordinary, 10@12c per pound; Columbia, roast, $12 25; Arbuckle's, $13 25; Lion, $12 25 per case.

Sugar—Cube, $5 82½; crushed, $5 82½; powdered, $5 82½; dry granulated, cane, $5 32½; beet, $5 22½; extra C, $4 82½; golden C, $4 7[illegible] net; half barrels, ¼c more than barrels; maple sugar, 15@16c per pound.

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

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

Grain bags—Calcutta, $7@7 10 per 100 for spot, $6 50@6 62½ for July-August.

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

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

Rice—Island, 6¼c; Japan, 5½c; New Orleans, 4½@5½c; fancy head, $7@7 50 per sack.

Meat and Provisions.

Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, sheared, $3 50@3 75; dressed, 7@7½c per pound; spring lambs, 5@5½c per pound gross.

Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, $5; light, $4 50; dressed, 5@6½c per pound.

Veal—Large, 6½@7½c per pound; small, 8@8½c.

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

Provisions—Portland pack (Shield brand): Hams, smoked, are quoted at 13c per pound; picnic hams, 9½c per pound; breakfast bacon, 13½c; bacon, 9½c; backs, 9½c; dry salt sides, 8½c; dried beef, 17½c per pound; lard, 5-pound pails, 10c; 10-pound pails, 9½c; 50s, 9¾c; tierces, 9½c per pound. Eastern pack (Hammond's): Hams, large, 13c; medium, 13½c; small, 13½c; picnic hams, 9½c; shoulders, 9½c; breakfast bacon, 12½c; dry salt sides, 8½@8¾c; bacon sides, 9@10½c; backs, 10c; butts, 8c; lard, pure leaf, kettle rendered, 5s, 10½c; 10s, 10½c.

Hops, Wool, Hides, Etc.

Hops—30@8c per pound.

Wool—Valley, 12@13c for coarse, 16@18c for best; Eastern Oregon, 10@15c; mohair, 26@27c per pound.

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

Pelts—Bear skins, each, as to size, $3@15; cubs, each, $1@5; badger, each, 50c; wildcat, 25@75c; housecat, 50@25c; fox, common gray, 40c@$1; do red, $1 75@3 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, 8@12c, 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, $3@7; do medium, per skin, $4@5; do small, per skin, $1@2; do kits, per skin, $1@3.

Tallow—5@5½c; No. 2 and grease, 3½@4c per pound.

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

THE SUGAR MARKET.

Advance Is Expected, as Cuba Is Holding for Higher Prices.

Czarnikow, MacDougall & Co.'s New York circular dated April 14th, says: "This week a complete change has come over the tone of our market, and raw sugars have not only recovered the 1-16c lost last week, but have gained another 1-16c, thus making a total advance of ⅛c on all grades. A very large business was done at these prices, and at their c. f. and c. i. f. parity. A further advance is looked for in the near future, as Cuba shippers are holding for higher prices. While this change has been going on here an improvement has also been going on in Europe, where prices of beet have advanced and cane sugars have likewise advanced. Beets, which for some time have been above the parity of our market, are now on the same level owing to this week's advance here of ⅛c per pound, as against the advance in beets of only 3d per hundredweight, or say 1-16c per pound. Mail advices report the weather very unfavorable for the beet sowings. An increased area is likely to be sown, but no positive estimate can yet be given. It is estimated that the present stock of raw sugar in Puerto Rico does not exceed 20,000 tons, and this quantity will probably be shipped without delay. The amount, however, is not large enough to have any effect on our market, although buyers may try to secure some portion of the benefit derived from the reduced duties. Cuba—The number of estates grinding is reduced to 62 as compared with 104 grinding at this time last year. Advices from the interior regarding the results on estates that have finished grinding have caused some of our correspondents to modify their estimate of the total crop to 325,000 tons, as against last week's official estimate of 335,000 tons."

SAN FRANCISCO MARKETS.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 21.—Wool—Spring Nevada, 14@16c; Eastern Oregon, 12@16c; Valley Oregon, 20@22c; Fall Northern mountain, 10@12c; mountain, 8@10c; plains, 8@10c; Humboldt and Mendocino, 14@15c.

Hops—1899 crop, 11@13c.

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

Hay—Wheat, $8@10; wheat and oat, $8@9; best barley, $8@7; alfalfa, $8@6 50; stock, $5@5 50; compressed wheat, $7@9 50 per ton; straw, 25@40c per bale.

Potatoes—Early Rose, 60@65c; River Burbanks, 40@65c; Oregon Burbanks, 50@85c per cental; sweet potatoes, $2 25@2 40 per cental.

Vegetables—Silverskin onions, $6@8 per cental; garlic, 2½@3½c; green peas, 75c@$1 25 per sack; string beans, 10@12½c; dried okra, 22½c per pound; asparagus, $1@2 per box; egg plant, 8@10c per pound.

Apples—Choice, $1 25; common, 50c.

Citrus fruits—Oranges, navels, $1 25@3 50; Mexican limes, $4@5; common California lemons, $1 25@1 50; lemons, choice, $1 25@1 50 per box.

Bananas—$1 25@3 25 per bunch.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 16½@17c; fancy creamery seconds, 16c; fancy dairy, 15½c; fancy dairy seconds, 15@15c per pound.

Cheese—California, new, 7@7½c per pound; Young America, 8@8½c; Eastern, 16½@17c.

Eggs—Store, 14c; fancy ranch, 16c per dozen.

Poultry—Turkey gobblers, 12@13c; turkey hens, 12@14c per pound; old roosters, $4@4 50 per dozen; young roosters, $6@7; small broilers, $2 50@3 50; large broilers, $4@4 50; fryers, $5@6; hens, $5@5 50 per dozen; geese, $2@2 25 per pair.

Receipts—Flour, quarter sacks, 18,087; wheat, centals, 1190; barley, centals, 2000; oats, centals, 370; corn, centals, 370; potatoes, sacks, 1820; bran, sacks, 1245; middlings, sacks, 675; hay, bales, 417; wool, bales, 153; hides, 180.

CLOSING STOCK QUOTATIONS.

BONDS.

U. S. 2s, ref.*	102⅝	D. & R. G. 4s	99⅝
U. S. 2s, reg	99½	Gen. Electric 5s	117½
do 3s, reg	109	N. Y. Central 1sts	110⅝
do 3s, coupon	109⅝	North. Pacific 3s	68⅝
do new 4s, reg	133	do 4s	104⅝
do new 4s, coup	134	Oregon Nav. 1sts	108
do old 4s, reg	114¼	do 4s	110½
do old 4s, coup	114¼	Oregon S. L. 6s	129
do 5s, reg	112½	do con. 5s	113½
do 5s, coupon	113½	Rio Gr. West. 1sts	99¼
Dist. Col. 3-65s	122½	St. Paul consols	173¼
Atchison adj. 4s	84⅝	St. P. C. & P. 1sts	121
C. & N.W. con. 7s	142	do 5s	120¼
do S. F. deb. 5s	122	Union Pacific 4s	106
D. & R. G. 1sts	104	Wis. Central 1sts	92

*When issued.

STOCKS.

The total sales of stocks today were 417,200 shares. The closing quotations were:

Atchison	20⅝	Union Pac. pref	75
do pref	69⅝	Wabash	7⅝
Balt. & Ohio	84⅝	do pref	22⅝
Can. Pacific	96½	Wheeling & L. E.	10½
Can. Southern	56½	do 2d pref	28½
Ches. & Ohio	31⅝	Wisconsin Central	17⅝
Chi. Gr. Western	13⅝	P. C. C. & St. L.	63
C., B. & Q.	125⅝	Third Avenue	111½
Chi., Ind. & L.	20⅝	EXPRESS CO.S.	
do pref	38	Adams	120
Chi. & East. Ill.	103½	American	145
Chicago & N. W.	161⅝	United States	49
C., Rl. I. & Pac.	108⅝	Wells-Fargo	123
C., C., C. & St. L.	62	MISCELLANEOUS.	
Colo. Southern	6	Amer. Cotton Oil	35
do 1st pref	42½	do pref	90
do 2d pref	16⅝	Amer. Malting	3½
Del. & Hudson	115½	do pref	21
Del., Lack. & W.	159	Amer. Smelt. & R.	37⅝
Denver & Rio Gr.	24½	do pref	89¼
do pref	75½	Amer. Spirits	2½
Erie	13½	do pref	17
do 1st pref	40⅝	Amer. Steel Hoop	26⅝
Great North. pref	151½	do pref	74⅝
Hocking Coal	17	Amer. Steel & W.	38⅝
Hocking Valley	40	do pref	76½
Illinois Central	115¼	Amer. Tin Plate	23
Iowa Central	17	do pref	78
do pref	51½	Amer. Tobacco	101¼
Kan. C., P. & G.	18	do pref	135
Lake Erie & W.	31⅝	Anaconda Min. Co.	45⅝
do pref	95	Brooklyn R. T.	73
Lake Shore	200	Colo. Fuel & Iron	41¼
Louis. & Nash.	8[illegible]⅝	Cont. Tobacco	23½
Manhattan El	93	do pref	57⅝
Met. St. Ry.	154½	Federal Steel	39¼
Mexican Central	13⅝	do pref	69
Minn. & St. Louis	64	Gen. Electric	138¼
do pref	94¼	Glucose Sugar	49½
Missouri Pacific	55½	do pref	95
Mobile & Ohio	45	Int. Paper	22⅝
M., K. & T.	1[illegible]⅝	do pref	65½
do pref	56	La Clede Gas	71
New Jersey Central	120½	National Biscuit	43
New York Central	154⅝	do pref	131
Norfolk & West.	27½	National Lead	22⅝
do pref	78	do pref	104
Northern Pacific	59⅝	National Steel	36
do pref	79⅝	do pref	90
Ontario & West.	22⅝	N. Y. Air Brake	125
O. R. & N.	37⅝	North American	15¼
do pref	75	Pacific Coast	51½
Pennsylvania	134⅝	do 1st pref	82
Reading	29	do 2d pref	62
do 1st pref	60½	Pacific Mail	33
do 2d pref	31	Peoples Gas	101⅝
Rio Gr. Western	54⅝	Pressed Steel Car	43⅝
do pref	87½	do pref	82
St. Louis & S. Fr.	19⅝	Pullman Pal. Car	182
do 1st pref	68	Stand. Rope & T.	4
do 2d pref	33	Sugar	134
St. Louis & S. W.	11½	do pref	111
do pref	30½	Tenn. Coal & Iron	84⅝
St. Paul	124⅝	U. S. Leather	11½
do pref	173⅝	do pref	84⅝
St. Paul & O.	119	U. S. Rubber	37½
Southern Pacific	37⅝	do pref	87
Southern Ry	11⅝	Western Union	81
do pref	59⅝	Republic Iron & S.	24
Texas & Pacific	19⅝	do pref	79½
Union Pacific	59⅝		

Money, Exchange, Etc.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 21.—Sterling on London, 60 days, $4 85½; sight, $4 89; Mexican dollars, 48½@49c; drafts, sight, 17½c; do telegraph, 20c.

NEW YORK, April 21.—Money on call, steady, 2 per cent; prime mercantile paper, 4@5 per cent; sterling exchange, firm, with actual business in bankers' bills at $4 88@4 88¼ for demand, and at $4 83½@4 84½ for 60 days; posted rates, $4 84½@4 85 and 4 88½@4 89; commercial bills, $4 83¼@4 84; silver certificates, 60½@61½c; Mexican dollars, 47½c; Government bonds, steady; state bonds, inactive; railroad bonds, steady.

LONDON, April 21.—Consols, $1 00 15-16; money, 3½@4 per cent.

Stocks in London.

LONDON, April 21.—Canadian Pacific, 99⅝; Union Pacific preferred, 77¼; Northern Pacific preferred, 78½; Grand Trunk, 8¼; Anaconda, 10.

EASTERN LIVESTOCK.

CHICAGO, April 21.—Cattle—Receipts, 200. Market generally steady. Natives, good to prime steers, $4 90@5 80; poor to medium, $4 10@4 75; selected feeders, $4 85; mixed stockers, $3 30@3 75; cows, $3@4 50; heifers, $2 25@4 85; canners, $2 25@2 80; bulls, $2 80@4 30; calves, $4 50@6 60; Texas fed steers, $4@5 20; Texas bulls, $3 25@3 75.

Hogs—Receipts today, 13,000; estimated Monday, 25,000; left over, 2100. Hogs 5c lower; top, $5 77½. Mixed and butchers', $5 40@5 72½; good to choice heavy, $5 60@5 77½; rough heavy, $5 60@5 77½; light, $5 30@5 65; bulk of sales, $5 50@5 62½.

Sheep—Receipts, none. Sheep and lambs steady. Good to choice wethers, $5 75@6 25; fair to choice mixed, $5@5 75; Western sheep, $5 50@6 25; yearlings, $5 80@6 25; native lambs, $5 50@7 30; Western lambs, $6@7 30.

Receipts this week: Cattle, 48,000; hogs, 130,000; sheep, 66,000.

Receipts last week: Cattle, 51,200; hogs, 145,300; sheep, 70,000.

OMAHA, April 21.—Cattle—Receipts, 300. Market steady. Native beef steers, $4@5 40; cows and heifers, $3 50@4 65; canners, $2 25@3 40; stockers and feeders, $3 75@5 10; calves, $4@7; bulls and stags, $2 80@4 20.

Hogs—Receipts, 8000. Market 5c lower. Heavy, $5 42½@5 50; mixed, $5 40@5 42½; light, $5 35@5 42½; bulk of sales, $5 40@5 42½.

Sheep—Receipts, 600. Market steady. Fair to choice natives, $5 75@6 35; fair to choice Westerns, $5 50@6 10; common and choice sheep, $4 50@5 50; lambs, $6@7 25.

KANSAS CITY, April 21.—Cattle—Receipts, 100. Market unchanged. Texas steers, $4 25@4 45; native steers, $4 50@5 25; native cows and heifers, $3 40@4 25; stockers and feeders, $3 75@5 40.

Hogs—Receipts, 7000. Market weak to 5c lower. Bulk of sales, $5 35@5 50; heavy, $5 40@5 55; packers, $5 37½@5 50; mixed, $5 32½@5 45; lights, $5 10@5 35; porkers, $5 30@5 55; pigs, $4@5 20.

Sheep—Receipts, 500. Market unchanged. Lambs, $6 85@8 50; muttons, $6@6 10.

THE GRAIN MARKETS.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 21.—Wheat and barley quiet, oats dull. Spot quotations were:

Wheat—Shipping, No. 1, 95c; choice, 96¼c; milling, 97½c@$1.

Barley—Feed, 70@72½c; brewing, 80@82½c.

Oats—Gray Oregon, $1 07½@1 12½; milling, $1 15@1 17½; red, 95c@$1 15.

Call-board sales:

Wheat—Quiet. May, 93⅝c; December, $1 02½; cash, 96¼c.

Barley—Quiet. December, 73½c.

Corn—Large yellow, $1 15@1 17½.

Chicago Grain and Produce.

CHICAGO, April 21.—Up to 11 o'clock the wheat market was quiet but steady, slowly but firmly working upward under the influence of steady cables and the firmness of corn, together with light receipts in the Northwest. Shorts were the best buyers early. They sold yesterday, and the steadiness of cables this morning gave them cause to repent. The Southwest was also a buyer, much of it, however, to cover short lines. The bulk of the day's business was in changing May for July, or vice-versa. Most of the business was done at a spread of 1½c. During the last hour of the session, which carried the market to its high point for the day, trade was fairly active. May opened a shade up, at 65½@65⅝c, advanced to 65⅝@65¾c, and closed a shade up at 65⅝@65⅝c.

The corn market started out firm, helped by higher cables and the additions which irreclaimable bulls made to the short lines. But after a while this situation played out and the market became heavy. May closed ¼c down at 38¼c.

Liquidation of May was the feature in the oats pit. May closed ⅜c down at 22⅝c.

Provisions were dull and weak. Hogs were lower, and there was continued liquidation. The foreign demand for lard was poor. May pork closed 17½c under yesterday, May lard 17½c down, and May ribs 15c lower.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

WHEAT.

	Opened.	Highest.	Lowest.	Closing.
April	.....	.....	.....	$0 65½
May	$0 65¼	$0 65¾	$0 65¼	65⅝
July	66⅝	67¼	66⅝	66⅞
September	67⅝	67⅞	67⅝	67⅞

CORN.

April	.....	.....	.....	37⅝
May	38⅝	38⅝	38¼	38¼
July	39⅝	39⅝	39⅜	39¼
September	40⅝	40⅝	39⅝	39⅝

OATS.

May	23	23¼	22⅝	22⅝
July	23¼	23¼	22⅝	23
September	22¼	22⅝	22	22

MESS PORK.

May	12 82½	12 92½	12 72½	12 72½
July	12 95	13 00	12 80	12 80

LARD.

May	7 02½	7 05	6 92½	6 92½
July	7 12½	7 15	7 02½	7 02½
September	7 20	7 20	7 07½	7 07½

SHORT RIBS.

May	6 95	6 95	6 87½	6 90
July	6 97½	7 02½	6 92½	6 92½
September	6 97½	6 97½	6 90	6 90

Cash quotations were as follows:

Flour—Dull. Winter patents, $3 60@3 70; straights, $2 95@3 40; clears, $2 70@3 20; Spring specials, $3 80@3 90; patents, $3 10@3 45; straights, $2 60@3; bakers', $2@2 45.

Wheat—No. 3 Spring, 63@64½c; No. 2 red, 65½@66c.

Corn—No. 2, 38¼c.

Oats—No. 2, 23½@24½c; No. 2 white, 27½c; No. 3 white, 27½@28c.

Rye—No. 2, 54c.

Barley—No. 2, 41½@45c.

Flaxseed—No. 1, $1 72.

Timothy seed—Prime, $2 45.

Mess pork—Per barrel, $11 75@12 80.

Lard—Per 100 pounds, $6 85@6 97½c.

Short ribs—Sides, loose, $6 25@7.

Shoulders—Dry-salted, boxed, 6¾@7c.

Sides—Short, clear, boxed, $7 50@7 60.

Whisky—Distillers' finished goods, per gallon, $1 25½.

	Receipts.	Shipments.
Flour, barrels	19,000	19,000
Wheat, bushels	35,000	70,000
Corn, bushels	200,000	245,000
Oats, bushels	100,000	325,000
Rye, bushels	8,000	.....
Barley, bushels	30,000	21,000

On the produce exchange today the butter market was firm. Creamery, 14@17½c; dairy, 12½@15½c.

Cheese—Firm at 12@12c.

Eggs—Steady; fresh, 10½c.

New York Grain and Produce.

NEW YORK, April 21.—Flour—Receipts, 27,880 barrels; exports, 27,885 barrels. Market, steady. Minnesota patents, $3 70@3 90; Winter straights, $3 45@3 50.

Wheat—Receipts, 35,150 bushels. Spot, firm; No. 2 red, 73½c, f. o. b. Options improved in the morning about ¼c, and closed firm, ⅛c net advance; May closed 72½c; June, 72⅝c; September, 72½c.

Wool—Dull.

Hops—Quiet.

European Grain Markets.

LONDON, April 21.—Wheat—Cargoes on passage, easier, neglected; cargoes, Walla Walla, 28s 6d; cargoes, Oregon, 30s; English country markets, quiet.

LIVERPOOL, April 21.—Wheat—Quiet; No. 1 standard California, 6s 5d; wheat in Paris, quiet; flour in Paris, quiet; French country markets, quiet.

Spot—Dull; No. 1 California, 6s 4½d; No. 1 Northern, Spring, 5s 11½d. Futures steady; April, 5s 8½d; May, 5s 9d; July, 5s 8½d.

Corn—Spot, steady; American mixed new, 4s 1½d. Futures, steady; May, 4s 4¾d; July, 3s 7½d.

Coffee and Sugar.

NEW YORK, April 21.—Coffee options closed firm at 10@15 points net advance. Sales, $18,750, including September, $6 95@7 00; October, $7@7 05; November, $7@7 05; spot Rio, steady; No. 7 invoice, $8; No. 7 jobbing, $8 50; mild steady; Cordova, $9 50@14 00.

Sugar, raw, steady; fair refining, 3 13-16c; centrifugal 96 test, 4 2-16c; refined, steady; granulated, $5 15; cut loaf, $5 65.

The Metal Markets.

NEW YORK, April 21.—The firm that fixes the selling price for miners and smelters quotes lead at $4 45 at the close; bar silver, 59⅝c.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 21.—Bar silver, 59¾c.

LONDON, April 21.—Bar silver, 27⅝d.

American Rough Rider Ways.

Julian Ralph in Collier's Weekly.

The Swagger Guards and the splendid Lancers in South Africa have already become parts of the dirtiest army in the world. The dirtiest, because there's no such thing as keeping clean. We live in dust, eat dust, drink dust, breathe dust, and dust coats us all from head to foot. Hundreds of one-time dandies have long since ceased to shave, and until we came to Modder River, a man who washed all over was sure to boast of it and be pointed out to the others. The officers without swords and without stars are as like their men as two peas; in fact, we are like an army of dustmen with no differences among us except that Lord Methuen and General Pole-Carew are still as tidy as if they were at home. But they are Generals and ought to be marked men in every way. As I walk through the camp I notice more and more men in soft slouch hats. They have lost their helmets in battle or worn them out. But the wonder is that in an Old World army they are allowed to make such a departure. Finally, who are the most admired of all the soldiers? Who are the heroes in their comrades' eyes? Why, the New Zealanders Australians and Canadians. And what do they look like? So like American scouts and rough riders that my heart warms every time I see them. They ride as our boys do, with the horse, as if each man was a part of his steed. They carry their guns any way they please. They wear their slouch hats as they like—turned up, turned down, or caught up at one side. It is said that the sword has gone forever from the field of war.

Well, the polished brass and the pipe clay have gone from the British army for the time being, and I shall not wonder if the leather harness drops off Tommy's back before we are through. Some Europeans laughed at us for just such innovations, but we do not laugh back. We applaud, for the changes are brought about by common sense.

Made the Bluff Good.

"Show me a prizefighter," said the long-haired man as he leaned against the bar, "and I'll show you a loafer."

"Is that so?" exclaimed a burley fellow behind the stove, jumping to his feet. "Well, I'm a prizefighter—see?"

"Of course," said the other, as he backed toward the door, "and I'm a loafer."—Chicago News.

Estey Organs. Wiley B. Allen Co.

PRESERVE FOR BISON

BILL TO SET ASIDE 20,000 ACRES IN NEW MEXICO.

Representative Lacey's Interesting Report in Favor of the Measure—An Advisable Experiment.

WASHINGTON, April 16.—Representative Lacey, of Iowa, chairman of the public lands committee, seems to have a soft spot in his heart for the American bison, and was one of those most interested in a bill which he recently reported for setting aside a tract of land in New Mexico as preserve for this now almost extinct animal. It is true that the original bill called for an exhorbitant amount of land, but this has been cut down and a tract of reasonable size is now provided for. There are some interesting statements in Mr. Laceys' report, from which the following extracts are taken:

"In 1832 the last of the bison was killed east of the Mississippi River. Before the development of the railroads, vast herds of these animals avoided the destructive effects of the white settlements by emigration to the far West, and down to as late as 1870 they still numbered very many millions. The building of the Pacific Railroad was the signal for the destruction of these vast herds. They were slaughtered without mercy, for sport and for profit.

"Professor Hornaday thinks that there are at present 400 living buffalo in the whole world. The herd of the Flathead Indians, the 'Buffalo Jones' herd, the Goodnight herd, the Corbin herd, a few specimens here and there in zoological parks, remnants still of perhaps 20 in the Yellowstone National Park, and a few scattered 'wood buffalo' west of Hudson's Bay embrace all that are left of the countless millions of a generation ago.

"In a more favorable climate, with adequate protection and opportunity for ranging, breeding may be successfully carried on. Experience has shown that in close confinement most of the calves are males, but on the open range, under more natural conditions, the birth rate of the two sexes is about equal.

"Practically all the animals with which to try this experiment of domesticating the buffalo are under the control of Colonel Jones. We recognize the fact that the buffalo, like the Indian, must be domesticated or disappear; but it is also true that an adequate home must be found for the few remaining, or else they can not be protected and preserved. After a few generations of domestication their breeding can no doubt be carried on without the broad range that now seems necessary. To turn these animals out on the plains of any of the Western states or territories to take their chances with domestic cattle would result in their destruction. A range sufficiently large and at the same time fenced in should be provided for that purpose. The owner of this herd is willing to bear all the expense of this experiment and asks no Government aid. He can not turn these animals out on the open range without danger of their entire loss.

"In New Mexico the buffalo finds his natural home, both Summer and Winter. There remain vast areas of unoccupied public lands where the buffalo formerly roamed and bred with much fruitfulness. Out of the 600,000,000 acres remaining of the public lands it is proposed by this bill to set apart a tract of 20,000 acres; not free of charge, as the sheep and cattle men now use the land, but subject to a nominal rental of 1 cent an acre, and also two buffalo in kind which are to be delivered to the Government each year for the use of the public parks.

"Owing to a misunderstanding of the boundaries, the original bill provided for an unnecessarily large area, and the hostility of the sheep and cattle men was at once aroused. The committee, in reporting back this bill, has cut the amount down to such dimensions that we believe the bill would meet the approval of even these interested parties. The addition of this herd of buffalo, instead of being an injury to New Mexico, will be of positive advantage, because it adds an additional industry, or, rather, restores one which has been destroyed. The lease is a temporary one, and runs but for 25 years. If it is found that the animals sufficiently increase under this arrangement, the lease could be renewed, otherwise there would be no harm done in terminating it.

"George Bird Grinnell, in 1892, estimated the Yellowstone buffalo at 400, and reported that they were increasing. The writer of this report visited the Yellowstone last Summer, and from the best information he could get there were not to exceed 23 still alive. At $10 a head the 10,000,000 of these animals that existed only a few years ago would be worth $100,000,000.

"In 1873 Congress passed a law to protect the buffalo, but the President of the United States failed to sign it, and it did not become a law. The failure to sign this bill might be called another 'crime of '73.' Action then would have been in time. The failure to act now in this matter will be fatal. We believe that the Government should make this experiment. It ought to be made, even if it had to be made entirely at public expense, but under the plan proposed by this bill, the Government will not expend a single dollar. The land to be used for the purpose is public land. It belongs to the people. The whole people of the United States are concerned in saving our Nation from the reproach of allowing the entire extinction of the American bison. Our children's children would curse us, and they ought to, if we do not prevent this reproach on the American people from being consummated.

"There is another important feature connected with this experiment. Domestic cows can be placed on this range and crossed with the buffalo bulls. This is no longer an experiment. The product of this cross is an animal with a coat heavy enough to resist the severest Western winter storm. This, however, is only an incident to the real purpose of the plan, as there would be no attempt made