

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEWS

There is always such a large amount of business handled the week before Christmas that it is sometimes a difficult matter to gauge its volume in comparison with that of previous Christmas weeks, but the testimony of both wholesalers and retailers in this city is to the effect that the business this year is far ahead of that of any previous Christmas season. This is corroborated by bank clearings larger than ever before on a corresponding week, and much larger than those of any other city in the Northwest. Naturally, the bulk of the business for the past week has been in seasonal luxuries, but there has also been a good distribution of staples. The wheat market has shown occasional periods of strength during the week, but it is not as good as growers would like to have it, although there was a fairly free selling movement early in the week.

In the commission-house portion of Front street the largest business of the week was in poultry for the Christmas trade. The prices demanded by country dealers a week ago were so high that large quantities of Eastern turkeys were brought into the market, which could not any more than absorb the local offerings without breaking the price. Buyers held off until the last minute, and, as usual, the market was in rather a demoralized condition, and sacrifices were necessary in order to clean up the stock. Chickens were a drug on the market right from the start, even choice stock moving with the greatest difficulty at low prices. The retailers seem to be expecting lower prices tomorrow, for many of them would not even make a bid on turkeys yesterday. The Eastern stock arrived in much better condition than was expected, considering the soft weather, and the bulk of the Oregon stock offering is superior to that which was on the market during the giving week. Some fancy turkeys sold yesterday as high as 15¢, but the bulk of the best stock that was sold went around 12¢ to 14¢, and other birds in poorer condition sold down to 10¢. Dressed chickens, as fine as ever came to market, sold at 10¢ per pound, and green sold at 10¢ per pound dressed. The egg market is easier, but seems to be successfully resisting all efforts to hold it at 27¢. But it is firm at quotations. The demand for potatoes is easier, San Francisco being as yet only a moderate buyer. Onions are firm at \$1.50 per bushel. Oats are weaker. Groceries are firm at unchanged prices.

WHEAT.—The wheat market yesterday closed much firmer than was generally expected, considering that several days will elapse and all sorts of contingencies may arise before the Christmas holiday is over. The improvement for the week has not amounted to much in the local market, partly because it had been discounted by the high limits reached before there was any improvement elsewhere and partly because the expected decline in freights is not materializing as fast as was hoped for. A number of charters were made during the week, at rates materially under the average figures asked 25 to 40 days ago, but shippers seem to have no difficulty in realising the efforts of exporters to get the rate below 40¢, and during the week as high as 42¢ 60 was paid for a February ship for loading on Puget Sound, with \$6 paid as far along as April. Large steamers, of course, are offering for less money, and a 500-ton steamer was fixed during the week at 75¢ for one port, or \$8.95 for two ports. Some sales of Valley wheat were reported during the week, interior mills offering on the basis of 40¢ in Portland. Weather conditions for the growing crop continue very favorable, and the fall grain is in excellent shape for the winter. Similar reports are received from California, and the large stocks still on hand from the 1900 crop give shippers great faith in high freight rates continuing throughout the coming year.

PORTLAND MARKETS.
Grain, Flour, Etc.
Wheat—Valley, 1900; 1901; 1902; 1903; 1904; 1905; 1906; 1907; 1908; 1909; 1910; 1911; 1912; 1913; 1914; 1915; 1916; 1917; 1918; 1919; 1920; 1921; 1922; 1923; 1924; 1925; 1926; 1927; 1928; 1929; 1930; 1931; 1932; 1933; 1934; 1935; 1936; 1937; 1938; 1939; 1940; 1941; 1942; 1943; 1944; 1945; 1946; 1947; 1948; 1949; 1950; 1951; 1952; 1953; 1954; 1955; 1956; 1957; 1958; 1959; 1960; 1961; 1962; 1963; 1964; 1965; 1966; 1967; 1968; 1969; 1970; 1971; 1972; 1973; 1974; 1975; 1976; 1977; 1978; 1979; 1980; 1981; 1982; 1983; 1984; 1985; 1986; 1987; 1988; 1989; 1990; 1991; 1992; 1993; 1994; 1995; 1996; 1997; 1998; 1999; 2000; 2001; 2002; 2003; 2004; 2005; 2006; 2007; 2008; 2009; 2010; 2011; 2012; 2013; 2014; 2015; 2016; 2017; 2018; 2019; 2020; 2021; 2022; 2023; 2024; 2025; 2026; 2027; 2028; 2029; 2030; 2031; 2032; 2033; 2034; 2035; 2036; 2037; 2038; 2039; 2040; 2041; 2042; 2043; 2044; 2045; 2046; 2047; 2048; 2049; 2050; 2051; 2052; 2053; 2054; 2055; 2056; 2057; 2058; 2059; 2060; 2061; 2062; 2063; 2064; 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