LAWYER OVERRULES DOCTOR.

Declares That Doctor's Diagnosis Is Worthless and That Horowitz Is Sane.

In habeas corpus proceedings taken by Abraham Horowitz for his release from Manhattan State Hospital, to which he was committed as an insane man last August, Referee R. L. Fritchard has made a report to the Supreme Court finding that Horowitz is not insane. Horowitz says that he was railroaded to the insane asylum by the family of his wife Lena, who died on March 17 last, because he had entered a contest of her will. Her will left her entire estate, said to be about $17,000, to her sister, Rosie Solomon, with the exception of about $200, which was given to charity. Horowitz contends that his wife did not voluntarily make the will, and that a pen was put in her hand after her death, and in this way a "mark" was made on her will. Referee Pritchard says:

"I find there is not a particle of evidence to state to the extent that said Horowitz is insane. The witness, Beverly R. Keegan, produced by the state, a physician attached to the Manhattan State Hospital, and under whose care Horowitz is at present, states in his evidence that Horowitz is suffering from acute mania. This witness, however, gives no facts to justify the opinion, and when questioned by the referee stated that his opinion was based on the fact that Horowitz had periods of excitement, but that he had never seen any such attacks.

"Not only was this witness unable to testify as to persons of excitement from his own knowledge, but such periods of excitement would not constitute mania. The condition of mania is one of excitement accompanied with a coherence of ideas. The medical witness states in his testimony that Horowitz does not suffer from any delusion or illusion as far as he knew. The diagnosis of the witness is therefore worthless.

"This witness, however, considers Horowitz a degenerate. Nobody may consider him so, but we have hardly arrived at the Spartan vigor which puts out of the way all those who do not come up to an ideal measurement. Our humanity even allows a degenerate dominion her liberty.

"Here Horowitz has no delusions or illusions, and it is not credible that he is dangerous to others or that he ever intended harm to himself. I find there is nothing to justify any allegation affecting his sanity."

Horowitz was arrested on complaint of men who said he had assaulted them on the street. Mr. Pritchard was designated referee by Justice Pryor with the remark that he was especially competent to pass on the man's sanity. It is an unusual job for a referee.

Horowitz has been released and taken to his home at 87 Ridge street.

WENTWORTH AT A POLICE TRIAL.

He Says a Cop Was Not to Blame Because a Woman Prisoner Was Discharged.

Magistrate Wentworth appeared before Commissioner Parker yesterday as a witness at the trial of Patrolman Robert F. Cronin of the East Twenty-second street station, who was accused of failing to substantiate a charge he made against a woman named Minnie Davis, whom he arrested on the night of Dec. 21. Cronin arrested her on East Fourteenth street and charged her with loitering for immoral purposes. When he arraigned her before the Magistrate in the Yorkville Court, Cronin said that he saw the woman address men and solicit them for immoral purposes. The Magistrate refused to entertain the complaint because he was unable to swear that he heard the conversations between the woman and the men she spoke to.

Magistrate Wentworth told the Commissioner that the Magistrate had refused to hold women arrested for soliciting unless the policemen could swear that they heard them solicit men. He exonerated Cronin from all blame for the woman's discharge.

Patrolman James F. Hough of the East Thirteenth street station and Horace K. Patrick of the West Twenty-seventh street station were tried on charges made by Acting Inspector Hartshorne, who said they failed to make an investigation of Nov. 8, when Peter McArthur of 330 West Twenty-eighth street was run down by a runaway team on Fifth avenue and killed. The boy's father made the complaint. Dr. O'Donohue of 430 West Thirty-third street, who was called to attend the boy, was a witness. He at first refused to answer any questions, so Commissioner Parker threatened to fine him. He then consented to testify. Upon being sworn, he hesitated about taking the Bible.

"Take the Bible, said the Commissioner.

"I will if you find a clean piece of paper on it, said the Commissioner.

The Commissioner told him to open the book and examine it. Dr. O'Donohue then said he examined the boy, but found no injury. The boy insisted he was hurt. A physician from the railroad company swore that McArthur subsided on the spot. The policeman said they made no report because the boy was not hurt.

COMMUTERS STOP MEDDLING.

No Attempt Yesterday to Interfere with the Jersey Express Business.

The army of Elizabeth commuters which has been carrying on a war against the New Jersey Central Railroad Company and the United States Express Company laid down its arms yesterday afternoon. It was vanquished by the companies, and the surrender was indicated by the action of one of the chief commuters, who yesterday walked with both hands up, between the lane of policemen, to the train. Capt. Cox of the Gregory street police station, Jersey City, and twenty men were on hand, but no attempt was made to rush any private express messengers with packages through the line of railroad detectives or officials. Michael Campbell, Sr., the private express messenger, and his boy, both carrying packages, went aboard the ferryboat on this side of the river, but they did not have the packages when the boat reached the other side, so they were allowed to board the train.

Joseph Sheppard, the messenger employed by the Stoddard Express Company of Elizabeth, also passed through empty handed. He said he was said, he managed to slip his packages to passengers. None of the commuters were interfered with, and they carried all the packages they wanted to. After the eight o'clock train left Capt. Cox and the men returned to their station house, and the Captain said it was doubtful whether they would appear on the scene again. All danger of trouble was past, he said.

General Manager Topping said the express company had broken up the practice of private messengers interfering with the company's business, and that the company would employ detectives to prevent a recurrence of the trouble. He said the commuters had sensibly quit mixing up in an affair which did not concern them.

ANNIE LIED, THAT'S ALL.

Afraid of a Spanking, She Runs Away and Is Locked Up.

Annie Schuster is 12 years old. Her parents live at 37 Graham avenue, Williamsburgh. Annie left home on Monday morning after having been scolded by her mother. On Monday night the girl was found asleep in a hallway in Broadway. A woman tenant sheltered her until the next day, when Annie was taken to the Bedford avenue police station. Then Annie spun a yarn. She said her name was Mamie Morris; that her father, Louis Morris, died three months ago, and her stepmother died two months later. After the stepmother's death, the girl said, an uncle, Morris Lewis, took her to his house at 111 Clinton street, this city. A week ago Another uncle, Harry Wood, took charge of her. This man, the girl said, took her to Williamsburgh on Sunday, where he deserted her.

On a charge of vagrancy "Orphan Annie" was arraigned in the Lee Avenue Police Court the next morning and committed to the care of the Children's Society.

The Schuster family, on a search for their wandering child, found her yesterday at the office of the Children's society. Annie said she ran away from home and afterward told such whoppers because she was afraid that her mother was about to chastise her.

One Fireman Killed and Three Hurt.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 31.—One fireman was killed and three were injured by the breaking of a ladder at a fire early this morning. Edward A. Dever, lieutenant, aged 41 years, was killed, and George Lutz, Bethel Partridge, and James Bennett injured.

The fire was in a four-story building, 9 Strawberry street. When a stiff wind under the place lifted the building, and six firemen were starting upstairs it broke, and the men were thrown violently to the ground. Dever was one of the oldest men in the Fire Department, having been appointed in 1876. He leaves a widow and seven children.

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.

New York Stock Exchange Sales Dec. 31.

UNITED STATES AND STATE BONDS IN $1,000s.

20 U S 4s c	110¾	5 Tennessee 6s	
2 U S 4s c	110		81¾
5 U S 4s c 1907		5 Va 6s def ser A	6
	110¾@110¾		

CLOSING PRICES OF UNITED STATES BONDS.

	Bid.	Asked.		Bid.	Asked.
U S 5s, r			U S 5s, c		
at pleasure	95¾	—	1904	114	114¾
U S 4s, r			U S 4s, c		
1907	110¾	110¾	1904	114	114¾
U S 4s, c			U S 4s, r		
1907	112	112¾	1907	100	—
U S 4s, r			U S 4s, c		
1925	120	120¾	1925	100¾	—
U S 4s, c			U S 4s, c		
1925	120	120¾	1925	105¾	—

RAILROAD AND OTHER BONDS (IN $1,000s).

10 Ath mf 4s	43¾	3	Ner Hud		105
15	43¾	1	Nor & Ohio gd		67¾
36	43	5	Nor C Sa 1908		108
12 Ath gen 4s	79¾	16	Nor Pac 1st c		116¾
53	79¾	60	North Pac prior		
25	79¾		4s		65¾
20 Atl & Pac 1st	¾	20			65¾
5	¾	10	North Pac gen		
5	1		6s, w i		52¾
6 Atc & Kty 4s	74¾	50			52¾
1 Atc Tob scrip	73	1			51¾
5	71¾	10			52
1	70	3	N Y & S 1st r 5s		103¾
11 Atc & S W 1st	84¾	5	N Y Cen 1st, c		101
1 Bway & 7th Av		1	N Y C 4s 4s		101¾
cm 5s	117¾	1	N Y C deb 5s		105
9 B N Y & E 1st	135	8	N W gold r		115¾
1 Brook W & W 5s	99¾	1			113
11 Brook Ty & N 1st	105¾	3	N W x f deb 5s,		
2 Ch & O cn 5s	109		1933		111
20 Ch & O gold 4½s	73	13	Or R & N 1st		113
1	72¾	1			113¾
1	73	3			113¾
1 C B & Q cn 5s	100¾	1	Or R & N 4s		80
1 C B & Q 5s	118¾	3	Or S L 1st r		111¾
1 C L & W 1st	102¾	1			111
3	102	1	O S L un 1st r		63¾
2	102¾	5	Pine C C & St L		
3	103		4s gen C		108
8 Can So 1st	110¾	1	R & Pine 5s		116
1 Ch & N P 1st r	40	3	Rock Isl cr 5s		104¾
2 Cen Pac, S F 1st	102	1			104¾
1 Ch & E Ill	112	6			104¾
3 Cent R 10s cn 5s	90¾	10	Read gen 4s		81¾
5	90¾	5			82
1	90¾	2			81¾
10 Ch Gas L & Coke		1	Read 1st pf m		45¾
1st	95¾	5	Read 2d pf m		34¾
20	95¾	2	Read 3d pf m		21¾
1 Den & R G cn	90¾	5			22¾
3 Detroit G 5s	75¾	28			32¾
1 Del & H 1st r	80¾	1	St P & Minn 1st		128
4 Dul S S & Atl 5s	102¾	10	St P of N P 1st		115¾
28	108¾	3	St P & Sio C 4s		87¾
15 Erie prior bds	95¾	2	St P & Man 4½s		105
2 E Tenn 5s	107	4	S L & S F 4s		64¾
6 Edison E Ill 5s	106¾	2			65
3 F P & P M 1st 6s	113	3			64¾
5 Gen Elec deb 5s	90¾	6	St P gen 4s		97¾
6	91	2	St P M & M 7s		109
2 Hock Val 5s	88	4	St P 1st, C & P		
1 Iowa Cent 1st	90		W div		114¾
3 Kan P, D 4s	113	1	St P, S F & T 5s		118¾
13 Kan & Tex 4s	21¾	5	St P & Nor P 6s		124¾
223 Kan & Tex 5s	20¾	2	Stand R & T 6s		74
5	19¾	12			74¾
7	20	2			74¾
3	20¾	2	Stand R & T inc		25
5	20¾	11	So Ry 5s		91¾
2	20¾	2	So Pac 1st r		48
1	20¾	1			47¾
3 Lacledo con 1st	92	3	Terre H 1st		104
2 Long Dock 6s	132¾	1	Tex & P 1st 5s		95¾
5	133	3	Tol & O C 1st		107¾
10 L & N gen 4s	80	1	Union Pac 6s		103
10 Lou Ind 4s	75¾	3	U P 1st r		103
20 Met Nat 6s in		2	U Pac 6s, r		103
fd, r	8	5	U P g 4s, C T R		100
5 Met Ind 1st 6s	71	11	Wabash 1st		108
5	71¾	9	West Shore 4s		107¾
3 M & St L cn 7s	99¾	5	West Sh 4s r		104

Total sales of railway bonds (par value), $929,000.

RAILROAD AND OTHER SHARES.

Sales.		Open.	High.	Low.	Close.	Prev. Close.
17965	Am S Ref	111¾	111¾	110¾	110¾	110¾
85	Am S Pd	101	101	100¾	100¾	100¾
900	Am S M	11¾	11¾	11¾	11¾	11¾
54	Am Cable	90	90	90	85	90
5776	Am Tob	79¾	79¾	77¾	78¾	74¾
786	Am Tob pd	103	103	103	102¾	104
100	Am C Oil	54	54	54	53¾	51¾
1550	A T & S Fe	14	14	13¾	13¾	14¾
1450	At Top &					
	S Fe pf	23¾	23¾	22¾	23¾	23¾
700	B State G	11¾	11¾	11¾	11¾	11¾
180	Br U Gas	85	85	85	85	89
900	C & V a	1.15	1.15	1.15	—	—
100	Ch & O W	4¾	4¾	4¾	4¾	5¾
310	Ches & O	16¾	16¾	16¾	16¾	16¾
3900	Chic Gas	73¾	74¾	73¾	73¾	74
8	Ch & Alt	164	164	164	162	166
150	C C C &					
	St L pf	74	74	74	70	76
810	C R & N	102	102	102	102	102¾
100	Chat N Y pf	152	152	152	151¾	153
3565	C B & Q	69¾	69¾	69¾	69¾	69¾
4900	C M & St P	73¾	73¾	72¾	72	73¾
1100	C M & St P pf	131	131	131	130¾	132
4725	C R I & P	65¾	65¾	65¾	65¾	65¾
100	Col Fuel	24	24	24	23¾	24
190	C H V & T	17	17	17	17¾	18
1664	Con Gas	140¾	140¾	137¾	138¾	139
1961	Del & H	116¾	116¾	115¾	115¾	116¾
200	Dr R G pf	65	65	65	65	—
1025	Gen Elec	32¾	32¾	32¾	32¾	32¾
22	H Cent	92	92¾	92	92	93
175	Iowa Cent pf	25	25	25	25	26
415	Lake Sh	152	152	152	151	151¾
230	Long Isl	41	43	40¾	43	46
600	Lou Gas	24¾	24¾	24¾	24¾	24¾
4351	L Nash	45	45	45	45	46¾
4040	Man Con	89¾	90	89¾	89¾	89¾
100	Met Trac	108¾	108¾	108	108	108¾
230	No Pac	20¾	20¾	20	19¾	20¾
900	No K & T	13¾	13¾	13¾	13¾	13¾
750	N J C & Tpf	28¾	28¾	28¾	28¾	29
910	N J Cent	100	100	100	100¾	101¾
25	N Y Cent	95	95	95	92¾	94
100	N Lead pf	87	87	87	85	87
600	N P pr r	32¾	32¾	32¾	32¾	32¾
10	Ont & W	9¾	9¾	9¾	10	10¾
300	Ont & W	14¾	14¾	14¾	14¾	15
670	O R & N pf	34	35	34	35¾	36
110	Pac Mail	24¾	24¾	24¾	24	24¾
6963	P & Read	26¾	26¾	26¾	26¾	27
180	Pull P C	151¾	151¾	151¾	152	153
	St L & S F	4¾	4¾	4¾	4¾	4¾
	St L & S					
	F 1st pf	35¾	35¾	35¾	34¾	35¾
650	St P & Om	47	47¾	46¾	46¾	47
20	Stan R & T	9¾	9¾	9¾	9¾	10¾
260	South Pac	14¾	14¾	14¾	14¾	15¾
270	South Ry	9¾	9¾	9¾	9¾	9¾
800	Sou Ry p	26¾	26¾	26	26	26¾
100	Tenn C & I	25¾	25¾	25¾	25¾	25¾
22	Tex Pac	9¾	9¾	9	8¾	9
881	Un Pac	9	9¾	9	9	9¾
100	C P D & G	2¾	2¾	2¾	2	2¾
309	U S Rub	24¾	24¾	24¾	24¾	24¾
120	U S Rubp	76	76	76	75	77
1700	C S L	8	9	8	9	9¾
6650	U S L p	61	61	59¾	60¾	60¾
180	Wabash	6¾	6¾	6¾	6	6¾
600	Wab p	15¾	15¾	15¾	15¾	15¾
1200	West U T	63¾	63¾	63¾	63¾	63¾
6300	W & L E	6¾	6¾	6	6¾	6¾

*Ex dividend.

Total sales 86,060 shares.

BOSTON CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

	Bid.	Asked.		Bid.	Asked.
Bos & Alb	209	210	W E R com	64¼	65
Bos & Me	162¾	163¾	Dominion C	9¾	10
Ch J com	100¾	101	Am Bell Tel	205¾	206
Ch J pf	103¾	104	Gen Elec p	71	75
Fitchburg p	91¾	92	Bos & Mon	94¾	95
New Eng pf	60	—	Cal & Hecla	325	330
Mex Cent	66¾	67	Osceola	29	30¾
Old Colony	176	177	Quincy M	120	122

PHILADELPHIA CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

	Bid.	Asked.		Bid.	Asked.
Lehigh Val	30¾	31	C G Imp Co	72¾	73¾
L C & N Co	41	41¾	W G L Co	42¾	43
Penn R R	51¾	51¾	U S Rubber	27¾	28
Phila Trac	66¾	67	U S S pf	60¾	60¾
Union Trac	9¾	9¾	P R L & Pr	13	13¾
E & P T Co	70	70¾	P R L & Pr	25	25¾
Met Trac	109¾	109¾	West Cons	—	24
C T of N J	23	25	Wes Cons p	—	64
C T N J 5s	82¾	83			

CHICAGO CLOSING QUOTATIONS.

	Bid.	Asked.		Bid.	Asked.
Am Strbd	32¾	—	Lake S 1st	17¾	18
Cass & D	59¾	—	N Y Biscuit	49¾	50
City Ry	211	215	N C Ck Ry	—	187
Diam S M	—	118¾	W C Stk Ry	80	81

LATEST LONDON QUOTATIONS.

Atchison A & P	14¾	Norfolk & W pf	17¾
Canadian Pacific	57¾	Northern Pac pf	23¾
Chesapeake & O	16¾	Ontario & West	10¾
Erie com A P	15¾	Pennsylvania	53¾
Erie 2nd pf	35¾	Reading 1st A P	13¾
Illinois Central	94¾	St P & Pac	73
Kansas & Texas	13¾	South Railway	9¾
Lake Shore	157	South Railway pf	27¾
Lou & Nash	45¾	Union Pacific	19¾
N Y Central	97¾	Wabash pf	10¾

THURSDAY, Dec. 31.

The closing of speculative ventures at the end of the year was tumultuous, and as there was no disposition to open accounts for the new year, the volume of trading on the Stock Exchange was abnormally small. In only one stock, Sugar Refining, did the transactions exceed 10,000 shares, and in no other stock was that figure approached. Sugar Refining was sold by apparently the same interest that bought it late yesterday afternoon and lost nearly all of the advance then recorded, circumstances that indicate that there was very little substantial basis for yesterday's movement in the stock. The manipulation of American Tobacco left that stock more than a point lower, and United States Leather preferred was affected sentimentally by the death of the President of the company. Other noteworthy net declines were recorded for Consolidated Gas and Delaware and Hudson. A few stocks that were dealt in to the extent of only a few hundred shares closed several points lower than yesterday. It looked as if the sellers of these stocks were desirous of closing out their holdings at the end of the year, irrespective of prices. The majority of the list closed fractionally lower than yesterday; but Manhattan Railway was higher on the failure of a litigious bondholder to secure an injunction restraining the payment of the dividend. Reading advanced fractionally on reports that the Attorney-General of Pennsylvania is likely to confirm the validity of the charter which the reorganization managers have selected for the successor company, and Chicago Gas referred the satisfaction of friends of the enterprise that these are the last days of the official careers of the anarchistic Governor and Attorney-General of Illinois. Although the stock market does not reflect it, a feeling of relief prevailed in the Street that a decidedly uncomfortable business year has come to a close.

Final sales compare with those of yesterday as follows:

	Dec. 30.	Dec. 31.		Dec. 30.	Dec. 31.
A T & S Fe	14	14	N Y Cent	100¾	100
A T & S Fe pf	23¾	23¾	Omaha com	47¾	46¾
Am S Ref	112	110¾	Ont & West	14¾	14¾
Am Tob	79¾	78¾	Pacific Mail	24	24¾
Am Spir M	11¾	11¾	Rock Island	69¾	*65¾
C B & Q	70	69¾	Reading	26¾	26¾
Can Sou	54¾	53¾	St Paul com	73¾	73¾
Ches & Ohio	16¾	16¾	St Railway	9¾	9¾
Chicago G	73¾	73¾	South R'y p	26¾	26
Del & Hud	117¾	116	Tex C I & R	25¾	25¾
Den & Rio G	9¾	9¾	Union Pac	9¾	9
Erie	13¾	13¾	U S Rubber	25¾	24¾
Kan & T pf	28¾	28¾	U S Leather	77	78
Lake S	48¾	48	U S Leath p	61¾	60¾
Lackaw	24¾	24¾	U S Express	69¾	69
Man Con	89	89¾	W F & Pres	16¾	16¾
Met Sec	20¾	20	Wab & Pacific	6¾	6¾
Mich Cent	97¾	97	West Union	88¾	88¾
Norfolk & W	10¾	10¾	Wisc Cent	6¾	6¾
Nor Pac pf	32¾	32¾	*Ex dividend.		

Government bonds strong. The 4s of 1907 closed ¼ % cent higher bid, the 4s of 1925 ¼ % cent higher bid, and the 4s of 1907 ¼ % cent higher bid. Railroad and Southern bonds were active. Chicago Gas, Light and Coke 1sts, Long Island 5s, Oregon Railway and Navigation 1sts, St. Louis and San Francisco 6s, Standard Rope and Twine 5s, Southern Railway 5s, Atchison and Kansas and Texas issues. The market as a general affair was active in Atchison and Northwestern 1sts, ¼ to ¾ cent; Chicago Gas Light and Coke 1sts, ¼ to 3¾; Kansas and Texas 4s, ¼ to 3¾, and 20s, ¼ to ¾; Long Island 5s, ¼ to 1¾; Oregon Railway and Navigation 4s, ¼ to 1¾; St. Louis and San Francisco 6s, ¼ to 1¾; Standard Rope and Twine 5s, ¼ to 3¾; Southern Railway 5s, ¼ to ¾; Texas 4s, ¼ to 3¾, and 20s, ¼ to ¾; Long Island 5s, ¼ to 1¾; Oregon Railway and Navigation 4s, ¼ to 1¾; St. Louis and San Francisco 6s, ¼ to 1¾; Standard Rope and Twine 5s, ¼ to 3¾; Southern Railway 5s, ¼ to ¾; Texas 4s, ¼ to 3¾, and 20s, ¼ to ¾.

Commercial price of bar silver in New York, fine, Bar silver in London closed at 29 13-16d. Mexican silver dollars were quoted at 3.1-32c. Exports to Europe yesterday, $70,000 gold.

Money on call, 2 ¾ cent. Time money, 1 ¾ cent for sixty to ninety days, 2 ¾ cent for four and five months, and 2 ¾ cent for eight to nine months, on good mixed Stock Exchange collateral. The market for commercial paper is dull. Prime endorsed bills receivable are quoted at 4 ¾ @ 5 cent; good 4 cent, and fair 4 ¼ @ 4 ½ cent, and for single name paper 5 @ 6 cent.

Sterling exchange was quiet and steady. Commercial exchange was dull. Posted asking rates for sterling, $4.84 for long bills and $4.87 for demand. Actual rates are: Long bills, $4.83¾@$4.83¾, sight drafts, $4.86¾, and cable transfers, $4.87 @ $4.87¼. Francs are quoted at 5.18¾ for long and 5.16¼ for short. Reichsmarks, bankers' for long and 94¾@94¾ for short. Guilders, 39¾@39 15-16 for long and 40 3-16@40¼ for short.

Domestic exchange on New York: Boston, par to 10¢ cents premium. Charleston—Buying, ¼ discount, selling at a premium. Savannah—Buying, 1-16 @ ⅛ discount, selling at par. New Orleans, par commercial, $1.50 discount, bank. San Francisco—Sight, 15¢ cents premium; telegraphic, 20 cents premium. St. Louis—Par bid, 50 cents premium asked. Chicago—40 cents premium bid, 60 cents asked. Between banks, 25 cents discount, over counter, 50 cents premium.

The imports of dry goods for the week ending to-day were $[illegible], against $1,[illegible] last week and $[illegible] for the corresponding week of last year. The amount warehoused was $[illegible], against $1,[illegible] last week and $2,397,[illegible] for the corresponding week of last year.

The Rhode Island Perkins Horse Shoe Company has declared a quarterly dividend of 1¾ % cent on its preferred stock, payable Jan. 15.

The Western, New York and Pennsylvania Railroad reports gross earnings for November of $[illegible], a decrease of $[illegible] as compared with the same month last year, and net $[illegible], a decrease of $[illegible]. For the 11 months ending Nov. 30 the gross earnings were $[illegible], a decrease of $[illegible] as compared with the corresponding period of last year, and net $[illegible], an increase of $[illegible].

Bradstreet's reports the total business failures in the United States in 1896, in which liabilities exceed $5,000, at [illegible], an increase of [illegible] per cent over 1895, when the total increased 2 ¾ per cent, compared with 1894, in which year failures fell off 1¾ ¾ cent from 1893, when the total was 15,560, the largest on record. The total liabilities of concerns failing in 1896 amounted to $[illegible], an increase of [illegible] per cent, and 62 ¾ per cent more than in 1894, being exceeded only by total liabilities in the panic year 1893, which were $[illegible]. The ratio of assets to liabilities among those failing in 1896 was 40 per cent, an evidence of an extremely high rate of shrinkage, while it is exceeded only by the corresponding exhibit for 1893. The commercial death rate in the United States in 1896 was 1.4 per cent, by which is meant that 1.4 ¾ cent of every 100 individuals, firms, and corporations in business last year failed. The death rate was exceeded in 1893, when it was 1.3 ¾ cent, in 1894 the commercial death rate was 1.03, and in 1895 1.11 ¾ cent.

The Treasury debt statement, which will be issued Saturday, will show that the reduction for the first six months of the current fiscal year, to wit, from June 30, 1896, to Dec. 31, 1896, inclusive, in round numbers, the receipts were $[illegible] and expenditures $[illegible], making an excess of receipts over expenditures of $[illegible]. On account of the heavy interest charges and unusual expenditures incident to the Cleveland administration, the expenditures over receipts for January, 1897, is estimated at $[illegible].

The receipts of the Government to-day were: Customs, $[illegible], internal revenue $[illegible], and miscellaneous, $[illegible], a total of $[illegible]. The disbursements were $[illegible], an excess of receipts over expenditures of $[illegible]. The receipts for the fiscal year to date have been $[illegible], and expenditures $[illegible], an excess of expenditures over receipts of $[illegible].

The net assets of the Treasury at the close of business to-day, as officially computed, compare with those of yesterday as follows:

	Dec. 31.	Dec. 30.
Gold coin and bullion	$[illegible]	$[illegible]
Silver dollars and bullion	[illegible]	[illegible]
United States notes	$[illegible]	$[illegible]
Currency balance	[illegible]	[illegible]
Gold held against outstanding U S notes	$[illegible]	$[illegible]
Available cash balance, including gold balance	$[illegible]	$[illegible]

Money in London, 4 ¾ cent. Rate of discount in open market for both short and three months' bills, 3¾ ¾ cent. The Bank of England minimum rate of discount unchanged at 4 ¾ cent. The proportion of its reserve to its liabilities is 44.[illegible] ¾ cent, against 44.[illegible] last week, and 53.[illegible] same week last year. Bullion in the Bank of England increased last week £349,000, and the reserve increased £[illegible]. Paris advances money 3 ¾ cent at 1.[illegible] francs ¾ centime, and discounts 2 ¾ cent at 2 ¾ centimes. The weekly statement of the Bank of France shows a decrease of 13,911,000 francs gold and a decrease of 5,314,000 francs silver.

The American and foreign committees representing Atlantic and Pacific Railroad 4 ¾ cent guaranteed trust gold bonds announce that they have received deposits of more than 90 ¾ cent of the entire issue. Deposits of coupons of the first mortgage spur to Western Division have been entered, and it is expected that the road will be sold at an early date, after which the committees will act in concert for the protection of the bonds deposited. Meanwhile the American committee will continue to receive deposits with the State Trust Company upon the payment of $50 per bond until Jan. 14, after which no bonds will be received and bonds not deposited before that date will not be entitled to the benefits of the reorganization.

Dominick & Dickerman have admitted to participation Mr. M. W. Dominick, who has been for fourteen years their stock clerk, and Mr. Bayard Dominick, Jr. The firm has closed its branch office at Chicago, and will hereafter transact its business in Chicago through private wires to their home office in Chicago, members of the Chicago Board of Trade and of the Chicago Stock Exchange.

Among the changes in Stock Exchange firms announced at the end of the year is the retirement of Mr. William H. Tuff from the firm of Moore & Schley, and the admission of Mr. George F. Gardner to membership in the same firm.

Winslow, Lanier & Co., the Knickerbocker Trust Company, and N. W. Harris & Co. announce that coupons and interest on a number of securities, which will be found in THE SUN on Saturday.

Electric Stock Quotations.

Boston, Dec. 31.—The closing quotations of electric stocks to-day were:

	Bid.	Asked.
Edison Electric Illuminating	145	—
General Electric	32¾	33¾
General Electric pf	21	—
Lackawanna Consolidated Store Service	20¾	—
Westinghouse Electric	24	24¾
Westinghouse Electric pf	50¾	51¾
Fort Wayne Electric	1	1¾
Fort Wayne Electric Trust series A	3	3¾
Thomson-Houston series C	3	—
Thomson-Houston series D	3¾	4¾

COMMERCIAL COMPEND.

THURSDAY, Dec. 31.—GRAIN—Wheat—Spot was dull, but firm. No sales. Free at board afloat: No. 2 red, 100½c.; No. 1 hard spring, 99½c.; No. 1 Northern spring, New York, 99½c.; No. 1 Northern spring, Duluth, 93½c. Chicago received to-day 13,740 bush., against 28,850 last year; Toledo 7,921, against 8,755; Detroit 6,023, against 1,044; Duluth 55,609, against 63,070; Minneapolis 129,360, against 135,340; Milwaukee 13,650, against 3,250; Chicago 27 cars, against 94 last year. Futures advanced ¼c. to ½c., but lost this and declined ¼c. to ½c. Future sales 2,150,000 bush., as follows:

	Opening.	Highest.	Lowest.	Closing.	Last Night.
December	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
March	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
May	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
July	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Barley—Is fair demand and firm. Sales 30,000 bush. on private terms for export. New feeding, nominal and freight to Buffalo, nominally 2c. afloat. Corn—Spot was firm but dull. Sales 6,500 bush. New for export. No. 2 mixed in elevator quoted at 29¾c. No. 2 mixed, 30 bush. delivered, sold 1,000 bush. on private terms. Futures advanced ¼c. but lost it. Future sales 180,000 bush., as follows:

	Opening.	Highest.	Lowest.	Closing.	Last Night.
January	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
May	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
July	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Oats—Spot was dull. Sales 56,000 bush., including 31,000 bu. of white clipped on private terms, three on board afloat for export. No. 2 white, 24¾c. No. 3 do., 24c. No. 2 mixed, 23¾c. No. 3 do., 23¾c. Rejected mixed, 19¾c. Track white, 25¾@29c. Track mixed, 24¾c. Track white, English. Futures were unchanged. Future sales 80,000 bush., as follows:

	Opening.	Highest.	Lowest.	Closing.	Last Night.
January	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
March	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
May	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

The trading in wheat to-day was full and lower. Lower Liverpool cables and favorable