RAILWAYS LEAD THE LIST

Several Net Advances Averaging More Than a Point.

St. Paul the Feature of the Market, Closing at the Highest Price—Sugar Refining Makes a Strong Rally After an Early Decline—A Review of the Year's Speculation.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—While the year now closing has not been an exceptional one in respect to speculative activity, it has witnessed some of the most remarkable developments that have ever occurred in the financial and commercial history of the country. The industrial combinations that were formed and promoted in 1898-1899 were naturally regarded as marking a great advance in the business of the country. Time has demonstrated, however, that the movement included many injudicious capitalizations that were productive of great loss to investors.

The distinctive feature of the progress made this year has been its substantial character. In the first place, important financial legislation was enacted comparatively early in the year. The events enumerated have, with the usual good fortune of this country, been supplemented by excellent crops, particularly in the South, where prosperity seemed most desirable, for both political and economic reasons. It is estimated that the cotton-producing States have realized fully $15,000,000 more for their staple crop than they did last year. Simultaneously, there has been a revival of activity in the iron and copper industries, which is also unaccompanied by noteworthy speculative ventures.

Today's market, though not equal to that of last Saturday in the matter of total transactions, was nevertheless very active. The collapse in the West Australian mining market in London induced heavy selling of stocks here by foreign arbitrage houses at the opening. They sold upward of 50,000 shares of various stocks, but these were absorbed so rapidly that the depression in prices at the opening lasted only a few minutes. St. Paul was again the leader of the market in every respect, closing at practically the highest price, which showed a net gain of 3 5-8 per cent.

Other members of the railway list that made further contributions to the day's business were Union Pacific, New York Central, Brooklyn Rapid Transit, and Texas Pacific. They enjoyed net advances averaging more than a point. Several stocks that were conspicuous in the market earlier in the week, like Northern Pacific issues, Erie issues, Ontario and Western, and Atchison issues, were comparatively neglected. There was a continuation of the upward movement in Delaware and Hudson, while Lackawanna on large transactions for that stock rose 3 1-4 points. Other less active issues that made noteworthy progress toward higher figures were Illinois Central, Great Northern preferred, "Big Four" common, and Mobile and Ohio.

In the industrial list Sugar Refining again held the first place. After an early decline of nearly two points it rallied nearly five points and retained fully half of the maximum improvement. The street is still in the dark as to what has taken place between various concerns in the sugar refining and coffee roasting business, and it is possible that the public will never be fully informed as to the facts.

It can be stated without fear of contradiction, however, that the cutting of prices on coffee prepared for consumption has ceased, and it would not be surprising if an advance in the price of that commodity by both of the principal producers were announced any day.

Other industrials that made good showings were National Tube common, American Car and Foundry preferred, and United States Rubber issues. A feature of the week has been material advances in the express stocks on very light trading. The express companies are, of course, participating in the increasing prosperity of the country, but the rise in the prices of their shares has suggested the possibility of combination, or, in the case of some, the distribution of accumulated treasury assets.

The weekly statement of averages of the associated banks conforms more closely than usual to the known movements of money, the gain in lawful money being only about $400,000 larger than the usual computation.

The increase in cash was $5,975,000. The expansion of the loans was not large, considering the great activity on the stock exchange this week and borrowings incidental to the end of the year. The statement was unusually consistent in that the sum of the increase in loans and of the increase in cash is practically equal to the increase in the deposits. The net result brings the surplus reserve up to $11,525,900. The statement as a whole must be regarded as extremely satisfactory, particularly for this season of the year.

New York Stock Market.

Corrected daily by W. B. Hibbs & Co., members of the New York Stock Exchange, 1419 F Street.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Clos.
Wire	46	46¼	45	45
Wire, pfd	88	88	88	88
American Sugar	139½	143¾	139	143½
American Tobacco	112	112¾	111¾	111¾
Atchison	45¾	46¼	45⅝	46
Atchison, pfd	87½	88½	87½	88¼
B. & O	82¾	83⅝	82¾	83¾
B. & O., pfd	95¼	95¾	95¼	95¼
Brooklyn Rapid Transit	84½	86¼	84	86
Chesapeake & Ohio	41⅛	42⅛	41⅛	41⅞
C., C., C. & St. L	73	74	73	74
Chicago, B. & Q	141¾	143½	141¾	142¾
Chicago & Northwestern	170⅝	172¾	170⅝	172½
C., M. & St. Paul	142¼	147	142¼	146½
Chicago, R. I. & Pacific	120	121½	120	121
Chicago & G. Western	17⅝	17⅞	17⅛	17⅞
C. F. & I	54⅝	55⅝	54⅝	55¼
Consolidated Gas	194¾	195	194¾	195
Continental Tobacco	38¼	39¼	38¼	39
Con. Tobacco, pfd	93	93	93	93
Delaware & Hudson	129	132	129	131¾
Federal Steel	56¼	57⅝	56¼	56⅞
Federal Steel, pfd	77¾	77¾	77¾	77¾
General Electric	191	193	191	193
Illinois Central	131	132⅝	131	132¼
Louisville & Nashville	87¾	87¾	87	87¼
Metropolitan Traction	169¾	171¾	169¾	171
Manhattan Elevated	114	115¼	114	115
Missouri Pacific	71	71¾	70⅝	71¼
M., K. & T., pfd	43	46	44	45¾
New Jersey Central	145¾	146	145¼	146
New York Central	143¾	145¼	143¾	145¼
N. Y., O. & Western	30⅞	31⅛	30¼	30⅞
Northern Pacific	81⅛	84⅝	81⅛	83¾
Northern Pacific, pfd	86½	87½	86½	87¼
Pacific Mail	43½	43¾	43½	43¾
Penn. R. R	145¾	147¾	145¾	147¼
Peoples' Gas	104¾	105¼	104⅝	104¾
Reading	49⅞	50¾	49⅞	50¼
Southern Pacific	43½	44¼	43½	43¾
Southern Railway	21⅝	22¼	21⅝	22
Southern Railway, pfd	71⅝	72¼	71⅝	72
Texas Pacific	24¼	25⅛	24⅛	25¼
Tenn. Coal & Iron	58¼	60	58¼	59½
Union Pacific	77⅞	79⅝	77¾	79¾
Union Pacific, pfd	84¼	84¾	83¾	84¾
U. S. Leather	13¾	14¾	13¾	14¼
U. S. Leather, pfd	77	78¼	77	78¼
U. S. Rubber	26½	29¼	26½	29½
Wabash, pfd	25¾	26	25¾	25¾
Western Union Tel	84	84½	84	84

There is one more market day in the year 1900, but it is proper to consider the close of last week, in a way, as the close of the year also, and to make comparisons, using yesterday's prices and movements as a basis. It is entirely probable that the market tomorrow will be strong, and that prices made tomorrow will be higher rather than lower than yesterday's. The year and the century thus end in a blaze of glory with the highest prices on record and with both insiders and the public believers in still higher prices next year. The past six months have seen a steadily increasing boom, such as no one has ever witnessed before. The advances have been larger and more persistent than ever before. The declines have been of no importance. Bad news and influences usually inimical to bull movements have had no effect in stemming the tide. Fears in Wall Street of a Democratic victory at the polls did not prevent a big advance in prices before the election, and this was an unique experience for the market. Fears of tight money did not push down prices during December, as they do almost always. Bad bank statements, which at times threatened to record a deficit in the reserve fund, did not prevent bulges in prices on Saturdays, followed by even bigger advances on Mondays. The level of prices has gone up from ten to sixty points, and better yet the largest advances have almost all been in the best securities in the market, and the smallest in the industrials and the "specialties" generally. All the Pacific securities, nearly all the Southern and Southwestern stocks, the trunk line securities, many of the grangers, the coalers, are all selling above any previous record. Below are the closing quotations for yesterday in the more active securities, and compared with them the low prices of the past summer:

	Low of 1900.	Dec. 22.	Dec. 29.
Atchison	18⅝	46⅝	46
Atchison, pfd	58¼	87¾	88
Baltimore & Ohio	55¼	81⅞	83¼
B. & O., pfd	72¾	95½	95¼
Burlington	115¼	146⅞	142⅞
St. Paul	103½	139¾	146⅞
Rock Island	102	119⅝	121
Chesapeake & Ohio	24	41¾	41⅞
Louisville & Nashville	70½	87⅞	87½
Missouri Pacific	28⅝	69½	71¼
Northern Pacific	42¾	83⅞	83¼
Northern Pacific pfd	67	89	87¼
Union Pacific	44⅝	77¼	79¼
Union Pacific pfd	70½	83⅞	84¼
Southern Pacific	30⅝	45	43¾
New York Central	126	142¾	145⅞
Pennsylvania	124⅝	144¾	147¼
Reading 1st pfd	40	69	70½
Jersey Central	115	146	146
Southern Railway	10⅝	22¾	22
Southern Railway pfd	49½	72¼	72
Pacific Mail	25⅝	44¾	43⅞
Sugar	95¼	140⅝	143¼
American Tobacco	84½	112	111¾
People's Gas	81⅝	102	104¾
Leather	7¾	14	14⅞
Federal Steel	28⅞	55¾	56⅞
American Steel	28½	44⅞	45
Tennessee Coal & Iron	19	64½	64½
Colorado Fuel & Iron	29¼	54¾	58¾
Brooklyn Rapid Transit	47¼	83¾	86
Metropolitan	140⅝	174¼	171
Manhattan	81	113¾	115

*Ex dividend.

The reasons that have worked together to produce the boom and that will continue it for several months to come, according to the opinions of some conservative people in the financial world, are numerous and important. The reports of railway earnings received during the past year are an index to one of the bullish items in the situation. When the railways are earning more money than ever before, when their earnings have been increasing by leaps and bounds for six years past, it is not surprising that the railway securities should advance in price. When added to this fact is the immense deal among the railway magnates to secure complete harmony in the future and insure stable and profitable rates the surprising fact is that the advance did not start sooner and has not extended further. The December gross earnings are the largest on record for the month. The increase in earnings for the second week of December was about 8 per cent and the increase for the third week so far as the statements have been received was at least 10 per cent. More and more lines that have been showing decreases during the dull months of the summer are now swinging into line with large increases regularly. The grangers and the Pacific lines which felt the effect of a poor wheat crop for some months, now show immense returns every week, as witness the weekly statements of the St. Paul and the Northern Pacific.

The November net earnings statements, too, are nearly all excellent. In a few instances where special conditions have intervened, as in the case of the anthracite coalers, with their expensive strike, these net earnings are not the best on record, but throughout the country generally the showing has never before been so good. The result of this great prosperity for the railways will, of course, be that dividends will be increased where they have not been already. Stocks that have never been on the dividend list will begin to participate in the disbursements. This kind of argument is the best in the world.

Cheap money furnishes an inducement to investors and speculators the importance of which can hardly be over-estimated. Twenty years ago the high-priced grangers were selling even above their present level, and the general level of prices was nearly as high as it is now. At that time money was loaning regularly at nearly double the rates that can be obtained now. Government bonds bore a higher rate of interest. There were no 2 per cents and no 3 per cents. Railway bonds were 6 per cents usually. A stock that paid a dividend of 6 per cent regularly had to compete with any number of other investments that paid as well. Now investments are getting down to a 3 and 3 1-2 per cent basis very rapidly. This will mean that, other things being equal, railway and industrial stocks will sell at from 50 to 100 per cent higher than they did twenty years ago.

Of general business conditions, the prosperity of the iron trade, the bigness of the crops and the high prices obtained in the past two years, the development of American manufactures, the famine of coal in the outside world and the big demand for it here, the tremendous increase of the export trade, the confidence of business men in general, there has been enough written already and reiterated many times to convince most Wall Street people that the period of great expansion is arriving. This makes public buying, and also it has made during the past six months the largest buying for insiders that has ever taken place. Intrinsic conditions are much, but when they are present in the fullest degree it is still needful that the insiders shall absorb stocks and boom prices and that the public shall follow them.

In one or two instances securities have advanced further than careful people expected from the known facts regarding their intrinsic value, but in all such cases there is the large probability that the public has not known all the facts. The skyrocketing of Northern Pacific and St. Paul are instances of this kind. St. Paul is selling "higher than Government bonds." At its present price the return to the investor is only 2.4 per cent. Northern Pacific has been put on a 4 per cent basis only a short time, and many people considered this action of the directors a foolhardy one. But now it is discovered that there is the "community of ownership" in the Northwest, if not even closer ties between these lines, and the importance of this is so great that these prices are no longer to be considered too high. They are not nearly as high as they will be, in all probability, if all that is promised is developed during the coming two or three months.

The bank statement yesterday was an excellent one. The surplus reserve is now $12,525,900, as the result of an increase of more than $2,000,000. The cash showed an increase of nearly $6,000,000. The figures are as follows:

Reserves increased	$6,028,000
Loans increased	9,358,500
Specie increased	2,678,700
Legals increased	3,196,400
Deposits increased	15,284,800
Circulation increased	128,000

The advance of St. Paul, and to a lesser extent in Northern Pacific, was the sensation yesterday. St. Paul boomed up to 147, the highest price for many years, and one that the majority of street people would have considered entirely out of the question a few weeks ago. On a 5 per cent basis, of course, such a price is not justified even in such a good stock as St. Paul, but there seems little reason to doubt that the stock will be put on a 6 per cent basis. Such a dividend is more than justified by earnings and prospects. But in addition to the outlook for a larger dividend there is the talk of the railway deal in the West. The street heard from what seemed to be an excellent source yesterday that there is to be an announcement of great importance regarding this deal tomorrow. The close on St. Paul was close to the top price, and a bulge tomorrow would not be a surprise to anyone.

Northern Pacific common and preferred both jumped sharply to very nearly the top prices of the movement. This company was included in the talk of the deal with the St. Paul, and some of the insiders were heavy buyers of the stock. Union Pacific common and preferred also boomed perhaps in sympathy with Northern Pacific. The common stock advanced to well above 79, making a new high price record.

The weakness of Burlington in view of the extreme buoyancy of St. Paul was one of the features of the market. The stock closed lower yesterday than it did on Friday. The explanation of the decline is to be found in the statement of the company for November, showing a decrease in surplus of $227,765. But it cannot be doubted that the stock will soon begin to participate in the boom.

Leather common stock, which filled its friends with hope on Friday, turned rather weak yesterday and closed below 15.

The steel securities barely held their own, but were sufficiently active to convince careful people that they are likely to advance sharply at any time. The beginning of the new year will be followed shortly by a series of statements from these companies that will be convincing arguments in favor of the stocks. There is a steady absorption of the Federal Steel and the Steel and Wire securities by insiders.

The Big Four statement for November shows a slight decrease in net earnings, $11,732. The St. Louis and San Francisco November net shows an increase of $110,823.

Sugar recovered well from its slump of Friday and yesterday's opening, but did not reach its top price at any time. At the opening it sold down to 139, a break of more than six points from the high price. Its high for the day was 143 3-4, and it closed near this figure. There was no new gossip regarding it. Sugar is a dangerous stock to speculate in.

Washington Stock Exchange.

Sales—U. S. coupon 3's: $1,000@111 1-4, $1,000@111 3-8; U. S. registered 3's: $200@111 1-4; U. S. Electric Light, debt. 6's: $1,500@102; Union Trust and Storage Co.: 25@163; Washington Loan and Trust Co.: 5@164; Capital Traction: 62@163 1-2; Washington Gas: 25@60, 70@60 1-4, 25@60 1-2, 50@60 3-4, 50@61, 50@61 1-4, 50@61 1-2, 25@61 3-4, 1555@62, 25@62 1-8, 25@62 1-4, 25@62 3-8, 108@62 1-2, 25@62 5-8; C. and P. Telephone: 50@73 1-2, 50@74; Mergenthaler Linotype: 10@181, 25@181—seller 10, 20@181—seller 10, 10@180 3-4, 10@180 5-8. After call—Lanston Monotype: 500@13 7-8; U. S. Electric Light debt., 6's: $500@102; U. S. Electric Light certificate: $1,000@102.

GOVERNMENT BONDS.	Bid.	Asked.
U. S. 4's, 1906, Q. J	116⅛	117⅛
U. S. 4's, 1907, Q. J	117½	118½
U. S. 4's, R. 1925	138¼	139
U. S. 4's, C, 1925	138¼	139
U. S. 5's, C, 1904, Q. F	114¼	115¼
U. S. 5's, R. 1908, Q. F	111¼	112
U. S. 5's, R. 1908, R. C. F	111¼	112
U. S. 2's, R. 1900-30, Q. J	106½	....
U. S. 2's, C. 1900-30, Q. J	106½	....
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BONDS.		
6's, 1902, "30-year funding" gold	102	....
7's, 1901, "water stock" currency	102	....
Funding currency, 3.65's	123	....
MISCELLANEOUS BONDS.		
Capital Traction R. R. 4's	107	107¼
Wash. Trac. & Elec. Coll. 4½'s	57¼	....
Met. R. R. 5's, 1925	123	122½
Met. R. R. Cert. Indebtedness A	107	....
Met. R. R. Cert. Indebtedness B	107	....
Columbia R. R. 6's, 1914	123	....
Columbia R. R. 2d mort. 5's	109	....
City & Suburban R. R	....	50
Wash. Gas Co., ser. A, 6's, 1902-'27	106	....
Wash. Gas. Co., ser. B, 6's, 1901-'29	106	....
U. S. Elec. Light, Deb. Imp., 1907	100	104
U. S. Elec. Light, Cert. Indebt	....	102½
Ches. & Pot. Tel., 1896-1911	....	....
Ches. & Pot. Tel., Con. 5's	103	....
American Security & Trust 5's, 1906	100	....
Wash. Market Co. 1st 6's, 1892-1911, $7,000 retired annually	110	....
Wash. Mkt. Co., Imp. 6's, 1915-'27	....	....
Wash. Mkt. Co., ext. 6's, 1914-'27	....	....
Masonic Hall Ass'n 5's, C, 1908	105	....
American Graphophone, Deb. 5's	98	....
Anacostia & Potomac 5's	....	....
NATIONAL BANK STOCKS.		
Bank of Washington	*400	410
Metropolitan	*650	....
Central	*200	....
Farmers and Mechanics'	*210	....
Second	*165	....
Citizens'	150	....
Columbia	*165	....
Capital	*140	....
West End	*116	....
Traders'	*125	....
Lincoln	*117	125
SAFE DEPOSIT AND TRUST COMPANIES.		
National Safe Deposit and	140	....
Wash. Loan and Trust	162¾	....
American Security and Trust	200	210
Washington Safe Deposit	73	....
Union Trust & Storage	102½	103½
INSURANCE STOCKS.		
Firemen	30	....
Franklin	40	50
Metropolitan	81	83
Corcoran	60	....
Potomac	70	75
Arlington	135	142
German-American	....	....
National Union	10½	12½
Columbia	12	13
Riggs	7¾	8¼
People's	*5¾	6½
Colonial	110	116
Commercial	4¾	5
TITLE INSURANCE STOCKS.		
Real Estate Title	*70	....
Columbia Title	4½	5¼
Washington Title	2½	....
District Title	3½	....
RAILROAD STOCKS.		
Capital Traction	*103½	103¾
City & Suburban	20	....
Georgetown & Tennallytown	10	....
GAS STOCKS.		
Washington Gas	62¼	62½
Georgetown Gas	62	....
TELEPHONE STOCKS.		
Chesapeake & Potomac	73	....
Pennsylvania	35	....
MISCELLANEOUS STOCKS.		
Mergenthaler Linotype	*180½	180¾
Lanston Monotype	13½	14
American Graphophone	9¾	10½
American Graphophone, pfd	10¾	11½
Pneumatic Gun Carriage	.9	.13
Washington Market	12½	....
Norwick & Washington	155	....
Lincoln Hall	..	....

*Ex-dividend.

THE CHICAGO GRAIN MARKET.

Wheat Much More Active, With Buying in Corn and Oats.

CHICAGO, Dec. 29.—There was more excitement and trade in wheat today than for some time. The market had a range of 2 cents, May opening at 73 1-4, which was low, selling up to 75 3-8, closing at 75 1-8@75 1-4. There was heavy covering for short account and probably as much investment buying. The outside trade was much larger. The incentive for today's sharp advance was due to the long-looked-for falling off in Northwestern receipts. The advance at Liverpool was disappointing in face of yesterday's improvement here, being up only 1-8d. Continental markets were generally unchanged. The primary receipts were only a few thousand bushels larger than last year's. Clearances were small, 129,000 bushels. There were bids here early for cash wheat but the advance checked business. There was nothing reported from the seaboard.

Corn shorts were again compelled to cover. A prominent local operator who has been short a large line of May corn, was the most conspicuous buyer. Local traders were generally on the buying side and offerings were light. The January and June deliveries were rather neglected. Country offerings continue light. Three hundred and forty cars today with 465 estimated for Monday.

Oats were strong with further buying by the local bull interest and covering by shorts. The strength in wheat and corn helped this market. Shippers report a good cash demand. Today's receipts were 215 cars, with 250 estimated for Monday.

There was quite a awakening in provisions. The action of wheat had a sympathetic influence as did the advance in the hog market. Under liberal purchases of lard by the large packers the whole list advanced and lard and ribs closed strong. Pork was held down by January liquidation. There was a marked increase in investment demand for May deliveries.

Chicago Grain and Provision Market.

Corrected daily by W. B. Hibbs & Co., members of the New York Stock Exchange, 1419 F Street.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Clos.
WHEAT—				
January	70⅝	72¼	70⅝	72¼A
May	73¼	75⅛	73¼	75⅛-¼
CORN—				
January	26¼-⅜	26⅝	26¼-⅜	26⅝-⅝
May	26¼	26⅝	26¼	26⅝-⅜
OATS—				
January	21⅞	22	21⅞	22
May	23⅞	24-⅛	23⅞	24-⅛B
PORK—				
January	12.25	12.25	12.22	12.22
May	12.25	12.42	12.25	12.42
LARD—				
January	6.80	6.90	6.80	6.90
May	6.95	7.02	6.95	7.02
RIBS—				
January	6.30	6.42	6.30	6.42
May	6.42	6.55	6.42	6.55

New York Cotton Market.

	Open.	High.	Low.	Clos.
January	9.58	9.60	9.58	9.59
March	9.42	9.54	9.42	9.44
February	9.37	9.40	9.37	9.39
May	9.29	9.31	9.29	9.30

BALTIMORE PRICE CURRENT.

Wholesale Provision and Grain Market Quotations in Full.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 29.—Following are today's quotations in the local wholesale provision and grain markets:

Wheat—Stock in elevators, 1,038,372 bus. There was an absence of receipts or offerings of Southern, and the market ruled dull, although prices were nominally firmer in sympathy with Western. No. 2 red nominally 73 3-4c.

Corn—Stock in elevators, 1,345,490 bus. The market for Southern was dull and nominally steady. There were no receipts; the small quantity of white noted in the receipts arrived and sold late yesterday afternoon. No. 2 white, 42 3-4c, and yellow or mixed 42c, with steamer of either color about 1c off. Cob quiet at $2.25@2.30 per bbl for carload lots prime yellow on spot.

Flour—Market was quiet. Western Super, $2.35@2.45; Western Extra, $2.55@2.90; Western Family, $3.30@3.60; Winter Patents, $3.80@4.00; Spring Patents, $3.85@4.10; Spring Straight, $3.75@3.85; Spring Bakers', $2.90@3.15; Baltimore Best Patents, $4.60; Baltimore High-Grade Family, $4.50; Baltimore High-Grade Extra, $4.10; Baltimore Choice Family, $3.85; Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania Super, $2.35@2.45; Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania Extra, $2.55@2.90; Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania Family, $3.30@3.60; City Mills Super, $2.50@2.65; Rio Extra, $3.65@3.80; Rye flour, medium to choice, $3.00@3.25.

Oats—Market quiet. Stock in elevators, 347,335 bus. White, No. 2, 31 1-2c; do No. 3, 30@30 1-2c; do No. 4, 29 1-2@30c; do ungraded, 28@31 1-2c; mixed, No. 2, 28@28 1-2c; do No. 3, 27 1-2@28c; do No. 4, 26 1-2@27 1-2c; ungraded, 28@29c.

Rye—The market was quiet. Stock in elevators, 207,372 bus. No. 2 rye, in carlots, 50c; No. 3 rye, 48c; No. 2 Western rye, 51c for spot, and about same price for December rye. Bag lots nearby quotable at from 43@50c per bus, as to quality and condition.

Hay—Market quiet. No. 1 timothy, $17@17.50; No. 2, $16@16.50; No. 3, $15@15.50; No. 1 clover, mixed, $15.50@16.00; No. 2 clover, mixed, $14.00@15.00; No. 1 clover, $15.00@15.50; No. 2 clover, $13.50@14.50.

Straw—Market was dull. No. 1 straight rye, new, $14@14.50; No. 2 do, $13@13.50; tangled rye, $9.50@10; wheat, $8.50@7; oat straw, $7.50@8.

Mill feed—Market was firm. Lightweight bran, $16.50; medium, $15.50@16; heavy do, $14.50@15; medium middling, $15@16 (latter for lightweight, all track); spring bran, in 200-lb sacks, $17.00; do, in 100-lb sacks, $17.50; City Mills middling firm at $18.00 per ton.

Grain freights—Market dull. Liverpool, per bus, 3d, January; London, per qr, 3s, February; Glasgow, 3s, December; Belfast, 2s, January; Dublin, 3s, January; Bristol, 2s, January; Leith, 3s 3d, January; Cork, 3s 6d, December, 3s 6d January; Denmark, 3s 6d, December, 3s 6d, January; picked ports, 3s, December, 2s 10 1-2d, January; Antwerp, 3s 3d, January; Rotterdam, 2s 10 1-2d January; Bremen, 60 pfgs, January and February; Hamburg, 2s 6d, December, 3s 6d, April; Havre, none offered.

Butter—The market was steady. Creamery, separator, extra, 25@25 1-2c; extra first, 24@24 1-2c; creamery first, 21@22c; creamery imitation, extra, 19c; Iowa and Northwestern ladle, extra, 17c; do, extra first, 16c; Western store-packed, 13c; Ohio rolls, first, 14@15c; second, 13@14c; West Virginia rolls, first, 13@14c; second, 12c; Elgin creamery prints, 1-2-lb, 30c; do, 1-lb, 28c; do, 2-lbs, 26@27c; Maryland and Pennsylvania creamery prints, 1-2-lb, 28c; do, 1-lb, 27c; do, 2-lbs, 26c.

Eggs—The market was dull. Strictly fresh, 21c; Western, 20@21c.

Green fruits and vegetables—The market was quiet. Apples, Western Maryland and Pennsylvania, packed, per bbl, $1.00@2.00; New York, per bbl, fancy King, $3.00@3.50; do good to choice, $2.00@2.25; Baldwins, per bbl, $2.50@2.75; Greenings, $2.50@2.75; do, No. 2s, all varieties, per bbl, $1.00@1.50; do in bulk, per measured bbl, 80c@$1.00; cabbage, New York, per ton, $12.00@14.00; cranberries, Cape Cod, per bbl, $9.00@10.00; do, per box, $2.50@2.75; celery, Michigan, per dozen, 20@50c; do, New York, per dozen, 25@60c; cucumbers, Florida, per box, $1.50@2.00; lima beans, native, per bus box, $1.00@1.25; lettuce, native, per box, 50@75c; onions, New York, yellow, per bus, 80@90c; do, Western yellow, per bus, 80@90c; cyster plants, native, per bunch, 2@2 1-2c; pumpkins, native, each, 4@6c; quinces, New York, per bbl, No. 1, $1.50@1.75; do, No. 2, $1.00@1.25; string beans, Norfolk, per basket, green, 50@75c; do, wax, $1.00@1.25; turnips, native, per box, 20@25c.

Groceries—Raw sugar dull; refined steady. Quotations per 100-lb lots: Granulated, $5.70; cut loaf, $6.10; Keystone "A," $5.00; yellow sugars, $4.65@4.85; Molasses, N. O., St. Clare, 38c; Kingsland, 34c; Sunlight N. O., 26c; St. Vincent, P. R., 25c; St. John's, P. R., 19c; No. 12 Sugar House, 18c. Syrups—The market was steady. Gold Medal, 27c; King (Vanilla), 29c; Rock Candy Drips, 27c; Ohio Edge, 24c; Corn, 22c; No. 12, 17c. Tea was firm; Hyson, superior to fine, 28@32c; choice to choicest, 42@46c; uncolored Japan (new crop), finest, 31@33c; choice to choicest, 32@34c; extra choice, 46c; Oolong, Amoy and Fuchow, (new crop), finest, 40@43c; choice to choicest, extra, finest, 30@40c.

Potatoes—The market was steady. Maryland and Pennsylvania prime, per bus, 50@55c; do, seconds, per bus, 48@52c; do New York primes, per bus, 55@58c; sweets, Eastern Shore yellows, per bbl, $1@1.25; do, per flour bbl, $1.30@1.40; do Maryland, per bbl, 90c@$1.10; Anne Arundel, yellows, per bus, 18@20c; do, per bbl, 90c@$1; Virginia yams, 50@75c.

Poultry—Market was steady. Old fowls, 7@7 1-2c per lb; springers, 7 1-2@8c per lb; roosters, 20@25c apiece; ducks, 9@10c per lb; turkeys, 10c per lb; dressed chickens, 8@9c; do ducks, 9@10c; do turkeys, 11@12c.

Cotton—Market steady; middling, 10c; strictly low middling, 9 7-8c; low middling, 9 3-4c. Stock in Baltimore, 16,307 bales.

Green coffee—Market steady. No. 7 (Rio grade), 7@7 1-8c.

Roasted coffee—Market steady. Bulk roasted coffee—Pure Java, 32c; Maracaibo, 22c; pure Laguayra, 22c; pure San os, 19c; African Java, 18 1-2c; Rio blend, 18 1-2c; Peaberry mixture, 18c; pure Mocha, 30c; Java-Mocha blend, 27 1-2c. (These coffees are in fancy bags, paper-lined.) If packed in cans or tubs, 1-2c higher.

Package brands—E. L. C., 100-lb cases, 12c; 60-lb cases, 12 1-10c; 35-lb cases, 12 2-10c. Lion coffee, in 100-lb lots, 11.20; in 60-lb lots, 11.30.

BANKING AND BUSINESS NOTES.

Local Matters of Interest to Speculators and Investors.

There is presented herewith an important table showing the condition of the national banks and trust companies of the District, according to their December reports to the Comptroller of the Currency, published heretofore in The Times and other newspapers. The table has been carefully prepared, and it makes an excellent general exhibit, easily understood, that can be secured in no other way. The showing is a fine one, according to some of the best financial authorities in the District. The table is particularly interesting at this time, as the figures are virtually those of the end of the year 1900 and the end of the century. The volume of business transacted by each institution is shown, as well as that of the entire list in the aggregate. A good idea may be obtained from the figures, also, of the consistency of the business as well as the conservatism and soundness of each and all the institutions.

The smallest reserve of cash against immediate liabilities held by any of the banks is 17 per cent; the largest 49 per cent. The average reserve is 35 per cent of deposits and circulation. Considering that circulating notes are provided for by a redemption fund in the Treasury and that a bank needs only to meet in emergencies the demands of depositors the average provision of the banks in the way of a reserve fund can be said to be upward of 50 per cent. It will be noted that the loans and investments in United States bonds and otherwise of the banks amount to about $36,000,000, leaving them with a reserve fund on hand and in other banks of about $12,000,000, or considerably more than the amount of the capital stock, surplus fund, and undivided profits.

The statement of the Union Trust and Storage Company is not included in this table for the reason that it is not as yet doing a banking business to any extent:

Abstract of Reports of Condition of the Banks of Washington at Close of Business Dec. 13, 1900.

Name of Bank.	Loans and Investments.	Cash in other banks.	Cash on hand.	Total.	Capital stock, including surplus and profits.	Deposits, including Circulating Notes.
Citizens' National Bank	$1,163,304 38	$376,126 49	$33,881 51	$1,799,322 38	$1,000,000 00	$1,317,007 70
Metropolitan National Bank	1,601,867 ..	530,396 31	167,843 56	4,298,076 87	1,224,585 86	2,475,670 91
National Safe Deposit, Savings & Trust Co.	712,279 66	67,171 50	160,498 15	940,949 31	401,598 84	611,675 71
Lincoln National Bank	1,417,318 71	290,553 ..	305,516 95	2,013,388 66	200,000 00	1,772,201 66
Columbia National Bank	803,720 00	172,464 ..	150,714 34	1,126,898 34	200,000 00	926,898 34
Washington Loan and Trust Company	706,323 ..	221,809 ..	286,794 61	1,014,506 70	200,344 ..	754,156 70
West End National Bank	680,614 ..	90,000 ..	189,660 20	960,274 20	200,000 00	760,160 20
Traders' National Bank	1,356,833 81	129,732 34	324,853 35	1,811,419 50	1,000,000 00	1,738,019 50
American Security and Trust Co.	4,401,723 46	924,877 34	1,243,488 20	6,570,088 80	500,000 00	5,070,088 80
National Capital Bank	576,500 ..	267,653 ..	146,456 ..	990,609 ..	300,000 00	690,609 ..
Riggs National Bank	4,119,016 ..	1,405,703 ..	1,170,360 71	6,695,079 71	1,000,000 00	5,695,079 71
Central National Bank	1,026,671 ..	291,931 ..	317,762 ..	1,636,364 ..	300,000 00	1,336,364 ..
Second National Bank	982,724 ..	92,800 ..	267,540 ..	1,343,064 ..	200,000 00	1,143,064 ..
Bank of Washington	1,138,478 ..	780,368 ..	395,778 ..	2,314,624 ..	528,787 ..	1,785,837 ..
Totals	$20,135,865 39	$6,311,178 19	$4,777,702 30	$32,044,891 05	$8,070,468 96	$23,974,422 09

The stock of the new Union Trust and Storage Company has been listed on the local stock exchange, and some transactions have occurred in it during the past week. The price has been 103, which is considered an excellent indication of the confidence of local business men in the management of the company. It is to be remembered in this connection that the company has not yet begun business in a number of its departments, and that for this reason its showing up to the present time is small, and in no way indicative of its possibilities. The officers of the company express confidence that the business of 1901 will be excellent.

The week has been one of much interest in F Street,