COMMERCIAL FINANCIAL

SUMMARY OF THE MARKETS.

Local Sugar Stocks advancing again.
Wall-street stocks firm, without much feature.
Silver some fractions higher. Exchange unchanged.
Wheat quoted lower. Freights still down to bedrock.
Barley, Oats, Corn and Rye unchanged.
Bran rather firmer. Other Feedstuffs as before.
Hay in Fair receipt and steady.
Beans and Seeds quiet at previous prices.
Processed Butter from the East weakening the domestic goods.
Eggs easing off under increasing receipts. Cheese firm.
Dried Fruits and Raisins continue in good shape for sellers.
Cape Cod Cranberries in good demand and higher.
Provisions dull, with Hams and Bacon weak.
Wool, Hops and Hides firm and unchanged.
Small Hogs plentiful, but large fat stock rather scarce.
Mutton lower, Veal higher and Beef steady and unchanged.
Another ½c decline in Manila Cordage.
Potaoes in large and Onions in moderate receipt.
Poultry in fair demand. Game in liberal receipt and lower.
Deciduous and Citrus Fruits in large supply and slow.

Retail Meat Market.

The following retail quotations for meats are furnished by the San Francisco Retail Butchers' Protective Association:

BEEF—Prime Roast, 15@18c; Porterhouse Steak, 17½@22½c; Tenderloin Steak, 15@18c; Sirloin Steak, 12½@15c; Top Round Steak, 12½c; Beef Stew, 10c; Corned Beef, 8@10c; Soup Bones, 4c; Soup Meat, 8@10c.

VEAL—Loin Roast, 15@20c; Shoulder Roast, 12½@15c; Chops or Cutlets, 15@20c.

MUTTON—Leg, 12½c; Forequarter, 8@10c; Stew, 8@10c; Prime Chops, 15@18c; Shoulder Chops, 10@12½c.

SPRING LAMB—Chops, 15@20c; Leg, 15@18c; Forequarter, 12½c.

PORK—Loin Roast, 15@18c; Leg Roast, 12½c; Shoulder Roast, 11@12½c; Chops, 15@18c.

These prices do not cover the cheaper grades, as it is impossible to quote regular prices on them.

The Weather and Crops.

The weekly report of A. G. McAdie, section director of the climate and crop service of the Weather Bureau, is as follows:

GENERAL SUMMARY.

Generally cool weather prevailed during the week, with considerable cloudiness and heavy frosts in nearly all sections. The rainfall was well distributed throughout the State, though heaviest in the northern coast districts and portions of Southern California. No reports of serious damage by frosts were received.

Plowing and seeding were resumed during the week in all sections, and preparations are being made for a large acreage of wheat, barley and oats. Early sown grain continues in excellent condition and is making very good growth, though somewhat retarded by cool weather. Green feed is plentiful and of excellent quality in all sections. The rain was especially beneficial to grain and grass in the southern coast counties, Southern California and portions of the San Joaquin Valley. Stock continues in good condition.

As oranges have received ample warnings of cold weather, it is probable that smudging was resorted to and that the severe frosts caused very little damage. Orange picking and shipping are progressing in Southern California, the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys. The Porterville oranges are nearly all gathered; the yield was large and the quality superior. Late strawberries and raspberries in the vicinity of Sacramento were injured by frost Saturday morning.

SACRAMENTO VALLEY.—The weather during the week was very favorable for growing crops and grass. Light rain fell in all sections. Cooler weather commenced on Friday, and heavy frosts occurred in many places, but citrus fruits were not injured. Early grain is making good growth and looking strong and healthy. Plowing and seeding are progressing satisfactorily, and prospects are good for a large acreage of wheat, oats and barley. Green feed is abundant and of excellent quality. Stock are in good condition. Orange picking and shipping continue. Late raspberries and strawberries in the vicinity of Sacramento were injured by the heavy frost Saturday morning.

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY SECTIONS.—Cool, cloudy weather during the week somewhat retarded the growth of grain and grass in the northern districts, but in other sections conditions were more favorable. Heavy rain fell in nearly all sections, and was of great benefit in the southern districts. The soil is now in excellent condition for cultivation, and plowing and seeding are progressing rapidly. Early sown grain is making good growth and looking well. A large acreage of wheat, barley and oats will be seeded if weather continues favorable. Green feed is plentiful, and stock are doing well. Heavy frosts at the close of the week caused no damage. Citrus fruits are in good condition.

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY.—Fair, warm weather prevailed during the first part of the week and cloudy, cool weather the latter. General rain fell on the 10th and 11th. The rain was very beneficial to early sown grain and grass, and also put the ground in excellent condition for plowing. Plowing and seeding are progressing rapidly, and early sown grain is looking well. Green feed is making good growth, and stock of all kinds are in good condition. Most of the orange crop has been marketed. The crop was good and of excellent quality. The deciduous fruit crop has all been harvested, and the packing houses are now closed for the season. Heavy frosts occurred generally Sunday and Monday mornings, but no damage has been reported.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.—Cool weather at the beginning of the week was followed by higher temperature and rain. The rainfall was quite heavy in some places. Severe frosts occurred in some sections, but no damage to citrus fruits has been reported. Ample warnings were given and smudging was resorted to by many growers. Orange picking and shipping are progressing. The rain was of considerable benefit to grain and grass. Plowing and seeding are in progress. Grain feed is abundant and of good quality. Cooler weather prevailed at the close of the week.

EUREKA SUMMARY.—Heavy frost occurred Sunday, but no material damage reported. Considerable plowing and some seeding the latter part of the week. The growth of grass is somewhat retarded by cold weather.

LOS ANGELES SUMMARY.—The rain improved feed, early sown grain and vegetables. Plowing and seeding accelerated; farmers in good spirits. Cold at close of the week with heavy frost, but no damage reported so far.

Weather Report.

(120th Meridian—Pacific Time.)
SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 16—5 p. m.

The following are the seasonal rainfalls to date as compared with those of same date last season and rainfalls in last twenty-four hours:

Stations—	Last 24 Hours.	This Season.	Last Season.
Eureka	0.00	19.38	15.02
Red Bluff	0.00	11.93	9.08
Sacramento	0.00	5.29	6.04
San Francisco	0.03	5.16	5.80
Fresno	0.00	3.10	2.17
Independence	0.00	0.83	1.35
San Luis Obispo	0.06	5.24	4.56
Los Angeles	0.56	3.68	2.46
San Diego	0.01	3.67	0.77

THE COAST RECORD.

STATION—	Barometer.	Maximum Temperature.	Minimum Temperature.	Direction of Wind.	State of Weather.	Precipitation.
Astoria	30.34	44	34	NE	Cloudy	.02
Baker	30.44	26	14	SW	Clear	.00
Carson	30.10	38	22	NE	Clear	.00
Eureka	30.06	54	38	N	Clear	.00
Fresno	29.98	50	32	NE	Cloudy	.00
Flagstaff	30.26	28	—8	NE	Clear	.00
Pocatello	30.38	28	12	SE	Clear	.00
Independence	30.08	40	22	NW	Cloudy	.00
Los Angeles	29.96	52	40	NE	Rain	.56
Phoenix	30.00	64	34	E	Clear	.00
Portland	30.56	38	30	E	Cloudy	T.
Red Bluff	30.64	56	38	N	Pt. Cldy	.00
Roseburg	30.26	38	32	NW	Cloudy	.00
Sacramento	29.98	54	40	NW	Clear	.00
Salt Lake	30.30	32	16	NW	Clear	.00
San Francisco	30.02	56	44	SE	Clear	.02
S. L. Obispo	29.96	52	46	W	Cloudy	.06
San Diego	29.90	62	46	SE	Cloudy	.01
Seattle	30.44	44	38	N	Clear	.00
Spokane	30.54	22	18	E	Cloudy	.00
Tatoosh	30.40	42	40	E	Clear	.00
Walla Walla	30.52	30	26	W	Clear	.00
Winnemucca	30.18	36	8	NE	Clear	.00
Yuma	30.00	58	40	NE	Clear	.00

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND GENERAL FORECAST.

By courtesy of the Pacific Commercial Cable Company the following weather report has been received from the Pacific Ocean, latitude 35 degrees 50 minutes north; longitude 126 degrees 44 minutes west: "Weather bad; strong northwest wind; high confused sea. BENEST."

The Silvertown appears to have run through a small disturbance which has moved eastward over Southern California.

The pressure has risen rapidly over the northwestern portion of the country and has fallen rapidly over Southern California. A moderate disturbance is moving in from the ocean on the coast south of Point Conception. Rain has fallen from San Luis Obispo south to San Diego. At Los Angeles more than half an inch of rain has fallen.

The temperature has risen in the Sacramento Valley and has fallen along the coast south of Point Concention.

Forecast made at San Francisco for thirty hours ending midnight, December 17:

Northern California—Fair Wednesday; fresh north wind.

Southern California—Cloudy, unsettled weather Wednesday with snow in the mountains; probably light rain on the coast; fresh easterly winds.

Nevada—Fair Wednesday; continued cold.

San Francisco and Vicinity—Fair Wednesday; light easterly winds.

ALEXANDER G. MCADIE,
Forecast Official.

EASTERN MARKETS.

New York Stock Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—There was an extraordinary melting of prices in the last half-hour of to-day's market following a marking up of quotations during the previous portion of the session. Shortly before 2:30 prices were at the highest of the day and net gains of two points or over had been attained by leading stocks there and there in all the principal groups such as Pennsylvania, Southern Pacific, Missouri Pacific, St. Paul, Rock Island preferred, Delaware and Hudson and Sugar. In the last half hour St. Paul dropped back abruptly 3¾, and some of the other stocks were carried swiftly downward. The interpretation of the movement was believed to be that the powerful interests in the financial world which announced their organization yesterday for the protection of the money market desired to convey a warning that they had no intention of allowing these plans to be interfered with. There was more or less realizing before the close by the professional traders who bought in yesterday's market and early this morning. Previous to the final slump the course of prices was quite prosperously upward. There were reports of assurances received by the State Department regarding the intentions of Great Britain and Germany in Venezuela which served to cause a better sentiment on that subject, but the principal influence in the rise was the reassuring effect of the formation of the bankers' pool providing $50,000,000 for use in a possible money market emergency. The effect was to relieve the stock market from the pressure of liquidation. Offerings became so light, in fact, that it was found easy to bid up prices on very light purchases. This was the notable case among some of the inactive stocks among which the flowing supply is always light, especially in the Vanderbilt group. There was some surprise expressed, however, over the extent of the protective measures taken by the banks. There was much surmise as to a possible real need for these measures which has not been disclosed and a disposition to consider that the existence of such a need was indicated by the formation of the pool. While it was recognized that no part of this fund would likely find its way directly into the stock market, it was considered probable that further withdrawals of loans from the stock market would be avoided, owing to the unfavorable effect on sentiment which the heavy stock liquidation has caused. The principal good which it is hoped to achieve by the announcement of the large resources available is upon sentiment. Part of the present stringency is undoubtedly due to the withholding of funds by persons who have become timid or who have determined to await for high money rates before lending their resources. Call loan rates did not get above 6½ per cent to-day and ran off to below 5 per cent when the principal demands had been met. The time money market was also called easier in tone, although not quotably changed. Much satisfaction was felt because, notwithstanding the easier tone of money, sterling exchange rates yielded an additional fraction. The stock market closed distinctly weak.

Bonds became firm in sympathy with stocks, but yielded at the last. Total sales, par value, $2,505,000.

United States new 4s declined ½ per cent on the last call.

NEW YORK STOCK LIST.

Stocks—	Sales.	High.	Low.	Close.
Atchison	38,700	81	70½	79¾
Atchison pfd	4,000	98¼	97½	97¾
Balt & Ohio	31,000	96¾	94	94¾
Balt & Ohio pfd	600	93	92	91
Canadian Pacific	8,000	127	125¾	126
Canada Southern	300	76	75	70
Chesap & Ohio	400	45	44⅞	45⅛
Chi & Alton	500	31⅝	30⅝	31¼
Chi & Alton pfd	....	....	....	69
Chi Ind & Louis	....	....	....	71
Chi Ind & L pfd	....	....	....	91
Chi & E Illinois	....	....	....	195
Chi & G Western	6,400	23¾	23	23⅛
Chi & G W A pfd	....	....	....	80
Chi & G W B pfd	800	36	34	35
Chi & Northwstn	1,400	217	213¾	215
Chi Term & Trans	900	16	15¾	15⅞
Chi Term & T pfd	1,300	30¾	30	30½
C C C & St Louis	800	94⅝	93⅝	93½
Colo Southern	800	26½	25½	25¾
Colo Southern 1st pfd	800	68	67½	67
Colo South 2d pfd	800	41½	40½	41
Del & Hudson	700	158½	156	157½
Del Lack & West	100	241	241	241
Denver & Rio G	1,900	37¾	36½	37
Denver & R G pfd	700	89½	87⅝	88½
Erie	23,200	31⅞	30⅝	31
Erie 1st pfd	1,000	63	62	62¼
Erie 2d pfd	1,700	44	42¾	43
Great Northern pfd	1,600	189⅞	187½	188½
Hocking Valley	7,900	100½	98¾	98¾
Hocking Val pfd	1,200	96¼	95	95½
Illinois Central	2,500	141⅞	140	140¾
Iowa Central	400	37	36	36
Iowa Central pfd	....	....	....	63
K C Southern	1,500	29⅞	29¼	29¾
K C Southern pfd	300	52⅞	52	52½
Lake Erie & West	600	49½	45	48
L Erie & West pfd	....	....	....	115
Louis & Nash	6,800	120¾	118½	119¼
Manhattan L	12,600	145¾	143¼	143¼
Metropolitan St Ry	3,700	138½	136¾	136¾
Mexican Central	300	20¾	20⅛	21
Mexican National	....	....	....	14¾
Minn & St Louis	....	....	....	105
Missouri Pacific	30,300	104¼	101¾	102
Mo Kans & Texas	2,200	24⅞	23½	23⅞
Mo Kan & T pfd	700	53	52¼	53
N J Central	....	....	....	165
N Y Central	8,700	152	150	150¼
Norfolk & West	4,600	69⅝	68½	68⅝
Norfolk & W pfd	....	....	....	90
Ontario & West	4,400	28⅛	27¼	27⅝
Pennsylvania	32,900	154⅞	152	152⅝
Reading	64,900	59⅛	57¼	57⅝
Reading 1st pfd	800	85	84¾	85
Reading 2d pfd	200	75½	75½	74
Rock Island	15,200	38⅛	36⅞	37
Rock Island pfd	8,400	80	77½	79⅝
St Louis & S F	800	66½	65	66
St L & S F 1st pfd	100	79⅛	79⅛	79
St L & S F 2d pfd	400	67¼	66¼	67
St Louis S W	100	25	25	25
St Louis S W pfd	1,300	58½	57¾	57¾
St Paul	54,000	170¾	167	167¾
St Paul pfd	500	191	190½	189
Southern Pacific	38,100	60½	58¾	59
Southern Railway	11,400	30⅛	29¾	30¾
Southern Ry pfd	....	....	....	90¼
Texas & Pacific	5,200	39	38	38¼
Tol St L & West	1,400	27	26	26½
Tol St L & W pfd	300	46	45	45½
Union Pacific	55,700	97	95	95½
Union Pacific pfd	1,300	91½	91	91
Wabash	1,100	26	25	25½
Wabash pfd	2,700	40⅝	39	39⅝
Wheel & Lake Erie	500	22⅝	22	22¼
W & L E 2d pfd	100	32	32	32
Wisconsin Cent	700	23⅞	23¼	23½
Wis Cent pfd	500	48⅞	48¼	48
Express Companies—				
Adams	....	....	....	200
American	200	224	214¾	215
United States	....	....	....	120
Wells Fargo	....	....	....	210
Miscellaneous—				
Amal Copper	15,600	56½	55½	55⅝
Amer Car & F	1,200	33¼	32⅞	33¼
Amer C & F pfd	200	88⅞	88⅛	88¾
Amer Linseed Oil	....	....	....	14
Amer Lin Oil pfd	100	39½	39½	37
Amer Loco	1,100	26¼	25½	25⅝
Amer Loco pfd	400	92	91⅝	91¼
Amer S & Ref	500	39¼	39	38½
Amer S & Ref pfd	800	91½	90	90
Anaconda Min Co	400	86	84	85
Brooklyn Rapid Tn	9,500	63	61⅝	61½
Colo Fuel & Iron	1,400	76½	75½	75½
Consolidated Gas	1,300	209½	208	208
Con Tobacco pfd	300	115½	115	114¾
General Electric	100	175¼	175	174
Hocking Coal	3,000	18½	18¼	18
International Paper	500	16¾	16½	16¾
Inter Paper pfd	....	....	....	70⅝
International Power	....	....	....	55
National Biscuit	....	....	....	44¼
National Lead	700	26	25	25
North American	200	111¾	110	110
Pacific Coast	....	....	....	65
Pacific Mail	100	37	37	37
People's Gas	1,200	100¾	99¾	100½
Pressed Steel Car	400	57¾	57	57
Pressed Steel C pfd	400	90½	90	90
Pullman Pal Car	....	....	....	225
Republic Steel	900	18¾	18¼	18¼
Republic Steel pfd	200	75	75	74¾
Sugar	24,000	122¼	120¼	121
Tenn Coal & Iron	1,300	54¼	54	53½
Union B & P Co	100	12¼	12¼	12
Un B & P Co pfd	....	....	....	73¾
U S Leather	3,100	11¾	11⅝	11½
U S Leather pfd	400	87	86⅝	86¾
U S Rubber	100	15	15	15
U S Rubber pfd	....	....	....	50
U S Steel	35,800	32¼	31¼	31½
U S Steel pfd	13,200	82	80¾	81
Western Union	800	88¼	87¾	87¾

Total shares sold, 636,500

UNITED RAILWAYS OF SAN FRANCISCO.

NEW YOFK, Dec. 16.—Curb quotations, United Railways of San Francisco: Bonds—No bids, $91 asked. Subscriptions—$44 50 bid, $46 50 asked.

NEW YORK BONDS.

U S ref 2s reg	107¾	L & N uni 4s	101
Do 2s coupon	108¼	Mex Cent 4s	76¼
Do 3s reg	107½	Do 1st inc	22
Do 3s coupon	107½	Minn & St L 4s	103
Do new 4s reg	135	Mo Kan & Tex 4s	98
Do new 4s cou	135	Do 2ds	81
Do old 4s reg	108½	N Y Cent 1sts	102½
Do old 4s cou	109½	Do gen 3½s	104
Do 5s reg	103¾	N J Cen gen 5s	135⅛
Do 5s coupon	103¾	No Pacific 4s	103
Atchison gen 4s	101¼	Do 3s	72¼
Do adj 4s	89	Nor & W con 4s	99½
Balt & Ohio 4s	100⅞	Reading gen 4s	95⅞
Do 3½s	94	S L & I M con 5s	112⅛
Do conv 4s	104¾	St L & San F 4s	97
Can Southern 2ds	108	St L Sowrn 1sts	95
Central Ga 5s	105	Do 2ds	84
Do 1st inc	73	S A & A P 4s	86
Ches & Ohio 4½s	102½	So Pacific 4s	89⅝
Chi & Alton 3½s	79	So Railway 5s	118½
C B & Q new 4s	95	Tex & Pac 1sts	116
C M & S P gen 4s	113	To S L & W 4s	75
Chi & NW con 7s	133½	Union Pacific 4s	103¾
C R I & P 4s	107½	Do conv 4s	103¾
C C C & S Lgen4s	99	Wabash 1sts	115½
Chi Terminal 4s	85	Do 2ds	107
Colo & So 4s	92	Do deb B	72⅝
D & R G 4s	100	West Shore 4s	113
Erie prior lien 4s	97½	W & L Erie 4s	91
Do general 4s	83½	Wis Central 4s	91½
F W & D C 1sts	109	Con Tob 4s	62⅛
Hocking Val 4½s	108¼		

NEW YORK MINING STOCKS.

Adams Con	15	Little Chief	09
Alice	17	Ontario	5 75
Breece	40	Ophir	1 20
Brunswick Con	03	Phoenix	06
Comstock Tunnel	05	Potosi	20
Con Cal & Va	1 25	Savage	15
Horn Silver	1 25	Sierra Nevada	25
Iron Silver	85	Small Hopes	25
Leadville Con	03	Standard	3 00

BOSTON STOCKS AND BONDS.

Money—		Westinghouse com	93
Call loans	5½@6	Mining—	
Time loans	6½@7½	Adventure	12½
Bonds—		Allouez	2½
Atchison 4s	100¼	Amalgamated	55½
Gas 1sts	98	Daly West	36½
Mexican Cent 4s	74	Bingham	26
Railroads—		Calumet & Hecla	440
Atchison	79⅝	Centennial	15½
Do pfd	97¾	Copper Range	52¾
Boston & Albany	259	Dom Coal	120
Boston & Maine	193	Franklin	8
Boston Elevated	150	Isle Royale	10
N Y N H & H	222	Mohawk	36
Fitchburg pfd	141	Old Dominion	15¼
Union Pacific	95⅝	Osceola	50
Mexican Central	21½	Parrot	22¼
Miscellaneous—		Quincy	101
Am Sugar	121	Tamarack	140
Do pfd	117¼	Trimountain	91
Am Tel & Tel	159⅛	Trinity	8
Dom Iron & Steel	56	United States	20¾
General Electric	174	Utah	23½
Mass Electric	33¾	Victoria	4⅝
Do pfd	93	Winona	3⅞
United Fruit	107¾	Wolverine	58
U S Steel	31⅝	United Copper	28
U S Steel pfd	81		

LONDON CLOSING STOCKS.

Consols for money	92½	Nor & Westn	70¾
Do account	92 11-16	Do pfd	94
Anaconda	5⅝	Ont & Westn	28
Atchison	82⅝	Pennsylvania	78
Do pfd	100¼	Reading	29½
Balt & Ohio	97¼	Do 1st pfd	43½
Can Pacific	129⅞	Do 2d pfd	37¾
Ches & Ohio	45	So Railway	31
Chi Gt Western	23½	Do pfd	93½
Chi M & S P	174	So Pacific	60¾
Denver & Rio Gd	37¼	Union Pacific	98¾
Do pfd	90¾	Do pfd	93
Erie	31¾	U S Steel	32⅝
Do 1st pfd	64	Do pfd	83½
Do 2d pfd	45	Wabash	26
Illinois Central	143½	Do pfd	40½
Louis & Nash	123	De Beers	22⅞
Mo Kan & Tex	24¼	Rands	10⅜
N Y Central	154		

Bar Silver—Uncertain, 22½d per ounce.
Money—3½@3¾ per cent.
The rate of discount in the open market for short bills is 3¾ per cent.
The rate of discount in the open market for three months bills is 3⅞ per cent.

New York Money Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—Money on call steady at 4@6½ per cent, closing offered at 4 per cent; time money easier, 60@90 days, 8 per cent; six months, 6 per cent; prime mercantile paper, 6 per cent. Sterling exchange heavy, with actual business in bankers' bills at $4 86.75@4 86.875 for demand and at $4 83.125@4 83.25 for sixty days' bills; posted rates, $4 84½@4 88; commercial bills, $4 82½@4 83. Bar silver, 48⅝c. Mexican dollars, 37½c. Government bonds, easier; railroad bonds, firm.

New York Metal Market.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—Tin followed up its advance of yesterday with another but more moderate gain to-day; London prices were 15s higher at £117 for spot and £117 7s 3d for futures. Locally the market was firm and slightly higher, spot closing at $25 80@26.

Copper advanced 3s 9d in London to £50 8s 9d for spot and £50 17s 6d for futures, but remained dull and nominal here. Standard is quoted at $10 75, lake at $11 05 and electrolytic and casting at $11 45.

Lead was quiet and unchanged here at $4 12½ and in London at £10 17s 6d.

Spelter continued unchanged in London at £19 17s 6d, but was 5 points lower and easy locally at $4 90.

Iron was unchanged at 45s 3d in Glasgow, but declined 3s in Middlesboro to 47s 3d. Locally iron was quiet and unchanged. Warrants continue nominal. No. 1 foundry, northern, is quoted at $23@25; No. 2 foundry (northern), No. 1 foundry (southern) and No. 1 foundry (southern, soft) at $22@23.

New York Grain and Produce.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—FLOUR—Receipts, 19,000 barrels; exports, 2700 barrels. Unsettled and a trifle easier.

WHEAT—Receipts, 138,450 bushels; spot, easy. No. 2 red, 82¾c elevator; No. 2 red, 79⅝c f. o. b. afloat; No. 1 Northern Duluth, 85c f. o. b. afloat; No. 1 hard Manitoba, 86½c f. o. b. afloat. Options experienced another dull day and at times were quite weak under selling for both long and short account, together with poor business abroad, clearing weather West and scant outside support. Closed easy at ⅝@½c net decline. May, 80⅞@81½, closed 81⅛c; July, 78¼@78 7-16c; closed 78⅞c; December closed 83½c.

HOPS and HIDES—Steady.

WOOL—Firm.

SUGAR—Raw, steady; fair refining, 3 7-16c; centrifugal, 96 test, 3 1-16c; molasses sugar, 3 1-16c. Refined, quiet.

COFFEE—Futures closed steady at an advance of 5 to 10 points. Total sales 41,500 bags, including December, 4.40c; February, 4.60c March, 4.70@4.75c; May, 4.90@4.95c; July, 5c; September, 5.15@5.20c; October, 5.25c; November, 5.25c. Spot Rio, quiet.

DRIED FRUITS.

EVAPORATED APPLES—Continue firm, holders being disposed to seek better prices. Common are quoted at 4@5½c; prime, 5¼@5½c;; choice, 6@6½c; fancy, 7@7½c.

SPOT PRUNES—Are active and firm, with 50-60s and 70-80s reported in light supply, while 40-50s are in active demand and offered in moderate quantities. Prices range from 3½@7½c for all grades.

APRICOTS—There is a moderate demand for Apricots, which are about steady at 7½@12c in boxes and 7½@10c in bags.

PEACHES—Also are moving moderately and rule about steady at 12@18c for peeled and 6½@10c for unpeeled.

Chicago Grain and Produce.

CHICAGO, Dec. 16.—Wheat ruled weak and lower on easier cables and better weather in the Northwest. The weakness of outside markets and the general inactivity of the market were depressing influences. The leading long enlarged on his line, but it was supposed that he was selling through brokers, and this fact induced others to sell. May opened a shade to ¼c lower at 77½@77⅝c to 77⅜c and gradually sold off to 76⅞c. A fair export demand caused a slight rally toward the close, which was ½@⅝c lower at 77⅛@77¼c. December closed 1⅛c lower at 74½c.

Increased receipts caused heavy liquidation in corn and there was a break of 2½c in December early in the day, and, though covering by shorts caused a rally later, the general situation was easier. Reports from the country were bearish, cables lower, better weather and an increase in Bradstreet's visible supply were depressing influences. May closed a shade lower at 43½@43⅝c. December was off 2 cents, closing at 53c.

Oats were easier. May closed ¼@⅜c lower at 32⅞c.

Provisions opened firm on higher prices for hogs at the yards. A fair demand for January lard was a supporting influence, and the close was steady, with January pork off 5c, lard unchanged, and ribs 2½@5c lower.

Foreign Futures.

LIVERPOOL.

Wheat—	Dec.	March.	May.
Opening	6 1⅞	6 2⅛	6 1⅝
Closing	6 1½	6 1⅞	6 1⅜

PARIS.

Wheat—	Dec.	May-Aug.
Opening	20 95	21 50
Closing	20 95	21 50
Flour—		
Opening	28 55	28 45
Closing	28 55	28 50

The leading futures ranged as follows:

Articles—	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
Wheat No. 2—				
December	75¼	75¼	74½	74½
May	77¾	77¾	76⅞	77¼
July	74¼	74¼	73¾	74
Corn No. 2—				
December	55	55	52½	53
January	47¼	47¼	46½	46¾
May	43⅝	43⅝	43¼	43⅜
Oats No. 2—				
Dec. (new)	31¾	31¾	31⅛	31¼
May	33⅛	33⅛	32⅝	32⅞
Mess Pork, per bbl—				
January	16 77½	16 80	16 67½	16 67½
May	15 72½	15 80	15 62½	15 65
Lard, per 100 lbs—				
December	10 25	10 25	10 20	10 20
January	9 75	9 77½	9 77½	9 72½
May	9 22½	9 25	9 12½	9 12½
Short Ribs, per 100 lbs—				
January	8 45	8 47½	8 40	8 40
May	8 37½	8 37½	8 30	8 30

Cash quotations were as follows: Flour, slow but steady; No. 2 spring wheat, 74@76c; No. 3, 71@71¾c; No. 2 red, 74½@75¼c; No. 2 corn, 52¾c; No. 2 yellow, 52¾c; No. 2 oats, 31¼c; No. 3 white, 31½@32¾c; No. 2 rye, 49c; good feeding barley, 37@41c; fair to choice malting, 45@55c; No. 1 flaxseed, $1 17; No. 1 Northwestern, $1 25; prime timothy seed, $3 65; mess pork, per bbl, $17; lard, per 100 lbs, $10 20@10 27½; short ribs sides (loose), $8 50@8 75; dry salted shoulders (boxed), $8 25@8 50; short clear sides (boxed), $8.75@9; clover, contract grade, $10 75.

Articles—	Receipts.	Shipments.
Flour, barrels	32,000	29,000
Wheat, bushels	99,000	11,000
Corn, bushels	327,600	84,000
Oats, bushels	300,000	219,000
Rye, bushels	24,000	.....
Barley, bushels	92,000	32,000

On the Produce Exchange to-day the butter market was steady; creameries, 18@28½c; dairies, 17@25c. Eggs, steady, 24c. Cheese, steady, 11¼@12½c.

Visible Grain Supply.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—Special cable and telegraphic advices to Bradstreet's this week show the following changes in available supply as compared with last account:

Wheat—United States and Canada, east of the Rockies, increased 2,175,000 bushels; afloat for and in Europe, decreased 2,500,000 bushels; total supply, decreased 325,000 bushels.

Corn—United States and Canada, east of the Rockies, increased 1,782,000 bushels.

Oats—United States and Canada, east of the Rockies, decreased 593,000 bushels.

Eastern Livestock Market.

CHICAGO.

CHICAGO, Dec. 16.—CATTLE—Receipts, 1500; slow, steady. Good to prime steers, $5 40@6 50; poor to medium, $3@5 25; stockers and feeders, $2@4 50; cows, $1 25@4 50; heifers, $2@4 75; canners, $1 90@4 50; bulls, $3 50@3 75; calves, $3 75@4 50.

HOGS—Receipts: To-day, 25,000; estimated for to-morrow, 40,000; left over, 5000; 5@10c higher. Mixed and butchers, $5 90@6 35; good to choice heavy, $6 40@6 60; rough heavy, $5 95@6 35; light, $5 70@6 15; bulk of sales, $6 10@6 35.

SHEEP—Receipts, 17,000; sheep and lambs, steady. Good to choice wethers, $3 75@4 30; fair to choice mixed, $2 75@3 75; Western sheep, $3 75@4 25; native lambs, $3 75@5 65; Western lambs, $4@6 50.

ST. JOSEPH.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Dec. 16.—CATTLE—Receipts, 1980. Texas and Western, $3@5 50; veals, $2 50@5 60½; bulls and stags, $2@4 40; stockers and feeders, $3 25@4 35.

HOGS—Receipts, 5250. Medium and heavy, $6 15@6 32½; pigs, $4@5 05.

SHEEP—Receipts, 3700. Top native lambs, $5 30; wethers, $4 25; ewes, $4.

Boston Wool Market.

BOSTON, Dec. 16.—The wool market is fully as strong as a week ago and prices that were then rather asking prices than otherwise now have become figures at which actual sales have been made. The tendency is still upward and some grades of wool have been further advanced. Manufacturers are looking the market over and it is stated as a fact that not for years have the different houses been so well cleaned up on orders and off-lots of wool. For territory wools there is a good demand for all grades, but especially for fine wools, with medium wools doing better.

Prices are very firm, with the tendency upward. Fine staple territory, 56@60c; strictly fine, 50@55c; fine and medium, 50@55c; medium, 45@47c.

California wools are firmer. The demand is steady at the revised quotations. Northern county