WINTER WHEAT IS DAMAGED

INCREASING REPORTS TO THIS EFFECT STRENGTHEN MARKET.

May Closed With a Net Gain of 1 5-8c—Corn and Oats Pursued a Similar Course—Provisions Also Higher.

CHICAGO, March 24.—The moving cause of the strength in wheat to-day, after about two hours' depression, was the increasing number of reports of serious damage to winter wheat. Shorts were forced to cover and during the excitement May wheat rose 3⅝c from the bottom of the day's range, and closed at the top, with a net gain of 1⅝@1⅝c. Corn and oats pursued a similar course and advanced ⅛@⅜c and ⅛@¼c respectively. Pork improved 7½c and lard and ribs left off a shade higher.

There was an easy feeling in wheat at the start, and May opened ⅛@⅜c lower, at 68¼@68⅜c, and slid off to 68⅛c during the first hour's trading. There were no fresh reasons for weakness at the time of opening, but bulls were disheartened at the apathy of traders in general and the indifference with which reports of heavy damage to winter wheat were received. The bulls considered the holding of wheat under such circumstances like love's labor lost, and let some drop into the maws of the bears, who were short and were looking on the decline with which the market started as the proper time to feed. The reports of winter killed wheat from the country were numerous and fully corroborated previous advices of a similar character. The action of the market, however, during the early trading clearly indicated a well spread belief that wheat was not nearly so seriously damaged as had been claimed. Chicago received forty-two cars, of which five graded contract. Minneapolis and Duluth got 392, against 310 the same day last year. Atlantic port clearances for the day were 540,000. Indications were that the world's shipments to Europe would be about 6,500,000 for the week. St. Louis bought wheat freely on the break and orders from outside generally were to buy. During the last half of the session reports from Kentucky said that fall wheat fields were being plowed up and general complaints from the Southwest were of an almost sensational character, claiming that damage previously unsuspected had revealed itself. This sort of news started local shorts scrambling to cover. Offerings were found to be very scarce, however, and after a vigorous climb during the last hour of the session May rested at 70⅝c, with the buying demand still unsatisfied.

Corn followed wheat, rallying sharply at the close. Shorts and elevator people were heavy buyers on the way up. Claims from New York of 100 boatloads being disposed of for export exerted a strengthening influence. Receipts 305 cars, and country offerings practically nothing. May started ⅛c lower, at 35⅛@35¼, declined to 34⅞c, then advanced to 35⅝c sellers at the close.

Oats rallied with the other grains, closing firm at the high point. Elevator people and shorts bought and this helped the advance. Receipts 143 cars. May began ⅛@¼c lower, at 25⅝c, sold sparingly at 25⅜@25½c, then rose steadily to and closed at 26⅛c.

A good cash demand for meats and buying hard and ribs by packing concerns strengthened provisions. May pork opened 7½c lower, at 39.65, and advanced to $9.15 buyers at the close. The range in lard and ribs was very narrow.

Estimated receipts for Saturday: Wheat, [illegible] cars; corn, 125 cars; oats, 180 cars, and [illegible] hogs.

LOCAL GRAIN MARKET.

A Little Wheat Arriving and Tending Upward—Corn Unsettled.

[illegible] stores—Wheat, 780,000 bushels; corn, 539,000 bushels; oats, 11,500 bushels, and rye, 19,900 bushels.

Wheat.

[illegible] past 24 hours ..... 29,250 bushels
[illegible] same time last year ..... 30,000 bushels
[illegible] past 24 hours ..... 24,700 bushels
[illegible] same time last year ..... 20,150 bushels

[illegible] little doing yesterday in cash grain. The receipts were light and holders wanted a little more money, which caused buyers to go slow, and simple trading in consequence. light. That few cars of No. 2 hard, were made at much the same price as Wednesday, 69⅞c over test, No. 2 hard one cent and No. 4 hard 6⅛@7⅛c over test. While the trade was very bullish by this time and the prices had gone up again and an advance of ⅝c was recorded, and from this it sold up to 69⅞c [illegible] at this, the highest price of the day [illegible] over Thursday's finish. July opened the [illegible] at 69¼c, went up to 69⅝c, then fell down to [illegible] and then moved up to 69⅛c [illegible] the best price of the day. By [illegible] it took here at Kansas City:

[illegible] 2 hard—1 car 58 pounds at 64½c; 50 pound [illegible] at 65½c.

[illegible] hard—1 car 56 pounds at 62c, 2 cars 56 [illegible] at 62½c, 3 cars 56½ pounds at 62⅝c, 1 car 56½ [illegible] at 62½c, 3 cars 57 pounds at 62⅝c.

[illegible] hard—1 car 55½ pounds at 61c, 1 car 53 [illegible] at 61½c, 1 car 54 pounds at 61½c, 1 car 55 [illegible] at 61½c, 1 car 55 pounds at 61½c, 1 car 56½ [illegible] at 61½c, 1 car 57½ pounds at 62½c.

[illegible] rejected—Nominal at 57c.

[illegible] 4 red—1 car 56 pounds at 70c, 1 car 58 pounds [illegible]

Corn.

[illegible] past 24 hours ..... 28,250 bushels
[illegible] same time last year ..... 44,250 bushels
[illegible] past 24 hours ..... 8,250 bushels
[illegible] same time last year ..... 55,500 bushels

[illegible] were much cash in yesterday than for some [illegible] with the price of white ⅝c, but [illegible] Thursday's finish. July [illegible] lower and closed at 35c, the top sector [illegible] sold sparingly. By sample on track [illegible]

[illegible] City:
[illegible] 2 cars at 32½c.
[illegible] 1 car at 32c.
[illegible] 1 car at 31½c.
[illegible] Nominal at 32c.
[illegible] 2 cars at 32c.
[illegible] Nominal at 32c.

Oats.

[illegible] past 24 hours ..... 4,000 bushels
[illegible] same time last year ..... 30,000 bushels
[illegible] past 24 hours ..... 2,500 bushels
[illegible] same time last year ..... 4,000 bushels

[illegible] yesterday [illegible] and what few samples offered [illegible] of the oatmeal man and feed [illegible] and some samples brought a [illegible] but the general features of [illegible] unchanged from the previous days [illegible] and the light supply continues the [illegible] market. By sample on track here at [illegible]

[illegible] 2 white, 26½@26¾c.
[illegible] 1 white, clipped, at 26½c.
[illegible] 2 white, 2 cars at 26½c.
[illegible] 1 white, 1 car at 26½c.
[illegible] 2 mixed, 2 cars at 26½c.
[illegible] Nominal.

Rye.

[illegible] past 24 hours ..... 1,200 bushels
[illegible] same time last year ..... 650 bushels
[illegible] past 24 hours ..... bushels
[illegible] same time last year ..... 1,520 bushels

[illegible] for rye on sale disposed of [illegible] were a little firmer, in [illegible] By sample on track here at [illegible]

[illegible] steady. The quotations: [illegible] $2.20@2.30; straights, [illegible] $2.10@2.20; low grades, $1.20 [illegible] $1.90@2.10; straights, [illegible] $2.10; low grades and city [illegible]

[illegible] and week. Bulk, 69@70c per [illegible]

[illegible] by demand. Sacked, 69@70 [illegible] 69@70c per cwt.

[illegible] Car lots nominal at [illegible]

[illegible] White, 30@31c per bushel.

[illegible] Timothy—Car lots, $21.00 per [illegible] ground lots, $12.50; less, [illegible]

[illegible] Car lots, $10.00 per [illegible] points in Kansas and [illegible] Kansas City.

[illegible] per ton for car lots, f. [illegible]

[illegible] $10 00
[illegible] 5 00
[illegible] 5 00
[illegible] 00 00
[illegible] 00 00
[illegible] 00 00
[illegible] 00 00

[illegible] week the past 24 hours:

	Receipts.	Shipments.
[illegible]	[illegible]	4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible] steady. The quotations: [illegible] $2.20@2.50; straights, [illegible] $2.10@2.20; low grades, $1.20 [illegible] $1.90@2.10; straights, [illegible] $2.10; low grades and city [illegible]

[illegible] Bulk, 69@70c per [illegible]

[illegible] Sacked, 61@70c [illegible]

[illegible] per cwt.

[illegible] Car lots nominal at [illegible]

[illegible] White, 30@31c per bushel.

[illegible] Timothy—Car lots, $21.00 per [illegible] ground lots, $12.50; less, [illegible]

[illegible] Car lots, $10.00 per [illegible] points in Kansas and [illegible] Kansas City.

[illegible] per ton for car lots, f. [illegible]

[illegible] $10 00
[illegible] 5 00
[illegible] 5 00
[illegible] 00 00
[illegible] 00 00
[illegible] 00 00
[illegible] 00 00

[illegible] week the past 24 hours:

	Receipts.	Shipments.
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible] steady. The quotations: [illegible] $2.20@2.50; straights, [illegible] $2.10@2.20; low grades, $1.20 [illegible] $1.90@2.10; straights, [illegible] $2.10; low grades and city [illegible]

[illegible] and week. Bulk, 69@70c per [illegible]

[illegible] by demand.