DIGGING UP THE DEAD.

Mongolian Bones Being Exhumed for Shipment to China.

THE PICKERS' PERQUISITES.

How They Locate the Coffins and Lift the Skeletons Out of the Sand.

San Francisco Examiner.

Ten years ago Wong Ah Fat, an honored member of the Hop Wo society, was unfortunate enough to incur the enmity of Ah Tai, of the Sam Wing society.

Ah Tai was the Neagle of his race, and, as a natural consequence of the quarrel, Wong Ah Fat was soon gathered to his fathers. There was not much ceremony at his funeral. Only the ordinary number of punks were burned, and the pig that was roasted for his funeral meal was neither very large nor very fat. But the spectacled secretary of the Hop Wo society made up for all this seeming neglect by making seventeen gridiron-like marks in his great register, which, if translated, would read as follows:

"Wong Ah Fat, son of the moon and brother of the stars, joined his father and his father's father, and his father's father's father, in the third month, twelfth day of the nineteenth year of the Emperor Li."

In another volume he entered the age of the deceased at his death and some private memorandum in regard to the gentleman who was responsible for it.

But, though he was buried, and the prayers that kept the devils from his grave had been properly distributed, and the book containing the record of his unfortunate taking off was filed away to grow stiff and dusty, Wong Ah Fat was not through with the upper world yet.

Yesterday the spectacled secretary hunted up this yellow record book, and brought it out to the graveyard, where Wong Ah Fat had slept for a decade, and, after finding his name, hunted up his grave.

Wong Ah Fat's devoted bones were dug up, canned and properly labeled, and then the secretary checked off the name of the lamented Wong, and turned to the next.

DISINTERRING THE BONES.

Yesterday was a sort of rehearsal of resurrection day for fifty departed Chinese.

The Hop Wo society, finding a surplus in its treasury, set aside a sufficient sum to pay for the transfer of the bones of that many of its deceased members to the land where their ancestors lie.

Without counting the cost of transportation, the society has to pay into the city treasury $10 for every corpse interred. But if the price were ten times as much the job would be done, for among the most sacred of the promises that the society makes to those who join it is the guaranty that it will see that the member's bones—if he be so fortunate as to die in the land of the white devils—are transmitted to the only land from which it is possible to enter the flowery kingdom of the hereafter.

Things were rushing at the Hop Wo cemetery yesterday. Wagon-load after wagon-load of tin boxes like coal-oil cans but a little longer and narrower, were dumped at the break in the fence that serves as a gate. These boxes had one side unsoldered. One set of bones goes in each box. Then it is soldered up and shipped like merchandise across the Pacific.

No Chinaman is allowed to dig up his dead countrymen. As one of the grave-diggers yesterday informed an Examiner reporter:

"It's city work, and under the law the employment of Chinese on city work is forbidden."

So the white men dig down and uncover the long-buried coffins. The gruesome work of removing the bones is, however, done exclusively by the "bone-pickers" of the Mongolian association.

The bones that were taken up yesterday had been too long buried to cause any unpleasant odor, but they were not dry and clean by any means.

THE BONE-PICKER.

In nine cases out of ten the lid of the coffin was found caved in, and the bones had to be carefully sifted from the sand.

As soon as the diggers had cleared the coffin the bone-picker jumped into the narraw hole, and began to feel around in the sand. Presently he shouted something in Chinese that brought another Chinaman with the tin box and a sieve to the side of the grave. The picker took the sieve and soon half filled it with an assortment of ribs, vertebræ and phalanges. The skull and larger bones were handed at once to the assistant. A piece of cloth was laid inside the tin box and then the bones were tumbled in without regard to arrangement. The one thing that the grave-picker must not fail in is to gather every fragment of the skeleton. Should he miss even a tooth and be found out he would lose his position at once, and if the deceased had any relations, the bone-picker would lose more than his job. According to the Chinese creed no incomplete man can enter the kingdom of heaven. A peculiar thing about these exhumations is that the queue, which in life is more closely looked after than anything else, is entirely ignored by the bone-pickers. The hair in almost every grave that was disturbed yesterday was found comparatively unchanged by the years that it lay under the ground.

One coffin was taken from the grave unbroken. It was that of the child of a Chinese merchant. The metal handles were almost rotted off, but the coffin and its zinc lining were still intact. When the bone-picker cut and wrenched the zinc away the form of the child seemed perfect.

A DISAPPOINTED HEATHEN.

At the first touch, however, it collapsed. The faded garments had preserved the form while the flesh had molded away under it. The Chinaman made a grab for where the right hand ought to have been. He did not find what he looked for, and then thrust his fingers between the bony jaws. With a disgusted grunt he flung the skull into the box. Then he swore in English, but his vocabulary gave out and he concluded his profanity in Chinese.

It is the custom to place a small coin in the mouth or right hand of a Chinese when he is buried to pay his way across the dark river. These coins are regarded as the perquisites of the bone-pickers.

This fellow naturally expected to find a gold piece with this rich man's son, and when he found nothing his disappointment found vent in curses.

Years ago the Chinese grave yards were a bonanza for the medical students, and many a follower of Confucius was kept from Paradise by the white men's doctors. As a result, frequently when the grave had been dug into nothing would be found. So the probe was devised, and yesterday no digging was done until a sharp iron rod had been thrust into the sand to where the coffin lay.

In almost every coffin was found a brick on which were roughly painted some Chinese characters. The secretary of the Hop Wo society explained that these characters indicated the name and date of death of the inmate of the grave. These bricks are buried with them to identify the bones if the headboard was burned or otherwise destroyed.

The Chinese seemed to have no reverence at all for the bones themselves. They jammed them into the tins, packed the tins into wooden cases with a far less tenderness than if they had been hams, nailed them up, and addressed them in Chinese to a firm at Hong Kong.

A Horse Swims Eight Miles.

Richmond Register.

A horse belonging to a ferryman was on the boat yesterday at Irvine, and was in the act of drinking, when he plunged forward from some cause and fell into the water up to his nose. With remarkable instinct he turned around and swam to the boat, and made several attempts to crawl back into it, but it only served to push it further away. By this time he had drifted below the ferry, and then he made efforts to get out on either bank. In this he also failed, as the bank was too steep. Next morning the messengers on the Irvine stage were amused at the manner in which the ferryman was fondly caressing a horse which had just arrived, and later learned that the steamboat from Ford had picked up the swimming animal eight miles below.

LASHED INTO WEALTH.

Mago's One Hundred Lashes Started His Five Million Dollars.

John James Mago, a quiet, middle-aged, well-dressed man, has been in San Francisco, says the Examiner of that city, for a few days, waiting for the Mexican steamer to sail. He looks prosaic, but his career is as romantic as that of Monte Cristo. Mago is now a Guatemalan millionaire, who lives for nine months of the year at Paris. Fifteen years ago he was a poor English collector of insects in Guatemala, and also acted as British vice consul at San Jose. One day Commandant Gonzales ordered Mago to appear before him. Mago sent word he would come in a short time. This incensed the commandant, who was ugly with drink, and he sent a file of soldiers after Mago, and when the bug collector appeared ordered seventy-five lashes laid on his bare back. This was done thoroughly, and when finished Gonzales shouted:

"Give him twenty-five more for luck."

When Mago recovered, which was only after careful nursing, as his back was badly cut up, he made formal complaint to the British government. The result was Guatemala was ordered to punish Gonzales, and to pay Mago $500 for every lash he received. In default of this English cruisers would shell San Jose and other coast cities. Guatemala readily punished Gonzales, but tried hard to evade paying $50,000 to Mago. The British, however, were inexorable, and the poor bug collector was made a rich man in one day. As he had more coin than any one in the country then President Barrios entered into partnership with him.

Mago became one of the largest coffee planters, and also secured the exclusive franchise for building docks along the ports. No one can land on or leave one of these docks without paying $2 toll to Mago, while he also levies a tax on all freight. He also owns valuable mines and tracts of timber. His fortune is estimated at $5,000,000, all due to 100 lashes on his back.

THE DOG AND THE BABY.

One of a Fashionable Woman's Family in Trouble.

Brooklyn Citizen.

She sat in the Long Island depot and fondled a dude dog, while the nurse girl carried a little human member of the family. The dude dog's hair was banged over its forehead, and all it wanted was a pair of knee breeches and a butter-cracker hat to be mistaken for a lawn tennis player looking for some girls to have a game. Its tail was shaved off almost up to the terminus, where there was a miniature duster that give it the appearance of a putty blower with a feather stuck in the end. The clerk opened the window with a bang, and the fashionably dressed lady turned to purchase her ticket, leaving the dog on the floor.

Two horny-handed sons of toil entered the waiting room, bearing a trunk the size of a canal boat. They evidently mistook the dude dog for a door-mat, for they placed the trunk on its outer edge. A man who stood beside the lady at the ticket window remarked:

"Be huvins. Oi do be thinking that wan av yer family's in trouble!"

She thought he referred to the baby, and took no notice of the remark. Suddenly there was a scream from the nurse girl. She let the baby fall and hurried to the rescue. The lady turned and took in the situation at a glance. Then she swooned. She kept on fainting up to the time of the arrival of the train, and then revived long enough to berate the nurse for her carelessness. When they took the dog from under the trunk the poor little fellow looked for all the world like a surtogate's seal, and his tail wasn't fat enough for a paper-cutter.

The station hands hauled the forgotten baby into the train just as the latter was moving off, and it was clapped down on a seat and spanked until it looked like the Fourth of July.

THE EARTH IS INCREASING.

Our Planet is Getting Larger, So Scientists Say.

American Geologist.

The earth traveling in its orbit around the sun and onward with the entire solar system around some unknown and still greater center of attraction, is constantly traversing new regions of space, which it depletes of meteoric dust and meteorites, thus steadily—no matter how slowly—increasing in diameter. Now let this growth continue till the earth has just twice the attractive power which it now possesses, we should then have twice the number of meteorites and double the quantity of dust falling annually upon it than now.

Fortunately for our heads, the earth has not yet attained very formidable dimensions, but we may look upon it as an established fact that it constantly gains in weight, and that in proportion to such gain its attractive power steadily increases.

The attractive force of the sun is so enormous that a purpetual hail of meteorites and a torrent of dust particles must rush upon it from all directions, and some of the foremost observers are now of the opinion that these falling bodies are the sole cause of the sun's heat.

In the light of this theory our earth is a young and growing, not an old and dying, planet; a planet with a future, which ought to be cheerful news to all of us, although we shall not live to reap the benefit of it, and the sun, far from being on its last legs as an expiring luminary, is steadily gaining in heat and lighting capacity.

ART PAYS IN WASHINGTON.

A Statue's Toe That Is a Perfect Little Mint.

Boston Traveler.

Some of the artists of Washington are fond of criticising their fellows in a humorous vein. One of them said recently: "Probably the best small job ever given to any sculptor by the government is a commission now held by a local graveyard decorator. You will remember that the left leg of the seminude statute of Washington, which stands in front of the capitol, is so extended that the great toe reaches over the pedestal. Years ago, either by accident or design, this toe was knocked off. Congress was asked to appropriate money for the construction of a new one, and the work was given to this tombstone artist.

"He charged an enormous price for the work on the ground that he was obliged to measure the entire figure to calculate the proper proportions of the toe. Well, the toe was placed in position, and it wasn't six months before that was missing, and the government had to buy a second one. I don't know how many samples he has furnished since, but one thing is certain, my friend won't be a bankrupt as long as that statue is left out of doors where any one can come along and 'lift' the left toe of the Father of His Country."

Unexpected Comment.

Jimmy Tuffborn (to minister who is dining with the family)—Didn't you say in your sermon this morning that there wasn't anything in this world perfect? Minister—Yes, I believe so; why do you ask? "Oh, I heard ma say before church time that you were a perfect bore."

WHEAT ON THE UP GRADE.

A Light Volume of Trading and Prices Advance Nearly a Point.

Firmer Feeling in Corn and Oats---Hog Products Advancing Also.

Financial Operations in the Money Kings---The General Quotations.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28.—Wheat opened with an improved feeling and at slightly better prices. The interest in the market was good, and buying was sufficient to advance prices ½c early in the face of strong opposition from Hutchinson and Partridge. The bull points may be enumerated as follows: Bullish Liverpool cables. Light receipts in the Northwest: Minneapolis only 147 cars, Duluth only 9 cars. Receipts here were but 85 cars, with only 30 cars of No. 2 grade. Prospect of a decrease in the visible supply Monday. Export clearances of wheat and flour at three ports to-day equal to 210,000 bu. Export clearances of wheat and flour from four ports for the week, 616,000 bu wheat, 240,000 pkgs flour. Besides Hutchinson and Partridge, other sellers early were Baldwin and Farnum and G. G. Parker. On the buying side were Lindbloom, McMitchell, Kammerer, Brosseau, Chandler-Brown and W. G. McCormick & Co. Prices ranged as follows: December, 77⅞@78c; January, 77½@78@77¾c. May sold 82⅛@82⅜@82¼@82⅜@82⅝c a second time just at 1 o'clock. It was reported that Hutchinson was a heavy seller at New York and St. Louis; but it was also stated that at those places, as well as here, the offerings were well taken. There was the best strength of the day in wheat just before the close. The bulls were aggressive and the buying general. Last sales were ½@⅝c higher than yesterday. Receipts were 15 cars winter wheat, 70 cars spring, 513 cars corn and 137 cars oats. Withdrawals from store were 16,803 bu winter wheat, 10,376 bu spring, 2,864 bu corn and 14,086 bu oats. The bulk of the trading in corn was the changing of the January contracts to May. "Longs" in January were selling it out and buying May. The trading outside of this changing was extremely light. Prices were a trifle firmer, owing to the mild weather and the firmness in wheat. Oats were dull. The trade was entirely in May. The provision trade of the day was a very quiet one. Prices were little changed, and, while all products sold a shade lower early, there was a firm feeling at the close. January pork was held at $9. Receipts of hogs for the week were 141,000, against 82,000 a year ago. Packing to date foots up to 1,190,000 hogs, against 756,000 a year ago.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

ARTICLES.	Opening.	Highest.	Lowest.	Closing
No. 2 Wheat:				
December	77⅝	77⅞	77⅝	77⅞
January	77½	78	77½	78
May	82⅛	82¾	82⅛	82⅝
No. 2 Corn:				
December	30⅛	30¼	30	30¼
January	29⅝	30	29⅝	30
May	31⅞	32⅛	31⅞	32⅛
No. 2 Oats:				
January	20⅛	20¼	20⅛	20⅛
February	20¼	.....	.....	20¼
May	21⅞	22⅛	21⅞	22
Mess Pork:				
January	9 00	9 05	9 00	9 05
February	9 10	9 17½	9 10	9 17½
May	9 45	9 47½	9 42½	9 47½
Lard:				
January	5 77½	5 80	5 77½	5 80
February	5 82½	5 82½	5 82½	5 82½
May	5 97½	6 00	5 97½	6 00
Short Ribs:				
January	4 57½	4 60	4 57½	4 60
February	4 62½	4 62½	4 60	4 62½
May	4 8[illegible]	4 82½	4 80	4 82½

Cash quotations were as follows: Flour dull and unchanged. Wheat—No. 2 spring, 77⅞c; No. 3 spring, nominal No. 2 red, 77⅞c. Corn—No. 2, 31⅞c. Oats—No 2, 20c. Rye—No. 2, 44¼c. Barley—No. 2, 58@60c. Flaxseed, No. 1, $1.35. Timothy Seed—Prime, $1.22. Pork—Mess, per bbl., $8.40@9.05. Lard—Per 100 lbs, $5.77½. Short ribs sides (loose), $4.60@4.65; dry salted shoulders (boxed), $4.12½@4.25; short clear sides (boxed), $4.85@4.90. Whisky—Distillers' finished goods, per gal., $1.02. Sugars—Cut loaf, unchanged. Receipts—Flour, 21,000 bbls.; wheat, 41,000 bu; corn, 533,000 bu; oats, 165,000 bu; rye, 13,000 bu; barley, 55,000 bu. Shipments—Flour, 32,000 bbls; wheat, 12,000 bu; corn, 130,000 bu; oats, 329,000 bu; rye, 159,000 bu; barley, 5,000 bu. On the produce exchange today the butter market was unchanged; eggs, 18@19c.

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Kansas City.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 28.—Cattle—Receipts, 2,600 head; shipments, 2,500 head; market generally firm; natives, $3@4.40; cows, $1.50@2.40; stockers and feeders, $2@3.50. Hogs—Receipts, 7,350 head; bulk, $3.45@3.50. Sheep—Receipts, 600 head; shipments, 400 head; market firm; good to choice muttons, $4@4.75; stockers and feeders, $3@4.40.

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Chicago.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28.—Clearings for the five business days of the week just closed were $59,609,193, against $53,762,500 for the corresponding period last year. New York exchange was 25@50c premium. Money was firm at 6@6½ per cent on call and 6@8 per cent on time loans. To-day's clearings, $10,718,000.

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FINANCIAL.

New York.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Clearings to-day, $124,729,592; balances, $6,39,372. For the week: Clearings, $605,992,959; balances, $30,149,921. Money on call was tight, ranging from 4 to 10 per cent; last loan 4 per cent; closed offered at 3 per cent. Prime mercantile paper, 5@7½ per cent. Sterling exchange quiet and weak at $4.80 for 60-day bills and $4.83¼ for demand. The stock market to-day unexpectedly showed more animation than during the same hours on any previous day this week, but the increased activity was had at the expense of values, the bears pressing the active stocks for sale throughout the session. This pressure was specially severe against the coalers, the reports in regard to the coal trade being particularly discouraging, but the impression made upon those stocks was not so great as upon some of the others where a smaller amount of stock had to be sold to make a decline. Sugar refineries, Missouri Pacific, St. Paul and Louisville & Nashville were all conspicuously weak, while there was not a strong spot to be found in the list. There was also some attempt to get Erie down, and the stock did sell at its lowest prices for months, the attack being accompanied by the old story of a new bond issue. The monetary situation received special attention at the hands of the bears and the most pessimistic utterances were spread through the street in this regard, especially as far as next week is concerned. For the time being, the general expectation is to see a marked decline during the ensuing week. The opening was rather heavy and first prices were generally from ⅛ to ⅜ per cent lower than last evening's figures and the early dealings were marked by special pressure upon Sugar, Union Pacific, St. Paul and Wisconsin Central. There was a let up toward 11 o'clock but no recovery, and after that time the attack was renewed with vigor and Lackawanna, Reading, Louisville & Nashville and some others felt the brunt of the pressure. The decline continued without interruption until the close of business which was fairly active and weak at lowest prices of the session. The list is invariably lower and Sugar is down 1⅛; Louisville & Nashville, Missouri Pacific and St. Paul 1¼ per cent each, and Reading and Chicago Gas Trust 1 per cent each. Railroad bonds were quiet and sympathized closely with the decline in stocks, though the movement in the downward direction was not so pronounced as in the stock market. The sales of all issues reached $420,000, which was well and widely distributed. International 6s ofts lost 2¾c at 73c. The sales of bonds for the week aggregated $4,491,000, against $7,263,000 for last week. The exports of specie from the port of New York last week amounted to $770,988, of which $64,349 was in gold and $706,619 silver. Of the total exports $704,392 in silver went to Europe, and all the gold and $2,227 in silver went to South America. The imports of specie for the week amounted to $170,458, of which $123,851 was in gold and $46,608 silver. Government bonds have been dull and firm. State bonds have been neglected. The total sales of stocks to-day were 116,946 shares, including: Atchison, 2,700; Delaware, Lackawanna & Western, 14,400; Denver, Texas & Fort Worth, 2,714; Erie, 4,400; Lake Shore, 3,930; Louisville & Nashville, 2,556; Missouri Pacific, 8,100; Northwestern, 1,700; Northern Pacific preferred, 2,600; Pacific Mail, 3,038; Reading, 18,150; Richmond & West Point, 1,981; St. Paul, 5,210; Union Pacific, 6,608.

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PAID UP CAPITAL. - - $400,000.
Surplus and undivided profits, $55,000.
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STOCKS—CLOSING PRICES.

Adams Express	150	N. & W. pfd	60⅛
Alton & Terre H.	40	N. Y. Central	107¾
do pfd	110	Ohio & Miss.	21½
Am. Express	113	do pfd	83
B., C. R. & N.	20	Ontario & West.	19
Canadian Pacific	72½	Oregon Imp.	42
Can. Southern	56⅛	Oregon Nav.	90
Central Pacific	33¼	Oregon Trans'l.	33⅞
Ches. & Ohio	25⅞	Pacific Mail	36
do 1st pfd	64¼	P., D. & E.	18
do 2d pfd	43	Pittsburg	156
Chi. & Alton	132	Pullman P. Car	188
C., B. & Q.	106¼	Reading	37⅝
C., St. L. & P.	14½	Rock Island	96⅛
do pfd	39½	St. L. & S. F.	15¾
C., S. & C.	63	do pfd	38
Del. & Hudson	144½	do 1st pfd	92
Del., L. & W.	136⅛	St. Paul	69
Den. & R. G.	15¾	do pfd	113¼
East Tennessee	9	St. P., M. & M.	112½
do 1st pfd	67	St. P. & Omaha	33
do 2d pfd	21	do pfd	96½
Erie	26	Term. C. & I.	77½
do pfd	62	Texas Pacific	20⅛
Fort Wayne	154	Tol. & O. C. pfd.	75
Hocking Valley	19	Union Pacific	67⅝
Houston & Tex.	2½	U. S. Express	83
Illinois Central	117	Wab., St. L. & P.	16
Ind., B. & W.	9½	do pfd	30½
Kansas & Texas	10⅝	Wells-Fargo Ex.	138
Lake Erie & W.	17	W. U. Telegraph	82⅝
do pfd	62½	Am. Cotton Oil	30¼
Lake Shore	102½	Colorado Coal	38
Louisville & N.	84½	Homestake	8
Louis. & N. A.	37	Ontario	35⅝
Memphis & C.	64	Quicksilver	6¼
Mich. Central	97½	do pfd	35
Mil., L. S. & W.	97	R. & W. P. Ter.	20½
do pfd	114	Atchison	33¼
Mpls. & St. Louis	5¼	D., T. & F. W.	33¾
do pfd	11	D. & R. G. pfd	49
Mo. Pacific	69⅞	S. Pacific	34½
Mobile & Ohio	12	C. & E. Ill.	33
*Nash. & Chatt	98¾	St. P. & D.	32
N. J. Central	120	Wis. Central	31⅞
N. Pacific	37⅜	Chicago Gas	41¾
do pfd	73½	Lead Trust	18¾
Northwestern	110⅜	Sugar Trust	56⅞
do pfd	141	C., C., C. & St. L.	74
N. Y., C. & St. L.	16¾	Oregon S. L.	56
do pfd	70		

Ex-div.

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U. S. 4s reg.	126⅝	M., K. & T. G. 5s.	65
do 4s coup.	127⅝	Mut. Union 6s.	100½
do 4½s reg.	105	N. J. C int. ctfs.	112½
do 4½s coup.	105	N. Pacific 1sts.	117
Pacific 6s of '95	116	do 2ds	112½
La. stamped 4s.	94½	N. W consols.	143
Missouri 6s	103	do deb. 5s	111
Tenn. new set. 6s	108	Or. & Trans. 6s.	103⅞
do do 5s	102½	St. L. & I. M. G. 5s.	89⅞
do do 3s	74½	St. L. & S. F. G. M.	112¼
Can. South'n 2ds	97	St. Paul consols.	130
Cen. Pac. 1sts	113	St. P., C. & P. 1sts.	118
D. & R. G. 1sts.	117	T. P. L. G. T. R.	90¼
do do 4s	78½	T. P. R. G. T. R.	38
D. & R. G. W. 1sts	98	Union Pac. 1sts.	113½
Erie 2ds	101	West Shore	106
M., K. & T. G. 6s.	73½		

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Chicago.

UNION STOCK YARDS, CHICAGO, Dec. 28.—Cattle—Estimated receipts, 2,000; for the week, 33,825. Market steady, with a good demand for all the stock on sale. Sales: Natives, common light to prime heavy, $2.40@5; cows, heifers and bulls, $1.20@2.75; stockers, $1@2.80. Hogs—Estimated receipts to-day, 11,000; for the week, 113,177. Demand fair, with prices steady at 5c higher. The great bulk of the packing grades sold at $3.60, yet quite a number went over the scales between $3.55@3.57½; selected heavy and shipping grades at $3.60@3.65, and the assorted light sold largely at $3.60@3.65. Prices are quoted: Light grades, $3.45@3.65; rough packing, $3.40@3.45; mixed, $3.45@3.65; heavy packing and shipping, $3.50@3.70. Sheep—Estimated receipts to-day, 2,000; for the week, 21,520. Market fairly active, about all sold at yesterday's prices.

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OPTION Orders Solicited. Send for our Telegraph Cipher.

New York Produce.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Flour—Receipts, 44,168 pkgs; exports, 9,77 bbls, 15,536 sacks; dull, unchanged; sales, 14,750 bbls. Corn meal quiet and stead; yellow western $2.25@2.65. Wheat—Receipts, 4,400 bu; exports, 24,316 bu; sales, 1,0 2,000 bu; futures, 47,000 bu spot; spot market quiet, firmer; No. 2 red, 85¼@85¾c elevator, 86⅜@87c afloat, 86⅜@87⅛c, f. o. b.; steamer No. 2 red, 82½c; No. 3 red, 82½c; steamer No. 3 red, 75½@76c; ungraded red, 76⅞@81¾c; No. 1 northern, 93⅛@93¾c; No. 1 hard, 96¾@97c; options moderately active, ½@¾c up; steady; No. 2 red, December, 85 9-16@85⅝c, closing at 85⅝c; January, 85½@85 13-16c, closing at 85¾c; February 86⅜@86⅞c, closing at 86⅞c; March, 87¼@88⅛c, closing at 88c; April 88⅛@88¾c, closing at 88¾c; May, 88⅞@89⅜c, closing at 89c; June, closing at 89⅛c. July, 86½@86¾c, closing at 86½c; Rye steady; western and Canada 56@59c; sales 16,000 bu; Milwaukee, to arrive, at 59¼c c. & f.; Barley dull; western 50@65c; Canada, 59@73c; Barley malt quiet; Canada 77½c; Corn—Receipts, 84,000 bu; exports, 13,554 bu; sales 640,000 bu futures, 147,000 bu spot; spot market firmer; lighter offerings; demand chiefly for export; No. 2, 39⅞@40c in elevator, 40@40¼c afloat; ungraded mixed, 39@41c; steamer mixed, 37⅞@39⅛c; No. 2 white, 42½c; options firmer, dull; December, 39⅝c; January, 39⅞c; February, 39½@39⅝c, closing at 39⅝@39⅞c; May, 39⅞@40⅛c, closing at 40⅛c. Oats—Receipts, 44,000 bu; exports, 2,779 bu; sales, 170,000 bu futures, 71,000 bu spot; spot market dull, steady; options quiet, firmer; December, 28⅜c; January, 28½; February, 28⅛@28¼c, closing at 28½c; spot No. 2 white, 30⅜c; mixed western, 29@30c; white western, 30@34½c; No. 2 Chicago, 27@30c. Hay quiet, steady; shipping, $40@45; good to choice, $65@85. Hops strong, quiet. Coffee—Options opened barely steady, unchanged to 10 points down; closed barely steady, at 5@10 points down; sales, 36,250 bags, including December, 15.75@15.80c; January, 15.65@15.70c; February, 15.70@15.80c; March, 15.80@15.95c; April, 15.90c; May, 15.8[illegible]@16.c; June, 15.95c; July, 15.95@16c; August, 16@16.10; September, 16@16.15c; October, 16@16.1 c; November, 16c; spot Rio steady; quiet; fair cargoes, 19⅝c; No. 7, 17c. Sugar—Raw dull; refined steady, quiet. Molasses—Foreign nominal; New Orleans fairly active; open kettle, good to fancy, 38@47c. Rice steady, quiet; domestic, 4½@6¼c; Japan, 4½@5¼c. Petroleum quiet, steadier; crude in bbls, Parker's, 7.80c; refined here, Philadelphia and Baltimore, 7.50c; United closed at $1.03⅝ for January. Cottonseed oil quiet. Tallow quiet. Rosin quiet, steady; strained common to good, $1.20@1.25. Turpentine steady, quiet. Eggs steady. Western, 25½@26c; receipts, 1,478 packages. Pork easier, quiet; mess, inspected, $10.25@10.50; mess, uninspected, $10@10.25; extra prime, $9.50@9.75. Cut meats firm; pickled bellies, 5⅜@5½c; pickled shoulders, 4½c; pickled hams, 8½@8¾c; Middles quiet; short clear, $5.40. Lard lower; large deliveries on contracts; sales, 600 tierces Western steam at $6.10, closing at $6.05; options, sales, 9,500 tierces January at $6@6.05, closing at $6; February, $6.13@6.15, closing at $6.15 bid; March, $6.21, closing at $6.22; May, $6.35, closing at $6.35c. Butter easy, quiet; Elgin, 28@29c; western dairy, 9@18c; Western creamery, 14@27c; Western held at 10@18c; Western factory, 7@18c. Cheese quiet; Western, 8@10c. Pig iron quiet; American, $16.50@19.50. Copper steady; lake, January, 14.25c. Lead nominal; domestic, $3.99. Tin dull but firm; straits, 21c.

Oil Markets.

OIL CITY, Pa., Dec. 28.—National Transit certificates opened at $1.03¾; highest, $1.03¾; lowest, $1.03⅜; closing at $1.03½; sales, 44,000 bbls; clearances, 130, 00 bbls; charters, 10,714 bbls; shipments, 84,999 bbls.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Dec. 28.—Petroleum dull but steady; National Transit Certificates opened at $1.03⅜, closing at $1.03½; highest, $1.03¾; lowest, $1.03½.

BRADFORD, Pa., Dec. 28.—National Transit certificates opened at $1.03⅝, closing at $1.03⅜; highest, $1.03¾; lowest, $1.03; clearances, 210,000 bbls.

TITUSVILLE, Pa., Dec. 28.—National Transit certificates opened at $1.03¾; highest, $1.03¾; lowest, $1.03⅜; closing at $1.03½.

Liverpool Grain.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 28.—Wheat steady; demand poor; holders offer moderately. Corn steady; demand improving.

LOCAL MARKETS.

St. Paul.

Wheat was really a little stronger and firmer yesterday, though quotations are not changed. Corn was quiet, with moderate receipts. Oats unchanged. Barley and rye steady and quiet. Millstuffs unchanged. Bran and shorts quiet. Hay dull. Dressed hogs in moderate demand. Eggs stronger, with a fair advance. The call:

Wheat—No. 1 hard, 78@79c; No. 1 northern, 77c bid; No. 2 northern, 74@75c.

Corn—No. 3, 29c asked.

Oats—No. 2 mixed, 19c bid; No. 2 white, 21c bid; December, 21c bid; January, 21½c bid; May, 25c bid; No. 3, 19c bid.

Barley—No. 2, 45@50c bid; No. 3, 38@42c bid.

Rye—No. 2, 35c bid.

Ground Feed—No. 1, $11.50.

Cornmeal—Unbolted, $11.50 asked.

Shorts—$7.75 asked.

Bran—Bulk, $6.50 asked.

Hay—No. 1 upland prairie, $7 asked; No. 1, $6 asked.

Timothy Seed—$1@1.20 bid.

Clover Seed—$2.90@3 bid.

Potatoes—23c bid.

Eggs—Fresh, $6.30@6.60; held, $5.70 asked.

HOLBERT & MIXTER,
328 ROBERT STREET, ST. PAUL,
REPRESENTING
R. W. DUNHAM & CO.
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Weekly Bank Statement.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—The weekly bank statement shows the following changes: Reserve, increase, $1,372,050; loans, increase, $2,217,500; specie, decrease, $1,226,000; legal tenders, decrease, $60,000; deposits, increase, $344,200; circulation, decrease, $115,200. The banks now hold $2,021,675 in excess of the 25 per cent rule.

Produce Exchange.

Produce is without important changes. Eggs are somewhat firmer and higher. Poultry unchanged, with quotations steady. Butter still continues weak, with increasing receipts and only a moderate demand. Cheese remains firm and requests liberal. Apples still continue firm with a good demand. Cranberries firm. Game steady, and the market fairly well supplied. Oranges and lemons unchanged.

Butter—Extra creamery, 20@22c; extra dairy, 10@14c; packing stock, 6@7c.

Cheese—Fancy, 11@11½c; fine, 7@8c; fair, part skim milk, 4@6c.

Maple Sugar—9@10c.

Maple Syrup—Per gallon, $1.15@1.25.

Honey—Slow at quotations: Fine white new clover, 14@15c; buckwheat, 10@11c.

Malt—Per bushel, 60@70c.

Oranges—Fancy, $2.75@3.

Lemons—Fancy, $4@5.

Nuts—Pecans, Texas polished, medium to large, 8@10c per lb; almonds, Tarragonas, 17c; California soft-shelled, 18c; filberts, Sicily, 12c; walnuts, new California, 12@15c; cocoanuts, $6 per 100; hickory nuts, $1.50 per bu; shellbarks, $1.75@1.85 per bu; Brazils, 10@12c; peanuts, Virginia handpicked, 8½c; roasted, 10@[illegible]c.

Dates—Persians, 7@8c; in mats, 5½c; figs, new, 12@15c.

Bananas—Fancy, $2@3.

Cider—Choice Michigan, 16-gallon kegs, $3;