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ST. PAUL UNION STOCK YARDS,

South St. Paul, Minn.

Best Equipped and Most Advantageous Market for the Shippers in the Northwest.

CONNECTED WITH ALL THE RAILROADS.

1,000 Beeves and 2,000 Hogs Wanted Daily.

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SHORTS OUT AFTER CORN

DECEMBER FUTURE WAS MARKED UP A CENT AND A HALF

JANUARY FIVE-EIGHTHS UP

Wheat Dropped on Bearish Argentine News, Oats Gained a Trifle, and Provisions Declined Fractionally.

	Close	Prev. Day.
May wheat, Minneapolis	73½	74¼
May wheat, Chicago	72⅝	73¼
May wheat, Duluth	75	75¼
May wheat, St. Louis	72⅝	73⅛
May wheat, New York	78⅝	79

CHICAGO, Dec. 18.—It was corn first and the other grain and provisions market nowhere today. December corn, under active bidding by shorts, was forced up another cent and a half, while January shorts also showed nervousness, that option closing at an advance of ⅝c. May closed unchanged. Wheat was weakened by favorable Argentine crop conditions and a large exportable surplus and declined ⅝c. Oats closed a shade higher. Provisions declined 2½@12½c.

Corn started with a rush that apparently indicated considerable alarm among shorts. Stocks of contract stuff already low, there was not a single car of contract corn among the 758 that were inspected in today, and shorts who have heretofore have been holding off in the expectation of a reaction were driven in. January shorts for the first time showed nervousness, and the price of that option advanced quite rapidly under active bidding. May alone dragged, although there was a fair demand for that future. Starting at 70@70½c, an advance of ½@1c, December corn jumped to 71c in the first few minutes' trading, while January, opening unchanged at 36⅛@36¼c, advanced to 36⅝c. After the first flurry was over trade quieted somewhat, but near the close the market again showed considerable strength. Shorts renewed the attempts to cover, December advanced to 41c, and closed at that price. January advanced to 37c, and closed at 36¾@36⅞c. There was quite free selling of May by elevator people whenever that option hardened. May ranged from 36⅛c to 36¼@36⅜c, and closed unchanged at 36¼c. The world's visible decreased 768,000 bu.

Wheat opened steady at a slight advance. Higher quotations from Liverpool gave the market a firm undertone, though little improvement in the volume of trading resulted. For some time the market held steady within an exceedingly narrow range and on a small, featureless trade, but before noon market weakness developed. Again cables told of a large acreage in that country, and also reported a large exportable surplus. Primary receipts were heavy, and a continued free movement toward primary points was reported. A world's visible increase of 2,552,000 bu added to the depression, and some of the most prominent bulls were sellers late in the session. May opened a shade higher at 73¼@73⅜c, declined to 72½c and closed at 72⅝c. Northwest receipts were 481 cars, against 460 last week and 473 a year ago. Chicago receipts were 238 cars, none of contract grade. Total primary receipts were 778,000 bu. Seaboard clearances of wheat and flour amounted to 622,000 bu.

Oats were featureless, but firm with corn. Receipts were 331 cars. May ranged from 23⅝c to 23¾c, and closed a shade higher at 23¾c.

Provisions were dull and weak. There were too many hogs received at the yards to suit traders and prices suffered. The cash business was slow and stocks showed rapid accumulations. December closed 7½c lower at $10.27½; January lard 2½c lower at $6.82½, and January ribs 2½c lower at $6.22.

Estimated receipts for Wednesday are: Wheat, 100 cars; corn, 350 cars; oats, 165 cars; hogs, 43,000 head.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

	Open-ing.	High-est.	Low-est.	Closing.
Wheat—				
December	70	70¼	69⅝-¾	69⅝
January	70⅛-⅝	70⅝	69⅞	70
May	73¼-⅜	73⅜	72½	72⅝
Corn—				
December	40-41	41	40	41
January	36⅛-¼	37	36⅛	36⅜-⅜
May	36⅛-¼	36¼-⅜	36-36⅛	36¼
Oats—				
December	21½	21½	21½	21½
January	21⅝	21⅝-¾	21⅝	21⅝-¾
May	23⅝-¾	23¾	23⅝	23⅝-¾
Mess Pork—				
January	12 12½	12 15	12 07½	12 07½
May	12 02½	12 05	11 97½	12 00
Lard—				
December	7 07½	7 12½	7 07½	7 10
January	6 82½	6 87½	6 82½	6 82½
May	6 87½	6 90	6 85	6 87½
Short Ribs—				
January	6 25	6 25	6 20	6 22½
May	6 27½	6 32½	6 27½	6 30

Cash quotations were as follows: Flour dull. Wheat—No. 3, 60@69¾c; No. 2 red, 72@75c. Corn—No. 2, 40c; No. 2 yellow, 40c. Oats—No. 2, 22¼@23c; No. 2 white, 25¾c; No. 3 white, 24⅝@26c. Rye—No. 2, 50c. Barley—Good feeding, 43@49c; fair to choice malting, 50@56c. Flax Seed—No. 1, $1.61@1.62; No. 1 Northwestern, $1.62. Timothy Seed—Prime, 44c. Pork—Mess per bbl, $11.12½@11.25. Lard—Per 100 lbs, $7.02½@7.05. Short Ribs—Sides (loose), $6.25@6.15. Shoulders—Dry salted (boxed), 5⅞@6⅛c. Sides—Short clear (boxed), $5.50@5.70. Whisky—Basis of high wines, $1.27. Clover Seed—Contract grade, $10@10.75. Receipts—Flour, 33,000 bbls; wheat, 213,000 bu; corn, 480,000 bu; oats, 362,000 bu; rye, 11,000 bu; barley, 55,000 bu. Shipments—Flour, 26,000 bbls; wheat, 21,000 bu; corn, 77,000 bu; oats, 109,000 bu; barley, 19,000 bu. On the Produce exchange today the butter market was dull; creameries, 15@24c; dairies, 13@20c. Cheese dull at 10¼@11¾c. Eggs dull; fresh, 21c.

MINNEAPOLIS.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 18.—The wheat market was buried with bear news, without much decline in price following. There was a tendency to sell on the opening and a break of ½c resulted. May wheat in Minneapolis reached 73½c when Bradstreet announced an increase in the world's supply of 2,500,000 bu. The market held against an announcement like this, so that the news does not appear to have the bearish effect of a month ago, when such announcements were followed by sharp breaks. The Argentine gossip was to the effect that there would be 60,000,000 bu to export, and this had bearish effect on the opening. The Northwest receipts continue heavy, and the effect is of course bearish. Minneapolis received 331 cars today, against 131 last year, and Duluth had 150, against 142. The primary movement is large at all points. In spite of present figures smaller receipts are looked for confidently after the turn of the year. Present receipts are in large part wet wheat from the Northwest that will not stand storage until spring. Once this wheat is disposed of receipts will run smaller until toward spring, when elevators will resume shipping. Clearances of wheat and flour were good today, 622,000 bu, corn 686,000 bu. Primary receipts were 778,000 bu, against 508,000.

The market closed easy, without May selling below 73½c. The closing price was 73½@73⅝c; July wheat, 74¾c.

The cash market was sick. Complaints were heard, especially from sellers who had only low grades to offer. There was good demand for high grade milling wheat, and the spot No. 1 northern was salable, also No. 1 northern, to arrive, yet in this grade there was a trace of dissatisfaction for the reason that demand came principally from one buyer, and he was not paying fancy prices. The tone of depression that ran through the market arose from liberal offerings of low grade stuff that continues to come. Some offerings were poor and cuts were made to avoid carrying over. The mild weather is against elevator inquiry for wet wheat, and they are not anxious for it even at concessions. No. 1 northern sold at 1¼c to 1½c under May. No. 1, to arrive, sold from 72½c to 73c. No. 2 northern sold well up for choice, much of it at 69¾c, but fell off on poor lots. No. 3 ran from 60c to 65c. Rejected touched 60c for the best. No grade sold from 57c down to 50c and lower.

The following was the range of prices of wheat today:

	Dec.	May.	July.
Opening	71	74⅛	75⅛
Highest	71	74⅛@74¼	75
Lowest	70⅞	73½	74¾
Close—			
Today	70⅞	73½@73⅝	74¾
Yesterday	71⅛	74 @74⅛	75⅛
Year ago	65½	67 @67⅛	68¼@68⅜

On Track—No. 1 hard, 74c; No. 1 northern, 72c; No. 2 northern, 61@69c.

2 p. m. report:

Puts—May wheat, 73¼@73⅜c.

Calls—May wheat, 73⅝@73¾c.

Curb—May wheat, 73½c.

Flax—The market was without special feature, aside from a strong tone and generally higher range. Demand was good for the best rejected, poorer lots dragged a little. Towards the close several buyers came on and helped clean up the market. Rejected sold to $1.49; no grade from $1.20 to $1.39. Minneapolis received 49 cars, against 8 last year, Duluth 25 cars, Chicago 18.

Flour—The mills are grinding more freely. The stubborn wheat market induced a few buyers to come in who held off at the signs of weakness yesterday. Trade on the whole is quiet. First patents are quoted $4@4.10; second patents, $3.80@3.90; first clears, $2.90@3; second clears, $2@2.10. Shipments, 37,184 bbls.

Closing prices were: Minneapolis, cash, $1.64; to arrive, $1.64; May, $1.64; Duluth, cash, $1.64; to arrive, $1.64; December, $1.65; May, $1.64.

Millstuff—The market is steady. Bran in bulk is quoted $11.50@11.75; flour middlings, $12.50@12.75; bulk shorts, $11.50@11.75; red dog in 140-lb sacks, $14; feed in 200-lb sacks, $1 per ton additional; in 100-lb sacks, $1.50 per ton. Shipments, 1,413 tons.

Feed and Meal—Quotations are the same. The market is quiet. Coarse cornmeal and cracked corn, $13.25. No. 1 feed, $13.50; No. 2 feed, $13.75; No. 3 feed, $14; granulated cornmeal in cotton sacks at the rate of $1.90 per bbl.

Corn—The market was weak again. Prices were maintained on some sales, but the average was lower by ½c. One hundred and twenty-six cars were in, and, while a good part went on sale, yet offerings were large. No. 3 yellow is quoted 33@33½c. No. 3 corn, 32½c. Receipts, 126 cars; shipments only 6 cars.

Oats—Receipts were 32 cars and shipments 5 cars. The market was without important change, but was a shade easier. No. 3 white is quoted 23½@24c; No. 3 oats, 22@23½c.

Rye—The market is firm and steady. There is good demand. On the local board there was inquiry for good rye and choice will bring close to 46c. Ordinary No. 2 rye is quoted firm at 45@45½c. Receipts, 1 car; shipments, 5 cars.

Barley—The market is quiet and steady. Feed grades are quoted 37@42c, malting grades, 42@50c. Receipts, 14 cars; shipments, 42 cars.

STATE GRAIN INSPECTION

Roads.	Northern No.1hd.	No.1.	No.2.	No.3.	Rej.	Gd.	No
Gt. Nor	50	68	60	27	75		
C., M. & St. P.	21	62	20	8	13		
M. & St. L.	11	12	9	7	..		
Soo Line	..	3	4	5	5		
Nor Pac	..	5	8	2	7		
C.,St.P.,M.& O.	29	35	23	10	13		
C. G. W.	..	..	2	1	..		
Totals	111	185	146	60	113		

Other Grains—Winter wheat, 35 cars; No. 3 corn, 210 cars; No. 4 corn, 12 cars; No. 3 oats, 63 cars; no grade oats, 2 cars; No. 2 rye, 1 car; No. 4 barley, 5 cars; No. 5 barley, 22 cars; no grade barley, 2 cars; No. 1 flax, 3 cars; rejected flax, 36 cars; no grade flax, 35 cars.

Cars Inspected Out—Wheat, No. 1 northern, 14 cars; No. 2 northern, 18 cars; No. 3, 17 cars; rejected, 2 cars; no grade, 29 cars; No. 3 corn, 77 cars; No. 3 oats, 17 cars; No. 2 rye, 2 cars; rejected flax, 8 cars; no grade flax, 1 car.

DULUTH.

DULUTH, Minn., Dec. 18.—Wheat failed to awaken from its lethargy today, and trading was very quiet. The market opened unchanged at 75¼c, sold at 75⅜c at 9:5?, at 75c at 10:50, at 74⅞c at 12:20, and closed at 75c. Cash sales were 30,000 bu at 3½c under May for to arrive, and 4c under for to arrive. December flax was over May at one time, but closed 1c over. Out of 25 cars received only 1 graded contract. The close: Wheat—Cash, No. 1 hard, 73c; No. 1 northern, 71c; No. 2 northern, 69¾@69⅞c; No. 3 spring, 52⅜@53⅜c; to arrive, No. 1 hard, 75½c; No. 1 northern, 75½c; December, No. 1 northern, 74c; May, No. 1 northern, 75c. Oats, 23½@23¾c. Rye, 44½c. Barley, 40@58c. Corn, 33⅜c. Flax—To arrive, $1.64; cash, $1.64; December, $1.65c; May, $1.61c. Cars Inspected—Wheat, 151; corn, 56; oats, 8; rye, 3; barley, 2; flax, 25. Receipts—Wheat, 66,188 bu; corn, 14,151 bu; oats, 5,386 bu; rye, 1,336 bu; barley, 5,578 bu; flax, 7,699 bu. Shipments—Corn, 1,000 bu; flax, 1,753 bu.

25 Carloads of Furniture Bought for Cash at a price that will make it an object to any one. Do not take our word for it but simply come and see us. We positively sell more furniture than all the rest of the furniture dealers in the Northwest. WHY? Simply because we buy our furniture in car loads and train loads; buy it for cash and the cash is what brings us the facilities to make you prices. We can give you a No. 1 **White Iron Bed**—good woven wire springs and good mattress—the entire combination, for which you would pay $7.50 elsewhere, this we can give you for **$4.73**. For **$5.47** we can give you a heavy white iron, brass trimmed bed, woven spring and good 40½ top mattress, all good quality, for which you would pay any place else from $10 to $11. **$5.47** buys this outfit, and for **$5.93** we can give you an outfit that others will ask you as high as $12.00 for. We can give you for **$2.37** a **REED ROCKER** that you would pay $5.00 for elsewhere. Don't take our word for it, or anything in the furniture line; come and see us. If prices are not right do not buy. You will buy if you come. Furniture Catalogue free.

T. M. ROBERTS SUPPLY HOUSE, • MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

ST. PAUL GRAIN.

Oats—Receipts, 14 cars; No. 3, 23c; No. 3 white, 23½@24c.

Corn—No. 3, 34c; No. 3 yellow, 34½@35c.

Feed—Granulated corn meal, in cotton sacks, $1.80; coarse corn meal, per ton, $14.50; No. 1 feed, $14.50.

Bran and Shorts—Bran, in bulk, $11; shorts, in bulk, $11.50.

Hay—Demand moderate; receipts, 140 tons; shipments, 70 tons; upland, choice, $11@12; upland, No. 1, $10; timothy, choice, $12@14.

OTHER GRAIN MARKETS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—Flour—Receipts, 23,044 bbls; exports, 15,545 bbls; a shade earsier, against checking demand. Rye flour steady. Buckwheat flour dull. Buckwheat nominal. Cornmeal quiet. Rye dull. Barley quiet. Barley malt dull. Wheat—Receipts, 146,150 bu; exports, 129,150 bu; spot easy; No. 2 red, 77⅝c, f. o. b., afloat; No. 2 red, 75⅞c, elevator; No. 1 northern Duluth, 83⅛c, f. o. b. afloat; No. 1 hard Duluth, 87⅛c, f. o. b. afloat; options closed easy, ¼@⅜c net lower; March, 79@79 9-16c, closed at 79⅛c; May, 78½@79 3-16c, closed at 78⅝c; December, 76¾@77¼c, closed at 76⅞c. Corn—Receipts, 95,550 bu; exports, 179,269 bu; spot steady; No. 2, 45½c, elevator, and 45c f. o. b. afloat; options, January, 44@44¼c, closed at 44c; May, 42⅛@42¼c, closed at 42⅛c; December, 46@46½c, closed at 46½c. Oats—Receipts, 29,400 bu; exports, 1,260 bu; spot steady; No. 2, 27½c; No. 3, 27¼c; No. 2 white, 31½c; No. 3 white, 31c; track mixed Western, 27@28½c; track white, 30½@35c.

GRAIN GOSSIP—By private wire to C. H. F. Smith & Co.—Snow cables B. F. & Co. from Argentine: "Local statisticians are wrong in estimate. They ignored the increased acreage, and wheat exports will not be more than 15 per cent under last year." Paris unchanged to 10c lower on flour futures. Antwerp ⅝c bu lower for wheat. Russian Crop—The export movement has continued on a smaller scale than expected. Weather in South Russia has been mild and open, and this must favor the new seedings which were put in the ground later than usual. A report from Berdianski confirms the news of only a small area being seeded with winter crops in the Azof district.

VISIBLE SUPPLY—New York, Dec. 18.—Special cable and telegraphic communication to Bradstreet's show the following changes in available supplies since last account: Wheat, United States and Canada, east of Rockies, increased 532,000 bu. Afloat for and in Europe increased 2,000,000 bu. Total supply increased 2,532,000 bu. Corn, United States and Canada, east of Rockies, decreased 678,000 bu. Oats, United States and Canada, east of Rockies, decreased 1,432,000 bu. Among the more important increases reported are those of 400,000 bu at Northwestern interior elevators, 291,000 bu at Cleveland, 109,000 bu at Chicago private elevators, 100,000 bu in Manitoba, 85,000 bu at Rochester, 82,000 bu at Port Huron, 47,000 bu at St. Joseph and 45,000 bu at Minneapolis private elevators. The leading decreases include those of 82,000 bu at Portland, Me., 77,000 bu at Joliet, and 50,000 bu at Nashville. The combined stock of wheat at Portland, Or., Tacoma and Seattle, Wash., decreased 53,000 bu last week.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Dec. 18.—Flour steady. Wheat lower; No. 1 northern, 72½@73c; No. 2 northern, 70@70½c. Rye steady; No. 1, 51c. Barley firm; No. 2, 60c; sample, 48@60c. Oats steady; No. 2 white, 25½@26c.

LIVERPOOL, Dec. 18.—No. 1 California, 6s 2½d; No. 2 red Western winter, 5s 11½d; No. 1 northern spring, 6s 2½d; futures quiet; February, 6s; March, 6s 1¼d. Corn—Spot American mixed, new, 4s 1¾d; American mixed, old, 4s 2¾d; futures quiet; December nominal; January, 3s 10¼d; March, 3s 9¼d. Receipts of wheat during the past three days, 173,000 centals, including 142,000 centals American. Receipts of American corn during the past three days, 196,000 centals.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 18.—Close: Wheat—No. 2 red cash, 70c; December, 70⅝c; January, 71c; May, 72⅝c; No. 2 hard, 69½@69c. Corn—No. 2 cash, 35¼c; December, 35c; January, 34⅝c; May, 35⅜@35½c. Oats—No. 2 cash, 23½c; December, 23¼c; May, 24½c; No. 2 white, 26½@27c.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 18.—Close: Wheat—May, 65⅝c; cash No. 2 hard, 65½@66½c; No. 2 red, 65½@70c. Corn—May, 34⅝c; No. 2 mixed, cash, 33¼c; No. 2 white, 34¾c. Oats—No. 2 white, 25c.

PRODUCE AND FRUIT.

Butter—Steady and in active demand. Receipts light. Creameries—Extras, 23¼c; firsts, 24c. Dairies—Hand separator, 21c; extras, 19@20c. Ladles—Extras, 16@17c; packing stock, 12c.

Cheese—Market steady and active. Twins, fancy full cream, 12½c; full cream, Young America, new, 11½@12c; brick, No. 1, 10@11c; brick, No. 2, 9½c; Swiss cheese, old, 12½@14c; Limburger, as to grade, 8½@11c.

Eggs—Market easier; receipts light. Fresh stock, cases included, loss off, 24@25c.

Beans—Market firm. Fancy navy, per bu, $2.25@2.35; medium hand-picked, per bu, $1.60@1.80.

Peas—Yellow peas, $1.25; fancy green, $1.50.

Potatoes—Steady; fair demand. Potatoes, bu, 38@45c.

Vegetables—Beets, per bu, 25c; lettuce, per doz, 30c; parsley, per doz, 15c; tomatoes, California, basket, 75c; spinach, bu, 50c; turnips, bu, 25c; beans, wax, bu, $3; string beans, bu, $3; cucumbers, doz, $1; carrots, bu, 30c; turnips, doz, 20c; horseradish, lb, 10c.

Onions—Steady. Red Globe and Wethersfield, cwt, $1.75@2.

Apples—Market well cleaned up and good stock commands firm prices at advanced quotations. Apples, fancy, $2.75@3.50.

Lemons—Receipts liberal; demand good. Fancy Messinas, box, $3.75@4; California, per box, $3.75@4.

Oranges—California Navels, box, $3.50@3.75; Mexicans, box, $3.25@3.50.

Nuts—Hickory, per bu, $1@1.2; new California walnuts, lb, 14c; peanuts, raw, per lb, 6c; peanuts, roasted, lb, 7c; Brazils, per lb, 11c; pecans, medium, 11@11½c; chestnuts, new, per lb, 12@15c.

Bananas—Supply moderate; demand active. Choice shipping, $2@2.50.

Figs and Dates—Figs, new California, box, 85c@1; fard dates, 10-lb boxes, $8@9; Hallowee dates, new, 5½c.

Apple Cider—Sweet, per bbl, $5; sweet, per half bbl, $2.75; hard, per bbl, $2.75; hard, per bbl, $9.

Dressed Meats—Demand light; supply fair. Veal, fancy, 6½c; veal, medium, 5½c; hogs, country dressed, 6@6½c; spring lambs, pelts off, 8c.

Poultry—Demand fair; receipts liberal. Dressed springs, per lb, 8½c; hens, per lb, 7c; turkeys, per lb, 9@9½c; ducks, fancy, per lb, 7½@8c; geese, per lb, 7½c.

Fish—Fair demand. Pike, per lb, 5c; croppies, per lb, 40@5c; nickerel, per lb, 4c; frog legs, per dozen, 40@3c.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

M. J. Guiry to Margaret Guiry et al., und 1-3 lt 44, blk 8, Ashton & Sherburne's add $1

Margaret J. Mitchell et al. to W. B. Chase, lt 5, blk 2, Fairbanks' add... 2,500

F. H. Korfhage and wife to C. E. Korfhage, und ½ lt 15, Stinson's sub, b.k 96, L. Dayton's add..... 692

Minnesota-Montana Stock company to Ed. Goetze, lt 4, blk 42, Ward's rearr, Brown & Jackson's add..... 300

Columbia Building and Loan society to C. J. Hauft, guardian, lts 14 and 15, blk 19, St. Anthony Park N. 120

J. Hurley and wife to J. J. Hurley, lt 10, blk 36, West St. Paul proper 1

Rosa Kahn to J. Beifeld, lt 10, blk 20, Robert & Randall's add..... 65,000

Rosa Kahn to J. Beifeld, w 39 ft lts 6 and 7, blk 6, Bazille & Roberts' add; lts 1 and 2, blk 22, Marshall's add; lts 13 and 18, Lawton's rearr, blk 26, Brown & Jackson's add..... 7,000

Francis Reid to N. Reid, lt 2, blk 2, Langevin's Fourth add 1,000

A. Wichert and wife to Minnie Mencke, lt 8, blk 105, West St. Paul proper 1

Minnie Meucke to Olga Wichert, lt 8, blk 105, West St. Paul proper... 1

B. Weser and wife to St. Paul Work Building society, lt 22, blk 3, Birmingham's add 706

M. B. Whitney to H. Luettge, lt 6, blk 1, J. F. Eisenmenger's add..... 250

Total $78,132

Through Tourist Sleeping Car Service to Texas, Old Mexico and California.

Via Chicago Great Western Ry. to Kansas City, and Missouri, Kansas & Texas, San Antonio & Aransas Pass and Southern Pacific Railways through Dallas, San Antonio, El Paso and Los Angeles to San Francisco. Only through car line from the Northwest to Texas points and connecting at Spofford Junction for all points in Old Mexico. These cars are in charge of an experienced official, and leave St. Paul every Friday at 11:20 p. m., reaching Dallas the following Sunday, San Antonio on Monday, El Paso on Tuesday, Los Angeles at noon Wednesday and San Francisco early Thursday morning. These are Pullman Tourist Cars, similar to those run on all transcontinental lines, and the charges for berths are about half those regularly charged. To persons who have made the trip to California via other routes, this Southern route will prove a most delightful change, and to persons contemplating a trip to Texas or Mexican points, it furnishes facilities heretofore unoffered. Full information furnished by J. P. Elmer, G. A. P. D., corner Fifth and Robert streets, St. Paul.

WIDE MARKET IN STOCKS

TRANSACTIONS WERE HEAVY, AND THE COURSE OF PRICES IRREGULAR

ERIE SHOWED SHARP GAINS

Market Closed Active, With Values Very Steady, Considering the Heavy Business of the Session.

	Prev. Close.	Day.
Bar silver, New York	64	64
Call money, New York	4@5	4@6

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—The irregularity and unsettled condition of the stock market today was due to various conflicting causes. There was still some evidence of the important buying which has been in evidence for many days now and which is commonly attributed to operations by large banking interests, looking to the consolidation of control of many competing and connecting railroad systems. The buying of this kind, was, however, distinctly less than for some time past. Efforts were made by professional operators to give an appearance of a continuance of this class of transactions. But the manipulative character of many movements designed to give this impression became rather obvious and begot some feeling of doubt and distrust. The crop of rumors regarding additional plans for such consolidation still to be put in effect showed some vagueness and were not free from intrinsic evidences of probability. In spite of the credulous mood which has recently prevailed in Wall street regarding anything that points to consolidation, the influence of these movements, and, stories therefore, lost some of its force. Another consideration was that the opinion has become well settled in Wall street that the surprising decrease in loans in last Saturday's bank statement was due primarily to the movement of deposit account. The banking interests and financial institution which have had so large a part in the recent buying of stocks have evidently been drawing down the deposit accounts of the banks too soon. This necessitates a contraction of outside loans. While the bankers' buying therefore is a strong sustaining force in the stock market, it is also strong as a depleting force in the money market, upon which speculators are dependent for their resources. Another unsettling influence was London's change of front. After buying actively here yesterday, that center sold freely today. This was, of course, the outcome of the monetary situation in London. With further military reverses in South Africa and the foreign exchanges running against her, it is the common expectation that the Bank of England's discount rate will be advanced tomorrow. Such a discount is enough to cause liquidation of foreign securities from London in the interest of the money market. But it is not clear that the more conservative class of investors in England are not attracted by American securities. The decline in activity there and the continued high earnings here make the American securities relatively more attractive for investment. No uneasiness is apparent over the money market outlook so far as the immediate future is concerned. The subtreasury is contributing to the market by reason of large pension payments, increased premiums on government bonds which are being rushed in for conversion into 2s before the refunding period expired, and some payments on assay office checks for gold deposited at Pacific coast points. While these conditions make for safety of the money market, the possibility is recognized of a crunch in the last week of the year, especially if undue speculative commitments are allowed to eat up the resources of the market. These various conditions are the explanation of the exceedingly varied market for stocks. Heavy selling to take profits continued side by side with extraordinary advances in special stocks. Of the day's special movements by far the most impressive was the sustained advance in the Erie stocks, the common rising to 24¼, the first preferred to 57⅝ and the second preferred to 33½. There were some wide movements among the minor Vanderbilts and connecting lines in central traffic territory. Lake Erie & Western rose 5¾; New York, Chicago & St. Louis second preferred, 3¾, and the common first, 2 points, and 3 points each. There was an active upward movement in the Steel group, in Sugar, Amalgamated Copper, Missouri Pacific and the Southern Railway stocks, but none of these was well sustained. The market closed furiously active and surprisingly steady, considering the large volume of dealings.

The bond market was as varied and irregular as that in stocks, and large realizing at some points contrasted with an advance in price at others. Total sales, par value, $4,125,000. United States refunding 2s, 3s registered, old 4s and 5s advanced ¼ and new 4s ⅛ per cent on the last call. The 3s coupon declined ¼ per cent.

STOCK QUOTATIONS.

Furnished by Charles H. F. Smith & Co., members of the New York Stock Exchange, Pioneer Press building, who have direct wires to Chicago and New York. Closing prices are bid:

	Sales.	High.	Low.	Closing. 18.	17.
Am. Hoop	15100	32½	30½	31½	30¾
do pfd	800	78½	77	77	77¼
Am. Steel & Wire	9000	44¾	42¾	43¾	42⅞
do pfd	1300	87¼	85⅞	87¼	87¼
Anaconda M. Co.	2400	49¼	48	48¾	47¾
Am. Tobacco	19350	111	109½	110¼	109¼
Am. Tin Plate	1200	54½	52¼	53	52
do pfd	3500	91	89¾	89½	89½
Atch., A. & S. F.	13600	43¼	42½	42⅝	43⅛
do pfd	22500	87	86½	86⅞	86¾
B. & O	2800	81½	80¾	80¾	82
do pfd	1700	85¼	85½	85¾	86¼
B. R. T	42400	78⅞	77⅝	78	77⅞
C., B. & Q.	9800	139	137¾	138⅜	138¼
Can. Southern	2300	61¼	61⅛	60¼	60
C., C., C. & St. L.	3500	73¾	70½	72	70½
do pfd	300	114½	113¾	114¼	113
C. Tobacco Co	200	39⅝	37⅝	39⅝	37¾
do pfd	2600	93½	92	92	93¾
Chesapeake & O.	8200	39⅜	38⅝	39⅛	39
Chi. & Alton	11500	41⅞	39⅞	40¾	43¼
do pfd	6900	78⅜	77¼	78¼	77½
Col. F. & I.	3600	54½	52¾	53⅛	52½
Chi. G. W	2400	16½	16	15⅞	16¼
do deb. A per ct.	900	94¼	93½	94¼	93¾
do pfd A	200	79½	79	79⅝	81½
do pfd B	500	42	40¼	41	41¾
Cen. Gas	1800	191¾	190¾	191	193½
Del. & Hudson	1400	121⅞	121	121½	121⅛
Del., L. & W.	700	190¾	190	189½	190
Den. & Rio G.	4200	26⅝	26¼	26¾	27
do pfd	1800	87¾	81¾	81¾	81⅞
Erie	56400	24¼	20½	23¾	20½
do 1st pfd	37900	57⅝	54⅝	57	55
do 2d pfd	2400	39⅛	36	38⅝	37¾
Fed. Steel	37200	54⅞	53½	54¾	53
do pfd	1300	79	78½	78½	78
Gt. Nor. pfd	500	189½	189	187½	188½
Hock. Valley Ry.	1700	42¼	41⅝	41¾	42¼
do pfd	800	74½	73¾	74	74¼
Ill. Cent	2500	127	126⅞	126¾	126¾
Lake Erie & W.	3800	49	43¾	48½	43
do pfd	100	115	111	112	111½
Louis. & Nash.	3900	85¼	84⅞	85	85¼
Leather	7600	14¾	14	14⅜	14
do pfd	400	75½	75	75¼	75½
Manhattan	18100	114	112¾	113¼	113
Met. Traction	17400	176	173	173⅞	173½
Minn. & St. L.	2700	68⅝	67⅝	68¼	67½
do pfd	100	102¾	102¾	102½	103¼
M., K. & T	14500	15½	15	15	14½
do pfd	20200	42	41	41½	40⅝
Mo. Pacific	47100	63⅞	62⅛	63¾	62⅝
Nat. Tube	600	62½	62	62¼	62
Nor. Pac.	10500	78⅞	77⅞	77⅞	78½
do pfd	28200	87½	85	86¾	85¾
N. Y. Central	156100	142⅞	142⅛	142⅝	142¼
Nat. Steel Co	31900	42	38¾	41	38½
do pfd	300	93½	92½	92½	92½
N. Y., C. & St.L.	800	22¾	20	22	19½
do 1st pfd	300	108¾	108	108	106
do 2d pfd	600	53	51	53	50½
North-Western	100	169¾	169¾	169½	169¾
North American	1400	20	19⅝	19½	19¼
Omaha	200	124½	124½	124	123
Ont. & West	18600	28⅝	27⅞	28¾	28¾
P. Steel Car Co.	2100	52	51	51¼	51¼
do pfd	3300	82¼	81	81½	82
Penn. Ry	3700	144½	143⅞	144¼	143¾
Pac. Mail	2200	41¼	40½	41	41½
People's Gas	18700	99⅞	98¼	98⅛	99⅛
Rep. I. & Steel	2000	17	16¼	16½	16
do pfd	300	65	64⅝	64⅝	64½
Reading	17400	25½	24⅝	25⅛	24½
do 1st pfd	34500	69½	68½	69	66½
do 2d pfd	7300	37	35½	36¾	36½
Rock Island	4900	118⅛	117¾	117⅝	117¾
So. Railway	77700	21	19⅝	20¾	19⅞
do pfd	21200	74¼	69	71	69⅝
So. Pacific	3800	43⅝	42⅝	42¾	42¾
S. L. & S. W.	2700	17	16	16⅝	15¾
do pfd	2700	40⅝	39⅝	40	39¾
Smelter	2000	55	54	54⅝	54¾
do pfd	600	97	96	96½	96¾
Sugar Refinery	147700	128	121¾	127	124⅝
St. Paul	19000	132¼	131½	131⅝	132⅝
T. C. & I	14700	65	61¾	63	61¾
Tex. Pac.	4300	22¾	22⅛	22¼	22¼
T. C. R. T. Co.	100	70	70	70	.....
Union Pac	26000	76	73	73¾	75¼
do p