FINANCE AND TRADE.

No New Developments Among the Banks---Clearings, $2,200,000.

The New Syndicate—The Nickel Swindle—Interest Laws—Western Union.

The Produce Markets Tame and Generally Easier—Hogs Stronger.

An Early Decline, Followed by Firmness in the Afternoon.

FINANCIAL.

The banks are in a state little better than suspended animation. Counter transactions are small, and the discount business does not add enough to loans to replace the maturing paper that is paid. Merchants and other customers continue to meet their accruing obligations with commendable promptness, although business is dull. The supply of negotiable paper is light. Rates are 7@10 per cent. New York exchange was sold between banks at 50@75c per $1,000 premium.

The clearings were $2,200,000.

THE PROPOSED NEW SYNDICATE.

The Syndicate, which was recently organized for the purchase of Government bonds, included the First National Bank of New York, the American Exchange Bank, Kuhn, Loeb & Co., and a prominent banking house with connections in London. As is known, the Secretary of the Treasury declined the offer of the Syndicate to buy $10,000,000 4½ per cents at 101⅝. His price was 105⅝. The Syndicate claim that the acceptance of their offer would have removed a great danger to the resumption of specie-payments. They apprehend under existing conditions a heavy importation of Government bonds, which will finally produce an export of gold. This would put a stop to the resumption of specie-payments. The acceptance of their offer would have enabled the Syndicate to so interest the London holders as to stop the importation of bonds and turn the tide of gold to this country.

THE NICKEL CHEAT.

The bullion value of the 5-cent nickel piece is 1½ cents. Secretary Sherman has publicly declared his preference for the nickel piece over the silver half-dime. It is charged that a nickel ring exists, for whose benefit the 5-cent nickel was originated and is kept in use. A prohibitory tariff is maintained so as to exclude foreign nickel, and by this coinage arrangement with the Government the proprietor of the sole nickel mine in the country gets a good price and a steady market for his product. The people of California refuse to accept the nickel coins, and ask why the gold and silver mines of the Pacific Coast are not entitled to a Government bounty as much as the nickel mine owned by Joseph Wharton.

INTEREST LAWS.

The passage of a law in New Jersey reducing the rate of interest to 6 per cent, and allowing no contracts at a higher rate, makes eight States which have adopted so low a rate without allowing the parties to settle upon a higher rate. In six States the legal rate is 6 per cent, with no restriction upon a contract rate, and in nine other States where the legal rate is 6 per cent the contract rate is limited to 8 or 10 per cent. There are in all fifteen States which do not limit the contract rate, and fix no penalty for usury.

TURKISH CURRENCY.

The amount of Turkish paper money afloat is said by the bankers of Constantinople not to be excessive. Fifteen years ago it was $50,000,000; it is now $60,000,000. This amounts to $3 for each inhabitant, while in Russia the proportion is $8, in Austria $9, and in Italy $11. The Turkish paper money is not a full legal-tender. The Turkish bankers have issued a memorial in which they proposed to make gold the sole standard, and use the present paper money as a fractional currency.

PROFITS OF A FOREIGN BANK.

The profits of the Belgian Societe Generale pour Favoriser l'Industrie Nationale last year were $807,274. It paid off several heavy mortgages out of the profits, not included in the above. On one operation, the sale of the Dendre-et-Waes bonds for $4,200,000, the profits of the bank were $2,400,000.

WESTERN UNION.

The upward movement in Western Union is supported by a story that the Western Union Company, through holding a controlling influence in the Atlantic & Pacific Company, will proceed at the next election to oust the Directors of the latter Company, install themselves or their representatives, and wind up the concern for the benefit of Western Union.

THE MASSACHUSETTS STAY LAW.

New York Evening Post.

There is considerable anxiety here in bank circles at the condition of things in Massachusetts. In a quiet way there is a ready liquidation going on there, especially in the savings banks, and this is the secret for the movement of the banks to secure what must be called a "stay law." We are told that of the 170 odd savings banks in the State, 120 odds are in favor of such a law, the practical working of which would create a power which could step in between depositors and their debtors—in savings banks—and regulate the amount which the depositors could draw. Of the $250,000,000 deposits in the savings banks there, about $150,000,000 (in giving these figures we have not the official reports before us, but believe them to be approximately correct) are invested in real-estate mortgages, the payment of which cannot be forced, and which cannot be sold so as to make the security available in the early future for the creditors of the banks. They also hold large lines of United States bonds and railroad mortgages. Nothing, however, can justify such a law as is proposed. If the banks are permitted by law to pay only such part of their debts as they can easily do, why should not merchants, or, what is more to the point, the depositors of these banks, also be privileged in respect to their debts? Several of our markets here are more than indirectly concerned in the turn that affairs take in Massachusetts.

THE RISE IN OPHIR.

The rise and fall of Ophir is thus sketched by the San Francisco *Bulletin* of March 14:

The advance in Ophir has been short lived, and the decline must be regarded as evidence that it was not well founded. On Saturday last the best price was $53.25; on Monday it was $56; on Tuesday it rose to $64; on Wednesday the best price was $59.00; and this morning $48 was the highest offered at the regular Board, and considerable sold at $45.25 to $47.

GOLD AND GREENBACKS.

Gold was 100⅜@101⅛ in greenbacks.

Greenbacks were 99⅝@98⅜ cents on the dollar in gold.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE.

	Sixty days.	Sight.
Sterling	487½	489
Belgium	515	512½
France	515	512½
Switzerland	515	512½
Germany	95¼	96
Holland	39⅝	40
Austria	....	49
Norway	....	27½
Sweden	....	27½
Denmark	....	27½

GOVERNMENT BONDS.

	Bid.	Asked.
United States 6s of '81	100¾	101
United States 5-20s of '65, Jan. and July	104⅛	104⅜
United States 5-20s of '67	106⅞	107⅛
United States 5-20s of '68	106	106¼
United States 10-40s	104⅜	105¼
United States new 5s of '81	104	104⅜
United States 4½s	102¾	103⅛
United States 6 per cent currency	101⅞	....

LOCAL SECURITIES.

	Bid.	Asked.
City Railway (South Side)	150	....
City Railway (West Side)	178	180
City Railway (North side)	120	125
Traders' Insurance Company	....	116
Chicago Gas-Light & Coke Company	180	....
West Division R.R. 7 per cent certf's	90	95½
Lincoln Park 7 per cent bonds	*98	....

*And interest.

BY TELEGRAPH.

NEW YORK.

To the Western Associated Press.

NEW YORK, March 21.—Gold opened and closed at 101⅛, with sales during the day at 101. Carrying rates, 3@4½.

Silver at London, 54 5-16 pence. Here silver bars are 120 in greenbacks and 118⅛ in gold. Silver coin, ⅝@1 discount.

Governments are firm.

Railroad bonds are strong.

State securities are dull.

The stock market was irregular, except for coal shares, which were strong, advancing 3 for Morris and Essex, 1⅝ for Lackawanna, and 1¼ for Delaware & Hudson. After 1 o'clock there was a reaction in these shares of ¼@⅝. The general list fell off ½@1¼ at the opening, and, after recovering again, became heavy, and touched the lowest prices after the second call. The principal activity was in Lake Shore, which dropped under large sales from 65⅞ to 64⅛, rallied to 65⅜, and still later touched 63⅞. The Western shares generally weakened somewhat in sympathy with the decline in Lake Shore, but a recovery was soon afterward made, and prices resumed an upward tendency, the market closing strong at an advance of ⅛ to 1⅛ from the lowest figures. Erie sold up from 10¼ to 11⅛, and closed at 11⅛. The Northwestern stocks were well supported, and continued the favorites of speculation. The reaction during the afternoon was caused by some sales to realize and the effort of operators (believed to be the Twenty-third street party) to make a turn in the market. Transactions were 184,000 shares, of which 2,400 were New York Central, 9,000 Erie, 50,000 Lake Shore, 17,000 Northwestern common, 8,000 Rock Island, 10,000 St. Paul common, 2,400 preferred, 47,000 Lackawanna, 5,000 Delaware & Hudson, 5,000 Morris & Essex, 1,000 Michigan Central, 2,400 Pacific Mail, and 7,000 Western Union.

Money market easy; 1¼@6, closing at 1¼.

Prime mercantile paper, 4@6.

Customs receipts, $380,000.

The Treasurer disbursed $197,000.

Clearings, $12,000,000.

Sterling steady; long, 487; short, 489.

GOVERNMENTS.

Coupon, '81	100⅜	New 4½	102¼
Coupons, '65, new	107	New 4 per cent	101¼
Coupons, '67	106¼	10-40s reg	105
Coupons, '68	106⅞	Coupons	105
New 5s	104¾	Currencies	118¾

STOCKS.

W. Union Tel	70¾	C., C., C. & I	24¾
Quicksilver	17	New Jersey Central	13¾
Quicksilver pfd	28¼	Rock Island	102¾
Pacific Mail	18⅜	St. Paul	40¾
Mariposa Land	1¼	St. Paul pfd	72¾
Mariposa pfd	3¾	Wabash	13¾
Adams Express	101¾	Ft. Wayne	90
Wells-Fargo	88	Terre Haute	4¼
American Express	48¾	Terre Haute pfd	12
United States Ex	60	Chicago & Alton	68¼
N. Y. C., ex. div	105⅝	Chicago & Alton pfd	88
Erie	12¾	Ohio & Mississippi	8¼
Erie pfd	24¾	D., L. & W	81¾
Hudson	44	A. & P. Telegraph	18¾
Michigan Central	63⅞	Missouri Pacific	1¾
Panama	128	C., B. & Q	100½
Union Pacific	72	Hannibal & St. Jo	10¼
Lake Shore	63⅝	Central Pacific bonds	106
Illinois Central	73	Union Pacific bonds	103¾
Ohio & Miss	8¼	U. P. Land-grant	105
Northwestern	41⅛	U. P. Sinking Fund	95¾
Northwestern pfd	69¼		

STATE BONDS.

Tennessee 6s, old	....	Virginia, new	30
Tennessee 6s, new	36¾	Missouri, 6s	105¼
Virginia 6s, old	29		

CLEARING-HOUSE REVIEW.

Special Dispatch to The Tribune.

NEW YORK, March 21.—The *Bulletin* says exchanges of last week shed a hopeful steam over the seventeen leading cities, for the two weeks ending March 16, as compared with the corresponding weeks last year, show the small loss of 5.5-10 per cent, as follows: Losses—New York, 6 1-10; Philadelphia, 18 4-10; Chicago, 12-10; New Orleans, 2-10; Cincinnati, 4-10; Baltimore, 2 9-10; St. Louis, 12 3-10; Louisville, 8 5-10; Pittsburg, 11 4-10; Cleveland, 21 1-10; Syracuse, 17 4-10. Gains—Boston, 6-10; San Francisco, 46 8-10; Milwaukee, 3.1-10; Indianapolis, 23-10; New Haven, 1 8-10; Lowell, 2 8-10. The decline at New York, New Orleans, and Louisville was due entirely to the transactions of the first week of March. A gain appeared in the second week. Milwaukee does remarkably well, because the wheat movement is large this year, and was unusually small in 1877. The increase at Boston is probably due to the improvement in the foreign trade. Some of the manufacturing towns are also showing greater activity. On the whole the returns are better, prices considered, than they have been for many weeks. Unquestionably the passage of the Silver bill has given new hope and confidence to some, and in part because the bill passed was no worse, and in part because it is still expected to prove better in effect than it really will. This hope goes far to make good business, and it is clear that whether well or ill-founded, hope has actually revived in some quarters, and a better business may follow.

SAN FRANCISCO.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 21.—Following are the closing quotations at the Stock Board:

Alpha	7⅝	Leopard	11⅝
Belcher	3¾	Mexican	8¾
Best & Belcher	17	Northern Bell	13⅜
Bullion	5	Overman	20¾
Consolidated Virginia	20	Ophir	4⅝
California	28	Raymond & Ely	1⅝
Chollar	27	Silver Hill	8
Caledonia	1⅝	Savage	20
Crown Point	8¾	Segregated-Belcher	2⅜
Exchequer	3	Sierra Nevada	5
Gould & Curry	6¾	Union Consolidated	5½
Hale & Norcross	7	Yellow Jacket	8¼
Imperial Gold Mines	2½	Belcher Consolidated	1¾
Julia Consolidated	7	Grand Prize	6¾
Justice	3¾	Alta	5

FOREIGN.

LONDON, March 21—5 p. m.—Consols, money, and account, 95 5-16.

United States bonds—'65s, 103½; '67s, 107⅞; 10-40s, 105½; new 5s, 105¼.

Erie, 10⅜; preferred, 24½; Illinois Central, 76; Pennsylvania Central, 28.

The bullion in the Bank of England decreased £55,000 during the past week. The proportion of the bank's reserve to its liability is 36 per cent.

PARIS, March 21.—Rentes, 110f 22½c.

The specie in the Bank of France increased 12,400,000 francs during the past week.

LONDON, March 21.—One of the oldest banks in Prague (Bohemia), the Grund, has suspended.

REAL ESTATE.

The following instruments were filed for record Thursday, March 21:

CITY PROPERTY.

DeKoven st, 200 ft e of Halsted st, n f, 25x100 ft (improved), dated March 2	$ 1,500
Rockwell st, 222 ft e of Fulton st, w f, 44x120 ft, dated March 19	950
Archer av, 385½ ft n e of Dearing st, s e f, 25x100 ft (improved), dated March 20	4,500
DeKoven st, 110 ft e of Clinton st, n f, 50x100 ft, dated March 1, 1877	800
Rockwell av, 250 ft s of North av, e f, 100x125 ft, dated March 20	800
Townsend st, 104 ft n of Hobbie st, e f, 26x109 ft (improved), dated Feb. 8	3,000
Townsend st, 156 ft n of Hobbie st, e f, 26x106 ft (improved), dated Feb. 15	3,000
Rumsey st, 282 ft n of Chicago av, e f, 50x130 ft, dated March 20	1,400
Murray st, n w cor of Twenty-eighth st, o f, 21 3-10x125 ft, dated March 20	1,150
Whitehouse place, 121 ft e of Stewart av, s f, 25 10-12x74 ft, dated March 21	950
West Chicago av, 265¼ ft w of Hoyne av, n f, 24x121 ft, dated March 20	850

COMMERCIAL.

The following were the latest quotations for March delivery on the leading articles for two days past:

	Wednesday.	Thursday.
Mess pork	$ 9.35	$ 9.22½
Lard	7.15	7.15
Shoulders, boxed	5.37½	5.37½
Short clear, boxed	6.00	6.00
Whisky	1.04	1.04
Wheat	1.03⅝	1.04⅝
Corn	43¼	43⅜
Oats	24½	24¾
Rye	53½	53½
Barley	46	46
Live hogs	3¼@ 3½	3¼@ 3½
Cattle	2½@ 5¼	2½ @ 5¼
Gold	101.12½	101.12½
Consols	95⅝	95 5-16
Sterling exchange	489¼	489¼

The following were the receipts and shipments of the leading articles of produce in this city during the twenty-four hours ending at 7 o'clock on Thursday morning, and for the corresponding time twelve months ago:

	Receipts.		Shipments.	
	1878.	1877.	1878.	1877.
Flour, brls	6,158	4,667	10,507	5,765
Wheat, bu	21,289	4,240	29,243	5,232
Corn, bu	111,190	57,196	100,866	14,417
Oats, bu	28,480	9,765	30,761	14,407
Rye, bu	2,867	360	2,772	....
Barley, bu	1,410	745	4,058	9,814
Grass seed, lbs	231,100	105,700	385,946	87,727
Flax seed, bs	35,000	20,000	113	10,048
B. corn, bs	....	....	....	23,100
C. meats, lbs	801,816	225,225	2,505,428	2,030,195
Beef, brls	....	....	344	....
Pork, brls	1,107	45	408	1,650
Lard, lbs	776,725	22,400	818,810	277,150
Hides, lbs	74,450	22,965	44,350	134,555
Butter, lbs	55,922	51,010	45,278	88,019
Dr'd hogs, No	330	923	....	277
Live hogs, No	22,363	11,777	8,602	4,798
Cattle, No	5,816	5,491	3,833	3,042
American Express	1,734	4,413	753	757
United States Ex	40,060	238,840	43,140	138,940
Highwine's brls	....	101	3	3
Wool, lbs	17,058	14,218	7,470	32,698
Potatoes, bu	2,020	3,300	413	4
Coal, tons	1,792	3,410	298	722
Hay, tons	85	30	10	10
Lumber, m ft	173	243	1,697	612
Shingles, m	240	500	520	250
Salt, brls	1,144	1,405	2,320	1,819
Poultry, lbs	7,440	11,716	24,110	2,363
Poultry, coops	....	15	....	....
Eggs, doz	....	16	....	....
Eggs, pkgs	907	865	146	158
Cheese, lbs	325	196	703	103
Tallow, lbs	170	125	....	....
Beans, bu	900	125	831	201

Withdrawn from store during Wednesday for city consumption: 1,893 bu wheat, 935 bu corn, 4,201 bu barley.

The following grain was inspected into store in this city yesterday morning: 1 car No. 1 hard wheat, 21 cars No. 2 soft spring, 6 cars No. 3 do, 1 car rejected do, 1 car no grade (30 wheat); 14 cars high-mixed corn, 42 cars new do, 75 cars new mixed, 30 cars No. 2 corn, 72 cars rejected, 12 cars no grade (246 corn); 25 cars white oats, 12 cars No. 2 mixed; 8 cars No. 2 rye; 1 car No. 2 barley, 1 car No. 3 do, 2 cars feed (4 barley). Total, 325 cars, or 135,000 bu. Inspected out: 33,668 bu wheat, 423 bu corn, 3,168 bu rye, 8,505 bu barley.

Several communications have been handed in within the past week in reference to the rules of the Board of Trade which are generally known as "anti-corner." We cannot use them. The matter has been referred to a Committee of Directors, and we have already advised that arguments pro and con be submitted to that Committee.

The proposed amendments to the provision rules of the Board of Trade will be passed on to-day by ballot from 10 to 1 o'clock.

In answer to an inquiry, we state that the duty on wheat imported into France from European ports is 60 centimes per 100 kilogrammes, which is about 3c per bu or 1s per qr. The duty on wheat shipped direct from non-European ports is six times as great. Oats, rye, and barley, from European ports, are exempt from duty.

The leading produce markets exhibited few points of interest yesterday. Hogs were firmer, and provisions easy; while breadstuffs mostly tended slowly downwards, in sympathy with reported dullness in New York, and a tame feeling in grain in Liverpool. British consols were quoted one point higher, and there was little news of importance from political centres in the Old World, while rainy weather here was accompanied by rather small receipts of grain, except corn, but the reported outgo was fair in volume.

Dry goods were moving on a generous scale. Not only was there a liberal volume of mail orders, but there were many buyers present in person, and the aggregate distribution reached satisfactory proportions. Prices were steady and uniform. In the grocery market no very pronounced changes were noted. Coffees displayed more steadiness, and in sugars slightly increased firmness was apparent. Teas and syrups were easy; other lines nominally steady. Butter met with a moderate demand at previous quotations. Cheese was weak and declining. No quotable changes were developed in the dried-fruit market. Of foreign varieties, prunes alone were firm. Domestic dried were fairly steady. Fish were without quotable change, being in good demand at very full prices. There was a fair movement in oils at previous prices. Lard and turpentine were weak. Bagging remains quiet. Leather was reported dull and easy.

The lumber market was active and firm. Trade is much better than a year ago at this time and is steadily gaining in volume. There is talk of advancing prices on the first of next month. The hardware merchants report a fair trade at the current quotations. Seeds were lower, except the late varieties, under liberal offerings, with a diminished demand, many of the more urgent orders having been filled, though considerable timothy was sold at the decline. The hay market was firm under small offerings, with a good inquiry from the local trade and shippers. Hides, wool, broom-corn and salt were unchanged. Poultry was in moderate request at irregular prices. Eggs were weak, the receipts continuing large.

Rail freights were in fair demand at the recent reduction, the basis being 20c per 100 lbs on grain to New York.

IN NEW YORK YESTERDAY.

March 21.—Receipts—Flour, 15,415 brls; wheat, 80,850 bu; corn, 106,320 bu; oats, 47,407 bu; corn-meal, 1,215 pkgs; rye, 31,428 bu; barley, 5,500 bu; malt, 4,364 bu; pork, 653 pkgs; beef, 1,506 pkgs; cut meats, 2,580 pkgs; lard, 3,561 kegs; whisky, 763 brls.

Exports—24 hours—Flour, 9,300 brls; wheat, 118,000 bu; corn, 55,000 bu; oats, 1,000 bu; rye, 28,000 bu.

GRAIN ON PASSAGE.

The following table shows the quantities of wheat and corn on passage for the United Kingdom for ports of call and direct ports on the dates named:

	March 21, 1878.	March 22, 1877.
Flour and wheat, qrs	1,244,000	1,140,000
Corn, qrs	357,000	963,000

VISIBLE SUPPLY OF GRAIN.

The following table shows the visible supply of grain on the dates named:

	Wheat.	Corn.	Oats.	Barley.
March 16, '78	8,054,000	5,631,000	2,077,000	2,802,000
March 9, '78	8,214,000	5,438,000	2,053,000	3,041,000
March 17, '77	10,141,000	11,400,334	2,000,000	3,012,598
March 10, '77	10,166,442	10,966,822	2,201,283	3,144,077
March 20, '75	12,118,871	8,220,394	2,228,290	648,379
March 21, '74	11,504,805	6,135,884	2,424,707	775,615

Also, 622,000 bu rye, against 584,000 bu on week previously.

GOODS RECEIVED

at Chicago Customs March 21, 1878: John W. Wills, 75 packages pickles, etc.: Vergho, Ruhling & Co., 1 case toys and fancy goods; John V. Farwell & Co., 9 cases dry-goods; T. M. Sinclair & Co., 300 sacks salt; The Chicago Stamping Co., 546 boxes tin-plate; Lewis Moss, 2 cases cigars; Best, Russell & Co., 2 cases cigars; McCully & Miles, 10 cases window-glass. Collection, $8,920.75.

PROVISIONS.

HOG PRODUCTS—Were less active in the aggregate, and again tended downward, though hogs were quoted fully 5c per 100 lbs higher. But Liverpool reported a decline of 6d per cwt in lard, and other markets were tame, while there was a scarcity of buying orders here, so that most of the trading was local. There were free sellers throughout, and the market slowly weakened under the offerings, with little inquiry, except as shorts were willing to buy at the decline.

Mess pork was moderately active early in the day, and rather dull afterwards, declining 7½@10c per brl. Sales were reported of 4,250 brls seller April at $9.23@9.35; 10,000 brls seller May at $9.35@9.47½; and 2,000 brls seller June at $9.50@9.60. Total, 22,250 brls. The market closed tame at $9.20@9.22½ seller April; $9.35@9.37½ seller May; and $9 50 seller June.

Prime mess was quoted at $9.00@9.25, and extra prime at $7.50@7.75.

LARD—Was more active, but declined 5@7½c per 100 lbs under free sellers and heavier than the demand. Sales were reported of 500 tcs spot at $7.12½@7.45 for seller April at $7.07½@7.15; 11,750 tcs seller May at $7.15@7.22½; and 1,750 tcs seller June at $7.22½@7.30; 16,750 tcs. The market closed tame at $7.07½ spot or seller March; $7.07½ seller April; $7.15 seller May; and $7.22½ seller June.

MEATS—Were quiet and firm, with a shade easier at former quotations. There was a very light inquiry for export, the trading being chiefly in local futures. Sales were reported of 100,000 lbs shoulders seller May at 3½c; 100,000 lbs long and short clear 7½c; and 150,000 lbs short rib at $4.75 seller April; $4.80@4.85 seller May; $4.90 buyer May; and $4.05 seller June. The following table shows the closing prices per 100 lbs on the principal cuts of meat:

	Shoul-ders.	Short ribs.	L. and sh. clears.	Short clears.
Loose, part cured	$4.37½	$4.75	$5.00	$5.12½
Boxed	5.37½	5.00	5.10	5.25
April, boxed	5.37½	5.00	5.10	5.25
May, boxed	5.50	5.10	5.20	5.37½

Long clears quoted at 5@5¼c loose, and $4.87½ boxed; Cumberlands, 5¾@5¾c boxed; long cut hams, 7@7½c boxed; sweet-pickled hams, 8½@9c for 10 and 15 lb average; and New York hams, 10½@10¾c for same averages; green shoulders, 3¾@3½c.

Bacon quoted at 4¾@5c for shoulders, 5½@6c for short ribs, 6@6½c for short clears, 8¼@8½c for hams, all canvased and packed.

GREASE—Was quiet and 4¾@5c.

BEEF AND LARD—Were steady and quiet at $6.00@10.00 for mess; $10.00@11.00 for extra mess; and $15.00@18.00 for hams.

TALLOW—Was quoted at 7½c for city, and 7@7½c for country.

BREADSTUFFS.

FLOUR—Was dull and unchanged. The trading was entirely local, shippers being unrepresented, but holders were relatively firm, as the shipments are much exceeding the receipts. Sales were reported of 25 brls winters on private terms; 400 brls spring extras, partly at $5.50; and 160 brls spring superfines at $3.50. Total, 585 brls. The market closed at the following as the nominal range of prices: Choice to favorite brands of winters, $6.50@7.75; good to prime brands of winters, $5.50@6.00; choice to fine spring, $5.50@6.00; fair to good spring, $4.50@5.00; fine spring, $4.00@4.50; fair to good Minnesota springs, $5.00@5.50; choice fancy Minnesota springs, $6.00@6.25; patent springs, $6.50@8.00; low grade, $2.50@3.50; rye, $3.00@3.25; buckwheat, $2.00@2.50.

BRAN—Was fairly active, but 25c per ton lower. Sales were reported of 80 tons at $12.50 per ton on track, and $12.50@12.75 free on board cars.

OTHER MILL-STUFFS—Sales were made of 10 tons shorts at $13.00 free on board; and 10 tons coarse middlings at $12.50 on track.

CORN-MEAL—Coarse was quoted at $13.50 per ton on track. Sale was made of 40 tons choice yellow at $13.50 per ton free on board cars.

WHEAT—Was fairly active for the season, and again easier, declining fully half a cent from the advance early on the weather, and declined 1¾c, closing 2c below the latest quotations of Wednesday. The British markets were lower, according to Beerbohm, while private advices called them dull, and New York was dull in sympathy. The receipts of the day were small, only thirty car-loads being inspected into store, but the offerings were large, 75,000 bu spot were large, one firm alone sending out about 900,000 bu, a good deal of which found its way back on the market. There was a good deal of talk about wheat for April through the latter weakened in company with March. There was, however, a good demand for shipment throughout, and prices for current receipts were relatively firmer. Futures were offered very freely, mostly by long parties who did not care to carry any longer; the quantity of short selling was also unusually moderate. Seller April sold early at $1.03¾, declined to $1.01⅝, advanced to $1.03⅜, and fell off to $1.04¾ at the close. Seller May was more early at $1.05¾, off to $1.03⅝. Seller the month, or regular No. 2 opening at $1.05¾, the same as April to ⅛c below it, closing at $1.04. Gilt-edged receipts of No. 2 closed at $1.05¾. The lower grades were in good demand, and firmer. No. 3 were in request of 1,400 bu No. 1 spring at $1.07½; 8,800 bu No. 2 do at $1.03⅜@1.07; 133,000 bu regular do at $1.04¼@1.05½; and 1,800 bu by sample at 96c@$1.03. Total, 145,000 bu.

HARD WHEAT—Was in good demand, but very quiet in the absence of offerings. Sales were limited to 400 bu by sample at $1.15 on track, and 150 bu do for seed at $1.23 free on board car and 150 bu do for seed at $1.23 free on board.

COARSE—Was tame and steady, but easier, except at the outlest. The market opened about ½c higher, in sympathy with wheat, but closed ½@ lower than Wednesday afternoon. The British markets were quiet and rather easier, and New York was dull, while our receipts were somewhat larger than the previous day, but the market was prevented from much weakness by the light damp weather. Sample lots were in good demand, with very little difference in prices reflected free on board cars selling chiefly at 36@36½c, and mixed do at 41c. There was very little doing in futures, except for May, which opened at 42¾c, and receded to 42¼c at the close. Seller June ranged at 41¾@41¾c; seller July at 42@42¼c; seller April at 42@42¼c; and seller the year at 40¾@40¾c, all closing at the inside. Gilt-edged receipts closed at 42¾c. Spot sales were reported of 20,000 bu No. 2 and high mixed at 42@42½c; 800 bu cars at 38c delivered; 12,000 bu shelled, by sample, at 36@36½c on track; 400 bu do at 41c delivered; and 66,800 bu do at 35@41¾c, free on board cars. Total, 101,000 bu.

OATS—Were more active and weak, closing easier. The market declined under free offerings, a lower New York, and in company with other grain. The receipts were again fair, and there was less demand for shipment, which caused a further reduction in price. The trading in futures was chiefly in May, which was freely offered by the country and ⅜c below the inside figures. Early sales of seller May are made at 26¾c, and the last at 25¾c. April opened at 24¾c, and closed at 24c. Regular was quiet at 24c, and gilt-edged nominally 25@25c. Samples were fairly active and easier. Cash sales were reported of 9,000 bu by sample at 26@26c on track; 19,200 bu do at 25¾@31¾c, free on board. Total, 28,200 bu.

RYE—Was quiet, and rough in fair request and firmer. The offerings were very light. Fresh No. 2 sold at 54½c and seller April was nominal at 54c, March at 54½@55c. Cash sales were reported of 400 bu No. 2 at 54½c; 800 bu by sample at 49@53c, on track and 900 bu do at 50½@57c free on board. Total, 2,000 bu.

BARLEY—Was quiet and easy except extra 3, which was a shade firmer. The receipts were small, and the low grades were in request for shipment at recent prices. Futures were quiet. Seller April sold at 46c, and closed dull. Cash sales were reported of 400 bu No. 2 regular was nominal at 46c, and fresh at 47@47½c. No. 2 sold at 50c free of elevator. Extra 3 was firmer at 38½@42c. No. 3 and feed were quoted at 32½@36c. Cash sales were reported of 4,000 bu No. 2 free of storage, at 50c; 1,200 bu extra No. 3 fresh at 38½@40c; 400 bu No. 3 at 33c; 800 bu feed, short receipts, at 32½c; 1,600 bu by sample at 34½@42½c. Total, 4,400 bu.

FIRST CALL.

Wheat—Sales 65,000 bu at $1.04¾@1.04⅝ for April and $1.05¾@1.05⅝ for May.

Corn—25,000 bu at 42½c seller May.

Mess pork—250 brls at $9.35 seller May.

Lard—1,000 tcs at $7.07½ for April and $7.15 for May.

LATER.

Mess pork was firmer, sales being made of 2,000 brls at $9.50@9.52½ for June and $9.35@9.40 for May.

Lard was steady, with sales of 3,250 tcs at $7.07½@7.10 cash, $7.10 for April, and $7.15 for May.

Meats were steady. Sales 100,000 lbs short ribs cash at $4.70@4.80; 400 boxes long and short clear on private terms; 25 boxes hams at 6½c.

Wheat was fairly active and firmer. April sold at $1.04¾@1.05, and closed at $1.04¾@1.04⅝. May closed at 99¾@1.00¼.

Corn was steady at 42¾@42½c for May, 42c for April, and 41½c for June.

OATS—Were easy at 23½c for March, 23½@24c for April, and 26½c for May.

LAST CALL.

Mess pork was in fair demand, closing at $9.35@9.37½ for May, and $9.22½@9.25 for April. Sales were reported of 6,500 brls at $9.25 for April, $9.50 for June, and $9.35@9.40 for May.

Lard was in fair request and steady at $7.15@7.17½ for April and $7.22½@7.25 for June. Sales 2,500 tcs at $7.15 for May and $7.22½ for June.

Short ribs were quoted at $4.70 cash and $4.80@4.85 for May.

GENERAL MARKETS.

ALCOHOL—Was quiet at $1.05@2.08.

BROOM-CORN—Continues in light request and steady: Choice green hurl, 6@6¼c; red-tipped medium do, 5@5½c; green brush, with hurl enough to work it, 5½@6c; red-tipped do, 4¾@5¼c; green covers and side, 4½@5c; stalk brush, 3@3c; red and inferior brush, 4@4½c; crooked, 2@3c.

BUTTER—A fair volume of sales was accomplished at fairly-sustained prices, though the market still shows a decidedly weak tone, especially for good to fancy qualities, which are disproportionately high. We again quote: Choice to fancy creamery, 30@33c; good to choice grades, 22@28c; medium, 15@20c; inferior to common, 7@12c; roll, 12@20c.

BAGGING—Met with a moderate demand, and was steadily held at previous quotations. We repeat our list: Stark, 24c; Brighton A, 21½c; Lewiston, 21½c; Otter Creek, 20c; American, 19¼c; burlaps, 4 and 5 bu, 12½c; gunnies, single, 14½c; double, 24@25½c.

CHEESE—Was quoted dull, with prices weak and unsettled. Sales were effected at the following range: Full cream, 13@14½c; part skim, 11@12c; full skim, 9@10c; low grades, 5@7c.

COAL—Not much was doing in this branch of trade. Orders were mostly for one or two tons, or a few quarts, and the aggregate of the day was small. We quote prices weak: Lackawanna, large egg, $6.50; do nut and range, and small egg, $6.75; Piedmont, $7.50; Blossburg, $6.50@6.75; Cumberland, $6.50@6.75; Pittsburg, $4.50@5.00; Illinois, $3.50@4.00; Cartsherrie, $4.75; Indiana block, $4.50.

EGG—Were dull at 7½@8c. The offerings continue large and in excess of local requirements.

FISH—There was a well-sustained demand for lake and saltwater fish, and a fairly steady range of prices. Following are the quotations: Pickerel, new, 5½-brl, $4.25@4.50; family whitefish, $2.50@2.60; trout, $4.20@4.40; mackerel, extra, per ½-brl, $13.00@14.00; No. 1 shore, $6.50@10.00; select mess, per ½-brl, $14.50; No. 1 do, $8.50@9.25; No. 2 shore, ½-brl, $6.00; No. 2 bay, $7.50@7.75; large family do, new, ½-brl, $6.00; No. 1 shore, kits, $1.80@1.90; No. 1 bay, kits, $1.30@1.40; do, medium, $1.20@1.30; Labrador herring, $1.10@1.15; George's codfish, extra, $5.00@5.25; hank do, $4.00@4.50; Labrador herring, split, brls, $7.00; do, round, brls, $6.00; do, ½-brls, $3.50; smoked halibut, 7½@8c; salted herring, per box, 25c.

FRUITS AND NUTS—Prices were without change. Excepting prunes, which were very firm, there was a rather dull tone to the market for foreign fruits. Domestics were about steady. There was a fair general demand, but no special activity. We quote:

FOREIGN—Dates, 5¼@6c; figs, new layers, 9@14c; Turkey prunes, old, 6@6½c; do, new, 8½@9c; do, French do, 12@14c; raisins, layers, $1.75@1.80; loose, Muscatel, $1.55@2.05; Valencia, 7¼@7½c; Zante currants, 5½@6c; citron, 17@18c.

DOMESTIC—Alden apples, 15@16c; Michigan new, 6¾@7½c; do old, 6@6½c; Southern, new, 4½@5½c; Southern sliced, 7@7½c; peaches, unpared, halves, 6@6½c, tarred, 11@12c; Smyrna prunes, 9¾@10½c; raspberries, 32@34c; pitted cherries, 17@18c.

NUTS—Filberts, 11¼@12½c; almonds, Tarragona, 20@21c; French shelled, 45@50c; Naples walnuts, 12@13c; Brazils,