THE MARKET BASKET.

Demand for Game on the Wane, and a Fair Week's Trade Reported

AT THE FISH AND OYSTER STALLS.

Poultry Scarce and Higher and Butter and Eggs Drooping.

A LANDOFFICE TRADE IN FLOWERS

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURG DISPATCH, FRIDAY, January 4, 1888.

Both jobbers and retailers of fruit and vegetables report very quiet trade for the past week.

Said a leading dealer in materials for market basket filling: "We do not often have as dull a week as this has been. Our customers are evidently using up the fragments left over from holiday dinners. Working people do not buy freely, as the last pay was used up for Christmas doings, and the next is more than a week in the future. Capitalists are also waiting for January dividends. And so trade is always slow at this season."

At the fish and oyster stalls a fair week's trade is reported. Prices are firm. Choice stock is in good demand. Trade was slow at at the middle of the week, but is recovering, and activity is promised for the wind-up. Taking the week through trade has been better than generally expected by fish and oyster dealers on the heels of the holiday boom. Poultry is scarce and firm at prices above those which ruled on Christmas week.

Butter and Eggs Keep Up.

The drift of eggs and butter is downward. As retail dealers did not reap any particular benefit from high prices of creamery butter which prevailed for a very short time last month, so they have not had the same necessity to drop prices as jobbers in the present downward markets.

The tide already begins to ebb in the demand for game. Last week was the best of the season in this line. Game is no longer in as large supply and variety, nor is the demand as good as a week ago. Consumers give signs of returning to the old staples to be found at butcher's stalls.

Florists report a very satisfactory trade for the week. Prices have been materially reduced from those obtained during the rush of Christmas week.

Said a prominent florist: "Our trade this week has been immense. I have never seen it better. We are slow getting these, but we are there at last, and our trade situation in our line is in splendid shape, with an outlook that promises one of the best seasons on record."

Following are the latest retail prices for market basket filling:

Meats.

The prices called for at the Diamond Markets remain unchanged. The best cuts of tenderloin steak range from 20 to 25c, with the last figure for very fancy, which are very often no better than the 20c article; sirloin, best cuts, from 18 to 20c; standing rib roast, 15 to 20c; chuck roast, 10 to 12c; best round steaks, 15c; boiling beef, 5 to 8c; sweet breads, 25c pr pair; beef kidneys, 10c apiece; beef liver, 5c a pound; calf livers, 25c apiece; corned beef from 5 to 10c per pound. Veal for stewing commands 10c; roast, 12½ to 15c; cutlets, 20c per pound; spring lambs, fore quarter, 12½ to 15c; hind quarters, 15 to 20c. A leg of mutton, hind quarter, of prime quality, brings 12½c; fore quarter, 8c; loin of mutton, 15c.

Vegetables and Fruit.

Jersey sweet potatoes, 25c a half peck; potatoes, 15c a half peck; celery, 10c a bunch; squash, 10 to 25c; tomatoes, 50c per quart box; pumpkin, 15 to 25c; cabbage, 5 to 10c; apples, 15c to 20c half peck; bananas, 15 to 25c a dozen; lemons, 25 to 40c per dozen; oranges, 35@50c; concord grapes, 10c per pound; Malaga grapes, 25c per pound; onions, 25c a half peck; spinach, 25c per peck; lettuce, 10c per bunch, 3 for 25c; radishes, 5c per bunch; cranberries, 15c per quart; cucumbers, 25c a piece.

Game.

Plovers $2 00 a dozen; woodcock, $6 50 a dozen. Ducks, 75c to $1 00 a pair. Pigeons, 50c a pair. Squirrels, 40c a pair. Mallard ducks $1 a pair; quail, $3 00 to $3 50 dozen; reed birds, $1 00 per pair. Teal ducks, 65c a pair; canvasback ducks, $5 00 per pair; redhead ducks, $2 50 per pair. Pheasants, $1 25 a pair. Rabbits, 25c a pair. Venison, 8@8c pound, steaks; whole deer, 15c to 18c. Prairie chickens, $1 25 a pair. Bear steaks, 35c per pound.

Butter, Eggs and Poultry.

The best creamery butter is 40c. Fancy pound rolls of country butter are 40c.

The ruling retail price for eggs is 30c. Choice country eggs bring 40c.

The range for dressed chickens is $1 00 to $1 25 per pair. Turkeys, 18@20c per pound.

Fish and Oysters.

Following are the articles in this line still on the stalls, with prices: Lake salmon, 12½c; California salmon, 40c pound; white fish, 12½c; herring, 4 pounds for 25c; fresh mackerel, 20c apiece; Spanish mackerel, 50c apiece; per pound, salmon, 40c a pound; blue fish, 20c; perch, 10c; halibut, 25c; rock bass, 30c; black bass, 20c; lake trout, 12½c; lobsters, 25c; green sea turtle, 28c. Oysters: standard, $1 per gallon; select, $1 50; extra, $1 75. N. B. counts, $1 75 per gallon; snapps, 90c; shell oysters, 25c dozen; smelts, 20 to 25c pound; clams, $1 25 gallon; scollops, 50c a quart.

Flowers.

La France roses, $4 00 per dozen; Bride roses, $3 50 per dozen; Perles, $2 00 per dozen; Niphetos, $2 00 per dozen; Bennetts, $3 50 per dozen; American Beauty, $1 25 apiece; Mermets, $3 50 per dozen; De Wattville, $3 00; carnations, 75 cents a dozen; Marguerites, 30 cents per dozen; Violets, $3 00 a hundred; Lily of the Valley, $1 50 per dozen; Maiden Hair fern, 50c per doz. fronds. Bermuda Easter lilies, $3 50 per dozen.

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

Mysterious Movements in the Wheat Market Cause a Drop in Prices—Corn and Oats Quiet—Pork Active and Unsettled—Lard Steady.

CHICAGO—It was one of those markets again which operators in wheat could not decipher. The action of some large operators was mysterious and misleading, and while fluctuations were not wide, the feeling nevertheless was unsettled. Most of the trading was on local account. The opening was about the same as yesterday's closing, and under free speculative offerings prices declined 1c. The selling was attributed to a prominent local trader, but at the decline, or about $1 04⅞ for May, there appeared to be an active demand, and although that figure was touched nearly half a dozen times, and once went just barely below, the demand was sufficient to prevent any further shrinkage. The buying appeared to be quite scattered, and under a steady demand just before 1 o'clock prices again touched outside figures, closing steady and about ⅝c lower than yesterday.

Corn ruled exceedingly quiet; in fact the market was quite dull the entire session, fluctuations being within a very narrow range, and transactions limited exclusively to room traders. The feeling was comparatively steady, and at the close all the leading futures were a trifle higher than the closing prices of yesterday.

Oats were quiet and steady most of the morning. After midday offerings for May delivery suddenly increased, several large operators selling freely. The Milwaukee bull party were also credited with unloading. This caused general selling by "longs," and prices quickly declined ¼@⅝c and brought a good many "stop order" holdings. At the bottom "shorts" began to cover and a small rally followed, the market closing steady at slightly below yesterday's last sales. The near futures were quiet and easier.

A good trade was reported in mess pork, but fluctuations in prices were frequent, though confined within a comparatively narrow range. The market opened at yesterday's closing figures, and prices rallied 5@7½c. Later a reduction of 10@12½c was submitted to, owing to slightly increased offerings. During the latter part of the session the feeling was firmer and prices advanced 25@30c, with moderate trading. The market closed comparatively steady.

Trading was only moderate in lard and a steadier feeling prevailed. Prices ruled 10@12½c higher on the whole range, and the market closed steady at outside figures.

A fairly active trade was reported in short ribs. The feeling was firmer and prices ruled 5@7½c higher, and the market closed steady at outside figures.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

WHEAT—No. 2, January, $1 00@1 00⅛@99⅞c; February, $1 01⅝@1 01⅝@1 01@1 01; May, $1 05⅛@1 05⅛@1 04⅞@1 04⅞; July, 96@96⅛@95⅞@96c.

CORN—No. 2 January, 33⅛@33⅛@33⅛@33¼c; March, 36⅛@37⅛c; May, 38⅝c.

OATS—No. 2 January, 24¼c; May, 28⅛@28⅛@27⅞@27¾c.

MESS PORK, per bbl.—January, $12 50@12 70@12 50@12 70; February, $12 90@12 80; May, $13 00@13 25@12 90@13 20.

LARD per 100 lbs.—January, $7 30@7 37½@7 27½@7 37½; March, $7 40@7 45@7 35@7 45; May, $7 50@7 55@7 42½@7 52½.

SHORT RIBS, per 100 lbs.—January, $6 75@6 75@6 75@6 75; March, $6 75@6 82½@6 72½@6 82½; May, $6 85@6 95@6 82½@6 95.

Cash quotations were as follows: Flour, nominally unchanged. No. 2 spring wheat, 99½@99⅝c. No. 3 spring wheat, 90c; No. 2 red, 99½@99⅝c. No. 2 corn, 33½c. No. 2 oats, 24½@24¾c. No. 2 rye, 68@70c f. o. b.; No. 2 barley, $1 02; No. 1 flaxseed, $1 50@1 51. Prime timothy seed, $1 27. Mess pork, per barrel, $12 75. Lard, per 100 lbs, $7 37½. Short ribs sides (loose), $6 75. Dry salted shoulders (boxed), $6 25@6 37½. Short clear sides (boxed), $7 00@7 12½. Sugars—Cut loaf, 8⅝c; granulated, 7⅛c; standard A 7⅛c. Receipts—Flour, 12,000 barrels; wheat, 20,000 bushels; corn, 158,000 bushels; oats, 137,000 bushels; rye, 7,000 bushels; barley, 52,000 bushels. Shipments—Flour, 11,000 barrels; wheat, 9,000 bushels; corn, 471,000 bushels; oats, 92,000 bushels; rye, 5,000; barley, 42,000 bushels.

On the Produce Exchange to-day the butter market—Fancy creamery, 38c; good to choice, 22@23c; fine dairies, 20@22c; good to choice, 18@20c. Eggs dull at 16½@17c.

NEW YORK—Flour—Receipts, 18,727 packages; exports, 888 barrels, 8,002 sacks; steady and fairly active, chiefly home trade; sales, 17,800 barrels. Cornmeal steady. Wheat—Receipts, 3,300 bushels; exports, none; sales, 109,428 bushels futures; 16,000 bushels spot; spot market unsettled, lower and dull; No. 2 red, $1 00⅝@1 01 in elevator, $1 02¼@1 02¾ afloat, $1 02@1 03½ f. o. b.; No. 3 red, 95½c; ungraded red, 99c@$1 00; No. 1 white, $1 01; No. 1 red, $1 05@1 06½. No. 2 Chicago, $1 07⅛@1 07½; options less active, irregular and lower; opened ¼@⅜c up, declined ⅜@1c, closed under yesterday; No. 2 red, January, $1 00@$1 00, closing at $1 00⅛; February, $1 01⅝@1 02⅛, closing at $1 01⅞; March, $1 03⅛@1 03⅜, closing at $1 03; May, $1 05⅛@1 06⅛, closing at $1 06⅛; June, closing at $1 05⅝. Barley dull and nominal. Barley malt dull. Corn—Receipts, 48,800 bushels; exports, 101 bushels; sales, 504,000 bushels futures; 206,000 bushels spot; spot market fairly active and ⅛@⅜c lower and weak; No. 2, 49½c in elevator, 46½@47½c afloat; ungraded mixed, 39@47c; No. 2 white, 45½c; steamer mixed, 41¼@45½c; options moderately active and weak, ¼@1c lower; January, 44¼@45½c, closing at 44⅝c; February, 45⅛@45⅜c, closing at 45⅛c; March, 45⅝@46c, closing at 45¾c; May, 45⅞@46¼c, closing at 45¾c. Oats—Receipts, 82,000 bushels; exports, 580 bushels; sales, 355,000 bushels futures, 102,000 bushels spot; spot market moderately active and steady; options fairly active and lower; January, 31⅛@31⅜c, closing at 31⅛c; February, 32c; May, 33c; spot No. 2 white, 34½@34⅝c; mixed western, 30@32c; white do, 33@39½c. No. 2 Chicago, 32½c. Hops steady and quiet. Coffee—Options opened steady and 10@25 points up; closed firm 5@10 points above yesterday; fair sales, 54,500 bags, including January, 15.65@15.75c; February, 15.90@15.75c; March, 15.55@15.80c; April, 15.60@15.80c; May, 15.60@15.90c; June, 15.70@15.85c; July, 15.80@16.00c; August, 15.80@16.00c; September, 16.00@16.20c; October, 16.00@16.25c; November, 16.00@16.40c; December, 16.30@16.40c. Spot Rio strong; fair cargoes, ¼c. Sugar—Raw easier; fair refining, 4 1-16c; centrifugals, 96 test, 5¼c; refined steady and quiet. Molasses—Foreign nominal; New Orleans quiet; Rio firm and quiet. Pork lower and quiet; mess, $13 75@14 25. Cutmeats steady; pickled hams, 10c; middles steadier. Lard firm and less active; Western steam, January, $7 75@7 80, closing at $7 80; February, $7 60@7 75, closing at $7 74 bid; March, $7 70@7 75, closing at $7 75 bid; April, $7 78 bid; May, $7 72@7 78, closing at $7 81 bid; June, $7 77@7 82, closing at $7 82 bid. Butter dull and weaker; Western dairy, 14c; creamery, 18@22c; Elgins, 31c. Cheese quiet and firm; Western, 10@11¼c.

PHILADELPHIA — Flour dull and weak for all grades, except Minnesota patents, which were steadily held. Wheat dull; sales of mixed and red in the grain depot, $1 00; No. 2 white in do, $1 01; ungraded inferior to No. 2 red in grain depot, 93c; choice ungraded in do, $1 03; No. 2 red, January, 93¾@93⅞c; February, 97@97½c; March, 98¾@99c; April, $1 00@1 01⅛; May, $1 03@1 03¼; June, $1 05⅛@1 05¼. Corn—Spot and future deliveries of No. 2 and steamer weak and ¼@⅜c lower; low grades scarce and firmly held, but demand light; sales November mixed in grain depot, 37c; No. 3, mixed in elevator, 38c; steamer No. 2 mixed, in grain depot, 38c; do in export elevator 38½c; old No. 2 mixed in elevator, 45c; old No. 2 yellow in do, 45½c; new No. 2 mixed spot in export elevator, 41½c; No. 2 mixed, January, 41¼@41⅜c; February, 41⅝@42¼c; March, 42½@42¾c; April, 43⅝@43½c; May, 43¼@43½c. Oats—Carlots dull and weak; sales No. 1 mixed, 32½c; No. 3 white, 32½c; No. 2 white, 34@34½c; do on track, 34½c; futures steady; sales included nearly 500 shares Philadelphia Gas Company at 39⅝, the lowest at 40¼, the highest, about the old figures. Sixty-two shares Westinghouse Electric brought 36¾, one hundred Wheeling Gas sold at 27½, and a few shares of Chartiers at 57. Pennsylvania Insurance Company, five shares, changed hands at 33½. La Noria took somebody's fancy to the extent of 100 shares, for which he paid 1½.

Total sales of stocks at New York yesterday were 211,050 shares, including Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, 25,350; Erie, 3,155; Louisville and Nashville, 3,605; Missouri Pacific, 1,100; Northwestern, 10,968; New Jersey Central, 7,850; Northern Pacific preferred, 4,520; Oregon Transcontinental, 10,400; Reading, 28,063; Richmond and West Point, 3,250; St. Paul, 23,418; Union Pacific, 19,240; Western Union, 3,275.

AT THE BANKS.

The Supply of Money Large Enough to Meet All Demands.

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Counter business was brisk, the balances being largely in favor of the banks. There was no special demand for exchange. The Clearing House statement showed transactions above the average, the exchanges being $2,442,534 55 and the balances $468,048 85. There was no special movement of currency in any direction.

At New York money on call was easy at 3½ @5 per cent; last loan 4, closed offered at 4. Prime mercantile paper ruled at 5@6½. Sterling exchange was dull but steady at $4 84½ for 60-day bills and $4 88½ for demand. Government bonds were dull and steady. State bonds were entirely neglected.

NEW YORK—Clearings, $132,168,519; balances, $9,073,741.

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BALTIMORE—Bank clearings to-day were $2,519,740. Money, 6 per cent. Balances, $311,360.

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OIL STILL DROPPING.

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The market is now practically controlled by the Standard, and until it steps out of the way there can be no general improvement. Just what it is up to is a matter of uncertainty, but it is safe to assume that it is safe to say that at present the prospect of a boom is not very flattering. There was no heavy trading. Field news was unimportant. Carrying rates were unchanged except at Oil City, where 30c was the rule. Here the market opened 87⅝c; highest, 87⅝c; lowest, 86½c; closed, 86¾c.

A. B. McGrew quotes: Puts, 85¼@85⅜c; calls, 87½c.

The following table, corrected by De Witt Dilworth, broker in petroleum, etc., corner Fifth avenue and Wood street, Pittsburg, shows the order of fluctuations, etc.:

Time.	Bid.	Ask.	Time.	Bid.	Ask.
Opened	87⅝	Sales	12:45 P. M.	86¾	86⅞
10:15 A. M.	87⅛	87¼	1:00 P. M.	86½	86⅝
10:30 A. M.	87	87⅛	1:15 P. M.	86½	86⅝
10:45 A. M.	86⅞	86⅞	1:30 P. M.	86⅝	86¾
11:00 A. M.	86⅞	86⅞	1:45 P. M.	86⅝	86¾
11:15 A. M.	86⅞	86⅞	2:00 P. M.	86⅝	86¾
11:30 A. M.	86⅞	86⅞	2:15 P. M.	86½	86⅝
11:45 A. M.	86⅞	86⅞	2:30 P. M.	86½	86⅝
12:00 M.	86⅞	86⅞	2:45 P. M.	86½	86⅝
12:15 P. M.	86⅞	86⅞	Closed	86¾	86⅞
12:30 P. M.	86⅞	86⅞			

Opened, 87⅝c; highest, 87⅝c; lowest, 86½c; closed, 86¾c.

	Barrels.
Daily runs	81,761
Average runs	46,433
Daily shipments	107,027
Average shipments	74,355
Daily charters	46,061
Average charters	30,939
Clearances	2,520,000

New York closed at 86¼c.
Oil City closed at 86½c.
Bradford closed at 86¼c.
New York, refined, 7c.
London, refined, 6 12-16d.
Antwerp, refined, 19½f.

Pew & Emerson Competing With the Standard.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

FINDLAY, January 4.—Pew & Emerson, of Pittsburg, have purchased the Robert Miller farm, in Liberty township, Wood county, and have erected a number of large oil tanks on the property and will build many more. The gentlemen are said to be able to draw a check on seven figures, and propose to hustle with the Standard for Wood county oil. They will refine their oil in this city.

Other Oil Markets.

OIL CITY, January 4.—Opened, 87⅛c; highest, 87⅛c; lowest, 86¼c; closed, 86⅝c.

TITUSVILLE, January 4.—Opened, 87¼c; highest, 87¼c; lowest, 86½c; closed, 86¾c.

BRADFORD, January 4.—Opened, 87¼c; highest, 87¼c; lowest, 86½c; closed, 86¾c.

NEW YORK, January 4.—Petroleum opened firm at 87⅝c, but after the first sales the market became weak and declined to 86⅞c. A slight rally then occurred after which the market declined to 86c and closed steady at 86¼c. Sales, 1,296,000 barrels.

A VERY BAD POLICY

Said to be Pursued by Pittsburg Building Contractors.

THE STANDARD'S SUPPLE HAND

Recognized in the Anomalous Condition of the Petroleum Market.

MOVEMENTS IN STOCKS AND REALTY

"From my point of view contractors are discouraging rather than stimulating building operations," said a gentleman yesterday. He gave his reasons thus: "I am preparing to build several houses on the Southside. My estimate of the cost, making liberal allowance for everything used in their construction, is $15,000. The lowest bid of a contractor is $18,000, and the highest $24,000. These estimates are not warranted by the situation. Material and labor are relatively cheap. I don't feel like building at these figures."

The same complaints of exorbitant estimates of contractors were encountered in other directions. All agreed that the cost of building, in most cases, was entirely too high, and that if continued a great many improvements would be postponed if not altogether abandoned. "This is a bad policy," said one gentleman. "Contractors are standing in their own light. They are crippling their own business. By making reasonable prices they would encourage building operations and find plenty to do. By a contrary policy they 'clip the wings of progress' and enjoy the luxury of idleness a good part of the time."

This is a matter of prime interest to the public, and the above hints are thrown out in the hope that their pertinency will be realized at a glance and that they may be the means of starting a much-needed reform.

There may be another side to the question, something to justify the high prices that rule in Pittsburg and vicinity, but it is not apparent at this juncture. Ventilation of the subject may result in bringing out all the facts and enlightening the public understanding on a subject of vital interest.

CALLED A HALT.

A Slight Lull in Stock Operations—Philadelphia Gas Still Leading.

Business at the Stock Exchange yesterday was less active than earlier in the week. The boom had apparently culminated, at least for the present. Philadelphia gas was the leading feature, the sales of which were up to the average. Traction was next in point of activity. Buyers have about come to the conclusion that prices are too high and are disposed to play a waiting game to compel holders to moderate their views. This is the opinion of a Fourth avenue expert in the business. The drift of the market is shown in the appended quotations:

STOCKS.	MORNING. Bid.	MORNING. Asked.	AFTERNOON. Bid.	AFTERNOON. Asked.
Keystone B'k Pittsb'g.	58½	....	....	....
Masonic Hall	60½	....	....	....
Chartiers Gas	57	57¼	....	57
Nat. Gas Co., W. Va.	67¾	....	....	....
Ohio Valley Gas	30	....	....	....
Philadelphia Co.	39⅞	40	39⅝	39¾
Wheeling Gas Co.	27½	28	27⅝	....
Citizens' Traction	78½	80½	79	....
Pittsburg Traction	....	51½	....	51½
La Noria M. Co.	....	....	1¾	1⅞
West'house Elec. L.	....	....	36¾	36½

Sales included nearly 500 shares Philadelphia Gas Company at 39⅝, the lowest at 40¼, the highest, about the old figures. Sixty-two shares Westinghouse Electric brought 36¾, one hundred Wheeling Gas sold at 27½, and a few shares of Chartiers at 57. Pennsylvania Insurance Company, five shares, changed hands at 33½. La Noria took somebody's fancy to the extent of 100 shares, for which he paid 1½.

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Daily runs	81,761
Average runs	46,433
Daily shipments	107,027
Average shipments	74,355
Daily charters	46,061
Average charters	30,939
Clearances	2,520,000

New York closed at 86¼c.
Oil City closed at 86½c.
Bradford closed at 86¼c.
New York, refined, 7c.
London, refined, 6 12-16d.
Antwerp, refined, 19½f.

Pew & Emerson Competing With the Standard.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

FINDLAY, January 4.—Pew & Emerson, of Pittsburg, have purchased the Robert Miller farm, in Liberty township, Wood county, and have erected a number of large oil tanks on the property and will build many more. The gentlemen are said to be able to draw a check on seven figures, and propose to hustle with the Standard for Wood county oil. They will refine their oil in this city.

Other Oil Markets.

OIL CITY, January 4.—Opened, 87⅛c; highest, 87⅛c; lowest, 86¼c; closed, 86⅝c.

TITUSVILLE, January 4.—Opened, 87¼c; highest, 87¼c; lowest, 86½c; closed, 86¾c.

BRADFORD, January 4.—Opened, 87¼c; highest, 87¼c; lowest, 86½c; closed, 86¾c.

NEW YORK, January 4.—Petroleum opened firm at 87⅝c, but after the first sales the market became weak and declined to 86⅞c. A slight rally then occurred after which the market declined to 86c and closed steady at 86¼c. Sales, 1,296,000 barrels.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS.

A Number of Sales Consummated and Others on the String.

Real estate dealers—at least many of them—are too busy squaring up monthly and quarterly rents to devote much attention to other business. It is a gratifying fact that tenants, in almost all cases, are squaring up promptly. The number of transfers reported yesterday was smaller than usual. Several dealers reported progress in some big transactions that will come to a head in a short time. Buyers continue to complain of high prices.

The sales consummated include: Black & Baird, for Mrs. R. J. Hardie, to Dennis Crowley, lot No. 27 in the Hardie plan in Oakland, fronting 25 feet on Juliet street, by 165 in depth to Hardie alley, $675; also, to William Lester, for the Peoples' Savings Bank, a lot on Vine street, Twenty-seventh ward, 40x140 feet, for $500. They also placed a mortga e of $900 in the First ward, Allegheny, for one year at 6 per cent.

Reed B. Coyle & Co. sold for W. A. Clemens, Esq., to A. C. Watkins, about two acres of ground, fronting 348 feet on Pennsylvania Railroad, and extending from Summerlea to O'Hara street, for a price approximating $15,000. A fine building will be erected on the grounds in the spring.

John F. Baxter sold lot No. 111, Bank of Commerce addition, Brushton station, situated on the southeast corner Bennett and Park streets, size 40x137, to a 20-foot alley, to P. McArdy, for $550.

Alexander & Lee sold a lot on Tenth street, Sharpsburg, 20x90 feet, for $600. They also placed a mortgage of $3,000, one of $2,000, one of $1,200 and one of $1,000, all on suburban properties, at 6 per cent.

Thos. S. Drape & Co. yesterday placed a mortgage of $6,000 at 5 per cent on a house and lot in the East End, city; also a mortgage of $16,000 at 6 per cent on a manufacturing property in Pittsburg, Southside. They also closed the sale of a farm property in Penn township, about 80 acres, at $5,000.

Samuel W. Black & Co., 99 Fourth avenue, yesterday sold a mortgage of $1,500 on Thirteenth ward property for three years at 6 per cent.

A LOCAL PECULIARITY.

One Respect in Which Pittsburg Differs From Other American Cities.

Every city has characteristics that are peculiar to itself. Pittsburg is not an exception. One of these is so prominent as to attract the attention of a stranger almost at first glance. It is the almost total absence of residence facilities in the business parts of the city. In other places it is usual for the upper floors or the rear portions of business houses to be occupied by families. This results, probably, from the absence of suburban attractions. Here the contrary is the case. Business and the family seldom conjoined. This is notably true of Fifth avenue, Wood, Smithfield and Liberty streets, the principal business thoroughfares. There are exceptions, of course, but they only prove the rule.

Everybody lives in the suburbs—the beauty of which is so conspicuous as to have received unstinted praise from more than one distinguished foreigner. Of the two systems the latter is clearly the better, as well in point of comfort as of health. The more complete the divorcement between business and the family the better. Builders should keep this fact in view, and not seek to check the impulse that is fast peopling the country districts.

BEARS SET THE PACE.

They Manipulate Stocks to Suit Their Own Particular Views.

NEW YORK, January 4.—The Stock market again showed evidence of the apathy or timidity of the advocates of higher prices, and while fairly active was somewhat feverish. The interest in the speculation was confined throughout to a few of the leading shares which contributed over three-fourths of the entire business done. The bears, as usual of late, had the making of quotations almost entirely in their own hands, and the operations of the day were nearly all for the purpose of covering a line of shorts by some of the most influential operators on the bear side.

First prices were firm at slight advances over last night's figures, and some slight further improvement was made in the early trading. The list was soon brought down to a shade below the opening, though Jersey Central continued on its upward course, but it was not until after 11 o'clock that positive weakness was developed, when Lackawanna took the lead in the decline. Missouri Pacific, Northwestern and St. Paul afterward joined, and prices were at their lowest at about 12:30. From that time there was a steady improvement in values, and Union Pacific became more prominent in the movement. It was followed by all the rest, and the market finally closed quiet but firm generally at about the best figures of the day. Very few final declines were recorded, but the advances are confined to fractional amounts only.

Railroad bonds were quiet, the sales of all issues reaching only $1,196,000, out of which the Green Bay incomes furnished $129,000. The latter were the first to feel the influence of their extreme weakness, and from 24¾ last evening they fell to 18, a loss of 6 per cent. The Denver and Rio Grande Western firsts were the only other marked feature, but they were very quiet and positively weak, the latter scored an advance of 5%. The marked advances compromise Northwestern coupon gold bonds 2¼, to 132, and Houston and Texas firsts 2¼, to 108¼.

Mining quotations: Amador, 175; Bodie, 175; Caledonia, $3; Homestake, 1150; Iron Silver, $3; Mutual, 125; North Belle Isle, $2; Ontario, 3250; Plymouth, $3.

The following table shows the prices of active stocks on the New York Stock Exchange. Corrected daily for THE DISPATCH by Whitney & Stephenson, members of New York Stock Exchange, 57 Fourth avenue:

Stock Exchange.	Open-ing.	High-est.	Low-est.	Clos-ing.
Am. Cotton Oil	35½	35½	35	35½
Atch., Top. & S. F.	55¼	55⅝	55	55⅝
Canada Southern	52	52½	52	52½
Central of New Jersey	98½	99¼	98½	98⅝
Central Pacific	35½	....	....	35½
C., Bur. & Quincy	108⅝	108	108	108½
C., Mil. & St. Paul	63	63¼	62⅝	62⅝
C., Mil. & St. P., pf	103½	103½	103	102¾
C., Rock I. & P.	97	97¼	96¾	97¼
C., St. L. & Pitts.	....	....	....	14½
C., St. P., M. & O.	....	....	....	26
C., St. P., M. & O., pf	81	81	81	81
C., St. P., M. & O., pf.	90½	90½	90½	90½
C. & Northwestern	106⅝	107⅛	106⅝	107¼
C. & N. W., pf.	....	....	....	140¼
C. C. C. & I.	56½	56½	55½	56
Col., Coal & Iron	29¾	30	29¾	30
Col. & Hocking Val.	....	....	....	25
Del., L. & W.	141⅝	141⅝	140½	140½
Del. & Hudson	132½	132½	131	131½
E. T., Va. & Ga.	9	9	9	9
E. T., Va. & Ga., 1st pf	66½	66½	65	65
E. T., Va. & Ga. 2d pf.	....	....	....	21½
Illinois Central	....	....	....	114½
Lake Erie & Western	16½	16½	16½	16½
Lake Erie & West. pf.	81⅝	81⅝	81½	81½
Lake Shore & M. S.	103½	103½	102⅝	103½
Louisville & Nashville	56⅝	56⅝	56¼	56⅝
Michigan Central	86⅝	86½	86⅝	86⅝
Mobile & Ohio	....	....	....	8
Mo., K. & Texas	13½	....	....	13¾
Missouri Pacific	72	72½	70¾	71⅛
New York Central	107⅝	107⅝	107⅝	107⅝
N. Y., L. E. & W.	27	27½	26⅞	27
N. Y., L. E. & W. pref	61¼	61½	61	61
N. Y., P. & N.	....	....	....	17
N. Y., C. & St. L., pf.	68	68	68	67½
N. Y., C. & St. L. 2d pf	....	....	....	37½
N. Y. & N. E.	42⅝	44	42⅝	43½
N. Y., O. & W.	15	15	15	15
Norfolk & Western	....	....	....	16½
Norfolk & Western, pf	50⅝	50½	50⅝	50½
Northern Pacific	....	....	....	23¾