COMMERCIAL NOTES.

Some Defects in Commercial Methods of Our Merchants,

WHICH HURT IN TIMES OF PLENTY.

Trade Features of Interest Concerning Cheese, Butter,

POULTRY, HOGS AND PROVISIONS

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURG DISPATCH, MONDAY, January 14, 1889.

One of our leading commission merchants opened up on the commercial situation today thus wise: "I don't know whether there is any other great center of trade in the land where markets are so easily broken by a big run of stuff as our own. The great trouble with Pittsburg jobbers is that they will not unite for their own interests. It seems to be every man for himself, and a natural sequence of this business principle when markets are overstocked, as they have been of late, is that it is the devil for us all. Tradesmen here are so jealous of each other that it has been thus far impossible to effect any mutual protective combination which would enable us to tide over such a condition of things as we are now having in commercial lines. There are always merchants here who, when stuff accumulates as it has been doing of late, are ready to throw their products on the markets, so as to demoralize trade. I believe our city to be one of the worst points of trade in the land in this respect. By reason of the business methods of many trades people here we do not, as other cities do, reap the benefit of any advance in prices, and at the same time are sure to experience to the full any drop in markets. Our business methods are certainly capable of large improvement before we attain the standard of other great commercial centers."

CHEESE REMAINS FIRM.

It is a pleasure to note in the midst of such depressed produce markets as we are having some lines which do not share in the general demoralization.

With all the downward drift in most lines since the beginning of the year, cheese has continued firm and cannot continue much longer in its firm state without an advance in price.

Though not quotably higher, advices from New York point to a rise in the near future. The visible supply of cheese is more than 100,000 boxes short of this time a year ago. Poultry, too, has held up well, when the glut in other farmers' products is taken into consideration. Choice nearby poultry is in good demand at outside quotations. The same is true of choice country butter. With all the fluctuations of creamery butter and common country rolls the past two months, fancy country rolls have changed very little, except to go up higher. A Liberty street commission merchant to-day expressed the belief that not more than one-tenth of that which now passed for butter could, in the largest charity, be called the genuine product of cow's milk. Those who bring the genuine to market have no trouble securing outside prices for their commodity. The millions are consuming alleged butter, and are in blissful ignorance of the fact that a very small proportion of what they spread on their biscuits comes from cow's cream.

HOGS AND PROVISIONS.

Receipts of hogs at Chicago to-day were 28,000 head. The range of prices was $5 15@5 20. At East Liberty the range is $5 15@6 00, which is about the same price as Saturday.

The following statement of the hog and provision situation was received to-day by one of our large packing firms from a Chicago house: "Receipts of hogs the past week were 114,686 and 22,612 shipped. For the corresponding week a year ago receipts were 144,493 and shipments 46,449. Our estimate of receipts for the coming week is 120,000 head. Quality continues good and weights heavy. Mixed and packers' hogs are about 10c higher than a week ago, and 30@50c lower than this time last year.

"Packing to date at Chicago 963,000, against 1,242,000 for the same time last year. Provisions are firmer in sympathy with a stronger market for hogs. Cable quotations indicate an advance on hams and lard. Statistics point to higher prices. A lowering of values is hardly possible. Already there is a ½c advance on medium and light weight hams. Arguments favorable to the short side have been discounted and doubtless can now have little effect. The only thing that come to the aid of shorts is a larger run of hogs than any of us have figured on, a condition not at all probable."

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

Wheat Breaks Under Speculative Offerings —Corn and Oats Quiet—Pork Gives Way, but Regains the Loss—Lard Unsettled and Short Ribs Weak.

CHICAGO—A large business was transacted in wheat to-day and prices again touched a lower point, reaching below the dollar mark for May. The decline was solely the result of realizing on "long" wheat. The opening was a little stronger, and prices early in the session were advanced ⅞c above the closing figures of Saturday, due to rather free covering of shorts and possibly the buying of some long wheat in expectation of a reaction. But the speculative offerings continued heavy, and when the most urgent demands were supplied a weak feeling set in. There evidently is a lack of confidence influenced by the recently developed weakness in the market, and operators are afraid of more long wheat coming on the market. The result of the heavy offerings was a decline of 2¾c from the top figures reached early in the morning, which decline was followed by ⅝c advance, and the closing was quiet and 1½c lower than Saturday.

Corn ruled quiet most of the session. The feeling developed was weaker, and this was attributed largely to the large increase in the visible supply. The opening was about the same as the closing prices of Saturday, but the market ruled steady for a time, but soon sold off ¼c when the visible became known, ruled steady and closed ¼@¾c lower than Saturday.

Speculative trading in May oats was fair, but in near futures exceedingly light. Shorts took advantage of liberal offerings, but prices declined ¼@⅜c, the market closing quiet and easy.

A very brisk trade was reported in mess pork, and prices ruled irregular. Opening sales were made at 10c decline, and then a slight rally of 2½@5c occurred. Later the market weakened, and prices receded 30@35c on the whole range. Year the close the market was steadier, and prices advanced 2½@5c, but closed rather quiet.

Quite an active speculative business was transacted in lard and the feeling was greatly unsettled. Prices opened 5@7½c lower, followed a further reaction of 17½@20c was submitted to. At the close the market was steadier and prices rallied slightly.

More was doing in short ribs and the feeling was weak and unsettled. Prices opened 2½@5c lower, and a further reduction of 10@12c was acceded to. Later the market was steadier and prices slightly advanced, the market closing quiet.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

WHEAT—No. 2, January, 98½@98⅞@94⅝@94⅝c; February, 97⅝@97⅞@95⅝@95⅞c; May, $1 01@1 01⅛@99⅝@99⅞c; July, 99⅝@99⅞c.

CORN—No. 2 January, 33½c; March, 35@34⅞c; May, 36⅛@36⅜@35⅝@35⅞c.

OATS—No. 2 January, 24½c; February, 24½c; May, 27⅞@27⅝@27⅝@27⅝c.

MESS PORK, per bbl—January, $12 90; March, $13 30@13 35@13 00@13 00; May, $13 82½@13 87½@13 72½.

LARD per 100 lbs—January, $7 20@7 22½; $7 02½@7 02½; March, $7 30@7 32½@7 12½; May, $7 45@7 45@7 25@7 25.

SHORT RIBS, per 100 lbs—January, $6 77½@6 77½@6 75@6 75; March, $6 95@6 95@6 80@6 80; May, $7 05@7 05@6 90@6 90.

Cash quotations were as follows: Flour, weaker, with some sales 10c lower. No. 2 spring wheat, 94½@95½c; No. 3 spring wheat, 89@90c; No. 2 red, 98½@99c. No. 2 corn, 33½@33⅝c. No. 2 oats, 24½@24½c. No. 2 rye, 47@47½c. No. 2 barley, nominal. No. 1 flaxseed, $1 03½. Prime timothy seed, $1 55. Mess pork, per barrel, $13 00. Lard, per 100 lbs, $7 02½@7 05. Short ribs sides (loose), $6 75. Dry salted shoulders (boxed), $6 21@6 37½. Short clear sides (boxed), $7 25@7 37½. Sugars—cutloaf, 6@6⅝c; granulated, 5⅞c; standard "A," 5⅝c. Receipts—Flour, 9,000 barrels; wheat, 16,000 bushels; corn, 116,000 bushels; oats, 88,000 bushels; rye, 3,000 bushels; barley, 38,000 bushels. Shipments—Flour, 7,000 barrels; wheat, 7,000 bushels; corn, 60,000 bushels; oats, 90,000 bushels; rye, 3,000 bushels; barley, 34,000 bushels.

On the Produce Exchange to-day the butter market was neglected; fancy creamery, 22@26c; choice to fine, 20@22c; fine dairy, 16@19c; good to choice, 12½@14c. Eggs easy at 17c.

NEW YORK—Flour—Receipts, 24,126 packages; exports, 2,925 barrels, 5,426 sacks; market dull and heavy, 5@10c lower; sales, 12,150 barrels; low extras, $3 15@3 60; winter wheat, low grades, $3 15@3 60; fair to fancy, $3 65@5 75; patents, $5 00@6 00; Minnesota clear, $4 25@5 25; do straights, $4 75@5 25; do patents, $5 50@7 00; do rye mixtures, $4 25@5 15. Cornmeal in moderate demand and lower; yellow western, $2 6 @3 60. Wheat—Receipts, 550 bushels; exports, none; sales, 6,652,000 bushels futures, 8,000 bushels spot; spot market dull and heavy 2c lower; No. 2 red, 97@97⅝c, elevator; 98@98½c afloat; 97c@99⅝c f. o. b.; No. 3 red, 91½c; No. 1 red, $1 07; No. 1 white, $1 06; No. 2 Chicago, nominal; No. 1 hard, $1 03; options active, irregular and decidedly lower; opened at 1⅛c off, advanced 3¼@1c, fell 2@2¼c, and closed heavy at 2@2½c under Saturday's free selling by longs; January close 96⅝c; February, 97¼@96⅝c, closing at 97⅝c; March, 98⅝c @81 00⅝, closing at 98⅝c; May, $1 01¼@1 00⅝, closing at $1 01⅝; June, $1 01@1 00, closing at $1 01; July, 97¼@97⅜c, closing at 97⅜c; August, 93⅞@96c, closing at 93⅞c; December, 95⅞ @98c, closing at 96c. Stocks of grain in store and afloat January 12, 1889: Wheat, 9,932,013 bushels; corn, 3,721,574 bushels; oats, 2,071,407 bushels; rye, 141,820; barley, 250,769 bushels; malt, 157,777 bushels; peas, 36,273 bushels. Barley dull. Barley malt steady. Corn—Receipts, 328,774 bushels; exports, 18,362 bushels; sales, 608,000 bushels; futures, 235,000 bushels spot; spot market fairly active, weak and a trifle lower; No. 2 46½c; No. 3, elevator, 45½c afloat; No. 2 white, 45c; No. 3, 38½ @39½c; ungraded mixed, 39@45c; steamer mixed, 40½@42½c; options fairly active and weak; ½c lower; January, 44½c; February, 44⅝@44⅞c, closing at 44⅝c; March, 45 1-16@ 45⅛c; April, 45¼c; May, 45@45⅛c, closing at 45⅛c. Oats—Receipts, 91,000 bushels; exports, 82 bushels; sales, 85,000 bushels futures, 103,000 bushels spot; spot market moderately active and firmer; options quiet and steady; January, 31c; February, 31⅛@31⅜c, closing at 31⅜c; May, 32½@32⅝c, closing at 32⅝c; spot No. 2 white, 34½c; mixed western, 28@32c; white do, 33@ 39½c; No. 2 Chicago, 32½c. Coffee—Options opened steady and nearly 5 points down and closed barely steady 5 points above Saturday; light business; sales, 42,250 bags, including January, 15.35@15.40c; February, March and April, 15.15@15.35c; May, 15.10@15.35c; May, 15.10@15.40c; June, 15.20@15.40c; July, 15.40c; August, 15.25@15.50c; September, 15.35@15.55c; October, 15.55@15.60c; December, 15.60c. Spot Rio dull but fair; cargoes, 17c. Sugar—Raw dull and nominal; refined quiet and steady. Molasses—Foreign nominal; 50 test, 21c; sale new crop Cuba, 22@28c; New Orleans quiet; open kettle, prime to choice, 35@ 45c. Rice quiet and firm. Eggs quiet; western, 18@18½c; receipts, 3,638 packages. Pork weak; old mess, $14@14 25; new mess, $14 25@ 14 50. Cutmeats dull; pickled hams, 10c; middles quiet; short clear, $7 37½. Lard depressed and much lower; western steam, $7 65@7 75, closing at $7 60; January, $7 65; February, $7 55 @7 62; closing at $7 50 asked; March, $7 58@7 63, closing at $7 52 asked; April, $7 55 asked; May, $7 56@7 59, closing at $7 56 bid; June, $7 58@7 73, closing at $7 58; August, $7 51; September, $7 66, closing at $7 61. Butter dull and weak; western dairy, 14@20c; do creamery, 17 @22c; Elgin, 28c. Cheese strong and more active; western, 11@11½c.

PHILADELPHIA—Flour—Demand light and market weak; Ohio and other Western clear, $4 75@5 00; do straight, $5 00@5 25; winter patent, fair to choice, $5 40@6 00; Minnesota clear, $4 25@5 00; do straight, $5 12½@5 85; do patent, $6 00@6 90. Wheat dull and lower. Ungraded on track, 98c; No. 2 red, January, 91c@94½c; February, 94½@94⅝c; March, 96@ 96½c; April, 97⅛@98½c; May, 99c@$1 00. Corn ruled steady under moderate offerings, but little or no speculation, and exporters holding off. No. 4 mixed on track and in elevator, 38c; steamer in export elevator, 38c; No. 2 low mixed in grain depot, 42c; No. 2 mixed, in export elevator, 41½c; No. 2 mixed, January, 41¼ @41½c; February, 41⅞@42c; March, 42@42¼c; April, 42⅝@42¾c; May, 43½@44c. Oats—Carlots steady but quiet; No. 3 white, 32½c; No. 2 white in elevator, 34½@35c; do in grain depot, 34½c; futures dull and ½@1¼c lower; No. 2 white, January, 33⅞@34c; February, 34¼@34½c; March, 34½@34⅝c; April, 34⅞@35c; May, 35¼@ 35½c. Provisions steady but quiet. Pork—Mess, new, $15 00@15 50; do prime mess new, $14 50; do family, $16 50@17 00; hams, smoked, 11½@12c. Lard, pure, 9¾@9⅞c. Butter, dull and weak; Pennsylvania creamery extra, 28c; prints extra, 30c. Eggs steady; Pennsylvania firsts, 19c. Cheese firm; part skims, 6@8c.

ST. LOUIS—Flour dull and unchanged. Wheat was unsettled and irregular until Chicago broke, when a decline set in from which there was but little recovery, and the close was ¾@1c below Saturday's. May and July were the only months traded in. No. 2 red, cash, 94c; May sold at 99⅛@99½c and closed at 97½@97⅝c; June, 94½c asked; July, 86⅛@87½c, closed at 86⅛c. Corn, dull but closed steady; No. 2, cash, 29⅝@ 29¾c; February, 29½@29¾c, May, 32⅜@32½c, closed at 32½c; July, 34c. Oats entirely neglected, there being no sales of No. 2 either for cash or futures. Rye, nothing done; No. 2, cash, 47c bid. May, 52c bid. Barley—No sales. Provisions dull and unsettled, with only job trade done. Pork, $13 50 f. o. b. Lard, 7c. Dry salt meats, small loose lots shoulders, $6 00; longs and ribs, $7 00; short clear, $7 25. Bacon, shoulders, $6 75; longs and ribs, $7 75@7 80; short clear, $7 95. Hams, $10 25@12 00.

CINCINNATI—Flour in light demand; family, $4 25@4 40; fancy, $4 65@4 80. Wheat firm; No. 2 red, 98c@$1 01; receipts, 1,500 bushels; shipments, none. Corn in fair demand and steady; No. 2 mixed, 35½c. Oats dull and weak; No. 2 mixed, 27½@28c. Rye dull; No. 2, 55½c. Pork quiet and barely steady at $13 50. Lard dull and lower at $7 60. Bulk meats dull; short rib, $7 00. Bacon steady; short clear, $8 50. Butter easy; fancy North-western, 28@30c; prime dairy roll, 12@15c. Sugar quiet; hard refined, 7¼@8c; New Orleans, 5¼@5¾c. Cheese firm; mild Ohio flat, 10½@11c.

BALTIMORE—Wheat—Western active and easier; No. 2 winter red, spot 93@93⅛c; February, 93⅛@93⅜c; March, 95⅛@95⅜c; April, 97c asked; May, 99c asked. Corn—Western steady and firm; mixed spot, 41½c; sales, February, 41⅛@41⅜c; March, 42@42⅛c; steamer, spot, 38c; No. 3, 36c. Oats quiet and steady; western, white, 32@33c; do mixed, 29@31c; graded, No. 2 white, 33c asked. Rye steady at 59@60c. Provisions firm and unchanged. Butter weak; western packed, 15@18c; best roll, 13@16c; creamery, 19@29c. Eggs firm at 16@17c. Coffee firm; Rio fair at 17½c.

MILWAUKEE—Flour lower. Wheat weak; cash, 86½c; February, 88c; May, 92½c. Corn dull; No. 3, 30½@31c. Oats dull; No. 2 white, 28 @28½c. Rye firm; No. 1, 48½c. Barley firm; No. 2, 69c. Provisions easy. Pork, $13 50. Lard, $7 87½. Cheese unchanged: cheddars, 10@10½c.

TOLEDO—Cloverseed steady; cash, $5 35; March, $5 40.

DIRECTORS NAMED.

Insurance and Railroad Corporations Have a Day at the Polls.

The banks elected directors last week. To-day the insurance companies and other corporations went through the same ordeal. The only contest worth noting was that of the City Insurance Company, where two tickets were in the field, the Gallery faction being successful in knocking out the old board. The Monongahela Incline Plane Company re-elected the old officers.

Insurance Companies.

ALLEGHENY—Charles Hays, James S. McCord, Geo. W. Cochran, C. G. Hussey, John Irwin, Jr., W. H. Everson, Joseph T. Speer, James W. Porter, James B. Oliver, Thomas H. Lane, John H. Neman, Jacob F. Slagle.

ARMENIA—S. S. D. Thompson, John D. Scully, A. S. M. Morgan, J. G. Walmwright, J. C. Lewis, John Heath, Wm. T. Dunn, James S. McCord, Andrew Miller, M. G. Clark, Edward O'Neil, Frank E. Heath, W. S. McKinney, I. N. Patterson, W. D. McGill, W. W. Speer, F. Gwinner, Jr., Henry Lenz, Joseph P. McIntire, John H. Stotz, F. H. Ittel.

ALLEMANIA—Joseph Abel, Charles F. Wells, William Steinmeyer, William J. Lewis, Christian Siebert, Peter Keil, John Daub, P. W. Siebert, Martin Lappe, W. A. Heyl, Josiah Cohen, E. H. Hoeh.

ARTISANS'—A. J. Barry, Abraham Garrison, John Dunlap, E. A. Myers, Jos. H. Borland, Sullivan Johnson, J. B. Jones, Jos. Meeds, D. McKee, E. Z. Smith, A. L. Bailey, J. J. Donnell, H. B. Smith.

BEN FRANKLIN—J. S. Slagle, Jas. McCutcheon, C. F. Ingham, J. F. Campbell, John A. Herman, Albert Pitcairn, F. D. Eshelman, Alfred Bungey, Fred Lang, Henry Buhl, Jr., John Ogden, J. W. Hall, Hay Walker, J. W. Craig, George D. Riddle.

BIRMINGHAM—John P. Schneider, Nic. Yorgo, Jacob Roth, Joseph Ploeger, Charles Melling, Charles Jutte, Adam Diehl, Barthel Erbe, John B. Lutz, Leonhard Kaufman, Fred. Schutte, William Ruske.

CASH—Robert H. King, James M. Bailey, Ebenezer Mcknight, Alexander King, James Gay, Jr., Smith, Alexander Bradley, James B. D. Meeds, William D. King, Adam M. Brown, James H. Willock, Frank E. Moore, Lewis Irwin.

BOATMAN'S FIRE AND MARINE—O. P. Scaife, James Rees, Edward Gregg, Robert Monroe, John G. Holmes, John A. Caughey, E. A. Myers, D. McK. Lloyd, Thomas P. Day, H. L. Mason, A. D. Smith, D. Z. Brickell.

GERMAN AMERICAN—G. H. Meyer, H. H. Niemann, J. A. Kaercher, Edwin Bindley, H. R. Gellfiss, Otto Helmold, P. C. Schoeneck, W. J. Ruch, John Aufderheide, J. G. Klauss, James Meinzinger, Henry Gerwig.

MANUFACTURERS AND MERCHANTS—C. W. Batchelor, John W. Chalfant, A. E. W. Painter, Robert Lea, M. W. Watson, John Wilson, Joseph Walton, Wm. G. Park, A. M. Byers, James J. Donnell, George K. Painter, John Thompson.

NATIONAL—S. S. Boyle, John Thompson, John A. Myler, Edward Groetzinger, James Richey, Jr., John Porterfield, Gottlieb Eisenbeis, Herman Handel, W. S. Huselton, Joseph McNaugher, Charles F. Stifel, Charles P. Lockhart.

PEOPLES—James Herdman, William Van Kirk, C. B. Shea, John Farrell, John F. Dravo, J. B. D. Meeds, James J. Donnell, W. L. Van Kirk, Duncan Horne, Charles C. Scaife, Samuel Hamilton, G. M. Alexander.

TECTONIA—Henry Gerwig, G. Fass, N. H. Voegtly, F. H. Eggers, John H. Lotz, J. Mutzig, Henry Blumhage, William Riemensnyder, J. H. Hespenheide, Gregor Meyer, Augustus Beckert, S. G. Mellinger, William Guckert, Charles Kellner, John G. Walther.

UNION—A. W. Mellon, A. G. Cubbage, J. T. Colvin, Geter C. Stidle, John R. Dunlevy, H. C. Frick, George Ogden, Charles B. McLean, Charles Lockhart, Thomas Walker, Charles H. Fenderich, J. C. Lappe.

BUNDESBOLD—P. T. Urling, John Seilling, Henry Landgraff, Fren Gwinner, Simon Brahm, E. Hoeveler, Henry Temme, James P. McKinney, James A. Verner, Edward Fried, John Berger, C. Steffen, A. H. Trimble.

CITY INSURANCE—James Phelan, William Barker, Edward Kelly, Jr., James Callery, Michael Munhall, Charles Jutte, A. V. D. Walterson, Charles Maginn, J. C. Reilly, Henry Phipps, Jr., G. W. Schmidt, Edwin Bindley, C. O'Donnell.

Railroads and Banks.

THE EVERGREEN RAILWAY COMPANY—James Callery, President; H. D. Campbell, Secretary and Treasurer; Directors—John W. Chalfant, Henry W. Oliver, Jr., William Semple, Allegheny; C. H. Coster, New York; Anthony J. Thomas, H. D. Campbell, Allegheny.

THE PITTSBURG AND NORTHERN RAILROAD COMPANY—James Callery, President; H. D. Campbell, Secretary and Treasurer. Directors—John W. Chalfant, Allegheny; C. H. Coster, Anthony J. Thomas, New York; Henry W. Oliver, Jr., William Semple, J. L. Kirk, Llewellyn Thomas, H. D. Campbell, Allegheny.

NATION'S BANK FOR SAVINGS—John A. Myler, F. D. Eshelman, R. C. Macferron, Joseph McNaugher, C. C. Boyle, Alfred Slack, William Riemensnyder, John A. Myers, John White.

Joseph S. Brown, A. C. Milliken and C. C. Dickey were elected directors of the People's Mutual Accident Association.

THE GAS CITY SAFE.

Chicago Unable to Lead in the Iron Manufacturing Industry.

A LEVEL-HEADED BROKER'S VIEWS

A Big Break in Oil After the Crafty Bulls Had Fixed Things to Suit Them.

LOCAL STOCKS AT HIGH WATER MARK

Charles Thompson, an iron broker doing business in Chicago, was circulating about town yesterday looking over the situation. In a brief interview on the outlook he expressed a very hopefull conviction. He said: "While trade is rather slack, it is far from discouraging. Everything indicates a revival. Manufacturers feel this in their bones, and are holding on to their stocks; at least, they are making no special efforts to effect sales. This is especially true of the furnacemen. Pig iron is bound to go up. Building operations will be on a large scale as soon as spring opens. This will make a big demand for structural iron and nails. In short, I regard the iron trade as in excellent shape."

Mr. Thompson was asked for his opinion on the relative advantages of Chicago and Pittsburg as iron-producing centers, and replied:

"The two cities are not rivals in the proper sense of the word. Each has advantages which no amount of discussion can affect. Chicago's proximity to the great Northwest, where most of the railroad building is going on, is an advantage to her in the matter of railroad rates. This is a big item on heavy freight, such as rails and ores. But even this advantage may be eliminated by the adjustment of tariffs to conform strictly to the inter-State commerce law. On the other hand, Pittsburg has natural gas and other facilities for manufacturing which are bound to keep her at the head of the iron business in this country. Her wares are encountered everywhere. Chicago is full of them. They are not only cheap, but equal to the best in the market. Then her river and railroad systems give her access to the South and Southwest, where she has practically a monopoly, and where she has nothing to fear from Chicago.

"The talk about Pittsburg taking a secondary place to Chicago or any other city as an iron center is simply nonsense. Nobody who knows anything about the business entertains such an idea. It is preposterous. As well try to deprive Connellsville of its pre-eminence in the coke business."

GAS STILL ON TOP.

Large flow of gas struck at about 2,200 feet in Proudfit well. Much excitement caused.

Other Oil Markets.

TITUSVILLE, January 14.—Opened, 86½c; highest, 87½c; lowest, 86c; closed, 86c.

OIL CITY, January 14.—Opened, 86⅝c; highest, 87½c; lowest, 86⅛c; closed, 86¼c.

BRADFORD, January 14.—Opened, 86½c; highest, 87c; lowest, 85⅞c; closed, 85⅞c.

NEW YORK, January 14.—Petroleum opened strong at 86⅝c, but after a slight advance in the early trading the market became weak and declined to 86c. A long period of dullness followed, and the market closed steady at 86⅛c. Sales, 859,000 barrels.

BUYERS OUT IN FORCE.

Real Estate Still Moving—Lovely Women Taking a Hand.

Several transactions of considerable magnitude took place in real estate circles yesterday. Inquirers were out in force looking over the situation, and dealers were kept busy answering questions and expatiating on the good qualities of their properties. A large number of the prospective buyers were women.

James W. Drape & Co. closed the sale of an interest in a manufacturing property in the city at $16,000. They also sold a brick house and lot, nine rooms, on Fulton street, city, lot 20x80 feet, for $4,100.

Black & Baird, 95 Fourth avenue, sold for J. L. Gloninger a new Queen Anne frame dwelling of eight rooms, finished attic and laundry, all conveniences, on Mariepoe avenue, Ben Venue place, with lot 50x120 feet, for $7,500.

W. A. Herron & Sons sold lot at Swissvale, Pennsylvania Railroad, 50x125 feet, for $750; also lot No. 394, Ruch plan, 22x100 feet, for $350. The same firm sold two lots on Stanton avenue, Eighteenth ward, in the Duncan plan, 20x100 feet, for $1,000 cash.

Samuel W. Black & Co., 99 Fourth avenue, sold to W. Connell for $4,350 cash a two-story six-room dwelling, with lot 20x107 feet, on the west side of Washington street, Seventh ward.

Samuel W. Black & Co., 99 Fourth avenue, sold to W. Connell for $4,250 cash, a two-story six-room brick dwelling, with lot 20x107 feet, on the west side of Washington street, Seventh ward.

HIGHER FIGURES.

A Better Feeling Takes Possession of Wall Street—Bonds Improving.

NEW YORK, January 14.—The stock market was more active to day than it has been for a long time, and its tone was decidedly strong, while there was no improvement in quotations except in a few of the specialties. There was a much better feeling in the street this morning, and most of the advocates of higher figures were very hopeful that the long-expected improvement would arrive this week. The foreigners had moderate buying orders in the market, and London figures were higher than our prices of Saturday.

The Grangers and Southwestern attracted most attention, but the business was very well distributed throughout the active list. There were many bull points upon New England afloat, and the stock was very prominent in the forenoon, but made no further gain after that time. Among the specialties Pullman became the feature of the day, and after a small decline rose rapidly above 5 per cent. Omaha and Consolidated Gas were also prominent for the strength displayed, and these stocks are alone this evening in showing marked advances.

The opening figures were from ¼@⅝c per cent higher than Saturday's prices generally. While trading was exceptional with a gain of 1 per cent, The market was very active but no further improvement was made in prices, and there was even a slight falling off in the early trading in most of the stocks dealt in. This was soon recovered, however, and toward noon more decided strength was developed. The final changes are almost all in the direction of higher figures, although they are for fractional amounts only, except in Pullman, which rose 4¼. Omaha 1⅝ and Consolidated Gas 1½.

Railroad bonds gave additional evidence of the improved feeling in securities to-day, being both more active and stronger than even for the past week. The total sales of all issues, which extended to an unusually large number, were $2,157,000, and the specially active bonds were Rock Island 6s, which contributed $238,000, the Reading 1st preferred incomes, $226,000, and the Reading general 4s, $267,000 to the day's total. The tone of the market was firm to strong throughout the day and many issues show marked advances.

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:

	Open-ing.	High-est.	Low-est.	Close-ing.
Am. Cotton Oil.	32¾	....	....	....
Atch., Top. & S. F.....	57	57⅛	56¼	56¼
Canada Southern.....	53¾	53¾	53¼	53¼
Central Pacific.....	32½	32½	32½	32½
C., Bur. & Quincy.....	111	111⅛	111⅛	110⅞
C., Mil. & St. Paul.....	65½	....	....	65⅜
C., Mil. & St. P., pf.....	104½	....	....	105½
C., Rock I. & P.....	100⅞	99¾	100⅛	100¼
C., St. L. & Pitts.....	15	....	....	15¼
C., St. P., M. & O.....	54½	54½	53¾	53¾
C., St. P., M. & O., pf.	94	94	94	94
C. & Northwestern.....	108¼	109	108¼	108⅞
C. & Northwestern, pf.	....	....	....	142½
C. C. C. & I.....	59	60⅛	59	60⅛
Col., Coal & Iron.....	30¼	31	30⅛	30⅛
Col. & Hocking Val ..	28	28¼	28	28¼
Del., L. & W.....	142¾	144	141¾	141¾
Del. & Hudson.....	133⅛	134⅛	133	133⅛
Denver & Rio G.....	....	....	....	16⅛
Denver & Rio G., pf...	42¾	....	....	43¾
E. T., V. & Ga.....	9⅛	9⅛	9	9⅛
E. T., Va. & Ga., 1st pf	....	....	....	66
E. T., Va. & Ga. 2d pf.	....	....	....	22¼
Illinois Central.....	116¾	116¾	116⅛	116
Lake Erie & Western..	16⅛	16⅛	16⅛	16⅛
Lake Erie & West. pf..	82¾	83⅛	82¾	83
Lake Shore & M. S.....	105¼	....	....	105¼
Louisville & Nashville.	57⅞	58	57⅞	58
Michigan Central.....	88¼	88⅝	88¼	88⅛
Mobile & Ohio.....	....	....	....	8⅛
Mo., K. & Texas.....	13⅞	14	13¾	13¾
Missouri Pacific.....	75½	75½	74⅞	75
New York Central.....	108⅛	108⅛	108⅛	108⅛
N. Y., L. E. & W.....	28⅝	28⅝	....	....
N. Y., L. E. & W. pref	64¼	65	64¼	....
N. Y., C. & St. L.....	18¼	....	....	18¼
N. Y., Chi. & St. L.....	70¼	70	70	70¼
N. Y., C. & St. L., 2d pf	....	....	....	40
N. Y. & N. E.....	44½	45⅛	44½	45⅛
N. Y., O. & W.....	15⅛	15⅛	15⅛	15⅛
Norfolk & Western.....	....	....	....	16½
Norfolk & Western, pf	51⅝	51⅝	51⅝	51⅝
Northern Pacific.....	26	....	....	25⅞
Northern Pacific, pref.	60⅞	60⅞	60⅞	60⅞
Ohio & Mississippi.....	22⅛	22⅛	22⅛	22⅛
Oregon Improvement.	71⅛	72	71⅛	71⅞
Oregon Transcon.....	31⅞	31⅞	31⅛	31¼
Pacific Mail.....	37	37¼	37	37
Peo. Dec. & Evans.....	24	....	....	24
Phila. & Reading.....	49¼	49¼	49¼	49¼
Pullman Palace Car...	179¼	178	179	....
Richmond & W. P. T...	25⅝	24⅞	25	....
Richmond & W.P.T.,pf	79	....	....	79½
St. Paul & Duluth.....	40¼	....	....	39
St. Paul & Duluth, pf.	....	....	....	94
St. P., Minn. & Man..	103	....	....	102¼
St. L. & San Fran.....	....	....	....	20¼
St. L. & San Fran pf..	66⅛	66⅛	65⅞	66⅛
St. L. & San F. 1st pf.	....	....	....	112½
Texas Pacific.....	22¼	23	22¼	22¾
Union Pacific.....	64⅞	65⅛	64⅞	65⅛
Wabash.....	....	....	....	13¼
Wabash preferred.....	25¼	25¼	25¼	25¼
Western Union.....	84⅞	85¼	84⅞	85⅛
Wheeling & L. E.....	60⅞	61⅛	60⅞	60⅞

Philadelphia Stocks.

Closing quotations of Philadelphia stocks, furnished by Whitney & Stephenson, brokers, No. 57 Fourth avenue. Members New York Stock Exchange.

	Bid.	Asked.
Pennsylvania Railroad.....	....	....
Reading Railroad.....	24 12-16	24⅞
Lehigh Valley.....	54⅞	55
Lehigh Navigation.....	41⅛	41⅞
Philadelphia and Erie.....	31⅛	....
Allegheny Valley bonds.....	112¼	....

Mining Stocks.

NEW YORK, January 14.—Amador, 175; Caledonia, 88; Consolidated California and Virginia, 787; Commonwealth, 420; Deadwood, 165; Homestake, 12; Plymouth, 88; Silver King, 81.

Business Notes.

THERE were several bids between calls yesterday for La Noria.

EVERYBODY wanted bank stocks yesterday, but only two or three were accommodated.

A. C. ROBINSON has been elected a member of the Exchange. James W. Drape has withdrawn, having transferred his stock.

AMONG the interested persons at the afternoon call at the Stock Exchange yesterday was a Pine township farmer. He invested a few hundreds in gas shares.

SEVERAL of the members of the committee who went East in the interest of the proposed Real Estate Exchange have returned. They report that their observations were altogether favorable. The plan works well at all points visited. They are confident it will succeed here.

ATTENTION is called to the partnership notice of George A. Kelly & Co. in the advertising department. They are proprietors of one of the oldest wholesale drug houses in the city, dating as far back as 1829. The fresh energy just taken in cannot but prove a valuable acquisition. They handle everything in their line, and it is all of approved quality.

Grain in Sight.

CHICAGO, January 14—The visible supply of grain compared with that of one week ago, as reported by the Board of Trade, is as follows: Wheat, 37,498,000 bushels; decrease, 425,000 bushels. Corn, 11,842,000 bushels; increase, 1,701,000 bushels. Oats, 8,834,000 bushels; decrease, 188,000 bushels. Rye, 11,687,000 bushels; increase, 21,000 bushels. Barley, 2,610,000 bushels; decrease, 159,000 bushels.

Metal Market.

NEW YORK, January 14.—Pig iron steady. Copper nominal; Lake, January, $17 35. Lead quiet and firm; domestic, $3 87½. Tin heavy; Straits, $21 70.

MONEY EASY.

The Clearing House Business Up to High Water Mark.

The bulk of the January settlements having been adjusted, the money market rules easier with an adequate supply for all legitimate purposes. The influx of cash from the country is adding considerably to the reserve surplus. The outflow is small. Counter business yesterday was fairly quiet. Borrowing rates were steady at 6@7, according to the nature of the collateral, with exceptions at 5. Clearing House business was up to high-water mark, the exchanges being $2,251,121 38, and the balances $319,263 15.

Money on call at New York yesterday was easy at 2½ to 3 per cent, last loan 3, closed offered at 2½ per cent. Prime mercantile paper, 4½@5c. Sterling exchange was quiet but steady with actual business at $4 85½ for 60 day bills and $4 88½ for demand.

Bonds closed in New York yesterday as follows: U. S. 4s, registered, 126⅝; U. S. 4s, coupon, 126⅝; U. S. 4½s, registered, 108½; U. S. 4½s, coupon, 108½; Pacific 6s of '95, 119.

NEW YORK—Clearings, $80,406,385; balances, $4,960,316.

BOSTON—Clearings, $16,988,438; balances, $1,938,393. Money, 2½ per cent.

BALTIMORE—Clearings, $2,465,765; balances, $397,896.

PHILADELPHIA—Clearings, $9,507,958; balances, $1,553,794.

CHICAGO—Money easy at 6@8 per cent. Bank clearings, $11,707,000.

A GOOD OPENING.

Oil Starts Off With a Boom, but Soon Lets Go.

Oil started off with a boom yesterday at 86⅝c, ⅛c higher than on Saturday. There was good beginning during the first two hours, Pinkerton taking several big blocks. This encouraged the boys, and there was quite a tussle between the bulls and the bears, the former having the best of the fight for a brief period, the quotation shooting up to 87½c, which was high-water mark for the day. Support was then withdrawn and