

FEATURES OF TRADE.

A Survey of Live Stock Transactions at Herr's Island.

CATTLE HIGHER THAN LAST WEEK.

Supply of Sheep and Lambs Light—Heavy Hogs Move Slowly.

AN AKRON MILLER INTERVIEWED.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH DISPATCH, 1300 N. 10th St., February 4, 1889.

The number of cattle received this week is 30 loads, against 31 last week and 29 the week before.

In the receipts were five or six cars of heavy stock, weighing about 1,000 pounds.

The balance ranged from 1,100 to 1,400 lbs. Drives were in an advance of two or three weeks ago.

The grade showed a good average as compared with several weeks back and a decided improvement on supplies of a month ago.

Heavy cattle, weighing from 1,300 to 1,600, ranged in price from \$5 to \$5.25.

A very few of these, which were mostly from Iowa as to the range of prices for bulls was \$2.25 to \$3.

Several calves were in better supply than for several weeks past, but prices held up well, with range from \$2 to \$2.50.

Sheep and Lambs.

Supplies numbered 800 head, the same as a week ago and less than two weeks ago.

Demand for fully equal supply and an advance of two or three weeks past.

Some dealers report a shade higher prices than last week, but the market was not so active.

The range of prices for sheep was \$2.50 to \$3.50 and for lambs \$2 to \$2.50.

Hogs.

Receipts of hogs were 600, the same number as last Monday, and for three or four previous Mondays.

Prices were \$4 to \$4.25, the best of the week, and what situation were given as follows:

Heavy hogs, weighing from 250 to 300 lbs., ranged in price from \$4 to \$4.25.

Medium hogs, weighing from 200 to 250 lbs., ranged in price from \$3.50 to \$4.

Light hogs, weighing from 150 to 200 lbs., ranged in price from \$3 to \$3.50.

Lambs, weighing from 50 to 100 lbs., ranged in price from \$2 to \$2.50.

The situation.

J. J. Whelan, who represents a large flouring mill firm of Akron, O., was one of the visitors to the Grain Exchange today.

His views of the flour and wheat situation were given as follows:

"The market for flour is not so active as it was some time ago, but it is not so dull as it has been since January."

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MARKETS BY WIRE.

Wheat Unsettled but Close Fractionally Higher—Corn and Oats Lower—Pork and Lard Firm—Hemp and Flax—Ground and Fish—Lard Steady.

CHICAGO—Trading in wheat to-day was light and the market quiet during most of the early session, with more doing later.

The feeling here, however, was firm, and an apparently strong undertone existed.

There was especially no need to be brought to light, but one thing noticeable was that there was less pressure to sell or fight the advancing prices.

There was good steady buying. The opening was 1/4¢ higher than Saturday's, and 1/2¢ higher than Friday's.

There was a rumor about wheat in California being advanced, but on account of no news of damage to the crop or amount of too dry weather.

Corn was very quiet and fluctuations were narrow, being confined to 1/4¢ range.

The feeling developed was easier, due largely to prospective larger receipts.

Oats were more active during the latter part of the session, but the feeling was easy and prices declined a shade.

A moderately active trade was reported in meat pork, but the market was unsettled.

Prices were fair early and prices opened daily 1/4¢ lower than the closing figures Saturday.

Followed by a further reduction of 1/4¢ during the middle of the session, but prices were not improved and prices rallied 1/4¢ to close.

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A BIG FLOUR SCARE.

Wild Predictions of Fifteen Dollars a Barrel Next Winter.

PROMPTLY KNOKED ON THE HEAD.

Salt Water Reported to be Troubling Some of the Lima Oil Producers.

ONE VERY QUIET DAY ON 'CHANGE.

Baltimoreans were considerably agitated on Saturday over a report that flour will be \$15 a barrel next winter.

The report could not be traced to an authoritative source, but it found many believers and had some effect on 'Change.

The attention of a Liberty street dealer was called to the matter yesterday.

He pronounced it preposterous, and added that there is nothing to warrant such a prediction.

It was probably put out by a bull clique as a feeler preparatory to an attempt to corner the market, and most probably originated in Chicago.

The conditions for flour here will, I will gladly enter into a contract to supply every family in Pittsburgh with flour next winter at \$15 a barrel, and be glad of the chance to get such a price."

The attention of Mr. Wigley, local manager of Dun & Co.'s Commercial Agency, was called to the report.

"It is only a scare," he remarked. "There is nothing in it. With a large wheat surplus in the country the talk of \$15 flour is ridiculous."

That would practically mean a famine, and flour would require more than one year's failure of the wheat crop to bring about. Indeed, there could be no such thing without a failure of the crop all over the world.

Local crop conditions are not so favorable as they were some time ago, but they have very little significance with our system of rapid transportation.

A shortage in one place can soon be made good by the excess in another. The wheat crop of the West, from Washington Territory, Oregon and California to the Atlantic seaboard or the Gulf coast, supplies enough to supply the entire country.

Supplies would reach the people long before the wheat crop of the West was harvested. It is only a scare, and it is not to be taken seriously.

"It is too early to say much about it. There has been very little snow so far in any part of the country, and it is not likely that the weather has generally prevailed, which has kept wheat from freezing.

Reports so far as received show that it stands well, and promises a good crop. It is not likely that conditions may change for better or worse; but I can see nothing in the situation to cause alarm."

Several grain commission men were approached, and they all agreed that there was nothing in the report.

Nothing of the kind, and thought it was a par with Gulliver's travels, Simbad the Sailor and other similar creations of the imagination.

Wheat was almost a flat failure. Flour went up almost out of sight. Supplies could not be obtained from abroad in time to relieve the distress.

But this could not happen now. It could draw upon Russia, India, Egypt and all other wheat producing countries. Steam has made famine practically impossible in any part of the civilized world.

It could not happen without a total failure everywhere."

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