BETTER THAN EVER.

The Close of the Year Finds Real Estate in Excellent Shape.

TRACES OF A LOST SYNDICATE.

Advantages and Disadvantages of a Real Estate Exchange Pointed Out.

THE NEWS AND GOSSIP OF THE CITY

The real estate market is in a better condition than ever before at the close of a year. There is more business, and values are stiffer. Small properties are moving right along. Nearly 400 building lots have been sold by five firms within two months. It is difficult to close up large transactions so near the switching season. Still, brokers having them on hand report progress in most cases, and think they will eventually go through. In a short time several new and desirable plans of lots will be put on the market, which will no doubt stir up business. The outlook for the new year is full of promise.

* * *

Both Sides of the Question.

One of the strongest objections to a real estate Exchange is that by putting brokers on a footing of equality with the public it destroys their personality, which is often better than cash capital, and undermines office business by sellers and buyers getting into the habit of relying entirely upon the public mart. The exchange or auction system makes it possible for the curbstone broker to do as much business as he who maintains a handsome office and employs a large clerical force. This would be disadvantageous to brokers of established reputation. Besides, capital and experience being minor considerations under the exchange or auction plan, it would inevitably lead to a large increase in the number of brokers, which would be detrimental to the business. True, this could be regulated to some extent, but when men of good character applied for admission they would have friends enough to pull them through. The exchange system has some advantages, however, among them that of bringing sellers and buyers together and expediting business.

This is an important matter, affecting the leading interest of the city, and now that it is being talked over again it is well enough to look at it from all sides before coming to a decision to break away from the present plan of doing business.

* * *

Operating in a New Field.

It would be interesting to know what became of the syndicate formed last spring to buy up property on Ohio street. It was heard of occasionally during the summer, but since then it seems to have dropped out of sight and sound altogether. There is some reason to believe that it has transferred its base of operations to the Tenth ward, along the line of the proposed California avenue electric road, in expectation of a boom there the coming year. Considerable property has changed hands in that locality within a short time, particulars of which were withheld; and this is the basis for the conjecture that the Ohio street syndicate has switched off to that promising territory.

* * *

Business News and Gossip.

Real estate brokers were busy yesterday figuring up their profits for the year and planning trips to Europe next summer.

A block of lots in the upper part of Edgewood is about to change hands. The prospective purchaser wants them for improvement.

Houses at Wilkinsburg are rented long before they are finished. Several that will not be ready for occupancy before April were engaged before the foundations were finished.

There has been quite a drop in mortgages within the past few weeks. Only 19 were on file yesterday, the largest being for $9,000.

As showing that money is getting easier, a prominent attorney, who deals extensively in mortgages, said yesterday that he was well supplied with funds, whereas two weeks ago he had none.

Arrangements are being made to put the Richmond property on the market. Its purchase by a syndicate was noted at the time.

Stock transfer books of the Pittsburg, Allegheny and Manchester Traction Company are closed until Friday next, January 2.

The First National Bank, of Sewickley, is doing so well that it will probably be provided with a building of its own before 1891 rolls away.

The improvement in speculation should convince the most skeptical that the financial sun again shines for all.

Cashier Kelly, of the Braddock National Bank, reports a satisfactory business in that borough. Bank deposits are larger than at the close of any previous year.

An office of $900 a foot for a piece of North avenue, Allegheny, property has been refused.

The Building Record.

There was quite a spurt at the Building Inspector's office yesterday. Five permits were issued for 15 houses. The list follows:

Charles W. Sargent, six brick three-story dwellings, 16x33 feet, each on Penn avenue, Fifteenth ward. Cost, $9,700 for all.

Mrs. Elizabeth Sullivan, frame addition two-story dwelling, 18x31 feet, on Second avenue, Twenty-third ward. Cost, $600.

N. H. Brady, six frame two-story and attic dwellings, 12x30 feet each, on Kansas street, Twenty-third ward. Cost, $3,500.

J. J. Blanck, frame two-story dwelling, 20x30 feet, on Penn avenue, Twentieth ward. Cost, $2,000.

J. L. Kane, frame two-story store and dwelling, 20x65 feet, on Butte street, Eighteenth ward. Cost, $2,500.

* * *

Movements in Realty.

J. E. Glass & Co. sold to I. A. Aaron for A. C. Watkins one of those new two-story frame dwellings on Parker street, East End, for $4,800.

Black & Baird sold to John P. Mulligan for Mrs. Harrett Harbridge a small frame house on Tioga street, Homewood, with lot 25x100, for $500.

James W. Drape & Co. sold a house and lot on Boyle street, Allegheny, for $4,900 cash.

HOME SECURITIES.

Trading Starts Off With a Boom, While Values Move Up.

There was more life in the stock market yesterday than for some time before. Orders appeared to be plenty and bidding was brisk. As a consequence values were stronger, nearly everything on the active list improving its standing. Total sales were 730 shares.

The opinion that bottom prices have been reached seems to have made such an impression upon investors that they are flocking in before things get away from them. This action on their part shows conclusively that monetary conditions are improving. Everything points to a continuation of the upward movement; but, at the same time, it should not be forgotten that appearances are often misleading.

	First Call, B	First Call, A	Second Call, B	Second Call, A	Third Call, B	Third Call, A
Monon. N. Bank	....	....	127	....	127	....
Union National	....	....	....	....	430	....
Allegheny Heat.	....	....	85	....	....	....
Chartiers V Gas	10	....	....	10	....	....
Manufact's Gas	21	....	....	....	22	....
N. G. Co. W. Va.	65	....	....	....	....	....
Ohio Valley	20	....	....	....	....	....
Penna. Gas	....	11	....	11	....	....
Pittsburg Gas	12¾	14	12¾	12¾	13¼	14
Wheeling Gas Co	14¼	14¼	....	....	....	14½
Columbia Oil, Co	2	3	2½	3	....	....
West. Ath Co	....	....	10	....	....	....
Central Traction	19½	20	....	19½	19¼	....
Citizens' Trac'n	56½	....	56½	....	....	....
Consol. Traction	24½	25	24½	24½	24½	24½
N. Y. & C. G. C. O	....	....	25	....	....	....
Consignee Min'g	....	....	20	....	20	....
Lester Mining	18	20	18	....	18½	20
Westinghouse E.	13	13¼	13	13¼	13½	13¾
Monon. W. Co.	28	....	28½	....	....	....
U. S. & S. Co.	10½	....	10½	12	11	....
Westinghouse A P	....	195	....	....	....	....
West. H. Co. Lim	....	70	....	....	....	....
P. Cycle. Co.	....	....	....	....	....	5½

*Ex-dividend

At first call 80 shares of Philadelphia Gas sold at 13, 110 at 13⅞, 50 Electric at 13¾, 255 at 13 and 100 Luster at 18. There was no business at second call. At third 50 Electric brought 13, 5 13¾, 5 Central Traction 19¾, 10 19½, 10 19¾ and 75 Philadelphia Gas 12⅞.

MONEY MARKET.

The Needful Still Working in the Direction of Greater Ease.

The week opened auspiciously at the banks yesterday. All the changes noted were in the right direction. That there was more confidence was shown in the greater liberality with which discounts were made. A bank officer remarked that if the improvement continued the middle of January would see money as plentiful as at any time within a year.

The Clearing House did a good business, showing a large volume of checking, due to activity in nearly all lines of trade. Depositing was of generous proportions, indicating that merchants were busy. Clearings were $2,068,108 31, and balances $303,300 11.

Closing Bond Quotations.

U. S. 4s, reg	121½	M. K. & T. Gen. 5s	87
U. S. 4s, coup	122½	Mutual Union 6s	100
U. S. 4½s, reg	108¼	N. J. C. Int. Cert	108½
U. S. 4½s, coup	109¼	Northern Pac. 1st s	115
Pacific 6s of '95	109	Northern Pac. 2ds	109¾
Louisiana stamped 4s	92⅜	Northw'n consols	138
Missouri 6s	102	Norfolk & Western 5s	106
Tenn. new set. 6s	102⅜	Oregon & Trans. 6s	—
Tenn. new set. 5s	96½	Oregon Nav. 1st s	111⅞
Tenn. new set. 3s	69½	St. L. & S. F. Gen. M.	106¾
Canada So. 2ds	95	St. Paul consols	123
Central Pacific 1sts	110¾	St. P. Chi & Pc. 1sts	114
Den. & R. G. 1sts	115	Tex., Pac. L. G. Tr. Rs.	85
Den. & R. G. 4s	80¾	Tex. Pac. R. G. Tr. Rs.	30¾
D. & R. G. West 1sts	—	Union Pacific 1sts	111½
Erie 2ds	96	West Shore	100
M. K. & T. Gen. 6s	74		

NEW YORK—Bank clearings to-day, $67,965,342; balances, $3,396,792.

BOSTON—Bank clearings to-day, $13,345,819; balances, $1,682,626. Money 2@3½ per cent. Exchange on New York 9@17c premium.

PHILADELPHIA—Bank clearings to-day, $9,325,686; balances, $1,862,820. Money 6 per cent.

BALTIMORE—Bank clearings to-day, $2,201,871; balances, $265,925. Rate, 6 per cent.

CHICAGO—Bank clearings were $12,805,895. New York exchange was 50c premium. Money was steady at 7 per cent for all classes of loans.

ST. LOUIS—Clearings, $3,892,974; balances, $511,890. New York exchange 50 cents discount. Money—There was a less active demand at 7 per cent.

DULL AND STRONG.

Not Much Doing in Oil, but It Comes Higher —Bullish Conditions a Factor.

Bullish conditions appear to be counting for something in the oil market. This is something new of late. The opening price was 71, from which there was no deviation until the close, when ⅜ better was bid. This figure failed to uncover much of the commodity, however, and only two or three small sales were made. Pittsburg refined quotes showing a good demand at outside exchanges.

Average runs, 77,107; average shipments, 88,737; average charters, 18,088. Refined at Antwerp, 9.17f; at London, 5¼d; at Liverpool, 5½d; at Bremen, 6.40f; at New York, 7.35c; cases, 9.35c.

McGrew, Wilson & Co. quote puts 70⅞@70½c; calls, 73⅛@70½c.

Other Oil Markets.

BRADFORD, Dec. 29.—National Transit Certificates opened at 70½c; closed at 71⅝; highest, 72¼c; lowest, 70⅝c; clearances, 264,000 barrels.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Petroleum closed dull. Pennsylvania oil—Spot opening, 71⅞c; highest, 71⅞c; lowest, 71⅝c; closing at 71⅝c. January option: Opening, 71c; highest, 72c; lowest, 71c; closing, 71⅝c. Lima oil, no sales. Total sales, 79,000 barrels.

OIL CITY, Dec. 29.—National Transit Certificates opened at 70½c; highest, 71⅞c; lowest, 70½c; closed at 71⅝c. Sales, 188,000 barrels; clearances, 244,000 barrels; shipments, 114,528 barrels; run, 131,194 barrels. Carrying, 40@45c; dull but firm. Buckeye—No sales; runs, 105,350 barrels; shipments, 27,811 barrels.

NEW YORK STOCKS.

A Strong and Active Market, Traced Mainly to the Fact That Money Has Not Become So Stringent as Was Feared at the New Year.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—The stock market today presented a strange front when it has for the past week, and at the same time showed more activity than for several days. The improvement in the market may be traced to several causes, but chief among them is the fact that money has not become as stringent as was feared approaching the first of the new year, and while there was a firmer feeling in money for almost all the forenoon, the rate on call being run up to 8 per cent at one time, still it later declined to 2 per cent, and the easing of the rates was followed by more confident buying immediately. Many investors, anticipating the interest and dividends they will receive on January 1, are making purchases of dividend-paying stocks and good bonds, and these purchases were a power in the market to-day, inducing liberal covering of shorts, aided by buying for London account. The buying in Western Union, Wheeling and Lake Erie, St. Paul, Union Pacific, Rock Island, the Vanderbilts and the coal stocks was excellent, and among those shares some very material advances were scored, although the total of the day's transactions is not large. The cold weather and the increased hopefulness of the outlook for the coal stocks generally induced the covering of more than one line of shorts in Lackawanna, to which may also be added the effect of the late statement for the past year. Union Pacific was sluggish throughout most of the day, but a report that the company had secured the needed funds while some progress had been made in plans for the funding of the floating debt helped it up in the afternoon, and its gain for the day was quite marked. The opening of the market was strong, and while the temper of the room was not bullish, there was a marked disposition to cover evinced by the shorts, and good buying for the long account and for foreign account helped the advancing. There was considerable opposition to the upward movement in the first hour, but the pressure to sell was then withdrawn, and after money became easier the advance was accelerated, the market closing active and strong at the highest prices of the day. The final changes are all advances and Lackawanna is up 3, Wheeling and Lake Erie 2⅜, Rock Island 2¼, Union Pacific, New York Central and Northern Pacific preferred 1½; Atchison, Louisville and Nashville and Western Union each 1½; Burlington 1⅜, St. Paul 1¼, Northwestern 1⅛, and Missouri Pacific and Sugar each 1 per cent.

There was likewise a broadening out of the bond market and while the aggregate of the transactions was only $1,309,000, out of which Atchison incomes contributed $163,000, the business was distributed among an unusually large number of issues. The tone of the dealings also showed pronounced strength at times, and many marked gains resulted. Atchison incomes rose 2½ to 49; Chesapeake and Ohio "A" 2½ to 115; St. P., C. & M. 7s 2¼ to 122¼ and Pensacola and Atlantic firsts 2⅞ to 103⅞.

The *Post* says: There was scarcely any news during the day that had much, if any, effect on the stock market. It was expected that a good many failures in all parts of the world would be announced incident to the close of this year, but in all these cases the real situation has been known for months, and even though they may include some names which stood well in their special localities, they will have no effect on finance generally. The cooperative significance is in showing that the financial conditions which have caused such serious troubles in New York in the last six months have been largely the effect of conditions which have been general to the whole financial world.

The following table shows the prices at active stocks on the New York Stock Exchange yesterday. Corrected daily for THE DISPATCH by WHITNEY & STEPHENSON, oldest Pittsburg members of New York Stock Exchange, 57 Fourth avenue:

	Opening.	Highest.	Lowest.	Closing Bid.
Am. Cotton Oil	16½	16¾	16¼	16
Am. Cotton Oil pref	32½	32½	32	32
Am. Cotton Oil Trust	16	16¾	16	16¼
Atch., Top. & S. F.	27⅞	29	27¾	28⅞
Canadian Pacific	78½	78½	78	78
Canada Southern	49¼	49¼	49	49
Central of New Jersey	102	102½	102	102½
Central Pacific	....	....	....	34½
Chesapeake & Ohio	16⅜	16⅝	16¼	16¼
Chicago Gas Trust	34½	35¼	34½	34½
C., Bur. & Quincy	88¼	89¼	88½	89½
C., Mil. & St. Paul	49¾	50¼	49¾	50¼
C., Mil. & St. P., pf.	104	105	104	104¾
C., Rock I. & P.	68½	70½	68½	70½
C., St. P., M. & O.	....	....	....	20⅞
C., St. P., M. & O. pf.	....	....	....	79½
C. & Northwestern	103¾	104⅝	103¾	104½
C., B. & Q.	....	....	....	134
C., C., C. & I.	58½	59½	58½	59¼
C., C., C. & I. pref.	....	....	....	90
Col. Coal & Iron	31½	31½	30½	30½
Col. & Hocking Valley	24½	25	24½	24¾
Ches. & Ohio 1st pref.	40¾	41¼	40¾	41
Ches. & Ohio 2d pref.	27	27	27	27
Del., Lack. & West.	125¾	127¾	125¾	127¾
Del. & Hudson	126	127⅜	126	127⅜
Den. & Rio Grande	....	....	....	17½
Den. & Rio Grande, pf.	....	....	....	56½
E. T., Va. & Ga.	....	....	....	....
Illinois Central	....	....	....	95
Lake Erie & West	13½	13½	13½	13½
Lake Erie & West pf.	51½	51½	51½	51½
Lake Shore & M. S.	109¼	109⅞	109	109⅞
Louisville & Nashville	72¾	73⅞	72½	73½
Mobile & Ohio	30½	30¾	29½	29½
Missouri Pacific	60½	61⅞	60½	61
National Lead Trust	17½	18	17½	17¾
New York Central	100	101	100	101
N. Y., C. & St. L.	....	....	....	10½
N. Y., L. E. & W.	18½	18⅝	18⅛	18⅜
N. Y. & N. E.	31⅞	32½	31⅞	32⅜
N. Y., O. & W.	....	....	....	15
Norfolk & Western	....	....	....	14
Norfolk & Western pf.	52	53	52	53⅜
Northern Pacific	21½	21⅝	21¼	21⅜
Northern Pacific pf.	62¼	64	62¼	63¾
Ohio & Mississippi	21	....	....	21
Oregon Improvement	....	....	....	15
Pacific Mail	....	....	....	32
Philadel. & Reading	21	22¼	21	22
Pullman Palace Car	182	182	180	180
Richmond & W. P. T.	15⅜	15⅜	15¼	15¼
Richmond & W. P. T. pf	....	....	....	64½
St. Paul & Duluth	22	22	21½	21½
St. Paul & Duluth pf.	....	....	....	85
St. P., Minn. & Man.	....	....	....	99
Sugar Trust	59⅜	60½	59½	60¼
Texas Pacific	14	14	13⅞	13⅞
Union Pacific	42⅞	43¼	42	42½
Wabash	9	9½	8⅞	9¼
Wabash preferred	17½	17⅞	16½	17
Western Union	75¾	76	75¼	76
Wheeling & L. E.	28⅞	31½	28⅞	30
Wheeling & L. E. pref.	66½	66½	66½	66½
North American Co.	11⅞	11⅞	11⅞	11⅞
P., C., C. & St. L.	....	....	....	13½
P., C., C. & St. L. pr.	....	....	....	47

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	49¾	49¾
Reading	16	16¼
Buffalo, New York and Philadelphia	7⅜	7⅞
Lehigh Valley	48⅜	....
Lehigh Navigation	47½	48
Philadelphia and Erie	26¾	....
Northern Pacific common	21⅜	21¾
Northern Pacific preferred	63½	63¾

Boston Stocks.

Atch. & Top.	29	Calumet & Hecla	245
Boston & Maine	190	Franklin	13
Boston & Maine	198	Huron	3
C., B. & Q.	89	Kearsarge	11
Fitchburg R. R.	84¾	Osceola	34¾
Flint & Pere M.	17	Pewabic (new)	12
L. R. & Ft. S.	95	Quincy	90
Mass. Central	17	Santa Fe Copper	40
Nez. Cen. com	19½	Tamarack	240
N. Y. & N. Eng.	32½	Anniston Land Co.	52
N. Y. & N. Eng. 7s	121	San Diego Land Co.	16
Old Colony	165	West End Land Co.	21¾
Rutland preferred	60	Bell Telephone	210
Wis. Cen. common	18	Lamson Store S.	22
Allouez Mg. Co.	3¼	Water Power	2¾
Atlantic	15	Centennial Mining	15½
Boston & Mont.	41¾	N. Eng. Telephone	49

DOMESTIC MARKETS.

OFFICE OF PITTSBURG DISPATCH, MONDAY, Dec. 29, 1890.

Country Produce—Jobbing Prices.

Monday was scarcely as blue as was anticipated by commission men after holiday trade and heavy snowstorms in addition. There is little change in prices. Supply of potatoes is better than for a week or two past, and prices are a shade lower. Top price is $1 25 per bushel. Choice stock is not too plenty. There is a good demand for apples, and fancy stock is firm at outside quotations. Bananas and Florida oranges are firmer, and give promise of going higher soon. Prospects are that bananas will be in short supply by the New Year. Dates are weak and a shade lower.

APPLES—$5 00@6 00 a barrel.

BUTTER—Creamery, Elgin, 32@33c; Ohio do, 28@29c; common country butter, 10@15c; choice country rolls, 18@20c; fancy country rolls, 23@25c.

BEANS—New crop beans, navy, $2 30@2 35; marrows, $2 35@2 40; Lima beans, 6@6¼c.

BESSWAX—28@30c ℔ lb for choice; low grade, 22@25c.

CIDER—Sand refined, $9 00@10 00; common, $5 50@6 00; crab cider, $10 00@11 00 ℔ barrel; cider vinegar, 14@15c per gallon.

CHEESE—Ohio cheese, fall make, 10½c; New York cheese, 10½@12c; Lima cheese, 10½@14c; domestic Sweitzer, 12@13c; Wisconsin brick Sweitzer, 14c; imported Sweitzer, 27½c.

CRANBERRIES—Cape Cod, $3 75@4 00 a box, $11 50@12 00 a barrel; Jerseys, $3 00@3 75 a box, $11 00@11 50 a barrel.

DRESSED HOGS—Large, 4½@5c ℔ lb; small, 5@6c.

EGGS—20@21c for Western stock; 27@29c for strictly fresh nearby eggs.

FEATHERS—Extra live geese, 50@60c; No. 1 40@45c; mixed lots, 30@35c ℔ lb.

GAME—Mallard ducks, $4 00@4 50 a dozen; butter ducks, $2 00@2 50 a dozen; pheasants, $5 00@5 50 a dozen; squirrels, $1 25@1 50 a dozen; woodcocks, $1 25@1 50 a dozen; quail, $1 00@1 25; rabbits, 20@25c a pair; venison saddles, 14@15c a pound; whole venison, 10@12c a pound.

HONEY—New crop white clover, 20@22c ℔ lb. California honey, 12@15c ℔ lb.

MAPLE SYRUP—75@95c a can; maple sugar, 9@10c ℔ lb.

NUTS—Chestnuts, $5 00@5 50 a bushel; walnuts, 70@75c a bushel; shell bark hickory nuts, $1 50@1 75 a bushel; peanuts, $1 50@1 75, roasting; green, 4½@6c ℔ lb; pecans, 16c ℔ lb; new French Walnuts, 10½@10c ℔ lb.

POULTRY—Alive—Chickens, young, large, 55@65c; small, 45@50c; hens, old, 65@75c; small, 55@60c; turkeys, fat, 12@13c a pound; poor, 10@11c a pound; ducks, 60@75c a pair; geese, choice, $1 25@1 30 a pair. Dressed—Turkeys, 16@18c a pound; ducks, 14@15c a pound; chickens, 11@12c; geese, 8@9c.

TALLOW—Country, 4c; city rendered, 5c.

SEEDS—Recleaned Western clover, $5 00@5 25; country medium clover, $4 00@4 25; timothy, $1 50@1 55; blue grass, $2 85@3 00; orchard grass, $1 50; millet, 70@75c.

TROPICAL FRUITS—Lemons, $4 50; fancy, $5 00@5 50; Jamaica oranges, $6 00@6 50 a barrel; Florida oranges, $3 75@4 00 a box; bananas, $2 50 firsts, $1 50 good seconds, ℔ bunch; Malaga grapes, $7 00@12 50 a half barrel, according to quality; figs, 15@16c ℔ lb; dates, 4½@5¼c ℔ lb.

VEGETABLES—Potatoes, $1 20@1 25 ℔ bushel; Southern sweets, $2 25@2 75 ℔ barrel; Jersey, $3 50@4 00; kiln dried, $4 00 a barrel; cabbage, $7 50@8 00 ℔ hundred; onions, $3 00 a barrel; celery, 40@60c a dozen bunches; parsnips, 35c a dozen; carrots, 35c a dozen; parsley, 10c a dozen; spinach, 70c a bushel; horseradish, 50@75c a doze ..

Grocories.

Package coffee has been reduced ⅛c per pound, the first change for a half year at least. The reduction has been a surprise to dealers, as green coffee is quoted firm. Sugars are strong. Trade in grocery lines is quiet, as is its custom at this season.

GREEN COFFEE—Fancy, 24½@25½c; choice Rio, 23½@23½c; prime Rio, 23c; low grade Rio, 20½@21½c; old Government Java, 29½@30c; Maracaibo, 25½@27½c; Mocha, 30@32c; Santos, 22@26c; Caracas, 25@27c; La Guayra, 26@27c.

ROASTED (in papers)—Standard brands, 24½c; high grades, 27½@30c; old Government Java, bulk, 31@33½c; Maracaibo, 28@29c; Santos, 26@30c; peaberry, 30c; choice Rio, 25½c; prime Rio, 24½c; good Rio, 23½c; ordinary, 22½c. Spices advancing. There was considerable opposition to the upward movement in the first hour, but the pressure to sell was then withdrawn, and after money became easier the advance was accelerated, the market closing active and strong at the highest prices of the day. The final changes are all advances and Lackawanna is up 3, Wheeling and Lake Erie 2⅜, Rock Island 2¼, Union Pacific, New York Central and Northern Pacific preferred 1½; Atchison, Louisville and Nashville and Western Union each 1½; Burlington 1⅜, St. Paul 1¼, Northwestern 1⅛, and Missouri Pacific and Sugar each 1 per cent.

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C., Bur. & Quincy	88¼	89¼	88½	89½
C., Mil. & St. Paul	49¾	50¼	49¾	50¼
C., Mil. & St. P., pf.	104	105	104	104¾
C., Rock I. & P.	68½	70½	68½	70½
C., St. P., M. & O.	....	....	....	20⅞
C., St. P., M. & O. pf.	....	....	....	79½
C. & Northwestern	103¾	104⅝	103¾	104½
C., B. & Q.	....	....	....	134
C., C., C. & I.	58½	59½	58½	59¼
C., C., C. & I. pref.	....	....	....	90
Col. Coal & Iron	31½	31½	30½	30½
Col. & Hocking Valley	24½	25	24½	24¾
Ches. & Ohio 1st pref.	40¾	41¼	40¾	41
Ches. & Ohio 2d pref.	27	27	27	27
Del., Lack. & West.	125¾	127¾	125¾	127¾
Del. & Hudson	126	127⅜	126	127⅜
Den. & Rio Grande	....	....	....	17½
Den. & Rio Grande, pf.	....	....	....	56½
E. T., Va. & Ga.	....	....	....	....
Illinois Central	....	....	....	95
Lake Erie & West	13½	13½	13½	13½
Lake Erie & West pf.	51½	51½	51½	51½
Lake Shore & M. S.	109¼	109⅞	109	109⅞
Louisville & Nashville	72¾	73⅞	72½	73½
Mobile & Ohio	30½	30¾	29½	29½
Missouri Pacific	60½	61⅞	60½	61
National Lead Trust	17½	18	17½	17¾
New York Central	100	101	100	101
N. Y., C. & St. L.	....	....	....	10½
N. Y., L. E. & W.	18½	18⅝	18⅛	18⅜
N. Y. & N. E.	31⅞	32½	31⅞	32⅜
N. Y., O. & W.	....	....	....	15
Norfolk & Western	....	....	....	14
Norfolk & Western pf.	52	53	52	53⅜
Northern Pacific	21½	21⅝	21¼	21⅜
Northern Pacific pf.	62¼	64	62¼	63¾
Ohio & Mississippi	21	....	....	21
Oregon Improvement	....	....	....	15
Pacific Mail	....	....	....	32
Philadel. & Reading	21	22¼	21	22
Pullman Palace Car	182	182	180	180
Richmond & W. P. T.	15⅜	15⅜	15¼	15¼
Richmond & W. P. T. pf	....	....	....	64½
St. Paul & Duluth	22	22	21½	21½
St. Paul & Duluth pf.	....	....	....	85
St. P., Minn. & Man.	....	....	....	99
Sugar Trust	59⅜	60½	59½	60¼
Texas Pacific	14	14	13⅞	13⅞
Union Pacific	42⅞	43¼	42	42½
Wabash	9	9½	8⅞	9¼
Wabash preferred	17½	17⅞	16½	17
Western Union	75¾	76	75¼	76
Wheeling & L. E.	28⅞	31½	28⅞	30
Wheeling & L. E. pref.	66½	66½	66½	66½
North American Co.	11⅞	11⅞	11⅞	11⅞
P., C., C. & St. L.	....	....	....	13½
P., C., C. & St. L. pr.	....	....	....	47

*Ex-dividend

At first call 80 shares of Philadelphia Gas sold at 13, 110 at 13⅞, 50 Electric at 13¾, 255 at 13 and 100 Luster at 18. There was no business at second call. At third 50 Electric brought 13, 5 13¾, 5 Central Traction 19¾, 10 19½, 10 19¾ and 75 Philadelphia Gas 12⅞.

MONEY MARKET.

The Needful Still Working in the Direction of Greater Ease.

The week opened auspiciously at the banks yesterday. All the changes noted were in the right direction. That there was more confidence was shown in the greater liberality with which discounts were made. A bank officer remarked that if the improvement continued the middle of January would see money as plentiful as at any time within a year.

The Clearing House did a good business, showing a large volume of checking, due to activity in nearly all lines of trade. Depositing was of generous proportions, indicating that merchants were busy. Clearings were $2,068,108 31, and balances $303,300 11.

Closing Bond Quotations.

U. S. 4s, reg	121½	M. K. & T. Gen. 5s	87
U. S. 4s, coup	122½	Mutual Union 6s	100
U. S. 4½s, reg	108¼	N. J. C. Int. Cert	108½
U. S. 4½s, coup	109¼	Northern Pac. 1st s	115
Pacific 6s of '95	109	Northern Pac. 2ds	109¾
Louisiana stamped 4s	92⅜	Northw'n consols	138
Missouri 6s	102	Norfolk & Western 5s	106
Tenn. new set. 6s	102⅜	Oregon & Trans. 6s	—
Tenn. new set. 5s	96½	Oregon Nav. 1st s	111⅞
Tenn. new set. 3s	69½	St. L. & S. F. Gen. M.	106¾
Canada So. 2ds	95	St. Paul consols	123
Central Pacific 1sts	110¾	St. P. Chi & Pc. 1sts	114
Den. & R. G. 1sts	115	Tex., Pac. L. G. Tr. Rs.	85
Den. & R. G. 4s	80¾	Tex. Pac. R. G. Tr. Rs.	30¾
D. & R. G. West 1sts	—	Union Pacific 1sts	111½
Erie 2ds	96	West Shore	100
M. K. & T. Gen. 6s	74		

NEW YORK—Bank clearings to-day, $67,965,342; balances, $3,396,792.

BOSTON—Bank clearings to-day, $13,345,819; balances, $1,682,626. Money 2@3½ per cent. Exchange on New York 9@17c premium.

PHILADELPHIA—Bank clearings to-day, $9,325,686; balances, $1,862,820. Money 6 per cent.

BALTIMORE—Bank clearings to-day, $2,201,871; balances, $265,925. Rate, 6 per cent.

CHICAGO—Bank clearings were $12,805,895. New York exchange was 50c premium. Money was steady at 7 per cent for all classes of loans.

ST. LOUIS—Clearings, $3,892,974; balances, $511,890. New York exchange 50 cents discount. Money—There was a less active demand at 7 per cent.

DULL AND STRONG.

Not Much Doing in Oil, but It Comes Higher —Bullish Conditions a Factor.

Bullish conditions appear to be counting for something in the oil market. This is something new of late. The opening price was 71, from which there was no deviation until the close, when ⅜ better was bid. This figure failed to uncover much of the commodity, however, and only two or three small sales were made. Pittsburg refined quotes showing a good demand at outside exchanges.

Average runs, 77,107; average shipments, 88,737; average charters, 18,088. Refined at Antwerp, 9.17f; at London, 5¼d; at Liverpool, 5½d; at Bremen, 6.40f; at New York, 7.35c; cases, 9.35c.

McGrew, Wilson & Co. quote puts 70⅞@70½c; calls, 73⅛@70½c.

Other Oil Markets.

BRADFORD, Dec. 29.—National Transit Certificates opened at 70½c; closed at 71⅝; highest, 72¼c; lowest, 70⅝c; clearances, 264,000 barrels.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.—Petroleum closed dull. Pennsylvania oil—Spot opening, 71⅞c; highest, 71⅞