ICE TO BE CHEAPER.

The Natural Crop of Ice in This Vicinity Is Small, But

MACHINES ABLE TO MEET DEMAND,

The Advance in Wheat Is Sure to Raise Price of Flour Soon.

VARIOUS VIEWS AS TO COFFEE CROP

OFFICE OF PITTSBURG DISPATCH, TUESDAY, March 31.

Nature's crop of ice this season would cut a sorry figure in supplying the wants of trade in this city. Jack Frost failed to do any satisfactory work the past winter in this latitude. The only good yield in this line was about 200 miles north of Pittsburg. Said a representative of the Chautauqua Company: "Our crop of ice from the ponds in this vicinity amounts to little or nothing this season. At Pine creek, below Sharpsburg, and at Lakeville and Ravenna, O., where we have ponds and storage houses, the yield of ice from natural sources has been next to nothing the past winter. At Chautauqua we have been able to fill our houses with a good quality of ice which varies from 11 to 15 inches in thickness. So far we have been able to supply our customers with artificial ice, and do not expect to draw much on the natural product until warm weather." Owing to the great scarcity and high prices of ice the past four years there has been developed a strong movement for artificial ice. In the two cities there are now in operation five ice producing machines with a capacity of 400 tons daily. Two years ago there were no ice making machines in the city, outside of the breweries. The machines in operation now were not fully ready for business last summer until the season was nearly over. Now they are fully equipped for turning out all the ice needed, and will be until the hot weather. The cost of ice to the consumer will be very much less the coming season than it was last year. For small delivery the price last summer was 12c per ten pounds. The coming season it will be 8c for the same quantity. In 50-pound lots the price last summer was 50c per cwt., while the coming summer the price will be 30c for the same amount. The reduced cost of ice is an important item in butchers' expenses, as the expense of preserving meat the coming summer will be not above one-half what it was last season. Said a Diamond Market butcher: "My expenses for ice alone went up to $25 for a single month last summer. Then I paid as high as 50c per 100 pounds. Now I can make contracts at less than 20c per hundred. The reduction in our ice bill, however, will hardly offset the increased cost of cattle since last summer."

Flour is Pittsburg is low as compared with the price of wheat, and prospects are for an advance in price of the staff of life. If wheat keeps moving up flour must inevitably advance. The mills have already advanced prices so that dealers cannot now lay down stock and sell at a profit at present quotations. How far the rise in wheat has been speculative will be determined within a few days. That the late advance has had a legitimate basis is certain. Speculators, however, have undoubtedly worked the bull movement for more than was in it. Some fancy brands of spring patent flour are already selling a shade above our outside quotations, and from present outlook higher prices will be established at an early date.

As to coffee the supply in this line is reported very light, lighter than it has been at this time for the past three years. The crop of coffee has been below average for two years past. There is a conflict of opinions as to the coming crop which will be harvested in the next month or two. The month of April furnishes the bulk of crop.

There are fears of another season of short crops, and the next few weeks will tell the tale. At the present jobbers are carrying very light stocks, and price of green coffee is within ¾c per pound of the highest point reached in the past three years.

MARKETS BY WIRE.

Wheat Nervous and Unsettled—Rumors of War One of the Leading Factors—Corn Finishes Strong and Oats Weak—Trend of Provisions.

CHICAGO—On the curb yesterday afternoon there was an advance in wheat privileges of about 1c, and the opening this morning was on about that basis. May opened at from $1 03⅞ to $1 04⅜, and July, which closed yesterday at $1 02⅝, was in demand at $1 04 to $1 04⅜. May sold up to $1 04⅝ before the offerings became heavy enough to quiet the enthusiasm of buyers. The tendency from the time the above prices were paid until near noon was downward, with a good many minor reactions. May finally struck $1 04¼ for a moment and July $1 03⅝. There were rumors of a European war. The European and English grain markets were very strong.

Finally the troubles growing out of enormous advances by English and French capitalists to the Argentine Republic were again referred to in dispatches and a clearing tendency was noted in the wheat bull. These latter items of news were responsible for a strong selling which caused the break referred to. The closing enlargements to the Board of Trade quoted an advance at Berlin of from 1¾c to 1½c per bushel in wheat futures. Paris was up 10 to 15 centimes on wheat and 30 to 40 centimes on flour. London wheat futures were from 1d to 1½d per bushel higher, and Liverpool was quoted ½d higher in all positions. New York, St. Louis, Duluth and Chicago all reported sales of wheat and flour for export, and these were the reasons assigned for a recovery to $1 05⅝, for May wheat. A later reaction on selling out of lines having a profit in them left the price of May at $1 04⅜@1 05 and July at $1 03⅞@1 04.

Either the short interest in corn has been eliminated in great part, or the parties who have been putting prices up have dropped out. This is very apparent in view of the present condition of the speculative position of the deal. With only 300,000 bushels of contract corn in store and cash corn coming forward by rail so slowly that consumers are compelled to pay 5c per bushel premium as well as the storage on the elevator corn to supply their needs, the price shorts might be compelled to pay has practically no reasonable limit. That they are not now being severely squeezed would indicate that the contract holdings of a few days ago have been distributed at least temporarily. The opening was excited and about 1c advance on the small receipts, dreary weather and the strength in wheat. The price was variously from 65⅝@65¾c, which proved to be the pinnacle of the day. There was a decline to 67½c and a reaction to 68¼c, at which latter price the market closed, being only ⅛c higher than it stopped at yesterday.

The trade in oats was very dull at times. The longs could do nothing unless the shorts took fright, which they refused to do. Values were firm early but weak toward the close.

The leading futures ranged as follows, as corrected by John M. Oakley & Co., 45 Sixth street, members of Chicago Board of Trade:

ARTICLES.	Open-ing.	High-est.	Low-est.	Clos-ing.
WHEAT, No. 2				
March	$1 03⅝	$1 04	$1 02⅝	$1 03⅝
May	1 05¼	1 05½	1 04¼	1 04⅝
July	1 03⅝	1 04⅜	1 03¼	1 03⅝
CORN, No. 2				
March	69	69⅛	67⅞	68⅛
May	68⅛	68¼	67⅝	68⅛
July	68⅝	69⅛	68⅛	68⅝
OATS, No. 2				
April	35	35⅛	34⅝	34⅝
May	34⅝	34⅞	34⅛	34⅛
July	33¼	33¼	33	33⅛
MESS PORK.				
March	$13 00	$13 00	$12 60	$12 62½
April	13 20	13 20	13 00	13 02½
September	13 90	13 90	13 50	13 60
LARD.				
March	7 00	7 02½	6 87½	6 90
April	7 27½	7 30	7 12½	7 15
September	7 52½	7 55	7 37½	7 40
SHORT RIBS.				
May	6 25	6 27½	6 05	6 10
July	6 60	6 60	6 37½	6 42½
September	6 80	6 80	6 70	6 75

Cash quotations were as follows:

Flour quiet but firm. No. 2 spring wheat, $1 02½; No. 3 do, $1 04@1 04½; No. 2 corn, 68¾c; No. 2 oats, 34½c; No. 2 white, 34½@35½c; No. 3 white, 33½@34½c; No. 2 rye, 85½@86c; No. 2 barley nominal; No. 3, f. o. b., 72@75c; No. 4, f. o. b., 60@75c; No. 1 flaxseed, $1 20½; prime timothy seed, $1 27@1 28. Mess pork, per bbl, $12 50. Lard, per 100 lbs, $6 75. Short rib sides (loose), 55 90@6 00; dry salted shoulders (boxed), 5½@6 10; short clear sides (boxed), $6 20@6 25. Sugars unchanged. On the Produce Exchange to-day the butter market was lower; extra creamery, 26@27½c; extra firsts, 23@25c; firsts, 18@20c; extra dairy, 24c; fine extra firsts, 20@22c; firsts, 16@18c. Eggs, 12@12c.

NEW YORK—Flour—Generally steady; more inquiry. Wheat—Spot, market irregular, quiet; No. 2, red, $1 17@1 17⅛, elevator; $1 18⅛@1 19¼, f. o. b.; No. 3, red, $1 12, ungraded, red, $1 05⅝@1 17⅝; No. 1, northern, $1 24⅛; No. 1, hard, $1 27½; options opened ⅛@¼c higher on foreign buying, declined ⅜@⅝c on local realizing and closed ⅜@⅞c over yesterday and firm, through resumption of bull speculation. The market was also influenced early in the day for a short while by the depressed financial news from France: No. 2 red March, $1 17 5-16@1 17⅝; April, closing at $1 17¾; May, $1 12 13-16@1 12⅞, closing $1 13⅝; June, $1 11⅛@1 11⅞, closing at $1 11⅞; July, $1 08 3-16@1 09 3-16, closing at $1 09⅛; August, $1 04⅞@1 05⅝, closing at $1 05⅝; September, $1 04⅝@1 04⅞, closing at $1 04⅞; December, $1 06⅝@1 06⅞, closing at $1 06⅞. Barley steady and quiet; No. 2 Milwaukee, 52@53c; ungraded western, 77½@85c; Canada, 88@90c. Corn—Spot market weaker and moderately active; No. 2, 79½@81c in elevator, 80½@81¾c afloat; ungraded mixed, 79@82c; steamer mixed, 79½@81½c; No. 3, 78@80c. Options ¼@¾c higher and slow, the strength coming more from light offerings and contract needs; March, 80½c; April, 78½c; May, 73¼@73⅝c, closing at 73½c; July, 71¾@72⅛c, closing at 72c. Oats—Spot market unsettled and weaker. Options quiet and weaker; April, 59⅜c; May, 59½@60¼c, closing at 59½c; July, 58⅞@59⅜c, closing at 58⅞c; spot No. 2 white, 60½@62c; mixed Western, 58@62c; white do, 60@66c; No. 2 Chicago, 60½@61c. Hay steady. Hops dull and steady. Tallow quiet and firm. Eggs in fair demand and firmer; western, 21c. Hides quiet and firm. Pork in fair demand and firm; old mess, $11 75@12 25; new mess, $13 75@14 00; extra prime, $11 50@12 00. Cut meats quiet and firmer; middles firm and quiet. Lard lower and weak, quieter; Western, steam, $7; April, $7 07; May, $7 14, closing, $7 05; June, $7 20; July, $7 30@7 40, closing, $7 32; August, $7 50@7 55, closing, $7 45; September, $7 65, closing, $7 56. Butter quiet and lower; Western dairy, 13@26c; do creamery, 20@29c; do factory, 13@26c; Elgin, 30c. Cheese in moderate demand and firm; skims, 6½@10c; Ohio flats, 8@11c.

ST. LOUIS—Flour very firm; XXX, $3 10@3 25; fancy, $3 40@3 50; choice, $3 75@3 90; fancy, $4 30@4 40; extra fancy, $4 60@4 75. Wheat—Opened ⅞@1c higher than yesterday's closing figures, and closed ⅜@1¼c above yesterday; trading active; No. 2 red, cash, $1 04@1 04⅛; May, 96½@97c, closing at $1 04⅜; July, 88⅝@89⅛c, closing at 88⅝@88⅞c; August, 90⅛@97⅝c; closing at 96½c. Corn was ⅞c higher at the opening and closed ⅛@⅜c above yesterday's last sales. No. 2, cash, 66½@65½c; May, 64⅝@66⅛c, closing at 64⅞c; July, 63⅝@63⅞c, closing at 64⅞c. Oats higher early, but eased off later. No. 2 cash, 54@54⅛c; May, 54@54⅛c, closing at 54c. Rye nominal. Barley strong: Minnesota, 75c. Hay—Timothy higher at $12@15 for prime to gilt edge; prairie unchanged. Butter quiet and unchanged. Eggs steady at 14c. Provisions quiet and not as strong as yesterday. Pork—Standard mess, $12 25@12 50. Lard—Prime steam, $6 65. Dry salt meats easier; boxed shoulders, $4 50@4 75; longs, $6 00@6 10; ribs, $6 05@6 12½; short clear, $6 10@6 25. Bacon a shade higher; boxed shoulders, $5 00; longs, $6 87½; ribs, $6 87½@6 50; short clear, $6 50@6 62½.

PHILADELPHIA—Flour firm but quiet. Wheat ⅜@1c higher; No. 2 red, in export elevator, 81⅝c; No. 2 March and April, $1 09⅞@1 09⅝; May and June, $1 11⅝@1 12. Corn ⅜c higher under bullish manipulations in other grain centers; ungraded mixed, in grain depot, 78c; steamer No. 2, low mixed, in grain depot, 78c; steamer No. 2, yellow, in grain depot, 79c; No. 2 mixed, in grain depot, 79c; No. 2 white, in grain depot and elevator, 79c; No. 2 high mixed, on track and in grain depot, 79c; No. 2 high mixed and yellow, on track, 80c; No. 2 mixed, March and April, 75½@76⅛c; May, 74@74½c; June, 73½@74c. Oats steady and firm in sympathy with the advance in corn; No. 2 white, regular, 60⅝@61c; No. 2 white, March and April, 60⅝@60⅞c; May, 61@61½c; June, 61@61½c. Butter lower: Pennsylvania creamery, extra, 30@31c; do print, extra, 33@37c. Eggs quiet and easier; Pennsylvania firsts, 18@18½c.

MINNEAPOLIS—The features in this market to-day were about the same as yesterday. There was good demand for wheat, with holders asking 1c over May for cash. Prices were about 1c higher than yesterday, in sympathy with the strength in futures. No. 1 Northern sold mainly from $1 02½ to $1 03, and No. 2 Northern at $1 00⅛@1 01⅛, with the bulk at $1 01. Local millers were the principal buyers, with a fair outside demand. Closing prices: No. 1 hard, March, $1 04; on track, $1 05⅛; No. 1 Northern, March and April, $1 03; May, $1 03⅛; $1 02; on track, $1 02⅛@1 03; No. 2 Northern, March, 99½c; on track, $1 00@1 01; July, $1 04½.

BALTIMORE—Wheat—Western firmer; No. 2 winter red, spot and March, $1 10⅝@1 10⅞; May, $1 11@1 11¼; July, $1 06⅛@1 06⅜; August, $1 03⅛bid. Corn—Western steady; mixed spot, March, April and May, 73@73⅛c; July, 71@71½c; steamer, 71½c. Oats firm; Western white, 62@63c; do mixed, 60@61c; graded No. 2 white, 62½@63c; do mixed, 61@61½c. Rye dull; choice, 85c; $1 00; good to prime, 95@98c; common to fair, 75@90c. Hay firm. Provisions active; mess pork, old, $12 50; new, $14 00. Hams, small, 10½c; large, 10½c. Lard, refined, 7¼c; crude, 6¾c. Butter weak, creamery fancy, 30c; do fair to choice, 28@29c. Eggs steady at 12c.

CINCINNATI—Flour quiet. Wheat in good demand and higher; No. 2 red, $1 07. Corn in scarce and higher; No. 2 mixed, 73c. Oats scarce and higher; No. 2 mixed, 58c. Rye in good demand and higher; No. 2, 92@93c. Provisions easier. Pork, $12 25. Lard, $6 87½. Bulkmeats $6 25. Bacon, $7 25. Butter firm. Eggs firm at 13c. Cheese firm.

MILWAUKEE—Flour quiet. Wheat nervous; No. 2 spring, on track, $1; May, $1 03⅛; No. 1 Northern, $1 06. Corn firm; No. 3, on track, 76c. Oats quiet; No. 2 white, on track, 58c. Barley firm; No. 2, on store, 71½@72c. Rye easier; No. 1, in store, 87c. Provisions higher. Pork, May, $13 17½.

DULUTH—Wheat opened strong at $1 06⅝, sold up to $1 07, back to $1 06¼ and closed at $1 07; May No. 1 Northern opened at $1 04; sold down to $1 03⅝, back to $1 04 and closed at $1 04; cash wheat closed, No. 1 hard, $1 07½; No. 1 Northern, $1 03½; No. 2 Northern, 97½c.

KANSAS CITY—Wheat steady; No. 2 hard, cash and March, 91c asked; No. 2 red, cash, 97c bid. Corn higher; No. 2, cash, 65c; March, 64½c asked. Oats stronger; No. 2 cash, 51½c bid; 52½c asked. Eggs active at 12½c.

TOLEDO—Wheat easier; cash, $1 07; May, $1 08½; July, $1 03½; August, 99½c. Corn steady and firm; cash, 75c; May, 70c. Oats quiet; cash, 54½c. Cloverseed active; cash, $4 52½.

Wool Markets.

ST. LOUIS—Wool—Receipts, 17,240 pounds; steady and unchanged.

NEW YORK—Wool dull and firm; domestic fleece, 34@37c; pulled, 26@33c; Texas, 17@34c.

PHILADELPHIA—Wool market dull; Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia XX and above, 32@34c; X, 30@32c; medium, 37@39c; coarse, 36@37c; New York, Michigan, Indiana and Western fine or X and XX, 28@30c; medium, 36@37c; coarse, 35@36c; fine washed delaine, X and XX, 34@36c; medium washed combing and delaine, 42@43c; coarse do do do, 36@38c; Canada do do, 34@36c; tub washed, choice, 37@40c; fair, 35@37c; coarse, 33@35c; medium washed combing and delaine, 39@41½c; coarse do do do, 37@38½c; Montana, 20@24c; Territorial, 16@22c.

BOSTON—The demand for wool has been fair and prices have been steady and firm. Ohio and Pennsylvania fleeces have been rather quiet at 34@35c for XX, and 32@33c for XXX and above; Michigan X can be bought at 29c, though some holders quote 30c; combing and delaine selections have been firm and in steady demand; No. 1 combing selling at 40@42c; Ohio fine delaine at 36@37c, and Michigan fine delaine at 35@36c; Territory wools have been firm, selling at 60@65c clean for fine; 58@62c for fine medium and 55@57c for medium; Texas, California and Oregon wools keep sold up and are firm; pulled wool continues in good demand, with choice super selling at 40@45c; fair to good supers at 38@38c, and extras at 22@32c. Australian wools have been active and firm at 34@44½c as to quality. Foreign carpet wools have been firm.

The Price of Bar Silver.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.

NEW YORK, March 31.—Bar silver in London 44⅝d. New York selling price, as reported by bullion dealers, 98c. Gold value of silver in the standard dollar, $0 757. There were no deposits or withdrawals of silver at the Mercantile Safe Deposit Company, and the amount on hand remains 5,889,212 ounces, and certificates outstanding 5,888.

Coffee Market.

NEW YORK, March 31. — Coffee — Options opened steady, unchanged to 5 points advance, closed dull, unchanged to 5 points up; sales, 10,750 bags, including April, 17.40@17.45c; May, 17.30c; June, 16.90@16.95c; July, 16.75c; September, 15.85@16c; October, 16.35@16.40c; December, 14.50c; spot Rio, quiet and easy; fair cargoes, 20c; No. 7, 18½c.

Metal Market.

NEW YORK—Pig iron quiet: American $16.00@17 00. Copper nominal; lake, April, $13 75. Lead steady; domestic, $4 37½. Tin quiet and firm; straits, $20 30.

Drygoods Market.

NEW YORK, March 31.—Business in drygoods at first hands was unchanged in character.

CHANGE of life, backache, monthly irregularities, hot flashes, are cured by Dr. Miles' Nervine. Free samples at Jos. Fleming & Son's, Market st. w

The People's Store, Fifth Avenue.

More than 5,000 curtains from 1¼ to 3½ yards long, 25c, 38c, 50c and up. Best bargains in curtains we ever sold; also complete stock of fine curtains as high as $80 per pair. CAMPBELL & DICK.

When baby was sick, we gave her Castoria. When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria. When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria. When she had Children, she gave them Castoria

DRIFT OF BUSINESS.

Railroads Preparing to Handle a Larger Volume of Traffic.

PURCHASE MONEY MORTGAGES.

Sickness Among Real Estate Agents Discloses Their Importance.

THE NEWS AND GOSSIP OF THE CITY

It is understood that the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad will soon begin the erection of a roundhouse, shops and offices on the ground recently purchased at Glenwood. The Pittsburg, Virginia and Charleston road is building machine shops and making other improvements at the new town of Dawson. It was mentioned a few days ago that a local railroad had purchased a tract of land near the city for yard and switch purposes. Although nothing definite has leaked out in regard to this deal, the road in question is supposed to be the Panhandle and Sheridan station the place. Considerable significance attaches to these movements. The fact that the railroads find it necessary to enlarge their facilities to meet the growing demands of business, is satisfactory evidence of a prosperous condition of things in Pittsburg and of confidence in the future.

Purchase Money Mortgages.

There are people who look upon a mortgage as the last resort to obviate disaster, just as a ship's crew sacrifice everything to save the vessel going down in the storm. This is true when the mortgage is placed to raise money to engage in hazardous business, or in speculation, but not otherwise. There is very little of this kind of indebtedness in Pittsburg or Allegheny county. Purchase money mortgages are poor men's investments. In placing them they anticipate the capital which they represent. The cost is met from the increments of business or labor, and the principal forms a fund to fall back on in case of need. Such mortgages have a market value the same as bonds or stocks, for they represent substantial improvements in the way of new buildings or betterment of old ones, and in this way promote the prosperity of the city. The money thus invested is fixed capital, and not subject to the exigencies of ordinary trade. A purchase money mortgage is not in the true sense an increase of indebtedness. The man who, by such means, changes his position from tenant to proprietor cannot justly be said to have added to his burden. On the contrary, he has published to the world that he owns the roof over his head as a provision against sickness or old age. Purchase money mortgages are all right. They are transforming Pittsburg into a city of homes.

Real Estate Agents.

Probably half of the real estate agents of the city are suffering from the grip. Some are confined to their homes, and others are barely able to be about. Some of them feel like hustling. This accounts for the paucity of transactions during the past few days. There is nobody to push business. What could better set forth the value of the real estate agent to the business interests of the city than the fact that even his temporary retirement from active duty restricts the volume of trade? Were he to withdraw altogether real estate would soon cease to be a leading interest. Some people go upon the principle that agents are not essential to transfers, and that property would be bought and sold without them. That is true to a certain extent. The agent has his list of buyers; he makes a business of it, and saves the buyer the trouble and time involved in going from house to house for something to suit him. This expedites business. The fact that nearly all the business in real estate is now transacted through agents proves their importance to the community. The real estate agent is doing a good work, and he is here to stay.

Business News and Gossip.

There were ten rainy days in March.

Contracts for five business houses on Franklin avenue and Station street, East End, were signed at the office of Black & Baird yesterday. The owner is Miss Mary P. Semple. T. C. McKee is the architect.

Plans are being discussed for two schoolhouses in the Fourth ward, Allegheny.

The firm of C. Beringer & Son has been changed to W. C. Beringer & Co., the former senior putting his son at the head, so as to give him opportunity to devote more time to his personal interests.

An excursion train, under the direction of J. F. Baxter, of Baxter, Thompson & Co., will leave this city on the evening of the 7th, conveying a large number of Pittsburgers to Sylacauga, Ala., to attend the opening sale of building lots at that place on the 9th inst. Low rates have been secured.

Reed B. Coyle & Co. are about closing a $10,000 deal in coal land.

It is understood that before the Boston directors of the Switch and Signal Company left for home they made an offer to sell their stock to the Westinghouse people, and that this is now under consideration.

Ira M. Burchfield made a short move. He did not change his number, but traded upstairs for downstairs rooms, which are nicely fitted up.

The Building Record.

The following permits for the erection of new buildings were issued yesterday:

W. R. Kuhn, brick, one-story and basement store, 30x60 feet, on Penn avenue, Twentieth ward, cost $4,000.

Charles Flynn, two brick two-story and mansard dwellings, 17½x34 feet each, on Wylie avenue, Thirteenth ward, cost $3,800.

Mr. Oldenhausen, two frame two-story dwellings, 14x32 feet each, on Mignonette street, Twenty-first ward, cost $1,850.

Jacob Pfeil, brick addition, two-story store, 15x24 feet, on Bradford street, Twenty-ninth ward. Cost, $900.

Charles Kittner, frame two-story stable, 22x25 feet, rear Lennington avenue, Twenty-first ward. Cost, $500.

Richard Neill, two brick two-story dwellings, 15x31 feet each, on Erin street, Thirteenth ward. Cost, $3,000.

Randolph Dewald, frame two-story dwelling, 20x32 feet, on Dauphin street, Nineteenth ward. Cost, $1,200.

Richard Sinkenbrink, frame two-story and attic dwelling, 20x32 feet, on Dauphin street, Nineteenth ward. Cost, $1,300.

Otto Grossman, frame two-story and attic dwelling, 20x32 feet, on Dauphin street, Nineteenth ward. Cost, $1,300.

Henry Auction Co. remodel brick three-story business house, 40x60 feet, on Ninth street, Fourth ward. Cost, $4,500.

T. J. Johnson, frame one-story stable, 20x15 feet, on Cabot way, Twentieth ward. Cost, $50.

Movements in Realty.

A. Z. Byers & Co. sold for Jennie R. Coltart and Jessie C. Shaco to Joseph Huttinger, a two-story brick house of nine rooms, hall, and finished attic, with lot 33x60 feet, being the property No. 61 Erie street, corner of Montgomery alley, Third ward, Allegheny, for $5,250.

Black & Baird sold for Mrs. Aimee Lambie to A. B. Kerr a property on Main street, Seventeenth ward, on the corner of Gordon alley, with lot 57x85 feet, and three brick buildings thereon, for $6,500 spot cash.

S. A. Dickie & Co. sold for W. E. Ray to Homer Bowes a lot, in Bank of Commerce addition, on Kelly street, Brushton, 40x137 39-100, for $800.

MONEY MARKET.

The Story of the First Quarter of the Present Year.

The record for the first quarter of 1891 was made up yesterday. As compared with 1890, it shows a deficit, that for the month just expired amounting to almost $10,000,000, and the total to nearly $30,000,000.

It should be remembered, however, that 1890 opened with a boom and closed in disaster. It put its best foot foremost. The reverse of this is true now. The first three months of 1891 have been full of distrust and foreboding. That business has held up so well is not a little surprising. The steady improvement noted on several occasions lately indicates that the worst is over and that the impulse from this time forward will be in the right direction.

By going back to 1889 it will be seen that business of the two periods shows very little difference. The bank clearings for march of the former year were $52,735,140 51; this year they are $52,578,800 73. Clearings for January and February of that year, as compared with the same months this year, show a small balance in favor of 1891. This fact is sufficient to show a healthy state of affairs, since 1889 was conceded to be the best year in the history of the city up to that time.

The causes for any depression that may exist have been pointed out so often as to be well known and understood. It would be unreasonable to expect greater activity than exists with half the people sick and the other half complaining. It's a long lane that has no turn. In the nature of things there must be a change for the better before long. Courage and perseverance will bring things around all right.

The following is the Clearing House report for the day and month, with comparisons with 1890 and 1889. There is nothing in it to cry over, but much, when everything is considered, to be proud of.

Exchanges for the day	$ 1,779,641 45
Balances for the day	267,745 47
Exchanges for the month	$2,578,800 73
Balances for the month	9,983,409 98
Exchanges March, 1890	62,431,465 69
Balances March, 1890	10,296,584 72
Exchanges March, 1889	52,735,140 51

Money on call at New York yesterday was easy, ranging from 2½ to 4 per cent, last loan 2½; closed offered at 2½. Prime mercantile paper, 5@7c. Sterling exchange quiet and steady at $4 83½ for 60 day bills and $4 88½ for demand.

Closing Bond Quotations.

U. S. 4s, reg.	121½	M. K. & T. Gen. 5s	39
U. S. 4s, coup.	122¾	Mutual Union 6s	105
U. S. 4½s, reg*	107	N. J. C. Int. Cert.	110½
U. S. 4½s, coup	107	Northern Pac. 1st s	116
Pacific 6s of '95*	110	Northern Pac. 2ds	114¼
Louisiana stamped	91½	North'w'n consols	136
Missouri 6s	101	North'n Pacific 6s	107
Tenn. new set. 6s	102	Oregon & Trans. 6s	107
Tenn. new set. 5s	101½	St. L. & I. M. Gen. 5s	92¾
Tenn. new set. 3s	74¼	St. L. & S. F. Gen. M.	104
Canada So. 2ds	97	St. Paul consols	122
Central Pacific 1sts	108	St. P. Chi. & Pc. 1sts	116
Den. & G. Tr. 1sts	118⅝	Tex. Pac. L. G. Tr. Rs.	87¾
Den. & R. G. 4s	82½	Tex. Pac. R. G. Tr. Rs.	30¾
E. T. West 1sts	76¾	Union Pacific 1sts	109½
Erie 2ds	106	West Shore	102¾
M. K. & T. Gen. 4s	71½		

*Bid.

Bank Clearings.

CHICAGO—Bank clearings, $11,927,500. New York exchange, 70c discount. Rates for money steady at 6 per cent.

NEW YORK—Bank clearings, $9,872,579; balances, $5,739,344.

BOSTON—Bank clearings, $12,709,917; balances, $1,271,455. Rate for money 5 per cent. Exchange on New York, 15@17c discount. For the month—Clearings, $359,644,614; balances, $38,877,659. The corresponding month in 1890—Clearings, $403,400,358; balances, $44,418,158.

PHILADELPHIA—Bank clearings, $9,713,944; balances, $1,274,982. Money 4@5 per cent.

BALTIMORE—Bank clearings, $1,911,581; balances, $276,692. Money 6 per cent.

MEMPHIS—New York exchange selling at $1 premium. Clearings, $514,666; balances, $159,560.

NEW ORLEANS—Clearings, $3,386,145.

CINCINNATI—Money 6@7 per cent. New York exchange, 40c discount. Clearings, $1,885,400. For the month of March, $53,608,700; corresponding month last year, $51,781,900.

HOME SECURITIES.

A Slow Market, With Firm Values and a Few Gains—Electric the Weakest Spot—Friends of Switch and Signal Are in Good Spirits.

The sessions of the Stock Exchange yesterday were the least interesting for a long time. The first two calls passed without a sale and there were only two at the third—110 shares of Electric going at 11¼. The expense for chalk was very light.

While the feeling was rather offish there was very little sagging of prices, the only thing submitting to a material concession being Electric. Philadelphia Gas, Switch and Signal and Luster added small fractions to their credit, and the rest of the list about held its own.

News was as scarce as business. Switch and Signal affairs were mentioned in a guarded sort of way, the bulk of opinions seeming to favor the idea that the action of the meeting would strengthen the company. This feeling was reflected in a slight advance in the stock.

As to Electric, nobody professed to know anything not already laid before the public. No movement of any sort is looked for before the 20th, at which time it is expected, and with a good show of reason, that something will be done by somebody to bring matters to a head. The strength of the stock shows that holders have faith in the result. Bids and offers were:

	FIRST CALL.		SECOND CALL.		THIRD CALL.	
	B	A	B	A	B	A
P. F. S. & M. Ex.	..	440	....	....	....	....
Bank of Ditts	95	....	....	....	....	....
Citizens Nat. Bk.	63	....	....	....	....	....
Liberty N. B.	....	104	....	....	....	....
Mon. Nat. Bk.	128	....	....	....	....	....
Third National	100	160	....	....	....	....
Man'frs. G. Co.	....	214	....	....	....	....
P. N. G. & P. Co	11	....	....	....	....	....
Lacl. Gas Co.	12	....	10¾	11¼	11¼	11¾
Wheeling Gas Co	....	....	....	....	11	15½
Tuna Oil Co.	....	....	....	....	....	60
Central Traction	18¾	19¼	....	....	18¾	20
Citizens' Trac'n.	57½	58	57⅞	....	....	58
Pittsburg Trac.	....	33	....	....	....	33
Pleasant Valley.	....	24¼	....	....	....	24¼
Second Ave.	....	....	....	....	.50	55
P. & W. R. R. pfd.	17	18	....	....	....	25
Hand St. Bridge.	....	55	....	....	....	55
Hidalgo Mining	....	3½	....	....	....	3½
La Noria M'g Co.	30	40	30	....	35	40
Luster Mining	13½	15	....	....	14½	15
Silverton Min'g.	1¾	1⅞	....	....	1⅝	....
Sterling S. M. Co.	....	50	....	....	....	50
Westinghouse E.	11⅞	12	11	11¼	11	11¼
U. S. & S. Co.	9	9¾	....	9¾	9⅝	9¾
Wyl'ds'ell Ex. 1st	67½	....	....	....	....	....
Stan. Un. C. Co.	50	....	....	....	50	....

The total sales of stocks at New York yesterday were 127,032 shares, including Atchison, 3,900; Lackawanna, 3,865; Louisville and Nashville, 4,400; Missouri Pacific, 3,450; Northern Pacific preferred, 5,715; St. Paul, 16,650.

STILL STAGNANT.

Another Day Goes by Without a Trade in Oil.

There was no trading in oil yesterday. The market opened nominally at 72⅝ bid, and closed offered at 72⅞. The May option, which comes on to-day, closed at 73⅝ bid. Refined was quoted at 7.25c for cases and 5c for tins.

Daily average runs were 75,627; daily average shipments, 65,259; daily average charters, 33,981. Refined at Antwerp, 16¾f; at London, 55¾d; at Liverpool, 6¾d; at Bremen, 6.25f; at New York, 7.20c. Cases, 9.30.

NEW YORK, March 31.—The feature of the petroleum market was the switching of April into May options, the longs paying a premium of ⅜c to have the option extended. The market opened steady, but fluctuations were confined to ⅛c all day, and the closing was dull. Pennsylvania oil, spot opening, 73c; highest, 73c; lowest, 73c; closing, 73c; April option, opening, 72⅞c; highest, 72⅞c; lowest, 72¾c; closing, 72⅞c. Lima oil, no sales. Total sales, 286,000 barrels.

NEW YORK STOCKS.

Grangers and Industrials Monopolize the Interest in Shares—Final Changes Slight, but in the Direction of Lower Prices—Bonds Lively.

NEW YORK, March 31.—To-day's stock market soon became a repetition of those of the past two weeks, and all the interest in it was confined to the Grangers and Industrials, the strength in the latter being accompanied by a rumor that pools in them were preparing for a bull campaign. The rise in Sugar, based on the supposed deal by the trust with the Spreckels, continued upon denials of the story, but like all other stocks, there was no real weakness displayed in it, and the greater portion of the advance was retained.

The Grangers were still the prominent group, and the fluctuations in all of them were confined to very small limits, but outside of Wheeling and Lake Erie preferred and one or two specialties, there was no marked changes in values from the entire day, the fluctuations being confined to the smallest limits, and the instances where the extreme was 1 per cent are very few. The opening was made on a spurt of activity and strength, and with first sales at slightly higher, but further small gains were scored in the early dealings, while Wheeling and Lake Erie preferred rose 1⅝ per cent to 72. The rest of the market, however, felt the want of support, and realizations among the traders followed with the result of bringing prices over the entire list slightly below those of the opening. The market then halted, but developed a firm tone in the afternoon, without material change in prices, and only a portion of the morning's loss was recovered.

Money showed a slight hardening tendency in the last hour, and heaviness again marked the closing, but the decline was very slight and dull at close to the lowest prices of the day, which, however, was only small fractions below those of last evening. The final changes in all cases are for small fractions only, though generally in the direction of lower prices.

Railroad bonds were a little more animated, and displayed in general a steady to firm tone, most of the final changes of note being advances. The sales reached $1,122,000, out of which Atchison incomes furnished $192,000. The advances include Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Indianapolis consols 2, to 121.

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

	Open-ing.	High-est.	Low-est.	Clos-ing Bid.
Am. Cotton Oil	23¾	24	23¾	23¾
Am. Cotton Oil Trust	21½	24½	24½	24½
Atch., Top. & S. F.	27⅞	28	27⅞	27⅞
Canadian Pacific	78½	78⅝	78¼	78
Canada Southern	....	....	....	50
Central New Jersey	116¼	116¼	115½	115
Central Pacific	....	....	....	29½
Chesapeake & Ohio	17½	17½	17¼	17¼
Chicago Gas Trust	44	44½	43¾	43¾
C., Bur. & Quincy	80½	80½	79¾	79¾
C., Mil. & St. Paul	66⅝	67	66⅛	66⅞
C., Mil. & St. P., pf.	110¼	110¼	110