RENTS AND RENTERS.

An Expert Offers Suggestions for the Consideration of Owners.

WHEN INCREASE IS JUSTIFIABLE.

A Quiet Windup of the Year's Business on the Pittsburg Exchange.

A STRONG CLEARING HOUSE REPORT

Although Pittsburg is fast becoming a city of homes, there is still a large tenant class, to whom the subject of rents is of the highest importance. The following, therefore, from a gentleman largely interested in the renting of properties in both cities is of special interest at this time. His hints and suggestions to owners should open their eyes to their own interests.

"The probable increase of the city taxes for 1892, both of Pittsburg and Allegheny, is of great importance to tenants. An increase of taxes means an increase of rent, for owners, as a general rule, add the increase of taxes to the amount of rent, which, in addition to the rent added on account of increased valuation, makes a burden that some of the best paying and prosperous tenants cannot well bear, especially in dwelling houses.

"The ability of tenants to pay regulates the price of the rent, and the tenant's ability is limited, because it is regulated by his income, and it is often not a question of what the taxes are on the house, nor what rent it should bring in order to pay the owner any certain rate, or profit, but what the tenant can afford to pay; and if the rent is put beyond the limit of what circumstances prescribe, the tenant must either go out, or remain and run the risk of having difficulty in the payment of the rent; for whenever a tenant is compelled to pay more rent than his income will justify, then the owner, sooner or later, is the loser.

"The increase of rent, do doubt, is necessary periodically on account of the increased value of property and the advance of business, but in order to increase the rents, whether on account of the increased taxes or the increase of valuation, the owner must offer sufficient advantages, either in location, improvements or facilities, so as to justify the tenant to increase the amount of his rent, or that may induce a class more able to pay to take the property. As a general rule, the wages of certain classes and the income of most businesses is fixed and remains unchanged, and the tenants are not capacitated to pay increased rent, unless increased facilities and advantages are offered to business men, or a change made in the kind of dwellings, so that a class that is more able to pay can be accomodated.

"Each grade of house is occupied by a different class of people, and it is generally a mistaken idea to feel that because the present tenant who may be a true representative of the class of persons that must and will occupy that grade of house), goes out that another equally as good can be secured to pay the increased rent, unless the property is brought up to a higher grade to suit persons who may be in circumstances sufficiently able to pay the increase."

Business News and Gossip.

The Exchange will be open to-morrow to facilitate yearly settlements.

After to-morrow the Treasurer of the Exchange will be John B. Barbour, Jr., or Robert J. Storey, Jr. They appear to be running neck and neck.

Six building permits were issued yesterday, aggregating $7,300. The most important were: To Philip Yea, frame two-story dwelling on Eckles street, Twenty-seventh ward, $2,250; to Oliver O. Phillips, two-story dwelling, Eighteenth street, Twenty-seventh ward, $2,250, and to Annie Cox, frame two-story dwelling, Ruth street, Thirty-second ward, $1,200.

The weakness of Pleasant Valley is attributed to litigation with Allegheny City. The case goes against the company the dividend may be imperilled.

Many leaves will be turned to-day. Stock is whatever you resolve to do, if it's right.

This is the time for striking yearly balances. Interest and dividend disbursements in Pittsburg will approximate $2,000,000.

Pennsylvania has just let contracts in railroad building last year, with 260 miles; Georgia came next, with 237.

It is said that the new Westinghouse Electric stock to be issued for the assented stock is likely to be put out in the course of a few days.

William T. Love and number of Southern capitalists have formed a company, capital $500,000, to develop an anthracite coal field in Whitley county, Ky.—the first to be opened west of the Alleghenies.

The Central Bank has declared a quarterly dividend of 1½ per cent.

Movements in Realty.

A report obtained currency yesterday that the entire outfit, machinery and appliances, of the Penn Cotton Mill, on River avenue, Allegheny, had been sold by James W. Drape & Co., to a syndicate of Pittsburg and Southern capitalists, with a view of removal to the new town of Sylacauga, Ala. Mr. Drape was seen and freely admitted that something of the kind was under way, but declined to reference in the present status of the deal.

John K. Ewing & Co. sold to James R. Worrel a lot 50x150, on Grant avenue, in the Watson subdivision, East Bellevue, Pittsburg, Ft. Wayne and Chicago Railroad, for $800; also, sold to Rachel M. Carothers for J. G. Bourkaste a lot, 30x200 on Virginia avenue, Allegheny, for $600.

Thompson, Elderkin & Co., Limited, report the following sales: For East End Gas Company to Fowler & Sandy Jones two hillside lots, 25x125 feet each, containing a frame house with three rooms, for $300; for James A. Wilson to S. M. Thorp, a lot on Hillside street, Wilkinsburg, 39x200 feet, containing a frame house of 8 rooms, for $4,175; for Mrs. Bridget Branigan to Annie J. Townley, a lot on Grand street, 22.9x100 feet, containing a two-story frame of six rooms, for $3,000; for Mrs. Caroline Hodfil to Mrs. M. R. Swisshelm a lot on Gerrett street, 25x120 feet to an alley, for $700 cash; for Mrs. Gibb to Mrs. Bridget Doyle a lot on Hastings street, running to Kingsman alley, with a frontage of 127 feet, containing a frame house with six rooms, for $2,000.

Black & Baird sold to William Senior lots Nos. 425 and 424, in the Alta Land Company plan No. 2 on Duquesne Heights, for $45 cash.

James W. Drape sold a house and lot in Wilkinsburg, near Rebecca street, for $4,500; also, a house and two lots on Mt. Washington for $3,500; also, a farm of 80 acres, above Avonmore, Indiana county, for $4,200.

THE FINANCIAL RECORD.

Bankers Satisfied With the Results of the Year's Operations.

Bankers were in good spirits yesterday over the year's business. Results were vastly better than expected. But perhaps the cause of most rejoicing was the strong position of business generally. There were no clouds to cast a shadow over the outlook. In this respect the windup of 1891 was antipodes to that of its predecessor.

Analysis of the subjoined figures furnished by Secretary Chaplin, of the Clearing House, shows a very even run of business during the year. The minimum of exchanges was reached in February and the maximum in October. Growth was slow and spasmodic, but as the financial skies cleared and confidence returned, improvement became more pronounced, and by December—the eleventh hour as well as month—1890 was overtaken. The excess of clearings for that month being upward of $5,000,000 ahead of the same month a year ago.

The year closed with improvement in all the activities, and with a full measure of confidence in the future. Local embarrassments had been removed or bridged over, and there was nothing in sight to cause apprehension. So far as seen, there is no handicap upon the new year. Secretary Chaplin's report:

Exchanges for month	$ 59,333,012 64
Balances for month	10,082,358 86
Exchanges for year	678,062,255 30
Balances for year	117,036,580 47
Month, 1890	54,874,469 41
Exchanges, 1889	786,684,231 17

Although falling behind last year, exchanges were the largest with this exception, of any year in the history of the Clearing House—a fact worth remembering in connection with the unfavorable opening and the greatest strike ever known later on. Results achieved under such circumstances speak well for the enterprise and perseverance of Pittsburg's business men.

At New York yesterday money on call was easy, ranging from 2½ to 3½ per cent; last loan 3½; closed offered at 3½. Prime mercantile paper, 4½@6. Sterling exchange quiet and firm at $4 82 for 10-day bills and $4 84½ demand.

Closing Bond Quotations.

U. S. 4s reg	116½	N. J. Cent. Int. Certs.	112
do 4s coup	118	Northern Pac. 1sts	118
do 4½s reg	109*	do do 2ds	112½
do 4½s. coup	109*	Northwest. Consols	137
Pacific 6s of '95	108*	do debentures 5s	107
Louisiana stamped 4s	88	Oregon Trans. 6s	—
Missouri 6s	102	St. L. & I. Iron M. 1st	—
Tenn. new set. 6s	106	Gen. 5s	86
do do 5s	103	St. L. & San. Fran.	—
do do 3s	71	Gen. M. 6s	107*
Canada So. 2d	101	St. Paul Consols	127*
Cen. Pacific 1sts	105½*	St. P. C. & Pac. 1sts	116*
Den. & R. G. 1sts	116½	Tex. Pac. L. G. Tr. Rcts	8½
do do 4sts	81*	Tex. Pac. R. G. Tr. Rcts	32
Den. & R. G. West 1sts	—	Union Pac. 1sts	109*
Erie 2ds	107	West Shore	101
M. K. & T. Gen. 6s	79½	Wis. Cent. 1sts	85½
do do 5s	47	Rio. G. & Western	30½
Mutual Union 6s	105*		

*Bid.

Bank Clearings.

NEW YORK—Bank clearings, $140,719,623; balances, $6,740,178.

BOSTON—Bank clearings, $16,270,743; balances, $1,885,948. Rate for money 3 per cent. Exchange on New York 10c discount.

For the month: Clearings, $418,357,039; balances, $50,338,365. For the same month last year: Clearings, $388,872,809; balances, $42,974,594. For the year: Clearings, $4,732,940,087; balances, $521,568,322. For last year: Clearings, $5,130,870,745; balances, $572,887,391.

PHILADELPHIA—Bank clearings to-day, $10,680,709; balances, $1,637,656. Money 4 per cent.

BALTIMORE—Bank clearings to-day, $2,309,163; balances, $257,210. Rate 6 per cent.

CHICAGO—New York Exchange quiet at 10c premium.

ST. LOUIS—Clearings, $3,301,991; balances, $545,394. Money 7@8 per cent. Exchange on New York, 75@90c premium. For this month—Clearings, $10,239,731; balances, $1,406,715. For December, 1890—Clearings, $9,781,118; balances, $8,704,662. The clearings for this month show an increase over December, 1890, of $12,458 63 or 12 74 per cent. For this year—Clearings $10,139,209,774; balances, $128,793,939. For last year—Clearings, $1,118,573,210; balances, $161,780,057. The clearings this year show an increase over those of last year of $21,026,365, or 1.88 per cent.

MEMPHIS—New York Exchange selling at par. Clearings, $417,045; balances, $168,249.

NEW ORLEANS—Clearings, $2,185,632.

HOME SECURITIES.

THE YEAR CLOSES ON A RATHER SEDATE CROWD OF BROKERS.

Nothing Discouraging, but the Spirit of Momus Held in Check—Big Jump in Bank of Commerce—Final Bids and Offers for the Year.

The close of business on Change yesterday was characterized by nothing much out of the ordinary. Formerly it was the custom at the end of the year to indulge in fun and frolic. But yesterday there was scarcely enough of this to make a contrast to the regulation windup. There was plenty of good humor, but it did not slop over.

John D. Bailey, on behalf of the Exchange, presented the newspaper representatives tokens of esteem in the shape of Brobdignagian cigars, which they got rid of as soon as possible, and Henry M. Long was called on for a speech, to which he did not refuse. To the music o. a cracked bell and "Auld Lang Syne" the crowd dispersed to prepare for the pleasures of New Year's Day.

With the exception of Pittsburg National Bank of Commerce, which was bid up to 285 at last call, a jump of $10, there were no material price changes. At the first call 100 shares of Allegheny Valley changed hands at 22, and 50 Luster at 8¾. Nothing was done at the second call. At the third, 100 Luster went at 8. Final bids and offers for the year:

EXCHANGE STOCKS.	FIRST CALL.		SECOND CALL.		THIRD CALL.	
	B	A	B	A	B	A
P. P. S. & M. Ex.	375	410	380	410	....	....
Allegheny N. B.	....	68	67	....	67	68
Bank of Pittsburg	....	....	280	....	....	....
Com. Nat. Bank	....	....	94	....	....	....
City Savings Bk.	....	....	130	....	....	....
Ear. D. Nat. Bk.	....	....	350	....	....	....
First N. Bk. Pgh.	....	....	175	180	....	....
Fifth Nat. Bank	....	....	....	140	....	....
Freehold Bank	....	....	60	....	....	....
German Nat. Bk.	....	325	....	325	....	....
Iron'ne. B.	....	....	55	....	....	....
*Mech'n'sNat. B	....	....	110½	....	....	....
Nat. Bk.	....	....	130	....	....	....
O. P. Sav. Bk.	....	....	70	....	....	....
Pitts. Nat. Bk. Com	....	....	255	....	285	....
Peoples Nat. B.	....	....	180	....	....	....
Third Nat. Bank	....	....	130	....	....	....
Citizens Ins.	....	....	....	....	....	40
People's Ins.	....	29	....	....	....	....
Char. Val. Gas Co	....	....	6½	....	....	....
Man. Gas Co.	....	....	....	26	....	25½
Nat. Gas Co.	....	....	8	8¼	....	8
Philadelphia Co.	12¾	12¾	12¾	12¾	12¾	12¾
Wheeling & Co.	....	....	....	27	....	....
Pt. Perry Ry.	....	....	110	....	....	....
Ft. Pitt J. P. Co.	....	....	....	20	....	....
Central Traction	21¼	22	21	....	21¾	....
Citizens' Tract'n	58½	60	59¾	60	....	....
Pitts. Traction	47	....	47	....	47¼	48
Pleasant Valley	21¾	22½	21¾	22½	21¾	22¾
Second Avenue	48	55½	....	....	....	....
Allegheny Valley	....	....	10	15	....	....
Pittsburg Ry.	60	....	....	....	62	65
Pittsburg, Y. & A.	....	....	....	....	34	40
P., Y. & A., pref.	....	....	....	....	50	....
Pitts. & Conn. Bridge	....	....	8	....	....	....
Pitts. & Conn.	....	....	4	....	....	....
Pitts. Jun. R. R.	....	....	22	....	....	....
P., McK. & Y.	....	....	....	....	....	61¾
P. & S.	....	....	60	....	....	....
P. & W. R. R. pfd	19	....	....	....	....	....
Hidalgo M. Co.	....	....	....	....	4½	....
La Noria M. Co.	36	38	28	35	7¾	8
Luster M. Co.	8	8¾	8	8¾	....	....
Red Cloud M. Co.	2	3	3	....	....	....
West'gh'se E.	....	....	....	....	....	....
Nat. U. Co.	32	33	32	33	....	....
Union S. & S. Co.	10¾	10¾	24	....	10¾	....
Wabash Inv.	....	....	....	....	....	....
W. House A. B. Co	....	....	....	101	....	....
W. B. Co. Lim.	....	....	....	....	....	....
S. U. C. Co.	60	....	60½	70	....	....

*Ex. Div.

CLOSED WITH A SPURT.

THE LAST PRICES OF STOCKS ABOUT THE BEST OF THE YEAR.

New England's Boom the Feature of the Day—A Larger Gain Than Any Other Active Share—Beaten Among the Specialties by Oregon Navigation.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—The stock market was fairly active and again decidedly strong to-day, many of the leading stocks reaching the best prices attained during the year, and the market, as a whole, closed the year strong and active at practically the highest prices. There was a general movement among the shorts, who have put out lines in the last few days to get in out of the cold, and the amount of business done, therefore, compares favorably with that of the previous days of the week, even though there was less new business done than usual of late.

The feature of the day was the new spurt in New England as usual, for no apparent reason. Its final figures, while not its highest, showed by far the largest gain for the day. Both the Coalers and the Vanderbilts were quiet and strong, and the same may be said of the Gouids and Villards. Industrials were firm, the Lead stock, old and new, taking the lead. The close was fairly steady at or near the best prices. Among the active shares the most important gains were: New England, 2¾; Union Pacific, Rock Island, Chicago Gas and Louisville and Nashville, each 1¾, and Burlington and Quincy, 1 per cent. Among the specialties, however, Oregon Navigation rose 3, and others 1 to 2 per cent.

The total sales of stocks to-day were 305,705 shares, including: Atchison, 9,550; Canada Southern, 1,559; Chicago Gas, 15,566; Delaware, Lackawanna and Western, 6,160; Erie, 21,960; Louisville and Nashville, 4,300; Missouri Pacific, 6,160; New York Central, 6,450; Northern Pacific preferred, 8,000; New England, 22,290; Richmond and West Point, 26,285; St. Paul, 11,160; St. Paul and Omaha, 9,670; Union Pacific, 23,352; Union Pacific, Denver and Gulf, 3,920.

Railroad bonds were still very largely traded in, the sales of all issues reaching $3,438,000, but some of the prominent issues showed great activity. Reading firsts furnished $516,000, the seconds $292,000, the thirds $121,000; Richmond and West Point 5s, $248,000, and Atchison incomes, $172,000. All of these were strong, while Kansas City and Omaha firsts were the feature of the day, rising from 70 to 74¾.

The following table shows the prices of active shares 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.	Closing bid.
American Cotton Oil	34½	35½	34¼	34¾
American Cotton Oil pfd.	64	65	64	64½
Am. Sugar Refining Co.	84	84½	82¾	83½
Am. Sugar Refining Co. pfd	92	93	92	92½
Atch., Top. & S. F.	44¾	44¾	44¾	44¾
Canadian Pacific	91½	91½	91½	91½
Canada Southern	61¼	61½	61¼	61¼
Central of New Jersey	112	112	111½	111½
Central Pacific	....	....	....	33½
Chesapeake and Ohio	26	26¾	25¾	25¾
C. & O., 1st pfd	38½	40½	38¾	40
C. & O. 2d pfd	30¾	32½	30¾	30½
Chicago Gas Trust	70¾	71¾	70¾	....
C., Bur. & Quincy	108½	109¾	108	109¾
C., Mil. & St. Paul	83½	85¾	81¾	85¾
C., Mil. & St. Paul, pfd	124	125¾	123	125¾
C., Rock I. & P.	88¾	89¾	88¾	89
C., St. P., M. & O.	44¾	49¾	48	48½
C. St. P. M. & O., pfd*	109	110	109	110½
C. & Northwestern	115¾	116¾	115¾	116¾
C. & Northwestern, pfd	....	....	....	141½
C., C., C. & I.	70½	70¾	70½	70¾
C., C., C. & I. pfd	....	....	....	95
Col. Coal & Iron	36¾	36¾	35¾	35¾
Col. & Hocking Valley	20	20¾	20	20¾
Del., Lack. & West.	138½	139½	138½	139
Del. & Hudson	122¾	122¾	122	122½
Den. & Rio Grande	....	....	....	25½
Den. & Rio Grande, pfd	48	48	48	48
E. Tn., Va. & Ga.	7¾	7¾	7¾	7¾
E. Tn., Va. & Ga., 2d pfd	14½	....	....	....
Illinois Central	108½	109	108¾	108¾
Lake Erie & West	21½	22¼	21½	22
Lake Erie & West pfd	69	69¾	68½	69¾
Lake Shore & M. S.	122¾	123¾	122¾	123
Louisville & Nashville	82¾	83¾	82¾	83¾
Michigan Central	....	....	....	103
Mobile & Ohio	42	42	39	39
Missouri Pacific	62¾	63¾	62¾	63¾
National Cordage Co.	94¾	96¾	94¾	94¾
National Cordage Co., pfd.	109¾	109¾	109¾	109¾
National Lead Trust	18¾	18¾	18¼	18¾
New York Central	115¾	117	115¾	116¾
N. Y., C. & St. L.	21	21¾	21	20¾
N. Y., C. & St. L. 1st pfd	....	....	....	77
N. Y., C. & St. L. 2d pfd	42	42	42	42
N. Y., L. E. & W.	33½	34¼	33	34
N. Y., L. E. & W. pfd*	74½	75½	74¾	75¼
N. Y. & N.	35¾	....	....	....
N. Y., O. & W.	21¾	21¾	21¾	21¾
Norfolk & Western	....	....	....	16½
Norfolk & Western, pref.	....	....	....	54½
North American Co.	18½	18½	18¾	18¾
Northern Pacific	25¾	25¾	25¾	25¾
Northern Pacific pref	70¾	71¾	70¾	71¾
Oregon Improvement	28¾	29¾	27¾	27¾
Pacific Mail	37¾	38	37¾	37¾
Peo., Dec. & Evansville	21¾	22¾	21¾	22¾
Philadelphia & Reading	39¾	40¾	39¾	39¾
P., C., C. & St. L.	28¾	28¾	28¾	28¾
P., C., C. & St. L. pref.	65¾	65¾	65¾	65¾
Pullman Palace Car	....	....	....	184½
Richmond & W. P. T.	14	15¾	14	14½
Richmond & W. P. T. pfd.	60	62	60	60
St. Paul & Duluth	46¾	46¾	46	45½
St. Paul & Duluth, pfd	....	....	....	120
St. Paul, Minn & Man.	114½	114¾	114½	114
Texas Pacific	13¾	14	13¾	13¾
Union Pacific	46¾	48¼	46¾	47¾
Wabash	14¾	15	14¾	14¾
Wabash, pfd	31½	31¾	31¼	31¾
Western Union	83¾	84¾	83¾	83¾
Wheeling & L. E.	28¾	29¾	28	28¾
Wheeling & L. E., pfd	77½	77½	77½	77¾
Dis. & Cattle F. Trust	59¾	60¾	59¾	60

*Ex-Div.

Philadelphia Stocks.

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

	Bid.	Asked.
Pennsylvania Railroad	57½	57¾
Reading Railroad	20	20 1-16
Buffalo, N. and Phila	....	9¼
Lehigh Valley	59½	59¾
Northern Pacific	25½	26¼
Northern Pacific, preferred	71¾	71¾
Lehigh Navigation	42½	43¼

Boston Stocks—Closing Prices.

Atch. & Top.	45¼	Boston & Mont.	230
Boston & Albany	188½	Calumet & Hecla	330
Chi., Bur. & Quincy	109¾	Franklin	95¼
Fitchburg R.	81½	Kearsarge	12
Flint & Pere M. pfd.	36	Osceola	50
Little Rock & Ft. S.	22	Santa Fe Copper	1.27½
Mass. Central	16	Tamarack	160
Mex. Cen. com.	22¾	Anniston Land Co.	30
N. Y. & N. E.	42¾	Boston Land Co.	2
Old Colony	184½	San Diego Land Co.	19
Rutland com.	3½	West End Land Co.	17½
Wis. Central com.	20¾	Bell Telephone	206
Wis. Central pref.	46½	Water Power	3¼
Allouez Min., new	11¾		

Mining Stock Quotations.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Alice, 125; Choliar, 100; Consolidated California and Virginia, 400; Deadwood T, 195; Eureka Consolidated, 175; Gould and Curry, 100; Homestake, 11.50; Horn Silver, 380; Iron Silver, 125; Mexican, 160; Ontario, 4,300; Ophir, 260; Plymouth, 150; Savage, 188; Sierra Nevada, 175; Standard, 120; Union Consolidated, 140.

Bar Silver Quotations.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—[Special.]—Bar silver in London, 43¾d per ounce; New York dealers' price for silver, 94¾c per ounce.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Receipts, Shipments and Prices at East Liberty and All Other Stock Yards.

OFFICE OF THE DISPATCH, PITTSBURG, December 31.

CATTLE—Receipts, 1,428 head; shipments, 1,344 head; market, nothing doing all through consignments; no cattle shipped to New York to-day.

HOGS—Receipts, 3,300 head; shipments, 2,450 head; market steady; all grades, $4 15@4 40; 6 cars of hogs shipped to New York to-day.

SHEEP—Receipts, 800 head; shipments, 800 head; market fair at yesterday's prices.

By Telegraph.

Chicago—Cattle—Receipts, 12,000 head; shipments, 6,000 head; market active and steady to stronger; top prices for steers, $4 99@5 75; others, $2 20@5 75; stockers, $2 15@2 65; cows, $1 15@2 75. Hogs—Receipts, 40,000 head; shipments, 10,000 head; active light grades higher; general market closing steady; rough and common, $3 70@3 75; mixed $3 80@3 90; prime heavy and butchers' weights, $3 95@4 05; light, $3 70@3 92. Sheep—Receipts, 6,000 head; shipments, 2,000 head; market active, strong to higher; native ewes, $3 00@4 25; mixed, $4 30@4 80; wethers and yearlings, $5 0@6 00; Westerns, $4 60@5 15; lambs, $3 75@6 40.

New York—Beeves—Receipts, 79 head, all for exporters; no trade; feeling firm; dressed beef steady at 6½@9c pound; shipments to day 1,195 beeves and 30 sheep. Calves—Receipts, 263 head; market firm; veals, $5 00@8 50 per 100 pounds; Western calves, $3 50. Sheep—Receipts, 5,425 head; sheep steady; lambs, ½c per pound lower; sheep, $4 00@5 75 per 100 pounds, $6 40@6 45; dressed mutton steady at 8@9½c per pound; dressed lambs, 9@11c. Hogs—Receipts, 1,100 head; Western, $3 90 per 100 pounds.

Buffalo—Cattle—Receipts, 127 loads through; 3 loads sale; market steady at Monday's prices. Sheep and lambs—Receipts, 3 loads through; 1 load sale; steady for good sheep and lambs; common lots, 10@15c lower; sheep — good to best, $4 75@5 50; common to fair, $4 00@4 65; lambs—Western, 4 50@5 75; Canadas, $6 65@6 85. Hogs—Receipts, 51 loads through; 20 loads sale; strong and 10c higher; mediums and packers, $5 25@4 30; good to extra heavy, $4 30@4 35.

St. Louis—Cattle — Shipments, 3,600 head; market steady; fair to good natives, $3 00@5 00; Texan and Indian steers, $2 00@3 10. Hogs—Receipts, 3,300 head; shipments, 2,400 head; market 5@10c lower; fair to choice heavy, $3 85@4 05; mixed, $3 80@3 90; light, fair to choice, $3 80@3 80. Sheep—Receipts, 500 head; shipments, 300 head; market strong; fair to best, $3 00@4 80.

Omaha—Cattle—Receipts, 1,200 head; fair demand, with prices steady to strong; fancy, $2 75@5 75; Westerns, $2 50@5 75. Hogs—Receipts, 7,000 head; market strong to a shade higher; light, $3 80@3 62; heavy, $3 60@3 70; mixed, $3 60@5 65. Sheep—Receipts, 200 head; market active at steady prices; natives, $3 55@5 00; Westerns, $3 50@4 75.

Kansas City—Cattle—Receipts, 1,200 head; shipments, 1,200 head; market strong and about 10c higher; extra fancy steers, $5 25@5 50; shipping steers, $4 00@4 75; dressed beef steers, $3 25@4 00. Hogs—Receipts, 900 head; shipments, 1,300 head; market strong to 5c higher; bulk, $3 50@3 65; extreme ranges, $3 25@3 85. Sheep—Receipts, 100 head; shipments none; market nominally steady.

Cincinnati—Hogs in light supply and firmer; common and light, $3 40@3 90; packing and butchers', $3 80@4 05; receipts, 3,280 head; shipments, 2,510 head. Cattle quiet; receipts, 640 head; shipments, 215 head. Sheep steady; receipts, 840 head; shipments, none. Lambs strong; common to choice, $4 00@5 75 per 100 pounds.

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MORE PLAY THAN WORK.

Sportive Bulls and Bears of the Grain Pits Cease Their Warfare on the Last Day of the Old Year to Indulge in Horse Play.

CHICAGO.—Business was exceedingly dull in all the pits to-day. Fluctuations were of the narrowest. Nearly all outstanding lines were covered up yesterday and before, and traders did not care to open new ones in the old year. The day was given up to horse play. Wheat was steady to firm throughout, most of the session. May opened unchanged at 95¾c, sold up to 96⅝c, reacted and closed at the opening figures.

Corn was very dull, but showed considerable strength in the early trading. Later in the day there was some recession in prices, especially on the nearby months. December opened ¼c higher at 39¾c, held at that price till late, when it receded to 39⅝c and closed at 38¾c; January started ⅝c up at 50¾c, sold at 40¾c, sagged to 39⅝c and closed at 39¾c; May opened at 41⅝c, touched 4 3⅛c and closed at the opening price, ⅛c higher than yesterday.

Outs without feature, except December, which shows a loss of ⅝c.

Hog products were strong and higher early in the day, but weak later. The closing, however, showed some advance, especially on near futures, while May lard is off 2½c.

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

ARTICLES.	Opening.	Highest.	Lowest.	Closing.
WHEAT, No. 2.				
December	$ 90⅜	$ 90¾	$ 90¼	90⅝
January	90⅜	90⅝	90¼	90⅝
May	90⅜	96⅝	95⅞	95⅞
CORN, No. 2.				
December	39¾	39¾	39¼	39¾
January	40¾	40¾	39⅝	39¾
May	41⅝	41⅝	41⅜	41⅜
OATS, No. 2.				
December	32	32½	31¾	32⅛
January	31⅞	32	30⅞	31⅝
May	32⅜	32⅝	32⅛	32⅜
MESS PORK.				
December	7 65	7 70	7 65	7 70
January	10 45	10 52½	10 45	10 47½
May	11 07½	11 10	11 02½	11 05
LARD.				
December	6 05	6 05	6 05	6 05
January	6 10	6 10	6 07½	6 07½
May	6 45	6 45	6 37½	6 40
SHORT RIBS.				
December	5 20	5 20	5 20	5 20
January	5 12½	5 25	5 20	5 20
May	5 65	5 67½	5 62½	5 62½

Cash quotations were as follows: Flour steady and unchanged. No. 2 spring wheat, 90½c; No. 3 spring wheat, 82½@83½c; No. 2 red, 91¾c; No. 2 corn, 39¾c; No. 2 oats, 31½c; No. 2 white, 32½@33c; No. 3 white, 30@32c; No. 2 rye, 57c; No. 2 barley, 56c; No. 3, f. o. b., 42@44c; No. 4, f. o. b., 34@43c; No. 1 flaxseed, 94½@94¾c; prime timothy seed, $1 22. Mess pork, per barrel, $7 70. Lard, per 100 lbs., $6 07½. Short rib sides (loose), $5 15@5 25; dry salted shoulders (boxed), 5¾@5¾; short clear sides (boxed), $5 30@5 35. Whisky, distillers' finished goods, per gallon, $1 18. Sugars unchanged.

On the Produce Exchange to-day the butter market was unchanged. Eggs, 27@28c.

NEW YORK—Flour less active and unchanged. Cornmeal dull and steady. Wheat—Spot market firmer and quiet; No. 2 red, $1 05¾ in store and elevator; $1 07@1 07¾ afloat; $1 06⅞@1 08⅛ f. o. b.; No. 3 red, $1 02@1 03¾; ungraded red, 96c@$1 11. No. 1 Northern, $1 08¾ asked; No. 2 hard, $1 11¾; No. 2 Northern, $1 08¾; No. 3 spring, 99c. Options—No. 2 red, December, $1 05¾@1 05⅞; January, $1 05⅝@1 05⅞, closing at $1 05⅝; February, $1 06¾@1 06⅞, closing at $1 06⅞; March, $1 07¾@1 08, closing at $1 08; April, closing at $1 08¾; May, $1 07 1-16@1 07¾, closing at $1 07¾; June, $1 05¾@1 05¾, closing at $1 05½; July, closing at $1 02½. Rye dull and heavy; Western, 93c@$1 02. Barley weak; No. 2 Milwaukee, 69@71c. Corn—Spot market fairly active, closing steady; No. 2, 53¾@53⅞c; ungraded mixed, 53@53¾c; No. 3, 49¾c; afloat; ungraded mixed, 46@53½c; No. 3, 49¾@49¾c; steamer mixed, 51@52c; options unchanged for March, April ⅛c up, May ⅛c down; December, 51¾c; January, 51¾@52c, closing at 53¾c; February, 51¾@52c, closing at 52c; April, 52c, closing at 52c; May, 50¾@51c, closing at 50½c. Oats—Spot market firmer and quiet; options dull, December, 29½c; January, 33¾@33⅞c, closing at 33¾c; February closing at 33c; May, 30@30½c, closing at 30c; spot, No. 2, 30½@40½c; No. 3, 32c; mixed, 32@41½c; white do, 40@43½c; No. 2 Chicago, 40½@40¾c. Hay quiet and firm. Hops fairly active and firm. Tallow quiet and firm. Eggs quiet and easy; Western, 26@27c. Hide—quiet and steady. Pork quiet and steady. Cut meats steady. Middles quiet and steady; short clear, $5 90. Lard firmer and quiet; Western steam, $6 45 bid; options—January, $6 42@6 45, closing at $6 43; February, $6 51; March, $6 60; May, $6 74 @6 76, closing at $6 76. Butter quiet and firm; Western dairy 15@21c; do creamery, 15@30c; do factory, 14@20c. Cheese firm and in fair demand; part skims, 5½@10c.

BALTIMORE—Wheat steady; No. 2 red, spot and December, $1 02½@1 02¾; January, $1 02⅜@1 03; February, $1 04½@1 04¾; May, $1 07¾@ 07⅝; steamer No. 2 red, 94¼@95½c; ungraded red, 92c@$1 11. No. 1 Northern, $1 08¾ asked; No. 2 Northern, $1 08¼; Northern, $1 08⅜; No. 3 spring, 99c. Options—No. 2 red, December, $1 05¾@1 05⅞; January, $1 05⅝@1 05⅞, closing at $1 05⅝; February, $1 06¾@1 06⅞, closing at $1 06⅞; March, $1 07¾@1 08, closing at $