Chicago Board of Trade Prices.

On Monday, Dec. 8, wheat closed ⅝c lower than closing prices on the Saturday previous. There was some strength at the start, but further financial complications and free offerings caused a slump. Outside of the financial situation there was nothing of much interest. Prices closed as follows :—

	Dec.	Jan	Feb	May
Wheat	88¼	90¼	——	97¼
Corn	51½	51⅝	51¼	51⅜
Oats	43	43	—	45¼
Pork	8 60	10 17½	10 32½	11 15
Lard	5 50	5 75	5 90	6 32½
Short Ribs	4.75	5.12½	5.30	5.70

On Tuesday wheat closed about 1½c higher. May sold up 2c from the lowest point of Monday. Trading was active, and there was heavy selling on advances. Better financial outlook was the cause of the advance. Liverpool cables were ½d lower on futures. Closing prices were :—

	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	May.
Wheat	89⅝	91½	——	98⅜
Corn	52⅜	52	——	54⅜
Oats	4-¼	4⅜	——	46¼
Pork	8.00	10.42½	10.60	11.37½
Lard	5 62½	5.87½	——	6.47½
Short Ribs	4 85	5.20	5.35	5 80

Prices made a slight gain on Wednesday and were ⅜ to ¾c higher at the close. Trading was quiet, but the feeling was fairly firm. Closing prices were :—

	Dec	Jan.	Feb..	May.
Wheat	90	91¾	——	98⅞
Corn	52¼	51⅞	——	54⅜
Oats	43	43¼	——	46
Pork	8 10	10.42½	——	11 40
Lard	5.62½	5 87½	——	6 45
Short Ribs	4.90	5.20	——	5 80

On Thursday wheat was dull until the last hour of the session when there was an advance of ⅝c, based on the reports of damage being done to the winter wheat in Indiana, Kansas and Missouri by the Hessian fly. Closing prices were :—

	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	May.
Wheat	90¾	92	——	99½
Corn	52½	51½	——	54⅜
Oats	43⅜	45⅜	——	46
Pork	8.10	10.40	——	11.40
Lard	5.65	5.90	——	6 45-7½
Short Ribs	4.87½	5.15 17½	——	5.80

On Friday wheat was firmer on an improved financial situation and the better tone of the New York stock market and a material decrease of the visible supply in the Northwest. Closing prices were :—

	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	May
Wheat	92	93	——	1.00½-⅝
Corn	51⅞	51⅜	—	54
Oats	42⅜	42¾	—	45¾
Pork	8.25	10.37½	——	11.37½
Lard	5.67½	5.87½-90	——	6.45
Short Ribs	4.87½	5.15	——	5.77½

Minneapolis Market.

Following were closing wheat quotations on Thursday, December 11:—

	Dec.	May	On track
No. 1 hard	90	—	90
No. 1 northern	86½	96⅜	86½
No. 2 northern	82	—	82

On Saturday, December 13, No. 1 Northern, May delivery, was quoted at 97⅝c at one o'clock.

Duluth Wheat Market.

On Saturday, Dec. 13, wheat advanced sharply, but at one o'clock prices were ½c lower than the top of the day, at that hour No. 1 hard being quoted as follows: December, 92c; May, $1 01⅜. These prices were 3 to 3½c higher than a week ago.

The Wheat Situation.

On account of the peculiar conditions existing in Manitoba country grain markets of late, a rumor has spread abroad that the large milling firms are endeavoring to crowd out the other buyers, by paying higher prices than grain shippers could afford to give, and thus obtain a monopoly of the markets. A number of our country exchanges have been discussing the matter vigorously, and with great earnestness, and have painted a word picture of the poor farmer at the mercy of the voracious miller; after the other buyers have been crowded out. THE COMMERCIAL believes that this is all bosh, and that our country exchanges have worked themselves up into a needless state of alarm over an exceedingly harmless bugaboo. Under certain market conditions the millers can afford to pay more for wheat than exporters. This has frequently been the case in Manitoba. Millers have of late paid higher prices for wheat than exporters could pay, on the present basis of sales. Why this is we do not pretend to know, but it would be a very foolish thing to suppose that the object is to monopolize the market. The millers could not long afford to pay very high prices, and as soon as they were lowered, the shippers would come back in the market again. Besides, there is a large portion of the present crop which the milling firms referred to do not want at all, and they are anxious for the grain shippers to remain in the market to take the poorer qualities of wheat. Millers may occasionally and for a short time pay more for wheat than they can afford, but they will not take any considerable quantity in this way. They buy wheat to make a profit out of it, though an occasional spurt may carry prices beyond a profitable basis for a short time. It is nonsense to think that the millers are trying to monopolize the Manitoba markets, for such a thing is practically impossible. They do not want all the wheat, as would be readily shown should the shippers all step out of the markets for a time.

Reducing Grain Freights.

The Canadian Pacific and the Northern Pacific railways announced last week another reduction in the all-rail rates on grain, flour and mill stuffs of two and a half cents from Brandon to Toronto and points west of the latter city, making the rate 44½ cents instead of 47 cents as heretofore and 42c on oatmeal, oats and barley. This reduction in all-rail rates follows the reductions announced last week on rates to Port Arthur.

Prices at Montreal.

Oatmeal—The market is firmer in sympathy with the advancing price of oats, and holders are asking higher prices. Ordinary standard in bbls. held at $4.65 to $4.75, and in bags $2.35 to $2.40. Granulated in bags $2.45 to 2 55.

Bran—There is a very firm feeling in bran at higher prices, sales having been made at $18 to $19 per ton for car lots, and sales are reported as high as $20 in small lots delivered. Shorts are firm at $20 to $21 per ton.

Oats—The market has ruled firm with a fair volume of business at higher prices. Sales of No. 2 Quebec oats have been made at 43c, 43½c to 44c per 32 lbs. A quantity of Manitoba mixed oats was sold at 43c to 43½c per 32 lbs., and a few cars of Manitoba white oats at 46c per 34 lbs. Ontario oats are quoted firm at 45c to 46c per 32 lbs. Great complaints are made of the dirty condition of Manitoba oats through not being properly cleaned, one car containing 2000 lbs. of dirt and foreign substances.

Dressed Hogs—Sales at the commencement of the week were made in this market at $5.80 to $5.90 per 100 lbs., about four or five car loads being placed at those low prices. Since then, however, the market has been easier owing to the action of a dealer who came down from Ontario, and sold several cars to arrive at about $5.65 per 100 lbs, and we quote $5.65 to $5 75 for car lots, smaller lots being quoted at $5.80 to $6 00. At present, reasonable prices Ontario packers appear to be taking considerable hogs.

Eggs.—The egg market keeps firm, sales of Montreal limed being reported at 19 to 20c, which is fully 1c up on the week. Held fresh have also been placed at 21 to 22c, which is one 1c up on the inside figure. New laid from near by points are scarce and quoted all the way from 23 to 25c per dozen.

Butter—The market has remained firm during the week on all grades of finest creamery and dairy and slightly higher prices have been paid. Several lots of choice creamery have changed hands at 22c For Fancy single tubs 23 to 23½c have been obtained. Earlier makes are offered at 19 to 21c as to quality. In dairy there have been transactions in Eastern Townships at 19 to 20c for fine lots, and 21c has been paid for choice single tubs One lot of good straight Eastern Townships was sold at 18c. There have been several purchases of Western dairy at points west of Toronto for Montreal account at 13c to 14c. Western is now held with more firmness at this market, and a lot of choice was placed at 15c 2 cars of choice creamery have been forwarded to British Columbia and it is expected that more will follow. Several lots have also been shipped to England this week. A fair demand has been experienced for Western rolls with sales in bbls and cases at 16 to 17c, one lot put up in not very desirable shape bringing 15c per lb.—*Trade Bulletin*, Dec. 5.