FRESH ADVANCES BY BANK STOCKS

Trading in General is Quiet, But War Loans Are Firmly Held.

Odd-lot buying made up virtually the entire business on the Toronto Exchange yesterday, and the only feature the market possessed was furnished by the bank stocks, which continued to give striking evidence that would-be purchasers must bid up prices sharply in order to have their orders filled. The New York market's course was not calculated to instil enthusiasm into trading in the general run of stocks locally, and it appears also as tho the approach of the holiday season is exerting the customary deadening influence.

In the bank stocks the most impressive display of strength yesterday was by Merchants, which sold at 179¾. There had been no transaction in this stock for several days, the previous sale having been at 170, while early last week Merchants was on offer at 167, and the bid up to Tuesday last had not advanced beyond 171. Standard commanded 203, an advance of 2⅝; Montreal sold at 216 and 215, closing at the latter figure for a net gain of 2⅝; Royal was up two points to 212 and Dominion Bank a point up at 209½, but Toronto, which has recently had a good advance, eased a point to 193.

Gains and losses of small fractions were scattered thru the rest of the list. Steamships common was off ¼ at 49¼; Cement off ¼ at 66¼, and Dominion Iron off ¼ at 62½, while Twin City was ¼ higher at 49½. Maple Leaf Milling, common and preferred; Steamships preferred, Steel of Canada and Brazilian were among the issues to close without change.

The war loans were almost entirely neglected following the strength and activity of the day before. The 1931 issue was ¼ higher at 95⅞, and the final bid was 96. The bids for the other loans were also firm at 96 for the 1925 issue and 97½ for the 1937 loan.

The day's transactions: Shares, 763; war loans, $300.

IRON AND STEEL TRADE IN WAITING ATTITUDE

Pittsburg, Pa., Dec. 18.—The iron and steel trade is in the midst of inventory-taking periods and new orders are not being booked to any extent. New business under the price list announced last week is not expected in volume until after January 1, by which time all independents will probably have followed the lead of the Steel Corporation in price revisions. The present-time contracts are being booked under existing prices, but for not more than thirty-day periods.

ON NEW YORK CURB.

Hamilton B. Wills received the following wire at the close of the New York curb market yesterday: There was a noticeable broadening out in trading today, the oil division showing more signs of activity than for some time past. Keystone Tire, under heavy trading, advanced to new record high prices, above $39.25. General Asphalt sold at new high prices Island Oil was the feature of the oil division, advancing to above $6 a share. In the mining division the principal activity was in Gypsy Queen, which advanced sharply. There was a good demand for United Eastern, Con. Copper Mines and Canada Copper.

CEMENT DIVIDEND.

The Canada Cement Company has declared a dividend of 1½ per cent., payable January 16 to shareholders of record December 31.

RAILWAY EARNINGS

Earnings of the three big Canadian railways for the second week of December show substantial increases. The figures are:

	Earnings.	Inc.
C. P. R.	$3,780,000	$872,000
G. T. R.	1,385,902	657,249
C. N. R.	1,067,000	313,200

BANKERS AT OTTAWA.

Ottawa, Dec. 18.—An important conference of members of the Canadian Bankers' Association was held in the capital today. Among those in attendance are: Sir John Aird, Sir Edmund Walker, E. L. Pease, H. A. Richardson and C. A. Bogert.

PRICE OF SILVER.

New York, Dec. 18.—Bar silver, $1.01⅛.
London, Dec. 18.—Bar silver, 48 7-16d per ounce.

LIVERPOOL COTTON.

Liverpool, Dec. 18.—Cotton futures closed steady. Dec., 20.75; Jan., 19.50; Feb., 18.46; March, 17.50; April, 16.55.

NEW YORK MARKET IS UNDER PRESSURE

Independent Steels and Related Equipments Reflect Cancellation of Contracts.

New York, Dec. 18.—Heaviness prevailed in the stock market today after a firm opening, prices soon yielded on light offerings. Pressure was not confined to any particular group, oils and other recent strong favorites displayed reactionary tendencies.

Confusion of sentiment incidental to the administration's attitude towards the transportation companies found further expression in moderate liquidation of railway shares, albeit losses in that division were relatively limited.

United States Steel backed and filled within a fractional radius, but independent steels broke more severely with related equipments, their reversal of one to six points being attended by trade reports of additional cancellations of domestic and foreign contracts.

Coppers were temporarily strengthened by announcement of the formation of a new stock company having for its main object the stabilization of that industry, but failed to retain their moderate gains.

Uncertainty marked the course of shippings. Marine preferred holding relatively steady for a time, but forfeiting part of its advance later. Tobaccos, leathers, sugars and utilities were included among the other irregular issues. Sales amounted to 350,000 shares.

The one encouraging feature of the session was a drop in call money to four per cent., the ruling rate, however, approximately 4 3-4. Dealings in foreign exchange were at low-ebb, neutral remittances, especially to Stockholm and Switzerland, showing more firmness.

Conditions in the bond market were mixed, international issues, notably Anglo-French 5s, duplicating the year's best at 97, while Liberty issues sagged under the further weakness of fourth 4 1-4s, which made a new low record at 95.40. Total sales, par value, aggregated $10,875,000. Old United States bonds were unchanged on call.

POST-WAR PROBLEMS FACED BY U. S. BANKERS

Rationing of Financial Resources of the Country Will Be Necessary.

Washington, Dec. 18.—In its December bulletin issued today the federal reserve board says that with the signing of the armistice a new era of American finance has been inaugurated, which "will be replete with new and momentous problems demanding no less serious consideration than those of war."

Rationing of the financial resources of the country along lines closely following those required by war conditions, loans to foreign governments, prevention of inflation and the limitation of industry to the so-called essentials, are the principal problems which the board says must be met by the nation's bankers with the coming of peace.

UNLISTED STOCKS.

Supplied by Heron & Co.

	Ask.	Bid.
Abitibi Power com.	50	...
Brompton	61	60½
Black Lake com.	2½	1¼
do. preferred	8	7½
do. income bonds	37	32
Carriage Factories com.	15	...
do. preferred	50	...
Macdonald Co. A., pref.	93	...
North Am. P. & P.	2¾	2 9-16
Steel & Rad. com.	20	14
do. preferred	65	...
do. bonds	63	...
Volcanic Gas & Oil	100	...

NEW YORK COTTON.

J. P. Bickell & Co., 802-7 Standard Bank Building, report New York Cotton Exchange fluctuations as follows:

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.	Prev. Close.
Jan.	26.95	27.30	26.71	27.30	26.90
March	25.97	26.20	25.74	26.12	25.85
May	25.20	25.33	24.95	25.28	25.05
July	24.50	25.71	25.38	25.55	24.40
Oct.	22.70	22.70	22.40	22.55	22.44
Dec.	28.50	29.00	28.22	28.80	28.50

MONEY AND EXCHANGE.

London, Dec. 18.—Money, 3 per cent. Discount rates: Short and three-month bills, 3 17-32 per cent.

Paris, Dec. 18.—Prices were heavy on the bourse today. Three per cent. rentes, 61 francs 95 centimes for cash. Exchange on London, 25 francs 97½ centimes.

Glazebrook & Cronyn, exchange and bond brokers, report exchange rates as follows:

	Buyers.	Sellers.	Counter
N.Y. fds.	1 35-64	1 37-64	....
Mont. fds.	par.	par.	⅛ to ¼
Ster. dem.	483.15	483.30	485
Cable tr.	483.90	484.10	486

Rate in New York for sterling demand. 475 70.

Record of Yesterday's Markets

TORONTO STOCKS.

	Ask.	Bid.
Ames-Holden pref.	67	...
Barcelona	12½	12¼
Brazilian T., L. & P.	52½	51½
F. N. Burt com.	63½	...
Canada Bread com.	23	22½
C. Car & F. Co.	...	32
do. preferred	...	84½
Canada Cement com.	66¼	66
do. preferred	...	92
Can. St. Lines com.	49½	49
do. preferred	78½	78
Can. Gen. Electric	104	103
Can. Loco. com.	65	63½
Canadian Salt	132	...
City Dairy com.	...	50
do. preferred	...	85
Coniagas	3.20	3.00
Cons. Smelters	26	24½
Consumers' Gas	150	...
Crown Reserve	36	25
Crow's Nest	50	...
Dome	13.25	12.50
Dom. Canners	34½	34
do. preferred	...	84
Dom. Steel Corp.	62½	62½
Dom. Telegraph	80	...
Duluth-Superior	...	30
Mackay common	74½	73½
do. preferred	65	64½
Maple Leaf com.	135	134¼
do. preferred	98	97½
Monarch common	...	60
do. preferred	...	85
N. Steel Car com.	6	...
do. preferred	26½	26
Nipissing Mines	9.25	8.80
N. S. Steel com.	65	...
Pac. Burt com.	30	...
do. preferred	77½	...
Porto Rico Ry. pref.	55	...
Rogers com.	60	...
do. preferred	82½	...
Russell M. C. com.	75	...
do. preferred	78	...
Sawyer-Massey	10	...
do. preferred	40	...
Shredded Wheat com.	...	122
Spanish River com.	19	18½
do. preferred	64	63
Steel of Can. com.	64	63½
do. preferred	...	94
Toronto Railway	...	64
Trethewey	26	24
Tucketts com.	19½	...
Twin City com.	50	49
Winnipeg Ry.	48	...
—Banks.—		
Commerce	...	195½
Dominion	...	209½
Hamilton	...	188
Imperial	...	202
Merchants'	...	179
Montreal	...	215
Nova Scotia	...	265
Ottawa	201	...
Royal	213	212
Standard	204	202
Toronto	193	192
Union	...	159
—Loan, Trust, Etc.—		
Canada Landed	148½	...
Can. Permanent	...	183½
Colonial Invest.	...	78
Hamilton Prov.	...	133
Huron & Erie	...	203
do. 20 p.c. paid	...	195
Landed Banking	...	135
Lon. & Canadian	126½	...
Toronto Mortgage	134	...
—Bonds.—		
Canada Bread	...	91
Can. Locomotive	90	85
Dominion Iron	...	85
Elec. Development	...	86
Penmans	...	85
Prov. of Ontario	...	89
Spanish River	...	81½
War Loan, 1925	...	96
War Loan, 1931	...	96
War Loan, 1937	97¾	97½

VICTORY BONDS.

Maturity.	Offered at.
Dec. 1, 1922	102.00 and interest
Nov. 1, 1923	101.00 and interest
Dec. 1, 1927	101.00 and interest
Nov. 1, 1933	100.75 and interest
Dec. 1, 1937	100.50 and interest
Dec. 1, 1922	100.50 and interest

TORONTO SALES.

	Op.	High.	Low.	Close.	Sales.
Bank Mont.	216	216	215	215	3
Bk. Toronto	193	193	193	193	7
Brazilian	52¼	52¼	52	52	30
F. N. Burt	63½	63½	63½	63½	5
Con. Gas	147½	147½	147½	147½	20
Cement	66¼	66¼	66¼	66¼	6
Con. Smelt.	24¾	24¾	24¾	24¾	20
Dome	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	100
Dom. Bank	209½	209½	209½	209½	30
Dom. Can.	34½	34½	34½	34½	30
Dom. Iron	62½	62½	62½	62½	25
Maple L.	135	135	135	135	13
do. pref.	98	98	98	98	6
Merch. Bank	179¾	179¾	179¾	179¾	16
N. S. Car pr.	26	26	26	26	35
Nipissing	8.95	8.95	8.95	8.95	100
Royal Bank	212	212	212	212	2
Saw.-Mas.	10	10	10	10	50
Standard Bk.	203	203	203	203	2
Spanish R. pr.	63½	63½	63½	63½	10
Steamship	49¼	49¼	49¼	49¼	5
do. pref.	78	78	78	78	7
Steel of Can.	64	64	64	64	46
Twin City	49½	49½	49½	49½	10
War L., 1931	95⅞	95⅞	95⅞	95⅞	$300

MONTREAL STOCK EXCHANGE.

Supplied by Heron & Co.

	Op.	High.	Low.	Close.	Sales.
B.C. Fish.	51	51	51	51	130
C. Car, pfd.	85½	85½	85½	85½	130
Can. S.S.	49½	49½	49½	49½	90
C. S.S. pfd.	78½	78½	78½	78½	120
Can. Cement	66¼	66¼	66	66	20
C. Cem. pfd.	95	...	...	...	10
C. Reserve	23½	23½	22	22	6,350
Can. Loco.	65	...	...	...	15
Dom. Iron	62½	62¾	62½	62¼	430
D. Iron pfd.	93	...	...	...	20
Maple Leaf	134½	135	134½	134½	25
S. River	18½	18½	18½	18½	65
S. Riv. pfd.	63½	63½	63½	63½	200
S. of Can.	63¾	64	63¾	64	250
S. of C. pfd.	94	...	...	...	5
—Banks—					
Commerce	195½	...	...	...	1
Merchants	180	...	...	...	1
Montreal	215¼	216	215¼	215½	20
Royal	214	...	...	...	1

NEW YORK CURB.

Closing prices yesterday in the Cobalt and Porcupine stocks on the New York Curb, as supplied by Hamilton B. Wills in the Royal Bank Building, were as follows:

	Bid.	Ask.
Beaver	37	39
Buffalo	50	1.00
Crown Reserve	24	26
Dome Extension	15	18
Dome Lake	8	12
Hollinger	6.12	6.37
Kerr Lake	5.00	5.30
La Rose	25	40
McKinley-Darragh	42	48
McIntyre	1.70	1.75
Nipissing	8.87	9.25
Peterson Lake	8	10
Timiskaming	30	32
Vipond	20	23
West Dome Cons.	14	16
Hattie	40	45
Wasapika	47	50

STANDARD STOCK EXCHANGE.

	Asked.	Bid.
Gold—		
Apex	3¾	3½
Boston Creek	...	34
Davidson	64	62½
Dome Extension	26	25½
Dome Lake	20	18
Dome Mines	13.25	12.50
Eldorado	...	...
Elliott	...	...
Gold Reef	2	1⅝
Hollinger Con.	6.35	6.25
Hattie	...	...
Inspiration	...	1½
Keora	10	8
Kirkland Lake	47½	47
Lake Shore	93	91½
McIntyre	174	173
Moneta	11	10
Newray Mines	...	14
Porcupine Bonanza	...	...
Porcupine V. & N. T.	24	21½
Porcupine Crown	28	27¼
Porcupine Imperial	2	1½
Porcupine Tisdale	2	1½
Porcupine Vipond	24	23½
Preston	4	3½
Schumacher Gold M.	31	30
Teck-Hughes	36	...
Thompson-Krist	7	6½
West Dome Con.	15½	14½
Wasapika	49	47
Silver—		
Adanac	10	9¾
Bailey	4½	4⅛
Beaver	39	37¾
Chambers-Ferland	11½	9¼
Coniagas	3.25	...
Crown Reserve	26	25½
Foster	4	3
Gifford	4	3⅜
Gould Con.	...	...
Great Northern	5	3⅛
Hargraves	3	2½
Hudson Bay	...	24.00
Kerr Lake	5.25	5.05
Lorrain	1½	1
La Rose	36	34
McKinley-Darragh	49	46
Mining Corporation	2.70	2.40
Nipissing	9.00	8.90
Ophir	4	3¾
Peterson Lake	9	8⅝
Right-of-Way	3	...
Provincial	...	1
Shamrock	...	¾
Silver Leaf	...	...
Seneca-Superior	...	...
Timiskaming	31	30
Trethewey	26	25
Wettlaufer	5	4½
York, Ont.	...	¾
—Miscellaneous—		
Vacuum Gas	10	7
Rockwood Oil	9	8½

STANDARD SALES.

	Op.	High.	Low.	Cl.	Sales.
Gold—					
Davidson	63	...	...	63	1,500
Dome Ex.	25½	...	...	...	500
Dome Lake	19	...	...	...	700
Holly Con.	6.30	...	...	...	805
Hattie	45	...	...	...	2,000
Kirkland L.	47	...	...	...	2,000
McIntyre	173	...	...	...	100
Newray M.	15	...	...	...	500
P. Crown	27¾	28	27¼	27¼	6,000
P. Imperial	2	...	...	...	7,000
P. Vipond	24	...	...	...	2,000
Schumacher	30	...	...	...	1,000
T. Krist	7	...	...	...	1,000
Wasapika	48½	...	...	...	2,000
Silver—					
Adanac	9	10	9	10	15,500
Bailey	4¼	...	...	...	500
Beaver	38	...	...	...	1,700
Cham. Fer.	10	10½	10	10½	23,350
Foster	3½	...	...	...	7,000
Gifford	3½	...	...	...	4,000
National	7¼	...	...	...	500
Kerr Lake	5.05	5.05	5.05	5.05	100
Nipissing	9.00	...	...	...	200
Ophir	3¾	...	...	...	400
Timiskaming	30	...	...	...	550
Trethewey	25	...	...	...	...
Miscellaneous—					
Rockwood	8¾	...	...	...	500

Total sales, 81,005.

Victory Bonds.

Maturity.	Offered at.
1937	102 and interest.
1923	101 and interest.
1927	101 and interest.
1933	100¾ and interest.
1922	100½ and interest.

NEW YORK STOCKS.

J. P. Bickell & Co., Standard Bank Building, Toronto, report fluctuations in New York Stocks as follows:

	Op.	High.	Low.	Close.	Sales.
Trunk Lines and Grangers—					
B. & Ohio	55½	55½	55¼	55¼	1,300
Erie	18	18	17¾	17¾	400
do. 1st pr.	...	...	...	...	...
Gt. Nor. pr.	97⅞	97⅞	97	97	600
New Haven	35½	35½	34¾	34¾	...
N. Y. C.	77	77	76¼	76¾	6,100
Rock Isl.	25¾	25¾	25¼	25¼	1,600
St. Paul	44	44	43¾	43¾	1,000
Pacific and Southern—					
Atchison	93⅞	93⅞	93	93	1,200
C. P. R.	160	160	158¾	158¾	1,000
K. C. Sou.	20	20	20	20	200
Mo. Pac.	26¾	26¾	26	26	700
Nor. Pac.	96½	96½	96	96	300
South. Pac.	102⅞	103	101¾	102	8,700
South. Ry.	30¾	30¾	30	30	6,000
Union Pac.	130	130	129	129	2,700
Coalers—					
Ches. & O.	57	57	56½	56½	600
Col. F. & I.	38	38	37½	37½	200
Lehigh Val.	57¼	57¼	57¼	57¼	100
Penna.	45½	45½	45¾	45⅝	1,000
Reading	81½	81½	80¾	81	8,200
Bonds—					
Anglo-French	96⅞	97	96⅞	96⅞	4,510
Industrials, Tractions, Etc.—					
Alcohol	104	104	103¼	103¾	...
Allis-Chal.	32	32	31¾	31¾	400
Air Brake	102	...	...	...	100
Am. Can.	47⅜	47⅜	46¼	46¾	3,000
Am. Wool	55	55	54½	54½	300
Anaconda	65⅛	65⅛	64½	64½	...
Am. C. O.	...	...	...	...	...
Am. Beet S.	...	...	...	...	...
Baldwin	74¾	74¾	72⅞	73¼	17,000
Beth. Steel	64	64	62¾	63	6,000
B. R. T.	33	33	32½	32½	5,500
Car Fdry.	89	89	87½	88	1,100
Chino	37	37	36½	36½	500
C. Leather	61	61	59⅞	60	2,700
Corn Prod.	47⅞	47⅞	46¾	47	2,600
Crucible	55	55	54	54	2,700
Distillers	56¾	56¾	56	56	2,000
Dome	13	...	...	...	100
Goodrich	57½	58	57¼	57¼	...
G. N. Ore	32	32	31¾	31¾	600
Ins. Cop.	47	47	46½	46½	...
Kennecott	33¾	33¾	33¼	33½	...
Int. Paper	33	33	32	32	...
Int. Nickel	30	30	29¾	29¾	...
Lack. Steel	...	...	...	...	...
Locomotive	63	...	...	...	...
Max. Motor	30	...	...	...	...
Mex. Petrol.	169	170¼	165	165¾	20,800
Miami	23	...	...	...	...
Marine	27	27	26¾	26¾	2,900
do. pref.	112	112	110½	110¾	28,900
Nor. Amer.	...	...	...	...	...
Pressed Steel	63	63	61¾	61¾	1,000
Ry. Springs	74	74	72¼	72½	900
Rep. Steel	79	79	77⅞	78	2,100
Ray Cons.	21	21	20⅞	20⅞	1,000
Rubber	77½	77½	76⅞	77	9,700
Smelting	85	85	83½	84	5,500
Steel Fdries.	88	88	88	88	...
Studebaker	52	52	51¼	51¼	5,600
Texas Oil	188	188	187½	188	1,800
U. S. Steel	96⅞	97	96	96⅛	46,200
do. pref.	113	113	112¾	113	200
Utah Cop.	77	77	76¾	76¾	2,400
Westinghouse	42	42	41½	41½	1,000
Willys-Over.	25⅞	25⅞	25¾	25¾	2,400

Total sales, 346,700.

LAURENTIDE IS STRONG IN MONTREAL MARKET

Bank Stocks Show Further Striking Advances—Activity in Bonds.

Montreal, Dec. 18.—Canadian securities continued strong today in the face of a dull and irregular market at New York, with investment issues again leading as on Tuesday. In stocks, the principal feature was pronounced strength in Laurentide, which rose steadily thru the day to 189½, a net gain of 3¾ and closed 190 bid against 185 the previous day.

Buying was premised on the recent increase in the dividend to 12 per cent., with further speculation as to a still larger distribution in the early future when the company's power subsidiary goes on a dividend basis. The power stock, following the rise in the stock of the parent company, strengthened in the late afternoon to 61, a gain of ½. Dealings in the two issues footed up about 1000 shares.

Steels were quiet and irregular, Dominion selling off ¼ to 62¼, and Canada advancing ¼ to 64. Spanish River stocks were less active with the common stock unchanged for the day and the preferred one lower.

Bank stocks and bonds continued to reflect a strong investment situation. Merchants, in the first board lot transaction since the price began to advance above the 167 minimum, stood at 180. this, with allowance for the dividend being equal to a net gain of 14 points Montreal sold at 215¼ to 216 for small lots, against the 210 minimum and Royal at 212 to 214. Commerce was 195 bid with a small lot selling at 195½.

Bonds contributed the largest total for some time, upwards of $100,000 changing hands. Cedar Rapids, 5's, with transactions of $75,000, and an advance of a half to 98, a new high for the year was the feature.

Total for the day, as compared with the corresponding day a year ago: Shares—1918, 3,943; 1917, 492. Mining shares, 6,350; 1917, nil. Mining shares, unlisted—1918, 1,425; 1917, 5. Bonds—1918, $108,125; 1917, $27,700.

WEATHER CHECKS CORN MOVEMENT

Prices Average Higher at Chicago—No Export Buying of Oats.

Chicago, Dec. 18.—Corn averaged higher in price today, chiefly owing to weather conditions unfavorable to the crop movement. The close was steady at the same as yesterday's finish to 1 1-2 cent up with January 1.36 1-8 to 1.36 1-4 and May 1.35 1-2 to 1.35 5-8. Oats finished unchanged to 3-8 off, and provisions varying from 45 cent decline to 55 cent advance.

Trade in corn was mainly local, and prices fluctuated often, but within a narrow range. The only pronounced weak spot in the market was coincident with a notice from the food administration that practically all war rules relating to the handling of grain had been cancelled b ythe government. The bearish influence of the notice, however, was quickly dispelled by the fact that the board of trade had not yet rescinded an order limiting strictly the amount of dealings allowed for any single interest.

Absence of export buying operated as a weight on the oats market.

Increased stock of lard made that article weaker. Pork and ribs were weak.

BOARD OF TRADE

Manitoba Wheat (In Store, Fort William, Not Including Tax).
No. 1 northern, $2.24½.
No. 2 northern, $2.21½.
No. 3 northern, $2.17½.
No. 4 wheat, $2.11½.

Manitoba Oats (In Store, Fort William)
No. 2 C.W., 76⅛c.
No. 3 C.W., 73⅛c.
Extra No. 1 feed, 73⅛c.
No. 1 feed, 72⅛c.

American Corn (Track, Toronto).
No. 3 yellow, $1.62.
No. 4 yellow, $1.57.

Canadian Corn (Track, Toronto).
Sample, $1.45 to $1.50.

Ontario Oats (According to Freights Outside).
No. 2 white, 72c to 75c.
No. 3 white, 71c to 74c.

Ontario Wheat (F.o.b., Shipping Points, According to Freights).
No. 1 winter, per car lot, $2.14 to $2.22.
No. 2 winter, per car lot, $2.11 to $2.19.
No. 3 winter, per car lot, $2.07 to $2.15.
No. 1 spring, per car lot, $2.09 to $2.17.
No. 2 spring, per car lot, $2.06 to $2.14.
No. 3 spring, per car lot, $2.02 to $2.10.

Peas (According to Freights Outside).
No. 2, $2.

Barley (According to Freights Outside).
Malting, new, 95c to 1.00.

Buckwheat (According to Freights Outside).
No. 2, $1.42.

Rye (According to Freights Outside).
No. 2, $1.58, nominal.

Manitoba Flour (Toronto).
War quality, $11.35.

Ontario Flour (Prompt Shipment).
War quality, $10.25, in bags, Montreal; $10.25, in bags, Toronto.

Millfeed (Car Lots, Delivered, Montreal Freights, Bags Included).
Bran, per ton, $37.25.
Shorts, per ton, $42.25.

Hay (Track, Toronto).
No. 1, per ton, $22 to $24.
Mixed, per ton, $20 to $21.

Straw (Track, Toronto).
Car lots, per ton, $10.50 to $11.

Farmers' Market.
Fall wheat—No. 2, $2.14 per bushel.
Spring wheat—No. 2, $2.11 per bushel.
Goose wheat—No. 3, $2.05 per bushel.
Barley—Malting, $1.14 to $1.15 per bushel.
Oats—81c to 82c per bushel.
Buckwheat—Nominal.
Rye—According to sample, nominal.
Hay—Timothy, $28 to $30 per ton; mixed and clover, $25 to $28 per ton.

CHICAGO MARKETS.

J. P. Bickell & Co., Standard Bank Building, report the following prices on the Chicago Board of Trade:

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.	Prev. Close.
Corn—					
Jan.	136⅛	137⅛	135⅝	136⅛	135⅜
Feb.	135⅞	136½	135	135½	135
March	134⅞	135⅝	134⅜	135⅝	134½
May	135⅛	135⅝	134½	135⅝	134⅝
Oats—					
Dec.	71¾	71⅞	71¼	71⅞	71⅞
Jan.	71⅝	71⅝	71¼	71¼	71½
May	71⅛	71⅛	70½	71	71⅛
Pork—					
Jan.	47.25	47.35	47.00	47.20	46.90
May	43.85	43.40	43.00	43.05	43.20
Lard—					
Jan.	24.40	24.40	24.20	24.25	24.50
May	24.00	24.20	23.90	24.05	24.20
Ribs—					
Jan.	24.75	24.75	24.50	24.55	24.50
May	22.75	24.12	23.65	23.90	23.77

MONTREAL PRODUCE MARKET.

Montreal, Dec. 18.—A decidedly weak feeling developed in the local market for oats, and prices for Canadian western grades were reduced 2c to 4c per bushel, while the decline in Ontario grades was more pronounced. Car lots of No. 3 Canadian western were quoted at 80c; extra No. 1 feed at 80c; No. 1 feed at 81½c; heated No. 1 feed at 78½c; Ontario No. 2 white at 87½c, and No. 3 white at 86½c per bushel, ex-store.

The tone of the local hay market remains about steady, with a fair amount of business passing for domestic and government account.

The trade in eggs on spot continues active, and the tone of the market is very firm for all grades.

The cheese market was quiet, but firm.

Oats—Extra No. 1 feed, 89½c.

Flour—Manitoba spring wheat, new standard grades, $11.25 to $11.35.

Rolled oats—Bag, 90 lbs., $4.90 to $5.

Bran, $37.25; shorts, $42.25; mouillie, $68 to $70.

Hay—No. 2, per ton, car lots, $20 to $21.

Cheese—Finest easterns, 24c to 25c.

Butter—Choicest creamery, 53¼c to 53½c.

Eggs—Selected, 55c; No. 1 stock, 50c.

Potatoes—Per bag, car lots, $1.60 to $1.75.

Dressed hogs—Country, $24.50 to $25.

Lard—Pure, wood pails, 20 lbs. net, 31c to 32½c.

WINNIPEG GRAIN MARKET.

Winnipeg, Dec. 18.—Oats closed ¼c lower for December and ½c lower for May. Barley closed ¾c higher for both months.

Flax closed 1½c higher for December and 1½c higher for May.

Winnipeg markets: Oats—Dec., close 76⅛c; May, open 81⅝c, close 81¼c.

Barley—Dec., close 96¼c; May, open $1.02¼, close $1.02¼.

Flax—Dec., close $3.21¼; May, open $3.29, close $3.31¾.

Cash prices: Oats—No. 2 C.W., 76⅛c; No. 3 C.W., 73⅛c; extra No. 1 feed, 73⅛c; No. 1 feed, 72⅛c; No. 2 feed, 67⅛c.

Barley—No. 3 C.W., 96⅛c; No. 4 C.W., 91⅛c; rejected, 80c; feed, 80c.

Flax—No. 1 N.W.C., $3.21½; No. 2 C. W., $3.18½; No. 3 C.W., $3.06½.

LIBERALS FOR UNION.

Halifax, N.S., Dec. 18.—At the close of a conference held at the Province Building last night, of Nova Scotia Liberals, the following statement was given out:

"A meeting representing Liberals of all sections of the province was held in the city last evening (Tuesday), for the purpose of organization. Any division that heretofore existed in the ranks of the Liberal party has disappeared, and the meeting was most harmonious thruout, and the decisions arrived at were unanimous."

MAJOR BOND FOR G. T. R.

Montreal, Dec. 18.—The appointment is announced by Vice-President Robb, of Major F. L. C. Bond as chief engineer of the Grand Trunk Railway System, with headquarters at Montreal.