city is moderately heavy. The few barrels changing hands have sold at $15 to $15.50.

MESS BEEF.

There has been very little done during the week, and the quotation of $15 may be considered purely nominal.

LARD.

The demand has been fairly active during the week, and was confined to pails which have sold at $2.25 for local product, and $2.40 for eastern.

DRESSED HOGS.

Receipts have been steady and moderately heavy, while prices have scarcely changed, $5 being the unvarying quotation.

MINNEAPOLIS.

Trading has been very active on 'change the past week, despite the idleness of the mills and the rather erratic course of prices in other markets. The demand from outside mills keeps up well and it is certain that northwestern spring wheat flour will reach a wider range of consumption this year than ever before. A mixture of it is being used in mills all over the land. This will result in advertising its good qualities more effectively than any other method which could be devised and will create a demand for it in many quarters even in years when the winter wheat crop is good. This is the tenor of letters to our grain dealers and elevator men from their milling patrons. Receipts of wheat here have been very light, so that the tracks have been pretty well cleaned up, shipments having been quite large. Cold weather, good roads and the recent advance in prices will undoubtedly cause free marketing for the coming fortnight, at least, but the lack of storage here may hold receipts down until there is a general resumption of work by the mills.

The highest and lowest wheat prices by grade on 'change during the week ending to-day, closing prices, and the prices one year ago were:

Dec. 11.

Wheat.	Highest.	Lowest.	Closing.	1884
No. 1 hard	91½	86⅜	90½	70¾
" 1 north'n	86	82¼	82	66¼
" 2 "	81	77	80	61

Futures were strong and higher, January 1 hard selling up from 88⅜ to 92½c and closing at 91⅞c; February went from 89 to 93c, and closed at 92½c; May went from 92 to 99c, and closed at 98½c; January 1 northern sold up from 84 to 86½c, and closed at 85⅝. May went from 92 to 92c, and closed at 92c.

Coarse grains were steady, corn closing at 41 to 42½c, for old and 32 to 35c for new; No. 2 oats at 28 to 29c barley, by sample at 45 to 75c, and rye at to49 to 57c.

MILLSTUFFS—Continue dull, owing to light supplies, bran selling well at $7.50 to 7.75, and shorts slow at $8.50 to 9.50 per ton in bulk.

FLOUR.—The market shows little change and no improvement, though the prevalence of genuine winter weather nearly all over the country has begun to have effect in stimulating demand. It is certain that production is far below consumption at home, to say nothing of the situation abroad, and rapid exhaustion of the stocks must ensue if millers will remain idle or run lightly the rest of the month. This course, it is believed, will, after the holidays, put flour up to a parity with wheat and make a good market. If, however, the mills are pushed for a fortnight, the "holiday dullness" which will follow will sicken the most sanguine of them.

Quotations for car or round lots at the mills are as follows: Patents, $4.75 to $5.00 straights $4.40 to 4.65; first bakers', $3.75 to 4.00; second bakers', $3.15 to 3.30; best low grades, $2.10 to $2.25, in bags; red dog, $1.50 to $1.60 in bags.

These quotations are on flour in barrels, except as stated. The rule is to discount 30c per bbl for 280 and 140 lb jute bags, 20c for 98lb cotton sacks, 15c for 49lb cotton sacks, 10c for 24½lb cotton sacks, and 20c for 49lb paper sacks.

Last week closed without notable event, except that the flour production was the lightest for a number of years. The output of the five mills that ran amounted to 12,607 bbls—averaging 5,101 bbls daily—against 73,870 bbls the preceding week, and 152,800 bbls for the corresponding week in 1884. This week there are a number of mills that are endeavoring to run, but since Monday they have not succeeded very well. Sunday's "cold snap" had the effect of greatly lowering the water in the river, and since then the power has been very poor. On Monday the water was ten feet or more lower in the canal than on Saturday and only one or two of the smallest mills could run. It improved somewhat yesterday, however, but with a number of the larger mills drawing on it, the head varied considerably and was poor at the best. The lack of water is supposed to be largely due to ice gorging in the river above, a thing not unusual, and holding the water back, and it is believed that the difficulty will be remedied partially at least by a few day's time. The opinion obtains, nevertheless, among mill men that there will be a shortage of water power from this on. At noon to-day there were nine mills in operation, but the power was not good, there being only about eight feet of water in the canal against fifteen a week ago, and the mills were not getting along very well. The capacity of these mills is 13,000 bbls, 3,600 bbls of which is operated by steam. Two more, representing 1,800 bbls, will be started to-morrow. One other, of 1,400 bbls, will be put in motion Monday, and probably others. Millers report the demand for flour rather more active, but prices are no better.

The following were the receipts at and shipments from Minneapolis for the weeks ending on the dates given:

RECEIPTS.

	Dec. 8.	Dec. 1.	Nov. 24.
Wheat, bus	323,680	607,040	935,760
Flour, bbls	715	575	875
Millstuff, tons	116	205	150

SHIPMENTS.

	Dec. 8.	Dec. 1.	Nov. 24
Wheat, bus	127,680	222,390	183,920
Flour, bbls	14,825	28,258	158,237
Millstuff, tons	915	1,464	3,574

The wheat in store in Minneapolis elevators, as well as the stock at St. Paul and Duluth, is shown in the appended table:

MINNEAPOLIS.

	Dec. 7.	Nov. 30.
No. 1 hard	2,727,818	2,230,016
No. 2 hard	7,078	7,778
No. 1	51,935	51,935
No. 1 Northern	1,818,025	1,716,366
No. 2	7,436	7,436
No. 2 Northern	755,208	777,549
No. 3	5,385	5,871
Rejected	75,124	78,878
Special bins	1,205,628	1,150,121
Total	6,242,637	6,025,250

ST. PAUL.

	Dec. 9.	Dec. 2	Nov. 25.
In elevators, bush	1,232,000	1,081,700	1,025,000

DULUTH.

	Dec. 7.	Nov. 30.	Nov. 23.
In store, bush	3,838,705	1,947,945	2,146,680

—*Northwestern Miller.*

CHICAGO.

There has been a steadiness about this market during the past week, which furnishes a marked contrast to the wild and nervous fluctuations which occurred during the previous week. But there was also an absence of the buoyancy in prices, and the bullish element seemed to have spent their power and were unable to force matters any further. There was, however, no indication that they were likely to concede much of what they had gained, and although Monday opened with a weaker feeling in wheat and a corresponding inclination in other products, the decline which took place was very little and the fluctuations were of a scalper' kind. For some reason inexplicable to anyone Tuesday developed a firmer feeling and Monday's decline was recovered, although there was no outside influences of a bullish character and the firmness was entirely due to local causes. Later in the week it was expected that the news of Vanderbilt's death would cause a little consternation amongst operators and produce a marked effect upon the market, but this event seemed only to produce expectations without results, and prices were scarcely affected by it. Even the armistic in Eastern Europe and the almost certainty that the Balkan war is at an end produced no remarkable turn in affairs, and altogether the market was a lazy and motionless one, although the aggregate of business done in some lines was moderately heavy. Opinion is general that most products are now at about a fair intrinsic value, and that only a purely speculative movement can make any marked change in prices. In wheat especially there is but little hope of such a movement, as the visible supply is still too heavy for any cornering to be attempted and few banks throughout the country care about advancing heavily for speculative purposes. Altogether the market has been for the past week wonderfully free from strong speculative influences.

On Monday the business in cash wheat was moderatively active, but there was a quietness in speculative deals and not much done that way, although offerings at slightly lower figures