WOOL BUYING SLOW

Oregon Growers Are Not Disposed to Contract.

OPEN MARKET IS AWAITED

Buyers Are Anxious to Secure Supplies, but Only About 20,000 Fleeces Have Been Secured to Date.

Wool contracting is still slow in getting a start in Oregon, probably for the reason that this is not generally a contracting state. The Oregon growers, as a rule, prefer to take their chances on the market after shearing.

It is estimated by wool men that not over 150,000 pounds have been secured on contract in Eastern Oregon so far this season. A 30,000-pound clip was bought at Heppner at last year's prices and there was a report of three clips taken at Arlington, which, however, was later denied. Several buyers are in the field, and more activity is promised in the near future.

Elsewhere in the West, buying of wool on the sheep's back is progressing rapidly. A total of about 15,000,000 pounds are believed to have been contracted for, mostly in Utah, Nevada and the Triangle. The prices are about those of the preceding two weeks, which range for the most part from 13 to 15 cents in Utah, 12 to 13½ cents in Nevada, and 15 to 16 cents in the Triangle, with occasional instances of a fraction better being paid. Growers naturally are very firm in their ideas of what their clips are worth, and in some sections refuse to consider contracting, being disposed to consign at a later date in view of possible higher prices being obtained. This is particularly the case with Arizona growers. Montana sheep men have been approached by buyers, but, like Oregon growers, they are not inclined to sell ahead of shearing time.

The firmness of the Eastern spot wool markets is the feature of the situation. Because of the limited supply, sales have been confined within certain bounds. Dealers say that no instance can be cited where the wool supply has narrowed down as at present, and up to date over half the wools reported as being on hand the first of the year have been sold, thus showing about the extent to which buyers can operate. Manufacturers are receiving duplicate orders for goods and herein, perhaps, lies the key to the strength of the situation. In commenting on the position of the market as a whole, the Boston Commercial Bulletin says:

"From all the world's markets, advices tell only of strength with a tendency for prices to advance. Our Bradford cable advises a further slight rise in prices there this week and in the local market, prices are fully as firm as compared with a week ago, while some merchants assert they have received more money.

"It goes without saying that supplies of domestic wool of all kinds are extremely scarce in the seaboard markets. Probably 35,000,000 to 40,000,000 pounds of wool—and one estimate places it even as high as 50,000,000 pounds—have been sold since the first of January, including both spot and to arrive. Of the record cargo of 12,245 bales brought in direct from Australia by the steamer Essen this week, a large proportion of the wools on dealers' account had been sold, previous to arrival. Thus the mills have been obliged to pay famine prices for domestic wools and have also been obliged to turn to foreign wools often in order to obtain certain grades."

POULTRY SELLS AT SLIGHT ADVANCE

Market Is Firmer, With Limited Receipts. Eggs Shipped North.

Limited receipts of poultry this week have given more strength to the market. Large hens sold yesterday at 16½ cents and Springs brought 16 cents. There is a good demand for broilers, but very few are coming in. Other kinds of poultry were scarce. Egg receipts were light and the market was firm at 24@25 cents. Liberal shipments have been made to British Columbia. The local demand is strong and cannot be entirely supplied with present arrivals.

No changes were reported in the butter or cheese markets.

THE DEMAND FOR WHEAT IS LIGHT

Speculators Are Only Sellers at Present Time—Coarse Grains Dull.

Trade was very small in the wheat market, as the demand from all quarters was light. Farmers were not offering wheat, but a number of dealers were pressing sales, here and in the South.

The oats and barley markets were quiet, with an easy undertone.

Local receipts, in cars, were reported by the Merchants' Exchange as follows:

	Wheat	Barley	Flour	Oats	Hay
Monday	51	17	34	4	21
Tuesday	43	12	5	7	7
Wednesday	55	6	7	3	8
Year ago	63	7	9	4	4
Sea'n to date	13308	2008	1887	1354	2010
Year ago	13562	1768	1495	1203	1406

Orange Supplies Running Low.

Front street is about cleaned up on oranges, and no more will be available, until the Beaver arrives Monday. A large shipment is expected on the steamer. Four cars of bananas arrived yesterday in fine condition.

Stocks of vegetables are also being reduced. The only arrival reported yesterday was a car of lettuce.

Bank Clearings.

Bank clearings of the Northwestern cities yesterday were as follows:

	Clearings.	Balances.
Portland	$1,972,447	$259,219
Seattle	1,926,322	190,080
Tacoma	371,961	46,346
Spokane	781,469	130,622

PORTLAND MARKET QUOTATIONS.

Grain, Flour, Feed, Etc.

WHEAT—Track prices: Club, 88@88½c; bluestem, 92c; forty-fold, 89c; red Russian, 87@88c; valley, 88c.

OATS—No. 1 white, milling, $24@24.50 per ton.

CORN—Whole, $33.50@34; cracked, $34.50@35 per ton.

BARLEY—Feed, $22.50 per ton; brewing, $24; rolled, $25.

FLOUR — Patents, $4.00 per barrel; straights, $4; exports, $3.65@3.80; valley, $4.60; graham, $4.60; whole wheat, $4.80.

HAY—No. 1 Eastern Oregon timothy, $16.50; mixed timothy, $14.00; alfalfa, $14; clover, $9@10; valley, grain hay, $12@13.50.

MILLFEED—Bran, $22 per ton; shorts, $24; middlings, $30.

Fruits and Vegetables.

Local jobbing quotations:

TROPICAL FRUITS — Oranges, navels, $1.75@2.25 per box; lemons, $3.50@4.50 per box; pineapples, 6c per pound; bananas, 4½c per pound; tangerines, $1.75 per box; grapefruit, California, $3.50; Florida, $5@6 per box.

VEGETABLE — Cauliflower, $2.25 per crate; cucumbers, $1.50@1.75 per dozen; eggplant, 10@15c per pound; peppers, 12½c per pound; radishes, 35c per dozen; head lettuce, $2@2.25 per crate; garlic, 12½c per pound; sprouts, 11c per pound; artichokes, $1.75 per dozen; squash, 1¾@2½c; celery, $3.50 per crate; tomatoes, $2.25@2.50 per crate; hothouse lettuce, 50@75c per box; spinach, $1 per crate; horseradish, 8@10c; rhubarb, 10c per pound; cabbage, 2¼@2½c per pound.

GREEN FRUIT—Apples, 75c@$2.25 per box; grapes, Malagas, $7.50@4 per keg; Emperors, $4 per keg; cranberries, $12@12.50 per barrel; pears, $1@1.50.

ONIONS—Old, $3.25@3.50 per sack; buying price, $3 per sack at shipping points.

POTATOES—Oregon, 80@90c per hundred; buying price, 50@75c at shipping points; sweet potatoes, $2.25@2.50 per crate.

SACK VEGETABLES—Turnips, $1; carrots, $1; parsnips, $1; beets, $1.

Dairy and Country Produce.

Local jobbing quotations:

EGGS—Oregon fresh ranch, 24@25c per dozen.

POULTRY—Hens, 16@16½c; Springs, 16c; turkeys, live, 20@22c; dressed, choice, 25@26c; ducks, 14@16c; geese, 12½@13c.

CHEESE—Oregon triplets, 21c; Daisies, nominal; Young Americas, nominal.

BUTTER—Creamery prints, extras, 35c per pound; cubes, 32c.

PORK—Fancy, 11c per pound.

VEAL—Fancy, 14@14½c per pound.

Staple Groceries.

Local jobbing quotations:

SALMON — Columbia River, one-pound talls, $2.25 per dozen; half-pound flats, $1.40; one-pound flats, $2.45; Alaska, pink, one-pound talls, 80c; sliversides, one-pound talls, $1.25.

HONEY—Choice, $3.40@3.50 per case.

NUTS — Walnuts, 14@20c per pound; Brazil nuts, 20c; filberts, 14@15c; almonds, 19@20c; peanuts, 5½@6c; cocoanuts, $1 per dozen; chestnuts, 8½@10c per pound; pecans, 14@15c.

BEANS—Small white, 6c; large white, 4.90c; Lima, 6.30c; pink, 4½c; Mexican, 5½c; bayou, 3¾c.

SUGAR—Fruit and berry, $4.80; Honolulu plantation, $4.75; beet, $4.60; extra C, $4.30; powdered, barrels, $5.05.

COFFEE—Roasted, in drums, 13@32c per pound.

SALT—Granulated, $14.00 per ton; half-ground, 100s, $10.25 per ton; 50s, $11 per ton; dairy, $12.50 per ton.

RICE—No. 1 Japan, 5@5½c; cheaper grades, 4½c; Southern head, 5¾@6¾c.

DRIED FRUITS—Apples, 10c per pound; apricots, 12@14c; peaches, 8@11c; prunes, Italians, 8@10c; currants, 9½c; raisins, loose, Muscatel, 6¾@7½c; bleached Thompson, 11¾c; unbleached Sultanas, 5½c; seeded, 9c; dates, Persian, 7@7½c per pound; fard, $1.40 per box.

FIGS—Package, 6 oz., 50 to box, $1.85; package, 10 oz., 12 to box, 80c; white, 25-lb. box, $1.75; black, 25-lb. box, $1.75; black, 50-lb. box, $2.50; black, 10-lb. box, $1.15; Calarab candy figs, 20-lb. box, $2; Smyrna, per box $1.50.

Provisions.

HAMS—10 to 12-pound, 15½@19½c; 12 to 14-pound, 18½@19½c; 14 to 18-pound, 18@19c; skinned, 18½c; picnic, 16c; boiled, 22c.

BACON—Fancy, 26@27c; standard, 21@24c.

DRY SALT CURED—Bacon, 18½@20c; short clear backs, 14@16c; exports, 15@16½c; strips, 16@17½c.

LARD—Tierce basis: Pure, 12¾@13¾c; compound, 10½c.

Oils.

COAL OIL—Barrels, 13½c; cases, 17½@20½c.

GASOLINE—Bulk, 16c; cases, 23c; motor spirit, bulk, 16c; cases, 23c.

LINSEED OIL—Raw, barrels, 61; boiled, barrels, 63c; raw, cases, 60c; boiled, cases, 63c.

TURPENTINE—In case, 65c per gallon; tanks, 61c.

Hops, Wool and Hides.

HOPS—1913 crop, prime and choice, 17@18½c; 1914 contracts, 14@15c.

PELTS—Dry, 10c; dry short wool, 7c; dry shearings, 10c; green shearings, 10c; salted lights, 60@70c; salted heavy, 75@90c.

HIDES—Salted hides, 12½c per pound; salt kip, 13c; salted calf, 13c; green hides, 11½c; dry hides, 25c; dry calf, 25c; salted bulls, 8c per pound; green bulls, 7c.

WOOL—Valley, 16@17c; Eastern Oregon, 19@13c.

MOHAIR—1913 clip, 26@27c per pound.

CASCARA BARK—Old and new, 5c per pound.

GRAIN BAGS—In car lots, 8¾@8½c.

HOGS ARE DIME HIGHER

STRONG DEMAND FOR LARGE RUN AT STOCKYARDS.

Buyers Pay $8.75 for Toppers, Heavy Swine Also Advance—Cattle and Sheep Markets Firm.

Buyers stood ready to take the 900-odd head of hogs received at the yards yesterday, in fact, so sharp was the demand that 10-cent premium was paid over former prices. Other lines were also firm.

Nine loads of steers were sold, the bulk at $7.70. One small load brought $8. Other sales were at $6.40 to $7.50. The best cows offered brought $6.60 and choice heifers sold at $7.25.

The new top price of $8.75 for hogs was received for a single load. Most of the sales were at $8.65 to $8.70. The best smooth heavy hogs sold at $7.65 to $7.75.

Not much was done in the mutton division. Good ewes were taken at $4.50 and lambs at $6.25 and $6.35.

Receipts were 175 cattle, 904 hogs and 368 sheep.

Shippers were: John Byfast, Condon, 1 car cattle; J. M. Elliott, Redmond, 4 cars cattle; George Whipple, Redmond, 1 car cattle; M. R. Biggs, Redmond, 2 cars cattle; M. B. Harger, Moore, 1 car hogs; J. G. England, Armstead, 2 cars hogs; Otis Thayer, Hope, 2 cars hogs; J. H. Dicks, Sundale, 1 car hogs; F. B. Decker, Silverton, 1 car hogs; Jim Mace, Redmond, 1 car hogs; W. H. Miller, Hunts Ferry, 1 car hogs; Swaggart & Mills, Ione, 1 car sheep; E. D. Shomp, Condon, 1 car sheep.

The day's sales were as follows:

	Wt.	Price.		Wt.	Price.
2 cows	1120	$6.00	29 steers	1151	7.70
1 cow	850	5.00	29 steers	1050	7.70
1 cow	1030	6.00	16 steers	1290	7.50
38 steers	1324	7.70	23 steers	1214	7.70
26 steers	1183	7.60	23 steers	1214	7.70
1 steer	920	7.00	7 hogs	207	8.00
11 steers	1347	8.00	100 hogs	188	8.70
2 steers	1145	7.50	1 hog	570	7.65
28 steers	844	6.40	3 hogs	387	7.65
6 heifers	1219	7.25	2 hogs	315	7.65
3 heifers	1020	5.65	81 hogs	214	8.65
2 cows	1270	6.50	24 lambs	68	6.25
3 mixed	680	6.00	43 ewes	94	4.50
47 hogs	146	8.50	50 ewes	78	3.50
27 hogs	151	8.50	103 hogs	176	8.65
40 hogs	156	8.50	125 lambs	68	6.35
104 hogs	205	8.70	125 lambs	69	6.35
8 hogs	323	7.45	10 hogs	277	8.65
83 hogs	189	8.45	78 hogs	257	8.75
51 hogs	216	8.70	3 hogs	443	7.75
6 hogs	155	8.70	68 hogs	212	8.70

Current local quotations on the various classes of livestock follow:

Prime steers	$7.60@$8.00
Choice steers	7.40@ 7.60
Medium steers	7.00@ 7.25
Choice cows	6.25@ 6.75
Medium cows	6.00@ 6.25
Heifers	6.00@ 7.25
Light calves	8.00@ 9.00
Heavy calves	6.00@ 7.50
Bulls	4.00@ 5.00
Stags	6.00@ 7.00
Hogs—	
Light	7.75@ 8.75
Heavy	7.00@ 7.75
Sheep—	
Wethers	5.00@ 6.00
Ewes	3.50@ 4.75
Lambs	5.00@ 6.75

Omaha Livestock Market.

SOUTH OMAHA, Neb., Feb. 18.—Hogs—Receipts, 14,500; market, higher. Heavy, $8.40@8.60; light, $8.20@8.45; pigs, $7@8; bulk of sales, $8.35@8.55.

Cattle—Receipts, 3500; market, steady. Native steers, $7.00@8.65; cows and heifers, $6.35@7.75; Western steers, $6@8; Texas steers, $5.85@7.50; range cows and heifers, $5.75@7.00; calves, $7.25@10.25.

Sheep—Receipts, 12,000; market, steady. Yearlings, $5.80@6.50; wethers, $5.25@5.75; lambs, $6.90@7.60.

Chicago Livestock Market.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—Hogs—Receipts 28,000; market, strong, 5 cents above yesterday's average. Bulk of sales, $8.60@8.75; light, $8.55@8.80; mixed, $8.50@8.80; heavy, $8.55@8.80; rough, $8.35@8.50; pigs, $7.80@8.75.

Cattle—Receipts, 18,000; market, slow. Beeves, $7.00@9.55; Texas steers, $6.80@8; Western steers, $6.60@7.80; stockers and feeders, $5.50@7.85; cows and heifers, $3.60@8.50; calves, $7.50@10.50.

Sheep—Receipts, 30,000; market, slow. Native, $4.70@6.00; Western, $4.70@6.00; yearlings, $5.85@7.00; lambs, native, $6.70@7.70; Western, $6.75@7.75.

Metal Markets.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—Lead quiet, 3.95@4.05; London, £19 10s.

Spelter easy, 5.30@5.40; London £21 7s 6d.

Copper quiet. Standard spot and April, 14.12½@14.50; electrolytic, 14.87½; lake, nominal; casting, 14.62½@14.75.

Tin weak. Spot, 39.00@39.40; May, 39.00@39.35. Antimony dull; Cookson's, 7.25.

Iron quiet, unchanged.

Chicago Dairy Produce.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18. — Butter—Lower. Creameries, 28½@29½c.

Eggs—Lower. Receipts, 8016 cases; at mark, cases included, 24@25½c; ordinary firsts, 24@26c; firsts, 26c.

Cheese — Higher. Daisies, 17¼@17½c; twins, 17@17¼c; Americas, 18¼c; long horns, 17¾@18c.

Dried Fruit at New York.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—Evaporated apples, quiet and steady. Prunes, firm. Peaches about steady.

Duluth Linseed Market.

DULUTH, Minn., Feb. 18.—Linseed, $1.54; May, $1.55¼; July, $1.57¼.

Hops at New York.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—Hops, quiet.

MARKET IS UPSET

Stocks Fluctuate With Freight-Rate Case Rumors.

TRADERS ARE CONFUSED

President Said to Favor Speedy Decision, and This Wall Street at First Takes to Mean Increase. No Opinion Expressed.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—The stock market was upset today by conflicting reports concerning the probable disposition of the freight rate cases. The movement of prices hinged almost entirely on these reports, which, as they were circulated in Wall street, were so contradictory that before the day was done speculators were badly confused.

Uncertainty as to the disposition by the Interstate Commerce Commission of the Eastern railroads' application for a 5 per cent increase in freight rates has exerted a repressive influence on the market for so long that speculators were greatly relieved when news came from Washington that President Wilson favored a speedy decision. The street, however, did not stop at that, but jumped to the conclusion that the President favored an increase in rates. A Wall street news agency published the statement that information from "a source close to the Interstate Commerce Commission" indicated that a "favorable decision" would be rendered at an early date.

On the strength of these assumptions, the market, which had been dull and irregular earlier in the day, advanced strongly. Half an hour before the close the street learned that it had assumed too much. Chairman Clark, of the Interstate Commerce Commission, was quoted in a Washington dispatch as saying that President Wilson had expressed no opinion regarding the merits of the rate case.

The weekly steel trade reviews reported a further increase in new orders. Pressed Steel Car was strengthened by its annual report, showing a gain of $1,404,000 in net. Otherwise, there was little to influence the course of the market, aside from the freight rate case. London did little here today.

Bonds were steady. Total sales, par value, $3,755,000. United States bonds were unchanged on call.

CLOSING STOCK QUOTATIONS.

Reported by J. C. Wilson & Co., Lewis building, Portland.

	Sales.	High.	Low.	Closing Bid.
Amal Copper	19,000	76¾	75½	75¾
Am Beet Sugar	100	25¾	25¾	25
Am Can Co	5,000	31¼	30¼	30¾
do preferred	500	93	92¾	92½
Am Car & Fdy	600	52	51	51¾
Am Cotton Oil	.....	.....	.....	45
Am Smelt & Ref	700	69¾	67¾	68½
Am Sugar	300	107	107	106½
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	112½
Am Tel & Tel	1,100	121¾	121¾	121¾
Am Tobacco	600	249½	247	248
Anaconda	1,700	37	36¾	36¾
Atl Coast Line	300	124½	123¾	123½
A T & Santa Fe	2,800	98¾	97½	97¾
Am Sugar pref	200	100¼	100¼	100¼
Balt & Ohio	3,500	93¼	91¾	92¾
Brook R Tran	1,900	92¾	92	92¼
Canadian Pac	12,200	216¼	213¾	214¼
C & O	5,000	64¼	63¾	63¾
C & G W	100	13¾	13¾	13¾
C & N W	700	136	135¾	135½
C, M & St Paul	1,800	104	101¾	103½
Central Leather	3,000	34¾	33½	33¾
Central of N J	.....	.....	.....	305
Chino	1,200	43	42¼	42¾
Col Fuel & Iron	.....	.....	.....	32¾
Col Southern	.....	.....	.....	26
Consol Gas	.....	.....	.....	134
D & R G	.....	.....	.....	15¾
Distilling Secur	1,000	19¾	19¼	19½
Erie	11,000	30¾	29½	30¼
General Elec	500	148¾	148½	148½
Gt North Ore	1,000	35¼	35¼	35¼
Gt North pf	23,100	130¾	128¾	129½
Illinois Central	.....	.....	.....	110½
Interboro Metro	.....	.....	.....	15¼
do preferred	400	61	60¾	61
Inter Harvester	700	108¼	108	107¼
K C Southern	300	25¾	25¼	25
Lehigh Valley	400	151¾	150	151
Louis & Nash	2,000	136½	136½	135¾
Mex Petroleum	.....	.....	.....	114
M S P & S S M	100	134¾	133¾	134½
Mo, Kan & Tex	1,500	22	21¾	21¾
Mo Pacific	1,100	27	25¾	26¼
National Lead	.....	.....	.....	50
Nat Biscuit	300	134½	134	133½
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	120
N Y Central	17,000	91	89¾	90¾
N Y, Ont & Wes	300	28¾	28¾	28¾
Norfolk & West	400	104¼	103¾	104¼
North America	100	71¼	71¼	71
Northern Pac	1,200	116¾	115	116¼
Pacific Mail	.....	.....	.....	28¼
Pennsylvania	8,100	112¾	110¾	111¾
People's Gas	300	122	121½	122
Reading	55,000	168¾	166¾	167¼
Republic S & I	100	25¾	25¾	25½
Rock Island Co	3,300	7¾	6¾	7¼
Southern Pac	15,000	96¾	95¼	95¾
Southern Ry	400	29¾	29¼	29¼
Texas Oil	1,500	148½	147½	147½
Union Pacific	52,600	163½	161¾	162
do preferred	.....	.....	.....	85
United Rlds R P	.....	.....	.....	22¾
U S Steel Cor	81,900	66¾	65¼	65¾
do preferred	2,000	110¾	109¼	109¾
Utah Copper	1,800	55¾	55¼	55¾
Wabash	1,900	2½	2½	2¾
Western Union	4,300	66¾	65¾	65½
Westing Elec	2,100	71	70¼	70½
Wisconsin Cent	.....	.....	.....	43

Total sales for the day, 438,700 shares.

BONDS.

Reported by Overbeck & Cooke Co., Board of Trade building, Portland.

	Bid.	Asked.
Atchison general 4s	95¾	95¾
Atlantic Coast Line 1st 4s	93½	94
B & O gold 4s	95¾	95¾
B R T 4s	91½	92
Ches & Ohio 4½s	100¼	100¾
C M & St P gen 4½s	95	95½
Reading general 4s	77	77¾
St L & S F ref 4s	92	92½
Southern Pacific ref 4s	91	93
Southern Pacific col 4s	105½	105¾
Southern Railway 5s	75¼	75¾
Southern Railway 4s	.....	90
United Railway inv 4s	93	94
Union Pacific 1st and ref 4s	102½	102¾
United States Steel 5s	93¾	94
West Shore 4s	90	90½
Wabash 4s	93¾	94¼
Westinghouse Elec conv 5s	88¼	88¾
United States 2s registered	98¾	99¼
United States 2s coupon	98¾	99½
United States 3s registered	102	103
United States 3s coupon	102	....
United States 4s registered	111¾	112¾
United States 4s coupon	112	....

Stocks at Boston.

BOSTON, Feb. 18.—Closing quotations:

Allouez	42½	Nevada Con	16¼
Amalg Copper	76¾	Nipissing Mines	6
A Z L & Sm	19¾	North Butte	36¼
Arizona Com	3¼	North Lake	2¼
Cal & Arizona	68½	Old Dominion	52¾
Cal & Hecla	450	Osceola	82
Centennial	18	Quincy	67
Cop Range Con Co	34½	Shannon	7
E Butte Cop M	12	Superior	31¼
Franklin	4¾	Sup & Bos Min	2½
Granby Con	86½	Tamarack	40
Hancock Consol	14	U S S R & M	42¼
I Royale (Cop)	22¾	do preferred	48½
Kerr Lake	4¾	Utah Con	13½
Lake Copper	2¼	Utah Copper Co	55¾
La Salle Copper	3¾	Winona	4¾
Miami Copper	23¾	Wolverine	47
Mohawk	45		

Money, Exchange, Etc.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—Call money steady, 1¾@2; ruling rate, 1¾; closing, 1¾@2.

Time loans steady; 60 days, 2½@2¾; 90 days, 2¾@3; six months, 3¼@3½.

Mercantile paper, 3¾@4½. Sterling exchange easy, 60 days, $4.8375; demand, $4.8580.

Commercial bills, $4.82¾.

Bar silver, 59c.

Mexican dollars, 45c.

Government bonds steady; railroad bonds steady.

LONDON, Feb. 18. — Bar silver, steady, 26½d.

Money, 1 per cent.

Short bills and three months' bills, 2¼.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 18.—Silver bars, unchanged.

Sterling on London, 60 days, $4.83¾; do sight, $4.86.

Coffee and Sugar.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—After opening steady at an advance of 3 to 5 points in sympathy with steady French cables and reports of slightly higher cost and freight offers, the coffee market eased off under liquidation, part of which seemed to come from Brazilian interests with cotton exchange connections. Some scattered selling was also inspired by the continued full Sao Paulo receipts and reports of a slack spot demand. The close was steady, but from 7 to 10 points net lower. Sales, 74,750 bags. February, 8.66c; March, 8.61c; May, 8.21c; July, 9.41c; September, 9.27c; October, 9.27c; December, 9.71c; January, 9.73c.

Spot, barely steady; Rio, No. 7, 9¾c; Santos, No. 4, 12c. Mild coffee, dull; Cordova, 13@16c, nominal.

Raw sugar, steady; Muscovado, 2.92c; centrifugal, 3.42c; molasses, 2.67c. Refined, steady.

SAN FRANCISCO PRODUCE MARKET.

Prices Quoted at the Bay City on Fruits, Vegetables, Etc.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 18.—Fruit—Pineapples, $1.50@2.25; apples, Newtown Pippins, $1.50@2; Hoover, $1.25@1.50; No. 2, 40c@$1; Mexican limes, $5.50@6.50; California lemons, $2@3.50.

Potatoes—River Delta whites, 75c@$1.10; Oregon Burbanks, $1.25@1.50; sweets, $1.35@1.65.

Vegetables—Cucumbers, hothouse, $2.75@3; green peas, 5@9c; string beans, nominal; eggplant, Florida, 12½@15c.

Onions—Oregon, $3.25@3.35.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 26c; seconds, 25c.

Eggs—Fancy ranch, 21½c; store, 19c.

Cheese—New, 16½@19c; Young Americas, 16@20c.

Receipts — Flour, 2632 quarters; barley, 15,295 centals; potatoes, 5515 sacks; hay, 215 tons.

Cotton Market.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—Spot cotton, quiet. Middling uplands, 12.00c; do. gulf, 13.15c.

TRACKLAYING IS BEGUN

CREWS RESUME WORK ON WILLAMETTE-PACIFIC LINE.

Six Miles More of Rails Expected to Be Laid Between Eugene and Coos Bay This Week.

EUGENE, Or., Feb. 18.—(Special.)—Tracklaying on the Willamette-Pacific Line from Eugene to Coos Bay was resumed early this week with a crew of 60 men, after suspension of activity for about two months because of the rainy weather. The rails had been laid through Noti tunnel to the western portal and work was suspended there because the rains had caused numerous landslides into the cut approaching the tunnel.

It is expected that six miles of track will be down before the end of the week, carrying the rails to Chickahominy Creek, near Walton postoffice, 30 miles from Eugene and at least half way from Eugene to tidewater.

Five steel bridges have been completed between Eugene and the tunnel—two across Noti Creek and three across the Long Tom.

Several bridges west of the tunnel can be completed within a comparatively short time, and it is expected that the tracks will be completed to Mapleton or Acme, on tidewater, by the middle of the Summer.

Preparations are well under way for pushing the grading this Summer south of the Siuslaw River. Porter Brothers-Grant Smith Company, subcontractors for grading, have leased waterfront from the Wendling-Johnson Lumber Company, at Glenada, opposite Florence, on the Siuslaw River, and will erect a wharf and warehouse for the storage of the supplies that come in by water for use in the camps about to be established. Fully 2500 men will be required on the construction work which is about to begin on the coast.

CITY MANAGER CONSIDERED

Medford Mayor Names Committee to Frame New Charter.

MEDFORD, Or., Feb. 18.—(Special.)—Mayor Purdin, at the Council meeting last night, appointed a second citizens' committee to draft a new city charter providing either for a commission or city manager form of government. The first meeting was called for Thursday.

The committee is made up of the following: W. L. Vawter, president of the Jackson County Bank; George Millar, ex-Socialist Councilman; S. Vilas Beckwith, manager of the local fruit association; Dunbar Carpenter, lawyer and municipal government expert; G. Putnam, editor; R. H. Ruhl, editor; A. C. Hubbard, merchant; Ben Sheldon, vice-president of the Commercial Club; Leon B. Haskins, merchant; H. L. De Armond, lawyer; L. L. Jacobs, banker, E. E. Kelly, Prosecuting Attorney; T. W. Miles, Councilman; J. A. Perry, banker; M. Purdin, Mayor; Porter J. Neff, ex-City Attorney; F. V. Medynski, Councilman; Dr. E. B. Pickel, Mrs. George F. King and Mrs. F. W. Hollis, clubwomen.

PIONEER WOMAN IS DEAD

Mrs. Mary F. Nixon, of Forest Grove, Succumbs at Home.

FOREST GROVE, Or., Feb. 18.—(Special.)—Mrs. Mary F. Nixon, wife of Dr. Robert Nixon, of this city, is dead at her home. She was 65 years, 5 months and 14 days old. She was the daughter of William Patton and came with her parents across the plains by ox team when she was only one year old. She was a resident of Forest Grove for many years, and Dr. Nixon is Forest Grove's pioneer dentist. They were married in 1878. Two children were born, and both survived. They are Dr. R. P. Nixon, of this city, and Mrs. A. R. Stracham, of Moffit, Or.

M. E. DUNN ENTERS RACE

Oregon City Man Seeks to Become Clackamas Treasurer.

OREGON CITY, Or., Feb. 18.—(Special.)—M. E. Dunn, a business man of Oregon City, today announced his intention of becoming a candidate for County Treasurer in the Republican primaries. His announcement was expected, and makes him the third aspirant for the Republican nomination, the others being James F. Nelson, of Mulino, and J. K. Pardee, of Gladstone.

J. O. Staats has announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for County Treasurer. Captain James P. Shaw, of Milwaukie, is considering making the race as an independent.

ASTORIA GRABS FRONTAGE

Port Acquires Option on 1000 Feet Adjoining $32,500 Piece.

ASTORIA, Or., Feb. 18.—(Special.)—The Port of Astoria Commission at its meeting has secured a 30-day option on a tract of 1000 feet of water frontage adjoining the property recently purchased as a site for the public wharf, the price being $32,000.

This would give the commission a tract of frontage about 3000 feet in length and 1200 feet deep. L. J. Walsh, the port engineer, has arrived and at once will begin preparing the plans and specifications for the proposed wharves and coal bunkers.

Johnson Hit by Measles Epidemic.

JOHNSON, Wash., Feb. 18.—(Special.)—The public school here, which has been closed down for more than a week owing to an outbreak of diphtheria, resumed work in all departments on Monday morning of this week. No more cases have developed, though there is a general epidemic of measles. The attendance in all departments is only about 50 per cent.

REACTION IN WHEAT

Prices Weaken When Export Demand Ceases.

TONE STEADY AT CLOSE

Liverpool Market Fails to Respond to Preceding Day's Advance at Chicago—Corn Harvest in Argentina Begun — Oats Off.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—Flattening out of export business today took the edge off the market for wheat. Prices at the close were steady, but ¼@¾c to ¼@⅝c under last night. Corn finished ⅛c to ⅜c down, oats off ⅛@¼c, and provisions varied from unchanged figtures to a decline of 2½@5c.

Discouragement for the wheat bulls came early. Liverpool quotations being unresponsive to yesterday's advance on this side.

Beginning of the corn harvest in Argentina, implying shipments of the new crop soon from that country, had a bearish influence on the price of the cereal here.

Covering by shorts gave oats at first an appearance of independent strength. In the end, however, the market suffered a setback with other grain.

Buyers backed away from provisions because of the weakness of cereals. Confidence of holders was somewhat unsettled, too, by the increase shown in hog-packing since November 1, as compared with a year ago.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

	Open.	High.	Low.	Close.
WHEAT.				
May	$.94½	$.94⅝	$.94¼	$.93⅝
July	.89½	.89⅝	.89¼	.89⅜
CORN.				
May	.66¼	.66⅝	.66	.66
July	.65½	.65¾	.65¼	.65¼
OATS.				
May	.40	.40¼	.39⅝	.39⅞
July	.39⅜	.39⅞	.39½	.39⅝
MESS PORK.				
May	21.77½	21.82½	21.70	21.70
July	21.82½	21.82½	21.75	21.75
LARD.				
May	10.95	10.95	10.90	10.92½
July	11.15	11.15	11.10	11.10
SHORT RIBS.				
May	11.62½	11.62½	11.55	11.57½
July	11.75	11.77½	11.70	11.72½

Cash prices were:

Wheat—No. 2 red, 96¾c; No. 3 red, 94@95c; No. 2 hard, 95c; No. 2 hard, 92@92½c; No. 3 Northern, 94@95½c; No. 3 Northern, 93@94c; No. 2 Spring, 94@95c; No. 3 Spring, 93½c.

Corn—No. 3, 66@66c; No. 3 white, 64@64½c; No. 3 yellow, 64¼@64c.

Rye—No. 2, nominal; No. 3, 60c.

Barley, 50@72c.

Timothy, $3.75@5.85.

Clover, $12@14.50.

Minneapolis Grain Market.

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 18.—Wheat—No. 1 hard, 93⅝c; No. 1 Northern, 92@94⅝c; No. 2 Northern, 90¼@92⅝c; No. 3 wheat, 87⅞@89⅞c; May, 91¼@91⅝c; July, 92c.

Barley, 45@65c.

Flax, $1.53@1.55½.

**European