Crook County Journal

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BRANCHES IN ALL THE PRINCIPAL CITIES

PRINEVILLE CITY RAILWAY

Time Table No. 5
Effective 12:01 A. M. Sunday, February 29, 1920

West Bound

Stations	Motor No. 5 P. M.	Motor No. 3 P. M.	Mixed No. 1 A. M.
Lv. Prineville	7:40	4:45	5:15
Lv. Wilton	7:55	5:00	5:30
Lv. McCallister	8:10	5:15	5:45
Lv. O'Neil	8:20	5:25	6:00
Ar. Prinevle Jct	8:35	5:45	6:20

East Bound

Stations	Mixed No. 2 A. M	Motor No. 4 P. M.	Motor No. 6 P. M
Ar. Prineville	8:35	6:55	9:45
Ar. Wilton	8:20	6:40	9:30
Ar. McCallister	7:05	6:25	9:25
Ar. O'Neil	7:55	6:15	8:45
Lv. Prinevl Jct	7:40	6:00	8:45

TRADE IN OUR TOWN

ABOUT THE JAPS

It would seem that the experience of Hood River, California, and Washington communities should be sufficient to convince the people of this community that the experience here would be much the same.

Ochoco Project lands are limited and should be reserved for homes for white families.

The facts are that some of those most opposed to the Japs seem ready to make sales to them themselves, but wish to discourage such action on the part of their neighbors.

So long as the people themselves cannot agree, of course the sales will be made and the effect is sure to be bad for the community.

THE LIVESTOCK MARKET

As previously expected, the Portland market is again climbing slowly, even though with some relapses.

A story concerning this erratic stock market year after year would read much the same. So sure as there is a large supply of choice beef and the feed supply about exhausted, the market hits a sharp decline and someone makes a clean-up off the hard earnings of the cattle growers and feeders.

Strong organization and united effort on the part of the stock men can remedy this. Nothing else will.

Will the stockmen forget and go about the task of getting together another bunch of feeders for the packer next year, to be bought at the packers' own price?

We hope not.

Let everyone interested attend the next meeting of the local stockmen, soon to be called, and prepare to combat the interests that make this condition possible.

REVIEW OF LIVESTOCK MARKET FOR 1919

An imposing array of new records, some of which were of a character that producers and the trade in general devoutly trust may never again be approached, featured the live stock market of 1919.

In so far as the aggregate volume of business transacted at the leading market centers is concerned, it was the biggest year in trade history, but much of the combined increase of approximately 1,300,000 head in receipts of cattle, hogs and sheep at seven larege western markets was the result of liquidation, partially enforced by climatic vicissitude. Representing as it did, in part, a draft on future supplies, the heavy movement cannot be rgarded as the wish fathered by the present world's needs would have it, in the light of increased production.

Exclusive of approximately 1,500,000 calves, seven western markets, Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha, East St. Louis, St. Paul, St. Joseph, and Sioux City, received during 1919 more than 1,000,000 cattle. With the single exception of the year 1918 when the cattle run was larger by 800,000, the run for 1919 was numerically the biggest on record.

Rather than being indicative of well-maintained production, however, a study of conditions and the character of the run reveals evidences, scarcely open to dispute, that the contrary is the case. During the last half of the year western market hoppers groaned under an avalanche of bovine refugees, including many female cattle, young steers, and calves from sections of the Northwest, the drought conditions necessitating depletion of herds over a vast pastoral region. Chicago received nearly a half-million cattle from the northwestern range country, including a big contribution from Canada, while St. Paul's record cattle run and Omaha's near-record supply were made possible by enforced liquidation. It is probable that a summer and fall run of cattle of such numbers as that of 1919 never before yielded as little beef.

It was not the northwestern cattle run alone that was deficient in point of beef tonnage, nor which alone showed evidences of liquidation and other changing conditions in the beef-producing industry. A marked diminutiton in the proportion of aged cattle, a record run of calves and a greatly increased quota of warmed-up and short-fed stock from the big grain-feeding sections where the practice of feeding over long periods formerly had been prevalent—all evidenced this liquidation and these changing conditions, and this was true not only at one but all market centers. Average weights of cattle reaching market centers decreased from 100 to 200 pounds from normal prewar standards. During the latter part of the year long-fed cattle practically disappeared, the high price of corn, other concentrates and hay having increased the cost of producing prime beef to a degree that very few feeders had the temerity to face.

Following a drought of three seasons' duration in the Southwest, the conditions encountered by stockmen of the Northwest the past year have, in trade opinion, reduced the country's potential beef supply to an extent that will be reflected in diminished receipts from the Northwest for several years to come, at best. Texas, under favorable climatic conditions the past year, was a comparatively small contributor to the marketward movement, making a strenuous effort to recuperate and being a free purchaser of breeding stock, both cattle and sheep. But in attempting to build up its depleted herds and flocks Texas misses the opportunity it long enjoyed to depend upon Mexico as a prolific source of stocker supplies.

From what source needed numbers of young cattle are coming during 1920 to restock farms and ranches that have been more or less depleted by the drain incident to war, by dry weather, by the fear of high feed bills and by a very material reduction in the grazing and hay producing area, is a question now puzzling the minds of many students of the situation. Small grains and sugar beets have taken possession of thousands of acres of former alfalfa country in the west, while pasture and meadow area in the corn belt and adjacent states has been cut down to grow wheat. The gradual expansion of the tick-free area is swelling live-stock production in the Southern States, a region capable of great expansion in a live-stock way, and which is being looked upon as a section that will do much to relieve the impending scarcity of meat animals.

Among the outstanding features of the year's cattle trade were the relatively high cost of stockers and feeders, the unprecedentedly wide range in prices and the violent fluctuations in values and demand. In anticipation of a continued broad export demand, grazers and feeders laid in cattle early in the year with apparently less regard for their cost than ever before. During the first four months of the year, fat cattle sold high, weekly average prices of beef steers at Chicago ranging from around $15.75 to $16.50. Within this period stockers and feeding grades were being bought up early at prices averaging within $4 to $5 per hundred pounds of average beef steer values, while pasture land was contracted at heretofore unheard of prices. Then came demobilization and the termination of Government meat contracts which cut off an immense demand for meat products. Values fell with a thud and the slump was accelerated by producers' anxiety, furthered by producers' tnx-market to unload stock laid in at a high cost. Corn sold at the highest prices of the year during the summer months, the advance being steady until August, when cash corn sold at Chicago up to $2.10.

Top cattle, such as sold up to $20.40 at Chicago on the March high spot could not pass $16.40 at the best time in June and the general average fell from about $16 in March down to about $13.50 in June. Early in June choice and prime cattle by reason of the fact that they had become rarties at all market centers, showed a gradand upturn in values that culminated in new record prices for such specialties early in December, when prime grades were in urgent demand for the Christmas trade requirements. Sales were made in the pre-Christmas trade as high as $20 to $21.50, but the range in prices was the widest in trade history, common light killing steers selling down to $8 and comparatively few steers being good enough to pass $15 at the time when prime Christmas bullocks touched $21 or better.

A total of 25,270,162 hogs reached seven western markets, Chicago, Kan-Joseph, Sioux City, and St. Paul, dursas City, Omaha, East St. Louis, St. ing 1919, a supply within 190,252 head of the record run recorded at these points the previous year. Increases were noted at East St. Louis, St. Paul and Chicago, the first-named market hanging up a new record of 3,640,451, or 383,951 more than the preceding year. These gains were more than offsett by material decreases at Omaha, St. Joseph, and Kansas City and by a moderately reduced supply at Sioux City. Average weights decreased slightly at Missouri River markets, and the previous yera's average was maintained at Chicago and increased at St. Pul. Averge weights for the year follow:

City	1919	1918
Chicago	234	234
Kansas City	191	201
Omaha	245	249
East St. Louis	181	182
St. Joseph	227	230
South St. Paul	22	206

During the first two months of 1919 and up to March 5, market values of hogs were regulated by an agreement reached between the Government, producers, and packers. The set minimum prices during this period (a $17.50 minimum daily average at Chicago with differentials for outside markets) was rigidly maintained, although producers with a big crop of mature hogs on hand and fearful of a declining market when the control period ended, crowded the market hopper. During January alone 3,390,561 hogs were reported at seven western markets, an increase of 1,000,498 over the same month of 1918. By the middle of February it became evident that the supply of hogs left in feeders' hands had been worked down to something like normal volume. February's increase at seven western points over the same month of the previous year being but 183,692 head, while by the time price regulations had been removed in March receipts were beginning to fall short of the corresponding period of the year previous. Under such conditions, and with a broad export demand for pork products anticipated killers became greedy buyers and the price pendulum swung upward.

The producers' sentiment changed as demand for the product showed evidence of assuming great breadth and, with receipts sharply reduced during March and April, values climbed rapidly, the April market producing a $21.15 top at Chicago as compared with $18 in January and $18.15 in February. During May, June, and July the trend of values continued upward despite fairly liberal receipts for the season, killers indulging in a scramble for supplies during this period and valorizing product on hand. The crest of the advance was touched on July 31, when top hogs reached $23.60 and the general average $11.70 at Chicago. A prolonged series of wild fluctuations, with the general trend downward followed, the slump in values from the year's high time to the low spot, which was uncovered early in December, averaging more than $10 per hundred pounds. The crash was attributedto various factors, chief of which may be mentioned the failure of killers' anticipated inventory profits to materialize owing to the inability of European countries in need of American pork products to establish long lines of credit and to

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