

INCREASE IN TRADE

Spring Demand in Jobbing Lines Shows Improvement.

COUNTRY PRODUCE IS ACTIVE

Hops Moving Freely, but at Prices Unattractive to Growers—No Trading in Wheat—Oriental Inquiry for Flour Slow.

From grocery jobbers come the report of a general increase in the spring trade, which for some reason has been backward this year. In other lines there is improvement to be shown, except in the handling of fresh produce. Hops have been more active, but at weak prices. Nothing is doing in wheat and very little in flour. The wool market is firm, with contracting having ceased, probably for the season. There is still a good demand in California for various Oregon potatoes, but the situation here is less satisfactory, as Colorado stock is again coming in. The onion season is nearly at an end. Some excitement has been caused in the egg market by active buying by speculators for nesting. Butter is firm, but receipts are on the increase.

WHEAT—Dealers report that there have been no transactions in the wheat market in the past week. There is no Eastern or California demand at the moment, and export trading is out of the question. The acceptance of red Oregon wheat on contract at Chicago has had no appreciable effect on prices here, as there is not to exceed 500,000 bushels of this wheat in the Northwest. In the absence of trading prices are wholly nominal. Dealers place the value of club wheat on track at Portland at 82c. It would probably be impossible to buy from farmers under 80c. Valley wheat is still quotable at 82c here, while some millers throughout the Valley are offering from 75c to 80c for their small lots. Word is received from Walla Walla that sales of wheat for the season in that district have closed, but shipping is far more active than for a long time. The large grain companies, which have been buying continuously through the winter, are beginning to show their purchases on the Eastern market, and the demand for Oregon wheat is great as early in the winter. Some grain is going to the Sound and Portland, but the greater part is destined to Eastern markets. Foreign crop and market conditions are summarized by the London correspondent of the Northwesters Miller, in the issue of March 8, as follows:

The wheat markets have been rather unsettled this week. On the one hand, the reiterated cables reports from India affirming that serious damage has been done to the crop, especially in the United Provinces, have tended to strengthen prices, but on the other hand, the liberal shipments from Argentina and the increased arrivals from Russia effectively kept buyers in check. There is now little doubt that the Australian crop is at least 25 per cent less than the bumper year of last year, from which about 5,000,000 quarters were exported, but although the surplus for Europe this year may not exceed 1,000,000 quarters, practically the whole of it will be required for the deficit in the first four or five months of the year. The latest advice from Argentina confirm their previous statement that in Santa Fe and Cordoba the yield is fully 50 per cent less than last year's, but that, after making allowance for an increased yield in the province of Buenos Ayres, the total surplus for the whole of the crop will be at least 2,000,000 quarters less than last year, when 15,000,000 quarters were exported and 11,500,000 quarters exported. Hence, again, however abundant the surplus may be 2,000,000 quarters less than last year. It is still a large one, and will for the most part be shipped in the first six months of the year, thus guaranteeing a total weekly movement from that country.

With regard to Russia, we are still in some doubt as to the probable extent of the surplus for future shipments. That there is plenty of wheat in the country is not to be doubted, notwithstanding the liberal exports of the last few months, but there is a very serious lack of selling stock on the railways, owing to the prolongation of the war, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to move the grain to the seaboard. Another serious drawback is an expected large decrease in the area sown with spring wheat, which is by far the most important crop in the country. The state of the Indian crop is, of course, of great importance with regard to the future, because India has in the past 12 months been the chief factor in enabling European markets to ignore to a great extent the very large crops of America. It is expected that the crop will be 25 per cent less than last year, but it would still be an average crop, and a fair surplus, but not so large enough as to be attracted by buyers.

For the present calendar year, 1905, it is probable that Argentina, India and Australasia will not supply more than 15,000,000 quarters, a serious condition might result if America, in the coming season should again find itself without a surplus, and the total surplus for the world would be reduced to 10,000,000 quarters. The state of the Oriental demand would revive before us, but thus far it has shown no signs of weakening. Some small orders are arriving from its abundant and reliable supplies, but outside the United States and Europe, the demand is in the near future. The local situation is good, with a strong demand and prices steadily firm.

Flour, Feed, Etc.—WHEAT—Walla Walla, 82c; Blumstein, 92c; Valley, 87c per bushel. WHEAT—Oregon, 82c; Blumstein, 92c; Valley, 87c per bushel. WHEAT—Oregon, 82c; Blumstein, 92c; Valley, 87c per bushel.

Vegetables, Fruit, Etc.—EGGS—Oregon ranch, 18c per dozen. BUTTER—Oregon creamery, 25c per pound. EGGS—Oregon ranch, 18c per dozen. BUTTER—Oregon creamery, 25c per pound.

Meats and Poultry.—BEEF—Dressed, 10c per lb. PORK—Dressed, 10c per lb. MEATS AND POULTRY.—BEEF—Dressed, 10c per lb. PORK—Dressed, 10c per lb.

NEW CALIFORNIA WOOL

Prices at San Francisco Are Nominal and Unreliable—Hops Lower, but More Active.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 15.—(Special.)—Wool-bearing will soon be general throughout the middle counties and southward. About 900 bales of new clip have already reached the local market. The wool has been received by growers in that section but no trouble in securing purchasers at liberal prices for all clips up to standard in condition. The recent heavy rain will temporarily stop shearing here, but April 1 growers in all districts will be sending wool forward. The stock thus far seen is of the best quality. It has been received from the highest local authority says "prices here remain nominal and unreliable."

FRUIT MARKET.—The fruit market was dull, owing to stormy weather. The railroad blockade in the South shut off the supply of oranges, and no auction sale could be held. Small markets were firmly maintained in the open market. Should the blockade continue a few days, nearly everything will be cleaned up. Apples were depressed. Oranges are in ample supply. Only fancy Bunches and some Brauns. The St. Paul had not arrived at a late hour. Oranges were weak and lower, at \$1.15 to \$1.25. Asparagus was better, at \$1.00 to \$1.10. The growers' associations would not raise their prices. The grain market was steady. Most of the Oregon's oats will go to Japan on other ships.

WHEAT.—Oregon, 82c; Blumstein, 92c; Valley, 87c per bushel. WHEAT—Oregon, 82c; Blumstein, 92c; Valley, 87c per bushel. WHEAT—Oregon, 82c; Blumstein, 92c; Valley, 87c per bushel.

WHEAT.—Oregon, 82c; Blumstein, 92c; Valley, 87c per bushel. WHEAT—Oregon, 82c; Blumstein, 92c; Valley, 87c per bushel. WHEAT—Oregon, 82c; Blumstein, 92c; Valley, 87c per bushel.

WHEAT.—Oregon, 82c; Blumstein, 92c; Valley, 87c per bushel. WHEAT—Oregon, 82c; Blumstein, 92c; Valley, 87c per bushel. WHEAT—Oregon, 82c; Blumstein, 92c; Valley, 87c per bushel.

WHEAT.—Oregon, 82c; Blumstein, 92c; Valley, 87c per bushel. WHEAT—Oregon, 82c; Blumstein, 92c; Valley, 87c per bushel. WHEAT—Oregon, 82c; Blumstein, 92c; Valley, 87c per bushel.

WHEAT.—Oregon, 82c; Blumstein, 92c; Valley, 87c per bushel. WHEAT—Oregon, 82c; Blumstein, 92c; Valley, 87c per bushel. WHEAT—Oregon, 82c; Blumstein, 92c; Valley, 87c per bushel.

CLOSING STOCK QUOTATIONS

Table with columns: Name, Sales, High, Low, Closing. Includes stocks like Atchison, Union Pacific, Santa Fe, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Sales, High, Low, Closing. Includes stocks like American Express, Western Union, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Sales, High, Low, Closing. Includes stocks like Standard Oil, General Electric, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Sales, High, Low, Closing. Includes stocks like Pullman, Rockwell, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Sales, High, Low, Closing. Includes stocks like Union Pacific, Santa Fe, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Sales, High, Low, Closing. Includes stocks like American Express, Western Union, etc.

Table with columns: Name, Sales, High, Low, Closing. Includes stocks like Standard Oil, General Electric, etc.

TRAVELER'S GUIDE

Table listing travel routes and schedules for various lines like Oregon Short Line, Union Pacific, etc.

Table listing travel routes and schedules for various lines like Oregon Short Line, Union Pacific, etc.

Table listing travel routes and schedules for various lines like Oregon Short Line, Union Pacific, etc.

Table listing travel routes and schedules for various lines like Oregon Short Line, Union Pacific, etc.

Table listing travel routes and schedules for various lines like Oregon Short Line, Union Pacific, etc.

Table listing travel routes and schedules for various lines like Oregon Short Line, Union Pacific, etc.

Table listing travel routes and schedules for various lines like Oregon Short Line, Union Pacific, etc.

Advertisements for Astoria & Columbia River Railroad Co., Oregon Short Line, and other transportation services.