

MUST BUY IN NORTH

Hopdealers Unable to Fill Orders in This State.

GROWERS HOLD TOO STIFF

Government Order for Oats Will Probably Be Placed in the East—Temporary Scarcity of Watermelons.

HOPE—Buyers forced to go to Washington.

OATS—Local dealers do not expect to get government contract.

FRUIT—Stocks of all kinds except melons plentiful.

POULTRY—Market has weak tone.

EGGS—Steady with large receipts of poor quality.

BUTTER—City creameries steady at advance.

PROVISIONS—Lard and salt meats higher.

Several hundred bales of Washington hops have been shipped in the past few days, reducing unshipped stocks in this state to about 300 bales. Dealers have enough orders to take up the entire unshipped quantity were it marketed. They are turning their attention now to the north, as it is practically impossible to buy in this state, except at an advance.

In a letter dated August 6 to the Bureau of Horticulture, M. H. Hunt, the Washington grower, replies to the estimates of an anonymous correspondent of that paper, who figures out that the United States will produce 302,000 bales this year. Mr. Hunt says:

I am in touch with growers and conditions in all sections of California, and my belief is that 60,000 bales will be the more probable figure for this state, with 55,000 the more probable figure.

The estimate of 135,000 bales for Oregon is ridiculous. It is an open question among all hopdealers in Oregon whether the 1905 crop will equal last year's—55,000 bales. There is no possibility of Washington growing over 40,000 bales. I take nine New York papers, and the latest is that if the weather continues favorable the crop will be two-thirds to three-fourths of last season, which was 80,000 bales.

As for England's outlook, it promises well, but it is too early yet to tell much about how the crop will come down; and my belief is it is not much more trying to forecast the English crop before the 15th of September.

Just a few instances of California crops. A few days ago I was in the San Joaquin valley at Lodi and Co., often said to be the "largest on the coast." The crop is almost unbelievably poor. Acres and acres would make two bales to the acre. There is not a one-third crop over the whole of the valley. This means a shortage of perhaps 2000 bales.

The hope in Sutter County is said to promise only half a crop. In the Wheatland district we do not well if we harvest as many hops as last season.

The crops in Sacramento, Yolo and Colusa districts only look fairly well. Your readers perhaps know the whole of the outlook in Sonoma and Mendocino counties from I do. Where are the 55,000 bales coming from? One word as to prices. If the crop of the United States should come down at 302,000 bales, as predicted by your prominent Sonoma County grower, and the English crop be 300,000 bales, the 100 hundred bales of hops which are worth 18 cents per pound, they would not be worth 32 cents. There would be a great overproduction. Hops would be a drug. Dealers would get them at their own price. The suggestions of crops and price do not "square" with one another. It looks like somebody's use to get Sonoma County growers to sell 1905 hops at 18 cents per pound, with the intention that somebody would like very much to buy hops at 18 cents. There are no sure hops for sale at this date at any such price.

Writing on the vigorous condition of English hops, Lupulin, the hop expert, says in a London paper of July 21:

My own observations, which are short journey into Kent this week, suggests that there is risk in the excessive luxuriance of blue and foliage, but there should not be sufficient energy in the roots to carry the weight of the plants to the fullness of flowers and fruit. Some gardens I have seen are exceptionally rich, presenting an almost impenetrable mass of blue, the plants being very strong and healthy, but the plants are not so much as to be healthy. It seems almost impossible for the plants to progress further. Others that are more moderately blue, but are seriously infected with mildew, and copious applications of sulphur have not completely remedied the evil, as fresh manifestations are clearly visible. Again, there are some gardens where the plants are very healthy and the foliage is remaining to develop into a dangerous attack of blight should the weather encourage them, and on many of the abundant late crop the plants have been killed by frost for flowering. It is, therefore, quite possible that the present brilliant external appearance may result in failure, and that the actual crop will be nearly as heavy as has been predicted. I am inclined to think that the chances for and against a greater than an average yield are about equally balanced.

FEW SALES OF NEW OATS.

Government Contract May Be Placed in the East.

Very few sales of new oats have been made yet, though offerings have been free. Dealers are quoting \$22 for gray and \$23 for white oats, which, it is believed, will be the basis on which the market will open.

The Government is in the market for 3000 tons of oats and 2500 tons of hay for delivery by September 15. Bids will be opened August 19 at Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, Tacoma and St. Paul, Minn. It is thought very likely that the contract for the oats will go East, though Portland dealers will submit bids.

WATERMELONS SCARCER.

First Car of Oregon Left The Dalles Yesterday Morning.

Trading in the fruit line was only moderately active yesterday. Supplies were ample, but most buyers appeared to be well filled up. There were again abundant and sold between 50 and 75 cents. Some melons have been comparatively scarce for a few days, which has given the market a firmer tone. Two cars of Lodi came in early yesterday. The first car of Oregon melons of the season did not get away from The Dalles until yesterday morning, and will be on sale here today. A considerable quantity came down loose on the afternoon boat. Catalogues of all sizes and quantities were abundant.

POULTRY STILL WEAK.

Eggs Steady With Liberal Receipts—Position of Butter Market.

The poultry market has been a weak tone yesterday. The demand was very slow and receipts were large, but most dealers succeeded in cleaning up. Young chickens were much weaker than old ones. Turkeys were scarce and sold well on arrival.

three large, and stocks generally are poor. All the local creameries yesterday were on the 30-cent basis, but the market was not considered strong at that price. There was no change in the situation on Front street.

Advance in Provisions.

A new price list on provisions issued yesterday quotes advances of 1/2 cent each on lard, sides and exports and 1/4 cent on backs.

Bank Clearings.

Bank clearings of the Northwestern cities yesterday were as follows:

City	Clearings	Balance
Portland	\$1,145,145	\$1,145,145
Seattle	\$1,145,145	\$1,145,145
Tacoma	\$1,145,145	\$1,145,145
Spokane	\$1,145,145	\$1,145,145

PORTLAND QUOTATIONS.

Grain, Flour, Feed, Etc.

FLOUR—Patents. \$4.50-\$4.75; 100-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 50-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 25-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 10-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 5-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 2.5-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 1.25-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 0.625-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 0.3125-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 0.15625-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 0.078125-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 0.0390625-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 0.01953125-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 0.009765625-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 0.0048828125-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 0.00244140625-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 0.001220703125-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 0.0006103515625-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 0.00030517578125-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 0.000152587890625-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 0.0000762939453125-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 0.00003814697265625-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 0.000019073486328125-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 0.0000095367431640625-pound sacks, \$4.50-\$4.75; 0.00000476837158203125-pound sacks, 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