

## TALK OF COBBLE

## Eastern Oregon Woolgrowers Are Suspicious.

## THINK BUYERS ARE IN DEAL

## Believe Prices Should Equal Those of Last Year—Dealers' Explanation of Lower Values—May Postpone Shamiko Sale.

This is the day set for the big wool sale at Shamiko, where about 5,000,000 pounds are stored and awaiting buyers. It is thought by Portland woolmen, however, that the sale may have to be postponed, owing to the fresh washouts on the O. R. & N., which may prevent the attendance of buyers. The sale, when it comes off, will be the most important in the state, not only because of the large amount of wool to be offered, but also owing to the fact that the wool of that section of the state.

An opinion seemed to prevail among many growers east of the mountains that a combine has been formed among buyers to force down prices, this year. Quotations are certainly lower than they were at the close of last season, but buyers explain this by the statement that 1905 prices were too high and that most of the merchants who bought then, had heavily on the transactions. It is also said that the goods trade declines to buy wool from dealers at prices that will show a profit to the latter on the basis of Western growers' views. The assertion is likewise made that the wool of the West are this year inferior to that of a year ago.

The opinion that prevails among growers in the Eastern counties of the state is voiced by the Antelope Herald, which says: "Buyers are offering 18 and 20 cents this year for wool, compared with 20 and 24 cents last season. Growers refused to accept, deciding to hold indefinitely. This decision is having a tendency to soften the buyers somewhat, though little wool has been sold so far, and in one or two instances, we understand, the sales dates have been cancelled. It is suggested, however, that the money market might have caused the action of the wool-buyers. The San Francisco disaster and the threatened oil strike might, it is claimed, account for the action. It is also claimed that the buyers are heavy borrowers at the banks, and that the money market is tight at high figures. We believe, however, that this is not the real reason for the low prices offered for wool. Money is becoming 'easy' again, and the probability is that the buyers will be offering fair prices, especially if the growers stand together and refuse the low bids. Furthermore, there are three other excellent reasons why wool should command a higher price this year than last. The world is short on wool; the supply in the United States has been reduced; the wool of this year and the year before is the best in many years; and the demand for wool is increasing. It is to be expected that the wool of this year will be sold at a higher price than last year. The price that George Hader received, 20 cents, represents the average price, which is a low price for the year. The price of the low price a large quantity of wool remains unsold in the warehouses at Portland."

Much interest is felt in the trade as to the outcome of the Lewiston pool. The growers in that section have rejected all offers at about 1,000,000 pounds, but the price of the low price a large quantity of wool remains unsold in the warehouses at Portland. The price that George Hader received, 20 cents, represents the average price, which is a low price for the year. The price of the low price a large quantity of wool remains unsold in the warehouses at Portland.

## WHEAT QUIET BUT STEADY.

## California Crop Improved by Rain—Weekly Statistics.

The wheat market was quiet yesterday, with very little California demand and not much inquiry elsewhere, but a very steady undertone prevails as the supply in the Northwest has become exceedingly small. Some dealers place the available stock at about 1,000,000 bushels, but the California crop has improved.

The Merchants' Exchange reports quantities of wheat on passage as follows:

| FOR.           | Wheat     | Barley  | Oats    | Flour   |
|----------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|
| United Kingdom | 1,040,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 |
| Continental    | 1,040,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 |
| Total          | 2,080,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 |

World's shipments of wheat, flour included, from the principal exporting countries, compare as follows:

| FROM.        | Wheat     | Barley  | Oats    | Flour   |
|--------------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|
| U. S. Canada | 2,000,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 |
| Argentina    | 1,000,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 |
| Russia       | 1,000,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 | 200,000 |
| Total        | 4,000,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 | 400,000 |

Cascara Bark is Higher.

The market for cascara bark shows improvement after a long period of depression. Stocks in the East are well used up and not much is left here, except in the hands of speculators. Inquiries have become numerous in the last few days, and the price has advanced to 40 cents a pound. Feeling will shortly brighten.

## Strawberry Supply Short.

There is a chance of more Hood River berries coming here, but the new washouts on the railroad may prevent shipments to the East. Local berries were in limited supply yesterday, and were a shade higher. Apples were abundant and cheaper. Cherries were also lower, some of the receipts being in bad order. A car of green bananas arrived. The steamer brought only a small supply of vegetables.

## Bank Clearings.

Bank clearings of the leading cities of the Northwest yesterday were:

| City     | Clearings   | Balances  |
|----------|-------------|-----------|
| Portland | \$1,000,000 | \$200,000 |
| Seattle  | \$1,000,000 | \$200,000 |
| Tacoma   | \$1,000,000 | \$200,000 |
| Spokane  | \$1,000,000 | \$200,000 |

## Country Store Butter Advances.

There is a good shipping demand again for

## COUNTRY STORE BUTTER, and the price has advanced to 14 cents. The creamery butter market is unchanged. Front street is heavily supplied and weak.

Eggs were quoted firm, but slow.

A good demand for poultry is looked for this week.

## PORTLAND QUOTATIONS.

Grain, Flour, Feed, Etc.

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