

BITTER WHEAT DROP

Conditions Ripe for Another Change in Prices.

LOCAL SITUATION IS GOOD

But Sharp Decline in California Prices Will Bring This Market Down—Course of Values in Previous Years.

There will probably be a decline in local prices during the next few days. The market is showing weaker and it is evident that the current prices cannot be maintained long. The demand continues fairly good and though production is increasing there is not much surplus on hand, but the sharp drop in the California market has affected the situation here. Creamery butter has been steadily declining at San Francisco and on the exchange yesterday was quoted at 24 cents. With the Portland market standing at 25 cents it has been impossible for local handlers to get into the sound market. This was what caused the 2-cent drop in Portland prices on March 1. In the meantime San Francisco has fallen 3 cents and a considerable quantity of the California product has been shipped to this market. There is one other factor which may meet the competition Portland prices will come down.

City creamery butter and the best grades of country creamery were quoted yesterday at 25 cents. A year ago the same price was quoted and the market fell to its lowest point, 22 1/2 cents, on April 20. Two years ago on this date butter sold at 20 cents and on April 22 of 1904 it was 20 cents. On March 5, 1905, the city quotation was 24 1/2 cents and the lowest price was 20 cents on April 22. Four years ago butter sold at this date at 20 cents and on May 7, 1901, it was 20 cents. Conditions in the present market make it difficult to forecast the exact course of the market, but it is evident that low prices will prevail in the near future.

PLENTY OF ORANGES ON THE WAY.

Don't Care Are Heeded for Portland—Truck Moves Well. Local orange stocks are now low, but will be replenished in a few days, as a dozen cars are rolling, most of which will be in this week, two of them due today. There is a good demand for oranges and it is not probable this large movement will lessen prices, unless more are ordered. The lemon market in California is strengthening as supplies are being worked out.

A car of mixed vegetables and one of celery arrived yesterday and a car of cauliflower is on the way. Rhubarb is more plentiful and is quoted at 10 cents a pound. Asparagus is firm at 25 cents on a higher market in California, owing to cold weather.

Two cars of Oregon onions were reported here yesterday at 17 1/2 and 22 1/2. Only a few cars are left in the west and most of these are held at 23. A part of the recent shipment of Japanese onions has been moved at \$2.50 to the trade.

San Francisco Gets Alaska Egg Trade.

Seattle and Tacoma merchants have been buying eggs in San Francisco for several days for shipment to Alaska. The Portland trade, in the meantime, held the price up and also held the eggs. The result was a large accumulation of stock yesterday and a very weak market. Some dealers are holding eggs, but others were selling at 17 1/2 and 17 cents. A further decline in price is likely.

There were practically no poultry arrivals yesterday and as none were carried over from Saturday, prices were more or less nominal. A continued good demand is looked for this week.

Heavy Shipment of Santa Clara Prunes.

There is a firm feeling in prices at shipping points in this state and Washington, owing to the reduced stocks, and Eastern shippers report the market there steady but quiet.

California prunes, however, are quoted easier at New York and consumers are generally necessary to effect sales. This feeling of weakness has been accentuated by the unexpected arrival of 100,000 boxes of California prunes on the steamer Mesquiquian due about March 12 from San Francisco. This is one of the largest cargoes ever shipped here and will probably result in a weak market, there is some feeling of uncertainty as to the effect of this block of goods on the market. A large share of the stock is said to be consigned to one holder.

Weekly Grain Statistics.

The weekly grain statistics of the mercantile exchange follow:

Table with columns: Month, Bushels, Decrease, Increase. Rows for March 1908, 1907, 1906, 1905, 1904, 1903, 1902, 1901, 1900, 1899.

Flour—Patent, 44.80; straight, 44.00; clear, 44; Valley, 44.45; graham flour, 44.45@45; whole wheat flour, 44.75@45.25; rye flour, 45.50.

WHEAT—Club, 85c; standard, 85c; Valley, 85c; red, 85c.

BARLEY—Feed, 42c per ton; rolled, 42c 50c per ton.

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There was no striking new development in the news. Slight improvements reported by railroad traffic officials were mentioned without enthusiasm. Advice from the iron and steel industry was encouraging, and further expansion among mills, but that was reported. Copper enjoyed a wide rebound in London and the price of that metal here was the result.

QUOTATIONS AT SAN FRANCISCO

Prices Paid for Produce in the Bay City Markets.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 9.—The following prices were quoted in the produce market:

Vegetables—Garlic, 10@12; green peas, 4@12; string beans, nominal; asparagus, 10@12; tomatoes, 11@13; egg plant, 10@12.

Poultry—Roosters, old 4@4.50; roosters, young, 4@5.00; broilers, large, 4@5.00; broilers, small, 3@3.50; ducks, old 4@4.50; young, 3@3.50; butter, fancy creamery, 24c; creamery seconds, 23c; fancy dairy, 21c.

Cheese—New York, 11@11.50; Young America, 12@12.50.

Milk—Milk, 10@11; milk, 10@11; milk, 10@11.

Wool—Spring, Humboldt and Mendocino, 20@22; South Plains and S. J., 20@22; lamb, 20@22.

Wheat, 11@11.50; alfalfa, 8@11; stocks, 47@50; straw, per bale, 60@85c.

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