

BESTS NONE BETTER
FIRMER MARKET DUE TO LARGER BUYING BY TANNERS.

PICKING UP PRIME STOCK
Satisfactory Conditions in the Eastern Market—Strong Prices in the Local Wheat Trade.

A firmer tone is noted in the local hide market, the result of the recent increase in activity. The improvement is ascribed by local dealers to the fact that tanners who need hides are now buying up prime stock in order to have supplies on hand before the grubby season, now close at hand, arrives.

The market on about all kinds of hides continues to be well maintained at the higher level of prices recently established, and while some certain varieties have advanced further this week, the market in general is not any higher. Trade in packer hides is restricted by limited stocks to offer, but there is an increased demand for native cattle and tanners are hopeful that there will be more offerings of packer native steers and cows before long. Packer branded hides are especially strong as the season is about over for range cattle. Steers of Colorado have been made at the advanced price of 24 1/2c and quarter-cut calves are asked for other varieties, with heavy Texas steers bid at 16c and branded cows at 12c. Country hides are hardly as active as last week, but the market for heavy cow hides has sold for prompt delivery, at 12c, while Turkey hides have been sold down to 12 1/2c.

Among the transactions yesterday was the purchase by Julius Pincus of 185 hales from John Groves, of Independence, at 8 cents. H. L. Bents bought 100 hales from a Portland dealer but the price was not known. C. C. Hest Company a few days ago bought 400 hales of 1908s from George Rose at 1 1/2 cents.

California advices were of considerable activity in Sacramento around 7 cents. One of the largest deals in that section was the sale of the Miller lot of 575 bales to C. C. Donovan, of Santa Rosa.

The quantity of domestic hops exported in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1908, was 22,920,450 pounds, as compared with 16,809,533 pounds for the preceding year, according to Government statistics just received. The imports were 4,002,285 pounds, as compared with 6,211,985 pounds in the preceding year. The quantity of hops consumed by brewers in the United States in the fiscal year was 42,988,257 pounds, as compared with 44,204,830 pounds in the preceding year.

ALL GRAINS FIRM IN LOCAL MARKET
Wheat shipments for week from principal exporting countries.

Wheat shipments for the week from the principal exporting countries are given by the Bureau of Agricultural Department. Argentina shipments, 188,000 bushels; last week, 184,000 bushels. Australian shipments, 120,000 bushels; last week, 85,000 bushels.

APPLES SCARCER ARE REDUCED.
Market is in better shape, with prices steady.

CHICKENS AT VERY LOW PRICES.
Shipments to Other Markets All That Saves a Bad Break.

Bank Clearings.
Clearings of the Northwestern states yesterday were as follows:

Supporting Measures in the Stock Market.

NET CHANGES ARE SMALL

Weakest Features Are the Smelting and Copper Shares—Unsatisfactory Bank Statement Is Expected.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—There was further weakness in the stock market today, but it was not so entirely without support as was the case yesterday. Last prices, in fact, were little changed. Efforts were plainly seen during the early part of the day to arrest the decline. The resistance shown by American Smelting at 80 and by United States Steel at 53 was an example. When the smelting stock advanced to 80, the low level, the bears threw off their timidity and renewed the attack on the general list.

The ammunition is widespread that a corrected professional attack is responsible for the decline in price, and the quick rally from time to time, indicating a hasty covering by shorts. It is probable that the market is in a state of transition, and the subtleties of stock speculation, however, are beyond clear discernment and another view of the matter attributes the semblance of bear operations to the marked response of a party long of stocks to dispose of the holdings, a big raid on prices tending to incite support of prices by liquidation, where known speculative liquidation would be left to take its course.

PORTLAND LIVESTOCK MARKET.
Prices Current Local on Cattle, Sheep and Hogs.

There were large receipts of sheep and lambs yesterday. Demand was good and stock moved at well-maintained prices. The market for sheep was active, with a small number of the offerings. Prices for sheep and lambs were 12 to 14c for common, 14 to 16c for medium, and 16 to 18c for good.

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December 1.00 1.02 1.04
January 1.01 1.03 1.05

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BEER THAN YEAR AGO
HOLIDAY TRADE IS ACTIVE IN MOST SECTIONS.

Mercantile Collections Prompt for the Season—Wholesale Business Quits Down.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade tomorrow will show that holiday trade is active, most sections reporting a substantial increase in the volume of business.

The condition in the copper market was somewhat better today than it was yesterday. The market for copper was active, with a small number of the offerings. Prices for copper were 12 to 14c for common, 14 to 16c for medium, and 16 to 18c for good.

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RAILY CODES LATE
Early Losses Regained in Wheat Market.

FIRM CLOSE AT CHICAGO
Shorts Turn Active Buyers on Prediction That World's Shipments for Week Will Show Large Decrease.

CHICAGO, Dec. 18.—The wheat market opened weak with prices 1/2c to 3/4c lower than yesterday's final figures and continued weak the greater part of the day. There was a fair rally, however, late in the day, owing to active buying by shorts based mainly on a prediction that the world's shipments of wheat for the week will show a liberal decrease.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—Money on call firm at 3/8c; 2 1/2c; 3c; 3 1/2c; 4c; 4 1/2c; 5c; 5 1/2c; 6c; 6 1/2c; 7c; 7 1/2c; 8c; 8 1/2c; 9c; 9 1/2c; 10c; 10 1/2c; 11c; 11 1/2c; 12c; 12 1/2c; 13c; 13 1/2c; 14c; 14 1/2c; 15c; 15 1/2c; 16c; 16 1/2c; 17c; 17 1/2c; 18c; 18 1/2c; 19c; 19 1/2c; 20c; 20 1/2c; 21c; 21 1/2c; 22c; 22 1/2c; 23c; 23 1/2c; 24c; 24 1/2c; 25c; 25 1/2c; 26c; 26 1/2c; 27c; 27 1/2c; 28c; 28 1/2c; 29c; 29 1/2c; 30c; 30 1/2c; 31c; 31 1/2c; 32c; 32 1/2c; 33c; 33 1/2c; 34c; 34 1/2c; 35c; 35 1/2c; 36c; 36 1/2c; 37c; 37 1/2c; 38c; 38 1/2c; 39c; 39 1/2c; 40c; 40 1/2c; 41c; 41 1/2c; 42c; 42 1/2c; 43c; 43 1/2c; 44c; 44 1/2c; 45c; 45 1/2c; 46c; 46 1/2c; 47c; 47 1/2c; 48c; 48 1/2c; 49c; 49 1/2c; 50c; 50 1/2c; 51c; 51 1/2c; 52c; 52 1/2c; 53c; 53 1/2c; 54c; 54 1/2c; 55c; 55 1/2c; 56c; 56 1/2c; 57c; 57 1/2c; 58c; 58 1/2c; 59c; 59 1/2c; 60c; 60 1/2c; 61c; 61 1/2c; 62c; 62 1/2c; 63c; 63 1/2c; 64c; 64 1/2c; 65c; 65 1/2c; 66c; 66 1/2c; 67c; 67 1/2c; 68c; 68 1/2c; 69c; 69 1/2c; 70c; 70 1/2c; 71c; 71 1/2c; 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