

BERRIES ARE HIGH

Supply Is Not Sufficient for Local Trade.

RAIN KEEPS CROP DOWN

Vegetables of Nearly All Kinds Are Firmer—Spring Chickens Becoming Plentiful—No Demand for Coarse Wool.

The rainy weather is interfering badly with the strawberry market. Receipts are not large enough by half and what is more, the crop already & early out, is likely to be further reduced. Because of the light offerings, prices held up during. Need River berries sold on the street yesterday at \$4.50 per crate and other berries generally at \$2.50. California berries were mostly poor in quality and the best brought \$1.50 per crate. Loganberries are arriving more freely and move at \$1.25 per crate. Gooseberries were quoted at 60 cents. There are not many oranges on hand now, but plenty are on the way.

Except for cabbage, most vegetables were firmer. Walla Walla asparagus was scarce and quoted at \$1.50 per box and Oregon grass at 75¢ per cent a dozen. Peas were also scarce, Oregon selling at 75¢ cents and California telephone at 62¢ cents. There was a better demand for hothouse lettuce.

NEW HOP MARKET AT 12 CENTS. That Price Offered to Aurora Growers. Small Acreage in England.

The reports of 12-cent hop contracts being made in Yakima and California were confirmed yesterday and have blocked this market, so far as any business under that heading is concerned. In fact, offers of 12 cents made to three Aurora growers yesterday were refused. Nine cents is being offered for 1909's in California and last year's crop is worth the same money here.

A letter from a conservative London dealer said the acreage in England has been reduced 4,000 to 8,000 since last year and now stands at 36,000, and furthermore that the land is not being highly cultivated.

Conrad Krebs returned from an Eastern trip yesterday and reports that the brewers are very lightly stocked with hops, due principally to their fight over the prohibition movement. He thinks they will be active buyers when the new season opens and this will cause an advance. Consumption Mr. Krebs places at 220,000 barrels, and the production, under the most favorable conditions, at not over 260,000 barrels. With exports double or triple the imports there will be no shortage.

"I believe the market will be not less than 15 cents after harvest," said Mr. Krebs, at the Brewers. "After that, prices may be considerably advanced by a bull movement, because nearly all the dealers will be long on hops. Most of the crop will be out of growers' hands by that time and those who do not sell up to then will be strong holders as the dealers."

ALL GRAIN MARKETS ARE SLOW. Weekly Shipments From the Principal Foreign Exporting Countries.

All the grain markets were dull yesterday. There was very little inquiry for wheat and practically none was offered. Barley and oats were also slow.

The Merchants Exchange reported weekly foreign shipments of wheat as follows:

Wheat-Harbor Flours Oats Hay
May 22-23..... 4 16 30
May 24..... 5 12 4 12
May 25..... 3 12 22 22
May 27..... 4 14 4 22
Total last week..... 18 52 8 22

SPRING CHICKENS ARE CHEAPER. Receipts Are Increasing Fast and Prices Drop.

Spring chickens have made their appearance in large numbers on Front street and prices have undergone a sharp drop. Yesterday's quotations were 22¢ to 25 cents. Other kinds of poultry were steady.

The egg market was a slow affair and former prices were current.

Cheese shows a softer undertone, not because of any better supply locally, but owing to less inquiry for coming shipments. Up to the present time, there has been no change in quotations.

The butter market was steady and well cleaned up.

COARSE WOOL IS NOT WANTED.

Buyers Will Not Take Lower Grades At Present Prices.

The buying of coarse wool has come to a stop, and unless the demand improves or lower prices are accepted by growers, the local dealers are likely to keep their hands off this grade of wool. Portland buyers, who have been taking on the lower grades rather freely, have found they could not dispose of them in the East, except at a loss, and they have suddenly withdrawn from the market.

There is a good demand for the better grades of the Willamette Valley product at the present time, of which this quality has been picked up and what is left unsold is coarse wool which the Eastern trade does not want now.

BANK Clearings.

Clearings of the Northwestern cities yesterday were as follows:

OATS—No. 1 white, \$4.50 per ton.

MILLSTUFFS—Bran, \$2.00 per ton; middlings, \$2.25 per ton; chaff, \$2.40 per ton; barley, \$3.00 per ton.

HAY—Timothy, Willamette Valley, \$14.00 per hundred; orchard, \$12.00 per hundred; clover, \$11.50; alfalfa, \$11.50; cheat, \$14.00; vetch, \$14.00.

Vegetables and Fruits.

FRESH FRUITS—Apples, \$1.25 per box; strawberries, Oregon, \$1.25 per box; California, \$1.10 per box; peaches, \$2.50 per box; pineapples, \$4.50 per box; oranges, \$1.75 per box; bananas, \$1.25 per box; grapes, \$1.25 per box; lemons, \$1.25 per box; limes, \$1.25 per box; tomatoes, Mexican, \$1.25 per box.

Dairy Produce in the East.

CHICAGO—May 21—Butter-Steady.

Eggs—Steady. Receipts, \$1.95; at mark.

HAM—Timothy, Willamette Valley, \$14.00 per hundred; orchard, \$12.00 per hundred; clover, \$11.50; alfalfa, \$11.50; cheat, \$14.00; vetch, \$14.00.

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BIG DEALS IN STEEL

Price of the Stock Forced Beyond 64.

SHORTS DRIVEN TO COVER

Bulk of the Market Transactions Are in These Shares—Money Comes to Flow to New York.

NEW YORK, May 28—Business at the stock exchange in the two hours before noon today reached almost as great a volume as for the whole session yesterday. Enormous transactions in United States Steel were almost altogether responsible for this stock, which largely reflected interest and the eve of a pre-holiday weekend to make the uncovered shorts uneasy. An aggressive buy party in United States Steel forced the price up from 62 cents to 64 cents with 25 cents of 63 and again at 64 heavy stop-loss orders for the bear account were uncovered, which furnished a medium for a large unloading on the part of the short sellers. It appeared that the demand for this stock was larger than short interest and the eve of a pre-holiday weekend to make the uncovered shorts uneasy. 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