

Wool is Firm

Number of Sheep Is Decreasing All Over the World.

PRICES TENDING UPWARD

Slow Trade Expected This Month in Grain Markets—Cold Weather Checks Produce Business.

There is a healthy boom in the wool markets all over the world. Traders here and in the East believe that last year's prices will be duplicated, while growers seem confident that the strength of the market will result in prices this Spring going above last year's level.

In summing up the reasons why wool is firmer all over the world, a writer in the Boston Commercial Bulletin says:

The drought in Australia is claimed to have destroyed 15 per cent of the sheep and this has turned the attention of buyers more largely to New Zealand. Agents are calling home for more lambs. A result of the increased demand is higher prices. Owners of domestic and 5/8 fleeces are raising their views of wool values and some lots have been advanced 1 cent per pound above their former asking prices, as it is claimed they cannot be duplicated. The drought in South America has shown buyers that they cannot depend upon that country as well as Australia for their supplies, owing to these periodical times of drought.

Looking back to Europe for a supply we find that Europe lost 10 per cent. Asia, nearly double that amount, and the world is confronting the fact that the number of sheep is decreasing. Steadiness in prices is expected as a result, and looking over this situation in wool the duty price is claimed to be justified by the uncontrollable laws of supply and demand, which are makers of values and are responsible for present prices and keeping wool on a higher plane than formerly. They are higher now than for ten years previously. In 1905 prices were high and in 1908 still higher, and are justified by the facts as stated. We might, proportionately, more clean wool than was raised and the duty price is going to be the factor that determines price.

LOCAL GRAIN MARKET IS QUIET

Dealers Do Not Look for Much Business This Month. The grain markets are all quiet, and the dealers look for but little trade this month, as most of them are well stocked. No local business was reported in wheat yesterday, but there was a little trading on the Sound. As for the California buyers, they are for the present entirely out of the market. All current prices were quoted unchanged yesterday.

Local receipts in cars, were reported by the Merchants' Exchange as follows: Wheat Barley Flour Oats Hay Monday 71 2 20 8 17 Tuesday 24 2 10 3 13 Wednesday 24 2 10 3 13 Thursday 24 2 10 3 13 Season to date, 7,172 1,042 179 507 1,914 Year ago 8,126 1,214 502 570 1,714

POULTRY SELLS AT HIGH PRICES

Receipts Are Small and Demand Good—Egg Arrivals Larger. There was a strong demand for poultry yesterday and very little came in. Chickens sold at a wide range of prices. Some dealers disposed of their hens at 15 cents, while others got 13 cents. Spring chickens ranged from 18 to 20 cents, the top price being paid for two-pound sets. Ducks sold well at 18 cents, and geese were quoted at 13 cents. There was not much inquiry for turkeys. Egg receipts were the largest for several days. A good portion of the receipts was thought to be held over, but at any rate the large arrivals had a weakening effect on the market.

Hawaiian Sugar in Transit

Shipments of sugar from Hawaii have resumed. The Honolulu Plantation Company is again offering its cane sugar in a quantity in way of a loan, and will be here within a week. This sugar has not been on the market for several months, because of the Hawaiian strike, but now that the trouble has been adjusted, the refiners expect to continue shipping sugar without interruption. The sugar market generally is on a firm basis. Prices on the Atlantic seaboard were advanced 10 cents a hundred yesterday.

Cold Weather Checks Fruit Trade

The continued cold weather has materially interrupted the fruit and vegetable trade in the fruit line, practically nothing was done yesterday, except in oranges, which were very firm. The price of cabbage has been advanced to 14 cents. A car of cauliflower is due today. A California wire reported that owing to cold weather in the coast districts, celery is not staging up well.

New Pack Corn Offered

New pack 1910 corn, also fancy Maine corn, are being offered by some of the local brokers. Prices are standard, low and high Illinois corn are about the same as last year. Fancy Maine corn is about 10 cents higher than the opening last year.

Bank Clearings

Bank clearings of the Northwestern cities yesterday were as follows: Portland 1,239,750; Astoria 1,139,750; Seattle 1,139,750; Spokane 1,139,750.

Lined Oil Advances Again

Another recent advance in lined oil prices was announced yesterday. The new quotations are: Heavy, \$2.10; medium, \$2.00; light, \$1.90.

Portland Markets

GRAIN, FLOUR, FEED. WHEAT—Track prices: Union, \$1.20; club, \$1.10; and Russian, \$1.05; Valley, \$1.10; per bushel, and, \$1.00; \$2.00 to \$2.10. FLOUR—Patent, \$3.50 per barrel; straight, \$4.00; export, \$4.50; \$5.00; \$5.50; \$6.00; \$6.50; \$7.00; \$7.50; \$8.00; \$8.50; \$9.00; \$9.50; \$10.00; \$10.50; \$11.00; \$11.50; \$12.00; \$12.50; \$13.00; \$13.50; \$14.00; \$14.50; \$15.00; \$15.50; \$16.00; \$16.50; \$17.00; \$17.50; \$18.00; \$18.50; \$19.00; \$19.50; \$20.00; \$20.50; \$21.00; \$21.50; \$22.00; \$22.50; \$23.00; \$23.50; \$24.00; \$24.50; \$25.00; \$25.50; \$26.00; \$26.50; \$27.00; \$27.50; \$28.00; \$28.50; \$29.00; \$29.50; \$30.00; \$30.50; \$31.00; \$31.50; \$32.00; \$32.50; \$33.00; \$33.50; \$34.00; \$34.50; \$35.00; \$35.50; \$36.00; \$36.50; \$37.00; \$37.50; \$38.00; \$38.50; \$39.00; \$39.50; \$40.00; \$40.50; \$41.00; \$41.50; \$42.00; \$42.50; \$43.00; \$43.50; \$44.00; \$44.50; \$45.00; \$45.50; \$46.00; \$46.50; \$47.00; \$47.50; \$48.00; \$48.50; \$49.00; \$49.50; \$50.00; \$50.50; \$51.00; \$51.50; \$52.00; \$52.50; \$53.00; \$53.50; \$54.00; \$54.50; \$55.00; \$55.50; \$56.00; \$56.50; \$57.00; 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