

HIDE TRADE BETTER

Undertone of All American Markets Improved.

PACKERS WELL CLEANED UP

Eastern Dealers Force Tanners to Pay a Half Cent Advance on the Week — Country Hides Unchanged.

A better feeling prevails in the hide market as a result of the improvement that has taken place in the East. Prices have shown but little change, however, and the dealers are still paying 7½ cents for skins and 17 cents for dry hides. The receipts of skins will be coming in for two months yet. It is not likely that prices can be raised much, as the tanners will not speculate in poor hides.

According to advices from Chicago, dated February 8, the Eastern dealers are quiet, as far as new contracts go, and dealers are contented, getting a half-cent advance. The packers are well cleaned up in their stocks and now have only January and February hides on hand.

There has been no change in the Eastern market for country hides, so far as values are concerned, but the dealers are quiet as well, and are contented, getting the demand for country stock should be stimulated.

The results of the Paris auction show that the European hide market is not particularly firm.

STRONG MARKET FOR COAST PRUNES

Prices of Oregon Are Trending Upward, as Stocks Are Nearly Exhausted.

The prune market is in a very strong position. The New York Journal of Commerce says of the tendency in Oregon, Idaho, and California prunes:

"The tendency of prices on Oregon Italian prunes is upward. The spot market at the spot is unusually light for this time of the year, because of the short crop and a good consuming demand in spite of the record high prices that have prevailed from early in the season. So far as can be learned there is nothing left in packed hands on the Coast, nor do there appear to be any more offers to come forward from the Coast or in transit."

"California prunes are more closely cleaned up on the Coast than ever before in the history of the trade so far in advance of the season's closing. Estimates as to the quantity left in California vary, but at the most are made out to be insignificant when compared with previous requirements of the market, and the time of year the 1911 crop will become available. Many packers are said to have nothing left to sell, while others have only 20s and 40s, with perhaps a sprinkling of the smaller sizes."

The latter in all hands are extremely scarce and it is said that it would be difficult if not impossible to secure a straight cut of anything smaller than 20s. In spot California prunes and as stocks are small and rather closely concentrated, the market continues to show an upward trend."

INQUIRY FOR WHEAT FROM JAPAN

Demand Is for Small Parcels and Is Due

A little inquiry for wheat is coming from Japan. The demand has sold and shipped considerable quantities, but Portland has done little business in wheat with that country this season. The Japanese demand for wheat is due to the high price of flour. The duty on wheat is only about third of that on flour and the present quotation on the Japanese market is not higher than the raw material and grain that they buy. The European markets are weak and no trading on that account is possible with wheat held here at 80 cents or above. The California demand has also fallen off.

Oats and barley were rather dull and former prices were quoted.

Local receipts of wheat, were reported by the Merchants Exchange as follows:

Wheat Barley Flour Oats Hay
Monday 87 17 4 32
Tuesday 37 1 9 1
Wednesday 100 1 1 1
Year ago 38 1 12 7 11
Season to date 3,084 149 182 814 232
Year to date 3,728 128 182 858 288

EGG RECEIPTS ARE INCREASING.

Market Is Weak and Gradually Declining.

Poultry Is High, Prices of Flour.

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