

WOOL BUYING STOPS

Contracting in Western States Ceases Temporarily.

PRICE SAID TO BE TOO HIGH

About Fourteen Million Pounds Have Been Bought on Sheep Backs to Date in Utah, Idaho and Nevada

The wool markets East and West have quieted down. According to reports to local dealers, contractors in the Western sections had bought entirely for the time being. The buyers assert that prices advanced to a point where they did not care to take chances. Growers of fine wools are asking 16 to 17 cents, and these prices, dealers think, are out of line, especially since the buying flurry has been checked. Shearing will begin in a short time, and the buyers are disposed to wait until it is actually sheared, and then can see what it is. Some of them think they will buy sheep wool cheaper than on the sheep's back.

Shearing will start next week in Yakima and in some parts of Eastern Oregon in a small way. It will not be general in the Northwest before the middle of April and will continue throughout May.

Before the early buying started, about 14,000,000 pounds were contracted for in Idaho, Nevada and Utah. The Wool Growers' Association in Wyoming has advised its members not to sell clip at the present prices. The activity which has been spreading in many of the woolgrowing sections has led the growers to believe that much better prices can be obtained this year than they held out for last.

The following comment on the situation in Montana is from the Boston Commercial Bulletin:

"In Montana little news is reported since the purchase of the Custer clip, the price of which was undoubtedly exaggerated. Competent advice indicates that the clip was made at 14½ cents. It is also understood that the clip is already sold out to the same manufacturers who had it last year. The Custer (Montana) clip is said to have been corralled by a Boston house on an advance of 7 cents. The clip is one of the better Montana clips, running fairly strong to medium wools of fair shrinkage, and it could hardly have been secured on so small advance. A number of the larger growers in Montana are taking very high prices for their clip this year, the owners of the clip being reported as asking 20 cents, while others are reported as expecting to get 22 to 23 cents for their wool. Boston dealers are quite undisturbed by these asking prices, however, and assert that the clip in question will undoubtedly be purchased for much less money."

WHEAT IS FIRM WITH LITTLE TRADING

Demand Is Slack in All Quarters—Oats Are Unchanged.

The wheat market was firm yesterday, but showed no signs of activity. There was little demand in any quarter and prices were more or less nominal. Similar conditions prevailed in the oats market.

Local receipts, in cars, were reported by the Merchants Exchange as follows:

Wheat—100 bushels per car; flour, 500 bushels per car; bran, 100 bushels per car.

WHEAT STOCK IS STRONG

HIGH PRICES PAID FOR WETHERS AND LAMBS.

Receipts at Yards Are Heavy, but Bulk of Arrivals Too Late for Day's Market.

There was a good run of stock at the yards yesterday, 41 cars being unshaded, but of these 28 cars arrived late. The stock offered in the morning met with ready sale at 10:30 a.m.

A load of choice steers sold at \$16.00 and six bushels went at \$6.50. The best cows on offer realized \$5.50.

Steer market held well at \$6.70 and \$6.75 for choice and \$6 for good heavy stock.

High prices were obtained for unshaded lambs, 100 bushels being sold off the cars at \$5.15 and a large lot of wool lambs brought \$6.15 off the cars.

Receipts yesterday were 652 cattle, 450 hogs, 378 sheep, 19 goats and 45 horses.

Among the shippers were E. H. Butler, Hansen, Idaho, 1 car of cattle; M. J. Harris, Hansen, Idaho, 1 car of cattle; C. C. Johnson, Idaho, 1 car of cattle and calves; G. W. Owen, Idaho Falls, 2 cars of hogs; Bevier & Wood, Berthel, 1 car of hogs; Hansen, Idaho, 1 car of cattle and hogs; City, 1 car of goats and hogs; Paxton & Overton, Halsey, 1 car of cattle and hogs; E. B. Decker, Salem, 2 cars of sheep; J. S. Jensen, Rosalia, Washington, 1 car of cattle and hogs; W. A. Larson, Woodland, 1 car of cattle and hogs.

The day's sales were as follows:

1 steer, 100 bushels, \$16.00; 100 bushels, \$15.50; 100 bushels, \$15.00; 100 bushels, \$14.50; 100 bushels, \$14.00; 100 bushels, \$13.50; 100 bushels, \$13.00; 100 bushels, \$12.50; 100 bushels, \$12.00; 100 bushels, \$11.50; 100 bushels, \$11.00; 100 bushels, \$10.50; 100 bushels, \$10.00; 100 bushels, \$9.50; 100 bushels, \$9.00; 100 bushels, \$8.50; 100 bushels, \$8.00; 100 bushels, \$7.50; 100 bushels, \$7.00; 100 bushels, \$6.50; 100 bushels, \$6.00; 100 bushels, \$5.50; 100 bushels, \$5.00; 100 bushels, \$4.50; 100 bushels, \$4.00; 100 bushels, \$3.50; 100 bushels, \$3.00; 100 bushels, \$2.50; 100 bushels, \$2.00; 100 bushels, \$1.50; 100 bushels, \$1.00; 100 bushels, \$0.50; 100 bushels, \$0.00.

RECEIPTS OF CHICKENS ARE BETTER Supply, However, Is Still Small and Prices Are Good.

Arrivals of chickens have shown a slight increase in numbers, but the market is still as quiet as it was. Good prices are still obtainable, hens selling at 10¢ to 16¢ cents and broilers at 25 cents. There was some demand for good dressed turkeys, but other kinds of poultry were dull. Dressers were steady.

The egg market was very firm at 21 cents for current receipts.

A small supply of cheese is due from TILTON today. The butter market continues firm.

TRADING IN VEGETABLES IS BETTER California Producers Firm Because of Cold Weather in That State.

Trade in the vegetables and fruit market picked up yesterday, and supplies were well cleaned up. The scanner brought a fair assortment. There were also two fresh cars of mixed vegetables, one car of sweet potatoes and one car of oranges.

Apples were traded at 10 cents, as a result of cold weather in San Francisco. Turnips were steady at \$0.25 each, but artichokes were quoted at 30 cents a dozen and peaches at 20 cents a pound. Former prices were quoted on other lines.

BANK Clearings.

Bank clearings of the Northwestern cities yesterday were as follows:

Clearings, Balances, \$100,000.

Tucson, \$100,000.

Spokane, \$20,000.

Portland, \$100,000.

PORLAND MARKETS.

Groceries, Fresh, Etc.

WHEAT—Trade prices: Bismarck, \$25 per bushel; St. Paul, \$24.50; Minneapolis, \$24.25; middlings, \$23.

MILLS—Patents, \$4.50 per barrel; straight, \$4.60; exports, \$4.70; barley, \$4.50; corn, \$4.25; flour, \$4.00.

CORN—New, whole, \$2.40; cracked, \$2.20.

COFFEE—No. 1 Eastern Ceylon, \$15 per bushel; No. 3 Valley, \$13.50; Altafia, \$12; No. 2 grain, \$10.50.

OATS—No. 1 white, \$2.50; \$2.25 per ton.

Vegetables and Fruits.

TROPICAL FRUITS—Oranges, novelties, \$1.25 to \$2; California grapefruit, \$1.50 to \$2; Florida grapefruit, \$1.75 to \$2; limes, \$1.25 to \$1.50; pineapples, \$1.25 to \$2.

FRUIT—Almonds, grapes, \$2.50 per bushel; cranberries, \$1.00 to \$1.50 per bushel.

POTATOES—Baking, pines, Burbank, \$1.25 per hundred; sweet potatoes, \$2 per hundred; artichokes, \$2 per pound; beans, \$1.50 per pound; cabbage, 10¢ per pound; cauliflower, \$1.25 per pound; egg plant, \$1.25 per pound; garlic, \$1.25 per pound; lettuce, \$1.25 per head; radishes, \$1.25 per pound; turnips, \$1.25 per pound; tomatoes, \$2.25 per box; onions, \$1.25 to \$2 per pound; tomatoes, \$2.25 per box.

DAIRY PRODUCTS—Turnips, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per sack; rutabagas, \$1.25 to \$1.50; carrots, \$1.25.

LIFTED BY SHORTS

Covering Movement Is Feature of Stock Market.

DEALINGS ARE NOT LARGE

Steel Shares Are Unexpectedly Strong—Effect of the Stanley Committee Report Discounted—Bonds Are Steady.

Dairy and Country Produce.

BUTTER—Oregon creamery butter, solid pack, \$60; prints, extra.

EGGS—Fresh, Oregon ranch, candied, 21¢ per dozen.

CHEESE—Oregon, flat, 21¢ to 22¢ per pound.

POKE—Fancy, 15¢ per pound.

POULTRY—Hens, 16¢ to 18¢; Spring, 14¢ to 16¢; turkeys, 16¢ to 18¢; ducks, 12¢ to 14¢; geese, 20¢ to 22¢.

PROVISIONS—Pork, bacon, 14¢ to 16¢ per pound.

Provisions.

NAME—12 pounds, 15¢ to 16¢; 12 to 14 pounds, 15¢ to 16¢; 15 to 16 pounds, 15¢ to 16¢; 16 to 18 pounds, 15¢ to 16¢; 18 to 20 pounds, 15¢ to 16¢.

LARD—Kettle, 12 pounds, 12¢ to 13¢.

MEAT—Lard, 12 pounds, 12¢ to 13¢.