

BUY ON SHEEP'S BACK

Wool Contracting Is Resumed
in Eastern Oregon.

ACTIVE TRADE IN WALLOWA

Half a Million Pounds of Unshorn Wool Signed Up During the Week—Market Active in Other Sections.

The wool situation in Eastern Oregon is about the same as last reported, except that the growers are becoming stronger in their views. The buyers are maintaining their prices, and the growers are inclined to hold for better figures later.

Another feature of the market is the resumption of contracting. During February some buying on the sheep's back was done, but until a few days ago no business of this kind was attempted. Most of the contracting this week has been in the Wallowa country, where probably 100,000 pounds were sold.

Buyers have also visited other sections, where the clips are generally known to be good, in the effort to contract on the sheep's back. The prices range from 14 to 18 cents, but the growers are inclined in most instances to wait until the wool is shorn and take their chances.

On the whole, the week has been a very active one, and it is estimated that between 200,000 and 250,000 pounds of unshorn and uncontracted wool have changed hands.

No little speculation is being indulged in by men in the trade, says the Boston Commercial. Hailstein, as to what method of reasoning has caused the payment of prices as high as those which were paid about a week ago in Wyoming. With the possibility of tariff legislation, and the uncertainty as strong as ever at the present moment, it would seem that buyers had about reached a conclusion if indeed they had not passed it.

Buyers have continued to take on Wyoming wool this week, paying 18 cents for some of the better clips, which means about 18 cents above lambd, possibly 14 cents. In the triangle section some further contracts to a limited extent are reported at 18 cents, as in Wyoming. The Herding Antelope clip, amounting to the large purchases, including 125,000 fleeces, or about 100,000 pounds. No sales of moment are reported in the Southwest and California has also been rather quiet, the clip thus far short in that state being rather defective this year, according to recent advices.

WALLOWA COUNTY WOOL CONTRACTS

Last of the Big Clip at Enterprise Bought by Eastern Dealers.

ENTREPRENEUR, May 17.—(Special)—With the sale Wednesday of the posted clips of Jay H. Dobbin and C. L. Hartshorn, aggregating 250,000 pounds, the last large lot of wool in Wallowa County, except one, has been sold. The Dobbin-Hartshorn lot went to a bank of Clarke and Clark, who tie in their bids. By agreement the price was not disclosed.

This sale makes a total of about 150,000 pounds of Wallowa wool sold to date. The total value, at an average price of 15 cents, is around \$120,000. The one remaining large clip in the county is that of Davis, McPherson & Huntington.

The negotiation for the Dobbin-Hartshorn wool was keen. Every buyer in the state was asked to bid, and quotations came in from all over Oregon. Mr. Fink, representing Hirsch, Leibman & Company; Mr. Clarke, buying for Hallowell; Jones & Donald, and Fred Palsson, for J. K. Kishland & Company, were the local bidders against the others. At the end Clarke and Mr. Fink's bids were the same, so it is supposed they will divide the purchase.

Other large purchases of wool, made since the opening of the season, before Peter Hansen sold his clip, include the following:

Bought by Mr. Clarke—

Fournals
Hansen Brothers
J. W. Hansen
L. C. Johnson
Johnsen
McFetridge
M. E. Johnson
E. L. Johnson
Graves Brothers
Luther Knutson
Peter Hansen
Walter Hauer
Omar Knutson
Samuel Knutson
H. F. Knutson
There remain many smaller clips, but the big ones are gone, to the last Wallowa County wool is concerned.

EASTERN ORDERS FOR 1912 HOFS

No Business Passing in Contract Markets.

Crop Prospects.—No additional business in the crop market was announced yesterday. There were a few Eastern orders off the market for spot grain at 38 cents.

The greatest interest is taken in crop prospects, which are favorable everywhere. The present indications are for a normal world's crop. In Oregon, the market could not be better, and a repetition of the record yields per acre is to be expected. A cable from France has reported crop conditions on the Continent of Europe favorable and estimated the Continental crop at 80,000,000 tons, world-weight.

The Kenneth Observer, of May 2, says of crop conditions in England:

"The crop plants are exceptionally forward. The growth during the last month or two has been rapid, and the yield is progressing. The soil seems well set as a check to the forward development. Rain is badly wanted."

London market conditions are shown by top factor trade circulars.

Willie, New York Co.—There is very little business passing on our market, and values are unchanged.

Morgan, Henley—Although there is more business the business doing is of small volume and for present requirements only.

W. H. & H. LaMere—There is no alteration in note on this market; the inquiry reported in our last continues. The Continental markets have hardened again during the past week.

Exclusive and Hop Warehouses—There is very little alteration as to the state of the market to report, very few lots having changed hands during last week, although there were considerably more inquiries than sales. The market is holding only. Owing to the very few lots remaining unsold, owners are not anxious to release an advance in prices being daily anticipated, a rise on the foreign markets having taken place.

STRAWBERRIES ARE HIGHER IN SOUTH

Thirty-cent Advance in Three Days at Sacramento—The Local Trade.

The strawberries market was rather yesterday, but the demand was very strong and the market was firm. A straight car arrived from Florida and cleaned up readily at \$1.50 and 12.50. Prices today may be higher. The Sacramento market has advanced 20 cents a crate since Wednesday.

Receipts of Springbrook berries were small. They sold at a crate.

There were no changes in the vegetable market, which was active. A car of Winona cabbage was received.

FARMERS' WHEAT NOW ON MARKET

No Bills for a Quantity Put Up for Sale in Palouse.

The wheat market was dull and weak.

There was practically no demand locally or in the interior. In the Palouse country a considerable quantity of farmers' wheat was

offered for sale, but there were no bids.

Big Bend bluestem is reported to have sold on the sound at \$1.00.

Weekly foreign wheat shipments were as follows:

This wk. Last wk. Last yr.

Argentina 1,500,000 3,400,000 2,720,000

Australia 212,000 212,000 1,144,000

India 1,000,000 1,000,000 1,000,000

Local receipts in care, were reported by the Merchant's Exchange as follows:

Wheat Barley Flax Oats Hay

Monday 46 3 20 14

Tuesday 22 1 12

Wednesday 22 1 12

Thursday 22 1 12

Friday 22 1 12

Saturday to date 12977 274 2823 12523

Year ag 11513 666 2223 13112

Country Produce Lines Unchanged.

There were no changes in country produce lines. The egg market was weak, but no fewer. Poultry and dressed meats were quiet and steady.

Butter was cleaned up nicely, as has been the case for two weeks, and the price was firm.

The demand for cheese also continues active.

Bank Clearings.

Bank clearings of the Northwestern cities yesterday were as follows:

Portland Clearings, Balance \$1,466,778

Ottawa 1,718,000 2,000,000

Tacoma 1,624,000 1,624,000

Spokane 805,631 1,624,000

PORLAND MARKETS.

Grain, Flour, Feed, Etc.

WHEAT—Track prices: Bluestem, \$1.02/8; red, 90¢; white, 88¢; hard red, 90¢; soft red, 88¢.

MILLS/FLOUR—Barley, \$25 per ton; shorts, 22.50; middlings, 21.

WHEAT—Export: \$1.70; extra, \$1.60;

flour, \$1.50; choice, \$1.40; oats and veal, \$1.30;

barley, \$1.20; rye, 80¢; wheat, 70¢.

VEGETABLES AND FRUITS.

TROPICAL FRUIT—Oranges, naval, \$2.50/125; California grapefruit, \$2.50/125; Florida grapefruit, \$2.75/125; lemons, \$2.25/125; pineapples, per pound.

FRUIT—Peaches, \$1.50/125; apricots, \$1.00/125; plums, \$1.00/125; cherries, \$1.00/125.

POTATOES—Jobbing prices: Barley, \$4.70; export, \$4.20; Valley, \$2.10; grain, \$2.10; white, wheat, \$2.00; hard red, 18¢; soft red, 17¢; middlings, 16¢.

ONIONS—Navy, \$1.50/125; Valley, \$1.25/125; grain, \$1.25/125.

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