

## HOP FUTURE IS HAZY

Course of 1915 Market Cannot Be Figured Out.

## MANY UNCERTAIN FACTORS

European War Is Chief Cause of Present Unsatisfactory Conditions—Domestic Trade Is Affected by Dry Laws.

Whether new-crop hops will sell at record prices this year or whether they will not bring what it costs to grow them are questions which hop growers would like to answer but cannot. There are so many uncertain factors in the hop market that it is difficult to predict the course of the market.

It is not beyond the range of possibility that these war times for events to occur between now and next winter that will put prices on a higher plane than known in recent years. It is not, to be acknowledged, however, that the signs at present point to a diminished rather than an enhanced value of new Pacific hops.

The domestic trade consumption is likely to be reduced without any corresponding decline in output. Dry territory is steadily growing and the effect of prohibition law is already seen in the efforts of brewers in some of the states to dispose of their reserve supply of hops.

In the meantime American growers are preparing to harvest a big crop, and it is probable that the crop uncertainty will be a factor in the market.

England was a heavy buyer of American hops up to the time the submarine blockade became effective. England grew a very large crop last year and there extensive American purchases were undoubtedly made for the purpose of piling up a reserve supply, all of which may have an unfavorable influence on the coming season.

In the other hand, the revival of prosperity in the United States will greatly stimulate the brewing trade in sections not affected by dry laws, and it is the well-to-do consumers that have been the largest buyers of hops.

More prosperous times would also mean more speculation and higher prices of hops. There are also the crop uncertainties to be reckoned with.

The greatest present factor in the hop business, as in every other business, is of course, the European war. On its course or cessation will depend in large measure the course of the hop market.

The local wheat market made a better appearance yesterday, but aside from some demand for milling grades, the market was disposition to be business. The tonnage situation is the feature that is blocking trade and until there is some relief in this direction the market is likely to be a dragging one.

Merchants' Exchange sales yesterday were as follows:

5,000 bushels April bluestem.....	\$1.20
5,000 bushels May bluestem.....	1.10
5,000 bushels June bluestem.....	1.00
5,000 bushels July bluestem.....	.90
5,000 bushels August bluestem.....	.80
5,000 bushels September bluestem.....	.70
5,000 bushels October bluestem.....	.60
5,000 bushels November bluestem.....	.50
5,000 bushels December bluestem.....	.40
5,000 bushels January bluestem.....	.30
5,000 bushels February bluestem.....	.20
5,000 bushels March bluestem.....	.10
5,000 bushels April bluestem.....	.00

## SHEEP SHEARING IN MALHEUR COUNTRY

Camp Near Ontario Is Now Working on 10,000 Ewes.

Wool buyers are preparing to operate in the Ontario district, according to the Malheur Democrat, which says:

"On Tuesday there were two wool buyers here in the interest of West Coast buyers for wool. J. M. Johnson, of Howell, Idaho, and C. L. Johnson, of Boise, Idaho, were here and went out to the Buttefield ranch to look at the wool now being shorn by Anderson & Gwyn. We are unable to learn of any offers made, but were assured that the quality of the wool was excellent. The Anderson & Gwyn people are now shearing some 10,000 ewes at their place known as the Buttefield ranch, 12 miles west of Ontario."

The ewes all were lambs and after shearing will be sent directly to the range and the lambs will be fattened for the July market and shipped East at that time.

## SMALL VEGETABLES IN GOOD DEMAND

Fresh Supply Is Brought on Rose City—Few Small Vegetables of All Kinds were Closely

Small vegetables of all kinds were closely cleaned up yesterday. Asparagus was firmer at 10¢ per bunch. The Rose City brought a fresh supply, also a quantity of California fresh apples, not much more of the latter, but a quantity of the former. The South as usual has been becoming plentiful. The car of Florida tomatoes received Monday was cleaned up yesterday. The next car will not be in for a week or 10 days. A car of head lettuce was received from California. Only three cars of oranges were on yesterday's steamer. The preceding steamer brought 12 cars, but local dealers have cut down their steamer orders materially.

## No Orders for Spot Hops.

Hop dealers lack orders for spot goods and prices are being nominally. Contact with buyers has also been at all points on the coast for the time being.

According to statistics compiled by the Department of Commerce, the exports of domestic hops were 10,000 bushels during the five months ended January 31, 1915, were 8,000 bushels, of which 6,000 bushels were exported from the Port of New York.

## Local Egg Market Is Firm.

The egg market was firm with sales at 19 to 20¢ per dozen, case count. Most of the buying by local speculators was at the first figure.

Poultry receipts were light and chickens were in strong demand. Large hens sold at 15¢ per dozen and ordinary hens at 13 to 14¢ per dozen. Dressed meats were steady. No change was reported in the dairy produce market.

Casaca Market in London. Mail advices from a well-known London house said of casaca bark: "Our New York friends write saying that the Pacific Coast is clear of stock and supplies are small and concentrated and that the time had actually arrived when this article had already moved. Stocks here are not very large, at least half the quantity of a year ago."

Bank Clearings. Bank clearings of the Northwestern cities yesterday were as follows:

Portland.....	\$2,500,470
Seattle.....	1,500,000
Tacoma.....	1,000,000
Spokane.....	450,470
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$5,450,940</b>

PORTLAND MARKET QUOTATIONS. Grain, Flour, Feed, Etc. Merchants' Exchange, noon session. Wheat—No. 1, 1.25; No. 2, 1.20; No. 3, 1.15; No. 4, 1.10; No. 5, 1.05; No. 6, 1.00; No. 7, .95; No. 8, .90; No. 9, .85; No. 10, .80; No. 11, .75; No. 12, .70; No. 13, .65; No. 14, .60; No. 15, .55; No. 16, .50; No. 17, .45; No. 18, .40; No. 19, .35; No. 20, .30; No. 21, .25; No. 22, .20; No. 23, .15; No. 24, .10; No. 25, .05; No. 26, .00; No. 27, .00; No. 28, .00; No. 29, .00; No. 30, .00; No. 31, .00; No. 32, .00; No. 33, .00; No. 34, .00; No. 35, .00; No. 36, .00; No. 37, .00; No. 38, .00; No. 39, .00; No. 40, .00; No. 41, .00; No. 42, .00; No. 43, .00; No. 44, .00; No. 45, .00; No. 46, .00; No. 47, .00; No. 48, .00; No. 49, .00; No. 50, .00; No. 51, .00; No. 52, .00; No. 53, .00; No. 54, .00; No. 55, .00; No. 56, .00; No. 57, .00; No. 58, .00; No. 59, .00; No. 60, .00; No. 61, .00; No. 62, .00; No. 63, .00; No. 64, .00; No. 65, .00; No. 66, .00; No. 67, .00; No. 68, .00; No. 69, .00; No. 70, .00; No. 71, .00; No. 72, .00; No. 73, .00; No. 74, .00; No. 75, .00; No. 76, .00; No. 77, .00; 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