

SHORT

Said to Be Far Under Government Estimate.

SOUTHERN MARKET STRONG

Present Supply, It Is Estimated, Will Not Last Till Summer. Excited Buying in the Potato Market.

The rice market is showing strength at all points. The early estimates of large yields are reported disproved, and with the holding tactics of the growers in the south, a strong position is being maintained. Wire advices from New Orleans yesterday stated that the mills are asking half a cent more than three weeks ago. The crop, instead of amounting to 2,500,000 bags, as was estimated by the Government, is now declared to be less than 3,000,000 bags, and the normal consumption of this country and Porto Rico will absorb this quantity long before July 1. Porto Rico is drawing largely from the south for supply, as the sugar season is now opening, a period when the rice consumption is heavy.

Talman's latest rice circular says: The improvement in demand noted last week has continued at increased rate. Honduras styles are firm, with harder tendency. Japan sorts, which have, as it were, been fabled around the market for some time past, are now steady to firm, with large inquiry. Advice from the south note strong market on the Atlantic coast, with prices firmly held. At New Orleans the distributive inquiry is increasing and prices are held strongly at fractional advances over recent quotations. In the interior, Southwest Louisiana and Texas demand has been active, with large sales at an advance over previous week's figures. Correspondence from abroad note firm markets on all bellies.

ARGENTINE SURPLUS CUT DOWN.

All Foreign and American Wheat Markets Are Higher.

Cables were received yesterday indicating that the Argentine wheat surplus will be much smaller than was estimated. This was probably the occasion of the sharp advance in the foreign markets yesterday. May options at Liverpool gained 1/4 cent. The Eastern markets were also strong.

There is not much business passing now in the local market, owing to the very much smaller than was estimated. It was again reported that \$1.75 was offered here for choice bluestem.

At Walla Walla Thursday there was a sale of 10,000 bushels of bluestem at \$1.75, the highest price paid there in over 20 years.

Bid and asked prices were posted at the Board of Trade as follows:

WHEAT.	Bid.	Asked.
February	1.09	1.10
March	1.09	1.10

OATS.	Bid.	Asked.
February	1.07	1.08
March	1.07	1.08

BARLEY.	Bid.	Asked.
February	1.38	1.41
March	1.38	1.41

Receipts in cars were reported by the Merchants' Exchange as follows:

Wheat	Barley	Flour	Oats
1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000

Business in the past week would have been larger but for the troubles along the railroad. The California demand for onions is good and there is also inquiry from the South.

RECEIPTS OF EGGS NOT SO HEAVY.

Market Steady at Unchanged Prices—Poultry in Demand.

Total egg receipts on Front street yesterday were smaller than they have been for several days, and practically everything was disposed of. Prices were unchanged, most being made at 40 cents and only a few above this figure.

The poultry market was strong, the light arrivals clearing up promptly at full prices. There is but little chicken on hand here and it is practically impossible just now to get supplies from the factory. Butcher cleans up well without change in price.

EXCITEMENT IN THE POTATO MARKET.

Competition Among Buyers in Some Parts of the Country.

There is considerable excitement in the potato market in the country, where several dealers are competing for the crop. These efforts were made to farmers who were holding for still more.

The actual amount of business done in the country yesterday was not great, as shippers are averse to loading up until they know that communication with the south is permanently established.

Fresh Produce in Light Supply.

Supplies of all kinds of fresh produce are running very low on Front street. The only arrival from the south yesterday was a car of oranges. Supplies en route and stalled at the washouts on the other side of the mountains. Small truck of all kinds, cauliflower and small truck of all kinds.

Bank Clearings.

Clearings of the Northwestern cities yesterday were as follows:

City	Amount
Portland	\$1,000,000
Seattle	\$1,000,000
Tacoma	\$1,000,000

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Grain, Flour, Feed, Etc.

The BARLEY—Producers prices: Feed, \$2.30; \$2.35; \$2.40; \$2.45; \$2.50; \$2.55; \$2.60; \$2.65; \$2.70; \$2.75; \$2.80; \$2.85; \$2.90; \$2.95; \$3.00; \$3.05; \$3.10; \$3.15; \$3.20; \$3.25; \$3.30; \$3.35; \$3.40; \$3.45; \$3.50; \$3.55; \$3.60; \$3.65; \$3.70; \$3.75; \$3.80; \$3.85; \$3.90; \$3.95; \$4.00; \$4.05; \$4.10; \$4.15; \$4.20; \$4.25; \$4.30; \$4.35; \$4.40; \$4.45; \$4.50; \$4.55; \$4.60; \$4.65; \$4.70; \$4.75; \$4.80; \$4.85; \$4.90; \$4.95; \$5.00; \$5.05; \$5.10; \$5.15; \$5.20; \$5.25; \$5.30; \$5.35; \$5.40; \$5.45; \$5.50; \$5.55; \$5.60; \$5.65; \$5.70; \$5.75; \$5.80; \$5.85; \$5.90; \$5.95; \$6.00; \$6.05; \$6.10; \$6.15; \$6.20; \$6.25; \$6.30; \$6.35; \$6.40; \$6.45; \$6.50; \$6.55; \$6.60; \$6.65; \$6.70; \$6.75; \$6.80; \$6.85; \$6.90; \$6.95; \$7.00; \$7.05; \$7.10; \$7.15; \$7.20; \$7.25; \$7.30; \$7.35; \$7.40; \$7.45; \$7.50; \$7.55; \$7.60; \$7.65; \$7.70; \$7.75; \$7.80; \$7.85; \$7.90; \$7.95; \$8.00; \$8.05; \$8.10; \$8.15; \$8.20; \$8.25; \$8.30; 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\$70.10; \$70.15; \$70.20; \$70.25; \$70.30; \$70.35; \$70.40; \$70.45; \$70.50; \$70.55; \$70.60; \$70.65; \$70.70; \$70.75; \$70.80; \$70.85; \$70.90; \$70.95; \$71.00; \$71.05; \$71.10; \$71.15; \$71.20; \$71.25; \$71.30; \$71.35; \$71.40; \$71.45; \$71.50; \$71.55; \$71.60; \$71.65; \$71.70; \$71.75; \$71.80; \$71.85; \$71.90; \$71.95; \$72.00; \$72.05; \$72.10; \$72.15; \$72.20; \$72.25; \$72.30; \$72.35; \$72.40; \$72.45; \$72.50; \$72.55; \$72.60; \$72.65; \$72.70; \$72.75; \$72.80; \$72.85; \$72.90; \$72.95;