

## SHORTS ARE CAUGHT

Have Trouble in Filling May Barley Contracts.

## HELD BY PORTLAND FIRM

**San Francisco Market Strong.**  
Small Trading in Wheat—Shipments of Flour—Berry Trade Is Active.

Interest in the grain market still centers in barley, because of the operations in May barley at San Francisco. This option held strong at \$1.70 on the San Francisco Merchants' Exchange yesterday. Reports that market were evidently experiencing difficulties in filling their May contracts which are principally held by a Portland grain firm. It is a question whether enough barley can be secured in California for this purpose. The advance in the South has preceded the regular movement of barley to the Northwest, and the market here is very firm, with \$1.65 a ton quoted by most dealers. Only four cars of barley were received from the interior in the past week. Oats continue steady.

There was but little interest shown in wheat yesterday. A total of 18 cars was received during the week, the smallest in a long time. Some fair shipments are still to be made to California. Prices show no change.

The Merchants' Exchange reports Russian wheat shipment for the week at 4,648,000 bushels, compared with 192,000 bushels last week, and Danish shipments at 544,000 bushels, as against 1,916,000 bushels last week.

Floors are going forward to Southern points in considerable quantities. The local flour receipts during the week were heavy at 52 cars and equaled the combined receipts of grain and hay. The local flour market is steady, with a moderate demand. A little business is being worked in the interior in low grade flour on Eastern account.

Regarding the situation in flour, a leading flour dealer of New York is quoted by the Journal of Commerce as follows:

"Conditions governing the flour trade as they now exist are entirely different from anything I have ever known for the last 25 years. The flour situation today is in an unsatisfactory and uncertain condition. Dealers here with great unanimity seem to have arrived at the conclusion not to replenish their stocks until a market is found. The uncertainty of the wheat market with its alternate rises and declines from one day to the next, strengthens them in this position. The millers, on the other hand, are confronted with the cash wheat situation, which precludes their making flour when they know the prices dealers are willing to pay, and the consequence is a stagnation of trade. I am speaking now principally of Spring wheat flour, although this will also apply to the Winter wheat products. If you can find a market in the next few months, we must surely have a more active trade, whether on a higher or on a lower basis, as it has already been altogether too long delayed."

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

	Wheat	Barley	Flour	Oats
May 15-16...	5	17	5	2
May 16-17...	2	7	16	5
May 17-18...	1	6	1	6
May 18-19...	1	6	1	6
May 19-20...	4	4	1	6
May 20-21...	1	5	4	7
Total this week, 15-21	4	42	18	23
Total last week, 10-14	3	27	17	47

**HOP DEALERS WOULD CONTRACT.**  
But Few Crops Now Growing Are on the Market.

There is a stronger under tone in the hop market. A few more contracts have been made at 10 cents, and this branch of the business would be lively, but for the absence of sellers. There is not much of the crop in sight that has not already been harvested, and it hardly pays a dealer to tour the country for the few odd lots he might pick up.

While crop prospects have improved somewhat in the past two weeks, the gain has not been great. What we hear must come soon, if a fair crop is to be harvested in Oregon. Without knowing what the weather is going to be in the next two or three weeks, no estimate of the yield that is worth anything can be had.

As showing the strength of the market, a carload of hops was sold at Salem yesterday at 5 cents.

Less than 1,600 bales of the 1908 crop remain unsold in Oregon, yet the demand for them is slow. McNett Brothers still have 1,400 bales of Western Washington 1907 crop, a carload at 5 cents. There has been a fairly active movement in spot hops in California lately. Mail advices note the sale of the Finney crops of 550 bales of Sonoma, 450 bales of 1908 bringing 75 cents, and 500 bales of 1907 at 75 cents.

**STRAWBERRY TRAIN ARRIVES LATE.**  
But Demand Is Strong and Supply Is Not Adequate.

The express was late yesterday and it was after noon before the strawberries were off the train on the street. Receipts from California were not large, about 1,700 crates, and as the demand was strong, everything cleaned up in the short interval before the close of business. California berries sold at the previous range, \$1.06-\$1.10 per crate according to size. Oregon berries were more numerous than any day this season, and found ready sale at 12½ to 15 cents per pound.

There were moderate receipts of California vegetables by steamer, for which the demand was good.

The old potato market held very steady. San Francisco prices were unchanged and holders express the opinion there will be a considerable gain in the coming week. Offerings of old stock on the local market are light. Much damage to early potatoes in this state by the recent frost is reported.

**GOOD DEMAND FOR BUTTER.**  
Week Closes With the Market Firm All Around.

The week closed with a firm feeling in the butter market. Not only do the city creameries clean up well, but a better movement was reported yesterday in outside brands. The market conditions are along as at present, but its course in the coming week will have to depend on conditions in other markets.

The cheese received from Tillamook yesterday was sold before its arrival, and the market, therefore, continues firm.

Egg receipts have shown a decided falling off. There is still a lack of inquiry from the north, and there was some accumulation on the street during the week, but the surplus was put into storage, and the market was again almost bare yesterday. Sales were re-

ported on the street at from 12 to 14 cents, according to quantity.

There was the usual good demand for poultry, and bird prices prevailed.

**Shipping Hood River Berries.**  
HOOD RIVER, Ore., May 21.—(Special)—The first shipment of Hood River strawberries consisting of two crates was shipped out today, and small shipments are now expected daily. Pickers are commencing to come later this week, but it is not expected that there will be much activity in the picking line before June 1.

## WOOL SALES AT GERRAIS.

GERRAIS, Or., May 22.—(Special)—Wool sales are being made at 25 cents per pound here today. This appears to be the limit for the time being. Many farmers are selling. There will be not less than 15,000 pounds of grade wool delivered at this point this year.

## ADVANCES IN PROVISIONS.

A new provision list that will become effective tomorrow morning will quote advances of half a cent on hams and lards.

## BANK CLEARINGS.

CLEARINGS OF THE NORTHWESTERN CITIES YESTERDAY AS FOLLOWS: Clearings, Balance, Portland, \$8,640,310; Seattle, \$7,370,530; Spokane, \$3,428,440; Eugene, \$3,409,520; Olympia, \$4,094,831; Astoria, \$2,707,705; Coeur d'Alene, \$1,450,732; Walla Walla, \$1,328,060; Bend, \$1,218,916; Spokane, \$1,218,916.

CLEARINGS OF PORTLAND, SEATTLE AND TACOMA FOR THE PAST WEEK AND CORRESPONDING WEEK OF PREVIOUS YEAR:

Portland	Seattle	Tacoma
\$6,640,310	\$10,462,332	\$5,558,426
7,370,530	8,829,574	7,009,286
3,428,440	3,409,520	3,400,308
4,094,831	5,762,247	4,292,397
1,450,732	1,328,060	1,329,112
1,218,916	1,218,916	1,218,916
1,218,916	1,218,916	1,218,916
1,218,916	1,218,916	1,218,916

**PORTLAND MARKETS.**

**GRAN, FLOR, FEED, ETC.**

**WHEAT**—Track prices: Blue stem, \$1.15; Yellow, \$1.20; Valley, \$1.17; Fall, \$1.20; Spring, \$1.25; straight, \$1.20; export, \$1.20; Valley, \$1.25; grain, \$1.00; whole wheat, quarters, \$2.50.

**CORN**—Whole, \$22 per ton; cracked, \$24 per ton.

**BARLEY**—Feed, \$5 per ton.

**MILLSTONES**—100 lb., \$12.25 per ton; medium, \$12; shorts, \$12.25; chop, \$12.50.

**MAYAPAL**—Willamette Valley, \$14 per ton; Eastern Oregon, \$16.50; Willamette, \$17.50; Altona, \$13.14; grain, \$14.50.

**VEGETABLES**

**ONION**—White, \$1.00 per lb.; red, \$1.25 per lb.; green, \$1.50 per lb.

**CUCUMBERS**—Green, \$1.25 per lb.

**BEANS**—Black, \$1.50 per lb.

**LEAVES**—Parsley, \$1.50 per lb.

**CARROTS**—Orange, \$1.50 per lb.

**ONIONS**—White, \$1.50 per lb.

**SPINACH**—\$1.50 per lb.

**VEGETABLES**—Fancy, \$1.50 per lb.

**VEGETABLES**—Common, \$1.50 per lb.

**VEGETABLES**—Ordinary, \$1.50 per lb.

**VEGETABLES**—Common, \$1.50 per lb.

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