

BURLAP IN CONTROL

Government Takes Steps to Regulate Business.

PRICES MAY BE FIXED

Importers Doubt Practicability of Plan, as Values Are Determined Overseas—America Is Lowest Market.

The food administration is planning to take steps to control the jute and sisal, or binder twine, business in the United States. According to some reports it has been suggested that this outcome will be a price fixity by agreement of those concerned in the industry. At any rate, the food administration is about convinced that it is highly important that some radical means be adopted whereby American farmers will not be harassed by fluctuating and unreasonable prices for these materials upon which the harvest is so intimately dependent.

The plan, it is said, involves the licensing of dealers and the fixing of prices on bags, bagging and binder twine on the ground that the cost and availability of these materials have a material effect upon the crop situation.

Some of the importers of burlap believe that steps to control prices will have the reverse effect to that desired, in that it will make goods scarcer. Prices are determined in the long run by the cost at the overseas center of production. If the goods could not be distributed above a fixed figure the stimulus to importing would be taken away, and, when the foreign market rises, the American import would cease altogether.

Cabled quotations from Dundee and Calcutta show that the United States is still the lowest of the world's markets for Jute products. Importers point out that the cost of feedstocks and labor are widely raised within the country is a different matter than the suggested control of a commodity dependent upon a foreign market for its supply.

The food administration, it is said, also has been given reason to believe that the export products by making it necessary to license such shipments through the Exports Administrative Board. Exportation of these goods has already been brought to the lowest terms, dealers point out, by the licensing system of the Textile Alliance.

SUGAR SHORTAGE ONLY TEMPORARY

Many New York Establishments Are Out of Stock.

NEW YORK, Oct. 20.—Scarcity of sugar causes considerable concern in New York, resulting in conferences between the newly appointed Commissioner of Markets, Dr. Henry Moskowitz, sugar refiners, wholesalers and retailers.

One of the principal sections of the city as high as 15 cents a pound is paid for sugar and there are but few places where it can be bought for less than 12 cents. Investigation discloses that some of the large wholesale grocery stores have none left in their warehouses and many retail stores are pasting "no sugar" signs on their windows to keep away the crowds of would-be purchasers.

The menu card of a leading hotel 5 cents; powdered, 10 cents a portion."

It is announced, however, that the price of coffee will be reduced and that maple sugar or syrup will be served free when decried.

James H. Post, chairman of the American refinery committee of the Federal Food Administration, says the sugar shortage is only temporary.

John L. Miller, president of the Wholesale Grocers Association of this city, tells Commissioner Moskowitz that all but three refineries in the vicinity of the city have been forced to close.

CITRUS FRUIT PRICES ADVANCING

Short Crop in California, According to Trade Reports.

The citrus fruit market in California is advancing with other commodities. The trade has just been advised that both imports and exports have gone to the shipping ports. According to reports the not going to be over 50 per cent of a normal crop this season on both these fruits. Good prices throughout the winter are, therefore, likely to prevail.

The short crop of Florida grapefruit will arrive tomorrow. Prices at shipping points are declining very slowly.

There was a fair cleanup of grapes and peaches yesterday at unchanged prices.

Frosts in the early part of the week materially cut down the supply of local tomatoes, cucumbers and small top vegetables.

BUTTER MARKET WEAK AT CLOSE

Southern and Eastern Prices Decline Sharply—Fresh Eggs Scarce.

The market for butter in the cities of the Union was off 2 cents and there was a decline of 1 cent in the East, which had an effect on sentiment here. The movement of country creamery butter continued slow and unsatisfactory to all concerned.

Receipts were very small and prices on fresh eggs were much or less constant. Poultry and dressed meats were steady and unchanged.

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

Portland \$20,260,000
Seattle 4,050,000
Tacoma 1,230,000
Spokane 1,000,000

Clearings, Balances:

Portland 1,020,000
Seattle 500,000
Tacoma 100,000

Clearings of Portland, Seattle and Tacoma for the past week are corresponding weak.

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Tacoma 1,230,000
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Portland Market Quotations

Grain, Feed, Flour, Etc.

Merchants' Exchange, noon session.

October delivery: Date, Nr. A50.

Oct. white feed \$49.00 \$30.75

Barley 49.00 36.00

Standard feed 49.00 36.00

Brewing 49.00 36.00

Flour 49.00 36.00

November 49.00 36.00

December 49.00 36.0