

A FEELING MUCH IMPROVED IN CHARACTER IS APPARENT IN THE HOP MARKET—MANY SALES ARE RECORDED DURING WEEK.

TRADING IN HOPS IS VERY HEAVY

Fully Five Thousand Sales Sold by Producers to Dealers During the Week.

SELLING OF OLDS IS SHOWING THE FEELING

Flour and Wheat Rule Lower on Account of Drops Elsewhere—Poultry and Eggs Drop With Heavier Arrivals—Prospects for Low Figures.

Front Street, Feb. 2—**Hops.**—The principal features of the Portland wholesale market the past week were:

Heavy dealings in hops.

Flour market 10 cents lower.

Wheat market 10 cents lower.

Hay market a very dull affair.

Salmon prospects are very good.

All fresh meats held at top.

Potato market is lower.

Veal market is in easier market.

Eggs drop throughout the week.

Poultry slumps and then firms.

Price of mutton down to bedrock.

Heavy dealings in hops.

While there is still a disposition in some quarters to say that there will be heavy supplies of hops until held here at the end of the season, present conditions do not warrant such a statement. At no time since the present season has there been better trading in hops than now.

The market has been better the last few weeks along with the new crop, the medium and the choice. Although the world's crop the past season was in every way a record breaker, still there is no timidity among the brewers and distillers in taking the risk that is offered around present figures. It can be said that the market has so improved of late that there is a disposition to make contracts around the price ruling today, for a duration of several years. This is the largest market in the world, and then every one talked of a crop that would be sufficient to last the users for several seasons even if not a single bushel was grown during 1898. This statement is doubted in many quarters, but the large number of bushels of hops taken by the Kreh brothers by Klauber, Wolf & Neher company. The exact amount is not definitely known, as neither the firm nor the buyers know the exact amount which they were purchased. A short time ago there was an entire absence of offers for 1898, and not even a quotation for them could be obtained in the market. The fact that 1,000 or so bushels of the crop were taken up in a single firm during the week shows in itself the better conditions now ruling. Taking all sales made during the week the total amount will result in the neighborhood of 5,000 bushels.

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Hops Market.—Front Street, Feb. 2.—The hops market was in the flower market for some time. The lack of oriental business caused most of the mills to shut down for indefinite periods and as prices on local markets were considerably high there was but little selling to the direct trade. About the middle of the week the Portland Flushing Mill company announced the cut of 15 cents a barrel on its local brands. This cut was instantly felt in the market. The higher price received during the past two days was 10¢ a pound.

Flour Market.—Front Street, Feb. 2.—The flour market was in the flower market for some time. The lack of oriental business caused most of the mills to shut down for indefinite periods and as prices on local markets were considerably high there was but little selling to the direct trade. About the middle of the week the Portland Flushing Mill company announced the cut of 15 cents a barrel on its local brands. This cut was instantly felt in the market. The higher price received during the past two days was 10¢ a pound.

Oats and Barley are held quite firmly but outside of a slight strengthening of prices no changes occurred in the markets during the week. The hay market is in rather bad shape and supplies very heavy and the very moderate weather interfering greatly with the movement.

Salmon Prospects Very Good.

Prospects for the spring pack of salmon in the Columbia river are very good. Already Chinook are in and a sharp break in the price of fresh fish was made in the local market during the week. Fishermen along the lower river are in the opinion that the coming season will result in a pack of considerable more than that of the previous year.

Salt prices seem to have reached their down limit. Receipts the past week were extra heavy and prices dropped from under with lightning speed. The market is in a fraction of that amount is the price now and in the markets; some sales being made at 80¢ a box.

Eggs Drop Throughout the Week.

The prices in the egg market are far from being stationary, some good-sized losses being shown during the past six days. Receipts are heavy and very fast indeed. Had it not been for the little accumulation of surplus. With lower prices consumption has been wonderfully aided and from this time forth will increase with the output. It is worthy of mention here that the past week has been the most disastrous one for cold storage operators. Miles Weather has been the general rule all over the country during the winter. Several failures of large cold storage operators in the east have been announced during the past two weeks, one failing during the past few days. Losses of \$100,000 on account of unfavorable weather for storage goods. This will have a direct bearing upon the egg situation inasmuch as there will be more room in the tanks and the storage may go slow. The coming week will be a test of the weather. The production of eggs will then be greater than in recent seasons and this will put the price down below ordinary market price. The cost of the storage of eggs in this market was at 10¢ per lb., while the price hovering around 15 cents. This price and over proved unsatisfactory to the operators and practically every one of them lost money during the year. On the present movement the trade seems to be in a decided decline and the price will not likely stop until after it has touched 20 cents, and possibly lower.

Heavy Arrivals of Poultry.

The heavy receipts of the former week were continued during the first few days of the present week and the result was that prices again fell lower. Some claim that the receipts reported are 15 cents per pound. Had it not been for the fact that the outside markets were somewhat in need of supplies the slump would have carried the prices even lower than the 15 cent mark. The reason for the shipments because smaller and this was a great help to the trade, enabling it to clean up. At the close of the week there continues quite a fair demand for dressed chickens around 20 cents. Dressed birds being bought. Newfies old and young broilers. The market was rather dull with a downward tendency to prices. The future of the market depends entirely on the arrivals during the coming week.

With every one nearly scared to death as to what the extreme outcome of the system of market, it was little wonder that the market recorded a further drop on value during the week. Every one seems bent upon shipping heavy supplies to the California market, every one trying to get the best rates to market about the same time. Some small river potatoes in California are still enormous and prices there are ruling at very low ebb. At the moment there are a few orders coming in for the same, but the market is in a dead standstill. It is a great help to the trade, enabling it to clean up. At the close of the week there continues quite a fair demand for dressed chickens around 20 cents. Dressed birds being bought. Newfies old and young broilers. The market was rather dull with a downward tendency to prices. The future of the market depends entirely on the arrivals during the coming week.

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