

MUTTON MARKET TAKES BIG SLUMP

SALES FEW AND FAR BETWEEN IN PORTLAND

Better Class of Cattle Still Holding Good Despite Heavy Arrivals—Wheat Trade at Standstill.

Portland Livestock Run.

Hogs, Cattle, Calves, Sheep.			
Wednesday	120	456	7 248
Tuesday	130	32	5 448
Monday	1397	1014	42 1023
Saturday	384		1415
Friday	95	339	14 340
Thursday	896	770	40 270
Week ago			110

The mutton market is so poor that packers have cut the price of sheep practically 50c. The claim is made by killers that even the small demand which is usually shown here for mutton has been curtailed and now sales are few and far between. One select lot of mixed wethers and ewes sold at \$4.15 in the stockyards during the past 24 hours after considerable delay. Puget sound interests were the buyers, as local people would not even pay this figure for grain feed stuff.

There was a heavy supply of cattle offered in the yards today but trade held steady for the better class of stuff. One carload of steers from Lowden sold at \$6.50 and another went at \$6.25. The lower figure was for lighter stuff.

Twelve loads of cattle came from Utah and were offered in the yards this morning besides two loads from a Wyoming point.

Among the Shippers.

Cattle—Kidwell & Caswell, Lowden, Wash., three loads; J. C. Cotton, Evanston, Wyo., two loads; Frank W. Burke, Logan, Utah, three loads.

Hogs—Mr. Gassner, Beady, Ore., 2 loads.

Sheep—George Krause, Pilot Rock, one load.

Mixed Stuff—C. C. Clark & Son, Arlington, Ore., one load cattle, calves and hogs.

Today's run of livestock compares with this day in recent years as follows.

Hogs, Cattle, Sheep.			
1911	120	463	248
1910	384	77	
1909	276	598	
1908	25	25	
1907	40	223	
1906	125		
1905	182	155	2222

A year ago today there was a firm tone in all lines of livestock at unchanged prices.

Following are representative transactions. They indicate demand, supplies and quality offering:

STEEPS.

Average lbs.	Price.
25 steers	1390 \$6.50
27 steers	1135 6.25
1 steer	1090 6.00
23 steers	1076 5.30
28 steers	1065 6.25
28 steers	1065 6.25
27 steers	1077 6.25
28 steers	1088 6.25
39 steers	1017 5.55

COWS.

2 cows	1010 \$5.25
1 cow	1080 3.00
27 cows	1036 5.25
28 cows	1048 5.25
28 cows	988 5.15

BULLS.

2 bulls	1235 \$4.00
1 bull	1300 4.50
1 bull	1220 3.75
1 stag	1180 4.75

HOGS.

42 hogs	257 \$9.90
65 hogs	208 9.00

SHEEP AND LAMBS.

267 sheep	97 \$4.65
86 sheep	63 4.25
600 wethers-ewes	100 4.15

Following is the general range of values in effect in the North Portland yards:

Cattle—Grain fed steers, \$7.00; best hay steers, \$6.50; fancy, \$6.25; cows, best, \$5.25 to \$5.50; fancy, \$5.50; poor, \$3.00 to \$4.00; stags, \$3.50; bulls, \$3.00 to \$4.00.

Hogs—Best light, \$9.00 to \$9.10; ordi-



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WHEAT TRADE IS WAITING.
Chicago Market Spread is Narrow for Session—Foreign Markets Up.

Chicago, Jan. 18.—Wheat market prices showed a waiting attitude during today's session and there was only a very narrow spread in quotations. Closing was 1-4c for May, 1-8c higher for July and 3-8c lower for September.

Chicago and the rest of the country ignored foreign trade conditions today and notwithstanding the higher cables the opening here was lower.

Winnipeg reported an export demand for No. 3 northern.

WEST UMATILLA PROJECT ONE OF THE BEST
(Continued from page three.)

of the reservoir is 50,000 acre-feet and it will be necessary, therefore, that 51,000,000 acre-feet be supplied direct from the river. It is estimated by the reclamation service from hydrographs that the prolongation of the flood period into the irrigation season will be sufficient to supply this quantity.

"The total acreage under this project is 25,000. During the season of 1910, the area for which water was available was 15,319. This leaves 9454 acres still to be furnished with water under the present proposed extensions. Of the total acreage there were only 4129 acres of public land subject to entry under the reclamation act. The Northern Pacific railroad owned 1890 acres, and other land under private ownership, or not subject to the reclamation act, amounted to 18673 acres. Lands owned by the railroad are now sold to settlers under contract to apply for water under the terms of the reclamation act. About one-half of the public land is embraced in the proposed continuation of the project which would therefore not receive water if present plans were interrupted.

Annual Rainfall Nine Inches.
"The average rainfall on the project is about nine inches annually, which is too little for crops without irrigation. The land in this project consists of sandy loam throughout, and is, in a large proportion, volcanic ash. The top surface is underlaid with gravel which assists materially in drainage, so that but little attention has been paid to waste water in the upper portions. In the vicinity of Hermiston there are considerable areas now swamped which will require a more or less extensive drainage system before the project can be utilized to its fullest extent. This will not be difficult and provision therefore has been included in the estimates. The high winds often make necessary the replanting of grain crops when they are not protected by windbreaks. The farm units have been restricted to ten acres in the close vicinity of Hermiston, to 30 acres in the more remote areas, and to 40 acres near the outer limits of the project.

"Although the irrigated land in the vicinity of Hermiston is still new, it is now being planted with orchards, both peach and apple, and alfalfa is also being seeded. Some vegetables are being grown and berry bushes have been set out. The hopes of the settlers are that this area will equal some of the Wenatchee and Yakima lands in fruit products, such as apples, peaches and grapes, and already exclusive of construction charges should this hope of productiveness be realized, it seems plain that a high construction cost can be supported without hardship. The charge already fixed by the reclamation service for this land is \$60 per acre and applies to 18,200 acres. The cost of operation and maintenance, as fixed by the reclamation service, is \$1.39 per acre. Sum Spent is \$1,211,827.

"The amount expended on this project up to June 30, 1910, has been \$1,211,827.71, which includes maintenance and operation charges amounting to \$1,624.91. The project is about 70 per cent completed. The cost of completion is estimated by the reclamation service at \$330,000, in addition to present allotments, with which it is expected to irrigate new areas lying between the present completed portions of the system and the Columbia river, and, also, a new strip of land between the feeder canal and the permanent lateral of the distribution system. It is also expected to drain some of the swamp areas.

"The amount set by the reclamation service as a building charge is \$60 per acre. This was originally believed to be ample, but it was found later that increased charges would be necessary. The \$60 charge applies to 18,200 acres. To cover the cost it is now expected to charge \$75 per acre for one unit of \$130 acres and \$100 per acre for one unit of 3300 acres. At these rates, if all the land is taken up, the return will be \$1,656,750. As the total estimated cost is \$1,650,000 there will be no loss unless the estimates for completion are exceeded. It is doubtful whether the higher-priced lands will be readily taken up. There is still a deficit on account of operation and maintenance of about \$41,000, which it is believed by the reclamation service will be returned to the fund in 10 years by retaining the present charge of \$1.30 per acre, which will, it is expected, exceed the actual cost when the entire area is irrigated. In this connection it is noticed that the par value of stock in the water users' association is \$60. If the higher payments are not fully secured by a lien on the land under the present agreement with this association and its members new agreements should be made covering the higher priced land."

Project Feasible, Say Engineers.
Summarizing its conclusions on the whole Umatilla project, the board says:

"The project is feasible and practical from an engineering and economic standpoint.

"The total area of land to be irrigated by the present project is 25,000 acres, of which about 16 per cent is public land subject to the reclamation act.

"The water supply is sufficient for the area of the present project.

"The proposed west extension being entirely distinct should be postponed for the present on account of the large amount of money needed for the completion of other projects to which the United States is committed by the large expenditures already made.

"The total estimated cost of the work, on the east side, is \$1,650,000, of which amount \$1,212,000 has already been expended.

"The land can bear the cost of construction estimated at \$60, \$70 and \$100 per acre, although that subject to the higher charges may not be rapidly taken up.

"The project as now adopted is worthy of completion in view of the advanced condition of the work."

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FRANK J. CHENEY.
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(Seal)
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J. M. SCIMITZ, Supervisor.

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