

DECLINING STOCKS FORCE PRUNE PRICE ADVANCES

LOCAL PACKERS ADD HALF CENT ON 40-50 SIZES

Forced by the rapidly declining amount of stocks on hands a number of packers yesterday announced an advance of half a cent on 40-50s, the announcement constituting as it was predicted by the Capital Journal it would, although a little sooner than expected. Low quantities of stocks and the advance made by the California association on a number of sizes including 40-50s are both features in the movement for the advance on Oregon. It is also stated that there is little question commercial packers in California will come up with an advance generally on various sizes in line with Monday's advance of the California association.

The 3 cent price on 40s is putting this size about where it was expected it would go at the early part of the season. While it can be forced up any more remains a question to be answered, but a cleanup at 3 cents would generally be considered satisfactory, it is stated.

It is believed the customary period of shopping about will be tried out by the buyers before the 4th begin to move at 2 cents, and when this period elapses the movement will begin. The shopping period promises to be a short one, as buyers in the east are aware to the fact there is a short crop here and if they want to get in on Oregon they probably will have to hurry.

Word has been received here of the sale of a car in the northwest exchange at the following prices: 11 1/2 for 30s, 9 1/2 for 30-45s, 8 1/2 for 50s. Whether the northwest exchange will follow the 1/2 cent price is not known, but it is understood that the California Packing corporation will announce that price for 40s and the Draper Fruit company has already announced that price.

Report has been received here that the Washington Growers association's holdings are now down to 750,000 pounds.

WHEAT AND CORN SHOW WEAKNESS

Chicago, Jan. 21.—The wheat opening ranged from 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 cent higher, with May \$1.21 to \$1.21 1/2 and July \$1.17 to \$1.18. On the reaction, May went down to \$1.20. After opening unchanged to 1 cent lower, May \$1.15 1/2 to \$1.16 1/2, the corn market underwent a decided general setback.

Oats started at 1/4 to 1/2 cent decline, May \$2.50, 40c, and later suffered an additional drop. Provisions were responsive to corn weakness.

Wheat closed weak, 1 1/4 to 2 1/2 cent net decline.

Corn closed nervous, 2 to 2 1/2 cent lower, May \$1.22 1/2 to \$1.23 1/2.

EGGS WEAKER; POULTRY SLOW; BUTTER LOWER

Portland, Jan. 21.—There is a weak undertone in the egg market with extras and firsts a cent lower on the exchange. Other grades are unchanged.

Weakness in the butter market is reflected in a cent decline in all grades of cubes; extras 43; standards 41 1/2; prime firsts 40 cents; and butterfat bids unchanged.

Poultry is slow and weak. The demand is quiet and receipts are moderate.

Retail butchers are holding off on country dressed meats hoping to pick up some cheap calves and hogs. Veal receipts were only fair today and country men are asking 14 1/2 to 15 cents for their choice light calves. Choice light hogs hold at 14 to 14 1/2 cents.

Oregon wool is showing a strong undertone with latest contracts made at 45 1/2 to 46 cents. Buying is less active but sheepmen are to content to wait until the opening of the heavyweight goods in the east the latter part of this month. Idaho wool growers still favor Portland as the logical center to sell and store.

The potato market is steady with U. S. No. 1 grade Burbanks selling at \$2 to \$2.25 and Yukona Gems at \$2.25 to \$2.50 in the local wholesale market. Buy-in prices on Oregon stock, sacked and stenciled, are \$1.55 to \$1.75 f. o. b. shipping point for U. S. No. 1 Burbanks.

CANNERS NEW POLICY OF SILENCE HURTS NORTHWEST

While northwest cannery have put an inhibition on publication of the size of the fruit pack this year until the clearing, California canners gain another immediate advantage for their state by publication of the figures of their pack.

Some of these favorable to publication of the northwest figures give this as another indication of why California canners succeed in beating their fruit business in the lead. Just such instances as this, they say, are partly responsible for many people gaining the idea that California is the only state on the coast that raises any fruit, and consequently California packs are cleaned up ahead of northwest packs and at better prices.

The California pack is officially announced by the Cannery League of that state. Some Salem canners were favorable to publication of the pack again this year, but were voted down by a few operators who intimated they wanted to manipulate the market and if a pack was published they would withhold their figures and thus destroy the value of the statistics.

The outcome of last year's operations in fruits and vegetables in California is shown to have turned out just about as was expected. The total pack of fruits and the total pack of vegetables, separately, are both less than the comparative small pack of 1923 and show the reason for the present very closely cleaned up condition of the sales market in first hands. The total 1924 fruit pack of all varieties in California, in addition to being a million cases smaller than 1923, and over five million cases smaller than 1922, is well under the average pack of fruits for the five years ending 1923, which was an average per year of 12,034,102 cases. The pack of fruits in California in 1924 was but a trifle over the ten-year average ending 1923, which was per year 9,902,066 cases.

Figures on the California fruit pack follow:

Fruits (All grades and sizes)	
1924	1923
Apples	22,697
Apricots	2,650,495
Blackberries	48,103
Cherries	215,114
Grapes	79,280
Loganberries	22,594
Pears	1,444,623
Peaches, Free	562,621
Peaches, Canned	3,366,598
Plums	96,675
Raspberries	15,122
Strawberries	2,074
Other fruits	79,139
Total	10,362,998

DALLAS REJECTS DENNY'S OFFER

Dallas, Jan. 21.—The Dallas black cherry growers have definitely turned down the offer made by the Dallas packer Denny and company to enter a pool under a five cent guarantee with a 50-50 split on the money realized over and above the amount, after packing charges had been deducted.

The growers in deciding not to enter the pool at the present time, nevertheless indicated that they would be interested in a contract that would bring them a little more money. Some of the black cherry men were disposed to enter the pool, but the majority were of the opinion that the offer was a little light.

PRUNE SITUATION AS SUMMED UP IN CALIFORNIA

The California Fruit News in commenting on the situation in that state has the following to say:

Prunes are this week the feature of the dried fruit situation, so far as recently created news is concerned.

The California Prune and Apricot Growers association has advised its brokers from San Jose that the association believed the time had arrived for some definite action in the prune market and, also, that inasmuch as it, the association, is now holding the dominating tonnage that remains unsold, it is that organization's view that it is up to them to take the initiative in any market steps to be undertaken. With the well-known condition of prune stocks which are so low both on the coast and in the hands of the jobbing trade, the association feels that it is unnecessary to talk further just now about the statistical situation and feels that there are not enough prunes left to sell under a normal volume of business; therefore, it is proper policy to consider reducing the volume of pack-off.

Increasing the value of the commodity in the interests of all concerned. The association, accordingly, announces new and higher prices for prunes would be announced to be effective on Monday, January 19. This would allow an interval of five days in business for the packing and acceptance of orders at the old list.

The announcement came out duly and quotes prune prices of the association, as effective, at the 1/2 on 30s, 60s and 70s; 1/2 on 40s, and 1/2 on 50s; "Equality," an advance of 1/2 on 20s, 30s and 60s, 1/2 on 50s, and no change in the price of 40s. It will be seen from the packing and acceptance of orders at the old list, the association has reduced the spread materially between 40s and 50s. The general advance is 1/2 a pound but the advance on 30s is 1/2 and on 40s 1/2 and on 50s 1/2. "Equality," an advance in "Equality" brand, thereby bringing 50s nearer to 40s in price. Cartons were not changed but there is an anticipation that "Sunwest" carton prices will go up within a few days.

Following this advance, it is the expectation that the commercial packers by the closing of the week will have raised their quotations right through to within at least 1/2 of the association prices.

New prices of the California association follow:

Size	Per lb. in 25-lb. boxes
20-30s	—@ 18 1/2
30-40s	—@ 13 1/2
40-50s	—@ 10 1/2
50-60s	—@ 8 1/2
60-70s	—@ 7 1/2
70-80s	—@ 6 1/2
80-90s	—@ 5 1/2
90-100s	—@ 4 1/2

SHORTAGE BOTH OF SHEEP, WOOL SAYS HAGENBARTH

San Francisco, Jan. 21.—There is a decided shortage of wool in the United States, due to increasing population, despite the fact that an over-production of lambs is sometimes apparent, President Frank J. Hagenbarth of Spencer, Idaho, president of the National Wool Growers' association, said today in his annual address at the opening session of the annual convention.

"There is room for an expansion of 14,000,000 or 15,000,000 sheep on our ranges and farms and there is ample consumptive demand for increase of over 100,000,000 pounds of wool suitable for clothing purposes," Mr. Hagenbarth said. "We are today only producing about two thirds of the wool requirements of the United States. This does not include carpet wool consumption."

"There is likewise a world sheep and wool shortage. The sheep herds have been estimated variously from 70,000,000 to 80,000,000. Although the consumptive and purchasing power of Europe has lessened, new avenues of use have developed, and Japan and China are using fine merino wools to such an extent that Japan alone is consuming over 100,000,000 pounds of these wools in her pre-war days. The coastal regions of New Zealand, Australia and the Argentine are steadily declining in wool production and increasing in cattle, both for beef and dairy."



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TO STANDARDIZE MOHAR GRADES TO RAISE PRICE

An effort to obtain standard grades for mohar is being started by A. C. Gage of Portland, editor of the Oregon Journal, and George T. Willingmyre, standardization expert and wool specialist with the United States department of agriculture, Washington, D. C. The impetus for standardized grading of mohar, Mr. Willingmyre pointed out, comes from the growers themselves and to this end an effort will be made to organize them. Oregon is the leading state in the raising of mohar in the northwest, the only other section producing any important amount being the southwest.

Standard grades for wool were adopted in July, 1923, and have been accepted by both producers and manufacturers. The grades are in national use and had indications of becoming international in its application.

It is desired that the department of agriculture furnish market quotations and full information on consumption and data on stocks. This would be possible if the standard grades were adopted, but the department is not in a position to set these standards or recognize them unless requested by the producers.

The average clip of Oregon, approximately 300,000 pounds, is now sold at a blanket price. With the grades in effect it is estimated that fully 20 cents a pound more could be obtained by the producers. In Oregon this would amount to approximately \$150,000 a year.

LIVESTOCK

Portland, Jan. 21.—Cattle market steady; receipts none; steers good \$7.25 to \$7.75; medium \$6.25 to \$7.25; common \$5.25 to \$6.25; canner and cutter steers \$4.00 to \$5.25; hogs, good (850 pounds up) \$6.00 to \$6.50; common and medium, medium, good \$5.75 to \$6.00; cows, good \$5.25 to \$5.75; common and medium \$4.00 to \$5.25; canners and cutters \$1.50 to \$4.00; bull, good (beef yearlings excluded) \$1.00 to \$1.50; medium to medium (canner and bologna) \$1.00 to \$1.50; calves medium to choice (120 lbs. down) \$7.00 to \$10.00; cull and common (120 lbs. down) \$5.00 to \$7.00; medium to choice (120 lbs. up) \$6.75 to \$9.25; cull and common (120 lbs. up) \$4.00 to \$5.25.

Hogs steady; receipts 50; heavy weight (250 to 350 pounds) medium, good and choice \$9.75 to \$11.25; medium weight (200 to 300 lbs.) medium, good and choice \$9.50 to \$11.00; lightweight (150 to 200 lbs.) common, medium good and choice \$11.25 to \$11.50; light lights (120 to 150 lbs.) common, medium, good and choice \$9.75 to \$11.25; packing hogs, smooth \$9.00 to \$9.50; packing hogs rough \$8.50 to \$9.00; slaughter pigs (120 lbs. down) medium, good and choice \$3.00 to \$3.50; feeder and stocker pigs (70 to 120 lbs.) common, medium, good and choice \$2.00 to \$3.00. Sift or oily hogs and rough pigs excluded in above quotations.

Sheep steady; receipts 600; lambs, light and heavy weight, medium to choice \$14.50 to \$16.50; heavy weight (120 pounds up) \$11.00; weathers (2 years old and over) medium to prime \$9.00 to \$11.00; ewes, common to choice \$8.00 to \$10.00; canner and cull \$5.00 to \$7.00. (Above quotations except lambs on shorn basis.)

PRUNES HELD IN SALEM TO AWAIT HIGHER PRICES

Survey of the prune situation as far as prunes held in the growers hands are concerned, simmers it down to a point where the main lots with the growers are now held in the Salem district, that is, lots of any particular consequence. These are held by growers who are in a financial position that makes them able to hold, and these growers are satisfied that market conditions will be such as the selling season advances toward the end that the prices will go up sufficiently to justify their holding.

At the present time, packers say the larger lots which are in the hands of firm holders waiting for an advance, are held at a price above what the present market would justify. These holders have to receive something above the present buying price to make good on their stand on holding the prunes as the advance that has been experienced in the buying market is just about sufficient to take care of the extra charges in storage and similar additional expenses.

The whole of the Silverton and Mackay sections are reported to be now cleaned up on prunes. One small lot is said to be all that remains in the Shaw section and the Dallas district is reported to be pretty well cleaned up, in practically so. There is one large lot still on tap at Sheridan and another large lot at Forest Grove. The last large lot in the Oregon City section was sold to buyers yesterday which about takes for district out of the market for grower held prunes.

It is generally believed the large lots now held in the Salem district will not move away from the grower hands until the market has reached its apex and buyers are anxious enough to get the prunes at a price they are willing to pay the price, as growers who have them are able to hang on.

COMPLETE PACKING OF 108,000 POUNDS PRUNES

The big job of packing into cartons 108,000 pounds of the Oregon Growers association, which were sold in Canada and the east recently by John H. Rhee, has been completed and only about two bins of the order are yet to be packed, those to be packed in 25-pound boxes. The work is being done at the Salem Fruit union plant under the direction of William Kay.

Prunes belonging to the local of the North Pacific Exchange are being packed rapidly, many of them being sent out for shipment and the balance being moved into the dock at Portland to await order for shipment.

BUTTER AND BUTTERFAT

Portland, Or., Jan. 21.—Butter steady; extra cubes, city, 43c; standards 41 1/2c; prime firsts 40c; firsts 38c; undergrade nominal; butyrals 45c; cartons 22c; butterfat steady; best churning cream 43c net shippers' track zone one; 45c delivered Portland.

SALEM MARKETS

Compiled from reports of Salem dealers for the guidance of Capital Journal readers. (Revised daily.)

Grain: No. 1 white wheat \$1.74; No. 1 red wheat \$1.75 (sacked).

Wholesale Prices:

Meat: Top hogs 10 1/2c; hogs 7 1/2c; dressed hogs 14c; top steers 6 1/2c; cows 4 1/2c; canner cows 3 1/2c; bulls 3 1/2c; spring lambs 1 1/2 to 1 1/2 lbs., 14c; veal 9c; dressed veal 12c.

Poultry: Springers 16c; light hens 15 1/2c; heavy hens 20c; old roosters 8c; ducks 16 1/2c; turkeys 22c dressed; alive 22 to 25c; geese 18 1/2c dressed; live 12 to 14c; white Pekin ducks, alive 16 1/2c; India Runner ducks alive 14 1/2c.

Butterfat 44c; creamery butter 45 1/2c; eggs 34c; standards 28c; selects 48c; milk 11.80 cwt.

Vegetables: Potatoes \$1.75 to \$2.25 cwt.; head lettuce \$4.00 crate; California cabbage 4c; celery hearts 90c to \$1.25 doz.; crate \$6.00 7.00 cwt.; onions \$4. No. 1; boilers \$1.75 per cwt.; sweet potatoes, fancy, 8c; spinach greens 8c lb.; peppers, 25c; green Hubbard squash \$2.50 per cwt.; pumpkins 25 lb.; rutabagas 2 1/2c; parsnips 3c; sacked cauliflower \$2.25 crates; sacked carrots 2 1/2c lb.; Brussels local carrots 2 1/2c; bunching oranges \$2.50 box; Japanese artichokes \$2.00 California bunch vegetables; carrots, beets and turnips \$1 dozen; parsley, radishes, green onions 6c.

Fruits: Apples \$1.30 box, fancy and fill; fancy \$2.00 to \$2.50; extra fancy \$2.50 to \$3.00.

The deepest rivers flow with least sound.

AMERICAN INDIANS TRACED TO MAYAS

Tenopah, Nev.—Captain Allen L. Baron, British archaeologist, who has been exploring excavations of ancient villages in Nevada, passed through here recently on his way to the Colorado river to continue his quest for the identity of the first inhabitants of the American continent.

The captain is trying to discover as nearly as he can from archaeological evidence, who these people were and where they came from. It is his plan to reap some of the old turquoise mines and, by systematic excavation, to trace the early races from Boulder Canyon to the eastern border of Nevada.

Captain Le Baron says the evidence indicating a connection between the early people of this region and the Mayas of Yucatan, Mexico, is accumulating. He considers one of his most important finds a symbol of sacrifice, a grotesque mask, which he uncovered in Asteo Canyon, 25 miles south of Las Vegas, Nev. It is like the masks known to have been worn by Maya priests when they conducted the sacrificial services where thousands of victims were immolated.

WHEAT

Portland, Jan. 21.—Wheat bids: hard hard white \$2.02; soft white \$1.99; western red \$1.88; hard winter \$1.99; northern spring \$1.90; western red \$1.88. Today's car receipts: wheat 26, flour 8, corn 1, hay 15, oats 2.

POULTRY AND EGGS

Portland, Jan. 21.—Eggs weak; current receipts 42c; pullets 41 1/2c; firsts 47 1/2c; henneries 45-50c delivered Portland.

Portland, Or., Jan. 21.—Poultry quiet; heavy hens 25 1/2c; light 16 1/2c; ducks 21 1/2c; old roosters 18c; turkeys 22c; dressed turkeys 32 1/2c; geese 16c.

Portland, Jan. 21.—Hogs firm; new clusters 15 1/2c; tuggles 15 1/2c; old crop nominal.

Antelope Carry Goat

Goat milk on route was enjoyed by a Colorado motor party recently. The camping party fixed a stall for a milk goat on the running board of their medium sized auto and consequently had a supply of the milk on their transcontinental trip. The goat would eat leisurely even while the car was in motion.

One precedent creates another. They soon accumulate and become law.

QUARANTINE BABY CHICKS

Poultrymen here have not been advised of a reported quarantine on baby chicks said to have been issued by the department of agriculture of the state of Washington against entry on such chicks for breeding purposes into that state.

C. N. Needham, largest raiser and shipper of baby chicks in this section, stated today he had not yet been advised of the quarantine but would immediately make inquiry at the proper point to ascertain facts in regard to it.

"I have a large number of orders from Washington points for future delivery of baby chicks. If there is such a quarantine, it is effective it is going to cause a distinct loss in this section as quite a large number of baby chicks in this vicinity have been contracted for sale in that state."

There has been no information secured as to the reasons for raising an embargo wall on the chicks.

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