

Business Side of Farming.

THE LOSS IN APPLE ORCHARDS

by reason of the furious gales of the middle of Sept proved very heavy. Millions of barrels of apples were blown from the trees, a large part necessarily going to waste. Losses were especially severe in such important apple growing sections as western N Y, northern N E and parts of O, Mich, the southwest, etc. Growers have shipped freely to elder manufacturers and evaporators, and considerable quantities of apples have been sold in bulk.

As a result the markets are demoralized and no stability need be expected until the flood of immature stock is out of the way. The ultimate effect on prices for winter fruit cannot yet be known. While the loss has been heavy, as fruit remaining on the trees is developing rapidly. Prospects a month ago were for the largest crop on record; after considering the losses indicated there will still be liberal quantities for sale in the western and northern states, in Ont and N S. The belief is general but not universal that prices should rule higher after Nov.

INTEREST IN CORN CONTINUES.

with a liberal movement of the old into consumptive channels, and the new crop practically matured in every section. Conservative estimates place the '00 crop at 2100 million bu, not a burdensome amount, and easily handled, considering the enormous home and foreign requirements. The crop is one of marked extremes, condition high in Ia, Ind, Wis, etc, quite satisfactory in the O valley, but considerably damaged in Kan, portions of Neb, Tex and other southern districts.

Reserves of old corn are said to be smaller than at this date for a number of years. We ship abroad annually about 200 million bu, and considering the enormous requirements in stock feeding north of O and west of the Mississippi, it is general that the crop cannot prove burdensome. Corn has held well around 40¢/41¢ p bu at Chicago, and is now decidedly higher than at corresponding date in a number of years.

An Interesting Western Crop.—Earlier promise of a big flax crop, following the heavy increase in acreage, has been realized. With seed prices so high last spring, northwestern farmers in some instances doubled their acreage and now at harvest it is estimated that 2,600,000 a were under this crop, compared with 1,700,000 a one year ago. But owing to the extreme drouth conditions in much of the northwest, the average rate of yield is very low, approximating 9 bu. The bulk of the crop, however, is liberal, at 23 million bu, or the largest ever grown, compared with 20 one year ago, and 17 millions two years ago. Prices this fall continue high up to the close of Sept. No 1 flax selling at Chicago around \$1.55 p bu. In '96 flaxseed sold as low as 53¢.

Threshing Returns in the spring wheat territory continue to show generally good quality. This will do something to offset the shortage in the wheat crop in the northwest, due to serious drouth earlier in the season. Trade estimates place the crop of spring wheat approximately 180 million bu, winter 330, total 510, against 565 one year ago and 715 millions in '98. The yield is thus a moderate one, and there will be only a fair surplus for export in the shape of wheat and flour after home requirements are considered.

The Movement of Dairy Products is moderate and markets uneventful. Butter has sold somewhat indifferently for the time of year, with occasional price concessions. But with autumn pasturage irregular and often poor and hay and feed high in the middle and eastern states, the tendency is toward a restricted flow of milk and reduced output of butter. Cheese continues firm, with a good trade on domestic account and moderate exports.

Fair Strength in Hay is noted in nearly all markets and choice timothy is \$2.50 p ton higher than year ago in the east, and somewhat stronger in the west. According to the final report of American Agriculturist just

THE AMERICAN AND FOREIGN PRODUCE MARKETS AT A GLANCE

The highest quotations of wholesale prices for standard grades of farm produce in the leading markets of the world on the dates named; poorer stuff lower.

	Sept	Nov	New	Chi-	Cincin-	N Or-	Mam-	S Fran-	Mon-	Lon-
	20	20	York	cago	nat	leans	phis	cisco	trear	don
Wheat, p bu.....	—	—	.31 1/4	.77 1/4	.76	—	—	11.05	.36	.92 1/4
Corn, p bu.....	.50	.47 1/4	.40	.43 1/4	.51	.50	11.25	.40 1/2	.53 1/2	.58 1/2
Oats, p bu.....	.23 1/4	.25	.21 1/4	.22 1/4	.29	.31	11.35	.30 1/2	.44 1/2	.49 1/2
Rye, p bu.....	.53	.54	.52 1/4	.55 1/4	—	—	1.92 1/4	.58	—	—
Barley, p bu.....	.43	.59	.53	.48	—	—	1.85	.47 1/2	—	—
Flour, p bbl.....	4.40	4.50	4.50	4.40	4.00	4.40	3.75	4.50	4.50	4.50
Cotton, mid up, p lb.....	.10 1/4	.10 1/4	.10 1/4	.10 1/4	.10 1/4	.10 1/4	.10 1/4	.10 1/4	.10 1/4	.10 1/4
Cattle, p 100 lbs 1 w.....	6.50	5.50	6.00	5.50	4.50	4.50	4.00	4.50	—	1.13 1/2
Sheep, p 100 lbs 1 w.....	4.50	4.25	4.00	3.85	4.00	4.00	4.50	—	—	—
Hogs, p 100 lbs 1 w.....	6.75	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.00	5.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	—
Veal calves, p 100 lbs.....	6.25	8.00	6.50	7.25	8.00	8.00	6.00	—	—	—
Powls, p lb d w.....	.13	.11 1/4	.09	.08 1/4	.12 1/2	.12 1/2	.15	.15	.20 1/2	.22 1/4
Butter, cmy, p lb.....	.22	.21	.20	.22 1/2	.23	.23	.25	.25	.20 1/2	.22 1/4
Cheese, factory, p lb.....	.11	.11	.11 1/4	.12 1/2	.13 1/2	.13 1/2	.15	.15	.11 1/4	.12
Eggs, p dz.....	.23	.22	.22 1/2	.23 1/2	.25	.25	.32 1/2	.32 1/2	.26	.28 1/2
Apples, p bbl.....	2.25	2.50	2.25	2.25	1.50	1.50	1.25	1.40	—	—
Hay, p ton.....	18.00	18.50	12.00	13.50	15.00	15.00	12.00	10.70	—	—
Straw, rye, p ton.....	15.50	15.00	7.00	6.50	—	—	—	5.00	—	—
Hops, p lb.....	.14 1/2	.15	.15	.15	—	—	.10 1/2	.20	.25	.25
Onions, p bu.....	.50	.50	.35	—	.00	.70	1.05	—	—	—
Cranberries, p bbl.....	5.00	5.50	6.00	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Potatoes, p bu.....	.50	.50	.35	.50	.45	.60	1.00	.50	—	—
Beef, p lb d w.....	.09	.09	.09	—	—	—	.08	—	—	—
Pork, p lb d w.....	.08 1/4	.08 1/4	.07	.06 1/4	.07 1/4	.06 1/4	.08 1/4	.10	—	—
Lard, p lb.....	.08 1/4	.07 1/2	.07	.06 1/4	.07 1/4	.06 1/4	.08 1/4	.10	—	—
Hides, p lb.....	.06 1/4	.09	.08 1/4	.07 1/4	.06 1/4	.06 1/4	.08 1/4	.10	—	—

† P box. * P dz. † P cental. † Estimated d w.

published, the crop approximates 52,000,000 tons, seven less than year ago and 16 millions short of the heavy yield of '98. Outturn in middle and eastern states generally unsatisfactory, especially in N Y, southern N E and parts of Pa and O, where many farmers secured but 1/2 to 3/4 ton per acre. The crop was generally secured in good condition and the average quality is satisfactory, with a liberal percentage of No 1 hay. The new crop is beginning to move freely with stocks of old hay well reduced east of the Mississippi.

Potato Harvest at Hand.—The main crop of potatoes, including late varieties for winter use, is now being lifted and going into storage at a rapid pace. Considering the very heavy acreage, the crop promise is only moderate. But potatoes are so universally grown that at present there is nothing to indicate any shortage. The movement from first hands is liberal, as is always expected at the beginning of the crop year, and prices are easy.

Barley Firmest in Months.—With the coming of cooler weather maltsters are interested buyers, and current offerings of barley are quickly taken. The undergrades are also readily salable, as there is a good demand on export account. Prices have gradually hardened to 36¢ p bu and something choice is quotable at 50¢/55¢ at Chicago and 53¢/60¢ at Buffalo and N Y.

A Neglected Cereal.—It is the exception rather than the rule when the rye market shows any activity. We are not a rye-eating people and our small annual crop is always ample for all purposes, much of it going to distillers. As for a long time past the market closely follows wheat and the present demand is light.

In a Single Week last month 4,000,000 bu corn were sold by Chicago shippers, destined for eastern and export markets; surely a healthy movement and indicative of a good absorption of somewhat restricted offerings.

Quietude in Wool continues, the mills showing an indisposition to buy freely. On the other hand holders are confident and prices are steady at the recent slight decline. The political campaign is causing some business disturbance, and this is to be expected every four years.

Cigar Leaf Tobacco is commanding fairly good prices. Best of all, the crop is liberal and generally of fine quality. Growers in the Ct valley have harvested the best crop in years. The little cloud in the sky is the possibility that tobacco may be admitted free of duty from Cuba and the Philippines. Such action would of course greatly damage home prices.

A Million Bushel Shortage compared with last year is the record in the onion crop, which is now estimated at 3,356,000 bu in all sections where commercially grown. While greatly behind the crop of '99, the yield is fair placed beside former years. As indicated in the last number of F & H, harvest returns developed poor rate of yield in many sections as result of

that there has been a decrease of butchering on the farm, which would tend to increase the amount of pork put up at central packing plants, but the showing indicates a tendency toward increased consumption of pork.

The Hawk-Eye State's Big Corn Crop.—The corn crop of Ia is bound to be a bumper. Such favorable conditions have not prevailed for many years. Most of the corn was out of danger of frost Sept 1 and this was the only probable source of crop damage. Moisture has been abundant, the fields free from weeds and everything conducive to an immense yield.

Large Supply of Wheat.—The visible supply of wheat since Jan has been notably larger than in '99 and since the first of June almost double the visible supply since '96 for that period. In the middle of Aug it amounted to almost 50 million. Last year at the same time it was 36 million, in '93 six million, and in '87 17 million.

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Millbury Mass grange recently held a visiting day. A bus carried Patrons from one farm to another of the members, the object being to get mutual advice in the ideal way to run things.

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