

Business Side of Farming.

UPTURN IN DAIRY PRODUCTS.

After making a decisive fight with the middlemen, milk producers are in a fair way to secure better returns for their product. This movement to lift the price, now well under way, was inaugurated in N. E. working almost simultaneously in N. Y. and some of the other middle states and trending toward the great dairy sections of the central west.

In the territory shipping to N. Y., city producers are no less in earnest, with good chances of success in getting more remunerative prices this winter. They have taken the initiative, and beginning Oct 16 will demand slightly higher prices for all milk shipped to greater N. Y. The farmers are better prepared than ever before to handle the milk at home, providing city dealers will not pay fair prices.

Conditions in the dairy sections as a whole demand this. The hay crop of the U. S. is seven million tons short of last year, prices are higher both east and west, autumn pasturage has been generally unsatisfactory, mill feeds cost more than usual at this time of year, and with the short wheat crop in the northwest it is probable the output of bran, middlings, etc. will be below a normal. Dairy sections should avoid flooding the city markets with milk, and when the price is too low convert the same, so far as possible, into butter and cheese, thus keeping down the surplus. If the winter price of all dairy products can be lifted 10 to 15 per cent it will mean millions of dollars additional in the pockets of the farmers.

The Uncertain Apple Crop—No. in years have conditions been so irregular and reports so contradictory. What promised earlier the biggest crop on record was cut to moderate proportions by the Sept gales. October finds great activity in the orchards, buyers conservative in making bids, but a good many apples changing hands at me-

dium prices when good enough for storing. Evaporators are running at their fullest capacity in N. Y., Mich., Mo., etc. In western N. Y. windfalls at evaporators are worth 15c p 100 lbs. The market outlook for winter apples is decidedly mixed, but not at all discouraging. Much autumn fruit from the middle east is moving into the northwest; apple exports are fairly good.

Generally Active Live Stock Markets are the rule in the west and at Buffalo and Pittsburg. The cattle supply at Chicago for the year is much as in '99; prices are moderate, but not especially high, demand good, best grades selling at \$5 50@6. Country shipments of hogs are liberal, quality generally satisfactory, markets active, prices 50@75c p 100 lbs better than a year ago; light hogs are selling at a premium over heavy weights. So many sheep and lambs from the northwest are now being marketed that stockmasters of the middle and eastern states feel the competition sharply.

Late Potatoes are now being harvested and the crop as a whole is uneven. Owing to the large acreage the bulk will of course prove liberal, but in many sections the rate of yield has been unsatisfactory. The market is active at fair but not high prices.

The Hop Harvest is now practically completed. On the Pacific coast hops are of good quality and this is true as a rule in N. Y. Holders are firm in their views and generally want 15c p lb or better.

Fair Activity in Grain—Interest is divided between wheat and corn, the latter ruling active and generally firm, especially cash lots. The new crop is appearing in a small way, but will not be shipped freely until next month. Offerings of old corn are only moderate and demand good. Spring wheat in the northwest has suffered considerable damage in shock and stack by wet weather, and this has delayed threshing. The market is fairly steady and without important new feature. Russia and southeastern Europe are shipping with more freedom, this wheat competing with our own in the English market. The wheat area in Argentina to be harvested in Dec is large, but condition said to be not wholly satis-

factory. The demand for oats is about normal, rye is dull, barley shows continued firmness. Owing partly to speculative demand, flaxseed advanced sharply to \$1.61 p bu, but undertone at the high prices one of easiness.

Grapes Lack Quality—There is much complaint that grapes are faulty in color or poorly packed. Considerable quantities have been unfavorably affected by hot weather. Prices as a whole are low. At Chicago, Concord are jobbing at 8@10c p 8-lb basket, and N. Y. Delawares 10@12c p 4-lb basket.

The Heavy Broom Corn Acreage just harvested has yielded about 20,000 tons, an increase of some 1000 tons over last year. Acreage largest on record, but yield p acre only moderate. New brush is now being marketed, early bids approximating \$50 p ton.

A Firm Hay Market is the rule at Chicago, N. Y., etc. Receipts are moderate, but the demand is good.

Cold Storage Eggs are coming out and offerings affect the market for strictly fresh. The demand is purely

consumptive, largely local, shipping movement somewhat restricted. A little later more activity is expected.

The Demand for Horses at such leading markets as Chicago is fair, but not urgent. Export trade less than usual. Shipments from country liberal and plain farm horses rather dull. More animation is anticipated in early winter.

New Cranberries are appearing, but no particular demand expected until Nov.

New Beans are reaching the markets, but supply not burdensome and prices steady to firm.

The Cheese Output is fair for the time of year, but the demand is good and trade healthy.

Weather Damages Cabbage—Warm days in early Oct caused considerable loss to shippers of cabbage; market well supplied, prices rather low.

The Average Weight of Hogs marketed this fall is a little lighter than usual.

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.

Table with columns for various produce items (Wheat, Corn, Oats, etc.) and markets (Boston, New York, Chicago, etc.).

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