

OUR WEEKLY MARKET REVIEW

Wheat values have changed but little during the week. Old Country markets were weaker, and their weakness was reflected in all world's markets, but the decline was small, and wheat is in practically the same condition as a week ago. Oats show some improvement, but flax has apparently reached its high price limit.

Live-stock matters are quiet. Locally, the same quotations would serve to portray values. Hogs are being marketed in good numbers, and prices are steady. Outside live-stock markets show increased strength.

GRAIN

Wheat opened with weaker foreign cables and heavy world's shipments. Summing up the situation at the close of last week, Broomhall, the leading British wheat statistician, makes the gain in the world's wheat crop of 373,000,000 bushels over last season, and 360,000,000 bushels greater than the average of previous years. The gain in production over the 1908 crop was 12.1 per cent., and the four-year average 11.6 per cent. These larger returns suggest that nature and the producer responded very well to the needs of the world, or, at least have answered the call for more breadstuffs. Six months' distribution of a huge crop, nevertheless, has not resulted in any great accumulation of wheat. Judged by the position of the cash wheat in all markets, supply and demand, while not so closely adjusted as to make for an acute stringency, such as prevailed the latter part of 1908-09, is still as a moderate reserve total. Based on the large 1909 crop, the high prices still prevailing for wheat prove puzzling to many. While it is admitted the great gold output has tended to raise commodity prices, it is easily demonstrated that supply and demand is still the most effective factor in the rise of wheat prices. As an additional influence, the holding power of the American farmer must also be accounted a responsible agent. However, it is not improbable that another liberal harvest would result in lower prices. The Hungarian minister of agriculture, an authority of continental Europe makes the world's harvest 3,452,000,000 bushels, or 10,000,000 bushels more than Broomhall.

VISIBLE SUPPLY

	Canadian—	Last week.	Previous week.	Last year.
Wheat	13,281,115	8,963,323	6,665,752	
Oats	5,079,764	4,558,449	3,378,903	
Barley	1,010,662	795,243	754,224	

In above totals for visible is included 1,282,300 bushels of wheat, 572,974 oats, and 112,101 of barley in store in holds of vessels in Canadian terminal harbors, and 3,461,172 bushels of Canadian wheat in store at Buffalo and Duluth.

Total wheat in store, Fort William and Port Arthur, on January 7, was 4,614,366.20, as against 4,357,853 last week, and 4,668,411.30 last year. Total shipments for the week were 691,238, last year 574,996.

WORLD'S WHEAT SHIPMENTS

	Last week.	Previous week.	Last year.
North America.	3,808,000	3,208,000	4,440,000
Russia	3,016,000	3,168,000	664,000
Danube	792,000	872,000	568,000
Argentina	144,000	512,000	864,000
India	808,000	312,000	
Various	184,000	184,000	120,000

	Total	10,368,000	8,720,000	6,992,000
Wheat on passage	26,992,000	26,872,000	21,768,000	

Bradstreet, last week, showed an increase in world's visible of 4,010,000 bushels, as compared with a decrease of 3,412,000 bushels for the same week in 1909.

INCREASE IN CANADIAN VISIBLE

A marked increase occurred in Western deliveries during the week, the total wheat received being 1030 cars, as compared with 561 in the same week last year. Visible is also swollen by the figures showing the quantity of wheat in store in the holds of vessels lying at Port Arthur, Duluth and Buffalo. The increase in receipts evidently due to the high prices prevailing, certainly the quantity passing inspection weekly is remarkable for this season.

WORLD'S CROP OUTLOOK

A review of the world's crop condition published early in the week is inclined to be bearish. The Argentina situation was slightly bullish but not sufficiently so to effect values. The former estimate

of an exportable surplus of 80,000,000 bushels from Argentina is now somewhat reduced. The export of oats from the Republic is now estimated at 31,000,000 bushels. Australian advices indicate that harvesting conditions are being maintained and that shipping is proceeding actively. In Eastern Europe the outlook for the growing crop is generally favorable. While the weather in Russia, Roumania and Danube country is cold there is a good covering of snow and the condition of the winter crop is rated favorable. Generally the American winter crop is considered in excellent condition, being protected pretty well with snow.

CORN HELPING AMERICAN PRICES

In American markets a bull movement of some size is effecting corn prices and these in turn influencing the price of wheat. Some American authorities infer that the strength of the corn market largely is responsible for the price of wheat, oats being similarly affected. Old country markets have been quite out of line with American centers lately due to the stimulating influence of something on prices on this side, believed to be the influence of a bullish corn market.

FLAX STEADY

The flax market has been without much feature for the past few days. There has been no marked difference in prices for the seed, either here or at Duluth. Receipts at Winnipeg are heavier than a year ago, and it looks as if producers were satisfied that nearly top values have been reached. Perhaps they are not far wrong. Flax, in the reason of things, cannot go much higher than it is.

COARSE GRAINS

Oats and barley show little change. In the United States oats are a trifle stronger, due to the strength of corn. Here very nearly the same conditions prevail. Receipts, locally, have been heavy, much heavier than a year ago. There is room for some further advance in oats. But the 1909 price will not be touched.

THE ARGENTINE SITUATION

British buyers are beginning to feel bullish regarding the Argentine situation, and show a tendency to rate higher the damage reported of the crop of 1909. At present very little wheat is moving from the South, and Buenos Ayres is not showing much anxiety to sell abroad. This is construed as a sign favorable for stronger values. The Argentina situation, which it is only imperfectly understood in the Northern hemisphere, should be fairly well known in the Republic, and the tendency to withhold shipments is regarded as an indication that supply conditions have been seriously exaggerated.

In the chief ports of Argentina, the visible supply last week was placed at 1,920,000 bushels, as against 1,480,000 the previous week, 1,600,000 last year, and 1,472,000 two years ago. Argentina shipments are light. For the first week in January shipments totalled 144,000 bushels, against 864,000 for the same period in 1909. Arrivals at Buenos Ayres from the interior are reported light and of unsatisfactory quality. Market is reported firm and active.

CLOSING OPTION PRICES, WINNIPEG

	Wheat—	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
January	104½	104½	103½	103½	103½	103½	103½
May	108½	108½	108½	107½	107½	107½	107½
July	109½	109½	109½	109	108½	108½	108½

	Oats—	Jan.	May	July
January	35½	35½	36½	36½
May	38½	38½	39½	38½
July	40½	40½	40½	39½

	Flax—	Jan.	May
January	196½	197	193½
May	203	203	203

CASH PRICES

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