

Business Side of Farming.

APPLE EXPORT OUTLOOK GOOD.

American apples are looked upon with much favor in Europe, and the prospect for a large trade this season is excellent. In '96 the total exports were 3,000,000 bbls; less than half this amount was sent abroad last season. The conditions are somewhat unusual this year. The U S and Canada have good crops in prospect and the orchards in England are also heavily loaded. As a rule, however, the European apples are mostly fall varieties and are soon out of the way. Consequently if American shippers pay strict attention to packing there will be profit in exporting winter apples, even with a good crop on the other side. Nothing but fruit of fine quality and odor should be exported. If the French import laws can be modified so as to permit fruit to enter freely, that country will consume a large number of bbls. Our apples are becoming popular in Germany, and for the past two years we have sent a great many to Austria.

CORN CONTINUES STRONG.

In spite of a fluctuating wheat market, which is at times discouragingly weak, the price of corn has remained remarkably firm and has not been much below the 40c mark, and some of the time above it. A strong export demand, a liberal home consumption and a small amount in farmers' hands, all tend to strengthen the situation. At times the weather has been the dominant feature in the market, but regardless of a severe drouth in portions of Kan, Neb and Mo, and fears of an early frost, the crop is so far along in most of the great corn growing states that a good yield is practically assured. Another element of strength is the high price of cattle, which has stimulated feeding and resulted in an increased home consumption. The crop is maturing rapidly, and much of it is out of frost danger.

QUALITY OF NEW WHEAT GOOD.

Threshing returns from the winter wheat sections indicate that in spite of a decreased yield in O, Ind, Ill, Mo and in fact most of the winter wheat growing states outside of I. and Okla, the quality of the crop is first class. The berry is plump and weighs well. The same holds true in some sections in the spring wheat territory. Reports from southern Minn and from S U speak of comparatively small yields per acre, but of excellent quality. This will, in a measure, counteract the reduced output. In connection with good crop conditions abroad, these reports have prevented any marked advance in wheat.

HAY CROP ONLY MODERATE.

Severe drouth at some time during the growing period curtailed the yield of grasses and clovers. In a few localities excessive rainfall during harvest season injured the quality of the hay crop. In states which produce tame hay for market the yield will run all the way from 1 1/2 a 2 1/2 tons per acre; an average will probably be about 1 1/2. Wild hay in Neb and Tex, as well as other western states, is first class. Large quantities have been put up for home feeding and considerable will be shipped. The general complaint in N Y and N E has been dry weather. Ohio has some especially good hay, but some fields are very poor. The Atlantic coast states did not escape the general shortage of moisture. Catch crops were planted quite freely, and the silo will be used more than ever before. With these to fall back on the shortage will probably not be seriously felt.

GOOD WINTER CABBAGE CROP.

The condition of growing cabbage throughout the U S is excellent. In many localities the outlook is above the average. In some portions of the central west drouth, heat and hot winds did some damage, but as a whole the cabbage crop has had fewer unfavorable conditions to contend with than usual. In the middle west drouth threatened to do serious injury late in the season, but cool weather and abun-

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 commodities (Sept, Corn, Wheat, Oats, Rye, Barley, Flour, Cotton, Cattle, Sheep, Hogs, Veal calves, Fowls, Butter, Cheese, Eggs, Apples, Hay, Straw, Onions, Cranberries, Potatoes, Beef, Pork, Lard, Hides) and rows for different markets (Boston, New York, Chicago, Cincinnati, New Orleans, Memphis, St. Louis, Montreal, London).

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

dant rainfall assisted in satisfactory development. In N Y and other middle states the acreage is larger than last year and the season so favorable throughout that growers are well satisfied. The crop has been notably free from disease, except in a few instances where club foot appeared. In Ontario the weather was very dry and prospects are poor. New England growers are highly favored. The acreage is about as usual, the plants are growing satisfactorily, and with a very few exceptions, the crop will be up to the average.

DISAPPOINTMENT IN ONIONS.

The onion grower has fairly good reason for complaint this year. The acreage is less than usual and drouth in some sections, excessive rains in others, cut worms, blight and thrips in the middle west, all worked upon the onion crop, and the result will be a much smaller yield than usual. In Washtenaw Co, Mich, the crop is in fine condition, but this state of affairs is the exception. In Racine Co, Wis, the quality of the onion crop is excellent. The Ohio crop is uneven; some parts of Hardin Co report fine quality, as do also Wayne and Wyandot counties, but the onions are much smaller than usual. N Y and L I onions suffered from drouth, while N E growers will have a much smaller quantity to market than last year.

THE NEW CRANBERRY CROP.

This season's crop of cranberries is beginning to arrive in the N Y and Boston markets. The early shipments lack color and sell slowly. A little later, when the crop is more mature, the demand and prices will be better. Reports indicate that the Cape Cod crop is about two weeks late. Long Island cranberries will be more plentiful than usual. The acreage is larger and the yield is heavy. The Wis crop will be about half as large as last year, and N E, taken as a whole, will produce two-thirds of an average yield. In N J the yield is fair. In view of the prospect of shortage, growers seem inclined to hold their fruit for higher prices.

Live Stock Prices Steady—The receipts of live stock at all the leading markets have been large, and the proportion of really good animals especially high. In spite of free arrivals of cattle, prices at Chicago and other western markets have been around 6c per lb for the desirable grades, reaching as high as \$6.20. Buyers have discriminated sharply against half fat and inferior cattle. The hog market is fairly satisfactory. Shippers to Chicago, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Kansas City, Buffalo and Pittsburg get from 5.35 in the west to 5.55 in the eastern markets; medium weights are the favorites. The sheep market is uneven, the notable feature being the occasional strength in lambs and weakness in good mutton stock. Receipts of sheep have been unusually heavy for some time.

Clover Seed Strong—The immense crop of '97 is now out of the way and the market has resumed its normal condition. Prospects this year in the

states which produce the most seed, O, Ind, Mich, Ill, Ia and Wis, indicate a short crop. Drouth part of the time and wet weather frequently have caused a shortage. New seed, which begins to move this month, sells for Oct delivery for as much as \$10.50 in Chicago and 7.50 in Toledo. These prices indicate favorable returns to growers.

The Fish Law of Ill is receiving special attention on the part of the authorities, and commission merchants are warned not to offer for sale fish below the legal size. For example, black bass must be 11 in long, white and rock bass 8 in, yellow perch 8 in, pike perch 15 in, pike pickerel 18 in, German carp 13 in, catfish 13 in, white perch 10 in. Infringements of the law are subject to fine.

The Peanut Crop in Va has been materially reduced by drouth. In N C the season was favorable and a good yield is the result. Over 10,000 sacks will be produced in Orange Co, the center of the Cal peanut industry.

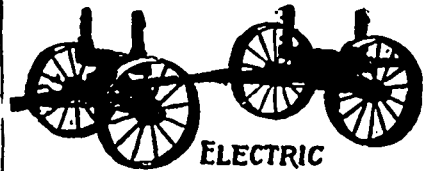
A Hedge Fence Game has been perpetrated on the farmers of this section. The Erie Hedge Co of Ohio canvassed western New York 4 yrs ago and agreed to set and attend to and replace plants until the hedge was complete, at \$1 per rod. Several took 100 rods, \$25 to be paid annually for 4 yrs. The first 3 yrs they came for their \$25 and got it. The fourth year they were to trim and put on four wires, which would have been 3/4 of their whole labor. The fourth year has passed, but no hedge fence men have shown up nor can they be found.—(M. E. Cheney, Chautauqua Co, N Y.)

The Cotton Crop of Ga is estimated by the state commissioner of agri at 358,000 bales against 1,295,000 bales, the average for the last five years.

The Vermont Farm Machine Co, Bellows Falls, Vt, have been informed by cable that the Improved U S separators manufactured by them have been awarded the gold medal at the Paris International exposition, where these separators are now on exhibition. This company was also awarded three medals and three diplomas of highest merit on U S separators at the World's Columbian exposition in 1893. These awards show very plainly the high class of goods manufactured by this company, when they obtain such high honors in competition with the world.

Farm Wagon Economy.

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