

PEACE TALK SLANTS CORN DOWN AGAIN

Rising Temperatures Prevent Railies—Oats Weak, Provisions Strong.

CHICAGO, Feb. 1.—Peace gossip, together with moderating weather that promised enlarged receipts, gave the corn market today a downward slant. Prices closed easy, at the same as yesterday's finish to 5/8c, lower at 1/2c, March and 1/2c, 1/2c, 1/2c. Oats weakened 2 1/2c to 20c.

Right from the outset the corn market was largely dominated by peace talk, and especially so by London assertions that Austria had made repeated advances to President Wilson.

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Liberal country offerings had much to do with the weakness of oats, besides, export demand was lacking.

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BIG GAIN IN U. S. LIVE STOCK

Total Value \$8,265,524,000—An Increase of \$53,000,000 in Year.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1.—Live stock in the United States on January 1 was valued at \$8,265,524,000. The Department of Agriculture announced today an increase of \$1,527,912,000 over a year ago.

In numbers horses have increased 353,000, mules 101,000, milch cows 390,000, other cattle 1,857,000, sheep 1,254,000 and swine 2,471,000.

The value of the live stock was valued at \$2,248,826,000; mules 4,824,000, other cattle 23,284,000, milch cows 1,443,629,000, other cattle 4,546,000, horses 1,800,000, sheep 1,254,000, swine 2,471,000.

There was an increase in the number of cattle other than milch cows amounting to 1,857,000, or 10.7 per cent, over the increase of 4.7 per cent from 1916 to 1917.

This was due to an increase of 12 per cent in calves, 27.7 per cent in heifers, 10.7 per cent in cows, a decrease of 3.2 per cent in steers and an increase of 1.9 per cent in other cattle.

Sheep showed the largest increase in number over the previous year. It was 2.7 per cent. For the first time swine were valued at more than \$1,000,000,000.

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FUR PRICES STILL CONTINUE TO RISE

Final Auction Session Today Expected to Raise Total to \$2,600,000.

Skunk, wolf, beaver and nutria will feature the closing session of the New York fur auction today. Due to the general increase in prices, it is expected that total sales for the five days will run well over \$2,600,000.

The leading articles under the hammer yesterday were American and Australian opossum, ermine, raccoon and lynx. All these attracted keen competition and showed substantial advances in price over October.

Among the buyers of American opossum were Jacob Adler, Bernstein & Feldman, Milton Schreiber & Co., G. F. Furr, H. Stein, E. Weingren of London, George I. Fox, A. Morris and Polak & Tucker.

Although the marmot offering was small, it attracted considerable attention, due to the increased use to which this skin is being put in the manufacture of natural marmot coats.

These coats were introduced last year it was not until the present season that they came into popular use.

Ermine buyers include John Holland, B. Harris Fur and Wool Company of St. Louis, L. Kosoff, George Schmitt, Joseph & Co. and A. Flann.

L. Kosoff paid the top figure of \$150 for ermine. The best lot of civet cat went to W. Weingren of London for \$50.

Those who bought wild cat were Messrs. Kowitz & Katsman, S. Klepper, H. D. Fertel, M. Fisher, L. Kosoff, M. Josephowitch of Montreal, J. H. Backman & Co. and H. Rubeloff.

Australian opossum buyers were W. A. Fraser, Joseph Ullman, John Holland, Jacob Adler, Hochstein & Rosenk, Gross, W. Weingren, H. Stein, E. Weingren of London, G. I. Fox, A. Morris and Polak & Tucker.

The following advances over October were announced last night by the New York Fur Auction Sales Corporation:

Wildcat, northern, 30 per cent; southern, 20 per cent; bear, black, 60 per cent; lynx, 20 per cent; marmot, northern, 15 per cent; southwestern, 35 per cent; lynx, 20 per cent; civet cat, 40 per cent; ermine, 25 per cent; American, 10 per cent; raccoon, 40 per cent; comparison for ocelot, marmot, lynx, polar bear or hair seal.

Chicago Trade Reports. Special Despatch to The Sun. CHICAGO, Feb. 1.—The weekly trade report of Marshall Field & Co. follows:

"Current wholesale distribution of dry goods is about 17 per cent below the period of a year ago. The volume of retail sales for both immediate and future delivery is considerably larger than in the corresponding period of last year."

Customers have been in the market in about normal number. Market on domestic cotton continues strong. Collections are fully as good as a year ago.

Following is the weekly report of the John V. Farwell Company:

"Wholesale dry goods and general merchandise trade for January was well ahead of the same month in 1917. Collections also show a good increase. Buyers are arriving in the market in about normal number. Market on domestic cotton continues strong. Collections are fully as good as a year ago."

Little Demand for Burlap. The burlap market for the past week has been quiet. Quite a few light varieties have been sold. The eight ounce variety is the most active. The market for burlap is selling at 20 1/2c, but the 10 1/2c ounce brings a full cent higher.

Usually the price difference between heavy and light grades is 1/2c to 3/4c per quarter cent. Spots in cotton and burlap are strong; in fact, there is practically no market for other than spots.

As an example of the effect of the freight increase on burlap, a New York house yesterday said a car of burlap consigned to it here left Boston three months ago, was on the road two months and for the last thirty days has been in a yard in New York in such an inaccessibility that it cannot be moved for some time.

Atlantic ports with burlap shipments, but most of these are goods already sold. West coast shipments are many days in transit.

Irish Imports Little Affected. The war has had little effect on American imports of Irish woolsens according to a large New York importer. Woolens are still receiving good supplies from Ireland, he says, and are being received here in quantities almost as large as in the ante-bellum days.

The purchasers of Irish woolsens are being used for men's wear, sport coats and for the last thirty days has been in a yard in New York in such an inaccessibility that it cannot be moved for some time.

It is in these persons who are responsible for the maintenance of the ownership of the Balkan Mills from the mill, and much of the work is being done by women and children."

Special Cable Despatch to The Sun. BRADFORD, England, Feb. 1.—One of the largest and most important business transfers the world's textile industry has known is an agreement transferring the ownership of the Balkan Mills from Sir James Roberts to a group of Bradford business men. The business is one of the largest in the world.

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U. S. Stamp Illegally Used on Army Uniforms

SPORTS in wide circulation yesterday were to the effect that an investigation is under way concerning the unwarranted use by some clothing house of a rubber stamp with the insignia of the United States Army.

The story is that the inspectors of the United States Army found that many more garments had been delivered at the depots than they had approved as perfect, and an investigation was started.

The inspectors found that one house had rubber stamps on hand and was using them on packages, possibly under the belief that the stamps were genuine.

The authorities will not discuss the situation. It is said the inquiry has not been completed.

imately \$100,000, and the new owners have taken it over at once.

The mills were originally founded by Sir Titus Salt, and are largely engaged in spinning and manufacturing mohair and worsted yarns.

The mills are located in a district of the community, and owe its origin and growth to the textile industry that has been the source of its life for generations.

Exchange Credit Data. To give better service to their respective memberships the Dress and Waist Manufacturers Association and the Protective Association of Manufacturers and the Ladies' Garment Association have agreed to exchange credit information through a central bureau soon to be opened.

An active cooperation in this manner is expected to save money in many instances before the goods are shipped, and to prevent the central bureau from pointing out that money is never saved in compositions, extensions and settlements.

Housekeeping supplies the bureau with lists of their customers, and the Protective Association of Manufacturers regarding any of them, based on information obtained from houses in other lines.

Cordage Market Strong. The cordage market has been strong the past week, despite the withdrawal of all products of high grade flax for Government uses.

Cotton cordage is high and active, but there has been no change in manilla or sisal, prices remaining firm and demand good.

While there have been no changes in the cordage market, the demand is improving, and a central bureau soon to be opened, will be of great service to the industry.

Plans Aid for Employees. The Merchants Association of this city has appointed a committee to consider old age pension plans for the benefit of employees and sick benefits.

The members of the committee are Robert E. Dowling, chairman, president City of New York, and other prominent business men.

At the next meeting of the New York Credit Association, to be held in the Hotel Astor, February 27, the following will be the subject of discussion: A representative of the central bureau soon to be opened, will be of great service to the industry.

Borden Withdraws All Lines. Mr. C. D. Borden & Sons announced yesterday they have withdrawn all their lines, including shirtings and print goods.

Opens Three Lines. The United States Worsteds Company has opened three new lines of goods for the fall season, 1918, as follows: Range 225-58, \$2.60; range 275-58, \$2.70; range 320-58, \$2.75.

Print Cloth Shows Advance. Special Despatch to The Sun. BOSTON, Feb. 1.—Sharp advances in prices on practically all styles of print cloth are being reported here this week. Increases were shown on every style made here and ranged from a quarter to a half-cent.

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.—The price of print cloth is showing a steady advance. The price of print cloth is showing a steady advance. The price of print cloth is showing a steady advance.

House Furnishings. BOSTON, Feb. 1.—The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance. The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance. The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance.

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BILLINGS, Mont.—The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance. The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance. The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance.

BALTIMORE, Md.—The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance. The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance. The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance.

BOSTON, Mass.—The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance. The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance. The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance.

BOULDER, Colo.—The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance. The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance. The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance.

CANTON, Ill.—The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance. The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance. The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance.

CHICAGO, Ill.—The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance. The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance. The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance.

CINCINNATI, Ohio.—The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance. The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance. The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance.

CLEVELAND, Ohio.—The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance. The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance. The price of house furnishings is showing a steady advance.

LIVE TOPICS OF THE COMMERCIAL WORLD

POCAHONTAS, Okla.—Louis S. Barnes, Mr. Barnes (ladie's ready to wear), 100 West 41st st., room 27.

PARKERSBURG, W. Va.—Brooks's, J. R. Brooks (best quality goods), 110 West 11th st.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—The Toy Shop, J. Marks (toys and novelties), 110 West 11th st.

SAN JOSE, Cal.—M. Blum & Co. Mrs. M. Blum (cloaks, suits, millinery), Hotel Bristol, 24th st., Hotel Bristol.

ST. LOUIS—Singer Bros. Cloak Co. E. Singer (ready to wear), 21st and Broadway.

PHILADELPHIA—Ziegler Hotel, 12th and Arch st.

Business Troubles.

Petitions in Bankruptcy. The following petitions in bankruptcy were filed in the United States District Court:

W. J. B. Borden & Sons, voluntary petition, 100 West 11th st., room 27.

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