

CONDITION OF OMAHA'S TRADE

Volume of Merchandise Moving Unusually Large for Mid-Summer.

NOT VERY MUCH CHANGE IN VALUES

Local Showers in Nebraska Alleviate Fears of a Drouth and Cause Renewed Confidence in the Future of Trade.

The future of business was apparently hanging in the balance during the early part of last week, and business men in all departments of trade were fully alive to the gravity of the situation consequent upon the continued dry weather. The first complaints of a lack of activity in the country attracted but little attention. As time went on and still there was no rain, indifference gave place to grave apprehension and every one realized that the situation was becoming more critical. Business took on a less active appearance, orders to hold back shipments became more frequent in the jobbing district, and retail merchants showed some inclination to curtail purchases. On the live stock market the effect of dry weather was seen in the almost complete stoppage of the demand from the country, which was at a standstill.

The action of Thursday and Friday worked a great change. All apprehension for the safety of the corn crop seemed to disappear in a moment, and trade almost immediately resumed the cheerful spirit it so consistently had all the year up to within a week or ten days. Everything in the jobbing district began moving at a more lively pace, and the country buyers orders came in again, the cattle to cause a stiffening in values. The feeling is now that in all sections visited by rains within the last few days the crop is assured, confidence in the future of trade is accordingly very strong.

The retailers of the city report a very excellent trade for July, and the whole business situation at present writing could hardly be better.

Groceries Active for July.

Wholesale grocers report conditions about the same as a week ago, with the volume of trade very satisfactory, considering the time of year. The market is still too steady on most lines, but a few quotable changes of importance are worthy of mention. The latest change in the price of California canary grapes, which are reported from 15 to 15 cents per pound higher than a week ago. This is, of course, largely due to the small crop and the consequent advance in the cost of fresh fruit. The indications at present are favorable for still higher prices, especially for apricots, peaches and pears.

Dried fruits, especially apricots, evaporated apples and raspberries, are also advancing. The rise in the price of raspberries also came with a drought in the producing section, which have materially shortened the crop.

Corn syrup has gone up 1 cent per gallon during the past week, sugar remaining the same in spite of the enormous demand. Some refineries have withdrawn temporarily from the market, while others are still taking orders but are not to delay in shipment. No other changes of any importance are reported.

Hardware in Good Demand.

Last week was unproductive of any variations in the hardware market. The volume of business did not continue to be unusually large for this time of year, even if farmers are busy and rain scarce. Collections are not quite as good as they have been, but that is always to be expected during a drouth, and consequently jobbers are not complaining in the least.

There is very little interest to report this week, the trade being good.

Jobbers are sending out their fall goods as rapidly as possible, but new orders are coming in constantly, and traveling men say that the market is rather quiet. As far as variable for crops there are any number of orders yet to be received. The men on the road speak in particular of the growing interest in the market, and the general part of merchants to trade with Omaha jobbers. As a result drummers have met with better success than they had before, and are not at all backward about predicting a bright future for the jobbers of this city. A representative merchant said in a recent talk that the market had increased 10 per cent, which is a good indication that it is not the traveling men alone who are feeling good.

Jobbers and shippers report about the same conditions as have prevailed for some time past. Fall goods are now being shipped quite freely, and in another week or two the market will be in full swing. They are being shipped in larger quantities than usual at this time, but that is explained by the increase in the number of orders. Traveling men are sampling goods as usual in evidence as a week ago, and seem to be more anxious than ever to do business with Omaha jobbers. The standard manufacturers learn that there is a jobbing center of considerable importance, and believe it will be for them.

Lumber Men Worried.

The feature of the lumber trade last week was the uneasiness caused by the dry weather. The number of sales received to hold shipment until heard from shows conclusively that a crop failure means dull conditions for lumber dealers as well as other merchants. The reports of the lumber market made for the last indications pointing to a maintenance, at least, of present prices. Local trade is still in a very prosperous condition, and is showing much easier because of recent rains.

Lumberman's day at the Transmississippi Exposition has not assumed definite form, and is one of the most unenviable special days that have thus far been scheduled. The day, as everyone knows, is September 9, and the railroads have been advised by the railroads to all lumbermen wishing to visit the exposition on that day. The committee in charge of affairs has decided to have the Transm. as the part of merchants to trade with Omaha jobbers. As a result drummers have met with better success than they had before, and are not at all backward about predicting a bright future for the jobbers of this city. A representative merchant said in a recent talk that the market had increased 10 per cent, which is a good indication that it is not the traveling men alone who are feeling good.

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Fruit and Produce.

The fruit market continues to be characterized as an active one, for peaches and strawberries. Southern peaches are growing very popular with the trade and are selling at \$1.50-\$1.75 per six bushel crate. Strawberries are in full bloom and are being shipped many arrive that are overripe, which accounts for the extremely low quotation. Good stock brings without difficulty over \$1.00 per bushel.

BUTTER—Firm; separator, 14½¢; dairy, 12¢.

Eggs—Firm, fresh, 82¢.

RECEIPTS—Wheat, 118,000 bu.; corn, 9,700 bu.; oats, 1,000 bu.; barley, 1,000 bu.

SHIPMENTS—Wheat, 73,200 bu.; corn, 7,800 bu.; oats, 1,000 bu.

BALTIMORE Market, July 30.—FLOUR—Unchanged and quiet; receipts, 8,493 bbls; export, 1,000 bbls.

WHEAT—Weak; spot and month, 70¢-72¢; August, 69¢-69½¢; steamer No. 2 red, 68¢; No. 3, 65¢-66¢; No. 2 spring, 58¢-59¢; No. 3, 56¢-57¢.

CORN—Slow; lower, No. 2 mixed, 32¢; No. 2 white, 31½¢; No. 3, 30¢.

OATS—Active, though steady; No. 2 white, 28¢; No. 3, 26¢.

RYE—Firm, No. 2, 4½¢.

HAY—Active, unchanged.

BUTTER—Firm; separator, 14½¢; dairy, 12¢.

Eggs—Steady at 90 cents off.

COTTON—Tight and firm; BAGGING—Unchanged.

METALS—Lead, quiet at 33½¢-33¾¢; copper, 33½¢.

PROVISIONS—Pork, firm; standard, 46¢-47¢; prime, 48¢-49¢; ham, 46¢-47¢; bacon, 45¢-46¢; ham, 45¢-46¢; extra sharp, 46½¢; bacon, 45½¢; shorts, 35½¢.

BACON—boxed shoulders, 50¢-51¢; short, 45¢-46¢; ham, 45¢-46¢; extra sharp, 46½¢.

RECEIPTS—Flour, 5,000 bbls; wheat, 42¢; corn, 32¢; oats, 30¢; barley, 28¢.

SUGAR—Quoted at 80 cents off.

EGGS—Steady at 90 cents off.

COTTON—Tight at 31¢ and BAGGING—Unchanged.

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GRAN RECEIPTS at Principal Markets, ST. LOUIS, July 30.—Receipts: Wheat, 54 cars.

MINNEAPOLIS, July 30.—Receipts:

CHICAGO, July 30.—Receipts today: Wheat, 179 cars; corn, 631 cars; oats, 388 cars. Estimated carloads for Monday: Wheat, 180 cars; corn, 631 cars; oats, 388 cars.

DULUTH, July 30.—Receipts: Wheat, 1,100 cars; corn, 397 cars; oats, 388 cars; barley, 100 cars.

KANSAS CITY, July 30.—Receipts: Wheat, 197 cars.

Quotations for the Day on General Commodities.

NEW YORK, July 30.—FLOUR—Receipts, 17,834 bbls; exports, 6,700 bbls; quiet, inactive and weaker.

CORNMEAL—Dull; western, 57¢-58¢; eastern, 56¢-57¢; No. 2 red, 54¢; f. o. b., about; export trade to arrive. Options ruled steady all the morning, with a slight trade supported by scant offerings, a late demand from July shorts and a prospective sale of 100,000 bbls.

BARLEY—Steady.

SUGAR—Quoted at 80 cents off.

EGGS—Steady at 90 cents off.

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