The general average of prices received by producers declined 4 points between October 15 and November 15 and 7 points since August, reaching 133 or a level only 2 points above that of last year. This decline coincided with the severe break in stock prices. Since November 15, as a result of some recovery in grain, cotton, and livestock prices, and further advances in egg prices, the level of prices received by producers is somewhat higher than at the low point of November 15 but it is still below the average for October. The general level of farm prices will probably be sustained during the next few weeks above the low level of November 15 but below that of September and October.

The general average of commodity prices at wholesale markets reached the lowest point of the year during the last week of November, but a moderate recovery in agricultural prices since November 15 has restored the general level nearly to that of the first week of November. Nonagricultural prices have continued downward. Agricultural prices may remain above their recent low levels and tend to check the decline in the general level of commodity prices.

The continuous decline in commodity prices since 1st July, accelerated by the decline in industrial stock prices, caused the Annalist weekly index of wholesale prices to fall from 150 to 141 by the last week of November. During this period agricultural prices declined about 12 points but remained above the low level of 1st May while nonagricultural prices declined 7 points to the lowest level of the year. The recent slight recovery in the general average to 143 on December 3 was due entirely to a 3 point advance in farm and food products. Textile product prices continued their downward trend throughout November, averaging 142 on December 3, or 4 points below the level of the first week of November. Metal prices continued their downward tendency of the past six months, but building material prices showed a slight improvement, reflecting possibly the anticipated recovery in building activity.
BUSINESS CONDITIONS

The further decline in business activity in November was reflected in a curtailment of production and employment in the key industries, a continued low level of construction work and a declining volume of freight movements. Although there is little evidence pointing to any immediate change in the trend of industrial activity the sustained agricultural purchasing power, the availability of credit at lower interest rates, and organized efforts to expand building activity and construction work are generally expected to prevent the present business recession from becoming great enough to result in a serious curtailment of domestic buying power.

November witnessed a further reduction in steel plant operations to a level considerably below that of last year, and pig iron output was sharply curtailed. Automobile production and employment was reduced to a level below that of 1928. Those downward shifts in basic industries, together with curtailment in textile production and a further reduction in building activity has resulted in a volume of freight traffic below that of last year. They are also reflected in a reduction in factory employment and payrolls which in recent months have been below the level of last spring and in October, the latest month for which data are available, they declined below the September level, this being contrary to the usual seasonal increase.

The chief tendencies in financial activity during November were a reduction in bank loans on securities and an increase in bank investments. The Federal Reserve Banks further increased their holdings of Government securities but this was more than offset by a reduction in acceptances so that there has been a net reduction in the outstanding credit of the Federal Reserve Banks. Interest rates continued to decline during the month. Industrial stock prices made a partial recovery from the low point reached on November 13. At the present time representative stock prices appear to be about 20 per cent higher than the recent low level, having recovered approximately one-fourth of the loss from September 3 to November according to the Dow-Jones index.

WHEAT

The advance in cash wheat prices forecast a month ago is under way and probably will continue for some time yet. Large available supplies in the United States, however, tend to hold in check marked advances in prices and any such marked advance as recently experienced is likely to be followed by a recession. The expected reductions in Southern Hemisphere crops have been confirmed by recent reports. Southern Hemisphere shipments have declined. The congestions in Continental European markets are disappearing and the European demand for overseas wheat is beginning to show some evidence of increasing.

The farm price of wheat as of the middle of November averaged 103.4 cents per bushel as compared with 111.5 in October and 97.1 in November a year ago. Cash wheat prices rose in the latter half of November and farm prices for December probably will average higher than in November.
The average of all classes and grades of wheat at six markets declined from 128 cents per bushel the week ended October 11 to 115 the week ended November 15. Apparently this drop was due mainly to the crash in the stock market, and within three weeks this decline had been recovered. The average for the first week of December was 130 cents per bushel. As stated as probable last month, this marked rise has been followed by some recession.

The world's supply situation has not changed materially. Weather conditions indicate that the Argentine crop may not exceed 175 million bushels, as compared with 340 million bushels harvested last year. Some private estimates place the crop somewhat higher, but the most optimistic estimates are only slightly over 200 million bushels. The further reduction in the estimate of the Argentine crop, however, is offset by increases in estimates of some of the European crops, so that the world total still seems to be about 530 million bushels less than last year, and the supply 360 million bushels less.

Smaller shipments from the Southern Hemisphere have reduced the amounts of wheat afloat below a normal level. The stocks at foreign ports are being reduced. The European demand for overseas wheat is improving. During the next few months the bulk of supplies will have to be taken from the United States and Canadian supplies at eastern points. The visible supply in the United States is diminishing, having declined 10 million bushels in November. A large volume of wheat remains in the United States to be moved, but competition from Australia and Argentina in the next two months will be much less than usual, the exportable surplus of these countries taken together amounting to only about half that of last year.

The probable average prices for the season for the different classes of wheat were indicated last month. Recovery in the past few weeks brought prices back about on a level with the average for the season to date. Some further increase is to be expected with an increase in the foreign demand for wheat from the United States in January and February.

After February the course of prices will be affected to some extent by the outlook for the 1930 crop. In this connection it may be noted that the autumn rainfall in Canada has been so light as to make unlikely a more than average crop of spring wheat in the Prairie Provinces. Drought has been unfavorable to the wheat crop in the far northwestern part of the United States. Prospects for heavy winter killing would tend to maintain wheat prices in the United States on a high level through March, April and May, but normal or less than normal winter killing probably would result in some decline in prices toward the end of the season.

CORN

Cash corn prices during the next month or six weeks are expected to show a general upward trend, but the market will probably be very sensitive to the volume of receipts and prices may be temporarily depressed as a result. If a considerable improvement in prices takes place by the end of January,
no marked further rise is to be expected during the late winter and spring unless the feeding demand in the United States turns out to be greater than is now expected or unless the crop in Argentina should be very short.

The United States average farm price as of November 15 was 81.0 cents per bushel compared with 91.9 cents a month before and 75.4 cents per bushel for November 1928. Prices of cash corn at the terminal markets were also lower during November as a result of the shift to the new crop basis, No. 3 yellow at Chicago averaging 87.6 cents per bushel against 94.5 cents the previous month and 84.4 cents for November 1928. Just prior to the middle of November there was a sharp decline which carried cash prices to the lowest levels they have reached since last May. For the week ended November 15, No. 3 yellow at Chicago averaged 85.1 cents per bushel. This was followed by a rapid recovery to 91.9 cents for the following week, but prices did not hold at that level, averaging 87.1 cents for the week ended November 29 and 87.9 cents per bushel for the week ended December 6.

The November estimate of the Crop Reporting Board placed the crop of the United States at 2,621 million bushels, indicating it to be the smallest crop since that of 1924 when 2,509 million bushels were harvested. This year's crop is about 7.7 per cent less than that of last year and 5.5 per cent smaller than the crop of 1927. The total apparent supply as of November for this year (including the stocks of old corn on farms, commercial stocks of domestic grain, and the new crop) amounts to 2,702 million bushels compared with 2,691 million in 1928 and 2,698 million bushels in 1927.

The price of corn in the different markets is dependent upon the distribution of the corn crop as well as upon the size of the crop in the entire United States. This year the crop is especially short in the southwestern part of the Corn Belt and prices at Kansas City are higher than usual as compared with those at Chicago. The price of corn at Chicago is more closely related to the size of the crop in the Corn Belt States near Chicago than it is to the size of the crop in the entire United States. The production of corn in the six principal producing States (that is Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri and Nebraska) it estimated at 1,565 million bushels this year against 1,552 million in 1928 and 1,345 million in 1927. Total farm supplies in these six States, including stocks of old corn on farms and the new crop amount to 1,412 million bushels this year compared with 1,558 million last year and 1,410 million bushels in 1927.

Prices of corn are also dependent, especially in the latter part of the season, upon the demand for corn. Variations from year to year in the demand for United States corn are largely due to changes in the number of hogs to be fed. They are also partly due to a number of other factors, including changes in the size of other feed crops in the United States and variations in the size of the principal feed crops in other countries of the world. Indications now point to a somewhat smaller demand for United States corn during the coming season than during the past two seasons. The number of hogs to be fed this year appears to be less than last year and while other feed crops are in relatively short supply, the corn crop of Europe appears to be nearly twice as large as that of last year.

The corn price outlook may be changed somewhat by information given in the December crop report. However, crop information as of November 1 and
market conditions at the present time suggest that during the next six months the price of corn at Chicago will average somewhat higher than during the corresponding months of 1926-27 and close to the average for December to May 1927-28. For the period December to May 1927-28, No. 3 yellow corn at Chicago averaged 97.0 cents per bushel.

Though the average may be about the same, the course of prices during the current season is not expected to follow that of 1927-28. At the present time corn prices, especially at Chicago, appear to be depressed by the shortage of storage space. The easing of the storage situation, especially if it is accompanied by full confirmation of the November estimates of a short crop, is likely to result in further improvement in prices during the remainder of December or in January. If a considerable improvement in prices takes place by the end of January, no marked rise is to be expected during the late winter and spring of this year such as occurred in 1927-28 (see attached figure), because neither an increasing feeding demand nor a strong export demand is in prospect for the current season. It should be borne in mind, however, that there is some uncertainty as to how great the feeding demand will be during the coming year, and any material change in feeding prospects may affect the outlook for prices.

RICE

Southern rice prices have tended upward during the past two weeks and conditions indicate that this rise will continue. The increase probably will not be very marked for the remainder of this month nor for the first part of January, but by February the upward trend in prices should be much greater.

Receipts of rough rice have fallen off materially during the past month, but mills continue to have relatively large holdings from the excessive early season marketings. The fact that a less than normal percentage of the crop remains in the farmers' hands has tended to strengthen prices.

The good quality of this year's crop has materially increased the mill outturn, thus making the year's supply of milled rice proportionately greater than the forecast in terms of rough rice would indicate. Not only is the clean supply greater than would have been the case with poorer milling quality, but the percentage of high grades to low is greater than under normal conditions. The probable effect of this situation on prices is to depress the price of fancy and extra fancy grades and to stimulate the prices of "brokens" and "brewers" grades. The fact that a part of the Arkansas crop was damaged by excessive rains will tend to offset a part of the effect of the good quality in Louisiana and Texas.

Exports and sales to Porto Rico as well as exports to other countries were exceptionally large for the first three months of the crop year. This condition, however, does not indicate that the foreign demand nor the Porto Rican demand will be greater this year than it was last. This abnormal buying in southern markets probably can best be explained by the relatively low prices in those markets during the first months of the crop year and consequently Porto Rican and foreign sales are likely to be subnormal for the latter part of the crop year.
That portion of American rice that is sold in foreign markets in competition with Oriental grown rices will probably suffer for the remainder of the year because large crops have been reported for Siam, Indo-China and Burma. The prices of Oriental rices on the London market have gone down considerably during the past few weeks, whereas Blue Rose prices have changed very little.

The forecast for this year for California is 171 million pounds as compared to a 224 million pound crop harvested last year. This relatively small crop will tend to improve prices later on in the crop year. Another factor which should under normal conditions bring about better prices for California rice is the decline in production in Japan from 19 billion pounds last year to 18-1/3 billion forecast for this year. If, however, the reported large yields in southeastern Asia materialize, California will probably sell very little head rice in Japan this year. The large yields of Italy and Spain will tend to cut down California exports to European markets. Those depressing factors, however, will probably be more than counteracted by the relatively short supply in California and the increase in Blue Rose prices.

**Potatoes**

The farm price of potatoes for the country averaged 1.35 per bushel November 15 compared with $.38 on October 15 and .57 cents a year ago. This general stability in the potato price situation appears also in the central market prices for November, which averaged only about 2 per cent below the October prices but considerably above last year's level.

The present levels of potato prices of 1.35 per bushel at the farm, $3.08 per 100 pounds at New York and $2.57 at Chicago are approximately equal to those which prevailed in November of 1926 when the production in the 35 late producing States was only three million bushels greater than the present estimate of 323 million bushels. In November of that year the respective farm and market prices were 1.41 per bushel, 2.99 at New York and 2.65 per hundred pounds at Chicago.

Marketings of potatoes in the past two months appear to have been in relation to the size of the crop, if measured only by reported car-lot shipments. The shipments for November of 15,300 cars were smaller than those in any November of the past ten years. The significance of these light shipments is uncertain in view of the increasing volume of potatoes marketed by truck. If they are taken as indicating that shippers are withholding potatoes from the central markets in anticipation of better prices, they would suggest a relatively larger volume of marketings later in the season. Prices might in consequence fail to show the generally expected higher level after the turn of the year. So far the steady price situation resembles that of 1926 when the farm price for the country as a whole remained around 1.40 per bushel through January and then declined to about 1.25 in March and April with a recovery thereafter. The prospect this season for somewhat higher prices after January than those now prevailing will depend largely on whether the merchantable stocks on January 1 will be less than the 82 million bushels on January 1 in the 1926 season. Another factor may be the marketings of early potatoes from the South where expressed intentions to plant point to
acreage increase of 12 per cent above the reduced acreage of 1929. It should be borne in mind, that yields in the Southern States have been unusually high for the past three years, due to wet seasons, a continuation of which would be quite unusual.

Tobacco

The most significant changes in the tobacco price situation since November 15 are in types 51 and 52 of the cigar binder class grown in the Connecticut Valley and in type 41 of the cigar filler class grown in Pennsylvania. The proportion of Havana Seed and Broadleaf suitable for binder grades is considerably larger and that going into the lower grades correspondingly smaller than appeared probable a month ago. More than 80 per cent of these types was sold by growers prior to December 15 at prices averaging more than 5 cents per pound higher than last year. The proportion of the Pennsylvania crop going into the grades used for cigar fillers is slightly larger and that going into the lower grades correspondingly smaller than appeared probable last month. Prices for tobacco of this type sold prior to December 15 have averaged higher than last year but comparatively few growers have sold.

The following shows the average season's prices on local markets for the 1927 and 1928 seasons and the probable changes in 1929 compared with 1928.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class and type</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Average season's price per pound</th>
<th>Probable change in 1929 compared with last year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1927: 1928</td>
<td>1927 : 1928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flue-cured:</td>
<td></td>
<td>Cents</td>
<td>Cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North central N. C. and Va.</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>18.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eastern N. C.</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>22.4</td>
<td>20.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire-cured:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clarksville and Hopkinsville</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paducah</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henderson</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light air-cured:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burley</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>26.0</td>
<td>30.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>22.8</td>
<td>22.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark air-cured:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-sucker</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>10.6</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green River</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>9.1</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Sun-cured</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigar filler:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami Valley</td>
<td>42-43-44</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>17.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigar binder:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut Valley Broadleaf</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>21.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut Valley Havana Seed</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>23.4</td>
<td>24.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wisconsin</td>
<td>54-55</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the last column to the right above by "little change" is meant an average season's price not more than 8 per cent higher or lower than that of last year; by "slightly higher" or "slightly lower" is meant an average price from 6 to 20 per cent higher or lower than last year and by "higher" or "lower" is meant an average price more than 20 per cent higher or lower than last year.

The marketing season is over for types 13 and 14 of the flue-cured class. The average season's price for Type 13 grown in South Carolina and Southeastern North Carolina was 16.2 cents per pound, compared with 15.6 cents in 1928 and 20.5 cents in 1927. The average season's price for Type 14 grown in Georgia and Florida was 18.4 cents per pound compared with 12.8 cent in 1928 and 16.9 cents in 1927.

COTTON

After reaching a low point on November 12 as the stock market did on November 13, cotton prices made a slight recovery and since then have held about steady. The December crop estimate placed production at 14,919,000 bales, so that the total supply of American cotton for the season is slightly less than last year and 1,400,000 bales less than two years ago. Cotton consumption in the United States has been running high until November when there was a decline, but sales of cotton textiles are reported to have been low in both October and November. Except for the month of October, cotton exports have not been running as high this season as last, although there appears to have been some improvement in the cotton textile trade of Germany.

Cotton prices ended their decline on November 12 when the average at the ten spot markets reached 16.18 cents per pound, a decline of 2.5 cents from the price of September 3. Thereafter there was a recovery of about one-half to three-quarters of a cent per pound and prices have held fairly steady since then. The price received by producers averaged 16.2 cents per pound on November 15 compared with 17.5 cents on October 15 and 17.8 cents in November 1928.

The December estimate of the Crop Reporting Board placed cotton production at 14,919,000 bales compared with the October forecast of 14,915,000 bales, the November forecast of 15,009,000 bales and last year's production of 14,476,000 bales. The very stable crop prospects for this season are worth considering in connection with the material price decline which has occurred this fall. Furthermore, the reduction in carryover more than offsets this year's increase in production so that the total supply of American cotton for the season is approximately 200,000 bales below that for last year and 1,400,000 bales below that for 1927-28.

Exports of cotton in November again fell below those of the corresponding month for last year, being 1,049,000 bales in November 1929 as compared with 1,428,000 bales in November 1928. Exports for the season to December 1 are 479,000 bales below those for the same period of last year. France and Italy have taken more of our cotton for the season to date, while other countries have taken less. Stocks of American cotton in European ports and aflo
for Europe on December 6, as reported by the Commercial and Financial Chronicle, total 1,704,000 bales or about 389,000 bales less than last year. More than half of this decrease was in the amount of cotton afloat, indicating a recent falling off in exports. Our Agricultural Commissioner in Germany, however, reports that there has been some improvement in the continental European textile situation. A seasonal improvement in yarn and cloth sales continued practically all over the Continent and activity in spinning and weaving mills on the whole increased somewhat. The cotton textile situation in Germany improved and activity remained high in France and Italy, although in some of the more eastern European countries there appears not to have been much change. The cotton textile trade of Great Britain appears to be of moderate volume with sales apparently not as large as production. British exports of cotton piece goods totaled 284.0 million yards in November compared with 331.4 million in November 1928 and for the three month periods September through November they totaled 767 million this year compared with 964 million last year. Yarn exports for similar periods have amounted to 36.2 million pounds this year and 41.7 million last year. In Japan cotton textile production continued at its very high level through October but there are some evidences of an accumulation of stocks of goods and a slowing down in consumer demand. Our Agricultural Commissioner in the Orient, however, reported that Japanese stocks of American cotton were very low in November and that arrivals were promptly absorbed. He further reports that there is a growing tendency to use American cotton in place of other growths, except when price differentials are extreme. Civil difficulties hamper China’s cotton textile trade.

Domestic cotton consumption was at a high level through October and for the season to December 1 totaled 43,000 bales more than for the corresponding period of last year. For the month of November, however, consumption declined, the total for the month amounting to 544,000 bales compared with 641,000 bales for October and 611,000 bales for November 1928. This decrease in consumption can be attributed to the decline in the cotton cloth production and trade. Weekly production of cotton textiles for November averaged 69 million yards as compared with 71 million for October, 72 million for September and 68 million for November 1928, as reported by the Association of Cotton Textile Manufacturers. Weekly average sales, as reported by the Association, fell from 93 million yards in September to 55 million in October and 44 million in November as compared with 75 million in November 1928. Sales for the month averaged 85 per cent of production.

WOOL

Lower domestic demand and the unusually wide difference between foreign and domestic wool prices have resulted in a further decline in prices in the domestic market in the past month. Following the withholding of 33-1/3 per cent of the amounts at first scheduled to be offered at the Australian sales, foreign wool prices rose, but recently there has been some weakening and foreign demand conditions appear not to have been greatly changed in the last month. World wool production is now estimated to be slightly greater than that of last year.

Domestic wools at Boston declined 1 to 3 cents a pound on a grease basis and 1 to 6.5 cents a pound on a scoured basis from November 2 to
December 7. Most of this decline took place during the first week of December. The greatest decline was on 56s (3/8 blood) strictly combing wool which fell 3 cents per pound grease basis and 6.5 cents per pound scoured basis. Pine wools declined 1 cent on a grease basis and 2.5 cents on a scoured basis. On December 7 strictly combing 56s wool sold at 41.5 cents grease and 64s, 70s, 80s scoured wool sold at 86 cents per pound. The farm price of wool on November 15 averaged 28.5 cents compared with 28.6 cents a month earlier and 35.9 on November 15, 1928. From November 2 to December 7 most New Zealand wools at Boston declined from 2 to 5.5 cents a pound but 56s to 56s declined 7.5 cents a pound and 56s fell 11 cents. Australian wools at Boston were mostly unchanged except 64s to 70s which were from 1.5 to 3.5 cents higher and 56s which were 1.5 cents lower. South American wools at Boston declined 1 to 3 cents a pound grease basis.

Prices at the Australian and London wool sales advanced considerably above the low levels of October but recently there has been some weakening. Continental markets for tops and noils were very active during the first half of November while prices were rising but recently there has been some decline in activity. As shown in the accompanying figures price changes to December have narrowed the spread between foreign and domestic prices and the decline in domestic prices subsequent to December 4 would of course further reduce these margins.

Receipts of domestic wool at Boston during November were about one million pounds less than last year. This is the first month since June that receipts of domestic wool have been below those of corresponding months last year. Total receipts from January 1 to December 1, however, were only 197 million pounds or six million pounds less than last year and 23 million pounds less than in 1927.

Imports of combing and clothing wools are still above those of last year, being one million pounds greater for the month of October and 11 million pounds greater for the period January 1 to October 31. These larger imports have resulted from the active domestic demand and the wide margin of domestic over foreign prices so far this year. Domestic wool consumption through October was still on a high level, amounting to 59 million pounds grease basis compared with 50 million pounds in September and 51 million pounds in October 1928. The quantity of combing and clothing wool consumed during the month was the highest for any month since May 1923.

Wool production in ten countries which usually produced three-fourths of the world's clip exclusive of Russia and China is estimated to be about 2,488 million pounds or five million pounds greater than the large clip of last year. Supplies for this season including the carryover in primary mark are estimated at about 1.5 per cent greater than last year.

LAMBS

The level of lamb prices during the next few months will probably be below that of a year earlier, due to larger supplies, lower wool and mutton prices and a consumer demand no better than a year ago. A further seasonal
advance in prices is to be expected, if marketings are a normal proportion of the supply.

Lamb prices during November were steady and price fluctuations from day to day were relatively small. The top price on lambs at Chicago for most of the month was between $13.00 and $13.25 per hundred pounds. During the latter half of the month the tone of both the live and dressed lamb markets improved and this improvement has continued into December. Continued weakness in the wool and pelt markets however, tended to hold live lamb prices below a year ago.

Lamb supplies continued liberal during November. Receipts at seven leading markets were about the same as in November 1928, with inspected slaughterer 2 per cent smaller but 13 per cent above the 5-year November average. Shipments of feeding lambs from 12 markets into the seven leading Corn Belt feeding States in November were relatively large being 22 per cent greater than in November 1928 and the largest for the month since 1922. The total of these shipments for the five months July to November, inclusive, was 3 per cent larger than last year. Lamb feeding in Colorado will be on a larger scale this year than last, and in other Western States the total will probably equal last year. Feeding conditions in northern Colorado during November were very unfavorable. Continued snow delayed the sugar beet harvest, and much of the best top pasture was lost and other rough feed was unavailable. Because of the lighter weight of the lambs and the poor development to date, the marketings from Colorado feed lots will probably be later than usual. Corn field lambs in the Corn Belt have done fairly well and the quality is showing normal seasonal improvement.

Because of the larger supply of lambs on feed, lower wool prices and no better consumer demand than a year ago, the level of lamb prices for the next few months will probably be somewhat below a year ago. A further seasonal price advance during December is to be expected unless marketings during the month are disproportionately large.

CATTLE

The seasonal decline in cattle prices will probably continue for some time, but the amount of the decline and the date of the low point will be determined largely by how the winter supply of cattle is distributed.

Cattle prices continued their seasonal decline during November. The low point of the month was reached during the third week, with some recovery during the final week. A further price advance took place during the first two days of the first week in December, but most of this was lost by the end of the week. Heavy beef steers continued to show the most weakness with the rather marked price discrimination in favor of light yearlings maintained. Low grade cows declined to the lowest point in two years. In spite of the weakness in beef cattle the prices of stocker and feeder cattle were fairly well maintained only receding slightly from the October levels.

Compared with prices prevailing a year ago, prices about December 1 this year were lower on practically all kinds and grades of cattle. The
largest declines were in the prices of better grade beef steers; the average price of choice beef steers at Chicago was $2.15 lower than a year earlier and of good beef steers $1.40 lower.

Cattle supplies in November were large compared to other months of the year. Receipts at seven markets were 7 per cent larger than in November 1928, but 18 per cent below the 5-year November average. On the other hand inspected slaughter was 6 per cent smaller than in November 1928 and 17 per cent below the 5-year average. The smaller slaughter this year in view of the larger marketings was due to the heavy out-movement of stocker and feeder cattle. The shipments of such cattle from 12 markets into seven leading feeding States in November were nearly 50 per cent larger than in November 1928 and the third largest for the month in ten years. The big increase during November brought the total of these shipments to about the same number as last year for the five months July to November, inclusive.

Some further seasonal decline in the prices of beef cattle seems probable, the amount of the decline and the date of the low point being determined to a considerable extent by how the winter's supply of fed cattle is distributed. Present available information does not indicate that supply of cattle will be any larger during the winter months, December to February, this year, than a year ago. Hence, from the point of view of supply, a low of prices fairly similar to those in the winter of 1928-29 could be expected.

At the low point of the 1928-29 season which came in February, prices of choice and good beef steers at Chicago were about $1.00 per hundred pound below prices in early December of this season. Normally the decline in these grades from early December to the low point of the season is greater than $1.00 per hundred pounds.

HOGS

Hog slaughter in November was 1 per cent larger than in November 1928 and the largest for the month since 1924. The monthly average price at Chicago, however, was 2.6 per cent higher than in November last year. Since late October prices have been unusually steady and apparently the seasonal low for the winter was reached in the third week of November when the weekly average at Chicago got down to approximately $9.00. This is 50 cents above the low point registered last winter during the second week in December. Although October and November marketings were slightly larger than in those months last year, there are indications that December supplies will be smaller than a year ago. If a larger than normal proportion of the winter supply of hogs has been marketed early because of the unfavorable feeding relation between corn and hog prices, as now seems probable, there is reason to expect that supplies during the remainder of the winter will be smaller than a year earlier and that prices will become more favorable as the season advances.

Hog prices made little change during November, the weekly average at Chicago ranging from $9.02 to $9.11 and for the first week in December
was $9.19. The average for November was $9.06 as compared with $9.38 for October, and $8.83 in November last year.

Prices of fresh pork strengthened after the middle of November but declined to new seasonal lows during the first week in December. Current prices of fresh pork, however, are above the levels of a year ago. Prices of cured products also have been making a seasonal recession but with the exception of those on bacon, are slightly lower than the prices of a year ago.

Federally inspected slaughter of hogs in November was 1 per cent greater than in November 1928, and the largest for the month since 1924. The increase in numbers was offset by lower average weights as indicated by the weights of hogs received at the larger markets.

An unusually heavy movement of pork and lard from storage in October and November reduced the burdensome storage supplies of the early fall to more nearly normal levels on December 1. Stocks of pork in storage on December 1, amounting to 469 million pounds, were 5.8 per cent larger than those of a year earlier, and 17.3 per cent greater than the 5-year average for that date. Lard stocks, amounting to 68 million pounds, were about 1.4 per cent greater than a year ago, and 48.5 per cent larger than the 5-year average.

Exports of lard in October exceeded those of October 1928 by almost 11 million pounds, or 18 per cent and were 33 per cent larger than the 3-year average for the month. Exports of pork also showed an increase, being 75 per cent above those of October 1928 and 20 per cent greater than the 3-year average.

Apparently there has been some tendency to market hogs early this winter because the relationship between corn and hog prices has been unfavorable to hog feeding. Demand for hogs on the part of packers, however, has been well maintained and it now appears that the winter low point was established in late November at a level approximately 50 cents above the low of last winter. With supplies during the remainder of the winter indicated as being slightly less than in the same period of last winter, a normal seasonal advance in prices during January and February appears probable.

**BUTTER**

The extent of the seasonal decline in butter prices, which usually begins in January or February, depends largely upon the reduction in storage stocks by that time. If the excess in stocks above last year shows a material reduction in the next few months the present very wide margin between the prices this year and last may be expected to narrow. No material increase in the price of butter is probable during the remainder of the winter.

The price of 92 score butter at New York was 45 cents on November 1, reached the low of the month at 40.5 cents on November 13 and then rose, being 43 cents on November 30. Subsequently prices again declined, reaching 39.5 cents on December 12. The average for November was 42.7 cents, which was
two-tenths of a cent below the average of November 1924 and the lowest November average since 1916. The average for November 1928 was 50.8 cents and the 5-year average 49.2 cents. The lower grades of butter have declined even more than 92 score, the margin between 92 and 87 score butter now being about 9.5 cents.

The farm price of butterfat in the North and South Atlantic States on November 15 was reported as little different from that on October 15. In the principal butter producing States, however, prices averaged about 2.5 cents below those of October 15 and about 4.0 cents below those of November 15, 1928. The decline in prices from October 15 was particularly marked in the States just west of the Mississippi River.

Receipts of butter at the four principal markets during November were 43,167,000 pounds compared with 40,927,000 pounds in November 1928 and 38,469,000 pounds for the 5-year average. Cold storage holdings on December 1 were 111,617,000 pounds compared with 70,968,000 pounds on December 1, 1928 and 78,835,000 pounds for the 5-year average. Cold storage holdings on December 1 were 141.6 p.m cent of the 5-year average while on November 1 they were 184.5 per cent of the 5-year average. The decrease in cold storage holdings during November was 26,788,000 pounds or 19.4 p.m cent of the November 1 holdings, compared with an average decrease of 38.3 per cent for the past five years. The excess of storage stocks over the corresponding periods of last year increased from 32,594,000 pounds on November 1 to 40,632,000 pounds on December 1.

Although the final figures are not yet available, November production appears to have been about equal to that of a year ago. The surplus in storage stocks has increased some 8,058,000 pounds during the month, and with prices averaging 10 cents below those of a year ago, this indicates a marked decrease in demand. With no marked improvement in business conditions probable during the winter months, no great increase in the demand for butter appears probable. If the low level of prices continues, however, there may be some shift from substitutes and increased use later as consumers become more fully aware of the cheapness of butter. Production in November relative to the preceding year usually indicates quite closely what production during the entire winter relative to the preceding winter will be. Production this November appears to be about equal to that of a year ago indicating a production this winter about equal to that of a year ago. The butter-feed ratio however, continues to indicate a tendency toward a slightly smaller production of butter this winter than last, although not so markedly as earlier in the season. The declines in the prices of farm grains on November 18 had increased the profitability of winter feeding materially as expressed by the butter-feed ratio over the situation in August and September. The present situation is, however, somewhat less favorable for heavy feeding than a year ago and much like 1927.

There appears to be little prospect for any material rise in prices during the remainder of the winter. Prices in January and February will depend largely upon the extent of the reduction of the storage surplus by that time. A marked reduction of the storage surplus by that time would probably lead to a less than usual seasonal decline in prices and result in prices more closely equalling those of last year than do the unusually low prices now existing.
EGGS

Egg prices probably will remain relatively strong during the next two months due to low storage holdings, although prices have now passed the seasonal peak. As stated last month, low storage stocks will probably cause prices to be about the same as two years ago when fresh extras at New York averaged 53 cents in December and 50 cents in January. Bad weather would cause temporary rises.

The prices of the better grades of fresh eggs at New York reached peaks during November and began the usual seasonal decline, though a rise occurred in the first week of December accompanying the cold weather. Fresh extras averaged 58 cents, 11 cents higher than last month, 5 cents higher than in 1928 and about the same as in 1927. Pacific Coast extras and nearby closely selected extras, declining from early high prices, averaged 65.0 and 65.7 respectively or about the same as last year.

Receipts at the four markets during November were 499 thousand cases, practically the same as last year and 5 per cent greater than the 5-year average of 476 thousand cases. From now until April or May receipts will make their seasonal increase which is likely to be greater than last year, due to a larger number of chickens on farms.

Storage holdings on December 1 were 2,630 thousand cases as compared with 3,542 thousand last year and a 5-year average of 3,320 thousand cases.

POULTRY

The present seasonal decline in poultry prices is likely to cease by the end of the year. A gradual rise may then be expected but the level of prices may continue to be lower than last year.

Prices of fresh killed poultry at New York made their usual decline in November, rising somewhat during the last ten days. Top quotations on roosters averaged 30.8 cents, about 2 cents less than last month, and 5 cents less than last year. Porks averaged 28.9 cents, 1 cent and a half below both last month and last year. The farm price of chickens was 20.3 cents on November 15, compared with 21.5 cents a month ago and also 21.5 cents a year ago.

Receipts of dressed poultry at the four markets totaled 73.4 million pounds as compared with 59.8 in November 1928. Receipts since September 1 are about 20 million pounds, or nearly 15 per cent, more than for the same period last year. Accompanying these heavier receipts are larger storage stocks. There were 115.8 million pounds of frozen poultry in storage on December 1 as compared with 79.2 million pounds a year ago and a 5-year average of 89.1 million pounds.
CORN: PRICE OF NO. 3 YELLOW AT CHICAGO
1924-25, 1927-29, 1928-29, and 1929-30

CENTS PER BUSHEL

120
110
100
90
80
70
60

NOV. DEC. JAN. FEB. MAR. APR. MAY JUNE JULY AUG. SEPT. OCT.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
Prices for fine grades of wool in Boston and London and differences between these prices 1921 to date.

Boston prices, fine territory, (scoured basis), strictly combing.

London prices, 70's (scoured basis).

Emergency tariff rate.

Margin of Boston over London prices.

1922 tariff rate.
Prices for Medium Grades of Wool in Boston and London and Differences Between These Prices

Cent Per Pound

Boston 5% Blood Combining (Scoured basis)
London 56's (Scoured basis)
Emergency tariff rate
Tariff rate 1922
Margin of Boston over London prices

1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929 1930 1931

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