THE SHARP DECLINE prior to the close of last week was not maintained this week, and so advanced from 505 to 526c from Friday to Friday. The holiday on Monday and Wednesday interrupted trading considerably but apparently had little influence on prices. Receipts of butter from other states were minimal for several weeks past and California shipments were also small. Cold storage holdings showed small gain of 12,780 lbs. but the shortage of 1,874,764 lbs. is considered bullish. Pacific Coast cold storage holdings (15 3/4) total 3,000,000 lbs. vs. last year in 1924, while the entire United States shortage on September 1st was 29,700,000 lbs. The general advance in prices in eastern markets and lighter production generally indicate a firm market. The butter market at present is some 5c lower than in 1924 but must be taken into consideration when the future outlook of the butter market is predicted. The Pacific Coast markets must necessarily keep in line with eastern markets, as they are dependent on them for supplies this season.

REVIEW OF THE BUTTER MARKETS AT NEW YORK, CHICAGO, PHILADELPHIA AND BOSTON FOR THE WEEK ENDING FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1926.

BUTTER MARKETS CONTINUE FIRM

So far as a ready demand for fresh arrivals and the statistical position were concerned, the butter markets during the week ending September 11th continued firm. The week opened on Tuesday following the holiday with all markets in firm position. This was especially true at eastern markets where prices advanced 5c from Saturday's close. As the week progressed, however, buyers became more cautious and prices declined, the general belief that prices had advanced a little too rapidly and would not hold firm at this time. As a result, in spite of the fact that fresh supplies on some of the markets at times were not sufficient to take care of the demand of regular customers, prices were hard to maintain and the markets late in the week showed signs of top heaviness. Reviewing the week as a whole, however, supplies of all grades were slightly cleaned up and at the close the tone appeared fairly steady.

PASTURES SUFER FROM DRY, HOT WEATHER

As a factor affecting production — and therefore the condition of the markets — the recent hot weather in the producing sections played a prominent part. Reports from various parts of producing states during the week indicated that pastures in most sections were quite badly burned up and that stock was being fed. Rain early in the week under review was reported in many sections but it was generally felt that the long dry period had injured the pastures permanently and unless considerable rain followed, little could be expected from the pastures during the fall months. The effect of the hot weather is now being felt in the lighter receipts and poorer quality and the latter undoubtedly was of most importance as it was because of the scarcity of fine butter that the market continued firm. Many of the usually fine marks arrived showing prominent hotweather defects. Regular buyers of fancy butter were forced to turn their back and look among other shipments for their requirements.

SOME SHORT HELD BUTTER USED

On account of the scarcity of the finer quality and because of the recent price advance which has made it possible to realize a profit on butter stored during the past few weeks, buyers in many instances have shown considerable interest in short held and storage butter. This had the effect of lessening the demand for fresh butter, and together with the feeling in some quarters that prices were advancing too rapidly, was responsible for a slight blowing up in the trade late in the week under review.

STORAGE HOLDINGS DECREASING

From a statistical standpoint the markets continue firm. The storage holdings at the four markets are showing daily decreases. During the first 9 days of the month stocks of butter in storage at the four markets have been reduced 468,000 lbs. as compared with an increase of 265,000 lbs. during the same period last year. The storage report for the entire country, released on Friday, showed holdings on September 1st of 128,446,000 lbs. as compared with 126,442,000 lbs. on September 1st, 1924, and 115,812,000 lbs. as a September 1st 5-year average. Not enough time has elapsed since the release of this report to ascertain just what effect these figures will have on the market. Since estimates by the trade for the September 1st holdings were comparatively close to the figures released, it appears that little immediate reaction will be felt.

FOREIGN MARKETS ABOUT STABLE — COPENHAGEN LOWER

There has been no startling change in the foreign situation and markets are reported in a fairly steady position. Domestic prices have worked higher during the past two weeks but even with the advance there is practically no possibility of imports at the moment. Danish markets declined rather abruptly with Copenhagen official quotation: Danish butter declined 7c, and the total decline on Danish markets, converted at Exchange of the day, is equivalent to 46.75c per pound as compared with 46.75c per pound the week previous.

(See other side for monthly cold storage report)