

Wheat.

Now that the great deal in December wheat is a thing of the past all interest is centred in May wheat. It is yet too early to say what the prospects will be. It is reported that the Leiter crowd promise a surprise later on, but they have such a large amount of wheat on hand, estimated at 12,000,000 bushels, they may find that they will not be able to do all they think they can. At present they are holding their wheat at about ten cents a bushel above the present price for May wheat. During the week May wheat dropped to 89 1/2c., or, practically, 20c. less than the highest price bid for December wheat. The price of wheat during the week has run between 90c. and a little over 91c. at Chicago. What it will be in May is the quandary upon which thousands upon thousands of the people of this continent will speculate from now until the end of May. The visible supply of wheat, which has steadily increased in the face of a heavy export demand; the Australian crop, which is almost sure to be a large one, allowing of some wheat for export, and the condition of the winter wheat in the spring, are all factors that enter into the determining of the price of May wheat.

Early in the week the price of wheat in Toronto fell away about a cent a pound, in sympathy with the decline in Chicago. 82c. has been the ruling price during the week, holders asking 83c., but the close of the week saw sales at 83c. Red winter wheat brings 88c. to 89c. on the farmers' market, Toronto, and white winter 85c. to 87c.

Manitoba wheat is also a little easier, being 98c. at Ontario points.

Barley and Oats.

There is no improvement in the market for barley; it is dull, and prices remain at the same old figures, 32c. to 33c. for No. 2, and 25c. to 27c. for feed. At Montreal 34c. to 35c. is given for feed barley, and 50c. to 54c. for old malting grades.

The market for oats is a little easier in sympathy with wheat. There has been a little undue excitement in oats on account of the wheat scare, but it was unwarranted. The ruling price seems to be about 24 1/2c. for white oats in car lots, north and west freights. At Montreal oats are quoted at about 27 1/2c.

Peas and Corn.

Peas are in active demand, and prices have advanced a few cents. East of Toronto they are now bringing 50c., while west of that point they are quoted at 49c., cars, north and west.

At Montreal prices, too, have advanced in sympathy with a stronger demand from the Old Country.

The market for corn is about 1/2c. better, being now 27 1/2c. for yellow corn west.

Rye and Buckwheat.

Rye is steady at 44 1/2c. to 45c. west, and at Montreal at 52c.

The price of buckwheat has declined a little during the week. At Toronto it is quiet at 30c. to 31c. for cars west.

At Montreal prices range from 35c. to 36c.

Millfeed.

The market for millfeed is dull. Shorts are quoted at \$10 to \$12 per ton by the carload, while bran is quoted at \$7.50 west. At Montreal bran is worth \$10.75 to \$11 in bulk, and shorts are quiet at \$12 to \$12.50 according to grade.

Potatoes.

Potatoes continue dull at 60c. on the tracks in car lots, out of stores 70c. At Montreal 55c. to 57 1/2c. seems to be the ruling price in car lots, while jobbing lots sell at from 65c. to 70c.

Apples.

A good trade in apples has been done in the Old Country during the holiday season, but on this side the water trade has been quiet. They are quoted all the way from \$1.50 to \$4.50 per bbl. Dried apples are worth 5c. to 5 1/2c. per pound.

Cheese.

There has been no occasion to alter the estimated number of boxes of cheese on this side the water as reported last week. The stocks on hand at three of the principal ports in England have been cabled as follows:

	Boxes.
Liverpool.....	140,000
Bristol.....	120,000
London.....	280,000

Total..... 540,000

This is quite an increase upon the stocks

held at this time last year. The price of cheese, however, is from 1 1/2c. to 2c. lower, and this will tend to increase consumption. Increased enquiries have been received from the old country, which would go to show that buyers there fear that there may possibly be a shortage before the new cheese comes in. Sales of 4,000 boxes are reported at Montreal during the week, at prices ranging from 8 1/2c. to 8 3/4c. per pound. Business, though, is slow at these figures as holders are holding out for higher prices in view of the increased cable inquiries at higher limits. The stocks here are not thought to be any too large.

Butter.

Sales are reported at Montreal of fresh-made creamery butter at 19c., 19 1/4c. and 19 1/2c. The market is quiet, but steady. Early creamery butter held in cold storage sells for 16 1/2c. to 18c. There seems to be a great scarcity of low grade dairy butter, and we hope it may always continue that way. If all the butter produced was made up in creameries, there would soon be no poor dairy butter to sell for 6c. to 11c. per pound as at present. Bakers and confectioners who use this grade of butter have been obliged to buy roll butter at about 15c.

At Toronto choice dairy pound rolls bring 17c. to 17 1/2c. Choice tubs are scarce at 15c. to 16c.

Poultry.

Reports from the Old Country state that some of the later shipments of poultry were not so successful as the earlier ones were. At Montreal the demand for dressed poultry of all kinds has been good. Fresh-killed turkeys bring 9 1/2c.; frozen lots, 8 1/2c. to 9c. Geese, 6 1/2c. to 7c. Chickens, 6 1/2c. to 7 1/2c. Ducks are rather scarce at 8c. to 8 1/2c.

At Toronto the market for dressed poultry is somewhat easier. Turkeys bring 7 1/2c. to 8c. Ducks, 45c. to 75c., and chickens, 30c. to 50c. per pair.

Eggs.

The egg trade continues good. At Toronto the market is steady at 16c. for fresh eggs, in case lots. On the farmers' market they bring 20c. Cold storage and held fresh eggs are slow at 14c. and limed eggs about 3c. lower.

At Montreal good boiling stock bring 22c. to 23c. Cold storage eggs bring 17c. to 18c. and limed bring from 12c. to 15c.

Cattle.

American cattle buyers are complaining that a large amount of the cattle offering in the western markets are only half finished. On a recent day four-fifths of the receipts at the Chicago yards were animals of this class, and, of course, prices are less for them. Something of the same thing prevails here. The quality of the cattle offering is not first class.

First-class steers for export bring 4c., and extra ones 4 1/4c., but the great majority are bought at 3 1/2c.

In butchers' cattle, the general quality is poor, anything choice runs up to 4c., but the usual price is from 3c. to 3 1/2c. per pound. Quite a number of cattle have been taken for Harris' new abattoir and this tends to steady prices.

The trade in stockers and feeders is quiet, only a few are being taken for the Buffalo market. Light stockers bring from 2 1/2c. to 3 1/4c. per lb. A few feeders are called for at prices ranging from 3 1/4c. to 3 1/2c. per lb. Good calves sell well in Toronto at from \$5 to \$8. Poor ones are not wanted.

Sheep.

The trade in sheep is quiet, 3c. to 3 1/4c. per lb. for shipping sheep and \$3 to \$4 each for butchers' sheep seem to be the ruling prices at Toronto. Lambs are firm and bring 4 1/2c. to 4 3/4c. per lb. The market for lambs in Buffalo continues strong for choice lambs, prices running up to \$5.90 per cwt. for choice ones.

Hogs.

Hogs are active sellers on the market. Prices have advanced in sympathy with the advance for dressed hogs. Choice selections now bring \$5 per cwt. weighed off the cars. Light hogs and thick, fat hogs bring 4 1/2c.; sows, 3c. to 3 1/4c.; stags, 2c. to 2 1/4c. per lb. All kinds of hogs are wanted.

Dressed Hogs.

Local dealers quote \$6.50 per cwt. for hogs weighing from 90 to 150 lbs., and \$6.25 per cwt. for hogs weighing from 150 to 250 lbs. Sales at Montreal are reported at \$6.50 to \$6.60 for round lots, and at \$6.75 to \$6.85 for smaller quantities.

Hay.

No. 1 baled hay goes for \$11 to \$11.25 per ton in car lots. While at Toronto there is no change from the steady figures of \$8 to \$8.75 per ton.

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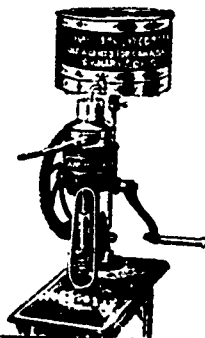
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Messrs. Richardson & Webster. Jarvis, Ont., July 26th, 1897. GENTLEMEN,—In reply to your letter of the 22nd, I would say the American Cream Separator that I purchased from you last September has done all that you claimed for it. I went to Toronto fair last fall with the intention of buying a separator; after looking over the different makes, I concluded to buy the "American," and it has given me entire satisfaction. I find it runs easy, is no trouble to keep in repair, and it is a clean skimmer. In my opinion it is the most perfect machine on the market.

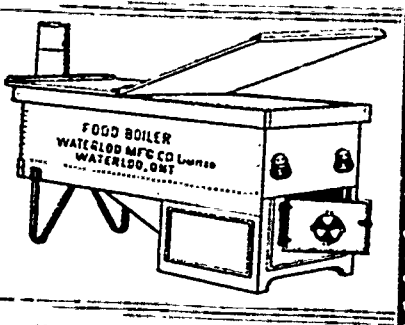
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