

MARKET REVIEW AND FORECAST.

Office of FARMING,

44 and 46 Richmond street W., Toronto.

April 4th, 1898.

In Canada perhaps more than in any other country a fresh impetus is always given to trade at the opening of navigation. The opening is expected along a good deal earlier this year, and business men are now looking forward to its giving our growing trade a fresh start. Aside from this, however, the general trade is good. Capitalists are more ready to invest their capital than they were a year ago. One of the sure signs of a trade revival is the demand for money, which is good just now. Everything, therefore, points towards a large extension of Canadian trade this season, and of course the farmer will benefit from it as much as anyone else.

Wheat.

As the season advances the wheat farmer foretold some months ago in some quarters gets farther and farther away. The world's wheat supply in sight at the present time is \$,952,000 bushels more than at the same time last year. Besides, nine months of the cereal year have been supplied. The total supply in sight is 68,701,000 bushels. The crop prospects from almost every portion of America are good and indications point to a large yield. In Western Ontario especially is the winter wheat looking well. Latest reports show that there is plenty of wheat in some parts of Manitoba.

The wheat situation on the whole shows a somewhat easier tendency, and with the exception of Chicago and the West, where prices are bolstered up several cents above the ruling market figures owing to the Leiter deal, there is nothing to warrant higher prices. Of course a European war might change the complexion of things considerably.

The Toronto market has shown an easier feeling during the week till Friday, when there was a better demand with prices ranging from 83 to 84 cents north and west. Manitoba was steadier at \$1.10 at North Bay, and \$1.09 at other Ontario points.

Barley and Oats.

Barley is dull and unchanged. No. 2 grade is nominal at 40c., while feed barley is worth about 33c. for car lots, west. Feed barley at Montreal brings 40c. to 42c.

Oats have been dull during the past week, owing to liberal stocks in the United Kingdom and the anxiety of holders to realize. Prices advanced a little towards the close of the week. About 29c. to 29½c. is the ruling price for oats north and west. At Montreal oats are easy at 33½c. to 34c. in store.

Peas and Corn.

Peas are one cent lower. The market is steady at 55c. for cars north and west, and 56c. east. The demand from the Old Country is limited. At Montreal 20,000 bushels have been sold at 65c. afloat in May. Out of store they bring 63c. to 63½c.

The offerings of Canadian corn are light, and prices have advanced about one cent; 31c. to 31½c. seems to be the range of prices. American corn at Toronto is quoted at 30½c. At Montreal American corn is quoted at 35c. to 35½c. afloat in May, and out of store now at 39c. to 40c.

Buckwheat and Rye.

Only small quantities of buckwheat are offering, and the market is firm at 37c. for cars west. At Montreal sales have been made out of store at 40½c. to 47c.

The rye market declined over one cent last week, 48c. to 49c. being the best prices going. At Montreal rye is only nominal at 58c. to 60c. out of store.

Bran and Shorts.

The season of greatest demand for mill products will soon be over. Last week the city millers raised the price of bran to \$15 per ton delivered, and shorts to \$16. In quantity \$12.50 to \$13 is asked for car lots west for shorts and \$11 for bran. At Montreal bran is changing hands at \$14.25 to \$14.50 and shorts at \$16 to \$16.50.

Timothy and Clover Seed.

Red clover seed is quoted at \$3 to \$3.40; alsiike at \$3.25 to \$4; and timothy seed at \$1.25 to \$1.35. At Montreal red clover is bringing \$3.25 to \$4; alsiike \$3.50 to \$4.25; and timothy seed \$1.50 to \$2, according to quality and the size of the lot.

Potatoes.

Potatoes are dull and easier. 55c. is about

all they are worth by the car on the tracks. Out of store they bring 63c. to 65c. At Montreal they are worth 55c. to 60c. per bag by the car lot.

Poultry.

Poultry is very quiet, the offerings small with a good demand. Turkeys bring 12½c and chickens 55c. to 65c.

Eggs.

The supply of eggs continues very liberal, and prices declined to 9½c. The cold snap will send prices up a few cents but at time of going to press they were still 9½c. At Montreal sales have been reported at low figures and lower figures are expected soon.

Maple Syrup.

Maple syrup is in good demand at 45c. for wine gallons and 90c. for imperials. At Montreal the receipts of maple syrup have been large. Sales have been reported at 50c. for small tins and 60c. for large tins for genuine maple syrup. Sugar is being sold all the way from 6c. to 8c. per pound.

Cheese.

There is not very much change in the cheese situation, though cable reports show a slightly steadier feeling since the auction sales of a week ago. There has been a little more business done during the week on this side, the ruling prices being from 7½ to 7¾c. This is for old cheese. The probability that very little foddler cheese will be made seems to be having a good effect upon the market.

Butter.

The butter market still continues good on this side, though latest cable reports from England show a decline of 2 shillings per cwt. (112 lbs.) owing to increased supplies from Denmark. The market here seems to be quite independent of the export trade, and prices are governed mostly by the local demand. Reports from Montreal show that the supply of creamery butter is scarcely more than sufficient for the local demand. A great many cheese factories are now making creamery butter and realizing good prices. Finest fresh creamery brings from 20 to 21c. per lb. at Montreal. Below finest sells for from 19c. to 20c. Creamery continues to be in good demand in Toronto and brings 22c. in prints and 20c. for tubs.

Dairy farmers' butter is gradually being supplanted by creamery. At Toronto dairy is bringing from 18c. to 18½c. and from 17½c. to 18c. in tubs at Montreal.

Cattle.

The supply of cattle on Tuesday's market was not very large and prices were firm, but Friday's market was an exceedingly large one and values dropped a little.

Export Cattle.—There was considerable demand for shipment to St. John: on Tuesday's market prices ran up to 4½c. for some extra choice animals, but about 4¼c. is the top price for good export cattle, while ordinary cattle sell at 4c. and lower. Export bulls bring from 3c. to 3½c.

Butchers' Cattle.—There was a good trade done last week in choice stock for the Easter market. For choice animals 4c. to 4¼c. and even 4½c. can be obtained, but the more ordinary ones go at \$3.75 to \$3.90 per cwt., common to medium bring 2½c. to 3½c. per lb. At Montreal choice butchers' cattle sold up to 5c. a pound for the Easter trade.

Stocks and Feeders.—Considerable demand from Buffalo was experienced again last week and prices ran from \$3.25 to \$3.60 per cwt. for light stockers, and \$3.60 to \$3.65 for good feeders.

Milk cows and calves.—Offerings are light. Prices run from \$25 to \$42. Calves bring from \$2 to \$9, according to quality.

Sheep.

Butchers' sheep and sheep for export continue steady at 3c. to 3½c. Bucks bring 3c. The English market is about 4c. better. Yearlings bring from \$5.25 to \$5.75 per cwt. Spring lambs bring from \$3.50 to \$5.

Hogs.

The offerings are heavy. Prices did not decline on Tuesday's market from those previously reported. On Friday, however, there were 7,000 hogs on the market and prices declined 15c. The best price for choice bacon hogs is \$4.70 to \$4.75. Light hogs \$4.50, and thick, fat hogs \$4.30 to \$4.35.

Hay.

The hay market is very quiet at \$8 to \$8.50 per ton on the tracks. At Montreal it is \$10.50 to \$11 for No. 1 on the tracks. Hay still goes forward to England, and there is more inquiry for choice clover hay.

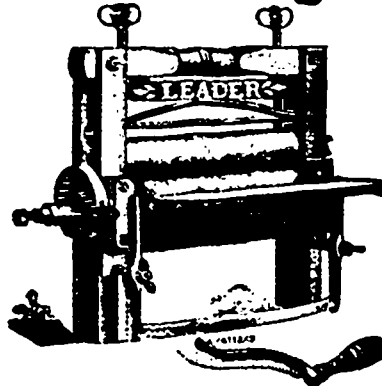
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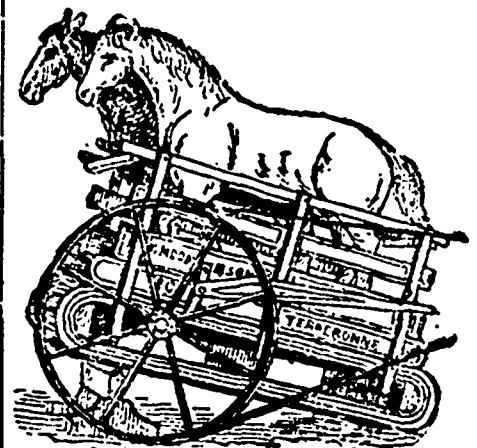
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