

Market Review and Forecast

Office of FARMING,
Confederation Life Building,
Toronto, Feb. 26th, 1900.

Reports from country merchants seem to show that farmers are well supplied with money, and are paying more cash over the counter for goods purchased on spot than ever before. We trust that this glowing summary in regard to the position of the farmer from one of our trade journals has the stamp of truth upon it. General wholesale trade is looking forward to a good spring business. Money continues ample for all legitimate trade. The relief of Kimberley and General Roberts' movements have no doubt given a feeling of relief to financial and commercial circles generally.

Wheat.

The wheat market shows little material change during the week, though on the whole there has been a slightly easier tendency in some quarters. For several weeks past the market early in the week has ruled firm with a higher tendency, only to ease off at the end of the week, leaving the market in about the same position as at the beginning. There has been an extra export demand during the past ten days which has made things more active, but as this has been for the present supplied an easier feeling prevails. An easier feeling is reported at Montreal out of sympathy with Chicago and Liverpool. A lot of spring wheat is reported sold east of Toronto at 66½c. for export. Manitoba No. 1 hard has changed hands at Fort William at 66 to 66½c., with some holders asking 67c. The demand here is only fair, and, if anything, the market is easier at 65 to 66c. for red and white north and west, and 69 to 70c. for goose. On Toronto farmers' market red and white bring 69 to 71c.; spring file, 70½c., and goose, 71½c. per bushel.

Oats and Barley.

An advance of 3d. per cwt. is reported in the English market for Canadian oats and stocks are light. On this side the oat market continues to strengthen and sales are reported at 27 to 27½c. f.o.b. at points west of Toronto and 28½c. at points east for export. Oats are quoted here at 28c. east and 26 to 27½c. west. On the farmers' market oats bring 30½ to 31½c. per bushel.

Dealers here quote barley at 41c. west, and 42c. east for No. 2 and 35 to 36c. for feed barley. On Toronto farmers' market barley brings 44 to 47c. per bushel.

Peas and Corn.

Cable despatches report an advance of 1s. 6d. in England for Canadian peas with the market decidedly firmer and higher. The market on this side is firmer and prices at Ontario points have been moved up 1½ to 2c., with sales at 63 to 63½c., higher freights. Quotations here are 62 to 63 north and west. On farmers' market peas bring 61c. per bushel.

The corn market is firm, Canadian being quoted at 41c. and American at 41½c. on track, Toronto.

Bran and Shorts.

Winter wheat bran is quoted at Montreal at \$15.50 to \$16, and shorts at \$17 to \$18 in car lots. City mills here sell bran at \$14.50, and shorts at \$16 in car lots, f.o.b. Toronto.

Eggs and Poultry.

The English egg market is decidedly easier for eggs as well as the market on this side, supplies being more liberal. Sales of large lots of new-laid eggs have been made at Montreal at 17 and 18 to 19c. per dozen in small lots. Pickled stock is pretty well sold out. The market here is easier and new-laid are quoted at 18 to 19c. in large lots. On To-

ronto farmers' market new-laid bring 22 to 25c. per dozen.

There is nothing much doing in dressed poultry except in a small retail way. On farmers' market here chickens fetch 60c. to \$1 and ducks 80c. to \$1 per pair and turkeys at 12 to 14c. and geese at 8 to 9c. per lb.

Potatoes.

The potato market is quiet and prices somewhat irregular. Quotations at Montreal are 40c. to 45c. per bag in car lots on track. Car lots on track sell here at 38 to 40c. On farmers' market potatoes fetch 45 to 50c. per bag.

Hay and Straw.

The export demand for hay has slackened off and the market is very unsettled. A shipper at Montreal reports having had an order for 5,000 tons for South Africa, but after the relief of Kimberley this was reduced to 500 tons. Prices at country points east have dropped to \$6.50 and \$7 for No. 2 quality as compared with \$7.25 to \$7.50 reported last week. Montreal quotations are \$9.50 to \$10 for No. 1 baled hay; \$8 to \$8.50 for No. 2, and \$7 to \$7.50 for clover in car lots. Baled hay is quoted here at \$8.50 to \$9, and straw at \$4 to \$4.50 in car lots on track. On Toronto farmers' market, timothy brings \$10 to \$11.50; mixed \$9 to \$10; sheaf straw, \$7 to \$7.50, and loose straw, \$4 to \$5 per ton.

Apples.

Heavy losses continue to be reported on shipments of apples to Great Britain, due to the fruit arriving in almost unsaleable condition. A lot of 450 barrels of apples consisting of Spies, Greenings and Baldwins is reported to have sold at about 75c. per barrel, and as they cost \$1.75 per barrel there was a loss of \$1 per barrel. A Liverpool cable of Feb. 21st to Mr. Eben James, Toronto, shows more enquiry for apples, firsts fetching 15s. to 21s. and seconds 10s. to 15s. per bbl. On Toronto farmers' market apples bring \$2 to \$3 per bbl. as to quality.

Seeds.

Clover seed is reported scarce, and more red clover seed has had to be imported this season into Canada than for several years back. On Toronto farmers' market red clover brings \$5 to \$5.75; alsike, \$5.50 to \$6; white clover, \$7 to \$8, and timothy seed \$1 to \$1.35 per bushel.

Cheese.

The excitement in cheese reported last week still continues. Cable has advanced 1s. with 61s. to 62s. for finest westerns and 60s. to 61s. for finest easterns quoted at London. The market continues to advance steadily on this side. Sales have been made at 12 to 12½c. for white and 12½ to 13c. for colored, with some holders asking 13½c. for the latter. There is reported to be a corner in Canadian colored cheese and some are looking for this quality going as high as 70s. English dealers fully realize now that Canadian stocks are low. The outlook for the beginning of the season is very bright indeed. A few fodder goods are reported as being made west of Toronto.

Butter.

There is no Canadian butter to speak of being offered on the English market, where prices have dropped 1s. with a steadier feeling at the decline. On this side the scarcity of choice butter continues, and is especially marked at Montreal where it is hardly sufficient to supply local demand. There is an entire absence of English orders, as prices are higher here than on the other side. Some butter is being shipped from Montreal to Toronto and other points west. Sales are reported at Mon-

treau of choice creamery tubs at 22½ to 23c. and small jobbing lots at 23½ to 24c. per lb., and higher prices are looked for as supplies are very low. Creamery butter is reported to be selling at Belleville at 24 to 25c. in shipping lots. A marked scarcity of dairy rolls is reported at Montreal and sales are reported at 22 to 22½c. in small lots. Here butter is as scarce as ever. Creamery is quoted at 22 to 24c. for boxes and 24 to 25c. for prints. Choice dairy tubs bring 20 to 21c., and lb. rolls 21 to 22c. per lb. in large lots. On Toronto farmers' market pound rolls bring 20 to 25c. each as to quality.

Cattle.

The leading cattle markets in the States have shown but little change of a general character, as compared with those of several weeks past. Too many undergrade beef cattle are coming forward, for which prices rule easy. The run of live stock at Toronto cattle market on Friday, the last market day of the week, was light, as has been the case all week, consisting of 643 cattle, 1,374 hogs, 229 sheep and lambs, and 8 calves. The quality of the fat cattle was generally fair, but too many of the poorer qualities are coming forward. Trade was not quite so good as earlier in the week for exporters and for lower grades of butchers' cattle, prices declining from 15c. to 25c. per cwt. The scarcity of vessel space, and the uncertainty of boats sailing on time caused prices for exporters to be easier.

Export Cattle.—Choice lots of these sold at \$4.75 to \$5, and light ones at \$4.40 to \$4.60 per cwt. Heavy export bulls brought \$4 to \$4.25, and light ones \$3.40 to \$3.65 per cwt.

Butchers' Cattle.—Choice picked lots of these, equal in quality to the best exporters, and weighing 1,000 to 1,100 lbs. each, were about steady at \$4.25 to 4.60 per cwt. Good butchers' cattle sold at \$3.75 to \$3.90; medium at \$3.45 to \$3.65, and inferior to common at \$2.60 to \$3.15 per cwt.

Feeders.—Few choice heavy feeders are coming forward, and choice well-bred steers weighing 1,050 to 1,200 lbs. are worth \$3.75 to \$4 per cwt. Light steers weighing 800 to 950 lbs. each were more plentiful at \$3.30 to \$3.60, and feeding bulls for the byres at \$2.75 to \$3.40 per cwt.

Stackers.—Yearling steers, 500 to 600 in weight, sold at \$3 to \$3.25, and heifers and black and white steers of the same weight at \$2.25 to \$2.75 per cwt.

Milch Cows.—Trade in milch cows and springers was fairly brisk, 20 selling at \$30 to \$50 each, with only a few bringing the latter prices. Good cows are wanted.

Calves.—Calves have been in more liberal supply at Buffalo, where the demand is lighter and prices lower. Prices were steady at Toronto market at \$4 to \$12 each.

Sheep and Lambs.

The Buffalo market keeps in good shape, choice to extra were quotable on Friday at \$7.25 to \$7.35, and good to choice at \$7 to \$7.25 per cwt. At Toronto market on Friday sheep remained steady; the demand for choice export sheep was good with prices firm at \$3.50 to \$3.75 per cwt. for ewes, and \$2.50 to \$2.75 for bucks. Butchers' sheep sold at \$2.50 to \$3.50 each. Lambs were easier at \$4.25 to \$5.50 per cwt. Some picked ewes and withers sold at \$5.25 to \$5.50 per cwt. Too many inferior and buck lambs are coming forward. Wether lambs sell much better than buck lambs.

Hogs.

Hogs have made another step in advance with the market firm and the outlook good. Best select bacon hogs, not less than 160 nor more than 200 lbs. each, unfed and unwatered off cars, sold on Friday at \$5.25 per cwt., and thick and light fats at \$4.62½ per cwt. The