

to have given favorable results. Its drought-resisting qualities have recommended it especially to farmers living in localities too dry for the best development of corn.

Kaffir corn, like other crops, yields best on rich land, responding well to generous treatment. It may be grown on stiff clays, light sands, river bottoms, and on poor uplands, and it will yield profitable returns on soil too poor for other corn. While it will grow to perfection in the Southern and Middle States of the American Union, it is not as yet determined how far north it can be grown successfully. Tests at the Guelph Experiment Station showed the season there to be too short for the grain to mature. Wisconsin Station does not regard it as quite suitable to that climate, and Michigan Station considers corn superior to it as a forage crop in that State.

At the Kansas Station the red and white varieties yielded per acre: The former, 58.25 bushels of grain and 6.05 tons of fodder; the latter, 32.55 bushels of grain and 5.33 tons of fodder. The clean grain weighs 56 pounds to the measured bushel. An analysis shows that it is not so rich in protein as Indian corn, and an experiment at Kansas Agricultural College shows that it is not equal to Indian corn as a feed for fattening hogs.]

BLUE WEED.

R. McN., Middlesex Co., Ont.:—"I have a small clover meadow so completely covered with blue weed (specimen forwarded) that the grass is almost entirely hidden from view. Three years ago there was considerable of it to be seen in the field. Two years ago the field was in corn, and last year I seeded it down. Kindly publish its life-history, and modes of eradication."

[Blue weed (*Echium vulgare*) is a biennial. It is both upright and spreading in its habits of growth, each plant having several branches springing from a single stalk. It grows to the height of from one to three feet, according to conditions. The leaves and stems bear numerous hairs which become harsh as the plant advances in growth. Its flowers are strikingly blue, and grow all along the stem. During the first year of the growth of this plant it sends a strong tap-root deep into the ground, and from this several smaller roots branch off. Blue weed does not blossom in its first year, but early in June the second year the flowers commence and continue for the greater part of the summer. The plant is frequently seen along road sides, even close up to the traveled portion.

Like other biennials, blue weed is not difficult to keep out of cultivated portions of the farm, but its eradication in permanent pastures, fence corners and road sides is not an easy task. Mowing is of little use, because it will flower and seed from low branches, which will shoot out from the mowed off stump. Really good cultivation will keep blue weed from getting much of a footing in the cultivated portions of the farm. A few stray plants growing in a field that is not desired to be broken up the same season should be cut off below the ground with a spade or narrow hoe. In fact, this is the most effective mode of subduing it in any location not under cultivation. The aim should be to keep it from maturing seed, which will require repeated effort in a single season and for several seasons. A good treatment for cultivated fields is thorough autumn cultivation, followed by a fallow or hoed crop, followed by a cereal crop for two seasons, then hoe or fallow again before seeding down, and never leave the field in grass for longer than one year at a time.]

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Toronto Markets.

There is little change to record in the volume of business over last week; if anything it is somewhat lighter. This week's market was overloaded with cattle; as a consequence prices went lower. The principal exporters were not operating, and looking to the fact that the distillery byres must be closed down in a few weeks, the outlook is not promising. The total receipts of all stock, ending June 10th: Cattle, 2,580; sheep, 398; hogs, 6,260. There were over 100 loads of cattle on to-day's market, many lying over from last week; farmers declared it the worst on record.

Export Cattle.—Cables are discouraging, quoting prices no higher than 5 pence per lb.; that is, 10c. per lb., sinking offal. It is not a difficult sum in simple addition to reckon where a profit is made, considering that the highest price was 4c. and the lowest 3c. Quite a few cattle remained unsold at the close of the day; there was no demand for cattle, either for France or Belgium, the price having weakened considerably since the last consignment. Farmers who have had their stock tested last consignment. Farmers who have had their stock tested last consignment. Farmers who have had their stock tested last consignment.

Butcher's Cattle.—Hardly anything went above 3c. per lb., except three or four fancy heifers; some went as low as 2c. per lb. Messrs. Le Roi Vincent and Cantell were on the market from Montreal, but only took four loads for that market. A carload of cattle, 1,100 lbs. average, \$3.20 per cwt. One heifer, 1,190 lbs., 3c. per lb. The demand for local consumption was slow, but an improved enquiry from the East is expected.

Bulls.—A few head changed hands at from 2½c. to 3c. per lb. Three bulls shrunk 166 lbs. from the farm to the market. Three bulls, 6,575 lbs., fetched 3c. per lb. One bull, 1,500 lbs., sold for \$28. Two bulls, 1,300 lbs. weight, sold for 2½c. per lb. Some cattle were cleaned out from the East End byres; Messrs. Thompson and Sheridan, L. Coffe & Co., Atkins & Flanagan, all contributed a boat load.

We give a summary of shipments for last week: Cattle, 3,282; sheep, 611; horses, 576, up to June 4.

	Cattle.	Horses.
London.....	777	349
Liverpool.....	1,436	123
Glasgow.....	849	104
Newcastle.....	220	—
Total.....	3,282	576

Stockers and Feeders.—There is slow demand for all kinds, with the most activity in half fat feeders; none wanted at present; good half fat steers averaging from 1,000 to 1,200 lbs. each sold for 3½c. per lb. Only a few are wanted by farmers to put on the grass.

Sheep.—Only a fair demand from butchers, and the trade is dull; sales nominal at 3c. per lb.

Lambs.—Trade not extralively; yearlings sold fairly well at from 4c. to 5c. per lb., with and without wool, respectively. A nice bunch of lambs brought 5c.; the top price spring lambs were selling at from \$2.75 to \$3.75 per head.

Calves.—These were a little weaker, selling from \$2 to \$4 per head, according to quality. Dealers are pretty well supplied.

Milk Cows.—All finally sold, but the market dragged along all day. Many were poor in quality. Quotations from \$20 to \$30 per head.

Hogs.—The only redeeming feature of to-day was the steady price of hogs. Choice hogs are still keeping in good shape, although prices did not advance. The market was steady at 4c. per lb. for best selections weighed off cars. Too many thick, fat hogs are coming forward; the best price paid for these was 3½c. per lb. Some stores are still wanted; those selling to-day at from 3½c. to 3c. per lb. were all taken early for these factories. Choice lean 125 to 200 lb. hogs run to 4c. per lb. Prospects are not good at present.

Dressed Hogs.—The receipts of dressed hogs have been small for the past few days; choice small hogs sold as high as \$5.25. Light butcher hogs are wanted; the provision market holds steady, and there is a better outlook in the Old Country.

The one feature which makes a welcome contrast on the low prices prevailing here is the export clearances for the week, which were liberal, with a large gain over corresponding period last year.

Wool.—The most active market at present is for wool, and fair supplies have been coming into the market during the week. Dealers are paying about 18c. for choice fleece, 15c. for rejections, and 11c. for unwashed; pulled supers, 21c.

Hides.—No. 1 green, 5c. per lb.; No. 2, 4c. per lb. The business is active and prices firm.

Skins.—Calveskins—No. 1 green, 6c.; No. 2, 5c. Sheepskins—fresh—\$1 to \$1.25.

Butter.—Supplies still keep coming forward liberally, and there is bound to be a heavy surplus at the close of the season. Dairy butter is moving well, but it has to be strictly first-class to bring the quotation, 11c. to 12c. per lb.

Cheese.—Demand very light; new cheese is now being freely offered. Dealers are now buying at 6½c. to 6c. per lb. Sales are made at 7½c. in the ordinary way. Select makes of old cheese are fetching as high as 9c. per lb.

Eggs.—Market steady; offerings at country points liberal; demand good, but not sufficient to absorb the supply coming forward. Sales were made to-day at 9c. per doz.; 10c. asked.

Grain Markets.—The Lake of the Woods Milling Co. sold 700 tons of Manitoba wheat for Australia.

Wheat.—Steady; one load only on the market, selling at 73c. The low prices offered by Toronto buyers is keeping farmers from delivering. There is practically no demand for Ontario wheat for export. The difference in prices of breadstuffs in Ontario between those now current and the quotations for a month ago and this time last year is as follows:

	1896.	1895.	1894.
June 6.	May 6.	June 6.	
Wheat.....	\$0.65	\$0.75	\$1.01
Oats.....	20	21½	39
Barley.....	35	39	60
Peas.....	46	48	63
Flour.....	3.40	3.50	4.75

Oats.—Steady; two loads, 500 bushels, selling at 23½c. per bushel.

Peas.—Only one load in, which changed hands at 51c. per bushel. A bid of 48c. was made to-day from the East.

Hay.—Liberal offerings; 20 loads in; sold slowly at \$10 to \$13.50; one load at \$15 per ton.

Straw.—Five loads of straw sold slowly at \$8 to \$9 per ton.

Montreal Markets.

The long-continued depression in the British markets is causing a very pronounced depression in our own. Since the opening of navigation exporters have continued shipping, hoping against hope that markets would improve; but these hopes have been vain; cattle cannot be bought here low enough to see a margin. The result is that our farmers here are losing, in many cases, their winter's feeding in the price they are forced to take for their stock. On Thursday we saw a bunch of as nice cattle as one would wish to ship, averaging 1,300 lbs. each, only making 2½c. per lb., and another lot, a little rough, averaging 1,350 lbs. each, at \$3.40 per cwt., and the shippers who purchased these lots said that even at these prices there was no guarantee that they would make money. Around these prices all stock purchased for export runs, and they must be the best.

Butcher's Cattle fluctuate considerably, but very few make over 3c. per lb., although an occasional one for a number of markets makes the half. For the first time for a number of markets back, the run on Thursday's market was pretty well cleaned up, though no high prices were paid. Providing the runs are up, though no high prices were paid. Providing the runs are up, though no high prices were paid. Providing the runs are up, though no high prices were paid.

Sheep and Lambs.—Old sheep are unchanged, at from \$2.50 to \$5.00 each, according to quality. Spring lambs are coming in freely and of a better quality generally; the weekly receipts vary between 400 and 500, selling from \$2 to \$4 each.

Calves.—The receipts of calves are falling off now, only about 1,200 being in last week. The lighter runs have not caused any appreciable difference in price, with very few exceptions, \$7 per head being the highest paid. We have heard of nothing above that, but a great many below it—as low as \$1 each being taken for culls.

Live Hogs.—Since last writing live hogs have moved up a full ½c. per lb. here, but on heavier runs reported from Toronto have sagged again about ½c. per lb. Two very choice lots of even average (200) made on last Monday's market \$4.10 in the yards, and another lot of 188 head, not so even an average—about 170 lbs.—made \$4.30 per cwt. The runs so far have been light, and a number of drovers in conversation stated that it was their opinion top prices had been reached.

Hides and Skins.—The active demand noted in our last report has been maintained, and a further advance of one cent per lb. has taken place in beef hides, bringing them up to 10c. for No. 1, 5c. and 4c. for Nos. 2 and 3—both heavy and light. The demand continues active, and it would not be surprising were a further advance to take place shortly. Lamb skins were a further advance to 5c. to 30c. each; calf skins unchanged.

The British Markets.—To say the least, the depression in these markets is unprecedented—sales this week again losing money. It must be remembered that these cattle have been bought very low; that is, around 3c. per lb.; and on a 35 and 40 shilling freight to lose money is something almost unheard of before.

There were offered for sale this week in Great Britain, from Canada and the United States, 11,849 head of cattle, 7,777 sheep, and 19,905 quarters of beef. These were distributed as follows:—

	Live Cattle.	Live Sheep.	Qrs. of Beef.
To London.....	2,688	—	2,618
To Liverpool.....	5,806	6,741	15,087
To Glasgow.....	1,365	501	—
To Southampton.....	—	—	2,200
To Bristol.....	418	—	—
To Hull.....	150	375	—
To Manchester.....	202	—	—
To Dunkirk (France).....	1,141	—	—
Total to all ports.....	11,849	7,777	19,905

This will give some idea of the quantity of cattle and dressed meats shipped weekly from this side. There is to be added to this the Irish shipments, and also Australian and Argentine shipments (shipments from this latter place are dropping off now and will be very light for three or four months), so that, taking everything into consideration, it is not to be wondered at that low prices are the rule.

The French Trade.—The few remarks made in last report with reference to French shipments seem to have been verified earlier than at first supposed, as the last steamer has sailed for there (on the 29th), and so far as the steady trade is concerned it is at an end, and the Canadians in France are coming home. The other firms who have been shipping to that place also left for France to-day.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

Top prices for different grades of live stock, with comparisons:—

	Present Prices.	Two weeks ago.	1895.	1894.
CATTLE.				
1500 lbs. up.....	\$4.35	\$4.25	\$6.00	\$4.90
1350 @ 1500.....	4.50	4.40	6.00	4.90
1200 @ 1350.....	4.40	4.30	5.85	4.75
1050 @ 1200.....	4.25	4.15	5.30	4.70
900 @ 1050.....	4.25	4.15	5.10	4.45
Stillers.....	4.15	4.00	5.30	4.50
Stks. and F.....	3.90	3.80	4.25	3.95
Fat cows.....	4.15	3.85	4.60	3.85
Canners.....	2.40	2.30	2.65	2.60
Bulls.....	3.50	3.40	4.10	3.75
Calves.....	5.25	5.00	6.00	4.50
Texas steers.....	4.00	3.90	4.95	4.40
Texas C. & B.....	3.10	3.35	3.75	2.75
Hogs.				
Mixed.....	3.45	3.50	4.85	4.80
Heavy.....	3.40	3.47	4.90	4.80
Light.....	3.60	3.55	4.65	4.80
Pigs.....	3.55	3.40	4.50	4.70
SHEEP.				
Natives.....	4.50	4.00	4.60	4.60
Western.....	4.10	3.65	4.50	4.50
Texas.....	3.50	3.60	3.65	3.65
Lambs.....	5.95	5.15	5.00	5.00
Spring Lambs.....	6.35	6.00	6.00	5.50

Cattle feeders feel the low prices quite keenly, and the demand for stock cattle and "feeders" is therefore smaller than it was awhile ago, though feed prospects are better.

The cattle market is uneven. The quality of the offerings is generally poor to medium, and many of the cattle are good enough. On the 14th day recently cattle sold as follows: A load of extra fine 1,427-lb. Polled-Angus steers sold at \$4.50, but only one other lot of cattle sold above \$4, some 1,301-lb. steers going at \$4.20. Steers averaging 940 to 1,725 lbs. sold at \$3.35 to \$4.00; bulk, \$3.75 to \$4; Colorado, 1,527 to 1,565 lbs., sold at \$3.70 to \$3.85, and coarse westerns at \$3.30 to \$3.40. Texas steers sold at \$2.55 to \$3.50; native cows, \$1.40 to \$3.15; heifers, \$2.40 to \$3.65; bulls, \$1.90 to \$3.10; stags and oxen, \$2.60 to \$3.65; veal calves, \$2.50 to \$3.05, and stockers and feeders, \$2.40 to \$3.75.

Distillery cattle have been selling lately largely at \$3.75 to \$4.10. Choice veal calves have been selling well, as is usual in strawberry time.

Hog dealers are divided as to what the future will bring. Some of them think low point has been reached, and that supply will fall short from now on, but by far the larger number take a much more bearish view of the situation.

The following shows the latest prices on various kinds of meat products compared with a year ago:—

	1896.	1895.
PORK, PER BARREL.		
Clear Pork.....	\$7.50 @ \$8.00	\$12.50 @ \$13.00
Mess Pork.....	7.15 @ 7.20	12.50 @ 12.62½
Family Pork.....	7.50 @ 8.00	12.00 @ 12.50
LARD, PER 100 LBS.		
Prime contract.....	4.22½ @ 4.25	6.52½ @ 6.55
GREEN MEATS, PER 100 LBS.		
Hams.....	7.00 @ 7.12½	8.12½ @ 8.25
Shoulders.....	3.75 @ 3.87½	5.37½ @ 5.50
Picnic Hams.....	4.00 @ 4.50	5.62½ @ 5.75
Bellies.....	4.50 @ 6.50	7.00 @ 8.00
PICKLED MEATS, PER 100 LBS.		
Hams.....	7.50 @ 7.62½	8.50 @ 8.62½
Shoulders.....	4.25 @ 4.50	5.50 @ 5.62½
Picnic Hams.....	4.25 @ 4.75	5.87½ @ 6.00
Bellies.....	6.00 @ 7.00	6.75 @ 7.75
DRY SALTED MEATS—BOXED—PER 100 LBS.		
Shoulders.....	4.00 @ 4.25	5.37½ @ 5.50
Long Clear Sides.....	4.25 @ 4.50	6.62½ @ 6.75
Short Clear Sides.....	3.87½ @ 4.00	6.62½ @ 6.75
Short Rib Sides.....	4.05 @ 4.10	6.40 @ 6.45
Long Cut Hams.....	7.75 @ 8.00	9.25 @ 9.50
Staffordshire Hams.....	7.75 @ 8.00	9.25 @ 9.50
Cumberland Sides.....	5.25 @ 5.75	6.50 @ 6.75
Bellies.....	4.00 @ 5.00	6.50 @ 7.50
Loose lots quotable at 20c. per 100 lbs. below these figures.		
SMOKED MEATS—PACKED—PER 100 LBS.		
Hams.....	8.50 @ 9.50	9.75 @ 10.00
Shoulders.....	5.00 @ 5.12½	6.25 @ 6.37½
Short Rib Sides.....	4.37½ @ 4.50	6.75 @ 6.87½
Short Clear Sides.....	4.50 @ 4.62½	7.00 @ 7.12½
Breakfast Bacon.....	7.00 @ 8.00	8.00 @ 9.00
BEEF PRODUCTS, PER BARREL.		
Beef Hams.....	13.50 @ 13.75	18.00 @ 18.50
Extra Mess Beef.....	6.25 @ 6.50	8.00 @ 8.50
Plate Beef.....	6.75 @ 7.00	9.00 @ 9.50
Extra Plate Beef.....	7.75 @ 8.00	10.00 @ 10.25
TALLOW AND GREASE, PER 100 LBS.		
Tallow, city.....	3.00 @ 3.50	4.50 @ 5.12½
Tallow, country.....	2.75 @ 3.12½	4.00 @ 4.75
Greases.....	2.25 @ 3.25	3.25 @ 4.50

There is nothing new to report in the horse market. Trade was fairly active and prices ruled steady. In the regular auction most of the offerings are selling at \$45 to \$90 per head. The quality is rather common.

A Chicago horseman, of considerable experience, declares that the whole country is bare of really good horses and thinks the foreign buyers, who are now operating here, did not come until they had cleaned up Canada's supply of good horses. He thinks the need of the horse among Western farmers is the infusion of thoroughbred blood into horse breeding. Life, grit, and style is what is needed. Broken-down race stallions are doing good service in some places and are certainly ahead of the grade draft horses to cross with the cold-blooded mares of common stock. Some Shetland ponies were recently picked up in this city by a Boston shipper for \$60 to \$100 per head. They were good ones.