

P. E. Island.

We are having fine weather here, just enough rain to keep the ground moist and the pastures green. Pasturage was far better in September than in August. The old meadows are now well covered with a new growth of white clover from last year's seeding. The milk supply at the factories was better the last month than the previous one. There is a grand catch of clover on the newly-seeded meadows, and it has made fine growth since harvest. Potatoes are now being dug. The crop will be an average one, but there is very considerable rot showing in the early varieties. The root crop is growing finely, and will be a full average. Fall plowing is well advanced for the time of year. Fall threshing and shipping of oats has begun. The price is small, 28 to 30 cents, but the oats yield well to the straw. There is less and less oats shipped year after year. Many of the best farmers now feed all they grow to stock, and find it the most profitable way to dispose of it. Feeders who have followed this practice for a few years are finding their farms becoming more productive than formerly, thus enabling them to produce their feed cheaper and increase their profits as the years go by. There was considerable stock changed hands at our late exhibition. Pure-bred stock is being much more generally distributed through the country than a few years ago.

Our recently organized Institute system is giving a stimulus to the breeding of better stock, both for the dairy and the flock. Our dairy output will be smaller than usual, but the price of cheese will average up well for the whole season. September cheese are sold for 10 13-16 cents. Quite a large number of chickens are being fattened for the British market at the Government Stations, as well as by private parties. Good horses are still in demand and many are being bought for shipment to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

There is quite an excitement here just now over the proposition of our Local Government to guarantee the bonds of "The Dominion Packing Company" to the extent of \$150,000.00 at four per cent. for thirty years. This company has already got possession of our only packing house, and they propose to enlarge and extend the business by adding all kinds of canning, and establishing cold storage depots in each county. The people are alarmed, considering the business of the nature of a combine or trust, and are demanding from the Government the particulars of the bargain, which the Government are very slow to give. The Board of Trade has taken the matter up and will have the business explained. It is allowed here that the new company is connected with the "Armours," and it is believed that if they conclude the deal they will control the slaughtering and packing business of the Maritime Provinces, and crush out all the smaller traders who are now competing in the business. W. S.

October 6th.

Ontario Agricultural College Notes.

We are advised that the attendance this year is the largest in the history of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. Last year dormitory accommodation for fifty additional students was provided, and at a late date there were 42 in attendance for whom dormitory rooms could not be provided. Large numbers of applications are coming in for the short course in stock judging, to begin January 8th. Work has been commenced on the new live-stock judging pavilion, by Mr. Brown, of Toronto, to whom the contract was let.

Owing to the greatly increased cost in building, it was found impossible to erect two such buildings as we first outlined for the money given by Sir William Macdonald; so some weeks ago, Professor Robertson, after discussing the situation with the architect and Dr. Mills, struck out a number of rooms which were provided for in the original plans, which have been modified and changed seven or eight times; in fact, he omitted a whole story in the Macdonald Institute. The architect is now completing the plans for the final tenders, which will be called for at an early date, the contract to be let this fall, so that materials and everything can be got in shape during the winter to commence early in the spring, and push the work rapidly through, so as to be ready for pupils at the beginning of the session on the 13th of September next. The building for instruction in Domestic Science, Manual Training, and Nature Study, is to be called the "Macdonald Institute," and the ladies' residence will be known as "Macdonald Hall." It is understood that Mrs. Hoodless, of Hamilton, will have charge of the Domestic Science Department, the school at Hamilton to be closed as soon as the Guelph institution is opened.

Canadian Horses for the War.

The report of the British Commission of Inquiry into the remount charges says that the number of horses purchased in Canada for use of the army in South Africa was 12,098, the contract prices being cobs \$125, cavalry \$140, artillery \$150. These prices included delivery at Montreal. The facilities for moving the horses by railway were good, but the trucks used to transport them are capable of improvement, as owing to their faulty construction many animals suffered severe injury. At the railway company's stock yards at Montreal the horses were fed at a contract price of 40 cents per diem, but Col. Dent states that he found they were not as well cared for as they might have been.

Oxford County, Ont.

Our corn got badly rusted on the leaves early in September, and then a slight frost came and bleached them, so that they are of no account. The stalks appear to be good. Owing to the cool, wet weather, the corn has not matured, and is soft, though we delayed the cutting as long as possible. We had it cut with a corn harvester and binder at \$1.25 per acre. We furnished the twine and put our team on part of the time. We would have made a neater job, and cut it about four inches lower by hand, but we had not time, and it may be worth a good deal to have it tied in bundles. Several men in this neighborhood with corn harvesters got more work than they could do. One of my neighbors cut his corn with his open-back binder, raising up the reel as high as it would go, and took off every other arm; also took off the butter. He says that it works all right. Last spring we sowed about two acres of grass peas. I think they must have been of the "ever green" variety, for they blossomed for several months and we are still waiting for dry weather to get them harvested. The wet season has been very unfavorable for that kind of grain. Some farmers who have threshed say that they turned out very poor. The grain is generally turning out as well as could be expected, but the oats are light and many fields of wheat were rusted or suffered some sort of blight, so that the grain is not nearly as plump as it might have been otherwise. Much of the grain has been "tough" in threshing. The blower attachment on the separator has come to stay. In our barn, three men could mow away the straw in less room and with much less work than seven men did with the old straw carrier. With the traction engine, the blower and the improved water tank, the threshing on the farm has been robbed of many of its terrors. Our roots are doing splendidly; this cool, wet weather just suits them. The potatoes are badly rotted in some fields and will likely rule high in price. The ground where it is not too wet has been in good shape for plowing, but many farmers had not time to plow more than once this fall.

The apples are turning out to be quite a good crop, only some varieties, especially Colverts and Spies, are badly spotted in some orchards. Quite a number of cars of fall fruit were shipped from our station, and the farmers are now beginning to pick the winter fruit. It pays to have light ladders for this work. From 18 to 25 feet are very suitable lengths, made of light cedar poles ripped in two, or of 2 x 3 seasoned basswood, with rungs of oak or rock elm, about 1½ in the center and tapered off to go into ½ holes in the ladder sides. Larger holes weaken the sides. We will not commence to take up our sugar beets and man-golds until after the middle of the month.

The cows are not giving nearly as much milk, but it is very much richer. That of several of our best patrons tested 4 per cent. butter-fat for September. The cheese market has taken a very pleasant jump in price. The cheese we are shipping to-day is bringing 10½, and the Stiltons ½ more. Live hogs are on the decline, I understand in anticipation of the expected dullness of the bacon trade about Xmas time consequent on the large quantities of fowl used at that festive season. Fall wheat is looking remarkably well, and the early sown fields may get too much top. We finished sowing ours on the 17th, but I saw a neighbor getting ready to sow a field on the first of October, and a friend visiting me, from Chatham, told me that the best crop they ever had was sown in October. D. L.

MARKETS.

Buffalo Hog Market Terms.

A Western Ontario hog raiser writes, asking the meaning of several terms, describing different classes of hogs, repeatedly used in our reports of the Buffalo live stock market:

"Yorkers" means hogs bought for the New York market, weighing 140 to 175 lbs. "Roughs" are sows that have had pigs. "Grassers" are lean hogs that have no flesh on them, and are so styled here on account of running on grass, not being fed any corn.

Chicago Markets.

Chicago, Oct. 14.—Cattle—Good to prime steers nominal, \$7.40 to \$8.80; poor to medium, \$3.75 to \$7.00; stockers and feeders, \$2.25 to \$4.90; cows, \$1.50 to \$4.75; heifers, \$2.25 to \$5.50; bulls, \$2.25 to \$4.75; calves, \$3.75 to \$7.60; western steers, \$3.75 to \$6.40. Hogs.—Mixed and butchers', \$6.80 to \$7.40; good to choice heavy, \$6.95 to \$7.50; rough heavy, \$6.35 to \$6.90; light, \$6.40 to \$7.15. Sheep.—Good to choice, \$3.40 to \$4; fair to choice mixed, \$2.25 to \$3.40; native lambs, \$3.50 to \$5.60.

Buffalo Markets.

East Buffalo, Oct. 14.—Cattle—Steady. Hogs—Heavy quotable at \$7.40 to \$7.60; mixed, \$7.20 to \$7.25; Yorkers, \$7.15 to \$7.20; light Yorkers, \$7.00 to \$7.10; pigs, \$6.70 to \$7.00; roughs, \$6.50 to \$6.75; stags, \$5.50 to \$6.00; grassers, \$6.75 to \$7.00; dairies, \$7.00 to \$7.30. Sheep and lambs—Top lambs, \$5.10 to \$5.25; culls to good, \$3.75 to \$5.00; yearlings, \$4.00 to \$4.25; ewes, \$3.25 to \$3.75; sheep, top mixed, \$3.35 to \$3.50; culls to good, \$1.75 to \$3.25; closed strong.

Toronto Markets.

Forty cars of cattle arrived from the Northwest, consigned by Mr. R. Nelson, of Wawanesa, in charge of the only Dan Hamilton, of the same place, also 70 horses which were consigned through to Pembroke on G. T. R. The bulk of the cattle on offer were the best class of feeders and stockers, which met ready sale. Export cattle lower. Butchers' cattle lower. Sheep steady. Lambs steady. Hogs lower.

Export Cattle.—Choice loads of export cattle sold at from \$5.00 to \$5.50 per cwt. Medium loads at \$4.80 to \$5.25.

Butchers' Cattle.—Choice lots of butchers' cattle, suitable for best class of trade, sold to a good demand. Straight loads sold at \$5.00, average weight 1,150 lbs. each. Medium heifers and steers weighing 1,055 lbs. at \$4.40 to \$4.80 per cwt.

Feeders.—Choice well-bred, half-fat steers, weighing 1,000 to 1,100 lbs., were in good demand and sold at \$4.25 to \$4.50 per cwt. Light feeders, weighing 900 to 1,000 lbs., at \$3.75 to \$4.00.

Stockers.—A large number of poor class on offer. All of choice quality, ranging from 500 to 700 lbs., sold at from \$3.25 to \$3.50 per cwt.

Sheep.—Prices for export sheep were steady at from \$3.25 to \$3.40 per cwt. for ewes. Bucks are worth from \$2.50 to \$2.75 per cwt.

Lambs.—The prices of lambs, owing to heavy supplies, were easy and are quoted at \$3.50 to \$3.85 per cwt.

Calves.—Veal calves in good demand and sold at from \$3.00 to \$12.00 per head, or at from \$3.50 to \$5.00 per cwt.

Milch Cows.—Only a limited number of cows on offer. Springers and milch cows are in good demand and wanted. Two choice, well-bred cows, the best seen on this market for some considerable time, sold at \$62.00 per head. Prices range from \$35.00 to \$55.00 per head.

Hogs.—As foretold in our two last reports, hogs have fallen nearly one dollar per cwt., and have not yet arrived at the bottom. We look for still lower prices, and \$6.25 per cwt. is in sight. Farmers always seem to make up their minds too late. Three weeks ago this market asked urgently for hogs, but a small cut was made and for two weeks the supply was short. To-day, for many reasons, hogs are not wanted. Over 2,000 offered on the market each day, and rather more than 15,000 came in the week. Shortage of coal, labor scarce, markets dull, export space hard to obtain, all tend to make the packers indifferent, and there seems no help but that the price must fall even lower than at first expected. Six dollars and twenty-five cents will be the top price for the next two weeks, with a further drop of a quarter for November. Drovers on this market say hogs are scarce, but the Ontario statistics say there were never so many brood sows or hogs in the history of the Province. The city packing houses are preparing for a still larger output, and expect a rushing business in December. "A nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse."

ST. LAWRENCE MARKET.

Wheat.—One thousand bushels of wheat sold as follows: 500 bushels of white at 68c.; 300 bushels of red at 68c.; 200 bushels of goose at 63½c. There is a good enquiry on this market for goose wheat on export orders.

Barley.—Fourteen hundred bushels of barley sold at from 42c. to 44c. per bushel.

Oats.—Six hundred bushels of oats sold at 32c. per bushel.

Rye.—One load sold at 50c. per bushel.

Hay.—Twenty-five loads of hay sold at from \$12.00 to \$15.50 per ton for timothy, and \$6.50 to \$9.00 for clover.

Straw.—Two loads sold at from \$10.00 to \$12.00 per ton.

Dressed Hogs.—Prices in sympathy with live hogs, fell from \$9.00 to \$8.50 per cwt. Very few choice lots reached top price, \$8.75.

Potatoes.—We quoted potatoes in our last report at from 95c. to \$1.25 per bag. Owing to the large supplies the price is back at the old figure, 80c. to 85c.

Dressed Beef.—Beef, fore quarters, \$6.00 per cwt. Beef, hind quarters, \$8.00 per cwt. Mutton carcass, 6½c. per lb. Spring lambs, 7c. per lb. Veal, \$8.50 per cwt.

Poultry is very scarce this season, and prices are likely to be higher. Chickens, per pair, 40c. to 90c. Ducks, per pair, 50c. to \$1.00. Geese, per lb., 8c. Turkeys, per lb., 12c.

Montreal Markets.

Montreal, Oct. 13.—About 600 head of butchers' cattle, 40 calves and 1,200 sheep and lambs offered. The butchers were present in large numbers, and, as usual, there was a brisk demand with firm prices for anything good. A few of the best heaves sold at from 4½c. to a little over 4½c.; pretty good animals, 3½c. to 4c.; and common stock from 2c. to 3c. Calves sold at from \$3 to \$14 each, or at from 3½c. to 5c. per pound. Sheep sold at from 2½c. to 3½c., and lambs at from 3½c. to 4c. per pound. Good lots of fat hogs sold at from 6c. to 6½c. per pound weighed off cars.

British Cattle Markets.

London, Oct. 13.—United States cattle short, 7d.; Canadians, 5½d. to 6½d.; sheep, 5½d.

Liverpool, Oct. 13.—United States cattle, 6½d.; Canadians, 6d.; sheep, 6d.