

# The Farmers' Market

## WINNIPEG MARKET LETTER

(Office of the United Grain Growers Limited, March 25, 1918)

Close—At the close of the market a week ago, prices were near the low point of a considerable slump. On Monday, at the opening, the lowest point was touched when May futures traded at 90 cents. A lot of good buying appeared and prices advanced sharply. During the next few days there was a strong cash demand and a fair amount of good buying in the future market, with prices for May futures ranging between 94 1/2 and 96 cents. On Saturday there was a lower turn caused by bearish sentiment on unfavorable war news. The cash demand also was slow, with a report from New York that the Wheat Export Company would be out of the market for some days.

Barley—There has been a considerable set-back in the price of barley in all markets. Heavy receipts have caused a sharp break in the American markets, and the local prices were naturally affected. While the demand here has been steady at the reduced price, buying has been confined largely to one firm and it is difficult to estimate whether this demand will continue.

Flax—Markets had a wide range during the week. Early advances brought May futures again over the four-dollar mark, where selling became heavier. It was reported, too, that Argentine offerings were large and all markets eased off. At the close on Saturday prices were four cents higher than at the previous week-end.

Month	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
May	95 1/2	94 1/2	95 1/2	94 1/2	93 1/2	93 1/2	93 1/2	93 1/2	93 1/2	93 1/2	93 1/2	93 1/2	93 1/2
July	93 1/2	92 1/2	93 1/2	93 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2	91 1/2

**INTERIOR TERMINAL ELEVATOR STOCKS**  
Movement of grain in interior terminal elevators for the week ending Wednesday, March 20, was as follows—

Elevator	Grain	Rec'd during week	Ship'd during week	Now in store
Wheat	Wheat	92,134.00	551,804.00	809,026.00
	Oats	134,367.00	71,426.00	1,477,796.00
	Barley	1,294.00	1,371.00	46,624.00
	Flax	2,769.00		16,216.00
Corn	Wheat	41,712.40	11,460.30	332,610.10
	Oats	54,778.08	78,330.30	1,203,920.14
	Barley	1,915.30		30,320.40
	Flax	2,531.52	2,270.38	9,334.53
Calgary	Wheat	35,028.00	5,979.00	189,951.00
	Oats	91,325.00	38,761.00	903,698.00
	Barley	10,321.00	1,804.00	60,576.00
	Flax		3,050.00	2,504.00

**THE CASH TRADE**  
Minneapolis, March 23

CORN—Slow demand and 3 to 5c lower; No. 3 yellow closed at \$1.50 to \$1.60.

OATS—Strong cash demand, but futures weak. Premiums unchanged early, weak toward the close, ending 1c. No. 3 white closed at 90 to 91 1/2c; No. 4 white oats at 87 to 91c.

RYE—Strong demand, \$3.00 paid early; sold at \$3.02 late. No. 2 rye closed at \$3.00 to \$3.02.

BARLEY—No market; buyers were not buying. Prices closed at \$1.60 to \$2.00.

FLAXSEED—Quiet, featureless, 3c under May. No. 1 seed closed at \$4.10 to \$4.13, on spot and to arrive.

**CORN IMPORTATION REGULATION**  
Ottawa, March 21.—In order to facilitate the importation of corn into Canada, the Canada food board has worked out a new arrangement with the United States food administration, which becomes effective on April 1.

On and after that date, Canadian importers of corn will be required to secure from the Canada

**FIXED WHEAT PRICES**

Year	1'	2'	3'	4'	5'	6'	T11	T12	T13
1917	221	218	215	208	196	187	215	212	207
1918	184	178	169	150	118				

**LIVESTOCK**

	Winnipeg Mar. 23	Year ago	Toronto Mar. 21	Calgary Mar. 23	Chicago Mar. 21	St. Paul Mar. 22
<b>Cattle</b>						
Choice steers	10.50-11.50	9.50-10.25	12.00-12.75	11.25-11.85	12.75-14.50	12.00-14.00
Best butcher steers	10.00-10.50	9.00-9.50	11.50-12.00	10.50-11.00	10.25-12.75	9.50-12.50
Fair to good butcher steers	8.50-10.50	8.00-8.75	10.25-11.40	7.50-9.50	9.50-10.25	7.00-9.50
Good to choice fat cows	9.50-10.50	7.25-8.00	9.00-10.25	9.50-10.00	10.00-12.00	8.50-10.00
Medium to good cows	9.00-9.00	6.00-7.00	8.00-9.00	8.25-9.00	8.00-10.00	8.00-8.50
Common cows	8.00-9.00	4.00-6.00	6.75-7.50	7.50-8.00	7.00-7.50	7.25-8.00
Canners	5.50-7.50	3.75-4.25	6.00-6.25	4.50-7.50	6.25-7.00	6.50-6.75
Good to choice heifers	9.50-11.25	8.50-9.50	11.00-12.00	8.50-10.50	9.50-12.00	8.00-10.00
Best cows	8.50-9.50	6.00-7.50	8.75-11.00	6.00-7.00	7.50-9.50	6.50-8.00
Best butchers	8.00-8.00	7.00-8.00	7.00-8.00	6.50-7.00	6.50-7.00	6.50-8.00
Common to bologna	6.50-7.75	5.50-6.50	10.25-10.75	8.00-8.40	9.00-10.75	8.00-9.50
Fair to good feeder steers	8.50-10.25	6.50-7.50	9.50-10.25	7.50-9.50	8.00-10.75	4.00-11.00
Fair to good stocker steers	8.00-9.25	6.50-7.50	8.00-9.75	8.00-9.50	8.00-9.50	7.50-10.00
Best milkers and springers (each)	\$75-\$90	\$65-\$80	\$100-\$135	\$75-\$90		
Fair milkers and springers (each)	\$50-\$65	\$45-\$55	\$65-\$90	\$70-\$90		
<b>Hogs</b>						
Choice hogs, fed and watered	20.00	\$14.90	20.50	20.10	17.50-17.90	16.00-17.00
Light hogs	18.00	11.00-12.00			16.00-17.50	
Heavy hogs	16.50	9.00			15.00-15.75	
Stags	12.00-14.00	6.00-7.00			16.75-17.40	
<b>Sheep and Lambs</b>						
Choice lambs	16.00-17.00	11.75-12.25	19.50-20.70	16.00-16.50	16.25-18.50	15.00-17.25
Best killing sheep	12.00-14.00	8.50-9.25	11.50-14.50	13.50-16.00	8.50-16.75	7.00-13.50

### Cash Prices Fort William and Port Arthur, March 19 to March 25, inclusive

Date	Wheat	2CW	1CW	1F	1F	2F	3CW	4CW	Red	Feed	1NW	2CW	3CW
Mar 19	175	98	93	92	91	86	185	180	157	154	360	354	358
20	175	96	92	91	90	85	182	175	150	150	356	351	374
21	176	97	93	92	91	85	180	175	150	150	357	352	375
22	177	98	94	93	91	86	181	176	150	150	357	352	375
23	177	92	91	90	89	84	180	175	150	150	357	352	375
25	177	94	90	89	88	83	170	175	145	140	352	377	360
Week ago	175	95	91	90	89	84	182	177	154	151	352	377	360
Year ago	100	63	61	61	60	56	107	100			262	256	244

food board an import permit covering intended imports for the current month. A separate permit must be secured for intended imports from each different American shipper but the name of the shipper need not be stated in the application. The permit, when issued, will be sent to the Canadian importer, who must send it to his American shipper. The latter in turn will forward it with his own application for an export permit to the war trade board at Washington. Such export permit will then be promptly issued.

This new arrangement is expected to eliminate much delay in bringing together the export application of the American shipper and the import recommendation of the Canada food board.

**NEW STORAGE RATES**  
A new schedule of charges covering freight in storage at Fort William and Port Arthur have been arranged at a conference between representatives of the railway companies and the shippers' association of the Winnipeg board of trade.

The representatives of the railway companies submitted a schedule of charges, showing advances of 50 to 100 per cent on the present scale. The board of trade representatives demurred at the extent of the increases, and a compromise was arranged. The table showing the compromise is as follows:

**Charges for Storage, Fire Insurance and Handling—Lake Ports.**

Present Proposed Scale	Scale	
	Scale	Scale
Monthly rate, summer period	35	55
Monthly rate, winter period	30	50
Maximum rate winter period on certain articles	90	\$1.80
Maximum rate winter period on other articles of low value	65	1.30
Rate per day for short periods	01	01 1/2
Minimum charge per shipment	10	25

At the urgent request of the board of trade representatives it was decided that the new scale as arranged should be made effective as a war measure only, and that the charges should be reconsidered one year after the conclusion of peace. It was decided that the summer period should extend from May 15 to Nov. 14, and the winter period from Nov. 15 to May 14. Hitherto the change from winter to summer period has taken place on April 15.

The conference grew out of a suggestion, approved by the railway commission, that the representatives of the railways and the shippers should endeavor to agree among themselves on changes of this nature. The railways will file the new tariff with the commission at once, to become effective May 15.

## The Livestock Markets

Winnipeg, March 23.—The Livestock Department of the United Grain Growers Ltd. report

## WINNIPEG and U.S. PRICES

Closing prices on the principal western markets on Saturday, March 23, were—

Cash Grain	Winnipeg	Minneapolis
3 white oats	\$0 91 1/2	\$0 90 1/2-91 1/2
Flax	1.65-1.80	1.92 - 2.00
Hay, No. 1	2.87	4.10 - 4.13

Receipts of livestock at the Union stockyards, St. Boniface, for the past week were as follows: Cattle, 2,202; hogs, 5,548; sheep, 5; calves, 60.

The run of cattle for the past week has been more liberal in the neighborhood of 500 head more than the previous week, which resulted in a slightly lower loss of round, especially on the lower grades. Oats and hogs were steady to show at slightly lower prices. Receipts of stockers and feeders still continue light and mostly of poor quality. There is a tendency for a drop in this division as they have been selling so high that the country demand is falling off to some extent. While prices remain about the same, the tone of the market is not so strong as last week.

The run of hogs this week has been fair, in the neighborhood of 5,000 head, coming forward during the week which met steady prices at 20 1/4. Local shippers are at present absorbing all the shipments.

As a result of a small offering, all previous small stuff have been well maintained, best veal calves bringing from 12 1/2 to 13 cents; fat sheep around 14 cents; lambs 16 cents to 17 cents. The supply is not equal to the demand.

## CALGARY

Calgary, March 23.—The United Grain Growers Ltd. report this week a Calgary stockyards receipts as follows: Horses, 538; cattle, 1,824; hogs, 2,490; and sheep, 158. The corresponding week a year ago was: Horses, 515; cattle, 722; hogs, 1,580; and sheep, 45.

The receipts of beef cattle during the early part of the week was light and with a drabgy market prices were somewhat lower. On Wednesday we sold three loads of steers for Mr. Erickson of Ponoka at \$11.75, this being about the highest paid during the week. There were heavier receipts of good cattle on Thursday and Friday with prices ruling about the same, but with new buyers on the market the competition was much keener and practically all good killing cattle were sold. We quote choice grade fed steers 1,100 lbs. and up at \$11.25 to \$11.85, medium steers \$10.50 to \$11, and common stuff \$9.50 to \$10.50. There were no cows or heifers of outstanding merit and 10 cents took the best, with the bulk of the top selling at \$9 to \$9.75. Medium cows brought \$8.25 to \$9, and common killers \$7.50 to \$8. Bulls were somewhat lower, top selling at from \$8 to \$8.40, medium \$7 to \$8, and the poorer bologna \$5.50 to \$7. The demand for stocker steers 700 to 900 lbs. is good and a ready sale is found for all those showing breeding at from \$9 to \$9.50. As has been the case for some time past, stocker cows are the hardest class of cattle to dispose of, with the best bringing from \$7 to \$8. Yearling heifers rising two years old sell from \$9 to \$10, and calves bring around \$4.5. Top price on cattle a year ago \$9.25.

A very light run of hogs was received here this week and everything sold readily. The first sales of the week were made on Thursday at 20 cents, and Friday a hog brought \$20.10, making another high price record for Calgary. Top prices on hogs a year ago \$14.50.

No fat sheep on sale; we quote fat lambs 15 to 16 1/2, wethers 15 to 16, and fat ewes 13 1/4 to 15.

The general trend of the market was somewhat easier and cattle that would have brought 12 cents during the past few weeks sold at \$11.75 to \$11.80. The buyers are figuring that the class of beef being offered here comes too high when dressed out as the dressing percentage of our cattle does not compare favorably with cattle bought on eastern markets. We do not figure that there will be much change for the next month in beef prices, but the demand for stockers will probably improve as the season advances.

## EDMONTON

Edmonton, March 22.—The United Grain Growers Ltd. report this week a Edmonton stockyards receipts as: Horses, 55; cattle, 390; calves, 31; and hogs, 1,033. The corresponding week a year ago was: Cattle, 270; calves, 52; and hogs, 407.

This week's receipts at Edmonton stockyards were a good average run and prices on all classes held steady with the usual demand for all good quality stuff. Best choice finished steers weighing around 1,200 lbs. or over being anywhere from \$11 to \$12, with steady prospects. Choice heavy beef steers \$10 to \$11. Good butcher steers \$9 to \$10, medium grades \$8.50 to \$9, choice fat heifers and cows \$8 to \$9.75. Good butcher cows \$7 to \$8. Stocker cows \$6 to \$7. Canners and cutters \$5 to \$6. Bulls \$5 to \$7.50. Oats \$5 to \$9. Veal calves \$9 to \$11. Top price on cattle a year ago \$9.15.

This week a run of hogs has been heavier than for some time past, and the prices obtained have made a new record in the hog market. Last Friday's close was \$19.50 off ear weights. Saturday went to \$19.75 and remained steady until Wednesday of this week, when they reached \$19.90 and held steady for the balance of the week. We wish to point out the fact that all light hogs between 140 lbs. and 110 are cut 3 cents; under 110 lbs. cut 2 cents. This is done to prevent as many light hogs as possible coming in, and to make the producer finish all hogs before marketing. Top price on hogs a year ago \$14.10.

The usual quotations on sheep. Good fat lambs \$13 to \$14.5, wethers \$11 to \$13, fat ewes \$10 to \$12, stocker ewes \$12 to \$16 per head.

## A PROMISING NEW WHEAT

A new wheat, midway between Marquis and Prelude in the matter of yield and ripening, has been produced by Dr. Chas. E. Saunders, Dominion Cerealists. In the March number of the Agricultural Gazette, the following account of this wheat is given by Dr. Saunders:—

"The new wheat, which has been named Ruby, Ottawa 623, possesses characteristics in ripening and other qualities midway between Marquis and Prelude. It is hardiness, possesses hard, red kernels, gives a fair yield, and makes flour of the highest quality in regard to color and strength. Bread made from it ranks in the first class. This wheat is the result of a cross between Downy Riga and Red Fife. Downy Riga was produced from two early sorts, Gehun, an Indian variety, and Omega from Northern Russia. Ruby is recommended for trial where Marquis does not ripen satisfactorily. A very limited distribution of five-pound samples is being made to farmers requiring an early sort. A sufficient crop will be grown this year on the experimental farms to provide for a generous distribution next spring."

characteristics in ripening and other qualities midway between Marquis and Prelude. It is hardiness, possesses hard, red kernels, gives a fair yield, and makes flour of the highest quality in regard to color and strength. Bread made from it ranks in the first class. This wheat is the result of a cross between Downy Riga and Red Fife. Downy Riga was produced from two early sorts, Gehun, an Indian variety, and Omega from Northern Russia. Ruby is recommended for trial where Marquis does not ripen satisfactorily. A very limited distribution of five-pound samples is being made to farmers requiring an early sort. A sufficient crop will be grown this year on the experimental farms to provide for a generous distribution next spring."

## LAND VALUES AND WAGES INCREASING

The census and statistics office at Ottawa has published its annual estimates of farm values compiled from reports of correspondents at the end of January, 1918. According to the returns received, the average value of farm for the whole of Canada, including land improved and unimproved, together with dwelling houses, barns, stables and other farm buildings, is approximately \$44 per acre as compared with \$41 in 1916. The average values by provinces are as follows: Prince Edward Island, \$43.7; Nova Scotia, \$33.6; New Brunswick, \$28.8; Quebec, \$53; Ontario, \$55.3; Manitoba, \$31; Saskatchewan \$26; Alberta, \$26.7; British Columbia, \$149. In the last named province the higher average is due to orcharding and fruit growing.

The average wages paid for farm help during the year 1917, have increased substantially since 1916, and have again reached the highest level on record. In many cases they are double what they were before the war. For the whole of Canada the wages per month of farm help during the summer, including board, average \$63.63 for males and \$34.31 for female help, as compared with \$3.97 and \$2.28 in 1916. The average value of board per month is returned as \$19.44 for males and \$14.79 for females, as compared with \$17 for males and \$13 for females in 1916. By provinces, the average wages per month for males and females respectively, in the summer season, including board, were as follows: Prince Edward Island, \$39.74 and \$22.63; Nova Scotia, \$53.75 and \$26.43; New Brunswick, \$57.19 and \$28.14; Quebec, \$59.09 and \$28.98; Ontario, \$59 and \$31.96; Manitoba, \$67.97 and \$40.28; Saskatchewan, \$73.21 and \$41.09; Alberta, \$76.09 and \$44.44; British Columbia, \$78.12 and \$44.30.

As soon as it was realized by the revision of 1906, the iron and steel bounties were to be extended until 1911, the Dominion Grange presented petitions to Parliament condemning the bounty system, and urging that the "iron tubs as well as other tubs," should be permitted to stand on their own bottoms. But in its opposition to the bounty system—an opposition persisted in until the Bounties Act was at its final stage in the House of Commons—the Dominion Grange achieved no immediate success. It was, however, undoubtedly due to the opposition of the farmers, and especially to the widespread agitation in the prairie provinces, conducted by the Grain Growers' Associations that the bounties were allowed to lapse when the legislation of 1907 expired in 1911.—Edward Porritt in "Sixty Years of Protection in Canada."

## HALIFAX BLIND ENDOWMENT FUND

Previously acknowledged	\$137.50
Dance held in Marcell Hotel, Halifax, N.S., Nov. 1917	6.00
Wm. Daig, Halifax, N.S.	10.00
Contribution from the Rothbury Baseball Club, Logberg, N.S.	63.00
W. M. Houston, Regina, Sask.	5.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$216.50</b>