

\$2 per acre if in a fair state of cultivation and fair buildings. The exodus to Manitoba and the Northwest by farmers and farmers' sons, as well as others, has been rather more numerous than usual. J. T.

Huron Co., Ont.

The Martin farm, situated just east of Clinton, was sold by auction for \$6,000 to Robert Scott. The farm contains 90 acres of first-class land, with good bank barn and orchard, but a poor house. Mr. Scott now has 200 acres of the best land in Hullett. It is said that this is the highest price obtained for a farm in twenty years in the locality.

Perth Co., Ont.

The continued cold weather since the snow disappeared is doing great damage to the fall wheat near Stratford. In many cases it is being heaved out of the ground. A few weeks ago things were looking very bright, and as there is an increased acreage of wheat in this section this season, the farmers were looking forward to an excellent crop.

Quebec.

Since I last wrote you the weather here has been fine up to the end of March; since then it has changed, making us feel as if we had winter still; in fact, to-day it is as cold as in some days of February. I think we never had more snow in any winter than the last one, and it never left so quickly, probably owing to the fact that the snow fell early in the fall, or before much frost, consequently the ground was not much frozen. The snow seemed as if it thawed from below. I was in great hopes we were to have great clover this year, but with this hard frost it may injure it considerably. There is no scarcity of feed here. Hay is cheap and plentiful. Coarse grain has increased in value, but most farmers have enough to take them through to the grass. As a rule farmers here are taking a brighter look of things. Stock of all kinds is selling well; in fact, it is very hard to get a good horse to buy. Milk cows are scarce and dear, ranging from \$40 to \$60 for good grades. If warm weather sets in we will have early grass. Some have been plowing, but no sowing yet. The outlook for the cheese market is not too bright here. R. N.

Chateaugay Co.

F. E. Island.

Immediately after our last monthly report we had a mild change in the weather which took all the snow off the fields. This mild weather has continued ever since, without snow, and we fear that the nightly freezing and daily thawing has been hard on the clover, but it is too soon to tell yet just how much it is injured. We have had a very fine winter; very little frost, except for two weeks in the last of January. Spring is likely to open up much earlier than usual. At present writing the land is beginning to get firm. Dairy-men are not so enthusiastic about the cheese business as in former years, the low price is telling against it. Many of the factories will make butter during June, and cheese during the two hot months, then return to buttermaking again in September.

Hog feeding has been given quite a stimulus since a packing-house has been put in operation in Charlottetown. Hogs will now be marketed during the whole year instead of a month or two as formerly.

A second packing-house is likely to be built this season by the farmers and run on the co-operative plan. On account of our isolated position, and the packing business being in the hands of one strong corporation, the farmers think that a second establishment will give them the competition that will assure them a better price for hogs. The best quality of hogs sell here now at 5c., and are very scarce. There is not as much enquiry for fat cattle as there was a month ago, but after Easter we expect a better enquiry. Best fat cattle are worth 4c. per lb. live weight. Oats are advanced, and sell at about 32c. Wheat is worth 80c. Potatoes, 30c. Hay, \$3.

All stock have wintered well, as a result of the mild winter, and will go to the grass in good order.

There are no arrangements yet made about holding our Provincial exhibition. The Legislature meets to-day, and they will be asked to increase the Provincial grant. If they do so our Provincial exhibition will be much improved, and be thrown open to the other Maritime Provinces.

Bay View.

W. S.

Toronto Markets.

A considerable quantity of the cattle coming forward are not of the best quality. The run of live stock was the largest of any day this year—120 carloads all told—nearly 1,000 cattle, 400 sheep and lambs, 4,500 hogs. This quantity caused the market to overflow, and the crowding at the scale in the annex was the cause of a good many swear words being used. This state of things interferes with business, temper and rapidly increasing, and the trade requires increased accommodation, it would be well if His Worship the Mayor at once advised that the necessary steps be taken to enlarge the market by taking in the front portion and covering it with improved cattle pens.

Report Cattle.—There is some inquiry for export cattle via St. John's. The quality was better, price a little higher than they were a week ago. The ruling figures were 4c. to 4c. per lb.; the average price would be about \$4.25 per cwt. One load of choice cattle, weighing from 1,200 lbs. to 1,300 lbs., sold for \$4.40 per cwt. A. M. Buck bought one load of exporters, 1,200 lbs. each, at \$4 per cwt. Joseph Gould shipped 15 cars of export cattle via Boston for Liverpool. Mr. Joseph Wilson, the well-known, affable cattle dealer, leaves for the Northwest on Thursday. He will make Winnipeg his headquarters. Several boats are due to sail this week, and shipping space is to be had at less rates than is usual from Montreal.

Butchers' Cattle.—Good butchers' cattle are in demand, and choice cattle are especially enquired for. There was a firmer feeling, due to the approach of Easter; all sold before the close of the day. Prices were, for good to choice, 3c. to 4c. per lb. A. T. Hall sold 23 butchers' cattle, 1,025 lbs. each, at \$3.55 per cwt. W. H. Patterson, of Agincourt, sold four butchers' heifers, 1,150 lbs. each, at \$3.75. Inferior class of cattle sold down to \$2.85. A. W. Maybee bought 120 butchers' cattle for slaughter in the Abattoir and shipment to St. John's and Halifax, at \$2.75 to \$4 per cwt. One carload, 1,110 lbs. average, sold at \$4.10. Mr. John Beers, the genial host of the Bulls' Head, catered entirely for customers, and made a record, dining 140 men in one hour and 15 minutes, without a single complaint.

Feeders.—A. M. Buck bought 11 feeders, 1,000 lbs. each, at \$3.70 per cwt. There is still a good demand for feeders from Buffalo. Prices average \$3.30 to \$3.50.

Stockers.—The Buffalo market was firm, and stockers in demand at \$3.25 to \$3.60.

Bulls.—Steady enquiry for stock bulls for feeding, at 2c. to 3c. per lb.; export bulls, light, \$3 to \$3.25 per cwt.

Sheep.—Wool steady at 3c. to 3c. per lb. for butchers and exporters; they were in good demand and wanted. Mr. Kinnear reports there is a good demand for all kinds. Bucks sold for \$3 to \$3.25.

Spring Lambs.—Not many on offer; the demand not great; sold from \$3 to \$5.50 each. Yearlings are worth from \$5.50 to \$5.70 per hundred.

Cattle.—The supply again light; the market firmer; prices advanced for choice veals, \$4 to \$5 per head, the average price being about \$5.

Milk Cows.—Only a very few on offer; not many wanted; prices are a trifle easier at \$25 to \$35 per head.

Hogs.—Unchanged at present, but a great disposition to go lower next week. Choice sizers, \$4.60, and \$4.75 for thick and light fat. Thick fat, short, chunky hogs are unsuited for this market; the scale is against them at all times. A large number of this class of hogs seem to be coming forward; they are a cross of the Duroc breed, and why farmers have switched off the Tamworth seems hard to understand. A cross of the Tamworth on the Yorkshire White seems to be perfectly satisfactory. Messrs. Park, Blackwell & Co. have commenced building their new pork-packing and killing establishment at the foot of Bloor street, and intend to have a model building costing \$100,000.

Dressed Hogs.—Receipts are more liberal on the street in farmers' loads; mixed weights are quoted at \$5.75 to \$6.15 per cwt. Provisions are moving more freely, and no stocks accumulating, as is the custom from year to year; this will have a tendency to keep prices up.

Butter.—Feeling is slightly easier, although values are unchanged; receipts more liberal than last week. Mrs. Burton, of Markham, always obtains the top price of the market—23c. per lb. Creamery, 23c. to 25c. per lb.

Hay.—The largest supply of hay on the street market (over 50 loads); the price kept steady at \$3 to \$4.

Grain Market.—The receipts of grain were fair, 2,800 bushels all told. Wheat steady, 500 bushels selling as follows: White, 80c.; red, 80c.; rye, 80c. to 85c. per bushel.

Hides.—Hides cured are quoted at 8c. to 8c. per lb. No. 1 green at 8c. per lb.; No. 2 green at 7c. per lb.; No. 3 green at 6c. per lb. Sheepskins, \$1.10 to \$1.25. Calf skins at 8c. to 10c.

Wool.—Fleece, 15c. to 20c.; super, 15c. to 21c.

Barley.—Steady, 500 bushels selling at 35c. to 35c. per bush.

Oats.—Brierley, 4 bushels selling at 32c. to 35c.

Peas.—Steady, 1,000 bushels selling at 55c. to 55c.

Corn.—A sharp advance of 1c. per bushel took place on this market to-day.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

Following are the current and comparative prices for the various grades of live stock:

	Top prices	Two weeks ago	1897	1898
CATTLE.				
1200 lbs. and over	\$4.45 to \$5.50	\$5.50	\$5.30	\$4.50
1000 to 1200	4.20 to 5.40	5.75	5.40	4.75
800 to 1000	4.00 to 5.25	5.30	5.20	4.50
600 to 800	3.85 to 5.25	5.10	4.85	4.40
400 to 600	3.50 to 5.00	5.00	4.75	4.10
200 to 400	3.30 to 5.25	5.15	4.50	4.10
Feed Westerns	4.10 to 5.25	5.25	4.45	4.10
Stallions	3.25 to 5.10	4.85	4.50	3.85
Stockers and feeders	3.50 to 5.05	4.85	4.40	4.15
Pat cows and heifers	1.75 to 3.00	3.00	2.50	2.30
Canners	2.50 to 4.20	4.45	4.00	3.50
Bulls	4.25 to 6.00	6.75	5.70	5.25
Calves	3.75 to 4.55	5.15	4.50	4.15
Texans	3.25 to 3.50	4.00	3.25	3.00
Corn C. & B.	4.15 to 4.65	4.50	4.20	4.00
Corn-fed Texans	3.75 to 4.05	4.05	4.20	4.00
HOGS.				
Mixed	3.65 to 4.10	4.10	4.20	3.85
Heavy	3.65 to 4.05	4.10	4.15	4.15
Light	3.75 to 4.00	3.75	4.10	4.00
SHEEP.				
Natives	3.00 to 4.90	4.75	5.25	3.80
Western	4.00 to 4.75	7.10	6.12	3.85
Yearlings	4.65 to 5.10	5.00	5.00	3.75
Lambs	3.50 to 6.00	5.75	6.00	4.80

The war preparations are calling for large stocks of surplus canned and barreled meats, and this item ought to have some influence upon the meat situation, and it undoubtedly has. On the other hand the war talk tends to make speculators timid and to interfere with a free export movement. The supplies of cattle are moderate here and elsewhere, and from the best information we can obtain there is no evidence of large supplies available anywhere. The quality of the cattle is moderate to good, with no strictly fancy cattle, and rather an excessive proportion of cattle that are fat enough, but not as fine as the general trade would like. The little cattle from now on will be in relatively the best demand. The supplies of Texas cattle are meager, and it will be some time before there is a large supply of such cattle. There is nothing very bearish in the statistics as to supplies of live stock. The following table gives receipts for March, 1898, and the first quarter of the present year, with comparisons:

	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep
March receipts—			
Chicago	217,169	631,731	389,890
Kansas City	124,698	373,321	90,577
Omaha	65,226	135,085	142,795
St. Louis	48,242	136,969	24,495
March, 1898.	455,335	1,178,995	505,167
March, 1897	419,922	1,068,437	526,245
March, 1896	398,706	1,016,367	494,639
March, 1895	369,741	1,090,257	347,496
March, 1894	449,841	1,107,690	326,431
March, 1893	463,616	737,020	319,738
March, 1892	440,383	978,578	258,337
March, 1891	392,165	1,270,428	268,240
First quarter—			
Chicago	680,491	2,070,632	966,980
Kansas City	394,332	991,671	240,434
Omaha	158,783	430,631	333,662
St. Louis	136,899	437,660	69,650
Total 1898.	1,370,505	3,929,394	1,607,716
Total 1897.	1,280,238	3,650,460	1,333,729
Total 1896.	1,242,475	3,210,236	1,199,210
Total 1895.	1,104,677	3,755,541	1,067,984
Total 1894.	1,394,673	3,318,624	1,042,314
Total 1893.	1,453,225	2,421,088	885,706
Total 1892.	1,397,674	3,608,651	691,226
Total 1891.	1,271,544	4,274,569	746,935

A hog salesman is of the opinion that good hogs will go to \$3.75 before the first of next month, but after the May and June runs he thinks they will react to \$4.50. Average weight of hogs at Sioux City last month 254 pounds, against 254 pounds the previous month, 273 pounds in January, 249 pounds a year ago, 261 pounds two years ago, and 200 pounds the corresponding month of 1895. There is a scarcity of prime heavy hogs coming to market. Usually at this season big hogs are plenty enough so there is a premium on the lightweights. A load of common 164-pound Kentucky hogs sold at \$3.75, when good hogs of the same weight sold at \$3.90. Kentucky has a good many mast-fed hogs, which by many are considered better than corn-fed hogs, but the packers do not like them, as they are too oily.

The war scare is having a perceptible effect upon the export horse business, and a number of the representatives of foreign markets have been at least temporarily withdrawn. Among the best consignments of heavy draft horses on the market this week were the loads consigned by William Abel, of Iowa horses, and Jerry Sprowl, Mason, Ill. The highest price scored was for a roan five-year-old pair of Percherons that weighed 3,400 pounds, and sold for \$390. One black

Percheron, weighing 1,750 pounds, sold for \$190, and a bay six-year-old Clydesdale gelding, weighing 1,550 pounds, brought \$180. Mr. Abel's load averaged \$140, and Mr. Sprowl's horses averaged \$150, which is fully \$20 per head lower than the same offerings would have brought in January. Pierce A. Immel, Camp Point, Ill., and Sol. Goleman, Chicago, offered two loads of choice drivers and coach horses yesterday that averaged \$125 and \$130 per head respectively. The horses were trotting-bred animals, many of them eligible for registration. The top price of this consignment was \$155.

On and after April 15th all sheep bought for feeders at this point will have to be dipped, according to government regulations. It seems that Omaha is coming to the front quite rapidly as a sheep market. It ought to do so, as it is directly in the line of a movement from the greatest sheep-feeding grounds to the consuming centers.

Toronto Horse Market.

The Canadian Horse Show promises to be a great success. A large number of horsemen have picked up animals for the purpose of competing for the many prizes offered at the Armouries. Mr. E. B. Clancy bought a pair of heavy horses, paying \$700 for the two—a remarkably good price for a pair at first hand from the breeder. Mr. Geo. Pepper has got a remarkably fine-looking hunter, certain to make a good timber topper. Mr. Geo. Beardmore, the popular M. J. M., has a stable of fourteen good-looking animals that will be seen to advantage in the forthcoming show. Outside the city, Mr. Adam Beck, Mr. Wm. Hendrie and Mr. Sheline Fuller promise a full contingent. The special sale of 60 horses took place at Grand's Repository, Adelaide street. Mr. T. G. Ferris, of Windsor, consigned a score of good-looking, well-matched pairs. One pair of carriage horses, that have been regularly driven in the city for the last two weeks, fetched \$300, the pair.

Montreal Markets.

Easter has come and gone, and with it the hopes of many who had built upon big prices for their cattle. Year after year very much the same results are attained by drovers and feeders who hold back for long or short periods, supposing that big prices will be paid, only at the last moment to sell out at a loss. This year has been no exception to the rule, for notwithstanding the fact that 3c., 4c., and even 5c. per lb. was paid, the year was extremely tame, and very few buyers for show purposes by one or two of the best butchers in the city, whereas the great majority are content to get beaver that cost very much less. In conversation with one of the largest salesmen in the yards—one upon whom we have every reliance—he stated that he was there Easter week selling cattle for just one-half cent per lb. less than he had been obtaining for the same beef for the past month or six weeks. His opinion was that it would be money in the pockets of the farmer if less attention were paid to the fatness to extreme fatness of a few for the Easter trade, and more attention was given to sending good beaver right along to the market.

There was a surplus of good beef, and prices were accordingly low, which latter is to be regretted, for if farmers and feeders were only paid according to the quality of their stock when it is nicely finished, it would be an incentive to better breeding, but they claim, and with apparently good ground, that there is more money in the medium than in the finished beast. The reason as given above is very plain.

On Monday and Thursday, while quite a few were obtaining as much as 4c. and even 5c., the greater bulk of the beef bought for Easter was around 3c., 4c., and 5c. per lb., and perhaps some even as low as 3c. to 4c. per lb.

Lambs—that is, spring lambs—are coming in rather more freely, and prices are not so stiff as two or three weeks back, but owing to the drain the country has been put to during the winter, they are still held at good, stiff prices, ranging all the way from \$2.50 to \$4 each, according to size.

Calves are arriving freely, but good fat calves are still scarce and command good prices, which may be placed at as wide a range as 2c. to 7c. per lb., or \$1.50 to \$2 each.

The Horse Trade.

The gloomy view of this trade taken in our last report has kind of eased off since then, although in the British markets it is the very choicest animals that are making any money. This is unfortunate, as the animals leaving this side are, with hardly an exception, a splendid lot, and it is a pity to see the shippers of them out of pocket on the deal. Locally, the past week has been a very active one, and a goodly number have changed hands, both for city and export account, the demand for the former being mostly for nice drivers for express wagons and good chunks for trucks. These have ranged from \$70 to \$125 each. For export, top prices have been paid—one very fine team of drafts making \$600, but they were something far superior to the general run of what are called staid drafts, these latter ranging from \$110 to \$130 and \$140 each, while chunks bring \$85 to \$105, and sometimes \$5 more; good drivers, on which the range is very wide, all the way from \$75 to \$150.

BOOK TABLE.

"The Domestic Sheep."

A new and thoroughly practical work on the culture and general management of sheep has just been issued from the pen of that eminent authority, Henry Stewart, author of "The Shepherd's Manual," "The Dairyman's Manual," "Irrigation for the Farm, Garden and Orchard," "The Culture of Farm Crops." This new work of 370 pages is profusely illustrated with portraits of the various breeds of which it treats in a masterful manner, also with figures of various contrivances, buildings, etc., useful to the shepherd.

Chapter I deals with the natural history of the sheep, dwelling especially upon the anatomy of the parts and organs and their functions. Chapter 2 takes up the varieties and breeds. Chapter 3 covers the science and art of breeding, taking up heredity, climatic influence, cross breeding, influence of soils, etc., in a way to be of useful service to men who desire to learn. Following breeding comes a chapter on the science and art of feeding, in which ties the possibilities of reaching the climax in excellence of appearance and profit from raw crop material. Barns and stables receive their due share of attention in chapter 5, while chapters 6, 7 and 8 cover, in an unassuming and clearly stated manner: wool—its history, uses, production, care, etc.; minor British breeds of sheep; and diseases of sheep, prevention and treatment. We may say that the 63 pages of this last chapter do not attempt to cover all the ills ever known to sheep, but rather to help a shepherd in the more common troubles of the fold, such as occur in conjunction with and following parturition, and troubles from internal and external parasites, skin diseases, and such other troubles as frequently occur, especially in large flocks.

We recommend this work to the general agricultural public, and believe it will be a useful factor in the assistance and encouragement of this important but too much neglected part of farm industry. It is published by the American Sheep Breeder, Chicago. It can be ordered through this office at the regular price of \$1.50.