GRAIN, LIVE STOCK AND PRODUCE MARKET

Marketing the Hay Crop

Just as good cattle and produce are always in demand at a satisfactory return, so there is always a good market for good hay. By far the greater part of the hay marketed in the West consists of the wild varieties, although the amount of tame hay disposed of is growing each year.

Taking the wild variety; good, sound, clean highland hay is the kind that meets the best demand. It may be taken as an axiom that, unless unforseen conditions enter into the growth of the crop, the hay from the higher land will be of much better quality than that from low, swampy fields. The highland hay has always much better color than the slough. And this point is enough to decide in favor of the highland, for it is generally the color that determines the selling price of hay. Even the best of Red Top hay will sell at a low price if it is off color. There can be no set time for cutting to insure getting the best of color, but it may be made a rule to cut after the hay is fully matured but before it has any chance to ripen. Also the hay should be stacked before it begins to bleach, but it should be well dryed. Of course, in any event it should be cut before frost.

If the field produces a number of grades of hay it is well to classify it before stacking, that is, the coarse, fine and weedy stuff should be placed alone so that shipments of all one grade may be made. It is the general rule that the poorest hay in a shipment will determine the price of the entire carload, so the wisdom of grading is apparent.

The hay should not be baled at the time of cutting unless immediate shipment is to be made, but should be left in the stack until a short time before sending to market. If it is baled and allowed to stand a long period before shipment the outside of the bales becomes poor in color and the selling price is affected downward. In baling, a press about 16 by 18 should be used, making bales of as near 100 pounds in weight as possible. No water should be used in pressing. Some pressers have the habit of throwing in water to make the plunger kick. This should never be done, as even a tablespoonful of water is sufficient to spoil a whole bale.

Weigh each bale as it is pressed, and on the end attach a tag with the weight on it. Something should be allowed for shrinkage. The bales should not be stacked onto the bare ground, but should be placed on poles on loose litter. If placed immediately next to the ground the hay will draw moisture, and steam in the car and, in some cases, the carload is moldy by the time it reaches the market. The hay should be piled on edge and not close enough together to prevent good ventilation. When shipping, immediately send the shipping bill by mail to the dealer who is to handle the load. Many times a car arrives and it is several days before the salesman receives the shipping bill or any advice as to disposal. This places him in a position where he is not able to make the best of the market.

The month of May is probably the best for the marketing of good upland hay, farmers being busy seeding then and receipts being at a very low point. The state of the market at the aforesaid season is well indicated by the present month, hay prices being up about three dollars per ton above early spring. The months following seeding and before harvest, viz., June, July and the first part of August, are not as good as May, but in the latter part of August and through September and October prices again strengthen and sometimes hold well up during November. The winter months see prices at their lowest the market being generally overloaded, except during brief periods when the roads are obstructed by heavy snowfall.

The Western market for timothy is improving each year and could take care of a whole lot more tame hay than at present comes in. Dealers state that they think the time is not far distant when practically the entire city trade will call for timothy. They further state that clover should not be sown with timothy as the demand for the mixture is very poor. The same recommendations that have been given for the baling and shipping of wild hay apply to the tame varieties. The main thing for the shipper to keep in mind is that the market is always flooded with poor stock and such will find a very poor outlet, while there is scarcely ever enough of the best varieties on hand to supply the demand.

Winnipeg Live Stock

Stockyard Receipts

Week Ending May 13

	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep
C.P.R.	607	1,064	1
C.N.R.	79	395	..
G.T.P.	65	21	..
Total	751	1,480	1

Disposition

Stockers West	93
Consumed locally	658

Cattle

Cattle prices jumped a clean twenty-five cents per cwt. during the past week, the best butchers arriving catching $6.25. The raising of the top price was chiefly due to an improvement in the class of stock received, but that packers desired beef was evident from the fact that anything that exhibited even fair killing qualities was taken quickly. All the medium grade thus found a good outlet. Cow stuff sold strong. There is but little enquiry for feeders and stockers. Choice, good sized milch cows and springers are in good demand, but common ones are practically unsaleable.

Cattle prices quoted are:

Best butcher steers	$5.65 to $6.25
Fair to good butcher steers and heifers	5.00 " 5.50
Common to medium butcher steers and heifers	4.50 " 4.75
Good fat cows	4.75 " 5.40
Medium cows	3.75 " 4.50
Common cows	3.25 " 3.50
Best bulls	4.25 " 4.50
Common to medium bulls	3.25 " 3.90
Canners	3.00 " 3.25
Choice veal calves	5.50 " 6.00
Heavy calves	3.50 " 4.50
Good to choice milkers and springers (per head)	$40.00 to $60.00
Common to medium milkers and springers (per head)	25.00 " 35.00

Hogs

The hog market opened firm last week and for a few days it looked as if the seven cent price would be maintained, but Wednesday's run brought a veritable flood of porkers and packers hammered the price down a quarter. The total for the week was not any too large, but the fact that the greater part of them arrived on the same day gave buyers the chance they were looking for. Light pigs are not wanted and everybody is cutting on them; they should be held back and allowed to put on weight. Also every stag and rough sow is due for a heavy cut.

Hog prices quoted are:

Choice hogs	$6.75
Rough sows	85.00 to $5.75
Stags	4.00 " 4.75

Sheep and Lambs

One lonely sheep arrived at the yards last week. There is not a strong demand. Prices are lower.

Dealers quote the following:

Choice lambs	$5.25 to $5.75
Choice killing sheep	4.75 " 5.25

Country Produce

Butter

There is no change in butter prices since last week. Receipts are just about taking care of the trade. Fancy stock is not coming in any great quantities. There is a market for a lot more of the first quality than is being received. Dealers quote the following prices per pound, f.o.b., Winnipeg:

Fancy dairy	20c. to 22c.
No. 1 dairy	16c.
Good round lots without culls or mold	11c.

Lower grades are practically unsaleable.

Eggs

The egg market is stronger than for some weeks, stock being up a full cent per dozen. Dealers are offering 18 cents per dozen for best eggs and glad to get them at that price.

Potatoes

Prices are firm for well kept potatoes, dealers offering 70 to 75 cents per bushel. Some new potatoes are arriving from the southern States and are on the market at sky-high prices.

Hay

Hay deliveries have been light during the past week, both on account of seeding and the bad weather. Last week's prices for wild hay were maintained and timothy of the best quality went up a dollar per ton. Dealers state that they could find sale for almost any quantity of first class timothy, but are able to get but little. Prices quoted per ton on track, Winnipeg, are:

Wild Hay

No. 1	$14.00
No. 2	$12.00 to $13.00
No. 3	10.00 " 12.00

Timothy

No. 1	$19.00
No. 2	16.00

EDMONTON MARKETS

(By Special Wire)

Hay	
Slough, per ton	$7.50
Upland, per ton	$13.00 to $17.00
Timothy, per ton	16.00 " 25.00
Oats	
Best feed	35c.-36c.
Barley	
Choice Dairy	49c.-49c.
Eggs	
Strictly fresh, per doz.	16c.-18c.
Potatoes	
Per bushel	60c.
Poultry	
Fowl	15c.
Chickens	18c.
Ducks	18c.
Geese	16c.
Turkeys	20c.
Live Stock	
Butcher cattle	$5.75 to $6.00
Bulls	3.00 " 4.00
Hogs	6.00
Lambs	6.00
Calves	5.00

TORONTO LIVE STOCK

Toronto, May 15.—Receipts, 44 cars, with 3,066 head of cattle, 74 calves, 23 hogs and 18 horses. With such a large run of cattle offering trade was slow, particularly for heavy cattle. Buyers were present in good numbers and there was a demand for both the butchers trade and for export. Finally they were weighted up at an average 10 to 15 cents off for heavy cattle, and 5 to 10 cents off for butchers. There were no sheep and lambs on the market. Quotations unchanged.

Hogs.—Market steady, but a little weaker than at close of last week. Selects were quoted unchanged at $5.75, f.o.b., and $6.05 fed and watered. Heavy cattle for export $5.80 to $6.00. Butchers choice $5.60 to $5.75, a few extra choice at $5.80; medium choice $5.25 to $5.40.

BRITISH LIVE STOCK

Liverpool, May 15.—John Rogers & Co. state today that the market at Birkenhead was very slow but held firm at Saturday's prices which were for both States and Canadian steers from 13 to 13½ cents per pound. The mutton trade was firm, lambs making from 14 to 14½ cents and wethers 12 to 12½ cents per pound.

Deptford, May 15.—Net receipts of Canadians, 100 head, the market was fair and the price 13 to 13¼.

MONTREAL LIVE STOCK

Montreal, May 15.—Receipts at the Montreal stock yards, West End Market, today were 700 cattle, 50 sheep and lambs, 1,000 hogs and 425 calves, and for the week 3,030 cattle, 350 sheep and lambs, 2,875 hogs and 1910 calves.

Top steers held around $6, and medium at $5.50 to $5.75, cows $5 to $5.25, medium $4.50 to $4.75, bulls $5.25 to $5.50.

Sheep sold at $4 to $5, and lambs $4 to $7. Hogs were weaker at $6.75 to $7, and calves brought $2.50 to $8.

At the C.P.R., East End market, the receipts were 250 cattle, 25 sheep and lambs, 187 hogs and 150 calves. For the week, 800 cattle, 200 sheep and lambs, 1,018 hogs and 1,500 calves. Steers sold at $5.25 to $6.25, the latter price being paid for a very small quantity. Cows sold at $3.75 to $5.50, and bulls $3.50 to $5.25. Quotations on other live stock were the same as at the West End market.

CHICAGO LIVE STOCK

Chicago, Ill., May 15.—Cattle.—Receipts, 25,000; market generally 10 cents lower; beeves, $4.90 to $8.40; Texas steers, $4.60 to $5.60; Western steers, $4.90 to $5.60; stockers and feeders, $3.90 to $5.70; cows and heifers $2.40 to $5.60; calves, $4.50 to $6.75.

Hogs.—Receipts 40,000; market steady to five cents lower than Saturday; light, $6.05 to $6.37½; mixed, $6 to $6.50; heavy $5.80 to $6.00; rough, $5.50 to $5.95; good to choice heavy, $5.95 to $6.40; pigs, $5.90 to $6.55; bulk of sales, $6.05 to $6.30.

Sheep.—Receipts, 20,000; market weak; native, $3 to $4.80; western, $3.50 to $4.80; yearlings, $4.60 to $5.60; lambs, native, $4.50 to $6.65; western, $5.25 to $6.75.

QUOTATIONS IN STORE FORT WILLIAM & PORT ARTHUR from MAY 10 to MAY 16, INCLUSIVE

DATE	WHEAT 1	2	3	4	5	6	Feed	Rej. 1 1	Rej. 1 2	Rej. 2 1	Rej. 2 2	Rej. 1 Seeds	Rej. 2 Seeds	OATS 2 cw.	3 cw.	BARLEY 3	4	Rej.	Feed	FLAX 1 NW	1 Man.	Rej.
May 10	94⅛	91⅞	89⅛	85	80⅛	73⅛	62	..	..	..	..	..	..	35⅞	..							
11	95⅛	92⅞	90⅞	86	81⅛	74⅛	62				..	..	..	36								
12	96⅛	93⅞	91⅞	87	82⅛	75⅛	62					..	..	36⅞	..							
13	95⅞	93⅛	91	86⅞	82⅛	75⅛	62					..	..	36⅞	..							
15	94⅞	92⅛	90	85⅞	81⅛	74⅛	62					..	..	35⅞								
16	94⅞	92⅛	90⅞	85⅞	81⅛	74⅛	62							35⅞								