

## FARMING

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FARMING AND THE FARMER'S INTERESTS.

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## MARKET REVIEW AND FORECAST.

Office of FARMING,

44 and 46 Richmond street west,

Toronto, April 3rd, 1899.

There was a better tone all round in wholesale circles last week than the week previous. The recent heavy snows and rains have impeded trade somewhat at country points. The future seems to be full of promise. There is a firm feeling in the money market, and bankers are demanding more for loans.

## Wheat.

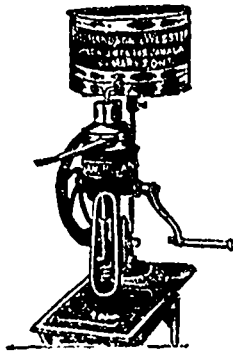
The wheat situation has reached a period when fluctuation in the price is common. This is largely due to the varying reports regarding the coming crop. These conditions produce a dull market one week and a strong and advancing one the next. Two weeks ago May wheat sold as high as 72½¢, which was an advance of 5¼¢ from the lowest price within the week previous. The recent advance in Great Britain was no doubt due to the stormy weather which prevailed, which, it was thought, would seriously injure the crop. The opinion seems to be gaining ground that there has been a serious damage to the crop, but it is early yet to speak definitely. The Cincinnati *Price-Current* of last week says: "Conditions more trying on wheat, but situation cannot be reliably judged until growing weather. Some lowering of vitality seems reasonable. Recent snows beneficial."

Some operators appear to be sanguine that we shall see higher prices, but this is mere speculation. The English market has been somewhat unsettled during the week, and prices have been both up and down for both future and spot stuff. Red winter wheat has sold during the week two cents higher than a week ago at Ontario points. The market here is steady at from 67 to 68½¢ north and west, with holders asking 70¢. Goose is quoted at 65¢ to 66¢ north and west; No. 1 Manitoba hard 80¢ at Toronto, and No. 1 Northern at 77¢. On the local farmers' market red and white bring 70 to 71¢; spring life 69½, and goose 65½ to 66¢ per bushel.

## Oats and Barley

The British oat market continues firm, with a further advance of 6d. per quarter reported. The stock of oats in store in Montreal just now, 1,044,649 bushels, as compared with 450,856 a year ago at this time. The Montreal market, however, is firmer, and prices have advanced fully 1c. over those of last week. Oats are steady here at 29 to 30¢ west. On the local market they bring from 34 to 34½¢ per bushel.

The Montreal barley market is steady at 52 to 54¢ for malting grades. Prices here are nominal at 45 to 46¢ for No. 1 west.



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The quotation on the local market is 44c. per bushel.

## Peas and Corn.

The English market for peas is dull and easy, prices having dropped 3d. to 6d. per quarter. The Montreal market is quiet at 73 to 74c. in store, and 72c. afloat. The market here is also quiet at 65 to 66c. west; 60 to 62c. per bushel is the price on the local farmers' market.

At Montreal corn is reported firm and advancing. No. 2 American mixed in car lots is quoted at 44 to 45c. in store. American is quoted here at 41 to 42c. on track.

## Bran and Shorts.

The Montreal market is very firm with supplies scarce. Ontario bran is quoted there \$16 to \$17 in bulk, and shorts at \$17 to \$18. Western millers are reported to be getting \$15 and as the demand just now is urgent many mills are cleaned out. City mills here are reported to be selling bran at \$14.50 and shorts at \$15 50 in car lots f.o.b. Toronto.

## Clover and Timothy Seeds.

The seed market at Montreal is quiet and quotations are: Ontario timothy, \$1.60 to \$1.75, and American \$1.25 to \$1.50; red clover, \$3.75 to \$4.40; alsike, \$3.50 to \$4.50; and mammoth clover, \$4.25 to \$4.75 and flax seed, \$1.20 to \$1.25 per bushel. On the farmers' market here red clover seed brings \$3 to \$3.50; white clover, \$5 to \$8; alsike, \$3 to \$4.10; and timothy, \$1.25 to \$1.35 per bushel.

## Eggs and Poultry.

The late low prices have stimulated consumption in England, where there is a better demand. The receipt of eggs at Montreal has been scarcely equal to the demand and prices have advanced 1½ to 2c. to 14½¢, some holders asking 15¢ for new laid. The egg market here is firm on account of the Eastern demand and quotations are 14 to 15¢ wholesale. On the Toronto farmers' market they bring from 15 to 16¢.

The Montreal market for dressed poultry is quiet and prices are more or less nominal. There is a good demand here, but the supply is small. Wholesale prices are, chickens, 40 to 70c. and ducks, 50 to 75c. per pair; geese, 6 to 7c. and turkeys, 12 to 13c. per lb. Prices are a little higher on the local market.

## Potatoes.

The Montreal market is firmer, and 5c. to 10c. per bag higher, owing to scarcity of supplies caused by large purchases by American and Ontario buyers. In car lots potatoes bring from 65c. to 70c. Western men who shipped to Montreal last year are there wanting to buy. The market here is steady at 75c. to 80c. for cars on the track. Potatoes out of store sell at 90c. These figures rule on the farmers' market.

## Fruit.

The unusually heavy winter weather for this season of the year has been detrimental

to the general fruit trade. The Montreal apple market is firm at \$3 to \$4.50 per barrel. On the local market here they bring from \$2.50 to \$4 per barrel.

## Hay and Straw.

The baled hay market at Montreal is steady, and quotations are: Choice No. 2 \$5.50 to \$6; No. 2 \$4.50 to \$5, and clover \$3.50 to \$4.50. Sales are reported at Quebec points at \$3.30 to \$4 for clover. Cars on the track are quoted here at \$7 to \$7.50, and baled straw at \$4.50 to \$5. On the farmers' market timothy brings from \$8 to \$10; clover \$6 to \$8; straw sheaf \$6 to \$6.50, and straw loose \$4 to \$5 per ton.

## Cheese.

The *Trade Bulletin's* special cable read thus: London, March 30th, 1899.—The market has assumed a much firmer tone, and prices have moved up another shilling since my last report, with business at 53s. 6d. to 54s. 6d. for finest Canadian, and at the advance there is a more active demand.

Liverpool, March 30th, 1899.—The market is strong with a good demand at the advance, with sales of finest Canadian at 53s. to 54s.

The wind up of the season is developing great strength, and quotations for fine goods at Montreal are 11 to 11½¢. Owing to the Easter holidays things are a little quieter in England, but it is expected that prices will advance when they are over. The decrease in the exports from Montreal and New York from May 1st, 1898 to date is 538,731 boxes as compared with the same period a year ago.

## Butter.

Stocks are not large on the London, England, market, but as the season advances there is a downward tendency in prices, and there has been a decline of 2s. to 3s. per cwt. The Montreal market remains very firm for choice fresh creamery, which is not in sufficient supply to meet local requirements, and consequently consumers have to be satisfied with secondary qualities. Owing to the continued cold weather new dairy butter is coming in slowly, which sells at from 18½ to 20½¢ as to quality. Quotations for creamery are: Choice, 20½ to 21c.; good to fine, 19½ to 20c., and fair 18½ to 19c. Western dairy brings from 13½ to 15c. The total shipments of butter from Montreal from May 1st, 1898, to date, show an increase of 100,000 packages as compared with a year ago, making the net increase from Canada and the United States 48,070 packages. Creamery is steady on this market at 21 to 22c. for prints and 20 to 21c. for boxes. There is good demand for dairy butter at 13 to 15c. for tubs and 16 to 17c. for prints. On the local market lb. prints bring 18 to 20c., and large rolls 15 to 17c. per lb.

## Cattle.

Early in the week there was an advance in cattle in Great Britain which has been maintained all week. On this side the cattle situation has been steady. Trade on Toronto market has been fair all week with the run of live stock light at the end of the week