

MARKET REVIEW AND FORECAST.

Office of FARMING,

October 4, 1897

The grain markets showed a generally easier feeling during the week. Old country reports are easier for nearly all grains, though values have not gone back so far but what they can be easily recovered.

Wheat.

Wheat has shown a decidedly easier feeling during the past week. The export demand has fallen off considerably, and this has had the effect of depressing the markets here. The wheat situation as a whole does not seem to have changed much from the week previous. Some recent reports seem to indicate that the wheat yield in Manitoba will not be as large as some earlier reports would lead us to believe.

At Toronto, owing to less cable inquiries, wheat was not active toward the end of the week. No. 2 red and white wheat were quoted at 70 cents west. No. 1 Manitoba hard was offered at Fort William at 90½c.

At Montreal the receipts during the past week were 495,273 bushels, against 312,057 bushels for the week previous, and the market was quieter and easier. The wheat markets at Chicago and New York were easier toward the end of the week. The export business at New York has not amounted to much during the past few days. The export trade at Chicago is reported brisker. The situation as a whole has not changed much.

Coarse Grains.

The markets for these showed a considerably easier tendency during the week. At Toronto, barley, corn, oats, and peas were quieter towards the last of the week. Oats were reported ½c. lower, with white offering at 22½c. north and west. Peas were a cent lower. Sales were made late in the week at 46c. Barley has been very dull, with 24c. for feed outside. Corn is quiet at from 31c. to 32c. for yellow.

The same feeling prevails at Montreal, where prices are lower for all coarse grains.

Cheese.

The dullness in the cheese market still continues. No business is being done, as buyers and sellers are apart. Salesmen are holding for higher prices than cable advices will allow shippers to pay. Factorymen having August goods on hand will have to be satisfied with prices one cent lower than they could have got if they had sold when the August goods were ready to ship. For August goods alone it is difficult to get 92. bid. About 9½ has been the ruling price at most of the country markets for early September.

Butter.

The butter situation is not very encouraging just now for creamery from an export point of view. Late cable advices afford very little hope of an immediate recovery from the dullness now characteristic of the English market. Finest Canadian is quoted at Liverpool at 94s. to 96s., showing a drop of 8s. to 10s. from top prices a week ago. The American market has developed considerable strength during the past week, with an advance of from 1½ to 2c. for finest creamery, carrying prices above an export basis. This advance is confined to the home trade.

About 19c. is the ruling price for fine September creamery at Montreal, while prices at New York have gone as high as 22c.

There is still a good demand for choice dairy butter both at Montreal and Toronto. Sales of Eastern Townships are reported at Montreal at from 16 to 18 cents. The market at Toronto is firm for good choice dairy, with prices at from 14c. to 15c. Lower grades and medium are selling at from 10 to 12 cents.

Eggs.

There has been considerable business done in the export trade in eggs. The shipments of eggs from Montreal from the opening of navigation till Sept. 25th this year were 41,736 cases, as compared with 43,177 cases for the corresponding period in 1896. A new market has recently sprung up for Canadian eggs in Cuba, which, it is believed by many in the trade, will develop into something of importance.

Offerings have been moderate at Toronto with a good demand, and a firm market at from 14½ to 15 cents.

Apples.

The excitement in regard to the apple market still continues in the fruit sections of Ontario. Buyers are very numerous, and some heavy purchases have been made at prices

ranging from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per barrel, which means from \$2 to \$3 on cars at point of shipment. Many shippers believe that these prices are too high. The quality is not so good as last year, when the crop was so large that only the very best were taken. This season a lot of poor stuff is being shipped, which, at the high prices paid, may probably result disastrously to the shipper. It is wrong to suppose that the English consumer will buy inferior apples because the supply is limited. If he cannot get the quality good he will probably do without the luxury.

Honey.

The Quebec honey crop is reported very poor, while that of Ontario is good. Some choice Ontario honey has been offered recently at Montreal at from 13c. to 14c.

Hay.

Some ordinary pressed and compressed hay has been going forward to Great Britain. There is reported a great scarcity of No. 1 hay at Montreal, and for car load lots of fine quality holders can command pretty well their own price. For the ordinary run of No. 1 prices range from \$11 to \$12. No. 2 quality is in greater supply. Fifteen car loads of No. 2 recently sold at Montreal at \$8.50. At Toronto hay is reported steady at from \$7.50 to \$8.

Potatoes.

The potato crop will probably be below the average, and the quality in some sections promises to be poor owing to the appearance of the potato rot. Though this report is usual at this time of the year, still a higher base of value has already set in. The American market is reported firmer.

Toronto prices lowered a little during the week, and potatoes on the track are quoted at from 45 to 50 cents.

Live Stock.

The live stock market showed a much easier tendency last week, though fair prices were offered for the best quality of stuff. At most of the leading markets, both in Canada and the United States, there was a shrinking in prices for medium and lower grades, but tip-top quality was in general demand, and the market for this did not vary much from the previous week.

Cattle.

The cattle markets, as a rule, were a little easier, with an absence of many buyers at some American markets during the week. The supply of inferior stuff on the markets still continues large, and the values for this quality have depreciated somewhat. At Toronto cattle of nearly all kinds are reported dull and the market easier, excepting for stockers and feeders. The export trade is dull and prices weak owing to depressing cables and lack of space aboard ship at Montreal. The ruling prices were from \$4.20 to \$4.25. Very few cattle went over 4½c.

Butchers' cattle have been dull, and only choice stuff selling at all readily, 3¼c. to 3½c. being the ruling prices for choice to fancy. Some common cattle sold as low as 2½c. Stockers are bringing from 2¼c. to 3c. per lb. for Buffalo, and from 3¼c. to 3½c. for distillery feeders.

A good quality of milch cows and springers were in good demand, prices ranging from \$25 to \$40 each.

There is reported to be the largest exports of cattle from Manitoba on record. So much is this the case that several Ontario shippers have found it difficult to obtain space on board vessels during the past few weeks. There has been a brisk demand at Montreal for nearly everything except common stuff. The best export cattle have brought 4c. with good to fair quality selling at from 3½c. to 3¾c.

Offerings at Buffalo of good quality have been comparatively light, and the market has ruled strong for handy and desirable kinds of cows, heifers and butchers' steers. Early in the week good medium and strong weight steers and light medium steers, with mixed lots of butchers' cattle and fat cows and heifers, sold at about 10c. higher than the week previous. Choice to good quality of steers sold at from \$4.20 to \$5.05 per cwt., depending upon the weight, steers over 1,200 bringing the most. Cows and heifers were selling at from \$3.65 to \$4.65, depending upon quality.

Canadian stockers and feeders have not been so plentiful at Buffalo during the week. The prices, however, did not change much from the week previous, when there was a sharp decline excepting for tip-top quality.

Sheep and Lambs.

The market for these has ruled a little easier during the week, with a shrinkage of

from 10 to 15 cents on the Buffalo market for Canadian lambs. At Montreal prices for choice lambs have continued the same, but other kinds were dull at the beginning of the week.

Export sheep at Toronto are reported dull at from 3c. to 3½c. per lb. The supply seems to be too large. Lambs were also slower towards the end of the week, prices ruling from 3¼c. to 4c. per lb.

There was a decided falling off in the supply of lambs at Buffalo last Monday, as compared with the previous one, though the supply increased during the week, with the usual number of Canadian. The market was easier, with a falling off from 10 to 15 cents early in the week. There is an easier feeling in the eastern markets, which affected things farther west. Choice ewes and wethers are in fair demand at from \$5.60 to \$5.75. Culls and throw-out lambs sell to the local butchers at about 5 cents per lb. The quality of the stuff offered has been deteriorating of late, there being a large quantity of northern Ontario lambs offered that were coarse and lumpy.

The Buffalo sheep market continues firm, with offerings comparatively light. It is expected that with the coming of the cold weather prices will be lower.

Hogs.

The hog market continues steady, though large supplies continue to be offered.

At Toronto the demand still rules steady, with prices well maintained. Though receipts were very heavy towards the last of the week, prices did not recede any. Choice selection of bacon hogs ruled at \$5.75 per cwt., and lighter weights at from \$5.30 to \$5.50.

There is an urgent New York demand reported from Buffalo, which had the effect of raising prices there the middle of the week from 5 to 10 cents on pigs and light hogs. Reports from Chicago have been somewhat conflicting, but on the whole easier at the beginning of the week. About all offered were sold, however, which is a healthy sign.

Salt as a Disinfectant.—Householders would also find the atmosphere considerably purified by throwing salt occasionally upon the contents of the ash-pit; salt absorbs the noxious gases arising from decaying refuse and vegetable matter. A few handfuls of salt thrown daily into the water closets, and occasionally into the wash basins, would counteract, to a large extent, the dangerous effects of the sewer gas.

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