The Farmers' Market

WINNIPEG MARKET LETTER

Office of the United Grain Growers Limited, Winnipeg, April 29, 1918.

OATS.—There was very little feature to the markets last week, except a bearish wave on Saturday, which resulted in a break of about two cents. There was also a poor cash demand, which is quite an unusual condition at the very outset of open navigation on the Great Lakes. This is due in part to the uncertainties of transportation space and in part to the fact that many eastern buyers have secured their requirements during the winter and are now ready to ship their holdings as soon as space can be secured. Stocks of oats in terminal and interior elevators seem quite large. On the other hand wheat stocks at the lake front are unusually low, and will probably be moved quickly, and a demand for all available stocks of grain may follow.

BARLEY.—This market is in just the same condition it was in a week ago. 3 C.W. grade is quoted at $1.50 per bushel and 4 C.W. five cents less. This is the low point since prices first went higher.

FLAX has been a quiet market, with comparatively small fluctuations. Prices have advanced a few cents during the week, and it is noted that July delivery is now higher than May delivery. Receipts at Winnipeg continue quite liberal.

WINNIPEG FUTURES

	April 23	24	25	26	27	29	Week ago	Year ago
Oats—								
May	91¼	91	90¼	90¼	88¼	86¼	91¼	71¼
July	88¼	87	87¼	88¼	86¼	85¼	88	68¼
Flax—								
May	385¼	387	385¼	388¼	387¼	378	379¼	304
July	385¼	387	385	389	388¼	379	378	294

INTERIOR TERMINAL ELEVATOR STOCKS

Movement of grain in interior terminal elevators for the week ending Wednesday, April 24, was as follows:—

Elevator	Grain	Rec'd during week	Ship'd during week	Now in store
Saskatoon	Wheat	61,876	75,644	240,380
"	Oats	91,643	336,980	1,903,350
"	Barley	.....	23,699	41,881
"	Flax	2,900	10,330	34,357
Calgary	Wheat	84,099	2,640	329,143
"	Oats	135,878	108,716	1,190,312
"	Barley	10,110	6,565	106,498
"	Flax	.....	.....	1,366
Moose Jaw	Wheat	23,449	39,101	591,713
"	Oats	82,430	82,390	1,275,835
"	Barley	.....	1,332	23,018
"	Flax	2,988	4,996	18,098

THE CASH TRADE

Minneapolis, April 26

CORN—Good demand for milling. No. 3 yellow closed at $1.58 to $1.68.

OATS—Not brisk; price basis 3 to 3½c over Minneapolis May. No. 3 white closed at 86 to 87c; No. 4 white oats at 83½ to 86½c.

RYE—A little better, due to small offerings. No. 2 rye closed at $2.68 to $2.70.

BARLEY—Slow; offerings small and buyers indifferent. Prices closed at $1.45 to $1.87.

FLAXSEED—Not enough to make a market. No. 1 seed closed at $4.12½ to $4.14½, on spot and to arrive.

COMPEL FARMERS TO SELL THEIR WHEAT

A circular letter requesting that the names of farmers of North Dakota who are holding wheat above necessary supplies be reported, has been issued by E. F. Ladd, federal food administrator of that state.

A member of the Minneapolis grain trade in commenting on this request said that if as energetic a campaign should be conducted to compel farmers to sell their wheat as has been made to induce people to buy Liberty Bonds the wheat would quickly leave the farms. "Make it unpopular for any farmer to hold more wheat than his own requirements demand," this grain trade member said. "Any farmer who is holding wheat is unpatriotic, if, indeed, not disloyal or pro-German. Public sentiment brought to bear against holders of wheat would have the desired effect.

"Why not hold public meetings in the towns throughout the north-west, denouncing farmers who are holding their wheat?" this member of the grain trade suggested. "Men who will not buy Liberty Bonds are denounced, yet there may be extenuating circumstances, but there can be none for the farmer who will not sell his wheat after the government has called for it."

FIXED WHEAT PRICES

	1*	2*	3*	4*	5*	6*	TH	TH2	TH3
Fixed	221	218	215	208	196	187	215	212	207
Year ago	270¼	265¼	260¼	..	..	188¼	..	..	..

ONTARIO'S FALL WHEAT POOR

The fall wheat crop in Ontario is reported to be far below the average this year. The weather, last fall, was unfavorable, and this tended to reduce the acreage about 100,000 acres below the average. Only a small growth was made in the fall, and the plant entered the winter in a weak condition. The heavy fall of snow during the winter was favorable, but repeated thawing and freezing this spring, and cold drying winds since the disappearance of the snow, have resulted in a reduction of condition, the loss in both acreage and yield per acre being above 50 per cent. in some cases.

Estimates make the yield not over 7,000,000 bushels, against 14,000,000 last year. In some localities the crop was a total failure. Recent rains will benefit the remaining wheat, and warm weather coming now will further improve the condition. The abandoned acreage will be seeded to spring wheat, and the soil conditions are reported to be in ideal condition for growth.

The Livestock Market

WINNIPEG

The livestock department of the United Grain Growers Limited report that the receipts of livestock at the Union Stock Yards, St. Boniface, for the past week were as follows: cattle, 1,891; calves, 481; sheep and lambs, 5; hogs, 4,461.

The run of cattle continues light with strong demand for all classes at higher prices. The quality is not quite as good as is generally expected at this time of year, which no doubt, is due largely to the high price of feed. There is only a limited number bringing the top prices quoted below for extra choice. The market is quotably higher from last week on almost all grades. We look for small receipts and steady prices to prevail for some time. The demand for stockers and feeders is more than receipts will supply and prices are very firm at present quotations.

Good light veals are selling around 15½ cents, and heavy from 10 cents to 14 cents; pailfeds, $8.00 to $9.50.

There are very few sheep and lambs coming and consequently prices are firm at 10 cents to 14 cents for sheep; lambs, 15 cents to 19 cents.

The light run of hogs during the week has resulted in a steady market at $19.50, but on Friday the market dropped to $19.40. The quality has not been so good as last week, very few being good enough to bring a premium on price quoted below.

TORONTO

Union Stockyards, April 25.—Cattle receipts for the week totalled 4,900 head. The quality was not as good as was in evidence in the run of the previous week, only a small number of heavy cattle being on sale, and the offering of exceptionally choice butcher cattle rather small. Prices, however, were the highest on record at the local yards, the demand being very keen throughout the week. Outside packers were operating and several hundred cattle were bought for shipment to Montreal and Hamilton abattoirs, while five loads were shipped to the United States; two of these loads were for the butcher trade, and three were for feeding purposes. While feeding cattle went into the stables at high prices last autumn, the prices that have been paid during the past two weeks, should allow the farmer to dispose of his butcher cattle at a fair margin of profit, notwithstanding the high cost of feed during the winter months. The market opened on Monday under a very keen demand, and quotations ruled fully 25 cents per hundred higher than at the close of the previous week. By one o'clock, the 3,000 head of cattle offered had nearly all gone over the scales. On Tuesday, prices were steady, with most of the good cattle being held for Wednesday's market, on which day demand was again very keen and a further advance of 25 cents was noted, buyers taking the cattle at the drover's own prices. The market closed with a steady undertone on Thursday. Of the heavy cattle on sale, one load, of which the quality was only fair to good, sold at $14.25 per hundred, while a lot consisting of 13 head sold at $14. Some exceptionally good sales of steers weighing from 1,000 to 1,200 pounds were made on Wednesday, when four averaging 1,160 pounds from Meaford, Ontario, sold at $15 per hundred; 15 head of about equal weight at $14.50; two or more loads at $14, while most of the sales, totalling several hundred head, were made from $12.75 to $13.75. Of steers and heifers weighing from 700 to 1,000 pounds, five head averaging slightly under 1,000 pounds sold at $14; nine head at $13.75, and a straight load at $12.25; most of the offerings within these weights brought from $13 to $13.75, while medium butchers were weighed up from $10.50 to $11.50 per hundred. While steers and heifers are now selling from $1.50 to $2.00 per hundred higher than was the case six weeks ago, this advance does not apply to cows and bulls, in which classes the advances have been less marked, probably due, to some extent, to the decline in the price of hides. During the week, one choice cow sold at $13.25 per hundred; four at $11.50; several at $11.25, while quite a number of sales were made from $10.50 to $11. Cows of medium quality brought from $8.50 to $9.50 per hundred. Bulls sold as high as $11.50 per hundred, while the range for choice bulls was from $10.50 to $$11.25. Stockers and feeders did not move to the country as freely as during the previous week, the abattoirs absorbing everything of fair condition for the butcher trade, while farmers were a trifle uncertain as to the wisdom of putting cattle on the grass at present prices. Calf receipts were again heavy, and prices held fairly steady. Only choice veal calves of beef breeds sold above $16. The tops in the dairy breeds reached $15.25, while most of the good calves sold from $13 to $14.25, and common calves from $9.00 to $11.

Sheep and lambs totalled 70 head. Little change occurred in prices since the previous week, when choice lambs sold up to $21 and choice light sheep at $15.50.

Hog prices held fairly steady at $20 per hundred for selects, fed and watered. On Monday and Tuesday, a few decks sold at $20.25, and while buyers endeavored to reduce prices on Wednesday, the market remained fairly stationary at $20, and closed at this level on Thursday.

Of the disposition from the yards for the week ending April 12, Canadian packing houses bought 917 calves, 93 bulls, 170 heavy steers, 4,053 butcher cattle, 5,484 hogs and 57 sheep. Local butchers purchased 866 calves, 369 butcher cattle, 345 hogs and 21 sheep. Canadian shipments were made up of 87 calves, 65 milch cows, 575 stockers, 187 feeders and one hog. Shipments to United States points consisted of 294 calves, 95 cattle and 22 feeders.

The total receipts from January 1 to April 18, inclusive, were 74,731 cattle, 15,342 calves, 120,876 hogs and 10,515 sheep, compared to 68,659 cattle, 15,156 calves, 161,893 hogs and 11,197 sheep received during the corresponding period of 1917.

WINNIPEG and U.S. PRICES

Closing prices on the principal western markets on Saturday, April 26, were:—

Cash Grain	Winnipeg	Minneapolis
3 white oats	$0.85½	$0.86 - $0.87
Barley	1.50	1.45 - 1.87
Flax, No. 1	3.97½	4.12½ - 4.14½

CALGARY

The livestock department of the United Grain Growers reports this week's Alberta stockyard receipts as follows: Horses, 382; cattle, 1,570; hogs, 1,740; sheep, 6. The corresponding week a year ago: Horses, 482; cattle, 680; hogs, 2,134; sheep, 9.

With only a moderate run of fat cattle and a strong demand, the market gained considerable strength and all classes sold readily at advanced prices. We sold two choice steers for $13.35 and six for $13.25, shipped by Mr. Mayberry of Penhold, and a cow from the same shipment at 12 cents, this cow netting the shipper $188.40. A full load of choice cattle shipped by Chas. Stone of Alix brought 13 cents, and a heifer at $11.25. These prices constitute a record for the Alberta stockyards. We quote choice grain fed steers $12.75 to $13.35, good to medium steers at $11.50 to $12.50, and common killing steers, for which there is a much better demand, $10.50 to $11.50; the best classes of heifers and cows $10.50 to $11.50, with $10.00 to $10.50 taking the bulk; medium cows $8.50 to $9.50, and common cows $7.50 to $8.50. The demand for bulls was good and the best sold readily at from $8.50 to $9.00, although an exceptionally good animal would bring more. Medium bulls $7.50 to $8.25, and common bolognas from 7 cents down. The offerings of stocker steers was small and $9.00 to $9.50 bought the most of them with the common off colored stuff from 50 cents to $1.00 lower. The stocker cow trade was slow and draggy and very few changed hands, the best of them will bring from $75.00 to $80.00, with the poorer stuff from $60.00 to $70.00, with two-year-old heifers at about the latter figure. Yearlings sold readily at from $40.00 to $45.00, with a very limited supply.

In sympathy with the eastern markets hogs sold lower and $19.75 was the prevailing price. The run was very light all the week, with slightly heavier offerings on Friday the prices were maintained at $19.75 and the benefit of the through billings.

No fat sheep on sale. We quote fat lambs $16.00 to $17.00, fat wethers $15.00 to $16.50, and fat ewes $13.50 to $15.00.

Prices on good steers showed an advance of fully 50 cents, while common steers gained even more and the demand was good on both classes. Fat cows and heifers advanced nearly a dollar a 100 lbs., and there is every prospect of these prices being fully maintained, or even slightly advanced, next week. We strongly advise the feeder to make himself fully acquainted with the prices prevailing on the Calgary market before selling his cattle locally. There is little prospect of any immediate heavy advance in the hog market.

News of Herds and Flocks

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sending close upon 100 head of carefully-selected, highly-bred Shorthorns when, unfortunately, the vessel was lost. Mr. Ross had imported several valuable cargoes of pure-bred cattle to the States since the outbreak of war, all of which reached their destination safely. This, as a matter of fact, is the only loss that has been sustained of pure stock being exported either to North or South America, although a draft of Angus cattle for South Africa was lost last year. Mr. Ross' draft, just lost, included many exceptionally well-bred, highly-priced cattle. It is understood that in the lot was the first prize February, 1917, bull calf at Perth, bred by Mr. J. J. Mowbray, of Necmoor, and purchased for 700 guineas; also the yearling bull Rodney, bred by Mr. C. H. Jolliffe, of Newbus Grange, and purchased at Birmingham at 1,100 guineas. There were also a number of beautifully-bred females and calves. The loss was said to be fully covered by insurance.

STANDARDIZED STOCK FEEDS

A movement has been placed on foot to have a special compound feed manufactured in Ontario by three or four mills in various parts of the province and supply direct to farmers at the lowest possible cost.

The proposed feed, of which a minimum of 1,000 cars will be manufactured, will consist of such concentrates as corn, gluten feed, bran, middlings and brewers' grains, cottonseed meal and oil cake.

The arrangement will be in charge of a committee composed of C. F. Bailey, assistant deputy minister of agriculture; F. C. Hartt, of the markets branch; A. Leitch, of the Ontario Agricultural College; Joseph Brethour of Burford, and G. A. Gillespie, M.P.P., of Peterboro. This committee will arrange with millers to manufacture the feed with Government supervision as a guarantee of quality. The committee will also endeavor, with the assistance of the Canada Food Board, to locate supplies of these concentrates in the United States and arrange with the United States Railway Board to secure railway facilities for bringing them into this country. Action will be taken immediately owing to the necessity of getting supplies into the country this summer in order to insure an adequate supply for the maintenance of stock this fall and winter.

The intention is to have the feeds made, one suitable for dairy cattle and the other for hogs.

Cash Prices at Fort William and Port Arthur, April 23 to April 29, inclusive

Date	Feed Wheat	OATS 2 CW	3 CW	Ex 1 Fd	1 Fd	2 Fd	BARLEY 3 CW	4 CW	Rej.	Feed	FLAX 1 NW	2 CW	3 CW
Apr. 23	177	92½	89	88½	86½	82½	150	145	12-	117	385½	381½	...
24	177	91½	88½	88	85½	81½	151	146	120	117	387½	383	...
25	177	91	87½	87½	85	81½	153	148	123	120	385	381½	...
26	177	90½	87½	87½	84½	81½	153	148	123	120	388½	385½	357
27	177	88½	85½	85½	82½	79½	150	145	...	...	387½	384½	...
29	177	86½	83½	83½	80½	77½	150	145	120	...	378	374½	353
Week ago	177	94½	88½	88½	85½	82	...	...	...	...	379½	375½	361½
Year ago	140	72½	77½	71½	79½	...	125	...	100	100	304	304	285½

LIVESTOCK	Winnipeg April 27		Year ago		Calgary April 27		Toronto April 25		Chicago April 24		St. Paul April 24	
	$ c	$ c	$ c	$ c	$ c	$ c	$ c	$ c	$ c	$ c	$ c	$ c
Cattle												
Choice steers	12.50	14.00	10.75	10.50	12.75	13.55	13.00	14.50	16.25	17.50	12.00	16.50
Best butcher steers	11.50	12.00	10.00	10.50	11.50	12.50	10.75	13.00	15.25	16.00	9.50	12.50
Fair to good butcher steers	9.50	11.00	7.50	9.75	11.50	12.50	10.35	10.75	.1950	12.50	7.00	9.50
Good to choice fat cows	9.50	11.00	8.00	9.50	10.50	10.50	9.75	11.25	9.75	11.00	8.50	10.50
Medium to good cows	6.50	9.50	6.50	7.50	8.00	9.50	9.00	9.50	8.50	9.50	8.00	8.50
Common cows	5.50	6.50	4.25	6.00	7.50	8.50	6.75	7.50	7.00	7.50	7.25	8.00
Canners	5.00	6.50	3.75	4.25	5.00	8.00	6.00	7.25	6.25	7.00	6.50	6.75
Good to choice heifers	9.50	12.00	9.50	10.50	10.00	11.50	12.00	14.25	9.50	12.50	8.00	10.00
Fair to good heifers	9.00	9.50	8.00	9.00	8.00	10.00	8.75	11.00	7.50	9.50	6.50	8.00
Best pen	8.00	9.50	8.00	9.00	7.50	7.50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Best butcher bulls	8.50	9.00	7.50	8.50	8.50	9.00	9.75	11.25	12.00	13.50	10.00	12.00
Common to bologna bulls	6.50	8.00	5.50	7.00	5.00	8.25	7.25	8.25	7.50	11.00	7.50	10.00
Fair to good feeder steers	9.50	10.25	6.50	8.25	9.00	9.50	10.00	11.50	10.00	12.00	8.00	11.00
Fair to good stocker steers	9.00	9.50	6.50	7.75	9.00	9.50	8.50	10.75	8.00	8.75	7.50	10.00
Best milkers and springers (each)	$75	$120	$75	$100	$75	$90	$100	$135	.....		.....	
Fair milkers and springers (each)	$60	$70	$50	$65	$70	$80	$65	$90	.....		.....	
Hogs												
Choice hogs, fed and watered	19.40		15.50		19.75		19.75	20.25	17.35	17.60	16.90	17.30
Light hogs	18.00		12.00	13.00	.....		18.00	19.00	16.00	17.25	.....	
Heavy sows	17.00		9.00	10.00	.....		18.00	19.50	15.00	15.75	.....	
Stags	11.00	14.00	6.00	7.50	.....		16.00		16.00	17.25	.....	
Sheep and Lambs												
Choice lambs	16.00	18.00	11.75	12.75	16.00	17.00	19.50	20.50	16.25	18.50	15.00	20.00
Best Killing Sheep	9.00	14.00	8.50	9.25	13.50	16.50	11.00	13.00	18.00	16.75	10.00	16.00