

Commercial.

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE OFFICE,
London, Ont., July 1, 1886.

The month just gone has been, on the whole, a very favorable one for the growing crops, and farmers have no reason to complain and a good deal to be thankful for. While the season has been rather dry for the hay crop and pastures, more particularly the former, it has been all that could be desired for fall wheat and spring crops, not excepting the market gardener. It is true that prices are low and likely to rule low for some time to come, possibly for some years. Yet, on the whole, the farmer who has his farm in good shape and has no very extravagant ideas, can get along and save a little money. Farmers must bear in mind that while the prices for their produce is low, the price of all other productions and manufactures are just about as low in the same proportion. There may be some lines that are not as low as they might be, yet they must eventually come lower. This will apply to rates of interest on loans. Six to six and a half percent is all that any farmer should pay. Six percent is quite as good to the money lender as 7½ to 8 percent was three years ago.

WHEAT.

The prices and trade in this article remain in the same unsatisfactory state as regards the owners of stocks of wheat. Crop reports are very favorable and in some cases flattering. The weather in England is cabled by Beerbohm as brilliant. All through the United States the crop reports are very favorable, both for the fall and spring wheats. Harvesting is now quite general in the Southern and Middle States. The general appearance and outlook of the fall wheat crop in Ontario is very fair. While there are many poor fields and some that would have been better plowed up, there are many fine fields and plenty of others that are up to the average. The fact is becoming more and more apparent every year that it is a waste of labor and seed to till and sow land with wheat that is not in the best of condition. The want of better drainage is a most important factor, and a close observer can see that the failures of many fields of wheat are due to this more than anything else. A Chicago wheat circular under date of the 29th of June, says:

"It is generally admitted by the trade that the depression in the wheat markets of the world during the cereal year now about ending was caused more by the accumulated reserves of the previous crops than by the raisings of the year. This is unquestionably true of American markets, and the belief now prevails that the heavy reserves of previous crops have been very largely consumed, and that we will enter on the new cereal year with comparatively light supplies of old wheat and only a moderate yield from the new crops in the aggregate. Hence the present low level of prices is looked upon as a very safe basis upon which to begin the movement of the new crop. There is a growing belief in the west that prices for wheat will improve as the new cereal year progresses, and speculative opinion appears to be hardening in this belief. Our market to-day ruled firmer and closed fractionally higher, notwithstanding the continued depression in foreign markets."

What the outcome will be, or whether we shall see an improvement or a further decline in the price of wheat, is very hard to say. One

dealer expressed the opinion that we would see wheat touch 60c. per bushel this fall. Others again think we have seen the lowest point. This much we think is a fair estimate of the situation: We may look for low and moderate prices for wheat for some years to come, from the fact that the facilities for growing, for handling and for transportation are so complete that any deficiency in any part of the world can be supplied by another. England or any of the wheat importing countries of Europe are no longer dependent upon America for their wheat supply. An item from Minneapolis last week, says:

"While it is undoubtedly true that there is less old wheat to come forward than there was a year ago, and that the mills are turning out nearly twice as much flour, drawing steadily upon stocks in store, wheat keeps on pouring in here and at Duluth, and it seems as though there was no end to the amount yet to come, although elevator owners continue to assert that their bins are nearly or quite empty. Receipts at Minneapolis last week were only 20,000 bushels less than the week before, and were 175,000 bushels more than the corresponding week a year ago. Receipts at Duluth continue quite large for the season, and shipments light."

WOOL.

In April last the London wool sales indicated a want of confidence in the prosperity of the trade, and that was used by wool buyers in this country as a weight to force prices to a still lower level, so as to secure the new clip at nominal value; but the scheme did not work, for in May there was an advance in prices of wool in Antwerp, and this started a move in the upward direction, which was assisted by the export of considerable foreign wool, which had been brought to this country at the low prices which prevailed during the spring; still manufacturers hesitated to buy until it could be seen whether the advance in prices in Europe would be sustained. All doubt on this point was removed when the London wool sales opened on the 16th inst. with offerings of 370,000 bales—an amount which of itself would be depressing if there was not substantial grounds for an improvement. It was quickly seen that the competition was very active and prices showed an advance of 10 @ 25 percent on the various grades, over the April sale. The effect upon the markets in this country was electric, prices advanced 1 @ 2c. per pound in the eastern markets, and the sales were larger than they had been for a long time. In the producing regions buyers had more generally placed confidence in the Antwerp advance and had bought freely at a moderate advance on previous prices, so that the wool growers, from the start, received some benefit from the higher prices, and as there is a large part of the clip still in the hands of producers they will profit by the upward turn of the market, and possibly more than the speculators, who are buying—if reports be true—without much discrimination and paying rather more than the legitimate markets would seem to warrant.

The significance of this upward turn in wool is that it began in Europe where general trade has been so much more depressed than in this country that such a turn in any branch of trade was not expected, and it indicates that there, as well as in this country, the depressive influences have spent their force, so that the dawn of brighter and more prosperous times is

at hand. If the improvement in trade here is assisted by a similar movement across the water, recuperation will be rapid, and an impulse given to commerce to which it has long been a stranger.

We look for a steady, quiet trade in this article, and think that prices have taken a permanent turn for the better.

LIVE STOCK.

The steadiness of the British cattle markets the past two or three weeks has disappeared, and the trade has taken a turn for the worse, with an actual decline of half a cent per pound. The hot weather, together with heavy receipts from Ireland and the continent, has checked the demand. Prime Canadian steers sold on the Liverpool market at 13c., fair to choice, 12½c. The following table shows the prices of prime Canadian steers in Liverpool on the dates mentioned:—

	1886. per lb. cents.	1885. per lb. cents.
June 28.....	13	15
June 21.....	13½	14½
June 14.....	13	13½
June 7.....	14½	14
May 31.....	14	14
May 24.....	13½	14
May 17.....	13	14
May 10.....	11½	15
May 3.....	13	13½
April 26.....	13	12½
April 19.....	13	13
April 12.....	13	13½
February 8.....	11½	13

The following were the receipts of live stock at Point St. Charles by the Grand Trunk Railway:—

	Cattle.	Sheep.	Calves.	Hogs.
Week ended June 26.....	3,255	5,449	543	404
Previous week.....	3,524	1,863	197	313
Cor. week, 1885.....	2,023	1,064	125	603
Since May 1.....	21,939	9,650	3,479	4,660
Cor. time, 1885.....	12,234	3,788	3,586	2,673

There has been considerable activity in the cattle trade, receipts and exports for the past week being heavy. Receipts since May 1 by the Grand Trunk show an increase of 2,700 head over last year, while the export movement is now very close to that of last year. The market for export cattle has been active, and shippers bought freely, as a larger amount of freight space has been available, which resulted in liberal buying. At the market this morning the were large offerings, the quality of which was well up to an excellent standard. A lively business was done under a brisk demand from shippers, who absorbed nearly all the cattle offered at steady prices, large sales being made at 4½c. @ 5½c. per lb., live weight. Butchers' cattle were in good demand and steady at 4c. @ 4½c. per lb. The receipts of sheep have largely increased, for which there has been a good demand. Prices, however, eased off ½c., round lots being taken at 4½c. @ 4½c. per lb. live weight. Live hogs have been in good request, but values have eased off, sales being made at \$5.40 @ \$5.50 per 100 lbs. Calves sold at from \$2 @ \$3 as to quality.

The following were the exports of live stock from the port of Montreal for the week ended June 26:—

Per	To	Cattle.	Sheep.
Manitoba.....	Glasgow.....	375	.....
Ocean King.....	London.....	337	706
Batavia.....	Liverpool.....	522	1,192
Concordia.....	Glasgow.....	442	288
Castlehill.....	.....	243	380
Thanemore.....	Liverpool.....	636	709
Bayswater.....	.....	100	450
Carmona.....	London.....	611	2,019
Lake Nepigon.....	Liverpool.....	297	.....
Total.....	.....	3,613	5,814