Farming.

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MARKET REVIEW AND FORECAST.

Office of FARMING,
44 and 46 Richmond street west,
Toronto, April 17th, 1899.

General trade has been materially affected by the late spring. Business in many sections has been almost suspended because of the almost impassable condition of the roads, and there is not likely to be any great activity till navigation opens.

Wheat.

The wheat situation continues to arouse the interest of the speculative element, and the condition of the crop is still the absorbing topic. It is only during the past week or ten days that we have had any weather favorable to winter wheat. A year ago the winter wheat crop of the United States was estimated at 380,000,000 bushels, grown on 25,-700,000 acres. Last fall's sowing has been officially estimated at 29,950,000 acres, an increase of 16 per cent. Were the outcome of the crop this season to maintain the same ratio as last year s it would mean an increase of about 16,000,000 bushels in production. On this point the *Cincinnati Price Current* says: "But it is safe to assume that such results will not be reached, and that instead of the gain in area proving to more than balance the lowering in condition there will be fact be a large shortage in comparison with last year's production of winter wheat, which in our opinion is likely to be not less than 10 per cent."

The Liverpool market advanced some at the end of the week and all round there was a firmer feeling. The market on this side has experienced some sharp advances and reverses, owing to the speculation on the crop outlook. The panic at New York a week ago had considerable effect on the wheat market and it is probable that prices would have been higher had it not occurred. The visible supply of wheat and flour and wheat in transit to Europe from the United States and Canada is equal to 66,111,800 bushels as against 69,880,000 bushels a year ago. There is still an unsettled tone to the market at Montreal with quotations 68 to 69c. f.o.b. at country points west. There seems to be a little better enquiry for wheat here owing to the advances elsewhere. Holders are asking 70c. for red and white west with millers bidding 68c. Goose is quoted at 65 to 66c. north and west, and No. 1 Manitoba hard 80c. and No. 1 northern at 77c. Toronto. On the local market red and white brings 70c½., spring fife 69c. and goose 65 to 65½c. per bushel.

Oats and Barley

The English oat market is firmer and higher. There has been a decided improvement in the demand for oats at Montreal and as high as 31 to 31½c. middle freights has been paid. At present it would seem as if we were going to have higher prices. The market here is firmer at 30 to 31c. north and west. On the local market oats fetch from 36½ to 37c. per bush.

Barley is quiet at Montreal and prices here are merely nominal at about 42c. west.

Peas and Corn.

The English market has been dull with the demand checked by too high prices. There is a quiet but steady feeling at Montreal and quotations are 72 to 73c. in store and 74½ to 75½c. afloat. Peas are steady here at 62 to 63c. north and west. These are also the ruling prices on the local farmers' market.

Corn at Montreal is quiet at 43 to 44c. for No. 2 American mixed. American brings 41 to 42c. on track here.

Bran and Shorts.

The market for these keeps firm owing to the late spring and the demand from farmers for feed. Ontario bran is quoted at Montreal at $15.75 to $16.50 and shorts at $17 to$18.-50 per ton. City mills here sell bran at $14.50 and shorts at $15.50 in car lots f.o.b. Toronto.

Clover and Timothy Seeds.

These has been more doing in these at Montreal, where quotations are: Ontario timothy, $1.75 to $2; American, $1.25 to $1.50; red clover, $3.75 to $4.50 and Alsike, $3.50 to $4.50 per bushel. The deliveries of red clover here have not been large and the market has somewhat improved. Local dealers quote $3 to $3.25 for red clover, $2 to $4 for Alsike and $1 to $1.50 per bushel for timothy at outside points.

Eggs and Poultry.

The English markets for eggs are easier owing to large receipts from Ireland. The Montreal market is quiet and lower by 4 to 5c. than a week ago, sales being made at from 12 to 17c. There is reported to be considerable eggs stored here. They seem to be plentiful now and easier at 12 to 12½c. wholesale. On the retail market they fetch about 15c. per dozen.

Fresh killed poultry keeps firm at Montreal. The market here is quiet at 11 to 13c. for turkeys and 6 to 7c. per lb. for geese, and 40 to 70c. for chickens, and 50 to 75c. per pair for ducks.

Potatoes.

The Montreal market is quiet at 68 to 70c. per bag on track. The market here is also quiet at from 75 to 80c. for cars on track and 90c. out of store. They fetch from 75 to 85c. per bag on the local farmers' market.

Fruit.

Apples are quiet but firm at Montreal at $3 to $5 per barrel. They bring from $2.50 to $4 per bbl. on the local market here.

Hay and Straw.

The late spring and the extra amount of feed required for stock are eating into the big hay crop pretty badly some places. In the western part of the province hay is selling locally at about $10 per ton. The Montreal market for baled hay is firmer at $5.50 to $6.50 for choice No. 2 ordinary. The market here is about the same at $7.50 for cars on track and $4.50 for baled straw. On the local market timothy brings $9 to $10; clover $6 to $7.50; sheaf straw $7 and loose straw $4 to $5 per ton.

Cheese.

Cheese business of 1898 is about at an end. There is a deficit of 215,902 boxes as compared with a year ago, the largest ever known in the history of the Canadian cheese industry. This coupled with the decrease in the exports from New York make a total deficit of 534,873 boxes. Old cheese has sold during the week at Montreal at 11 to 11½c. and some few lots of fodder goods at about 10c. The English market continues firm under light and gradually reduced supplies. There is a good demand at the advance, and holders are not anxious to sell. It is likely that all the old stock will be sold off before the season closes on April 30th, leaving the field clear for the new goods.

Butter.

The *Trade Bulletin's* special London cable of April 13 reads: "The butter market has declined 2s., but at the drop there is a better demand. Finest Canadian 90 to 93s.; seconds 83 to 86s." There has been a sharp decline in prices at Montreal, and sales are reported of choice creamery at 17 to 17½c. and even lower prices are talked of. Supplies seem to be increasing fast, and there is a large prospective; though the high price of cheese may cause the combined factories to make the latter rather than the former, which may lessen butter supplies somewhat. The exports of butter from Canada for the season of 1898-99 show an increase of 100,874 packages as compared with 1897-98. There has been a decrease in the shipments from the United States of about 50,000 packages, making the net increase from both places about 50,000 packages.

The market for creamery butter is easier at about 20c. for prints and 18 to 19c. for tubs. There have been liberal receipts of dairy butter, which brings 13 to 15c. for tubs, 15 to 16c. for lb. prints, and 14 to 15c. for large rolls. On the local market here pound prints bring 16 to 18c. and large rolls 15 to 17c. per lb.

Cattle.

Though Chicago and other Western markets remain firm and steady there has been an easier feeling here. Owing to the lower market reports from outside places, the bad weather, the scarcity of space on boats and the absence of a number of outside buyers, prices for all kinds of fat cattle were lower on Friday on Toronto market, especially for inferior grades, which were too plentiful. The quality of the fat cattle offered was fair. The run of live stock was not what may be considered a heavy one, but in the present easy state of the market it was larger than needed. Reports from Montreal indicate that cable quotations must be losing shippers some money unless they bought very cheaply.