

# Market Review and Forecast

Office of FARMING,  
Confederation Life Building,  
Toronto, Oct. 16th, 1899.

The fine, warm weather of the past week has caused a somewhat easier feeling in wholesale trade circles. There are no misgivings, however, as to the future, and the trade is confident as to the general business outlook. With a big wheat crop in Manitoba, and good prices for dairy products and live stock in Ontario and the Eastern provinces, country storekeepers are ordering freely. Money is inclined to be a little firmer. Call loans are quoted at Montreal at  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to 6 per cent., and mercantile paper is discounted at 6 to 7 per cent.

## Wheat.

The wheat markets have been somewhat irregular during the week. Tension seems to be very high, and it takes very little to make them go up or down. Early in the week the English market ruled strong and higher, but on notice of an increased visible supply here an easier feeling resulted, and appeared to have more effect upon the market than the war. Holders of Manitoba wheat in England are not anxious to sell. English farmers are asking 90c. per bushel for their wheat, which is 12c. more than the average prices there a week ago. There appears to be no tendency in the Western States to increase wheat marketings. Dry weather is said to be hindering the germination of the growing wheat. Wheat is reported to be accumulating at Canadian points, and it is estimated that there are about 5,500,000 bushels of wheat in sight in Canada, as compared with 4,077,000 bushels a week ago and 1,681,000 bushels at this time last year. The world's shipments are greater than a year ago, and about 1,500,000 bushels greater than a week ago.

Prices at Montreal are a shade lower. The market here is easier, owing to slow and disappointing cable and the advance in ocean freights owing to the withdrawal of a number of vessels for war purposes. Red and white is quoted at 66 to 67c. west; spring at 67 to 67½c. east; and goose at 70 to 71c. north and west. On the Toronto farmers' market red and white bring 70 to 71c.; spring fine, 68c.; and goose wheat, 74 to 74½c. per bushel.

## Oats and Barley.

There is more demand in the English market for oats. There is also an improved demand at Montreal, and prices have advanced ½c. per bush. The American crop is estimated at about seventy million bushels more than a year ago. The market here is steady at 26 to 26½c. west, and on the farmers' market oats bring 32 to 33c. per bush.

A better demand exist at Montreal for No. 2 quality of barley. The market here is steady at 43 to 44c. west and east for No. 2, and 35 to 36c. for feed barley. On the Toronto farmers' market barley brings 47 to 50c. per bush.

## Peas and Corn.

The English market for peas keeps firm. At Montreal the market is steady at 69 to 70c. wholesale. The market here is somewhat easier at 59 to 60c. On the farmers' market the quotation is 62c. per bush.

Reports regarding the yield of the American corn crop this year are somewhat disappointing. American is quoted here at 41c. on track.

## Bran and Shorts.

There is a good demand for bran at Montreal. Bran is quoted at \$14.50 to \$15, and shorts at \$16.50 per ton in car lots. City mills here sell bran at \$13 and shorts at \$16 in car lots, Toronto. Mills west are reported selling bran at \$11.50 to \$11.75 in car lots.

## Eggs and Poultry.

The English egg market is a little duller owing to a falling off in consumption. A good export demand is reported at Montreal for both pickled and fresh gathered stock. Local enquiry there seems to have fallen off a little, though really fresh stock bring good prices. Prices are a little higher here for strictly fresh

stock, at 18c.; held stock brings 16 to 17c. On the Toronto farmers' market new-laid eggs bring 20 to 23c. per dozen.

The warm weather has been somewhat against the shipment and sale of dressed poultry. Prices at Montreal are steady at 10 to 11c. for turkeys and 9 to 10c. per lb. for chickens. Some very large contracts have been made recently for dressed poultry for the British and foreign markets. A Montreal firm is reported to have secured 20,000 turkeys for future delivery. Altogether it is estimated that 80,000 to 100,000 birds have been contracted for, the prices paid ranging from 7½ to 8c. per lb. Some large sales are also reported for future delivery for British Columbia. Chickens are more plentiful here, but other fowls are scarce and in demand. Chickens bring wholesale 40 to 60c., and ducks 60 to 70c. per pair, and turkeys 10 to 12c., and geese 5 to 7c. per lb. On the Toronto farmers' market prices are from 10 to 15c. per cwt. higher than these quotations.

## Potatoes

These are quiet at Montreal with little change in prices. Receipts are more liberal here with prospects of larger shipments. Current lots bring 40 to 45c. On the Toronto farmers' market potatoes fetch 45 to 55c. per bag.

## Apples.

The English market continues strong for good fruit and it is expected that when the winter stock begins to go forward and the early fruit is off, the market prices will advance. Many shippers, as is usual, report losses on shipments of fall fruit. The total shipments of apples from all Atlantic ports this season to October 7 were 217,437 bbls. as against 224,504 bbls. for the same period last year, a decrease of 7,067 bbls. The high prices which buyers were offering a couple of weeks ago at Ontario point seems to have brought more fruit to light than was expected and consequently the excitement over securing supplies has calmed down somewhat. At Toronto fruit market apples bring \$1.75 to \$2.50 per barrel. Grapes are quoted at 15 to 25c. per basket according to variety.

## Hay and Straw.

Considerable hay is being shipped at Montreal to the Transvaal and a large trade with that point is expected in supplying the British war forces. There has also been quite a trade from Quebec with the Eastern States. The market for baled hay is quiet here at \$8.50 to \$8.75 for cars on track. Baled straw brings \$5 for cars on track. On the Toronto farmers' market hay brings \$12 to \$13, sheaf straw \$8.75, and loose straw \$4 to \$5 per ton.

## Seeds.

Red clover seed is quoted at Montreal at \$4.75 to \$5.25 per bushel as to quality. Canadian flax seed is firm there at \$1 to \$1.25 per bushel as to quality. On the To-

ronto farmers' market red clover brings \$4 to \$4.50; alsike, \$5 to \$7; white clover, \$7 to \$8; timothy, \$1 to \$1.25 and timothy flailed \$1.50 to \$1.65 per bushel.

## Cheese.

The cheese market though quiet is strong. English dealers seem inclined to wait rather than pay the prices asked on this side. It is felt, however, that our September goods will be wanted and that sooner or later holders on this side will get what they are asking. The high prices may cause a falling off in consumption, still the large shortage in the English market leaves the situation strong. A careful estimate places the stocks held at Montreal at 200,000 boxes as against 450,000 boxes at this time last year. Cable reports a firmer feeling in British markets and an inclination to order ahead, though buyers fear the price.

There has been an improved demand during the latter part of the week at Montreal, with sales reported on spot at 11½ to 11¾c. for white, and 11¾c. for colored easterns. Sales of westerns have been made at 11½ to 11¾c. for finest white, and 11¾ to 12c. for colored; 11½ to 11¾c. have been the ruling bids at the local markets, with many factory-men, especially in the west, holding for 12c. Eastern factory-men are more inclined to sell at ruling prices.

## Butter.

The butter market on this side is dull a little, with a little falling off in export orders. The situation in England is firm for finest brands, as the *Trade Bulletin's* cable shows. It reads: "London, October 12, 1899.—The market keeps firm for the finest grades of Canadian creamery, although there has been an easier feeling on secondary qualities, owing to increased supplies. Finest Canadian creamery 112s. to 116s., with fancy well-known marks 2s. higher at least. Good to fine is quoted lower at 100s. to 110s."

The Montreal market is dull, and prices have declined about 1c. on the week. Sales are reported at 22 to 22½c. on the same class of goods as brought 23 and 23½c. a week ago. Shipments from Montreal this season to date are 393,917 packages, as against 189,644 packages for the same period last year. The total increase in shipments from Montreal and New York is now 246,860 packages. Creamery prints here bring 22 to 23c., and tubs 20 to 22c. per lb. There seems to be a good supply of dairy butter coming forward, but the demand keeps good. Choice tubs bring 17 to 18c., and prints 18 to 19c. per lb. On the Toronto farmers' market pound rolls bring 20 to 23c. each.

## Wool.

There is more enquiry for wool at Montreal from the mills which are beginning to get in their supplies without waiting for lower figures. There is more demand there for Canadian fleece, which brings 17 to 18c., and pulled wool 20c. per lb. Fleece wool is quot-

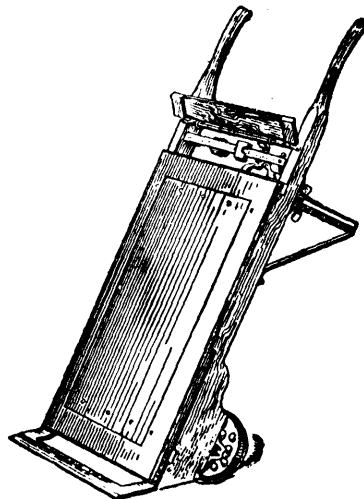
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