

MARKETS.

FARM GOSSIP.

Central Eastern Ontario.

While it is rather late in the season for our district to "blossom like the rose," it is doing the next best thing, looking as green as abundant grass can make it. As soon as harvest was over we were favored with a heavy rainfall—for one day only it was 4 inches. Every week for the past month we have had splendid showers. As a result our pastures are better than they were in early summer. This means an immense saving of fodder to our dairymen; none that I know are now feeding any supplementary fodder. This is unusual with us at this late season. The yield of milk has more than doubled with us in three weeks. Should fall cheese maintain a fair price cheese-factory patrons will do well. There is sharp demand for good butter in local centers, 21c. and 22c. having lately been paid in our town. Field roots, which made no growth during July and early August, have since made splendid progress; mangolds will be a good full crop. Rain came too late to help our potato crop; it is a complete failure. In Brockville they have been selling at 75c. per bushel. Potato rot is active to the north of us where rain was more plentiful. Threshing, except in "buckwheat sections," is practically over for the season. Spring wheat has gone as high as 40 bushels to the acre. Oats gave a very large yield; quality slightly below last year's crop; price with us now 20-22c. Barley was harvested without rain; yield about 55 bushels per acre; most samples splendid color but hardly plump enough for first quality. Buckwheat, which is the crop with our turkey farmers, is another complete failure. Meeting the great slump in wheat, flour has dropped to \$4 per bbl. Corn harvest is over, with a crop 25-50% below a fair average. "Ear corn" ripened well in good time, but ears are small. Very few "corn harvesters" have been sold around here this season; those who use them like them well. To the man with 5-10 acres of this crop the price is prohibitive. Our livestock market is ruling quiet. Beef animals are scarce. Buyers are not doing much in hogs, as some lost heavily when the drop came. Lambs for late delivery have dropped 1c., but dealers expect a return to former good prices of 32-4c. Our local fairs are nearly all past. As usual, some continue to improve, others to do the opposite. Carleton County fair is well to the fore in the first class. I was more than pleased with a visit to it on 14th and 15th inst. Everything in connection is right up to date; the buildings and grounds are a model for the Province. Entries this year were over 2,300. Grade dairy cattle were probably the strongest class. Animals of splendid dairy type were shown by Reid & Co. and J. G. Clark, both of whom have been strongly in evidence at Ottawa fairs for several years past. Would not the abolition of township fairs, with centralization in and development of such county fairs as this, be a move forward? J. J. F.

Sept. 24th.

Kent County, Ont.

Beans are all harvested in good condition, but are a very light crop. Seeding is nearly finished, and although an increased acreage is going in, people are fully ten days to two weeks ahead of last year with their work. Since bean harvest we have had several heavy rains, consequently wheat is looking grand, and pastures are improving rapidly. Although we have had no frost yet, we experienced a cold wave about ten days ago, which hustled farmers into their corn. It is now all cut, or nearly so, is a very heavy crop, and on account of being cut early the fodder will be worth twice as much as it usually is. Kent and Essex's immense crop of tobacco is pretty well cut and housed by this time, and is pronounced by those who know, to be of good quality. Already one of our leading eastern firms are negotiating with Windsor and our own hustling city (Chatham) for a site on which to erect a factory. Our three evaporating factories are running full blast. Some idea of the gigantic proportions that this industry has assumed may be inferred from the fact that the pay-roll of our largest factory reaches \$1,000 per week. This firm has about 400,000 bushels of apples contracted for already, and their factory, which has a capacity of 2,500 bushels per day, is running night and day. Fruit season is just about over. Choice peaches have sold at from \$2 to \$2.50 per bushel, plums \$1.50 and grapes are selling at from 2 to 2½ cents per lb. Butter advanced in price to 25 cents per lb., but has dropped to 20 cents. Eggs are firm at 12½ cents per dozen. On account of light yield and small acreage, potatoes have advanced to 90 cents per bag.

W. A. McG.

Oxford County, Ontario.

While other parts of the Dominion have been suffering from drouth, we have had abundance of rain and the grass and fall wheat are looking greener and fresher than we ever remember of seeing at this date. Roots are also doing remarkably well, and there is every prospect of a big yield of turnips, mangolds, and carrots. Corn is mostly all cut and set up and is much above the average. One man in our neighborhood purchased an American corn-cutting machine and is going about amongst the farmers cutting and binding their corn for (I think) \$1 per acre. It makes a very fair job of fodder corn. Pumpkins have not generally done well this year, and in many instances are rotting. Quite a

number of farmers are complaining of their brood sows not doing well this fall. Some sows have had very small litters and others are troubled with caked udder. Lambs are doing very well and selling at \$4 each. Hogs have taken quite a tumble in price and are only bringing \$4.25 this week. A great part of the August cheese was sold at from 7½ cents to 8½ cents, but those who did not sell are now offered 8½ cents. Stock steers are not easy to get. Some of our farmers have been to the Toronto market for their supply. Calves are selling at about \$10. One farmer raised ten on separated milk and sold them for \$100, and with the money bought 2 thoroughbred Poiled Angus calves (a bull and heifer.) Apples are bringing from 75 cents to \$1.25, the former price being for fall fruit. Some of the buyers have been purchasing the apples for so many dollars for the whole orchard and do the picking, the farmer to board the pickers and packers and do the teaming. Some farmers have commenced fall plowing, and the ground works nice after so much rain. D. L.

Lanark County, Ont.

In this part of Ontario silo-filling has just ended. Corn was a lighter crop than last year, but well eared. All was siloed before being killed with the frost and in good condition. There has not been much plowing done around here yet. The ground has been very dry, but we are getting some rain now. Most farmers feel blue over the price of cheese, as it is our principal product. Some of the threshing is done and the grain has turned out well, but hay was very light. Pastures are very good for this time of the year, and cows have kept up in their milk very well. The horn-fly has been pretty bad for a few weeks, and has lessened the flow of milk. I prize your paper very much, and have received very much valuable information from it. R. K. J.

Toronto Markets.

The export cattle trade is in very bad shape, and buyers are not eager to risk any more money in the export business this year. "There is no money in it," was the remark of one prominent exporter, "even if the cattle were given away."

Over 180 head of cattle were on sale to-day; the market was the worst this year; too many unfinished cattle, for which there is no outlet. The western shippers have contracted for all steamship space until the close of navigation. This tended to cause a weaker feeling on the market. Mr. Wm. Harris will try feeding at Messrs. Gooderham's byres this winter, killing at the abattoir and exporting dressed beef. Messrs. Dun Bros. will put in about 700 head; Mr. Wm. Hearn about 650 head; Mr. Wm. Ironsides about 500. The eighty carloads to-day consisted of 1,500 cattle, 1,519 sheep, 75 calves, 3,000 hogs.

Export Cattle.—Some of the best cattle sold at \$14.50 for top price, the bulk going at \$4.00 to \$4.40 per cwt. Light exporters, \$4.00 to \$4.25 per cwt.

Butchers' Cattle.—All classes of butchers' cattle were lower in price in consequence of heavy deliveries. Many loads sold down to \$4.00 per cwt., this is 10c. to 20c. per cwt. lower than the last two weeks. Choice picked lots sold at \$4.10 to \$4.30 per cwt. Many of these cattle are equal in quality to best exporters, but not so heavy. Mr. Wm. Levack bought 100 head of cattle at \$3.40 to \$4.35.

Export Bulls.—Export bulls sold at \$3.00 to \$3.25 for light, \$3.25 to \$3.50 for medium, and \$3.50 to \$4.00 for choice heavy. Stock bulls, 1,025 lbs. each, at \$3.00 per cwt.

Stockers.—In sympathy with the fat cattle market, for stockers was easier, many sold down to \$3.25 per cwt., medium to choice \$3.40 to 3.50 per cwt. Very large number of inferior stocks were left over at the close of the market.

Feeders.—Mr. Maybee is prepared to buy 500 head for feeding purposes. Heavy feeders of good quality sold at \$3.75, extra choice at \$3.85, with a good demand for heavy feeders, weighing from 950 to 1,000 lbs. Well-bred steers, 1,000 to 1,200 lbs., are ready sale, as the byres are being filled for the winter. Prices are quoted at \$3.55 to \$3.60 per cwt.

Sheep.—Trade fairly active, prices firm at \$3.50 to \$3.60 per cwt. for ewes, bucks \$2.75. A few picked ewes and wethers brought \$3.65 to \$3.70 per cwt.

Lambs.—The market easier owing to large deliveries, at \$2.75 to \$3.50 each. Mr. Wm. Levack bought 120 lambs at \$4.20 to \$4.35 per cwt. Very choice quality.

Calves.—Sold at \$3.00 to \$6.00 each, \$7.00 to \$8.00 for choice, or \$5.00 per cwt. A few extra choice veals wanted.

Milk Cows.—The trade very dull; 10 cows sold at \$75 to \$30 per head; no demand, only choice quality will sell.

Hogs.—The receipts of hogs this season promises to eclipse all records; the first load of cheese factory hogs arrived to-day and met a good market. They were the right kind, all weighed over 160 lbs., many going up to 200 lbs. each, sold at \$4.75 per cwt. The price of hogs continues to fall, and our information is that there are a larger quantity of hogs this fall than ever before. We incline to the opinion that the price will fall to \$4.00 for top price, and that very shortly. The unsettled state of the market, the larger number of hogs and overloading of the market must force the price down. We anticipate \$4.50 to be the ruling figure for best selections next week, although \$4.60 is quoted for to-day. The short, chunky hog, weighing 120 lbs. to 150, is now culled, and only the heavier 160 lbs. to 200 lbs. wanted.

Grain Market.—Something like an old-time scene took place to-day, about 50 wagon loads of wheat, etc., on the market at one time, 9,050 bushels all told; 1,200 bushels selling at 71c. for white, 68c. to 70c. for red, 59c. for goose per bushel. Barley—Easier, 4,500 bushels sold at 41½c. to 46½c. per bushel. Oats—Easier, 3,000 bushels sold at 27½c. per bushel. Hay—Deliveries heavy all the week, 40 loads to-day selling at \$7 to \$9 per ton for timothy, \$5.50 to \$6.00 for mixed hay; baled hay at \$7 for No. 1.

Hides.—The hide and skin market is fairly active. No. 1 green are quoted at 84c. per lb.; No. 1 steer, 9c. per lb.; cured at 9c. per lb.; calfskins, 10c. per lb.; sheepskins, \$1.10 to \$1.25 each; pelts, 55c.; lambskins, 50c. to 60c. each.

Wool.—Deliveries light. Unwashed fleece, 10c.; washed, 15c. Pulled super, 19c. per lb.

Toronto, Sept. 23rd, 1898.

Live Stock Exports.

The live stock reports for the two weeks ending Wednesday, Sept. 23rd, as prepared by R. Bickerdike, of the Live Stock Exchange, Montreal, shows 6,833 cattle and 3,987 sheep to have been exported to London, Liverpool, Bristol, Glasgow and Manchester.

Better Lambs Wanted.

The Buffalo Mercantile Review complains that the quality of Canadian lambs sent there is degenerating; and that there are too many bucks.

British Markets.

Liverpool cable advices state market steady; at 11c. for best steers; 9½c. for sheep. London, 11c. for best Canadians; 12c. for States. Glasgow, firmer, at 11c. per lb. All quotations being for dressed meat, sinking the offal.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

Following are the current and comparative prices for the various grades of live stock:—

CATTLE.	Extreme Prices.	Top prices		
		Two weeks ago.	1897.	1898.
1500 lbs. up.	\$4 65 to 5 70	\$5 70	\$5 45	\$5 45
1250 @ 1500	4 35 to 5 70	5 70	6 00	5 90
1200 @ 1250	4 10 to 5 85	5 65	5 45	4 85
1050 @ 1200	4 00 to 5 90	5 50	5 25	4 70
900 @ 1050	4 90 to 5 40	5 30	5 10	4 60
Fed Westerns	3 90 to 5 90	5 45	5 25	4 80
Stockers and feeders	3 10 to 4 75	4 60	4 55	3 90
Fat cows and heifers	3 40 to 5 00	5 00	4 75	3 75
HOGS.				
Mixed	3 60 to 4 10	4 00	4 45	3 40
Heavy	3 45 to 4 07½	4 10	4 40	3 30
Light	3 60 to 4 07½	4 00	4 50	3 40
Pigs	2 75 to 3 90	3 90	4 45	3 35
SHEEP.				
Natives	2 45 to 4 75	4 60	4 25	3 00
Western	3 50 to 4 45	4 60	4 05	2 90
Texas	3 65 to 4 12	4 10	3 75	2 75
Lambs	3 35 to 6 40	5 85	5 80	4 75

It will be noticed that the heaviest weight cattle are not selling at the extreme top of the market, though as a rule the ripe, fat, heavy beefs are scarce enough, so they are selling pretty well up. The light, fat yearlings have been commanding a premium all spring and summer. There are always several butchers who can handle a nice light carcass to one who has customers and facilities for managing the extremely heavy weights. The Western range cattle are coming in good quality, and a good many of them are good enough to compete with native corn-fed beefs on export account. Only a small share of the Western range cattle can be used for feeding purposes, most of them being too fleshy. Farmers and feeders are scouring the Western country in search of cattle to consume the abundant crop of feed.

Comparatively few Texas cattle are being marketed now. The fat cattle in the south-west are not very plentiful, and owners feel that the unfinished cattle and those of growthy ages are worth more at home.

The hog market lately has shown a tendency to drop a little and values have widened between the good and the poor quality. The choice light, medium and prime heavy shipping showed least change. The heavy packing hogs seem to be getting in line with that \$3.50 figure on live hogs for January product. After the first of October next pork becomes "regular" on the Board of Trade contracts, and that fact will doubtless tend to make a better relative demand for the big heavy hogs that are now comparatively neglected. The people here all recognize the superiority of Canadian bacon hogs over the so-called light hogs found at this and other markets, and the packers are trying hard to induce farmers and feeders to adopt Canadian methods of feeding. The straight corn diet for hogs is so easily managed in the West that it would be hard to bring about such a change.

The revenue stamp tax strikes the live stock dealers quite heavily. The ruling has been made that all sales of cattle, hogs or sheep at public markets must carry stamps of one cent for each \$100 of value. It is not from any lack of patriotism that the commission men object to paying the tax, but simply because it appears to be a discrimination. They say that any argument that places a revenue tax upon cattle sales ought to place it upon cabbage sales as well.

The general sheep market is fairly active and strong. The percentage of lambs coming to market is much larger than usual for this time of the year. This is quite certain to be continued through all the fall months, for the bulk of the available supply in the West is of this class. Wethers are very scarce, and ewes are being retained for breeding purposes. It is evident that the supply of feeding sheep will not nearly equal the demand, and from all indications the price between them and good mutton sheep will not be very great. There is likely to be an abundance of feeding lambs, and feeders will in a large measure have to be satisfied with these. The united efforts of sheepmen in the West to restore their flocks will mean an oversupply in a very few years.

Montreal Markets.

Cattle.—Since last report markets for cattle have gradually sagged until they are from 1 to 4c. per pound behind former quotations. This decline cannot be placed to the credit of slackness of demand or increase of receipts, but to the fact that lack of quality has all to do with the decline. The quality of cattle coming into the market now is very poor, so poor indeed, that it is difficult to get anything over 4c. per pound for the best offered, although a few have realized the 4c. advance on this figure. There has also, in addition to this demand for beef cattle, been a very good demand for young stockers and half-fat feeding cattle, but the receipts of these have also been on the light side, something like 300 head being shipped west during the past week. The prices on these, which have ranged from 2½c. for common small bulls to 3c. for young steers, we think are extremely low considering the more to the farmer than the mere pittance he receives for them. The best beefs on the past two markets have only reached 4½ to 4¾c. per pound; pretty good, 3½c. to 4c.; common and medium, 3c. to 3½c. per pound.

Sheep and Lambs.—The demand for lambs has been well maintained, but on the last market a rather heavy run caused prices to recede a little, 4c. to 4½c. for tops being paid per pound; sheep are wanted sufficiently for export to keep prices firm around 3½c. when pretty free of bucks, a larger sprinkling bringing the price down to 3c. per pound. Calves are selling well if of good quality, all the way from \$3 to \$12 each being a fair range.

Hogs are easy at \$4.75 to \$4.90 per cwt. off cars.
Hides and Skins.—There is still not a little competition in this market, the ruling or market price being quoted at 9c. for No. 1 greens, but there are many cases where the half-cent additional is paid. In lamb skins the competition is much keener, and prices have been forced up to 70c. each. However, that green hides are good value to the dealer at 9c. per pound, and would not be at all surprised to see a further advance close on to the incoming month. Prices are quoted as follows: Green salted hides—No. 1, 9c.; No. 2, 8c. Lamb skins, 70c. each. Calf skins—No. 1, 10½c. to 11c.; No. 2, 8½c. to 9c.

Cattle Shipments.—Shipments of cattle have about doubled this week as compared with the previous week, and have been heavier than any week for a long period. They are as follows for week ending Sept. 24th:

	Cattle.	Sheep.	Horses.
Last week	4,614	2,140	175
Corresponding week, 1897	2,174	709	80
Shipments to date	71,441	20,540	6,560
Same period, 1897	88,324	40,251	7,645

Exhibitions for 1898.

Trans-Mississippi, Omaha	June 1 to November 1.
St. Louis, St. Louis, Mo.	Oct. 3 to 8.
Norfolk, Tilsonburg	Oct. 4 and 5.
Tata	Oct. 4 and 5.
Markham	Oct. 5 to 7.
New Westminster, B. C.	Oct. 5 to 13.
Caledonia	Oct. 6 and 7.
Norwood	Oct. 11 and 12.
Norfolk, Simcoe	Oct. 11 to 13.
Highgate	Oct. 14 and 15.
Woodbridge	Oct. 18 and 19.
Ontario Fat Stock Show, Brantford	Nov. 30 to Dec. 2.