

Commercial.

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE OFFICE,  
London, Ont., Sept. 1, 1884.

Another month of glorious harvest weather has come and gone. With the exception of a few very hot days, the weather has been all that could be desired for harvest work. We fancy the harvest is now pretty well through all over Ontario.

WHEAT

Does not seem to have many friends. Even the speculators are somewhat afraid to touch it. Wheat is unusually low in the English markets—lower than it has been for 100 years. Thus far in 1884 the average is distinctly lower than in any year since 1780, and if the harvest only turns out as it promises to do, the current twelve months bid fair to close with a remarkable record of prices in the history of the trade. Below we give our readers the average price for the past 100 years.

The average contrasts as under with the annual averages since the year 1780:

| AVERAGE PRICES (PER QUARTER) OF BRITISH WHEAT. |        |       |         |
|--|--------|-------|---------|
| Year.  | Price. | Year. | Price.  |
| 1st-h't '84.                                   | 1 17 8 | 1849. | 2 4 3   |
| 1883.  | 2 1 7  | 1848. | 2 10 6  |
| 1882.  | 2 5 1  | 1847. | 3 9 9   |
| 1881.  | 2 5 4  | 1846. | 2 14 8  |
| 1880.  | 2 4 4  | 1845. | 2 10 10 |
| 1879.  | 2 3 10 | 1844. | 2 11 3  |
| 1878.  | 2 6 5  | 1843. | 2 10 1  |
| 1877.  | 2 16 9 | 1842. | 2 17 3  |
| 1876.  | 2 6 2  | 1841. | 3 4 4   |
| 1875.  | 2 5 2  | 1840. | 3 6 4   |
| 1874.  | 2 15 8 | 1839. | 3 10 8  |
| 1873.  | 2 18 8 | 1838. | 3 4 7   |
| 1872.  | 2 17 0 | 1837. | 2 15 10 |
| 1871.  | 2 16 8 | 1836. | 2 8 6   |
| 1870.  | 2 6 10 | 1835. | 1 19 4  |
| 1869.  | 2 8 2  | 1834. | 2 6 2   |
| 1868.  | 3 3 9  | 1833. | 2 12 11 |
| 1867.  | 3 4 5  | 1832. | 2 18 8  |
| 1866.  | 2 9 11 | 1831. | 3 4 3   |
| 1865.  | 2 1 10 | 1830. | 3 6 3   |
| 1864.  | 2 0 2  | 1829. | 3 6 3   |
| 1863.  | 2 4 9  | 1828. | 3 0 5   |
| 1862.  | 2 15 5 | 1827. | 2 18 6  |
| 1861.  | 2 15 4 | 1826. | 2 18 8  |
| 1860.  | 2 13 3 | 1825. | 2 18 8  |
| 1859.  | 2 3 9  | 1824. | 3 8 6   |
| 1858.  | 2 4 2  | 1823. | 3 11 4  |
| 1857.  | 2 16 4 | 1822. | 2 4 7   |
| 1856.  | 3 9 2  | 1821. | 2 16 1  |
| 1855.  | 3 11 8 | 1820. | 3 7 10  |
| 1854.  | 3 12 5 | 1819. | 3 14 6  |
| 1853.  | 2 13 3 | 1818. | 4 6 3   |
| 1852.  | 2 0 9  | 1817. | 4 16 11 |
| 1851.  | 1 15 6 | 1816. | 3 18 6  |
| 1850.  | 2 0 3  | 1815. | 3 5 7   |

From every quarter comes reports of a good wheat harvest. What the future of the market will be is very hard to say. A great deal will depend on the way in which farmers will market their wheat. Should there be a free movement this fall, we may look for still lower prices, as that factor alone will very much increase the cost of transportation, freights being very low at present.

Spring wheat is also fine all throughout Ontario, and any deficiency in the acreage of fall wheat over former years will be counterbalanced by the increase in the acreage of spring wheat with a probable average yield of 25 bushels per acre.

PEAS, BARLEY, OATS AND CORN are all very promising, and will be up to if not above the average.

WOOL

The unusual position of the wool market this season is worthy of a few remarks. This depression is not by any means local, and both free trade England and the protected United States, as well as Canada, are all pretty much effected alike. In England the course of the market since 1872 has been downward. This

was checked in 1879 and 1880, when the prices were from 23½c. to 32c., but in 1881 the value of fine grown English wool was about 22½c.; 1883 brought still lower figures, viz., 19c., the lowest price on record since 1859. Taking the wool produce of England at 15,400,000 pounds per annum, the value of the produce of the year 1864 was about \$87,000,000, whereas the same quantity at the present time would only represent a value of \$30,000,000. This will give some idea how enormous has been the shrinkage in the value of this portion of agricultural produce in the course of nineteen years. Over production no doubt is the cause of the serious decline in values, both in England and America, and when this surplus product has been worked off matters will steadily improve. The political situation in the States and the attitude of wool growers in their anxiety to get the wool tariff of 1867 restored, will continue to keep up an uneasiness and uncertainty until after the Presidential election. The manufacturers will no doubt be in favor of continued low prices, and it has been suggested that they combine with the wool growers and mutual concessions made; but their interests are so far asunder that no hope of any mutual arrangements can be entertained.

CATTLE.

The high prices paid by exporters of beef cattle the past two years seem to have cooled their zeal, and the result is that there is much more cautious buying this season. Trade in Montreal is quiet, and 5½c. to 5¾c. per lb. live weight are about the figures for good cattle. Last year at this date shipping cattle sold at 6c. to 6½c.

There has been a good deal of discussion the last few weeks over the export of American cattle from Wyoming and Montana Territories through Canada to England. The ranch owners are the parties interested in this movement, from the fact that while these territories are well adapted to the raising of stock till they are between two and three years of age, yet the rough herbage of cold winter weather render it impossible to finish up or fit properly for the shambles. The ranchers have therefore to move or sell into other States, where they are fed on corn, and so made ready to cross the Atlantic. What these ranchmen really want is that their cattle be allowed to pass through Canada and go on to England and there be made ready for the butcher, or, if practicable, feed in Canada.

The question arises, What advantage will this be to Canada, if any, and will there not be more or less danger of having the Pleuropneumonia brought into this country? No doubt these western cattle men would like to have this permission accorded them, but we very much question the advisability of such a measure unless the Americans can give us some reciprocal advantage in return. This is an important question and one which should be well and deliberately considered. At the present moment Canada is not in a position to export store cattle or young stock in any great quantity, but in our opinion the time is not far distant when a very important trade can be done in these directions, and it will be well for Canadian stock raisers to give their views on these questions in some public manner before they are finally decided. If store cattle can be pro-

fitably grown in the far west and shipped through to England, we question very much whether Canadian stock raisers cannot raise such stock equally as profitably.

APPLES.

The crop of apples in this country is far in advance of that of last year. In New York State the crop is estimated at 4,000,000 bushels. Michigan will also have a full crop. A full supply of apples is as important to the sanitary condition of the country as that of any other article, for it is one of the most wholesome of fruits, and its proper use is highly conducive to the health and vigor of the human system.

The reports from England give the following estimate of the apple crop:—

"That the apple crop of Europe, taking it as a whole, will be considerably under that of last year."

"That fall shipments of Canadian and American apples to Glasgow, London and Liverpool should meet with good demand at values ruled by supply."

CHEESE

has assumed a very quiet tone, and the excitement seems to be over for the present. What cause the buyers had for so much anxiety to get hold of July cheese at 10½ to 11c. we fail to see, and we fancy in the majority of cases the cause was purely imaginary. The excessive heat the past ten days will not have helped the quality of these goods any either. August may yet be bought for the same money, if not for considerable less.

PRICES AT FARMERS' WAGONS, TORONTO.

|                            |                |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| Wheat, fall, per bushel    | \$0 90 to 0 90 |
| Wheat, spring, do.         | 0 00 0 82      |
| Wheat, goose, do.          | 0 00 0 00      |
| Barley, do.                | 0 40 0 40      |
| Oats, do.                  | 0 70 0 00      |
| Peas, do.                  | 0 00 0 00      |
| Rye, do.                   | 0 18 0 20      |
| Dressed hogs, per 100 lbs. | 8 00 8 25      |
| Chickens, per pair         | 0 45 0 70      |
| Ducks, do.                 | 0 65 0 70      |
| Butter, pound rolls        | 0 12 0 12      |
| Cheese                     | 0 10 0 12      |
| Eggs, fresh, per dozen     | 0 17 0 18      |
| Potatoes, per bag          | 0 70 0 90      |
| Apples, per bbl.           | 0 00 0 00      |
| Onions, green, per doz.    | 0 12 0 15      |
| Cabbage, per dozen         | 0 25 0 30      |
| Turnips, per bag           | 0 45 0 50      |
| Carrots, per doz.          | 0 12 0 15      |
| Beets, per doz.            | 0 15 0 00      |
| Parasnis, per peck         | 0 10 0 12      |
| Radishes, per dozen        | 10 00 13 00    |
| Hay, per ton               | 4 00 7 00      |
| Straw, do.                 |                |

BRITISH MARKETS BY WIRE.

Cattle Firmer—Sheep Steady.

LIVERPOOL, Aug. 18, 1884.

General supplies of cattle large. Receipts of Canadian and American only fair, however. Prices for the latter are firmer than last week.

CATTLE.

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
|                    | Cents ½ lb. |
| Choice steers      | 15          |
| Good steers        | 14          |
| Medium steers      | 13          |
| Inferior and bulls | 7½@ 9       |

(These prices are for estimated dead weight; offal is not reckoned.)

SHEEP.

With a fair supply of sheep and a fair demand the market was steady.

|                   |             |
|-------------------|-------------|
|                   | Cents ½ lb. |
| Best long woolled | 15½@ 16     |
| Seconds           | 14½@ 15     |
| Merinos           | 13½@ 14     |
| Inferior and rams | 8@ 9        |

(These prices are for estimated dead weight; offal is not reckoned.)

CHEESE MARKETS.

London, Ont., Aug. 23, 1884.

Offerings on Saturday last, 2,101 boxes, the make of seven factories for first half of August. Market dull, no sales.