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FARMING AND THE FARMER'S INTERESTS.

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MARKET REVIEW AND FORECAST.

Office of FARMING.

44 and 46 Richmond street west,
Toronto, Mar. 6th, 1899.

In trade circles the volume of new business
is steadily increasing and business men have
the utmost confidence in the future. Money
seems to be plentiful for all available pur-
poses. There is always a danger, however,
when times are brisk of over-trading, which
should be guarded against at the present
time.

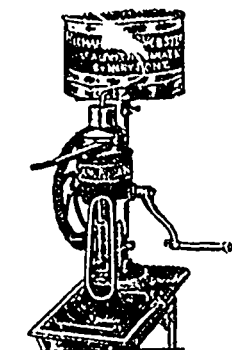
Wheat.

The wheat market continues to move along
in about the same groove, and on the whole
the situation has not improved any during the
week. Speculators are watching the crop re-
ports as to the condition of the coming crops.
It is early yet to make any definite estimate
as to the position of winter wheat. Farmers
report that the wheat fields have a yellow ap-
pearance, showing that the leaves of the plant
have been affected by the severe cold weather
early last month. However, the roots may
be all right and everything will depend upon
the weather from this out. Reports from the
Western States are along the same line and
further developments are awaited. On the
market situation last week's *Price Current*
has this to say: "The wheat markets have
not made striking changes during the week,
closing moderately better than a week ago.
Speculative interests appear inclined to accept
the view that the developments concerning
the winter crop are likely to prove increas-
ingly unfavorable. But unless this should be
justified by later evidence it would appear
that the American markets must be largely
influenced by the European markets which
receive our surplus—for there is yet a liberal
surplus in this country, fully equal to meeting
any probable foreign call for it."

The leading European and American mar-
kets showed an easier tendency during the
week. At Chicago the prices of futures went
down fully one cent on Thursday out of sym-
pathy with Old Country markets. There is
not much doing in wheat at Montreal. The
sale of a lot of No. 1 Northern Manitoba
wheat at 67½c. afloat at Fort William for ex-
port account is reported. The market here
has been steady at 69 to 70c. for red and
white west. Goose wheat is quoted at 68c.
and No. 1 Manitoba hard at 81 to 82c., To-
ronto. On the local farmer's market red and
white is quoted at 73 to 73½c., spring five at
71c., and goose at 69 to 70c. per bushel.

Oats and Barley.

One of the features of the grain market is
the activity in oats. There is a good demand
at Montreal for export account. Large sales
are reported west of Toronto at 31½c. during
the week, and a strong feeling appears to ex-
ist at most points. Quotations here are higher



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at 29 to 30½c. for white west, and 31½c. east.
On the local market oats are worth from 34
to 34½c. per bushel.

There seems to be very little inquiry for
barley. Quotations here are 46 to 48c. for
No. 1 west. On the local market it brings
from 47 to 47½c. per bushel.

Peas and Corn.

There is a fair enquiry at Montreal for peas
for May delivery, and 76c. is being offered
for round lots afloat, but holders appear to
want more money. The market here is firm
at 65 to 67c. north and east in car lots. The
quotations on the local market are 64 to 64½c.
per bushel.

Corn in the west is somewhat easier. Cana-
dian yellow is quoted here at 36c. west, and
American at 41½ to 42c. on track here.

Dran and Shorts.

Ontario white wheat bran sells at Montreal
at \$15 to \$15.25, and shorts at \$15.50 to \$16,
and Manitoba bran at \$16, and shorts at \$18
per ton. City mills here sell bran at \$14.50,
and shorts at \$16.50 in car lots f.o.b. Toronto.

Clover and Timothy Seeds.

On the Toronto local market red clover is
quoted at \$3.30 to \$3.70; white clover at \$5
to \$8; alsike at \$3 to \$4.20, and timothy at
\$1.20 to \$1.35 per bushel.

Eggs and Poultry.

Receipts of new laid eggs at Montreal have
not been large and the demand is sufficient to
take all offerings at prices ranging from 22 to
24c. Limes are quoted there at 15½ to 16½c.
and cold storage stock at 14 to 15c. There
is not enough good stock here to supply the
demand. Strictly new laid bring from 20 to
22c. and limes 14 to 16c. On the local
market new laid eggs bring from 18 to 20c.
per dozen.

The Montreal poultry market is quiet but
firm with very small receipts. Fresh killed
turkeys are quoted at 11c.; chickens at 9½
to 10c.; ducks 8 to 9c. and geese at 6 to 7c. per
lb.

Potatoes.

There is a fair demand at Montreal for
these, and sales of car lots of choice stocks
are imported at 55 to 56c. per bag. There is
a fair demand here for good stock, and cars
on track are quoted at 60 to 65c., and out of
store at 65 to 70c. per bag. On the local
market potatoes are worth from 75 to 80c.
per bag.

Fruit.

Apples on the local market here bring from
\$2.50 to \$3.75 per barrel.

Hay and Straw.

There is not much change to report in the
hay situation. At Montreal there is a fair de-
mand for baled hay for export, but the local
demand is slow. Quotations are: No. 1,
\$5.50 to \$6; No. 2 extra, \$4.25 to \$4.75;
No. 2 clover mixture, \$4; and clover, \$3.50
to \$3.75 per ton. Baled hay is dull here at
\$6 to \$7.00 for cars on track. Baled straw
brings from \$4 to \$4.50 in car lots. On the
local market timothy hay brings from \$8 to
\$9.00, clover \$6 to \$7.00, straw in sheaf \$6
to \$7, and loose straw \$4 to \$5 per ton.

Cheese.

The London, England, cheese market has
a firmer tone and the recent decline in prices
has stimulated the demand very much. The
finest Canadian is quoted there at 49s. to 50s.,
and seconds at 47s. to 48s. Cheese at Mon-
treal is firm and to buy any quantity ¼ to ½c.
more would have to be paid than a week ago.
Quite a lot of cheese has gone forward lately,
but they were mostly goods stored for English
account. Finest westerns are quoted at 9½
to 10c., and fines' easterns at 9½ to 9½c. The
shipments from New York have been very
large of late and last week they were three
times as much as they were the same week
last year. This would indicate that there is
a good demand on the other side which the
Americans are ready to supply. The total
shipments of cheese from Montreal from May
1st, 1898, to date are 2,199,901 boxes as com-
pared with 2,478,785 boxes for the corres-
ponding period last year, showing a decrease
of 258,884 boxes. The shipments for New
York for the same time were 366,038 boxes
as against 661,428 boxes for the same period
in 1897, showing a decrease of 295,390 boxes,
thus making the total decrease from both
Canada and the United States 554,274 boxes.

Butter.

The *Trade Bulletin's* special London cable
of March 2nd reads thus: "The market is
dull and easier for Canadian creamery, owing
to liberal imports from Australia, and prices
have sustained a further drop of 2s. per cwt.
Finest Canadian creamery 96s. to 98s." But
the English market at this time of the year
affects this market very little as the supplies
are only about sufficient for the local demand.
There will likely be a larger supply in a few
weeks when the spring opens up, when we will
have to depend more on the export market.
Some sales of fine creamery butter have been
made at Montreal during the week at 20½ to
20½c., and of second quality at 19½ to 20c.
There is some export enquiry for Western
dairy, and small orders have been filled at 14
to 15c. The total exports from Montreal
from May 1st, 1898, to date are 352,735 pack-
ages as compared with 258,511 packages for
the same time a year ago, showing an increase
of 94,224 packages. The total shipments
from New York for the same period were
129,217 packages as compared with 184,387
packages in 1897, showing a decrease of
55,170 packages and making the net increase
from both places 39,054 packages.

Receipts are a little more liberal here, but
there is a good demand for anything good,
and prices kept steady at 14 to 16c. for large
dairy rolls, and 13 to 15c. for tubs. Cream-
ery is quoted at 20 to 22c. for prints, and 19
to 20c. for tubs.

Cattle.

On the whole the cattle situation shows
some improvement over a week ago. Beef
cattle have been fairly steady at the western
markets, with some complaints of inferior
quality. There appears to be an active de-
mand for feeders. The market here is active,
and trade has been good, with prices firm and
well-maintained for all good cattle. The
quality of the fat cattle offered has been fairly
good.