

FARMING

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FARMING AND THE FARMER'S INTERESTS.

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MARKET REVIEW AND FORECAST.

Office of FARMING,

January 2nd, 1899.

Business is always dull between Christmas and New Year's in wholesale trade circles. There has, however, been more doing this holiday season than for the past few years back, which is an indication of the healthy condition of general trade in the country. It is generally believed in trade circles that there will be a vast expansion of business during the next few years.

Wheat.

The wheat situation has been somewhat irregular during the past few weeks. Two weeks ago we noted a marked advance in prices on this continent as well as in Europe. Last week's reports showed this advance to be of a somewhat temporary character, and this week we have to record another advance and greater activity in European wheat circles. The primary cause of this activity is said to be due to a decrease in the visible supply in Canada and the United States of 1,856,000 bushels, though some authorities claim that it is due to the speculative element which was responsible for the advance of a few weeks back. There are undoubtedly signs that the "bullish" element is gaining prominence in wheat centres, and that there is a growing sentiment in favor of a permanently higher level of values for American products. It is claimed that Europe was never more dependent upon this continent for her food and feed supplies than now. There are signs that the "bears" in the market are getting nervous, and have been covering in spite of the usual dullness of the holiday season. Export orders in the United States have increased during the holiday season instead of decreasing. The world's supply in sight is 55,263,000 bushels, an increase of 23,000,000 bushels since last August, and a decrease of 14,000,000 bushels as compared with a year ago.

A London cable despatch to the *Trade Bulletin* of Dec. 29th, reads thus: "There is a firm feeling, and light stocks give holders a decided advantage with business in Canadian red winter 3d. per quarter advance. On the Baltic a more active business has transpired, and floating cargoes are higher, hard Manitoban participating. At the close there is an easier feeling." The Chicago wheat market made a sharp advance on Tuesday to 71½c. May, which caused an excited feeling in Ontario, where prices for red winter advanced to 70c., 71c. f.o.b., being 1 to 2c. above the export basis. The market here is

firm at 69 to 71c. for red and white west. Goose is firm at 70c. No. 1 Manitoba hard is quoted at 79 to 80c., Toronto, and No. 1 Northern 75 to 76c. On the local market red and white is quoted at 72 to 73c.; spring life at 71½c., and goose at 70c. per bushel.

Oats and Barley

The London oat market is quiet, but with light stocks holders will not make concessions and last week's quotations are maintained. The Montreal market for oats on spot is firm, with sales reported in car lots at 32½c. for No. 2 and 32c. for No. 3. The market here is firm at about 29c. west. On the local market oats bring from 33 to 33c. per bushel.

The Montreal barley market is quiet at 54 to 55c. for No. 1 malting. The market here is steady at 46 to 48c. west. Locally barley is worth from 49 to 50½c. per bushel.

Peas and Corn.

There is an advance of 1s. per quarter, with a good demand at the advance on the London market for peas. The Montreal market keeps firm at 70½ to 71c. in store. The market here is firm at 65 to 66c. north and west in car lots. On the local market the quotations are 63½c.

The Montreal market for corn is strong at a further advance in prices, and quotations are: 45 to 46c. in car lots for No. 2 Chicago mixed. American is quoted here at 46½c. in car lots. Canadian yellow is quoted at 36 to 37c. west, but it is almost impossible to get a sufficient quantity to make a car load.

Bran and Shorts.

Ontario winter wheat bran is steady at Montreal at \$14. Shorts are quoted there at \$14.50 to \$15 and middlings at \$16. Mill feed is firm here at \$14 to \$16 for shorts and \$12 to \$12.50 for bran west. City mills quote bran at \$14 and shorts at \$15 in car lots f.o.b. Toronto.

Clover and Timothy Seed.

American timothy seed is quoted at Montreal \$1.25 to \$1.50 in store, red clover at \$4.25 to \$5 per bush. and alsike at \$4 to \$5 per bushel. Red clover on the local market here is quoted at \$3.50 to \$4; white clover at \$6 to \$9; alsike \$4 to \$5, and timothy at \$1.25 to \$1.35 per bushel.

Eggs and Poultry

The London and Liverpool markets for eggs are dull, milder weather having brought liberal supplies from the Continent, causing prices to give way. The Montreal market continues firm at 26 to 28c. for new laid eggs in large lots and 29 to 30c. in single case. Straight candled fresh stock brings from 15 to 16c. Eggs are in good demand here at 20 to 22c. for new laid. Held fresh bring from 16 to 18c. On the local market 22c. is about the price for fresh eggs.

Stocks of dressed poultry at Montreal are considerably less than at this time last year. The quotations are 9 to 9½c. for turkeys; 6

to 6½c. for geese; 6½ to 7½c. for chickens and 7½ to 8½c. per lb. for ducks. The market here is steady but the demand is slow at 7 to 9c. for turkeys, 5 to 6½c. for geese; 30 to 70c. per pair for ducks and 25 to 50c. for chickens.

Potatoes.

The Montreal market is firmer at 55 to 60c. per bag of 90 lbs. on track. They bring 65 to 70c. in a jobbing way. Cars on the track are quoted here at 55 to 57c. Out of store potatoes sell at 65 to 70c. They bring from 55 to 65c. per bag in a local way.

Hay and Straw.

Montreal market is steady at \$3.50 f.o.b. for clover mixed hay in country. The quotations there are \$4.50 for clover in cars on track; \$4.75 for clover mixed; \$5 to \$5.50 No. 2. No. 1 timothy is reported scarce and is selling at \$7 to \$7.50. The market here is dull and cars of baled hay on track are quoted at \$7 to \$7.50. On the local market timothy brings from \$9 to \$10.50 per ton and clover at \$6 to \$7.50. Baled straw is quoted at \$4.50 on cars on track. On the local market sheaf straw brings \$7 to \$7 per ton and loose \$4 to \$5.

Fruit.

The export apple trade is quiet. Our late sales in England have been disappointing, owing chiefly to large supplies and the bad condition of the fruit on arrival. Greenings are reported to have kept very badly. Quotations at Montreal are \$2.50 to \$3 per barrel. The sale of about 1,000 barrels of red fruit is reported here at \$2.85 f.o.b.

Cheese.

Though the market for cheese last week was quiet, owing to lack of export orders, there has been no weakness in values. In fact, the public cable advanced 6s., and finest Canadian are quoted in London at 50s. to 51s., c i f. Every one in the trade is looking forward to what the statistical position will be when the New Year's stocks are made up. It is expected that by the close of this season's trade there will be a shortage of fully 750,000 boxes in Canada and the United States, as compared with the season of 1897. The outlook then for good prices during the winter is almost a certainty, and dealers who were counting on there being plenty of stuff on hand and neglected to lay in a supply will have to pay several shillings more for them than if they had bought two months ago. There is very little stock in factorymen's hands just now, so that the middleman will come in for most of the profit there will be in the winter's trade. Finest western is quoted at Montreal at 10½ to 10½c, and finest eastern at 10 to 10½c.

Butter.

Reports from the British markets are encouraging. A special cable from London to the *Trade Bulletin* of Dec. 29th reads: "Despite liberal imports from Australia, the

The same thing over and over again. Read what the AMERICAN has done this time.

WILL PAY ITSELF IN 4 MONTHS

BLYTHESWOOD, ONT., JUNE 8TH, 1898.

MESSRS. RICHARDSON & WEBSTER,
St. Mary's, Ont.

DEAR SIRS,—Enclosed find settlement for the Separator and oil received from you on May 28th. I placed the Separator on trial with Mr. S. D. Wilkinson, Leamington, and after 4 days he bought it. He is perfectly satisfied. I have tested the skim milk several times for him and it has never shown more than a trace of butter fat. I consider it a perfect machine in every respect and would like to act as your agent in this part of the county. Mr. Wilkinson is one of the most prominent dairymen around here. He says he will save enough in butter to pay for the Separator in 4 months. Yours truly, (Signed) F. A. LEAK.

Write RICHARDSON & WEBSTER, St. Mary's, Ont., for Catalogue and Prices. It will pay you to have a Separator as well as others.

W. G. GLENN, Agent for Owen Sound and vicinity

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