

Market Review and Forecast

The Trend of Markets—Supply and Demand—The Outlook

Toronto, Dec. 31st, 1906.

The prospects for spring trade are bright. This country certainly seems to be prosperous, and if our people keep a steady head there is not likely to be any serious break in our orderly march for some time to come. Christmas trade has been exceptionally good and business at the moment is experiencing a lull after the rush. The money market keeps firm, with that commodity in good demand.

WHEAT

The wheat situation shows little change. Though prices on Chicago market have ruled about 10c lower than a year ago, they have not aroused the speculative element. The trade is anxiously waiting to see what the Argentine will do for export. The crop there is just now being harvested. Locally the market is quiet, with quotations at from 68c to 78c. There is little or no export demand. Receipts are light.

COARSE GRAIN

No other grain crop is selling better at the present time than oats. Trade prices here range from 35c to 36c at outside points, with Montreal quotations running from 40½c to 42½c. On Toronto farmers' market oats bring 39c to 40c per bushel. The barley market rules steady at about 50c outside and peas at about 80c. No. 3 yellow corn is quoted at 49½c Toronto. Though wheat keeps low, bran prices keep high. Quotations range from \$17 to \$20 in car lots.

HAY AND STRAW

Shippers complain of being unable to get sufficient cars to handle the baled hay trade and consequently receipts at central points are light. They claim that it is because of this that prices are so high. However, there is a good export demand, which would enable the market to take a good deal more than is now offering, so that prices are not likely to drop much if receipts are light. At Montreal quotations range from \$10.30 to \$13.50 per ton for car lots of baled hay. The market here rules steady, with a slightly easier feeling noticeable. No. 1 timothy is quoted at \$11.50 to \$12.00 and No. 2 at \$9 per ton for car lots on track here.

Baled straw is firm at \$7 per ton for car lots here.

POTATOES AND BEANS

The potato market rules steady, with a little higher prices. Here Ontario potatoes are available at 6c and Eastern at 7c to 7½c per bag in car lots. Montreal quotations rule about the same.

The bean market is more active, with prices higher. Quotations at Montreal are \$1.25 per bushel for car lots delivered there. Here, hand-picked are selling at \$1.50 to \$1.60 and primes at \$1.35 per bushel in a jobbing way.

EGGS AND POULTRY

The egg market keeps active and prices firm. New-laid are very scarce, though it is expected that in a few weeks they will be more plentiful. New-laid in case lots are quoted here at 30c to 35c, and storage at 24c. On Toronto farmers' market eggs bring 45c to 55c per dozen. At Montreal new-laid are quoted to the trade at 35c and selects at 25c.

There was a good supply of turkeys for the Christmas market this year, and the city consumer was able

to get his Christmas dinner a little cheaper than a year ago. However, fair prices prevailed. At Montreal wholesale prices ranged from 14c to 15c, as compared with 16c to 17c a year ago. The poultry market here at the moment is quiet, with dressed chickens quoted at 6c to 9c, fowls 5c to 7c, ducks 10c to 12c, geese 10c to 12c and turkeys 12c to 14c per lb. On the local farmers' market here prices run from 1c to 2c per lb. higher.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

The cheese market seems to be shaping up for high prices at the opening of next season's trade. There is a better enquiry on both sides of the Atlantic, the principal business being in November and late October. Quotations for the former at Montreal are 11½c to 11½c, and for the latter, 12½c to 13½c.

The butter market rules strong, with a good local demand. Receipts of fresh winter creamery are small and there is no accumulation of supplies. It is reported that some Canadian butter has been brought back from England, as prices are better here than there. A Montreal choice creamery is quoted at 25c. Here creamery prints are quoted at 25c to 27c and solids at 24c to 25c; dairy prints at 22c to 23c and tubs and pails at 18c to 20c per lb.

LIVE STOCK

Trade in live stock has been dull during the past week. This is not unusual during the holiday season. Receipts have ruled light. Prices as a rule show little change from last writing. There was a fairly good Christmas trade. Last week butchers' cattle sold as high as \$4.35 per cwt. Milch cows sell all the way from \$30 to \$50 each and veal calves at from \$2.50 to \$5.50 per cwt.

Export ewes sell at \$4.50 to \$4.85 and lambs at \$5.50 to \$6.40 per cwt. Canada lambs are quoted at East Buffalo at \$7.50 to \$7.65 per cwt.

The run of hogs has been light and prices are unchanged at \$6.15 per cwt. for selects and \$5.90 for lights and fats.

HORSES

Though the holiday lull has affected the horse market somewhat, quite a number have changed hands during the week at the market here. The following are the prevailing prices at the Repository here: Single roadsters, 15 to 16 hands, \$150 to \$150; single cobs and carriage horses, 15 to 16.1 hands, \$125 to \$155; matched pairs carriage horses, 15 to 16.1 hands, \$200 to \$350; delivery horses, 15 to 16.30 pounds, \$125 to \$160; general purpose and express horses, 15 to 16.30 pounds, \$130 to \$165; draught horses, 15 to 17.50 pounds, \$135 to \$170; serviceable second-hand workers, \$50 to \$70; serviceable second-hand drivers, \$40 to \$75.

Horse Breeders' Meeting

At a meeting of the Canadian Horse Breeders' Association last week, Mr. G. de W. Green was appointed secretary pro tem, and Mr. W. J. Stark, treasurer. A resolution of sympathy to the family of the late Mr. Wade was passed.

Mr. C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, was present and explained the new legislation incorporated in the Horse Breeders' Association of Ontario. It was not intended to conflict with the Canadian Horse



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The Council invite applications for the post of Professor of Agriculture at the above College, at a salary of £250 a year.

Applications, together with 70 printed copies of testimonials, must reach the undersigned, from whom full particulars may be obtained, not later than Saturday, January 19, 1907.

J. H. DAVIES, M.A., Registrar.

DRY YOUR APPLES

It is a great pity that such large quantities of culls and wind-fall apples are wasted yearly in Ontario. These apples should be cut in quarters and dried, and thereby a considerable revenue gained. Dried apples will be worth fair prices this season.

Canadian quartered dried apples have gained a high reputation in foreign markets, but there are still many lots of inferior, dark, and often badly burnt goods offered to country merchants, which are really disgraceful, and show either great carelessness or ignorance. Apples should be dried quickly and put in a good store in order to retain the desired bright color.

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