P. E. Island.

At date of writing (May 6th) farmers are just beginning to work on the land.

The last month has been very cold and backward. Grass is now beginning to start. There is the best appearance of clover we have seen for years. None of the grass lands have been winter-killed.

Roads are in good condition, as there was no spring freshets to cut them up. Cattle have wintered well and will go to the pastures in good condition. No cheese factories open yet; they will not begin before the 20th to make cheese. Many of the factories will make butter the first part of the season.

Fat cattle range in price from 3¾c. to 4½c.; hogs, 5c.; fat sheep, 5c. Common milch cows bring about $25 each. Good chunks of horses sell for $80 to $100; drivers for $100 to $125. Horses are scarce; not many raised lately. Wheat is worth 80 cents. Oats and potatoes have gone up and now both sell for 40 cents. Hay is $9 per ton.

Fat cattle are being shipped to Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick markets. A great many farmers' clubs are importing their seeds and implements direct from Ontario dealers and getting them much cheaper than formerly.

It looks just now as if we were not going to have a provincial exhibition this year, as the Legislature does not feel disposed to vote the Exhibition Association enough money to induce them to hold one. The county exhibitions will likely be held as usual. There is a good appearance of fruit, at least the fruit buds look healthy. W. S.

Bay View.

Bruce Co., Ont.

In the place of March winds and April showers we had fine weather all through April, with drying winds and mostly frosts at night. The weather being so very favorable, the seeding was mostly completed during the month. Prices of all kinds of grain are firmer, with considerable advance in the price of wheat—it is now selling from $1.02 to $1.05. Stall-fed cattle, fit for export, are bringing from 4 to 4½ cents per pound; a few cars have already been shipped by Montreal. Feeders for grazing are rather scarce, and are selling from 3½ to 4 cents per pound. All the young Shorthorn bulls have been sold, mostly to go to the Northwest, and at fair prices. This seems to have been a favorable lambing season; I see quite a large percentage of lambs in the flocks. As yet no enquiries for hay. Most farmers have less or more they could dispose of. Good sound horses are being looked for at fair prices. Fall wheat has not come along as it should have done, it may have been from the effects of the drying winds and frosts. We had a good rain on the evening of the 2nd, which I think will help it. A small percentage will be plowed up. Fruit trees at present seem to be in good shape with fair prospects for a medium crop of fruit. One of the best farms in the township was lately sold for $9,500. The farm comprises 200 acres, with good stone house, good frame barn, with basement stables, and another frame barn with stabling attached. The farm is in a good state of cultivation and well fenced. J. T.

Northumberland Co., Ont.

I am pleased to say that the fall wheat and clover have never looked more prosperous at this season of the year in this country than at present, and there has been a much larger acreage of spring wheat sown here than for several years past. J. B. S.

Toronto Markets.

All food products are firmer and advancing; local market values on all stock continue to boom in sympathy. Choice fat cattle were firmer, prices advanced from 10c. to 15c. per cwt.; butchers. 10c. to 12½c. per cwt.

Export Cattle.—There was a large number of exporters of extra quality, the best offered this season, which sold at $4 to $4.50 per cwt. The bulk of export cattle sold at $4.25 to $4.40 per cwt. Total receipts for last week: Cattle, 4,183; sheep, 275; hogs, 8,621. Scott & Fallis, of Brampton, delivered to Joseph Gould, of Boston, 21 export cattle, weighing 1,530 lbs. average. They were purchased from William Rennie, manager of the Guelph Model Farm, at $4.65 per cwt. These cattle when stabled last fall weighed 1,180 lbs. average, and quite equalled the best American cattle. We consider them the best Canadian-fed cattle seen on this market for the whole of last year.

Butchers' Cattle.—Trade in butchers' cattle was brisk, owing to the light run in this class. Choice picked lots of butchers' cattle sold at $4 to $4.20; loads of good at $3.80 to $3.95; medium, $3.65 to $3.75. Very inferior rough cows and bulls at $3 to $3.20 per cwt. Mr. A. W. Maybee bought 60 butchers' cattle for shipment to Sudbury; this is a new departure from this market.

Bulls.—Export bulls, heavy, sold at $3.40 to $3.75.

Stockers.—Stockers were in good demand, selling at $3.40 to $3.55 for good to light.

Feeders.—There was a good demand for feeders from Buffalo; prices higher, at $3.85 to $4.12½ per cwt.

Calves.—Calves were equal to the demand, quality only fair; sold at $1 to $6.50 per head. One prime calf sold to-day for $10.50 to Wm. Harris.

Sheep.—Supply about equal to the demand; ewes sold at $3.50 to $4.00; bucks, $3.25 to $3.50 per cwt., for those weighing about 140 lbs. each.

Lambs.—William Levack bought 40 yearling lambs at $5.95 to $6.00 per cwt., weighing from 90 lbs. to 110 lbs. each; heavier than these weights at $5.50 per cwt.

Spring Lambs sold at $3 to $4 each.

Milk Cows.—One dairyman bought a lot of 14 cows at $35 per head. One dealer bought seven cows at $33 per head. Milk cows were in good demand, selling from $25 to $45 each.

Hogs.—Deliveries heavy, 9,000 last week; prices firmer; and best selections are selling at $5.10, with choice selection singers in good demand. Thick-fat and light at $4.75. Sows and rough hogs at $3. Cheese factories are taking all stores.

Dressed Hogs.—Dressed hog market quiet, and nothing coming in excepting small farmers' loads. On the street market small hogs for butchers' use in good demand, and sell at $6. There is not much doing. An experiment is being tried of sending chilled dressed hogs to the Old Country market as fresh pork. The meat is not frozen, but is chilled by cold air, which preserves the pork fresh and does not impair its quality.

Dressed Beef.—Over ten carloads were shipped out last week from the abattoir. Two very fine steers were injured in the cars and were consigned forthwith to the slaughter house and prevented a total loss to the owner by the proximity of the abattoir. The charges fixed for all cases: cost of killing, 50c.; the hide is purchased at 8½c. per lb., and the tallow at 1½c.; tongue, 35c. This entitles the consigner to free cold storage until marketed, and will prove a boon to drovers this ensuing summer.

Hay.—Twenty loads of hay per day continue to arrive and here is great difficulty in keeping the price up to $8 per ton.

Straw.—There has been, up to the present week, a great shortage of good straw. The increased demand during Horse Show week brought out a great quantity and the price fell to $6 per ton.

Butter.—The receipts of large rolls are liberal; there is a good demand. Farmers' butter sells for 13c. per lb.; creamery is quiet at 17c. per lb.

Eggs.—The supply large. The demand continues good for fresh gathered, clean stock, at 10c. per doz.; in case lots the price is shaded.

Cheese.—The cheese outlook is better now than a month ago, when the finest fall makes were a drug on the market at 7½c. per lb. Last week 18,000 boxes were cleared off the Montreal market at 8½c. per lb. This practically cleans up the Canadian trade of last year's make, so prices should be maintained until new is on the market again.

Wheat.—It is absolutely impossible to keep track of the up-and-down price of wheat, except that the price is constantly advancing, until to-day white sells for $1.15; $1.15 to $1.19 for red winter, and $1.09½ to $1.10 per bushel for goose. Farmers report the growing crops look well, and the yield, considering the large increase in acreage, promises to be much increased. Stocks in sight are small, and farmers are all cleaned up in this section; this being so, July wheat can be easily cornered, unless Manitoba has stock to spare. The lucky ones who have, however, held their wheat for export, are now on velvet.

Rye.—Firm and scarce. Car lots are quoted at 55c.

Barley is quoted at 44c. for fancy bright; No. 1, 42c. per bushel on this market.

Corn.—Canadian corn is about cleared up for the season; demand quiet. American quoted at 43c. per bushel on this market.

Oats.—Strong and firm at 36c. per bushel; export demand good.

May 11th, 1898.

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.	1896.
1500 lbs. up	$4 40 to 5 25	$5 40	$5 40	$4 45
1350 @ 1500	4 10 to 5 25	5 25	5 25	4 50
1200 @ 1350	4 00 to 5 20	5 25	5 20	4 50
1050 @ 1200	3 90 to 5 00	5 00	4 90	4 35
900 @ 1050	3 80 to 4 85	4 90	4 75	4 25
Fed Westerns	3 80 to 5 20	4 90	5 10	4 05
Stillers	4 40 to 4 75	4 65	4 90	4 35
Stockers and feeders	3 75 to 5 00	5 00	4 50	4 00
Fat cows and heifers	3 60 to 4 85	4 80	4 50	4 10
Canners	2 25 to 3 00	3 00	2 50	2 30
Bulls	2 75 to 4 25	4 40	4 05	3 25
Calves	3 50 to 6 25	5 75	5 30	4 75
Texas steers	3 50 to 4 50	4 35	4 60	4 10
Texas C. & B.	2 85 to 4 00	4 00	3 85	3 40
Corn-fed Texas	4 25 to 4 65	4 60	4 50	....
HOGS.				
Mixed	3 90 to 4 20	3 97½	4 05	3 65
Heavy	4 00 to 4 25	4 09	4 02	3 60
Light	3 90 to 4 15	3 95	4 05	3 75
Pigs	2 75 to 4 00	3 90	4 00	3 80
SHEEP.				
Natives	3 00 to 4 60	4 75	5 00	3 90
Western	4 00 to 4 25	4 70	5 10	3 80
Yearlings	4 20 to 4 60	4 85	5 30	4 00
Lambs	3 75 to 5 50	5 65	5 50	5 10

Prices at which fine breeding cattle are selling are highly encouraging to the trade, well bred cattle seem to be very scarce.

Combined receipts of cattle at the four leading western markets last month, 362,400 head, the smallest for any month in two years, 40,000 smaller than a year ago, and 308,000 smaller than last September, when 670,000 were received. Last month the four markets received 1,276,500 hogs, the largest April receipts on record, 225,000 more than arrived in April, 1897, and 417,000 more than in April, 1895.

The war is having a stimulating effect in the market for not only meats, but also for horses and mules of the right kinds.

Importations of Mexican cattle are not quite as large as a year ago, but are large. The big, heavy branded cattle are in large supply and small demand. Owners are advised to market their cattle before they get over 1,400 lbs.

The packers are having a busy time filling Government rush orders. The proportion of good heavy hogs is quite small, and the demand for them is very good.

Average weight of hogs at Omaha last month, 255 lbs., against 260 lbs. in March and 269 lbs. a year ago.

Hogs received at Kansas City last month averaged 209 lbs., against 211 lbs. in March and 216 lbs. a year ago.

The average weight of hogs received at Sioux City last month was 258 lbs., against 254 lbs. the previous month, and 264 lbs. in April, 1897.

The 2,758,943 hogs received at Chicago the first four months of this year averaged 229 lbs., against 238 lbs. a year ago, when 2,592,347 arrived. Average two years ago, 241 lbs., and the corresponding four months of 1895, 222 lbs.

One large purchaser of hogs here showed the following results: Packing hogs averaging 225 to 268 lbs. cost $4.06 to $4.10; 282 lbs., $4.14; and 153 to 169 lbs., $3.96 to $4.00.

The "wiseheads" claim packers have been making 50c. to $1.00 on every hog handled by them during the past week or ten days.

Henry George, Monticello, Ia., sold a load of choice draft horses in the Chicago market that averaged $143 per head. He was offered $135 per head by an export dealer on the arrival of the consignment, but preferred to sell them in the auction. Aside from a few slight car bruises, the horses were sound. They were a mixed lot of Clydesdales and Percherons weighing 1,500 to 1,700 pounds, and sold at a range of $100 to $160.

W. G. Synder, Wyoming, Ill., sold a load of choice drafters, the top price being for a 1,940-lb. gray five-year-old Percheron mare that sold to a German exporter for $250. Another 1,900-lb. mare was secured by an eastern shipper for $167.50. The consignment averaged around $125 per head.

C. W. Mills, Richland, Iowa, topped the market with a choice consignment of drivers, prices running up to $225, the lot averaging $135 per head.

E. L. Meyerhoffer, Maquoketa, Iowa, was on the market with a fine load of coach horses, one fine animal of the consignment bringing $240.

May wheat at $1.70 reminds one of the time not long past when wheat was being used for feed in the western corn country. The advance in wheat tends to help the holders of corn.

England's Live Stock Exports.

(FROM AN ENGLISH CORRESPONDENT.)

Statistics give us the following as the result of England's live stock export trade during the quarter ending March 31st last; *i. e.*, for the first three months of the present year. We give the figures for the same period of the previous two years as well for the purpose of comparison. Taking the exports as a whole we find the following result:

	Declared Value.	+ or −
First quarter of 1896	$ 861,965	+ 36 10
" " 1897	1,070,435	+ 33.48
" " 1898	1,306,125	− 22.01

HORSES.

The foreign and export demand for horses shows a very considerable increase.

	No. Exported.	Value.
First quarter of 1896	6,334	$ 569,495
" " 1897	7,662	776,745
" " 1898	9,610	1,063,785

CATTLE.

The demand has not been at all an active one during the quarter, and the result of the present quarter cannot but be looked upon as one of the worst of recent years.

	No. Exported.	Value.
First quarter of 1896	709	$73,415
" " 1897	609	72,510
" " 1898	408	53,235

SHEEP.

The demand of sheep for export has during the period under review been of smaller dimension, but at an increased value per head, reaching, we think, the highest record average value for so large a quantity over any similar period; *i. e.*, $70 per head.

	No. Exported.	Value.
First quarter of 1896	1,832	$ 111,650
" " 1897	2,603	183,505
" " 1898	1,787	130,220

PIGS.

The export demand for British pigs has been extremely small; but small though the total is, there is an improvement both in number and price during the present year as compared with last.

	No. Exported.	Value.
First quarter of 1896	365	$ 3,635
" " 1897	60	120
" " 1898	100	845

Canadian Live Stock Exports.

The live stock exports for the week ending Wednesday, May 11th, as prepared by R. Bickerdike, of the Live Stock Exchange, Montreal, show a total shipment of 6,538 cattle from that port on eighteen boats for Liverpool, London, Glasgow, Newcastle, and Manchester.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Prevention of Milk Fever.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—It is often remarked by farmers that it is almost impossible to get medicine down a hog's throat. I have often found this most difficult. We had a sick hog, and one which was very large. We had some iron piping, and I took a file and cut off a piece about two and a half feet long, of 1¼-inch pipe, and put a plug in one end; this will hold something over one pint. Then make loop in a piece of rope, and insert this in the hog's mouth and raise the head, and you will find this as good an instrument for giving medicine to a horse, cow or hog as you ever tried. Sometimes people know things and yet have no faith in them. We have lost several very fine cows with what is called by farmers milk fever. The cow becomes paralyzed in the hind quarters, and the milk stops and the cow goes down. We have tried everything, and have secured the best doctors in this part, and we never yet saved one after they were taken sick. I have said there was no use to bother with them after they were taken sick, and I have to see one saved before I change my mind. But there is a preventive. I saw one several years ago in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, but we lost after this two very fine cows. The very best are always most liable to it. After this we thought it best to try and stop this work. Since then we have lost no more, thanks to the ADVOCATE. About two weeks before the cow is due to calve, we give her 1½ pounds of Epsom salts, and again about three days before she is to drop her calf we give her 1 pound of Epsom salts, and we have had no trouble since we have followed this preventive.

Northumberland Co., Ont. J. B. STONE.

Our Egg Industry.

In England, besides an enormous consumption of domestic laid eggs, nearly $15,000,000 is spent each year in purchasing foreign supplies. France, Belgium and Denmark contribute more than two-thirds of this supply, and the moneys received in the trade represent a great deal to the farmers and peasants of those countries. Although the consumption of eggs in Canada is capable of vast expansion, there will always be, as there is to-day, a surplus available for exportation. And as we pointed out in May 2nd issue, Canadian eggs are eagerly sought after in England, so that we have it in our power to vastly develop this important industry.

In competing for the egg trade of the United Kingdom, it has always to be borne in mind that scrupulous care and pains must be exercised if the trade is to succeed. A fast steamship service and cold-storage carrying facilities will do much to offset the advantage which continental producers have over Canadians. But something more is required to capture the first place for Canadian eggs in British markets, viz., the unanimous co-operation of producers, merchants and exporters in marketing the eggs in the best possible condition. Egg experts assert that by intelligent poultry-breeding the egg production of whole flocks may be raised from 150 to 250 per hen per year. The average output accomplished by the ordinary Canadian hen is said to be less than 100 per year, so she has lots of room to improve. By similar means the size of the eggs themselves may be increased, and this is an important matter, for the export trade requires that eggs should average 1½ pounds per dozen, and should our egg producers send only *unfertilized* eggs forward we have nothing to fear so far as the increasing demand is concerned.

In a recent issue of the London (Eng.) *Grocers' Journal* it was stated that Canadian eggs coming thousands of miles by land and sea arrive in Liverpool in a much better condition than do their Irish rivals. The same journal mentions that Liverpool and Glasgow like Canadian eggs well now that they get them, by reason of the refrigerator service, in as fresh condition as when they were laid. We can see that the way is open for us to reap valuable returns if we will only increase our flocks and keep them down to business.