The Farmers' Market

WINNIPEG MARKET LETTER

Office of the United Grain Growers Limited, Winnipeg, May 13, 1918

OATS have worked steadily lower in prices during last week. Offerings have been liberal and buying support has been only moderate. Sentiment in the American markets has been especially bearish on account of the large reserve stocks of oats and corn and the prospects for large crops again this year. It is generally conceded that previous high prices were the result of transportation difficulties and not of actual shortage. In the Winnipeg market there has been less bearish sentiment, but prices have declined for lack of support in either the futures or the cash market. All cash oats, except 2 C.W.'s have been applied on the May delivery contracts, and in some instances, holders of May futures have not been anxious for delivery of the oats so soon. Reports from Fort William and Port Arthur state the outward movement is heavy, and it is possible that depletion of stocks may be a steadying effect on the market.

BARLEY.—There has been no feature to the market. Offerings have been heavy and buyers have reduced prices ten cents during the week. Stocks at the lake front have been heavier this spring than a year ago, but are reported moving out rapidly.

FLAX futures show a decline of seven-and-a-quarter cents per bushel since a week ago. The daily markets have not shown any special feature and fluctuations have been narrow.

WINNIPEG FUTURES

	May 7	8	9	10	11	13	Week ago	Year ago
Oats—								
May	81¼	81¼	82¼	80¾	78	80¼	85¼	81¼
July	79¾	80¾	81¼	79¼	77	79¼	82¼	75¾
Flax—								
May	373	374½	376	374	370½	369½	377½	318½
July	373	376	380½	378¾	374	375	382	318

INTERIOR TERMINAL ELEVATOR STOCKS

Movement of grain in interior terminal elevators for the week ending Wednesday, May 8, was as follows:—

Elevator	Grain	Rec'd during week	Ship'd during week	Now in store
Saskatoon	Wheat	18,213	14,405	268,193
"	Oats	4,236	213,778	1,488,681
"	Barley	.....	6,166	22,567
"	Flax	.....	12,854	10,745
Moose Jaw	Wheat	9,040	22,908	582,478
"	Oats	57,610	82,208	1,173,998
"	Barley	.....	10,466	12,552
"	Flax	.....	8,801	9,207
Calgary	Wheat	33,996	18,890	367,097
"	Oats	30,043	71,127	1,128,395
"	Barley	344	1,820	103,437
"	Flax	.....	159	1,206

THE CASH TRADE

Minneapolis, May 10

CORN—Good demand for milling grades; everything else unsaleable. No. 3 yellow closed at $1.58 to $1.65.

OATS—There was a local demand at the Minneapolis May price. No. 3 white oats closed at 73¼ to 74¼c; No. 4 white oats at 70¼ to 72¼c.

RYE—A little better milling demand. Price up 3c. No. 2 rye closed at $2.33 to $2.35.

BARLEY—Very slow and 5c lower early. Maltsters came in and market improved. Prices closed at $1.15 to $1.55.

FLAXSEED—No. 1 seed closed at $3.95 to $3.97 on spot and to arrive.

PREDICT BILLION BUSHEL CROP

Washington, May 9.—Hope for the billion bushel wheat crop, for which the government is striving this year, was strengthened Wednesday by the department of agriculture's May crop forecasting a production of 573,539,000 bushels of winter wheat.

Realization of a winter wheat crop as large as that forecast would place this year's harvest on that grain as the third largest ever gathered. The estimate is 15,500,000 bushels more than forecast in April from conditions then existing and 154,400,000 bushels more than the crop harvested last summer.

The condition of the crop as 88.4 per cent. normal, indicating an increase of approximately 15.7 bushels. Production of rye, according to forecasts from May 1 conditions, 87,689,000 bushels, based on a condition of 85.6 per cent. of a normal.

FIXED WHEAT PRICES

	1*	2*	3*	4*	5*	6*	Tf1	Tf2	Tf3
Fixed	221	218	215	208	196	187	218	212	207
Year ago	300	297	292	280	255	200	..	..	..

U.S. STOCKS SMALL

Commercial stocks of wheat reported to the United States Department of Agriculture in a food survey, dated April 1, 1918, amounted to 39,124,378 bushels, according to a statement just issued by the Bureau of Markets. This amount was held by 8,876 firms consisting of elevators, warehouses, grain mills, and wholesale grain dealers and was slightly less than 38 per cent. of the stocks held by the same firms on April 1, 1917. The commercial visible supply figures for the nearest date, as published by the Chicago Board of Trade, April 6, 1918, showed only 4,695,000 bushels as against 47,563,000 bushels a year ago; while Bradstreet's reported 10,180,000 bushels on hand March 30, 1918, as against 48,535,000 bushels for the same date a year earlier.

No figures are available with reference to the estimated stocks on farms for April 1. However, figures previously issued by the department show that the estimated stocks on farms for March 1, 1918, were greater than for the same date a year earlier, being 111,650,000 bushels as against 100,650,000 bushels. The stocks of other cereals reported were, in round figures: corn, 33,000,000 bushels; oats, 46,000,000 bushels; barley, 14,000,000 bushels; and rye, 4,000,000 bushels.

ORDERS WHEAT MOVED

The Board of Grain Supervisors have issued the following order:—

It is hereby ordered by the Board of Grain Supervisors for Canada:—

1. That the Canadian Pacific Railway Company shall unload all cars of wheat shipped from country points on and after May 10, 1918, on its lines west of the Great Lakes into the terminal elevators at Fort William or Port Arthur unless a permit is presented to said railroad in the form approved by the Board of Grain Supervisors for Canada, the authorized agents of the said board permitting such shipment of wheat to be unloaded at a destination other than above specified.

2. That this order No. 44 is effective from May 10, 1918, and will remain in effect until further notice.

FLAX SEED PLACED

Lieut.-Col. Wayland has left on his return trip to Britain and thence to active service with the Canadian forces in France. His special errand to Canada was in connection with the distribution of flax fibre seed for the British government, of which due notice has been given from time to time.

Speaking on the matter, Colonel Wayland said: "I am delighted with the way farmers have taken hold of this matter, though frankly it is what I expected them to do. On my return to Britain I shall have great pleasure in reporting to the military authorities, at whose direction I have been acting, that all the seed has been placed with reliable farmers, men of experience who are keen to make a success of the growing in order to help the air service of the empire. We will have about 20,000 acres in the three western provinces and about 1,000 acres in Ontario. It is going in under the most favorable conditions and with good weather the returns should be excellent, at least we have the satisfaction of knowing that it got away to a good start.

FARMERS MUST SELL

Soon immediately after the issuance of the drastic regulations in regard to flour mills which prohibit any mill buying even one more bushel of wheat while they have ten days' grinding on hand, Dr. Magill, chairman of the board of grain supervisors for Canada, said the board is trying now to have all the wheat that remains of last year's crop in the three prairie provinces shipped from the farmers, either to the mills or to the representatives of the Allied governments.

It is believed that there still remains on the farms a quantity of wheat estimated at between 10,000,000 and 15,000,000 bushels. There is a great need that this wheat should be shipped at the earliest possible moment.

May Commandeer

It is the intention of the board of grain supervisors for Canada to ask authorities at Ottawa to take drastic steps to secure all the wheat remaining in farmers' hands after June 1. What these steps will be has not been intimated, but it is understood that they will include commandeering of the wheat, and possibly a reduction in the price of all the wheat commandeered after June 1.

While these steps are contemplated, it is the belief of the board of grain supervisors that if the farmers realized the urgency of the need, such drastic steps would not be necessary.

ONTARIO WINTER WHEAT POOR

Toronto, May 6.—C. P. Bailey, of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, states that the outlook for fluter wheat is bad. In a tour of 275 counties adjacent to Toronto he saw only three good fields. "Not more than ten per cent. of the wheat sown will yield anything," said Mr. Bailey. "Many of the farmers have sown spring wheat and others have ploughed up the ground altogether and are putting in oats, barley, or some other grains."

Mr. Bailey accounted for the poor showing of fall wheat as due to the lateness in sowing it last fall an dadverse weather conditions. "One fact is very noticeable," said Mr. Bailey, "and that is the response of the farmers to the call for increased production. In the distance travelled I saw so many acres under cultivation."

MUST RETURN FLOUR

The following wire was received at Winnipeg yesterday morning from J. D. McGregor, of the Canada Food Board:—

"Please give widest publicity to the fact that the order recently issued dealing with the hoarding of flour is most emphatic, and unless all consumers return surplus flour to dealers before May 15 they are subject to fines from $100 to $1,000 or three months' imprisonment, or both, the surplus flour to be confiscated to the crown. All police officers, Dominion, provincial or city police, have power to enforce the law and are ready to do so. Personally I would urge everyone to return the flour to their dealers before the fine and confiscation clause becomes effective on May 15. Ignorance of the law is no excuse.

"Any miller or dealer found encouraging excessive purchases of flour will be liable to the witholding or cancellation of license."

This last clause is evidently a special warning to millers and dealers due to the fact that within the last two weeks sales of flour from mills for domestic consumption have been much heavier than is usual at this season of the year.

MUST TURN IN SURPLUS FLOUR

According to orders issued by the Canada Board of Grain Supervisors, no mill can take in a bushel of wheat without permission from the Canada Board of Grain Supervisors and no permit will be issued to a mill that has ten days' supply on hand.

Drastic orders have been issued covering shipments from mills with more than 30 days' supply now on hand.

The action of the Board of Grain Supervisors in practically commandeering from the mills of Western Canada reserves of over 1,000,000 bushels of wheat meets with general endorsation by the millers, according to managers of some of the mills concerned. They agreed that the mills would not suffer any loss by the new arrangements or be put to any serious inconvenience.

WINNIPEG and U.S. PRICES

Closing prices on the principal western markets on Friday, May 10, were:—

Cash Grain	Winnipeg	Minneapolis
2 white oats	80 77	80 73½-80 74½
Barley	1.05-1.10	1.15 - 1.55
Flax, No. 1	3.74	3.95 - 3.97

MUSSELMAN'S APPEAL

Regina, Sask., May 11.—Members of the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association are being strongly appealed to by J. B. Musselman, central secretary of the association, to make delivery of all wheat stored on the farms immediately after the completion of seeding. The delivery of all wheat was not only a national necessity, but business wisdom, as it would be an awkward situation if the Board of Grain Supervisors were forced to call for reduction in price in order to have all the grain marketed, he states.

Similar appeals are going to the U.F.A. of Alberta and the Grain Growers of Manitoba. It is generally understood, however, that the main portion of the 10,000,000 to 15,000,000 bushels estimated in farmers' hands is located in Saskatchewan.

The Livestock Market

WINNIPEG

Winnipeg, May 11th, 1918.

The Livestock Department of the United Grain Growers Limited reports receipts at the Union Stockyards for last week as follows: cattle, 1,881; calves, 335; sheep and lambs, 11; hogs, 6,743.

The run of cattle continues light and prices have been pretty well maintained on the best butcher steers. Cows and heifers are slower and prices have been reduced from 25 cents to $1.00 a hundred on all the common grades. Stockers and Feeders are coming forward a little more plentiful, and we look for slightly lower prices, unless the demand increases, especially on the lower grades. The tone of the market was not so buoyant and a continued light run is the only thing that will prevent the market going lower. With a light run, choice veals are selling up to 15 cents and pail-fed stocker calves around 9 to 10 cents.

The hog market has held steady for some days at $19.40 and $19.50, with a firm tone. For some choice Selects a premium has been paid amounting to from 10 to 15 cents per cwt. Market closed with hogs selling generally at $19.75.

With continued light receipts the prices of swine stock are firm at the following: lambs, 15 cents to 18 cents; sheep, 10 cents to 14 cents.

CALGARY

Calgary, Alta., May 11, 1918.

The United Grain Growers report this week's Alberta Stock Yards receipts were: horses, 380; cattle, 1,972; hogs, 2,187; sheep, 751. The corresponding week a year ago was: horses, 585; cattle, 775; hogs, 1974; sheep, 165.

The week's run of cattle turned out to be mostly stockers and very little good butcher stuff was on sale. We sold a few good steers for Mr. Wilson, of Irricana, at $14.50, and this was practically the top of the market, but the bulk of the steers offered were not good enough to realize over $13.75. We quote choice grain-fed steers $13.75 to $14.50; medium to good steers, $13 to $13.75; and common killers from $12 to $13. Fat cows and heifers were in strong demand and we did not best stuff from $12.50 to $13, with medium cows $10.50 to $12; and common from $8.50 to $10. Bulls sold about the same as last week with the best bringing from $9.00 to $10. No oxen were offered but the good ones would sell readily at high prices. Veal calves are worth from $11 to to $12. The trade in stocker steers was brisk and a considerable number changed hands at from $9.75 to $10.25, with yearling steers and heifers of good quality from $45 to $52.50, and common stuff $5.00 lower. A number of thin stocker cows found a purchaser at from $60 to $70 but well-bred cows in good condition will realize more although the demand is not very brisk. Top price on cattle a year ago, $11.

Hog and with most of the buyers keen after the good stuff, prices strengthened and we sold out hogs of that day at $20.05, with a fairly heavy run on Friday the market held steady and $20.05 was the prevailing price. Top price on hogs a year ago, $15.85.

No fat sheep on sale. We quote fat lambs and wethers at $16 to $17, and fat ewes $14 to $15.

Judging from the receipts this week it would appear as though the bulk of the good beef has already been sold. We are of the opinion that a few loads of choice, thick steers would probably sell at even higher prices than have yet been obtained, but it is only a matter of a short time before prices will begin to decline.

PHILIX IS DEAD

On May 5, Laysell and Paris' champion Percheron stallion, Philix, for which they paid $9,000 last fall, died at his stable in Calgary. Philix was six years old. He was champion at the Chicago International last December, also at the Illinois and Minnesota State Fairs as well as at the Edmonton Horse Show this spring. He suffered his first defeat at the Calgary Spring Show in April when Carnoise, a son of Carnot, owned by B. H. Bonny, of Bassano, won the championship with De Lancey judging. The horse died of ulceration of the stomach after a sudden bad attack of two hours.

Cash Prices at Fort William and Port Arthur, May 13 to May 7, inclusive

Date	Feed Wheat	Oats 2 CW	Oats 3 CW	Oats Ex 1 Fd	Oats 1 Fd	Oats 2 Fd	Barley 3 CW	Barley 4 CW	Barley Rej.	Barley Feed	Flax 1 NW	Flax 2 CW	Flax 3 CW
May 7	178	81½	78½	74½	75½	72½	150	145	120	116	373	370	...
8	178½	81½	73½	78½	75½	72½	140	135	110	105	374½	371½	...
9	178½	83½	79½	79½	76½	73½	140	135	110	105	376	373	...
10	179	81½	77½	77½	74½	71½	140	135	110	105	374	376	...
11	179	78½	75	75	72	69	130	125	...	...	376½	367½	365½
13	179	80½	77½	77½	74½	71½	140	135	110	105	369½	366½	364½
Week ago	177	85½	82½	82½	79½	76½	150	145	120	118	377½	374½	352
Year ago	90½	47½	46	46	45½	44½	68	63	58	58	172	169	...

LIVESTOCK	Winnipeg May 11	Winnipeg Year ago	Calgary May 11	Toronto May 8	Chicago May 9	St. Paul May 9
Cattle	$ c $ c	$ c $ c	$ c $ c	$ c $ c	$ c $ c	$ c $ c
Choice steers	13.00-15.00	11.00-11.75	13.00-14.50	15.00-16.00	16.75-17.60	15.00-17.10
Best butcher steers	10.50-13.00	10.50-11.00	11.50-13.00	12.00-15.00	12.75-16.50	10.00-15.00
Fair to good butcher steers	9.00-10.50	7.50-10.50	10.00-11.00	10.00-12.00	10.00-12.50	8.50-10.00
Good to choice fat cows	10.00-11.50	8.50-10.00	12.00-13.00	11.00-12.50	12.00-15.00	11.00-12.50
Medium to good cows	9.00-10.50	6.50-8.00	10.50-10.50	9.50-11.00	9.75-12.00	9.50-10.50
Common cows	7.50-8.00	4.25-6.00	8.50-10.50	8.00-9.00	7.50-8.75	7.75-8.75
Canners	6.00-7.50	3.75-4.25	6.00-8.50	5.50-6.50	7.00-7.50	6.50-7.75
Good to choice heifers	11.00-13.00	9.50-11.00	10.00-13.00	12.00-14.50	12.00-15.50	10.50-13.00
Fair to good heifers	9.50-11.75	8.00-9.00	8.00-10.00	10.00-12.00	9.00-12.00	7.50-10.00
Best cows	9.00-11.00	8.50-9.50	7.50-9.00	.....	.....	.....
Best butcher bulls	9.00-11.00	7.50-8.50	8.50-10.00	10.50-12.00	12.00-14.00	9.25-11.00
Common to bologna bulls	7.00-8.75	5.50-7.00	5.00-8.25	8.00-10.00	9.00-11.50	7.75-9.25
Fair to good feeder steers	10.00-11.00	6.50-8.25	9.00-10.25	10.50-11.50	10.25-12.25	9.50-13.25
Fair to good stocker steers	9.00-10.00	6.50-7.75	9.00-10.35	11.00-12.00	9.50-11.00	7.50-10.50
Best milkers and springers (each)	$75-$120	$75-$100	$75-$90	$100-$135	.....	.....
Fair milkers and springers (each)	$60-$85	$50-$65	$70-$80	$65-$90	.....	.....
Hogs						
Choice hogs, fed and watered	19.65	16.00	19.80	21.00-20.50	17.60-17.80	17.20-17.75
Light hogs	18.00-19.00	13.00-14.50	.....	18.00-19.00	17.60-17.80	.....
Heavy sows	15.00-17.00	9.00-10.00	.....	18.00-19.00	15.50-16.00	.....
Stags	11.00-14.00	6.00-8.00	.....	16.00	16.00-16.60	.....
Sheep and Lambs						
Choice lambs	16.00-18.00	11.75-12.75	15.00-17.00	19.50-20.50	16.25-21.00	15.00-16.50
Best Killing Sheep	10.00-12.00	8.50-9.25	12.50-15.00	11.00-13.00	11.00-16.00	10.00-15.00