

MARKET REVIEW AND FORECAST.

Office of FARMING,
Dec. 6th, 1897.

The cold weather and the fall of snow are having a good effect on the general trade of the country. The good price of wheat and the unusually good crop has greatly increased the amount of money in circulation in the country, and as a consequence cash sales in general business were larger during the past month than they have been for a number of years.

Wheat.

As predicted in our last review, the price of wheat has declined during the week. After all the rumors and despatches about the destruction of the Argentina wheat crop it seems to have come through these ordeals much better than expected. The *Trade Bulletin*, according to the Montreal *Trade Bulletin*, state that the crop will probably amount to 37,000,000 bushels. Contrary to expectation, Russia is shipping wheat, and has recently exported 3,250,000 bushels. It doesn't look as though Europe would soon be in a starving condition. Add to this the fact that Australia is likely to be an exporter instead of an importer of wheat, and it is likely that the new year will see lively changes in the price of wheat.

At Toronto the price of wheat dropped early in the week, and at the end of the week dropped another cent. For export wheat only 82c. is being offered by the ear lot for middle and north and west freights, spring wheat selling at 82c. and goose 77c. east. Manitoba wheat is somewhat easier, being 98c. at Sarina. At Montreal prices are only nominal at 91c. to 92c. for No. 2, red winter, and 90c. to 91c. for white.

Barley and Oats.

At Toronto the barley market is dull. Prices are nominal at 32c. for No. 2. For feed there is a little demand at 25c. to 26c. outside. At Montreal it is quiet at 32c. to 34c. for feed. Old barley, of good malting grades, 50c. to 55c.

At Toronto oats are a little easier than they were last week, and prices have declined a cent; mixed lots selling for 22c. and white at 23c. for ear lots north and west freights. On the farmers' market they are 25c. to 25½c. In Montreal the demand is steady. Local sales have been made at 27c. to 27½c. and these are about the figures for export trade.

In Manitoba the price of oats is away above the shipping basis, and a great deal of corn is being used throughout the country instead of feeding purposes.

Peas and Corn.

There has been really no change in the market for peas. They have been fairly steady at 44c. for ear lots, north and west freights. At Montreal prices are 50½c. to 51½c. in store.

At Montreal yellow Canadian corn is 35c. to 36c. in ear lots in store. American corn is about the same. At Toronto new Canadian yellow corn is dull at 25c. west. Old yellow corn is going for about 27c.

Rye and Buckwheat.

No change in the rye market; steady at 45c. west. At Montreal the receipts were nil, all the business being through shipments from western points.

Buckwheat is steady at 32c. west and north.

Milfeed.

The market is unchanged at \$10 to \$11 for shorts, and \$7.50 for bran, west.

Potatoes.

The cold weather has lessened receipts, and prices are stiffer; 60c. in ear lots on the tracks, and 65c. and 70c. is being asked out of stores at Toronto. At Montreal prices are 55c. to 60c. on the tracks.

Honey.

Very little choice white clover comb honey is offering. Some poor comb honey was offered at Montreal, and sold for 10c. Quebec comb honey brings from 9c. to 12c.; extracted honey, 7c. to 9c.

Apples.

Reports from the shipment of apples to the old country reveal a large amount of fraudulent packing. This is to be deplored, and apple-growers and shippers will suffer in consequence. The *Trade Bulletin* says that a gruger in Montreal paid a high price for a barrel of choice apples; when he opened them there was a layer or two of good apples on top, but the rest of the barrel was filled with the poorest of culls and windfalls. Legislation is needed to make our fruit men honest. Apples are not keeping well; winter

fruit, and particularly Spies, are turning out very unsatisfactory. The poor-keeping qualities are attributed to the unusual rapid ripening of the fruit in the fall. Prices have not changed.

Eggs.

At Montreal the demand for new-laid eggs is firm. New-laid eggs 20c. to 21c. Good boiling stock has sold at 19c.; cold storage eggs, 12c. to 16c., and hined 12½c. to 15c.

The supply of eggs at Toronto is fair and the demand good. The market is steady at 16c. to 16½c. for strictly fresh gathered, 14c. for held fresh and cold storage, and 13½c. for hined.

Poultry.

The supply at Toronto has only been fair, the demand not much better. Turkeys are bringing 7c. to 8c., 5c. to 6c. for geese, 40c. to 60c. for ducks, and 20c. to 40c. for chickens.

At Montreal the supply was much in excess of the requirements of the Thanksgiving demands. Prices are a little lower. Turkeys have declined to 8c. to 8½c.; geese are slow at 5½c. to 6c.; ducks are scarce at 8c. to 8½c.; young chickens 6½c. to 7½c., and old fow now at 5c. to 6c.

Cattle.

Business at the Toronto cattle yards has been quiet during the week. Shippers are evidently holding for the Christmas markets. Hardly anything has been done in export cattle. Only a few are offering, and a few good ones sold for 4c. per lb.; a few old bulls changed hands at from 3½c. to 3¾c. per lb. Butchers' cattle continue low in price. The quality of those offering is not first class, consequently the market is dull, as the butchers are looking for prime stuff, and that will bring good figures. Good stuff brings \$3.60 to \$3.65 per cwt. quickly, but poor stuff is dull and sells below the \$3.50 mark. The price of stockers depends on the demand from Buffalo, and for some time this has not been heavy. Then, too, the quality offering is not as good as it was. Light stockers bring from 2¼c. to 3c., and feeders go for 3¼c. to 3½c. per lb. Farmers and distillery men are taking a few.

At Buffalo the cattle market has been very steady. Good fat to choice steers are bringing from \$4.50 to \$5; coarse rough steers, \$3.75 to \$4.30, and good butchers' cattle \$3.75 to \$4.50 per cwt. Canadian feeders \$3.25 to \$4.15, and stockers \$2.75 to \$4 per cwt.

Sheep.

The trade in sheep is much better than when last reported, and there is a much firmer tone to the market. On the Toronto market lambs bring from \$4.25 to \$4.40 per cwt.; extra good lots run up to \$4.50. The price per head ranges from \$2.50 to \$4.25 apiece; thus showing in a very marked way the advantage of raising good lambs. Shipping sheep are steady at from 3c. to 3¼c.; good ones may bring 3½c. Butchers' sheep are dull at from \$3 to \$3.50 per head.

At Buffalo choice Canada lambs bring from \$5.50 to \$5.80 per cwt., while lucky lambs will not bring more than \$5.50, and the poorer qualities drop away below \$5 per cwt. Good yearlings are bringing from \$4.40 to \$4.90, and culls drop to nearly \$4 per cwt.

Hogs.

There has been little change in the market; prices remained at the figures given in last week's report, although the offerings have been very small. The market is steady at 4½c. per lb. for choice bacon hogs. Light fat and thick fat hogs, \$4.10 to \$4.12 per cwt. Stags slow at from 2c. to 2¼c., and sows bring from 3c. to 3¼c.

May.

The market at Toronto remains practically unchanged; from \$8 to \$9 for ear lots on the track seems to be the ruling price. The report comes from Montreal that in the neighborhood of 200 carloads have been sold in Ontario for through shipment to the seaboard at from \$6 to \$6.50 f.o.b. It is also reported that some large quantities have been sold in Ontario for the lumber camps. At Montreal several car lots of No. 1 changed hands at from \$10.50 to \$11.

Cheese.

There has been no material change in the cheese situation since last week. The estimates of cheese in store in Canada have receded somewhat on closer inspection. The exact number of boxes on hand on this side will not be definitely known till the actual shipping returns are received. The market will probably remain inactive till after the holiday season, when a revival is looked for. Careful estimates place the value of the out-

put of Canadian cheese for 1897 at over \$15,000,000.

On the local cheese market not much business is being done. Most of the stock is out of the factory men's hands. Sales of some Eastern Octobers are reported as having been made during the week at from 7½c. to 8c. Some little interest is being taken by the dealers in the action of the factory men in the Campbellford district in shipping their own cheese direct to England. The outcome of their efforts will be watched with interest.

Butter.

Canadian butter seems to be gaining ground in England. Some recent quotations give American finest as selling at from 90s. to 94s., while Canadian finest is selling at from 96s. to 100s. Some one should draw Secretary Wilson's attention to these quotations. It is surely conclusive evidence that Canadian butter is looked upon as superior to American by those most capable of judging.

Choice late makes of Canadian creamery will give better returns just now if exported than if sold to the local trade. There appears to be very little life in the market here, and what little sales transpire are on the basis of 17½ to 18½c., earlier makes selling down to 17 and 16½c.

The supply of dairy butter is not very large east. There is a very good demand for rolls at from 15 to 16c. in Montreal.

There has been a good supply of dairy butter in large rolls at Toronto lately, and the demand for them has been good at 15c. Choice dairy tub butter is reported scarce, and prices are firm at from 15 to 16c.

Publishers' Desk.

Common Sense Ear Drums.—On another page will be seen the advertisement of Wilson's Common Sense Ear Drum. These drums are safe, comfortable, and invisible, and have no wire or string attached. Everyone troubled with deafness will consult their own interests by purchasing one of these valuable contrivances.

Maple Leaf Grinder.—The manufacturers of this improved grinder, the Gould, Shapley & Muir Co., Brantford, Ont., extend a cordial invitation to all visitors to the Provincial Fat Stock and Dairy Show to visit their works and see this grinder in operation. The factory is quite near the exhibition building. The Gould, Shapley & Muir Co. have shown their good will towards the show by donating one of their Maple Leaf grinders as a premium.

Smithfield Show.—The great Fat Stock Show of England is in progress this week from the 6th to the 10th. The number of entries at time of writing were 703, being 364 head of cattle, 199 pens of three sheep, and 82 entries of pigs, single entries and pens of two. For the carcass competition 24 cattle and 34 sheep have been entered.

Thorold Cement.—Our readers should notice particularly the advertisement of the Thorold cement, which appears in this issue. When a FARMING representative visited Thorold on Nov. 24th last, the steamer *Iona* was loading 3,000 blms. of Thorold cement to be used by the Dominion Government in building the Soulages canal. This shipment completed an order for 22,000 blms. for this important work, and speaks well for the quality and reliability of this well-known cement.

Great Poultry Show.—The National Fanciers' Association, of Chicago, will hold their second annual show Jan. 24th to 29th, at the 2nd Regiment Armory Hall, on Michigan avenue, Chicago, Ill. The importance of this show is sufficient to secure excursion rates over the railroads, and anyone desirous of attending can arrange for cheap transportation by addressing the secretary, W. W. Hogle, 1015 Henson avenue, Evanston, Ill. Elaborate preparations are being made, and there is no doubt but what it will be the best show of the season in the central west.

Auction Sale of Jersey Cattle.—Messrs. Humphreys and Laitlaw, London, Ont., will sell by public auction on Thursday, December 9th, 1897, their entire herd of Jersey cattle. The sale will be held at "Etrick," six miles from London and one mile from Westminster Station, on the London and Port Stanley Railway, and will commence at 1 p.m. sharp. Dairy men should not miss this opportunity of securing

some high-class Jersey stock. Exhibitors at the Fat Stock and Dairy Show can leave Brantford on the last day of the show and reach London in good time for the sale. Catalogues giving full particulars regarding the sale will be sent on application.

The Farmers' Binder Twine Co.

The fifth annual meeting of this co-operative company was held in the Court House, Brantford, on the afternoon of the 10th of November. There was a very large attendance of representative stockholders from nearly every province and county in the Dominion, and individuals from a distance represented their neighbors. The meeting was one well qualified to impress upon those present that in co-operation there is tremendous strength. The financial statement was very satisfactory, and a dividend was declared the same as last year. Short addresses were made by leading shareholders, and some changes made in the by-laws. The work of the future was well outlined by the general manager. The officers for the ensuing year are: President, Hon. Thos. Ballantyne; vice-president, Robert Keith, M.P., Bowmanville; general manager, Joseph Stratford, Brantford.—Their factory is located near the building in which the Provincial Fat Stock and Dairy Show will be held, and a cordial invitation is extended to all visitors to inspect their establishment.

Ontario Fruit Growers' Association.

The thirty-seventh annual meeting of the association will be held in the Town Hall, Waterloo, on the 15th and 16th of December, 1897. The programme as arranged for promises to be a most interesting one. Mr. Orr, the Provincial Superintendent of Spraying, will give his report on and show samples of the results of spraying. He also reports on his work of inspecting the orchards of Ontario for the San José scale, and will have specimens of the San José scale on exhibition. Messrs. Woolverton and Fisher report on cold storage and results of trial shipments of fruit in 1897. Prof. Wm. Saunders, Ottawa, gives an address on "Methods of Maintaining the Fertility of Land in Orchards." Prof. L. R. Taft, Agricultural College, Michigan, is expected to be present and give an address. Dr. Jas. Fletcher, of Ottawa, is to speak on "Insects Injurious to Fruit in 1897." Prof. J. W. Robertson and the Hon. Sidney Fisher and others are also expected to address the meetings. The subject of packages and packing of fruit for export and similar subjects will be up for discussion. A meeting of the board of directors will be held at the Zimmerman House, the association's headquarters, on the evening of the 14th of December. Programmes and all information can be had from the secretary, L. Woolverton, Grimsby, Ont.

Stock Notes.

R. REID & CO., Hintonburg, Ont.: There has been a great shaking up among the dairy herds around Ottawa. The outbreak of tuberculosis at the Experimental Farm has set every dairyman to testing his cows. We had our herd of 66 head tested on November 3rd and 4th, by Dr. A. W. Harris, and we are pleased to report that he found the whole herd free from tuberculosis. The day is coming when every herd supplying milk to the city, or to the cheese or butter factory, will be required by law to have a certificate from a qualified veterinary that no disease exists in it. Our stock are doing well, and young heifers are developing into fine cows.

HENRY ARKELL, "Farmer's Farm," Arkell: This has been a very good season for Oxford down. I sold a car load of yearling ewes to Ed. Rice, Wyoming, U.S., and went out with them personally. A car load of yearling and ram lambs went to George McKerron, New-cx, Wis. A car load of ram lambs to R. Jones, Fort Steele, Wyoming, and 46 ram lambs to Donald McKerron, Calgary, Alberta. A large number have been sold in smaller lots to British Columbia, Manitoba, Northwest, and Quebec, and the United States. Also sold show lots to George McKerron, Ulrich Pruitt, Green-bury, Ind., and G. J. Campbell, Pittsfield, Ohio; all of whom write that they have been very successful in the show rings. When out west this fall for a month, I saw thousands of cross-bred Oxfords. They give great satisfaction there for their hardiness and early maturing qualities.

Maple Cliff Stock and Dairy Farm

AYRSHIRE CATTLE
BERKSHIRE AND
TAMWORTH PIGS

For Sale.—Two young Ayrshire bulls 15 and 27 months old. Also a number of young heifers.

R. REID & CO.

One mile from Ottawa. Hintonburg.

INCUBATORS Self-Regulating. Catalogues from G. S. Singer, Carleton Place, Ont.