GENERAL MARKETS

TORONTO FARMERS' MARKET.

St. Lawrence Market. Toronto, Feb. 22, 1908.—On account of the cold weather prevailing lately, the receipts of all lines of produce were rather small. Eggs and butter were noticeably scarce and prices were rather high, particularly for butter. Trade was good and the attendance was large. The following prices ruled:

Prices.

Potatoes.—$1.10 a bag.

Eggs—New laid eggs sold from 35 to 40c a doz., and storage at 28c.

Buter—Good dairy butter brought from 30 to 35c a lb.

Poultry—Dressed chickens, 16c a lb.; live, 14c; dressed fowl, 13c; live, 12c; fresh turkeys, 18 to 22c; geese (fresh) 14 to 15c; storage, 12c; ducks (fresh) 17c; storage, 14 to 15c.

Hay and straw—About 30 loads of hay and three of straw were offered. Hay brought from $19 to $21 a ton and straw $15.

TORONTO FARM PRODUCE.

Toronto, Feb. 24.—Creamery butter is still very, very scarce and the demand, while still good, is not so good as it has been for the past two or three weeks. This is due, probably, to the high prices prevailing. Dairy butter, also, is still scarce but coming in more freely than it has for the past two weeks. New laid eggs are not coming in as freely as was expected and there is hardly enough to supply the demand. The demand for poultry is excellent but very little is coming in. While lower prices are not looked for, it is not expected that there will be any advance. The supply of select (storage) eggs is now almost done. Another couple of weeks will see the supply all gone. Messrs. Gunns, Limited, Front Street, E., Toronto, quote the following prices.

PRICES.

Butter—Creamery prints, 32 to 34c a lb.; solids, 30 to 31c; dairy prints, 26 to 28c; solids 25c.

Eggs—New laid, 30 to 31c a dozen; select 27c; candled, 22c; limes, 20c.

Poultry—D. chickens, 11 to 13c a lb; d. fowl, 8 to 9c; geese, 10 to 12c; ducks, 10 to 11c; turkeys 14 to 15c.

Cheese—Large, 13½c a lb; twins, 13¾c.

TORONTO SEED PRICES.

Toronto, Feb. 24.—The unusually stormy weather and the consequent effect on the railroads, as well as the country roads, has caused a shortening of the receipts of seed from the country points. Nevertheless, considerable seed that is now in transit will come in this week. There is a feeling of uncertainty in the future market for red clover seed. Indications point to a weakening of the market, doubtless caused by the continued financial stringency. It would seem to be good advice for holders of seed to lessen their stocks and for the growers of seed to market same. Where the seed is not yet threshed, it should be, with as little delay as possible. The following prices are being paid to farmers:

Prices.

Alsike—$7 to $8.50 a bu., with premium on strictly fancy seed.

Red clover—$9 to $10.50 a bu.

Timothy—$2 to $2.50 a bu.

TORONTO GRAIN MARKETS.

Toronto, Feb. 24.—The market for food stuffs is strong on account of the great demand. The feeders are buying bran, shorts, corn and feed wheat to take the place of grain sold. The local grain market is rather quiet on account of the snow blockade on the railroads. Considerable manipulation is being done on the market. Therefore, it is a matter of mere guess work than usual as to what the market is likely to do. A weaker export demand for wheat pulled that market down, but the scarcity of oats is keeping wheat prices up. A lot of oats will be wanted for sowing and lower prices are not looked for. Messrs. S. McNairn & Co., Limited, Standard Stock Exchange, Toronto, quote the following prices:

Prices.

Wheat—Man. No. 1 Northern, $1.22 a bu., lake ports; No. 2 Northern $1.20; No 3 Northern $1.18; Ont. No. 2 red 92c, f.o.b., shipping points; No 2 white 92c; No 2 winter, 91c.

Oats—Man. No. 2 white, 60c a bu., delivered; No. 3, 56c; Ont. No. 2 white, 52c, outside; No. 3, 51c.

Barely—No. 2, 70c a bu.; No. 3x, 67c; No. 3, 63c.

Peas—No. 2, 80c a bu.; boiling peas 95c.

Rye—No. 2, 75c a bu.

Corn—No. 3 American yellow, 63c a bu., Toronto freights; kiln dried mixed, 62½c, Toronto freights.

Mill feeds—Man. bran, $24 a ton, delivered in sacks; shorts, $24; Ont. bran, $23.50, in sacks at the mills; shorts, $24.50.

Hay and straw—No. 1 Timothy hay, $16.50 a ton, on track at Toronto; No. 2, $15.50; good oat straw $9.

THE HOG MARKETS.

Toronto, Feb. 21, 1908.—The English market is badly broken up by large deliveries of Danoish and American hogs and as this affects the Canadian market, the Wm. Davies Company report that they cannot quote any prices for this week.

Hog Supply Short.

The hog supply in this district is less than half what it was one year ago. There is, however, a plentiful supply of feed and there will be no difficulty in that respect. Joseph Featherston, Peel Co., Ont.

PETERBORO HOG PRICES.

Peterboro, Monday, Feb. 24.—The weak conditon of the English hog market due to the large import of Danish bacon has caused prices to go down in sympathy. The roads having been cleared somewhat more hogs have been received on the local market during the past week. The Geo. Matthews Company quote the same prices as last week, namely $5.10 a cwt. for selects. Prospects point to lower prices, however.

MONTREAL HOG MARKET.

Montreal, Monday, Feb. 24.—Cable advices from the other side at the beginning of last week were decidedly encouraging in view of the advance there in the price of Canadian bacon. The effect on the market here, however, was not at all noticeable, as the trade were up against an exceptionally heavy run of hogs, which aggregated fully 10,000 head, and in face of the heavy receipts prices were forced down to $5.75 to $5.80 a 100 lbs. for selected lots weighed off cars.

Dressed Hogs.

Dressed hogs eased off at the beginning of the week but closed firm at the decline, prices ranging from $8.25 to $8.50 a 100 lbs for fresh killed abbatoir stock. There is a good demand from both town and country. There are quite a few country dressed hogs offering at about $7.50 ex. cold store.

EXPORT BUTTER AND CHEESE TRADE.

Montreal, Monday, Feb. 24.—There was decidedly more doing last week in the export cheese trade, and shipments from Montreal via the Atlantic seaports were pretty heavy for the time of year. The total must aggregate fully 25,000 boxes for the week, by far the heaviest week of the winter season. Holders have been much encouraged by the business done during the week, as in most cases the goods were sold at advanced prices from the highest obtained a week ago. The market has been swept almost bare of anything available under fancy westerns. It would be almost impossible to make up a decent sized shipment of eastern cheese now, and for the few that are left holders are asking from 13¼ to 13¾c a lb. for their holdings, and there is every prospect of their being able to get the price within the next week or two. Stocks on both sides of the Atlantic are being steadily reduced, and though there is no prospect of an actual famine as in the case of butter, still cheese will be very scarce before the new crop is available for consumption.

A number of exporters have sailed for Great Britain during the past two weeks to pay their annual visits to the importers on the other side, and it is expected that several others will leave in the course of a week or two.

Butter.

The market for butter is steady at the advance recorded last week, and though there is no actual change in prices there is a strong upward tendency to prices, and the trade generally look for a further advance next week.

THE BUTTER FAMINE IN ENGLAND.

A panic prevails in the butter trade in Great Britain, and the most extraordinary state of affairs exists in the great provision markets of London, Bristol, Manchester and Liverpool. For the past few weeks the price of butter over there has been advancing by leaps and bounds, and, according to the latest advices by mail as high as 150 shillings has been quoted for the best Australian brands of butter, which at this season of the year is one of the main sources of supply for the trade in Great Britain. Nothing has been known like it in the history of the Australasian trade which dates back to about 1880, and experts prophesy that the top notch in prices has not yet been reached.

The cause of these record prices is the great scarcity of butter throughout Europe as well as in Canada and the United States, but the shortage arises mainly from the enormous reduction this season in the supply of butter from Australia. Up to the present the supply is about 300,000 boxes short and it is expected that by the end of the winter the shortage in the shipments from Australia will be fully half a million boxes. This is equal to almost 10 times as much butter as was shipped from Canada the whole of the past summer and fully equal to the great shipment from here during the summer of 1905. The shortage in the shipment from Australia is acounted for by the long spells of dry weather they have experienced in that quarter of the globe.

Several weeks ago the great importers of butter on the other side appreciated the position of affairs and prices then started to advance rapidly. Within the last two weeks the position has become acute. A kind of panic arose, first in London, but now it has spread to all the butter centres in England, such as Liverpool and Manchester and Bristol. The result was an immediate further advance in prices and quotations current now have established a record for Australian butter in the United Kingdom. Other classes of butter are up too, and strange to say, there is very little for sale, and anything under finest commands almost the same price as strictly fancy goods. So long as it is pure butter it can command practically the top price.

Efforts to relieve situation.

Great efforts have been made by the British importers to relieve this situation and they have even gone the length of endeavoring to bring back to Great Britain the few small shipments of butter that were sent to Canada to relieve the situation here a couple of months ago. A few hundred packages have been shipped back, consisting principally of goods that had been shipped here within the past two or three weeks in fulfilment of orders booked early in the Winter. They have succeeded, however, in stopping quite a few shipments of Australian and New Zealand destined for Canada that were en route for this country via London, and these goods the Canadian owners have been able to resell in many cases at a handsome profit without ever having seen the butter they were trading with. Efforts have been made, also, to induce shipments of butter from the United States, where the position is not as acute as it is in Canada and other parts of the world, and several thousand packages of butter mainly of process and renovated sorts have been shipped from New York and Boston during the past week or ten days.

It is pretty generally expected that this position of affairs on the other side will continue for several weeks yet, and that no relief to the situation will be available until some time in April when supplies of fresh butter from Northern Europe will be available.

Windmill on the Prize Farm.

The windmill shown in our illustration on the front cover of this issue, was sold to Mr. McKenzie, the winner in the dairy farms competition, by the Ontario Wind Engine and Pump Company, of Toronto, who also sold Mr. McKenzie the water basins used in the cow stable. When the representative of the Canadian Dairyman and Farming World visited Mr. McKenzie's farm last summer with the judges in the competition he asked Mr. McKenzie how he liked the windmill. "I have had it for eight years," replied Mr. McKenzie," and it has never required any repairs to speak of. I am well satisfied with it and with the water basins. Now that I have had the basins and know how convenient they are, I would not to do without them." The basins here referred to are the Woodward advertised elsewhere in this issue.

Modern Sheep—This is the title of a valuable work on the breeds of sheep and their management received from the American Sheep Breeder Company. The book is written by "Shepherd Boy," the author of that very popular work, "Fitting Sheep for Showing and Market." The sheep industry in every phase is dealt with in a thoroughly practical manner. The illustrations, which are numerous and in most cases original, are of a high character. The work throughout cannot but be of the greatest benefit to every sheep raiser to whom we would commend it. Copies can be had through this office at $1.50 each.

A plain indication that hogs have been overfed when young is the breaking down in the feet. Feed the pigs so they will be contented. By giving them too much the feed is wasted.