

MARKETS.

FARM GOSSIP.

Essex Co., Ont., Fruit Crop.

The fruit crop was very much lighter this season than it has been for years. Last winter's frost killed about 95% of the peach trees, and about 25% of the plums; other tree-fruits injured more or less. Very few of these fruits have been shipped out of this country this season; in fact, more has been shipped in than sent out. Cherries were a good crop and quite a quantity were shipped east, and brought good prices. London, Toronto, Ottawa, and Montreal are the principal markets for our fruits, although a very large share was distributed among the smaller cities, towns and villages. Apples are not more than half a crop, and are ripening too early on account of the long-continued dry period. They will not, therefore, keep well for winter use. Strawberries and red raspberries were a good crop and brought good prices. Large quantities were shipped from this locality. From one to three cars a day during the season of these fruits were shipped from Leamington, and large quantities from other points in this county. Grapes were about 50% to 75% of a full crop. The winter injured the vines very much in some localities; while in other sections they were hurt but little. Quite a large area was planted to melons and tomatoes, to take the place of the shortage in the tree fruits. The market, however, appears to be easily overstocked with these vegetable-fruits, and prices were not very satisfactory.

South-western Fruit Experiment Station.

Conditions Favorable in Alberta.

A leading Alberta rancher, in writing to this office regarding the condition of range stock, speaks most favorably of the general condition, and does not anticipate any detrimental results to the stock from the excessive wet of the past season, except in the lack of good hay for feeding to the calves or old cows in the event of stormy weather. He says: "Stock of all kinds are looking well, and beef is in good condition this season, there being little or no flies to bother them. Rain does not affect the grass here as much as one would imagine, as it is of a self-curing nature and after a certain season of the year does not grow much, even with excessive moisture, and one would be surprised how even it is curing with all the wet. I do not think it will affect beef much in shipping, as I find the work horses keep their flesh well, even while working on nothing else than grass."

Export Bean Tariff.

A new tariff on beans for export has been issued by the Canadian Pacific Railway, and will become effective on October 1st. From stations on the Ontario division west of Smith's Falls to Boston, the rate will be reduced to 17 1/2 cents per 100 pounds. The tariff on beans for export over the Canadian Pacific, via the Suspension Bridge and Black Rock, to New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, will be 17 1/2 cents per 100 pounds from the following stations in Ontario: Appin Junction, Arkwood, Belle River, Caradoc, Chatham, Elmstead, Hyde Park, Haycroft, Komoka, Kent Bridge, Longwood, Melrose, North Glencoe, North Newbury, North Bothwell, North Thamesville, Ringold, St. Joachim, Tilbury, and Walkerton Junction.

Oxford County.

After the long season of continued drouth, we had some very fine rains in good time for the sowing of our fall wheat. I have come to the conclusion that, next to having the ground rich enough, the most important point is to have it ready some weeks before the time you wish to sow, and then harrow or cultivate once a week at least, and oftener, if possible. Several years ago we never thought of putting the roller on fall wheat ground; now we always roll before sowing. Our wheat is looking remarkably well; better than any that I have seen, and we just sowed 1 1/2 bushels to the acre, and I am thinking that it may be too thick if the season keeps as good as it has been. Pastures are nice and green, but the bite is very short and cows have to be fed twice a day. We have just got some "prun" from the oatmeal mill, as the bran is so dear to feed to cows. We expect to mix it with cut cornstalks. Our corn is a very fair crop, although not nearly so good as last year. Pumpkins were very poor, and we miss them very much for the pigs, for cooked pumpkins make splendid feed for the gruntners. Although we have had quite an amount of rain, yet the ground is scarcely damp enough to plow nice; we mean suble that was not skim-plowed. But although the plowing may not look so nice, we believe it does the land more good than when it is damp, as it is more finely pulverized and the atmosphere gets a better chance to percolate through the soil. We are keeping the plow going, determined, if possible, to get every furrow plowed before the ground freezes up, as we lost by having so much plowing to do this spring. The clover we sowed this spring was a failure, largely, we think, on account of being sown on spring plowing, which did not start the drought nearly so well as fall plowing. During the continued drought there were some insects destroying the leaves of the turnips, and although the roots are growing well now, I think it is almost impossible that they will be anything like an average crop. We have been trimming out our berry bushes and otherwise getting the garden in shape, so that there will be as little as possible to do in the spring.

Cheese, after being a little easier, is again better in price, and is now going at from 11 to 11 1/2 cents. There are still some Augusts in the country, but they are getting pretty well cleared out. The milk fell away very much during the drought, but is coming up a little again. Some farmers who had been sending to the creamery got tired of it, and are now sending to the cheese factory. The condensed-milk factory, which is building at Ingersoll, promises to be a good thing for the farmers, and quite a number of the patrons of the cheese factories in the near neighborhood have contracted to send their milk to the new industry. Apples are a very poor crop here this year. One of our largest apple-growers, who had often from four to five hundred barrels, told me that he did not expect to have over 150 barrels this season. The price is about \$1.25 to \$1.50 for fall fruit, and about \$2.00 for winter apples. A carload of fine draft horses was shipped from here for Ireland lately. Live hogs have been dull lately at \$4.25, but I understand that there is a prospect of prices being better soon. The fall shows take up a great part of the time from some of the farmers.

The Apple Crop and Prices in the Georgian Bay District.

This section of Northern Ontario is already famous for the high quality of its apples; in fact, it is not too much to say that the fruit-grower here is not equalled in the world. And those who were fortunate enough, or who were wise enough, to plant out good orchards years ago and took good care of them, are now reaping their reward. Though the crop is not above the average this year, it is of the very best quality. Apple buyers are swarming over the country, and there is keen competition among them. Buying the orchards by the lump is a very common practice this year. When bought this way, all that is not fit to go in the barrels is sent to the evaporator, except the worst culls, which are fed to stock or made into cider. However, the apples are of such good quality that very few, except windfalls, are left by the packers. The fruit is nearly all shipped now, through September, and the winter varieties are packed later and stored in large fruit houses until winter, when it is re-packed and sent to the British market. The best keeping varieties are sometimes shipped as late as April. The autumn varieties mostly grown here are Colverts, St. Lawrence, and Pippins. Winter varieties compose the bulk of the crop,

and are mostly Baldwins, Spies, Greenings, Ben Davis, Mann, Spitzenburg, Seek, and King; the latter, by the way, being classed as a fall variety in Southern Ontario, is in this section a late keeper, and brings the very top price in the British market.

The reason that the apples in this section are attracting the attention of buyers is not only on account of their fine appearance, but also their great keeping qualities, which enables them to get the highest prices for them when re-packed and shipped to Great Britain. From \$1.00, for fall apples, to \$2.50 for winter, is paid by the barrel for the fruit on the trees. The grower has to haul the empty barrels to the orchard and deliver them at the railway station when packed. Where the orchards are bought by the lump, all the way from \$25 to \$3,000 has been paid this year, according to the size of the orchard and variety of fruit. Instances of \$350 for one acre of orchard, \$108 for the product of twelve trees, and an orchard of about twenty-eight acres (five miles from Collingwood) tendered for at \$3,010, and the offer refused, go to show that competition is keen and the stock of the best quality. The latter-mentioned orchard contained probably 900 barrels of first-class Spies, besides other varieties. Truly, a good apple orchard, well cared for, in this favored locality is a good investment.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

Prince Edward Island.

CHICKEN FATTENING AND MANUAL TRAINING.

Prof. Roberson has come and gone. He has arranged for the establishment of two chicken-fattening stations here—one in Charlottetown and another in Summerside. This is going to boom the poultry business here.

He has also been preaching the gospel of manual training in the schools, and as a result a school will be started in Charlottetown to give such instruction. The Dominion Government is in sympathy with this departure in our educational system, and has allowed the Professor to help to introduce it here.

Harvest is very late here, and much of the grain is out yet, and considerable not cut. The crops are very heavy and well filled, but a terrible storm of wind and rain on the 12th of September caused severe loss in breaking down and shelling out the oats. The early wheat had been mostly cut before the storm, and was well saved. Potatoes will be an average crop. Fodder corn is light and not well matured; season too cold for it. Root crops are excellent.

Pasturage is still good and stock in fine condition. Winter feed will be plenty and cheap, and will be turned into beef and butter after the cheese season closes.

The flow of milk still keeps up, and the high price of butter and cheese will induce dairymen to feed liberally.

PRICES.

August cheese are mostly marketed, and brought on an average about 10 1/2c. No Septembers sold yet, but 11c. offering. Butter is worth 19 to 20 cents for creamery. Lambs are eagerly sought for at 3c. per pound. Cattle for stall feeding are scarce and high in price. A number of stockers have been shipped to the Eastern States to be fattened.

S. H. Jones, of Quebec, has arrived for the fall trade in sheep, lambs, geese and turkeys. Island exhibitors have done remarkably well at the St. John Exhibition, and are now showing at Halifax.

No prices quotable for new crop of grain or potatoes yet. Shipping will not begin till late.

September 22, 1899.

W. S.

The P. E. Island Fruit Crop.

SIR.—This is an off year for both apples and plums here. I do not think there will be any apples for export. Our season is so late here this year that only the earliest varieties of apples have matured sufficiently to market. The winter keeping varieties are still on the trees. There have not been any sales of apples reported yet, nor have I heard of any consignments being sent to foreign markets. Plums are not half a crop and will be wanted for home consumption. Strawberries were a good crop and paid growers well; they were shipped to the Boston market at the last of the season and realized good paying prices. The winter keeping varieties of apples are the most profitable fruit to grow.

A great amount of work has been put on the old orchards of the island this year in the way of top-grafting with choice varieties, pruning and spraying, and farmers are acquiring a knowledge of these things from expert horticulturists, who have been employed by the Government and who have given object lessons in different parts of the country on these matters.

Wild fruits were plentiful, and blueberries and raspberries were exported to the United States in large quantities.

WALTER SIMPSON.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Following table shows current and comparative live stock prices:

	Extreme prices now.	Top Prices		
		Two weeks ago.	1898	1897
Beef cattle.				
1500 lbs. up.....	\$5 30 to 6 90	\$6 60	\$5 70	\$5 45
1350 to 1500 lbs.....	5 30 to 6 70	6 35	5 70	6 00
1200 to 1350 lbs.....	4 75 to 6 35	6 30	5 85	5 45
1050 to 1200 lbs.....	4 40 to 6 35	6 50	5 60	5 25
900 to 1050 lbs.....	4 30 to 5 90	5 75	5 40	5 10

Hogs.				
Mixed.....	4 30 to 4 77 1/2	4 65	4 10	4 45
Heavy.....	4 10 to 4 75	4 60	4 07	4 40
Light.....	4 30 to 4 77 1/2	4 70	4 07	4 50
Pigs.....	3 00 to 4 60	4 40	3 90	4 45

Sheep.				
Natives.....	2 40 to 4 50	4 60	4 65	4 25
Western.....	3 50 to 4 50	4 35	4 45	4 05
Lambs.....	3 50 to 6 50	6 25	6 40	5 80

Native lambs are 75 cts. to \$1 lower than a week ago, due to a sharp decline in prices East. Receipts of stock for the year so far at Chicago show a decrease of 37,000 cattle, 78,000 hogs, and 3,000 sheep, as compared with a year ago.

Thus far this year Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha and St. Louis received 1,010,000 cattle, or 60,000 more than a year ago. Chicago alone received 1,794,000, or nearly 600,000 more than Kansas City, 1,255,000 more than Omaha, and 1,315,000 more than St. Louis received since January 1, 1899. Of the 10,945,000 hogs and 4,437,000 sheep received at the four markets thus far this year Chicago alone received 5,860,000 hogs and 2,620,000 sheep. Of the 19,392,000 head of cattle, hogs and sheep received at the four markets since January 1, 1899, Chicago is credited with 10,274,000.

Chicago this week has received 60,000 head of cattle, and the general market has averaged 15 to 20 cts. per 100 pounds lower, with prices in the West still lower. Beef in the carcass was quoted in Chicago at 5 to 8 1/2 cts. per pound, against 5 1/2 to 9 cts. the first of the week, yet dealers are generally of the opinion that prices will advance again, as a large percentage of the 360,000 cattle received at the four markets during the last two weeks have been thin rangers and feeding cattle from the plains of Texas and the Northwest. The number sent back to farms throughout the corn belt for fattening purposes never was as large as during the last two weeks. Good feeding cattle are in fair demand at \$4 to \$4.75. Supplies lately have been unusually large. The yellow journals of the effete east are still shouting "Beef trust," though the figures the packers are paying for cattle disprove their silly assertions. The Chicago Packing and Provision Company will soon wind up its affairs as an English corporation and begin operating under an American charter.

Feeders are buying Western sheep at \$3.50 to \$3.75 and lambs at \$4.40 to \$4.65.

The most disastrous conflagration that has visited the stock yards in many years devoured a number of buildings belonging to the N. S. Y. & L. Co. Thursday afternoon. The big horse pavilion, 530 feet long and 185 feet wide, and costing over \$100,000, went up in smoke. The south wing of the Transit House, the home of many stockmen, was terribly damaged. Several sale stables for horses were burned, and the whole loss amounted to nearly \$300,000. Active preparations were immediately begun for rebuilding the structures. The new ones will be of brick and stone, and as nearly fireproof as possible. Business in the horse department was not interrupted.

A lot of 17 steers, 1,586 lbs., sold at \$6.90 to Swift on Wednesday, and 42 head, 1,456 lbs., sold to the United Dressed Beef Co., of New York, at \$6.70. These cattle were 2-year-olds, and mostly choice Hereford grades. They were raised and fed by M. O. Sullivan at his Sugar Grove Stock Farm, Parke, Ind. The 17 cattle were pronounced by many good judges to be as good as they ever saw. They were on full feed for twelve months. The price, \$6.90, was the highest since Christmas time, 1891 and 1892, and was the highest in September since 1884.

There has been a marked decrease in the number of cattle exported recently, owing to the unfavorable relations between Chicago and London prices.

Hog prices have not changed much lately, sales being mainly at \$4.40 to \$4.75, lightweights getting the preference.

Toronto Markets.

Cattle are being sent in for sale in half-fattened condition, while lambs and sheep are being sacrificed at prices which would be doubled in another month, while more finished cattle would find a ready market. The quality of fat cattle was fairly good, but not enough to fill the demand for best class.

Export Cattle.—Choice exporters sold at \$4.75 to \$5.12 1/2 per cwt. The bulk of export cattle fetched \$4.60 to \$4.80 per cwt. Light export cattle were selling at \$4.25 to \$4.60. Mr. W. H. Dean bought seven loads of exporters at \$4.50 to \$4.80. Mr. D. O. Leary sold one load of exporters at \$4.75, 1,250 lbs. average; one load of exporters, 1,225 lbs. average, at \$4.60.

Butchers' Cattle.—Choice butchers' cattle, equal to exporters, weighing 1,000 to 1,100 lbs. each, sold at \$4.40 to \$4.60. Losses of good butchers' cattle sold at \$3.65 to \$3.90. Mr. S. H. Reynolds bought two loads of butchers' cattle at \$3.50 per cwt.

Bulls.—Heavy export bulls sold at \$4.12 1/2 per cwt. Light exporters sold at \$3.40 to \$3.65. Heavy feeding bulls for the buyers sold at \$2.75 to \$3.00 per cwt.

C. Feeders.—Light feeders weighing from 900 to 1,100 lbs. each sold at \$3.60 to \$3.75 per cwt. There was a large number of heavy feeders on offer. Prices were easier, and well-bred steers weighing from 1,100 to 1,300 lbs. each at \$3.30 to \$4.00 per cwt.

Stockers.—Buffalo stockers sold at \$3.60 to \$3.40 for medium good red and roan colors. Inferior black and white steers and heifers sold at \$2.25 to \$2.50 per cwt. A few small stock bulls at \$2.25 per cwt. were shipped.

Sheep.—Deliverers were heavy. Export ewes sold down to \$3.50 per cwt. Choice export picked ewes at \$3.80 per cwt. Butcher sheep, \$3.00; bucks, \$2.50 to \$2.75 per cwt.

Lambs.—Deliverers were very large, prices declined. About 500 held over were shipped over to Buffalo. Prices easier, at from \$3.40 to \$3.80. Mr. E. J. Thompson of Cannington, sold fifty lambs at \$3.50 per cwt.

Milk Cows.—About ten cows on offer, sold at from \$25.00 to \$48.00 each. One choice cow fetched \$50.00.

Hogs.—Receipts for the last two weeks were fair; five to seven thousand per week. Prices easy at \$4.60 for best bacon hogs of good quality, not less than 160 lbs., not more than 200 lbs., and, of course, thick fat and light, \$4.12 1/2 per cwt. As for sold in our last, \$4.50 is the price for best next week. Essex and Kent corn-fed hogs quoted \$4.12 1/2 to \$4.25 per cwt. Sows, 3c. per lb.; stags, 2c. per lb.

Dressed Hogs.—This may be considered the opening day of the dressed hog trade. Choice hogs in farmers' loads on the street would bring \$5.75 to \$6.00 per cwt.

Hides.—There is a good steady demand at firm prices. No. 1 green, 85c. per lb.; No. 1 steers, 8c. per lb.; calveskins, 9c.; sheepskins, 80c. to \$1.00; lambskins, 45c. to 50c.; pelts, 45c. to 50c. Wool fleeces, 14c. to 15c.; wool pulled, 15c. to 16c.

Butter.—It is not many years since our export of butter was absolutely nothing. Figures prepared by the Board of Trade show an increase that is unprecedented. The exports to Great Britain of Canadian butter for the eight months of the years 1897, 23,668 cwt., of 112 lbs.; 1898, 45,450 cwt., of 112 lbs.; 1899, 117,830 cwt., of 112 lbs. For the month of August, 1897, the quantity of Canadian butter shipped to Britain was 10,888 cwt. In August, 1898, this figure was increased to 15,736 cwt.; in August, 1899, the amount had jumped to the numerous figure of 69,957 cwt., or something over 130 tons per day. On the St. Lawrence market butter was more plentiful, with prices easier at 20c. to 25c. per lb. from farmers' wagons.

Eggs.—Plentiful at 16c. to 20c. per dozen, a slight advance for strictly new laid.

Cheese.—Business with Great Britain has increased with rapidity, but the advance for the eight months ending August 31st is simply amazing. The increase is not so large as that in butter, but it is only by comparison that it would seem small. Up to August 31st the quantity of cheese sent to Great Britain since January 1st was 781,080 cwt., as against 687,683 cwt. during the corresponding eight months in 1898. It has reached the highest price attained for many years, being recently sold as high as 12 1/2c. A fair estimate during the month of August would be about 300,000 boxes, or 22,000,000 lbs. The following table will give the opening and closing prices for the month of August for the past five years:

	Opening.	Closing.
1899.....	9c.	11 1/2c.
1898.....	7 1/2c.	8c.
1897.....	8c.	8 1/2c.
1896.....	7 1/2c.	8c.
1895.....	7 1/2c.	8c.

Grain Markets.—Receipts of farm produce very large—10,300 bushels of grain. Wheat—3,100 bushels sold as follows: White—60c. to 71c. per bushel. Red—300 bushels sold at 60c. to 70c. per bushel. Goose—2,000 bushels sold at 74c. to 76c. per bushel. Barley—Good steady demand; 800 bushels sold at 44c. per bushel; choice at 46c. per bushel. Oats—Firm, at 30c. per bushel. Peas—Scarce, at 62c. per bushel, and wanted; market firm and advancing.

Hay.—Supply limited, and price firmer, at from \$10 to \$12 per ton. Baled hay—\$8.00 per ton.

Straw.—Sheaf straw in good demand at \$8.00 per ton. Loose straw at \$4.00 to \$5.00 per ton. Baled straw—\$4.00 per ton.

Seeds.—Red clover, \$4.00 per bushel; alsike, choice, \$6.00 per bushel; clover, white, \$8.00 per bushel; timothy, \$1.00 per bushel.

Poultry.—Was more plentiful, selling as follows: Chickens, 40c. to 75c. per pair; ducks, 50c. to 60c. per pair; geese, 6c. to 8c. per lb.; turkeys, 12c. to 15c. per lb.

Sept. 26, 1899.

Canada's Dairy Export Trade Booming.

Figures prepared by the British Board of Trade show an increase in the importation of Canadian butter and cheese that is unprecedented in any line. The export to Great Britain of Canadian butter for the first eight months of the years 1897, 1898 and 1899 is shown to have been:—1897, 23,668 cwt.; 1898, 45,450 cwt.; 1899, 117,830 cwt. For the month of August, 1897, the quantity of Canadian butter shipped to Great Britain was 10,888 cwt. In August, 1898, this figure was increased to 15,736 cwt., but in August, 1899, the amount had jumped to the tremendous figure of 69,957 cwt., or something over 130 tons per day. In cheese the increase was not so large as that in butter, but it is only by comparison that it would seem small. Up to August 31st the quantity of Canadian cheese sent to Great Britain since January 1st was 731,080 cwt., as against 687,683 cwt. during the corresponding eight months in 1898.