

most important question in agricultural physics is that of soil moisture. Hence the researches are principally along that line.

Last summer, during the months of June and July, this department made some investigations with a view to determining a relation between the factors, temperature, rainfall, soil-moisture, and the growth of crops. The results would occupy too much space to be given here, but may be given in a later issue.

MARKET REVIEW AND FORECAST.

Office of FARMING,
Nov. 1st, 1897.

There is a more hopeful feeling in the wheat trade that good prices will continue for some time, at least until the Argentine crop is harvested, which will not be for some time yet. The demand for good cattle and sheep for feeding is still strong, though export trade is dull.

Wheat.

The English farmer has marketed some of his wheat and feels easier. He has taken stock, so to speak, of the state of the wheat trade, and as a result is now disposed to hold for higher price. This state of affairs has stiffened the demand, as the English millers are more dependent on foreign shipments. There has also been a very strong demand from France, also from Mediterranean ports. Consequently the steady demand has made advances in the price possible.

At Montreal the prices for export have risen to 89c. for Ontario red winter wheat, and \$1.03 to \$1.04 for Manitoba wheat. At Toronto exporters are paying 84c. middle freights, and 83c. north and west. As high as 85c. has been paid, but the Chicago market is a little easier at present, and prices may drop. Goose wheat is bringing 75c. and spring wheat 80c. east. Manitoba wheat is firm at \$1.08; for No. 1 hard, grinding in transit, \$1.10 at Fort William, and \$1.02 to \$1.03 Goderich and Midland. On the farmers' market at Toronto, 87½c. was given for white and 80½c. for red.

Barley and Oats.

The barley trade is quiet, both for feeding and malting purposes. At Montreal barley is quoted at 32½c. to 35c. for feed, and malting grades from 40c. to 45c. At Toronto it is quoted at 24c. outside for feed, No. 2 30c. to 31c.

There has been a slight rise in the oat market. White oats 22c. middle freights, and 21½c. north and west at Toronto. Montreal quotes a few cents higher.

Peas and Corn.

The market for peas has been steady at 42c. north and west.

Corn has advanced a little in sympathy with wheat, being 30c. to 31c. at Chicago. At Toronto it is only quoted at 28c. and 29c.

Potatoes.

The October report of the Department of Agriculture at Washington contains the following in regard to the potato crop as indicated by the October returns:

The conditions indicate less than half a normal crop in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Missouri, but little more than half a crop in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Iowa, and Kansas, and less than two-thirds of a crop in New York, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, and West Virginia.

The highest averages are on the Pacific Coast, but a fairly favorable showing is made in the Northwestern and Intermountain States.

The crop in the Maritime Provinces has been a good one, but in many districts of Ontario and Quebec it has not been up to the average. On the whole Canada has not an average crop of potatoes, and there is also a shortage in Europe. Prices at Montreal are about the same as last week, 47½c. to 50c. a bag off the car.

Eggs.

There has been a slight decline in the price owing to large quantities of fresh stock coming in. Fresh eggs at Montreal are worth 16c. to 17c. and at Toronto 15c. to 15½c.

Apples.

The demand for apples is somewhat limited. People have not got used to the high prices of this year. With strong markets in the west and in Europe there should be a stronger market with advancing prices. No. 1 apples are quoted in Montreal at \$3.50 to \$5 per barrel; No. 2 at \$1.50 to \$3.

Honey.

Choice white clover honey is scarce and firm in price at 14c. to 15c. per section. Extracted honey has sold at 8c. to 8½c. for white, and 6c. to 7c. for dark.

Cheese.

The local cheese markets have been dull during the week and very little business done. Especially is this so in reference to the Western Ontario markets and one or two east, most of them reporting no sales. Salesmen seem inclined to hold for a time. At any rate they do not seem anxious to sell at present prices. After the exceptionally good season they have had up till the past few weeks both as regards prices and the quantity made they should not complain if they have to let Septembers and Octobers go at from 8½c. to 8¼c. Stocks have accumulated very fast in Britain during the last two months, and there is really not much hope for present prices advancing any higher than they are at present. If such be the case it would be the height of foolishness for factorymen to hold their fall make any longer than is necessary for them to cure properly. With many of the curing-rooms totally unsuited for keeping cheese properly during the cold weather, factorymen will run the risk of having their fall goods deteriorate very much in quality if held too long.

Canada has already exported 307,357 boxes more than she did last year for a like period, and with the large stocks reported to be held on this side we fail to see any prospect of prices advancing. The ruling figures just now seem to be from 8¼c. to 8½c. for Septembers and Octobers.

Butter.

The creamery butter market has ruled very quiet during the week. Factorymen have been selling October make at about 18½ cents, with most holders refusing to sell at less than 18¼. American creamery held here in bond is going forward to New York, where the demand is still good. If prices there continue to go up, dealers here will be able to send over Canadian at a profit.

The winter creameries will soon be starting, when a largely increased make of winter creamery butter over other years is expected. Holders of summer creamery would be wise to keep this in view, and not hold their stocks too long.

Good dairy farmers' butter continues scarce, and prices at Montreal range from 15 to 16 cents. 15½ to 16 cents are quoted at Toronto for choice dairy pails and tubs. Common and medium selling for from 12 to 13 cents.

Cattle.

Cattlemen of the Western States are seriously wondering where they are going to get their young stock to replenish their herds next spring. The available supply has been getting shorter each year. The *Chicago Drover's Journal* says there probably has not been a time since cattle raising became a regular industry that the rangers, both north and south, have been so thoroughly cleaned up of everything that would make beef.

The demand for export cattle continues dull, and the reports from the English market are discouraging. At Toronto it takes the best to bring 4c., average \$3.85 to \$3 per cwt. Good butchers' cattle are still in good demand at a slight advance. The average of prices being about \$3 to \$3.50 per cwt., with a few good ones going to \$3.75. Stockers and feeders are scarce, not enough good ones to meet the demand. The prices are about \$3 to \$3.40 for feeders and \$2.75 to \$3.25 per cwt. for stockers. Good milch cows are in demand at from \$25 to \$40. The Buffalo markets continue firm and steady, although prices have declined from 10 to 25 cents a cwt.

Sheep.

Good lambs are wanted. Prices have been a little higher in Buffalo. Consequently rams have brought from 4c. to 4½c. at Toronto for shipment to Buffalo, where they bring from \$5 to \$6.75. Butchers' sheep are dull at \$3.50 to \$3.75 each. Heavy shipments to the Buffalo market will, of course, bring down the price.

Hogs.

There is a decided weakness in this line, and prices have declined another 25c. or 50c. since last week, choice hogs now bringing only 4½c. to 4¾c. per lb. weighed off the car. Thick fat hogs, store hogs, and light weights bring about 4½c.

Buffalo reports show that choice hogs have advanced 10 or 15 cents. Best prices are still 35c. to 50c. per cwt. below Canadian prices.

Hay.

Market is dull at \$8 to \$8 50 per ton.

Publishers' Desk.

Oxford Fat Stock Show. - The directors of this show will hold their next annual fat stock show in the stock yards of the Dereham House, Ingersoll, on the 16th of December. A very liberal prize list is being prepared.

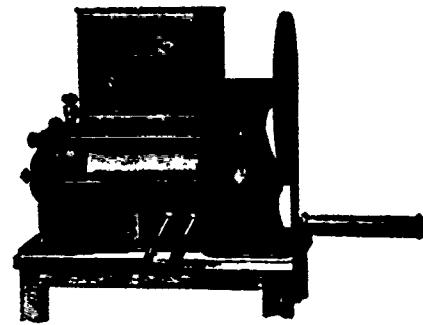
The Ertel Victor Hay Press. - It will take four months to tell about the Ertel Victor Hay Press, manufactured by The Stevens Manufacturing Co., London, Ont. In an-

other column very week will be given important facts about it, to which we call the attention of those interested in hay presses. If you wish to consider these points faster, and have hay to press, press them to express or mail all the facts at once, which they will do with pleasure. Reprint no desire you may have for information about this hay press.

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