

Market Review and Forecast

The Trend of Markets—Supply and Demand—The Outlook

Toronto, February 14th, 1907.

Wholesale trade continues healthy and fairly active, and numerous orders are being booked for spring delivery. Money is in great demand on call and for mercantile purposes and rates are firm.

WHEAT

The general tone of the wheat market continues to improve and the outlook for steady prices is good. Speculators are taking more interest and there is reported to be large buying at Chicago for May delivery, with the hope that the market will be higher then. The light receipts, which, so far as Canada is concerned, may be only temporary, owing to the snow in the West; the condition of the growing crop, are some of the things that are influencing speculators. Holders, however, should not bank too much on their action. Ontario wheat is quoted here at 71 to 72½¢ outside, as to quality, Manitoba wheat rules strong at steady prices.

COARSE GRAINS

Oats are about the best paying crop the farmer can grow. The price keeps up and the market rules firm. At Montreal No. 2 white are quoted at 52½¢ on spot. Toronto quotations are 39 to 40¢ and 38 to 39¢ for mixed. Barley rules steady here at 49 to 52¢ outside, and peas at from 80 to 81¢. The corn market is firmer. At Montreal American No. 2 yellow is quoted at 55¢ in car lots and here at 53 to 52½¢. Ontario corn is quoted here at 44 to 45¢. Chatham freights. Bran keeps scarce and feeders find it hard to keep up their supply. It is quoted at \$22.75, Toronto.

HAY AND STRAW

The hay market is quiet, holders seeming to be waiting for higher prices. Whether these will materialize or not remains to be seen. Present values are

on a pretty high level. At Montreal baled hay is quoted at from \$10.50 to \$12.50 for car lots on track, as to quality. Quotations are \$11.00 to \$11.50 for No. 1 timothy and \$8.50 to \$9 for No. 2, in car lots, Toronto. On Toronto farmers' market loose hay brings \$13 to \$15.00 per ton. Baled straw is higher at \$7.00 to \$7.50 per ton for car lots on track, Toronto.

POTATOES AND BEANS

The potato market keeps steady here at from 70 to 75¢ per bag for Ontarios and 75 to 80¢ for Easterns, in car lots. On the local farmers' market potatoes bring from 90¢ to \$1.00 per bag. There has been a little more activity in the bean market though prices rule about the same. Three-pound pickers are quoted at \$1.25 per bushel at Montreal in car lots. Here beans are quoted at \$1.55 to \$1.60 for hand-picked and \$1.40 to \$1.45 for primes, in a jobbing way.

EGGS AND POULTRY

The egg market keeps firm under a good local demand, both here and at Montreal. At the latter point new-laid are quoted at 30¢ and selected storage stock at 26 to 26½¢. Receipts of new-laid keep very small here and the market is firm at 29 to 30; selects 25 to 26¢; storage 24¢, and lined 22¢ per dozen in case lots. On Toronto farmers' market is firm at 29 to 30¢; selects 25 to 26¢; storage 24¢, and lined 22¢ per dozen in case lots. The poultry market keeps quiet. Some rather inferior stock is coming forward, but is in slow demand. The following are the quotations to the trade:

Chickens, fresh-killed, 10 to 11¢; inferior, frozen stock, 8 to 9¢; fowl, 8 to 9¢; ducks, 10 to 11¢; geese, 9 to 11¢; turkeys, 11 to 12¢.

DAIRY PRODUCTS

Cheese prices continue to soar. There is very little trading, as there are few stocks to do any trading with. The

English market has advanced to 65¢ for white and 67¢ for colored. At Montreal October whites are quoted at 12½¢ and colored at 12½¢ per lb.

Choice creamery butter is in demand at good prices, but anything below this quality does not sell so readily. At Montreal choice quality is quoted at 24 to 25¢. There is a fair volume of export business. Prices here rule steady at 20 to 27¢ for creamery prints and 23 to 24¢ for solids and 21 to 23¢ for dairy prints and 19 to 21¢ per lb. for tubs.

LIVE STOCK

Receipts of live stock at both the city and Junction markets this week have ruled light and the quality offering shows little improvement over that of the past few weeks. Really choice cattle are wanted and will bring good money. Owing to light deliveries trade has ruled brisker and everything has sold readily enough. Choice exporters will bring nearly \$5.70 per cwt., though the bulk sell at from \$5 to \$5.30 per cwt. There is a scarcity of good butchers' cattle. The best offerings this week have sold at from \$4.60 to \$4.75, medium mixed at \$3.75 to \$4.40, common at \$3.50 to \$3.70, and canners at \$1 to \$2 per cwt. Few feeders and stockers are coming forward. A few weighing from 700 to 900 lbs. each sold at \$3.50 to \$3.80 per cwt. Milch cows sell at from \$10 to \$60 each and calves at from \$3.50 to \$7 per cwt., very few bringing the latter figure, however.

The sheep market rules steady at \$4.50 to \$5.25 per cwt. for export sheep, \$6.50 to \$7.25 for lambs of from good to prime quality, and \$5 to \$6 per cwt. for the common run.

Hogs have advanced a little in price since last writing. Quotations this week are \$6.80 per cwt. for selects and \$6.55 for lights and fats.

HORSES

The horse market seems to be holding its own well under a good demand, with supplies hardly sufficient to meet it. On the local market here quotations are about the same as last writing.



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