

Montreal Markets.

When the season (Lent) is taken into consideration, the market, with the offerings not much lighter than is usually the case, has been maintained at a very even level, and although rates or prices seem often to be at variance, fully a quarter cent per pound, it can hardly be called so, but the cause is more than likely attributable to the quality of the cattle offered. On a market like Montreal, where so much of the stock is purchased by the head, or, as the butchers term it, "dressed," it is sometimes rather difficult to get at a fair quotation that will give the reader an idea of the market. Sales during the past week have been at a fairly good rate for the drover, and may be classed something like this: Nice straight steers and heifers, well finished, from 1,050 lbs. up to say 1,200, have made the top market price—from 42c. to 44c. per lb.; good even steers or heifers lacking quality and finish, about the same weights, from 32c. to 4c. per lb.; cows and rough young stock, all the way from 22c. to 34c. per lb.

Sheep and Lambs.—The offerings in this market have been very light, and rates have accordingly ruled very firm, sheep selling all the way from 34c. to 4c. per lb.; mixed with yearling lambs, 42c. to 44c.; and lambs, 5c. to 52c. per lb.; with spring lambs, of which only a very few are as yet offered, ranging in price from \$3 to as high as \$5 each. Were it not that there are still a few held in cold storage prices would undoubtedly be some stronger; cold storage lots are held 7c. and 8c. per lb. per carcass.

Calves.—Receipts are on the increase, but with a fair demand prices are being well maintained; all the way from \$2 to \$10, according to size and quality.

Hides and Skins.—The strength maintained in this market right through the winter seems to be on the verge of a break-up, as hides are declining in Toronto, and also in States markets, but as yet little change has taken place on spot, No. 1 greens being quoted from 92c. to 94c.; No. 2, one cent per lb. lower (some butchers have been paid over ten cents for their No. 1 hides). Calf skins are strong at 11c. for No. 1, 9c. for No. 2; sheep skins \$1.15 to \$1.25.

The British Markets.

For some time back these markets have been steadily working back, with an occasional advance, only to decline further on the next market. With each decline exporters have hoped that the bottom had been reached, but it apparently appeared as far off as ever. Nor is there much prospect of any speedy recovery, as navigation from Canada will speedily open, when the shipments, instead of reaching to 7,000 or 8,000, as at present, will, with the expected heavier shipments from the States, reach well up to 13,000 and 14,000 per week, beside the usual complement of about 25,000 quarters of beef. This, coupled with the expected run of between 75,000 and 80,000 head of Argentine cattle, does not at all improve the outlook for some time to come. Indeed it is doubtful if shippers have made a dollar on their winter shipments, what with the unsatisfactory state of the Glasgow market, owing to the fishers' boycott, and the "stalled" state of the London and Liverpool markets, and it is still more doubtful if any will be made on the first shipments.

The Horse Trade.

What may be termed an auspicious spring opening in this trade about the first of March has speedily been turned to a very bad one. The markets opened with a good demand from British buyers, doubtless encouraged by the widespread reports of limited supplies of good horses, but such a rush was made by various shippers one alone shipping 100 each on several steamers, all of which landed about the same time—that the bottom practically dropped out of this trade, and everything but the choicest horses were losing nearly all the expenses—or from \$15 to \$30 per head. The latter figure is an actual fact, which came under my own observation. But, notwithstanding, buyers on this side still have hopes of a better trade, anything good in horseflesh is quickly cashed and at good firm prices—drafts, \$110 to \$140, and a little more for something extra; good heavy chunks, \$85 to \$110 each; drivers, \$75 to \$145.

Toronto Markets.

No life in the market may be said with regard to the trade. The business drags along all day without any improvement in the immediate prospects; a considerable number of cattle carried over from each market. The export season has not yet opened; in the next few weeks the demand will be largely for wintering at Buenos Ayres. He says that there are 70,000 cattle and 25,000 sheep to be shipped to the Old Country; these will compete with Canadian shipments. Mr. Pat. Brene is in charge of these cattle across the ocean. The total receipts for last week were 1,675 cattle, 473 sheep, 3,515 hogs.

Export Cattle.—There was little or no movement in shipping cattle. Prices are quoted at \$3.25 to \$4.25 per cwt., in one or two deals a trifle over. Extra choice steers brought \$4.25, with \$5 over on the deal. One bunch of cattle, averaging 1,470 lbs., sold at 42c. per lb.; this is the best price paid this winter, as they were extra choice Polled Angus breed. Brown & Snell bought five carloads export cattle at \$3.75 to \$4.25 per cwt. Joseph Gould bought 13 export steers, 1,480 lbs. average, at \$4.25 per cwt. William Levaok bought 90 cattle, at \$3.12, averaging 1,000 lbs. each. Export bulls are quoted at \$3 to \$3.50.

Butchers' Cattle sold fairly well at from \$3.40 to \$3.80 per cwt. One load of butchers' cattle, averaging 1,050 lbs., sold at \$3.75 each. One load, averaging 1,125 lbs., at \$3.85 per cwt. A few loads of butchers' cattle sold down to \$3.80 per cwt., but no reports of sales were made to us. Common at \$3.12. Wm. Levaok bought 94 cattle, mixed, at \$3.30 to \$3.80 per cwt. T. Halligan bought 10 steers, 1,050 lbs. average, at \$3.75 per head, and four good butchers' cattle, 1,040 lbs. average, at \$3.90 per cwt.

Bulls.—Very few export bulls on offer. H. Talbot sold one load, 1,100 lbs. average, at \$4. One load of light bulls sold at \$3.25; heavy at \$3.65 per cwt.

Stockers.—There was a good demand from Buffalo. Stockers sold at \$3.35 to \$3.55 per cwt. Mr. H. Maybee sold two carloads at \$3.55. Mr. I. Smith sold one load, 550 lbs. average, at \$3.55, and \$5 back on the load.

Feeders.—Very few on offer, not many wanted. Prices are quoted at from \$3.50 to \$4. Drovers report that there are a number of American buyers in the country districts who buy cattle and ship through in bond. They are offering more money than our drovers are willing to pay for the Canadian trade, so that the result is the farmers are holding their cattle at a little above our market at present. H. Maybee sold 12 feeders, 1,000 lbs. average, at \$3.65 per cwt., less \$2 on the deal. Mr. Rowntree bought 18 feeders, 1,050 lbs. average, at \$3.65 per cwt.

Sheep.—Butchers' and export ewes were steady at \$3.20 to \$3.40 per cwt. Mr. P. Kinnear would pay as high as \$3.62 for a few good ewes to complete a carload which is being shipped to the West Indies. Bucks are steady at \$2.75 to \$3 per cwt. The abattoir took above 200 from Montreal trade.

Lambs sold fairly well, \$5.40; yearlings at \$5.60 per cwt., or from \$4 to \$6 per head.

Calves are in good demand at from \$4 to \$7; poor calves not wanted. About 36 on offer.

Milk Cows.—A fairly active trade, only a moderate supply on offer. Prices ruled firm at from \$20 to \$40 per head. A few springers wanted for next market day.

Hogs are showing a decided weakness; the hog cholera scare is causing a great deal of trouble. Mr. Harris is refusing to handle stores on this market, and no more will be sold on any account. Choice singers are quoted at \$4.30, for 150 to 200 lbs. each; light fats, \$4.62; heavy fat, \$4.50; sows, \$3.25; stags, \$2. Mr. Carey, of Montreal, took a double deck of hogs, thick, fat and heavy.

Dressed Hogs.—The receipts are small, no demand, owing to the hog cholera scare. Prices easier, at \$6 per cwt. to \$6.20.

Dressed Meat.—Good demand; prices hold good for all carcasses. Sheep and lambs are quoted at \$6 for lambs, \$5 to \$6 for mutton. Beef by the side is quoted at \$4.50 to \$5. Can goats flesh be detected from lamb in carcass is a question that caused a good deal of comment to-day. A French buyer from Montreal declares that with a consignment of lambs was a Nanny goat, but the men stoutly declare that although Nanny is missing they do not know who dressed her for the Montreal market.

Butter.—In good supply in farmers' rolls at 23c. per lb.; all sorts wanted for local trade. The market is firm, at 18c. for medium, 22c. for creamery prints.

Cheese.—Market steady; prices range from 8c. to 84c. per lb.

Australia sends more butter to Great Britain than does Canada and the United States together. The last year, 1897, Victoria contributed 169,075 cwt.; New Zealand, 76,522 cwt.; New South Wales, 23,835 cwt.; in all, 269,432 cwt.

Eggs.—More plentiful; two dozen for 25c.; strictly fresh-gathered, picked, choice quality at 15c. per dozen. Hides.—The prices offered for hides is a little weaker; tanners are holding off, and believe that prices will still go lower; stocks are accumulating; 84c. to 10c.; No. 1 green at 8c.

Wool.—Stocks down to the lowest on record for the last three years; fleece, 20c. to 21c.; pulled at 204c. to 21c.; extras, 22c. to 23c.

Hay.—The receipts fair; there was a good demand; 25 loads sold at from \$3 to \$3.75 per ton.

The Grain Market.—The receipts of grain and other farm produce on the street market were small owing to the bad roads.

Wheat.—Steady, 500 bushels selling at 78c. to 82c. for white, red at 85c. to 85c. per bushel. There is no change in the local wheat market. Exporters are shipping out old purchases, but are not making any new contracts. No red wheat on hand. Manitobas are held pretty firmly on account of scarcity; asking \$1.10 for No. 1 hard.

Barley.—Steady; 400 bushels selling at 36c. to 364c.

Oats.—Steady; 1,000 bushels selling at 35c. to 354c.

Peas.—Steady and firm, at 59c. per bushel; 53c. to 55c. for blue.

Potatoes.—In active demand; car lots are quoted at 58c. to 60c. per bag. On street market in farmers' loads, held firm at 60c. to 70c. per bag.

Toronto Horse Market.

The attendance of horse buyers at Grand's Repository last Tuesday was excellent. There was a good active trade, bidding spirited, and three carloads of horses from Mr. T. G. Ferris, of Windsor; Mr. T. Silver, of Newmarket; and Mr. L. McMillan, of Botany, Ont., were all sold at prices ranging from \$20 to \$150. A bay horse, 1,600, suitable for heavy delivery, brought \$97.50. Several wagon horses (ranging from 1,200 lbs. to 1,350 lbs.), suitable for cartage and delivery purposes, five to eight years old, sold for \$50 to \$85 per head. A load of ordinary drivers, suitable for delivery men, sold at \$30 to \$60 per head. A nice brown gelding, 15 1/2, suitable for saddle or light harness work, five years old, fair action, brought \$150. A black gelding, six years old, 16 hands high, suitable for brougham work, sold to a doctor for \$110. A pair of horses, brown gelding and a dark brown mare, fetched \$150, the two. A number of farmers were on the lookout for horses suitable for farm work; not many on offer; all sold at good prices. Mr. W. Harland Smith reports that trade was satisfactory to shippers and dealer. There was a good demand for all classes of horses, and improvement in prices over last year. He quotes the following: Good drivers with fair action in demand, at from \$75 to \$150; good chunks from \$40 to \$75, suitable for delivery purposes; heavy horses in demand for city delivery. Good horses are scarce, and all kinds fetch good prices.

Toronto, March 25th, 1898.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

Following are the current and comparative prices for the various grades of live stock:—

	Top prices	Two weeks ago.			
		1897.	1898.	1897.	1898.
CATTLE.	Extreme Prices.				
1600 lbs. up.....	\$4.50 to \$5.80	\$5.35	\$5.40	\$4.40	\$4.40
1200 to 1600.....	4.25 to 5.50	5.25	5.25	4.35	4.35
1000 to 1200.....	4.05 to 5.30	5.40	5.25	4.20	4.20
800 to 1000.....	3.85 to 5.10	5.25	5.00	4.00	4.00
600 to 800.....	3.75 to 4.85	4.90	5.00	3.75	3.75
Fed Westerns.....	4.00 to 5.40	5.40	5.40	4.00	4.00
Stockers and feeders.....	3.35 to 4.70	4.70	4.35	3.75	3.75
Fat cows and heifers.....	3.40 to 4.70	4.40	4.40	3.55	3.55
Can. cows and heifers.....	2.00 to 3.00	3.00	2.60	2.30	2.30
Bulls.....	2.50 to 4.25	3.80	3.75	3.50	3.50
Calves.....	3.00 to 6.65	7.25	6.25	5.75	5.75
Texas.....	3.90 to 5.40	4.65	4.65	4.00	4.00
Texas C. & B.....	3.65 to 3.85	3.50	4.00	3.00	3.00
Corn-fed Texas.....	4.00 to 4.55	4.75	4.75	4.00	4.00
Mixed.	3.70 to 4.02 1/2	4.05	4.25	4.07	4.07
Heavy.	3.70 to 4.10	4.05	4.25	4.05	4.05
Light.	3.65 to 3.95	7.00	4.20	4.15	4.15
Pigs.	2.75 to 3.90	3.90	4.15	4.10	4.10
SHEEP.					
Natives.....	3.00 to 4.70	4.60	4.60	4.00	4.00
Western.....	3.75 to 4.75	4.55	4.55	3.85	3.85
Lambs.....	4.20 to 5.50	5.55	5.50	4.35	4.35

According to the United States Department of Agriculture there are less cattle in the United States now than at any time since 1885, and less hogs than at any time since 1881. Sheep are estimated as being a few more than were estimated last year, but less than any other year since 1878. In consideration that the population of this country is largely increased, and the consumption of meats is so much larger, it looks as though all branches of live-stock raising must be profitable for many years to come. Chicago receipts for 1898 thus far, with comparisons:

	Receipts.	Cattle.	Hogs.	Sheep.
1898 to date.....	539,700	1,829,600	824,200	
Same period, 1897.....	499,124	1,878,532	704,108	
Same period, 1896.....	573,219	1,670,702	744,609	

The supplies of all kinds of good stock are moderate, and the general demand seems to be pretty good. There is a healthy feeling in the general trade, and stockmen feel encouraged. A representative of one of the big cattle slaughtering concerns, who is probably in as close touch with Western cattle-growing operations as any other party connected with the trade, says: "It will take at least four years to restock the ranges with cows to their former capacity. It will take three years more to get steers on the market after the cows begin to breed." Average weight of cattle received at Chicago last month, 1,111 pounds, the same as in January, and 14 pounds lighter than February, 1897, and 64 pounds lighter than February, 1896. Average weight of sheep received here last month, 91 pounds, against 92 pounds in January, 89 pounds a year ago, and 96 pounds two years ago. The average weight of cattle at Chicago for months mentioned was as follows:

	1898.	1897.	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
January.....	1,111	1,121	1,136	1,070	1,151	1,031	1,084
February.....	1,111	1,125	1,175	1,101	1,142	1,132	1,124
March.....	1,125	1,122	1,032	1,154	1,055	1,152	
April.....	1,080	1,150	1,038	1,126	1,107	1,113	
May.....	1,088	1,134	1,030	1,060	1,014	1,142	
June.....	1,072	1,118	1,011	1,088	1,018	1,088	
July.....	1,066	1,105	1,003	1,032	1,039	1,029	
August.....	1,045	1,112	1,019	1,042	1,045	1,042	
September.....	1,081	1,090	1,071	1,047	1,048	1,015	
October.....	1,081	1,062	1,054	1,081	1,004	1,023	
November.....	1,097	1,081	1,060	1,034	1,048	1,044	
December.....	1,122	1,096	1,078	1,085	1,080	1,035	
Year.....	1,091	1,118	1,051	1,087	1,053	1,086	

Texas is overlastingly working up her reputation on fine cattle. They had a fat stock show at Fort Worth that was a creditable thing. Here is the way some Texas cattle have been selling lately: Seventeen head belonging to J. B. Wilson's daughter, Jessie, averaged 1,438 pounds, at \$4.40, and eighteen head belonging to A. Silberstein, 1,508 pounds, sold at \$5.30. Silberstein & Co., Dallas, Texas, sold three loads of choice 1,424 to 1,602 pound fed Texas steers to Hammond at \$5.20. At a recent sale of Hereford cattle twenty Gudgell & Simpson bulls brought \$3,325; average, \$476.25. Eleven Fankhouser bulls brought \$4,990; average, \$453.63. Thirty-one bulls, \$14,515. Twenty Gudgell & Simpson and Fankhouser cows brought \$14,490; average, \$499.65. Sixty head of cows and bulls brought \$29,005; average, \$483.41. The advance in price since these same breeders made their preceding public sale in October, 1896, very strongly illustrates the growing value of pure-bred cattle since that time. The average in 1896 was about \$173. An Aberdeen-Angus breeder had to discontinue his card in the papers. He says he has used up all his surplus bulls, and is direct of answering so many letters.

The average weight of the hogs received at Chicago last week was 224 pounds, the lightest in about two years, against 226 pounds for the week previous, and 228 pounds for the corresponding week in 1897. The big heavy hogs have been scarce, and have been commanding a premium over light. The demand for lightweights, however, has been better than for medium weights. Here is a bird's-eye view of one day's hog market: Drovers of packing hogs averaging 222 to 224 lbs. cost \$3.95 to \$4.60, and 164 to 176 pounds \$3.90 to \$3.95. Armour bought 5,300 head; Chicago, 600 head; Continental, 800 head; Hammond, 800 head; International, 900 head; Lipton, 900 head; Morris, 1,200 head; Swift, 2,300 head, and butchers 1,000 head. The hog feeders are complaining that they were advised to market lighter weights, and now they see the 400-pound hogs outselling the 200-pound hogs.

Feeders of lambs in Colorado are not getting quite as good prices as they had hoped. Last year prices were low at the start, but advanced steadily until they reached the high mark, \$6.10, in April. This year the first shipments in January sold at \$5.85, over a dollar per hundred higher than a year ago, but since then prices have gradually declined until now they are about the same as a year ago.

Swift & Co. are to build a slaughter house for cattle in New York City. They have plants at Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis, St. Joseph, Omaha, and St. Paul, not to mention, of course, their cold storage houses all over the East and abroad. The Morris & Butts Hog Packing House at the City of Mexico was destroyed by fire.

The Hammond Packing Co. is negotiating for the old Silberhorn pork packing plant at Sioux City. They have plants at Chicago, Omaha, and expect to have one at St. Joseph. The horse famine is approaching. Even now we are using from the fall crops of 1895 and 1896 colts, and as we haven't one choice horse where four could be sold at good prices, how will it be when we have to depend upon the scant crops of succeeding years? Horses are being used younger than they should, and the outlook for a supply of good ones for the next few years is not encouraging.

BOOK TABLE.

"Feeds and Feeding."

[A HANDBOOK FOR STOCKMEN AND STUDENTS.]

For many years past able scientists of both the old and new worlds have devoted their energies to a study of the laws of animal nutrition. Both Canadian and American experiment stations have acquired much definite knowledge along these lines, adding to the former store of knowledge. From all these fruitful sources Prof. W. A. Henry, Director of the Wisconsin Experiment Station, assisted by Prof. F. W. Woll and Mr. A. M. Troyer, has selected much data important in establishing principles and helpful in directing rational practice. The whole is incorporated in one excellent volume of 35 chapters.

Commencing with plant growth and animal nutrition, it is clearly shown how the former works into the latter. Mastication, digestion and assimilation are clearly set forth in chapter II., a study of which will enlighten a stockman much along these important lines. In dealing with animal nutrition, the mysteries of the formation of tissue, wastes of the body, influence of various food elements, etc., are clearly indicated. The sources of muscular energy, too, are practically considered, as well as the nature of fattening as influenced by various foods. The explanation and calculation of feeding standards composes an interesting and useful chapter of 22 pages, concluding Part I.

Part II. opens with a consideration of leading cereals and their by-products, going into the composition of various grains and their influence in the animal economy. Minor cereals, such as rice, sorghum and millet seed, buckwheat, oil cake, cotton cake, etc., are practically dealt with as to their value in feeding various classes of stock. Indian corn, the grasses, leguminous plants, such as clovers, as well as roots, tubers, cabbages, etc., are each given due consideration.

Part III., embracing the feeding of farm animals, contains chapters under the following heads:—"Investigations Concerning the Horse," "Feeds for the Horse," "Feed and Care of the Horse," "Calf Rearing," "Results of Steer Feeding Trials at the Stations," "Factors in Steer Fattening," "Counsel in the Feed Lot," "The Dairy Cow—Scientific Findings," "Station Tests with Feeding Stuffs for Dairy Cows," "Influence of Feed on Milk," "Public Tests of Pure-bred Dairy Cows," "Feed and Care of the Dairy Cow," "Investigations with Sheep," "Experiments in Fattening Sheep—Wool Production," "General Care of Sheep—Fattening," "Investigations with Swine," "Value of Various Feeding Stuffs for Pigs," "Danish Pig-Feeding Experiments," and "Feeding and Management of Swine—Effect of Feed on the Carcass of the Pig."

We would like to devote more space to a review of this worthy work, but what has been said will indicate that the important points in this great and intricate subject have been well covered in a way to materially help the practical feeder. The previous standard works on this subject were those of Ormsby and Stewart, but another was needed, and Prof. Henry's contribution comes at an opportune time, and is new in its conception and plan. It is well bound in cloth, and contains over 650 large pages, the type used being large and clear. We congratulate Prof. Henry upon the work, which we consider a valuable addition to our library. We have made arrangements with the publishers whereby we can furnish our readers with copies at \$2 each, or as a premium for sending us the names of three new yearly subscribers to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE at \$1 each.