

MARKET REVIEW AND FORECAST.

Office of FARMING,
44 and 46 Richmond street W., Toronto.
April 11th, 1898.

The cold snap of last week interfered somewhat with the wholesale trade, but a return to fine weather will cause a quickening in many lines of trade. The probability of war between the United States and Spain has had its effect upon the securities of those countries and to some extent upon the trade of Canada. Vesselmen are speculating upon the increased amount of wheat that would ship by way of Montreal if war were to break out.

Wheat.

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada east of the Rockies showed an increase of 101,000 bushels last week instead of a decrease, as many expected. The world's supply of wheat and flour in sight shows a gain of 2,828,000 bushels over the week previous. The prospects are that there will be ample supplies of old wheat when the new crop comes in. Leiter is still paying 6c. or 7c. per bushel more than can be got for wheat in England, and although he is shipping large quantities there is nearly as much being supplied him from the long supposed empty farmer's bins. During the past week business in wheat has been very active, owing no doubt to the war scare, as war would no doubt interrupt free export of wheat from the United States. English buyers have therefore been buying more freely. Should war break out it would help the Leiter corner. Argentine wheat shipments have amounted to 13,888,000 bushels in 14 weeks against 1,023,000 bushels last year. The high cold winds of last week have been general over the continent and much damage is reported. The heavy frosts have heaved the wheat badly in some places in Ontario.

On the local wheat market business has been very quiet. The demand for export has been good and the market is steady. Sales of red winter wheat are reported at 55c. and 56c. north and west; holders are asking 57c. Manitoba wheat is steady at \$1.06 for No. 1 hard at Owen Sound, and \$1.10 to \$1.10½ at North Bay.

The trade at Montreal has been merely nominal.

Barley and Oats.

Barley is nominal. No. 2 grade is one cent cheaper, 39c. being the ruling price. Feed barley continues to hold its own at 33c. At Montreal malting barley is very scarce at 50c. to 52c., and feed barley is quoted at 40c. to 41c.

Oats are in good demand; 29½c. is bid for them, and holders are asking 3c. more. The receipts at Montreal during the week were 154,200 bushels against 81,600 bushels the week previous. Sales are reported at 33½c. and 35c. alfalfa in May. Out of store they bring 33½c. to 33½c.

Peas and Corn.

Peas are a little firmer than when last reported; 55½c. to 56c. being the ruling price for cars north and west. At Montreal receipts have been nearly doubled. One sale is reported in the west equal to 64½c. alfalfa in May. Out of store 63c. is the ruling price.

Buckwheat.

There is no change to report in the market for buckwheat. Offerings are small, and the market is steady at 37c. for cars west. At Montreal trade is also quiet; 40c. to 40½c. seems to be the ruling price.

Bran and Shorts.

The bran market is somewhat unsettled. The demand is somewhat limited, and millers have had to take lower prices. \$12.50 to \$13 is still asked for shorts in quantity, and \$10.50 to \$11 for bran west. At Montreal it is reported that Manitoba bran has been placed at \$12.50 in bulk, and that sales have been made at \$13.75 and \$14, but more at \$14.25 to \$14.50.

Timothy and Clover Seed.

Red clover seed is quoted at \$3 to \$3.40; alsike at \$3.25 to \$4; and timothy seed at \$1.25 to \$1.35. At Montreal red clover is bringing \$3.25 to \$4; alsike \$3.50 to \$4.25; and timothy seed \$1.50 to \$2, according to quality and the size of the lot.

Potatoes.

There has been no change in the potato market during the past week. Cars are quoted at 55c. on the track, and out of store potatoes sell for 63c. to 65c. Similar prices prevail at Montreal, the range being 55c. to 65c.

Eggs.

The supply of eggs is very liberal. The

cold weather stiffened prices a little, but much larger supplies are looked for in the near future. The market continues steady at 9½c. to 10c. per doz. Prices at Montreal have maintained the 10c. mark, though supplies have been very heavy.

Maple Syrup.

Maple syrup is in good demand at 65c. for wine gallons and 90c. for imperials. At Montreal the supplies have not been as large as expected, small tins being 50c. and large tins 60c. One sale is reported as low as 4c. per pound. Sugar brings from 6c. to 7½c. per pound.

Cheese.

The cheese market continues quiet. Some business was done at 7½c. for finest western colored. Altogether about 17,000 boxes went forward by the winter ports. The first new fodder cheese to come on the market was about 130 boxes from the Kingston Dairy School. They were of a very superior quality, and sold for about 7½c. to 7½c. A few factories are beginning to make cheese.

Butter.

For the two months ending February 28th, 1898, Canada sent 1,482 cwt. more butter than for the corresponding period of 1897. During the same period Denmark increased her export of butter 9,200 cwt. The export of Canadian creamery butter during the winter has not increased very rapidly, but the scarcity of dairy butter this winter has been so great that a very much larger share of creamery butter has gone into local consumption than usual. So much is this so that the home market is somewhat independent of the export trade.

During the week the market at Montreal has been somewhat firm, and everything is kept cleaned up from day to day. As high as 21c. and over has been paid at the factory for new make. Top price for new made creamery is 21c. to 22c. Earlier makes bring 19½c. to 20½c.

Dairy butter is scarce, and choice tubs of new bring almost as much as creamery. Single tubs bring as high as 22c. to 23c., western dairy packed bring from 17c. to 19c., and roll butter from 18c. to 19c.

At Toronto creamery brings 20c. in tubs and 22c. in prints. Large rolls bring 18c. A number of creameries are starting to make again, and the prospects are that butter will be cheaper in the course of a week or two.

Cattle.

Trade last week was again good at the stock yards. The accommodation on board steamships is unusually open, and exporters are looking sharply after export stuff. Although Friday was a good Friday, there was a large and successful market.

Export Cattle.—Tuesday's market was a good one, and the enquiry for cattle was very active. Ruling prices were 4c. to 4½c., while fancy cattle brought \$4.40 to \$4.50 per cwt. On Good Friday's market prices were about 10c. per cwt. lower. Export bulls bring from \$3 to \$3.75 per cwt.

Butcher's Cattle.—On Tuesday's market cattle sold off about 10c. per cwt., but on Friday's market they sold at a slight advance. Prices run all the way from \$2.85 to \$4 per cwt. The Easter markets at Montreal were well attended. Choice Easter animals sold as high as 5½c., although 5c. was the top for good animals. Prices run down to 4½c. Common stuff sold for 4c. down, culls for 3c.

Stockers and Feeders.—A good trade is being done in stockers at \$3.20 to \$3.40 per cwt. Half-fat feeders bring \$3.60 to \$3.70 per cwt.

Milk Cows and Calves.—Many inferior animals are being offered; prices range from \$25 to \$40. Some fancy veals brought as high as \$10; common run \$5 to \$6.

Sheep.

Butchers' sheep and export sheep bring 3½c. to 3½c. for ewes and 3c. to 3½c. for bucks. Yearlings bring from \$5.25 to \$5.50 per cwt. Spring lambs bring from \$3 to \$5.

Hogs.

Prices fell away ½c. on Tuesday's but were inclined to be a little higher on Friday's market. \$4.60 to \$4.63 is top price for choice bacon pigs; light hogs 4½c. to 4½c.; thick fat hogs, 4½c.; sows 3c. to 3½c., and stags 2c. per pound.

Hay.

A little improvement has been experienced in the market for No. 1 hay. There is still a lot of hay in the country to be disposed of. Cars on the track at Toronto are quoted at \$8 to \$8.50, while at Montreal hay is worth \$10.50 to \$11.50.

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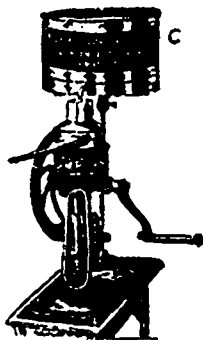
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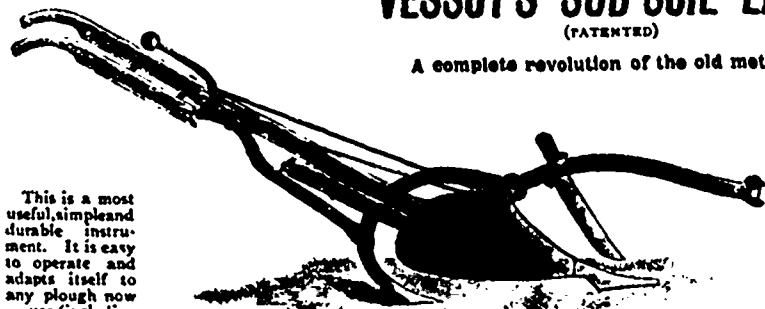
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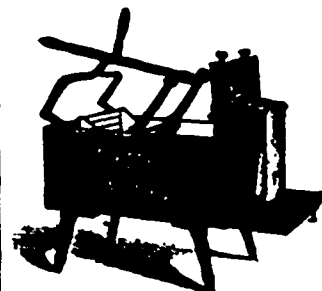
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