

MARKET REVIEW AND FORECAST.

Office of FARMING,
September 27, 1897.

The exports of grain from Montreal during the present season up to the middle of September, comprising wheat, corn, peas, oats, barley and rye amount to 17,065,277 bushels, as compared with 11,121,807 bushels for the same period in 1896, showing an increase of 5,943,470 bushels, or 54 per cent. The greatest increases were in corn and oats. The others also showed an increase with the exception of wheat, which showed a decrease of 60,666 bushels. It is now confidently expected that the total grain reports from Montreal at the close of the season will show a still greater increase. There is an active enquiry just now for grain space on the outgoing vessels for October and November, showing that shippers expect to do bigger business later on. Reports from Europe would seem to bear out this feature of the situation, and that the market for nearly all cereals is likely to continue firm for a while.

Wheat

Though there has been increased activity during the past week in the markets for Manitoba and Ontario wheat and a couple of cents advance in the prices for the former, yet there is considerable hesitancy in regard to the wheat situation just now. Many large operators seem to be in a kind of dilemma and cannot make up their minds definitely as to whether it would be better to go ahead and buy up at present prices or to wait a while with the hope of better bargains later on. The situation as a whole has not changed much since our last report. If any change, it is a little better for the producer.

The chief factor in the situation just now seems to be Russia. One time it is reported that the Russian Government will issue a ukase prohibiting the exportation of wheat, and another time the report comes that Russia will have upwards of 100,000,000 bushels of a surplus, or may be 100,000,000 bushels if good prices are offered. There can be no doubt, however, that the prospects for very high-priced wheat are not as bright as they were a month ago, and though values are not likely to go back any for some time, yet it is somewhat doubtful at present if prices will go very much higher than they are.

There has not been much change in the Toronto market during the past week. If anything, the tendency has been weaker; offerings have been liberal with a very good demand, prices ranging from \$2 to \$4 cents for cars north and west, both red and white Manitoba No. 1 advanced from 2 to 3 cents per bushel towards the last of the week on the local markets there.

Later reports show a good demand at Toronto for exports, with the market easy. Up till the present the supply has been from the early districts, but now there are large offerings from the northern and western portions of the province.

The New York market is somewhat irregular. Late Liverpool dispatches there show an advance of 1 penny, and reports of a better French demand for wheat at English markets. This fact, coupled with a revival of the rumor of Russia prohibiting grain export, has had a tendency to make some operators nervous, and on an active covering prices have advanced about 1 cent for near-by deliveries in New York and Chicago.

Barley

There does not appear to be much doing in barley just now. There has been a slight export demand for feeding quality. Prices about the same.

Corn, Oats, and Peas.

With the exception of the last named these are slightly easier. Oats at Toronto selling at from 22 to 23 cents, and corn at about 30 cents. Peas were steady at about 48 cents till the last of the week, when prices dropped to 47 cents.

Cheese.

Like the wheat market, only in a greater degree, the cheese situation is a problem. Stocks continue to accumulate, though the very dry weather of the past few weeks will shut off the milk supply at the factories considerably. The total exports of cheese from Montreal this season up to Sept. 18th show the very large increase of 293,809 boxes. If this were the only factor to be considered in the situation we would be safe in forecasting a decided slump in the market before long. But there are other factors to be considered. The Montreal Trade Bulletin makes the following estimate of how a large share of this

increased supply might be got rid off, which is well worth considering in summing up the situation:

Shortage of last year's make in England	Boxes, 600,000
Increased consumption due to Jubilee festivities	100,000
Increased consumption due to the prosperity of the working classes in England.	400,000
Total	1,100,000

There is a danger of this increased consumption being cut off if prices get too high, and it would not be advisable for factorymen to look for high prices in disposing of the fall make.

At the local markets, during the week, 9½ was about the general bid, with the western market running as high as 9½. Factorymen were not anxious to sell, most of them holding for 9½ and 10c. for Septembers.

Butter

The prices for fine creamery continue in about the same groove, from 19 to 19½ being the ruling ones. As with cheese, factorymen seem to be holding for higher prices. Orders from England are reported falling off, and those that have arrived have the limits cut down 5s. per cwt. Stocks in store are reported heavy.

Good dairy butter is none too plentiful, selling readily at from 14c. to 15c. at Toronto. Owing to the scarcity of choice dairy Toronto dealers are offering as high as 20c. for creamery in prints. Lower grades and medium dairy sell at 9c. to 11c.

Apples.

The apple market is somewhat interesting just now. London advices show a good outlook for a fine quality of apples if too many are not sent forward at once. The quality must be good and the packing must be carefully done. A shipment of apples sent over to demonstrate the value of the government cold storage system, sold in Glasgow at prices ranging from 14s. to 22s. per barrel with many buyers. Returns from early shipments have been very disappointing to shippers. They landed in poor condition; it not being possible to get refrigerator accommodation. Prices for these have ruled low.

There is said to be very much excitement among apple contractors in Ontario in their anxiety to make contracts. A large number of contracts have been made at \$2.25 per barrel, but the ruling prices appear to be from \$1.75 to \$2.

Live Stock.

The live stock market in England still shows good demand for Canadian, with prices a little higher. Shippers have come off safely, which is a good indication of the trend of the markets. The quality must be good, however, and if it is, a good export business can be done in beef and mutton.

Cattle.

Receipts have been heavy at Toronto, and buying of cattle for Montreal and Buffalo has not been very brisk, the Buffalo demand being confined mostly to stockers. Distillery men are buying quite a few bulls, and some farmers are looking up feeding steers to put on the grass.

Prices for export cattle remain unchanged, and the feeling appears to be a little weaker, except for very choice stuff. There is reported not too much space aboard ship at Montreal to fill, most of it having been taken for cattle from Manitoba and outside points in Ontario. This may have something to do with the weaker feeling. Prices have ruled from 4 to 4½c. per lb. for choice cattle, cows and heifers going at about 3½c.

Butchers' cattle also showed a somewhat easier feeling towards the end of the week, but prices did not decline materially, choice selling from 3½c. to 3¾c. per lb. Medium cattle are dull at 3c. to 3½c. Common cattle are dull at 2½c. to 2¾c.

Good feeders sold for 3½c. to 3¾c., and there was a fair enquiry toward the end of the week. Prices have been from 3½c. to 3¾c., and stockers for Buffalo brought 2½c. to 3c.

Erick Brothers, East Buffalo, report stockers and feeders in good supply on that market. The supply of Canadian has been large. Good to prime well-bred feeders and stockers of good quality are selling generally steady, and in good request. There seems to be an unlimited demand for yearlings and two-year-olds of right weights and quality at \$4 to \$4.15 per cwt. Common stuff is in good supply, and showed a decline of from 10 to 20 cents from prices at the beginning of the week, and things are shaping for a further decline next week.

Sheep and Lambs.

Export sheep are reported firmer at 3½ to 3¾ per lb. Butchers' sheep are in active demand at \$2.50 to \$3 each. Lambs are in steady request at from 3½ to 3¾c. per lb., some few lots going as high as 4c.

Offerings of lambs at Buffalo have been fairly liberal, but with a good demand trading ruled rather firm, especially on good quality, native lambs. Erick Bros. report Canadian lambs coming rather freely, with quality somewhat improved, and selling at from \$5.60 to \$5.75 for the good ewe and wether kinds, while coarse grades are hard to get rid of at \$5.30. Good fat sheep are reported scarce and selling at from \$4.35 to \$4.60.

Hogs.

The hog market still continues firm. Towards the last of the week choice selections of bacon hogs were selling at Toronto at from \$5.75 to \$5.85 per cwt.

The Buffalo and Chicago markets still continue the same with a firm tendency. There has been some little uncertainty regarding the hog market owing to the yellow fever scare. Late reports seem to show that it is under control, and the outlook is a little more encouraging.

Publishers' Desk.—Continued.

Ontario Veterinary College.—This well-known and valuable institution has just issued its annual announcement for the session of 1897-98. The course of training provided is comprehensive and practical and second to no college of its kind on the Continent. The list of graduates, published in the annual announcement, shows that the larger proportion are residents of the United States. This fact in itself is a striking proof of the superiority of the College as a training school for students of veterinary science. The College is now affiliated with the University of Toronto, and the prospects for a large attendance of students for the coming session which begins on Oct. 13th, are very favorable.

Shipments of Thoroughbred Stock.

Editor FARMING: Dear Sir,—Under existing arrangements with the C.P.R. and the G.T.R. purebred live stock may be shipped to Manitoba at one-half regular rates when sent in car load lots. Mr. Jas. Russell, of Richmond Hill, has three yearling heifers which he wishes to send to Elkhorn. Martin Gardhouse, Highfield, has two yearling rams which he wishes to send to Manitoba. Tape Bros., of Ridgeway, wish to send a pair of pigs to British Columbia. Mr. Mossom Boyd, of Bulcaygeon, wishes to ship a yearling Hereford to Prince Albert, N.W.T. Mr. John Kelly wishes to send five rams to Maple Creek. These will constitute less than one-half a car-load. I wish to enquire through your columns if any of your readers desire to ship animals to Manitoba or the Northwest Territories. If so, the Dominion Cattle, Sheep, and Swine Breeders' Associations will take charge of them, and guarantee safe delivery. The price charged will be at the rate of \$72 per car-load to Winnipeg (proportionate rates to distant points). This is fifty per cent. of the regular rate charged for car loads of live stock not registered. Yours very truly, F. W. HODSON, Secretary Dominion Cattle, Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations.

Stock Notes.

JNO. COUSINS & SONS, Harrison, Ont., write: Our stock looks well, and has had plenty of good grass. We have been very successful in sales, especially with pigs. Many thanks to FARMING.

AUCTION SALE.—Our readers will be interested in the auction sale of the famous Ayrshire herd of the late Thomas Guy, of Oakawa. This herd has won a continental reputation, and many of the leading Ayrshire breeders of the Province have laid the foundation of their herds from the Sydenham Farm. There will no doubt be a large turnout on Oct. 13th, the date of the sale.

GRAND DISPERSION SALE.—The Maplecliffe Herd of Ayrshire Cattle, owned by Mr. Robert Robertson Compton, Que., will be offered for unserved sale on October 25th. Intending purchasers will do well to make a note of this sale. The herd contains a high class type of Ayrshire specially adapted for laying the foundation of a new herd, or for improving an old one. The head of the herd is the noted bull, Matchless, a son of the celebrated Nellie Osborne, and has a large milking record.

A. C. HALLMAN, New Dundas, writes: Although I have reported very little about the doings at Spring Brook this season, I must say that every branch of my business has been in a prosperous condition. My herd of Holsteins is in good shape and possessed of

high quality and of gilt-edge breeding. My sales have been quite numerous, and the demand good. I have four bull calves, sired by Flora's Sir Jacob, a bull of great butter backing, and individually of best quality. My young two year old bull, Cesar, is also developing into a very fine animal. My heifer calves and my yearling heifers never were better. My herd of Tamworths were never in as good shape; have made some very valuable additions, my aim is to establish a typical herd of Tamworths, which is the pork packers' favorite pig. My imported boar, Nimrod 174, I believe is almost without a peer in the Province. He is possessed of great length and depth of side, carrying his weight very near to the ground, and having a very strong flinty bone. His stock has also proven to be of the very best quality.

Early in the season I decided only to exhibit Tamworths at the leading fairs this year, as I wished to devote my whole time at the Exhibitions this year to the swine industry, studying the type of Tamworth suitable for the market; and consequently my many friends and patrons have missed seeing representatives of my Holstein herd at the leading fairs. Nevertheless, I pay strict attention to this branch of my business, and have on hand a herd of very high standard, which has won many honors at the great Canadian exhibitions of the past.

ENGLISH NEWS.

(From our own Correspondent).

August is a month of ram sales and lettings in England. Throughout the month there are all over the country taking place sales of purebred sheep. 'Tis to these sales that your sheepmen should come, for here they would be able to buy typical and useful animals of their various breeds at market prices. Those who come over here early in the summer and expect to be able to get hold of the best sheep from the English breeder before his sale, generally have a useless errand, unless they are prepared to pay fancy prices. Could it but be arranged to be here later on, say, August and part of September, it would, we who know how things go, fully repay them. It came under the writer's notice during last June and July, that certain American and Canadian buyers had arrived at the conclusion that certain breeders were asking very high prices for their produce. Amongst these gentlemen was that noted leading breeder of Hampshire Down sheep. Well, when he offered for sale and letting 104 lambs, they averaged that high average of just over \$70, the highest price being \$310. Now just let these figures come under the notice of those who visited Mr. J. Flower's well-known flock this summer from your country, and I feel pretty confident that they will conclude that he was not so very high in figure after all.

Generally speaking the demand for Hampshire Down sheep has been strong and good, very excellent and satisfactory sales have been made throughout, it being clearly evident that there exists a large demand for these quick and early maturity sheep. Foremost as the breed is in meat production, one is glad to note that its breeders are equally to the front in pushing their breed. Oxford Downs may be said to have had a very excellent season again this year. Their principal demand has been from the European continent, where these sheep are at the present time in very high repute. America has also taken a very fine quota of excellent animals, as also has Argentina. Mr. J. Treadwell's annual sale was a good one. The average for 62 shearing rams being \$85. The Marney Compton Oxford Downs Messrs. Hobbs also sold at a capital average, 56 making an average of \$61.

Messrs. Brown and Son, Cotswolds, met with a very ready demand. The average for ram lambs being \$39 and that for shearing rams, \$53.

The Southdowns have had a very poor year indeed, Mr. E. Ellis' flock disposal sale being the best, where an average of over \$60 was secured for all the rams entered for sale.

Other sales have not been at all successful. The demand for these sheep is certainly not what one would desire it to be. For the very best there is a capital trade, but for anything below tip-top the demand is very meagre. Lincoln sheep still lead the way. They are being largely bought for Buenos Ayres, and the prices that are being paid for them are very high indeed. A very large lot, not of a leading flock, recently made \$75, whilst the prices paid for these sheep go all the way from \$75 to \$100 or \$1000.

Shropshires have had a very fine season, and the demand they have had has been somewhat largely increased by a very useful demand from the Argentine and Australasia. There has been several lots sent to America. Mr. A. E. Mansell's average for 38 rams being \$62, top price being \$80 for Diamond King, firm price, R.S.A.E., Manchester.

Devon Long Wools have met with a ready and useful demand. Suffolk sheep have sold ready and well at all their principal sales.

The weather has been good for the harvest, most of which is now safely gathered in. Root crops are uneven, in some districts being good and in others very indifferent. Mangolds are good everywhere where there is a plant. In some few cases we have noticed very excellent pieces of maize, these being, however, far to find, for doubtless this is indeed a most valuable crop all round, and one that will well repay our farmers to more often use. Rape is coming on well as are also the autumn cabbage crops, all of which will make valuable additions to the food ration of sheep being prepared for the market.

Our prices for fat meat are fairly good, mutton of small weight, 72 to 76 lbs. the carcass, selling readily and well, larger and coarser kinds not being in so strong demand.

Mr. H. D. SMITH's recent importations of Hereford cattle arrived at New York en route for Compton on July 21st, 1897. A grand lot they are, such a valuable consignment have not been brought over for some years past. That noted and well known prize winning bull from Mr. J. Tudge, Nixa Gift, as well as an equally promising bull, Lady Rupert, are included in the lot. They all can be fairly described as being the pick of the best. Certain it is that the Compton herd will, with such additions to its females, become a source of wealth, not only to its well known owner, but also to the country, for an addition of seven females of so high and great merit as this importation is, cannot but fall to give it a complete control. We may mention that the whole of the arrangements for transport and shipping was made by Mr. W. W. Chapman, of Fittalan House, Arundel street, Strand, London, W.C.