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MARKETS.

Toronto.

REVIEW OF MARKETS, 1910.

Canadian farmers, and especially those of Ontario, have little reason to be dissatisfied with the results which have accrued to them from the last year's operations on the farm. With few exceptions, prices for all agricultural products have held as high as those for the year 1909, and in some cases a higher range of figures has been maintained throughout the entire year. During the latter part of 1910, there was a tendency for prices to show an easier undertone, due partially to the effect which extremely high prices have had on sentiment, and to the slowing up of business in the United States. This has been felt more in the cereals than in anything else, but it has also influenced very materially the price of hogs, which show a decline from the early part of the year till the end of the year of 30 per cent.

The main reason for the decline in the prices of all grains has been largely due to the world's crop, which, beginning with wheat, and continued down through the entire list, shows an increase of production in excess of that of almost any previous year. Russia has been a very important factor in the prices for wheat this year, and, although actual figures cannot be obtained of this crop, as is usually the case, the exports from the Russian ports have confirmed the conviction that the crop of this eastern section of Europe was wonderfully prolific in 1910. In Ontario, there was a fair average crop of wheat, oats and barley, and a good crop of hay. The disastrous results of the drouth in the Canadian Northwest has had its effect on Manitoba wheat prices, and has held them above what they would otherwise have been if the crop in Manitoba and the other Western Provinces had been as bountiful as those of previous years.

Considering the good crop of hay which has been reaped in Ontario, and the excellent results from the root crops, the prices for feed have held up remarkably well, showing that there can be very little falling off in the live stock in the Province.

In dairy products, the results were better than those of the previous year, due to good pasture throughout the entire summer. There has been a little shading in the prices of cheese and butter, but the home consumption has been sufficiently good to make a steady and profitable market for these products. Poultry of all descriptions continued to be somewhat scarce, and this, together with the high prices which have ruled for meats, has kept the quotations for all classes of poultry at a steady, high range, all the year.

The results in fruit of all descriptions, with the exception of apples, was an average crop in Ontario. There has been a steady falling off in the crop of apples, which has resulted in bringing about a price for one of the varieties higher than perhaps in any other year in Canada's

history. While this is beneficial, of course, to the farmers who are lucky enough to have a good crop, it is a question whether the financial results as a whole will be as good as those of previous years.

Alsike was a short crop, and the output has been practically all marketed at remunerative prices. The crop of red clover is estimated to be from two to three times as great as last year in the Province of Ontario, but there is a very large amount of weedy seed that cannot be used in Canada on account of the stringency of the Dominion Seed Laws, and which will have to be exported. It is, therefore, a question whether good clover seed, because of this, will not maintain its price in the Dominion.

As before stated, the price of all varieties of live stock, with the one exception, that of hogs, has held higher on the average than for 1909. The difference, as near as can be estimated, would be as follows:

Export cattle, \$1 per hundredweight higher.
Beef cattle, \$1 per hundredweight higher.
Feeders, \$1 to \$1.50 per hundredweight higher.
Milkers, \$10 to \$15 per head higher.
Veal calves, \$1 per hundredweight higher.
Sheep, 60c. per hundredweight higher.
Lambs, 75c. to \$1 per hundredweight higher.
Hogs at present are about 87c. per hundredweight lower than last December.

During the early part of 1910, hogs made the record price, both here and in the United States. In fact, except during the time of the American war, no such figure as \$10 per hundredweight live weight has ever been known on this continent. The very large crop of corn in the United States has had an immediate effect on hog prices, and, in sympathy with the United States markets, the quotations here have fallen to about a parity.

A fair estimate of the increase in the cattle business in Ontario might be obtained from the volume of business done at the Toronto live-stock markets, the increase at both markets amounting to 34,539 cattle, 11,457 hogs, 40,726 sheep, and 498 calves. There was a decrease of 300 horses, all of which was shown by the falling off in shipments of these animals to the Union Stock-yards. Below will be found the statement for the Union Stock-yards, and the City Cattle-yard for the first eleven months of the years 1909 and 1910:

CITY YARDS.

	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep	Calves
1909.....	157,141	132,708	84,655	28,802
1910.....	143,799	116,599	124,283	28,218

Decrease.....	13,342	16,109		584
Increase.....			69,628	

UNION.

	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep	Calves	Horses
1910.....	7,933	154,607	48,444	80,154	6,367
1909.....	6,515	106,726	47,346	52,538	5,235

Inc.....	1,418	47,881	1,098	27,566	1,082
Dec.....					300

TOTAL FOR BOTH YARDS.

	Cattle	Hogs	Sheep	Calves	Horses
City.....	1910 143,799	116,599	124,283	28,218	
Union.....	1910 154,607	80,154	48,444	6,367	

1910 Total	298,406	196,753	172,727	34,585	
1909 Total	263,867	185,296	132,001	34,087	

1910 Total	34,539	11,457	40,726	498	
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The market decline is represented in the quotations in the hide market for year, the difference amounting in some instances to 25 per cent. For instance, starting in January, No. 1 inspected hides were quoted as high as 13½ cents, while in December the same grade fell in three gradations from 10½c. to 10c., and ultimately reached 9 cents, which was the quotation at the end of December. The explanation for the decline in hide quotations is the much lessened demand in the United States, where, owing to the falling off in the export business, the demand has naturally reverted back to the raw product. The British boot trade has undergone a wonderful revival of late years, and curtailed to a very considerable degree the exports from the United States.

At the end of the year, the outlook for

1911 seems to be fairly promising. Fall seeding was done under favorable conditions, and save for an abnormal winter, there is every reason for believing that next year's crop will make a good start. The high prices which have been paid recently for feeders and stockers would seem to indicate that cattle prices will continue to increase at least until grass cattle commence to show themselves next year. After the modification in grain and other farm products which has taken place during the last few months, there is every reason for believing that nothing but steady prices are warranted until the balance of the crop for 1910 has been disposed of.

REVIEW OF LAST WEEK'S MARKETS

The total receipts of live stock at the City and Union Stock-yards last week were as follows:

	City.	Union.	Total.
Cattle.....	143	106	249
Hogs.....	1,899	889	2,788
Sheep.....	3,249	2,028	5,277
Calves.....	2,249	1,163	3,412
Horses.....	162	11	173
	1	41	42

The total receipts for the two yards for the same week of 1909 were:

	City.	Union.	Total.
Cattle.....	168	142	310
Hogs.....	2,066	2,074	4,140
Sheep.....	3,512	1,021	4,533
Calves.....	2,123	1,195	3,318
Horses.....	125	49	174
	15	137	152

The above figures show a decrease in the combined receipts of the two yards, when compared with the corresponding week of 1909, of 61 cars, 1,352 cattle, 1 calf, and 110 horses; but an increase of 744 hogs and 94 sheep.

Considering the season, the receipts of live stock at the two markets were fairly large. Trade in all classes of live stock was generally good, all offerings being readily taken at fair prices.

Exporters.—None were offered, and one firm who had an order to fill for the London, England, market, had to go to Buffalo to get a supply.

Butchers'.—A few Christmas-quality cattle sold at \$6.10 to \$6.25; picked lots, \$5.85 to \$6; loads of good, \$5.50 to \$5.75; medium, \$5.25 to \$5.50; common, \$4.75 to \$5.15; cows, \$3 to \$5.35; bulls, \$4 to \$5; canners, \$2.50 to \$2.75.

Feeders and Stockers.—Feeders sold at \$4.75 to \$5.30; stockers, \$4 to \$4.65. Milkers and Springers.—Moderate receipts of milkers and springers sold at \$40 to \$85 each.

Veal Calves.—The ordinary run of veal calves sold at \$4 to \$8.50 per cwt. Christmas-quality calves brought \$9 per cwt.

Sheep and Lambs.—Moderate receipts of sheep and lambs sold as follows: Ewes, \$4.50 to \$4.75; rams, \$3 to \$3.50; lambs, \$5.75 to \$6 per cwt.

Hogs.—The packers started out for the week at \$6.75 for selects, fed and watered, and \$6.40 to drovers, for hogs f. o. b. cars at country points; but finished up the week by paying \$7 for selects, fed and watered, and \$6.65 for hogs f. o. b. cars at country points.

Horses.—Trade in horses was better last week than for some little time; that is, there were more enquiries, as there are many dealers who are on the lookout for horses. The prospects are that after the New Year opens up there will be a good, brisk demand. Your correspondent was informed by a Northwestern farmer, that his country (Saskatchewan) would require a large number, as well as the other Western Provinces. Trade at the Union Horse Exchange has improved, Mr. Smith reports, more horses, over 148 being received at the stables. Mr. Smith sold and shipped three carloads to the West, also another lot of ten extra-quality drafters to a well-known Toronto firm, at prices ranging from \$250 to \$285 each. Trade in general is picking up, as there were several dealers from the Maritime Provinces. Medium-class horses are the class that is being sought after. Prices ranged as follows: Good to choice drafters, \$225 to \$275; general-purpose, \$150 to \$200; express and wagon horses, \$160 to \$200; drivers, \$100 to \$225; serviceably sound, \$35 to \$100.

BREADSTUFFS.

Wheat.—No. 2 white, red or mixed, 85c. to 86c., outside. Manitoba wheat—No. 1 northern, 98c.; No. 2 northern, 95½c.; No. 3 northern, 93c., track, lake ports. Rye—No. 2, 59c. to 60c., outside. Peas—No. 2, 78c. to 80c., outside. Buckwheat—46c. to 47c., outside. Barley—Malting, 56c. to 59c.; for feed purposes, 50c., outside. Oats—Canadian Western, No. 2, 38½c.; No. 3, 36½c., lake ports; Ontario, No. 2, 32c.; No. 3, 31c., outside. Corn—American new, No. 3 yellow, 53½c., Toronto freights. Flour—Ontario 90-per-cent. winter-wheat flour, \$3.55, at seaboard. Manitoba flour—Toronto prices are: First patents, \$5.40; second patents, \$4.90; strong bakers', \$4.70.

HAY AND MILLFEED.

Hay.—Baled, in car lots, track, Toronto, No. 1, \$12.50; No. 2, \$8.50 to \$10.50.

Straw.—Baled, car lots, track, Toronto, \$8.50 to \$10.50.
Bran.—Manitoba bran, \$19 per ton; shorts, \$21; Ontario bran, \$20 in bags, shorts, \$22, track, Toronto.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Butter.—Practically no change. Creamery pound rolls, 26c. to 28c., and Locust Hill brand, 29c.; creamery solids, 25c.; separator dairy, 24c. to 25c.; store lots, 21c. to 22c.

Eggs.—Strictly new-laid, 50c. to 55c., cold storage, 27c. to 28c. On the farmers' market last Saturday, 61c. per dozen was paid for small lots of strictly new-laid eggs.

Cheese.—Market unchanged. Large, 12c.; twins, 12½c.

Beans.—Market firm, at \$1.85 for hand-picked.

Honey.—Market steady; extracted, 10c. to 11c.; No. 1 comb honey, \$2.25 to \$2.75 per dozen sections.

Poultry.—Dressed, turkeys, 22c.; geese, 15c.; ducks, 17c.; chickens, 14c. to 16c.; hens, 12c. to 13c.

Potatoes.—Car lots, on track, Toronto, 70c. to 75c., and 77c. was paid in one or two instances.

HIDES AND WOOL.

E. T. Carter & Co., 85 East Front street, have been paying the following prices: No. 1 inspected steers and cows, 9c.; No. 2 inspected steers and cows, 8c.; No. 3 inspected steers, cows and bulls, 7c.; country hides, cured, 8½c.; green, 8c.; calf skins, 11c. to 13c.; sheep skins, 65c. to 80c.; horse hides, No. 1, \$2.75 to \$3; horse hair, per lb., 29c.; tallow, No. 1, per lb., 5½c. to 6½c.

TORONTO SEED MARKET.

The William Rennie Seed Company report the seed prices as follows: Alsike No. 1, per bushel, \$7 to \$7.50; alsike No. 2, per bushel, \$6.50 to \$7; alsike No. 3, per bushel, \$5.50 to \$6; red clover No. 1, per bushel, \$7 to \$7.25; red clover No. 2, per bushel, \$6 to \$6.50; red clover No. 3, per bushel, \$5 to \$5.50.

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

Apples, No. 1 Spies, per box, \$2.50; No. 2, \$2; No. 1 Greenings, per box, \$2; No. 2, \$1.75; No. 1 Baldwins, \$2; No. 2, \$1.75; cabbage, per 100, \$3.50; carrots, per bag, 50c.; beets, per bag, 60c.; onions, per bag, \$1.25; parsnips, per bag, 60c.; pears, 50c. to 80c. per basket.

Chicago.

Cattle.—Beeves, \$4.50 to \$7.25; Texas steers, \$4.10 to \$5.25; Western steers, \$4 to \$5.90; stockers and feeders, \$3.40 to \$5.75; cows and heifers, \$2.40 to \$6.15; calves, \$7.15 to \$9.35.

Hogs.—Light, \$7.50 to \$7.90; mixed, \$7.55 to \$7.95; heavy, \$7.50 to \$7.90; roughs, \$7.50 to \$7.65; good to choice heavy, \$7.65 to \$7.90; pigs, \$7.10 to \$7.85; bulk of sales at \$7.70 to \$7.85.

Sheep and Lambs.—Native, \$2.40 to \$4.15; Western, \$2.75 to \$4.10; yearlings, \$4.50 to \$5.60; lambs, native, \$4.25 to \$6.25; Western, \$4.75 to \$6.25.

Buffalo.

Veals.—\$7 to \$10.50, a few at \$10.75. Hogs.—Heavy mixed and Yorkers, \$8.15 to \$8.20; pigs, \$8.20 to \$8.25; roughs, \$7.15 to \$7.25; stags, \$5.75 to \$6.25; dairies, \$8 to \$8.20.

Sheep and Lambs.—Heavy lambs, \$5 to \$5.65; handy lambs, \$5 to \$6.60; yearlings, \$4.75 to \$5.