

# Market Review and Forecast

Office of FARMING,  
Confederation Life Building,  
Toronto, Sept. 11th, 1899.

General trade conditions continue bright, and nearly all lines of business, both wholesale and retail, enter upon the fall and winter trade under very favorable circumstances. The Transvaal question is somewhat unsettling the money markets. In Canada there seems to be a good demand for money, and prices are well maintained.

## Wheat.

The wheat markets have been generally quiet and unchanged. The marketing of wheat by farmers has been somewhat reduced of late, as they seem to have confidence in higher prices. The *Price Current* sums up the situation of the week as follows:

"The declining tendency of wheat prices has continued the past week, the Chicago market being steadier at the close, with December wheat  $\frac{1}{8}$  c. lower than a week ago, and a like change for May delivery. The close is  $\frac{3}{8}$  @ 1 c. above the low point, on Tuesday. The movement of spring wheat was enlarged in comparison with several weeks previously, due to marketing of some early threshings. The receipts of such grain, however, are yet largely short of corresponding time last year. The movement of winter wheat to the centres continues moderate, and decidedly smaller than a year ago."

At Montreal there has been a somewhat bearish tendency in the market, and there is a marked difference between the prices for old and new stock. The market here has been quiet and without special change. New wheat is offering in moderate quantities. Red and white is quoted at 67 to 68 c. north and west, and goose at 67 to 68 c. Manitoba No. 1 hard is quoted here at 78  $\frac{1}{2}$  c., and No. 1 northern at 75 c. On the Toronto farmers' market red and white bring 69  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 70  $\frac{1}{2}$  c., spring five 66 c., and goose 70 to 71  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. per bushel.

## Oats and Barley.

The oat market is somewhat quiet, though at Montreal there is a fairly good demand for oats at 29 c. afloat. The market here has been quiet, though considerable has been sold for export at 24 to 25 c. for white west. On the farmers' market here oats fetch 28  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 31 c. per bushel.

The barley market is rather uninteresting, though the market shows a somewhat firmer tendency at 35 to 40 c. at outside points. On the farmers' market here quotations are 39 to 42 c. per bushel.

## Peas and Corn.

Old peas are quoted at Montreal at 76 c., and new ones at 66 to 67 c. in store. The market here is somewhat unsettled at 55 to 57 c. west. On the Toronto farmers' market peas fetch 60 to 61 c. per bushel.

The American corn crop will not likely be of the immense proportions expected a few weeks ago. The present outlook, however, favors a crop well above the average, and will probably be about the same dimensions as in 1896, when it reached about 2,300,000,000 bushels. American corn is quoted at 40 c. on track Toronto.

## Brans and Shorts.

The demand for feed at Montreal is fully greater than the supply. Ontario bran is quoted there at \$15 and shorts at \$16 to \$17 per ton. City mills here sell bran at \$13 and shorts at \$16 per ton in car lots f.o.b. Toronto.

## Eggs and Poultry.

A fair volume of business is being done in eggs at Montreal, though exports are behind

last year. Quotations are 16 to 18 c. for fine fresh-laid stock, and 14 to 14  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. for candled goods. Fresh gathered eggs meet a good demand here at 14 to 15 c. wholesale. On the Toronto farmers' market eggs bring 14 to 18 c. per dozen.

Poultry here remains unchanged at 40 to 60 c. per pair for chickens and 45 to 65 c. for ducks, and 10 to 11 c. per lb. for turkeys wholesale. On the farmers' market chickens fetch 40 to 80 c. and ducks 60 to 90 c. per pair, and turkeys 10 to 14 c. per lb.

## Potatoes.

Cars on track are quoted here at 55 to 60 c. and out of store at 65 to 70 c. per bag, and lower prices are looked for. On the farmers' market potatoes fetch 60 to 75 c. per bag.

## Fruit.

The fruit market here continues active and trade is brisk with steady prices. Crawford peaches bring 60 to 90 c., common 40 to 60 c., plums 25 to 60 c., pears 35 to 50 c. for Bartlett's and 25 to 35 c. for common, grapes 20 to 40 c., and apples 15 to 25 c. per basket or \$1.25 to \$2 per bbl.

## Hay and Straw.

The market here for baled hay is steady at \$8 to \$8.50 for cars on the track. On the Toronto farmers' market new hay brings \$9.50 to \$11; sheaf straw \$7, and loose straw \$4 to \$5 per ton.

## Clover and Timothy Seed.

On the farmers' market here red clover brings \$4 to \$4.50; alsike, \$3.50 to \$5.40; white clover, \$7 to \$8, and timothy seed, \$1 to \$1.75 per bushel.

## Cheese.

The cheese situation continues strong though during the week buyers and sellers have been apart, and at the local markets comparatively little business was done considering the offerings. The offerings just now though considerable less than last year at this time, are in the opinion of some dealers, not sufficient to warrant the high prices that are being paid. Quotations at Montreal are 11  $\frac{1}{4}$  c. for finest Western and 11  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. for Eastern. At the local markets prices have ranged from 11  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 12 c. It is felt that prices are getting so high that there will be a large falling off in the consumption of cheese. The cable, however, advanced a 6d. during the week and the situation is strong.

## Butter.

There are indications at Montreal of a decline in the butter market and cable reports are weakening somewhat. The clearings of last week are expected to be the largest in the history of the export butter trade. Spot quotations for finest creamery at Montreal are from 21 to 21  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. The scarcity in butter during the past few weeks continues to show itself here and supplies at country points are very light. Creamery prints are quoted at 23 to 24 c. and boxes at 20 to 22 c. per lb. Prices are steady for dairy butter at 16 to 17 c. for choice tubs and 17 to 18 c. for lb. rolls. On the Toronto farmers' market pound rolls fetch 20 to 26 c.

## Wool.

Trade during the past fortnight has been quiet at Montreal. Stocks on spot are low, and holders are not anxious sellers. It is believed by some dealers here that producers will have to be content with low prices for long-wooled fleeces. The goods in which short wools are used are out of fashion, and prices are not likely to be better till they come in again. There is an improvement in the situation as regards fine wools. Prices here

continue at 14 to 15 c. for fleece, and 8  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. for unwashed.

## Cattle.

The demand in the west for all but well-finished beeves continues dull, while really fine stock bring good prices. The receipts of live stock on the Toronto market on Friday were light, there being only 700 cattle, half of which were stockers and feeders, 900 sheep and lambs, 1500 hogs and 20 calves were offered. The quality of the fat cattle delivered was only medium. Choice well-finished cattle, both butchers and exporters, are scarce, and more would find a ready market.

**Export Cattle.**—Choice loads of these sold at \$4.75 to \$5, while light ones sold at \$4.25 to \$4.60 per cwt. The bulk of export cattle sold at \$4.40 to \$4.85 per cwt.

**Butchers' Cattle.**—Choice picked lots of these equal in quality to the best exporters, though not so heavy, sold at \$4.40 to \$4.50, good cattle at \$3.75 to \$4, medium at \$3.50 to \$3.85 and inferior to common at \$3 to \$3.35 per cwt.

**Stockers and Feeders.**—About one-half of the cattle on the market were stockers. Prices ruled fairly steady for the best grades at \$3 to \$3.50, while prices for inferior black and white steers with heifers were easier at \$2 to \$2.50 per cwt. Light feeders, weighing from 900 to 1,000 lbs. each, sold at \$3.50 to \$3.75 per cwt., and good heavy steers in thrifty condition sold at \$3.80 to \$4.20 per cwt.

**Calves.**—Prices for these were steady at \$4 to \$8 each.

**Milk Cows.**—About 15 sold at from \$25 to \$45 each.

## Sheep and Lambs.

The deliveries of sheep were large with prices steady at \$3.50 to \$3.85 per cwt. for ewes and \$2.75 to \$3 for bucks. The bulk sold at about \$3.60 per cwt. Lambs were plentiful with prices firm at about \$4 to \$4.40 per cwt. or \$3 to \$3.50 each.

## Hogs.

Receipts were large with prices easy at \$4.75 per cwt. for the best bacon hogs of good quality, not less than 160 or more than 200 lbs. each off cars unfed and unwatered, while thick fats and lights sold at \$4.50 per cwt. Unculled car loads of hogs sold at \$4.50 to \$4.70 per cwt. It is expected that prices this week will be 12  $\frac{1}{2}$  c. per cwt. lower a. round.

## The 1899 Fall Fairs.

|                                      |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Central Canada.....                  | Ottawa, Sept. 11-23.             |
| Western Fair.....                    | London, Sept. 7-18.              |
| Stanstead Live Stock.....            | Stanstead, Que., Aug. 23-24.     |
| Kingston.....                        | Kingston, Ont., Sept. 11-14.     |
| New Brunswick Provin-<br>cial.....   | St. John, N.B., Sept. 11-20.     |
| Bay of Quinte.....                   | Bellefleur, Ont., Sept. 13-14.   |
| Eldon Agricultural So-<br>ciety..... | Woodville, Ont., Sept. 14-15.    |
| South-ra.....                        | Brantford, Ont., Sept. 16-21.    |
| Northern.....                        | Walkerton, Ont., Sept. 19-20.    |
| Central.....                         | Guelph, Ont., Sept. 19-20.       |
| Great Northern.....                  | Collingwood, Ont., Sept. 19-20.  |
| North Bruce Union.....               | Port Elgin, Ont., Sept. 21-22.   |
| North Oxford.....                    | Woodstock, Ont., Sept. 21-23.    |
| Central Fair.....                    | Lindsay, Ont., Sept. 21-23.      |
| Nova Scotia Provincial.....          | Halifax, N.S., Sept. 23-30.      |
| Central.....                         | Peterborough, Ont., Sept. 26-28. |
| Ontario and Durham.....              | Whitby, Ont., Sept. 27-28.       |
| South Waterloo.....                  | Galt, Ont., Sept. 28-29.         |
| North Perth.....                     | Stratford, Ont., Oct. 3-4.       |
| East York.....                       | Markham, Ont., Oct. 4-6.         |
| South Norwich.....                   | Otterville, Ont., Oct. 6-7.      |
| Caledonia.....                       | Caledonia, Ont., Oct. 12-13.     |
| Norfolk Union.....                   | Simco, Ont., Oct. 17-19.         |