

and bloom, though perhaps later than the usual time of flowering.

Even in the ordinary plan of planting tulips and fall bulbs, it is often customary with gardeners to place a little sand under the bulb, but in good soil this is not necessary.

Those who wish to try something further than tulips, may plant crocuses, snowdrops, Salla Siberica, etc. These may be tried with varying success, but with the tulips which are quite hardy, there is little risk of loss with reasonable care. Salla Siberica is also hardy.

The usefulness of these fall bulbs does not stop with out-door planting. Anyone can have them in bloom in the house all winter. They are more largely grown for winter use, perhaps, than for out-door planting. For winter bloom they should be potted in the fall, say in October, and the pots are well watered and put away in a dark cellar. The pots may be placed in a box and covered with several inches of sand. The object is to allow the bulbs to form roots. In from six to eight weeks they will be ready for removal to the living room, where they will soon bloom. Hyacinths are perhaps the best for winter bloom, though the various species of Narcissus tulips, crocuses, snowdrops, and many lilies are all excellent for winter forcing, and will give a measure of bloom all through the dreary winter months. The pots may be brought up from the cellar one at a time as desired, so that fresh plants will be coming on all the time.

In potting, the hyacinth bulb should not be entirely covered with earth, part of the bulb should be above ground. Most of the other bulbs may be planted one to two inches deep.

The so-called Chinese lily does not require storing in the cellar, but may be placed at once in moderate light. It does not compare in beauty with many of the other bulbs.

Advance in Farm Implement Prices.

American implement manufacturers it is expected, will very soon, if they have not done so already, advance the prices of their goods. This increase cannot be attributed to trust or monopolistic influences forcing prices up, though such may of course, be in some wise responsible for the advance. The cost of an article is based upon the expense of manufacturing, the cost of labor, raw materials and machinery. Of late years the cost of the raw materials used in the production of farm implements has noticeably increased. Iron and steel prices are higher this year than last by 10 per cent. They were higher last year than they were the year before. Pig iron, shafting, bolts, nuts, screws, washers, everything of iron or steel that goes into binders, mowers, threshers, manure spreaders, wagons, carriages, etc., will be higher by approximately 15 per cent. in 1908 than they are now. Timber, too, particularly, oak and hickory has been advancing steadily in price for years, the natural supply is becoming lessened, it is only a question of a few years until lumber of this kind will be almost impossible to obtain. Ten dollars per thousand will be about the average advance of 1908 over 1907.

Then the cost of labor is gradually becoming greater. Skilled mechanics, and practically speaking all labor is skilled, that is required to transform raw iron, steel and wood, into farm machinery, are paid more today in Canada and the United States than they were ever paid before. They require a larger remuneration since living charges, during the past decade have materially increased. So everything considered it costs the maker more to turn out a binder or hayrack now than it did in 1897. Manufacturers feel, too, that they are entitled to better prices. They say that the high price of raw material and the low selling price of implements, has put them where they do not enjoy as fully as they should the general prosperity of the country. In their opinion the raw material man and the consumer have reaped the full benefit of these prosperous times while their profits, correspondingly, have been reduced.

Undoubtedly, the farmer is enjoying today the highest figure he ever received for the products he has to sell. Agriculture has reached such a stage in America that the farmer, if he is to continue in the business at all, must have up-to-date machinery. Farm labor is scarcer than any other. It costs more today than any other form of unskilled labor in America. It is almost impossible to obtain and too dear to take the place of machinery in farm work. The farmer is dependent on the implement manufacturer, the latter must meet a constantly increasing charge for material and labor. It seems only natural, therefore, that machinery should become more expensive. A 10 or 15 per cent. advance may be looked for in prices for next year, unless in the meantime a slump occurs in the market on raw material, of which there is now no prospect, and even if a slump did occur, it is very unlikely manufacturers would reduce prices since these materials are usually bought a year or six months in advance, and would therefore be costing them the same as formerly. An advance in prices is certain, the only danger is that it may be greater than the situation warrants. It may be only justice for the farmer to pay more than he has been doing for his machinery.

If the facts as the manufacturers state them, are true, no objection can be made, but the advance must be legitimate.

MARKETS

Cash wheat has been selling in Winnipeg for the past week at from one to three cents above the dollar mark. On Saturday of the week previous it jumped from the nineties to a dollar two, and saw-sawed around the later point for several days. While every market on the American continent went lower, and while European cables came constantly weaker, the local market held steady on the advance, buoyed up by the uncertainty that still attaches to a small percentage of the Western crop, which at this writing remains uncut. Predictions of frost, too, and the actual drop of temperature in some districts below the freezing point, seemed to give sufficient foundation for a general bull movement, and heavy buying kept prices up.

At the present time it is not altogether clear how prevailing prices can be long maintained. The European situation shows some improvement over last week, the American crop is safely harvested, only a fraction if any of the western harvest could now be injured by a freeze out, export demand is slow and heavy shipments are going forward; the present season is exceptional in more ways than one, but not sufficiently so to warrant the expectation that wheat prices will not slump, when the new crop comes into the market. Wheat invariably declines in value as the crop begins to move, the decline this year has not yet occurred. The problem is: Is the world's shortage large enough to keep prices where they now are? We believe candidly it is not. The actual value of wheat, today, based on the visible supply and probable demand, is not more than 95 cents per bushel. It is generally believed that the present values given this cereal are more speculative than real. The world is short but not short enough to make a difference of over 30 cents a bushel over prices for this week last year. The present indications are that values will weaken and prices come down to about 95 or 96. It is hard, however, to foretell what will happen in wheat. A freeze out even though it can now cause but slight injury would be seized upon to boost prices. Unfavorable threshing weather, snow or rain, would make an easy pretext for keeping values up, but if reports, official and others, can be relied on for anything, actual conditions do not warrant present prices, and a decline seems inevitable.

The European situation has not affected the market to any extent this week. Liverpool cables shaded off considerable but the decline was only partially reflected in Chicago and Minneapolis Exchanges, and ignored completely in the local trade. The Chicago market for a number of weeks has been dominated by a concerted bull movement, which irrespective of actual conditions, has kept prices generally on the wing. A similar movement has operated here, and by the twin stimuli of an actual world's shortage and the possibility of the immature crop in these provinces, being injured, values have been easily maintained. Latest advices seem to indicate that these bull operators have nearly reached the end of their resources. The world's supply may now be fairly estimated, while the frost bug-bear, which has been used so assiduously to maintain values can hardly be regarded seriously now.

Bad weather toward the end of the week delaying harvesting and threshing kept prices firm and on an upward tendency to the close. The return of favorable conditions which is now predicted, will ease values down to their true level. There should be a good sized slump in wheat this week. Down perhaps to 98 or 100. Cash wheat in Chicago sold all week around 94c. Here it averaged \$1.03. At Minneapolis it sold for the same average price. Ordinarily Winnipeg sells a cent or two lower than these two American markets. This week she is nine cents above Chicago and stronger even than Minneapolis. Such a condition of affairs cannot last long. Such prices as these put Manitoba wheat considerably out of line for export. When American wheat can be laid down in Liverpool nine cents per bushel less than ours there will be little demand for Western wheat and what we do sell will be largely to Eastern millers. Oats have advanced about a cent and are now selling at 44 cents. May futures being bid over 45.

Prices for grain in store at the lakes: No. 1 Hard \$1.03 1/2, No. 1 Nor. \$1.02, No. 2 Nor. 99 1/2c, No. 3 Nor. 95c. Futures, Oct. \$1.03 1/2, Dec. \$1.03, May \$1.09.

Oats per bushel 44c. Futures Oct. 44 1/2c, Dec. 43 1/2c, May 45c. Barley 55c.

PRODUCE AND MILLFEED.

Bran, per ton	\$17 50
Shorts, per ton	18 50
Barley and Oat Chop, per ton	25 00
Oats, chopped per ton	28 00
Barley, chopped, per ton	22 00

HAY, (baled) in car lots, per ton.		
Prairie	11 00	@ 14 00
Timothy	13 00	@ 14 00
BUTTER—		
Fancy, fresh made creamery		
prints	27	
Creamery, 56 lb. boxes	24	@ 25
Creamery, 14 and 28 lb. boxes	24	@ 25
Dairy prints, extra fancy	22	@ 24
Dairy, in tubs	19	@ 20
CHEESE, Manitoban at Winnipeg	10	
Eggs, fresh, f. o. b. Winnipeg subject to candling	17	@ 18

LIVE STOCK.

The demand for export steers continues good with few coming forward. A few sold this week for a fraction over four cents, but the main business was done around that figure. There are too many butchers' cattle coming out, too many at least considering the quality old cows, bulls and so on. Hog prices shaded off a little and all grades are now quoted a quarter lower. Sheep and lambs remain steady with an active demand for good ones and deliveries light.

Prime export steers 1,400 lbs. and over \$4.00 to \$4.25, choice steers 1,100 to 1,200 pounds \$4.00, good steers 900 to 1,000 pounds \$3.75, butchers' stuff \$2.00 to \$2.50, choice heifers 1,000 and over \$3.80, cows (good) \$3.25 to \$3.50, common \$2.50 to \$3.00, bull \$2.00. Sheep \$6.00, lambs \$7.00. Bacon hogs 160 to 200 pounds \$6.75, heavies 200 to 400 lbs \$5.50 to \$6.25, lights (under 160) \$6.25.

TORONTO MARKETS.

The steer trade for the week was free from anything eventful. Deliveries were average for the season. The quality of some of the stuff rather poor. Good cattle of all grades were in demand but hard to get. Poor cattle were plentiful with little demand for them at all. There is no inquiry for stockers and feeders which are usually in demand at this season. Pastures are mostly burnt up. Farmers in view of probable feed shortage are buying light. Exporters, weighing around 1,400 are not in circulation at all. The stuff going forward for export is good butcher cattle; steers weighing about 1,200, and costing \$4.50 to \$4.75, choice export steers \$4.75 to \$5.10, medium \$4.25 to \$4.50, prime butcher \$4.65 to \$4.90, common killing stuff \$3.25 to \$3.50, cows export \$3.25 to \$4.00, common \$3.00 to \$3.25, sheep (export) \$2.25 to \$2.50, common \$2.25. Sheep \$4.25 to \$4.50, lambs \$5.00 to \$5.60. Bacon hogs (select) \$6.25, lights and fats \$6.00.

CHICAGO MARKETS.

Prime steers \$4.00 to \$6.80, cows and heifers \$1.25 to \$6.00, Texas steers \$3.75 to \$5.00, western steers \$3.80 to \$6.00. Sheep \$3.80 to \$6.35. Lambs \$6.00 to \$7.85. Hogs, choice heavy \$6.00 to \$6.25, light \$6.45 to \$6.60, bulk of offerings sold at \$5.75 to \$6.25.

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