

P. E. Island Notes.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The winter is getting away—there has not been a heavy snowfall so far. The fields have been covered nearly all winter with a very heavy coating of ice and we fear that it will be very hard on the meadows. Just now farm produce is beginning to move quite freely. The demand for oats is brisk at about 70 cents for feed, with five cents more for good seed oats. There was a good crop of this grain here last year which was well saved and much of it will be sold for seed to go to the other provinces.

Potatoes are not keeping well in some cellars, while in others there is no complaint. They are selling at present for \$1.00 a bushel with a good prospect of a rise by shipping time. Carcass pork has been selling as high as 20 cents a pound but has fallen off to 18½ cents lately. Beef cattle are very scarce. Many feeders who in other years held them till June are all sold out already. At present as high as \$10.00 a hundred is being offered for June delivery—a record price here. The "Egg Circles" of which we have a large number doing business here—have been holding their annual meetings and all report that business has been good during the past year. The farmers are satisfied that the co-operative plan is the right one by which to dispose of their eggs at profitable prices. The quality of the eggs handled by the Circles through these candling stations is A 1 and find a ready, profitable market. Many farmers here who went out of sheep-keeping some years ago are preparing to start again with the "Golden fleeced" since wool and lambs have got to be in such demand. Lambs that sold here 20 years ago for \$2.00 a head brought \$8 to \$10 a head last fall. Another thing that is making the sheep popular again is the labor problem. Sheep farming costs so little in wages compared with other stock.

The P. E. Island Dairyman's Association met a few days ago in annual meeting. The meeting was a large one and the dairymen were enthusiastic about the future of dairying and well satisfied over the returns from last year's business. The quality of our cheese and butter is on the upward trend. Very many of the men that learned cheese-making when dairying was started here about 25 years ago are still in charge of the factories and have kept right abreast of the demand for quality. Our factories at the beginning of co-operative dairying here were about all started on the same plan of dividing the proceeds on the fat basis plus 2. This plan has worked satisfactorily and patrons would not think of pooling the milk. I think that if the Ontario dairymen once adopted this plan that the strong opposition to it would soon be a thing of the past.

Horses are still a drug in the market here. Very many farmers have wintered one to two more than they need for working their farms this season. A few have been picked up lately at small prices for Nova Scotia.

W. R. Reek, B. S. A., who has been Director of Agricultural instruction here has resigned and accepted a position in Ontario. He will be much missed as he was very active in promoting improvements, especially in the matter of underdraining which is so much needed in large areas of the Island. His place is taken by W. J. Reid, B. S. A., who has been agricultural representative for Prince County, and who has been doing excellent work in the interest of the farmers along all lines, but especially in the co-operative marketing of wool. The outlook for agriculture here is bright and farmers are studying their business as never before.

P. E. I.

W. S.

[Note.—Owing to lack of space these notes were held for two weeks.—EDITOR.]

An Interesting Letter From France.

We recently received the following interesting letter from Major E. F. Oler, well known to Holstein breeders in Canada, and who has been in France for over two years:

After something over two years' absence from Canada and the farm, I find myself for the first time in hospital, and with time on my hands. I have written many letters to my family and to my friends and my mind has been drifting across the water towards Ontario farms and Holstein cattle, and to the many good things that were taken for granted, and perhaps not quite appreciated in the happy days before the war. Some six weeks ago I was fortunate enough to get ten days leave, and saw my youngsters in England, after two years. While in London I had occasion to visit the Canadian offices, and while waiting in the reading room my eye caught the familiar brown cover of "The Farmer's Advocate"—it is unnecessary to say I read through as many copies as time allowed, and it was like a day with old friends.

We are in France to fight the Bosch, and no one complains that we don't get enough of it, but one has time during "rest" to notice what goes on behind the lines from an agricultural point of view, and I may say that there is always something of interest. I regret that my French is not all that it might be, as I have difficulty in talking to the farmers, or I should say "farmeresses", for to-day the women are doing most of the work; still one can see the methods used to produce

and save every possible item that may be of use to feed man or beast. The machinery used looks primitive. I have seen an old man threshing with a flail, and the job he had before him looked like six months' work, and many times have I seen threshing done in a separator no bigger than a fanning mill, and like a fanning mill powered by hand. The ordinary threshing, however, is done by a bigger machine, the power being a horse on a tread mill. The straw I notice is often put through the separator twice, and is always tied by hand and put away in bundles. There is little in it to remind one of an Ontario threshing, no blower, suffocating one with dust, no panic to keep the water supply ahead of the boiler and no suggestion of "get through to-day or die". The whole family turn out quietly—except the men whose age and health are such that they have given up the farm, *pro tem*, for the war—old men and old women and boys and girls, and they plug solidly away until something more important turns up, or the job is finished. The horses, as one would expect, are of Percheron blood, few over twelve hundred weight, mostly less, and are all broken for the tread mill, as are also the dogs. On the outside wall of every village house a large wheel may be noticed, boxed in on the lower half. The tyers, as we may call them, of these wheels are some eighteen inches wide, and into the wheel goes the family dog and chases an imaginary cat some six feet in front of him. The axle of the wheel passes through the wall of the house and gives the power for churning, etc., in the kitchen. Something of this sort might help solve the dog and sheep difficulties in certain parts of Ontario, as an hour or so of this exercise uses up most of the surplus energy of the average dog. When we come out of the line, as you doubtless know, for so called rest, we are billeted in the villages, and to me it is most interesting to watch all these things. The land is all unfenced and the stock one sees outside is tethered, there are no isolated farm homes, the peasants all live together in the villages, which sometimes straggle a great distance along a single road. I notice that in each yard there is a goodly flock of poultry of no particular breed, or perhaps I should say of every known breed and combination of breeds, and these birds which seem to be left entirely to their own devices, produce a surprising lot of eggs which their owner sells to us, their victims, at sometimes eight cents apiece. It is surprising how these French peasants stick to their land. It is common to see them working in their fields close up to the line and well within range of the German guns; on one occasion a farmer, having obtained special permission, came right into my sector of the trenches to see for himself how things were looking on the shell-torn land he had once worked and evidently intended to work again. May he soon be able to.

Toronto, Montreal, Buffalo, and Other Leading Markets

Toronto.

Receipts of live stock at the Union Stock Yards, West Toronto, Monday were 180 cars, 3,445 cattle, 608 calves, 1,272 hogs, 43 sheep and lambs. Slow market. Butchers' fifteen to 25 cents lower. Bulls 10 cents to 15 cents lower; cows steady; fancy Easter cattle sold at twelve cents to 15 cents per pound. Sheep and lambs steady. Calves 25 cents to 50 cents lower. Few good on sale. Hogs, \$16.00 fed.

The total receipts of live stock at the City and Union Stock Yards for the past week were:

	City	Union	Total
Cars.....	42	341	383
Cattle.....	640	3,718	4,358
Calves.....	50	908	958
Hogs.....	277	8,423	8,700
Sheep.....	132	153	285
Horses.....	75	782	857

The total receipts of live stock at the two markets for the corresponding week of 1916 were:

	City	Union	Total
Cars.....	58	506	564
Cattle.....	869	5,323	6,192
Calves.....	115	904	1,019
Hogs.....	1,440	11,579	13,019
Sheep.....	51	206	257
Horses.....	42	2,217	2,259

The combined receipts of live stock at the two markets for the past week show a decrease of 181 cars, 1,834 cattle, 4,319 hogs, 1,402 horses and an increase of 28 sheep and lambs, compared with the corresponding week of 1916.

Of the two thousand cattle on sale at the Union Stock Yards, Monday, there were more loads of good to choice cattle than have been on the market for months past. Butchers' steers and heifers were strong and from 10c. to 25c. higher. Three steers, average weight 1,500 lbs., each, sold at \$12.50 per cwt.; one heifer, 1,200 lbs. sold at \$12.50; one heifer, 1,510 lbs. at \$13.00. Throughout the week choice butchers' sold at from \$11.00 to \$11.50, and good at \$10.00 to \$10.50, a number of extra choice selling at \$11.75, \$12.00 to \$13.00 per cwt. Cows

also advanced on Monday, being 10c. to 15c. higher than the previous week's close. Choice sold at from \$9.50 to \$10.00; a few real choice selling at \$11.50 to \$13.00 per cwt. Bulls were firm all week at prices as quoted. A few fancy animals selling at \$11.00 to \$12.00. Milkers and springers were quite slow all week. Prices, however, remained steady at \$9.00 to \$11.00 for best cows; a few odd choice animals selling for \$115 to \$125.

Stockers and feeders were in very strong demand all week selling as follows: Choice feeder steers, 900 to 1,000 lbs. at \$9.25 to \$10.25; choice stock steers, 800 to 900 lbs. at \$9.25 to \$9.50; 650 to 775 lbs., at \$8.75 to \$9.00; good yearlings, 650 to 750 lbs., at \$8.50 to \$9.00; common and medium steers and heifers, 600 to 700 lbs., at \$6.75 to \$8.00; grass cows sold at \$6.00 to \$7.50. Sheep and lambs were without change. The demand for grain-fed animals was strong at prices as quoted. Choice calves were strong and common to medium steady, choice veal selling at 13½c. to 14½c. per lb.; a few selling at 15c. to 16c. per lb. Hogs were the feature of the week's market.—on Monday packers declared they would not pay more than \$14.90, fed and watered, and that they did not even want them at this price. Instead of getting them at the above mentioned price the week closed with fed and watered selling at \$15.85 to \$16.00; and weighed off cars at \$16.15 to \$16.25, the bulk at the higher price.

Live Stock Quotations.—Heavy steers, choice, \$11.50 to \$11.75; good, \$10.75 to \$11.25. Butcher steers and heifers—Choice, \$11 to \$11.50; good, \$10 to \$10.50; medium, \$9.50 to \$9.85; common, \$8.50 to \$9.25. Cows—Choice, \$9.50 to \$10; good, \$8.75 to \$9; medium, \$7.50 to \$8; common, \$6.25 to \$7. Canners and cutters—\$5.50 to \$6. Bulls—Choice, \$9.75 to \$10.50; good, \$9 to \$9.50; medium, \$8.25 to \$8.75; common, \$7 to \$8. Stockers and feeders—Choice, \$9.50 to \$10; medium, \$8.50 to \$9; common, \$7 to \$8. Grass cows—\$6.00 to \$7.50. Milkers and springers—Best, \$90 to \$110; medium, \$65 to \$85; common, \$50 to \$60. Lambs—Choice, 14c. to 15¼c. per lb.; culls, 9c. to 12c. per lb.

Sheep—Light, 10c. to 11c. per lb.; heavy, 8½c. to 9½c. per lb. Calves—Choice, 13½c. to 14½c. per lb.; medium, 9½c. to 11c. per lb.; common, 6c. to 8½c. per lb.; heavy, fat, 7c. to 9½c. per lb. Hogs—Fed and watered, \$15.85 to \$16.00; weighed off cars, \$16.15 to \$16.25; f. o. b., \$15.00.

Breadstuffs.

Wheat.—Ontario, No. 2, winter, new, per car lot, \$1.83 to \$1.85; No. 3, winter, per car lot, \$1.81 to \$1.83, (according to freights outside). Manitoba, track, bay ports—No. 1 northern, \$2.03½; No. 2 northern, \$2.09¾; No. 3 northern, \$1.94¾. No. 4 wheat, \$1.83¾.

Oats.—Ontario, No. 2 white, 65c. to 67c., nominal; No. 3 white, 64c. to 66c., nominal. Manitoba oats, (all rail delivered)—No. 2 C. W., 73¼c.; No. 3 C. W., 71¼c.; Extra No. 1 feed, 71¼c.; No. 1 feed, 70¾c.

Barley.—Malting barley, according to freights outside, \$1.21 to \$1.23.

Peas.—According to freights outside; No. 2, \$2.65.

Buckwheat.—According to freights outside, \$1.32.

Corn.—American (track, Toronto), No. 3 yellow, \$1.23, subject to embargo.

Rye.—No. 2, \$1.48 to \$1.50.

Flour.—Manitoba first patents, in jute bags, \$9.70; second patents, in jute bags, \$9.20; strong bakers' in jute bags, \$8.80. Ontario, winter, according to sample, in bags, \$7.55, track, Toronto; \$7.15 bulk, seaboard, export.

Hay and Millfeed.

Hay.—Track, Toronto, extra No. 2, per ton, \$11.50 to \$12; mixed, per ton, \$8.50 to \$11.

Straw.—Car lots, per ton, \$8, track, Toronto.

Bran.—Per ton, \$38.

Shorts.—Per ton, \$40.

Good feed flour, per bag, \$2.70 to \$2.80.

Hides and Skins.

City hides, flat, 20c.; country hides, cured, 20c.; country hides, part cured, 18c.; country hides, green, 17½c.; calf skins, per lb., 25c.; kip skins, per lb., 20c.; sheep skins, city, \$2.50 to \$3.50; sheep skins, country, \$1.50 to \$3; lamb skins and pelts, \$1.50 to \$2; horse hair, per lb.,

42c.; horse hides, No. 1, \$6 to \$7; No. 2, \$5 to \$6; wool, washed, 44c. to 47c. per lb. Wool, rejections, 35c. to 38c. per lb.; wool, unwashed, 34c. to 37c. per lb. Tallow, No. 1 cake, 9c. to 10c. per lb.; tallow, solids, 8c. to 9c. per lb.

Country Produce.

Butter.—Butter of all classes remained stationary in price on the wholesales during the past week, selling as follows: Creamery, fresh-made pound squares, 44c. to 45c. per lb.; creamery solids, 42c. to 43c. per lb.; dairy, 32c. to 35c. per lb.; separator dairy, 38c. to 40c. per lb.

Eggs.—New-laid eggs firmed slightly, selling at 36c. to 37c. per dozen wholesale.

Cheese.—The cheese market is very firm—the prices having advanced: June cheese, 27c. to 28c. per lb.; new cheese at 27c. to 28c. per lb.; twins, 28½c. to 29c. per lb.

Honey remained stationary—with the supply gradually decreasing. Sixty-lb. tins, extracted, 12c. to 13½c. per lb.; the glass jars at \$1 to \$2 per dozen, and one-pound sections of comb honey bringing \$2 to \$3 per dozen.

Poultry.—There has been an increased demand for heavy weight fat hens for the Jewish trade causing the price to advance for this class. The following are the live-weight prices for the past week. Chickens, 25c. per lb.; ducks, 22c. per lb.; fowl under 4 lbs., 18c. per lb.; fowl 4 to 5 lbs., 22c. per lb.; fowl, 6 lbs. and over, 25c. per lb.

Wholesale Fruits and Vegetables.

Potatoes again declined and have dropped from the almost prohibitive price of \$5 per bag down to \$3.25 per bag for the New Brunswick Delawares; Ontarios and Western now selling at \$3 per bag.

Turnips have also gone downward as the demand eased off considerably; they now sell at 90c. to \$1 per bag.

Parsnips and beets remained stationary at \$2.25 per bag. Carrots selling at \$2 per bag.

New cabbage keeps quite firm; the Florida selling at \$3.75 per hamper, and California at \$8 per case containing 100 lbs.

Celery also kept high priced; Florida selling at \$4.50, \$5 and \$5.50 per case of three, six and four dozen, respectively;