

## FARMING

AN ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY JOURNAL DEVOTED TO  
FARMING AND THE FARMER'S INTERESTS.

Published every Tuesday by

THE BRYANT PRESS,

44-46 RICHMOND STREET WEST, TORONTO, CANADA.

Subscriptions in Canada and the United States, \$1.00 per year, in advance; six months, 50 cents, three months 25 cents. In all countries in the Postal Union, \$1.50 a year in advance.

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## MARKET REVIEW AND FORECAST.

Office of FARMING,

44 and 46 Richmond street west,  
Toronto, Mar. 27th, 1899.

General trade has been somewhat quieter during the past week owing to the weather, especially in eastern Ontario and Quebec, where they have experienced some of the severest weather of the season, impeding travel in many directions. A feature in the situation is a marked hardening tendency of the money market, which is having the effect of checking rash speculation.

## Wheat.

The wheat situation remains practically unchanged, with perhaps a little stronger feeling abroad. It is now quite evident that unless the coming crop turns out to be greatly injured and a very poor harvest is promised, the price of wheat cannot get much higher than it is at the present time. In the United States, Canada and Russia the bulk of last year's crop is in first hands. This means that there are large quantities of wheat to go forward and more than enough to supply all needs till the new crop is ready. The world's wheat supply in sight is 66,632,000 bushels as compared with 69,737,000 bushels a year ago. It will be seen from this that the quantity in sight is gradually approaching that of last year.

Cable reports on Saturday were stronger, and show advances caused by a stronger feeling in the Chicago and other American markets. An indication of how things are here is that some Canadian operators are selling short, feeling confident that they can get the wheat whenever they want it. At Montreal prices have been fluctuating owing to crop reports. Ontario millers are paying from 67 to 68c. for red winter wheat, but exporters claim that they cannot pay over 65 to 66c. Red and white is quoted here at 67 to 68c. west and north; go se 65 to 66c.; No. 1 hard Manitoba 80c. and No. 1 Northern at 77c. Toronto, but these prices are nominal. On the local farmers' market red and white brings from 69 to 70c., five 71c. and goose 65c.

## Oats and Barley

It is estimated that Canada will have about 5,000,000 bushels of oats to dispose of as soon as navigation opens. Of late years Great Britain has taken more oats from Canada and the United States than from Russia. The London market is down 6d. to 9d., but the market has firmed up considerably. Oats at Montreal have declined 1 cent during the past two weeks, and are quoted at about 31½

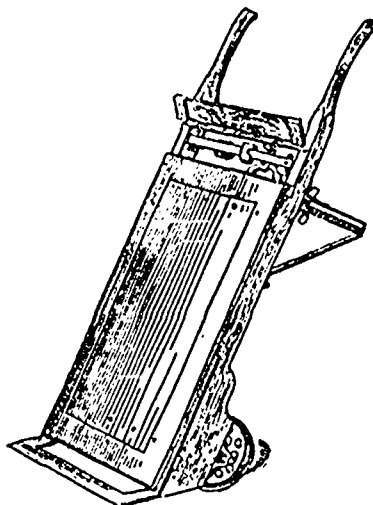
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cents. Oats are easier here at 29 to 30c. west. On the local market oats are quoted at 34 to 35½c. per bushel.

Barley at Montreal is easier at 52 to 54c. It is quoted here at 44 to 46c. west.

## Peas and Corn.

The London market for peas is active. The Montreal market is easier, and quotations are 72 to 73c. in store. The market here is firm at 65 to 66c. west in car lots. On the local market peas are quoted at 59 to 60c. per bushel.

No. 2 American corn mixed is quoted in Montreal at 43 to 44c. net, and here at 41 to 42c. on track.

## Bran and Shorts.

Bran is considered too high at Montreal to meet with much enquiry. Ontario bran is quoted at \$16 to \$17, and shorts at \$17.50 to \$18.50 per ton in car lots. City mills here are selling bran at \$14.50 and shorts at \$16.50 in car lots f.o.b. Toronto.

## Clover and Timothy Seeds.

The Montreal market is quiet and prices are in buyers' favor. Quotations there are: Ontario timothy, \$1.60 to \$1.75; American, \$1.25 to \$1.50; red clover, \$3.75 to \$4.50; Alsike, \$3.50 to \$4.50 per bushel, as to quality. On the local market here red clover brings \$3 to \$3.50; white \$5 to \$8; Alsike \$3 to \$4.10, and timothy seed from \$1.20 to \$1.35 per bushel.

## Eggs and Poultry.

The London, England, egg market is steady at the recent decline, low prices stimulating the demand. Prices have advanced one cent at Montreal during the week due to cold weather, with sales at 12½ to 13c. wholesale. The price of eggs usually fluctuates at this season of the year. There is a good demand here, but the offerings are large and prices are easier at about 12½c. in large lots for strictly new laid. On the local market new laid bring from 12½ to 14c.

Some Montreal merchants are shipping out large quantities of spring poultry to the English market. The prices there for dressed poultry are: turkeys, 9 to 10c.; chickens, 7 to 7½; geese 3 to 5c. and ducks 7 to 8c. per lb. The receipts here are fair and there is a good demand at 11 to 13c. per lb. for turkeys; 6 to 7c. per lb. for geese; 50 to 75c. per pair for ducks, and 40 to 70c. per pair for chickens. Prices are higher on the local market.

## Potatoes.

Prices are advancing. A great many Ontario buyers are in Quebec and around Montreal buying potatoes, and prices are much higher west than east. They are quoted at Montreal at about 60c. per bag in car lots. Potatoes are scarce in Toronto, where car lots on track are quoted at 75 to 82c., and out of store at 90c. per bag. On the local farmers' market they bring from 85 to 95c. per bag.

## Fruit.

Apples at Montreal bring from \$3 to \$4.50 per bbl., but there is very little doing. On this market they bring from \$2.5c to \$4 per barrel.

## Hay and Straw.

Considerable Canadian hay is being exported, and because of its good quality is selling at about 3s. above other qualities at Liverpool. There is more activity reported at country points on this side, particularly in Quebec, where contracts are being made for delivery a month or two hence at \$3.35 to \$4.25 f.o.b., as to quality. The Montreal market for baled hay is quiet with prices steady at \$5.50 to \$6 for choice No. 2; \$4.50 to \$5 for No. 2 ordinary, and \$3.50 to \$4.50 for clover. The market here is dull at \$7 to \$7.50 for baled hay, and \$4 to \$4.50 for baled straw in car lots. On the local farmers' market timothy brings \$9 to \$10; clover \$6 to \$8; sheaf straw \$6.50, and loose straw \$4 to \$4.50 per ton.

## Cheese.

The cheese business seems to be one of gains and losses. A year ago dealers were reported to have lost heavily, while this spring those who were so fortunate as to store cheese are being recompensed to the extent of 10s. per cwt. more than the goods cost. Such a satisfactory outcome of the year's business will have the effect of causing the season to open up well. Prospects continue bright, and there is not likely to be any old stock on hand when the new goods arrive in England. This will probably induce a larger make of fodder cheese than last year. The British markets continue firm, with a good demand at the recent advance, and prices are still tending upward. The Montreal market is very strong, with prices ranging from 10½ to 11c., the latter figure being refused by some holders. It is estimated that there are not more than 20,000 boxes to be disposed of, the rest being held for instructions from England. The total decrease in shipments from Montreal amount to 243,127 boxes, making a total decrease from Montreal and New York as compared with a year ago of 546,103 boxes.

## Butter.

The butter situation on the whole is good. Prices have been well maintained on this side. The Trade Bulletin's special London cable of March 23rd reads thus: "The market has assumed a much quieter aspect, but sellers are not at all anxious to force business, as stocks are still within very limited compass. Finest Canadian creamery 96s. to 98s." At Montreal the market for choice fresh creamery has ruled firm, and this class of goods is scarce. This quality sells readily at 20½ to 21c. Early makes bring from 19½ to 20c. Western dairy is quoted there at 14½ to 15c. The exports from Montreal from May 1st, 1898, to date show an increase of 98,646 pkgs.,