

# The Farmers' Market

## WINNIPEG MARKET LETTER

Office of United Grain Growers Limited, December 10, 1917  
 Oats—During the first three days of last week prices for oats in the local market advanced five cents per bushel. Besides a good demand for cash oats there was the influence of strong American markets and light hedging sales here. The advance brought out heavier sales, and the demand for cash oats was eased off, so that prices worked lower toward the end of the week. On Saturday closing prices were still two cents higher than a week ago.  
 Barley—Has been in keen demand and prices have advanced steadily during the week, closing on Saturday five and one-half cents higher than a week ago for 3 C.W. and 4 C.W., and three and one-half cents higher for lower grades.  
 Flax—Prices show practically no change from a week ago. The advance during the early part of the week was followed by weaker markets toward the end of the week. Receipts have been considerably lighter and are averaging much below a year ago. There is a steady demand for cash flax at a premium of five cents over the price for December delivery.

WINNIPEG FUTURES		Week Year	
	December	6 W 7	ago ago
Oats—4	5	8	10
Dec. 80 1	82	81 1	80 1
79 1	79 1	78 1	79 1
56	56	56	56
Dec. 298 1	299	295 1	295 1
295 1	295 1	295 1	298
269 1			

STOCKS IN TERMINALS		Week Year	
	December	6 W 7	ago ago
Oats—4	5	8	10
Dec. 80 1	82	81 1	80 1
79 1	79 1	78 1	79 1
56	56	56	56
Dec. 298 1	299	295 1	295 1
295 1	295 1	295 1	298
269 1			

Fort William, Dec. 10, 1917—		Last Year	
This Year		Last Year	
1 hard	32,250 30		18,747 20
1 Nor.	598,768 20		1,128,975 30
2 Nor.	371,810 30		2,001,854 40
3 Nor.	407,678 10		1,694,452 10
No. 4	360,170 30		1,314,721 10
Others	1,450,775 00		7,144,391 00
This week	3,221,462 30	This week	13,213,141 30
Last week	6,357,873 50	Last week	12,319,729 50
Decrease	3,136,411 20	Increase	693,412 00
Oats			
1 C.W.	10,590 20		27,050 28
2 C.W.	591,575 23		1,964,950 21
3 C.W.	333,345 10		857,521 02
Ex. 1 ft.	634,611 07		1,099,984 31
Others	2,629,979 59		2,910,248 22
This week	4,200,103 17	This week	6,859,736 02
Last week	4,755,766 23	Last week	6,219,263 09
Decrease	555,663 06	Increase	640,492 27
Barley			
Ex. 3 C.W.	3,179 08	1 N.W.C.	515,626 32
3 C.W.	208,184 31	2 C.W.	146,215 04
4 C.W.	414,929 35	3 C.W.	21,592 45
Rel.	112,967 43	Others	19,145 27
Feed	179,722 38		
Others	121,824 08		
This week	1,040,708 19	This week	702,580 16
Last week	782,671 41	Last week	612,603 20
Increase	258,036 26	Increase	89,976 52

SHIPMENTS		1916—Lake		1917—Lake	
Wheat	8,129,198 50	5,929,182 50			
Oats	1,093,429 28	1,787,793 11			
Barley	3,210 34	456,983 29			
Flax	289,292 22	493,546 16			
1916—Rail		1917—Rail			
Wheat	131,043 00	163,968 10			
Oats	240,027 22	60,152 00			
Barley	33,682 24	1,294 28			
Flax	1,256 28	4,146 25			

Fixed Wheat Prices							
	1*	2*	3*	4*	5*	6* 7 11	7 12 20 27
Fixed	221	218	215	208	196	187 215	212 207
Year ago	183	180	175	163	132		

LIVESTOCK	Winnipeg		Toronto	Calgary	Chicago	St. Paul
	Dec. 8	Year ago				
<b>Cattle</b>						
Choice steers	8.00-10.50	7.00-7.50	11.00-13.00	8.50-9.50	14.50-16.00	11.50-13.50
Best butcher steers	8.00-9.00	6.25-6.85	9.75-11.00	8.00-8.50	10.50-11.00	8.00-9.00
Fair to good butcher steers	5.50-6.00	5.00-6.00	7.25-8.75	7.25-7.75	8.75-10.50	8.00-9.00
Good to choice fat cows	7.00-8.25	5.75-6.25	8.25-9.50	7.25-7.75	8.75-10.75	7.00-8.00
Medium to good cows	6.50-6.75	4.75-5.50	7.25-8.25	6.50-7.25	7.25-8.75	6.50-7.00
Common cows	5.50-6.50	4.00-4.50	6.50-7.25	5.50-6.50	7.25-8.75	5.00-6.50
Canners	4.00-5.50	3.00-3.75	4.75-5.50	3.25-4.00	5.40-6.75	4.50-5.00
Good to choice heifers	8.00-8.75	6.00-6.75	9.00-10.00	7.25-8.25	9.75-14.00	7.50-8.00
Fair to good heifers	7.00-7.75	5.00-5.75	7.50-9.00	6.00-7.00	6.50-9.75	5.75-7.00
Best cows	7.50-8.00	5.25-6.25	7.00-8.25	6.00-6.25	7.00-8.50	6.00-7.50
Best butcher heifers	6.50-7.25	5.25-6.00	6.00-9.25	6.00-6.75	9.00-10.75	6.50-8.00
Common to heifers	5.50-6.75	4.25-5.00	6.25-7.25	5.00-6.00	6.75-7.50	4.75-6.50
Fair to good feeder steers	7.50-8.50	5.00-6.35	8.00-9.25	7.00-8.00	8.50-11.50	8.00-11.50
Fair to good stocker steers	5.50-7.50	5.00-6.35	7.50-8.75	7.00-8.00	6.50-9.00	6.00-7.50
Best milkers and springers (each)	\$75-\$90	\$65-\$85	\$90-\$125	\$75-\$90		
Fair milkers and springers (each)	\$50-\$65	\$45-\$55	\$65-\$85	\$70-\$85		
<b>Hogs</b>						
Choice hogs, fed and watered	16.50	11.00	17.25-17.75	16.00	16.90-17.20	16.75-17.00
Light hogs	14.00	9.00			16.75-17.00	
Heavy sows	12.00-13.00	7.00			16.25-16.60	
Stags	8.00-10.00	5.50			16.00-17.10	
<b>Sheep and Lambs</b>						
Choice lambs	10.00-13.00	10.75-11.50	15.00-17.00	9.00-14.00	13.00-16.00	12.00-16.00
Best killing sheep	8.00-12.00	8.00-9.00	7.50-14.00	10.50-13.00	7.00-13.00	7.00-14.00

Cash Prices Fort William and Port Arthur, December 4 to December 10 inclusive												
Date	Feed	OATS					BARLEY				FLAX	
		Wheat	2CW	3CW	4CW	5CW	3CW	4CW	Rel.	Feed	1NW	2CW
Dec. 4	171	82	79	79	75	123	118	100	100	304	296	
5	172	82 1/2	80 1/2	80 1/2	76	125	120	110	110	304	298	
6	173	83	80	80	75 1/2	126	121	110	111	301	295	
7	173 1/2	81 1/2	78 1/2	78 1/2	74 1/2	127	122	112	112	300 1/2	294	279 1/2
8	173	80 1/2	77 1/2	77 1/2	72 1/2	127	122	111 1/2	111 1/2	299	292 1/2	279 1/2
10	173	80 1/2	77 1/2	77 1/2	72 1/2	128	123	112	112	301	294 1/2	
Week ago	171	81	78	78	73	123	118	108	108	301	295	275
Year ago		56	53	53		100	90	70	80	254	255	230

diately following the close of navigation, 100,000 tons of these screenings will be held at Terminal elevators at lake front to meet possible demands from Western Canada.

Provincial departments of agriculture will handle orders for screenings, and R. J. Allan, the newly appointed head of the bureau of food purchase and distribution, will handle the distribution under the direction of H. S. Arkell, livestock commissioner. Licenses will not be granted for the export of standard screenings, but licenses will be granted for the export of refuse screenings when application is accompanied by certificate from board of grain commissioners.

Stock feeders should now get their orders in to their provincial department of agriculture at Winnipeg, Regina or Edmonton, as the case may be.

### REQUEST WHEAT EMBARGO IN ALBERTA

At the direction of the board of Grain Supervisors of Canada, the C.P.R. has placed an embargo on the movement of wheat to Fort William over their lines in Alberta. All movement of wheat on their lines from now in the province of Alberta will be to mills only.

The territory covered by this embargo feeds mills at Medicine Hat, Maple Creek, Lethbridge, Macleod, Calgary and Vancouver, as well as smaller mills at more interior points. Practically all of these mills have contracts for Britain and the Allies. For some time the Board of Grain Supervisors have been making very careful investigation as to the amount of wheat still in the country and have concluded that if contracts are to be met and domestic requirements supplied, no more wheat must go off C.P.R. lines in Alberta. The C.P.R. in accordance with the urgent demands of the Wheat Export Company have been making every effort to move an exceptional amount before navigation closed. In this effort they have succeeded possibly almost too well, as supplies seem to be very thoroughly cleaned up at some points.

The conflict of interests which has occasionally been apparent in the past between the requirements of the Wheat Export Company for wheat and the buyers of flour for Britain and the Allies, has now been eliminated by the appointment of a buyer here who will work from the office of the Wheat Export Company.

The movement of wheat off C.N.R. lines in Alberta has been much slower. The northern portion of the province, served by the latter road, is later than the south. So far, the Board of Grain Supervisors have not found it necessary to place an embargo on their lines in regard to wheat moving for export.

## The Livestock Markets

### CHICAGO

Chicago, Dec. 6.—Not over 10 per cent. of the cattle crop is giving over \$12. Steers that have been on feed 60 to 90 days and were put in at high prices when fat cattle were near \$18, are coming in now and selling around or below original cost.

Having given the zone system of loading livestock a satisfactory test in Kansas City territory a similar plan is announced for Chicago with the object of preventing frost and famine runs and stabilizing prices on that market. It goes into effect on December 8. Loading within a 300 mile zone will be timed to have stock reach the market on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Outside that zone, within a radius that makes deliveries up to the 36 hour limit possible, loading will be timed to reach Chicago on Monday and Wednesday. Distant points will not be subject to control. The system will give satisfaction if the Tuesday, Thursday and Friday markets are not penalized by comparison with prices paid Monday and Wednesday.

There are wild fluctuations in hogs. Late last week prices dropped 75 to 85 cents. The check is now broken and prices are on the gain. Hog quality is improving and more 200 to 250 pound stuff is coming in.

### WINNIPEG

Winnipeg, Dec. 10.—The Livestock Department of the United Grain Growers Limited reports receipts at the Union stockyards last week as follows: Cattle, 7,523; calves, 225; sheep, 233; swine, 3,822.

The cattle market last week showed an easing feeling, although a few had brought up to \$10.75. Both eastern and southern markets were a little off and competition was not quite so keen. Packers for shipment west are still in demand at prices as quoted below. This chain continues to sell from \$1 to 7 1/2 cents.

The run on sheep and hams has not been quite so heavy. Lambs are in demand at 15 cents; sheep selling at 10 to 12 cents.

Hogs are a little firmer, closing Saturday at \$16.70 fed and watered, and prospects are for a steady market next week.

### CALGARY

It would look as though the packers were out to get back at the farmers. They are sore over the

Country Produce	Winnipeg	Calgary
	Dec. 11	Dec. 6
<b>Butter (per lb.)</b>		
No. 1 dairy	45c	40c
<b>Eggs (per doz.)</b>		
New laid	55c	50c
<b>Potatoes</b>		
In sacks, per bushel	60c	70c \$30.00
<b>Milk and Cream</b>		
Sweet cream per lb. fat	50c	47c
Cream for butter-making (per lb. butter-fat)	45c	42c
<b>Dressed Poultry</b>		
Fowl (Young)	14c	14c
Spring Chickens	17c	17c
Ducks	20c	20c
Turkeys	25c	25c
Geese	14c	16c
<b>Hay (per ton)</b>		
No. 1 Timothy	\$14-\$20	\$15
No. 1 Midland	\$12	\$10
No. 1 Upland	\$12	\$13-\$15

## WINNIPEG and U.S. PRICES

Closing prices on the principal western markets on Friday, December 7, were:—		
Cash Grain	Winnipeg	Minneapolis
3 white oats	\$0.78 1/2	\$0.71 1/2 - \$0.72 1/2
Barley	1.12 - 1.27	1.18 - 1.46
Flax, No. 1	3.00 1/2	

decision to cut their war profits and apparently they took the first opportunity to slap the farmers' organization. They refused to buy hogs at the Calgary market a week ago because the farmers would not sell at their price. The latter were forced to carry the hogs over several days and the price dropped, not cents, but dollars per hundred pounds. It is said the loss on these shipments at Calgary will amount to at least \$12,000, and 60 per cent. of this will be on farmers, the rest on small dealers.

Such an action is deplorable in the face of the patriotic call to farmers to produce more hogs. It only emphasizes the desirability of establishing a minimum price in relation to grain prices. The government and everyone else really interested in providing food for the Allied armies are doing their utmost to encourage the breeding of every long possible now. The packers have been pleading difficulty in financing exports. They say the situation arose out of circumstances over which they had no control. The latter explanation is too far fetched because they did not stop buying on the Winnipeg market. Recently a similar excuse was given when the slump in prices of about \$3.00 per hundred pounds occurred on all our markets. None of these excuses hold water for on every occasion the packers have gone on buying on some of these markets and have handled the products.

There is this consolation, however, before the crop of hogs that will result from present breeding operations are marketed these unscrupulous corporations will be under some better control. It is to be hoped a minimum price in relation to grain prices will be guaranteed. Whether it is or not, it is scarcely likely that the packers will dare to again perpetrate such a thing. Certainly no one will wish to assume any responsibility for an increase in production if such hold-up happens again.

A week ago the United Grain Growers at Calgary were forced to carry all hogs over until Tuesday last and the packers showed little inclination to bid against each other. They were thus compelled to dispose of the whole lot to the William Davies Co. (Flavelle's Company) at \$15.50 per car weight. This drop of fully \$1.25 per hundred is a week discouraged the shippers and very few hogs have been offered since. Last week with a stronger tendency to the market the hogs were sold at \$16.50. The prospects are for a more steady market next week. The price of hogs a year ago at this market was \$11.50.

Cold stormy weather and lower prices have tended to curtail receipts of cattle at the yards. Choice steers sold at \$8.55 to \$9.25. Fat cows sold at \$7.00 to \$7.75. Yearling stockers found a ready sale at \$50 to \$55.

The United Grain Growers bought about 300 head of stocker cattle in the yard last week to fill orders for farmers.

### CAUSE OF DROP IN HIDES

There has been an agitated feeling in the American raw hide market for several months past which has, to a certain extent, cut down the price offered for country hides. This situation is brought about because the dealers expect the controller to fix a price which would naturally be below the present price offered. There has, however, been a more significant factor which has influenced the drop in the price offered for country hides within the past few weeks. This is that the United States was holding large orders for the Russian government which have subsequently been cancelled. As a consequence the market recently has automatically dropped 2 1/2 cents per pound at Chicago for country hides.

### PATRIOTIC FUNDS

Belgian Relief Fund	
Previously acknowledged	\$11,558.62
Friends of the Social and House held by Silverwood School District, Deepdale, Man.	75.00
J. C. Brown, Granum, Alta.	75.00
	\$11,708.62

Serbian Relief Fund	
Previously acknowledged	\$290.00
J. C. Brown, Granum, Alta.	75.00
	\$365.00

Previously Acknowledged	
Red Cross Fund	\$4,134.58
British Red Cross Fund	27.50
French Red Cross Fund	263.50
Y.M.C.A. Military Fund	527.00
Polish Relief Fund	110.00
French Wounded Emergency Fund	33.50
Blue Cross Fund	1.00
British Soldiers' Relief Fund	30.00
Canadian Patriotic Fund	800.00
Prisoners of War Fund	105.00
Returned Soldiers' Fund	25.00
<b>Total</b>	\$18,533.98

Hon. F. B. Carvell, minister of public works, has been elected by acclamation for Carleton-Victoria. His Laurier Liberal opponent, J. E. Porter, has retired.

It is reported that Jerusalem has been abandoned by the Turkish army and that the British forces are now in occupation.