

Market Review and Forecast

Office of FARMING,
Confed. Life Building,
Toronto, Dec. 18th, 1899.

This is usually a quiet period in wholesale circles. The year's business, now that there is a little time to look over it, has been most satisfactory. Travellers from all parts of Canada report general business in the most prosperous condition. Payments continue to be made in a very satisfactory manner. Money continues firm and yet there seems sufficient for all legitimate purposes. There is a good demand for call loans.

Wheat.

The wheat markets show no material improvement over a week ago. In fact, there is very little new to report. The week opened with a somewhat easier feeling in most leading markets, while towards the close a little better feeling prevailed owing to higher Liverpool cables. The following is the Montreal *Trade Bulletin's* London cable of Dec. 14th:

"The market since my last cable has been firmer and higher, owing to lighter stocks and a better demand; parcels of No. 1 Manitoba hard have sold on the Baltic at 28s. 6d. to 29s., making an advance of 6d. to 9d. on the week."

Trading at Chicago has been of the speculative kind and a general indifference prevails. Reports from the Argentina have been somewhat conflicting, though it is expected that the crop will be saved in good condition. The movement of winter and spring wheat continues light.

Trading has been light at Montreal. The final crop report for Manitoba places the total yield of that province at 27,922,230 bushels, an average of 17.13 bushels per acre. This shows that actual yields have been less than was anticipated. Red winter wheat is quoted at Ontario points at 65 to 65½c. high freights. The market here is easier at 65c. for red and white west; goose, 69c., and spring wheat at 64c. east. On the Toronto farmers' market red and white bring 68 to 68½c.; spring five, 68 to 69c.; and goose, 69 to 72c. per bushel.

Oats and Barley.

English markets for Canadian oats are easier. At Montreal business is quiet, though there is a fair enquiry. Oats are duller here at 25 to 26c. west. On the farmers' market here oats bring 28½ to 29c. per bushel.

The barley market continues dull at Montreal. No. 1 is quoted at 50c., No. 2 at 48c., and feed barley at 46 to 47c. per bushel. The market here is quiet at 38c. for No. 2 west, and 35 to 36c. for feed. On the farmers' market barley brings 42 to 43½c. per bushel.

Peas and Corn.

Like other grains, peas are not brisk. The Montreal market is reported steady at 57½c. f.o.b. for export. The market here is steady at 57 to 58c. west. On the Toronto farmers' market peas fetch 60c. per bushel.

American corn is quoted here at 40c. on track in car lots.

Bran and Shorts.

Ontario wheat bran sells in Montreal at \$15 to \$15.25, and shorts at \$16.50 to \$17.50, and Manitoba bran at \$14.50 to \$15 in car lots. City mills here sell bran at \$14 and shorts at \$16 in car lots f.o.b. Toronto.

Eggs and Poultry.

The English market for Canadian eggs continues steady with stocks light. There is a better demand for new-laid stock at Montreal, with quotations at 22 to 22½c. in large lots, they being 21 to 23c. in cases. Receipts

are moderate here with prices steady, at 19 to 20c. for new-laid, and 15 to 16c. for held stock in large lots. On the Toronto farmers' market new-laid bring 30 to 35c. per dozen.

There is a good demand at Montreal for choice large dry-picked turkeys at 9½ to 10c. per lb. Chickens are in fair demand at 7½ to 8c. for choice dry-picked, geese, 6½ to 7c., and ducks 8 to 9c. per lb. Receipts have not been heavy here. Chickens are quoted at 25 to 50c., ducks at 40 to 60c. per pair, and geese at 6 to 6½c., and turkeys at 8½ to 9½c. in large lots. On the Toronto farmers' market, chickens being 40 to 75c. and ducks 60 to 80c. per pair; geese, 6 to 7c., and turkeys, 9 to 11c. per lb.

Potatoes.

These are quiet at Montreal, where they bring 45 to 50c. per bag in car lots. Prices are somewhat nominal here at 38 to 40c. in car lots. On the farmers' market they bring 40 to 50c. per bag.

Apples.

Since the decided slump in prices a few weeks ago the English apple market has shown a decided improvement, some choice quality of King's selling as high as 22s. to 23s. at Liverpool. Some choice Greenings have brought 16s. 3d. and Baldwins 17s. 6d. per bbl. Account sales have shown to \$2.25 and \$2.50 per bbl. at Ontario points. While this has been so with fine quality some serious losses have been sustained on poor warty fruit. Some cables of the week give 15s. to 22s. as quotation according to quality and variety. Apples at Montreal are unchanged at \$2.75 to \$3.50 for No. 1, and \$1.60 to \$2 per bbl. for No. 2. Apples have not been in very brisk demand here, where quotations are \$1.75 to \$2.50 per bbl.

Hay and Straw.

The general hay market keeps steady, without any advance in values. In some localities in Western Ontario there is a great scarcity of feed on account of the drouth, and farmers will not have any hay to spare, and many will have to buy. In one locality as high as \$14 per ton is being paid for hay. Montreal prices are \$9.50 to \$10.50 for No. 1; \$7.50 to \$8 for No. 2 and \$7.50 for clover for baled hay. There is a steady demand here for hay at \$8.50 to \$9.75 in car lots on track. On Toronto farmers' market hay brings \$11 to \$12; mixed hay, \$8 to \$9; sheaf straw, \$8 to \$9, and loose straw, \$4 to \$5 per ton.

Seeds.

The seed market is quiet. On Toronto farmers' market red clover brings \$4.25 to \$5; alsike, \$5 to \$7, and white clover, \$7 to \$8 per bushel.

Cheese.

The cheese market is as firm as ever. The English dealer is no longer hanging back, and is more willing to pay holders' demands. The English market has advanced a shilling, and holders are firm at 60 to 61s. for finest Ontario Septembers colored, and 59 to 60s. for do. white; finest Quebecs, 58 to 59s.; fine, 55 to 57s. Sales have been made at Montreal of finest westerns at 11½ to 12c. for Septembers, 11¼ for Octobers, and 11¼c. for Novembers. The New York market is

also strong. The local Ontario markets have now closed down for the season.

Butter.

There is a decidedly better feeling in the butter market, owing to improved cable reports. The *Trade Bulletin's* London cable of December 14th reads thus: "There has been a decidedly firmer market, despite liberal imports from Australia, and under a good demand prices have advanced 3s. to 4s. on the week, choice Canadian creamery selling at 10½s. to 107s. and fancy well-known brands 108s. to 110s.; fine 98s. to 102s." Several sales of choice creamery have been made at 22 to 22½c. at country points. At Montreal, as high as 22½c. has been paid for choice quality. Exporters, however, claim they can pay no more than 21½c. for export. The market is 1c. higher than a week ago. There is a firm demand at Montreal for fine dairy butter at 17½ to 18½c., and 19c. for prints in large lots. Prices continue firm here, with a steady demand. Good to choice dairy tubs bring 16 to 18c., and pound rolls 19 to 20c. and large rolls 18 to 19c. per lb. in large lots. Creamery butter in boxes brings 21 to 22c. and prints 22 to 23c. per lb. On Toronto farmers' market lb. rolls bring 20 to 25c. per lb.

Wool.

Canadian fleece continues firm. Toronto prices, as reported by James Hallam & Sons, are: Fleece wool, 15 to 16c.; unwashed fleece, 9 to 9½; and pulled wool, 15 to 16½c. per lb.

Cattle.

Good prices continue to be obtained for really prime, well-finished beef cattle, suitable for export and the Christmas trade. At Chicago, during the week, some fancy Christmas beeves sold at \$8.50 per cwt., while the poorest quality sold at only \$4.30. There is a very valuable lesson in this for all cattle feeders and breeders. Cables have been firm and American markets active. On Toronto market on Friday there was a fair run of live stock. The quality of the fat cattle was hardly as good as earlier in the week, but several fine exporters and Christmas cattle were offered. Trade was good for the best, but other grades were slow of sale at 15 to 25c. per cwt. decline. Several large dealers had got their supplies earlier in the week, and were therefore not on the market to buy, which made things less active than the day previous.

Export Cattle.—Choice lots of these sold at \$4.75 to \$5 per cwt., while light ones sold at \$4.25 to \$4.50. Heavy export bulls sold at \$3.80 to \$4.75, and light ones at \$3.25 to \$3.50 per cwt.

Butchers' Cattle.—Choice picked lots of these equal in quality to the best exporters, weighing 1,000 to 1,100 lbs each, sold at \$4.25 to \$4.40. Choice picked lots of heifers and steers for the Christmas trade sold for \$4.25 to \$5.12½ per cwt. Good butchers' cattle brought \$3.70 to \$4; medium, \$3.40 to \$3.60; common, \$3.10 to \$3.30; and inferior, \$2.75 to \$2.90 per cwt.

Feeders.—There were a number of farmers on the market on Friday looking for heavy feeding steers. Choice well-bred steers weighing 1,050 to 1,200 lbs. each, were scarce and prices firm at \$3.85 to \$3.85, and \$4 for a few



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