

MARKET REVIEW AND FORECAST.

Office of FARMING,

44 and 46 Richmond street west,
Toronto, Feb. 20, 1899.

General trade continues to show the same favorable conditions, though the extremely cold weather during the first half of this month had a telling effect on some lines of trade. However, so far, February has been a very favorable month, and the showing will be greater than last year.

Wheat.

There is nothing new to report in the wheat situation. The Chicago market has fluctuated somewhat, showing that the speculative element is doing a little. The Liverpool market is reported dull, and the London market on Feb. 16th was reported lower, but there was a somewhat better demand at the decrease. It is generally believed that up to the present the growing crop has not been seriously injured, though it will be hard to find out definitely the extent of the injury until the mild weather has continued a while. The *Cincinnati Price Current* of last week has this to say in regard to the situation: "In the grain markets no striking changes have occurred during the week, and the position at the close is about the same as a week ago. Should the later conditions develop freezing and thawing to a serious degree there would naturally arise a strengthening sentiment concerning wheat. And when farmers find opportunity for becoming busy in spring work, quite likely the marketing of corn will decrease. But this grain has been increasing in supply at the centres recently, and is in ample quantity for current calls."

Reports from Montreal show that western millers have been paying from 69 to 69½c. for red winter, but exporters cannot pay these figures. The market here is steady at about 69c. north and west; goose is quoted at 69 to 69½c., and No. 1 Manitoba hard at 81 to 82c. at Toronto, and No. 2 northern at 78½c. Red and white on the local market is quoted at from 73½ to 74c.; spring life at 71½ to 72c. and goose at 70 to 70½c.

Oats and Barley.

The London (England) market for Canadian oats is steady, and more business is being done. The Montreal market is easier at 32 to 32½c. The market here is steady at 29 to 29½c. West; on the local market they bring from 34½ to 35c.

The Montreal barley market is steady at 55 to 57c. for malting grades. Higher prices now are asked. The market here is firmer at 46 to 47c. West. These are about the ruling figures on the local market here.

Peas and Corn.

The London market for peas has dropped 6d., but at the decrease there is a better demand. At Montreal the market is quiet, and quotations are 70 to 71c. in store. The market here is firm at 65 to 66c. West; on the local farmers' market peas bring from 65 to 66 cents.

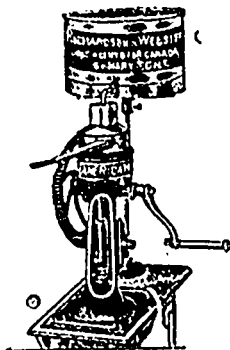
No. 2 American mixed corn is quoted at Montreal at 46 to 47c. in car lots. Canadian yellow is quoted here at 36c. West, and American at 41½ to 42c. on track Toronto.

Bran and Shorts.

Ontario bran is quoted at Montreal in bulk at \$14.50 to \$15, and shorts in car lots at \$15.50 to \$16. City mills here sell bran at \$14 and shorts at \$16 in car lots f.o.b. Toronto.

Clover and Timothy Seeds.

The Montreal market for timothy seed keeps steady and Ontario timothy is quoted there at \$1.60 to \$1.75; American at \$1.25 to \$1.50; red clover at \$4.25 to \$5 and alsike \$4 to \$5 as to quality. On the local market here red clover brings from \$3.40 to \$3.90; white clover, \$6 to \$9; alsike, \$3 to \$4.20 as to



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quality, and timothy at \$1.20 to \$1.35 per bushel.

Eggs and Poultry.

The London and Liverpool egg markets are weaker and lower owing to more liberal receipts. The extremely cold weather caused a rise of a couple of cents at Montreal early in the week, making the quotations 20 to 22c. for new-laid eggs. Later on the market was easier at 19 to 20c. straight candled at 14½ to 15c. and limed at 13 to 15c. as to quality. Larger offerings of new-laid eggs are looked for here and prices are easier at 18 to 20c. and 13 to 16c. for held fresh. On the local market strictly new-laid eggs are quoted at 20 to 24c.

Canadian turkeys have given good satisfaction in England. An importer recently stated that they were all right so far as color and size were concerned, but they were not filled out enough, their frames being sufficiently large to carry nearly twice the weight. There is an improved demand for choice fresh turkeys at Montreal at 10 to 11c. per lb. Choice fresh killed chickens bring from 7 to 8c.; geese from 4 to 6c. and ducks from 8 to 9c. The market here is rather slow at 10 to 11c. per lb. for turkeys, and 6 to 7c. for geese, and 50 to 75c. per pair for ducks and 30 to 50c. for chickens.

Potatoes.

The Montreal market ruled firmer early in the week owing to the cold weather, but since then prices have eased off and are about 55c. per bag on track. There has been a reaction in the market here since the mild weather made it more favorable for shipping. From 60 to 65c. seem to be the ruling prices for cars on track. They bring from 65 to 85c. per bag on the local farmers' market.

Fruit.

There has been a little improvement in the fruit trade at Montreal during the week. Apples continue firm at from \$3 to \$4.50 per barrel as to quality. Apples on the local market here are quoted at from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per barrel.

Hay and Straw.

Considerable hay continues to go forward and there has been a fairly good business at country points for the British markets. No. 1 timothy is very scarce at Montreal; good No. 2 is quoted at \$4.50 to \$5.50; choice at \$6 to \$6.25. Clover ranges from \$3.25 to \$4. The market here is dull at \$7 to \$7.50 for cars on the track. Baled straw is quoted at \$4 to \$4.50 in car lots. On the local market it brings from \$8 to \$9.50; clover \$6 to \$7.50; straw sheaf \$6 to \$7 and loose straw \$4 to \$5 per ton.

Cheese.

The cheese market remains quiet. English dealers do not seem anxious to get supplies and are doing a hand-to-mouth business. Holders on this side, however, are not anxious to unload, but are waiting for the orders

which they know will come later on. Montreal quotations for cheese are 9½ to 10c. for Westerns, and 9½ to 9¾c. for Easterns. It is felt on this side that English dealers are overestimating the quantity still to go forward from Canada. The exports from Canada and the United States from May 1st, 1898, to date show a decrease of 594,279 boxes as compared with the same period of 1897.

Butter.

Owing to the large arrivals of butter from the United States the London England market has fallen off 2s., but at the decline the market is steady, finest Canadian creamery being quoted at 94½ to 96s. Owing to the scarcity of creamery at Montreal prices have advanced. The local dealers there are paying more than exporters can afford to give. Sales of a number of lots have transpired of choice late made creamery at 20c., 20¼c. and 20½c., tubs bringing as much as boxes. Stocks of choice creamery are light, but there are large stocks of western dairy around which will likely be in demand as soon as the creamery is worked off. The extremely cold weather of a week or two ago no doubt checked the supply of milk at the winter creameries, but now that mild weather has again set in supplies may increase. Roll butter is quoted in Montreal at 14 to 15½c., and really choice quality at 16c. The total shipments from Canada and the United States from May 1st, 1898, to the present time show an increase of 30,657 packages as compared with the same period for 1897. This increase has been made up of large shipments from the United States.

Creamery is steady here at 20 to 21c. for prints and 19 to 20c. for tubs. There is a good demand here for dairy at 14 to 15 cents, and 15 to 16c. for lb. rolls; pound rolls on the local market bring from 15 to 21c., and large rolls 13 to 16c.

Cattle.

The American cattle markets have had an easier tendency during the week. One reason for this has been the severe storms in the East which have hindered shippers somewhat. Trade was fairly good on Friday's market here, and there has been little change in values during the week. The quality of the fat cattle offered has been only fair and there are too many unfinished cattle coming forward. It will pay farmers to finish their cattle better.

Export Cattle.—Choice heavy exporters bring from \$4.50 to \$4.75, and light ones \$4.30 to \$4.50 per cwt. A few choice lots of heavy exporters brought from 10 to 20c. more than the sale figures on Friday, but they were few in number. Export bulls bring from \$3.60 to \$4, and light ones from \$3.25 to \$3.50 per cwt.

Butchers' Cattle.—Choice picked lots of these, equal in quality to the best exporters, and weighing from 1,000 to 1,150 each, are worth from \$4.10 to \$4.30 per cwt.; good cattle bring from \$3.75 to \$3.90, and medium at \$3.35 to \$3.60 per cwt.