

The Farmers' Market.

WINNIPEG MARKET LETTER

(Office of United Grain Growers Limited, October 22, 1917.)

There has been a fairly heavy movement of grain to the lake front during the past week. Even the coarse grains are moving rather freely, considering that so many districts report a shortage of feed and seed. There have been no wide fluctuations in oats prices and at the end of the week closing prices show a slight gain over the previous week's close. American markets report slow movement of corn and oats, resulting in continued high premiums for spot offerings. In the local market there has been considerable demand for the lower grades to fill sales to eastern domestic trade, but daily receipts probably fully offset any such sales made.

Barley prices are unchanged from a week ago, with buyers readily absorbing all offerings. There is considerable difficulty for coarse grain shippers in not being able to contract ahead for vessel space to take care of contemplated shipments. Their chances of getting boats depend on the needs of the Wheat Export Co. for space for wheat shipments.

As advised in this column a week ago, the railways are putting the seed grain tariff into effect on November 1.

WINNIPEG FUTURES		Week Year		Total last week		3,716,949		1,016,043	
16	17	18	19	20	22	Age	Age	Total last year	16,814,233
Oct. 65	66	66	67	67	67	65	65		
Dec. 65	66	66	66	66	66	63	65		

THE CASH TRADE		Manitoba, October 19	
Oats	65	66	67
Flax	289	293	295
Dec. 285	286	284	288

STOCKS IN TERMINALS		Fort William, Oct. 22, 1917.	
This Year		Last Year	
1 hard	151,759.30	130,739.50	
1 Nor.	4,540,385.20	1,355,395.30	
2 Nor.	2,190,135.20	1,565,254.40	
3 Nor.	810,897.20	1,054,190.20	
No. 4	236,790.10	869,430.50	
Others	534,694.80	2,629,284.50	

This week		Last week	
8,764,661.00	7,554,302.00	8,209,093.50	8,423,021.50
Increase	4,455,567.10	Decrease	868,719.50

Oats		Flax	
1 C.W.	8,716.28	47,344.00	
2 C.W.	1,404,280.08	1,478,509.28	
3 C.W.	266,558.32	500,119.28	
Ex. 1 Hd.	428,324.28	158,837.01	
Others	934,074.79	230,286.17	

This week		Last week	
3,040,976.33	2,944,157.16	2,999,792.06	2,594,506.09
Increase	222,214.27	Increase	349,651.07

Barley		Flaxseed	
3 C.W.	251,971.58	1 N.W.C.	151,977.00
4 C.W.	246,290.28	2 C.W.	30,810.44
Res.	134,873.27	3 C.W.	3,541.15
Feed	60,588.10	Others	48,969.29
Others	90,808.27		

This week		Last week	
753,544.28	234,198.32	864,248.03	199,299.52
Increase	180,296.25	Increase	34,898.36

SHIPMENTS		1917—Lake		1916—Lake	
Wheat	4,824,191.10	4,542,132.40			
Oats	158,586.02	749,914.12			
Barley	107,963.30	205,452.22			
Flax	185,350.24	185,350.24			

CANADIAN VISIBLE SUPPLY		Week ending Oct. 19, 1917.			
Wheat		Oats		Barley	
At. William and Pt.	8,764,661	3,040,976	753,544		
In East. Can. Term.	6,806,877	455,298	213,951		
Total	14,571,538	3,496,274	1,077,495		
In American Term.	1,183,000	248,558	248,190		
Total this week	15,754,538	3,744,832	1,325,685		

LIVESTOCK	Winnipeg		Toronto		Calgary		Chicago		St. Paul	
	Oct. 20	Year ago	Oct. 18	Year ago	Oct. 20	Year ago	Oct. 18	Year ago	Oct. 19	Year ago
Cattle										
Choice steers	9.00-9.75	8.00-8.25	11.00-12.25	9.50-17.50	11.50-15.50	11.50-15.50				
Best butcher steers	8.25-9.00	8.00-8.50	10.25-11.00	8.75-9.25	11.00-15.50	10.00-11.50				
Fair to good butcher steers	7.50-8.00	7.25-7.75	7.50-10.00	7.50-8.50	8.00-10.00	8.00-10.00				
Good to choice fat cows	7.50-8.00	6.25-7.75	8.00-8.75	7.25-7.00	9.25-10.50	8.00-9.00				
Medium to good cows	6.50-7.50	4.50-5.50	7.00-7.50	6.50-7.10	7.00-8.00	7.00-8.00				
Common cows	5.25-6.50	4.00-4.50	5.00-6.50	5.50-6.50	6.00-7.00	5.25-7.00				
Cansters	4.50-5.25	3.00-3.75	4.75-5.25	3.50-5.00	5.00-6.00	4.25-5.25				
Good to choice heifers	7.50-8.00	5.75-6.25	10.00-10.50	7.25-8.00	9.50-13.00	7.00-9.00				
Fair to good heifers	6.50-7.50	5.00-5.50	7.50-9.85	6.25-7.00	5.75-9.50	6.00-7.00				
Best cows	6.00-8.00	5.50-6.00	6.50-8.00	6.50-8.00						
Best butcher heifers	6.50-7.00	5.25-5.75	8.00-9.50	5.75-6.75	9.75-11.00	6.75-7.50				
Common to butchery heifers	4.00-6.25	4.50-5.00	5.00-6.50	5.00-5.75	5.75-7.45	6.00-6.75				
Fair to good feeder steers	7.25-8.50	5.00-6.00	8.00-9.25	7.00-9.00	8.75-10.50	8.00-12.50				
Fair to good stocker steers	5.00-7.00	5.00-5.85	7.00-8.00	7.00-8.00	7.25-9.00	5.50-7.50				
Best milkers and springers (each)	\$75-\$100	\$65-\$80	\$100-\$125	\$75-\$100						
Fair milkers and springers (each)	\$60-\$75	\$45-\$55	\$65-\$85	\$70-\$75						
Hogs										
Choice hogs, weighed off	16.75	\$10.50	18.00-18.25	16.50	17.00-17.50	18.00-18.85				
Light hogs	15.00	9.00			16.75-17.25					
Heavy hogs	11.50-12.50	7.00			16.50-16.75					
Slugs	10.00-11.00	5.50			17.50-18.25					
Sheep and Lambs										
Choice lambs	9.00-14.50	9.50-10.25	15.00-15.75	12.00-13.00	13.50-18.00	10.50-17.00				
Best killing sheep	7.00-10.00	7.00-8.75	11.00-12.00	10.00-12.50	11.00-14.25	9.00-12.50				

Cash Prices Fort William and Port Arthur from October 16 to October 22 inclusive

Date	WHEAT						OATS						BARLEY			FLAX						
	1*	2*	3*	4	5	6	Feed	T11	T12	T13	3CW	3CW	Ex 1	Fd 1	Fd 2	2F4	3CW	3CW	Feed	1 NW	3CW	
Oct. 16	221	218	215		195	190	190	215	212	207	65	62	62	62	61	120	115	110	290	290		
17	221	218	215	207	195	190	190	215	212	207	65	62	62	62	61	120	115	110	290	290	290	290
18	221	218	215		195	190	190	215	212	207	67	64	64	63	62	120	115	110	297	297		
19	221	218	215	206	194	187	190	215	212	207	67	64	64	63	62	120	115	110	296	296		
20	221	218	215	207	194	187	190	215	212	207	67	64	64	63	62	120	115	110	294	294		
22	221	218	215	207	194	187	190	215	212	207	67	64	64	63	62	120	115	110	297	297		
Week ago	221	218	215	206	195	186	215	212	207	65	62	62	61	61	120	115	110	291	291			
Year ago	200	195	189	173	158		198				60	55	55	54	53	113	101	91	260	260		

R.R. TARIFF ON SCREENINGS

Under date of October 17, the C.P.R. has issued a supplement to its mileage grain tariff 3820, and a supplement to Fort William grain tariff 3821. The supplements deal with the exceptions to the general transit regulations outlined in the original tariffs and have been issued to provide the necessary means for securing standard grades of screenings from government interior terminal elevators. Under the exceptions provided wheat can be shipped to the government interior elevators for cleaning, and re-shipment within 15 days. The wheat can then be taken to a mill on the direct line of transit for grinding at the balance of the through rate from original point of shipment, plus \$2.00 per car for the stop-off at government elevator.

The flour mills can then reship an equivalent tonnage of the product within a period of six months at the balance of the through rate from original point of origin to final destination, plus 1 cent per 100 lbs., for the additional stop-off at the mill. The screenings now obtained at the government elevators will be graded upon their feeding value and re-shipped to prairie points. At the same time the grain has the privilege of the second stop-off for milling purposes. These tariffs are effective Oct. 25.

INTERIOR TERMINAL ELEVATOR STOPPS

Movement of grain in interior terminal elevators for the week ending Wednesday, October 17, was as follows:

Elevator	Grain	Rec'd during week	Ship'd during week	Now in store
Calgary	Wheat	63,807.00		76,399.00
	Oats	67,438.00		68,499.00
	Barley			109.00
	Flax			516.00
Moore	Wheat	138,551.10	43,518.20	200,488.50
	Oats	22,449.14	2,339.24	46,615.00
	Barley			641.22
	Flax			70.10
	Rye	1,663.02		1,663.02

FINANCING OF CROP ARRANGED

It was announced from Ottawa on October 16 by the minister of finance that the financing of the exportable surplus of the Canadian wheat crop this year had been satisfactorily arranged. The announcement followed a conference held between Lord Reading, representing the Imperial government and the executive officers of the Canadian Bankers' Association. The amount involved is over \$350,000,000.

WHY WHEAT PRICES WERE FIXED

Herbert Hoover, chief of the United States food administration, gave through his personal representative the following explanation at a war conference in Oklahoma city in regard to price-fixing:

- 1.—Price-fixing of wheat was an absolute necessity as a war measure. It is vital to winning the war.
- 2.—The price agreed upon for this year's wheat crop was set by a committee of twelve, six of whom were either actual farmers or directly representative of farmers' interests.
- 3.—This price is not satisfactory to anyone. Consumers would like for it to be lower, producers would like for it to be higher.
- 4.—The length of the war and the ultimate outcome will be probably affected very materially by the attitude farmers take. This is the time for farmers to be patriotic with wheat.
- 5.—The price for this year's crop has been set and it will not be changed. Farmers should ship their wheat now, before transportation is tied up with corn and coal.
- 6.—Congress gave the price-fixing commission power to set a price only on wheat, meal, flour, beans and potatoes. This power should have been extended to other things also.
- 7.—The 1918 price, \$2.00 at the principal primary markets, was set by Congress. It is a

WINNIPEG and U.S. PRICES

Closing prices on the principal western markets on Saturday, October 19, were—

Cash Grain	Winnipeg	Minneapolis
1 Nor. wheat	\$2.21	Prices set
2 Northwestern	2.18	Prices set
No. 3 wheat	2.15	Prices set
3 white oats	.65	40.571-40.591
Barley	1.091-1.201	1.08 - 1.22
Flax, No. 1	2.98	3.14

Wheat futures are dropped.

minimum price. If peace comes and the wheat now tied up in India, Russia and Australia is released, farmers might have to take a much smaller price than this, but it is not for the guarantee by Congress. This is an absolute guarantee.

8.—This minimum price on wheat may make wheat the most profitable crop farmers can raise.

9.—The vital importance of conserving our wheat resources makes it the patriotic duty of all of us to eat something besides wheat, and feed something else than wheat, even though it costs more, wherever possible for us to do so.

10.—World conditions were such that had the government not taken charge of the wheat supply, the price might have gone so high that our country would have been torn with food riots in cities, and strikes throughout the country. Or it might have been forced much below the price set by the government.

THE BUCKWHEAT SITUATION

During September killing frosts on the buckwheat crop occurred over very wide areas of United States, materially reduced the yield of milling grain—this loss being reflected in the government report for October 1, which indicates a crop of a little less than 18,000,000 bushels as compared with something over 20,000,000 bushels a month earlier. Some private reports indicate a much heavier loss than this.

The Livestock Markets

CHICAGO

Chicago, Oct. 18.—A sharp break in hog prices was the feature of this market during last week. One day this amounted to as much as \$1.00 per cwt. Buyers are making the most persistent efforts to depress the price, particularly on all common and light hogs. A big run of small underweight stuff has started from Wisconsin and prices have been cut to get the most of this stuff at the bottom of the market. High prices are depressing the consumption of fresh pork and present prices are said to be only warranted by army demands for everything into which a hog can be converted. Cattle receipts are enormous at all western markets, a number of new records having been hung up. Kansas City received over 100,000 last week and Chicago 91,000. If there were plenty of cars the receipts would be even larger. Seven western markets received approximately 600,000 cattle last week. Cattle prices declined on the leading markets from 25 to 50c. compared with a week ago. Corn fed cattle with plenty of weight are very scarce. Grass fed cattle are abundant. Packers are filling their freezers. This outlet makes the maintenance of the present prices possible.

Stockers and feeders have lost 25 to 50c. also. The country is buying a great many cattle, but would take more if there were plenty of cars. Much of the country business is being done at a range of \$7.50 to \$9.50. Cattle selling under \$7.75 are plain and below \$7.00 it is said they have nothing to recommend them except that they wear hides. One head of cattle realized \$17.50 last Monday. These were long fed cattle weighing over 1,500 lbs.

Last week serious fire damaged the Kansas City stockyards, resulting in the loss of 10,000 cattle and 3,000 hogs, with a property loss of \$1,000,000. The loss is fully covered by a system of insurance paid by an assessment of 10c. per car. Forty thousand cattle and 10,000 hogs were in the yards when the fire broke out. To save their lives they were allowed to escape into the river bottom. Many were smothered by smoke.

WINNIPEG

Winnipeg, Oct. 20.—The United Grain Growers Limited reports receipts at the Union stockyards for last week as follows: Cattle, 11,002; calves, 971; sheep and lambs, 1,002; hogs, 3,198.

The very heavy run this week causing an embargo for a few days on stock coming to this market, together with recent runs on southern markets, has caused a lowering of from 25 to 50c. on butcher cattle of good quality. Medium and fair quality stuff has been probably hit a little harder, showing a difference of from 50 to 75c. Good stockers and feeders have a brisk demand, and with the new government allowance of free freight on hogs there should be a ready outlet for the class of stuff. Although a large number of calves have been on sale this week the market has held up steady with prices ranging from \$4 to \$4c.