

cost of production; but if business conditions are such that we cannot get that, let us at least save as much of the fruit as we can. The matter is entirely up to the Government. I can see no way by which any individual or organization can attack the problem successfully. The case of apples is different from that of any other food product. Our grain products and live stock are handled through local dealers and there is always a market, so that there is no question about all food of that kind being properly conserved, but the apple trade is entirely different, and the Government is justified in taking action.

### A Lightning-Rod Warning.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I wish to warn the farmers of Ontario against inferior lightning rods. In our investigations we have found that an iron-centred rod, that is, one composed of a strip of copper twisted around an iron or steel centre, whether the centre is a strip of wires or both, is a very short-lived rod. In many cases the iron is nearly all rusted away in from five to ten years, leaving only the copper, which is too light either to wear well, or to carry off a flash of lightning without melting. The copper sheath of these rods weighs less than half what the standard copper rods weigh. Any farmer who puts these iron-centred rods on his buildings is actually getting less present value for his money than if using an all-copper rod, to say nothing of the lack of durability. A plain galvanized iron cable is more durable than the iron-centred rod.

In bulletin 220 on Lightning Rods, page 26, appears a photograph of a piece of iron-centred rod taken from the peak of a building after eight years of use. The iron strip and wires were in several pieces, and more than half rusted away.

It is to the credit of all lightning rod companies in Ontario, except two, that they are following the teaching of Bulletin 220, and do not supply iron-centred rods. Several months ago I personally informed one of the two companies that its iron-centred rod was not fit to put on a building, and the other, even before Bulletin 220 was published, was notified what its teachings would be regarding the iron-centred rod, and they were advised not to stock up with that kind of

rod. Yet these companies are using other portions of the bulletin to induce farmers to buy these inferior rods which it condemns.

Under these circumstances I think it only fair to the farmers of the province to put them in possession of the facts. And it is not unfair to the companies, for they were notified publicly through the bulletin and privately by letter, thus giving them ample time to provide a good rod. Indeed it has been a matter of surprise to me to learn through recent correspondence and personal reports that these rods were still being sold.

These companies can just as well supply good rods, as specified and described in the bulletin.

Perhaps it may not be amiss before concluding to say that our investigations have shown that properly installed rods will prevent \$999 of loss out of every \$1,000 that would occur if the same buildings were not rodged.

WM. H. DAY,

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### Eggs by Weight?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

It would seem more fair to sell eggs by weight than by count, since eggs vary a great deal in size, and, up to the present, there is practically no premium paid for good eggs. The practice of selling eggs by weight should also be comparatively easy. If a housewife steps into the meat shop and asks for two pounds of beef the clerk slices off approximately two pounds. It may be one pound and ten ounces or two pounds and four ounces, and the housekeeper pays for the actual weight, and not for two pounds for which she asked. Now the same housekeeper may ask the clerk for one dozen eggs, for which she may pay thirty-five cents. Now, she may get a dozen eggs which weigh one pound, or they may weigh one pound and fourteen ounces. It is seen that there is considerable difference in the actual value of these two dozens of eggs, as far as the food value of the eggs is concerned. The standard weight for eggs is one pound and eight ounces to the dozen, and it really makes no difference to the storekeeper whether he sells large or small eggs, because he has bought them at so much a dozen regardless of the size.

Just compare the amount of work involved in weighing and counting. It does not seem that there is much difference. Possibly the average storekeeper could weigh the eggs almost as quickly as he could count them. Certainly there are some housekeepers who could weigh eggs more quickly than they could count them. When a storekeeper is skilful in handling three eggs in each hand, using both hands at once, the counting of eggs is both rapid and easy. However, the average storekeeper could certainly weigh eggs as rapidly as almost any other produce, and moreover, it would seem that the storekeeper should buy his eggs at so much per pound, because it would be very difficult for him to buy by the dozen and sell by the pound. A case of eggs should weigh 45 pounds exclusive of the case. The consumer's practice in purchasing food products is to buy at so much per pound weighed in. This is not done with eggs. If a country producer ships ten cases of eggs to the commission house in the city he is paid so much per dozen. In the meantime, the eggs probably have evaporated 15 per cent. of their weight, consequently the commission house is losing approximately 15 per cent. of the price per dozen. The loss in weight, of course, may be due to the way in which the producer handles his eggs or it may be due to the methods of transportation. At any rate there is a loss which is not now accounted for.

Although it seems only right that eggs should be sold by weight, and it also seems simple and practicable, still there are difficulties to overcome. The first of all is prejudice. Producers, dealers, and consumers are very conservative in changing the old for the new. Also there would be the second difficulty of establishing some basis which would control the loss in weight due to evaporation during shipment. This is a big factor. As far as the producer is concerned it would be cheaper to produce large eggs. Large eggs weigh heavier, command a higher price, and for a given weight of eggs at so much per pound fewer hens would be required on the farms than where small eggs are produced.

Selling eggs by weight would tend to produce large eggs, as it would give the hen laying a large egg a decided advantage over the hen laying a small egg.

Macdonald College, Que.

M. A. JULL.

## Toronto, Montreal, Buffalo, and Other Leading Markets.

### Toronto.

Receipts at the Union Stock-yards, West Toronto, on Monday, September 28, numbered 268 carloads, comprising 4,616 cattle, 1,426 hogs, 2,579 sheep and lambs, 227 calves, and 1,172 horses. Trade was inclined to be slow, with cattle 25c. lower. There were no loads, but a few odd cattle sold up to \$9; choice steers, \$8.60 to \$9; good, \$8.25 to \$8.50; common to medium, \$7 to \$8; heifers, \$8 to \$8.25; cows, \$3 to \$7; bulls, \$5 to \$7.25. Feeders and stockers were easier. Choice steers, \$7 to \$7.25; good feeders, \$6 to \$6.75; stockers, \$5 to \$6.25; milkers, \$70 to \$90, and scarce. Calves, firm, at \$6 to \$11. Sheep, \$5.75 to \$6.25; yearlings, \$6.50 to \$7; lambs, easy, at \$7.25 to \$7.85. Hogs, 25c. lower. Selects, fed and watered, \$9; \$9.25, weighed off cars, and \$8.65 f. o. b. cars.

### REVIEW OF LAST WEEK'S MARKETS

The total receipts of live stock at the City and Union Stock-yards for the past week were:

	City.	Union.	Total.
Cars	67	536	603
Cattle	1,131	7,385	8,516
Hogs	284	8,257	8,541
Sheep	1,713	6,682	8,395
Calves	338	752	1,090
Horses	204	1,523	1,727

The total receipts of live stock at the two markets for the corresponding week of 1913 were:

	City.	Union.	Total.
Cars	44	606	650
Cattle	821	10,094	10,915
Hogs	58	6,867	6,925
Sheep	1,484	9,683	11,167
Calves	115	1,819	1,934
Horses	—	45	45

The combined receipts of live stock at the City and Union Stock-yards for the past week show a decrease of 47 carloads, 2,399 cattle, 2,772 sheep and lambs, and 844 calves; but an increase of 1616 hogs, and 1,682 horses, compared with the corresponding week of 1913.

Live-stock receipts for the past week

were large in nearly all of the different classes, but not greater than the demand. All kinds, no matter how poor the quality, found a fairly good market. The quality of fat cattle, taken as a whole, was the poorest of any week during the year thus far; that is, there were few good to choice butchers' steers and heifers offered. On the other hand, there was a large number of half-fat cattle that ought to have been kept on the farm six months, and some of them a year, before being marketed for killing purposes. There was, however, a good market at high prices, when quality is considered. In fact, one Chicago buyer who took several thousand cattle last year, informed us that Toronto cattle prices were the highest of any market on the continent. And although he came to buy, left without buying a single hoof, as he said he could do better on the Chicago and other American markets. Several other buyers of feeders for the distilleries told us the same, saying that they were going to wait for some time longer before taking on their supplies. Three times the number of choice cattle could have been sold had they been offered on the market. Values were firm, at about the same prices quoted in our last report. Stockers and feeders also were in demand, at about the same prices, which many of the buyers who were farmers refused to pay, as they thought there would be no money in the game. The supply of milkers and springers was moderate, and sold at steady values. Veal calves were scarce, not enough to supply the local butchers and abattoirs, consequently they sold at the stereotyped prices of the last seven or eight months. Sheep prices varied very little, but lamb values fluctuated according to the receipts, the bulk selling between \$7.25 and \$7.75, few reaching the eight-cent mark. Hogs were about 25c. lower on the average than in our last letter.

Butchers' Cattle.—Choice, heavy steers, sold at \$8.60 to \$9, and one extra fine lot of seven steers brought \$9.35; loads of good, \$8.25 to \$8.50; medium, \$7.75 to \$8.10; common, \$6.50 to \$7.25; choice cows, \$6.75 to \$7.25; common to medium, \$5 to \$6.25; canners and cutters, \$3 to \$5; good to choice bulls, \$6.50 to

\$7.25; common and bologna bulls, \$5 to \$6.25.

Stockers and Feeders.—Choice feeders sold at \$7 to \$7.50; good, \$6.25 to \$6.75; good stockers, \$5.50 to \$6; inferior, \$5 to \$5.25.

Milkers and Springers.—A moderate supply met a ready market, at prices ranging from \$50 to \$95, and one extra cow brought \$110. The bulk sold at \$70 to \$80.

Veal Calves.—Choice veal calves sold at \$10 to \$11.25; good, \$9 to \$9.75; medium, \$8 to \$8.50; common, \$7 to \$7.75; inferior, \$5 to \$6.50.

Sheep and Lambs.—Sheep, light ewes, \$5.75 to \$6.25; heavy ewes and rams, \$4 to \$5; yearlings, \$6.50 to \$7; lambs, \$7.25 to \$7.75; the bulk at \$7.50; culls, \$6 to \$7.

Hogs.—There was a fair supply during the week. The packers set the prices at 25c. lower than for the previous week, and with a few exceptions they were sustained. Selects, fed and watered, sold at \$9.15 to \$9.25; \$8.90 f. o. b. cars at country points, and \$9.50 to \$9.55 weighed off cars.

### BREADSTUFFS.

Wheat.—Ontario, No. 2 red, white or mixed, \$1.12 to \$1.15; Manitoba, No. 1 northern, \$1.19, track, bay points; No. 2 northern, \$1.17.

Oats.—Ontario, No. 2 white, new, 50c., outside. Manitoba oats, No. 2, 60c.; No. 3, 59c., lake ports.

Barley.—For malting, 63c. to 65c., outside.

Buckwheat.—No. 2, 75c., outside.

Rolled Oats.—Per bag of 90 lbs., \$3.25.

Rye.—Outside, 75c.

Peas.—No. 2, \$1.10 to \$1.15, outside.

Corn.—American, No. 2 yellow, 81c., track, Toronto.

Flour.—Manitoba flour—Prices at Toronto were: First patents, \$6.60; second patents, \$6.10; in cotton, 10c. more.

### HAY AND MILFEED.

Hay.—Baled, car lots, track, Toronto, No. 1, \$15 to \$16; No. 2, \$13 to \$14 per ton.

Straw.—Baled, car lots, track, Toronto, \$8.50 to \$9.

Bran.—Manitoba, \$24.50, in bags, track,

Toronto; shorts, \$27; Ontario bran, \$23, in bags; shorts, \$27; middlings, \$29.

### COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Butter.—Prices were firm. Creamery pound rolls, 31c. to 32c.; creamery solids, 27c. to 28c.; separator dairy, 27c. to 28c.

Eggs.—New-laid eggs sold at 27c. to 28c., by the case.

Cheese.—New, large, 15c.; twins, 16c. Honey.—Extracted, 11c. to 12c.; comb, \$2.50 to \$3 per dozen sections.

Beans.—Hand-picked, bushel, \$2.75 to \$3; primes, \$2.40.

Potatoes.—New, per bag, 85c., for car lots of Canadians, track, Toronto.

Poultry.—Turkeys per lb., 16c. to 22c.; spring ducks, 11c. to 13c.; hens, 10c. to 12c.; spring chickens, live weight, 12c. to 13c.; squabs, per dozen, \$4.

### HIDES AND SKINS.

City hides, No. 1 inspected steers and cows, 14c.; No. 2, 13c.; city butcher hides, 14c. to 14c.; country hides, cured, 15c. to 16c.; green, 13c. to 14c.; lamb skins and pelts, 60c. to 80c.; calf skins, 16c.; horse hair, per lb., 40c. to 42c.; horse hides, No. 1, \$3.50 to \$5; tallow, No. 1, per lb., 5c. to 7c. Wool, unwashed, coarse, 17c.; wool, unwashed, fine, 20c.; wool, washed, coarse, 26c.; wool, washed, fine, 27c.

### FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

With few exceptions, fruits of all kinds sold at lower values than at any time this season, and as the weather has been favorable, all kinds of vegetables are offered in abundance, at reasonable prices. Apples, 10c. to 20c. per basket; cantaloupes, 20c. to 50c. per basket; crab apples, 20c. to 25c. per basket; cranberries, \$6.50 to \$7 per barrel; grapes, 25c. per basket; peaches, 40c. to 75c. per basket; pears, Bartlett's, 50c. to 75c. per basket; plums, 75c. to \$1 per basket; watermelons, 25c. to 40c. each. Vegetables.—Beets, 75c. per bag; beans, 20c. per basket; cabbages, 35c. to 40c. per dozen; carrots, 20c. per basket, and 75c. per bag; celery, 20c. to 30c. per dozen; cauliflower, \$1.50 per dozen; cucumbers, 20c. to 25c. per basket; corn, 6c. to 7c. per dozen, and evergreen, 10c. to 12c. per dozen; eggplant, 25c. to 35c. per