

The Farmers' Market

WINNIPEG MARKET LETTER

Office of United Grain Growers Limited, September 10, 1917.

The movement of the new crop wheat has got fairly well started and there are now nearly two hundred cars passing inspection each day. The quality is good, very few cars going below one Northern, except those which grade rejected on account of weeds. There has been very little frost damage reported and at present a very small percentage of any grain remains standing. No announcement has yet been made by the Board of Grain Supervisors regarding the price to govern for this crop. It was understood on Saturday that this price has been agreed upon by the members of the board and will be published soon. The delay has probably been due to difficulties regarding finances and the details of handling the business. Meanwhile all the offerings have been taken by local mills and representatives of eastern mills, but the demand from these sources will not be sufficient to absorb the offerings for long. There will have to be buying for export if prices are to maintain present levels.

There has been considerably stronger sentiment in the oats market. Many private advices on American corn and oats conditions maintain that the bears have worked overtime telling about the enormous crops. A lot of damage in many districts has been overlooked, and there has come a feeling that the oats and corn are cheap as compared with wheat. There is also the possibility of slow movement to our market for some time.

Barley offerings are small and prices have worked slightly higher. There is a lot of action in the flax futures and prices fluctuate quite widely. Offerings in this market are light and the filling of orders causes sharp changes. There is a good demand for cash flax.

WINNIPEG FUTURES

	4	5	6	7	8	Week	Age
Wheat						10	Year
Oct.	64	64	64	66	66	67	50
Dec.	63	60	60	62	62	62	48
Flax							
Oct.	326	326	321	309	330	318	188
Dec.	323	324	316	307	329	309	188

CANADIAN VISIBLE SUPPLY

	Wheat	Oats	Barley
Arthur Ter.	377,515	3,277,567	113,720
In East Can. Term.	1,102,245	1,158,381	103,107
Total	1,919,860	4,436,568	216,827
In American Term.	80,905	520,744	593,799
Total this week	2,000,765	4,957,312	810,626
Total last week	2,075,553	7,081,448	808,271
Total last year	13,765,849	12,091,893	1,228,424

STOCKS IN TERMINALS

	This Year	Last Year
1 hard	21,284 50	46,008 10
1 Nor.	145,884 20	1,979,939 10
2 Nor.	19,710 40	552,414 40
3 Nor.	49,457 20	510,703 40
No. 4	71,790 30	289,651 30
Others	466,369 90	1,647,682 30

This week 817,515.10 Last week 5,636,399 40

Last week 899,766 40 Last week 6,351,674 20

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MINNEAPOLIS CASH SALES

Wheat	577,515
Oats	3,277,567
Barley	113,720
Flax	1,102,245

INTERIOR TERMINAL ELEVATOR STOCKS

Movement of grain in interior terminal elevators for the week ending Wednesday, September 5, was as follows:

	Wheat	Oats	Barley
Wheat	2,042 00	8,894 00	5,841 00
Oats	194 00	4,404 00	286 00
Barley	177 00	516 00	

U.S. WHEAT UNDER PRICE CONTROL

Government buying of wheat began on Sept. 4. At Chicago it proceeded as automatically as operations over the counter at any ordinary National bank. There was only one standard of value, the base of \$2.20 a bushel for No. 1 Northern grade. Consignors in receipt of wheat merely had to send their commodity into store at a warehouse and on turning the receipt over to a representative of the food administrator were given a check for cash in full payment. The turning over of the warehouse receipts in exchange for checks was not done in the local of trade but in an office building a couple of squares distant. Through a glance at standing a little apart, wheat sold at slightly above the government base, but the local representative of the food administrator issued a warning that there must be no repetition of the offense.

The new governmental wheat purchasing plan for grain No. 4, comprising Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana, became fully operative at Minneapolis on Sept. 4, although the government office was not at that time prepared to buy it. Everything was set, financial arrangements complete and the plan in operation as scheduled. At once some complaints. They were made not in any spirit of criticism, but rather

on the basis of hard luck. The shippers were the ones on which the new plan seemed to bear hardest and most unfavorably on the first day of its full inauguration. Men with telegraphic orders in hand for the shipment from Minneapolis of 20 cars of milling wheat, 10 cars and 30 cars, in various instances were unable to get it. Quite naturally they were disappointed.

WHEAT PRICES NOT YET FIXED

The Board of Grain Supervisors of Canada met in Winnipeg on Sept. 6 to discuss the price to be fixed for the Canadian crop. At time of going to press the price has not been announced, but the announcement is expected this week. There are other problems beside the price that have to be dealt with. It is understood that if a decision is arrived at it will be communicated to the Dominion government and the announcement of the same will be made from Ottawa in due course.

WHEAT SPREADS IN UNITED STATES

The following are differentials between grades and classes of wheat and between the different primary markets of the United States as established by the United States Food Administration upon which the committee on prices based its recommendation of \$2.20 for No. 1 Northern spring wheat at Chicago, or its equivalent.

Prices at Interior Primary Market

No. 1 Hard Winter, No. 1 Red Winter, basic grade, equivalent of No. 1 Northern spring.	Price
No. 1 Hard Winter	\$2.24
No. 1 Hard Winter, basic	2.20
No. 1 Hard Winter, basic	2.20
No. 1 Yellow Hard Winter	2.18
No. 1 Soft Red Winter	2.18
No. 1 Dark Northern Spring	2.24
No. 1 Northern Spring, basic	2.20
No. 1 Red Spring	2.18
No. 1 Hard Spring	2.10
No. 1 Hard Spring	2.10
No. 1 Durum, basic	2.20
No. 1 Durum, basic	2.13
No. 1 Red Walls	2.43
No. 1 Hard White, basic	2.20
No. 1 Soft White	2.18
No. 1 White Club	2.10
No. 2 of grade, 3 cents less.	
No. 3 of grade, 4 cents less.	
No. 4 of grade, 10 cents less.	

Relative Market Basis

Kansas City, 5 cents less; Omaha, 5 cents less; Duluth, 3 cents less; Minneapolis, 3 cents less; St. Louis, 2 cents less; Chicago, basic, New Orleans, basic, Galveston, basic, Buffalo, 5 cents more; Baltimore, 9 cents more; Philadelphia, 9 cents more; New York, 10 cents more.

The food administration wheat corporation has ruled that mixed wheat will be bought at four cents a bushel less than the amount paid for a similar grade of the predominating wheat in the mixture. Wheat growers of Texas and Oklahoma complained to the administration that as much as 25 cents a bushel was being deducted for mixed wheat by dealers in those states.

The Livestock Markets

Chicago, Sept. 6.—A new record was made in the yards last Monday at \$10.75. These cattle averaged 1,312 lbs. and were bought for \$7.85 per hundred last October. A 50 cent advance was made on all steers, above \$10.00, but declines from 25 cents to 75 cents per cwt. have occurred in middle class cattle and fairly good grades. Cattle from 900 to 1,100 lbs. have suffered most. Few decent dressed beef steers selling below \$10.00 from Montana steers averaging 1,350 lbs. last week averaged \$14.00. They were four-year old Texas bred Herefords. Western cows and heifers are commanding the highest prices in market history, individually selling at \$12.00 and \$13.00, and bunches of fat cows at \$10.00 to \$10.50, though they must weigh 1,150 to 1,250 to get these prices. All information points to a continu-

Cattle	Winnipeg	Toronto	Chicago	St. Paul
Choice steers	10 50-10 00	10 25-12 00	14 00-15 75	11 50-13 00
Best butcher steers	9 25-9 00	9 50-10 25	9 00-10 00	9 50-11 00
Fair to good butcher steers	7 50-8 25	7 50-8 00	9 00-10 00	8 00-9 50
Good to choice fat cows	7 50-8 25	7 50-8 00	9 00-10 00	8 00-9 50
Medium to good cows	7 00-7 50	7 00-7 50	7 40-7 25	6 00-8 00
Common cows	6 00-7 00	6 00-6 50	6 50-7 25	5 25-6 00
Canvases	3 00-3 75	3 00-3 75	3 00-3 00	5 00-5 55
Good to choice heifers	8 25-8 75	8 25-8 25	9 25-10 00	8 00-9 00
Fair to good heifers	7 50-8 00	7 50-8 00	8 75-9 25	8 00-8 00
Best cows	6 50-7 00	6 50-7 25	6 50-7 50	7 00-8 00
Best butcher bulls	6 50-7 00	6 50-7 25	6 50-7 25	6 50-7 00
Common to bullock bulls	4 00-5 50	4 00-5 00	5 25-7 25	5 25-6 00
Fair to good feeder steers	6 75-7 50	6 00-6 50	6 00-6 25	5 00-6 00
Fair to good stocker steers	5 00-6 50	5 00-6 50	6 50-7 25	6 50-7 00
Best milkers and springers (cows)	\$75-\$90	\$65-\$80	\$75-\$90	
Fair milkers and springers (cows)	\$60-\$75	\$45-\$65	\$70-\$85	

Drop in Hides

Hides and skins took a drop of several cents a pound during the last week, and commission men and dealers are sending out information to their customers in the country that owing to the drop the prices paid up until recently cannot be maintained.

RED CROSS FUND

Previously acknowledged \$4,013.36

Friends of Central and Plains held by

Mountain Chase W.G.A. Bank 67.00

Total \$4,080.36

\$3,427.30 FOR CAR OF BEEF CATTLE

A carload of 28 three-year-old Aberdeen steers, raised in Alberta, were sold at Calgary, Alberta, this week to a Chicago firm at 12 cents a pound, or a total of \$3,427.30 for the car. They were fine specimens of the kind of cattle raised in Alberta, and came from a farm about 50 miles north-east of Calgary, where they had been winter-fed on grain and finished on the natural grass of the prairie. Their average weight was 1,425 pounds and they would grade choice to prime heavy at Chicago.

Western boards of trade are co-operating with the Winnipeg board in protesting against the increased freight and passenger rates requested recently by the Railway Commission by the railway companies and the Canadian Freight Association.

WINNIPEG and U.S. PRICES

Closing prices on the principal western markets on Saturday, September 8, were:

Cash Grain	Winnipeg	Minneapolis
1 Nor. wheat	\$2.51	Prices set
2 Nor. wheat	2.19	Prices set
No. 3 wheat	2.16	Prices set
3 white oats	.65	\$0.57-\$0.58
Barley	1.09-1.21	1.09-1.31
Flax, No. 1	3.19	3.22-3.27

Futures are dropped.

Continuous heavy movement of light western cattle. Prices may be slightly lower, but killers are filling huge army contracts and need all the beef they can possibly get. Stockers and feeders have advanced 50 to 75 cents during the last 100 days.

The Farmers' Gazette of Sept. 6 quotes the manager of The Metcalf Ranch as follows:— "Grazing and feed conditions are bad all over the western pastoral area from Texas to the Canadian line. In Montana, hay worth \$8.00 a ton last year to being contracted at \$20.00 and held as high as \$25.00. Two years ago the same feed was absorbed at \$4.00. This makes liquidation of young cattle imperative, and thousands have been thrown on the market that would otherwise have been carried through another winter. At the prospective price of wool the sheep man is in a better position to winter stock than the cattle grower. The country west of the Missouri River has been set back several years by this drought."

WINNIPEG

Winnipeg, Sept. 8.—The Livestock Department of the United Grain Growers Limited reports receipts of livestock for last week at the Union stockyards as follows: Cattle, 9,792; calves, 468; sheep and lambs, 987; hogs, 2,190.

Receipts of cattle have been heavy all week. There has been a large percentage of good quality stock coming forward and prices have been held up remarkably well. A few of the real choice kind went up around 10 cents, with the bulk of the butcher stock going from \$6.50 to \$7.75. There has been a slight decrease in price on the poorer quality beef and canners' stuff. The stocker and feeder market is holding up well and with a number of outside buyers we look to greatly steady prices. Light veal calves are still selling around 9 cents for the best. Heavy calves bring 6 to 7 1/2 cents. Lambs are at 12 cents and sheep 7 1/2 to 9 cents.

The hog market has had a stronger tendency and with a light run prices should be well maintained. The market closed Saturday at \$17.50.

CALGARY

Calgary, Sept. 8.—United Grain Growers report this week's Alberta stockyards receipts as: Horses, 408; cattle, 2,302; hogs, 1,137; sheep, 82. The corresponding week a year ago was: Horses, 230; cattle, 890; hogs, 1,453; sheep, 690.

We were again favored this week with a good supply of cattle of improved quality. Most of the stuff offered was sold. One extra choice head of Polled Angus cattle, weighing about 1,425 lbs., was sold at 12 cents and a few extra choice heavy cattle at 10 to 11 cents, while a number of heavy steers suitable for shipment cost made \$6.50. Anything over \$6.00 has to be taken and we would quote cattle good exporters at \$6.50 to \$10.00. Best good butcher steers sold freely at \$6.25 to \$6.75, and the medium kind at \$7.00 to \$8.25, with the common kind down to 7 cents. Choice heavy cows sold at \$7.50 to \$7.75 and heifers up to 8 cents. Medium to good cows \$6.75 to \$7.25, and the common kind around \$6.50 to \$6.00. Stocker two-year-old steers found a ready sale at \$6.75 to \$7.00 for the good kind with the off colored and dairy bred stuff a cent less. Few yearlings were offered. The market seems stronger on the heavy cattle and slightly weaker on the common butcher cattle. We anticipate lower prices yet on this class of stuff. Top price on cattle a year ago \$6.75.

The interest usually taken in the hog market was totally absent for the cattle prices and the supply of hogs was so light that there was hardly enough to establish a market. We sold our Thursday's hogs at 17 cents and Friday's hogs for \$17.25 with the through billings secured by the buyers. It was the smallest hog run we have had this season. Prospects look fairly steady for next week. Top price on hogs a year ago \$11.50.

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Cash Prices Fort William and Port Arthur from September 4 to September 10 inclusive

Date	WHEAT					OATS					BARLEY					FLAX				
	1*	2*	3*	4	5	Fed	T1d	T12	T13	3CW	3CW	4a 1F4	1F4	2F4	3CW	4CW	Fed	1NW	2CW	
Sept. 4	222	225	214	216	179	161	151	200	200	204	60	62	62	61	60	116	114	110	220	222
5	223	227	215	215	180	162	155	210	210	205	60	63	63	60	59	115	114	110	221	223
6	224	228	216	207	182	163	156	211	211	206	61	63	63	61	61	116	114	110	222	224
7	224	228	216	207	183	165	160	212	211	206	61	65	65	63	63	119	115	111	214	206
8	221	219	215	207	183	170	163	212	211	206	61	65	65	63	63	121	116	112	219	211
9	222	220	217	206	184	172	165	212	211	207	61	66	66	64	64	121	117	113	223	216
Week avg	221	219	213	201	178	160	150	200	200	200	61	63	63	61	60	116	114	110	220	204
Year avg	161	150	150	150	161						50	60	60	60	60	85	81	76	187	186