

## MARKET REVIEW AND FORECAST.

Office of FARMING,  
20 Bay Street, Toronto,  
December 13th, 1897.

The commercial prospects for Canadian trade look brighter at the present time than they have been for years. Business men are hopeful, and believe that when spring opens up there will be an influx of new business life into the Dominion such as has not been seen since it became a nation. It is sincerely hoped that no one will be disappointed as to this bright future. Farmers as well as the business man should take heart at the signs of the times. Of course it will not do to lessen in any way our vigilance in turning out the very best quality of goods. An inferior article will never command the price, even if the times are good.

## Wheat.

The wheat trade outside one or two points is practically at a standstill. Everyone in the trade is eagerly watching the little game at Chicago and Minneapolis, where a log wheat corner is being manipulated. What the outcome will be is hard to say. It will probably be exciting till the first of the year. At Chicago wheat was selling up to \$1.09 during the week, which was 15 cents in advance of prices the week previous. It is six years since cash wheat sold as high, and that was in 1891. No one has any faith in the rise. It is only a game of the manipulators, and will likely come to smash very soon.

There is no further change in the amount of wheat in sight, and the efforts in certain quarters to push the wheat famine scare in Europe are without avail. There seems to be a steady demand for Ontario wheat at from 50 to 52 cents at Toronto and Montreal. Manitoba wheat at Ontario points brings about 48 cents.

## Barley and Oats.

There seems to be a large business doing in oats just now, though prices have not advanced materially. There are reported to be large quantities of oats in the country.

At Toronto oats are somewhat firmer than last month, prices ranging from 22½c. to 23c. for mixed and 23½c. for white, west. On the farmers' market prices range from 25c. to 26c. At Montreal some large sales of oats are reported, at about 26½c. The English market is reported lower.

Barley is unchanged. At Toronto prices ranged from 25c. to 32c., according to quality. At Montreal the market is quiet. Some sales for malting purposes are reported, at prices ranging from 48c. to 55c. Feed barley runs from 32c. to 34c.

## Rye and Buckwheat.

There is a fair demand for rye at from 44c. to 45c. Montreal prices range from 51½c. to 52c. The market for buckwheat is easier, at 31c. east and west.

## Millfeed

Prices are about the same as last week, \$10 to \$11 for shorts and \$7.50 to \$8 for bran west.

## Potatoes.

The demand is slow and the market seems easier, though prices are not any lower. Cars on the track in Toronto are quoted at 60c. At Montreal prices are lower, selling on track in car load lots at 57½c.

## Poultry.

The mild weather is having a depressing effect upon the poultry market. At Montreal, however, there was an increased inquiry during the week for nice fresh-killed dry-plucked turkeys. Sales of about 10,000 of these are reported at from 8c. to 8½c. Poorly scalded and discolored birds sold for from 6½c. to 7½c. At Toronto the supply during the past few days has been ample. Prices are easy at 5c. for geese, 7c. for turkeys, 40c. to 60c. per pair for ducks, and 25c. to 40c. for chickens.

## Eggs.

There is a good demand for fresh eggs at Toronto, and the market is steady at 16c. to 16½c. Cold storage eggs are quoted at 14c., and lined at 13c.

The demand for strictly new-laid eggs at Montreal is good, and sales have been made during the week at from 20c. to 22c. in cases and boxes. Cold storage and under grades sell from 12c. to 16c.

Poultrymen may rely on getting a good price for eggs that can be guaranteed fresh. These must not be more than a few days old.

## Hay.

The demand for baled hay is slow at Toronto and the market steady. Cars on the track are quoted at from \$5 to \$5.50.

At Montreal the supply of choice baled hay

is limited, and sales of No. 1 on the track have been made during the week at from \$11 to \$11.50; No. 2 at from \$8.50 to \$9, while less desirable grades have sold at \$7.50 to \$8.

## Cheese.

The cheese market remains practically the same, with a steady demand reported at Montreal for finest eastern and western stock, and also for undergrades. Sales are reported at 8c. to 8½c. for the former, and 7c. to 7½c. for the latter. The Liverpool cable is reported steady, and there seems to be a better tone to the market. On the local markets nothing seems to be doing. What few lots are in factory men's hands are being held—no doubt—for a rise.

## Butter.

The market is firmer and higher at Montreal for choice October and fresh winter creamery, and quite a number of sales have been made recently for export account. The buyers for the English market are very particular as to quality. Sales of the finest creamery have been made during the week at from 18½c. to 18¾c., and as high as 19c. to 19½c. has been paid when the quality was just right. Considerable early make is held at Montreal, but buyers do not care for this kind. Several sales of American, stored on this side, have been made lately for transshipment to New York.

The Toronto market for dairy butter is easier, and large rolls are quoted at 14c. to 15c. Choice dairy in tubs is scarce and firm at 16c.

## Cattle.

There is hardly anything being done in export cattle, a few bulls are changing hands but prices are very low. There is more doing in butchers' cattle. Good cattle for the Christmas trade are beginning to offer, and the prices for these will be away up. Good animals have sold at the fat stock shows as high as 7c. a pound. On the Toronto market prime Christmas beef will bring 4½c. a pound. Ordinary butchers' cattle are away below the 4c. mark. The usual run of such stock bring from 3¼c. to 3½c., and poor qualities run all the way down to under 3c. The supply of butchers' cattle at Buffalo has been apparently about equal to the demand. The price for choice, fancy Christmas steers runs up to \$6 per cwt. Choice steers bring from 4½c. to 5c. per pound.

The trade this week in stockers and feeders has been light, the season is getting over for this class of stock. The price depends on the demand from Buffalo, and the largest part of the supply going forward is ill bred, coarse, staggly stuff that lowers the price for good animals. Feeders of good quality at Buffalo bring from \$3.40 to \$4.20 per cwt., while the same stuff sell at from 3¼c. to 3½c. at Toronto. Light stockers, of which we have sent away so many this summer, sell for 2¼c. to 3½c. for the Buffalo markets, where they bring all the way from \$2.75 to \$4.10 per cwt.

## Sheep.

Shipping sheep are steady at 3c. to 3½c., practically the same prices as reported last week. Butchers' sheep are dull at from \$2.75 to \$3.75 per head, and are likely to be dull during the Christmas trade. There is more doing in lambs, and good lambs are a few cents higher than they were last week; from \$4.25 to \$4.60 per cwt. being the range of price. There has been a good demand for lambs all week on the Buffalo market. Many of the Canadian lambs are too heavy, 75 to 80 lbs. weight seems to suit best, and for these prices run up to 6c. a pound. Too many of the lambs are lousy and coarse. The market seems to be ready to take all the good lambs that offer at good prices.

## Hogs.

Offerings have been quite heavy yet prices have advanced during the week. Choice bacon hogs are quoted at 4½c., light fat and thick fat hogs at 4¼c. to 4¾c., weighed off the cars. Stores bring \$4.15 to \$4.30 per cwt. Sows \$3 to \$3.25 per cwt.

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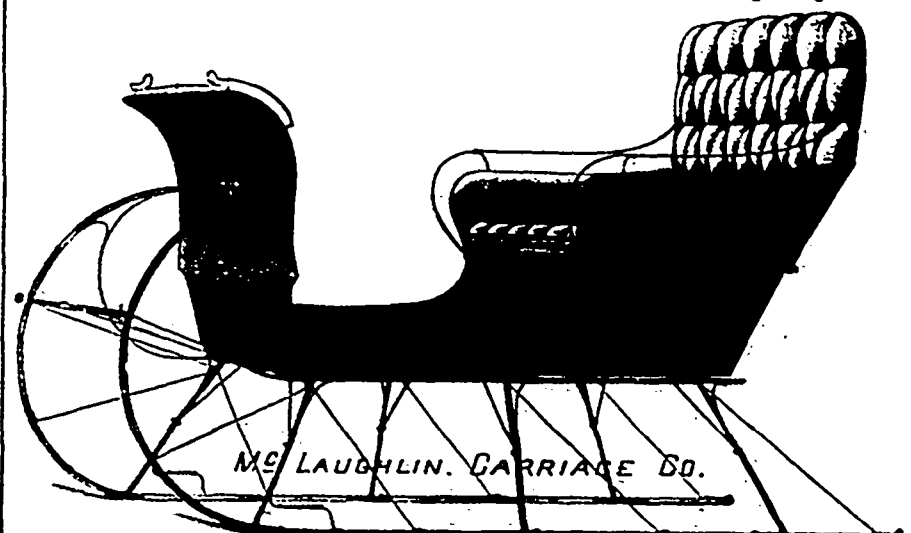
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**Toronto Poultry Show.**—The Toronto Poultry, Pigeon, and Pet Stock Association will hold its annual Poultry Show, in Massey Hall, Toronto, from December 16th to 20th, 1897. The premium list totals \$1,000, and over \$200 will be given in special prizes. Classes are provided for the various breeds of fowl, and for dressed poultry also. A special programme has been prepared, and interesting lectures will be given on practical subjects connected with the breeding, feeding, and dressing of poultry. On Thursday, December 16th, at 3 p.m., the Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, will deliver the opening address.

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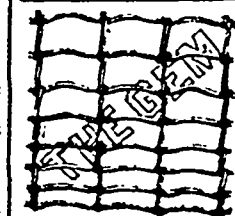
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### Maritime Stock-Breeders' Association.

We have been specially requested by the energetic secretary of the above association to announce that the first annual convention of this organization will be held at Truro, N.S., on Wednesday, December 29th, 1897. There will be three sessions beginning at 10 a.m., 2 p.m., and 7 p.m. A full attendance of the stock-breeders and farmers of the maritime provinces is urgently requested. A good programme has been prepared, and important subjects affecting the interests of the stock-breeder and farmer will be discussed. Fuller particulars may be had by applying to the secretary, Mr. C. W. Holmes, Amherst, N.S.