

Progress of the Palmerston Co-operative Pork-packing House.

The Palmerston, Ont., Co-operative Pork-packing establishment is to be ready to start operations about May 1st, with a capacity of 2,500 hogs per week. It is being fitted up with the most approved machinery, including engines and two large steel boilers, seventy-five horse power each, and a forty-ton ice machine, furnished by E. Leonard & Sons, London, Ont., who make a speciality of this class of work.

Distribution of Cereals for Improvement of Seed.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE: SIR.—For the past ten years systematic efforts have been made to increase the average returns and to improve the quality of the cereals and other important farm crops grown in Canada by an annual distribution from the Experimental Farm at Ottawa of samples of seed of the best and most productive sorts. These varieties have been first tested at the Experimental Farms, and only those which have proven to be the very best have been chosen for this distribution.

Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Feb. 7th, 1899. Director.

Prince Edward Island Agriculture.

We have had a very fine winter so far. Frost has not been severe, except for a few days. Plenty of snow for good roads and to cover up the grass lands well. Cattle are wintering finely. Coarse fodder, especially clover, is plentiful. There are quite a number of cattle stall feedings, some of which will be fed out till the opening of navigation, or even later. There are a good many being marketed now. Halifax and Cape Breton markets take a lot of our beef during the winter.

A large amount of carcass pork has been and is being shipped to Halifax and St. John.

Our creameries and separating stations are doing a largely increased business this winter. Much of our splendid crops of clover and roots is being turned into butter. Our dairying industry has been very successful during the past season. The thirty-four cheese factories turned out about 46,000 boxes of cheese, or 1,228,000 pounds, which, at 81 cents, would be worth \$258,060. Our total exports for the year amounted to \$1,325,047. It will be seen at a glance how large a proportion of this is made up of cheese, and yet our export of cheese began only five years ago, and at that time consisted of the output of the experimental cheese factory started here by the Dominion Government.

Our butter business for the past season was also very considerable, and added to the make of the cheese, would make the total value of our dairy products come pretty close up to \$300,000, about a fourth of our total exports. The dairy business is still capable of great extension here, not so much in the number of factories as in larger business of existing factories. Our factory managers will do well to heed the warning and advice given re quality in their cheese. There is certainly no good reason why we should be satisfied to take twenty-shilling per hundred less for cheese than the English dairyman gets, especially when we know that the difference depends on the matter of curing our cheese at a lower temperature.

Our largest cheese company here—"The Kensington Dairying Company"—has provided a double-walled and double-floored curing-room, such as Prof. Robertson recommends, with ice house in connection in which to cure their cheese, and we expect all the factories will soon follow suit.

Our Local Government has arranged with the Minister of Agriculture to have Prof. Robertson and Macoun, from the Experimental Farm, visit Prince Edward Island during February or March and address a number of meetings of dairymen and farmers. This is a good move, and the outcome of it must be helpful to our agricultural industries in general and our dairy industry in particular.

The education that we need most just now is to teach the patrons that they must co-operate with the management of the factories by sending only clean-flavored milk, so that the best quality of cheese and butter may be turned out, and the dairy companies should be taught that only first-class men should be employed to handle the milk, and thereby insure first quality in the product.

Dairy companies too often hire the cheap man as cheese-maker, and the patrons suffer in consequence and the name of P. E. Island dairy produce is degraded. We have had no inspection of our dairy business during the last year, and we believe it has been a great mistake. If we run along this way without the services of an inspector for a while longer it will be fatal to our dairy interests, especially as regards quality—and quality is everything now. Our Local Government has sent a delegate to England to study the markets there in the interests of our farmers. Good may come from this mission, but if our Local Government does not do something towards the inspection of our cheese, butter and other products that we ship to that country, we fear that the benefit derived from looking at the market will be small.

An agricultural college is talked of for the three Maritime Provinces, and Truro, N. S., is mentioned as the probable location, if the idea should materialize. We do not expect to see such an institution started for some time yet, though we believe a school where the science and practice of agriculture in all its varied branches could be taught to farmers' sons would be a great means of improving our agriculture.

If our "Government Stock Farm"—which is allowed by all to be a most useless, mismanaged institution, and exists only to illustrate how a good farm can be run at a heavy loss—were to be disposed of and the proceeds given, together with the annual expense of it, towards the support of agricultural teaching in connection with other provinces, we might get some benefit from the expenditure.

Farm Prospects Better in East York, Ont.

Our roads are in splendid condition for wheeling at present. Most farms are supplying milk to Toronto, ten wagons entering the city by way of Queen street daily, each drawing about 25 cans. It is usually purchased from the farmer at about 90 cents per can of 8 gallons. Many supply from 4 to 6 cans per day, and find it a very steady and profitable source of income. The straw—meals, turnips and brewers' grains, the latter being purchased weekly at 4 to 5 cents per bushel; turnips are fed mixed with the cut feed, and fed in quantities that would shock a large, apparently, has not found favor among the dairymen of this section as not 5 per cent. of those engaged in supplying their milk use it. A number have put in a water supply in their stables, and having it into a tank above the stable by wind power and having iron basins in each stall. Many claim that the increase in the flow of milk will pay for the outfit in six months. The wind power is also used for cutting feed and grinding grain. Tenant farmers find dairying the only means of paying the high rents, good land being \$4.50 to \$6.00 per acre within 10 or 12 miles from the city.

The clover mills have been busy this winter, as a lot of clover was cut for seed. Some pastured their fields till June, then run the mowers over them. This method gives the largest yield of seed, although the majority took a crop of hay, cutting early. The average yield has been low, running from two to three bushels per acre. Prices also are low, most marketing at from \$3.90 to \$4.25 per bushel.

Hay is selling at \$9.50 to \$10, clover at \$6.00 to \$7.50, on Toronto market, most of the clover going to the cattle sheds in connection with the distillery, where some hundreds of cattle are being fed on the distill slop. Many cattle are being fed in this neighborhood for the export trade, and prospects are bright for a good demand. Prices are higher than for years. Some have sold at 5 cents, live weight, to be shipped in May. There is also a brisk demand for butchers' cattle. Nearly all the feeders here keep very few cattle during the summer, only enough to supply the house with butter and milk, and buy about ten to twenty head of stockers in the fall. By this system they can save the pasture field for a crop. A large number of hogs, bought on the cattle market last fall, are being fed. These are usually slaughtered by the farmer in April or May and supplied to the city butchers. Hogs are mostly delivered to the Toronto factory alive by the farmers, thus saving the middleman's profit.

The prospects good, times are brightening and farmers are doing well, and with the advantage that they enjoy in their proximity to the Toronto market, with a ready sale for all their produce, and prospects of steady and improving prices, the farmers within driving distance of the city have every reason to believe that there is "money in farming," and that the farmer's lot is by no means hard.

Prince Edward Island Apples.

A P. E. I. correspondent writes of a recent visit to the farm of Mr. F. G. Boyer, near Georgetown: "Before leaving the farm we looked into the orchard, where we saw a vigorous plantation of apple trees, largely Ben Davis, with one corner devoted to Golden Russet, Wealthy, Duchess, and Baldwin. This orchard furnished the greater proportion of the trial shipment. The cash returns from the orchard, made by Hon. Senator Ferguson, on the direct ocean steamer Gaspacia, in December last. The cash returns from that venture are so satisfactory that it may be considered an established fact that P. E. Island that it may be considered good enough to please British fruit consumers. The Golden Russets grown in this orchard surpass any we have ever seen. The introduction of Island apples to the British market is likely to mark a new era in orchard management as great an extent as the establishment of cheese factories and creameries has put life and hope into the dairy business."

MARKETS.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT. Following were the prices lately current, with comparisons two weeks and one and two years ago:

Table with columns: Commodity, Extreme prices now, Two weeks ago, 1898, 1897. Rows include Beef cattle, Hogs, Sheep, Natives, Western, Lambs, and Fed Westerns.

Official receipts of live stock at five western points were as follows in January:

Table with columns: CATTLE, HOGS, SHEEP. Rows list Kansas City, Chicago, Omaha, St. Louis, St. Joseph, and Total for each category.

Average weight of cattle received at Chicago last month 1,097 pounds, the lightest January average since 1895. Sheep and lambs averaged 90 pounds, the lightest January since 1893, when the average was the same. Hogs averaged 231 pounds, against 233 pounds a year ago.

There was quite a severe decline in the cattle market as a result of the beef scandal. The evil reports sent out by Gen. Miles had a most depressing effect upon the trade for a time. The least, and the cattle producers in turn were made to suffer. The cattle prices are considered to be very high, and the dealers do not get much comfort from the Government figures and stale reports of supplies of cattle on hand.

The Department of Agriculture has issued the following: The returns of the number of live stock on farms in the United States, January 1, 1899, show there to have been 13,665,367 horses, 2,131,213 mules, 15,990,115 milch cows, 27,994,225 oxen and

other cattle, 39,114,433 sheep, and 33,651,631 swine. These figures show a decrease of 295,604 in number of horses, 56,069 in that of mules, 1,269,972 in that of oxen and other cattle, and 1,108,362 in that of swine. On the other hand, there is an increase of 149,229 in that of milch cows and 1,457,493 sheep. The average farm value of every description of live stock is higher than on January 1, 1898.

There is a movement on foot to induce the Government to make a better classification of live stock, so as to show the calves and other young animals on hand.

Chicago alone received more hogs from Illinois last year than were reported to be on hand in the State at the first of the year. In these days of early maturity it is quite possible to have a crop of hogs born, fattened, marketed and consumed between the annual Government census periods.

There is a feeling that prices for cattle must be a good deal higher than at present.

The hog situation is fairly encouraging to farmers, though there is a feeling that the coming crop of hogs will be large.

The sheep market shows signs of weakness, with lambs selling at a loss to feeders, who paid high prices for lambs and for feed.

Toronto Markets.

The market was very good; all classes of cattle sold well, excepting stockers, which were a shade easier. Mr. T. Lullington, agent for the Allan Line of Steamships, was on the market booking orders for space. Ocean rates are reported lower.

Export Cattle.—The quality of fat cattle offered was generally better than for some time past. Trade was brisk; all offerings were sold by noon at fair prices; market firmer. Choice loads of export cattle sold at \$4.50 to \$4.75 per cwt. Choice picked cattle from mixed loads went in some few cases up to \$4.80, one beast \$4.90 per cwt. Light exporters sold at \$4.30 to \$4.50 per cwt. Mr. I. Vance sold one load of exporters at \$4.75 per cwt. Mr. J. Gould bought 12 carloads at prices ranging from \$4.50 to \$4.85 per cwt. Mr. Maybee bought one load of export cattle, 1,275 lbs. average, for shipment to Hamilton, Bermuda, via New York; this is a new opening for Canadian cattle. Mr. Wm. Murphy paid top price for the day, one load of choice export cattle \$4.80 per cwt.

Butchers' Cattle.—Choice butchers' cattle in good demand at an advance on last week's quotations. Good butchers' cattle sold at \$3.65 to \$3.85 per cwt. Common at \$2.50 to \$3.15. Good cattle, equal to exporters, not so heavy, weighing 1,000 to 1,150 lbs. average, sold at \$4.10 to \$4.30 per cwt. Messrs. Rountree and Halligan bought one load, 1,000 lbs. average, at \$3.50 per cwt., and one load of mixed butchers' and export, 1,110 lbs. average, at \$4.15 per cwt., also one load of mixed cattle, best quality, at \$4.25 per cwt.

Bulls.—Choice heavy bulls of good quality in demand, sold at \$3.60 to \$4 per cwt. Light and medium sold at \$3.57 to \$3.50 per cwt. One bull of extra quality sold at \$4.25 per cwt.

Stockers.—Trade in stockers dull, selling at from \$3.25 to \$3.80 per cwt. for choice lots. A few stock heifers sold from \$2.60 to \$2.85 per cwt., weighing about 500 lbs. each. A good demand for this class of cattle anticipated. Mr. Charles Kerr, of Minneapolis, was on the market for this class of stockers.

Feeders.—Heavy feeders in demand, very few on offer. Those weighing from 1,100 lbs. are worth \$3.30 per cwt., any above the weight up to 1,150 lbs. are worth \$4 per cwt.

Sheep.—About 400 sheep on offer. Ewes, \$3 to \$3.25; and bucks, \$2.50 to \$2.75 per cwt.

Lambs.—Yearling lambs in good demand; those weighing 100 lbs. and over are in special demand for export, at \$4.45 per cwt. General run at \$4.25 per cwt. The ruling price is \$3.50 per cwt.

Calves.—Very few calves on offer, at from \$3 to \$6, according to size and quality; in some cases \$5 per cwt. for choice yearling calves.

Milk Cows.—A cold snap brought a good demand, only 15 on offer, selling at an advance. Medium quality brought \$25; choice, \$45 per head.

Hogs.—The William Davies Packing Co. slaughtered in the year ending March, 1898, 80,000 hogs. This year, ending March, 1899, will far exceed 300,000. Deliveries continue light, but they must come shortly; prices are unchanged at \$4.50 for choice selections; that is, long lean bacon hogs, 160 to 200 lbs., any over this weight are culled as thick fat. Fully 40 per cent. of those delivered are too fat.

Dressed Hogs.—The market is steady, deliveries light, prices keep firm. Heavy fat, \$5.00 per cwt.; light, butchers' shop, \$5.25 per cwt. On the track car lots sold at \$4.85, mixed weights delivered.

Feather.—There is a good demand for choice stock. Chickens, 40c. to 90c. per pair. Turkeys are scarce, and held firm at 12c. per lb. Geese are plentiful at 7c. to 9c. per lb.

Apples.—In good demand; held firm for choice samples; \$2.50 to \$3 per barrel; inferior at \$1 to \$1.50 per barrel.

Eggs are getting more plentiful. New laid are quoted at from 20c. to 25c. per dozen. Cold stored at 16c. to 18c. per dozen.

Butter.—The trade is in fairly good shape, no stocks accumulating. The demand keeps steady and prices well maintained. Choice, 13c. to 14c. per lb.; small dairy prints, 16c. to 18c.; creamery, 21c. to 22c. for select packages.

Cheese.—There is a good demand, fair prices, but stocks are large. Choice stock sells at from 9c. to 10c. per lb.

Hay.—On the hay market 30 loads sold at from \$8 to \$9 per ton for timothy, and at \$5.50 to \$7.50 for clover.

Straw.—Only loads of straw sold, at from \$6 to \$7 per ton. Hides.—The market shows a disposition to weaken. No. 1 green, 84c. lb.; steers, 9c. lb.; calfskins, 10c. lb.; pelts, 80c. each; lambskins, 85c. each; wool, pulled, 17c. per lb.

Grain.—Eight hundred bushels white and red Ontario wheat, 71c. to 72c. per bushel; goose, 69c. to 70c. per bushel. Oats are firm, 50 bushels at 34c. to 34c. per bushel. Barley is in good demand, 500 bushels at 48c. to 50c. per bushel. Two loads of barley at 49c. to 50c. per bushel.

Bran.—City mills sell bran at \$14 and shorts at \$16 per ton in car lots.

Seeds.—Red clover, bushel, \$3.50; white clover, bushel, \$6 to \$9; alsike, choice, bushel, \$4.50; alsike, good, bushel, \$3.50; timothy, bushel, \$1.20 to \$1.35; beans, wild, bushel, \$1.20; chick peas, bushel, \$1.20; vetch, bushel, \$1.20.

Exports.—Exports of goods from the port of Toronto during January, 1899, show a marked increase over those of the corresponding month of last year, 1898. Exports last month totalled \$520,666, as compared with \$559,408. Among the large items of exports were: Cattle, \$127,000; bacon, \$249,000; clover seed, \$97,000; wheat, \$36,000; and leather, \$34,000. Shipments from Toronto to Great Britain to-day were: Bacon, \$23,000; cattle, \$26,000; apples, \$4,000; sheep, \$1,000; a shipment of agricultural implements from Messrs. Harris & Co. to Germany, valued \$4,000; clover seed, \$4,000. Our export buyers are making preparation for a much larger trade this season, for of late we have secured numerous enquiries from various outside points where no business has been done before. Four new consignments are contracted to Bristol, two for Manchester weekly, besides a new and important demand from Davis Packing House—100 head per week at a uniform price of \$4.50 per cwt. The shipment of Canadian apples to Great Britain this season have totalled 1,018,000 barrels. Last season the total exports were 715,000 barrels. Canadian stock is called as selling well at from 21 to 27 shillings per barrel. Toronto, Feb. 11, 1899.

Montreal Markets.

The severe cold weather did not prevent a large turnout of butchers at the East End Abattoir this forenoon, where there were offered for sale about 500 head of butchers' cattle, 60 calves and 40 sheep and lambs. Trade was much more active than on the last two markets, and prices remain about the same as then. Mr. George Nicholson bought six prime steers at 44c. per lb.; pretty good cattle sold at from 34c. to 44c., and the common stock at from 24c. to 34c. per lb. Several large bulls were sold at about 34c. per lb. Calves sold at from \$2.50 to \$10 each, or from 4c. to 5c. per lb. Sheep sold at about 34c. per lb., and lambs at from 44c. to 44c. per lb. Fat hogs sell at from 44c. to 44c. per lb. off the cars.