

MARKETS.

Toronto Markets.

Conditions show great improvement in general trade. At our markets business was very brisk at firm or advanced prices, especially in the hog department.

The run was large—1,114 cattle, 1,618 hogs, 284 sheep, and 120 calves.

Export Cattle.—The quality of export cattle was very good, several lots of very fine exporters being offered and sold readily.

Choice lots of cattle were sold at \$5.00 to \$5.25 per cwt. The bulk sold at \$4.75 to \$4.90 per cwt.

Mr. A. M. Buck purchased one load of export cattle, average 1,300 lbs. each, at \$5.25 per cwt. Messrs. Dunn bought five loads of export cattle, weighing 1,340 lbs. average, at \$5.20 per cwt. Mr. Wm. Levack bought 11 carloads of export cattle at prices ranging from \$4.60 to \$5.12 per cwt., average 1,300 lbs. each. Mr. W. H. Dean bought four carloads of exporters, 1,200 to 1,250 lbs. average, at \$5.15 per cwt.

Butchers' Cattle.—Choice picked loads of butchers' cattle, equal in quality to export, not so heavy, sold at \$4.30 to \$4.50, average weights 1,000 to 1,100 lbs. This is about 20c. advance on the last few weeks. Trade was brisk and prices held firm. Good and medium cattle sold at from \$3.50 to \$4.50 per cwt.—cows, heifers and steers. Common butchers' cattle sold at \$3.00 to \$3.50, while poor and inferior were hard to sell at \$3.50 to \$3.75 per cwt.

Mr. Alex. Levack bought one carload of best butchers' cattle, 1,150 lbs. average, at \$4.40 to \$4.60 per cwt., the top price for the day. Mr. B. Passmore, Elmstale, Ont., bought one load of mixed steers and heifers, 1,050 lbs. average, at \$4.25 per cwt.

Bulls.—Heavy export bulls, sold at \$4.35 per cwt. Light bulls sold at \$3.60 to \$3.70 per cwt. Mr. W. Levack bought one load of export bulls at from \$3.75 to \$4.35 per cwt. Mr. F. O'Boyle sold one bull, 1,300 lbs., at \$3.90 per cwt., re-sold at \$4 per cwt.

Feeders.—Only a few on offer. Steers weighing from 1,100 lbs. to 1,200 lbs. in good demand by farmers at \$4.25 to \$4.50 per cwt. Light feeders weighing 800 to 1,000 lbs. sold at \$3.80 to \$4 per cwt. Mr. W. H. Reid, Bowmanville, bought two loads of feeders at \$4.25 per cwt.

Stockers.—Yearling steers, 500 to 600 lbs. weight, in good demand; sold at \$3.25 to \$3.60 per cwt. Heifers, black, white and mixed colors, 500 lbs. average, sold at \$2.75 to \$3.25 per cwt. Mr. Wm. Murby shipped one car of feeders to London, Ont., paying \$4.25 per cwt.

Sheep.—Deliveries good, over 300 on offer. Prices steady, at \$3.50 to \$4.25, and \$3 to \$3.50 for bucks. Mr. Westley Dunn bought 200 sheep at \$4 per cwt., and 50 spring lambs at \$3.75 per head. Mr. S. H. Reynolds, Bowmanville, Ont., sold 25 sheep at \$4 per cwt., and three spring lambs at \$3.50 per cwt. Mr. A. McMurran, Orillia, Ont., sold 18 sheep at \$4 per cwt., 10 spring lambs at \$3.50.

Lambs.—Yearling lambs were steady, at \$4.50 to \$5.25; picked lot of ewes and wethers at \$5 to \$5.25 per cwt. Spring lambs in good demand, and wanted at \$2.50 to \$4 each.

Cattle.—In good demand, only 30 on offer, at from \$2 to \$8 per head. Mr. W. Dunn purchased 20 at an average of \$7 per head.

Milk Cows.—In fair supply, at from \$25 to \$50 per head. Mr. P. Holland bought one cow at \$32, a very choice milker. Mr. L. Jones paid \$34 for a choice milk cow. This is the top price at this market for some time.

Hogs.—The price brings supplies to this market; trade very good; demand still active; prices firm and advancing. To-day the price is \$6.37, with an advance of a York shilling next week, making the price \$7 per cwt. for choice sangers; that is, a hog 160 lbs. to 200 lbs., not above and not below these weights—long lean sangers, off ears, unfed or watered. There is only a slight advance in other sorts. Thick fats, \$6.37; light fat, under 160 lbs., \$6.25; corn fed, \$6; sows, \$3.75; stags, \$2; uncured car lots, as they run, \$6.75 per cwt. From each load of hogs that arrive in this market there are always a few stores and thin hogs. These are not wanted, and are culled at \$3.50 per cwt. Mr. W. I. Crowe, Tara, Ont., sold 67 hogs, selects, at \$6.57 per cwt.

Following table shows current and comparative prices for live stock:

Table with columns: Live stock, Extreme to-day, Two weeks ago, 1899 same date, 1898 same date. Rows include Export cattle, Butchers' cattle, Bulls, Feeders, Stockers, Sheep, Lambs, Hogs, Milk cows, Calves.

The export trade in cattle for the week ending June 7th, 1900, is as follows: cattle, 2,515; sheep, 767; horses, 400, for the British army.

Dressed Hogs.—There were 150 hogs offered at \$7.75 to \$8 per cwt. The following will give the comparative prices of dressed hogs for the years:—1882, \$8.07 per cwt.; 1883, \$7.03; 1884, \$5.30; 1885, \$5.90; 1886, \$7.30; 1887, \$7.80; 1888, \$4.80; 1889, \$6; 1893, \$6.

Wheat firmer; 650 bushels on offer, and sold as follows: 200 bushels white sold at 9c. to 70c. per bushel; 250 bushels of red sold at 6c. to 69c. per bushel; 200 bushels of goose sold at 7c. per bushel.

Barley quoted at 40c. One load sold at 41c. per bushel.

Oats.—200 bushels sold at 32c. to 33c. per bushel.

Peas scarce and wanted, at 59c. to 60c. per bushel.

Bran.—City mills quote bran at \$15.50, and shorts at \$16.50. f. o. b. Toronto.

Corn.—Canadian, 43c. per bushel; American quoted at 41c. on track.

Hides.—The market is not quite so firm; calfskins and wool are quoted at 1c. per lb. lower than two weeks ago. No. 1 green, per lb., 8c. to 9c.; No. 1 green steers, 8c. to 9c.; No. 2 green steers, 7c. to 8c.; No. 1 cured, 8c. to 8c.; calfskins, 7c. to 9c.; sheepskins, 80c. to \$1.20; lambskins, 20c.; wool, super, 17c. to 18c.; wool, super extra, 18c. to 21c.

Strawberries.—Mr. H. M. Bowslaugh, of St. Catharines, Ont., was the first arrival on this market with Canadian strawberries, purchased by Wm. White & Co., Front street. The fruit was in fine condition and brought 15c. per box. Eight cars of U. S. A. berries have been delivered in Toronto.

Hay.—The market firm, at \$10 to \$11.50, about 30 loads.

Stearns.—Very little on offer, in sheaf, at \$8.50 per ton.

Butter.—There is a good steady demand for best dairy butter for local trade. Dairy tubs, 13c. to 15c. for choice; small dairy pound prints, 15c. to 16c. per lb.; creamery pounds, at from 18c. to 19c. per lb.

Cheese.—On this market 10c. per lb.

June 11, 1900.

Lambton Co., Ont.

Meadows are looking well, the late showers proving most beneficial. Spring crops are exceptionally good. Winter wheat presents the poorest appearance it has done for years. The weather has been very unfavorable for rapid growth, and the fly is doing great damage. One farmer who put in 25 acres will reap little more than bread and seed, having plowed under a portion, and turned his stock into one large field. Redroot is getting very prevalent here. A number have plowed down wheat and meadows this spring to destroy it. A large acreage of beans has been planted.

Dr. Saunders' Trip to the West.

The Director of the Experimental Farms has returned from the West, where he has been inspecting the branch Experimental Farms at Brandon, Man.; Indian Head, N.-W. T.; and Agassiz, B. C.

On arrival at Agassiz, Dr. Saunders found the farm in very good condition. The grain crops were well advanced, wheat was 6 to 8 inches high, and barley and oats, which had been sown later, from 3 to 4 inches. Corn and roots were also well up and making thrifty growth. The clover was nearly ready to be cut for hay. The fruit crop was progressing satisfactorily. The early cherries were ripening, and the later ones well advanced. The cherry crop promises to be a good one. Apples and pears had set fairly well and will probably turn out an average crop. Some varieties of plums were heavily laden with fruit, while others were bearing very sparingly. On the whole, it is believed that the plum crop in the coast climate of British Columbia will be about an average one, and far in advance of that of last year. During the time of the Director's visit to Agassiz, the experimental orchards were gone carefully over, and were found to include in all more than 2,600 different sorts of large fruits. Arrangements are being made to shortly publish the list of these fruits, with the notes that have been taken on their quality, which no doubt, be of great value to the fruit-growers on the Pacific Coast. On May 24th, during the time of Dr. Saunders' visit, there was a large excursion from Vancouver to the Agassiz Farm, and he thus had the opportunity of meeting many of the residents of the Coast, who expressed their high appreciation of the useful work being done at this Experimental Farm. The ornamental grounds on the farm were in gay attire. The plum trees were in gorgeous bloom, the Laburnum thickly hung with their golden flower clusters, and the Magnolias were very handsome. The Weigela, Syringas and Deutzias were large in growth and covered with bloom, while the Hollies, Yews, the different species of Cypress and Spruce, and the highly-colored and gracefully-cut Japanese maples, all added to the beauty of the scene.

On the return journey, the branch Experimental Farm at Indian Head, Alberta, was visited. The grain crops here were found well advanced, but fields in exposed places had suffered considerably from wind storms. The drought also which prevailed all through the Northwest Territories and Manitoba had lessened the growth usually so rapid at this season. Under the influence of genial showers which fell about that time, the grain was fast recovering from the injury sustained, and no permanent damage to the crop was anticipated. The value of the forest shelter belts on this farm for protecting the grain from injury was very marked. It was found in this instance that a belt of trees about 15 feet in height protected the crop for about 750 feet; that is, about 50 feet for each foot in height. Trees and shrubs wintered well, and have made a vigorous growth this spring. At the Experimental Farm at Brandon, Man., the ornamental grounds were in good condition, and the general appearance of the collection to be taken into consideration in awarding the prizes.

The best collection of insects injurious to Canadian agriculture or horticulture, open to young men and women, 23 years or younger; certificate to be issued if required; method of mounting, labelling and general appearance of collection to be taken into consideration in awarding prizes.

Photography; open to all amateurs and professionals; the best and most artistic agricultural landscapes, showing one or more Massey-Harris machines at work in the picture.

Poultry, eggs, and birds, open to exhibitors by farmers' wives and daughters, and wives and daughters of exhibitors. Horses in a race, owned and ridden by farmers or farmers' sons, engaged exclusively in farming not less than 50 acres; to be shown in a walk, trot and gallop; \$50 divided.

Scout horses, to be ridden by members of the Canadian militia, rough riders, Mounted Police, or farmers' sons; rider to dismount and fire rifle over horse's back; remount and cause horse to recede; fire rifle over horse's back and remount; \$50 divided into three.

Architecture, for the best set of plans for farm barn, suitable for farm of 100 acres; building to cost \$800 to \$1,000; open to farmers, their wives, sons and daughters; \$50 divided into three.

Architecture, for the best set of plans for farmhouse, suitable for farm of 100 acres; building to cost \$2,000; open to farmers, their wives, sons and daughters; \$50 divided into three.

Grain, for the best collection, consisting of fall wheat (red or white), spring wheat, barley (6-rowed), barley (2-rowed), oats (black or white), and small field peas, all the growth of the exhibitor; two bushels of each; distinct from other entries.

Western Ontario Crop Prospects.

The frequent showers and warm weather of the past fortnight have had a wonderful effect on vegetation throughout most districts in Western Ontario, writes a correspondent who has made a short tour of the country. Farmers were just beginning to despair over the long-continued early drought when a moist, growthy season set in, since which the growth has been really phenomenal. With few exceptions, the meadows already promise a good yield, clover being well in bloom, and timothy is shooting up rapidly. Pastures are growing luxuriantly, which has a stimulating effect on the milk flow, and the nights being cool, and good water plentiful, factories have as yet had little trouble with tainted or sour milk. All the spring grains have made a grand start, and fall wheat has made greater improvement than promises to be below average. Large numbers of fields to the west will not, states our correspondent, yield half a crop, while others will probably come up to what would give the grower three-quarters of a satisfactory return, providing the price of wheat were to reach a decent figure. As it has been, it would pay better fed to decent figure. As it has been, it would pay better fed to decent figure. As it has been, it would pay better fed to decent figure.

Shipping Dressed Beef to Chicago.

A new experiment is being tried at the Union Stock Yards, Chicago. The International Packing Co., which owns and operates a plant in Sioux City, Ia., in addition to the one it has in Chicago, recently shipped a big lot of dressed beef and mutton from their Iowa house to Chicago, and the first day on sale 200 sides of beef and 200 sheep were disposed of at a profit sufficiently large to induce continued shipments. Talk about shipping coal to Newcasttle—that is shipping dressed beef to Chicago!

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT. Following table shows current and comparative live stock prices:

Table with columns: Live stock, Extreme prices now, Two weeks ago, 1899, 1898. Rows include Beef cattle, Hogs, Sheep, and various types of cattle and sheep.

The demand for feeding cattle for the past month has been confined mainly to the best qualities of steers of good breeding. Common and medium are 50c. per hundred lower than two weeks ago. The choice feeding steers sell at \$1.75 to \$3, and common down to \$1.

Fat cattle are selling remarkably well now, due to an excellent export demand. There is such a healthy tone to the trade that heavy receipts have failed to arrest the upward trend. Green grass fed cows are coming more freely as the summer months approach, and buyers have discounted prices about 40c. per hundred, sales being mainly at \$3.45 to \$4.40.

Reports from the West are to the effect that crops are in excellent condition, and stock are all looking fine. Farmers, as a whole, were never so prosperous.

Since warm weather has come there has been a much weaker demand for ewes, which have declined 40c. to 50c. this week.

The season for woolled Colorado lambs is about at an end. Their place is being taken by spring lambs from Kentucky, which are selling at \$7 to \$7.50.

Hog prices are now at a low point, but dealers expect values to go higher, as there is a strong demand for provisions, which have lately advanced.

Prices of live hogs are getting nearer those of product, and will get still nearer, says a packer. The cash trade in product is light. Other packers assert that they are having a good demand for product from the south.

Many dealers are advising feeders to hold their cattle for awhile, and not rush them in on the strength of the recent advance in prices. The scarcity of Texas cattle and the demand for good to choice 950 to 1,050 lb. native feeders has forced the prices of light and handy weight beef cattle up so that the spread between 1,000 to 1,100 lb. and 1,400 to 1,600 lb. beef cattle is narrower than usual.

A commission man who lately returned from the cattle grazing country of the Indian Territory says he expects a few cattle from the Territory to come to market during June, and for a general movement to set in early in July. He also expects the Territory to send in the usual number of cattle this year, for the reason that many were held over and wintered there.

Foot and Mouth Disease in Argentine.

The Review of the River Platte of April 21st, in reference to the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the Argentine Republic, says: "The passage of another week does not find very much definite news to record in regard to the epidemic which promises to do so immense an injury to the agrarian interests of the Republic. The disease, however, appears to be getting steadily a wider range, and it would be but little matter for surprise were it to spread over the whole of the country, although it is sincerely to be hoped that it may be possible to confine it to its area. The mildness of the nature of the disease, however, remains still noticeable, and while in foot and in mouth practically all the signs of the disease known by that name are present, it is remarkable that there are few, if any, cases recorded in which symptoms have made their appearance on the udders. It seems hard to believe that a disease which only made its appearance in January should have extended in so short a time over so wide an area, and it seems more probable that it has been lurking in some parts a good while longer, and while, if observed, some measures would doubtless be taken to cure the disease, there are too many instances where the appearance of the disease would not cause any alarm in the minds of either proprietor or major-domo." Regarding the scarcity of milk and the increase in the price of butter, which have occurred, our contemporary anticipates that more attention will in future be paid to dairying, and that an attempt will be made in the direction of producing a good "dual purpose" cow.

Guelph Cattle Fair.

The recent monthly June cattle fair at Guelph, Ont., was one of the largest held there in recent years, the grounds being taxed to their utmost capacity. Some twenty carloads or over were delivered. They were purchased principally as follows: Strachan, 3 loads; F. Barber, 1; White, 6; Murphy, Toronto, 2; W. Hamilton, 2; O'Neil, Elmira, 3; W. Green, Kingston, 1; McGraw, St. John's, and Hurley, 1; and probably one or two more. In addition to the foregoing, Barber & Simpson shipped a couple of double-deckers of pigs. The price of the exporters ran from 4c. to 5c.; butchers' cattle, about 4c. Live pigs brought from 6c. to 6c. Milk cows sold from \$30 to \$45. It is estimated that close on to \$25,000 changed hands for cattle, and close on to \$4,000 for pigs.

A Great Market.

Even those who are engaged in shipping to the Union Stock Yards, Chicago, cannot fail to be impressed with the tremendous vitality of the trade there and the gigantic outlet always open. "Too great to be glutted," is a terse comment recently made, which is well backed up by the following official statement: "Monday, May 14th, furnished a good demonstration of this fact when 25,791 cattle, 23,691 hogs, and 25,463 sheep, or a total of over 80,000 animals, arrived in one day, yet prices remain practically almost unchanged. No other live stock market in the world could have withstood such an enormous run in proportion without a disastrous break in prices. Not only were prices not materially changed on that day, but the markets of the following two days were strong and active, showing that Monday's heavy run produced no unfavorable effect on the week's market values.—Drovers' Journal.

The Future of Cattle.

The improvement in demand for cattle is due to two causes—an increasing population, on the one hand, of beef eaters, and a decreasing meat supply of cattle, hogs and sheep, on the other. There are 20,000,000 more beef eaters in the United States to-day than there were twelve years ago, and as these days are days of prosperity, the per capita of consumption is rapidly increasing. With this indisputable fact staring us in the face, we find the number of beef cattle in the country is smaller by 11,000,000 than it was twelve years ago. Population has increased 30 per cent.; cattle are being marketed at least one year younger than formerly, which in itself cuts down the supply considerably. From an address by Col. F. M. Woods at the Kansas City Hereford sale.