The Farmers' Market

WINNIPEG MARKET LETTER

(Office of the United Grain Growers Limited, December 29, 1917)

Oats—During the last two weeks prices have been gradually working higher, and at the close yesterday showed a gain of 5 cents for December futures, 4½ for May futures and 5½ for cash oats. There has been no very special feature to the markets, day by day, unless we mention the general lightness of offerings. This is more pronounced than the buying strength in the local market. There is also a very keen demand for oats for distribution in our own Western provinces, with indications that there may be considerable difficulty in supplying the needs of the districts that are short.

Barley markets have been influenced by strength in oats and corn markets, as well as a very good demand for all cash offerings. The use of the better grades to supplement wheat stocks will undoubtedly have a strengthening influence on prices.

Flax has been working a little higher, and while receipts have been fairly liberal, they have been readily taken. The buying has been of good class, so that the market is apparently in a healthy condition.

WINNIPEG FUTURES

	December 25	26	27	28	29	Week ago	Year ago
Oats—							
Dec.	82½	83½	84½	86½	80½	49½	
May	85½	84½	85½	86½	83½	53½	
Flax—							
Dec.	310½	309	311	318	304	258½	
May	311	311½	312	326	302	268	

CASH SALES, DEC. 27

OATS—No. 3 white, 2 cars, 79c; 1, 80c; 7, 78⅞c; No. 4, 1, 77⅞c; No. 3, 1, 79⅛c; 1, 78⅛c; No. 4 white, 2, 78⅛c; No. 3 white, 3, 78⅛c; 1, 78⅛c; mill, 1, 68c; standard white, 1, 79⅛c; No. 4 white, 1, 78⅛c; 2, 78c; No. 3 white, 1, 78c; mill, part car, 65c; standard white, 1 car, 81c; No. 3 white, 2, 78c.

RYE—No. 2, 2 cars, $1.85; No. 2, part car, $1.86; No. 2, 2 cars, $1.85; No. 2, 6,400 bu., $1.85; No. 2, 1 car, $1.85; No. 2, 59 sacks, $1.84; No. 2, 1 car, $1.88; No. 2, 2 part cars, $1.85; No. 2, 1 car, $1.85½.

BARLEY—No. 6, 2 cars, $1.40; No. 5, 3, $1.53; No. 4, 3, $1.58; 1, $1.60; 1, $1.52; No. 5, 1, $1.45; No. 4, 3, $1.55; No. 5, 1, $1.49; 1, $1.47; 1, $1.41; 1, $1.54; 1, $1.38; 1, $1.54; 1, $1.52; sample, 2, $1.51; 3, $1.58; 2, $1.55; 2, $1.57; 1, $1.32; 1, $1.56; 2, $1.52; 2, $1.50; 1, $1.47; 1, $1.45; 1, $1.38; 1, $1.44; 1, $1.53.

FLAX—No. 1, 1 car, $3.45; 1, $3.46½; 1, $3.46½; 1, $3.44; 1, $3.45½; 1, $3.44½; 1, $3.43½.

INTERIOR TERMINAL ELEVATOR STOCKS

Movement of grain in interior terminal elevators for the week ending Wednesday, December 26, was as follows:—

Elevator	Grain	Rec'd during week	Ship'd during week	Now in store
Moose Jaw	Wheat	5,656.10	5,618.40	27,282.40
"	Oats	36,673.18	20,377.22	473,398.26
"	Barley	.....	.....	1,663.02
"	Rye	.....	.....	1,066.04

MINNEAPOLIS GRAIN TRADE

Minneapolis, Dec. 24.—The varieties of grain showing an increase in the movement at the primaries of the Central West were corn, oats and barley, according to the Market Record. Wheat, rye and flax show a decrease. Taken altogether, there was a moderate increase in arrivals over last year in the corresponding week.

In the local market, corn declined about the middle of the week, but later advanced and closed the same as the close, a week ago. There was a decline of a few cents at Chicago and about 15 cents at Milwaukee. The demand for corn was very good during the week in the Northwest although purchasers were insistent on lower figures, but with the urgent demand, the market was well sustained in the latter part of the week. There was very little difference shown in quality arriving from that of the previous week; some cars of very moist corn came along and promised to come in quite liberally during the cold season. The soft corn is pushed ahead quite as freely as possible with only the purpose of moving it during the safer period of cold weather as rapidly as cars could be secured for its transportation.

Oats presented a general increase in arrivals at the primaries, above the same week of 1916. The Minneapolis market advanced about 2 cents. A small advance was made at the other primaries with the closing day firm and offerings freely disposed of, due to the general good quality.

The milling demand for rye was very good at the local mills and values very well sustained all around.

The barley market was sound, with millers picking it up for flour making very freely. On the last day, there was weakness in the lower grades of barley, with a few cents decline.

There was a sharp decline in flaxseed at Minneapolis, with only a moderate demand at the crushing mills. They held off the market for more satisfactory prices.

The wheat arrivals were not equal to the milling demand so much so that mills could run but a moderate capacity, not equalling the demand for the products. The quality of the arrivals in the Northwest was very well sustained.

The shipments to both United States and Canadian ports from Port Arthur and Fort William through the Great Lakes from Sept. 1, to the closing of the lakes on Dec. 14, in both Canadian and U. S. vessels, were 87,006,092 bushels of wheat; of these 46,376,480 bushels went to Canadian ports and 40,629,612 bushels to U. S. ports. The shipments of all other grains were 11,684,336 bushels of which 7,008,560 bushels were in U. S. vessels and 4,675,776 bushels in Canadian vessels, also 4,908,321 bushels went to U. S. ports and 6,815,813 bushels to Canadian ports.

SCREENINGS ORDERS IN ALBERTA

The Alberta Department of Agriculture is co-operating with the federal government by undertaking to receive applications for supplies of feed, and to attend to its distributions. It is available only in car lots, either to individuals or co-operative groups, co-operative groups may be such farmers organizations as the United Farmers' Associations, the Agricultural Societies or any other group which may co-operate simply for the purpose of securing these supplies. Shipments will be made on usual feed terms, namely: sight draft attached to bill-of-lading. Accepted cheque for $100 which will be returned on completion of the sale must be sent with order. Applications may be made to J. D. Smith, Superintendent Seed and Weed Branch, Department of Agriculture, Edmonton, Alberta.

CORN UNMATURED

Chicago, Dec. 26.—A great many in the trade, especially the local men, are inclined to be bullish on corn and oats on breaks. They have tried the short side without success, and concluded that until there is a larger movement of grain it is too dangerous to sell on dips, as the markets have a disposition to rally too rapidly when any buying appears and pressure is removed. A few of the largest commission houses regard the short interest well eliminated and predict a break Wednesday. Several, however, said the underlying conditions were too strong to be ignored and look for a bulge to follow any sharp drop in values.

Immense loss of corn in cribs on farms is predicted by a well-known Illinois grain handler, who is also a farmer. The corn never matured, and the shell is very soft. He believes that the full extent of the damage will not be appreciated until next spring.

FLAX CABLE

Liverpool, Dec. 26.—Argentine weather clear and mild, which is favorable for the movement. Arrivals at ports are increasing. Market displays a hardening tendency, with export demand broadening.

U.S. MILLS MAKE WAR FLOUR

Minneapolis flour mills will start grinding flour after Dec. 25 under new regulations prescribed by the milling division of the federal food administration, announced in New York yesterday.

The color of the new flour will be slightly darker, but the flour will be just as wholesome as the present product, according to Charles C. Bovey, vice president of the Washburn-Crosby Co.

High grade patent flours which have been known by widely recognized trade marks will not be made after Dec. 25, but the trade marks probably will be retained by most milling companies on the new "war flour."

Manufacture of "war flour" will be the result of the ruling of the milling division which established the wheat content of flour.

The rulings will hardly be noticed in the comparatively slight change it will make in the high grade product of the flour mills. It simply means the color of the flour will be slightly darker. The rule is made effective as a matter of conservation. It provides that the amount of flour made from a certain quantity of wheat will be greater and therefore an economy secured.

The change by no means makes a dark war flour, but on the other hand does put into the flour certain parts of the wheat that have before been allowed to escape consumption. Flour will be just as wholesome and the bread just as sweet and appetizing.

John S. Pillsbury, vice president of the Pillsbury Flour Mills Co., said the company had received no orders prescribing how much wheat should be used in making flour. Limiting the number of pounds of wheat used, however, would give flour a darker color, he asserted.

WORLD CROP SUMMARY

A general idea of crop production the world over may be had from the report of the International Institute of Agriculture, which includes the principal countries. Six of ten staple commodities show an increase for 1917 over average production for the period 1911-1915. These commodities are corn, oats, rice, sugar beets, potatoes and tobacco. The four crops showing a decrease from average production are wheat, rye, barley and flaxseed.

It is interesting to note that the decrease of 14.4 per cent. in the wheat crop is compensated by the 14.1 per cent. increase in corn, which is the principal substitute of wheat.

WINNIPEG and U.S. PRICES

Closing prices on the principal western markets on Thursday, December 27, were:—

Cash Grain	Winnipeg	Minneapolis
3 white oats	$0.80½	$0.77½-$0.78½
Barley	1.37½	1.39 - 1.52
Flax, No. 1	3.00	3.38½-3.41½

AVERAGE HOG WEIGHTS

Following are average weights of hogs at the markets named below for the periods mentioned as compiled by Clay, Robinson & Co., Chicago:

	Nov. 1917	Oct. 1917	Nov. 1916
Chicago	209	212	195
Kansas City	198	195	172
Omaha	260	257	224
St. Joseph	234	233	205
Sioux City	226	231	196
St. Paul	163	169	181
Denver	215	210	185
Fort Worth	180	172	171
General average	211	210	196

CARLOAD FAT CATTLE CHAMPIONS

Grand championship winners on carlot fat cattle at International Shows were as follows. The name of the owner, year, breed and the price per 100 pounds that these cattle sold by auction are given:

Year	Owner	Breed	Price
1917	E. P. Hall	Angus	$42.50
1916	E. P. Hall	Angus	28.00
1915	Show called off		
1914	Show called off		
1913	Esther & Ryan	Angus	13.25
1912	E. P. Hall	Angus	14.00
1911	Esther & Ryan	Angus	15.75
1910	E. P. Hall	Angus	13.50
1909	Oglesby & Keays	Shorthorn	15.00
1908	Funk Bros.	Angus	11.00
1907	C. Krambeck	Angus	8.00
1906	Funk Bros.	Angus	17.00
1905	C. Krambeck	Angus	9.65
1904	C. Krambeck	Angus	10.50
1903	W. F. Herrin	Hereford	8.35
1902	Esther & Ryan	Angus	14.50
1901	Dan Black	Hereford	12.00
1900	L. H. Kerrick	Angus	15.50

IMPORTATION OF HORSES FROM U.S.A.

J. R. Mosiman of Mosiman Bros., Guernsey, Sask. breeders and importers of Percheron and Belgian horses has just returned from the States where he has purchased a car load of pure bred mares and stallions among which are Beauty's Clean Sweep 5394, a sorrel Belgian mare, which won first prize in the futurity class at the Chicago Internations in 1916; Ilsetta, a sister of Beauty's Clean Sweep and both in foal to Fox DeFurnes who stood fourth at the Chicago International, and is a brother of Bismark de Vlad; Charlotte and Cordine, a pair of Belgian fillies hard to beat; also Pet Taylor and Monee, a pair of Black Percheron mares weighing nearly a ton; Tam O'Shanter, a coach horse, two years old, which stood first in his class wherever shown, including the Chicago International in 1917. Tam O'Shanter is an outstanding individual and should be a valuable asset to Saskatchewan.

FARMERS' EXCHANGE FAILS

The Farmers' and Gardeners' Produce Exchange Ltd. of Winnipeg has suspended business, its assets being much below its liabilities. No more produce should be shipped to this concern. Any readers of The Guide who have not received payment for shipments made should notify The Guide at once, giving date of shipment, description of produce, weight and approximate value. All such accounts will be placed in the hands of The Guide's solicitors for protection.

FRANCE SHORT OF FOOD

Paris, Dec. 25.—The food needs and resources of France for the coming nine months were dealt with by Victor Boret, minister of provisions, in a statement before the senate last week. He pointed out that there was a deficit of 36,000,000 hundred-weight in wheat.

"The United States and England will only give us tonnage to supply this deficit if we ration strictly," said the minister. "For the civilian population I have a stock of only 607,000 hundred-weight, or three weeks' consumption. Oats are no better, and the rations of animals must be reduced.

"France's new bread ration still remains larger than that of many enemy, neutral and allied countries. The situation in Italy is so critical that I had on one occasion to supply wheat to the Italian government, and was glad to do it. I am considering new regulations for potatoes." In conclusion he expressed his determination to bring about an intensification of production as well as to enforce the department's restrictions.

MORE CLYDES FOR CANADA

John Graham, Carberry, Manitoba, Canada, had shipped to him from Scotland recently a lot of seven well-bred Clydesdale horses. All but one have been got from Matthew Marshall, Bridgebank, Stranraer. The senior of the lot is the well-known Prince of Balcairn (17430), foaled in 1910. He is by the Cawdor Cup champion Scotland Yet (14839), out of Bedella by the celebrated Baron's Pride (9122). One of the best of the lot is the stylish black horse Noss Seaforth (19214), rising four years old. He is up to a big size, with capital legs and feet, and very gay on parade. Another horse of the same age is Dundurn Buchlyvie (18695). He too is of fashionable breeding, being got by the double champion Bonnie Buchlyvie (16895), out of the good mare Annie's Favourite by Royal Favourite (10630). Meddler (18018) is rising seven years old. He is a big-bodied sire which will no doubt suit the Canadian trade. Another well-bred one is Mailbag, and there are two other big good useful horses.

Fixed Wheat Prices

	1*	2*	3*	4*	5*	6*	Tf1	Tf2	Tf3
Fixed	221	218	215	208	196	187	21[illegible]	212	207
Year ago	174½	171½	166½	155½	132½	104½	..	..	..

Cash Prices Fort William and Port Arthur, December 26 to December 29 inclusive

Date	Feed Wheat	OATS 2CW	3 CW	Ex 1 Fd	1 Fd.	2Fd	BARLEY 3 CW	4CW	Rej.	Feed	FLAX 1 NW	2CW	3 CW
Dec. 25		CHR	ISTM	AS	D	AY							
26	170	83½	79½	79½	76½	73½	137½	132½	117	117	310½	307½	290½
27	170	84½	80½	80½	77½	74½	137½	132½	117	117	309	306	289
28	170	85½	81½	81½	78½	75½	138	133	117	117	311	308	291
29	170	85½	81½	81½	79½	73½	138	133	117	117	318½	315	...
Week ago	170	81	77½	77½	76½	73½	135	130	116	116	304½	301	284
Year ago	90	54½	51½	51½	...	...	98	93	73	73	258½	255½	237½

LIVESTOCK	Winnipeg Dec. 29	Winnipeg Year ago	Toronto Dec 26	Calgary Dec. 28	Chicago Dec. 27	St. Paul Dec. 20
	$ c $ c	$ c $ c	$ c $ c	$ c $ c	$ c $ c	$ c $ c
Cattle						
Choice steers	9 00-10.50	7 75-8 50	11 50-12 50	.....	14 50-16.50	11.50-15.00
Best Butcher steers	8 00-9 00	7 25-7 75	9 50-11 00	8 25-9 50	11 25-14 25	10 00-11 50
Fair to good butcher steers	5.50-8 00	6 50-7 00	7 75-9 50	7 25-8 25	8 75-11 00	7 00-10 00
Good to choice fat cows	7 00-8 25	6.00-6.50	9 00-9.50	7 25-8 25	9.00-11 00	7 00-8.50
Medium to good cows	6.50-7.25	4.75-5 75	7 25-8.75	7 00-7 25	8.00-9 00	6 00-6.75
Common cows	5 50-6 50	4 00-4.50	7 00-8 25	6 00-6 75	6.15-7 50	5 50-5.75
Canners	4 00-5.50	3 00-3 75	4 75-5 50	3 25-5 00	5 50-5.75	5 00-5.50
Good to choice heifers	7 50-8.75	6 75-7 25	9 00-10 00	7 25-9 00	9 00-12 00	7 00-8.50
Fair to good heifers	6 50-7.25	6.00-6.50	7 00-9.00	6 00-7 25	5.75-9.00	5.50-7 00
Best oxen	7 50-8 00	5.75-6.50	.....	7 00-8 00	.....	7 00-8 00
Best butcher bulls	6 00-7 25	5 35-6 25	8.00-9 25	6 00-6.75	8 25-11.00	7 00-8.00
Common to bologna bulls	5.50-6 75	4 25-5.25	6 25-7 25	5 00-6 00	6.75-8 00	5 50-7.00
Fair to good feeder steers	7.50-8 00	5.00-6 25	8 00-9 25	7 00-9 00	8.50-10 20	8 00-10.00
Fair to good stocker steers	5.50-7.50	5.50-6.50	7.50-8.75	7.00-8.00	6.50-9.50	6.00-7.00
Best milkers and springers (each)	$75-$90	$65-$85	$90-$125	$75-$90	.....	.....
Fair milkers and springers (each)	$50-$65	$45-$55	$65-$85	$70-$75	.....	.....
Hogs						
Choice hogs, fed and watered	18.25 -	11.15	17.75-18.00	17.85	16 00-17 00	16 00-16.75
Light hogs	14 00	8.00-9.00	.....	.....	16.20-16 80	.....
Heavy sows	12 00-14 00	8.00	.....	.....	16.25-16.60	.....
Stags	8.00-10.00	5.50	.....	.....	16.00-17.10	.....
Sheep and Lambs						
Choice lambs	10 00-15.00	11 00-12.25	15.00-17.50	9.00-14 00	13.00-16.65	12.00-16 00
Best killing sheep	8.00-12.00	9 00-9.50	7.50-14.00	10.50-13.00	7.00-13.00	7.00-14.00

The Livestock Markets

WINNIPEG

Winnipeg, Dec. 29.—The run of cattle has been lighter this week than for any of the last 10 weeks. It is between the season for the run of grass cattle and stall fed stuff which has not yet begun to reach the market. It seems likely that prices will be much better following the holidays for the higher grades of stock. Poor stuff has not been selling as good as formerly. The demand for feeders is very strong and few are now reaching this market.

The hog run for this week was very light and with more eastern competition prices were strong, closing the week at $18.25 fed and watered.

CALGARY

Calgary, Dec. 28.—With the receipt of but 5 cars of hogs and no cattle arriving at the local stockyards, the trading today was light, though prices for hogs was not only maintained, but went to new high levels for recent buying. One large lot was sold at $18.10. The lowest price paid was for a poorer grade, which went at $17.50. Cattle prices were the same.

The extreme weather conditions which have prevailed throughout the whole West is responsible for the light receipts, but local livestock men look for large receipts with the arrival of warmer weather.

Country Produce	Winnipeg Dec. 28	Winnipeg Year ago	Calgary Dec. 6
Butter (per lb.)			
No. 1 dairy	40c	35c	40c
Eggs (per doz.)			
New laid	60c	50c	50c
Potatoes			ton
In sacks, per bushel	90c	80c	$30.00
Milk and Cream			
Sweet cream per lb. fat	55c	50c	....
Cream for butter-making (per lb. butter-fat)	45c	43c	....
Dressed Poultry			
Fowl (Yearlings)	16c	14c	15c-17c
Chickens	18c	17c	14c-15c
Ducks	20c	17c	20c-25c
Turkeys	27c	23c	14c-15c
Geese	18c	16c	
Hay (per ton)			
No. 1 Timothy	$20-$30	$15	$17
No. 1 Midland	$14-$20	$10	
No. 1 Upland	$20	.....	$13-$15