

MARKET REVIEW AND FORECAST.

Office of FARMING,
44 and 46 Richmond street west,
January 16, 1899.

The general trade situation is good. Country merchants have more money, and though trade, so far, has been good they are looking forward to even better trade when farmers begin to bring forward the grain that is still in the country. The Americans have also begun the new year under most auspicious prospects, so that the business situation all over this continent is good.

Wheat.

The wheat markets are somewhat unsettled, and grain dealers are more or less puzzled as to what the future will be. Western prices have been fluctuating within a narrow range lately, and but little pronounced advance in value has taken place during the week. The *Cincinnati Price Current* of January 12th, says, "In regard to wheat, the offerings are not being maintained, and the situation is one of indicated strength, with chances favoring a turn toward a higher position of values. It may be observed that the trade sentiment has had the influence of a recognized perfect promise for the new crop—so that all forces from this source have been availed of, and any change must necessarily be from the standpoint of a less promising outlook."

The situation, generally speaking, is considered strong. The Argentine crop is about the only factor that may change the present trend of things. A big crop is reported there, but until it begins to come forward, which will be soon, its real effect upon the market will not be known. So far countries buying wheat have taken it from America. The following extract from *Bradstreet's* gives some idea of the stocks in sight in America and Europe on January 1st: "The entire American stock on January 1st is over 4,500,000 bushels smaller than at this time a year ago, 11,000,000 bushels smaller than in 1897, 48,000,000 bushels smaller than in 1896, and 71,000,000 smaller than on January 1, 1895, which marked about the maximum of recent years. European stocks, too, are the lightest reported in January since 1892, being 8,700,000 bushels smaller than a year ago, 27,000,000 bushels smaller than on January 1, 1897, and 39,000,000 bushels smaller than on January 1, 1894, at which date the total stocks were within a few million bushels of the largest ever held in Europe. The combined European and American stocks on January 1 were smaller by 13,000,000 bushels than a year ago, 37,000,000 bushels smaller than on January 1, 1897, 75,000,000 bushels less than in 1896, 86,000,000 bushels below the 1895 stock and 93,000,000 bushels less than the total held on January 1, 1894. The European markets have been a little weaker during the week. Deliveries in Canada have been light, but millers do not seem to have the difficulties in getting supplies that they had a few weeks ago. The offerings have been light here, and prices are unchanged at 69 to 69½c. for red and white west, but exporters will not pay these figures. Goose wheat is quoted at 70c., and Manitoba No. 1 hard at 80 to 81c., Toronto. On the local market red and white brings from 72 to 74½c.; spring sif 71 to 71½c., and goose at 71c.

Oats and Barley

There has been more enquiry for oats for export as well as locally. Oats in store at Montreal are quoted at 32c. The quotations here are 29 to 30c. west. On the local market they bring about 34c. per bushel. There is but little doing in barley and prices are a shade lower at 46 to 47c. west.

Peas and Corn.

Peas are firm and in good demand. In store at Montreal they are worth 70c. and are firm here at 66c. north and west. On the local market they bring from 59 to 66c. per bushel.

Corn is not moving very rapidly at American points, and there is a tendency to hold, as it is reported that feed is likely to be scarce in the west before spring. American old is quoted here at 45½c., and new American at 42½ to 43½c. on track. Canadian yellow is quoted at 36c. in car lots, but these are very hard to get.

Bran and Shorts.

Ontario winter wheat bran is quoted at Montreal at \$14 to \$14.50, and shorts at \$14 to \$15 in bulk. Here city mills sell bran at \$14 and shorts at \$15 in car lots f.o.b. Toronto.

Clover and Timothy Seeds.

On the local market here red clover is quoted at \$3.50 to \$4.00; white clover, \$6 to \$9; alsike, \$4 to \$5; and timothy seed at \$1.25 to \$1.35 per bushel.

Eggs and Poultry

The demand at Montreal has been more for No. 1 candled or lime stock and quotations are 28 to 30c. for new laid, and 17c. for straight candled. Eggs are in good demand here, and the market is firm at 20 to 22c. for choice new laid, which are scarce, and 16 to 18c. for held stock.

Though the demand for dressed poultry at Montreal has slackened somewhat, quotations have not changed much, and are 9 to 10c. for fine turkeys; 7 to 8c. for ducks; 5 to 6½c. for geese; and 6 to 7c. for chickens. There is a fair demand here especially for chickens, and the market is steady at 8 to 10c. for turkeys; 6 to 6½c. per lb. for geese; 40 to 70c. per pair for ducks; and 25 to 50c. for chickens.

Potatoes.

Potatoes at Montreal bring 55c. per bag in car lots, and 65c. out of store. Cars of choice on track here bring about 60c., and out of store 65 to 70c. per bag. They bring from 60 to 70c. per bag on the local market.

Hay and Straw.

The local hay trade is very dull at Montreal, and there is not much doing for export. Quotations are \$6 to \$7 for No. 1 baled hay, and \$4.25 for No. 2. The demand is slow here, and cars on track are quoted at \$7 to \$7.50. Baled straw is quoted at \$4.50 to \$5 in car lots. On the local market timothy hay is quoted at \$9.50 to \$11 and clover at \$6 to \$9 per ton.

Cheese.

The demand for cheese since the holidays has been very light at Montreal, and the advance in the market a few weeks ago is barely held, though the cable quotation for white and colored remains steady at 49s. 6d. There is a kind of deadlock in the market, holders being very firm and buyers declining to come forward to meet the prices asked. Fine westerns are quoted there at 10½ to 10¾c., and easterns at 9¾ to 10¼c. per lb. It is

stated that finest westerns were offered at 10c. during the week, which shows quite a falling off in values.

Butter.

The creamery butter market is a little easier. Finest creamery is quoted at Montreal at 19½ to 20c. One dealer offered a lot of winter-made creamery in tubs at 19c. There seems, however, to be a good enquiry for creamery boxes at 19½ to 20c. There seems to be a better feeling on the New York market. In regard to this the New York *Journal of Commerce* says: Some of the large buyers that have been holding off for the past two days became convinced this morning, under the influence of light receipts, that the market was on a pretty substantial basis, and they took hold with some freedom. This has seemed to change the tone of the market somewhat, and a steady to firm holding was noted on high-grade goods.

The market here is somewhat quiet and the receipts are chiefly creamery and large dairy rolls. Creamery is steady at 20 to 21c. for prints, and 19 to 20c. for tubs. Choice dairy prints are somewhat scarce and prices are 15 to 16c. per lb. Large rolls are quoted at 13 to 15c., and choice tubs at 13 to 15c. Pound prints on the local market bring from 14 to 21c., and large rolls 13 to 14c.

Cattle.

A firmer feeling has set in in the British cattle markets. Canadian steers were quoted at 11 to 11¼c. at Liverpool, while some of the best States steers were quoted at 12c. The American markets, and especially Chicago, have been dull, chiefly due to the inferior quality of the stock offered. The market here has been fairly active, with the prices of the week well maintained.

Export Cattle.—Choice heavy ones of good quality bring from \$4.40 to \$4.62½, and light ones \$4 to \$4.25 per cwt. Choice heavy export bulls are worth from \$3.75 to \$4.12½, and medium ones \$3.37½ to \$3.50 per cwt.

Butchers' Cattle.—Choice picked lots of these, equal in quality to the best exporters, and weighing from 1,050 to 1,150, are scarce, and bring from \$4 to \$4.25. Good butchers' cattle bring from \$3.65 to \$3.87½, and medium from \$3.35 to \$3.50 per cwt.

Stockers and Feeders.—Prices for stockers remain about the same at \$3 for inferior to \$3.40 for good, with \$3.50 for a few picked lots. A few heavy feeders are being offered, for which prices are \$3.50 to \$3.60 for common to good, and \$3.65 to \$3.75 for extra choice quality.

Calfes.—These have been in fair supply at Buffalo of late, with a good demand. Very few are being offered here, and prices remain at \$3 to \$6 each, with \$5 per cwt. for choice veals.

Milk Cows.—There have been quite a few offered, but generally of inferior to medium quality. Quotations are from \$25 to \$38 each, with some choice extra milkers bringing as high as \$50.

The same thing over and over again. Read what the AMERICAN has done this time.

WILL PAY ITSELF IN 4 MONTHS

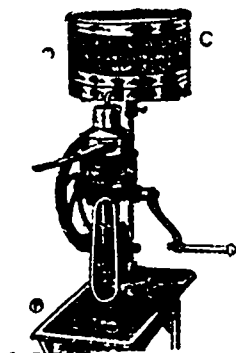
BLYTHESWOOD, ONT., JUNE 8TH, 1898.

MESSRS. RICHARDSON & WEBSTER,
St. Mary's, Ont.

DEAR SIRS,—Enclosed find settlement for the Separator and oil received from you on May 28th. I placed the Separator on trial with Mr. S. D. Wilkinson, Leamington, and after 4 days he bought it. He is perfectly satisfied. I have tested the skim milk several times for him and it has never shown more than a trace of butter fat. I consider it a perfect machine in every respect and would like to act as your agent in this part of the county. Mr. Wilkinson is one of the most prominent dairymen around here. He says he will save enough in butter to pay for the Separator in 4 months. Yours truly, (Signed) F. A. LEAK.

Write RICHARDSON & WEBSTER, St. Mary's, Ont., for Catalogue and Prices. It will pay you to have a Separator as well as others.

W. G. GLENN, Agent for Owen Sound and vicinity



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ST. MARY'S, ONT