The Farmers' Market

WINNIPEG MARKET LETTER

(Office of The Grain Growers' Grain Company Limited, April 30, 1917)

From the closing price for May wheat on April 21 to the high point touched on Saturday there was an advance of 47¼ cents. The continued soaring of future prices had been giving the council of the exchange considerable alarm for some time. While a world's shortage was no doubt a factor in the advance, there was also a local condition of string influence. The large percentage of lower grades in the wheat crop of Canada last year has been hedged in the usual way by the various elevator interests. Difficulties of railway transportation and late opening of navigation have made it impossible to get grain out to deliver on contracts, and the preference of the allied governments have caused the future prices to advance out of proportion to the lower grades. Daily offerings have become very small, and there seemed no obstacle to a continued wild advance. The council therefore decided to make an effort to steady prices and prevent any unfair advantage being taken of the existing conditions. With this object it was announced on Saturday a board of censorship was being established whose authority would have to be secured before the execution of any trade or order. This appeared to have the intended effect of limiting trading to transactions relating to cash wheat, and the future prices declined sharply, after the sensational advances of the morning.

WINNIPEG FUTURES

	May	July	Oct.
Wheat—			
April 24	246¾	237¾	186
April 25	258¾	247¾	194
April 26	255¾	244	190
April 27	268¾	255	195¼
April 28	267	247¾	189
April 30	268¾	249	192¼
Week ago	237¾	230	199¾
Year ago	119¼	120	117¾
Oats—			
April 24	71	68¼	
April 25	73	70¼	
April 26	73¼	70	
April 27	73¼	70¼	
April 28	71¼	68¾	
April 30	71¼	68¾	59
Week ago	67¼	65¼	
Year ago	46	45¾	42¼
Flax—			
April 24	299	301	
April 25	302	303	
April 26	305¼	307	
April 27	304	305	
April 28	306¼	306¼	
April 30	304	304	
Week ago	297¾	299¼	
Year ago	180¾	183¼	

MINNEAPOLIS CASH SALES

(Sample Market, April 27.)

No. 1 hard wheat, 1 car	$2 88¼
No. 1 Nor. wheat, 1 car	2 84
No. 1 Nor. wheat, part car	2 79¼
No. 1 Nor. wheat, 1 car	2 81¼
No. 1 Nor. wheat, 1 car	2 86¼
No. 1 Nor. wheat, 1 car	1 79¾
No. 1 Nor. wheat, 1 car	2 80¼
No. 1 Nor. wheat, 1 car	2 76¼
No. 2 Nor. wheat, 1 car, B.H.	2 68¾
No. 2 Nor. wheat, 1 car	2 74¼
No. 2 Nor. wheat, 1 car	2 61
No. 2 Nor. wheat, 1 car	2 66¼
No. 2 Nor. wheat, 1 car	2 73¼
No. 3 wheat, 1 car, B.H.	2 69¼
No. 3 wheat, 1 car	2 70¼
No. 3 wheat, 1 car	2 66¼
No. 3 wheat, 1 car	2 69
No. 3 wheat, 1 car	2 68¼
No. 3 wheat, 1 car	2 67¼
No. 3 wheat, 1 car	2 71¼
No. 3 wheat, 1 car	2 63
Sample grade wheat, 1 car	1 75
Sample grade wheat, 1 car	2 00
Sample grade wheat, 1 car	2 01¼
Sample grade wheat, 1 car	1 80
Sample grade wheat, 1 car	1 78¼
Sample grade wheat, 1 car	2 14
Sample grade wheat, 1 car	2 45
No. 3 durum wheat, 1 car, B.H.	2 24¼
No. 4 durum wheat, 1 car	2 11¼
No. 3 durum wheat, 1 car	2 39
No. 4 mixed durum wheat, 1 car	2 13¼
No. 4 durum wheat, 1 car	2 00
No. 4 durum wheat, 1 car	1 98
No. 4 wheat, 1 car	2 22
No. 4 wheat, 1 car	2 48¼
No. 4 wheat, 1 car	2 52
No. 4 wheat, 1 car	2 39
No. 4 wheat, 1 car	2 38
No. 4 wheat, 1 car	2 42¼
Mixed grade oats, 3 cars	72¼
Mill oats, 1 car	65¼
No. 3 white oats, 1 car, G.N.	72¼
Mill oats, 1 car	62¼
No. 3 white oats, 2 cars	72
No. 4 white oats, 1 car	73
No. 6 barley, 1 car, thin	1 27
No. 6 barley, 1 car	1 25
Sample barley, 1 car	1 33
Sample barley, 1 car	1 32
No. 5 barley, 1 car	1 40
No. 6 barley, 1 car	1 42
No. 6 barley, 1 car	1 36
No. 1 flax, 1 car, dockage	3 36
No. 1 flax, 20 sacks	3 20
No. 1 flax, part car	3 35¼
No. 1 flax, 1 car, elevator	3 30
No. 1 flax, 1 car, dockage	3 37¼

STOCKS IN TERMINALS

Fort William, April 27, 1917 —

This Year		Last Year	
1 hard	15,007 20		68,794 50
1 Nor.	2,098,306 10		6,137,711 00
2 Nor.	3,936,538 40		3,775,972 30
3 Nor.	3,909,243 00		2,648,007 20
No. 4	3,449,814 20		1,552,983 50
Others	9,862,970 10		3,137,852 00
This week	23,271,879 40	This week	17,321,421 30
Last week	23,176,490 40	Last week	27,693,999 40
Increase	95,389 40	Decrease	10,372,578 10
Oats			
1 C.W.	17,711 22		93,613 31
2 C.W.	2,472,609 05		3,605,734 17
3 C.W.	801,584 26		1,386,105 03
Ex. 1 fd.	1,255,254 18		606,480 29
Others	4,846,941 20		2,162,103 08
This week	9,394,159 23	This week	7,854,007 20
Last week	9,378,497 19	Last week	9,352,632 16
Decrease	184,337 30	Decrease	498,644 30
Barley		**Flaxseed**	
3 C.W.	220,852 16	1 N.W.C.	1,156,981 14
4 C.W.	609,924 46	2 C.W.	328,108 11
Rej.	83,184 04	3 C.W.	95,151 16
Feed	377,391 20	Others	52,637 27
Others	126,077 04		
This week	1,317,459 42	This week	1,632,878 12
Last week	1,311,171 28	Last week	1,619,272 22
Increase	6,288 14	Increase	13,605 46

SHIPMENTS

	1917—Lake	1916—Lake
Wheat		12,158,843 30
Oats		2,182,039 22
Barley		102,204 18
Flax		67,086 46
	1917—Rail	**1916—Rail**
Wheat	459,315 30	596,119 50
Oats	631,431 05	350,376 22
Barley	25,112 46	
Flax	9,838 15	1,100 00

CANADIAN VISIBLE SUPPLY

Week ending April 27, 1917 —

	Wheat	Oats	Barley
Ft. William and Pt. Arthur Ter.	23,271,879	9,394,159	1,317,459
In Vessels in Can. Ter. Harbors	80,245	101,331	.....
Total	24,913,398	11,495,708	1,538,265
At Buffalo and Duluth	5,801,000	3,758,000	456,917
Total this week	30,714,398	15,653,708	1,995,182
Total last week	32,765,395	16,019,298	2,168,452
Total last year	26,991,816	11,916,153	2,373,093

INTERIOR TERMINAL ELEVATOR STOCKS

Movement of grain in interior terminal elevators for the week ending Wednesday, April 25, was as follows —

Elevator	Grain	Rec'd during week	Ship'd during week	Now in store
Saskatoon	Wheat	281,189.00	419,969.20	1,463,935.00
"	Oats	66,542.02	121,196.22	541,767.06
"	Barley	943.20	1,525.20	35,711.19
"	Flax	20,479.44	.....	197,176.00
Moose Jaw	Wheat	129,581.30	52,777.40	2,162,909.20
"	Oats	15,598.00	27,890.22	744,902.04
"	Barley	.....	.....	22,431.15
"	Flax	2,873.29	.....	107,110.54

WINNIPEG and U.S. PRICES

Closing prices on the principal western markets on Friday, April 27, were —

Cash Grain	Winnipeg	Minneapolis
1 Nor. wheat	$2 57	$2 74 - $2 80
2 Nor. wheat	2 52	2 70 - 2 80
Nor. wheat	2 47	2 60 - 2 72
3 white oats	73¼	.71½ - .73½
Barley	1.00-1.23	1.18 - 1.51
Flax, No. 1	3.03¼	3 28 - 3 34
Futures—		
May wheat	2 68¼	2 56
July wheat	2 55	2 32¼

The Livestock Markets

CHICAGO

Chicago, April 26.—Except on very special grades, cattle prices have generally declined 25 to 50 cents on this market during the last week. Rush has resulted in a falling off of receipts which again must result in an increase of prices. Not over 5 per cent. of the cattle crop reaching the market are weighing over 1,300 pounds. Most of the steers are 1,100 to 1,200 pounds and sell at from $10.25 to $11.75, according to finish. There have been an enormous number of little cattle weighing from 600 to 900 pounds on the market in the last two weeks. A lot of this liquidation is attributed to the enormous advance in corn. Much of this stuff would normally have been carried on into the summer, but with corn over $1.50 now farmers will not take any chances.

About 75,000 calves will reach this market in April which is a record run. 85 per cent. will weigh around or under 100 pounds. Packers are buying them at $11.00 to $12.00 per hundred. It is interesting to note that beef-bred calves are very scarce. Few promising heifer calves are to be found amongst all this lot. Poor quality cows fit for the canning and cutting trade have established phenomenal prices. Bologna bulls are worth $8.25 to $9.00. There has been very heavy mortality among north-western cattle throughout Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. Cattle are thin. Sheep losses have also been heavy.

A heavy run of hogs early in the week cut the price from $16.00 to $15.40 and $15.80. The high corn conditions are forcing a lot of light hogs to market, all of which must result in further higher prices later on. A year ago No. 1 hogs were worth $9.95 to $10.00.

WINNIPEG

Winnipeg, April 27.—The Livestock Department of The Grain Growers' Grain Co. reports receipts at the Union stockyards for last week as follows: Cattle, 2,180; calves, 253; sheep and lambs, 6; hogs, 3,300.

Receipts of cattle the past week were fairly liberal and included a good proportion of finished stall fed cattle. Trade was very active and strong on all classes with choice steers in demand at high prices. We sold two prime steers at $13.50 and two extra choice heifers at $12.00, but these were exceptional cattle and their prices must not be used as quoting the market. The bulk of choice fed steers sold from $10.50 to $11.50, with choice heifers up to $11.00 and choice cows up to $10.00. Altogether cattle prices were very high and the highest of the season. Bulls and cows are in demand at prices quoted below. On short supplies of stockers and feeders trade was very strong with a good country demand. Best heavy feeding steers are quotable up to $9.25 with stockers up to $7.75 and more in some cases. There is a good demand for good condition close up springing cows. Receipts of calves are very light. Choice veales weighing 125 to 200 pounds bring $9.00 to $10.00; common to fair $6.00 to $7.00.

The hog market closed the end of last week with selects selling at $15.75 fed and watered. The market opened Monday this week at $15.50, holding steady Tuesday and Wednesday. With stronger markets in the east, commission men asked $15.75, and packers bid $15.50. No hogs were sold, all being carried over for Thursday's markets.

CALGARY

Calgary, April 26.—The Livestock Department of the Alberta Farmers' Co-operative Elevator Co. Ltd. reports this week's Alberta stockyards receipts as: Horses, 482; cattle, 686; hogs, 2,124; sheep, 9. This week a year ago: Horses, 166; cattle, 1,749; hogs, 2,519; sheep, none.

A new record of $17.00 was made here this week for extra top steers. Winnipeg and Toronto markets were also considerably stronger on steers, bulls and heifers, and we look for well maintained prices on beef.

With the eastern demand, hogs advanced to $15.50 Friday, the bulk of the hogs making this price, and one load making $15.60. We sold our Thursday's hogs at from $15.25 to $15.35. We sold 13 per cent. of the cattle and 29 per cent. of the hogs marketed. Altogether we handled 74 cattle and 925 hogs this week.

There were no arrivals of sheep.

AMERICAN WOOL PROSPECTS

On April 16 the First National Bank of Boston, which is the wool centre of America, said in its trade letter: "How far our entry into the war will affect prices is purely problematical. The wool stocks held in Boston are equivalent to about 50½ million pounds of scoured wool. In addition to these it is estimated that there are some 25 million pounds of greasy and scoured wools held in the other markets of the country, not including the new clip yet to be shipped, the shearing of which has well begun. The stocks shown above are moderate, but it must be remembered that the manufacturers are probably well covered against their old contracts. Rumors have been current that Americans would be allowed to purchase extensively in Australia presently. Certainly America's status as a belligerent of Great Britain would seem to justify such action; moreover, it is practically certain that there will be considerable of the old clip left in Australia at the beginning of the new clip season this year owing to the lack of available tonnage for wool space to England. These considerations, as well as the always possible conditions of government restraint naturally serve to hold prices back, but as a result of war's declaration there has been an increase of about 10 per cent. in the past month on many grades of wool and the tendency is towards still higher prices."

On the same question the Breeders' Gazette of April 26 says: "Gains in wool since the federal government refused to take over stocks have amounted to 5 to 10 cents per pound. Two large Montana clips taken off at a shearing station near Chicago realized 50 to 52½ cents last week. The future of the market depends on how much Australian wool is released to the United States. Eastern bids are empty and the new clip will go into consumption without delay. Foreign markets are all strong."

The talk of a wool embargo in Canada to prevent our marketing in the United States can scarcely amount to much. That the government could listen to such a proposal, particularly since the United States is now also at war, seems unbelievable. Therefore, it seems likely Canadian manufacturers will have to pay world's prices for the wool they buy instead of more or less stealing it, as they would probably have been able to do under a wool embargo.

LIVESTOCK	Winnipeg April 27	Winnipeg Year Ago	Toronto April 28	Calgary April 26	Chicago April 25	St. Paul April 25
Cattle	$ c $ c	$ c $ c	$ c $ c	$ c $ c	$ c $ c	$ c $ c
Choice steers	10 75-11 50	.....	11 25-11 75	10 25-11 00	12 40-13 50	10 50-12 25
Best butcher steers	10 00-10 50	7 90-8 25	10 00-11 25	9 25-10 00	11 75-12 40	9 50-10 50
Fair to good butcher steers	7 50-9 75	7 00-7 75	8 00-10 00	8 50-9 25	9 50-11 50	8 00-9 50
Good to choice fat cows	8 00-9 50	6 25-7 00	9 25-10 25	7 25-8 00	10 00-11 50	8 50-10 50
Medium to good cows	6 50-7 50	5 25-6 00	7 00-9 00	6 50-7 25	8 25-10 00	7 00-8 50
Common cows	4 25-6 00	4 00-5 00	5 50-7 00	5 75-6 50	6 75-8 00	6 50-7 00
Canners	3 75-4 25	2 50-3 75	4 50-5 50	3 75-4 25	5 50-6 65	5 25-6 00
Good to choice heifers	9 50-10 50	6 75-7 50	9 50-11 00	8 00-9 00	9 50-11 75	8 50-10 50
Fair to good heifers	8 00-9 00	5 75-6 50	8 00-9 50	7 00-8 00	6 75-9 65	6 50-8 50
Best cows	8 00-9 00	5 50-6 25	.....	6 75-7 25	.....	.....
Best butcher bulls	7 50-8 50	5 50-6 50	9 25-10 50	7 00-7 50	9 25-10 25	7 50-8 50
Common to bologna bulls	5 50-7 00	4 50-5 25	5 50-7 00	4 50-5 75	6 85-9 00	6 50-7 50
Fair to good feeder steers	6 50-8 25	6 75-7 25	8 50-10 00	8 00-9 25	8 00-10 50	7 50-9 50
Fair to good stocker steers	6 50-7 75	6 00-7 00	8 00-9 00	7 50-7 75	7 50-9 50	7 00-8 50
Best milkers and springers (each)	$75-$100	$65-$80	$80-$95	$95-$100	.....	$90-$100
Fair milkers and springers (each)	$50-$65	$45-$55	$50-$75	$55-$75	.....	$50-$70
Hogs						
Choice hogs, fed and watered	$15.50	$10.75	16 50-16 60	$15.25	15 35-15 60	15 00-15 40
Light hogs	12 00-13 00	.....	15 60-15 75	.....	15 20-15 50	13 00-13 65
Heavy sows	9 00-10 00	8 25-8 75	$14 00	.....	.....	8 00-8 25
Stags	6.00-7 50	6.00-7 50	$13.00	.....	.....	.....
Sheep and Lambs						
Choice lambs	11 75-12 75	8 00-9 00	14 50-15 50	13 00-13 50	14 50-16 30	8 00-14 50
Best killing sheep	8 50-9 25	7 00-7 50	10 50-11 00	9 75-10 75	9 00-13 00	9 00-13 00

COUNTRY PRODUCE	Winnipeg April 30	Winnipeg Year Ago	Toronto April 30	Calgary April 30	Regina April 30	Saskatoon April 30
Butter (per lb.)						
No. 1 dairy	35c	22c-24c	35c-37c	36c	35c	35c
Eggs (per doz.)						
New laid	33c	19c-20c	39c	37c-40c	42c	35c
Potatoes						
In sacks, per bushel	$1.35	60c-70c	$2.50	$1.25	$1.25	90c-$1.10
Milk and Cream						
Sweet cream (per lb. fat)	44c	37c	.....	.....	.....	.....
Cream for butter-making (per lb. butter-fat)	40c	32c	.....	.....	.....	.....
Dressed Poultry						
Spring chickens	.....	17c	.....	.....	.....	18c
Fowl	17c	13c-14c	20c-23c	20c-21c	20c-23c	.....
Ducks	20c	14c	18c-20c	21c-23c	18c-20c	.....
Geese	20c	14c	18c	19c-21c	18c	.....
Turkeys	23c	18c	25c	30c-33c	25c	25c
Hay (per ton)						
No. 2 Timothy	.....	No. 1's $12-$14	No. 1's	.....	No. 1's	.....
No. 2 Timothy	$13	$15-$17	$8	$15-$16	$8	.....
No. 2 Mallard	.....	$9-$11	.....	.....	.....	.....

Cash Prices Fort William and Port Arthur from April 24 to April 30 inclusive

Date	WHEAT 1	2	3	4	5	6	Feed	OATS 2 CW	3 CW	Ex 1 Fd	1 Fd	2 Fd	BARLEY No. 3	No. 4	Rej.	Feed	FLAX 1 NW	2 CW	3 CW	Rej.
April 24	248	243¼	238¼	230¼	207	176¼	130	72¼	71¼	71¼	70	68¼	118	.....	100	100	298¼	294¼	281¼	.....
" 25	260	253¼	250¼	.....	.....	.....	132	73	72¼	72¼	72¼	.....	119¼	113	100	100	304	297	284¼	.....
" 26	257	252	247	232¼	212¼	181	132	73	72	72¼	72¼	.....	120	117¼	100	100	305¼	301¼	285	.....
" 27	270¼	265¼	260¼	243¼	224¼	188¼	135	74¼	73¼	73¼	72¼	.....	120	.....	100	100	305¼	300	285	.....
" 28	269¼	264¼	259¼	.....	.....	187¼	140	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	126	.....	100	100	306¼	302	289	.....
" 30	270¼	265¼	260¼	.....	.....	188¼	140	72¼	71¼	71¼	70¼	.....	128	.....	100	100	304	300¼	287¼	.....
Week ago	234¼	234¼	229¼	217¼	198¼	167¼	125	68¼	67¼	67¼	66¼	65¼	117	111¼	99	99	297¼	293¼	280¼	.....
Year ago	119¼	117¼	113¼	110	102	95¼	.....	46¼	44¼	44¼	43¼	42¼	61¼	62¼	55	55	180¼	177¼	.....	.....