

FARMING

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FARMING AND THE FARMER'S INTERESTS.

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MARKET REVIEW AND FORECAST.

Office of FARMING,

44 and 46 Richmond street west,
Toronto, Feb. 27th, 1899.

One of the features in the general trade conditions of the country during the week is the improvement in wool and cotton. There is an increased activity in the wool and cotton mills, which are said to be full of orders. The money market keeps pliable, which is an incentive to the speculative spirit. In fact, this speculative spirit seems to pervade the business community to a very large extent just now. Whether it is the best thing that could happen remains to be seen.

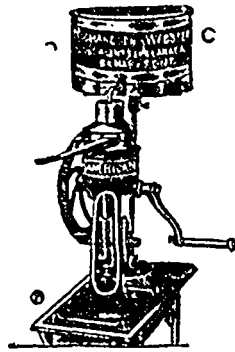
Wheat.

The wheat market conditions have not radically changed during the week, and, unless the next few weeks bring unfavorable reports of the crop promise for 1899, there is very little hope of any marked change in values for some time. The *Cincinnati Price Current* of last week says: "The uncovering of the wheat fields has not brought much of new evidence as to the prevailing situation of the plant. The indications are that the crop has but moderately suffered from the recent cold weather conditions. In many instances there is less freshness of appearance, but this does not imply disturbance of vitality of the plant. Taken as a whole, the position of the crop rarely averages better at this time in the season. It is now entering the period which is ordinarily the most trying, under freezing and thawing changes."

The Liverpool and Chicago markets have ruled active during the week with a slight advance in values. The *Trade Bulletin's* special London cable of Feb. 23rd reads: "The market has ruled steady on the Baltic, and more active business has been done. Floating cargoes have met with more enquiry at better prices." The grain movement in the United States has been irregular owing to the bad condition of the roads. Prices for spot wheat at Montreal are merely nominal, but at Ontario points sales of red winter for spot are reported at 69c. high freights. The offerings here have not been very liberal, but there is a fair demand and the market is steady at 99½ to 70c. for red and white west, and 60 to 70c. for goose, with No. 1 Manitoba quoted at 81 to 82c. at Toronto, and No. 1 Northern at 78½c. On the local markets here red and white bring from 73½ to 74½c.; spring five 71½ to 72c., and goose 71 to 72c. per bushel.

Oats and Barley.

Considerable interest is being taken in the oat market just now by dealers. It is claimed that there is still considerable oats in second hands, though it is felt that as farmers have been marketing pretty freely of late their supply is not large. Our market is governed



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largely by the Old Country markets, from which a steadier feeling and improved values are reported. There is a firmer feeling in oats at Montreal where quotations are 33 to 33½c. for No. 2 white. There has been very little offering on this market where quotations are 29 to 29½c. west. On the local market they bring from 34 to 34½c. per bushel.

The Montreal barley market is quiet at 55 to 57c. for malting purposes. The market here is also quiet at 46 to 47c. west.

Peas and Corn.

The London, England, market for peas is reported firm under light supplies. Peas are very firm at Montreal. The quotations there are 72 to 73c. in store. Peas are reported to be very scarce here, and quotations are 65½ to 67c. west. Locally peas are quoted at 64 to 65c.

The Montreal market for corn is quiet at 44 to 45c. for No. 2 American mixed. Canadian yellow west is quoted here at 36c., but very little is to be had, and American is quoted at 42 to 45c. on track here.

Bran and Shorts.

At Montreal these are higher at \$15.00 to \$15.25 for bran; \$16.00 to \$17.00 for shorts, and \$16.00 to \$17.50 for mouille. City mills sell bran at \$14.50. and shorts at \$16.50 f.o.b. Toronto.

Clover and Timothy Seeds.

The Montreal market is steady at \$1.60 to \$1.75 per bush for Ontario timothy, \$1.25 to \$1.50 for American; \$4.25 to \$5.00 for red clover; \$4.00 to \$5.00 for Alsike. Timothy seed west of Toronto is quoted at \$1.40 to \$1.45 f.o.b. On the local markets here red clover brings from \$3.37 to \$3.80; white clover, \$5.00 to \$8.00; Alsike, \$3.00 to \$4.20, and Timothy \$1.20 to \$1.35 per bushel.

Eggs and Poultry.

The British egg markets are weaker owing to liberal supplies. At Montreal there is a kind of uncertainty about the market which is usual at this season of the year. Strictly new laid are quoted there at 20c. to 21c. and straight candled at 15 to 16c. There is a good demand here for new-laid at 20c., other kinds bring from 14 to 16c. On the local market new-laid bring from 20 to 25c. per dozen.

Dressed poultry at Montreal is quiet, but steady. Choice fresh turkeys bring from 10½ to 11c.; chickens from 7 to 8c.; geese 4 to 6c. and ducks which are scarce 8 to 9c. per lb. Receipts are not large here and the market is steady at 10 to 12c. for turkeys and 6 to 7c. for geese; 50 to 80c. per pair for ducks and 40 to 70c. for chickens. Prices on the local market are a shade higher than these figures.

Potatoes.

The Montreal market is easier owing to more liberal receipts at 53 to 55c. per bag in car lots. The market here is quiet at 60 to 65c. per bag for cars on track and 75c. out of store. On the local farmers' market they bring from 80 to 85c. per bag.

Fruit.

The Montreal market is firm, with quotations the same as last week. Apples on the

local market here bring from \$2 to \$3.50 per barrel.

Hay and Straw.

The hay market is in a very unsatisfactory condition, and prices are about as low as they could very well be, and there is very little prospect of their being any higher unless the railroads and ocean steamers reduce their export freight rates considerably. The duty prevents any business being done in the United States. The quality of the hay this year is good, and if it could be exported at a profit would give good satisfaction in Great Britain. Farmers, as a rule, are unwilling to take present values. At Montreal baled hay is quoted at \$4.50 to \$5 for No. 2, while choice quality brings from \$5.50 to \$6, and clover \$3.50 to \$4. Cars on track are quoted here at \$7 to \$7.50, and baled straw at \$4 to \$4.50. On the local market timothy brings from \$8 to \$9.50, clover \$6 to \$7; straw sheaf \$6 to \$7, and loose straw \$4 to \$5 per ton.

Cheese.

The London, Eng., market is dull, but owing to short supplies holders are not forcing sales. Finest Canadian Septembers are quoted at 50 to 51s. The Montreal market is quiet and somewhat unsatisfactory to holders, as the market is being supplied by early cheese held there for English account going forward which cost from 40 to 42s. Until this is worked off dealers will not be willing to pay 50s. for line goods. Finest westerns are quoted at 9½ to 9¾c., and finest easterns at 9½ to 9¾c. The total shipments from Montreal from May 1st, 1898, to the present time amount to 2,164,106 boxes, as against 2,441,789 boxes for the same period a year ago, showing a decrease of 277,683 boxes. The total shipments from New York for the same time amount to 353,380 boxes, as compared with 656,733 boxes for 1897, a decrease of 303,353 boxes, thus making the total decrease from both places 581,036 boxes.

Butter.

The *Trade Bulletin's* special London cable of Feb. 23rd reads: "The market is weak and lower, and, with more liberal receipts, holders are anxious to realize. Prices have declined 2s., and still lower prices expected. Finest Canadian creamery, 92s. to 94s., with fancy mild salted parcels quoted at 96s. to 98s." While the Old Country market is weaker, the Montreal market has ruled firm, owing to the scarcity of supplies, but the demand is chiefly for the local trade. Quotations are: Choice creamery, 20 to 20½c.; good to fine, 19 to 19½c.; fair, 18 to 18½c.; and western dairy, 13½ to 15½c. Exporters are paying 20c. for strictly fancy lots, and are giving about 19c. in the country. The total shipments from Montreal from May 1st, 1898, to date amount to 350,742 packages, as compared with 255,074 packages for the same period last year, an increase of 95,668 packages. The shipments from New York for the same time show a decrease of 57,863 packages, making the increase from both places only 37,805 packages. New York's largest shipments have been during the past few months.