

Simcoe Co., Ont., Fall Notes.

The weather since Sept. 1st has been very changeable, with about two weeks without rain, but on Sept. 30th we had a snowstorm, with wind, which did heavy damage to fruit trees, and made the roads very disagreeable for several days. Fall plowing is very well advanced for the late season, but some have not yet started, and from present appearance there will be considerable to do next spring. All crops, except fall wheat and hay, were heavy. Prices are satisfactory, except potatoes, which are now quoted at 30c. per bag; no demand and the high yield having sent prices down rapidly. Oats 25c., barley 32c. to 43c. Some of the spring wheat was a very poor sample, a large amount of it being fit only for chicken feed. Prices for dairy products are generally satisfactory. There is a good demand for live stock, horses especially, it being almost impossible to secure them at top prices. Buyers have picked up all available surplus of heavy horses for work in the lumber woods and for foreign markets. Farm sales have commenced in this section with prices generally ruling high. Clover in most places is a splendid stand, so thick in some fields as to cover the ground completely, affording excellent fall pasture.

Oxford County, Ont.

So far, we have had beautiful fall weather and the work is well advanced, at least in the case of those who keep enough help. Our corn has been husked and the stalks all set up on end in the barns some time ago. Although not as good as last year, it was, nevertheless, a very fair crop and we got the stalks in in good shape; it is over so much better than in years past, and until it could be all dried up. The roots are growing nicely and we feel loath to disturb them. We took our potatoes up some time ago and they turned out very well in quantity, and the quality just A. 1, but I know there are some very poor patches of potatoes. We gave our much more cultivation than usual and kept it up later than we ever did before, and I think it paid. For fear of frost we have commenced to take up our sugar beets and mangolds and carrots; but unless the weather shows appearance of breaking up, we will not touch our turnips until the beginning of November. Our roots are all a fair crop. I think the turnips would have got over the drought ever so much better if the insects had not attacked them so badly. Plowing is pretty well advanced, and I never remember seeing the ground work up better. We have taken out quite a number of stones; they were nice and clean to handle and we had the time and wanted to use them next summer in making a small addition to our buildings. Although we have had nice growing weather, it came rather late to be of much service to the pasture, which, although green and fresh, is very short. We are feeding out cut cornstalks and hay and mangold tops to the cows, and turnips to the young cattle, and feed is expected to be dear. At a sale of farm stock lately corn in the stock sold at 16 cents a stock, and the stocks were not large. I don't think they would average one bushel each of husked corn. The threshers are just finishing a few jobs and there will be very little for any of the machines to do after the first of November. Very few of the September cheese have been moved, and the market is very undecided. Hogs keep much about the same, and \$4.15 is now paid by our Ingersoll factory. They say that they cannot afford to give any more, and although we hardly believe what they say, yet we cannot very well help ourselves, and of necessity have to accept their price, if not their statement. Small pigs are very plentiful and cheap. Farmers who have even good ones to sell may be very glad to accept a dollar.

October 23rd. D. I.

Manitoulin Island, Ont.

Threshing is now nearly over. Crops are exceptionally good this year, with the exception of fall wheat, which was badly winter killed. Hay was very heavy, there being very little clover killed last winter. Oats are also very heavy, the best crop we have had for years. Potatoes are very poor, the result of the dry weather in August and September, and an early frost in September—a rare thing in this district. Other root crops are fair. The fruit crop is a complete failure, there being very few apples and no plums. There are very few pears or grapes grown here yet. Butter is 17c. per pound, and 20c. is looked for in December or January. Oats are 25c. to 32c.; peas 50c. to 60c. Live hogs are hard to sell, at \$3.25. Six weeks ago they were selling at \$4.25; lambs, \$3.75 to \$3.00 each, or \$2.50 per 100 lbs.; sheep, \$3.50 to \$4.00 each. W. I. W.

Canadian Hay and Food Products for the Transvaal.

The Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, has received a cable from London stating that England wants 2,000 tons of the best quality of timothy and mixed hay, pressed in 100-pound bales, to be delivered at Cape Town before Christmas. Tenders should be addressed to the War Office, and submitted through the Department of Agriculture. One hundred and eighty-seven thousand five hundred pounds of compressed dried vegetables, hermetically sealed in five and ten pound tins, has been called for, but as tenders must be in the War Office by the 27th Oct., it is not practicable for Canada to take advantage of this order. However, the High Commissioner thinks there will be further requirements. It would be well, therefore, for Canadians in this line of business to send samples to the High Commissioner's office, 17 Victoria, London, S. W., if desirous of tendering.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

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

Table with columns for live stock types (Beef cattle, Hogs, Sheep, etc.), current prices, and top prices from 1897 and 1898.

The cattle situation is not quite so good as it was awhile ago. The end of the Western Range season is close at hand, and buyers feel that they want to buy the medium to good native beef, retail, at about the prices they have been paying for the Western rangers, namely: \$4.50 to \$5.00. The very dry weather is having a bad influence upon the demand for feeding cattle. A Chicago man, back from a trip through western Iowa, reports hogs selling to country buyers at \$3.50 to \$3.80 for the different grades, with offerings none too plenty at those figures. The price of new corn is starting at 17c. to 20c. Pastures are the barest in over ten years, the country needing rain badly. D. Rankin, of Tarkio, Mo., had on the market 128 head of 798-lb. fat yearling steers, at \$5. This is one of our great cattle feeders, and a good many people are wondering why, with corn so plenty and cheap, he is marketing such young and light cattle. The writer recently had a pleasant chat with Mr. Conrad Kohls, of Deer Lodge. Mr. Kohls is a pioneer in the western range cattle business, and also in the business of breeding pure-bred cattle. On the range in 1868 he bought 1,000 cattle, mostly

high-grade Shorthorns, and ever since he has been a breeder of that class of stock. He also has a fine herd of Herefords. He is of the opinion that the days of the western cattle grower are numbered, and that the number is not large. The encroachments of sheep-growers are steady and strong, and it will be but a few years until there is no public grazing land that will support cattle. Of course, he considers that the government is to blame by giving sheepmen a bonus, in the shape of a high tariff on wool. Mr. Kohls says it is his intention hereafter to provide winter feed, in the shape of hay, to carry his cattle through the severe winters. Last year Mr. Kohls marketed 485 cars of cattle in Chicago, and did not come to see any of them sold. He said he could not well give stronger testimony of his confidence in the integrity and ability displayed in the live stock commission business.

Toronto Markets.

The trade at the Western Cattle Market has been particularly dull. The want of space on the ocean boats, and the low prices in Great Britain, are the two chief causes, in addition to the low condition of those offered and the number of Northwest cattle offered. Prices on all other classes of stock are lower. The quality of the cattle offered here for the past season should awaken the Canadian farmer to the fact that our cattle are from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per cwt. lower than States cattle in the Liverpool market. Our top prices for best kind of cattle has only been \$4.50 per cwt., whilst the same class, better fed and conditioned, would realize \$6.00 to \$6.50 per cwt. The freight rates by steamer to Liverpool are nearly prohibitory, having advanced to fifty shillings.

Export Cattle.—The heavy run of cattle forced prices down from 15c. to 25c. per cwt. Three hundred exporters from near Calgary, N. W. T., in prime condition, purchased by Mr. Wm. Leveck, at \$4.00 per cwt. Choice export cattle sold at \$4.65 to \$4.80 per cwt. The trade is in very bad condition, cattle held over from week to week causing loss of money to all drovers. Good cattle will sell on sight, but the poor class drags the market, sold at \$3.80 to \$4.25.

Butchers' Cattle.—Trade in butchers' cattle was slow, except for best quality, which are readily picked up. For a few selected loads, 4c. has been paid. Only two loads reached 4c. per lb. This is not the rule of prices, so that the quotation is apt to be misleading in the poor class. Loads of good butchers' cattle sold at \$3.45 to \$3.60; cows, heifers and steers, mixed, \$3.35 to \$3.40 per cwt. Common butchers' cattle sold down to \$2.75; very inferior rough sold at \$2.50 per cwt.

Bulls.—Heavy export bulls sold at \$4.12 to \$4.40, while light export bulls sold at \$3.40 to \$3.65 per cwt. Stockers.—Stockers for Buffalo were plentiful; price easy; small rough yearlings, weighing from 300 to 600 lbs., nearly unsalable. Prices from \$2.25 to \$2.50 per cwt., while heifers, black and white, were quoted at \$2.00 per cwt.

Feeders.—Not many of the right sort on offer. Choice high grade steers, suitable for farmers' purposes, sold at \$3.00 to \$3.80 per cwt. Feeders, suitable for the buyers, sold at \$3.40 to \$3.50 per cwt.; a few wanted. Messrs. Halligan and Lunness shipped 2 cars to Walkerville.

Sheep.—Butchers' sheep sold at from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per head. Prices a little firmer in the best class of exporters; \$3.00 to \$3.25 for ewes; bucks sold at from \$2.00 to \$2.50 per cwt. Lambs.—About 500 lambs on offer, at \$3.50 to \$3.75 per cwt. One lot of twenty ewe and wether lambs sold at \$4.00 per cwt. This was the pick of the market, bought by Mr. Wesley Dun, for export.

Calves.—Demand easy. Prices ranged from \$1.00 to \$3.00 per head for choice; not many on offer. Milk Cows.—About 10 cows on offer at prices ranging from \$30.00 to \$50.00 per head; extra choice cows wanted. One very choice springer sold for \$80.00, the top price for the year at this market.

Hogs.—Receipts 2,700, with prices steady on choice singlers, \$4.37. Hogs are closely culled into thick, fat and light, at \$4.00. Unculled ear lots are quoted at \$4.25, as they run over scale.

Grain Market.—Receipts of farm produce to-day were more plentiful. Wheat, eastern; 700 bushels sold at 70c. for white, 70c. for red, 68c. for Fyfe, and 73c. for goose. There is, of course, a good deal of talk as to the probable advance in wheat owing to the South African war, and \$1.00 is the anticipation; but the wish is father to the thought. The action of the Liverpool wheat market shows that the war is cutting no figure with food supplies, excepting to advance freight rates. Even that is being overcome this week.

Barley.—4,000 bushels on offer sold at 46c. to 48c. per bushel; feed barley, 35c. per bushel. Oats.—Easier; selling at 30c. to 31c. per bushel. Eye.—One load sold at 55c. per bushel. Hay.—Owing to the large supply for the past week, the price is a little easier, at from \$11.00 to \$13.00 per ton.

Straw.—A little firmer, at \$9.00 to \$10.00 per ton. Seeds.—In good demand. Red clover, \$5.00; alsike, \$6.50 to \$7.00; alsike, No. 2, \$3.50 to \$4.00; white clover, \$7.00 to \$8.00; timothy, \$1.00 to \$1.25; timothy, failed, \$1.50 to \$1.65. These quotations are for bushel lots in good clean condition.

Poultry.—There is a good supply, and quotations are a little easier. Chickens, per pair, 40c. to 50c.; turkeys, per lb., 11c. to 14c.; ducks, per pair, 50c. to 80c.; geese, per lb., 7c. to 8c. Apples.—Per barrel, \$1.00 to \$2.00. Potatoes.—Per bag, 45c. to 55c. The finest on the market to-day were grown by John Harris, Danforth Avenue Farm. Butter.—Still holder in the advance; choice dairy rolls, 18c. to 20c. per lb.; creamery, at 22c. to 23c. per lb.

Choice, fresh gathered eggs, 17c. to 18c. per dozen. Cheese.—A little easier, at from 11c. per lb. quoted. October 26th, 1890.

Toronto Market Notes.

Messrs. A. Maybee and George Beal have just returned from their trip to the Northwest. They visited a great number of cattle ranches and report a large number fit for exportation. Mr. John Sheridan, the well known buyer of horses and cattle throughout Ontario, is being pressed by his friends to stand nomination as the Liberal candidate for East York.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Sheep and Dogs.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE: SIR,—In the October 2nd number of the ADVOCATE appears a letter from the Orillia Packet, dealing with the "Sheep Industry and the Dog Nuisance."

From my little experience, I believe the sheep industry to be most profitable if it were not for the "dog nuisance." It does seem to me that a more stringent law in regard to dogs should be passed. By section 540, chapter 223, of the Revised Statutes of Ontario, municipal councils may pass by-laws for restraining and regulating the running at large of dogs; and for impounding and killing dogs running at large contrary to the by-law. If township councils would pass a by-law that the owner of every dog in the township shall be liable to a fine for harboring a dog which has no tag on (which tag might be supplied by the township at a nominal cost over and above the dog tax), and if it were lawful for any person to kill any dog found unattended on the

highway or elsewhere, except on the owner's premises, I think the nuisance would soon be abated. Then, the tax should be at least one dollar on each dog, and five dollars on each bitch. The most danger to sheep is from dogs owned by parties who have no need whatever of a dog, and in many cases have none too much bread for their families, let alone for one or more dogs; so the said dogs are compelled to forage for themselves, and the temptation to a feed of mutton is very great. Our township councilmen in some cases are too anxious to secure the votes of the owners of these hungry dogs, to do their duty in this matter; but if the farmers would unite, and urge the point, by-laws like the above might be passed. I hope that you will continue to agitate this question until the innocent sheep shall have equal rights.

Wentworth Co. A. B. C.

Grain Competition for Farmers' Boys and Girls.

The following points are to be observed by those who send large heads of grain in the competition for the prizes offered by me. The prizes are as follows:—

Table with columns for Oats and Wheat, listing prize amounts for first through twelfth places.

The whole of each lot of 100 heads should be selected from one variety grown in one field, and only from a crop which has given a large yield per acre.

I shall want every competitor to furnish from the same crop 10 (ten) heads with the smallest number of seeds per head which he or she can find. But the number of seeds in the small heads will not be considered in making the awards.

Each lot of 100 large heads of grain is to be put in a small cotton bag, securely tied, and addressed: Professor Robertson, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ont. They will be carried free by mail.

Each lot of ten small heads is to be put in a separate package, either of cotton or stout paper, and addressed in the same way.

A slip of paper is to be put inside EACH bag or package, giving:— 1. The name and address of the collector. 2. The name and address of the farmer by whom the grain was grown, and 3. The name of the variety of grain; also, if the information can be obtained: 4. The number of bushels per acre of the crop from which the heads were selected. 5. The date of ripening of the grain. 6. The class of soil on which it was grown. 7. Whether the field was manured. 8. What was the crop on the field in 1889.

The lots of grain, with the information, may be sent until the 1st of December. I would like to be able to make the awards in order to send the prizes to the winners before Christmas-time.

JAS. W. ROBERTSON, Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ont., October 19th, 1890.

No. 1 Hard Flour for Fighters.

F. W. Thompson, manager of the Ogilvie Milling Company, Winnipeg, wires J. F. MacLaren, Ogilvie's Toronto agent:—"Great Britain intends to feed her soldiers well. Order received for 5,000 barrels of Ogilvie's Hungarian flour for the Transvaal. This is a tribute to Canada."

Rules for Computing Interest.

The following will be found to be excellent rules for finding the interest on any principal for any number of days. When the principal contains cents, point off four places from the right of the result to express the interest in dollars and cents. When the principal contains dollars only, point off two places:

- Four per cent.—Multiply the principal by the number of days to run, and divide by 90. Five per cent.—Multiply by number of days, and divide by 72. Six per cent.—Multiply by number of days, and divide by 60. Seven per cent.—Multiply by number of days, and divide by 52. Eight per cent.—Multiply by number of days, and divide by 45. Nine per cent.—Multiply by number of days, and divide by 40. Ten per cent.—Multiply by number of days, and divide by 36. Twelve per cent.—Multiply by number of days, and divide by 30. Fifteen per cent.—Multiply by number of days, and divide by 24. Eighteen per cent.—Multiply by number of days, and divide by 20. Twenty per cent.—Multiply by number of days, and divide by 18. Twenty-four per cent.—Multiply by number of days, and divide by 15.—Business.