

Market Review and Forecast

Office of FARMING,
Confed. Life Building,
Toronto, Nov. 27, 1899.

There is no special feature to report in regard to the general trade of the country other than it continues good for this season of the year. Money is firm at 6 per cent. on call, though some brokers claim to be able to get private loans at a lower rate. Discounts are steady, the rate for commercial paper being 6 to 7 per cent.

Wheat.

The wheat situation shows little improvement, prices being, if anything, a little lower. Cable reports are unsatisfactory, though one report during the week showed stocks in London as light with holders not pushing sales, with more active business doing. On this side there is no improvement, and Chicago market has ruled dull. Mild weather is favorable for the growing crop, which is not without its influence upon the speculative market. The season is about over so far as shipping from Montreal is concerned. At Ontario points red winter has sold at 65c. The market here is dull and the demand slow. Red and white are quoted at 65 to 66c. west and north; goose at 69c., and spring wheat at 65c. west. On the Toronto farmers' market red and white bring 68½ to 70c.; spring five, 68; and goose, 66 to 67c. per bushel.

Oats and Barley.

Though cable reports indicate a weaker feeling for oats, the Montreal market is reported firmer and higher at 30c. out of store. Oats are steady here at 25 to 26c. north and west. On the Toronto market they bring 29 to 30c. per bushel.

The barley market at Montreal has ruled lower and easier at 48 to 50c. for No. 1, and 46c. for feed barley. The market here is steady at 39c. for No. 2 west, and 35 to 36c. for feed barley. On the farmers' market it brings 41½ to 42½c. per bushel.

Peas and Corn.

There is very little export demand at Montreal for peas, though the market there is firmer, and sales are reported at 57c. at Ontario points. They are in better demand here at 56 to 57c. north and west. On the Toronto farmers' market peas fetch 60½c. per bushel.

There is only a moderate movement of corn in the west. American is quoted at 40c. on track, Toronto.

Bran and Shorts.

The good demand for Ontario bran at Montreal continues, where it is quoted at \$15 to \$15.25 in car lots in bulk, and Manitoba bran at \$14.50 to \$15 in bags. Shorts are quoted at \$16 to \$17.50 as to grade. City mills here sell bran at \$14 and shorts at \$16 in car lots f.o.b. Toronto.

Eggs and Poultry.

The active export demand from Great Britain for both fresh and pickled stock continues. Choice candled fresh stock is steady at Montreal at 18 to 20c. in large lots. The demand is steady here, fresh stock in large lots being quoted at 17 to 18c., and held stock at 15 to 16c. per dozen. On the Toronto farmers' market new-laid eggs bring 20 to 25c. per dozen.

The demand for dressed poultry has not been as good as it would have been, on account of the mild weather. This is the case at Montreal, where prices were easier at the end of the week. Choice dry-picked turkeys bring 8½ to 9c., chickens 7c., choice geese 6½ to 7c., and ducks 8 to 9c. per lb., as to quality, in large lots. The demand here is fair, at 6 to 8c. per lb. for turkeys and 5 to 6c. for geese; 40 to 60c. per pair for ducks, and 25 to 50c. for chickens, in large lots. On

the Toronto farmers' market chickens fetch 40 to 70c. and ducks 50 to 80c. per pair, and turkeys 9 to 11c. and geese 5½ to 7c. per lb.

Potatoes.

Potatoes are steady at Montreal, and car lots are quoted at 40 to 42c. per bag. Car lots here bring 38 to 40c. per bag. On the Toronto farmers' market potatoes are selling at 40 to 50c. per bag.

Apples.

The export apple trade is in a bad state, and, what with bad packing and the bad keeping qualities of the fruit, shippers are having a bad time of it. But fault is not found with Canadian alone, as American fruit is complained of as well. The Liverpool auction sales of late have been disastrous to shippers. At Montreal there is a stronger tone, though prices show no change. The poor fruit is being gradually worked off. Sales of No. 1 quality have been made at \$2.75 to \$3.50, and No. 2 at \$1.60 to \$2 per barrel. Apples are quoted here at \$1 to \$2 per barrel. A Manchester cable to R. H. Ashton on the 21st reads thus: Baldwins 15s., Greenings 10s. 6d., Spies 13s. and Kings 17s. per bbl. average.

Hay and Straw.

The hay market continues firm and active, there being a good demand at Montreal, both locally and for export. Sales are reported of car lots No. 2 quality at \$8 f.o.b. at country points. Prices are somewhat unsettled and irregular east. No. 1 baled timothy is quoted at \$8.50 to \$9.75 in car lots, Toronto. On the farmers' market here hay brings \$10.50 to \$12, straw sheaf \$7 to \$8.50, and loose straw at \$4 to \$5 per ton.

Seeds.

Red clover is quoted at Montreal at 8 to 9c. per lb., American timothy at \$1.25 to \$1.50, and flax seed at \$1.15 to \$1.40 per bushel. American markets show little change. On the Toronto farmers' market red clover brings \$4.25 to \$5, alsike \$5 to \$7.30, and white clover at \$7 to \$8 per bushel.

Cheese.

The English market is reported quiet, but, as stocks are light, holders are not pushing sales. A decidedly healthier feeling is reported at Montreal, and buyers have been picking up Novembers pretty readily. Sales of finest western Septembers are reported at 11½ to 11¾c. Some holders are refusing to sell at 11¾c. The total exports this season so far from Montreal are 1,799,876 boxes, as against 1,817,056 boxes for the same time in 1898. The total increase from Montreal, New York, and Portland is 27,264, as compared with last year. The local markets are about over. Sales are reported during the week at 11c. to 11¾c.

Butter.

While a somewhat better feeling is reported at Montreal, cable reports are not re-assuring. The *Trade Bulletin's* London cable Nov. 23rd reads thus: "The market shows no sign of strengthening under further heavy receipts; the market has again dropped 2s. to 3s. per cwt. Stocks on hand are liberal and holders are anxious to realize; finest Canadian creamery has sold on this market at 94s. to 96s. and good to fine 88s. to 91s."

Sales of a lot of choice creamery is reported at 19 to 19½c., but 19¼c. is considered the outside figure for export. While these are the figures on this side, prices have run up to a high figure at New York, where the market is strong and advancing, with choice to fancy creamery selling at 26½ to 27c. and seconds at 25 to 25½c. per lb. Because of this, American butter held at Montreal is being re-shipped to New York. Western dairy is re-

ported scarce at Montreal at 16 to 17c. The increase in shipments from Montreal this season so far is 190,000 packages, as compared with the same period last year. Creamery butter sells here at 21 to 22c. for tubs and 22 to 23c. for prints. Receipts of dairy butter are not heavy. Choice tubs bring 18 to 19c. and rolls 19 to 20c. per lb. in large lots. On the Toronto farmers' market pound rolls bring 20 to 22c. each.

Wool.

There is a firm feeling in Canadian wool at Montreal. Dealers in the country are paying 15½ to 16c. for Canadian fleece. The Toronto market shows signs of stiffening up, and United States buyers seem willing to offer more for Canadian fleece. Holders are firm in their views.

Cattle.

There is nothing new to report in the cattle situation. Generally speaking, prime beef cattle command good prices, while inferior quality, which is still in good supply, is dull and draggy. On Toronto market, on Friday, the last one of the week, the run of live stock was light. The quality of the fat cattle was only medium, those of the best class being very scarce and not enough coming forward. Few exporters were offered and few are wanted, on account of scarcity of space on ocean vessels. Trade was slow for medium to common stuff, while the best grades were quickly picked up.

Export Cattle.—Choice lots of these sold at \$4.50 to \$4.75 per cwt., while light sold at \$4 to \$4.25 per cwt. Heavy export bulls bring \$3.60 to \$4, and light ones \$3.25 to \$3.50 per cwt.

Butchers' Cattle.—Choice picked lots of these equal in quality to the best exporters, weighing 1,000 to 1,100 lbs. each, sold at \$4.12½ to \$4.25; good cattle at \$3.60 to \$3.70; medium at \$3.30 to \$3.40; common at \$2.85 to \$3.12½, and inferior at \$2.30 to \$2.75 per cwt.

Feeders.—There were several farmers at Friday's market looking for choice well-bred heavy feeders which were scarce with prices firm. This quality ranging 1050 to 1200 lbs. each bring \$3.75 to \$3.85 with \$4 per cwt. for short keepers. Rough steers of the same

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