

The Farmers' Market

WINNIPEG MARKET LETTER

(Office of United Grain Growers Limited, December 17, 1917)

Oats—The general trend of the market has been higher, although the cash prices are actually lower than a week ago. This is caused by the disappearance of premiums during the last few days, so that although May futures are 2½ cents higher and December 1 cent higher, spot 2 C.W.s are a cent lower than a week ago. This poorer demand is to be expected at the end of the season of lake navigation.

Barley—Has enjoyed a keen demand with higher prices. Offerings have not been heavy except possibly some large holdings which are firmly held. The opinion is quite prevalent that this grain will be largely used to supplement wheat stocks in the manufacture of flour, and that there will be a continued keen demand at least for the higher grades.

Flax—The trade in futures has been quite active and large on some days and prices have worked higher. December futures have gone to a premium over May, with short interests covering. There has been a steady demand for cash flax at a two cent premium for 1 N.W. grade.

	December					Week	Year
	11	12	13	14	15	ago	ago
Oats							
Dec. 79½	80½	80½	79½	79½	79½	78½	56
May 81	82½	81½	81½	81½	81½	80½	61
Flax							
Dec. 293	294	295	304½	304	304	295½	187
May 292	296½	297½	302	303	303	297	195

1917 Wheat		1917 Wheat	
This Year	Last Year	This Year	Last Year
1 hard	9,354 00	19,098 20	717,017 30
2 Nor.	712,635 00	1,583,952 30	1,618,837 40
3 Nor.	480,669 10	1,618,837 40	1,334,479 00
No. 4	279,910 00	1,334,479 00	7,380,154 20
Others	171,325 40	1,334,479 00	
Others	1,172,946 90	7,380,154 20	

1917 Wheat		1917 Wheat	
This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
2,826,241 40	3,221,462 30	13,055,239 20	13,213,141 50
Decrease 395,220 90		Decrease 157,902 30	

Oats		Oats	
This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
1 C.W.	10,590 20	24,252 30	
2 C.W.	438,137 32	1,706,113 11	
3 C.W.	203,896 26	572,931 09	
Ex. 1 fld.	337,681 15	922,071 02	
Others	1,920,818 17	3,406,735 15	

Barley		Barley	
This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
2,911,125 08	4,200,103 17	6,622,103 33	6,859,756 02
Decrease 1,288,978 09		Decrease 237,652 03	

Flaxseed		Flaxseed	
This Week	Last Week	This Week	Last Week
4,475 46	1 N.W.C.	299,094 26	
142,950 34	2 C.W.	81,832 34	
292,789 28	3 C.W.	18,871 21	
137,079 07	Others	18,724 47	
293,510 04			
138,044 37			

Year	1*	2*	3*	4*	5*	6*	T1	T2	T3
1917	221	218	215	208	196	187	213	212	207
1916	168	165	160	147½	179	91			

The total production of the five varieties of grain in this country in 1917 was 5,666,728,000 bu., according to the wire reports of the December estimate of the Department of Agriculture at Washington. The total production of 1916, December estimate, was 4,696,232,000 bu., making an increase in production this year of 970,496,000 bu. over last year. The amount of wheat carried

Week ending Dec. 14, 1917.		
Wheat	Oats	Barley
2,826,241	2,911,125	919,543
849,847		
17,683,448	5,402,684	1,864,817
3,227,305	11,000	62,381

Total this week		Total last week		Total last year	
24,594,600	5,510,684	2,164,198	24,068,960	7,317,813	2,135,735
25,574,823	18,568,634	1,411,240			

INTERIOR TERMINAL ELEVATOR STOCKS
Movement of grain in interior terminal elevators for the week ending Wednesday, December 12, was as follows:

Elevator	Grain	Rec'd during week	Ship'd during week	Now in store
Moore	Wheat	7,982.20	18,516.20	31,827.30
	Oats	54,886.26	17,137.32	440,322.10
	Barley			
	Flax			1,066.04
Calgary	Wheat	7,995.00	16,530.00	26,726.00
	Oats	73,182.00	23,075.00	219,243.00
	Barley	5,341.00	1,376.00	13,695.00
	Flax			1,885.00
Saskatoon	Wheat	9,011.00	8,957.10	3,046.10
	Oats	93,808.10	22,262.22	756,163.09
	Barley		1,388.26	
	Flax	2,153.32	2,153.32	104.41

THE CASH TRADE
Minnesota, December 14
OATS—Slow. Some big buyers have withdrawn from the market; they say premiums are too high. No. 3 white closed at 73½ to 74½. No. 4 white oats at 71½ to 74½.

WHEAT—Good demand from mills. There was some export inquiry of importance, but no sale reported. No. 2 rye closed at \$1.82 to \$1.83.

BARLEY—A buying flurry carried medium grades up ½¢. Top for fancy \$1.55. Oats barley of good quality sold at \$1.47 to \$1.50. Prices closed at \$1.28 to \$1.55.

FLAXSEED—Good demand because receipts were light. Several crushers out of the market. Twelve cents over December was paid. No. 1 seed closed at \$3.51 to \$3.53 on spot and to arrive \$3.44 to \$3.46. Oil cake and meal shipments, 1,046,375 lbs.

THE U.S. CROPS
The total production of the five varieties of grain in this country in 1917 was 5,666,728,000 bu., according to the wire reports of the December estimate of the Department of Agriculture at Washington. The total production of 1916, December estimate, was 4,696,232,000 bu., making an increase in production this year of 970,496,000 bu. over last year. The amount of wheat carried

LIVESTOCK	Winnipeg		Toronto		Calgary		Chicago		St. Paul	
	Dec. 15	Year ago	Dec. 13	Dec. 13	Dec. 15	Dec. 13	Dec. 15	Dec. 13	Dec. 15	
Cattle										
Choice steers	9.00-10.50	7.55-8.50	11.00-13.00	11.00-13.00	14.50-16.50	12.00-15.50	12.00-15.50	12.00-15.50	12.00-15.50	12.00-15.50
Best butcher steers	8.00-9.00	7.25-7.75	9.50-11.25	9.50-11.25	11.25-14.50	10.00-12.00	10.00-12.00	10.00-12.00	10.00-12.00	10.00-12.00
Fair to good butcher steers	7.00-8.00	6.00-6.50	7.25-9.50	7.25-9.50	7.00-11.00	6.00-8.00	6.00-8.00	6.00-8.00	6.00-8.00	6.00-8.00
Good to choice fat cows	7.00-8.25	6.00-6.50	9.00-9.50	9.00-9.50	9.00-11.00	7.00-8.00	7.00-8.00	7.00-8.00	7.00-8.00	7.00-8.00
Medium to good cows	6.50-7.25	4.75-5.75	8.25-8.75	8.25-8.75	7.00-7.25	6.00-6.75	6.00-6.75	6.00-6.75	6.00-6.75	6.00-6.75
Common cows	5.50-6.50	4.00-4.50	7.00-8.00	7.00-8.00	6.00-6.75	5.15-7.50	5.15-7.50	5.15-7.50	5.15-7.50	5.15-7.50
Canners	4.00-5.50	3.00-3.75	4.75-5.50	4.75-5.50	3.25-5.00	3.50-5.75	3.50-5.75	3.50-5.75	3.50-5.75	3.50-5.75
Good to choice heifers	7.50-8.25	6.50-7.00	9.00-10.00	9.00-10.00	7.25-8.00	6.00-12.50	7.00-8.00	7.00-8.00	7.00-8.00	7.00-8.00
Fair to good heifers	6.50-7.25	5.50-6.00	7.00-9.00	7.00-9.00	6.00-7.00	5.75-9.00	5.75-9.00	5.75-9.00	5.75-9.00	5.75-9.00
Best cows	7.50-8.00	5.75-6.50	7.00-8.00	7.00-8.00	7.00-8.25	7.00-8.50	7.00-8.50	7.00-8.50	7.00-8.50	7.00-8.50
Best butcher bulls	8.00-7.25	3.35-6.25	8.00-9.25	8.00-9.25	6.00-7.00	8.25-11.00	7.00-9.00	7.00-9.00	7.00-9.00	7.00-9.00
Common to bodona bulls	5.50-6.75	4.25-5.25	6.25-7.25	6.25-7.25	5.00-6.00	6.75-8.00	5.75-8.75	5.75-8.75	5.75-8.75	5.75-8.75
Fair to good feeder steers	7.50-8.50	5.00-6.25	8.00-9.25	8.00-9.25	7.00-8.25	8.50-11.00	8.00-11.00	8.00-11.00	8.00-11.00	8.00-11.00
Fair to good stocker steers	5.50-7.50	5.50-6.50	7.50-8.75	7.50-8.75	7.00-8.00	6.50-9.50	6.00-8.00	6.00-8.00	6.00-8.00	6.00-8.00
Best milkers and springers (mch)	\$75-\$90	\$65-\$85	\$90-\$125	\$75-\$90						
Fair milkers and springers (mch)	\$50-\$65	\$45-\$55	\$65-\$85	\$70-\$85						
Hogs										
Choice hogs, fed and watered	17.00	11.15	18.50-18.75	16.80	17.50-17.75	16.75-16.90	16.75-16.90	16.75-16.90	16.75-16.90	16.75-16.90
Light hogs	14.00	8.50			17.00-17.25					
Heavy hogs	12.00-13.00	7.00			16.25-16.60					
Stags	8.00-10.00	5.50			16.00-17.10					
Sheep and Lambs										
Choice lambs	10.00-15.00	11.00-12.00	15.00-17.50	9.00-14.00	12.00-16.00	12.00-16.00	12.00-16.00	12.00-16.00	12.00-16.00	12.00-16.00
Best killing sheep	8.00-12.00	8.50-9.00	7.50-14.00	10.50-13.00	7.00-13.00	7.00-13.00	7.00-13.00	7.00-13.00	7.00-13.00	7.00-13.00

Cash Prices Fort William and Port Arthur, December 11 to December 17 inclusive

Date	Feed	OATS				BARLEY				FLAX			
		3CW	3CW	1 Fd	2 Fd	3CW	4CW	Rel.	Feed	1 NW	3 CW		
Dec. 11	172	81½	78½	78½	78½	78½	120	125	113	113	293½	290½	279½
12	172	80½	79½	79½	79½	79½	122	127	114	114	296	291	274
13	172	80½	77½	77½	74½	71½	122	127	114	114	297	292	274
14	172	79½	76½	76½	73½	70½	121	126	113	113	300½	301½	284½
15	172	79½	76½	76½	73½	70½	121½	126½	113	113	301	304	284
17	172	80½	77½	77½	74½	71½	121	126	113	113	301	294	281
Week ago	173	80½	77½	77½	74½	71½	128	123	112	112	301½	294½	281½
Year ago	73	33½	50½	50½			94	89	66	65	258½	253½	233½

over from the previous season July 1, 1917, was 48,000,000 bu., according to the Chicago Trade Bulletin. The amount of wheat in farmers' hands on July 1, 1917, was 14,000,000 bu., and on July 1, 1916, was 73,700,000 bu. Figure it as we may, it does not appear possible to find a quantity of all grains in farmers' hands equal to that of one year ago, due to the larger carry-over of the preceding season. The supply of wheat, itself, would not be sufficient, it is very evident, to meet the demands for domestic consumption and requirements abroad. It follows that continuous care must be taken of all grains available for food and feeding. Millers in all directions are taking this position into account and are enlarging their capacities for flour making from practically all these side grains.—Market Record, Minneapolis.

EMBARGO ON FEED EXPORTS
Ottawa, Dec. 13.—In order to assist in the campaign for greater production of food animals, the food controller announced tonight, not a ton of bran and shorts will be allowed to be exported until the Canadian requirements are fully met. The food controller is also considering the question of fixing prices for such food, but in any case it will be made available to the farmers at the lowest possible cost and the profits of the dealers may be fixed as soon as information from the several provinces is secured in response to inquiries which have been sent out.

Prohibition of the exportation from Canada of feed of any kind except under license has been already adopted. Tonight's announcement that no licenses will be issued unless the feed is first offered to the government at the export price makes the government's control complete and assures abundant supplies for Canadian requirements.

As a result of this arrangement the government last week refused to allow the exportation by a large milling company of 143 cars of bran and shorts, but purchased them and resold them to the farmers without any charge for the government's services.

Applications for feed should be addressed to the feed branch of the department of agriculture, Ottawa. Mr. Hanna stated today that, if necessary to ensure the farmers obtaining feed supplies, the government would take the total output of mill by-products and distribute it. He added that action would be taken at once in case of complaints that the mills were requiring the purchase of flour with the offals. This practice must be discontinued.

A separate feed branch of the Dominion department of agriculture is being established in Winnipeg to serve Western Canada. This branch will cooperate with J. D. McGregor, western representative of the food controller.

The Livestock Markets

Winnipeg, Dec. 19.—Livestock Department of the United Grain Growers Limited reports receipts at the Union stockyards for last week as follows: Cattle, 6,533; calves, 185; sheep and lambs, 184; hogs, 10,596.

The run of cattle continues very heavy for the time of year and prices for past week have been somewhat uneven. Bulls, oxen and canners still sell at strong prices, while cows, heifers and culler cattle are from 25 to 50 cents per cwt. lower. A few top steers went up to 11 cents, but the bulk sold at from 9 to 10½ cents. Veal calves are worth from 8 to 9 cents. Heavy stocker calves from 6 to 8 cents.

Sheep and lambs remain steady at around 15 cents for lambs and 10 to 12 cents for sheep. The run of hogs for the past week has been very heavy and the market has been steady to strong, closing at 17 cents. The prospects for next week are for a lower market.

CALGARY
Calgary, Dec. 15.—The United Grain Growers Limited report this week's Alberta stockyards receipts as: Horses, 941; cattle, 2,590; hogs, 2,038; sheep, 1,528. The corresponding week a year ago was: Horses, 956; cattle, 2,144; hogs, 2,656; sheep, 116.

There was a moderate run of cattle this week, but prices showed no improvement. Very little heavy fat cattle realized over 9 cents. Real choice heavy steers would fetch a good price for Christmas beef, but the bulk of steers offered were common and sold from \$8.10 to \$8.50, with some of poorer quality at \$7.00 to \$8.00. Top cows are selling around \$7.50 and medium cows at \$7.00 to \$7.25. Prices on all classes of beef have shown a falling off with the exception of bulls. Good fat heavy calves are selling readily at \$7.75, with light fat calves up to 9 cents. Owing to the cold stormy weather the stocker trade has been very slow, especially in this cow; good yearlings sell from \$7.50 to \$7.85, and two-year-old heifers about the same price. Top price on cattle a year ago \$7.25.

The hog market opened steady at last week's close. Few hogs changed hands until Thursday, when we sold our receipts of that day at \$16.50.

Country Produce	Winnipeg		Calgary	
	Dec. 17	Year ago	Dec. 6	Dec. 6
Butter				