

MARKET REVIEW AND FORECAST.

Office of FARMING,

44 and 46 Richmond street W., Toronto,
Dec. 12th, 1898.

A big Christmas trade is looked for in all retail circles. In wholesale circles the conditions of trade are good and a big spring trade is looked for. All the American trade reviews speak of encouraging features and growing industrial activity in the country. Though the bulk of last year's crop is in the farmers' hands, yet country business is very good. Greater activity is looked for as soon as farmers begin to bring out their wheat a little more freely.

Wheat.

The wheat situation is not nearly so good as it was a week or two ago. During the past two weeks wheat has declined 5c. per bushel in Chicago, 4 to 5c. in Ontario, and 6 to 7c. in Manitoba. The statistical position does not seem to be favorable to higher prices and unless there is a big war or some unforeseen thing such as a Lister boom that will affect the market present prices are not likely to be increased very much. The shortage in the Russian crop seems to be dwindling away and estimates are already being made as to the possibilities of the crop for 1899. In the United States the area of fall wheat sown is estimated at over 30,000,000 acres, the largest on record, and if conditions are favorable as the splendid fall growth promised a big crop may be looked for. The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada has increased by 727,000 bushels during the week and is now 24,098,000 bushels. The total world's supply in sight a week ago was 50,818,000 bushels, showing an increase of 3,049,000 bushels in the week, and a decrease of 17,947,000 bushels as compared with the same time last year.

A special cable to the *Trade Bulletin* of Dec. 8th says that the London market is dull and prices are unsettled. Prices in England have declined 1s. per quarter during the fortnight. Ontario farmers are beginning to market their product more freely though the bulk of the crop is still in their hands. The local Manitoba market has been weak and dull of late. Manitoba No. 1 hard is reported 3c. lower than a week ago at Fort William. The market here is dull and easier, with quotations from 66 to 67c. bid for red and white west. The demand for goose wheat seems to have ceased for a time, and quotations are 65 to 66c. west. Manitoba is quoted at 76 to 77c. for No. 1 hard Midland. Locally red and white wheat brings 68 to 70c.

Oats and Barley.

The London oat market is reported firmer and higher with a good demand for Canadian at 3d. to 6d. per quarter advance. Considerable business has been done in oats on this side during the past ten days, and farmers are beginning to market them more freely. The Montreal market is firmer though business there is for the local trade. Car lots in store there are quoted at 30½ to 31c. for No. 2, and 30 to 30½c. for No. 3. The market here has been fairly steady at 27 to 28c. for white west, and 27½ to 28½c. east. A great many oats are going forward via St. John and Portland and the prospects for a good winter export trade are good. On the local market here oats fetch 30 to 31c.

Choice malting barley is quoted at Montreal at 55 to 57c. The market here is steady at 47c. for No. 1 and 45c. for No. 2 west. Locally it brings from 48 to 50c.

Peas and Corn.

The Montreal market for peas is quiet at 57 to 62c., but they could hardly be laid down there for that, as the market has advanced 1c. in the west. The market here is firmer at about 63c. west. From 58 to 63c. are the quotations on the local farmers' market.

Car lots of Chicago mixed corn are quoted

THOSE \$6 ROBES

ITLL be harder to get one of 'em at \$8 or \$9 a month hence than it is now to get one for \$6. Nothing like 'em ever seen in Canada for the money. Without saying much, we're sending them out in dozens every day to all sections of the country. Orders coming in with every mail. Why wouldn't they? Never be a chance like it again. Think of it! A handsome, long-haired Goat Robe, 60 x 72 inches, plush lined, felt edged, selected skins, and entirely our own make for \$6. Not the kind of Robe that's made up in a hurry, but made specially by our own hands. No haste about the work. You get 'em for \$6, but they're being sold at \$8, and even higher. Can't last much longer—so hurry up.

MONEY BACK IF NOT SATISFIED.

Cummings & Sellers = 244 Yonge Street,
TORONTO, ONT.

Manufacturing Furriers

WE PAY CASH FOR FURS

at Montreal at 43 to 44c. on track. Canadian yellow is quoted here at 33½ to 34c. west, and American at 42c. Toronto.

Bran and Shorts.

Bran is steady at Montreal, and receipts are light. Car lots of Ontario bran are quoted at \$14 to \$14.50, and shorts at \$15. All mill feed is firm here at \$14 to \$16 for shorts, and \$12.50 for bran west.

Eggs and Poultry.

The London egg market is firm, and an advance of 6d. per 120 is reported. There is a good demand at Glasgow for pickled and fresh eggs. The Montreal market is firm under continued light receipts, with quotations for good-sized lots of new laid 22 to 22½c. Hired fresh are quoted at 15½ to 16c. There is a scarcity of strictly new-laid eggs here, and the market is firm at 20c., with fresh gathered quoted at 17 to 18c., and limed at 14c. New-laid eggs bring 19 to 20c. on the local market.

The outlook for the export poultry trade is very good, and, instead of closing at Christmas, it is likely to be continued till spring. The exports so far show large increases over other years. Several large companies are talked of for fattening poultry for the export market. Several representatives of British firms have been operating at country points this fall, and the prices paid for choice stock of live turkeys have been from 7½ to 7¾c. per lb.; geese, 6c. per lb.; ducks, 7 to 8c.; and chickens, 5½ to 6c. per lb. There has been a good demand for dressed poultry at Montreal, at from 7 to 8½c., as to quality, for turkeys; 5½ to 6c. for geese; 6 to 7c. for young chickens; and 7½ to 8c. for ducks. The receipts here have not been heavy of late, and quotations are 7 to 9c. for turkeys; 5½c. to 6c. per lb. for geese; 30 to 60c. per pair for ducks, and 25 to 45c. for chickens.

Potatoes.

Choice cars of potatoes bring 53c per bag at Montreal, where a good demand exists. Jobbing lots bring about 60c. There is still some business being done east for shipment to Ontario. Cars on the track are quoted here at 55c, and potatoes out of store at 65c. per bag, which is the quotation locally.

Hay and Straw.

There has been a good demand at Montreal for hay for the local trade. The Liverpool market for Canadian clover remains firm. Considerable clover hay has been bought near Montreal at \$3.50 to \$4.75 per ton for shipment to New York. No. 2 is quoted at Montreal at \$5 to \$5.50, and No. 1 timothy at \$6.50 to \$7.50 per ton. The market here for baled hay is dull at \$7 to \$7.50 for car lots on track. Baled straw brings \$4.50 in car lots. Timothy hay on the local market brings \$8 to \$9.50, and clover \$6 to \$7. Straw is quoted at \$7 to \$8.

Fruit.

Considerable business is being done in the fruit trade. The Montreal apple market is

reported good at \$2.50 to \$3.50 per bbl. in car lots, and \$2.75 to \$4 in a jobbing way.

Cheese.

The improved demand for cheese continues and prices continue to advance. There is a firmer feeling on the London and Liverpool markets, and prices have advanced from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per cwt. Sales have been made during the week at Montreal at 48s. to 48s. 6d. c.i.f. on the other side, which means 50s. London or Liverpool terms. English buyers are beginning to manifest more anxiety about getting in their winter's supply and are sending over orders more frequently than they usually do at this season of the year. Factory men who have cheese to sell, and have the facilities for keeping it properly till after the New Year, may likely get 10c. for it. Montreal quotations are now 9½ to 10c. for finest western and 9½ to 9¾c. for finest eastern. The total exports from Canada and the United States, May 1st to December 9th, show a falling off of 502,596 boxes, as compared with the same period last year.

Butter.

The total shipments of butter from Canada and the United States from May 1st to December 9th show a decrease of 49,317 packages as compared with the same time last year. The London market is up another shilling, and finest Canadian creamery is quoted there at 103 to 108s., and good to fine at 95 to 99s. The Old Country market is considered by dealers on this side to be too high to speculate on, and consequently prices here have not made an advance corresponding with the rise on the other side. Prices at Montreal have advanced, however, and sales of finest creamery have been made at 20½ to 21c. Quotations there are 20 to 21c. for choice, and 18½ to 19½c. for good to fine. The advance is causing an increase of the make in the winter creameries, and there will likely be a good supply during the winter, and it is to be hoped that prices will keep at least above the 20-cent limit. Creamery is steady here at 20 to 21c. for prints, and 19 to 20c. for tubs.

Roll butter is coming in more freely at Montreal, where quotations are 14½ to 15c. for the best lot. Western dairy is quoted there at 14½ to 15½c., with choice selected lots at 15½ to 17c. Prices here are 12 to 13c. for the best large rolls, and dairy tubs at 11 to 12c. for common to good. On the local market pound rolls bring 17 to 22c., and tubs 14c. per lb.

Cattle.

The cattle situation is about the same. Reports from Chicago and Western markets indicate a scarcity of really fine stuff, which is in demand. There appears to be too many poorly fed or badly bred cattle coming forward, for which the market is easier. Choice to extra choice steers were selling at Chicago during the week at from \$5.40 to \$6 per cwt., while the common stuff would hardly bring \$4. The same scarcity of really good cattle exists here, and for which dealers are willing to advance prices.