

The Outlook for Wheat and Clover.

WATERLOO.

The fall wheat and clover, generally speaking from present appearances, has wintered in very good condition. Very little wheat winter-killed. Very much better than last year.

JOHN TAYLOR, JR.

MIDDLESEX NORTH.

Wheat that got only a slight dressing of manure has stood the winter—the way it does nine cases out of ten—very well, while that which got no manure looks very backward. Clover bids fair to be a very light crop on account of the dry summer last year.

R. NICHOLSON.

MIDDLESEX EAST.

Fall wheat is a good average. Young clover does not look so well, some of it very thin.

A. B. SCOTT.

EAST YORK.

The fall wheat is looking well. I have not seen any that is injured in the least, and every one I have asked say it is good. Clover was not a good catch last year, but where there was a catch it is good.

JOHN MILLER.

WENTWORTH.

The fall wheat looks very well in this district. No clover. It was all killed last summer by the dry weather. Our dependence for grass and hay is all in the timothy.

COWIE BROS.

WENTWORTH SOUTH.

I am pleased to say that fall wheat in this section is in fine condition. It is very seldom that it looks so well at this season of the year. Clover was a poor stand in the fall, but what there is, is in fine condition also.

JOHN JACKSON.

NORTH WENTWORTH.

Wheat and clover are both in good condition in this vicinity.

R. S. STEVENSON.

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY.

Fall wheat and clover wintered well, both in fine condition; present prospects good.

W. C. HUFF.

EAST NORTHUMBERLAND.

I am pleased to say that the fall wheat, clover, and rye are looking excellent in this county.

J. B. STONE.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

Fall wheat and clover never looked better in this vicinity. The fields of clover and wheat are quite green; prospects were never better.

F. BONNYCASTLE.

DURHAM, N. S.

Clover fields have suffered this winter from want of snow; considerably thrown out by frost; it is a little too early to say definitely.

C. R. B. B.

April 21st, 1900.

WELLINGTON.

Fall wheat in this vicinity looks well. I think the clover that stood the dry weather of last summer is all right now, but it is not as promising as the fall wheat.

SUSSEX, N. B.

I can only speak for myself, and would say that after an extremely hard winter on grass land, clover on wheat and barley ground has wintered splendidly; on oat ground not quite so well.

H. T. HAYES.

OXFORD.

In reply to yours, will say that fall wheat never before looked as promising. Not a plant is missing, and with fair weather it should be a great crop. Clover there was none to injure, as the drought of last season killed it all, and I expect a scarcity of hay, as many of the old meadows were plowed and sown to fall wheat.

H. BOLLERT.

The fall wheat is looking splendid here. It is as green and even as it was last November, not spotted as it sometimes is. It has neither smothered nor frozen out. Clover that was all right last fall is all right now, but owing to the drought of last summer, a great deal of seed sown did not make a stand.

GEO. RICE.

ESSEX SOUTH.

The outlook for fall wheat is not encouraging on the light lands; is badly killed also on heavy land. On medium lands and sandy loam, better, but no fields without injury, more or less; but there is a good object lesson: The wheat on poorest land is killed worst, whilst a richer spot alongside is all right. Clover is not hurt where it was not killed by drought last summer.

W. G. BALDWIN.

DRYDEN, ALGOMA.

Clover and fall wheat came through the winter well, especially the wheat, but have been considerably damaged by hot and extremely dry weather for two months.

A. E. ANNIS.

PETERBORO EAST.

Fall wheat crop and clover look exceedingly well. Weather being favorable, the crop will excel other years greatly.

JOSEPH SMITHSON.

PEEL CO.

Some fields of fall wheat look promising, but a great many damaged considerably by frost. Would say promises about two-thirds of an average crop. Clover very poor; mostly killed last summer by drought; not half a crop.

R. P. SNELL.

EAST BRUCE.

Fall wheat and clover are looking well in this district, and we are also having very favorable weather at present.

THOS. A. CHISHOLM.

NORTH BRUCE.

Most of the fall wheat has wintered unusually well this year, and the past few days of warm weather is making it look nice and green. The wireworm has injured some fields considerably, though the percentage of wheat injured by them is not great. Should the spring weather prove favorable, there is a promise of a good even crop. Clover has generally wintered well, but there are many fields of a very thin, uneven catch, owing to the dry season last summer.

JAS. B. MUIR.

BRANT.

The wheat in this section does not look very well, large spots of it being completely killed where the water and ice lay, and other places are thinned by exposure. The clover has come through the winter very well, but owing to the severe drouth last summer, very little of it survived.

TELFER BROS.

PRINCE COUNTY, P. E. I.

To the surprise of farmers in this section, the clover fields seeded last year are looking fairly well. There are no places that are killed completely. A great many of the plants are badly thrown up, but will probably grow. The ground has been bare nearly all winter, freezing and thawing alternately.

CHAS. CRAIG.

Legislation Re Salt Packages.

Mr. Robt. Holmes, M.P. of Huron Co., Ont., has introduced at Ottawa a bill amending the Weights and Measures Act, and providing that hereafter every barrel of salt packed in bulk, sold, or offered for sale, shall contain 280 lbs. of salt, and every such barrel or sack of salt shall have the correct gross weight thereof, and in case of a barrel the net weight also marked upon it in a plain and permanent manner. The name or the registered trade-mark of the packer of the salt, if packed in Canada, or the name and address of the importer, if it is packed elsewhere than in Canada, shall be marked, stamped or branded upon every barrel or sack of salt sold or offered for sale in Canada.

Huron County.

The snow left us in a hurry, though we have had considerable cold west winds off the lake, and even now, the last week of April, the prevailing wind is cool. The wheat looks well as a rule; there are a few patches, but we cannot complain as to its appearance. The grass is making good headway.

Sugarmaking, though not a general industry here, was good, but short. The syrup sells at \$1 per gallon.

Seeding is well under way, though owing perhaps to lack of frosts since the snow left us, the heavy lands work none too easy, and the long, open season of last fall has made especially the light lands considerably grassy, thus necessitating extra working.

Horses are selling higher than ever; as high as \$200 was paid for a working mare the other day. At auction sales horses brought good figures, as also cows and sheep. Butchers cannot get fat sheep enough. Hogs are under 6c. live weight. Potatoes at 25c. per bush. Oats, 30c. Wheat, 64c. Bran, 16c. per ton. Shorts, 18c.

There was some talk of Huron having a cannery factory a while ago, but we have heard nothing about it lately. It would be a good section for a cannery, and we hope the project has not fallen through.

F. C. E.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Following table shows current and comparative live stock prices:

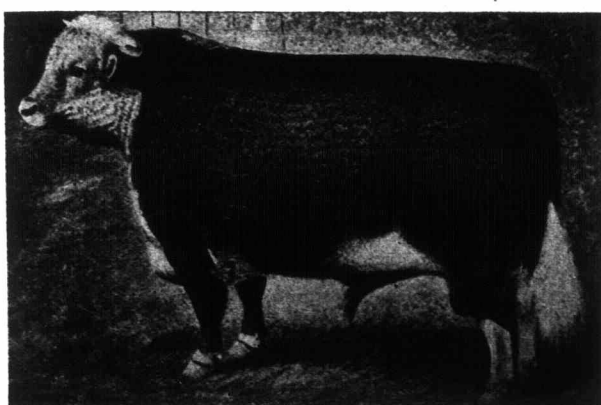
	Extreme prices now.	Top Prices		
		Two weeks ago.	1899	1898
Beef cattle.				
1500 lbs. up to 1600 lbs.	\$5 00 to 6 00	\$5 80	\$5 70	\$5 40
1350 to 1500 lbs.	4 75 to 5 65	5 75	5 85	5 25
1200 to 1350 lbs.	4 35 to 5 50	5 60	5 50	5 25
1050 to 1200 lbs.	4 15 to 5 40	5 40	5 25	5 00
900 to 1050 lbs.	4 00 to 5 25	5 20	5 10	4 90
Hogs.				
Mixed.	5 30 to 5 65	5 60	4 02	3 97
Heavy.	5 30 to 5 70	5 65	4 05	4 00
Light.	5 25 to 5 50	5 52	3 95	3 85
Pigs.	4 25 to 5 30	5 30	3 85	3 90
Sheep.				
Natives.	4 30 to 6 50	6 30	5 00	4 75
Lambs.	5 35 to 7 40	7 40	5 90	5 65
Colorado lambs.	7 25 to 7 50	7 50	5 90	5 65

The situation in the fat cattle market is fairly satisfactory to producers. It is a noteworthy fact that the choice light-weights and big heavy cattle are getting closer together. Some 915-lb. steers of choice quality sold at \$5.20, with 1,576 to 1,581 lb. cattle at \$5.20.

The hog market has been very high, being the highest since 1896, but just lately the tendency has been toward a sharp reaction. The wide speculation in pork products has been at the bottom of the recent sharp changes in hog prices.

The April cattle receipts at leading market points are the largest in the past ten years. The increase is entirely in "native" or corn-belt cattle, as the number of Texans is very small just now.

A GREAT SALE OF HEREFORDS.



DALE 66481.

[Hereford bull sold for \$7,500 by auction at Chicago, April 17th.]

The great event of the past fortnight was the dispersion sale at Dexter Park Amphitheatre, Chicago, of the Nave herd of Hereford cattle.

96 lots sold for \$61,415; an average of \$671.00.

20 bulls sold for \$19,085; an average of \$954.25.

76 cows sold for \$45,330; an average of \$596.45.

Highest price bull, Dale 66481, \$7,500.00.

Highest price cows, Theresa 92896, and Russet 73664, each \$3,000.00.

77 domestic-bred sold for \$49,755; an average of \$646.17.

18 domestic-bred bulls sold for \$14,915; an average of \$828.56.

59 domestic-bred cows sold for \$34,840; an average of \$590.51.

Highest price domestic-bred bull, Dale, \$7,500.

Highest price domestic-bred cows, Theresa and Russet, each \$3,000.

19 imported Herefords sold for \$14,990; an average of \$789.00.

2 imported Hereford bulls sold for \$4,502; an average of \$2,251.00.

17 imported Hereford cows sold for \$10,490; an average of \$617.00.

Highest price imported bull, Viscount Rupert, \$3,100.

Highest price imported cow, Lady Help, \$2,600.

The \$7,500 bull was bought by the man who raised him, and who sold him as a youngster at \$1,000.

Someone says that some breeders can make big money out of \$5,000 to \$7,500 bulls, while others might have such animals at \$500 to \$700 and not be able to manage them so as to avoid a loss. It simply means that a boat should not try to carry more sail than its ballast justifies, or that people to make a success of large ventures must have ideas and fittings to match.

Some 40 head of fine trotting-bred carriage horses, fitted up here for about a year, sold in the East at an average of over \$1,000 per head.

There is justification for high sheep and lamb prices in the fact that the receipts at four leading markets for the second week in April are the smallest for the season since 1895, being 33,000 smaller than in 1897. There has been a mighty growth in the demand for lamb and sheep meat, and as the demand grows better the quality improves and thereby causes a still increasing demand.

About 11,000 Colorado-fed lambs sold one week recently at \$7.20 to \$7.65, being 10c. to 15c. below the recent top, but still \$1.50 higher than a year ago.

Dock and Castrate Ram Lambs.

The importance of docking and castrating grade ram lambs intended for the butcher, cannot at this time be too strongly emphasized. Great numbers of ram lambs are shipped to the markets in Oct. and Nov. every year, which sell for much less than wether lambs. They fret and worry themselves and the other lambs or sheep they are with, and do not feed and gain weight or allow others to do so, and their flesh is liable to go off flavor when the breeding season is on. The proper time to attend to the operation is when the lambs are two or three weeks old, when it is attended with very little risk, but with reasonable care it can be safely done at two or three months old. Do not delay it, however, beyond a month from the birth of the lambs.

Toronto Markets.

The market seems governed a good deal by the lack of facilities to ship cattle. Space on the ocean steamships is scarce and unreliable. The quality of fat cattle was very fair, a few extra choice exporters being offered. The best selling cattle were stockers. Owing to the light run, trade was brisk in the early part, but slackened off towards the close.

Export Cattle.—The supply of export cattle is light, but the demand is also very poor. A large number of cattle are left over each market day. This causes heavy shrinkage and extra expenses for feed. Only very few sales are reported, so the prices paid must be low. Choice export cattle sold at \$4.50 to \$4.75 per cwt. Light export cattle sold at \$4.25 to \$4.50.

Butchers' Cattle.—Choice butchers' cattle, equal in quality to export, weighing from 1,000 to 1,100 lbs., sold at \$4.40. Good butchers' cattle sold at \$3.65 to \$4.25. Common butchers' cattle sold from \$2.60 to \$3.00. Messrs. Jones & Rowat, of Sudbury, Ont., bought one load of butchers' cattle, 1,000 lbs. average, at \$3.50 per cwt. Messrs. Cook & Atkinson, Stouffville, Ont., sold four steers, 1,050 lbs. average, at \$4.00. Mr. W. I. Collins bought for the Montreal market 22 heavy cattle at \$4.00, average 1,050 lbs. each.

Bulls.—Heavy export bulls sold at \$4.00; light export bulls at \$3.60. Bulls for the byres sold at \$2.75 to \$3.25. One extra choice bull, weighing 2,190 lbs., was sold at \$4.50, bought by James Harris.

Feeders.—Choice, well-bred steers for feeding purposes are scarce. Well-bred steers, weighing from 1,050 lbs. to 1,200 lbs., are worth \$4.00. Mr. John Sheridan bought 11 short-keep steers, 1,170 lbs. average, at \$4.70, to finish at the byres. A number of cattle averaging 1,100 to 1,200 lbs. each, not suitable for butchers' cattle, and unsuitable for export, were bought up to-day by farmers as short-keep feeders at from \$4.25 to \$4.35. Mr. Daly, the well-known police magistrate of Napanee, Ont., bought a load of short-keep feeders averaging from 1,100 lbs. to 1,200 lbs. each, at \$3.35.

Stockers.—Yearling steers from 500 to 800 lbs. in weight, sold at \$3.25 to \$4.00. Heifers, black and white, sold at \$2.75 to \$3.25 for choice.

Sheep.—Sheep and lambs sold at higher prices; the market firm. Fairly choice sheep fetched \$4.35, and butchers' sheep at \$4.00 per cwt. Top price \$4.50 for ewes, and \$3.00 to \$3.50 per cwt. for bucks.

Lambs.—The market for spring lambs was good; prices firm and well maintained. Picked lots of ewes and wethers sold at \$6.00 to \$6.50 per cwt. Yearling lambs were quoted at \$5.00 to \$6.00 per cwt. Some were at from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per head.

Culves.—The demand not keen. Calves of good quality range from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per head; inferior small scrubs from \$2.00 upwards.

Milk Cows.—The supply very poor. Good milk cows for dairies wanted at from \$30 to \$50 per head.

Hogs.—Owing to the large number of light hogs, those under 150 lbs., the price was shaded to \$5.37½. The best select, those weighing over 180 up to 200 lbs., are firmer, with a slight disposition to advance. The price quoted this week is again \$6.25, but there was considerable shading down to \$6.12½ for the last two weeks on the various market days.

There seems to be a general disposition on the part of farmers to hold for certain days, when an over supply enables the packers to discriminate very closely on undesirable weights and quality. Outside packing-houses wait on this market and do not give the upward turn until this market has fallen. This, in a great measure, is the reason for the constant fluctuations. Thick fats, \$5.75 per cwt.; light fats, \$5.50; sows, \$3; stags, \$2 per cwt.

Mr. F. McKay, Creemore, Ont., sold 80 hogs, best singers, \$6.25 per cwt.

Our opinion has been asked by a well-known shipper as to what are the prospects for the ensuing month? We are inclined to the opinion that hogs will go slightly better until June.

The Wm. Davies Co. have issued a letter complaining that during the last few weeks, since prices have advanced, there has been an alarming increase of soft and tender sides in the bacon coming out of the salt. These are chiefly of the lighter and from hogs not sufficiently finished. It is suggested that the trouble may possibly be owing to the feeding of roots and other soft feed, and it is intimated that if this class continues to come they will be discriminated against severely in prices.

Dressed Hogs.—Very few dressed hogs coming forward in farmers' loads; choice bring from \$7.25 to \$7.50 per cwt.

Wheat.—One load of Red wheat sold at 69½c. per bushel; 200 bushels of Goose wheat at 74½c. per bushel; 100 bushels of spring wheat at 70c. per bushel.

Oats were unchanged at 33½c. per bushel.

Barley—200 bushels sold lower at 44c. per bushel.

Hay—Fifteen loads of hay sold at \$10.75 to \$11.

Straw—Very little on offer, \$8 to \$10 per ton.

Bran is quoted at \$16 to \$17 per ton.

Butter.—The recent return from the Manchester butter market reports that the market is in better condition. On this market deliveries free; small dairy pound prints from farmers at 14c. to 15c. per pound.

Cheese.—The market in a very unsettled condition; no stocks held. Very little coming on the market, yet sales are made in small lots at easier prices, at from 12c. to 13½c. per lb.

Hides and Wool.—Hides, No. 1 green, per lb., 9c.; hides, No. 1 steers, 9½c.; hides, cured, 9c.; calfskins, 10c.; sheepskins, each, \$1.20; wool, fleece, lb., 19c.; wool, unwashed, 11c.; wool, pulled, 22c. The shortage in fine wool in Australia does not at first sight appear to have any effect on Canadian wool, but recently another source of supply has been cut off. Owing to the war in South Africa very little cape wool has been seen on the English market. The probability is that wools of all sorts will in the future be more valuable than at present.

Seeds.—Red clover, per bushel, \$5; Alsike, \$7; Alsike, good, \$6; White clover, \$8; timothy, \$1.35.

Horse Market Notes.

The horses wanted by Major Dent, remount officer of the British Army, and Veterinary Major Phillips, M.R.C.V.S., are for cavalry, artillery, transports and ponies. The latter must be strong, wiry, short-backed, good bone, and from 14 hands to 15 hands 1 inch high; cobs, strong, well-built, active animals, 13½ to 15½ hands high. They must be between the ages of 5 and 9 years old; must be sound in wind, limb and eyesight; must not be footsore, nor have sprained legs, with neither splint, spavin nor ringbones.

Small compact animals that show a little breeding are desired, but grays and light roans are not wanted. Prices offered are from \$50 to \$150 per head, according to quality, but it is doubtful if this contract can be filled, for at the present time there is the nearest a horse famine that this country has witnessed for many years, and the greatest demand for good horses that we ever had. There are more enquiries from England than ever before.

At the sale of Clydesdale stallions at the farm of the late John Bell, of Amber, Ont., the following were some of the prices realized, with the purchasers:

Stallion Janitor, \$1,425, sold to Mr. D. Watson, of Maple.

Sherlock Holmes, \$750, to Mr. R. Crake, of Sharon, Ont.

"Corsewell's Grandson," \$600, to Mr. R. Cox, of Amber, Ont.

"Royal Huntley," \$900, to Mr. J. Ireland.

Bladwick, \$900, to Mr. J. Coulter, of Brantford, Ont.; also Hazelside, for \$600.

Messrs. Graham Bros., of Claremont, Ont., purchased "Earl of Aberdeen" and "Chirodipodist" for \$100 each.

Fresh milk cows realized slightly over \$50 per head.