

abundant in the period of bloom, will fall far below early expectations, as the returns from the great fruit region of the Oronavalis Valley indicate. The wet and cold weather which succeeded the blossoming season prevented perfect pollenization and the fruit did not set well. It is curious to note that outside of what are known as the great fruit counties the apple crop promises better than usual."

Prince Edward Island.

Haying is not near through yet. The haying season has been so wet that it is difficult to get along with the work. Hay is a heavy crop, but some of it will be damaged by wet. The grain crops are very heavy in straw, and considerably lodged. Wheat is filling well, except in some few localities where there is complaints of midge. Harvest will begin about August 20th. Root crops are coming on splendidly, and are well advanced for the season. Potatoes are doing finely, and the early varieties are ready for use.

Pastures are the best we have had for many years, and need very little supplementing yet with green feed. The flow of milk has never been checked, as is generally the case at this time of the year. Many of the dairy stations will double last year's output. The make of cheese is especially large. June cheese has mostly been marketed. The price ranged from 7½c. to 7¾c. July cheese is not sold yet. Two cheese buyers are operating on this market, A. J. Biffin for Hodgson Bros., and T. J. Dillon on his own account. Cattle are in excellent condition, and grass beef is going to market. Most of the winter-fed beef stock is used up. Grass beef is worth about six cents dead weight. Lambs sell for 2½c. to 2¾c., live weight, according to quality. There are very few fat hogs to market just now, but there are double the number being fed for the fall trade than there was last year. Farmers have given up raising thick-fat hogs, and have turned their attention to producing hogs of the bacon type. We have no exhibition here this fall, and many of our stockmen are preparing to show at St. John and Halifax.

August 6th.

Lincoln County, Ont.

Comparatively little change has taken place in this district as far as the prices of cattle are concerned. Very few export cattle are left, and the best butchers' stock is barely touching 4c. Milch cows of the best type are far from plentiful, and sellers can command from \$40 to \$45 for a good animal. Butter has taken the customary upward step at this time of the year, and good rolls are bringing from 20c. to 25c. per lb. It would undoubtedly pay farmers to give more attention to soiling crops to keep up the flow of milk during July and August. Eggs are somewhat scarcer, and are selling at 15c. to 18c. Hay can be bought anywhere from \$4 to \$5.50 per ton. There was a big crop, and as a rule saved in excellent shape. Wheat was above the average; the midge did a little damage in some sections, but on the whole the yield will be fair and the straw bright and heavy. Oats promise a medium crop only, and the straw somewhat short. What I reported about the fruit crop in June turns out to be pretty much the case. On the whole the crop is a disappointment. A few peach orchards will turn out fairly well, but thousands of trees will be painfully bare of the luscious fruit. "Curled leaf" doubtless weakened the trees and helped create the present condition of things. It is questionable if a quarter of a crop will be marketed from this district. Apples are lighter than was anticipated two months ago, many orchards have practically nothing. Plums also will be decidedly light. The codling moth and curculio have naturally done a vast amount of harm; with a small supply of fruit to breed in, their work has told disastrously. No doubt climatic conditions and insufficient fertilization of blossoms caused much of the "dropping off" so generally complained of, but insects are responsible for a good deal of it. Where practicable it would be well to gather up this fallen fruit and prevent the larvae maturing. Pears will probably be an average crop, though Bartlett's in the eastern part of the county are reported light. Grapes will be one of the best crops for years in this district, most vineyards promising a clean, full crop.

Prince Edward Island's Crops.

NO MORE CORN FOR THE ISLANDERS—CHEESE AND BACON.

The crops on the Island are continuing to do splendidly, the best in years, and the same is true of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. The potato crop in Prince Edward Island is comparatively free from bugs, and the fact of immunity from this pest alone gives them a luxuriant appearance. Early potatoes are now being used for table use, and are quite large. The oat crop will be an enormous one, and the abundance of straw is quite unusual. The hay crop was very late, owing to wet weather so that it could not be made. At this writing Islanders are in the midst of the hay harvest. Much of the crop will not be cut and saved before the 15th. Turnips are doing well, I hardly see any fodder corn at all. The majority of farmers here abandoned fodder and ensilage corn, owing, probably, to the bad results from the crop last year. Prof. Robertson gave some bad advice to us farmers in these lower provinces when he exhorted us to grow corn in place of roots. Many of us tried corn for several years, and slighted our old friend root, but as Poor Richard says, "Experience is a hard school, but it is the only one where fools will learn."

There are 42 cheese factories in full swing this season, and I hear of no shortage in the milk supply from any of them. The weather being so cool thus far, the cheese cures well, and probably June and July cheese of this season will, in quality, surpass anything of the kind ever placed on the British markets. Prince Edward cheese has already made for itself an enviable name in the markets of Britain; in fact, our Island cheese sold last year for higher prices than any other cheese produced in Canada. It seems there is something in our pasture grass, from the saline breezes of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, that gives a pleasant and peculiar flavor to the Island cheese which suits the discriminating palate of Mr. John Bull. Several factories have sold for 8c. It is estimated that \$500,000 of British gold will be brought across the seas this season in exchange for the product of our cheese and butter factories. And perhaps more impor-

tant to the Maritime farmer than even the cheese, is the bacon industry, and will draw as much British gold to our shores as our dairy products. There will be fully half a million of British gold taken to this Province alone this year for bacon and hams. The dairy cow and the bacon pig are going to be, if turned in partnership, the salvation of our farmers.

J. A. MACDONALD.

Herrmannville Farm, P. E. I., Aug. 4th.

[EDITORIAL NOTE.—It would be interesting to have the views of other Maritime readers as to their experience with corn, of which such a doleful account is given above. We shall be glad to hear from them on this topic. It would be well to bear in mind that heavy turnip feeding and fine flavored butter do not, as a rule, go together.]

Middlesex Co., Ont.

Reports from threshers are most disappointing, especially in case of fall wheat and oats. In odd cases the former may reach 30 or 35 bushels per acre, but it drops as low as 13—chicken feed at that—but as a rule the sample is fine. The average yield will be under 20 bushels, I feel certain, and in view of these facts and the general shortage in wheat supplies farmers will be loath to sell at the wretchedly low prices now offering. Barley and peas (where grown) are yielding better than the other two grains. Rain has come in streaks, so that while roots, corn, after-grass and pasture look well in some sections, they are discouraging in others. Everything points to an early-matured corn crop and an early fall-wheat seeding.

Central Eastern Ontario.

Since harvesting commenced with us until the finishing of the same to-day we have not lost one hour of working time from wet weather. On the other hand, all growing stuff is suffering seriously from the terrible drought; grain filled wonderfully well, notwithstanding. Corn is almost at a standstill, and promises an early, dwarfed maturity. Mangels made splendid promise of great things early in the season, but both mangels and turnip foliage is withering rapidly, meaning a stop to further healthy growth. This is a season of discouragement for our dairymen. Low prices are ruling for cheese and butter; added to this, the complete failure of our best pastures in most places makes bad worse. Most farmers do not care to do much supplementary feeding of their dairy stock. Mill-feeds are still too high: bran, \$14, shorts, \$16. They think it unwise to draw heavily, so early in the season, on the corn fields. This all means that many cheese factories will have a very short season's run. The demand for all lines of fat stock is very good. Lambs are being contracted for at 8½c., with the prospect of a further rise. Winter and early spring pigs are being marketed at 5c. and 5½c. Very few silos are being built this summer. Although the silo is past the experimental stage, many of our most progressive farmers have not adopted it. While there are certain points in its favor, there are likewise several contra. Mr. Jos. Yuill has just finished a large square stone one, 18 x 20 x 30 ft., estimated capacity 225 tons. About 60 cords of stone were used in building. Since the ground here is too dry for plowing, threshing, which is just commenced, will probably be finished early. J. J. F. Leeds Co., Ont., Aug. 8th, 1898.

Toronto Markets.

The cattle market receipts for July show that while the cattle and sheep returns are just holding their own as to former years, the hog trade goes on increasing by leaps and bounds. The receipts this year to the end of July were 163,807, as compared with 110,990 for the same period of last year. Our heaviest receipts are usually in October and November, and by that time the new packing houses at the foot of Bathurst street, the property of Messrs. Parks, Blackwell & Co., will be in running order, with a capacity of 5,000 per week. Mr. Wm. Wilson, of Collingwood, is appointed architect to draw plans and specifications of a packing house at Palmerston, Ont., with a capacity of 1,500 hogs per week, the base of supply being the townships of Wallace, Minto, Howick, Peel, Maryboro, and Arthur, Ont.

Export Cattle.—The receipts of fat cattle were small compared with recent deliveries, and the price unchanged. Exporters sold at \$4.25 to \$4.50 per cwt. Mr. W. H. Dean bought one load of exporters, 1,265-lb. average, at \$4.45 per cwt. Messrs. Brown & Snell bought one load of exporters at \$4.35 per cwt. Daniel McDougall and McCulloch, of London, Ont., sold two carloads of best exporters, equal to any on the market, 1,346-lb. average, \$4.35 per cwt., to Joseph Gould, of Boston. Messrs. Rountree and Halligan bought 44 exporters at \$4.50 per cwt., less \$1.00 on the deal, and 15 steers, 1,370-lb. average, at \$4.45 per cwt.

Butchers' Cattle.—Choice butchers' cattle sold at \$4 to \$4.12 per cwt.; good, \$3.75 to \$3.90; rough cattle, \$2.50 to \$2.75 per cwt. Mr. Zeagman sold a load of butcher cattle, 1,000-lb. average, at \$4.40 per cwt., the top price for the day. Light deliveries caused the price to advance in some cases as much as 20c. per cwt. William Levaoh bought 155 cattle, mixed butchers, at from \$3.75 to \$4.35 per cwt. Only two carloads of butchers' cattle went through for Montreal.

Bulls.—Export bulls, light, of good quality, in demand; two carloads sold at from \$3.80 to \$4.12 per cwt.

Stockers.—The large supply of small stockers from Montreal market made the demand from Buffalo slow. Choice \$3 light steers. Culls at \$2.50 per cwt. Mr. C. Campbell bought one carload of stockers and shipped to Bismarck, Ont.

Feeders.—There was very little demand for heavy feeders, which were slow of sale at \$3.50 to \$3.75 per cwt.

Sheep.—The demand quite active, with prices firmer. Ewes selling at \$3.25 to \$3.35 per cwt. Mr. J. W. Fiewelling sold a bunch of ewes, for which he obtained top price, \$3.25 per cwt.

Lambs. were in better demand, holders firm, at from \$3 to \$4 per head; all sold on offer.

Calves. were in good demand, with prices firmer at \$3 to \$7 per head; in some cases \$4.25 to \$5 per cwt.

Milk Cows.—A few choice milkers wanted, but generally the inquiry is easy for dairy cows. Prices easy, at from \$25 to \$35 per head.

Hog Market.—Choice selections of best bacon hogs sold at \$6.25 per cwt. off car—that is, unfed or watered. To obtain top price, they must be 150 to 200 lbs., long, lean, suitable for the export bacon trade. There is likely to be an unlimited demand for this class. Light fat hogs sold at \$5.50, heavy fat at \$5; corn and grass fed hogs from \$5 to \$5.25. There were only 4,000 delivered this week, and we give this warning: do not delay if you have any hogs ready for shipment. They are now at their highest and a drop is expected any time. Look at the Buffalo market: best off cars \$4.20 per cwt.

Dressed Hogs.—Market firm; all-round dressed hogs in farmers' loads sell at \$7 to \$7.25 per cwt. Messrs. Davies & Co. shipped to the Old Country \$25,000 worth of bacon products through the Custom House last week; this went in cold storage through New York for Liverpool, England.

Cheese.—Business in the export cheese trade was quite

brisk this week. Prices quoted are 7½c. for delivery. There should be a better method of transshipment from the cars to the steamers at Montreal. We had occasion to visit the wharves during last week, and the way that cheese is handled would require cast-iron boxes to stand the rough handling we witnessed. Six men were wheeling boxes of cheese on trucks to the ship's side. They were then dumped into a net and hauled up by windlass into the ship's hold, and during our short observation we saw eight boxes smashed by being squeezed together. There seems to be no reason why they could not be raised with the trucks bodily into the hold at one handling. Dealers quote new cheese at 8c. and old at 9c. per lb.

Eggs.—A little steeper; quality of stock an improvement on the last two weeks, and quite a few dealers are cold storing all their surplus choice stock; 10c. to 11½c. per dozen.

Grain Market.—Only two loads of new Ontario wheat sold, at 71c. to 72c. per bushel.

Hay.—A slight advance on all offerings this week—\$6 to \$7.50 per ton.

Toronto, Aug. 9, 1898.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

Following are the current and comparative prices for the various grades of live stock:—

	Extreme Prices.	Top prices		
		Two weeks ago.	1897.	1898.
CATTLE.				
1500 lbs. up.....	\$4 75 to 5 50	\$5 40	\$5 25	\$4 50
1250 @ 1500.....	4 60 to 5 55	5 65	5 25	4 60
1000 @ 1250.....	4 20 to 5 50	5 55	5 05	4 55
750 @ 1000.....	4 00 to 5 35	5 40	5 00	4 45
500 @ 750.....	3 90 to 5 30	5 25	4 85	4 30
250 @ 500.....	3 85 to 5 40	5 50	4 90	4 25
Fed Westerns.....	3 00 to 4 70	4 70	4 50	3 60
Stockers and feeders.....	3 00 to 5 00	5 40	4 40	4 15
Fat cows and heifers.....	3 50 to 5 00	5 40	4 40	4 15

HOGS.				
Mixed.....	3 60 to 4 05	4 12½	4 07	3 55
Heavy.....	3 50 to 4 10	4 17½	4 00	3 45
Light.....	3 55 to 4 02½	4 05	4 12	3 65
Pigs.....	2 75 to 3 90	3 95	4 12	3 65

SHEEP.				
Natives.....	2 75 to 4 75	5 00	4 25	3 25
Western.....	3 50 to 4 50	4 50	4 00	3 15
Texas.....	3 40 to 4 12	4 12	4 05	3 15
Lambs.....	4 00 to 6 65	6 60	5 40	5 55

In the opinion of some good authorities current receipts of cattle are about one-fourth less than they would have been if it hadn't been for the late heavy and general rains. It is expected that Western range cattle will soon be coming freely, to make good the shortage in native cattle, but they will have to come more freely than seems fair to expect to make good the shortage in range cattle.

Heifers are selling to good advantage, but really not as well as they should if the old traditional idea of the inferiority of heifer beef on the hoof could be dispelled. Fred Alberts, Clarence, Iowa, was in with 21 cattle of his own feeding, 335 lbs., which sold at \$5. There were 19 heifers and 5 steers in the lot. P. Wibaux, Montana, marketed 1,235-lb. range steers at \$4.75, and 1,087-lb. heifers at \$4.50.

There were 17,638 Texas cattle in quarantine last month and 2,481 calves. For the year to date 72,000 cattle, 1,150 calves, 3,022 cows. The grass fat cattle going to market this summer from Texas and the Territory are the best in years, due to a mild winter and an abundance of early spring grass on the ranges. Prices for top are in the main satisfactory, and on consequence ranchmen are happy. The culling grades of Texas cattle, which were so extremely high, are now much lower than a while ago, but the desirable fat cows and Texas beef steers are selling well. Texas cattlemen are busy buying improved breeding stock. They have wisely come to the conclusion that it does not pay to use time and money and opportunity in breeding and feeding scrubbs. An authority says: "The market for pure-bred animals and for farm machinery has never been so good in Texas as it will be during the coming season."

Of the 9,000 carloads of hogs received at Chicago last month Iowa contributed 4,060, against 4,377 a year ago, and 3,912 two years ago; Illinois, 2,601, against 2,133 a year ago and 1,604 two years ago; Missouri, 932, against 1,077 a year ago and 1,273 in July, 1896. While Illinois increased 269 cars, compared with two years ago, Missouri decreased 341, compared with July, 1896.

Everybody has been surprised at the smallness of receipts. Salesmen have largely advised country shippers to buy at lower prices lately, and they found it difficult to do, a large share of the hogs being in the hands of people not compelled to sacrifice them. As light as the run was recently, there were hogs here that came earlier than intended on account of cholera in the neighborhood.

Average weight of hogs at Sioux City last month, 266 lbs., the heaviest since last January. Average in June, 262 lbs., and in July, 1897, 270 lbs.

The 4,872,041 hogs received at the Chicago Stock Yards the first seven months of 1898 averaged 228 lbs. The 4,698,740 received the same period of 1897 averaged 238 lbs.

William Pilcher, Ida Grove, Iowa, had in 70 head of 244-lb. Texas-fed hogs, which sold at \$3.80. They were of choice quality, and attracted considerable attention. They were very solid, being on corn since last fall. They averaged 55 lbs. last fall when Mr. Pilcher bought them in Texas.

Some 78-lb. Idaho lambs right from the ranges sold at \$6.65, an unprecedented price for this class of stock at this time of the year. The talk about an abundance of range lambs seems as yet to be mainly talk, and there cannot be many good native lambs or they would be attracted by the present high prices.

A horseman, speaking of the Chicago horse market, says: "Smooth, blocky, fat export, 1,300 to 1,400 lb. chunks are still worth from \$70 to \$100; Eastern 1,100 to 1,200 lb. \$50 to \$75; good, blocky, 1,500 to 1,600 lb. express and draft, \$80 for fair to \$125 for good, and \$150 buys rather an extra one. The Government is not buying many now, either cavalry or artillery. No particular class in special demand, but good horses are always wanted, and prospects are receipts will be very light, which dealers hope will keep the market steady and in a healthy condition."

Buffalo Markets.

Hogs sold up to \$4.20 per cwt. alive for best sorts, 190 to 238 lbs., but \$4.10 to \$4.15 was the usual price of prime medium and heavies. Yerkers 140 to 180, \$4.10 to \$4.12, and pigs fair to good quality \$3.90 to \$4.00.

Cattle are advancing and sold to-day (Aug. 10th) for \$5.40 for steers averaging 1,670 lbs., and a really prime load would have brought \$5.50. Butchers' steers, 1,100 to 1,250 lbs., sold at \$5.10 to \$5.20 per cwt. Feeders, \$3.90 to \$4.25, and stockers, good quality, \$4.25 to \$4.40, and as high as \$4.50 was paid for 400 to 450 lb. steers of good quality and colors.

Fancy milkers and springers sold up to \$50 and down to \$38 to \$42 for medium quality.

Calves are scarce, and fancy ones brought \$6.50, while \$5 was paid for common to fair stock.

Sheep and Lambs.—Prime ewe and wether grades, weighing 70 to 80 lbs. in the market sold readily at \$2.50, and one fancy load at \$6.75. The coarse, bulky, and half fat grades sold around \$6 to \$6.25, and down to \$5 and \$5.50 for culls and thin stuff. Sheep trade is not very active. Fat, coarse ewes sold for \$4.15 to \$4.35, and better grades of mixed ewes and wethers for \$4.60 to \$4.75.

East Buffalo, Aug. 10, 1898.

Live Stock Exports.

The live stock reports for the two weeks ending Wednesday, Aug. 10th, as prepared by R. Hickerdike, of the Live Stock Exchange, Montreal, show that 6,756 cattle and 2,726 sheep have been exported to London, Liverpool, Bristol, Glasgow, Newcastle, and Manchester.