

MARKETS.

FARM GOSSIP.

Kent Co., Ont.

Since the two weeks' sleighing the first part of December we have had a peculiar winter, consisting of a mixture of snowfuries, heavy rains, keen frosts and warm weather. This keeps our roads in a fearful condition, a state for which our highways are justly noted.

The mumps which were so prevalent during the fall have given away to la grippe, which is almost epidemic. It has proved fatal in several instances, usually where the patient was advanced in years.

The grain market remains about stationary. Wheat, 68c.; oats, 28c.; corn, 35c. and 36c.; beans, 70c.; bran, \$14; shorts, \$16 per ton.

Kent and Essex are rapidly becoming great hog producing counties. Enormous quantities of dressed pork and live hogs have been delivered all fall and winter, but the supply seems inexhaustible. Live hogs, \$3.85 to \$4; dressed, \$4.90 to \$5.

Very little doing in beef cattle; the fact is, very few are fattening cattle on account of the high price of grain and stock.

Butter is lower; fresh prints, 16c.; creamery, 22c.; fresh eggs, 20c. per dozen, and potatoes, 75c. and 85c. per bag.

Our creamery is gradually working up a splendid trade. They are now skimming about 7,000 pounds of milk per day, and the butter supply is not equal to the demand.

The tobacco producers have shown commendable pluck and energy in their fight against the tobacco trust. They formed an association, and sent one of their most influential members, with samples, etc., to the leading manufacturers of Great Britain and Europe. Word has since been received that an agent representing a large English firm is coming over at once with instructions to buy at least 2,000,000 pounds, for which they are willing to pay at least 10 cents per pound, if as good as the sample. It is needless to say the growers are jubilant.

W. A. McG.

Dairy Imports from Canada.

The steamship Cythiana, due in Manchester about the end of this week, is bringing to a local firm of American and Colonial produce merchants 2,700 boxes of cheese and 1,000 boxes of butter, shipped at Montreal. This firm has arranged for weekly arrivals of Canadian butter. Nearly 1,600 cases of butter were on board the Straits of Menai, another steamer from Montreal, which has arrived during the week. Taking these facts in conjunction with the cheese, fruit, and eggs landed by the Manchester Trader last week, it is evident that the efforts of the Canadian Government to promote the demand in this city for Dominion produce, especially dairy produce, are succeeding.

TRADE WITH CANADA.

There are abundant signs on all hands that people in Canada are being made fully aware of the value of Manchester as a distributing center for their produce. The Executive of the European Exporters' Association are rapidly forming satisfactory connections, and are arranging for a thoroughly representative and influential local board in this district.

Toronto Markets.

Cables came unexpectedly strong, offerings generally fair, but export cattle not up to the standard. We can only regret the transaction and regret the cause. Seven carloads of export cattle in bond from Chicago were fed in the yards here and shipped with four loads of ours, and consigned as Canadian cattle to the Old Country. The question is why is this done? We answer that although Canadian cattle have a preference in the Old Country market, we do not produce such cattle as this class to export, and that is the reason our buyers have to visit Chicago for the superior grades.

Export Cattle.—Choice heavy export cattle, \$4.40 to \$4.75 per cwt. Light exporters sold at \$4.25 to \$4.50 per cwt. Messrs. Brown & Snell bought two carloads of export cattle at \$4.50 per cwt. Mr. J. H. Brown, Kerwood, sold 23 export, 1,350 pounds each, at \$4.50 per cwt.; one load of butchers' cattle, cows and heifers, 1,070 pounds average, at \$3.50 per head, and was wishing someone would give him a good kick, as this was \$3 per head less than was offered last week for the same load. Mr. D. O. Leary purchased 18 export cattle, 1,200 pounds each, at \$4.75 per cwt.

Butchers' Cattle.—Choice picked lots of cattle weighing from 1,050 to 1,150 pounds each sold at \$3.85 to \$4.20. Montreal buyers in full force, the recent advance in the price of meat for home consumption caused quite a flutter. Drovers are expecting good times this summer, as there is no doubt a shortage of good cattle. Mr. Alex. Levack bought twenty-one at \$3.25 to \$4.12 per cwt. Mr. Wm. Booth bought a carload of picked butchers' cattle at \$4.10 to \$4.50, equal to export; not so heavy.

Bulls.—Choice heavy bulls, suitable for export, sold at \$3.50 to \$3.85 per cwt. Light weight at \$3.

Stockers. Trade in stockers for Buffalo was brisk, with prices about 10c. firmer, at \$3.40 to \$3.70 for choice picked lots. Messrs. Crawford & Co. bought four loads of stockers at \$3.25 to \$3.40 per cwt.

Feeders. Heavy feeders in good demand, weighing 1,100 pounds each, are worth from \$3.60 to \$3.80 per cwt.

Sheep.—About 400 on offer; sold at \$3.35 for ewes, and at \$2.50 to \$2.75 per cwt. for bucks.

Lambs.—In good demand, prices advancing at \$4.30 to \$4.40 per cwt. Mr. Wm. Levack shipped two double decks of sheep for export.

Culves.—Very few on offer; prices are firmer at from \$3 to \$8 per head.

Milk Cows.—The weather seems to influence this trade continually; after a cold snap or any inclement weather a large number of cows are wanted. To-day only 10 on the market; sold at \$25 to \$35 per head.

Hogs.—Deliveries light; prices showing a tendency to fall; best selections, weighing 160 to 200 lbs., at \$4.25 to \$4.50 per cwt. Light hogs, middle weight, \$4 to \$4.20 per cwt. Thick fat of all kinds, \$3.75 per cwt. Corn-fed hogs!—was the remark of our largest packers—we don't want them at any price. We have for a considerable time been educating our customers to a good, firm, sweet-eating bacon and will not risk our reputation on such hogs again. What price will you offer for them? \$3.75, and cull at that. Enquiring from one of our Western buyers, we asked the reason why corn was being again fed to such a large extent. He stated that on account of Canadian barley and peas being scarce and dear in price that the farmers were purchasing and feeding American corn. This was one reason why so many hogs were too fat. Mr. Harris requests us to say that if the farmers wish to reduce Canadian hogs to American prices this is the most sure method of achieving this result. We give one transaction, to show the difference in price, that came under our notice. Mr. John Green, Davisville, had one car of 90 hogs. Out of this load, 20 thick fat, corn-fed, \$3.75; 30 light fat, \$4.25; 10 select bacon hogs, \$4.62. But if the former are corn-fed the latter must be also, was the remark of Mr. Dwyer. Mr. Harris rejoined: I am not certain that any are corn-fed, but I will be quite sure about some of them. This caused a good-sized kick, but Mr. Harris remained firm, and the drover went away determined not to buy any more thick fat at \$4 per cwt. We give this as one of the reasons that farmers are holding their hogs back for a rise on the market. We also give this as our forecast. The rise in the far-distant future by present indications, when dressed hogs can be purchased at \$5.25 per cwt., and on some occasions less. What does this mean? Live hogs at farm, \$1; dressed hogs at farm, \$3.50 per cwt.—time, trouble of dressing, hauling to market, commission on sale, out-of-pocket expenses, etc.

Dressed Hogs.—Packers are critical and buying cautiously. Hogs are being offered freely. Farmers' loads are quoted at

from \$5 to \$5.25 for choice; car lots are quoted at \$4.55 to \$4.75 for heavy fats; choice light weights, \$5 per cwt. As soon as prices get to a dead level we are sure to get a good deal of kicking. Talk is cheap, and rings, combines, hold-ups, etc., are the main topic of comment in the hog business to-day. This paper warned the farmers last August of what to expect this month; but, of course, individual farmers, who visit the market once or twice a year, can always indicate how the price will go—sometimes according to the rise and fall of the moon, whether she is on her back or points downward—so that, according to this presage, we ought to get good prices next week. But we shall not.

Hay.—About 40 loads on offer sold at \$8 to \$9.50 for timothy, and at \$5.50 to \$7 for clover per ton.

Straw.—Seven loads of straw sold at \$6 to \$7.50 per ton.

Grain Market.—Business on the street was quite brisk to-day—2,000 bushels of grain delivered: 200 bushels of red wheat at 72½c. per bushel, an advance of half a cent; white, 73c. per bushel; goose, 71c. to 72c. per bushel.

Peas.—Prices steady, advancing; quality not good; sound peas free from bugs, etc., at 62½c. per bushel; small and wormy, at any price down to 40c. per bushel.

Barley.—A large quantity of discolored barley on offer, unfit for malting, sold down to 45c. per bushel; fair to good samples, 48c. per bushel.

Oats.—Were a shade firmer; 800 bushels sold at 33c. to 34c. per bushel.

Butter.—Stock not coming forward as plentiful as in the last few weeks. Prices no higher, but the market is in better shape for a rise. Dairy tub, poor to medium, 11c. to 12c.; choice, 13c. to 14c. per lb.; small dairy prints, 15c. to 16c. per lb.; creamery, 20c. to 21c. per lb.

Eggs are dull; price easier; fresh stock is coming along freely for this time of year. Should the moderate weather continue prices are sure to continue to decline, but a few weeks of real cold weather would cut off supplies. Prices are from 16c. to 21c. and 22c. per dozen.

Cheese.—There is very little doing in cheese. Buyers are offering less than sellers are willing to accept. Market steady; choice stocks sell at from 9c. to 10c. per lb.

Hides.—Market quiet in all lines; dealers quote choice steers at 9c. per lb.; cows, at 8c. per lb.; lambskins and pelts are quoted at 75c. and 80c. for choice; calfskins, 11c. per lb.; wool, unwashed, at 10c.

Poultry.—In good demand; choice stocks scarce; will bring top price; chickens per pair at 25c. to 40c. and 50c.

Jan. 26, 1899.

Chatty Stock Letter from Chicago.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Following were the prices lately current, with comparisons two weeks and one and two years ago:

Beef cattle.	Extreme prices now.		Two weeks ago.		Top Prices 1898.		1897.	
	1900 lbs. up.	1900 lbs. up.	1900 lbs. up.	1900 lbs. up.	1900 lbs. up.	1900 lbs. up.	1900 lbs. up.	1900 lbs. up.
1500 lbs. up.	\$5.00	\$5.10	\$5.75	\$5.40	\$5.50	\$5.50	\$5.50	\$5.50
1350 to 1500 lbs.	4.70	5.85	5.95	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50
1200 to 1350 lbs.	4.10	6.00	5.85	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25	5.25
1050 to 1200 lbs.	3.90	5.85	5.75	5.15	5.15	5.15	5.15	5.15
900 to 1050 lbs.	3.75	5.30	5.50	4.80	4.80	4.80	4.80	4.80
Fed Westerns.	3.90	5.80	5.75	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Hogs.								
Mixed.	3.55	3.85	3.45	3.77	3.77	3.77	3.77	3.77
Heavy.	3.55	3.90	3.50	3.77	3.77	3.77	3.77	3.77
Light.	3.50	3.80	3.40	3.72	3.72	3.72	3.72	3.72
Pigs.	3.00	3.50	3.30	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65	3.65
Sheep.								
Natives.	2.00	4.25	4.50	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.60
Western.	3.25	4.20	4.20	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.60	4.60
Lambs.	3.65	5.10	5.60	5.90	5.90	5.90	5.90	5.90

Beef cattle, considering quality, are selling the highest in a long time. The top price is only \$6.10, but the cattle are at least 50c. per 100 lbs. from being top cattle. The following shows what kind of cattle are being sold at the top prices: Sixteen head of 1,545-lb. cattle sold at \$6. Eight head were grade Short-horns, and eight head were branded western Whitefaces bought here last fall. These cattle were on full feed exactly 120 days.

Buyers are complaining bitterly of their inability to get good ripe cattle, and they are quite uneasy about the prospects for future supplies. For the first three weeks in January cattle receipts at Chicago, Kansas City, Omaha and St. Louis show a decrease of 55,000 from a year ago. Top and average beef steer prices for January so far, compared with some other years, were as follows:

January.	Average Prices.	Top Prices.
1899.	\$5.15	\$6.10
1898.	4.65	5.50
1897.	4.45	5.50
1896.	4.00	5.00
1895.	4.30	5.80
1894.	4.20	5.65
1893.	4.80	5.85
1892.	4.10	5.85
1891.	4.35	5.55
1890.	4.05	5.25
1889.	4.05	5.40
1888.	4.35	5.85
1887.	4.40	5.50
1886.	5.00	6.12
1885.	5.50	6.80
1884.	6.05	7.15

Recent cattle sales included northern corn-fed Texas cattle, 82 to 1,250 lbs., \$4.20 to \$4.35; distillery and Texas, 1,077 to 1,140 lbs., \$5 to \$5.15; meal-fed Texas steers, 865 to 1,254 lbs., \$3.80 to \$5.25. There are more Texas cattle being marketed than a year ago, and this fact emphasizes the shortage in total cattle receipts.

More crippled hogs are appearing than usual, and some think the rush to fatten them as early as possible is largely to blame. Young hogs are not getting enough of the bone and muscle making grains. Western hog packing November 1st to January 18th, compared with the corresponding time a year ago, showed, according to the Cincinnati Price Current, a gain of 1,250,000 head. Of this increase 330,000 was at Chicago alone. The hog market seems to have a good deal of backbone in it again, and farmers seem to have a lot of confidence.

The Colorado lamb feeders are not the least bit happy at the way the market opens for their winter's feeding. They are losing a lot of money, and are inclined to hold on for better results.

It remains to be seen whether the general good times will be felt in the lamb market. The trouble is that there is a big discrimination against the lambs of good weight, say 90 to 100 lbs., as buyers say they cannot make the retail butchers pay much more for them than for sheep; in fact, the people are so lacking in knowledge of such matters that they insist that heavy meat from a lamb is mutton, and would apparently sooner buy poor meat from a light sheep. January sheep and lamb receipts will be about the largest on record. Prices of sheep have held up remarkably well, though lambs, on account of being so abundant, have declined quite seriously. Last January \$4.85 was paid for extra good sheep, while \$4.25 buys very good ones now, though good yearlings, which are usually included under the classification of "sheep" at other markets, have sold at \$4.65. In January, 1897, top sheep sold at \$4.50; 1896, \$3.50; 1895, \$4. In 1894 the top was \$2.95, the lowest in twenty years; while the highest January top in that period was \$6.25, in 1890. Lamb prices have shown a wide range of variation as sheep in the years mentioned, with a range of 75c. to \$1 higher than sheep. Top lambs last January (1898) sold at \$6.00; in January, 1897, \$5.75; 1896, \$5; 1895, \$4.90.

W. J. YOUNG, St. Paul, Minn.:—"Perfection is seldom attained in anything, but I think in the production of FARMER'S ADVOCATE you have come very close to it. I wish to congratulate you on the beauty and perfection of this number."

December 29th, 1898.



AN AMERICAN GIRL IN LONDON.

BY SARA JEANNETTE DUNCAN.

(Continued from page 44.)

So we went with the rest and had some supper, and in the anxious interval during which Lady Torquillin and I occupied a position in the doorway, and Mr. Mafferton reconnoitred for one of the little round tables, I discovered what had been puzzling me so about the house ever since I had come into it. Except for the people and the flower decorations and a few chairs, it was absolutely empty. The people furnished it, so to speak, moving about, in the brilliancy of their dresses and diamonds and the variety of their manners, to such an extent that I had not been able to particularize before what I felt was lacking to this ball.

"Has Lady Powderby just moved in?" I asked, as we sat down around two bottles of champagne, a lot of things glances, a triple arrangement of knives and forks, and a pyramid of apoplectic strawberries.

"Lady Powderby doesn't live here," Lady Torquillin said. "No, Charlie, thank you. Sweetest for you young people, if you like—savories for me!"

And my friend explained to me that Lady Powderby was "at home" at this particular address only for this particular evening, and had probably paid a good many guineas house rent for the night; after which I tried in vain to feel a sense of personal gratitude for my strawberries, which I was not privileged even to eat with my hostess' fork—though, of course, I knew that this was mere sentiment, and that practically I was as much indebted to Lady Powderby for her strawberries as if she had grown them herself.

During supper, while Lady Torquillin was telling Mr. Mafferton how much we had enjoyed the "Opening," and how kind his cousin had been, I looked round. And I was struck, much struck, with the thorough businesslike concentration and singleness of purpose that I saw about me. The people did not seem much acquainted, except by twos and threes, and ignored each other, for the most part, in a calm, high-level way that was really educating to see. But they were not without a common sentiment and a common aim. They had all come to a ball, where it devolved upon them to dance and sup and dance again—to dance and sup as often as possible, and to the greatest possible advantage.

We struggled upstairs, and on the first landing met a lady relation of our hostess, with whom Lady Torquillin shook hands.

"You'll never find her!" said this relation, referring to Lady Powderby. "The Dyngleys and the Porterhouses and the Bangly Coffins have all come out and gone without seeing her!"

But I may just state here that we did find her, toward morning, in time to say good-bye.

When I say that the floor of Lady Powderby's (temporary) ball-room was full, I do not adequately express the fact. It was replete—it ran over, if that is not too impulsive an expression for the movement of the ladies and gentlemen who were twirling round each other upon the floor, all in one direction, to the music. With the exception of two or three couples, whose excited gyrations seemed quite tipsy by contrast, the ball upstairs was going on with the same profound and determined action as the ball downstairs. I noticed the same universal look of concentration, the same firm or nervous intention of properly discharging the responsibilities of the evening and the numbers of the programme on the face of the sweet, fresh debutante, steadily getting pinker; of the middle-aged military man, dancing like a disoriented foot-ruler; of the stout old lady in crimson silk, very low in the neck, who sat against the wall.

Mr. Mafferton asked me for number seven and nine and eleven—all waltzes. I knew he would be obliged to, out of politeness to Lady Torquillin, who had got past dancing herself; but I had been dreading it all the time I spent in watching the other men go round while Mr. Mafferton sought for a chair for her. So I suggested that we should try number seven and see how it went on, ignoring the others, and saying something weakly about my not having danced for so long, and feeling absolutely certain that I should not be able to acquit myself with the erectness—to speak of nothing else—that seemed to be imperative at Lady Powderby's ball.

Mr. Mafferton and I started—he with confidence, I with indecision. You can make the same step with a pair of scissors as Mr. Mafferton made. I did it afterward when I explained to Lady Torquillin how impossible it was that I should have danced nine and eleven with him. Compared with it, I felt that mine was a caper, and the height of impropriety. You will argue from this that they do not go together well, and that is correct. We inserted ourselves into the moving mass and went hopelessly round the Maypole that Mr. Mafferton seemed to have turned into several times. The room began to reel.

"Don't you think we had better reverse?" I asked. "I am getting dizzy, I'm afraid."

Mr. Mafferton stopped instantly, and the room came right again.

"Reverse!" he said. "I don't think I ever heard of it."

And when I explained to him that reversing meant turning round and going the other way, he declared that it was quite impracticable, that we would knock everybody else over, and that he had never seen it done. After the last argument I did not press the matter. It took very little acquaintance with Mr. Mafferton to know that if he had never seen it done he never would do it.

"We will try going back a bit!" he proposed instead, with the result that after the next four or five turns he began to stalk away from me, going I knew not whither. About four minutes later we went back, at my urgent request, to Lady Torquillin, and Mr. Mafferton told her that we had "hit it off admirably." I think he must have thought we did, because he said something about not having been quite able to catch my step at first in a way that showed entire satisfaction with his later performance. Which was quite natural, for Mr. Mafferton was the kind of person who, so long as he was doing his best himself, would hardly be aware whether anybody else was or not.

I made several other attempts with friends of Lady Torquillin's and Mr. Mafferton's, and a few of them were partially successful, though I generally found it advisable to sit out the latter part of them. This, when room could be found, was very amusing; and I noticed that it was done all the way up two flights of stairs, and in every other conceivable place that offered two seats contiguously. I was interested to a degree in one person with whom I sat out two or three dances running. He was quite a young man (not over twenty-four or five, I should think), a nephew of Lady Torquillin and an officer in the army, living at Aldershot, a very handsome, and wore an eyeglass, which was, however, quite a common distinction. I must tell you more about him again in connection with the day Lady Torquillin and I spent at Aldershot at his invitation, because he really deserves a chapter to himself. But it was he who told me, at Lady Powderby's ball, referring to the solid mass of humanity that packed itself between us and the door, that it was with the greatest difficulty that he finally gained the ball-room.