

Farm Prices & Market Report

Following are excerpts from the weekly marketing report of the Provincial Department of Agriculture prepared by Mr. W. R. Shaw, Deputy Minister:

Last week some figures were given on the numbers of livestock marketed out of Prince Edward Island during the year 1952. It is interesting to note that New Brunswick marketed 15,580 sheep and lambs; Nova Scotia about 12,000; and Prince Edward Island about 13,000. This includes export lambs. This does not, however, cover the total number of lambs marketed as large numbers go into the domestic and incidental trade in the Maritime Provinces. We are still somewhat behind in the number that is being sold on a rail grade basis, and there should be a very much larger quantity going through on this improved system of marketing. New Brunswick sold a total of 3,683, of which 871 were rail graded. Nova Scotia marketed 10,364, of which 2,262 graded A1, or about 21.8%. Prince Edward Island marketed 3,897, of which 1,953 graded A1, or 28.1%.

This indicates that our lambs have a higher percentage of Grade A's than the other two Maritime Provinces. Nevertheless, Nova Scotia finds it best to market almost three times as many on rail grade as we do. In view of the fact that over 13,000 lambs were marketed altogether, chiefly through inspected plants, there is room for a great deal of improvement in sales on this basis. We would like to point out to our sheep men that it is the intention of the Department to conduct this year a number of Sheep Field Days in the early season, at which time instruction will be given in sheep nutrition, treatment of internal and external parasites, and shearing and packing wool for market.

Regarding wool, we would like to refer to the report of the Sheep Breeders' Association at the annual meeting, which indicated that as high as 42c per pound for wool was received through the Co-operative method of marketing, and this, along with total rebates of 5c per pound paid to the patrons of the previous year, brought the price received by the Co-operative Sheep Breeders' patrons up to a point very much above that of the prevailing open market price.

Livestock Prices
The market prices of livestock this week have changed. Hogs are still going up, and are \$1.50 higher for Grade A and B1 hogs at both Moncton and Charlottetown. I am sure that those who did not listen to our advice last

fall regarding a steady program on hog production must regret having not followed that advice. I think this might be particularly true of a gentleman—a very wise fifty-year experienced farmer in Nova Scotia, who was very critical of that advice. If he is listening tonight it might stimulate him to write another letter to the Halifax paper. Cattle, however, have a downward trend, and the present situation rather supports our contention that the opening of the American market might very well cause a temporary recession in Canadian prices. In any event quotations on Choice and Good Steers and Heifers are revised downward about 2c at Moncton. Charlottetown prices, however, are steady with last week. On the 16th at Montreal the trading was slow, with Steers and Cows \$1.00 to \$1.50 lower. Good to Choice Steers were \$19.50 to \$21.50. Our price here at Charlottetown, therefore, compares very favourably with the Montreal prices. There is some report that American beef is coming into the Maritime Provinces. The long distance situation on hogs seems to be good, although the lowering of beef trends will tend to keep hog prices within reasonable bounds. From a long distance standpoint, even with the cattle population at a very high level in both Canada and the United States, I would feel that, with a rapidly expanding population, and the high earning capacity on the part of the average citizen, meat prices should be maintained on a favourable level for some time to come.

The following is the detail:
Hogs at Moncton: Grade A 30.00; Grade B1 29.50; No. 1 sows 21.00; No. 2 sows 20.00; hot dressed weight delivered.
Hogs at Charlottetown: F.O.B. country points. Grade A 29.00; Grade B1 28.50; No. 1 sows 20.00; No. 2 sows 19.00.

Cattle at Moncton: Delivered to plant. Steers: Choice 18.50 to 19.00; Good 18.00 to 18.50; Medium 16.50 to 17.00; Common 11.00 to 12.00. Heifers: Choice 17.50 to 18.00; Good 17.00 to 17.50; Medium 15.50 to 16.00; Common 11.00 to 12.00. Cows: Good 12.00 to 12.75; Medium 11.00 to 11.50; Common 9.50 to 10.00; Canners and Cutters 8.00 to 8.50. Bulls: Good 12.00 to 13.00; Medium 11.00; Common 10.00.

Cattle at Charlottetown: Delivered to plant. Steers: Choice 20.00; Good 19.00; Medium 17.00; Common 11.00 to 12.00. Heifers: Choice 19.50; Good 18.50; Medium 16.50; Common 10.00 to 11.00. Cows: Good 12.00; Medium 10.50 to 11.00; Common 9.00 to 10.00; Canners and Cutters 7.00 to 8.00. Bulls: Good 12.50; Medium 11.00; Common 9.00 to 10.00.

Calves at Moncton: Delivered to plant. Choice 21.00 to 22.00; Good 18.00 to 20.00; Medium 14.00 to 16.00; Common 12.00 to 14.00; Grassers 11.00 to 12.00.
Calves at Charlottetown: Delivered to plant. Good and Choice

21.00 to 22.00; Medium 17.00 to 19.00; Common 12.00 to 15.00; Grassers 9.00 to 11.00.

Lambs at Moncton: Delivered to plant. Live grade quotations, Good 17.00 to 18.00; Rail grade price for A's, 41.00 up to 46 lbs.

Lambs at Charlottetown: Delivered to plant. Live grade quotations, 17.50 for good lambs; Rail grade price for A's, 42.00 up to 46 lbs.

Sheep at Moncton: Delivered to plant. Live grade quotations, Good 7.00; Medium 5.00; Common 2.50. Rail grade prices for A's, 15.00 up to 70 lbs.

Sheep at Charlottetown: Delivered to plant. Live grade quotations, Good 7.00; Medium 5.00; Common 3.00. Rail grade price for A's 16.00 up to 70 lbs.

Eggs and Poultry
The egg market remains firm with prices advancing. Demand as reported is in excess of supplies. All surplus stocks are moving out readily to other Atlantic Provinces. Production is steadily increasing, quality generally good. Dealers are now quoting for ungraded eggs delivered: AL 49, AM 45, B 34, C 21. And for the graded pack delivered: AL 57-58, AM 54-5, B 41, C 27.

Rural Stations:
O'Leary: AL 48, AM 44, B 28, C 23.
Bedouque: AL 49, AM 46, B 36, C 23.
Vernon River: AL 50, AM 47, B 34, C 18.
Murray River: AL 51, AM 48, B 34, C 23.
Sydney Market: as at March 16, 1953.

Dealers paying loose: AL 62. Dealers selling loose: AL 66. Canned eggs 4c extra. Retail prices in cartons: AL 66-75.

Egg receipts on this market have advanced sharply from last week's report, origin 50% Ontario, 40% Prince Edward Island, 10% Nova Scotia. The demand is good. Receipts of Grade AL are sufficient to meet requirements with other grades still off the market. Halifax Market: as at March 17th, 1953.

To Producers: AL 52, AM 49, AS 45, B 34, C 30.
To Retailers: AL 68, AM 66, AS 58, B 48 (in cartons).
To Consumers: AL 69-72.
Spot Price: AL 57, AM 54, AS 50, B 39, C 30.

The egg market remains steady to firm, with prices advancing on all grades the past week.

The supply situation is unchanged, as dealers continue to supplement local receipts with arrivals from Ontario. Dealers' stocks, which include a high percentage of A Large size, are hardly adequate to meet a heavy demand. Following higher costs, retail prices are gradually being adjusted upward.

Potatoes
There is a possibility that we have more potatoes for shipment on Prince Edward Island than we had anticipated. After all, we have been estimating on the basis

of a certain acreage at 300 bushels field run per acre. We must not lose sight of the fact, however, that potatoes were of very high quality and yield, and we could easily have underestimated available supplies. It is very difficult, too, to state just how many potatoes may still be in the Province of Ontario.

Some interesting figures have come out of Maine. There was no Government March 1st Survey of supplies in the United States, but the potato growers in Maine conducted a reasonably comprehensive survey of supplies in that State. According to this survey the total number of bushels at March 1st was over 19 million. This, however, is a field run count, and it was estimated that at least 7 million bushels out of this quantity will be needed on the farms for home planting, and to cover storage loss, culls, and pickouts, leaving 11,966,000 bushels to be marketed. This was substantially less than the volume of potatoes anticipated in many quarters.

In addition the starch plants are grinding an appreciable quantity this year, a development that was not followed in the 1952 season. It is felt that the present quantity of potatoes in Maine is not a burdensome supply, and should insure an orderly movement of the volume to market. Other factors, however, may have considerable influence upon normal marketings; for instance, the quantities of potatoes that may be coming on from California, Florida, and Texas areas.

From the two latter States the estimated acreage is 26,400, or 27 per cent larger than the acreage harvested in 1952. The Florida acreage is the highest on record, and in Texas the lowest. In some spring areas of Florida the acre-

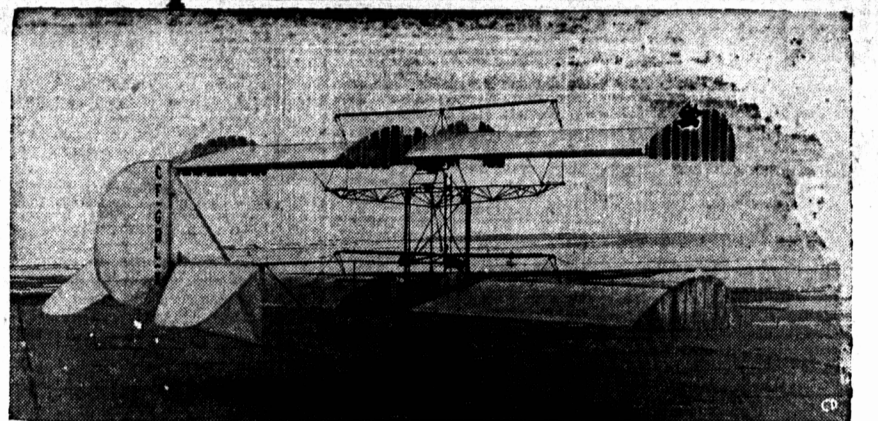
age is 81 per cent larger than in 1952. The condition of the crop is good. In any event, taking bad weather and unforeseen conditions that may arise into consideration, it would almost appear as if the balance of the season should be favourable for the marketing of our current crop providing estimates are not too far out.

In the meantime the market in the United States is still dull with the exception of Idaho, where prices are still advancing. But while the general market is dull, prices are showing some evidence of improvement. Seed is moving steadily now for planting, although the weather has not been too good.

The total acreage in Florida this year is 25,500 for early spring potatoes, against 19,100 last year, and a three-year average of 15,950. It might be pointed out that North Florida missed the heavy rains that occurred in other States. Their crop is looking excellent and they should get started shipping the last week in March. In the California area frost will reduce production at least 50 to 75 bags per acre, and the movement from there will not take place until the last of April.

Movement Locally
The local potato movement during the past week has been somewhat better with 248 cars being shipped for the week ending March 17th. There is not much change in market levels and some Cobble seed is now moving to United States points, but the seasonal demand for this variety is later than usual as farmers in Quebec and Ontario who still need seed are inclined to wait as long as possible before purchasing it.

The following are the prices at certain centers on the Island as



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pilot sits in front with two wings on each side of him. When it crashed on its trial run recently the inventors claimed the machine was being towed too speedily. (CP PHOTO)

secured today:
Tignish: Fair movement in tablestock in 75 pound bags and packages, at \$1.00 per bag. No seed moving.

O'Leary: Fairly good demand for tablestock, mostly in small packages. Paying 60c a bus. at the farm. No seed moving.

Wellington: Some tablestock moving at \$1.00 per 75 pound bag. No seed moving.

Cobbler Seed. Kensington: Market quiet. Tablestock slow. Seed "small" moving at \$1.50 per bus. Considerable stock in storage.

Montague: Some tablestock moved in past week but no stock coming in now due to closed roads. Cardigan: No movement in seed or tablestock past week.

Vernon River: Market quiet. No price on seed. Light movement in tablestock at \$1.00 per 75 pound bag.

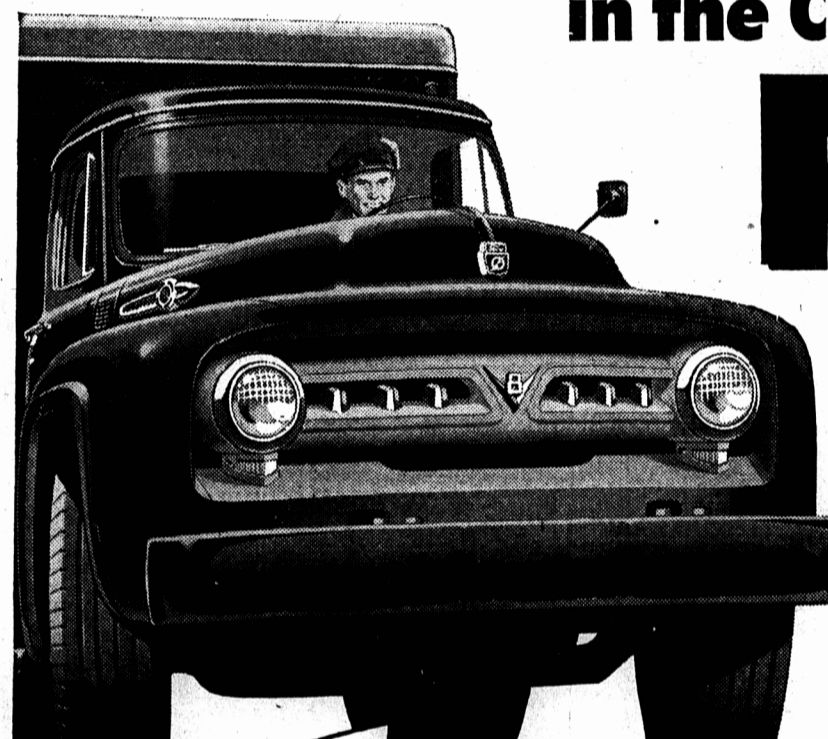
slow. No offerings for Cobble Seed. Considerable stock in storage.

Elmira: Report not available. Murray Harbour: No tablestock moving. A car of Cobble Seed moved this week.

Borden Line: Some tablestock moving at \$1.00 per 75 pound bag. Some Sebago and Mountain Seed moving.

Souris: Some seed moving from storage but very little coming in. Charlottetown: Some seed and tablestock moving at about floor price.

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