

date to remember in DECEMBER

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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:

Livestock Prices
The markets have changed somewhat on cattle since last week, with Montreal nosing a little lower at December 8th. Moncton prices have also changed, and the following are the revisions: Steers: Choice 21.50; Good 20.50; Medium 18.00; Common 15.00; Good 20.00; Medium 18.00; Common 15.00 to 12.50. Good Cows 11.50; Medium 11.00; Common 10.00. Canners and cutters 7.50 to 8.00. Good Bulls 12.50; Common 10.50. All other prices were steady with last week, with choice steers at Charlottetown 21.00, and down to 11.00 to 13.00 for Common. Heifers: 20.50, down to 10.00 to 11.00 for Common. Good cows: 12.00, down to 9.00 to 10.00 for Common. Good Bulls: 13.00, down to 8.00 to 10.00 for Common.

Dairying
Reports indicated that there may be an increase in milk production in Canada in 1953 due to an increase of about 70,000 head of dairy heifers. On the other hand an export of dairy cattle to the United States will overcome that advantage to some extent. There is not any indication that

there will be any particular price recession in dairy prices, although there is some evidence of a developing weakness in spray processed powdered milk. A good deal of criticism has centered around competition on dairy products, particularly from substitutes and mixtures, and there is a real concern among dairymen regarding the impact of vegetable oils. The Conference was told by the Hon. Mr. Gardiner in unmistakable terms that the control of this material is pretty definitely in the hands of each province. The establishment, therefore, of legislation that is adequate to take care of the situation is a matter of great importance. Such legislation is now being framed in this Province, and early in January it is expected that a meeting of top level officials will take place in Ottawa representing each of the provinces so that there may be uniform laws right across the country dealing with this very important matter.

Butter prices have remained steady in the Maritimes during the past three weeks. At present the Halifax market is quoted at 64c wholesale for first grade prints delivered, with local jobbing at 66c. In New Brunswick the price is the same as that of last week. The official commentary from that province states that so long as the Agricultural Products Board continues to sell its holdings back to the trade at 62c per pound, delivered, there will be few changes in the Canadian butter markets. The prices quoted for that province for this week are: Creameries to wholesalers, one and two pound prints, 64c; Wholesale to retail

stores, one and two pound prints, 66c.

In Charlottetown the jobbing price is 65c, delivered; and the wholesale price is in the vicinity of 63c.

In Montreal the wholesale price of No. 1 solids, delivered, is 62c; Toronto also 62c.

The production of butter in this Province is considerably below that of last year at this time. For the week ending November 29th, 72,727 pounds were made, compared with 81,982 pounds for the same week last year—a decrease of 9,255 pounds, or 11.2 per cent.

Eggs and Poultry
The situation on eggs is not a happy one at the present moment. At the same time here again reaction should not be of too pessimistic a nature. It is unfortunate that the present level of egg prices, and also of some poultry prices, are not very clear at the present moment pending a final decision on egg support. Supplies have not been large, and taking into consideration hatchery reports, it would look as if here again there may be a lowered production in the months that lie ahead.

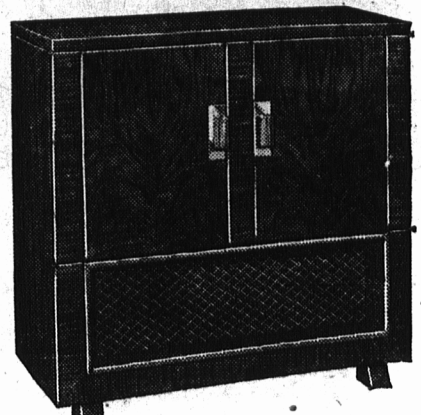
The price of eggs today took a very discouraging and distinct drop, and Grade AL is now being quoted at 33c, down 8 cents since last week. Prices across Canada have deteriorated, and there is some talk of Ontario eggs coming into Maritime points. This disappointing price level, however, should not be considered as a permanent thing. I feel that there are better times ahead even though there may be a temporary

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Barrie newspaper report sleighs selling at 23 cents to \$2 and over-coats at \$5 to \$16.

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Continued on page 13

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