

## Food prices at Red River in 1865

THE following list of the price of certain articles of country produce at Red River Settlement is inserted with the object of conveying an idea of the relative value of money in the Colony, compared with that of necessary articles of consumption. The list is copied from the *Nor' Wester* of 18th November, 1865, and is said, by those who ought to know, to be a very reliable one, faithfully representing the state of the market after a harvest of average success. If anything, the prices quoted are a shade high :

ARTICLES.	PRICES.	ARTICLES.	PRICES.
	s. d.		s. d.
Wheat..... bush.	6 0	Butter..... lb.	0 8
Barley..... "	4 0	Cheese..... "	0 7
Oats..... "	3 0	Pemmican..... "	0 4
Rye..... "	5 0	Meat Dried..... "	0 2½
Potatoes..... "	1 0	Marrow fat..... "	0 8
Turnips..... "	1 0	Buffalo fat..... "	0 6
Onions..... "	8 0	Buffalo Skins dressed....ca.	7 0
Carrots..... "	4 0	Moose do do .... "	12 0
Cabbages..... each	6	Buffalo Tongue fresh.... "	1 0
Hay..... load	5 0	Do do salted.... "	1 6
Straw..... "	2 6	Do Bosses or Humps.. "	2 6
Wood..... "	2 6	Flour..... cwt.	16 0
Boards..... per 100	50 0	Pollard..... "	5 0
Planks..... "	60 0	Bran..... bush.	0 10
Shingles..... per 1000	20 0	Salt..... "	12 0
Mutton..... lb.	0 8	Eggs..... doz.	0 10
Beef..... "	0 2½	Fish, White..... per 100	25 0
Pork..... "	0 8½	Do Sturgeon..... each.	2 6

This list is from the "Red River" book by Joseph James Hargrave published in Montreal by J. Lovell, 1871.

The prices are in the old English Pound system.

1 pound=20 shillings=240 pence

1 shilling (s)= 12 pence (d)

one pound of butter costs 8 pence

one pound of pemmican is 4 pence

one fresh buffalo tongue costs 1 shilling

one buffalo hump costs 2 shillings

112 pounds of flour is 16 shillings

one dozen eggs is 10 pence

100 white fish costs 25 shillings

one sturgeon costs 2 shillings and 6 pence

cwt.= 112 imperial pounds or 100 U.S. pounds weight.

A Red River man's wages in 1840 might be 1 shilling a day.

Source: <https://sites.google.com/site/portagelaloche/history/survival>



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