

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: The trade situation is without special feature, and in wholesale circles business generally is of the usual comparatively quiet mid-summer character. Dry goods warehouses show considerable bustle in the way of deliveries, but most travellers are still on vacation. Some houses report large Government orders for cotton blankets, etc., which, however, they are unable to fill. All cotton manufacturing plants continue to be very busily employed, while it is very difficult to get any goods from the United States, where the greater proportion of the mill output is absorbed by war orders.

Conditions in the leather and shoe trade continue of the quiet character lately noted.

In the fur manufacturing trade placing orders show a considerable increase over last year and a few cancellations are reported thus far.

Hardware men report quite a good business for the season, mostly with the country; city sales are light.

In the groceries there is little new beyond some readjustment of sugar regulations, and one local refinery quotes an advance of 10 cents a cental, making their quotation for standard granulated \$8.75, the other two companies still quoting \$9.10. New pack of strawberries are now on the market, in very limited quantities, also raspberries and beans all quoted at greatly advanced figures over last year. As anticipated several weeks ago there will be a scarcity in the market of California prunes and peaches owing to the American Government taking over a large proportion of the crop.

General payments are maintained at the satisfactory level noted for some time past and only three small district failures are reported for the week, with liabilities of about \$20,000.

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report says: With the assurance of good normal crops, the wholesale trade has shown an improved feeling, although at the present time business is quiet, as is usual at this time of the year. Crop conditions have improved all along the line. Rains accompanied with warm weather have caused a much more optimistic feeling.

Our estimate of two hundred million bushels, representing the western wheat crop, still stands. The estimate bushels of oats is 320,000,000, although some are of the opinion that these figures will be exceeded.

Some sections in the western provinces show an increase, production in wool of fifty per cent over last year. Sales have been made of new clip wool at \$14,000 to \$15,000 per carload.

The English Government has prohibited its manufacturers of tweeds and English cloths to make anything but military clothes. This will cause a shortage of tweed, etc., in this market and will put up prices again on civilian clothing. Most of the large jobbers and manufacturers have managed to keep their stocks of fabrics pretty well up to the present time. Henceforth, however, they are going to have to cut into these surplus stocks more and more, and in a year from now the outlook at present is that we will be in a bad way for supplies, especially if our Government requirements increase as they have been doing in the past.

Manufacturers of paint have agreed to abolish all small packages from half a gallon down, owing to the security of tin cans.

Retail trade has been fairly active. Remittances are good but city collections are poor.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

EGGS.

The receipts for the week ending August 17th, 1918, were 7,689 cases, as compared with 7,026 for the previous week last year. The total receipts since May 1, 1918, to date were 172,230 cases, as against \$191,863 for the corresponding period in 1917. The local market for eggs showed no changes last week. Prices for all grades were maintained and there was a good steady demand for domestic consumption. The Canadian High Commissioner in London announces that the British Ministry of Food has decided that

no imports of Canadian eggs into the United Kingdom would be permitted, but that they would purchase eggs in Canada and all imports for the season 1918 would be on Government account.

The situation in Western Canada has improved. After the reaction of last week, prices have firmed up some, and in spite of the light receipts the amount of inter-provincial movement has been surprising as seven cars in all were shipped east, of which two came from Alberta, one from Saskatchewan and four from Winnipeg. These eggs are giving general satisfaction to the trade the quality being much better than in former years. A few eggs from the United States have found their way to the Toronto market of late was not up to the mark they met with a slow sale.

We quote wholesales jobbing prices as follows:

Selected new laid eggs	0.51	0.52
No. 1 stock	0.47	0.48
No. 2 stock	0.45	0.46

POTATOES.

A weaker feeling developed in the market for potatoes, last week, due the more liberal supplies arriving, and prices scored declines amounting to 45c to 50c per bag, and as the prospects are for a large yield in the Province of Quebec this season of good quality, the indications are that prices will go still lower in the near future. A good steady trade was done in the wholesale jobbing way, and the market closed easy with last sales reported at \$1.65 to \$1.75 per bag of 80 lbs. ex store.

CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending August 17, 1918, were 79,937 boxes which show an increase of 8,046 boxes as compared with the previous week, and an increase of 16,446 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1918 to date show an increase of 17,966 boxes as compared with the corresponding period in 1917. Receipts of cheese show a steady increase as compared with the same period last year. Business at the boards in the country this week was quiet owing to the fact that sellers were not disposed to accept the reduction of 1/4c per lb. freely 22 1/2c being the top price bid at most of them, but in some instances as high as 22 3/4c to 22 1/2c was paid. At Gould's Cold Storage 10,400 boxes were sold during the week at 22 1/2c per lb. f.o.b. country points.

The Dairy Produce Commission is paying the following prices:

No. 1 cheese	0.23
No. 2 cheese	0.22 1/2
No. 3 cheese	0.22

BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending August 17, 1918, were 15,404 packages which show a decrease of 179 packages as compared with the previous week, and an increase of 5,079 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1918, to date show an increase of 52,713 packages as compared with the corresponding period last year. The tone of the market for butter continues to rule steady in spite of the fact that supplies are greater than the demand, stocks in storage are large and oleomargarine is being much used. At the auction sales held here this week the offerings were smaller than the previous week, but much larger than the same week last year. There were 2,886 packages offered, of which 757 packages pasteurized creamery sold at 43c to 43 1/2c, and 679 fine at 42 1/2c to 42 3/4c, while at Gould's Cold Storage 900 packages were sold at 42c to 42 1/4c per lb. f.o.b. country points.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest creamery	0.43 1/2	0.43 3/4
Fine creamery	0.43	0.43 1/4
Finest dairy	0.38	0.38 1/2
Fine dairy	0.36	0.37

LOCAL FLOUR.

Supplies of flour are not large as many of the mills are still closed down waiting for wheat. The enquiry for spring wheat flour for local and country account is good and the tone of the market is very firm. There is a steady volume of business passing in Government standard grade for shipment to country

points at \$10.95 per barrel in bags, f.o.b. Montreal, and to city bakers at 11.05 delivered. The market for winter wheat flour shows no change, prices being firmly maintained with offerings small on spot and sales of broken lots were made at \$11.60 per barrel in new cotton bags, and at \$11.30 in second-hand jute bags ex-store. Ontario millers have offered new crop winter wheat flour for August-September shipment at \$10.75 to \$10.85 per barrel in bags ex-track, but no purchases have been reported as yet.

Prices of substitutes show no change. The volume of business was fairly large the demand being principally for rye, white corn, and oat flour, and sales of the former were made at \$13, and the two latter at \$12 per barrel in bags. The trade in other grades has only been fair owing to the fact that consumers have not got the same result from them as from the above; but, as supplies of such were not excessive on spot, prices have ruled steady. Barley flour sold at \$12.50, Government standard corn flour at \$11.60 and Graham flour at \$11.05 per barrel in bags, and rice flour at \$8.75 per 100 lbs., put up in 220-lb. sacks, delivered to the trade.

MILLFEED.

Bran and shorts both being very scarce there is a steady demand for all lines of manufactured feeds. The tone of the market for such is strong and prices show increases with sales of oat chop and crushed oats at \$67.50, mixed grain crop at \$66, barley meal and barley chop at \$64, pure grain moultrie at \$67, feed cornmeal at \$68, mixed moultrie at \$55, shorts at \$40, and bran at \$35 per ton including bags, delivered to the trade.

ROLLED OATS.

Prices of rolled oats showed no change last week although the tone of the market ruled very steady with a good demand for local and country account. An active trade was done with sales of standard grades in broken lots at \$5.20 to \$5.30 per bag of 90 lbs. delivered to the trade. The market for cornmeal developed a weaker feeling and prices declined 10c to 25c per bag owing to the falling off in the demand of late and the increased offerings. Sales of Golden cornmeal in broken lots were made at \$6.05 to \$6.10, and bolted at \$4.25 to \$4.50 per bag, delivered.

LOCAL GRAIN.

The tone of local market was stronger although trade was not at all brisk and only a fair amount of business was transacted. There are increased offerings of new crop Ontario oats and, as the quality is much better than last year's crop and prices much lower than other grades of Canadian oats, they have met with a good demand and sales of about 30 cars were made of No. 3 white, and, in addition to these, quite a few cars of Canadian western grades also changed hands. The market closed strong on Saturday with a net gain in prices for the week of 1/4c to 1c per bushel. No. 2 Canadian western car lots were quoted at \$1.01 1/2 to \$1.02 1/2, No. 3 C.W. at 98 1/2c to 99 1/2c, extra No. 1 feed at 98 1/2c to 99 1/2c, No. 1 feed at 96 1/2c to 97 1/2c, No. 2 feed at 92c to 93c, and Ontario No. 3 white at 89 1/2c per bush ex-store. The advance in prices for American corn on spot for the week amounted to 9c per bushel, but, notwithstanding this fact, there has been a good demand from country buyers for all grades, and sales of fully 40 cars were made for shipment from here and direct from Chicago. No. 4 yellow corn here sold at \$1.87, and No. 3 sample corn at \$1.53 per bushel ex-store. The offerings of new crop Ontario barley have also been steadily increasing and prices have tended downward owing to the somewhat limited demand, and sales have been made for shipment from Ontario points as low as \$1.22 1/2 per bushel for extra No. 3, while car lots on spot have sold at \$1.31, No. 3 at \$1.29, and Manitoba sample barley at \$1.29 per bushel ex-store.

Fluctuations in grain on Saturday at Winnipeg were:

Oats:	
No. 2 C. W.	0.82
..Barley	
No. 3 C. W.	1.20
No. 4 C. W.	1.15