

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

Dispatches from branch offices of R. G. Dun & Co. in leading cities of the Dominion of Canada continue almost uniformly favorable, for while cold weather in most sections has interfered with retail distribution in certain lines it has benefited others and preparations are general for an active spring trade. Montreal reports a satisfactory movement of dry goods and quite a brisk demand for clothing, footwear and other staples, especially for future shipment. Retail trade has been restricted by extremely cold weather, but this is regarded as temporary, as stocks have been much depleted and country merchants are making liberal purchases of spring merchandise. Business generally at Quebec has been benefited by seasonable weather and there is a brisk movement of heavy dry goods, clothing and other cold weather commodities. Very satisfactory conditions prevail at Toronto, wholesalers in all lines reporting the receipt of good sorting up orders and active buying of spring and summer merchandise. Retail trade, both locally and in the country has been somewhat affected by the weather, but sentiment is very optimistic and a quick revival in activity is anticipated. Extremely low temperature in the Far West and Northwest has increased sales of winter merchandise, but in other lines has operated adversely, retail distribution being especially affected. Winnipeg reports that most wholesale departments are becoming quite busy with preparations for the shipment of spring merchandise, with a very good demand in evidence for dry goods, clothing, footwear, furniture, hardware and other leading staples. Retail trade is rather quiet, owing to cold weather, but confidence in the future is a notable feature of the situation. Local dealers at Saskatoon report trade as having fallen off to some extent since the holidays, mainly because of cold weather interfering with retail sales, but the volume of business makes a very favorable contrast with that of a year ago and merchants are looking forward to an exceptionally active spring. There is a good demand for groceries, provisions and other foodstuffs at Regina, and merchants, as a rule, express themselves as satisfied with the volume of business in most lines. There has been an increased demand for heavy wearing apparel and dry goods at Calgary, due to cold weather, and the movement in other departments is well maintained. Unusually cold weather has interfered with retail trade to some extent, but wholesalers report that business so far this year has been encouraging and the general outlook is promising.

### DAIRY PRODUCE.

**CHEESE:** The cheese season is now about over, and what few shipments for export which will now go forward are those purchased previously, but which have been held back owing to the freight congestion. The only acceptances for new business will be for an odd lot of a hundred or so boxes, and for the most part these are American cheese. Most firms are now sending their representatives on their annual trip to England to visit customers and secure new trade. The exports from the ports of St. John, N.B., and Portland, for the week ended January 20, 1916, are reported as having arrived on the other side, were 22,812 boxes, as compared with 26,096 for last week, and 11,027 for the same week last year. Total exports of cheese from Montreal, St. John, Quebec and Portland, from May 1, 1915, to January 20, 1916, were 1,984,644 boxes, as compared with 1,547,165 boxes for the same period a year previous. The stocks which are on spot at present are very small. Cable bids which have come forward the past week have been 1s. higher, and are now quoted at 97s. The freight rates on cheese to Great Britain from the port of St. John are approximately \$1.15 and from New York \$1.67 per cwt. Local prices show no particular change, although some odd sales have been made at higher prices than we quote.

**BUTTER:** There is only a local and outside business being done in butter. Stocks on spot are too small to entertain any export trade being done. Dairy butter is very scarce, and many other grades are of none too good a quality. Choice grades are very scarce. The supplies will hardly be large enough to last the trade for the local demand until the new make begins to arrive, and dealers are in a predicament to know where they will get further supplies when these are exhausted. The west-

ern Canadian stocks are also very low, and Vancouver traders are said to be making purchases from the United States Pacific coast producers. There were exports for the week ended January 20, 1916, as compared with 40 packages for the same period last year. The total exports from Montreal, Quebec, St. John and Portland from May 1, 1915, to January 20, 1916, were 54,645 packages, as compared with 8,164 packages for the same period a year ago, an increase of 45,581 packages. Local prices are strong, while the Toronto market has advanced 2 cents a pound.

Current quotations follow:—

	Montreal.		Toronto.	
<b>Butter—</b>				
Choicest Creamery	0.36	0.36	0.37	
Fine Creamery	0.34½	0.32	0.33	
Seconds	0.33	0.33½		
Dairy Prints, best	0.28	0.29	0.32	
Cooking	0.23	0.24	0.25	
<b>Cheese—</b>				
Finest Colored	0.18½			
Finest Eastern, white	0.18½			
Finest easterns	0.17½			
Large		0.18½	0.19	
Twins	0.20	0.18½	0.19½	

### COUNTRY PRODUCE.

**EGGS:** There are a few storage eggs yet left in the Montreal market, and the local trade is good. The export trade is about over for the season, and few orders for foreign account are now coming forward. New laid eggs are now becoming plentiful, but the consumption is only about equal to the demand, and therefore prices are holding steady. In another week or two, as receipts become more plentiful, prices will show a decline. Exports from the ports of St. John and Portland, Me., for the week ended January 20, 1916, that have been reported as having arrived on the other side amounted to 39,054 cases, as compared with 4,199 cases for the same period last year.

**MAPLE PRODUCTS:** There is very little business passing in maple products. Producers and handlers are now very busy preparing for an early season, which they believe they will get owing to the mild winter. An effort is to be made to boom the maple syrup and sugar business this year more than ever. Prices are holding steady, and the offerings are small.

**BEANS:** The market for beans is quiet. The Canadian varieties are very scarce, as the crop last year was a failure, and what are offering are of very poor quality. Most of the beans on the market are the American varieties, and are being brought forward from Michigan in 3-lb pickers, and are selling at less money than the Canadian stock.

**POULTRY:** No fresh killed poultry is arriving on the local market to any extent, and the stocks in storage are light. There is a good demand for all grades for local and outside account, Winnipeg, Calgary, and even Vancouver are buying large quantities. This has caused a stronger feeling, and prices of many grades have advanced from 1 to 3 cents per pound. Prices are particularly high for storage turkeys, and there are very few to be had.

**HONEY:** Trade in honey is quiet, but dealers are buying a little all the time to fill the actual wants of retailers. There is quite a little in the country yet which can be bought as wanted. Prices are steady.

**PEAS:** Reports from country points state that there are quite a few peas still in hand there, but practically all of these are of the poorest kind, as they are undersized, discolored and many are even buggy and unfit for food. The general quality is way below the average on account of the wet harvesting season. The supplies on spot are small, and though there are many carloads offered for sale at present, dealers would rather go without than take the very bad stock. Canadians are the best judges of peas in the world, and as a consequence most of last year's crop will not obtain their favorable judgment, and will have to either be fed to hogs or destroyed.

	Montreal.		Toronto.	
<b>Eggs—</b>				
Fresh gathered,				
specials	0.43	0.45	0.45	0.55
Storage, Extras	0.00	0.33	0.33	0.35
Do., No. 1's	0.00	0.30	0.30	0.31
Do., No. 2's	0.00	0.28	0.25	0.26
<b>Cracks and Dirts,</b>				
No. 1's	0.00	0.25		
<b>Maple Syrup and Sugar—</b>				
Pure Maple Syrup,				
8 lb. tins	0.95	0.97½		

Do., 10 lb. tins	1.10	1.12½		
Do., 13 lb. tins	1.40	1.50		
Pure Maple Sugar, lb.	0.12½	0.13		
<b>Beans:—</b>				
3-lb. pickers,				
carlots, bus.	4.00	4.15		
3 lb. pickers, do.	3.90	4.00		
Undergrades, bus.	3.60	3.70		
<b>Potatoes:—</b>				
Green Mountains,				
per bag, car lots.	1.85	1.90		
Quebecs, do.,	1.85	1.90		
Job lots 10c. more.				
<b>Poultry:—</b>				
<b>Frozen stock—</b>				
Fowl, small	0.16	0.18		
Ducks,	0.19	0.20		
Geese	0.17	0.18		
Pigeons, pair	0.25	0.30		
<b>Fresh:—</b>				
Turkeys	0.27	0.28		
Fowl, large	0.17	0.20		
Fowl, small	0.16	0.18		
Ducks	0.16	0.20		
Geese	0.16	0.17		
Roasting chicken, milkfed, 4 lbs. or over	0.22	0.24		
Roasting chicken, ordinary	0.20	0.22		
Spring broilers, dressed, pair	0.75	1.00		
Squabs, Canadian, pair		0.40		
Squabs, Philadelphia, pair		0.70		
<b>Live:—</b>				
Fowl, 5 lbs. and over	0.17	0.18		
Fowl, small	0.14	0.15		
Turkeys	0.20	0.22		
Ducks	0.18	0.20		
Geese	0.14	0.16		
Chicken	0.13	0.16		
<b>Honey:—</b>				
Buckwheat, tins	0.07			
Strained clover, 60-lb. tins	0.10½			
Strained clover, in 10-lb. tins	0.11			
Strained clover, in 5-lb. tins	0.11½			
Comb honey, No. 1, doz.	3.00			
Comb honey, No. 2, doz.	2.40			
<b>Peas:—</b>				
Guaranteed boilers, per 60 lb. bu.	3.00	3.25		
Ordinary, per bushel		2.55		

### LIVE STOCK.

The one outstanding feature of the live stock market last week was the large business done in hogs at firm prices. The export demand for hams and bacon is still heavy, and packers' buyers have been making further purchases in the country and shipping direct to packing houses. This has had a tendency to bring forward a better class of stock, as none but what are suitable for the branch in which there is the greatest demand are purchased, namely bacon and medium hams, therefore the arrivals, though large, have only been ample to meet the immediate demands of the packing houses who have large export orders to fill. The consequence of the direct receiving and large arrival of contract hogs has caused a smaller amount of offerings in the two open markets here, and this has maintained prices very firmly.

The better class of butcher cattle offering has kept prices steady, as the demand has improved due to the better demand from retailers who have disposed of their large and fancy holiday beefs, and are now replenishing their stocks. The best price for a full load was \$7.90, and this consisted of 266 very fine steers. Several lots of prime steers and heifers, mixed, weighing from 1,000 to 1,090 pounds, brought prices ranging from \$7.50 to \$7.80 per cwt. Very few choice butcher bulls were offering, and the same was the case in the matter of cows. A few odd head brought \$7.00 to \$7.50, but no round lots brought over \$6.50. Canning cows brought \$3.50 to \$3.60. Trade was active all through the week, and supplies offered were quickly bought up.

There was no change to the market for sheep and lambs, prices ranging from \$6.00 to \$6.75 for the former and from \$9.75 to \$10 for the latter.

The average price of select hogs was \$10.20 per cwt., weighed off cars, but a few went as high as \$10.35, and the low for the same grade was \$10.15.

The cool weather makes for a good demand for calves, and good veal stock brought \$8 to \$9.50, while heavies sold at \$7 to \$8, and grassers at \$5.10 to \$5.25 per cwt.

Representative sales of the week, as supplied by Mitchell and Maher were as follows:

No.	average	per
Head.	lbs.	cwt.
26 steers	1,140 to 1,190	@ \$7.90
26 steers and heifers	1,090	@ 7.80
9 steers and heifers	1,100	@ 7.60
29 steers and heifers	1,000 to 1,220	@ 7.50
5 steers	1,080	@ 7.50
7 steers and heifers	1,020	@ 7.30

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