

## COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

The general tone of business throughout the country continues to show a decided improvement, and it is felt among wholesalers that the increased wages being paid to industrial workers, is beginning to be marked in their orders from merchants throughout the country. The outstanding features of the past week were a reduction of 30c per barrel in the price of spring wheat flour, and of 20c per barrel in the price of winter wheat flour, owing to the continued reaction in the raw material markets at Winnipeg and Chicago. Granulated sugar prices were advanced another 10c per hundred pounds in sympathy with the increased strength in the primary market, due to the heavy buying by European countries. Dry goods business for the week showed a satisfactory volume of orders and some improvement is noted in the footwear, clothing, furniture and other trades. In connection with business in other parts of the Dominion, Dun's report says:

"Business at Quebec is in fair volume for this season, and merchants in all lines are looking for steady improvement from now on. General business conditions at Toronto are gradually improving, and much confidence is now expressed in the future. Dry goods sales are increasing, and there is a somewhat better movement in other leading departments. Retail trade is above the average in volume, and while prices have been sharply advanced on many classes of merchandise the demand has not been appreciably affected. Reports from the Far West and Northwest reflect a steady improvement in conditions and a considerably larger movement of merchandise than at this time last year. Winnipeg reports a brisk demand for most kinds of staple commodities, a substantial increase being noted in sales of dry goods, clothing, jewellery, groceries, hardware, etc., as compared with a year ago. Financial conditions are much more favorable, and the outlook for the current year is decidedly encouraging. The trend towards improvement is becoming quite pronounced at Saskatoon, and an active spring trade is confidently anticipated. There has been a steady revival in business of late at Regina, there being an increased demand for dry goods, footwear, groceries, farmers' supplies, etc., and merchants now display a disposition to prepare quite liberally for the future. Business is reported to be showing increased activity at Calgary, there being a considerable expansion in the demand for many kinds of staple merchandise, with sentiment in both wholesale and retail lines decidedly cheerful.

## DAIRY PRODUCE

**BUTTER:** The local demand for best grades continues fair, but there is little inquiry from outside sources for supplies; and in the absence of this the market is slow. There was some business done with Quebecs during the week, but western business is very quiet. The demand for lower grades is very slack, and the market for these is easier, under comparatively large receipts for the period. Local stocks are smaller than usual, but dealers do not attach much significance to this in the absence of an outside demand.

**CHEESE:** The market continues slack, due to the smallness of stocks available for sale, the bulk of stocks held being for English account. There is a steady demand from local buyers to fill actual wants, for which the quantity coming forward is about ample.

Wholesale quotations are as follows:

Butter—	
Finest creamery .....	0.33 0.34
Fine, do., .....	0.32 0.32½
Seconds, .....	0.30 0.31
Dairy Butter .....	0.25 0.27
City Selling Prices, to grocers:—	
Choice Creamery Solids .....	0.35
Do., Prints .....	0.35½
No. 2 Creamery Solids .....	0.33
Do., Prints .....	0.33½
Choice Dairy Prints .....	0.31½
Do., Rolls .....	0.30
Cooking Butter .....	0.23
Cheese—	
Finest Western .....	0.18½ 0.19
Finest Eastern .....	0.18 0.18½
Fine Cheese .....	0.17½ 0.18
Undergrades .....	0.17½ 0.18½

Stephen White, manager of the Montreal Agencies, a subsidiary of the Montreal Trust Co., has taken his commission with the 199th Battalion of the Irish Canadian Rangers.

## RECEIPTS OF BUTTER, CHEESE &amp; EGGS.

The following table shows the receipts of butter, cheese and eggs, in Montreal for the week ending March 11th, 1916, with comparisons:

	Butter, pkgs.	Cheese, boxes.	Eggs, cases.
Week ending Mar. 11, 1916	452	1,088	6,155
Week ending Mar. 4, 1915	367	507	4,969
Week ending Mar. 12, 1915	1,341	453	7,321
Total receipts May 1st,			
1915 to date .....	398,362	1,996,904	552,546
Total receipts cor. period			
last year .....	337,847	1,530,638	394,360

## CHEESE EXPORTS.

The following table shows exports of cheese from Portland and St. John, N.B., which arrived on the other side for the week ended March 9, 1916.

To.	Local.	Thro.	Total.
Liverpool .....	5,613	5,122	10,735
London .....	244	3,356	3,600
Bristol .....	4,766	1,917	6,683
Glasgow .....		4,167	4,167
Manchester .....		5,974	5,974
	10,623	20,536	31,159
Same week last year .....	1,045	25,035	26,080
Total exports May 1, 1915 to March 9,			
1916, boxes .....			1,996,351
Do., corr. period last year, boxes .....			1,530,638

## COUNTRY PRODUCE.

**EGGS:** Deliveries of new laid from Ottawa and Quebec during the past week have not been large, due to some extent to the severe storms prevailing over a wide area. It is expected that new laid will be plentiful, with more moderate weather, and better roads. Dealers are drawing their supplies from Chicago at the moment, paying 19c on that market, which means 25½c Montreal, freight and duty paid.

**POULTRY:** There is no change to speak of on the poultry market, unless it may be said that things are quieter than ever, due to the ever increasing scarcity of stocks. Dealers are holding back what they have on hand to supply their regular customers. Very few fresh killed are coming in owing to the recent storms throughout the country, which have made the roads impassable.

Current quotations follow:—

New laid .....	0.28	0.30
Maple Syrup and Sugar—		
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
Honey:—		
Buckwheat, in combs .....	0.12	0.13
Buckwheat, extracted .....	0.10½	0.11
3-lb. pickers, carlots, bush. ....	4.00	4.25
3 lb. pickers, do., .....	3.95	4.15
Undergrades, bus. ....	3.60	3.70
Potatoes:—		
Green Mountains, per bag, car lots	1.85	1.90
Quebecs, do., .....	1.85	1.90
Job lots 10c. more.		
Poultry:—		
Frozen stock—		
Turkeys .....	0.28	0.30
Fowl, large .....	0.19	0.20
Fowl, small .....	0.17	0.18
Ducks .....	0.22	
Geese .....	0.16	0.17
Roasting chickens, ord. ....	0.21	0.23
Spring broilers, dressed, pair ..	1.15	1.25
Squabs, Phila., pr. ....		0.90
Poultry—Live:		
Fowl, 5 lbs. and over .....	0.20	0.23
Fowl, small .....	0.18	0.19
Turkeys .....	0.20	0.23

## MONTREAL PRODUCE RECEIPTS

The receipts of the principal commodities at Montreal for the past week follow:—

Wheat, bushels .....	255,092
Oats, bushels .....	99,160
Barley, bushels .....	14,074
Flour, barrels .....	16,552
Eggs, cases .....	4,155
Butter, packages .....	452
Cheese, boxes .....	1,088
Potatoes, bags .....	7,180
Hay, bales .....	43,735

## LIVE STOCK.

The small run of cattle at both sales last week, when the offerings amounted to only 575 head, produced a stronger feeling in the market and prices held firm. On Monday butcher's steers advanced 25c per 100 lbs. to \$7.75 and \$8.00, and choice lots sold around \$8.10 to \$8.25, but only a few of the latter were offered. Local dealers have been forced to go to Toronto for this class of beef of late, but it is expected that better weather in the country will show a better offering in this market. In Wednesday the run was very small, but prices remained unchanged.

There was a better supply of calves on the market last week, and as the quality was good prices remained steady. Lambs were scarce and prices high. A choice lot sold at 12½ cents a pound. Sheep were Hogs advanced 25 cents per cent on Monday on the small offerings, but on Wednesday the supply was ample to fill requirements, and prices for choice quality ruled at the previous week's levels.

The offerings at both sales last week were: 575 cattle, 150 sheep and lambs, 1,450 hogs and 900 calves. Current quotations are as follows:

	Per cwt.
Butcher steers, very choice ..	8.10 to 8.25
Do., choice .....	7.00 to 7.50
Do., good .....	6.50 to 7.00
Do., fair .....	6.00 to 6.50
Do., medium .....	5.75 to 6.00
Do., Canners, .....	3.00 to 3.50
Butcher bulls, best .....	5.75 to 6.25
Do., medium .....	5.25 to 5.75
Canning bulls .....	4.00 to 5.00
Butcher cows, best .....	6.23
Do., good .....	6.00
Do., fair .....	5.75
Do., rough .....	4.25 to 5.50
Do., canners .....	3.00 to 3.50
Sheep .....	5.00 to 7.00
Lambs .....	9.00 to 11.00
Do., very choice .....	12.00 to 12.50
Hogs, selects .....	10.25 to 10.75
Do., mixed lots .....	9.50 to 10.50
Do., common .....	9.25
Do., sows .....	7.60 to 7.85
Do., all weighed off cars .....	
Calves, milk fed .....	8.00 to 9.50
Do., grass fed .....	4.50 to 5.50

## MONTREAL LIVE STOCK EXCHANGE.

At a meeting of the newly organized Montreal Live Stock Exchange held last week the final arrangements were completed. It was decided that all who were fundamentally engaged in the live stock business and were willing to abide by such rules and regulations as would be laid down by the board of directors would be eligible for membership, thereby allowing drovers and retail butchers to obtain membership. The exchange will fill a long felt want in the Montreal market.

## NON-RETURNABLE EGG CASES.

The following notification is about to be sent to all the retail grocers in Montreal by the local branch of the Canadian Produce Association, as regards the recent decisions of that body on the question of non-returnable egg cases:

"After giving much study to the question of returnable egg cases with all its inconvenience and troubles, the Canadian Produce Association has reached the decision of not charging the grocers for cases. This system will be in force with all the produce merchants on April first next. It means that, starting from April 1, egg cases will be treated like orange, cheese, and butter boxes, etc. The different firms will give instructions to their carters to pick up all the charged cases up to April 15, and credit for same will be given. If drivers refuse to lift these case, please notify their employers."

## SUGAR CROP IN THE WEST INDIES.

In the early months of last year it was generally estimated that the amount of sugar to be obtained for export from all the colonies would be roundly 240,000 tons. Though all customs returns are not at hand the total export will probably reach 250,000 tons. This is an increase over 1914 of some 20,000 tons above what is usually set down as the figure for the most favored year.