

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

Dispatches from branch offices of R. G. Dun and Co. in leading cities of the Dominion of Canada report that while trade in numerous lines still shows post-holiday quiet, there are numerous indications of recovery and prospects in all directions are decidedly encouraging. Business is gradually returning to normal at Montreal, and a satisfactory increase in activity is shown by some departments. Seasonable weather has stimulated demand for winter merchandise in many sections, and wholesalers of dry goods, footwear, clothing and groceries are receiving a fair volume of orders, both for current and spring delivery. Labor is better employed than usual at this season, and much confidence is noted in manufacturing and mercantile circles. Seasonable weather and good country roads have benefited business at Quebec, and the movement of merchandise shows a substantial increase over that of the corresponding period a year ago. Toronto reports a general tendency towards more active conditions, although the quietness that usually follows the holidays is still somewhat in evidence. Retail trade shows indications of picking up, a fair volume of sorting orders are being received by wholesalers and there is a general feeling that spring business will be very active, owing to the favorable results of the past season, and the liberal employment of labor. In the Far West and Northwest business is good at practically all points, and shows a marked improvement as compared with this time a year ago. Merchants at Winnipeg report that the active holiday trade reduced stocks of both fancy and staple goods to an unusually low point, and the situation is regarded as decidedly favorable. There is still a well-maintained demand for many kinds of commodities, and much confidence is expressed in the future owing to the improvement in financial conditions. Calgary reports that retail merchants are holding their January sales and that so far results are very satisfactory. There is a marked return of confidence among wholesalers, who are looking forward to a good business year. Conditions at Saskatoon are very encouraging, wholesalers in practically all lines reporting a much better demand for merchandise than a year ago, and prospects exceptionally bright. Jobbing and retail trade at Edmonton has not yet entirely recovered from the quietness following the holidays, but this condition is regarded as only temporary and an active spring business is anticipated.

### DAIRY PRODUCE.

**BUTTER:** There has been a large city trade done during the last week at steady prices, and the stocks have been getting lower owing to the fact that the supply is less than the demand. The present supply and what is figured out to come forward will not last more than until the middle of March. And where butter supplies are to be obtained after that of a grade good enough to supply the trade is a mystery to the dealers. The quality of receipts arriving during the past week have not been as good. There has been no western demand so far. The exports have been nil for the past week. Same period last year none. Total exports from May 1, 1915, to Jan. 13, 1916, from the ports of Montreal, Quebec, St. John and Portland have been 54,645 packages, as compared with 8,124 packages for same period last year, an increase of 46,521 packages.

**CHEESE:** The export demand for cheese during the past week has been heavier, but the small stocks on hand do not allow of any large orders being accepted, and the business done for foreign account has been on a sort of a hand-to-mouth basis. There has been considerable trouble experienced in getting freight room for what has been sold, and this has cost shippers about 3-16c per pound more than formerly. This has caused a firmer feeling to develop for export account, but no change in prices have as yet taken place. There is a fairly good trade being done for local account. There has been some buying by the Montreal traders in New York State and at Chicago to fill English demands for American cheese, but the advance in prices there, owing to the home demand, has curtailed much of the trading. Freight rates are quoted at 125s to 135s to English ports. Of the stocks in store here on January 1, 1916 it is said that 25,000 boxes included were Government cheese. The exports of

cheese from the Ports of Portland and St. John, N.B., which arrived on the other side for the week ended January 13, 1916, amounted to 675 boxes, as compared with 5,285 boxes for the same period last year. The total exports from May 1, 1915 from the ports of Montreal, St. John, Quebec and Portland to January 13, 1916, have been 1,934,913 boxes, as compared with 1,536,138 for the same period a year ago, an increase of 398,775 boxes.

Current quotations follow:—

Butter—	Montreal.		Toronto.	
Choicest Creamery	0.36	0.36½	0.34	0.35
Fine Creamery ..	0.34	0.34½	0.31	0.32
Seconds .....	0.33	0.33½	.....	.....
Dairy Prints, best	0.266	0.28	0.27	0.29
Cooking .....	.....	0.23	0.22	0.23
Cheese—				
Finest Colored, (Sept.) .....	.....	0.18½	.....	.....
Finest white East- ern (Sept.) .....	.....	0.18½	.....	.....
Finest Current Re- ceipts .....	.....	0.19	.....	.....
Large .....	.....	.....	0.18½	0.19
Twins .....	.....	0.20	0.18¾	0.19¼

### COUNTRY PRODUCE.

**EGGS:** The egg market is generally steady. The supplies on spot are small, but there are sufficient for a few weeks yet. Receipts of new laids are steadily increasing, and the undertone to the market for that grade is easy, but no decline has taken place since last week's quotations. Strange to say the demand for new laid eggs is not large, as retail prices are fairly high yet, and this quality of egg is considered a luxury rather than a necessity at this season of the year, and at the present price level. As soon, however, as the receipts begin to accumulate and prices are forced down, the consumption will be larger. The British egg market is in good condition, and there is some demand for export account, but the business doing is practically all in United States stock, which is going through in bond. The exports of eggs from the ports of St. John and Portland that have arrived at their destination for the week ended January 13, 1916, numbered 7,923 cases, which all went to Glasgow, as compared with 2,665 for the same period last year.

**DRESSED POULTRY:** There has been very little fresh killed dressed poultry received during the last week, but there has been a good demand for hens and ducks. The present prospects are that storage prices will rule a shade higher than last year owing to a report of a shortage of supplies, and therefore there will not be more available than that what is wanted for the local trade. There is, however, a good demand at present for supplies to go to Winnipeg, Calgary and even to Vancouver.

**HONEY:** The market for honey is very quiet, and very little trade is being done, and this is only to replenish broken lines. Prices show no further change from last week.

**BEANS:** Beans are scarce, and prices are being fully maintained at a high level, on account of the small supplies on hand. Wholesalers are selling to retailers only sparingly, and for only actual necessity in order not to run short of stock.

**MAPLE PRODUCTS:** Only a limited amount of business is being done in maple products, as the demand for consumption is small. The supplies on hand are not large, and prices are holding firm.

**PEAS:** There are few peas offering. Boilers are very scarce, and in demand, but any purchases of this grade must be fully guaranteed. Stocks on hand are not large, and the demand is only fair. Ordinary non boilers and split peas are in no demand, and prices are low.

**POTATOES:** The result of the recent lifting of the potato embargo has been that United States buyers have flocked to the New Brunswick markets, and bought up huge quantities of the available supplies at fancy prices, and now farmers and dealers there are holding for higher prices still. One dealer is said to be holding 50,000 bags in storage for higher prices. This is the largest quantity known to be held by any one person. In the last two weeks the prices of potatoes in Portland, New York, Philadelphia and Boston have advanced \$1 per barrel, and at this writing are quoted at \$4 the barrel, which is equal to \$2 per 90 pound bag, which is nearly the same price here. The prices asking at present for car lots is \$1.90 per bag delivered Montreal, with now and then a car at \$1.85, which means approximately \$900 per car for Green Moun-

tain grades. Québec potatoes are scarce. There was the average crop produced in this province last year, but there was a heavy demand from exporters last fall, and a great quantity was purchased and sent to Halifax to be exported, presumably to Cuba. Montreal wholesale dealers are selling on narrow margins owing to the high prices they are forced to pay to fill orders.

	Montreal.		Toronto.	
Eggs—				
Fresh gathered, specials		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
Cracks and Dirts, No. 1's	0.00	0.25		
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		
Beans:—				
3-lb. pickers, carlots, bus.	4.00	4.15		
3 lb. pickers, do.	3.50	4.00		
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:—			Montreal.	
Frozen stock—				
Fowl, small		0.12	0.13	
Ducks		0.14	0.17	
Geese		0.12	0.15	
Pigeons, pair		0.25	0.30	
Fresh:—				
Turkeys		0.24	0.26	
Fowl, large		0.17	0.19	
Fowl, small		0.10	0.12	
Ducks			0.29	
Geese		0.16	0.17	
Roasting chicken, milkfed, 4 lbs. or over		0.21	0.23	
Roasting chicken, ordinary		0.18	0.19	
Spring broilers, dressed, pair		0.75	1.00	
Squabs, Canadian, pair			0.45	
Squabs, Philadelphia, pair			0.47	
Live:—				
Fowl, 5 lbs. and over		0.17	0.18	
Fowl, small		0.14	0.15	
Turkeys		0.19	0.20	
Ducks		0.18	0.20	
Geese		0.14	0.16	
Chicken		0.13	0.15	
Honey:—				
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	
Peas:—				
Guaranteed boilers, per 60 lb. bu.		2.40	2.60	
Ordinary, per bushel			1.25	

### LIVE STOCK.

Hogs were the main factors in the Montreal live stock markets during the past week, prices have been high owing to the fine grades of bacon stock which has arrived. Last Monday over 3,000 head arrived. Some of the finest select grades which have ever been offered on the local market, were among them; the demand was good and packers eagerly snapped them up at \$10.25 to \$10.50 cwt., all weighed off cars. The demand is still heavy for bacon and hams from Great Britain and a lot more of this class of hogs can be taken care of here, at very good prices. Arrivals later in the week were not as fine a quality and prices lost their sharp advance made on Monday, selling down to around \$10 cwt., on Wednesday.

As is usual at this time of year there is quite a lot of dressed beef still unsold in butchers hands left over from the holiday trade and for this reason the demand for the few very choice butcher cattle, coming to the market, has not been very active but is expected to show improvement beginning this week. The few very choice stock arriving have sold well at around \$8 cwt., or an odd one here and there, but no round lots were disposed of at this figure, the highest for a load being \$7.75 cwt.

There has been an over supply of lambs for this time of the year, and this has made for easier prices. Old sheep are also easy as a great many arriving are of only poor or medium quality.

Veal is now considered good eating as it is nearly all fully matured and as a consequence milk-fed calves are selling well and up as high as 10 cents a pound.