

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: While the influence of the gripe epidemic on general business has been more apparent during the past few days, the effect has not been so pronounced as was anticipated in some quarters. Some of the larger city retailers and department stores report a curtailment of from 25 to 40 per cent in sales, and manufacturing industries are suffering to some extent through the sickness of operatives, but the majority of wholesalers report no very appreciable falling off in business thus far. Dry goods payments due on the 13th were very well met, and general collections are reported good in the majority of cases, while the failure list is a light one.

The distribution in general groceries is normal. The coupon system with regard to sugar is now in effect, and according to its provisions jobbers are entitled to 80 per cent of their average supplies during 1917, but the quantities actually available fall very short of said percentage. It is reported that the International Sugar Commission will now also assume the allotment of coffee supplies. There is still a marked scarcity of molasses. It is now understood that practically no new prunes will reach this market, the California, 1918, crop being largely taken over by the American Government, who are also reported as taking 45 per cent of the tomato pack. The domestic pack of tomatoes is estimated at about 85 per cent of average, and is being quoted at \$1.67½ to \$1.70, shipping point. The pack of corn is very short. In the provision line hog prices are easier, under free offerings, and hams and bacon are in fairly large supply. Butter prices are firm owing to recent Government requirements, but prices have not advanced to the extent predicted.

In the dry goods line orders continue to come in freely, both for sorting and spring lines. Some of the cotton mills report a considerable proportion of their looms idle, owing to sickness among the operatives.

The improvement lately noted among boot and shoe manufacturers is being well sustained. Orders for women's wear are coming in well, and a feature in this line is the very large number of orders for white canvas shoes for next summer wear. Further orders for military footwear are reported.

Some increase is noted in the demand for leather, and all prices are firmly held. Sole leather tanners report a continued difficulty in obtaining supplies of South American dry hides.

Lumber prices are abnormally high, and though building operations are much curtailed some of the larger dealers report quite a considerable volume of orders, but are much handicapped in shipments by car shortage, and the scarcity of labor for the handling of stock.

For the week three district failures are reported, with liabilities of \$72,000.

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report says: The commercial situation in this city has been greatly disturbed by the worst epidemic that has ever visited this city. The retail trade are compelled to close their doors on account of this early in the afternoon, 4 p.m. This is about the busiest part of the day with the retail trade, and as a consequence their sales have fallen off very materially. The wholesale trade have also to close at 4 p.m., but it does not affect them as much as the retailers.

Manufacturing in almost every line of industry is curtailed, owing to the large number of employees that are laid up. This is a very bad season of the year to have business upset, as it is, owing to the rush of orders that are still to be completed for interior points before the season of navigation closes.

The food board has permitted white corn flour to be used again by the bakers, as one of their substitutes. This was quite a surprise to the trade, as most of the wholesalers had disposed of their stock of white corn flour. Barley flour declined one dollar per barrel.

There was a good demand for poultry for the Thanksgiving trade; turkeys ruled very high, and very few were offering.

Bank clearings this week beat all previous records, showing an increase of 36.7 per cent over the same period last year. Remittances and collections are very good.

LOCAL FLOUR.

The market for Spring wheat flour showed no new development, last week. Orders for straight carloads and broken lots came forward freely and a good volume of business was done. Sales of car lots of Government standard grade were made at \$11.50 per barrel in bags, ex-track, and to city bakers at \$11.65 delivered, while small quantities to grocers, and city bakers sold at \$11.75 delivered, all less 10c. per barrel for spot cash. The demand for winter wheat flour is steady and the market is fairly active and firm with sales of broken lots at \$11.60 per barrel of new cotton bags, and at \$11.30 in second-hand jute bags, ex-store.

SUBSTITUTES.

A new order has been passed, by the Canada Food Board, holding millers and jobbers responsible to see that the bakers purchased the correct percentage of substitutes when purchasing wheat flour. Prices of new crop rye decreased considerably and sales of straight carloads to millers and jobbers were made at \$10.50 to \$10.70 per barrel in bags ex-track. Oat flour prices also showed a decline of 30c. per barrel with sales of broken lots at \$11.70. Barley flour remained unchanged at \$10, white corn flour at \$10.20 mixed, mixed corn flour at \$9.20 and Graham flour at \$11.30 to \$11.50.

MILLFEED.

A firm feeling prevailed in the market for millfeed and there was an active demand for all lines. Bran is selling at \$37.25 and shorts at \$42.25 per ton, including bags, in car lots, ex-track, and bran at \$39.25, and shorts at \$44.25 per ton, ex-warehouse, including cartage, less 25c. per ton for spot cash, pure grain, moultrie at \$68 to \$70, feed cornmeal at \$68, barley feed at \$62 to \$63 and mixed moultrie at \$55 per ton, including bags, to the trade.

ROLLED OATS.

The market for rolled oats remained unchanged.

LOCAL GRAIN.

The announcement made on the Chicago Grain Exchange, that the Food Administration had made arrangements for the exportation of large amounts of corn and that they would be in the market with orders for November and December shipment, created quite a little excitement in the market, and this, coupled with the mad rush shorts made to cover up, tended to strengthen the situation considerably, and prices for futures scored an advance of 5¼c. to 13¼c. per bushel for the week and the market closed strong.

This also tended to create a stronger feeling in the local market here, for cash corn and prices were 2¼c. to 5c. higher per bushel than a week earlier. There was a fair demand from the country for car lots of sample grades and sales were made at from \$1.25 to \$1.40 per bushel ex-store, but there was not much demand for supplies for shipment from Chicago and only sales of a few cars of low grade were made at \$1.16 per bushel ex-track here. The Winnipeg option market for oats was strong on Saturday and prices scored a further rise of ¾c. to 1¾c. per bushel, which made a net gain for the week of 3¼c. to 5¼c. In sympathy with this, the spot market for cash oats was stronger and prices were 2c. per bushel higher than a week ago. The volume of business for the week was not as large as the previous one, but on the whole the turnover was fair both on spot and for shipment from Fort William, and the market closed strong with car lots of extra No. 1 feed quoted at 94c., No. 1 feed at 92c., No. 2 feed at 88c., Ontario No. 2 white at 90½c., No. 3 white at 89½c., and No. 4 at 88½c. per bushel ex-store. The course of the market for barley here was irregular owing to the fact that prices for Manitoba grades here during the week advanced 2c. per bushel, while those for Ontario declined 3c. Sales of car lots of Manitoba No. 3 were made at \$1.22, No. 4, at \$1.13, while Ontario extra No. 3 sold at \$1.27 and No. 3 at \$1.25 per bushel ex-store.

GRAIN AND FLOUR STOCKS.

The following table shows the stocks of grain and flour in store in Montreal on the dates mentioned:—

	Oct. 19. 1918.	Oct. 12. 1918.	Oct. 20. 1918.
Wheat	406,325	2,329,938	2,691,960
Corn	114,501	105,327	23,785
Peas	41,420	41,420
Oats	4,681,456	4,309,376	223,810
Barley	181,816	181,339	322,875
Flour, sacks	5,155	4,604	58,585

BUTTER AND CHEESE RECEIPTS.

The following table shows the receipts of butter and cheese in Montreal for the week ending October 19th, 1918, with comparisons:

Week ending Oct. 19, 1918.	14,105	35,890
Week ending Oct. 12, 1918.	13,827	44,902
Week ending Oct. 20, 1917.	7,215	46,572
Total receipts May 1, 1918, to Oct. 19, 1918.	384,806	1,526,139
Total receipts May 1, 1917, to Oct. 20, 1917.	296,679	1,093,614

LIVESTOCK.

Montreal — The receipts of cattle at Montreal's two yards, were 5,550 cattle, 3,700 sheep, and lambs, 2,825 hogs and 1,275 calves. The supplies of cattle were fairly large but as the demand was slow prices were easier. The market for sheep and lambs was weak and in the absence of American demand, prices declined, \$1 to \$2 per 100 lbs. Hog prices showed a decline of 25c. per 100 lbs.

We quote Montreal prices as follows:

Choice heavy steers.	\$13.25 to \$13.50
Choice butchers.	12.25 12.50
Good.	11.75 12.00
Fairly good.	11.25 11.50
Fair.	10.75 11.00
Light steers.	9.00 10.25
Common.	8.00 8.75

Butchers' Bulls—

Choice, heavy.	9.50 10.00
Choice, light.	9.00 9.25
Good.	8.50 8.75
Medium.	8.00 8.25
Light weights.	7.50 7.75

Butchers' cows—

Choice.	9.25 9.75
Good.	8.75 9.00
Medium.	8.25 8.50
Common.	7.25 8.00

Sheep and lambs—

Ontario lambs.	14.50 15.00
Quebec lambs.	12.50 13.50
Ontario sheep.	11.00 11.50
Quebec sheep.	10.00 10.50

Calves—

Choice, milk-fed stock.	14.00 15.00
Good.	12.00 13.00
Grass-fed, choice.	9.00 10.00
Lower grades.	6.00 8.00

Live hogs—

Selects.	18.75
Good.	18.25 18.50
Mixed lots.	17.00 17.75
Sows.	15.75
Stags.	14.75

Toronto quotations:—

Heavy steers, choice.	13.75 14.50
do, good.	12.00 13.25
Butchers' steers and heifers, choice.	10.00 11.00
do, good.	9.00 10.00
do, medium.	8.25 8.75
do, common.	6.75 7.50
Butchers' cows, choice.	9.00 11.00
do, good.	7.75 8.50
do, medium.	7.00 7.50
do, common.	6.75 7.25
do, canners.	5.25 6.00
Butchers' bulls, choice.	10.00 10.50
do, good.	9.00 9.50
do, medium.	7.75 8.50
do, common.	7.00 7.75
Feeders, best.	9.50 10.50
Stockers, best.	9.00 10.50
Milkers and springers, choice.	160.00 200.00
do, common to medium.	65.00 100.00
Calves, choice.	15.50 16.50
do, medium.	12.00 13.00
do, common.	8.00 10.50
do, grass.	7.50 8.00
Lambs, choice spring.	15.00 15.75
Lambs, yearlings.	15.00 16.00
Sheep, choice handy.	13.00 15.00
do, heavy and fat bucks.	6.00 12.00
Hogs, fed and watered.	18.25
do, off cars.	18.50
do, f.o.b.	17.25
Less \$1 to \$2 on light to thin hogs; less \$3 to \$3.50 on sows; less \$5 on stags; less 50c to \$1 on heavies.	