

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: The wheels of commerce have hardly as yet attained full momentum after the holiday quiet, but general prospects are considered fairly encouraging, and there has been no decline in the matter of payments, which, as a whole, may be called satisfactory.

Dry goods travellers are all starting out again, with samples fully revised, and sorting mail orders are reported in very fair volume. The cotton mills are all busily employed, and are making free deliveries. With raw cotton quoted up to nearly 33 cents, there is no prospect of any easier prices for manufactured goods. Buyers of woolen dress goods report great difficulty in getting supplies, and in view of the fact that the British Government is appropriating 85 per cent of all raw wool yarn, etc., Bradford manufacturers will not bind themselves in any way as to deliveries. Fortunately most of the numerous clothing manufacturing houses are well stocked, having bought largely ahead, in anticipation of present conditions. In this line fair spring orders are reported, though hardly up to the average.

In the boot and shoe trade there is not as yet any notable increase in manufacturing activity, and the leather market is comparatively quiet.

In the grocery trade the movement is just a moderate one, as is the usual rule for several weeks after the New Year. Sugar remains on the same basis, one local refinery quoting on the basis of \$8.90 for standard granulated, and the other two at \$8.50, but very little stock is really available at the latter figures. Spot stocks of molasses are about exhausted, and prices for new crop will rule high. Some sales of fancy Barbadoes have been reported at 75 cents, laid down cost, but planters are now reported as holding back quotations, and crop estimates range under 50,000 puncheons. Tapioca is scarce, and some advance is reported in rice. Canned goods are held very firmly, and shipments of corn and tomatoes, bought in the Baltimore district, have been taken over, in transit, by the American Government. The flour market is very active. Hogs show an advancing tendency, and cured meats are very firm in consequence. Owing to the pronounced cold spell, new laid eggs are in light supply, and stored goods are held at firmer figures.

Seven district failures are reported for the week, with liabilities of about \$95,000. For the week preceding only three minor failures were reported, with liabilities of about \$9,000.

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report says:

The first report since the year opened, finds the purchasing price of the dollars at a new low level, it being figured that the dollar will now only purchase between forty and fifty cents worth as compared with normal years.

Trade conditions generally are very optimistic, the high prices realized on country product makes prosperity unavoidable. The shortage of railway facilities to move the congested condition of freight, is to be considerably relieved by the action of the Canadian railway war board in cutting down a large number of passenger trains.

At the live stock market the offerings of cattle, sheep, lambs and hogs were very limited, and as a consequence, prices on all live stock scored an advance. The butter market was stronger at an advance of one cent per pound on fancy grades.

The live stock branch of the Canadian Government is negotiating for the importation of a quantity of corn from the United States for feeding purposes.

The January cheap sales in the retail stores are attracting a large number of buyers, who are reported to be purchasing freely. Remittances are very good. City collections seem to be improving.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending January 12th, 1918, were 2,570 packages, which show an increase of 1,737 packages with the previous week, and an increase of 1,469 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1 to date show a decrease of 146,229 packages, as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The demand for butter, both for home consumption and

for shipments to outside points, which showed a decided improvement, last week, led to an advance of 1c per lb. for all grades of creamery butter. The market was active and a fair amount of business was done. On Friday at St. Hyacinthe several lots of winter made creamery, amounting to about 150 packages, were bought at 41c per lb. The trade in oleomargarine during the week has also been fairly active, there being a good steady demand for fair-sized lots at prices ranging from 30c to 32c per lb., as to quality.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.45 1/2	0.46
Fine Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.44 1/2	0.45
Current receipts, creamery	0.43 1/2	0.44
Finest dairy	0.36	0.37

CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending January 12th, 1918, were 1,607 boxes, which show an increase of 156 boxes, as compared with the previous week, and an increase of 705 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May to date show a decrease of 393,600 boxes, as compared with the corresponding period in 1916-17. The receipts of cheese for the week were larger than for the previous week, and the bulk if not all were sold for 20c per lb.

The Commission is paying the following prices:

No. 1 cheese	21 1/4c
No. 2 cheese	21 1/4c
No. 3 cheese	20 3/4c

EGGS.

The receipts for the week ending January 12th, 1918, were 1,232 cases, as compared with 868 for the previous week, and 456 for the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1st, 1917, to date, were 302,507 cases, as against 627,188 for the corresponding period last year. The United States markets for storage eggs continue very strong and in Chicago prices advanced to 41 1/2 per dozen for extras and 40 1/2 for April firsts. This led to the development of a very strong tone in the Montreal market for storage eggs and on Friday prices scored an increase 1c per dozen for storage eggs. Supplies of fresh gathered eggs coming forward are small.

We quote current prices as follows:

Strictly new laid eggs	0.65	0.70
Fresh eggs	0.54	0.55
Fall fresh eggs	0.50	0.52
Selected cold storage	0.48	
No. 1 cold storage	0.44	
No. 2 cold storage	0.40	0.41

POULTRY.

The tone of the dressed poultry market has been firm owing to the small supplies coming forward and prices have been maintained.

We quote prices as follows:

Turkeys, per lb.	0.34	0.35
Chickens, per lb.	0.22	0.27
Fowl, per lb.	0.19	0.23
Ducks, per lb.	0.26	0.27
Geese, per lb.	0.22	0.23
Live chickens, per lb.	0.18	0.25
Live ducks, per lb.	0.24	0.25
Live geese, per lb.	0.20	0.21

POTATOES.

Potatoes have been coming forward in very limited supplies due to the extreme cold weather and as the demand has been good a very firm feeling has developed. The trade has been active, with sales of Green Mountains in a wholesale jobbing way at \$2.25, Ontario white stock at \$2.15, and reds at \$2.05 per bag of 80 lbs., ex-store.

MILLFEED.

The car shortage and the continued cold weather which causes a difficulty in getting supplies from the West, are responsible for the scarcity of millfeed supplies of all kinds. Buyers are urgent in their demands, and the tone of the market very firm.

ROLLED OATS.

The undertone of the market for rolled oats is very firm, although no changes in price have taken place. The market is active, with a steady demand for small lots for local and country account.

ONIONS.

Spanish, in large cases, about 140 lbs. per case 5.00
Red Onions in bags 75 lbs., per bag 2.75

VEGETABLES.

Cukes, per dozen 2.25 to 2.75
Sweet Potatoes, per basket 4.00
Tomatoes, Hot House, per lb. 0.50
Mushrooms, 4 lbs. to basket, per basket 4.00
Lettuce, Boston cabbage heads, per dozen .. 1.25

LOCAL FLOUR.

The local flour market showed no change last week. There was a good demand for spring wheat grades from buyers in Quebec, and orders for mixed lots of flour and feed for prompt delivery, and for shipment within 30 days poured in, but the millers in some cases were unable to fill orders because of a scarcity of feed caused by the difficulty of getting shipments forward from the mills in the West. A stronger feeling prevailed in the winter wheat flour, due to the light stocks held on spot, and the continued small offerings from Ontario millers. Prices advanced 2 1/2c. to 5c. per bag in the middle of the week.

We quote current prices as follows:

Flour:		per barrel.
First patents	11.60	
Second patents	11.10	
Strong clears	10.98	
Cereals:		
Rolled oats, 90 lb. bag	5.30	
Feed:		per ton.
Bran	35.00	
Shorts	40.00	
Middlings	48.00	50.00
Moullie, pure grain grades	61.00	63.00
Moullie, mixed	56.00	58.00

LOCAL GRAIN.

The Canadian option market for oats displayed considerable activity last week, and prices for May options fluctuated 3c. per bushel, the highest figure for the week being 86 1/4c., and the lowest 83 1/4c., the market closing strong within a fraction of the highest point. Local trade was fairly active, and a good volume of business was done. The strong condition of the Canadian oat situation is due to some extent to the fact that large supplies are being shipped to the U. S., also to the good demand from the Canadian Government for seed oats, which has led to some large purchases being made.

The spot market closed strong, with car lots of No. 1 feed oats quoted at 92 1/2c. to 93c., No. 2 white at 90 1/2c., No. 3 at 89 1/2c., and No. 4 at 88 1/2c. per bushel ex-store. There is a good enquiry for American corn, and sales of several cars at \$1.72 to \$1.75 per bushel ex-track.

Fluctuations in grain on Saturday at Winnipeg were:—

Oats:		per bushel.
No. 2 C. W.	0.87 1/2	
Do., No. 3 C. W.	0.81 1/2	
Do., Extra No. 1 feed	0.81 1/2	
Do., No. 2 feed	0.77 1/2	
Barley:		
No. 3 C. W.	1.44	
No. 4 C. W.	1.39	
Rejected and Feed	1.30	
Flax:		
No. 1 N.W.C.	3.25 1/2	
No. 2 C. W.	3.22 1/2	

RECEIPTS OF BUTTER AND CHEESE.

The following table shows the receipts of butter and cheese in Montreal for the week ending January 12th, 1918, with comparisons:

	Butter,	Cheese,
	pkgs.	boxes.
Week ending Jan. 12, 1918	2,570	1,607
Week ending Jan. 5, 1918	833	1,451
Week ending January 13, 1917	1,101	902
Total receipts May 1, 1917, to		
Jan. 12, 1918	347,799	1,824,851
Total receipts May 1, 1916, to		
Jan. 13, 1917	494,028	2,217,451