

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: General business conditions continue of a healthy character. Only one insignificant failure is reported in the district for the week, and complaints of dilatory payments are rare.

In the dry goods line travellers are reported as still doing well with fall stuffs, and the weather has been favorable to the reduction of retail stocks. More difficulty is anticipated in obtaining supplies of British cottons, as the Government has announced that mills can only run on licence after June 10th, and on restricted time. Most clothing manufacturers report good fall orders, with sufficient stocks for present needs, but much uncertainty prevails with regard to supplies for next year.

The extensive boot and shoe manufacturing industry here, which has been in a rather languishing shape for some time past, shows some signs of picking up, and leather men report a little more doing. It is reported the Government has been sounding some manufacturers as to what quantity of army shoes they could turn out within twelve days of order, but there does not appear to be any great appetite for this line of business, owing to the now closely cut prices, and the difficulty in getting the necessary stock. Local buyers of fancy leathers for women's shoes and slippers, who have been trying to make purchases in American manufacturing centres, report the greatest difficulty in securing even small lots. Canadian tanners of sole leather are much exercised owing to the refusal of the American Government to grant export licenses for South American dry hides bought in New York, unless the application specifically states that the leather is for army purposes, and it is feared some extensive tanneries may have to shut down.

The movement in groceries is of a fair-seasonable character. Sugar prices are without change, and there has been some further loosening up in deliveries. Tea prices are high, and for lines quoted two years ago around 25 cents; importers are asking as high as 57 to 60 cents. Under liberal receipts quotations for butter have ruled easier. There has also been some weakening in the market for hogs, but whether this is due to the steadily diminishing domestic consumption of ham and bacon is hard to say.

The country demand for general hardware, agricultural tools, paints, etc., is well maintained. District crop reports continue favorable, and it is understood that quite a considerable acreage has been put under wheat, of late, a much neglected crop in this province.

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report says: From a business standpoint our country is feeling the effects of the war more and more as the conflict continues, the principal trouble being the scarcity of labor. The coal question this year is much more serious than is generally realized by the public at the present time. Then there is the difficulty in moving freight. All our exports are confined to articles required for war purposes, so that our general export trade has been stopped for the time being. Restrictions have been made on a number of lines, by our War Trade Board, the latest of which are hides and leather, the exportation of which has been prohibited in order to conserve supplies for Canadian consumption.

Large orders have been received by our Canadian manufacturers for khaki cloth for the American Government. The wool clip in Manitoba will be twenty-five per cent larger than that of a year ago. Dry goods authorities state that the supply of linen goods will hardly be sufficient to last till the end of the present year, and that it is next to impossible to secure further shipments.

Several new steel steamers have been successfully launched during the past week, a number of new shipyards will be opened in the near future. Crop prospects through Canada are most reassuring, and much above the normal of the past five years.

Remittances are good, but city collections are rather slow. Retail trade has been very fair.

LIVESTOCK.

MONTREAL.—The receipts of livestock were smaller last week and new record prices were paid for steer cattle; prices for calves and sheep advanced \$1.00 per 100 lbs., and hogs ruled steady. The quality of the stock offered was excellent and an active trade was done.

We quote the following Montreal prices:

Steers, per 100 lbs.—		
Choice	15.75	16.00
Good	15.25	15.50
Fairly good	14.75	15.00
Fair	14.25	14.50
Light steers	13.75	14.00
Common	11.00	12.00
Butchers' Bulls—		
Choice	13.00	13.50
Good	12.50	12.75
Medium	12.00	12.25
Common	8.00	11.00
Butchers' cows—		
Choice heavy	12.00	12.50
Good	11.50	11.75
Medium	11.00	11.25
Common	9.00	10.50
Sheep, per 100 lbs.—		
Ewes	13.50	14.50
Bucks and culls	11.50	12.50
Ontario lambs	17.00	18.00
Quebec lambs	16.00	17.00
Calves, per 100 lbs.—		
Choice milk-fed stock	13.50	14.50
Good	11.50	12.50
Fair	10.00	11.00
Hogs, per 100 lbs.—		
Selected lots	19.50	20.00
Sows	17.50	18.00
Stags	15.50	15.75

TORONTO.—The offerings for the week were small and the general run of the cattle were good. The market developed a very strong tone and prices showed increases and by the middle of the week some of the highest prices in the history of the trade were paid in some cases. The small meats market also developed a strong tone in sympathy with the cattle market and prices showed increases.

The hog market was slightly firmer at \$18 fed and watered. The entire offering of 1,450 hogs was disposed of quite early in the morning.

We quote the following prices for livestock at the Toronto markets:

Heavy steers, choice	15.00	17.50
Do., good	13.50	14.50
Butchers' steers and heifers, choice	12.50	13.25
Do., good	11.75	12.25
Do., medium	10.50	11.50
Do., common	8.25	9.50
Butchers' cows, choice	12.50	13.50
Do., good	11.50	12.25
Do., medium	9.00	11.00
Do., common	6.75	7.50
Do., canners	6.00	6.25
Butchers' bulls, choice	12.50	13.50
Do., good	11.00	12.25
Do., medium	8.50	10.00
Do., common	7.50	8.00
Feeders, best	9.50	11.75
Stockers, best	9.50	12.50
Milkers and springers, choice	100.00	160.00
Do., common to medium	65.00	90.00
Calves, choice	14.00	16.00
Do., medium	12.00	13.25
Heavy fat	10.00	12.00
Lambs, choice	19.50	22.00
Sheep, choice handy	14.50	20.00
Do., heavy and fat bucks	11.50	13.00
Hogs, fed and watered	18.00
Do., off cars	18.25
Do., f.o.b.	17.00
Less \$1 to \$2 on light or thin hogs; less \$3 to \$3.50 on sows; less \$4 on stags; less 50c. to \$1 on heavies.		

RECEIPTS OF LIVESTOCK IN MAY.

The receipts of live stock in Montreal for the month of May were 6,107 cattle, 853 sheep and lambs, 20,848 calves, 10,053 hogs and 3,062 horses, as compared with 6,028 cattle, 1,222 sheep and lambs, 18,696 calves, 13,473 hogs, and 3,837 horses for the same month in 1917. The receipts from January 1st, 1918, to date were 28,245 cattle, 10,989 sheep and lambs,

56,118 calves, 50,455 hogs, and 12,801 horses.

The receipts of live stock at Toronto for the month of May were 26,701 cattle, 1,081 sheep and lambs, 10,132 calves, 42,929 hogs, and 2,894 horses, as against 22,139 cattle, 1,461 sheep and lambs, 7,836 calves, 48,434 hogs, and 10,577 horses for the corresponding month last year. The receipts for the year 1918 to date were 115,550 cattle, 12,036 sheep and lambs, 32,333 calves, 215,839 hogs, and 11,577 horses.

The receipts of livestock at Winnipeg for the month of May were 10,569 cattle, 210 sheep and lambs, 29,672 hogs, and 311 horses, as compared with 11,337 cattle, 72 sheep and lambs, 34,615 hogs, and 808 horses for the same month in 1917. The total receipts for the year 1918 to date were 45,072 cattle, 1,294 sheep and lambs, 166,882 hogs, and 7,295 horses.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.

Although supplies were coming forward freely the tone of the market for June creamery became strong and in some cases prices were bid up 1/2c per lb. as compared with those paid at the end of the previous week. There was a keen demand and the trade was good.

We quote the following prices:

Finest creamery	0.43 1/2	0.44
Fine creamery	0.42 1/2	0.43
Fine dairy	0.36 1/2	0.37

Margarine:

Prints	0.29 1/2	0.34
Bulk	0.28 1/2	0.31 1/2

Cottonseed (Shortening):

Tierces, per lb.	0.26 1/2
Tubs, per lb.	0.26 1/2
Pails, per lb.	0.27
Cartons	0.28

CHEESE.

A fair trade continues to be done in small cheese for domestic account and sales of 20 lb. cheese and twins were made at 22 1/2c to 23c per lb.

The Commission is paying the following prices:

No. 1 cheese	0.23
No. 2 cheese	0.22 1/2
No. 3 cheese	0.22

EGGS.

Trade in a wholesale jobbing way has been fairly active as the domestic demand continues fair. The feeling in the egg market is firm in sympathy with higher prices being paid at country points.

Selected new laid eggs	44c to 45c
New laid stock	00c to 42c
No. 1 stock	00c to 40c
No. 2 stock	00c to 38c

Reports from practically all parts of Canada indicate production shows a further decline as compared with a week ago, and a large portion of the receipts show the effects of heat. Reports indicate warmer weather in Western Canada and this will result in deterioration being more marked, putting the best quality at a higher premium. Receipts on the Manitoba markets are lighter than anticipated, and this is believed to be directly attributable to the recent strike of freight handlers and the consequent delay in the return of empty cases to country shippers.

Prices paid at country points during the week ranged from 34c to 35 1/2c to stores and 35c to 36 1/2c to gatherers with a premium of 1/2 to 1c for circled. It is reported some operators have advanced their prices 1/2c. From now on there will be a wider spread in prices according to quality. Fine quality eggs will be a much smaller proportion of the receipts and will gradually work to higher levels.

Several cars of Western province eggs arrived in the east during the week, and further shipments are reported rolling. It is reported they cost from 34c to 34 1/2c f.o.b. cases free rots and leakers out.

Storing is still in progress. All surplus being absorbed in this way.

Latest reports from the Western provinces point to heavier hatches, and the young stock growing well. Some fear is expressed in some sections that there may not be sufficient feed available. The heaviest increase is said to be in British Columbia where it is reported 25 per cent more chicks have been hatched out this year than last. Reports are somewhat conflicting in Eastern Canada, but the consensus of opinion is that the hatch is smaller in Ontario, this