

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin will say of Montreal trade: The prospects for an early opening of navigation do not seem overbright. The ice at some points in the river is said to be three feet thick, and the ice-breakers working up from Quebec are not yet within 100 miles of the city. From Quebec to Father Point the river is said to be open, but in the lower gulf much heavy ice is reported.

General business conditions are not appreciably altered since last writing. Wholesale dry goods men still report good business, and though chilly in the shade, the weather has proved favorable to Easter shopping. The market for cottons shows further stiffening, and the Montreal Cotton Co., large producers of dyed goods, has this week withdrawn all quotations.

The iron market continues quiet, with limited supplies available. In general hardware a steady fair business is reported, with the country; the city demand is light.

Paints show almost weekly advance. Manufacturers in that line report good spring orders as a rule, and some fair amount of export business with Australia and South America, shipments being made by sailing vessels from New York.

The movement in groceries is of the usual seasonable character. The Atlantic Sugar Refining Co. has announced a further advance of 25c a cental, while the other two local companies still quote on the basis of \$8.40, for standard granulated, a figure 50c less than that of the first named company, but all three restrict deliveries to limited lots. In the tea market there is nothing specially new except that importers of Japan will hereafter have to pay freight in advance instead of on delivery as heretofore. Evaporated apples are easier. It is reported that extreme offers are being made to salmon packers on the Pacific Coast for the coming pack, some bids for sockeye reaching \$4 a dozen.

In the leather and shoe trade quiet conditions still prevail.

Money conditions are unchanged, and bankers are in no way restricting accommodation for regular business purposes. The call rate remains at 6 per cent.

For the week six district failures reported, with liabilities of \$113,000.

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report says: The very serious situation in the war zone predominated over everything else, but the people in Canada are optimistic, that the final result will be in our favor. All lines of manufacturers are as busy as they can possibly be. Advices from England to the dry goods trade state that there will be a great shortage in the raw materials (if any supplies are available), in shrink duck Hollands, and other goods of that nature, and they advise buyers to cover their requirements without delay, even at the high prices now prevailing, which, by the way are about three hundred per cent over normal prices.

The British Government has prohibited the export of all linen, yarns, except under special license. This will make it more difficult to place orders, and will occasion delays in these particular lines. The Canadian woolen mills are so overburdened with orders that will take them months to complete, that most of them are not looking for new business. The quality of tweeds, etc., manufactured by our Canadian mills has shown a very big improvement, and in most cases, are far superior to the imported goods, which now contain about forty per cent of cotton.

A cargo of flaxseed was sold a few days ago at a Canadian port; the price ran up to \$3.27 per bushel at auction for the whole cargo. It was purchased by American buyers, who will take it to the United States for seeding purposes. A feature in banking circles a few days ago, was the amalgamation of two of our leading banks.

Weather conditions are improving our transportation facilities. Large orders for new locomotives have recently been placed with Canadian manufacturers. The bank statement of chartered banks in Canada for last month, shows a large increase in saving deposits.

If weather conditions remain favorable, the prospects look good for a big crop of maple syrup and sugar. Refined sugars advanced 25c per hundred pounds.

Retail trade shows quite an improvement. Remittances are coming in well, but city collections are still backward.

## LIVESTOCK.

MONTREAL: The receipts of livestock for the week ending March 30, 1918, were: Cattle, 750; sheep and lambs, 110; hogs, 2,350, and 3,300 calves.

The quality of the cattle offered during the past week was of high order. Record prices were paid, four steers of extra choice quality selling at \$14.50 per 100 lbs., others selling at \$13.50 per 100 lbs.; and two fancy bulls sold at \$13.25 per 100 lbs. There was a very brisk demand for the Easter trade, and the tone of the market was very firm, prices generally being 25c. to 50c. per 100 lbs. higher than the preceding week.

Calves still continue to be offered in large numbers, and are readily absorbed by the market, choice milk fed calves selling up to \$13 per 100 lbs., but the tone of the market was much weaker owing to the liberal supplies on hand. Average prices were fully \$2 per 100 lbs. lower, and a considerable number were taken up by the packers.

Sheep and lambs are coming forward but slowly, and prices remained firm at previous levels. There were a few spring lambs, which sold at from \$14 to \$17.

The market for hogs was very strong, and an advance of from 25c. to \$1 per 100 lbs., was recorded, owing to the limited supplies coming forward. There was a keen demand from the packers, who in several cases made contracts with drovers for further supplies during the week. There is undoubtedly a scarcity of marketable hogs throughout the country, and prices are expected to remain on the present high level for the next few weeks.

We quote the following prices:

Steers, per 100 lbs.—		
Choice	\$12.75	\$13.25
Good	12.25	13.50
Fairly good	11.75	12.00
Fair	11.25	11.50
Light steers	10.75	11.00
Common	10.00	10.50
Butchers' bulls—		
Choice	11.75	12.00
Good	11.25	11.50
Medium	10.75	11.00
Common	9.50	10.00
Butchers' cows—		
Choice heavy	11.50	11.75
Good	11.00	11.25
Medium	10.50	10.75
Light weights	10.00	10.25
Common	9.00	9.50
Canners' cattle—		
Bulls	6.00	6.50
Cows	5.00	5.50
Sheep, per 100 lbs.—		
Ewes	0.00	12.00
Bucks and culls	11.00	11.50
Ontario lambs	0.00	16.00
Quebec lambs	0.00	15.00
Calves, per 100 lbs.—		
Good milk-fed stock	12.00	10.00
Good milk-fed stock	12.00	13.00
Fair	8.00	9.00
Common	5.00	7.00
Hogs, per 100 lbs.—		
Selected lots	21.50	22.00
Sows	21.00	21.25
Stags	17.00	18.00

## PROVISIONS.

The demand for most classes of provisions continues to be very firm, and there is a possibility of prices mounting a little higher in the near future. The supply of hogs on the local markets has been very small, and prices have gone to \$21.50 per 100 lbs. live weight.

In this connection it is interesting to note that two of the large packing houses are withdrawing, on account of the difficulties caused by high prices, from the chain retail stores which they had established, and which for sometime were undoubtedly conducted successfully.

The demand for barrelled pork was small, but price, held to the previous rates, \$59 to \$64.

There is no change to record in the market in canned goods.

We give the latest quotations:—

Hogs, dressed:—

Abattoir killed	0.30
Country killed	0.28
Hams:—	
Medium, per lb.	0.35
Large, per lb.	0.32
Backs:—	
Plain, per lb.	0.43
Boneless, per lb.	0.46
Bacon:—	
Breakfast, per lb.	0.43
Roll, per lb.	0.35
Dry Salt Meats:—	
Long Clear Bacon (ton lots), per lb.	0.30
Do., (small lots), per lb.	0.30½
Cooked Meats:—	
Hams, boiled, per lb.	0.47
Do., roast, per lb.	0.46
Shoulders, boiled, per lb.	0.40½
Do., roast, per lb.	0.42
Lard:—	
Tierces, per lb.	0.31
Tubs, per lb.	0.31½
Pails	0.31½
Cartons, per lb.	0.32½

## COUNTRY PRODUCE.

### BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending March 30th, 1918, were 912 packages, which show an increase of 113 packages, as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 2,084 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1917, to date show a decrease of 145,426 packages, as compared with the corresponding period a year ago.

The supply of butter on the local markets has been very small compared with that of a year ago. The demand was steady and prices were well maintained, 52 cents per lb. being paid for creamery prints, fresh made.

Trade in oleomargarine was fair, and prices remained on the previous level. The Canadian Government has issued permits for the importation of considerable supplies of margarine, but up to the moment of writing the United States Government has not given permits for its export from that country.

We quote the following prices:

Finest Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.49	0.49½
Fine Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.48	0.48½
Current receipts, creamery	0.47	0.48
Finest dairy	0.42	0.43
Fine dairy	0.40½	0.40½
Margarine:—		
Prints	0.32	0.33
Bulk	0.31	
Cottonseed (Shortening):		
Tierces, per lb.	0.26	
Tubs, per lb.	0.26½	
Pails, per lb.	0.26¾	
Cartons	0.28	

### CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending March 30th, 1918, were 1,882 boxes, which shows an increase of 1,735 boxes, as compared with the previous week, and an increase of 628 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1917, to date show a decrease of 428,112 boxes as compared with the corresponding period a year ago.

There is no change to record in the cheese market. The demand for local consumption was quiet, and prices remained unchanged.

The fodder make season is at hand, and the prospects are that the production will be large, if not larger than the previous one, as it is reported from all sections of the country that cows wintered well, and that the herds in the dairying section were generally in good condition.

The Commission is paying the following prices:

No. 1 cheese	21½c
No. 2 cheese	21¼c
No. 3 cheese	20¾c

### EGGS.

The receipts of eggs for the week ending March 30th, 1918, were 9,179 cases, as against 7,000 for the previous week, and 8,170 for the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1st, 1917, to date were 345,872 cases, as compared with 676,037 cases for the corresponding period a year ago.

There was a brisk trade in eggs during the past