

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Wholesale houses generally are optimistic regarding trade conditions, stating that the business coming forward reflects a very steady improvement throughout the country. The opening of navigation to the Port of Montreal had a good effect, and although the strike among employees of two large transportation concerns in the city has hampered business somewhat, shipping has made a good start. Dry good houses report an active sorting business in summer goods. Placing orders on fall and winter lines are coming forward in good volume, comparing favorably with normal times. Prices are advancing steadily. Ordinary business in clothing and boots and shoes is reported fair.

The feature of the grocery trade during the week was the additional advance of 35 cents per hundred pounds in price of refined sugars. Business in staple lines is fair for the season, and collections are improving. The hardware trade reports business are more favorable, the demand for garden tools, and summer goods being fair.

The dairy and country produce markets are very busy and prices are holding steady under a good home and export demand. The production of butter and cheese is increasing rapidly. The live stock trade was better at last week's sales. Hog prices reached a new high level.

Bradstreet's says of Toronto trade: "Business conditions are for the most part favorable. There are bad spots and one of these is real estate, which has failed to pick up in any great measure. There are homes and offices and stores vacant in all parts of the city, and the amount of building being carried forward now is small. The latter fact makes the hardware business a one-sided affair, for while trade in seasonable lines is pretty good, the movement of building materials has been light. The grocery trade continues about normal. The dry goods trade is active. Prices are tending higher and some lines are scarce, especially cottons and woollens. Payments have been good. Hardware houses are doing a fairly active trade in such lines as lawn mowers, rakes, spades, wire netting, etc. Orders continue liberal for certain classes of jewellery. The Toronto horse trade is active this week, with three governments buying army horses, and commercial purchasers from United States, Eastern Canada and Ontario taking good work horses away. The cattle trade continues active, with butchers going at \$8 to \$9.15 per hundredweight, and hogs at \$12 off cars, which is equal to the recent high record in the history of the local trade. As a result dressed hogs and provisions have been advanced sharply this week. Sugar registered a further advance of 20 cents per hundredweight here on Wednesday. While consumptive demand is fair, available supplies are running short. Wool prices were reduced one cent, but hides advanced one cent to three cents per pound."

Dun's review of conditions in the West during the past week says: "Generally favorable conditions prevail in the Far West and Northwest, all points reporting satisfactory progress and prospects for a brisk summer trade excellent. Winnipeg reports notable improvement in numerous lines, among them dry goods, clothing women's wearing apparel, millinery, footwear, agricultural implements and building materials, with all indications pointing to a period of sustained activity. Wholesale and retail trade continues in satisfactory volume at Calgary, and expectation of increased building activity is stimulating demand for cement, lumber, structural steel, hardware and other materials. Jobbers at Edmonton report business in most lines as being good, while retail sales are well up to expectations for this period. Business in all departments at Saskatoon is much better than a year ago, and with all signs indicating further improvement sentiment among traders is very cheerful."

BALED HAY.

The market for baled hay is very firm, with a good demand from local buyers, and a fair amount of business being done.

Current quotations for car lots follow:

No. 1 hay	21.50	22.00
No. 2, extra good	21.00	
No. 2 hay	20.00	20.50
No. 3 hay	19.00	19.50
Clover, mixed, per ton, ex-track	18.00	

DAIRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER: The butter market this week is strongly maintained, although prices are at a slightly lower level than last week's. The activity in the cheese market is likely to cause a firm tone to the butter market from now on, as a larger proportion of milk is being devoted to cheese.

At the Quebec Agricultural Co-operative Society sales, held this week, finest creamery sold at 28½¢ to 28¾¢, and fine at 27¾¢ to 28¢, which prices show an advance of ½¢ to ¾¢ per lb. as compared with the prices realized at the closing sale last week. At St. Hyacinthe the prices were ¾¢ per lb. higher than a week ago, at 28¢, but at Cowansville there was practically no change, the bulk of the offerings selling at 28½¢ as compared with 28¢ to 28¼¢ last week.

CHEESE: There has been unusual activity in the cheese market with prices ruling ½¢ higher, being the highest on record, showing advances of 1 1-16¢ to 2 5-16¢ per lb. as compared with the same week last year, the highest figures realized being 19 15-16¢ at Stirling, and 19 13-16¢ at Vankleek Hill, as against 17½¢ and 17¼¢ a year ago. At the opening of the opening of the Brockville board on Thursday the best bid was 18¢, which factorymen refused to accept, but after the session was over some 5,000 boxes changed hands on the street at 19¢ to 19½¢, which prices were ¾¢ to ¾¢ per lb. higher than the previous week, while at Kingston the advance was 15-16¢ to 1 1-16¢. This strength in the market was attributed to the fact that quite a few orders had been received from regular English importers for supplies, and also that the Government had placed awarded contracts for one or two round lots.

Owing to the Montreal teamsters' strike, deliveries have been difficult to obtain. Most of the cheese has been held up at the railway terminals waiting to be carted away to the steamships or warehouses, according to destination. Dealers are looking forward to a big make of cheese this year. Flour millers report that they are selling more feed than ever before, which indicates increased numbers of cattle throughout the country. As the supplies become larger prices are bound to drop to a normal basis.

Current quotations follow:

Butter:			
Fresh creamery, solids	0.30		
Do., prints	0.30½		
Seconds	0.26		
Dairy Butter	0.25		
City Selling Prices, to grocers:			
Choice Creamery Solids	0.30		
Do., Prints	0.30½		
No. 2, Creamery Solids	0.28		
Do., Prints	0.28½		
Choice Dairy Prints	0.27		
Do., rolls	0.27		
Cooking Butter	0.25		
Cheese:			
Finest Eastern	0.19	0.19½	
Finest Western	0.18½	0.19	
Fine Cheese	0.18½	0.18	
Undergrades	0.17	0.18	

RECEIPTS OF BUTTER, CHEESE & EGGS.

The following table shows the receipts of butter, cheese and eggs, in Montreal, for the week ending May 6th, 1916, with comparisons:

	Butter, pkgs.	Cheese, boxes.	Eggs, cases.
Week end, May 6, 1916	6,293	16,174	21,103
Week end, April 29, 1916	5,698	11,202	19,326
Week end, May 8, 1915	7,104	24,275	28,311
Total receipts, May 1st, to date, 1916	2,293	16,174	21,103
Total receipts corr. period last year	6,984	24,934	27,432

MONTREAL DAIRY PRODUCE STOCKS.

The following table shows the stocks of butter, cheese and eggs in store in Montreal on the dates mentioned:

	May 1, 1916.	April 1, 1916.	May 1, 1915.
Butter:			
Creamery, pkgs.	7,901	13,199	1,843
Dairy, pkgs.	342	689	31
Cheese, boxes	10,840	8,868	8,261
Eggs:			
Fresh, cases	17,727	1,117	4,338
Cold storage	4,786		4,786

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

EGGS: The teamsters' strike influenced the supplies of eggs arriving on the market last week, delaying deliveries from the railways to the stores. The demand continues good, with prices steady.

POULTRY: Owing to the short stocks on hand this market is very quiet. There is a good trade passing in live poultry, principally for the Jewish trade.

MAPLE PRODUCTS: The maple season is now over. Dealers consider the crop on the whole has been very fair, with a larger number of trees tapped than last year, and better quality of syrup and sugar. Prices are high and demand good.

Eggs—		
Specials	0.27	0.28
New Laid	0.24	0.25
Honey:		
Buckwheat, in combs	0.12	0.13
Buckwheat, extracted	0.10½	0.11
Beans:		
3-lb. pickers, carlots, bush.	4.00	4.25
3 lb. pickers, do.	3.95	4.15
Undergrades, bus.	3.60	3.70
Potatoes:		
Green Mountains, per bag, car lots	1.75	1.80
Job lots, ex store, per bag	1.90	1.95
Poultry:		
Frozen stock—		
Turkeys	0.28	0.30
Fowl, large	0.20	0.21
Fowl, small		0.19
Ducks	0.20	0.23
Geese	0.16	0.17
Roasting chickens, ord.	0.23	0.25
Chickens, milk fed	0.25	0.26
Capons	0.28	0.30
Spring broilers, dressed, pair	1.25	1.35
Squabs		0.75
Squabs, Phila., pr.	0.85	0.95
Poultry—Live:		
Fowl, 5 lbs. and over	0.20	0.23
Fowl, small		0.18
Turkeys, cocks	0.20	0.25
Do., hens	0.22	0.23
Maple Products:		
Pure maple syrup, 8-lb. tins	0.85	0.90
Pure maple syrup, 10-lb. tins	1.00	1.10
Extra choice syrup, 13-lb. tins	1.40	1.50
Pure maple sugar, per lb.	0.12	0.14

LIVE STOCK.

Although there has been the usual activity at the live stock sales this week, the closing prices at the Wednesday sales show a sharp decline over the high figures of Monday's, and a considerable drop from last week's quotations. Butchers' steers are quoted at 20¢ lower than last week; butchers' bulls \$1.00 lower, and butchers' cows 25¢ lower.

The market for hogs shows a slight drop from Monday's high figures, Wednesday's sales bringing from \$11.75 to \$12.00. The demand continues good, higher prices expected.

Sheep and lambs are coming in slightly larger quantities, and sales of old sheep brought up to 8¢ a lb., while spring lambs of good quality brought 6¢ a lb., according to condition.

Calves are arriving in fair quantity, with prices firm, under a good local demand, with a few shipments to the United States.

Sales of round lots brought the following prices:

	Per cwt.
Butcher steers, best	\$8.75 to \$9.00
Do., good	8.45 to 8.70
Do., fair	8.15 to 8.35
Do., medium	7.75 to 8.00
Do., rough	7.35
Butcher bulls, best	7.00 to 7.50
Do., good	6.25 to 6.75
Do., medium	5.50 to 6.00
Canning bulls	4.00 to 5.00
Butcher cows, best	7.25 to 7.50
Do., good	6.85 to 7.15
Do., medium	6.50 to 6.75
Do., common	6.00 to 6.25
Do., canners	3.50 to 4.00
Sheep	6.00 to 8.50
Lambs	9.00 to 12.00
Hogs, selects, weighed off cars	11.75 to 12.00
Do., roughs and mixed lots	11.25 to 11.50
Do., common	11.00 to 11.50
Sows	9.50 to 10.00
Calves, milk fed, per lb.	6¢ to 8¢.