

Montreal Wholesale Markets.

Friday, April 3rd, 1914.

Reports from the various wholesale houses indicate that some slight improvement is being shown in trade, which although not yet up to its usual activity for the season, shows a better feeling among the trade. Dry goods houses state that a fair volume of sorting orders for summer goods are being received and shipped out, and the local retail trade is quite active. The boot and shoe trade is very slow and manufacturers state that the spring and summer trade has not been up to that of last year. Hardware houses report an active week, orders being heavy for summer and spring goods with some increased demand from the larger centers which have been holding back. This week has shown a slight falling off in the demand from country merchants, which is attributed to the fact that the roads are now breaking up. The trade in this connection has been heavy of late. The metal markets are quiet. Shipments are heavy in the prepared paint lines and a steady feeling prevails in this market. Other markets follow:—

COUNTRY PRODUCE.—The butter market has been somewhat quiet this week, the demand being chiefly for small lots to fill actual wants. The receipts of late have been increasing steadily and a good quantity of new milk made is coming forward. Prices declined last week fully 1c per lb. and have held firm at this reduction. The quality of the new makes is not extra good, which has been the cause of the weaker feeling in the market. The prospects are that the market will improve steadily in the near future as stocks in jobbers' hands are low. We quote: Finest creamery, 28c. to 28½c.; fine creamery, 27c. to 27½c.; Manitoba dairy, 22c. to 22½c.; seconds, 25½c. to 26c.; Western dairy, 22½c. to 23½c.

The cheese market shows no important change, business is very quiet and the receipts are small. Advices from the country state that the season is backward and the indications are that the make will probably be smaller than last year. Present quotations are: Finest Western colored, 14½c. to 15c.; white, 14c. to 14½c.; seconds, 13¼c. to 13½c.

Feeling in the egg market continues easy owing to the large supplies coming forward which are far in excess of the demand, and although prices have held steady at the decline of last week, the feeling is that they will go still lower in the near future. The demand on spot is good and an active trade is passing in small lots with sales at 21 to 23 cents per dozen. The arrivals since May 1st to the end of last week were 287,089 cases as against 275,437 cases for the same period last year, showing an increase of 11,652 cases.

The trade in fresh killed poultry is very slow owing to the limited supplies available on spot and the light shipments from the country. The demand for honey is steady and supplies are ample to fill all requirements. The market for beans is easy owing to the liberal offerings from the West and somewhat limited demand on spot and no actual change in prices is to be noticed. Potatoes are in fair demand for car loads, with sales of Green Mountains at 80c. per bag ex-track, and Quebec varieties at 72½c. to 75c. per bag ex-track. Green Mountains are selling in a jobbing way at \$1.00 per bag ex-store.

FLOUR MARKET.—Local trade in spring wheat flour continues fair for this season of the year, which is attributed to the good demand for millfeed and the scarcity of same, which causes buyers to lay in stocks of flour along with the millfeed in order to make up car load shipments. The feeling is that as soon as the consumption of feed falls off, the flour market

will become quieter. The market has been quieter of late owing to the weakness in wheat which has tended to check the demand from country buyers. Spring wheat patents firsts are selling at \$5.60; seconds at \$5.10 and strong bakers at \$4.90 per barrel in bags, while choice winter wheat patents are selling at \$5.25 to \$5.50 and straight rollers at \$4.70 to \$4.90 per barrel in wood. The export trade for spring wheat is very quiet and outside of a few sales of round lots of low grades, there is little doing in the export market. The shipments from Canadian winter ports are fair for the season. At present extensive repairs and alterations are being made in many of the mills here and in the West and consequently the output of flour is considerably reduced.

GROCERIES.—There is a fair seasonable demand for all lines of staple groceries and dealers state that sales are well up to the average. The inquiries for teas have been good during the week, and the market has shown a firm tone. There is no particular change to note in the market for fine sugars which are at the present time selling for lower prices than they have for many years past. The market rules steady under a fair inquiry. The dried fruit market is quiet, although prices remain firm owing to the small offering on spot. Canned goods are in fair demand and prices hold about steady. Collections this week have shown some improvement.

MILLFEED AND ROLLED OATS.—There is no change in the condition of the market for millfeed, prices being firmly maintained under a continued good inquiry and small offerings, consequently the volume of new business doing is small. Bran is selling at \$23, shorts at \$25, and middlings at \$28 per ton, including bags. The market for moullis is active and firm with sales of pure grain grades at \$30 to \$32, and mixed at \$28 to \$29 per ton. There was no change in rolled oats for which the demand was quiet at \$4.25 to \$4.55 per barrel in wood, and at \$2 to \$2.15 per bag.

PROVISIONS.—A fairly good trade continues to be done in most lines of provisions, and as supplies are ample to fill all requirements a steady feeling prevails in the market, and prices show no change. The demand is principally for smoked meat for both prompt and future delivery, and sales of medium-weight hams were made at 18c., breakfast bacon at 19c., Windsor selected bacon at 22c., and Windsor boneless bacon at 24c. per lb. There is a fair demand for lard and prices rule about steady with sales of pure leaf grades at 14c. per lb. in 20-lb. wood pails, and at 13¾c. in 20-lb. tin pails, while compound lard is selling at 13¾c. in 20-lb. tin pails. The demand for dressed hogs is good for the season of the year, and as supplies are ample to fill all requirements the tone of the market is about steady for the time being and sales of abattoir fresh-killed were made in a jobbing way at \$13.50 to \$13.75 per 100 lbs. The receipts to-day were 99 barrels pork; 162 packages lard; 387 tinned meats, and 140 boxes hams and bacon.

OCEAN ACCIDENT AND GUARANTEE

The report of the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation for the year 1913 states that the revenue amounted to £2,235,353. Of this the total premium income, less reinsurances and bonus to assured, amounted to £2,148,882. Investments and other assets amounted to £2,965,905. The revenue account, including the proportion of premiums unearned, £771,582, shows a balance of £1,627,443, out of which the directors have decided to add £40,000 to the investment reserve and general contingency fund.

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