

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: General trade conditions as outlined last week have undergone little variation. Collections are well maintained, and the failure list is again a very light one.

Dry goods travellers who are now showing a good many spring lines report good business, and sorting orders are well sustained in volume, while quite a few large Western buyers have been in town this week making personal selections. The Canadian Cotton Co., specializing in dyed goods, has issued a revised price list for spring, showing a general advance of about 5 per cent. Of linen goods there is a great scarcity. Belfast advices quote Irish flax at 35 shillings a stone, as compared with seven and sixpence, pre-war figures, with the probability that most of the crop will be required for war purposes. A big American department store concern has been in the market looking for underwear, but the mills have none to sell and jobbers' stocks are none too plentiful.

Some little improvement is reported in the boot and shoe trade, and some of the factories are cutting more stock, but the volume of leather sales does not show any very noticeable increase as yet. Tanners, however, are firmer in their views, owing to stronger hide and leather markets abroad, and a reported fire damage to some \$200,000 of finished leather in a western tannery.

In the grocery trade there is little new. Despite continued reports of sugar shortage, local refiners have made no change in quotations, and no hardship is anticipated for local consumers. While the hog market is easier, there is no letting up in the extreme figures for cured meats, and with fresh eggs at 70 cents a dozen, butter at 50 cents, and other eatables at proportionate figures, the question of living for people of moderate income becomes more and more serious.

Only four minor failures are reported in the district for the week, with liabilities about \$23,000.

Bradstreet's Montreal weekly trade report says: The wholesale trade has been very good in most lines. In the grocery trade the shortage of refined sugars is the most worrying feature, but considerable quantities of raws are now on the way to the refiners, which will no doubt relieve the situation.

There is a big inquiry for Canadian hay from all sections of the United States, but shippers here say that it is impossible to fill all the orders coming in on account of the lack of freight cars. Potatoes have advanced in price; reports to hand state that in some cases farmers are holding back their shipments, while others are willing to ship, but find it difficult getting cars.

There is still a big inquiry from the English markets for Canadian and American eggs, but business is curtailed by the lack of freight accommodation. New laid eggs in the local market advanced 1c to 2c per dozen. The Canadian Government has at last been persuaded to allow the manufacture and its free importation of oleomargarine. The new order takes effect about the middle of November.

At the live stock markets the offerings of cattle were heavy and with limited buying prices declined 60c to 75c per 100 pounds. Hogs were also weaker, but lambs and calves sold at firm prices. Farmers in this province are reaping the benefit of their bountiful crops, which show an increase over that of last year.

The retail trade has been very good. Remittances are coming in well. City collections show a slight improvement.

LIVESTOCK.

MONTREAL.—The offerings for last week at the two markets amounted to 3,400 cattle, 4,250 sheep and lambs, 1,700 hogs and 1,100 calves. A weaker feeling developed for all grades of cattle and prices for butcher's stock scored a decline of 50c to 75c per 100 lbs. and 25c per 100 lbs. for canning cattle. The decline in price was attributed to the fact that the offerings were heavy. Prices remained steady throughout the week and a fairly brisk business was done. The tone of the market for lambs was strong, and

on Monday prices scored a further advance of 25c to 50c per 100 lbs. The demand was keen and prices remained firm during the week.

The market for hogs in sympathy with markets at other centres and because supplies were greater than the demand became weak at a decline of 25c to 50c per 100 lbs. on Monday, and a further decline of 25c per 100 lbs. on Wednesday.

Quotations:

Butchers' steers, per 100 lbs.		
Do., choice	9.75	10.00
Do., medium	9.00	9.50
Butchers' Cows.		
Do., choice	8.00	8.25
Do., good	7.75	8.00
Do., fair	6.50	7.00
Bulls, choice		
Do., choice	6.75	8.25
Do., good	8.25	8.50
Canners' cattle:		
Do., bulls	6.50	6.75
Do., cows	5.25	5.50
Sheep and Lambs.		
Ewes	10.00	10.50
Bucks	9.00	9.50
Ontario lambs	15.50	16.00
Quebec lambs	14.50	15.00
Hogs.		
Do., choice selects	17.25	17.75
Sows	14.25	14.75
Stags	12.00	13.00

TORONTO.—The offerings for the week ending October 27th, at both yards, amounted to 9,170 cattle, 574 calves, 6,725 hogs and 7,693 sheep and lambs. The cattle market opened weak with a heavy run of poor average quality and the trade quiet with prices unchanged. Hogs scored a decline in price at Wednesday's market and remained for the rest of the week. The market for spring lambs weakened and prices showed a decline of 25c to 50c per cwt. Sheep were steady.

Quotations:

Choice export steers	11.50	12.25
Butchers' choice handy	10.25	11.00
Do., good	9.00	9.50
Do., medium	8.00	8.50
Do., common	7.25	7.75
Butchers' bulls, choice	8.00	9.25
Do., good	7.50	8.25
Do., medium	6.25	7.25
Butchers' choice cows	8.00	8.50
Do., good	7.00	7.50
Do., medium	6.50	7.00
Do., common	6.00	6.50
Feeders	8.00	9.25
Stockers, good	7.25	8.00
Do., medium	6.75	7.25
Canners	5.25	5.75
Milkers, good to choice	90.00	125.00
Do., common and medium	65.00	85.00
Calves, veal, choice	15.00	15.50
Do., Medium	11.00	13.00
Do., common	6.00	6.50
Do., grass	6.00	7.00
Do., heavy fat	8.00	10.50
Spring lambs, cwt.	15.50	16.00
Sheep, ewes, light	8.50	12.00
Do., heavy and bucks	7.50	9.50
Do., culls	4.00	5.50
Hogs, fed and watered	16.75	17.00
Do., off cars	17.00	17.25
Do., f.o.b.	15.75	16.00

PROVISIONS.

The receipts of provisions in Montreal for the week ending Oct. 27th amounted to 471 barrels of pork, 2274 packages of lard, 105 boxes of hams and bacon and 866 packages of tinned meats. The trade in all lines of smoked and cured meats was fair for the season of the year. The tone of the market was steady and prices remained unchanged and as follows except for bacon which scored an increase in prices and live hogs which declined. The tone of the market for lard was firm at the recent increased prices.

Hams:—		
Per lb.		
Smoked Hams, 8-10 lbs.	0.31	0.32
Do., 12-15 lbs.	0.30	0.31
Do., over 25 lbs.	0.29	0.30
Bacon:—		
Breakfast	0.40	0.41
Windsor Bacon, selected	0.42	0.43
Windsor Bacon, boneless	0.44	0.45
Pure Lard:—		
20 lbs. pails	0.27½	0.28
Compound Lard (Western Grades):—		
Tubs	0.25	0.26

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending October 27th, 1917, were 8,392 packages, as against 7,215 packages the previous week, and 7,616 the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1st to date, show a decrease of 131,507 packages, as compared with the corresponding period in 1916. The announcement by the Government that oleomargarine could be manufactured in Canada and imported free of duty from the United States, on and after November 14th, led to a very unsettled and weak feeling in the market and prices had a sharp decline both on spot and in the country. At the auction sales held in Montreal during the week 1,224 packages of creamery butter were offered and the pasteurized sold at 46½c to 43½c, finest at 44½c to 42½c, and fine at 44½c to 42½c, the outside figures showing a net decline of 2c to 2½c per lb. as compared with those realized the previous week. At St. Hyacinthe prices broke 5c per lb. as compared with a week ago and at Cowansville, where the lots were bought by export houses, 3c per lb. with two weeks ago.

We quote the following wholesale prices:

Finest creamery	0.44½	0.45
Fine Creamery	0.43½	0.44
Finest dairy	0.38	0.39
Fine dairy	0.37	0.37½
Lower grades	0.36	0.36½

CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending October 27th, 1917, were 43,964 boxes which show a decrease of 2,608 boxes as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 15,021 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st to date show a decrease of 313,394 boxes as compared with the corresponding period last year. Of the total receipts for this week last year there were 7,839 boxes received from the United States. The export trade in cheese was very large last week, and the offerings of cheese being smaller than for some time past producers throughout the country held out for higher prices which attitude led to a decreased volume of business being done at the country boards. At Brockville 21½c per lb. was bid with 21½c asked and no sales were made on the board, while at Picton 21½c was bid and although this figure was 3-16c per lb. higher than the previous one salesmen refused to accept it, and at Napanee 21 3-16c was bid which was 1-16c lower than last week, and it was also refused. At Peterboro the balance of the October make was offered and sold at 21½c. The highest price paid at this board for October cheese last year was 21½c, and there was one board meeting in November when 23c was realized for the offerings.

MAPLE PRODUCTS.

A fairly good trade for domestic consumption was done in maple products at firm prices.

We quote current prices as follows:

Extra choice syrup, 13-lb. tins	1.70	1.80
Choice syrup	1.55	1.65
Good syrup	1.40	1.50
Sugar, per lb.	0.14½	0.15

POTATOES.

Supplies of potatoes although more liberal, were not sufficient to meet demands, so that the tone of the market became very strong and prices were firmly maintained. Large shipments are still being made to the United States. An active trade was done with sales of car lots of Green Mountains at \$2.20 to \$2.25 and Ontario white stock at \$2 to \$2.10 per bag of 90 lbs. ex track. In a wholesale jobbing way Green Mountains sold at \$2.40 and Ontario white at \$2.25 per bag of 80 lbs. ex store.

BEANS.

Stocks of old crop beans are very low and the new crop is reported to be small, so the market remains very firm. Advices from Michigan say that the crop was poorly saved and that farmers were holding very firm.

We quote prices as follows:

Can. 3-lb. pickers	9.00	9.25
Can. 5-lb. pickers	8.50	8.75
Yellow eye beans	7.25	7.50
Japan beans	8.00	8.25