

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

We quote Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade report for the week ending November 9, 1918, as follows:

"Business in this city is still laboring under restricted hours, both in the wholesale and retail trade, but it is expected that next week these restrictions will be removed, and the business will become normal again.

The Dominion is going to spend five million dollars improving the railway equipment in this country. Six million feet of spruce and fir lumber were shipped for Government account last month from Vancouver.

Large quantities of Australian wheat is arriving at British Columbia. Threshing is completed in the West, and farmers are all busy with their fall ploughing.

The ending of the war should not mean any cessation in the shipbuilding industries in this country, as many vessels are required for racing cargoes.

Jute and cotton bags show quite a decline in prices. The stocks of eggs in this market are about fifteen thousand cases less than the same time a year ago. There is a great shortage of refined sugars in this market.

Staple dry goods for spring delivery show an average of about twenty per cent. over those quoted six months ago. Some of our cotton manufacturers have cut down their range of samples.

Travellers in all lines will soon be on the road again. Collections are very good under the present conditions."

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa has issued a bulletin informing the public of the measures that have been taken to solve the public health problem by organizing the Vital Statistics of Canada.

The bulletin states in part: "A conference of officials was held in the Bureau at Ottawa in June last, and preliminary action taken towards a scheme of Dominion and Provincial co-operation. The report of the Conference was recently issued and is now available for distribution. In addition to the Provincial Departments, representatives of the Canadian Medical Association, the American Society of Actuaries and of the U. S. Vital Statistics Division were present. The chief difficulty lies in the fact that the Provinces have different legislation and different methods of collecting and compiling results, so that it is impossible to make comparisons or to unite the returns into comprehensive totals, though health problems are essentially of a kind that must be studied on a broad basis. The object of the conference was to arrive at a scheme of uniform legislation and administration by the Provinces and the setting up by the Dominion of a central clearing house. Agreement was reached on the general principles involved, and a model bill and set of forms was sketched out for reference to a committee for final adjustments. A copy of the report of the conference which contains a full description of the situation now reached may be obtained on reference to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics at Ottawa."

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.

The receipts of butter in Montreal for the week ending November 9th, 1918, were 17,987 packages, which shows a decrease of 388 packages, as compared with the previous week, and an increase of 10,592 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1918, to date, show an increase of 100,620 packages, as compared with the corresponding period in 1917. The butter market showed no changes of note last week, although its tone was firm.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest creamery	0.49	0.50
Fine creamery	0.48	0.48½
Finest dairy	0.44	0.45
Fine dairy	0.40	0.42

CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending November 9th, 1918, were 31,326 boxes, which show a decrease of 3,510 boxes as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 4,569 boxes with the

same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1918, to date show a decrease of 91,190 boxes, as compared with the corresponding period in 1917.

The stock of Canadian cheese in London on October 19th, was 121,017 boxes, as against 77,372 boxes on the same date last year, and the stock of New Zealand cheese was 1,772 crates.

A change in prices at Kingston was the only important feature of the market as compared with the previous week, there was a decline of 5-16c per lb. at the Kingston board, and 1-16c, at Sterling. At Gould's Cold Storage the offerings for the week amounted to about 7,000 boxes, which sold at 24¼c. to 24½c. per lb., f.o.b. country points. The domestic trade in small cheese was fair, and prices ruled firm, with sales at 25¼c. to 26¼c. per lb.

POTATOES.

The potato market ruled steady, and an active trade was done, but prices remained unchanged. The receipts have been fair and stocks on spot are ample to meet all requirements for the time being. The demand has been good in a wholesale jobbing way, and sales of Green Mountains were made at \$2. Quebec white stock at \$1.75, and other varieties at \$1.60 per bag of 90 lbs., ex-store, while car lots of Green Mountains were quoted at \$1.75, and Quebec white stock at \$1.50 per bag of 90 lbs., ex-track. The market for Quebec turnips has also been fairly active, there being a good demand for small lots of choice stock at \$1.25 per bag of 70 lbs., ex-store. A good trade was also done in onions at \$1.75 per bag of 70 lbs., ex-store.

POULTRY.

The poultry market developed a very firm feeling, which prevailed throughout the week, due to the fact that supplies coming forward have not been in excess of requirements of the trade, and the fact that they have not been as large as at this period a year ago, which is probably due to the fact that the weather conditions have not been as favorable. The receipts consist largely of live birds, for which the demand has been good, and an active trade was done at firm prices. The offerings of dressed poultry have been a little more plentiful, but they are still far from being sufficient to satisfy the trade and, in consequence, prices have an upward tendency.

We quote prices for dressed poultry as follows:

Turkeys, per lb.	0.36	0.38
Chickens	0.28	0.32
Ducks	0.28	0.30
Fowl, per lb.	0.27	0.30

EGGS.

The receipts for the week ending November 9th, 1918, were 3,930 cases, as compared with 3,466 for the previous one, and 8,007 for the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1st, 1918, to date were 244,970 cases, as against 274,562 for the corresponding period in 1917. The steady scarcity of eggs on the market was the feature here. There is a steady increasing scarcity of strictly new laid and fancy eggs, for which the demand has been good, but on account of the limited supplies available, dealers have not been in a position to supply the wants of the trade, and in consequence the tone of the market for such is strong, and higher prices are expected in the near future. The trade in cold storage eggs has been active for local consumption, and prices have ruled firm.

According to latest mail advices from London, England, available supplies of eggs are very light, and the tone of the market has been very strong, prices having scored a further sharp advance, surpassing all previous records. The demand has been of a hand-to-mouth character, with sales of Irish eggs at 54s. to 56s. English eggs have realized 60s. to 66s., and the production has decreased considerable on account of so many hens having been killed off.

We quote wholesale jobbing prices as follows:

Strictly new laid eggs	0.65	0.70
Fresh selected stock	0.50	0.54
Storage selected stock	0.00	0.53
Storage No. 1 stock	0.00	0.49

LOCAL FLOUR.

The market for winter wheat flour during the past week was very weak and unsettled, prices making a sharp decline. This was attributed to the rumormore of an early peace, millers making liberal offer-

ings for near-future shipments. There has been no further developments in the spring wheat flour market.

In the substitutes market the main event was the announcement made by the Canada Food Board that prices for whole corn were reduced 40c. per bbl. The market for other lines continued steady.

LOCAL GRAIN.

Although the grain prices have been very unsettled for the past week owing to peace rumors, the markets generally gained in strength, closing at a good advance, as compared with a week ago. The rise in corn prices in the Chicago option market amounted to 4¼c. to 5¼c. per bushel. Maple grades for shipment were in good demand. The tone of the oat market at Winnipeg was stronger. The trade in spot supplies, although having no important changes was active. A stronger feeling prevailed in the Montreal barley market owing to the Winnipeg high prices.

MILLFEED.

The demand for millfeed was good, although no change worthy of note took place in the condition of the market. Car lots of bran were selling at \$37.25, including bags ex-track and at \$39.25 per ton ex-warehouse, including cartage, less 25c per ton for spot cash. Shorts were selling at \$42.25 per ton, including bags, ex track, and at \$44.25 per ton ex-warehouse, including cartage. Mouille is selling at \$68 to \$70, feed cornmeal at \$46 and barley feed at \$62 to \$63 per ton, including bags, delivered to the trade.

ROLLED OATS.

A very unsettled feeling developed in the rolled oat situation in spite of the strength which has prevailed of late. There has been a disposition on the part of some millers to cut prices, and they were reduced 25c to 35c per bag this week.

BANK OF ENGLAND STATEMENT.

London, Nov. 7.—The weekly statement of the Bank of England shows the following changes:—Total reserve, decrease, £350,000; circulation, increase, £496,000; bullion increase, £143,275; other securities, decrease, £143,275; other securities, decrease £2,260,000; other deposits, decrease, £2,530,000; notes reserve, decrease, £270,000; Government securities, increase, £113,000.

The proportion of the bank's reserve to liability this week at 17.07 per cent; last week it was 17.23 per cent. Rate of discount, 5 per cent.

WEEKLY CLEARINGS.

The outstanding feature of the bank clearings for the week ending yesterday was the remarkable increase in Ottawa over the corresponding week last year. The total last week was \$9,154,473 as compared with \$5,726,973 a year ago.

Returns show as follows:

	1918.	1917.
Montreal	\$11,928,638	\$89,756,462
Toronto	66,664,022	66,567,742
Ottawa	9,154,473	5,726,973
Hamilton	5,924,031	5,294,200
Quebec	5,387,515	5,691,351
Halifax	4,257,613	4,015,920
London	3,880,384
St. John	2,722,901	2,293,917
Windsor	1,278,360
Sherbrooke	1,164,375	981,994
Brantford	1,136,282	876,433
Fort William	1,043,315	934,850
Peterboro	943,816	892,974
Kitchener	780,812

THE MISSION TO ENGLAND.

"Ottawa, Nov. 7.—The Prime Minister will leave at an early date for England to take part in the preliminary discussions respecting the terms of peace and to represent Canada in connection with the peace conference. He will have the assistance and advice of Sir George Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, and the Hon. Arthur Sifton, Minister of Customs, who accompany him; and at a later date, as soon as urgent duties permit, Hon. C. J. Do-