

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

In spite of the unseasonable weather the holiday trade is moving freely. Prices are high on every line but this does not appear to be checking buying to any extent. Farmers are prosperous and are buying seasonable goods with an unusual amount of freedom, the increased value of agricultural crops more than offsetting the limited production last season. Wholesale houses, in the slack interval, while the retailers are devoting their time to selling rather than to placing new orders, are taking stock and finding out the results of their trade for the year. The general report is that although the volume of sales may not equal the totals of the years before the war, the monetary value of the business transacted has reached unusually high figures. The year's business on the whole in the case of grocers, hardware, paint, leather, boot and shoe manufacturers, wholesale furs etc., has exceeded that of last year in both volume and gains. Travellers are on the road with their spring goods and are reported to be receiving satisfactory returns.

All lines of dry goods continue to advance, the silk market having established a record in New York last week. The situation in imported woollens and linens shows no improvement, difficulties increasing if anything. Dyes are said to be on a better basis. Leather is very firm and advancing under light offerings. Green hides and calfskins are up 2 cents a pound for the week, and lambskins have advanced 5c with prospects of still higher prices in the near future.

The wheat market is fluctuating with flour following closely. Very little business is being done in Montreal in either wheat or flour at the present time. Millfeeds are still advancing, Bran being quoted at 32.00 a ton under a good demand. Butter and cheese are unchanged. Eggs are dear, new laids being extremely scarce. Receipts at Montreal for these three commodities during the past season have been greatly in excess of last year, so that with the abnormal prices prevailing the farmer has wonderfully good returns for his summer's work. There is a firm market for live stock, hogs showing an advance of 50c a 100 lbs for the week.

Navigation virtually closed last week when the last ocean bound steamer left the Montreal harbour on Dec. 3. The river and canals are still open owing to the prevailing mild weather, and some steamers may yet come through before the official closing on Dec. 12. Failures have been very light of late, the week's list amounting to seven district insolvencies with liabilities of \$51,000. Failures in the whole Dominion number 21, as against 28 last week and 79 the same week last year.

### COUNTRY PRODUCE.

**EGGS:** There is no special feature to report in eggs. New laids are extremely scarce and dealers are paying as high as 60 to 65 per dozen for the real article. Storage eggs continue to supply trade requirements. Locally the demand for eggs is large and it is expected that it will be much larger between now and Christmas. There are still a few shipments going forward for export, some on old orders and some on new business.

**POULTRY:** The market on poultry was a shade lower last week. At a number of poultry fairs held in Eastern Ontario, buyers have been able to secure their supplies 3c or 4c per pound below the prices of the preceding week. This was due to the fact that orders that were booked the week before last had to be filled that same week in order to reach western customers in time for Christmas. The weather is rather mild for handling poultry and therefore the demand is not very heavy. Very little live poultry is arriving. Christmas orders are all filled now and the market is easier.

**BEANS:** The market remains steady. Some dealers have their supplies already bought and are of the opinion that shippers from Ontario are asking altogether too high prices.

**HONEY:** There appears to be a little better demand for honey, on account of the high prices of other goods which makes honey a cheap article of food in comparison.

**MAPLE PRODUCTS:** Supplies of maple sugar are

practically exhausted. Apart from this the market is featureless, as the demand is good at unchanged prices.

**POTATOES:** A fair trade is passing in potatoes, but there has been no material change in the condition of the market as yet, as supplies are ample to fill all requirement and prices are steady at last week's quotations.

**Eggs:—**  
 Special New Laid . . . . . 0.65 0.70  
 Extras . . . . . 0.44  
 No. 1 . . . . . 0.40  
 No. 2 . . . . . 0.36

**Poultry—Live:**

Fowls, 5 lbs. and over . . . . .	0.13	0.14
Fowls, small . . . . .	0.12	0.13
Old Turkeys, cocks . . . . .	0.24	0.25
Do., hens . . . . .	0.25	0.26

**Fresh Killed Poultry:**

Turkeys . . . . .	0.28	0.29
Old Turkeys, cocks . . . . .	0.25	0.26
Do., Roasting . . . . .	0.28	0.29
Fowls, hens . . . . .	0.15	0.16
Do., roosters . . . . .	0.14	0.15
Broilers, 2½ to 3 lbs., per lb. . . . .	0.20	0.22
Do., 2 to 2½ lbs., per lb. . . . .	0.21	0.23
Squabs . . . . .	0.35	0.45
Geese . . . . .	0.16	0.17
Ducks . . . . .	0.17	0.18

**Maple Products:—**

Pure maple syrup, quart cans . . . . .	1.00	1.10
Pure maple syrup, 9-lb. tins. . . . .	1.25	1.30
Extra choice syrup, 13-lb. tins . . . . .	0.13	0.14
Pure Maple sugar, per lb. . . . .	0.13	0.14

**Potatoes:—**

Green Mountains, per bag of 80 lbs. ex-track . . . . .	1.75	
Do., to jobbers, ex-store, per 80lb. bag . . . . .	2.10	2.20
Quebec's, per bag of 80 lbs, ex-track . . . . .	1.60	
Do., to jobbers, ex-store, per 80 lb. bag . . . . .	1.75	1.85

**Beans:—**

Can, hand-picked car lots . . . . .	6.75	7.00
Three-lb. pickers . . . . .	6.50	6.65
Five-lb. pickers . . . . .	6.00	6.25
Six to seven-lb. pickers . . . . .	5.00	5.90

### DAIRY PRODUCE.

**BUTTER:** Although butter at the auction sale last Monday sold 1¼c to 1½c below the price of the previous week, the market value remains about the same. The apparently weaker feeling is attributed to the poorer quality of butter that is arriving as the season draws to a close. Business in butter is quiet apart from a few sales made for export. The exports of butter from the port of New York for the week ending December 2 were 1,250 packages to Liverpool, and 2,000 to London, making a total of 3,250 packages. The exports of butter from Montreal for the present season of navigation just closed amounted to 177,189 pkgs against 54,495 pkgs for the corresponding period last year and 7,300 pkgs in 1914.

**CHEESE:** Cheese and butter are similarly situated, prices of cheese at auction being lower owing to the inferiority of the quality offering. The market is pretty bare of September and October make, most of the cheese changing hands being fodder cheese. There has been a good demand for export during the week, the Liverpool cable advancing steadily until 127s for white and 130s for colored is now quoted.

**Butter:—**

Choice Creamery Solids . . . . .	0.43½	0.44
Do., Prints, city cut . . . . .	0.43	0.44½
Seconds . . . . .	0.43	0.43½
Cooking butter . . . . .	0.38	0.39

**Cheese:—**

Finest Western . . . . .	0.24	0.25½
Fine Eastern . . . . .	0.23½	0.24½
Fine Eastern . . . . .	0.23½	0.24½

**City Selling Prices to grocers:**

Stilton cheese . . . . .	0.26	0.27
Large . . . . .	0.25	0.26
Twins . . . . .	0.25½	0.26
Quebec Cheese . . . . .	0.24	0.24
Canadian Strong Cheese . . . . .	0.27	0.28
Roquefort . . . . .	0.65	0.65

### PROVISIONS.

Owing to light receipts for which there was a keen demand from packers the hog market rose steadily last week totalling a net gain of 50c for the week. The dressed hog market firmed up in sympathy, although the trade is chiefly of a hand to mouth character owing to the unseasonable weather prevailing. The trade in smoked and cured meats is fair, as apart from the large export movement which continues unabated, there is a good steady trade

for domestic purposes. Lard is unchanged, there being a fairly active trade passing.

Current prices are as follows:

**Hams:—**

Smoked Hams, 8-14 lbs. . . . .	Per lb.	0.23
Do., 14-20 lbs. . . . .	0.22	
Do., 20-25 lbs. . . . .	0.21	
Do., over 25 lbs. . . . .	0.20	

**Bacon:—**

Breakfast . . . . .	0.25	0.30
Windsor Bacon, selected . . . . .	0.27	
Windsor Bacon, boneless . . . . .	0.29	

**Barrel Pork:—**

Short cut pork . . . . .	Per bbl.	38.00
Clear Fat Pork . . . . .	40.00	
Mess Pork . . . . .	36.00	
Bean Pork, American . . . . .	34.00	

**Barrel Beef:—**

Plate Pork, 200 lbs. . . . .	32.00
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**Pure Lard:—**

Tierces . . . . .	per pound.	0.20½
Tubs . . . . .	0.21	
Pails . . . . .	0.21½	
Tins . . . . .	0.21	
Cases, 3, 5, 10's . . . . .	0.22½	
Prints . . . . .	0.19	

**Compound Lard:—**

**Western Grades:—**

Tierces . . . . .	0.17½	
Tubs . . . . .	0.17½	
Tins . . . . .	0.18	
Cases, 3, 5, 10's . . . . .	0.22	0.22½
Prints . . . . .	0.22½	

**Cooked meats:—**

Roast shoulder pork . . . . .	0.29
Roast hams, boneless . . . . .	0.37
Cooked hams, boneless . . . . .	0.38
Cooked hams, rind off . . . . .	0.37
Head cheese . . . . .	0.09
English brawn . . . . .	0.11

### DRIED FRUITS AND NUTS.

**DRIED FRUITS:** A consignment of two cars of dates arrived in Montreal last week and are now being delivered. A steamer carrying currants was due in New York this week end, which will tend to ease the situation when this consignment is distributed. Meanwhile stocks are very light both in Montreal and New York. Citron and peels are moving freely, and the tone of the market is easier although stocks are not heavy. Malaga raisin clusters are in good shape. Shipments of Malaga and Comadra figs have just arrived in New York, but the Comadra figs from Portugal are not on the Montreal market yet. There is an easier feeling altogether in Mediterranean dried fruits and lower prices are expected after Christmas. The prune market is quiet as American jobbers have sufficient stocks for present requirements, and being engrossed in the holiday trade they are not giving much attention to new business. Control is generally conceded to be in the hands of a combination in California, who are holding off in anticipation of a heavier demand in the New Year. Peaches and apricots are quiet and firm.

**NUTS:** The new crop Marbots and Cornes walnuts have arrived in New York and will be on the Montreal market by the middle of this week. Filberts are not plentiful and stocks of both Sicily and Naples are unchanged. Mixed nuts are also featureless. Tarragona almonds are up 2 cents. Conditions of serious congestion continue in New York making delays in dispatching shipments, and there is no hint of relief from Californian nut growers.

Current quotations follow:

**Dried Fruits:**

Apples, choice winter, 50 lb. boxes . . . . .	0.11
Apricots . . . . .	0.19
Peaches, choice . . . . .	0.11
Candied Citron peel . . . . .	0.29
Candied lemon peel . . . . .	0.23
Candied orange peel . . . . .	0.24
Currants, loose cleaned . . . . .	0.18
Currants, carton cleaned . . . . .	0.18½
Dates, loose Hallowee . . . . .	0.12
Dates, Fards choicest . . . . .	0.12½
Do., Carton, pkg. . . . .	0.14½
Do., California bricks . . . . .	0.10
Prunes, Santa Clara, 60-70's . . . . .	0.09½
Raisins, 4 Crown . . . . .	0.10½
Prunes, Santa Clara, 60-70's . . . . .	0.09½
Do., 3 Crown . . . . .	0.10
Do., Muscatels . . . . .	0.10½
Do., California seedless . . . . .	0.11½

**Nuts.**

Walnuts, Grenoble . . . . .	0.16	0.19
Do., Marbot . . . . .	0.17	
Almonds, Tarragona . . . . .	0.21	0.22
Filberts, Sicily . . . . .	0.18½	0.19
Brazils, large, washed . . . . .	0.22	
Pecans . . . . .	0.21	
Almonds, shelled . . . . .	0.40	
Walnuts, shelled, Bordeaux fine split . . . . .	0.46	
Chestnuts . . . . .	0.19	
Peanuts . . . . .	0.10	0.13
Hickory nuts . . . . .	0.09	