

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal Trade: The return of cold weather, while not favorable to retail trade, has proved decidedly beneficial in checking the threatening freshets in various parts of the province. General payments are well spoken of, and the volume of failures is light.

Despite a regular procession of advances, wholesalers of dry goods report a continuance of active business.

The local iron market remains quiet, with some difficulty in getting supplies. In general hardware a steady business is being done with the country, but city business is light.

Boot and shoe factories are still lightly employed, and the principal item of interest in this line is the discussion of the probable action of the Government in putting an embargo on the importation of American made shoes. Local sales of leather are moderate, but there has been some recent increase in the export of sole leather to American shoe manufacturing centres. Foreign markets for dry hides are reported firmer, and tanners profess the belief that there will be no further material easing off in quotations for sole leather.

General groceries show a steady distribution, apart from the further limitation of sugar deliveries. The three local refineries all quote different figures for standard granulated, namely, \$8.40, \$8.80 and \$8.90, and still report that supplies of raws are greatly restricted. Some dribbles of molasses are coming forward, but not at all sufficient to relieve the great scarcity. Teas continue to rule high. Prices were advanced last week by the local milling company. Eggs and potatoes rule lower, but butter shows some further advance. There is an evident material decrease in the domestic consumption of cured meats.

Money continues plentiful with the banks, and there is no curtailment of accommodation to customers for regular business purposes. The general bank rate for call funds is 6 per cent., but there is apparently a good deal of private money available at 5½ per cent.

Another light failure list is noted, six district insolvencies being reported for the week with liabilities of \$48,000.

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report says: The situation in commercial centres during the past week has been satisfactory. Dry goods houses state that English manufacturers are in most cases accepting open orders only, and are taken with the understanding that they will do the best they can in the way of prices.

Cotton manufacturers are only offering in limited quantities, and are not over anxious to take orders, as it is expected that prices will go still higher in the near future. Table and floor oilcloths have advanced in prices. Domestic and French glove manufacturers find so much difficulty in securing skins, that they will not quote on fall or spring orders, all bookings being subject to price at time of delivery. Linings, threads, needles, etc., have all gone up in price during the past few days.

The hardware trade say that sales are satisfactory, but the same cannot be said with regard to deliveries. Substantial advances have been made in glass, putty, white lead, linseed oils, etc.

The wholesale grocery trade is fairly active, the new food laws having gone into effect on April 8th. There has not been very much new maple syrup or sugar marketed yet, but what has come forward, met with immediate sale at higher prices. Weather conditions are favorable for a good crop.

Eggs are much more plentiful now, and prices during the week showed a substantial reduction.

The Harbor Commissioners of Montreal have found it necessary to increase the wharfage charge at least twenty-five per cent. on all merchandise. On special commodities, such as grain, the harbor dues are increased from 3c. to 5c. per ton.

Remittances are coming in well, but city collections are still slow. Retail trade has been very fair.

LIVESTOCK.

MONTREAL: The cattle trade was on the whole very active, and the tone of the market firm, although in some grades the offerings were in excess of the demand, and prices show a slight decline. The demand for calves was the feature of the week, and as the supply was large an active trade was done. Hog prices declined 50c. to 75c. per 100 lbs. on the Toronto market, but showed no change here. Spring lambs were scarce, and prices ruled very firm.

We quote the following Montreal prices:

Steers, per 100 lbs.—		
Choice	\$12.50	\$13.00
Good	12.00	12.25
Fairly good	11.50	11.75
Fair	11.00	11.25
Light steers	10.50	10.75
Common	9.75	10.25

Butchers' bulls—		
Choice	11.25	11.50
Good	10.75	11.00
Medium	10.25	10.50
Common	9.00	9.50

Butchers' cows—		
Choice heavy	11.00	11.25
Good	10.50	10.75
Medium	11.00	11.25
Light weights	9.50	9.75
Common	8.50	9.00

Sheep, per 100 lbs.—		
Ewes	13.00	14.00
Bucks and culls	11.00	12.00
Ontario lambs	00.00	17.00
Quebec lambs	00.00	16.00

Calves, per 100 lbs.—		
Good milk-fed stock	11.00	12.00
Good	9.00	10.00
Fair	8.00	9.00
Common	5.00	7.00

Hogs, per 100 lbs.—		
Selected lots	21.50	22.00
Sows	19.50	20.00
Stags	17.00	18.00

TORONTO: The market for cattle continued strong throughout the week, with only a light offering of fresh cattle. Sheep and lambs were steady. Hogs were also steady, while the prices of calves showed a decrease of \$1 to \$1.50 per 100 lbs., due to the increased offerings.

We quote the following prices for livestock at the Toronto markets:

Heavy steers, choice	\$12.25	\$13.00
Do., good	11.50	12.00
Butchers' steers and heifers, choice	11.50	12.00
Do., good	11.25	11.75
Do., medium	10.00	10.25
Do., common	8.50	9.25
Butchers' cows, choice	9.75	10.50
Do., good	9.00	9.50
Do., medium	7.75	8.50
Do., common	6.50	7.25
Do., canners	6.00	6.25
Butchers' bulls, choice	10.25	11.00
Do., good	9.25	9.75
Do., medium	8.50	9.00
Do., common	7.50	8.00
Feeders, best	9.50	10.50
Stockers, best	9.50	9.75
Grass cows	7.00	7.75
Milkers and springers, choice	100.00	135.00
Do., common to medium	65.00	90.00
Calves, choice	16.50	17.00
Do., medium	14.00	15.00
Do., common	8.00	10.00
Heavy fat	10.00	12.00
Lambs, choice	19.50	20.85
Sheep, choice handy	13.00	14.50
Do., heavy and fat bucks	11.00	11.25
Hogs, fed and watered	20.25	20.50
Do., off ears	21.25	00.00
Do., f.o.b.	19.25	19.50

Less \$1 to \$2 on light or thin hogs; less \$3 to \$3.50 on sows; less \$4 on stags; less 50c to \$1 on heavies.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending April 13th, 1918, were 1,329 packages, which show an increase of 826 packages, as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 2,602 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1917, to date, show a decrease of 149,318 packages, as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. A very strong feeling developed in the butter market last week, due to the small offerings and the fact that stocks on spot are nearly exhausted. Prices advanced 2c. to 2½c. per lb., and gave every indication of advancing still further.

We quote the following prices:

Finest Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.52	0.52½
Fine Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.51	0.51½
Finest dairy	0.45	0.46
Fine dairy	0.43	0.44

Margarine:—

Prints	0.29½	0.34
Bulk	0.28½	0.31½

Cottonseed (Shortening):

Tierces, per lb.	0.26
Tubs, per lb.	0.26½
Pails, per lb.	0.26¾
Cartons	0.27½

CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending April 13th, 1918, were 1,545 boxes, which show a decrease of 4,779 boxes as compared with the previous week and a decrease of 1,885 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1917 to date show a decrease of 425,443 boxes as compared with corresponding period a year ago.

There were no developments in the cheese situation except the appointment of the new commission, who will purchase the surplus make of Canadian cheese and butter for the season 1918 export account.

The Commission is paying the following prices:

No. 1 cheese	21½c
No. 2 cheese	21¼c
No. 3 cheese	20¾c

EGGS.

The receipts for the week ending April 13th, 1918, were 9,518 cases, as compared with 8,976 for the previous week, and 15,406 for the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1st, 1917, to date were 364,366 cases, as against 704,386 for the corresponding period a year ago. The price of eggs scored a decline of 2c. per dozen in town, but only 1c. per dozen in the country, and the tone of the market was easy, but supplies coming forward are not large for the period of the year. The demand for domestic account was good, and an active trade was done with prices ruling steady at 42c. per dozen.

POULTRY.

The offerings from outside show no improvement, and there is a strong undertone to the market, and higher prices for choice storage poultry are prophesied.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Turkeys, per lb.	0.38	0.40
Milk fed chickens	0.39	0.40
Roasting chickens	0.37	
Old fowls	0.35	0.36
Ducks, per lb.	0.32	
Geese, per lb.	0.30	

POTATOES.

Supplies were very little in excess of requirements, so prices for potatoes ruled about steady last week. The demand in a wholesale jobbing way was good, and sales of Green Mountains were made at \$1.55 to \$1.60 per bag of 80 lbs., ex-store, and car lots on spot were quoted at \$1.50 per bag of 90 lbs. ex-track.

MAPLE PRODUCTS.

A strong feeling developed in the market for maple products, and prices for syrup scored advances amounting to from 20c. to 30c. per gallon, while sugar prices showed an increase of 1c. to 2c. per lb. Owing to the favorable weather receipts were larger and the demand both for home consumption and