

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

With more favorable weather, conditions on the railways are improving daily, with a correspondingly beneficial effect on trade.

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: The wholesale millinery openings this week were fairly attended, though quite a few country buyers wrote that, owing to the curtailed and uncertain railway service, they would not make their usual trip. In the dry goods trade the activity hitherto noted is well maintained. Travellers on the road are securing good orders and the warehouses are busy with the getting out of spring stuff. The cotton mills are full of orders, in some cases sufficient, it is said, to keep them employed for most of the year. The strike of general clothing and garment makers is still in force, but thus far has not greatly affected trade conditions.

The hide market is quiet, with local offerings small and showing poor quality. Dealers are paying 25 cents for No. 1 green hides and 38 cents for No. 1 calfskins. Three years ago at this date No. 1 calfskins realized 19 cents. In the leather market a little more enquiry is reported, and all values are firmly held.

Groceries show a steady distribution, with little apparent change in values, except in teas, which show great strength, and considerable uncertainty prevails as to the future of the market. There is a marked scarcity of blacks. Refinery prices remain about steady on the basis of \$7.40 for standard granulated. Cured meats move rather slowly owing to the Lenten season, but prices are steady. Eggs are easier, owing to the advancing season, but butter and cheese remain high.

Paint manufacturers are reported very busy, with good orders still coming in.

General collections may be classified as good, and the failure list is again a remarkably light one, only five small failures being reported in the district for the week, with liabilities under \$25,000.

## DAIRY PRODUCE.

**BUTTER:** Considerable activity is reported in the butter market, and prices are very firm. Round lots of choice creamery are selling at 43c to 43½c in some cases, an advance of ½c over ruling quotations. Dealers are predicting that prices will go as high as 45c before the end of the month, as stocks are very low. The report of the holdings of butter in Montreal on the first of the month amounted to 25,198 packages of creamery, which is a reduction of 23,265 packages during the month, and a decrease of 7,448 packages as compared with the corresponding date last year. The impression is, however, that owing to the reduced consumption consequent upon high prices, the stocks of butter will be sufficient to meet our requirements until the new make comes forward.

**CHEESE:** In this market the only business is of a small jobbing nature in supplying the local trade with finest grass cheese at 28c. The winter fodder goods have sold all the way from 20c to 24c, as to quality. The shipping situation is still very strong and freights from American ports are quoted at anywhere from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per 100 lbs. The general impression is that conditions will be very much more serious at the opening of navigation this year than they were last. Stocks of cheese in store in Montreal at the beginning of the month amounted to 14,756 boxes including Government holdings.

<b>Butter:</b>	
Choice Fall Creamery Solids ..	0.43 0.44
Winter Creamery ..	0.42 0.43
Undergrade Creamery ..	0.42
Dairy Butter ..	0.39 0.40
City Selling Price to grocers:	
Creamery, Solids ..	0.44 0.45
Do., Prints ..	0.44½ 0.45½
Do., Prints ..	0.44½
<b>Cheese:</b>	
Finest Western ..	0.27
Pine Eastern ..	0.27
Winter Make ..	0.25 0.26
City Selling Prices to grocers:	
Stilton cheese ..	0.26
Large ..	0.26 0.28
Twins ..	0.26½ 0.28
Quebec Cheese ..	0.26
Canadian Strong Cheese ..	0.27 0.28
Roquefort ..	0.28
Roquefort ..	0.65
Do. No. 2 ..	0.44

## COUNTRY PRODUCE.

**EGGS:** The value of eggs has at length come down, after having held up at winter prices much longer than usual. Owing to the poor condition of the roads, the farmers are having difficulty in marketing their produce, and consequently the receipts of Canadian eggs in Montreal are still insufficient to supply the trade. The bulk of the eggs coming forward are from Texas, Oklahoma, and California, bought in the Chicago market. With the increase of receipts, the price of eggs in Chicago has been declining daily, a drop of over 10c having taken place last week. With the duty and war tax as well as the necessity of bringing these eggs in by express rather than by freight, the cost laid down in Montreal is 10c above the original price.

**POULTRY:** Very little is moving in the way of live poultry into the city at present, and in general dressed poultry keeps in quietly steady market. The effects of Lent are felt to some extent but not to the extent that would be imagined. There is a fair continuous call for poultry supplies, and prices remain as last week.

**HONEY:** A fair amount of business was done in honey, there being a steady demand for small lots to meet actual requirements, and as supplies were ample to fill the same, prices show no change.

**MAPLE PRODUCTS:** Owing to the limited supplies of maple product available on spot, for which there is a steady demand for local consumption a very firm feeling prevails in the market.

**BEANS:** The demand for beans continues fairly good, and prices were firmly maintained for all grades.

<b>Eggs:</b>	
New laid ..	0.45
<b>Poultry—Live:</b>	
Powls, 5-lbs. and over ..	0.22 0.21
Powls, small ..	0.18 0.20
<b>Fresh Killed Poultry:</b>	
Turkeys ..	0.32 0.33
Old Turkeys, cocks ..	0.27 0.28
Powls, hens ..	0.20 0.21
Do., roosters ..	0.15 0.16
Chickens ..	0.22 0.23
Do., crate fattened ..	0.25 0.28
Squabs, per pair ..	0.35 0.45
Geese ..	0.18 0.19
Ducks ..	0.21 0.22
<b>Maple Products:</b>	
Pure maple syrup, quart cans ..	0.40
Pure maple syrup, 9-lb. tins ..	1.00 1.10
Extra choice syrup, 13-lb. tins ..	1.25 1.30
Pure Maple sugar, per lb. ..	0.13 0.14
<b>Honey:</b>	
Buckwheat, 5-10 lb. tins ..	0.12
Clover, in comb ..	0.16 0.18
Do., in 5-10 lb. tins ..	0.13 0.14
<b>Potatoes:</b>	
New Brunswick, Delawares, 90-lb. sacks ..	3.25 3.50
Quebec's, 90-lb. bags ..	3.00 3.25
<b>Beans:</b>	
Can. hand-picked car lots, per bu. ..	7.75 8.00
Three pound pickers ..	7.50
Five pound pickers ..	7.00 7.25
Six to seven pound pickers ..	6.90 7.00

## FISH MARKETS.

The following are the dates of coming Lenten Fish Days: Wednesday, March 7th; Friday, March 9th; Wednesday, March 14th; Friday, March 16th; Wednesday, March 21st; Friday, March 23rd; Wednesday, March 28th; Friday, March 30th; Wednesday, April 4th; Good Friday, April 6th; Holy Saturday, April 7th.

With meat prices soaring, the fish sales during the present Lenten season should exceed all previous years. Of late, there is an undoubted increase in the general consumption of fish as a food, and it is an absolute certainty that fish will become more popular as a staple article of diet apart from religious prescriptions.

Much of the talk of scarcity in stocks of fish is unfounded. True, there are certain lines which are scarce and high in price, but there are plenty of other varieties of fish which can be had at reasonable prices and in abundance. The retail trade, up to the present, insist in stocking only certain lines of fish and certain sizes. They make no effort to introduce other varieties to the consumer. Excellent sea fish which can be produced easily and at reasonable prices are pollock, hake and cusk. These are all of the codfish family and excellent cooking and eating fish.

There has been considerable difficulty experienced by dealers in procuring their stocks of fish owing

to the tie-ups in freight transportation over the railroads. As a consequence, much fish has been brought in by express which makes the cost a little more. Transportation, and not scarcity, is responsible for small supplies and higher prices, but with better weather, this should improve.

The producers report that all classes of Atlantic sea fish are in good supply for the Lenten Season. Haddock is plentiful and prices reasonable. Lobsters (live) are easing up due to better weather and fishing. Frozen halibut is plentiful at from 17 to 18 cents per lb. Some fresh Atlantic halibut coming in, but price is high. The first fresh Pacific halibut of the season will be on the market this week—price from 18 to 20 cents per lb. All kinds of frozen and pickled stocks are getting lower. Bloaters are cheap and in good supply.

The following wholesale prices are quoted to-day:

Fresh Fish:		per lb.	
Pacific Halibut ..	0.18	0.20	
Steak Cod ..	0.10	0.12	
Market Cod ..		0.08½	
Haddock ..		0.09½	
Carp ..	0.10	0.11	
Fresh Frozen Sea Fish:			
Halibut ..	0.18	0.20	
Mackerel (medium) each ..		0.20	
Mackerel (medium) large ..		0.20	
Salmon, B.C. ..	0.16	0.18	
Salmon, Gaspe ..	\$0.18	0.20	
Cod, Steak, by express ..		0.10	
Haddock, fancy, by express ..	0.09	0.10	
Smelts, No. 1 and No. 1 large ..	0.15	0.20	
Fresh Frozen Lake Fish:			
Lake Trout ..	0.14	0.15	
Whitefish ..	0.12	0.13	
Perch ..	\$0.10	0.11	
Dore ..	0.12	0.13	
Pike ..	0.09	0.10	
Eels ..		0.10	
Smoked Fish:			
Finnan Haddies ..	0.12	0.13	
Finnan Haddies, Finest, Boned ..		0.15	
Finnan Haddie Fillets ..	0.16	0.18	
Digby Herrings, per bundle of 5 boxes ..		1.00	
Smoked Boneless Herring, 10 lb box ..		1.40	
Kippers, 40s and 50s, per box ..		2.25	
Salted and Pickled Fish:			
Herring (Labrador), per bbl. ..		9.00	
Salmon (Labrador), per bbl. ..		20.00	
Salmon (B. C. Red) ..		16.00	
Sea Trout, red and pale, per bbl. ..		15.00	
Green Cod, No. 1, per bbl. ..		14.00	
Mackerel, No. 1, per bbl. ..		21.00	
Salt Eels, per lb. ..		0.07½	
Codfish (Skinless), (100-lb. box) ..		9.50	
Codfish (Boneless), Blocks "Ivory" Brand, per lb. ..		0.10	
Codfish, Shredded, 12 lb. box ..		1.80	
Strip Cod, boxes, 30 lb. ..		0.15	
Shellfish:			
Lobsters, medium and large, lb. ..		0.65	
Prawns, Imperial gallon ..		3.00	
Shrimps, Imperial gallon ..		2.50	
Scallops ..		3.00	
Oysters, Selected, per gallon ..		2.00	
Oysters, Ordinary, per gallon ..		1.50	
Oysters, Malpeque, Choice, per bbl. ..		13.00	
Oysters, Malpeque, Shell, Ordinary, per bbl. ..		10.00	
Oysters, Cape Cod, Shell, per bbl. ..		12.00	
Clams, medium, per bbl. ..		8.00	

## MONTREAL PRODUCE RECEIPTS.

Receipts of the principal commodities at Montreal for the past week follow:

	Week ending
	March 3.
Wheat, bushels ..	159,325
Oats, bushels ..	8,429
Barley, bushels ..	4,300
Flour, bushels ..	20,454
Butter, packages ..	813
Cheese, boxes ..	2,908
Eggs, cases ..	6,099
Potatoes, bags ..	1,809
Hay, bales ..	5,715

## MONTREAL DAIRY STOCKS.

The following table shows the stocks of butter, cheese and eggs in store in Montreal on the dates mentioned:

	Mar. 1, 1917.	Feb. 1, 1917.	Mar. 1, 1916.
<b>Butter—</b>			
Creamery, pkgs. ..	25,498	48,763	32,946
Dairy, pkgs. ..	3,288	1,410	2,775
Cheese, boxes ..	14,756	17,807	12,817
<b>Eggs—</b>			
Fresh, cases ..	1,114	359	361
Cold storage ..	630	5,180	1,691