

Montreal Wholesale Markets

Friday, October 24th, 1913.

Wholesale business in general has been quite up to expectations and in many case reports state that the let-up is hardly being felt. Sorting-up orders in dry goods are coming in slowly and mills report that repeats are fairly satisfactory, although not up to previous years. Spring samples in many lines are now before the trade and the traveller's returns so far are fair. The holiday, of course, had its effect on the total of the week's business but returns show a general improvement and a good fall business is anticipated. The cotton mills are all busy and reports from the head offices of the various companies are most satisfactory. The prices on all lines of cotton goods are well maintained at the recent advance. The knitting mills and clothiers are only moderately busy but anticipate a fair season. Business in all seasonable lines of hardware is good and prices hold steady. Bar iron is lower and lead and copper prices tend upwards. The grocery trade is steady and collections are fair. Staple lines are moving freely. The market for provisions has been active and a further advance of 25 cents to 50 cents in live hogs took place. Prices in other lines hold steady. United States buyers are active in the markets for hay, oats and millfeed and a good trade is passing. The butter market has been slower and prices are down $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to $\frac{1}{4}$ c. in sympathy the lower prices prevailing at country points. The cheese market is active with a good foreign and United States demand. The shipments of cattle to the United States continue large so that the trade is active and prices are higher, choice cattle are scarce for home consumption. The export trade in grain and flour has been somewhat quiet, although inquiries are good, owing to the stronger feeling in the market for raw material. The local demand is only fair. Flour prices remain firm.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.—Business has not been active in the butter market during the past week and prices are lower owing to the limited demand from outside buyers and the low prices ruling on the country markets. The demand from the West and Vancouver has been very slight of late and English advices state that large shipments of butter have been made to those points from New Zealand. We quote:—Finest creamery, 27c. to 27 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; fine creamery, 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ c.; second grades, 26c. to 26 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; dairy, 22c. to 23c.

A fair business is passing in the cheese market with a good demand from both local and outside account. The demand from English buyers has been good and as bids are more in line with the lower prices ruling here some good business has been done. Last week the exports were 63,506 boxes as compared with 49,332 boxes for the previous week. The total shipments since May 1st, to date show a decrease of 144,199 boxes as compared with the corresponding time last year. In addition, the shipments to the United States have been heavy, as also to the Northwest. We quote:—Finest western colored 13c. to 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; finest western white, 13c. to 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.; finest eastern colored, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ c.; finest eastern white, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ c.; good seconds, 12c. to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

The tone of the market for eggs is very firm owing to the continued good demand and the limited supplies coming forward. Prices advanced, 1c. to 2c. per dozen during the week. We quote:—Strictly fresh, 40c.; candled C.S., 32c.; No. 1, candled, 28c.; No. 2, candled, 22c. to 23c.

The demand for new crop beans is not large and the market is quiet with three-pound pickers offered for shipment from the West at \$1.80 to \$1.85 per bushel, ex track, and old crop 5 and 6 pound pickers are quoted at \$1.55 to \$1.60.

The tone of the market for potatoes remains steady with a fair trade passing. Green mountains, in car lots, are quoted at 40c. to 75c. per bag, ex track, and in a jobbing way at 90c. per bag ex store.

FLOUR MARKET.—The inquiry from foreign buyers for spring wheat flour continued good but the volume of business resulting is not large owing to the fact that bids are out of line with miller's views here. Business in spring wheat flour for local account has been fair but the demand is principally for small lots to fill actual requirements owing to the weakness in the market for the raw material. Spring wheat, first patents, are selling at \$5.40; seconds at \$4.90, and strong bakers at \$4.70 per bbl. in bags. The demand for winter wheat grades continues very quiet. Some sales of straight rollers were made at \$4.60 to \$4.75 per bbl. in wood, and at \$2.05 to \$2.10 per bag.

GRAIN MARKET.—The stronger feeling in the United States and the Argentine markets coupled with the apprehension regarding the outlook in India has strengthened the market for Manitoba spring wheat and cables have come stronger at a fair advance but the volume of business done has been small owing to the rise in the Winnipeg market so that bids in most cases have been out of line. Some little trade has been done with the Continent, however. A good trade has been passing in the market for oats with a good demand from local and United States buyers, with No. 2 C.W. selling at 40 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to 41c.; extra No. 1 feed at 40c. and No. 3 C.W. at 39c. ex store. The tone of the market for Ontario malting barley is very strong and prices are 3c. to 4c. per bushel higher, with sales at 68c. to 70c. per bushel, ex track. Argentine corn is steady with sales of car lots at 78c. per bushel, ex store.

GREEN AND DRIED FRUITS.—Local dealers are doing a large trade in apples with foreign buyers and report business in other lines as very satisfactory. We quote prices as follows:—Apples, Fameuse and McIntosh, red No. 1's, \$6.50 to \$8.00; No. 2's, \$5.00; No. 3's, \$3.75; Calvert's \$3.50 to \$4.00; Greenings, Baldwins, etc., \$4.00 to \$4.50; Lemons, 300 size, Messina, \$4.75; Almeida grapes, \$5.00 to \$6.00; Cranberries, cape cods, per bbl., \$8.75; Figs, camel brand, 14c. to 17c.; Grape fruit, per box, \$5.50; Oranges, Valencia's, \$6.50; Bananas, Port Limons and Jamaicans, No. 1's, \$2.00 to \$2.50.

HARDWARE.—Business in all lines of seasonable goods is steady and winter goods are going out quite satisfactorily. Jobbers are fairly busy but are not doing the volume they were doing last fall. Stoves and furnaces are moving freely, the recent cold snap having a desirable effect on these lines. A weakness still prevails in the metal market although no change has yet taken place in prices as expected. Lead is selling 10c. per 100 lbs. higher at \$5.75. The market for iron is very dull at present and prices are lower. Supplies of copper are small and the feeling is that the recent weakness in the market will soon disappear in that account. The trade in paints continues active with prices firm and unchanged.

HAY MARKET.—The tone of the market for hay is very firm owing to the demand from United States buyers at country points but the local demand is rather quiet. We quote:—No. 1, at \$15 to \$15.50; extra good No. 2 at \$14 to \$14.50 and No. 2, at \$13 to \$13.50 per ton, in car lots, ex track.

MILLFEED AND ROLLED OATS.—A fair volume of business is passing in all lines of millfeed with a steady demand from all sources. Bran is more plentiful but the supplies of other lines are somewhat limited. Bran is selling at \$22, shorts at \$24 and middlings at \$27 per ton, including bags. The trade in moullie is fairly active and prices are firm, with sales of pure grain grades at \$30 to \$32 and mixed at \$28 to \$29 per ton. The market for rolled oats is steady and the business passing is considered fair for this time of year. Sales were made at \$4.40 to \$4.50 per bbl. in wood and at \$2.10 to \$2.12 $\frac{1}{2}$ per bag. The demand for cornmeal is fair at \$4.60 per bbl. in wood and at \$2.15 per bag.