

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report for the week ending October 12th, 1918, reads:

The heavy rains for the past month or so seem to be over at last, but not before they did considerable damage to crops in the low-lying grounds in the surrounding country. Miles upon miles were under water. The receipts of new wheat by the mills is grading very high, advices from all over the Western districts state that the crop this year will grade higher than ever before, so that what farmers lost in quantity they will make up in quality.

The following are official statistics of the crops, in this Province. Wheat, 19½ bushels; oats, 30 bushels; barley, 24½ bushels; rye, 17 bushels; flaxseed, 12½ bushels. Other field crops average, peas, 100 per cent.; beans, 93 per cent.; buckwheat, 92 per cent.; mixed grain, 104 per cent.; corn, 92 per cent.; potatoes, 104 per cent.; turnips, 99 per cent.; pasture, 98 per cent.

Advices from the West state that an experimenter claims to have produced wheat, which will go over 100 bushels to the acre; it is a cross between Egyptian wheat and a hard Canadian wheat. A quantity of Australian wheat is being bulked, and cleaned in British Columbia for the British Government, which is the first attempt ever made in this direction.

Advices from Alberta district state that the dairy production this year will be the largest on record. The purchase made by the British Government of Canadian meat and dairy products during the year just completed will amount to over ninety million dollars.

Cotton manufacturers state that their sales up to date are double those of the whole of last year. Wholesale trade during the week has been good.

Owing to the prevalence of the "Spanish Flu" which is so prevalent in this city, the board of health has issued orders that all wholesale and retail stores must close at 4.30 p.m. until further notice, this is done with a view to lessen the crowds on the street cars at the rush hours. All public places, such as theatres, moving picture shows, concert halls, etc., are closed down entirely.

Remittances and city collection are reported very good.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending October 12th, 1918, were 13,827 packages, which show an increase of 1,825 packages, as compared with the previous week, and an increase of 2,248 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, 1918, to date, show an increase of 61,226 packages as compared with the corresponding period in 1917.

There was no change in the local butter market last week, prices remained firm. As there was a steady demand for supplies, a fairly active trade was done. All of the creamery butter arriving here within the last fortnight went to the Dairy Produce Buying Commission for export account. Sales of round lots of Ontario and Manitoba creamery were made at 47½c to 48c per lb., while holders of finest Eastern Townships creamery report a ready disposal of their stock of such at 49c to 50c per lb., and at even higher figures than those mentioned if conditions warranted them accepting the same. The trade in a wholesale jobbing way was also good, and prices remained unchanged with sales of finest creamery at 50c per lb. in solid packages, and at 51c per lb. in 1 lb. blocks. A good healthy trade was also done in oleomargarine.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest creamery	0.49	0.50
Fine creamery	0.48	0.48½
Finest dairy	0.41	0.43
Fine dairy	0.39	0.40

CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending October 13th, 1918, were 44,902 boxes, which show a decrease of 8,557 boxes, as compared with the previous week and a decrease of 18,409 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May

1st, 1918, to date show a decrease of 71,793 boxes as compared with the corresponding period in 1917. An easier feeling developed, and prevailed at the various country cheese boards, due to the fact that competition was not keen. The prices paid at some of the boards show a decline of ¼c to ¾c per lb. The highest figure paid was 24 11-16c per lb. for colored cheese at Picton, and for white 24½c at Stirling, while the lowest for the latter was 24¼c at Alexandria. The offerings at Gould's Cold Storage here this week were about 7,000 boxes, which sold at 24½c per lb. f.o.b., country points.

The following prices are being paid by the Commission:

No. 1 cheese	0.25
No. 2 cheese	0.24½
No. 3 cheese	0.24

POULTRY.

The market for live poultry remained unchanged. Receipts were more than sufficient to meet all requirements, but the offerings were not generally of a very high quality.

EGGS.

The receipts for the week ending October 12, 1918, were 8,722 cases, as compared with 5,040 for the previous week, and 5,141 for the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1st, 1918, to date, were 227,735 cases, as against 242,268 for the corresponding period. The local egg trade showed no changes last week, prices were firmly maintained, and all grades of stock were in good demand. The market, on the whole, was active.

The export situation also remained unchanged. A considerable quantity of storage eggs were purchased by the British Ministry of Food in the United States. The quantity to be purchased has so far not been made public, but it is known that they have already secured a large quantity for export. The United States markets of late have given evidence of more confidence on the part of holders of storage eggs. On most of the holdings the primary profits allowed by the Food Administration have been taken and therefore very little trading has passed between brokers and wholesalers. The reduction in the reserve stock during the first half of September was very light and disappointing, but during the latter half the increase in withdrawals from storage has shown a large increase.

We quote wholesale jobbing prices as follows:

Strictly new laid	0.58	0.60
Selected new laid eggs	0.53	0.54
No. 1 stock	0.53	
No. 2 stock	0.49	

LOCAL GRAIN.

The grain markets in all leading centres showed continued weakness, last week, and prices generally scored further declines.

Corn in the Chicago future market sold at 12½c to 13½c per bushel lower than a week ago, and cash prices for sample corn in store on spot declined 2½c to 15c per bushel, with sales of car lots at from \$1.22½ to \$1.35, and for shipment from Chicago at \$1.33 per bushel ex-track here, and other sales were made at from 91c to 95c per bushel ex-track Chicago, the latter prices being the lowest reported here on this crop so far. In the Winnipeg option market oats were weak again to-day, and prices scored another decline of 1¼c to 1½c per bushel, which makes a net drop since this day week of 5¼c to 7c. In sympathy with the above, the local market for cash oats also ruled weak, and prices this week were reduced 5½c per bushel. The demand from local jobbers and outside buyers was somewhat limited, and the volume of business on the whole was small, with sales of car lots of extra No. 1 Canadian western at 92c, No. 1 feed at 90c, No. 2 feed at 86c, Ontario No. 2 white at 90½c, No. 3 white at 89½c, and No. 4 at 88½c, per bushel ex-store. There was some demand from local dealers for supplies at the latter end of the week, and quite a few cars of extra No. 1 feed were sold for ten to fifteen-day shipment from Port William at 78½c, and No. 1 feed at 76½c per bushel ex-track, and other sales for December shipment of No. 1 feed were made at 75c. The tone of

the market for barley was weak, and prices on Saturday were 3c to 9c per bushel lower than a week ago, with car lots of Ontario extra No. 3 quoted at \$1.30. No. 3 at \$1.28, Manitoba No. 3 at \$1.20, No. 4 at \$1.15, and sample No. 4 at \$1.12 per bushel ex-store.

Fluctuations in grain on Saturday at Winnipeg were:—

Oats:	
No. 2 C. W.	0.79
No. 3 C. W.	0.75½
Extra No. 1 feed	0.75½
No. 1 feed	0.73½
No. 2 feed	0.70½
Barley:	
No. 3 C. W.	0.97
No. 4 C. W.	0.92½
Rejected	0.88
Feed	0.88
Flax, No. 1 C. W.	3.26

LOCAL FLOUR.

At the meeting of the leading millers, some bakers and the Canada Food Board, held at Ottawa last week, it was decided to place white corn flour again on the list of substitutes and allow it to be sold to bakers at a fixed price of \$10.20 per barrel in bags, less 10c per barrel for cash, and at the same time the price for mixed corn flour was also fixed at \$9.20 per barrel in bags, which was a reduction of 90c to \$1.10 per barrel as compared with the previous fixed price. As dealers had in most cases disposed of their stock of white corn flour and purchased supplies of the mixed grade at a higher price than the above one fixed, they will all lose on their holdings. There was a good demand from jobbers and millers who do not manufacture white corn flour, and sales of a number of cars were made.

A weak feeling developed and prevailed in the market for barley flour, last week, and prices scored declines amounting to \$1 per barrel. The demand was steady, with sales of broken lots at \$10 per barrel in bags. Rye flour was also easier, with a fair trade passing at \$12 per barrel in bags. Oat flour was unchanged at \$12. Graham flour sold at \$11.30 to \$11.50 per barrel in bags.

A good trade continued in spring wheat flour, and all the mills here operated to their full capacity. Sales of car lots of Government standard grades were made at \$11.50 per barrel in bags, ex-track, and to city bakers at \$11.65 delivered, while broken lots sold to grocers and bakers at \$11.75 delivered, less 10c per barrel for spot cash.

The market for winter wheat flour remained unchanged, with prices firm, and the demand steady.

Supplies coming forward were sufficient to meet all requirements, and an active business was done with sales of broken lots at \$11.60 per barrel in new cotton bags, and at \$11.30 in second-hand jute bags ex-store.

ROLLED OATS.

The market for rolled oats showed no changes last week, as millers were in most cases entirely oversold for October prices remained unchanged. Broken lots of standard grades were quoted at \$5.20 to \$5.30 per bag of 90 lbs., delivered to the trade. A weaker feeling has developed in the market for Golden cornmeal in sympathy with the severe break in prices for the raw material of late, and prices were reduced 25c per bag, with sales of broken lots at \$5.50 to \$5.75 per bag, delivered to the trade.

MILLFEED.

Prices for millfeed remained unchanged, but the tone of the market was easy, due to the continued weakness in the grain markets. The demand for all lines continues good, and an active trade is reported, with sales of car lots of bran at \$37.25 and shorts at \$42.25 per ton, including bags, ex-track, and bran at \$39.25 and shorts at \$44.25 per ton, ex-warehouse, including cartage, less 25c per ton for spot cash. Pure grain moultrie is selling at \$68, feed cornmeal at \$66, barley feed at \$62 to 63, and mixed moultrie at \$55 per ton, including bags, delivered to the trade.

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