

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

With the opening of navigation, trade conditions are more active in all lines. River boats had possession of Montreal Harbour last week, but this week will see the arrival of the first ocean steamers. Shipping and freights in this country being among the prime factors affecting trade conditions, the prevailing shortage of ocean tonnage is bound to influence all wholesale lines more or less. The dairy situation has been particularly affected by the absence of almost all export trade during the past few months, which has kept prices of butter and cheese at a low level. Eggs are similarly affected. In the wholesale grocery market refined sugar has risen 10c. to 15c. per 100 lbs. since last week. The market for provisions of all kinds is a little easier after the high prices and large turnover of Easter week. Prices of hardware are firm, and dealers consider the general outlook encouraging. Business is brisk in the lead and paint market, with prices firm, with a tendency to go higher. Boots and shoes are influenced by the advance in price of leather, which is scarce, and likely to be higher still. In spite of this, sales have been good during the past week, and collections satisfactory.

Wholesale trade in general may be said to be more promising and local and country collections quite encouraging.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER: During the past week, owing to the liberal supplies of butter arriving from country points, this market has had a fluctuating tendency, with a drop of 1½c to 2c. at both city and country sales. A sale at the Quebec Agricultural Co-operative Society was held on Friday, and the price realized was 28½c. for finest creamery, and 27½c. for fine, showing a decline of 2½c. from their sale a week previous. At Gould's Cold Storage on Thursday an auction sale of held creamery was held, when about 900 packages were sold at 24½c. to 25c. per lb., which figures were considered satisfactory when the quality was taken into consideration. In general prices are 3c to 4c. lower than at the corresponding period last year.

CHEESE: This market has shown considerable activity with a good grain passing. English prices have gone up so high that there will probably be a falling off in demand.

Current quotations follow:

Butter:		
Fresh creamery	0.30	0.31
Storage	0.28	0.29
Seconds	0.26	0.27
Dairy Butter	0.25	0.26
City Selling Prices, to grocers:		
Choice Creamery Solids	0.32	
Do., Prints	0.32½	
No. 2, Creamery Solids	0.30	
Do., Prints	0.30½	
Choice Dairy Prints	0.28	
Do., Rolls	0.28	
Cooking Butter	0.25	
Cheese:		
Finest Eastern	0.18½	0.19
Finest Western	0.18½	0.19
Fine Cheese	0.18	0.18½
Undergrades	0.17	0.18

MONTREAL PRODUCE RECEIPTS.

The receipts of the principal commodities at Montreal for the past two weeks follow:

	Week end.	Week end.
	April 22.	April 29.
Wheat, bushels	689,364	772,828
Oats, bushels	386,205	241,002
Barley, bushels	12,688	10,071
Flour, barrels	39,619	32,916
Eggs, cases	17,871	19,326
Butter, packages	4,890	5,689
Cheese, boxes	5,229	10,364
Potatoes, bags	8,843	8,955
Hay, bales	13,972	21,997

PERSONALS.

Captain Jackson Dodds, secretary of the Bank of British North America, has been appointed Deputy Assistant Director of Ordnance Stores to the 63rd Division.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

POULTRY: This market has been very quiet, with very little poultry arriving during the past week, and what little has been coming has found a ready sale. In spite of the high prices ruling, the demand has been as great, and greater than at this time last year. As stocks are getting higher, prices have a tendency to soar, most lines being up a cent or two over last week's quotations. It is hoped that the opening of navigation will bring larger supplies and consequently lower prices.

EGGS: The market in Montreal is considerably easier this week, with prices one cent lower than last week's figures. Deliveries of eggs have been fairly large, though not equal to the corresponding period last year. The exporting season is two or three weeks later than last year's. Storing has commenced at last, although the stocks in store are light compared with last year at the end of April. Latest reports from the British market indicate that Irish eggs are filling all requirements, and Canadian eggs have had to decline considerably in order to invite any business, and this in the face of ocean freight rates three times higher than last year. That exports will be considerably curtailed is the general opinion of the trade.

MAPLE PRODUCTS: This market is very bare of stocks. Reports state that there are very considerable quantities in the country, but no accurate information is available. There has been a good strong demand for both syrup and sugar, prices remaining firm at last week's figures.

Current wholesale prices follow:

Eggs—		
New Laid	0.24	0.25
Honey:		
Buckwheat, in combs	0.12	0.13
Buckwheat, extracted	0.10½	0.11
Beans:		
3-lb. pickers, carlots, bush.	4.00	4.25
3 lb. pickers, do.	3.95	4.15
Undergrades, bus.	3.60	3.70
Potatoes:		
Green Mountains, per bag, car lots	1.75	1.80
Job lots, ex store, per bag	1.90	1.95
Poultry:		
Frozen stock—		
Turkeys	0.28	0.30
Fowl, large	0.20	0.21
Fowl, small	0.19	0.20
Ducks	0.20	0.23
Geese	0.16	0.17
Roasting chickens, ord.	0.23	0.25
Chickens, milk fed	0.25	0.26
Capons	0.28	0.30
Spring broilers, dressed, pair	1.25	1.35
Squabs, Phila., pr.	0.85	0.90
Poultry—Live:		
Fowl, 5 lbs. and over	0.20	0.23
Fowl, small	0.18	0.19
Turkeys, cocks	0.20	0.21
Do., hens	0.23	0.24
Maple Products:		
Pure maple syrup, 8-lb. tins	0.85	0.90
Pure maple syrup, 10-lb. tins	1.00	1.10
Extra choice syrup, 13-lb. tins	1.40	1.50
Pure maple sugar, per lb.	0.12	0.14

RECEIPTS OF BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS.

The following table shows the receipts of butter, cheap and eggs in Montreal for the week ending April 29th, 1916, with comparisons:

	Butter,	Cheese,	Eggs,
	pkgs.	boxes,	cases.
Week end. Apr. 29, 1916	5,689	11,202	19,326
Week end. Apr. 22, 1916	4,890	5,229	17,871
Week end. May 1, 1915	4,621	7,280	19,637
Total receipts, May 1st, 1915,			
to date	419,218	2,022,028	642,531
Total receipts last year up			
to April 30	404,078	1,544,251	484,283

FREE EGG CASE MOVEMENT ABANDONED.

At a meeting held last week by the Canadian Produce Association, it was decided to give up the free egg case regulations, which have been in force for a month or six weeks, and return to the former policy by which dealers pay for and own the egg cases. Three of the leading firms withdrew their support from the movement, which forced the other firms to fall into line.

LIVE STOCK.

With the exception of the market for calves, the live stock market during the past week was not marked by any great activity. As a rule prices were higher, and there was a firm tone to the whole list, with the one exception of calves. Owing to the liberal supply of calves coming forward, prices had a slightly lower tendency. The sales of choice stock ran from 8 to 9 cents, while the lower grades were featured at from 4 to 6 cents per pound. The demand for spring lambs showed an improvement, prices running \$4 to \$6, according to quality. Older lambs and sheep were scarce, and prices ruled firm. The hog market continued firm, with a good demand. Cattle are scarce, and the prices continue firm. Current quotations are as follows:

	Per cwt.
Butcher steers, best	\$8.95 to \$9.20
Do., good	8.60 to 8.90
Do., fair	8.25 to 8.60
Do., medium	7.90 to 8.20
Do., rough	7.50 to 7.80
Butcher bulls, best	8.00 to 8.25
Do., medium	7.50 to 7.75
Do., common	7.00 to 7.25
Canning bulls	4.25 to 5.25
Butcher cows, best	7.50 to 7.80
Do., good	7.10 to 7.40
Do., medium	6.65 to 7.40
Do., medium	6.5 to 7.10
Do., common	6.15 to 6.50
Do., canners	3.25 to 4.00
Sheep	6.00 to 8.50
Lambs	9.00 to 12.00
Hogs, selects, weighed off cars	12.00 to 12.25
Do., roughs and mixed lots	11.25 to 11.75
Do., common	11.00
Sows	9.35 to 9.90
Calves, milk fed	8.00 to 9.00

EXPORTS OF CANADIAN DAIRY PRODUCTS.

The exports of cheese and butter from Canada during the past thirty-five years follow:

Year.	Butter.	Value.
	Quantity,	\$.
	lbs.	
1880	18,535,362	3,058,069
1890	1,951,585	340,131
1900	25,259,737	5,122,156
1903	34,128,944	6,954,618
1910	4,615,380	1,010,274
1911	3,142,682	744,288
1912	8,844,402	2,077,916
1913	828,323	223,578
1914	1,228,753	309,046
1915	2,724,913	639,625

	Cheese.	Value.
	Quantity,	\$.
	lbs.	
1880	40,368,678	3,893,366
1890	94,260,187	9,372,212
1900	185,984,430	19,856,324
1904	233,980,716	24,124,566
1910	180,859,886	21,607,692
1911	181,895,724	20,739,507
1912	163,450,684	20,888,818
1913	155,216,392	20,697,144
1914	144,478,340	18,868,784
1915	137,601,661	19,213,501

CHEESE EXPORTS.

The following are the shipments of cheese from Portland and St. John, N.B., which arrived on the other side for the week ending April 27, 1916.

	Local.	Thro.	Total.
Liverpool		2,000	2,000
London	332	14,251	14,583
Glasgow		3,961	3,961
Manchester		2,198	2,198
	332	22,410	22,742
Same week last year	1,145	6,270	7,415
Total exports, May 1, 1915, to April 29,			
1916, boxes			2,152,415
Do., corresponding period last year			358,299