

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report says: The weather has been better during the past week, which has made the country roads more passable. In the wholesale districts there is a rush to get out orders, but a good many orders have to go out incomplete, owing to the difficulty in getting supplies from the manufacturers. There has been a much better feeling in the leather market, owing to large supplies being taken off the market for Government purposes, which has resulted in advancing prices. The hide market has been more buoyant, and prices have scored a further advance.

The wool market is firmer, the Department of Agriculture have notified the farmers and sheepmen in the North West that they have disposed of their wool crop at 66c per pound. The butter market is stronger and prices advanced in the face of heavy supplies coming into this market. The market for eggs is also very firm under a good local and export demand. The demand for Canadian hay is very good, there are quite a number of American buyers around, and quite a large business has been done for shipment across the border.

The receipts of potatoes coming into the market have been fairly heavy, but there has been no let up in the price. Prices on new crop tomatoes and corn have not been announced yet by the canning interests. There is a good supply of small fruits in canners hands, but they find it difficult to get sufficient sugar to do their canning. In the grocery trade there has been quite a number of advances in prices of such articles as stove and metal polish, essences, baking powder, salt, sardines, chewing tobacco, oil of lemon, coconut, etc. In hardware higher prices are recorded on all lines of electrical appliances, stove polish, saw sets, knives, lamp burners, wedges, egg beaters, etc. Amongst the articles which show a decline in prices are galvanized sheets, linsed oil and white lead oil. Turpentine is firmer. Cattle prices have advanced, but live hogs are weaker.

The high prices paid for all kinds of farm produce, makes remittances from the country very satisfactory. City collections are fair. The weather conditions being better, has improved the retail trade.

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: Shipments of merchandise continue to be of liberal volume, with one or two exceptions, and general collections are well maintained. The heavy payments falling due in the dry goods trade on the 13th, were remarkably well met. There has not as yet been sufficient cold weather to cause any material reduction of retail dry goods stocks, but travellers are sending in a very fair proportion of sorting orders along with good business in spring lines. Local manufacturers of oil-cloths and linoleums are experiencing considerable difficulty in getting supplies of raw materials, and in various other lines the situation in this respect is becoming more acute.

Matters in the fur manufacturing trade have assumed a more satisfactory phase, most of the operatives having returned to work, and a joint committee has been formed of five employers and five employees has been formed to try and adjust matters in dispute. Hat orders for spring are reported as being fair to good.

Conditions in the boot and shoe trade do not show much improvement, a number of the factories being only partially employed. Jobbers and retailers have been holding back orders, in the expectation that leather prices would recede, but their hopes in this direction seem doomed to disappointment, as tanners are not now disposed to make any concessions they might have allowed several weeks ago, owing to telegraphic advices this week that the American Government had placed orders for eight million pairs of shoes, and reports of firmer markets in Boston and other United States trade centres.

Staple groceries show a steady seasonable distribution. Reports of a sugar shortage have been much exaggerated, local refiners claiming that stocks are sufficient to go around till new crop of raws is available, though they are disposed to conserve supplies and limit sales to some extent. Refinery prices remain on the same basis, namely, \$9 for standard granulated in bags. Molasses commands very high figures, 77 cents being asked for fancy grades in round lots. The California raisin crop is reported abundant, but quotations are the highest on record.

Supplies of Mediterranean dried fruits will be almost nil. No Valencia or Sultana raisins will be here this season, and only a few small parcels of Malaga fruit are expected. Currants would cost 25 cents in bulk, laid down, practically a prohibitive figure. In the provision line prices continue to rule high. Money conditions are unchanged, and the rate for all funds remains at 6 per cent.

Twelve district failures are reported for the week, with liabilities of about \$160,000.

LIVESTOCK.

MONTREAL—The offerings at the two yards last week amounted to 5625 cattle, 5325 sheep and lambs, 3950 hogs and 1,650 calves. On the opening day of last week's market cattle prices advanced 25c, sheep \$1, lambs and calves 50c while live hogs prices in sympathy with the decline in Toronto, broke \$1.25 per 100 lbs. The feature of the cattle trade was the demand for canning stock, the offerings of which were large. A brisk trade was done with sales of bulls at \$6.50 to \$7, and cows at \$5.25 to \$5.75 per 100 lbs. The trade in butchers' beeves was more active than it has been of late. The good demand for small meats continued both for local and American consumption. Lambs advanced 25c to 50c per 100 lbs, with sales of Ontario stock at \$15 to \$15.75, and Quebec at \$14 to \$14.50, while sheep were \$1 higher at \$10 to \$10.50 for ewes per 100 lbs. The demand for calves was active and prices advanced 50c per 100 lbs. The market for hogs was weak and prices broke \$1.25 per 100 lbs, which was due principally to the weakness at other Canadian centres at the latter end of last week. At this reduction there was a steady demand from packers and a fair trade was done with sales of selected lots at \$17.50 to \$18, sows at \$14.50 to \$15, and stags at \$12 to \$13 per 100 lbs. weighed off cars.

At Wednesday's market prices remained firm with Monday and a good trade was done.

Quotations:

Butchers' steers, per 100 lbs.		
Do., choice.	10.50	10.75
Do., good.	10.00	10.25
Do., medium.	9.50	9.75
Do., rough.	8.50	8.75
Butchers' Cows.		
Do., choice.	8.25	8.50
Do., good.	7.75	8.00
Do., fair.	7.25	7.50
Bulls, choice	8.00	8.50
Do., good.	8.25	8.50
Do., fair	7.75	8.00
Canners' cattle:		
Do., bulls.	6.75	7.00
Do., cows.	5.25	5.75
Sheep and Lambs.		
Ewes.	10.00	10.50
Bucks.	9.00	9.50
Ontario lambs.	15.00	15.75
Quebec lambs.	14.00	14.50
Hogs.		
Do., choice selects.	17.50	18.00
Sows.	14.50	15.00
Stags.	12.00	13.00

TORONTO. — The receipts of cattle at both yards, for the week ending Oct. 20th amounted to 9,534 cattle, 614 calves, 6081 hogs and 7914 sheep and lambs, a good trade. The cattle trade was fairly active during the week, the offerings being good and the demand brisk prices showed no important changes. The trade in small meats was good, common calves showing an increase of 50c per 100 lbs. The market for live hogs weakened and prices showed a decline of 50c per 100 lbs.

Quotations:

Choice export steers.	11.50	12.25
Butchers' choice handy.	10.25	11.00
Do., good.	9.00	9.75
Do., medium	8.00	8.50
Do., common	7.25	7.75
Butchers' bulls, choice	8.00	9.25
Do., good	7.50	8.25
Do., medium	6.25	7.25
Butchers' choice cows	8.00	8.50
Do., good.	7.00	7.50
Do., medium	6.50	7.00
Do., common	6.00	6.50
Feeders	8.00	9.25
Stockers, good	7.25	8.00
Do., medium	6.75	7.25

Canners	5.25	5.75
Milkers, good to choice.	90.00	125.00
Do., common and medium	65.00	85.00
Calves, veal, choice	15.00	15.50
Do., medium	11.00	13.00
Do., common.	6.50	7.00
Do., grass	6.00	7.00
Do., heavy fat	8.00	10.50
Spring lambs, cwt.	16.50	16.75
Sheep, ewes, light.	8.50	12.00
Do., heavy and bucks	7.50	9.50
Do., culls	4.00	5.50
Hogs, fed and watered.	17.75	18.00
Do., off cars.	18.00	18.25
Do., f.o.b.	16.75	17.00

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending October 20th, 1917, were 7,215 packages, which show a decrease of 3,266 packages as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 1,996 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st to date show a decrease of 133,381 packages as compared with the corresponding period in 1916.

Prices of butter show no changes although at the beginning of the week the market developed a firm feeling and prices at the auction sale scored a further advance of 1/8c to 1/4c per lb., finest creamery selling at 46c, which was the record high figure for the season to date, but towards the close of the week there was an easier undertone to the market and prices at the above sale declined 3/8c to 1/2c per lb. This week the Quebec Agricultural Co-operative Society offered 1,176 packages and the pasteurized creamery sold at 45 3/4c to 46 1/4c per lb. finest at 45 1/2c to 46c, and fine at 45 1/4c, while at Gould's Cold Storage 400 packages changed hands at 45 1/4c to 46c. At St. Hyacinthe, without any cause or reason a representative of a local firm bid the prices of butter up 1/2c per lb. to 45c at which figure all offerings were sold.

We quote the following wholesale prices:

Finest creamery	0.46	0.46 1/2
Fine Creamery	0.45	0.45 1/2
Finest dairy	0.39	0.40
Fine dairy	0.38	0.38 1/2
Lower grades	0.37	0.37 1/2

CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending October 20th, 1917, were 46,572 boxes, which show a decrease of 8,970 boxes as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 19,704 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st to date show a decrease of 296,142 boxes as compared with the corresponding period in 1916. Of the total receipts for the same week last year there were 10,409 boxes received from the United States.

There was no important change in the cheese situation. At Kingston and Perth last week 1-16c per lb. higher than last week at 21 5-16c while at Picton they were 1-16c to 1/8c lower at 21 5-16c. The highest figures paid were 21 3/8c at Campbellford and Vankleek Hill, and the lowest was 21 1-16c at Mont Joli.

The commission is paying the following prices:

No. 1 western and eastern cheese	0.21 3/4
No. 2 western and eastern cheese	0.21 1/4
No. 3 western and eastern cheese	0.20 3/4
Lower grades	0.20 1/4

EGGS.

The receipts of eggs to-day were 1,100 cases, as against 1,208 for the same day last week and 2,594 for the corresponding date a year ago. The receipts for the week ending October 20th, 1917, were 8,928 cases, as compared with 5,062 for the previous week, and 20,870 for the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1st to date were 251,117 cases as against 446,363 for the corresponding period in 1916. A fairly active trade was done during the week, the demand for domestic consumption being good. Prices ruled steady.

We quote current prices as follows:

Strictly new laid.	0.53	0.54
Selected stocks	0.47	0.48
No. 1 candled	0.43	0.44
No. 2 candled	0.40	0.41

Potatoes per bag, past two American done with \$2.20 per \$2, while at \$2.25 t \$0 lbs. ex

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Grains: Spring V Do., No Do., No Do., No Do., No Feed ... Oats: No. 2 C. Do., No Do., Ex Do., No Barley No. 3 C. No. 4 C. Rejected Flax: No. 1 N. No. 2 C. No. 3 C.

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