

## FLOUR, CEREALS AND MILLFEED.

The situation in the flour trade is becoming acute, as the embargoes on the railways are now continuing well into their fourth week. Very few consignments of either wheat or flour have been moving in or out of the city and the result is that many points around Montreal are entirely cut off from supplies, while the wheat in the elevators here is down to a low point. There is some scarcity of spring wheat flour in the Maritime Provinces. Flour mills all over Canada are working intermittently as trade in many sections is purely local being carried on only wherever shipments can be made. The domestic demand is limited owing to the fact that most buyers have already ordered flour which has not been delivered, as the cars in question are still en route, or the mills have been unable to get them through at all. Many enquiries from the United Kingdom were reported during the week and orders were booked for fair sized lots of standard export grade at an advance of 1s to 1s 6d per 100 lbs. At the end of the week export bids had to be refused as no more ocean space was available. Freight rates are now quoted at 75c a cwt. Stocks of winter wheat flour are very low, and consequently the market is firm at unchanged prices. Whether prices will hold at this level depends on the duration of the embargo. No offers are being received from the Ontario mills as it is impossible to make shipments. The demand is moderate. Stocks of rye flour are nearly depleted and quotations are purely nominal. Millfeeds are in low supply and buyers are bidding for what can be obtained regardless of price. In advance of \$2.00 took place on nearly all lines last week. A very limited supply of millfeeds is being turned out, as many mills are closed or grinding to only a small proportion of their capacity.

The market for rolled oats has been following the fluctuations in the market for the raw material, and round lots have been sold at times at lower prices than we quote. The price of rolled oats in small lots shows no change. A heavy demand is anticipated in Lent.

|                              | Montreal.       | Toronto.   |
|------------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| <b>Flour:</b>                | per 96-lb. bag. |            |
| First patents .....          | 4.80            | 4.75       |
| Second patents .....         | 4.55            | 4.50       |
| Strong Bakers .....          | 4.45            | 4.40       |
| Feed Flour .....             | 2.85            | 3.70 2.80  |
| Winter wheat flour,          |                 |            |
| 90 per cent .....            | 4.10 4.25       | ....       |
| <b>Cereals:</b>              |                 |            |
| Rolls Aats, 90 lb. bag ..... | 3.35 3.45       | .... 3.45  |
| Oatmeal, 98-lb. bag .....    | 3.80            | .... 3.80  |
| Rolls wheat 100-lb. b. ....  | 3.60            | ....       |
| Bag .....                    | 4.35            | ....       |
| Rye flour, 98-lb. bag .....  | 3.75 4.00       | ....       |
| <b>Feeds:</b>                |                 | Per ton.   |
| Bran .....                   | 35.00           | .... 35.00 |
| Shorts .....                 | 37.00 40.00     | .... 41.00 |
| Middlings .....              | 40.00 44.00     | ....       |
| Moullie, pure grain          |                 |            |
| grades .....                 | 48.00 50.00     | ....       |
| Do., mixed .....             | 44.00 47.00     | ....       |
| Barley feed .....            | 41.00           | ....       |
| Crushed Oats .....           | 47.00           | ....       |
| Oatfeed .....                | 46.00           | ....       |
| Hay, No. 2 .....             | 13.00           | .... 11.00 |

An extra charge of 30c is made for flour in barrels.

## FISH AND OYSTERS.

Owing to the approach of Lent which begins tomorrow, February 21st, there has been a very active demand for fish and shipments are being made to the country by all the wholesale firms. A steady supply of fresh Atlantic sea fish is coming into the market by express, including codfish, haddock and a small quantity of fresh halibut. Stormy weather at the coast is curtailing production considerably. Dealers are meeting with difficulty in obtaining sufficient supplies of frozen fish owing to the congestion in transportation. One of the leading wholesale houses states that they have about twenty carloads of fish in transit anywhere between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. If the cold weather continues for some time stocks of frozen fish will soon be exhausted, and consequently prices already have an advancing tendency. This is true of halibut and all kinds of lake fish. Frozen Salmon will be ample for requirements. In pickled and salt fish the scarcity is particularly felt with codfish and salmon. Salt eel is in good supply, being the only line of salt fish that has not advanced. Lobsters are selling at very high prices with no signs of improvement. Very few bulk and shell oysters have arrived lately, as the bays and rivers where oysters are produced have frozen up entirely in the past few days. The abnormally cold weather has crippled the trade in many ways.

Current quotations are as follows:

| Fresh Fish:         | Per lb.   |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Haddock .....       | 0.09 0.10 |
| Steak Codfish ..... | 0.11 0.12 |

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Market Cod ..... | 0.07 0.08 |
| Smelts .....     | 0.16      |
| Lobsters .....   | 0.50      |
| Halibut .....    | 0.18 0.19 |
| Flounders .....  | 0.10      |

## Frozen Fish:

|                                      |            |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Gaspé Salmon .....                   | 0.19 0.22  |
| B. C. Salmon, headless and dressed.  | 0.15 0.16  |
| B. C. Salmon, pale head and dressed. | 0.11 0.12  |
| Haddock .....                        | 0.08 0.08½ |
| Western medium halibut .....         | 0.17 0.18  |
| Mackerel .....                       | 0.10 0.10½ |
| Market Cod .....                     | 0.07 0.07½ |
| Whitefish .....                      | 0.12½ 0.13 |
| Dore .....                           | 0.12 0.13  |
| Lake Trout .....                     | 0.14 0.15  |
| Pike .....                           | 0.09 0.10  |
| Flounders .....                      | 0.08 0.09  |
| Eels .....                           | 0.09 0.10  |
| Smelts .....                         | 0.15 0.16  |

## Smoked Fish:

|                                      |           |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Haddies .....                        | 0.12 0.13 |
| Bloaters, 60's, 100's .....          | 1.75      |
| Kipperd herrings, 40's .....         | 1.50      |
| Kipperd herrings, 50's .....         | 1.40      |
| Digby herrings, 5 bx. a bundle ..... | 1.00      |

## Salted and Pickled Fish:

|                                         |             |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------|
| Boneless Cod .....                      | 0.10 0.12   |
| Boneless Herrings, 10-lbs. ....         | 1.40        |
| Shredded Codfish, 12-lb. box .....      | 1.80        |
| No. 1 B. C. Salmon, pink, 200-lbs. .... | 17.00       |
| No. 1 Sea Trout, 200-lbs. bbl. ....     | 15.00 16.00 |
| No. 1 Sea Turbot, 200-lbs. bbl. ....    | 14.00       |
| Labrador Herrings, barrel .....         | 8.50 9.00   |
| Labrador Salmon .....                   | 19.00       |
| No. 1 Green Codfish, barrel .....       | 13.00 14.00 |

## Oysters, Etc:

|                                    |            |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Shrimps, per gallon .....          | 2.00       |
| Bulk Oysters, per gallon .....     | 1.50       |
| Scallops, per gallon .....         | 3.00       |
| Malpeque Shell Oysters, bbl. ....  | 9.00 13.00 |
| Cape Cod Shell Oysters, bbl. ....  | 9.00 12.00 |
| Bluepoint Shell Oysters, bbl. .... | 10.00      |
| Medium Clams, barrel .....         | 8.00       |

## HIDES AND LEATHER.

Advices from Chicago report a quiet hide market. Quotations are practically nominal as business has been very limited. Packers feel that by holding they will get additional prices. The Boston market is also inactive buyers waiting until the political situation is more settled. If the American Government should suddenly decide to equip a larger army, a much more brisk demand would be encountered for leather which would naturally be followed by a more active buying of hides.

Dealers in leather report business in Montreal as fair, being slightly less in volume than in the last three months of 1916. This is usually the case at the beginning of the year as manufacturers have about finished the spring run and will not start actively on fall orders until March or April. A limited quantity of leather is coming from England under license. The submarine menace has made insurance rates so high that shippers are requested to hold their consignments until the rate lowers somewhat. No change has taken place in prices. Tanners are suffering from lack of labor.

Current quotations follow:

| Hides:                 | Per lb.   |
|------------------------|-----------|
| No. 1 inspected .....  | 0.25      |
| No. 2 .....            | 0.24      |
| No. 3 .....            | 0.23      |
| Rough .....            | 0.21      |
| Sheepskins, each ..... | 3.90      |
| Calfskins .....        | 0.36 0.38 |

## Sole Leather:

|                                      | No. 1     | No. 2 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| Spanish sides .....                  | 0.60 0.58 |       |
| Oak Sides, Canadian, dry hides ..... | 0.63 0.61 |       |
| Do., from hides, green .....         | 0.68 0.66 |       |
| Oak backs .....                      | 0.72 0.70 |       |
| Oak bends .....                      | 0.82 0.80 |       |

|                             | Per ft.   |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Sheep skins, linings .....  | 0.20 0.22 |
| Do., toppings .....         | 0.25 0.30 |
| Chrome tongue, splits ..... | 0.15      |
| Kid, glazed table run ..... | 0.60      |

## Upper Leather:

|                         | Per ft.   |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Gun Metal Sides .....   | 0.46 0.50 |
| Chrome Box Sides .....  | 0.44 0.48 |
| Matt Sides .....        | 0.44      |
| Patent Chrome .....     | 0.48 0.55 |
| Kangaroo Grain .....    | 0.42      |
| Russett Oil Grain ..... | 0.42      |
| Elk .....               | 0.48      |
| Splits Wax .....        | 0.36 0.40 |

## Automobile, Carriage, and Furniture Leather:

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Spanish furniture ..... | 0.37 0.38 |
| Hand buffed .....       | 0.35 0.36 |
| Machine buffed .....    | 0.32      |
| Deep buffed .....       | 0.19 0.20 |
| Split .....             | 0.16      |

## Belting Leather:

|                                    |           |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Belting butts, shoulders off ..... | 1.60 1.75 |
| Belting butts, shoulders, or ..... | 1.40 1.50 |
| Harness .....                      | 0.62 0.65 |
| Skirting .....                     | 0.35 0.37 |

## THE GRAIN MARKETS.

During the past week the wheat market has fluctuated within narrow limits closing virtually unchanged. The attention of the trade is entirely focussed on the question of transportation, interior and export freight conditions being abnormally congested. Traffic in the West is very bad and the railroads seem helpless and unable to relieve the situation. Huge stocks of cereals are tied up in elevators at Chicago, on side tracks vainly awaiting shipment. The slow movement of grain is bringing about a very strong position at the seaboard, and holders are slow about making sales. Steamships are being delayed on account of their inability to procure their cargoes. Premiums of 25 cents a bushel have been paid for No. 2 hard winter wheat, free on board seaboard. Word was received last week that Great Britain would curtail imports of cotton and would use for grain and munitions the vessel room thus made available. The Netherlands Government appears to have been successful in solving the difficulties which brought to a standstill all Dutch traffic with the United States, and it is announced that open bids for flour will be received on February 21. Crop damage reports from Kansas, Nebraska and Missouri have given transient strength to the market. Stocks of wheat at the head of the lakes in Canada and on the farms are believed to be large, and increased offerings from that quarter are anticipated for the opening of navigation. Holders of Canadian wheat are believed to be seeking a market, and reports from Minneapolis last week were to the effect that one-half to a million bushels of Canadian wheat had recently been purchased by Minneapolis millers.

As regards the local Montreal market, spot grains of all kinds are commanding a premium over grains in transit or for shipment. Business is seriously hampered owing to the scarcity of cars, so much so that the city flour mills have had to close down for a few days the past week as they had no wheat to grind. The demand for export is good, but lack of ocean space prevents business. Some business in oats has been worked from Portland and St. John for export at big prices. The same applies to barley.

Chicago and Winnipeg future wheat prices show little change for the week. Closing quotations today (Monday) at Winnipeg are \$1.75½ for May, \$1.73½ for July and \$1.49½ for October, as compared with \$1.75, \$1.72½ and \$1.41½ respectively, last week. Chicago quotes \$1.75½ to \$1.76 for May, \$1.50½ for July and \$1.39½-½ for September as compared with last Monday's quotations of \$1.73½ for May and \$1.48 for July.

The cash grain situation is as follows:

| Grains:                            | per bushel. |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Spring Wheat Manitoba, No. 1 ..... | 1.88 1.90   |
| Do., No. 2 .....                   | 1.85 1.87   |
| Do., No. 3 .....                   | 1.99 1.81   |
| Do., No. 4 .....                   | 1.71 1.73   |
| Winter Wheat Ontario, No. 2 .....  | 1.73 1.75   |
| <b>Oats:</b>                       |             |
| No. 2 C. W. ....                   | 0.75        |
| Do., No. 3 C. W. ....              | 0.73        |
| Do., Extra No. 1 feed .....        | 0.73        |
| Do., No. 1 feed .....              | 0.72½       |
| Do., No. 2 feed .....              | 0.70        |
| Ontario Oats, No. 2, white .....   | 0.63 0.65   |
| Do., No. 3 .....                   | 0.61 0.63   |
| Barley, No. 3 C. W., Rej. ....     | 1.00        |
| Do., Feed .....                    | 0.99        |
| Corn, American, ex-track .....     | 1.24        |

## MONTREAL GRAIN STOCKS.

The following table shows the stocks of grain and flour in store in Montreal on the dates mentioned:

|                          | 1917.     | 1917.     | 1916.     |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                          | Feb. 17.  | Feb. 10.  | Feb. 19.  |
| Wheat, bushels .....     | 717,785   | 711,532   | 1,227,336 |
| Corn, bushels .....      | 17,189    | 18,723    | 11,264    |
| Peas, bushels .....      | 2,466     | 2,466     | 261       |
| Oats, bushels .....      | 2,936,935 | 3,369,810 | 2,057,508 |
| Barley, bushels .....    | 149,748   | 155,741   | 194,447   |
| Rye, bushels .....       | 17,672    | 17,252    | 25,761    |
| Buckwheat, bushels ..... | 4,753     | 4,753     | 5,262     |
| Flour, sacks .....       | 31,718    | 35,038    | 50,226    |

## RECEIPTS OF BUTTER, CHEESE AND EGGS.

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

|                               | Butter, | Cheese,   | Eggs,   |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----------|---------|
|                               | pkgs.   | boxes.    | cases.  |
| Week ending Feb. 17, 1917.    | 1,512   | 2,961     | 2,797   |
| Week ending Feb. 10, 1917.    | 1,617   | 6,132     | 4,290   |
| Week ending Feb. 19, 1916.    | 739     | 273       | 4,189   |
| Total receipts May 1st, 1916, |         |           |         |
| to Feb. 17th, 1917 .....      | 501,554 | 2,240,333 | 637,738 |
| Total receipts May 1st, 1915, |         |           |         |
| to Feb. 19th, 1916 .....      | 397,144 | 1,995,218 | 536,042 |