

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Cold weather and snow, coupled with the close of navigation has had a stimulating effect at trade centres in Eastern Canada, where preparations for the holiday trade are going on briskly. Manufacturing plants in most cases are operating to capacity, with all available labor employed at high wages. Transportation presents many problems, with the outlook for cars less favorable than last year. The express companies are already feeling the benefit of this shortage of rolling stock. The wholesale dry goods trade reports an active week with many sorting orders received for seasonable goods, some of which had been delayed by deferred deliveries from the mills. A great deal of the business transacted has been with firms that formerly imported direct from Europe. The boot and shoe trade is actively engaged on spring goods and new orders are coming in considerably in excess of other years despite the steady advance in the leather market, which has now touched unprecedented levels. Furniture dealers report a brisk trade in medium and cheap lines with a steady stream of repair orders in the expensive grades. Prices are strong on account of the high cost of labor, imported woods and other materials.

Wholesale grocers are busy in anticipation of the Christmas trade. Flour is selling at \$10.60 per barrel, a record price, 10 cents above previous highest quotations. Sugar is firmly held and is selling at a uniform price of \$7.85 for extra granulated in bags, by all refineries. There is very little activity in the markets for dairy produce as the make is about over, and a large proportion of the export trade has been diverted to New York. Prices, however, continue to advance, owing to the light stocks held at Canadian centres. Eggs are scarce, and new laid almost unobtainable. Prices of vegetables are higher as farmers are pretty well sold out. Potatoes appear to have firmed up again after showing a weaker tendency during the week owing to heavier arrivals. Dried fruits and nuts are scarce and dear on the whole. Oil and paint firms report satisfactory conditions, and hardware, iron and steel trades are well employed, with prices tending upwards. Prices for all live stock are inclined to advance. Remittances are coming in well and collections in general show a gradual improvement.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

EGGS: Receipts of eggs for the past week in Montreal amounted to 33,633 cases. Prices of eggs have risen still further, particularly for new laid which are almost unobtainable. Shipments of eggs are going forward freely to the United Kingdom. A good demand is reported in the domestic trade. Stocks of eggs are low as nothing more is coming in, which is bound to result in still higher values during the winter.

POULTRY: The cold weather seems to have loosened up a good deal of poultry, resulting in heavier deliveries than usual. In spite of the fact that the quality is not always what it might be, dealers report a good demand for the poultry coming forward.

POTATOES: The potato market is slightly weaker in tone owing to the arrival of large stocks from outside shipping points. There has been a better demand of late and quite a few carloads have been shipped to the United States.

BEANS: The tone of the market for beans is strong and prices have scored a further advance with a good demand for all offerings and a fairly active trade was done.

Current quotations follow:

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------|
| Eggs:— | | |
| Special New Laid | 0.65 | 0.70 |
| Extras | | 0.42 |
| No. 1 | | 0.39 |
| No. 2 | | 0.36 |
| Poultry—Live: | | |
| | per pound. | |
| Fowls, 5 lbs. and over | 0.13 | 0.14 |
| Fowls, small | 0.12 | 0.13 |
| Old Turkeys, cocks | 0.24 | 0.25 |
| Do., hens | 0.25 | 0.26 |
| Fresh Killed Poultry: | | |
| Old Turkeys, cocks | 0.26 | 0.27 |
| Do., hens | 0.27 | 0.28 |
| Do., Roasting | 0.27 | 0.28 |
| Fowls, hens | 0.15 | 0.16 |
| Do., roosters | 0.14 | 0.15 |
| Broilers, 2½ to 3 lbs., per lb .. | 0.20 | 0.22 |

| | | |
|--|------|------|
| Do., 2 to 2½ lbs., per lb. | 0.21 | 0.23 |
| Squabs | 0.35 | 0.45 |
| Geese | 0.16 | 0.17 |
| Ducks | 0.17 | 0.18 |
| Maple Products:— | | |
| Pure maple syrup, quart cans | 0.40 | |
| Pure maple syrup, 9-lb. tins | 1.00 | 1.10 |
| Extra choice syrup, 13-lb. tins .. | 1.25 | 1.30 |
| Pure Maple sugar, per lb. | 0.13 | 0.14 |
| Potatoes:— | | |
| Green Mountains, per bag of 80 lbs. ex-track | | 2.25 |
| Do., to jobbers, ex-store, per 80lb. bag | | 2.35 |
| Quebec's, per bag of 80 lbs. ex-track .. | 2.00 | 2.10 |
| Do., to jobbers, ex-store, per 80 lb. bag | 2.10 | 2.20 |
| Beans:— | | |
| Can. hand-picked car lots | 6.75 | 7.00 |
| Three-lb. pickers | 6.50 | 6.65 |
| Five-lb. pickers | 6.00 | 6.25 |
| Six to seven-lb. pickers | 5.00 | 5.90 |

PROVISIONS.

The tone of the live hog market shows no change, being firmly held at \$11.50 for choice selected lots and \$11.25 for good selects. Dressed hogs, however, are stronger, and prices have advanced 25c per 100 lbs. A good trade is passing in smoked and cured meats for the season of the year, and the prospects are that prices will show an advance later in the season. Offerings of lard are none too large and consequently with an active domestic demand prices are well maintained.

Current prices are as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|------------|
| Hams:— | | Per lb. |
| Smoked Hams, 8-14 lbs. | 0.23 | |
| Do., 14-20 lbs. | 0.22 | |
| Do., 20-25 lbs. | 0.21 | |
| Do., over 25 lbs. | 0.20 | |
| Bacon:— | | |
| Breakfast | 0.25 | 0.30 |
| Windsor Bacon, selected | | 0.27 |
| Windsor Bacon, boneless | | 0.28 |
| Barrel Pork:— | | Per bbl. |
| Short cut pork | 38.00 | |
| Clear Fat Pork | 40.00 | |
| Mess Pork | 35.00 | |
| Bean Pork, American | 32.00 | |
| Barrel Beef:— | | |
| Plate Pork, 200 lbs. | 32.00 | |
| Pure Lard:— | | per pound. |
| Tierces | 0.18½ | |
| Tubs | 0.18½ | |
| Pails | 0.18½ | |
| Tins | 0.18½ | |
| Cases, 3, 5, 10's | 0.18½ | 0.19 |
| Prints | 0.19½ | |
| Compound Lard:— | | |
| Western Grades:— | | |
| Tierces | 0.15 | |
| Tubs | 0.15½ | |
| Tins | 0.15½ | |
| Cases, 3, 5, 10's | 0.16½ | |
| Prints | 0.16½ | |
| Cooked meats:— | | |
| Roast shoulder pork | 0.29 | |
| Roast hams, boneless | 0.37 | |
| Cooked hams, boneless | 0.38 | |
| Cooked hams, rind off | 0.37 | |
| Head cheese | 0.09 | |
| English brawn | 0.11 | |

DAIRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER: The butter market is very firm, prices having advanced another ½c over last week's values. The quality of butter now coming forward is inferior on account of being winter make. Prices of new make winter butter are therefore easier than the autumn production. Very little activity is reported as buyers appear to have filled their requirements for the time being. The export season appears to be over as the trade with Great Britain has been diverted to the United States. There continues to be some enquiry from outside points in Canada, and sales have been made for Quebec, the Maritime Provinces and Ontario.

CHEESE: Values in the cheese market have attained new high levels, no less than 26c having been asked last week. A slightly easier feeling has developed during the last few days as the export market is practically at a standstill owing to the close of navigation which will interfere with shipping during the next week or so. Very little cheese is coming in as the make is practically over, and the November make is always small.

Current quotations are as follows:

| | | |
|--|------|-------|
| Butter:— | | |
| Fresh creamery solids | 0.44 | 0.44½ |
| Dairy butter | 0.34 | 0.36½ |
| Pale mild butter, ½ to 1% salt, for export | | 0.44 |
| Seconds | 0.43 | 0.43½ |
| City Selling Prices to grocers: | | |
| Choice Creamery Solids | 0.45 | |

| | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| Do., Prints, city cut | 0.45½ | |
| Cooking butter | 0.38 | 0.39 |
| Cheese:— | | |
| Finest Western | 0.24 | 0.25 |
| Finest Eastern | 0.23 | 0.24 |
| Fine Eastern | 0.23½ | 0.24½ |
| City Selling Prices to grocers: | | |
| Large | 0.24 | 0.26 |
| Stilton cheese | 0.24 | 0.27 |
| Twins | | 0.24½ |
| Quebec Cheese | | 0.24 |
| Canadian Strong Cheese | 0.27 | 0.28 |
| Roquefort | | 0.65 |
| Swiss Gruyere | | 0.60 |

GROCERIES.

In common with other trades, all lines of groceries show a tendency to advance, and the word "decline" is for the time being almost a relic of the past. Canned goods are very high, with a fairly good demand for all varieties. About 50,000 cases of tomatoes have been imported from the United States to replenish the Canadian market which otherwise was practically bare of supplies. This quantity, however, is only sufficient to fill short orders and has not served to ease the situation in any way. New York reports a weaker tendency to the market where canned tomatoes are being offered for resale on increasingly favorable terms. Any marked weakness in the American market will doubtless be taken advantage of by Canadian dealers.

The demand for sugar continues normal with prices again on a regular basis of \$7.90 for No. 1 granulated and \$7.50 for yellow. Canadian beans are being held back by farmers who are asking very high prices. Good boiling peas are scarce and selling at \$4.50 a bushel. Molasses is firm, and is selling at 62c a gallon f. o. b. Montreal in puncheons in the city limits. Stocks are very light and every effort is being made to conserve supplies until the new crop molasses begins to reach this market after the New Year. No large quantities are expected, however, until February or March when the season is in full swing. Olive oil is strong and advancing, and the same applies to bottled olives. Starch and corn syrup are firmly maintained in sympathy with the advancing corn market. Deliveries of rolled oats are coming in very slowly. Some orders taking as long as four or five months. Canadian sardines have advanced 30c a case as all varieties are scarce and high. Canned salmon is also high and difficult to obtain. The latest prices of canned goods as quoted by wholesalers follow:

| | | |
|---|------|----------|
| | | Per Doz. |
| Tomatoes, 2 lb. tins | 2.15 | |
| Do., 3 lb. tins | 2.25 | |
| Do., gallon tins | 8.00 | |
| Corn, 2 lb. tins | 1.50 | |
| Peas, 2 lb. tins | 1.30 | 1.35 |
| Beans, golden wax, 2 lb. tins | | 1.30 |
| Peaches, 2 lb. tins | | 1.60 |
| Do., 2½ lb. tins | | 2.00 |
| Pears, Bartlett, in heavy syrup, 2 lb. tins | | 1.75 |
| Do., in light syrup | | 1.60 |
| Raspberries, 2 lb. tins | | 2.35 |
| Strawberries, 2 lb. tins | | 2.50 |
| Pumpkins, 2½ lb. tins | | 1.60 |
| Spinach, 2 lb. tins | | 1.50 |
| Sardines, Canadian, per 100 tin case .. | 4.35 | |
| Salmon | 2.50 | 3.50 |

MONTREAL GRAIN STOCKS.

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

| | Nov. 25, 1916. | Nov. 18, 1916. | Nov. 27, 1915. |
|--------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Wheat, bush. | 1,368,127 | 1,775,955 | 1,547,525 |
| Corn, bush. | 46,791 | 221,900 | 5,500 |
| Oats, bush. | 5,024,827 | 5,045,544 | 1,387,361 |
| Barley, bush. | 80,990 | 236,042 | 4,584 |

COTTON GINNING REPORT.

A report issued by the U. S. Bureau of the Census last week places the quantity of cotton ginned from the growth of the crop of 1916 to November 14th at 9,615,833 bales, counting round as half bales, compared with 8,771,275 bales in 1915 and 11,663,240 bales in 1914. The corrected statistics of the quantity ginned this season prior to November 1st are 8,626,289 bales.

The number of round bales included this year is 168,348 contrasted with 82,312 in 1915 and 31,904 in 1914, and the number of Sea Island bales in 1916 is 93,004 against 68,941 in 1915 and 54,197 in 1914.