

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

Farmers are complaining of the continued cold weather as retarding agriculture but reports from leading wholesale houses are rather favorable. Dry goods sorting orders are improving and travellers are meeting with better conditions on the road. All classes of woolen goods are growing more scarce and prices are moving in sympathy with the advanced quotations on the raw material. The British government has just issued an order forbidding the use of wooden boxes in shipping goods and local wholesalers are afraid that delicate fabrics in bales will be damaged in transit. Imports are arriving at a very satisfactory rate, but the export trade is finding difficulty in securing ocean tonnage. With speculation in wheat eliminated, prices for the moment declined, but the opinion of the local trade seems to be that such a move will not help the price situation. Pasturage conditions are improving all the time with the result that the demand for millfeed has fallen off and trade is slow. Eggs are in a very active market in spite of the extremely high prices that are ruling. Groceries show a steady distribution in staple lines. Stocks of canned goods are getting in narrow compass, and there has been active buying on British account. Favorable reports have been received from British Columbia regarding the spring run of salmon. For cured meats there is a fairly active demand at the high prevailing prices. The cheese market appears unsettled owing, it is said, to lack of ocean space, and some reports of the British Government fixing a maximum price for army orders.

It is a between season time in the boot and shoe trade, and the demand for leather is not brisk. There is an easier tone to the market, though prices are not notably lower. Somewhat similar conditions prevail in the hide market. Butchers and grocers both report diminished sales of bacon due to the high price prevailing for that commodity.

Bradstreet reports remittances as good, with city collections somewhat slow.

## PROVISIONS.

There have been quite a few price changes in the provision market during the past week, all, of course, of an upward tend. "The continued scarcity of hogs," said one dealer, "with the high prices prevailing for them is the reason for this movement. I do not expect to see lower prices for some time, in fact for a long time as we are just approaching the season when the demand for smoked meats of all kinds will be larger. The Chicago market, it is true, is a little easier, but the respite is only temporary. Canadian farmers are putting forth every effort to increase the number of hogs raised, but even more liberal supplies will not help matters very much. There is a demand from the packers which must be met and besides it is the lure of high prices which is causing the farmers to devote the attention they are devoting to hogs. Naturally they will ask as big prices as possible."

"Conditions as regards farm labor," said another dealer, "are critical and farmers as a result are looking for products with which they can secure the greatest return with the least amount of help. For that reason we will probably see large quantities of hogs put up for sale this fall, but whether this will have any marked effect on prices remains to be seen. It will depend entirely upon the then prevalent conditions."

Shortening has advanced another cent per pound due to prevailing quotations for cotton seed oil.

Current prices are as follows:

	Per lb.
<b>Hams:</b>	
Smoked Hams, 8-14 lbs. . . . .	0.33
Do., 14-20 lbs. . . . .	0.32
Do., 20-25 lbs. . . . .	0.30
Do., over 25 lbs. . . . .	0.29
<b>Bacon:</b>	
Breakfast . . . . .	0.32 0.34
Windsor Bacon, selected . . . . .	0.34 0.36
Windsor Bacon, boneless . . . . .	0.36 0.38
<b>Barrel Pork:</b>	
Short cut pork . . . . .	50.00
Clear fat pork . . . . .	50.00
Mess pork . . . . .	48.00
Bean pork, American . . . . .	46.00
Plate pork, 200-lbs. . . . .	44.00
<b>Pure Lard:</b>	
Tierces . . . . .	0.28
Tubs . . . . .	0.28 1/2
Pails . . . . .	0.28 1/2

Tins . . . . .	0.28 1/2
Cases, 3, 5, 10's . . . . .	0.29
<b>Compound Lard—Western Grades:</b>	
Tubs . . . . .	0.22 1/2
Pails . . . . .	0.22 1/2
Tins . . . . .	0.23 1/2
Cases, 3, 5, 10's . . . . .	0.23 1/2
Prints . . . . .	0.23 1/2
<b>Cooked Meats:</b>	
Roast shoulder pork . . . . .	0.42
Roast hams, boneless . . . . .	0.46
Cooked hams, boneless . . . . .	0.40
Cooked hams, rind off . . . . .	0.41
Head cheese . . . . .	0.16
English brawn . . . . .	0.15

## SUGAR.

"Current market conditions," said an official of one of the two local refineries which dropped prices last week, "are the only reason for the 15c decline shown in our prices. We have been quoting \$8.50 for some time past with one other refinery, but the others, although out of the market would not raise—it left us nothing to do but meet them on their own level. There is a rule here that the lowest price is the prevailing price and we found that some wholesalers were buying at \$8.35, less a trade discount, and then instead of selling at \$8.35 were charging \$8.50 and \$8.55. We were forced practically, in order to do any business, to come down to their figure." Questioned as to future prospects he declined to express any opinion except that if the proposed tariff changes should go into effect in the United States the prices here would undoubtedly raise as practically all cane is purchased through the States. As the market now stands quotations from all refineries are uniform.

Current quotations follow:

Standard or fine, bags, 100-lbs. . . . .	Basis, \$ 8.35
Do., barrels . . . . .	8.40
Do., gunnies, 5-20s. . . . .	8.50
Do., gunnies, 10-10c . . . . .	8.55
Do., cartons, 20-5s . . . . .	8.60
Do., cartons, 50-2s. . . . .	8.65
Light yellow, bags, 100-lbs. . . . .	7.95
Do., barrels . . . . .	8.00
Brilliant yellow, bags, 100-lbs. . . . .	7.95
Do., barrels . . . . .	8.00
Dark yellow, bags, 100-lbs. . . . .	7.75
Do., barrels . . . . .	7.80
Extra ground (icing), barrels . . . . .	8.55
Do., boxes, 50-lbs. bulk . . . . .	8.75
Do., boxes, 25-lbs. bulk . . . . .	8.95
Do., cartons, 50-ls . . . . .	9.85
Do., cartons, 20-ls . . . . .	10.10
Powdered, barrels . . . . .	8.45
Do., boxes, 25-lbs. bulk . . . . .	8.65
Do., boxes, 25-lbs. bulk . . . . .	8.85
Do., cartons, 50-2s. . . . .	9.15
Do., cartons, 20-2s. . . . .	9.60

## DAIRY PRODUCE.

**BUTTER:** Prices in the early part of last week were rather irregular, declining at St. Hyacinthe 1 1/2c from the former week's quotation of 41 1/2c, which was held at Cowansville, while at the auction here in the Board of Trade an advance of 1/4c to 3/4c per pound was noticed. At Gould's Cold Storage sales were made at 40 1/2c, f.o.b. country points. Trade, which had been dull and small, picked up towards the end of the week. At the Quebec Agricultural Co-operative Society sale held at the Board of Trade on Friday there were 515 packages of creamery butter offered, of which 83 packages pasteurized creamery sold at 42 1/2c per lb.; 255 packages finest at 42c, and 177 packages fine at 41 1/4c.

Dealers say that current receipts are just about sufficient to meet daily requirements, and until production increases to the point where a surplus is left on the boards lower values are not looked for.

**CHEESE:** The cheese market is in a very unsettled state, for although there is a good, steady demand, prices are very irregular, with the buyers apparently holding off, awaiting the announcement of the cheese commission. At Gould's Cold Storage on Friday 2,500 boxes of Ontario goods were offered, and were picked up at 22c to 23 1/2c, f.o.b. country points. At the Quebec Agricultural Co-operative Society sale held at the Board of Trade on the same day No. 1 white sold for 22 1/2c per lb., and No. 2 white at 21 1/4c.

At a gathering of the Brockville Dairymen's Board of Trade, the cheese situation was dealt with at length, and from opinions expressed it was quite apparent that cheese producers would not accept the price of 22 1/2c as a basis for the season. This price has been widely suggested by purchasers, but the opinion prevails that a price of from four to five cents higher is necessary to relieve the farmers.

## How the Markets Stand

Flour is down \$1.90 per bbl. for spring wheat grades, while the winter wheat varieties after a raise of 50c in the early part of the week dropped \$1.00 later and are now steady at the decline. Sugar also took a downward dip and is quoted generally at \$8.35. These two commodities finish the list of products showing a lowering of prices. Eggs are keeping high, and rose a cent or two per dozen, f.o.b., the country. This is due to keen competition, packers apparently wanting the eggs at almost any price. In provisions the same state of affairs is noticed. All pork products are up about 1c per lb. and since the season for smoked meats is just commencing, no decline is looked for. Cotton seed oil prices are the cause of the increase in shortening. Beans are in a very strong market and prices are firmer than last week, while potatoes are in about the same condition. Butter quotations have been rather irregular, wavering around 41 1/2c, but with warmer weather supplies are expected to increase and this figure lowered. Cheese is in a very unsettled market, buyers and sellers having difficulty in reaching any agreement. Feeds are in a slow state, the demand for bran in particular, having fallen off, but prices are steady at the recent decline. Wheat has been through an erratic market of late, with prices better than they have been. Oats is also quoted at a higher figure. Dried fruits are very firm and quotations in all lines, with the exception of raisins have advanced. Peanuts are higher and, in fact, wholesalers are marking new arrivals at present retail prices. The tea market at Yokohama opened last week with a better grade of tea for sale and prices not any higher than expected. Coffee is firm, it being difficult to secure supplies. Leather is a little better in price due to more inquiries being made from boot and shoe manufacturers. Hides and skins are steady at former figures. Woolen goods during the past year have practically doubled in value following the prices of wool, quotations for unwashed being 55c, and fine combing at 70c-87c.

During the last two weeks there has not been a box of cheese sold on the Brockville market, factory men, apparently, awaiting developments.

Current prices follow:

<b>Butter:</b>		
Choice Fall Creamery Solids . . . . .	0.40	0.41
Fine Fall Creamery . . . . .	0.38	0.39
Finest New Milk Creamery . . . . .	0.42	0.42 1/2
Finest Dairy Butter . . . . .	0.36	0.37
Fine Dairy Butter . . . . .	0.34	0.35
Undergrade Dairy . . . . .	0.31	0.32
<b>Cheese:</b>		
Finest Western . . . . .	0.26	
Fine Eastern . . . . .	0.25	0.25 1/2
Winter Make . . . . .	0.24	0.25
<b>City Selling Prices to grocers:</b>		
Large . . . . .	0.26	0.26 1/2
Twins . . . . .	0.26	0.26 1/2
Quebec Cheese . . . . .	0.24	0.27
Canadian Strong Cheese . . . . .	0.26 1/2	0.27
Stilton . . . . .		0.29

## COUNTRY PRODUCE.

**EGGS:** There is general dissatisfaction with regard to the egg situation. Export business is at a standstill, of course, but this is a state of affairs to which exporters have become inured. The real trouble is the extreme prices farmers are asking for eggs. 40c and 41c are prevailing quotations, with a buying price of 1c to 1 1/2c higher in some cases, all f.o.b., the country. City prices have not, however, changed, and new laid eggs are selling to grocers for 44c. It is just possible that warmer weather may bring a decline, but sales for storage are being made at the above prices.

To illustrate the extent to which Canada has lost its export egg trade, it may be stated that from 1900 to 1902, we exported between 450,000 and 500,000 cases of eggs annually, or between 13,500,000 and 15,000,000 dozen. Last year, however, our exports had dwindled down to 5,481,958 dozen, and had it not been for the efforts made by the Poultry Division of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, the exports in 1916 would have been much less. There is an unlimited market in England, and there is no reason why the exports of 1900 and 1902 should not be doubled.

**POULTRY:** There is no fresh killed poultry on the market. Live poultry is higher, with fair supplies and demand.