

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Review says: Dispatches to Dun's Review from branch offices of R. G. Dun & Co. in leading cities of the Dominion of Canada state that extensive government requirements maintain industrial activity, and that this, together with the generally prosperous conditions prevailing in the agricultural communities and warmer weather, result in a steady demand for seasonable commodities at nearly all centres. At the same time, the high prices and scarcity of many kinds of merchandise are causing an increasing preference to be shown for the more staple article, and this tendency is especially noticeable in foodstuffs, clothing, dry goods and kindred trades. Transportation conditions display marked improvement, collections, as a rule, are satisfactory, the crop outlook in almost all sections continues excellent and there is no particular stringency in the money market, all of which are encouraging factors and tend to sustain confidence in the future.

Montreal reports a steady run of orders in most wholesale lines, and city distribution of seasonable goods quite active, as a result of warmer weather. Some comment is made regarding the scarcity of certain merchandise, especially dry goods, but buyers appear to recognize that this is inevitable and there is a general disposition to accept conditions without undue complaint.

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report of June 8th, 1918, reads: The weather has been ideal for the growing crops. It has been predicted that the wheat crop in Western Canada this year will be 300,000,000 bushels. The apply crop in this province will be lighter than that of a year ago. The hay crop promises well, the meadows never looked better, as a result of which a weaker feeling developed in the market for mill-feeds. The hay trade is quiet and prices rule easy, on account of the promising outlook for a good crop. Favorable crop outlook for oats, corn and flaxseed, was the cause of a much easier feeling in the local grain markets.

The hardware trade is fairly good, advances in prices of a few miscellaneous lines have been noted, especially wire nails. The leather market is steady at firm prices, shipments to the United States are light, owing to Government restrictions. The hide market is firmer.

In the live stock markets the offerings of cattle were light and prices advanced 25c to 50c per hundred pounds. Calves were held at one dollar over last week's prices. Hogs were 25c to 50c per pound lower.

For the first two months of the fiscal year, customs receipts showed a decrease of over two million dollars, as compared with the same period of a year ago.

Remittances continue good, but city collections are rather slow. Retail trade has been very fair.

## COUNTRY PRODUCE.

### BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending June 8th, 1918, were 19,819 packages, which show an increase of 5,232 packages as compared with the previous week, and an increase of 6,801 packages with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st, to date, show an increase of 12,282 packages, as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The butter market developed an easier tone last week due to the fact that receipts were heavier, stocks had accumulated and the demand was slight. At the auction sales held this week the offerings amounted to 3,252 packages of creamery butter, of which the pasteurized sold at 43½c to 43¾c; finest at 43¾c to 43c, and fine at 43c, while at Gould's Cold Storage 900 packages were sold at 42¾c, 42½c and 43c, f.o.b., country points. The volume of business in the local market this week was small, the demand being limited owing to the fact that buyers were not disposed to operate freely, and sales were chiefly in small lots to meet immediate wants.

We quote the following prices:

Finest creamery .....	0.43½	0.44
Fine creamery .....	0.42½	0.43
Fine dairy .....	0.36½	0.37
Margarine:—		
Prints .....	0.29½	0.34

Bulk .....	0.28½	0.31½
Cottonseed (Shortening):		
Tierces, per lb. ....	0.26¾	
Tubs, per lb. ....	0.26¾	
Pails, per lb. ....	0.27	
Cartons .....	0.28	

### CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending June 8th, 1918, were 57,896 boxes, which show an increase of 10,863 boxes, as compared with the previous week, and an increase of 4,429 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st to date, show a decrease of 1,909 boxes as compared with the corresponding period in 1917. The offerings of cheese last week, were much larger than for any previous week and an easier tone prevailed. The demand was good and trade was quite active, which may be attributed to the fact that the movement for export account was very liberal. The domestic demand for small cheese for home consumption was steady, and a fair business was done with sales of 20-lb. cheese and twins at 22½c to 23c per lb.

The Commission is paying the following prices:

No. 1 cheese .....	0.23
No. 2 cheese .....	0.22½
No. 3 cheese .....	0.22

### EGGS.

The receipts for the week ending June 8th, 1918, were 11,845 cases, as compared with 16,746 for the previous week and 16,514 for the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1st, 1918, to date were 82,335 cases, as against 114,581 for the corresponding period in 1917. The receipts of eggs for the week were smaller, the domestic trade was fairly active and prices remained unchanged. We quote wholesale jobbing prices as follows:

Selected new laid eggs .....	44c to 45c
New laid stock .....	00c to 42c
No. 1 stock .....	00c to 40c
No. 2 stock .....	00c to 38c

Eastern markets are reported unsettled and easy. Prices at country points have shown a further decline. Storing at the lower prices is reported to be more active than previously on the part of some firms. With the limitation of profits on eggs the trade generally is taking no chance and this has led to an easier condition and lower prices on all grades. The redeeming feature of the present situation is the continued heavy consumption. Jobbing prices on straight gathered candled stock are easier on our Eastern markets, but specials hold at the previous level.

Some western eggs continue to arrive at Toronto and Montreal, and a car now rolling to the former city is costing 38c delivered, thus netting the western shipper about 32c. Further carlot shipments are being offered on a basis of 34 to 34½ f.o.b. rots and cracks out.

In British Columbia the market continues very firm, the demand for both eggs and poultry being greater than the supply. Receipts in Alberta are continuing well up to expectations, but with some increasing variation in quality. Saskatchewan points are quiet, while following the recent strikes in Winnipeg the market there is still more or less unsettled. Storing is still in progress in Alberta, and shipments of carlots are reported rolling between Saskatchewan and Manitoba points, and Toronto and Montreal, with smaller lots moving from the Prairie Provinces to British Columbia.

The situation in the United States is easier. Receipts are somewhat lighter, and show considerable deterioration, heavy yolked and weak bodied eggs being more numerous. This is particularly true of southern sections, and only the fancy northern receipts bring full quotations. Efforts are being made by the Food Administration to reduce the wastage in eggs to a minimum.

Several cables have been received from Great Britain making enquiries for immediate and fall shipment, but no business is reported.

### POULTRY.

The situation with regard to poultry is very firm in this country. Storage stocks are getting into very small compass, with some varieties already sold up. The demand continues good, and all live and fresh killed receipts are picked up at full prices on arrival. Fowl and cocks form the bulk of receipts, and a few

broilers and spring ducks are arriving. The demand for poultry has been unprecedented, and dealers in Montreal report they expect all storage stocks to be cleaned up by August 1st.

Supplies of live poultry on United States markets were lighter last week and the active demand in many instances strengthened prices. Frozen poultry is reported to be moving satisfactorily. Much deterioration is apparent in arrivals office-packed and these have moved at low and irregular prices.

### BEANS.

Although the volume of business was small, the market for beans ruled steady. Canadian hand-picked beans in car lots were quoted at \$8.50, and in smaller quantities at \$8.75, while Quebec beans sold at \$8.25 to \$8.40, and Japan at \$8 to \$8.25 per bushel.

### POTATOES.

The offerings of potatoes were small and prices of all grades were maintained, otherwise there were no developments in the market. Only a moderate amount of business was done in a wholesale jobbing way in Green Mountains at \$1.80; reds at \$1.70, and McIntyres at \$1.60 per bag, of 90 lbs., ex-store, while in car lots Green Mountains were quoted at \$1.55 to \$1.60 per bag, of 90 lbs. in bulk; reds at \$1.45 to \$1.50, including bags, and McIntyres at \$1.35 to \$1.40 ex-track.

### LOCAL GRAIN.

Prices generally recorded increases as compared with those of the previous week, although reports show that the crops both in Canada and the U.S. were never in better condition at the time of the year, but the demand from shorts to fill orders was good.

On Saturday, the Winnipeg market for oats closed easier at a decline of ½c per bushel, but prices show a net advance for the week of 3½c, while the rise in prices in the Chicago market for corn amounted to 4c to 6½c. The advance in prices for oats in the local market for the week was 2c to 3c per bushel, but the higher level of the demand was somewhat limited and only a moderate amount of business was done. The market on Saturday closed firm, with car lots of No. 2 Canadian western quoted at 95c, tough No. 2 C.W. and extra No. 1 feed at 93c, No. 1 feed at 89c, and No. 2 feed at 96c per bushel ex store. There was a little better demand for Manitoba barley from country buyers and sales of car lots of rejected were made at \$1.34, and feed at \$1.26 per bushel ex store, which prices show an advance of 7c to 10c per bushel for the week. The trade in American corn was fair, with sales of car lots of No. 3 yellow at \$1.75 to \$1.80, and No. 4 yellow at \$1.70 to \$1.75 per bushel ex store.

Fluctuations in grain on Saturday at Winnipeg were:

Oats:	
No. 2 C.W. ....	83½
Do., No. 3 C. W. ....	80½
Do., Extra No. 1 feed .....	80½
Do., No. 1 feed .....	77½
Do., No. 2 feed .....	74½

Barley:	
No. 3 C. W. ....	1.25
No. 4 C. W. ....	1.20

Flax:	
No. 1 N. C. W. ....	3.70½
No. 2 C. W. ....	3.66½
No. 3 C. W. ....	3.41½

### LOCAL FLOUR.

There continues a scarcity of wheat for milling purposes and many of the leading mills have been obliged to close down, while others are only operating part time. Some of the millers have completed all their contracts and filled all orders for this grade of flour on their books and have refused to accept any more for the time being, awaiting further developments in the situation.

The increased offerings of corn flour have been a feature of the week, and prices scored a decline, with sales at \$11.20 per bbl. in bags, ex track, but there has been no change in wholesale jobbing prices, which have ruled steady, with a moderate amount of business passing at \$12 per bbl. in bags, delivered to