

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin says of Montreal trade: Fall trade is shaping favorably, and there is no falling off in remittances, all lines of trade reporting good payments, while the failure list is remarkably light. The dry goods trade is particularly active, and as one prominent house puts it, orders are piling up, in both for immediate and spring shipment. All textile mills continue employed to capacity.

In staple groceries there is a steady normal distribution, except that there is no mitigation of sugar conditions, jobbers complaining that they can get barely 25 per cent. of normal needs, and there is also a continued scarcity of molasses. The oldest sugar refining company quotes \$8.75 for standard granulated, though the other companies quote \$9.50. Molasses is quoted at the record high figure of \$1.00 to \$1.03. Some grocery jobbers are said to be cancelling their orders for canned fruits, owing to customers declining to accept goods in the light syrup prescribed by the Government. As anticipated some weeks ago, the Government has commandeered the great bulk of the pack of the better grades of British Columbia salmon. Regular quotations for new pack of corn and tomatoes do not appear to be fixed as yet. Some moderate shipments of California prunes have been released by the American Government.

After eighteen months of comparative quiet in the boot and shoe manufacturing trade, there are at last some signs of improvement, more particularly in orders for women's wear. Orders for regular men's wear are not large, but this is offset in some degree by Government orders for military boots. For leather there is rather more inquiry, and all prices are firmly held. Manufacturers of kid leathers are anticipating some relief from the scarcity of raw goat skins, it being understood that some arrangements are in progress allowing cargo space to a moderate extent from British India and the East.

In other lines there is nothing especially new.

The almost incessant rain prevailing during the past four weeks has been the cause of serious loss to farmers more particularly in the northern districts of the province, as cut grain has been lying out in the fields without any chance of drying, and must have been damaged beyond remedy.

Only one district failure is reported for the week with liabilities of about \$8,000.

Bradstreet's Montreal weekly trade report says: The most important change in the produce trade since the beginning of hostilities in 1914, took place this week. The Canadian Government, through the Canada Food Board, has commandeered all the make of butter from October 1st to November 9th for export at fixed prices, which are as follows: No. 1 creamery, 46½c per pound, No. 2 creamery 46c, and No. 3 creamery 45c. The present stock of butter in the hands of the trade will be used for domestic purposes. Two pounds of creamery butter is allowed by the Food Board to each person per month. The Government has also advanced its limit on the price of cheese two cents per pound, prices now being on a basis of 25c. per pound for No. 1 grade.

Keen competition between Canadian and American hay buyers, was the cause of a further advance of two dollars per ton, the market being strong and active at the advanced prices. The live stock markets are active, the offerings were large, but mostly composed of inferior grades, which sold at 25c to 50c per hundred pounds lower than a week ago. Choice cattle brought full prices. A feature of the trade this week is that American buyers were liberal purchasers of lambs and calves, and are shipping same into the American markets.

New arrangements have been made this year by the Government for the purchasing of this season's wheat crop, whereby all the grain trade will act as buyers. The Government will pay a commission of ¾c per bushel to the trade, who in turn will sell at the seaboard. It is expected that thirty-five million bushels will be available for export before the season of navigation closes.

Remittances and city collections are good. The improvement in the weather has been a benefit to the retail trade.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending October 5, 1918, were 12,002 packages, which show a decrease of 680 packages as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 473 packages with the same week last year, but the total receipts since May 1, 1918, to date, show an increase of 58,988 packages as compared with the corresponding period in 1917. The commandeering of the whole Canadian make of creamery butter up to November 9, by the Government for shipment to Great Britain, was the feature of the week in the dairy industry, last week. The demand from local buyers was good, and as quite a number of orders from country dealers came forward, the market was active and prices showed an increase of from 1c to 1½c per lb.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest creamery	0.49	0.50
Fine creamery	0.48	0.48½
Finest dairy	0.41	0.43
Fine dairy	0.39	0.40

The following prices are being paid by the Commission for butter:

No. 1 creamery, per lb.	0.46½
No. 2 creamery, per lb.	0.46
No. 3 creamery, per lb.	0.45

CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending October 5, 1918, were 53,459 boxes, which show a decrease of 7,640 boxes as compared with the previous week and a decrease of 8,506 boxes with the same week last year, and the total receipts since May 1, 1918, to date show a decrease of 53,384 boxes as compared with the corresponding period in 1917.

The announcement by the Dairy Produce Commission that they would pay an advance of 2c. per lb. for cheese was the feature of interest at all the country boards, and prices advanced 1 11-16c. to 2 3-16c. per lb. The highest price paid was 24½c. per lb. for colored goods at Picton, and the top figure realized for white was 24 13-16c. at Nanawake, and the lowest was 22 11-32c. at St. Paschal. There was no session of the St. Hyacinthe board to-day, but bids of 24½c. per lb. were sent out from here, which were accepted with the understanding that if the market warranted more money the factorymen would receive it.

The following prices are being paid by the Commission:

No. 1 cheese	0.25
No. 2 cheese	0.24½
No. 3 cheese	0.24

EGGS.

The receipts for the week ending October 5, 1918, were 5,040 cases, as compared with 8,722 for the previous week, and 7,366 for the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1, 1918, to date were 219,013 cases, as against 237,127 for the corresponding period in 1917. The announcement of cold storage eggs in stock in Montreal, which showed a decrease of 7,718 cases as compared with September 1, 1918, and a decrease of 20,244 cases with October 1, 1917, coupled with the smaller receipts and the continued large domestic consumption created a firm feeling in the market, although prices showed no change.

We quote wholesale jobbing prices as follows:

Strictly new laid	0.58	0.60
Selected new laid eggs	0.53	0.54
No. 1 stock	0.53	
No. 2 stock	0.49	

POULTRY.

The poultry market developed a weaker tone, last week, due to the fact that heavier supplies are coming forward, and prices showed a decrease of from 2c. to 3c. per lb. for live birds, as compared with those paid to country shippers last week.

The following prices will be paid by dealers for No. 1 quality, plump fat poultry, less express charges for shipment made up to October 10:

	Live.	Dressed.
Hens, 5 lbs. each and over	25c to 26c	30c
Hens, 3½ lbs. to 4 lbs.	22c to 23c	26c
Roosters	18c	22c

Old turkeys	30c	34c
Young ducks, 4 lbs. each and over	20c	24c
Young ducks, under 4 lbs.	18c	24c
Broilers, 3 to 4 lbs., per pair..	25c	29c
Young geese	18c to 20c	25c
Milk fed chickens, 4 lbs. and over	30c	35c
Chickens, 4 lbs. each and over	25c to 26c	30c
Squabs, per pair	60c to 65c	
Old pigeons, per pair	40c	

LOCAL FLOUR.

The market for spring wheat flour showed no new developments; an active trade was done both for country and domestic account. Government standard flour in car lots is selling at \$11.50 per barrel in bags, ex-track, and to city bakers at \$11.65 delivered, while broken lots to grocers and bakers sold at \$11.75 delivered, less 10c per barrel for spot cash. Winter wheat flour was in active demand for October and November delivery and broken lots sold at \$11.60 per barrel in new cotton bags, and at \$11.30 in second-hand jute bags ex-store.

SUBSTITUTES.

The market for barley flour developed a weaker tone, and prices declined during the week 50c per barrel, owing to the more liberal offerings and their steady downward tendency of values for the raw material. The market for other lines has ruled steady, business passing in broken lots of rye flour at \$12 to \$12.25, oat and white corn flour at \$12, barley flour at \$11 and Government standard corn flour at \$10.10 to \$10.30 per barrel in bags, delivered to the trade.

MILLFEED.

An easier feeling developed in the market for all lines of feedstuffs due to the fact that bran and shorts have been coming forward in increased supplies. Feed cornmeal declined \$2.00 per ton. The market is active, with a large volume of business passing. Bran in car lots is selling at \$37.25, and shorts at \$42.25 per ton, including bags, ex-track, and bran at \$42.25, and shorts at \$44.25 per ton, ex-warehouse, including cartage, less 25c per ton for spot cash. Feed cornmeal sold at \$66, pure grain moullie at \$68, barley feed at \$62 to \$63, and mixed moullie at \$55 per ton, including bags, delivered to the trade.

ROLLED OATS.

A steady feeling prevails in the rolled oats market, and a good trade continues to be done in broken lots and sales of standard grades were made at \$5.20 to \$5.30 per bag of 90 lbs., Golden cornmeal at \$5.75 to \$5.90 and bolted at \$4.25 to \$4.50 per bag, delivered to the trade.

LOCAL GRAIN.

The trade in grain was very quiet, with a demand only for odd cars and small lots to meet immediate requirements. Offerings of Manitoba spring wheat for shipment from Fort William and Bay ports were large, but as millers had provided for their wants for the time being, little new business was done. In sympathy with the weakness in the Chicago market for corn, cash prices for spot supplies of sample grades declined during the week 6c to 15c per bushel, with sales of odd cars at from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per bushel ex-store as to quality. There has been practically no change in spot prices for barley, for which the demand was limited, with car lots of Ontario extra No. 3 quoted at \$1.33, No. 3 at \$1.31, Manitoba No. 3 at \$1.29 and No. 4 at \$1.24 per bushel ex-store, but the option market has been weaker and sales of car lots of Manitoba No. 3 for shipment from Fort William were made at \$1.05 and No. 4 at \$1.00 per bushel ex-track point of shipment. Trade in oats slow, prices ruled steady. Car lots of No. 3 Canadian western were quoted at 97½c, extra No. 1 feed at 97½c, No. 1 feed at 95c, No. 2 feed at 90c, Ontario No. 2 white at 91c, and No. 3 white at 90c per bushel ex-store.

Fluctuations in grain on Saturday at Winnipeg were:—

No. 2 C. W.	0.83½
No. 3 C. W.	0.84