

# COMMODITY MARKETS

## Week's Wholesale Review

The condition of trade in general is healthy and money is in liberal supply. Farmers are getting high prices for their produce. The chief difficulty is not with the salesman in selling goods, but it is in getting the supplies. Government control in the United States and Great Britain has made it more difficult for manufacturers to get raw material to fill their orders.

Wholesalers are buying a great many lines for spring and are taking immediate delivery, for two reasons, one of which is they look for higher prices next spring, and the other is to have the goods on hand when wanted. It is now necessary to procure license to import certain lines of dry goods.

Some goods that should have been received last spring have not as yet been received. Boot and shoe travellers are meeting with good orders in most places. New pack tomatoes have sold at \$1.95 per dozen, but later the crop turned out better than was expected, and offers are now being based at \$1.80 per dozen.

Owing to the lack of building operations in Canada the housing problem is getting serious, it is reported that the Government intend taking the matter in hand. It is reported that an embargo has been placed on American magazines and papers coming into Canada by the U. S. Government, owing to the shortage of paper.

The whole of the crops in the West have been greatly improved owing to better weather conditions. The sockeye salmon season closed during the week. Cannery state that the season's catch is one of the poorest ever recorded.

Remittances are good. City collections show more improvement. Retail trade has been fair.

### COUNTRY PRODUCE.

The only important feature in the local egg situation this week was the announcement that the Dairy Commission of Canada was prepared to receive offers of cold storage eggs for October and November delivery at 50c to 51c per dozen as to grade for export account and the prospects are that considerable business will be done in this direction from now on by packers and dealers throughout the country who have more stock on hand than they require for their home requirements.

The receipts of eggs for the month of August, 1918, were 33,357 cases, as against 41,586 for July and 28,505 for August, 1917. The total receipts since May 1st 1918, to date were 188,273 cases, as compared with 206,543 for the corresponding period in 1917.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:  
Selected new laid eggs... 51 to 52c  
No. 1 stock... 47c to 48c  
No. 2 stock... 45c to 46c

There has been no important change in the condition of the market for honey during the week. Supplies have been coming forward steadily owing to the good yield of the new crop throughout the provinces of Quebec and Ontario and as prices ruling are much higher than a year ago farmers are marketing it more freely. The demand here has been good owing to the fact that the market was completely bare of all old crop stock and in consequence a fairly active trade has been done in a wholesale jobbing way at firm prices. Sales of white clover honey in comb were made at 25c to 26c per section, white extracted in 30-lb. pails at 23c, and buckwheat at 20c to 21c per lb.

The tone of the market for potatoes has been weaker this week and prices have declined 25c per bag on account of the more liberal supplies offering on the city markets. At this reduction the demand has been good and quite an active trade was done at \$1.50 to \$1.60 per bag of 80 lbs. There have been no arrivals from the lower provinces as yet, but it is expected that some car loads will come forward during September.

### THE LOCAL FLOUR MARKET.

The demand for spring wheat flour is brisk, but supplies are very limited. There has been no actual strong with sales of car lots of Government standard change in prices, but the undertone to the market is grades for shipment to country points at \$10.95 per

barrel in bags, f.o.b. Montreal, and to city bakers at \$11.95 delivered. The trade in winter wheat flour has been steady and prices firmly maintained with sales of broken lots of old crop at \$11.60 per barrel in new cotton bags, and at \$11.80 in second-hand jute bags, ex-store. The offerings of new crop wheat flour for future delivery have been small this week from Ontario millers, who are now asking \$10.80 to \$11 per barrel in bags for car lots ex-track here.

The only important change in the market for substitutes during the week was a decline of 80c to 90c per barrel in the price of Government standard corn flour owing to the more liberal offerings and the somewhat limited demand, and sales in broken lots were made at \$10.70 to \$10.80 per barrel in bags delivered. No further change has taken place in prices for rye flour, but the undertone to the market is easy and a further decline is expected in the near future. The demand has been steady for supplies at \$12.75 per barrel in bags. The market for barley flour has ruled about steady with small business passing at \$12 to \$12.25 per barrel in bags. New crop barley flour has been offered here for future delivery at \$10 per barrel in bags, f.o.b. Toronto. The trade in oats flour has been fairly active and prices are unchanged at \$12 per barrel in bags. Graham flour continues rather quiet and steady at \$11.95. The Canada Food Board has prohibited the use of rice flour, and it is practically off the market now.

### THE LOCAL GRAIN MARKET.

The trade in this week has been quieter, which may be attributed to the weakness in the Chicago market for corn and the sharp decline in prices recorded and the easier tendency of prices for oats in the Winnipeg market. These facts tended to check the demand from both local and country buyers for supplies, and in consequence the volume of business as compared with the previous week was small. Sales of 25 cars of American corn were reported which consisted principally of sample grades at prices ranging from \$1.35 to \$1.41 per bushel ex-track Chicago, and at \$1.67 to \$1.68 track here, and No. 3 sample corn at \$1.50 ex-store, while a few cars of No. 3 yellow sold at \$1.94 ex-track. There was some demand for Manitoba feed wheat, and sales of several cars were made at \$2.05 per bushel ex-store. The trade in oats was slow on account of the smaller offerings of new crop Ontario grades and the fact that buyers were not disposed to operate in western oats. The market has ruled weaker and prices have closed 1c per bushel lower for Canadian western grades with car lots of No. 3 quoted at 97c to 98c, No. 1 feed at 94c to 95c, and No. 2 feed at 90c to 91c, while Ontario No. 3 white are unchanged at 89½c per bushel ex-store. A feature of the week was demand for new crop Manitoba barley for October and November shipment from Fort William and a number of cars were sold of No. 3, No. 4 and feed grades. On spot odd cars of Manitoba sample sold at \$1.25, Ontario extra No. 3 at \$1.32, and No. 3 at \$1.30 per bushel, ex-store.

### RECEIPTS OF GRAIN AND FLOUR.

Receipts of grain and flour in Montreal at the present time are:

|                        | G.T.R.  | C.P.R. | C.N.R. |
|------------------------|---------|--------|--------|
| Wheat, bush. . . . .   | 38,976  | ....   | ....   |
| Oats, bush. . . . .    | 247,395 | ....   | ....   |
| Barley, bush. . . . .  | 2,500   | ....   | ....   |
| Hay, bales . . . . .   | 727     | 220    | 575    |
| Straw, bales . . . . . | 360     | ....   | ....   |

### BUTTER AND CHEESE RECEIPTS.

The following table shows the receipts of butter and cheese in Montreal for the week ending August 31, 1918, with comparisons:

|  | Butter, pkgs. | Cheese, boxes. |
|--|---------------|----------------|
| Receipts Aug. 31, 1918 . . . . .                       | 3,137         | 11,785         |
| Receipts Aug. 24, 1918 . . . . .                       | 2,411         | 8,845          |
| Receipts Sept. 1, 1917 . . . . .                       | 3,742         | 12,943         |
| Week ending Aug. 31, 1918 . . . . .                    | 14,861        | 67,883         |
| Week ending Sept. 1, 1917 . . . . .                    | 14,704        | 69,681         |
| Total receipts May 1, 1918, to Aug. 31, 1918 . . . . . | 275,554       | 1,146,290      |
| Total receipts May 1, 1917, to Sept. 1, 1917 . . . . . | 224,414       | 1,158,625      |

### GRAIN AND FLOUR STOCKS.

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

|                        | Aug. 31, 1918. | Aug. 24, 1918. | Sept. 1, 1917. |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
|                        | Bush.          | Bush.          | Bush.          |
| Wheat . . . . .        | 1,372,566      | 1,303,359      | 673,079        |
| Corn . . . . .         | 125,814        | 133,051        | 10,568         |
| Peas . . . . .         | 41,420         | 41,420         | .....          |
| Oats . . . . .         | 2,724,523      | 2,965,501      | 1,503,463      |
| Barley . . . . .       | 391,069        | 112,934        | 102,315        |
| Rye . . . . .          | .....          | .....          | 1,680          |
| Flax . . . . .         | 17,994         | 17,994         | .....          |
| Flour, sacks . . . . . | 20,614         | 20,761         | 59,733         |

### BUTTER RECEIPTS.

The total receipts of butter for the month of August, 1918, were 73,911 packages, as compared with 78,118 packages for the month of July, showing a decrease of 5,207 packages, and the total receipts for August, 1917, were 53,322 packages, which show a decrease with August, 1918.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:  
Finest creamery . . . . . 0.43½ 0.43¾  
Fine creamery . . . . . 0.43 0.43½  
Finest dairy . . . . . 0.38 0.38½  
Fine dairy . . . . . 0.36 0.37

The demand for finest creamery for export continues steady at 43½c per lb., but apart from this the market has been rather quiet on account of the absence of any important demand from other outside sources and the fact that local buyers seem to have ample supplies on hand for the time being.

### CANADA'S GRAIN STORAGE.

Canada has storage capacity for approximately 180,000,000 bushels of the 1918 grain crop, according to an official statement issued to-day by A. E. Boyle, secretary of the Board of Trade.

According to the statement the grain storage capacity in the Dominion has been increased by 1,500 per cent in the past 20 years. The storage capacity this year has been increased by 13,000,000 bushels. In 1917 the total storage was 163,144,000.

Here is the statement showing the increase in storing capacity in the past 20 years:

| Year           | Bushels.    |
|----------------|-------------|
| 1892 . . . . . | 10,366,800  |
| 1893 . . . . . | 11,467,100  |
| 1894 . . . . . | 11,817,100  |
| 1895 . . . . . | 12,000,000  |
| 1896 . . . . . | 13,873,600  |
| 1897 . . . . . | 14,999,300  |
| 1898 . . . . . | 18,378,500  |
| 1899 . . . . . | 19,958,000  |
| 1900 . . . . . | 20,908,000  |
| 1901 . . . . . | 21,000,000  |
| 1902 . . . . . | 21,298,000  |
| 1903 . . . . . | 30,356,400  |
| 1904 . . . . . | 41,186,000  |
| 1905 . . . . . | 46,640,630  |
| 1906 . . . . . | 50,453,200  |
| 1907 . . . . . | 55,660,000  |
| 1908 . . . . . | 60,808,600  |
| 1909 . . . . . | 63,190,100  |
| 1910 . . . . . | 77,901,100  |
| 1911 . . . . . | 84,927,700  |
| 1912 . . . . . | 89,777,900  |
| 1913 . . . . . | 102,003,650 |
| 1914 . . . . . | 124,915,000 |
| 1915 . . . . . | 139,374,000 |
| 1916 . . . . . | 158,181,000 |
| 1917 . . . . . | 163,144,000 |
| 1918 . . . . . | 179,981,800 |

### THE CHEESE MARKET.

There was considerable more activity at the cheese boards throughout the country this week, the bidding being more spirited than for some weeks past and in consequence prices generally ruled higher at from 22c to 22½c per lb., f.o.b., the inside figure being paid at Mont Joli, and the outside one at Picton, while at Cornwall all the offerings were sold at 22 5-16c, and at Brockville at 22 3-16c to 22 5-16c. At Gould's Cold Storage there were 9,500 boxes sold during the week at 22½c to 22¾c per lb., f.o.b. country points.

The total receipts of cheese for the month of August, 1918, were 310,243 boxes, as against 421,449 boxes