

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Dun's Bulletin will say of Montreal trade: "The hurly-burly of the general elections naturally exercised some disturbing influence on business, but there has been no appreciable falling off in remittances. The volume of city retail trade is hardly up to expectations. There is a very fair amount of shopping in regular lines, but so-called Christmas goods do not appear to move freely, and there is an evident tendency in some circles to restrict exchanging of Christmas gifts, and devote any spare money to patriotic and charitable objects.

Wholesale trade is naturally quieting down, the attention of many houses being directed to the figuring up of the year's returns. Dry goods warehouses still display a good deal of bustle, though stock-taking is general. Advices from Kirkcaldy manufacturers of oilcloths and linoleums give notice of a very strong advance of from 33 to 40 per cent in prices, owing to the Government largely absorbing stocks of linseed oil.

There are as yet no evidences of increasing activity among boot and shoe manufacturers, and there will be a general closing down at the end of the year for a week or ten days. The movement in leather is light, but firmness marks quotations, especially for sole, from 52 to 54 cents being asked for No. 2 manufacturers, according to selection.

In staple groceries the movement is normal. Stock of raisins, etc., are light, and some shipments of California goods, made in October are still undelivered. One local refining company announces a reduction of 20 cents a cask in sugars, putting standard at \$8.80, while a second company quotes \$8.90, but this revision of prices is largely sentimental, the actual distribution of supplies being still much circumscribed. Canned goods are scarce and high, as much as \$2.65 being asked for 2½-lb. tomatoes in a jobbing way, and \$2.50 for corn.

In other lines there is nothing specially new.

For the week eight distinct failures are reported, with liabilities of about \$107,000."

Bradstreet's Montreal Weekly Trade Report says: We have had some big snowstorms and extreme cold weather, and with the Christmas holidays so close at hand, our wholesale trade was almost entirely neglected, and we do not look for any material change in trade matters until things are more settled after the first of the New Year.

Coarse salt was advanced fifteen cents per bag of 140-lb. size.

All manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers of food products are to be licensed in Canada under the jurisdiction of the Food Controller, defining the status of the different branches of the trade. This will no doubt cause a number of big changes in the grocery trade of Canada in lowering the cost of distribution, and also reduce the price to the consumer, by co-operative delivery, etc.

The announcement that package goods may be sold as heretofore, settled problems that have been annoying to manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers of food products for some time past. It is prohibited to ship bran and shorts out of Canada, until all the requirements at home are fully met. This will be very helpful to the campaign for the greater production of food animals.

The retail trade are reported to be doing an enormous business. Remittances are good, city collections are still somewhat slow.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER.

The receipts of butter for the week ending December 22nd, 1917, were 2,228 packages, which show an increase of 454 packages, as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 744 packages with the same week last year, and the total receipts from May 1st to date show a decrease of 146,535 packages, as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. Although a fair amount of trade is being done in oleomargarine, there is a good demand for creamery butter, and quite a brisk trade was done during the week. And in spite of the fact that the receipts for the week were larger, the tone of the market showed firmness throughout the week, and prices were higher. Only a few hundred packages were offered at Gould's.

We quote wholesale prices as follows:

Finest Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.44	0.44½
Fine Sept. and Oct. creamery	0.43	0.43½
Current receipts, creamery	0.41	0.42
Finest dairy	0.38	0.39
Lower Grades	0.36	0.37

CHEESE.

The receipts of cheese for the week ending December 22nd, 1917, were 4,419 boxes, which show an increase of 1,184 boxes as compared with the previous week, and a decrease of 4,308 boxes with the same week last year, while the total receipts since May 1st to date show a decrease of 395,084 boxes, as compared with the corresponding period in 1916. Business on spot was very quiet, with only a few sales of a small jobbing character. A few hundred boxes were received at Gould's, which sold at 20c per lb., f.o.b., country points. The movement for export account has been steady, and it is expected that stocks on spot on the first of next month will show a marked decrease.

Commission is paying the following prices:

No. 1 cheese	21½c
No. 2 cheese	21¼c
No. 3 cheese	20¾c

EGGS.

The receipts for the week ending December 22nd, 1917, were 1,255 cases, as compared with 1,488 for the previous week, and 2,845 for the same week last year. The total receipts since May 1st to date were 258,041 cases, as against 624,826 for the corresponding period in 1916. The tone of the market for storage eggs developed a stronger tone, and prices scored a further advance of 1c. per dozen, making a net rise for the week of 2c. Receipts of fresh eggs continue light.

We quote current prices as follows:

Strictly new laid eggs	0.60	0.65
Fresh eggs	0.54	0.55
Fall fresh eggs	0.50	0.52
Selected cold storage	0.46	
No. 1 cold storage	0.42	
No. 2 cold storage	0.38	0.39

POULTRY.

The receipts of dressed poultry have been fairly liberal, and of a decidedly better quality, but the market shows no change. The trade has been brisk. Sales of some lots extra choice turkeys were made as high as 35c. per lb., but the bulk of the business was done at 33c. to 34c. A few fancy lots of chickens brought as high as 28c. per lb.

We quote prices as follows:

Turkeys, per lb.	0.33	0.34
Chickens, per lb.	0.22	0.27
Fowl, per lb.	0.19	0.23
Ducks, per lb.	0.26	0.27
Geese, per lb.	0.22	0.23
Live chickens, per lb.	0.18	0.25
Live ducks, per lb.	0.24	0.25
Live geese, per lb.	0.20	0.21

POTATOES.

The trade in potatoes has been quiet throughout the week, owing to the fact that buyers are well stocked. Car lots of green mountains were quoted at \$1.90 to \$2 per bag of 90 lbs. ex-track, and in a wholesale jobbing way sales were made at \$2.10 per bag of 80 lbs., ex-store.

BEANS.

Prices have ruled firm, and the demand for small lots has been steady. A fair trade in a wholesale way was done. Ontario three-pound pickers in car lots have been offered at \$8 to \$8.25 in some cases, and in others sellers are asking more money.

We quote prices as follows:

Can. 3-lb. pickers	8.00	8.25
Yellow eye beans	7.00	7.25
Can. 5-lb. pickers	7.50	7.75

HONEY.

The tone of the market remains firm, but trade passing is very light, owing to the fact that buyers have ample stocks on hand.

We quote prices as follows:

No. 1 white clover, in comb	21c. to 22c.
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No. 2 white clover, in comb	19c. to 20c.
No. 1 brown clover, in comb	00c. to 19c.
No. 2 brown clover, in comb	00c. to 17c.
White extracted, in 30-lb. pails	17c. to 18c.

LOCAL STOCKS OF GRAIN IN STORE.

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

	Dec. 22, 1917.	Dec. 15, 1917.	Dec. 23, 1916.
Wheat, bushels	4,299,304	4,335,379	944,756
Corn, bushels	12,337	12,337	11,260
Peas, bushels			1,483
Oats, bushels	544,905	377,242	5,308,205
Barley, bushels	73,062	164,966	124,651
Rye, bushels	20,963	20,963	2,086
Buckwheat, bushels	22,291	17,321	6,684
Flour, sacks	27,616	25,216	26,355

RECEIPTS OF GRAIN AND FLOUR.

The receipts of grain and flour in Montreal for the week ending December 22nd, were:

Wheat, bushels	418,124
Oats	114,759
Barley, bushels	5,205
Buckwheat	1,300
Peas	1,000
Flax	2,341
Flour, sacks	10,275
Meal	3,927
Hay, bales	20,528
Straw, bales	164

RECEIPTS OF GRAIN IN WINNIPEG.

The receipts of grain in Winnipeg for the week ending December 20th, and the week previous were:

	Dec. 13, 1917.	Dec. 20, 1917.	last y'r.
	W'k end.	W'k end.	S'e date
No. 1 Hard	4	4	....
No. 1 Northern	1,153	1,209	....
No. 2 Northern	545	544	....
No. 3 Northern	330	359	....
No. 4 Wheat	136	151	....
No. 5 Wheat	79	101	....
No. 6 Wheat	63	74	....
Feed Wheat	12	16	....
Rejected	55	64	....
No. Grade	103	90	....
Winter	8	3	....
Special			....
Totals	2,486	2,619	3,173
Oats	865	662	1,049
Barley	164	188	167
Flax	117	130	129

LOCAL FLOUR.

Business was active in spring wheat grades, both for domestic consumption and export trade and millers generally were very busy. The tone of the market is very firm. The market for winter wheat flour showed no change and prices were firmly maintained.

MILLFEED.

The demand for millfeed continues active for all lines, and as millers are oversold they are obliged to reduce the quantities in mixed car lots in order to try to meet the demands of the trade.

ROLLED OATS.

The market for rolled oats is very strong and higher prices are prophesied for the near future. As the demand continues strong, both for export and home consumption, the output of the mills is kept closely sold up.

We quote current prices as follows:

Flour:	per barrel.
First patents	11.60
Second patents	11.10
Strong clears	10.90
Cereals:	
Rolled oats, 90 lb. bag	5.30
Feed:	per ton.
Bran	35.00
Shorts	40.00
Middlings	48.00 50.00
Moullie, pure grain grades	60.00 62.00
Moullie, mixed	55.00 57.00