

COMMODITY MARKETS

Week's Wholesale Review

Dispatches from branch offices of R. G. Dun and Co. in leading cities of the Dominion of Canada note generally favorable conditions in most wholesale lines, demand showing steady expansion with retailers making liberal preparations for active distribution as soon as spring opens. Montreal reports generally satisfactory demand at wholesale for dry goods, clothing and other staples, many buyers being in the markets and purchasing future requirements with considerable confidence. Numerous mills and factories are working to capacity, and with labor almost fully employed local retail trade is expected to display continued activity. Business in most lines for this period at Quebec, and both wholesale and retailers look for a large spring trade, as conditions in the country appear favorable and the local mills and factories are busy. Wholesale business at Toronto shows gradual improvement, and the general situation is considered decidedly bright for a large distribution of merchandise. Dry goods, groceries, clothing and footwear are moving freely, and while demand for hardware and paint is rather quiet, prices are firm and inquiries received are encouraging. Better weather conditions have helped distribution of merchandise in the Far West and Northwest, and active preparations for spring are general in all sections. Winnipeg reports that sales in all departments make a very favorable comparison with those of a year ago, with an especially good demand for hardware, groceries, dry goods, clothing, footwear and furniture for present and future delivery. Business is not very active at Calgary, but some benefit has been derived from more favorable weather of late, and substantial improvement is expected with the advent of spring. Merchants at Saskatoon report a brisk demand for most kinds of merchandise, with the inquiry especially active for footwear, rubber goods, clothing and men's furnishings. Wholesale and retail trade is in fair volume at Regina, but no particular activity is looked for at the beginning of the new season, when general improvement is anticipated.

DAIRY PRODUCE.

BUTTER: The market was firm during the week, due to the comparatively small stocks on hand and the light receipts. Prices show no change from the previous week.

CHEESE: The market is quiet but firm, the trade being mostly of a jobbing character. Export trade is due chiefly to the scarcity of freight space, and the high rates prevailing. Local houses are anticipating an early opening of factories throughout the district owing to the high prices. In fact, several factories in the Brockville district have operated all winter on this account.

Wholesale quotations are as follows:

Finest creamery	0.33 3/4	0.34 1/4
Fine, do.	0.32 3/4	0.33 1/4
Seconds	0.31 1/2	0.32 1/2
Dairy Butter	0.25	0.28
City Selling Prices, to grocers:		
Choice Creamery Solids	0.35	
Do., Prints	0.35 1/2	
No. 2 Creamery Solids	0.33	
Do., Prints	0.33 1/2	
Choice Dairy Prints	0.31 1/2	
Do., Rolls	0.32	
Cooking Butter	0.39	
	0.28	
Finest Western	0.18 1/2	0.18 3/4
Finest Eastern	0.18	0.18 1/4
Fine Cheese	0.17	0.17 1/4
Undergrades	0.17	0.17 1/4

DAIRY PRODUCE STOCKS.

The following table shows the stocks of butter, cheese and eggs in store in Montreal on the dates mentioned:

	Mar. 1, 1916.	Feb. 1, 1916.	Mar. 1, 1915.
Butter:—			
Creamery, pkgs.	32,946	47,976	23,698
Dairy, pkgs.	2,775	3,327	987
Cheese, boxes	12,817	24,336	4,330
Eggs:—			
Fresh, cases	361	191	1,290
Cold storage	1,691	8,192	703

ENGLISH CHEESE STOCKS.

The following table shows the stocks of Canadian and New Zealand cheese in the principal markets in England on March 1st, 1916, with comparisons:

	March 1, 1916. boxes.	Feb. 1, 1916. boxes.	March 1, 1915. boxes.
Canadian:—			
Liverpool	30,000	32,000	27,100
London	53,000	60,000	53,000
Bristol	11,000	32,000	4,000
Total	96,000	124,000	84,100
New Zealand:—			
Crates.			
London	20,000	21,000	14,000
Bristol	1,100	700
Total	21,100	21,000	14,700

CHEESE EXPORTS.

The following table shows exports of cheese from Portland and St. John, N.B., which arrived on the other side for the week ended March 2nd, 1916:

	Local.	Through.	Total.
London	6,877	16,092	22,969
Manchester	831	831
South Africa	200	2,507	2,707
Total	7,908	18,599	26,507
Same week last year	57	13,141	13,198
Total exports, May 1, 1915, to March 2, 1916, boxes			2,074,713
Do., corr. period last year, boxes			1,643,765

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

EGGS: The trade in storage eggs is practically over, as the season is now far advanced. New laids have therefore been in exceedingly good demand. Deliveries of this commodity from Ontario and Quebec were held up last week owing to storms, therefore dealers have replenished their stocks from Chicago, buying in that market at 21c to 22c. A considerable drop in the price of new laids is expected this week.

POULTRY: Very little has transpired in this market. Dealers are finding it more and more difficult to replenish their stocks, which are hardly sufficient to last out to the end of the season. All large orders are avoided, and every effort is being made to make existing supplies last as long as possible. Fowls are the only commodity in the live market, as the spring chickens will not be in until June. The supplies of fresh killed are very small, being hardly enough for the Jewish trade. Demand is very good in all quarters, and prices steady.

Current quotations follow:

Eggs:—		
New laids	0.30	0.32
Maple Syrup and Sugar:—		
Pure Maple Syrup, 8 lb. tins	0.95	0.97 1/2
Do., 10 lb. tins	1.10	1.12 1/2
Do., 13 lb. tins	1.40	1.50
Pure Maple Sugar, lb.	0.12 1/2	0.13
Honey:—		
Buckwheat, in combs	0.12	0.13
Buckwheat, extracted	0.10 1/2	0.11
3-lb. pickers, carlots, bush.	4.00	4.25
3 lb. pickers, do.	3.95	4.15
Undergrades, bus.	3.60	3.70
Potatoes:—		
Green Mountains, per bag, car lots	1.85	1.90
Quebecs, do.	1.85	1.90
Job lots 10c. more.		
Poultry:—		
Frozen stock:—		
Turkeys	0.28	0.30
Fowl, large	0.19	0.20
Fowl, small	0.17	0.18
Ducks	0.22	
Geese	0.16	0.17
Roasting chickens, ord.	0.21	0.23
Spring broilers, dressed, pair	1.15	1.25
Squabs, Can., pr.	0.50	
Squabs, Phila., pr.	0.75	
Poultry—Live:—		
Fowl, 5 lbs. and over	0.20	0.23
Fowl, small	0.18	0.19
Turkeys	0.20	0.23

The United States exported last year 205,333,797 bushels of wheat, 45,395,297 bushels of corn and 8,358,902 bales of cotton.

Mr. James Carruthers, president of the Canada Steamships Company is in New York.

LIVE STOCK.

The stormy weather prevailing throughout the country last week local cattle receipts were small and offerings at the sales reduced. On Monday cattle prices advanced 25 cents per 100 lbs., principally due to the smaller run and the consequent firmer tone on the market. On Wednesday the offerings were very small—only 100 head—and prices held steady, although the demand was limited owing to the fact that local packers and butchers have fair stocks on hand in view of the near approach of the Lenten season. Good stock was very scarce, only a few lots being offered at both sales.

Small meats continued scarce. Very little trade is passing in sheep and lambs, owing to the scarcity of supplies, and prices show a decided advance. A choice lot of lambs brought 12c a pound, while 11c was the usual price. Calves were scarce last week, and firm at previous levels.

The hog market continues comparatively quiet. The demand from packers is slow owing to the falling off in the export trade. The receipts are ample to fill requirements:

	Per cwt.
Butcher steers, very choice	7.00 to 7.50
Do., choice	6.50 to 7.00
Do., good	6.00 to 6.50
Do., fair	5.75 to 6.00
Do., medium	3.00 to 3.50
Do., Canners	5.75 to 6.25
Butcher bulls, best	5.25 to 5.75
Do., medium	4.00 to 5.00
Canning bulls	6.25 to 6.50
Butcher cows, very choice	6.25
Do., choice	6.00 to 6.25
Do., good	3.00 to 3.50
Do., canners	5.00 to 7.00
Sheep	9.00 to 11.00
Lambs	10.25 to 10.75
Hogs, selects	9.50 to 10.15
Do., mixed lots	9.25
Do., common	7.60 to 7.85
Do., sows	8.00 to 9.500
Calves, milk fed	4.50 to 5.50
Do., grass fed	

PROVISIONS.

There is little to record in the local situation. The limited supplies of hogs coming forward are meeting with a fair demand, but both export and domestic business in pork products are slow, and with larger receipts lower prices are anticipated. Current prices are as follows:

Hams:—	Per lb.
Smoked hams, 8-12 lbs.	0.20 1/2
Do., 12-20 lbs.	0.20 1/2
Do., 20-30 lbs.	0.18
Do., over 30 lbs.	0.17 1/2
Large boneless hams	0.21
Smoked rolls	0.18
Bacon:—	
Boneless Bacon	0.22 0.23
Windsor Bacon	0.26
Windsor Bacon, Boneless	0.25 0.28
Barrel Pork:—	Per bbl.
Short cut pork	29.50
Clear Fat Pork, 30-40	30.50
Clear Fat Pork, 40-50	30.00
Clear Fat Pork, 20-35	27.50
Mess Pork	24.50
Barrel Beef:—	
Mess Beef	20.00
Plate Beef	24.00
Pure Lard:—	pound.
Tierces	0.15
Tubs	0.15 1/4
Pails	3.10
Tins	3.00
Cases, 3, 5, 10's	0.16
Prints	0.16 1/4
Leaf lard	0.14
Compound Lard:—	
Western Grades:—	
Tierces	0.12 1/2
Tubs	0.12 1/2
Pails	2.60
Tins	2.50
Cases, 3, 5, 10's	0.13 1/2
Prints	0.13 1/2
Cooked meats:—	
Roast shoulders pork	0.27
Roast legs of pork	0.28
Cooked hams, rind off	0.20
Head cheese, 1's, dozen	0.90
Do., 6's	0.08
Jellied pork tongues	0.26
Blood pudding	0.08
White pudding	0.07
Jellied beef tongues	0.28
English brawn	0.11

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